

FRIDAY
TODAY & next morning
HIGH 82 Partly sunny with a warm breeze.
LOW 61
PAGE A4

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

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NEWS BRIEFS

Citrus County COVID-19 cases

According to the Florida Department of Health, 26 positive cases were reported in Citrus County since the latest update. No new deaths were reported, for a total of 435. To date in the county, 10,483 people have tested positive (including 91 non-residents). Two new hospitalizations were reported, for a total of 681 hospitalized. Totals reflect preliminary reports received by the state, and are subject to revision.

Register to get COVID vaccine

DOH-Citrus' preregistration system to schedule COVID-19 vaccine appointments for all individuals 18 and older and frontline health care workers is now available. Individuals can now be added to a waiting list for vaccine appointments and be notified when appointments are available in Citrus County by visiting myvaccine.fl.gov or by calling 866-201-0442; TTY is 833-476-1036. As part of the state-wide preregistration system, each county has a designated number that individuals can call and pre-register with if they do not have internet access. Citrus County's designated helpline number is 833-540-2058.

Chronicle seeks info about veterans

Crystal Harley-Davidson will host the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall from April 22 to 25, 1147 S. Suncoast Blvd., Homosassa. The gathering will honor veterans, fallen and missing heroes and active duty troops. The wall is a 3/5 scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in memory of the 58,282 soldiers who never returned from Vietnam, including eight Citrus County residents: William H. Craig Jr., Stanley G. Hartson, Carl H. Joyner, Richard S. Lowes, Herbert D. Surber, William A. Wicks, James G. Williams and Charles E. Hall. The Chronicle is seeking family members and friends of those residents killed in action to share stories and photos for a series of stories we are planning. Those with information, can email Managing Editor Jeff Bryan at jeff.bryan@chronicleonline.com or Assistant Managing Editor Brian LaPeter at blapeter@chronicleonline.com.

— From staff reports

Biden tightens gun controls

US now facing 'epidemic, international embarrassment'

ALEXANDRA JAFFE, AAMER MADHANI AND MICHAEL BALSAMO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden, in his first gun control measures since taking office, announced a half-dozen executive actions Thursday aimed at addressing a proliferation of gun violence across the nation that he called an "epidemic and an international embarrassment."

He announced he is tightening regulations for buyers of "ghost guns" — homemade firearms that usually are assembled from parts and often lack serial numbers used to trace them. Also, a proposed rule, expected within 60 days, will tighten regulations on pistol-stabilizing braces like the one used in Boulder, Colorado, in a shooting last month that left 10 dead. On Thursday, family members whose children were killed at the Sandy Hook, Connecticut, school massacre in 2012 and the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland,

Florida, in 2018 attended the hearing. Biden thanked them for attending, saying he understood it would remind them of the awful days when they got the calls. He assured them, "We're absolutely determined to make change." Biden's Thursday announcement delivers on a pledge the president made last month to take what he termed immediate "common-sense steps" to address gun violence, after a series of mass shootings drew renewed attention to the issue. His announcement came the same day as yet another, this one in South

Carolina, where five people were killed. Biden emphasized the scope of the problem: Between the mass killings in Atlanta massage businesses and the Colorado grocery store shooting last month, there were more than 850 additional shootings that killed 250 and injured 500 in the U.S., he said. But Thursday's announcement underscores the limitations of Biden's executive power to act on guns. His orders tighten regulations on homemade guns and provide more resources for gun-violence prevention but fall far short of the sweeping gun-control agenda he laid out on the campaign trail.

See GUN/Page A5

ONE WHO LISTENED

George Bacon, beloved longtime CRHS science teacher

Postscript

NANCY KENNEDY
Staff writer

The 2011-12 school year was about to start when Danielle Doherty-Koch was hired at Crystal River High School as a long-term substitute teacher. "They said, 'Here's your classroom. Have fun — Open House is tonight,'" Doherty-Koch said. Her classroom was filled with boxes and she didn't have a clue what to do next. In pops George Bacon, the seasoned science teacher in the classroom next door, saying, "Welcome! What can I help you with?" She told him, "I don't know what to do." "That was the first thing he said to me — 'What can I help you with?' And he sat with me for hours, helping me go through stuff and organize. He taught me the ropes ... and continued to teach me," she said. "He was a father figure for me here. He was always there, always ready to drop everything to help somebody." For 36 years, Bacon taught science classes at CRHS — and so much more. He was the teacher you never forgot, the one you sought advice from, the one you kept in touch with decades after you graduated, because he was the teacher you knew truly and sincerely cared about you. It was with great sadness that his former students, co-workers, friends and family learned the news that George Sewell Bacon died April 2. He was 69.



Special to the Chronicle
George Bacon, who died April 2 at age 69, and his dog, Bonnie Belle.

After he retired in 2014, George Bacon returned to CRHS and volunteered to teach a year of science — without pay — just because they needed a teacher.

See BACON/Page A10

Chili's plans new Inverness location

MICHAEL D. BATES
Staff writer

A developer has filed a site plan with the city of Inverness to build a new Chili's restaurant and a Capital City Bank on the property of the old, vacated Regions Bank site by State Road 44 and U.S. 41. Inverness City Manager Eric Williams said the application is in the permitting stage. The site plan shows the restaurant will have 4,300 square feet and the bank 3,000 square feet. The former Regions will be torn down to make way for

the new occupants. Williams said the new development will add to the city's tax base, employ people and fill a dining need. "People are looking for more restaurants, more service-oriented businesses," Williams said. "This will serve the community well." Developer Cory Presnick, a principal with Corta Development, confirmed he has signed leases with Chili's and Capital City Bank. Presnick has a special reason for welcoming the new businesses to Inverness. He grew up in the city,

graduating from Citrus High School. "It's really exciting to be able to develop things in my hometown," Presnick said. This new Chili's will have one major difference from others in the chain: it will be attached with the bank. Most Chili's are free-standing. It will also be a bit smaller than the others, partly due to the pandemic and fewer patrons dining indoors, Presnick said. In all, there will be 115 parking spaces in the new complex.

See CHILI'S/Page A6

Caller asks for \$3M

Incarcerated teen accused of threatening CCSO, jail

HANNAH SACHEWICZ
Chronicle reporter

A 16-year-old juvenile threatened to bomb the Citrus County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) and the Citrus County Jail, while demanding \$3 million from authorities Wednesday, March 3, according to a CCSO arrest affidavit. The juvenile, who was already incarcerated as an adult at the Cypress Creek Juvenile Detention Facility, was charged with two counts of false report of planting a bomb. Bond was set at \$10,000. The Chronicle is withholding the teen's name due to his age. According to the report, the defendant made the phone call to the CCSO non-emergency phone line from the detention facility. The defendant reportedly stated, "I am going to bomb the Citrus County Sheriff's Office and the Citrus County Jail." This threat was repeated several times. The juvenile also demanded that \$3 million be placed in his account in West Virginia.

Deputies conducted a search of the Paytel jail phone calls made during the time of the threat, but were unable to locate any calls to the CCSO. Deputies contacted a CoreCivic investigator, who then contacted Paytel support services. Paytel was reportedly able to determine the origin of the phone call. Paytel discovered the call originated in the confinement pod of the Citrus County Jail. Authorities identified two PIN numbers used, one assigned to an eyewitness who shared a pod with the defendant. Two eyewitnesses were assigned to the same cell in the confinement pod.

See TEEN/Page A6



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Around the
COUNTY

Beverly Hills skate park reopens

The skate park at the Beverly Hills Community Park, 997 W. Roosevelt Blvd. in Beverly Hills, has reopened after being temporarily closed for repairs. For information, call Citrus County Parks and Recreation at 352-527-7540.

Keep the Pool Open Committee to meet

The Beverly Hills Keep the Pool Open Committee will meet at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 10, at the Central Ridge Boys and Girls Club, 901 W. Roosevelt Blvd.

Organizers will discuss why the old pool in the Central Ridge Community Park is not a viable option, and instead a new six lane pool paid for with impact fees located in the Central Ridge District Park is the most viable option.

Volunteers will be asked to join committees that will make a presentation on behalf of the community to the BOCC.

It is hoped that a public private partnership will be formed to secure operating funds. More than \$13,000 in contributions that pre-date COVID-19 are still being held by the Central Citrus Rotary for this campaign.

MPO accepting applications for committee

The Hernando/Citrus MPO is accepting applications for citizen vacancies.

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) vacancies are:

- City of Crystal River, resident
- Citrus County resident, public transit user
- Hernando County resident, low income and/or minority representative
- Hernando County representative, unincorporated
- Hernando County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) vacancies are:
 - Hernando County resident, 60 years or older
 - Hernando County resident, disabled

Applications can be found at tinyurl.com/2p6uwe56.

Completed applications can be mailed to the Hernando/Citrus MPO, 1661 Blaise Drive, Brooksville, FL 34601, emailed to mpo@hernandocounty.us or faxed to 352-754-4420.

Call 352-754-4082 for more information.

Guardian ad Litem volunteers needed now

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. More than 2,200 children within the 5th Judicial Circuit (Marion, Lake, Sumter, Citrus and Hernando counties) are being served by the Guardian Ad Litem program.

With almost 450 Guardian ad Litem volunteers in the 5th Judicial Circuit, the demand for services remains strong. There are currently more than 800 abused and neglected children whose cases are involved with local courts who are without a Guardian ad Litem volunteer.

To participate in fundraising activities that provide for the essential needs of children served by the Guardian ad Litem Program, join Voices For Children of North Central Florida, Inc., volunteer for special projects or donate services.

To learn more about the Guardian ad Litem program, call 352-812-6971 or visit guardiandlitem.org.

— From staff reports

Parkway route changes yet again

MICHAEL D. BATES
Staff writer

The eventual route for the Suncoast Parkway extension has changed yet again.

The Florida House Commerce Committee announced Tuesday it unanimously approved a bill that says Jefferson County will no longer be the northern end point for a proposed extension of the toll road.

The extension of the Suncoast Parkway from Citrus County to Jefferson County was one of three toll-road projects approved by the Legislature in 2019.

The House bill (HB 6059), sponsored by Rep. Jason Shoaf, R-Port St. Joe, would remove a reference to Jefferson County in the law but doesn't provide another proposed end point for the Suncoast Parkway extension.

The 2019 law, a priority of then-Senate President Bill Galvano, R-Bradenton, also calls for building a toll road from Collier



Jason Shoaf
 representative,
 R-Port St. Joe.

County to Polk County and extending Florida's Turnpike to connect with the Suncoast Parkway.

Shoaf's bill is moving forward as the Senate has passed a more far-reaching measure (SB 100) that would eliminate the planned toll road between Collier and Polk counties.

The Senate plan also would require state transportation officials to plan a turnpike extension west from Wildwood to the Suncoast Parkway and lay out a route that would weave the parkway north along U.S. 19 to connect with Interstate 10 in Madison

County. Meanwhile, construction continues on the parkway extension from U.S. 98 to State Road 44 in Lecanto. The next phase would extend it from State Road 44 to County Road 486, somewhere near the Pine Ridge extension.

But commissioners, including Sen. Wilton Simpson, R-Trilby, want the road to connect with U.S. 19, somewhere north of Crystal River.

Where it goes north from that point is up to the state, commissioners have said.

The News Service of Florida contributed to this report.

Boomtown is Saturday in Dunnellon

MICHEL NORTHSEA
Riverland News

DUNNELLO — Organizers for this year's Boomtown event Saturday, April 10, have planned something for everyone.

As in past years, the event will be along West Pennsylvania Avenue and Cedar Street and will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Festivities will include art and crafts vendors, a kids' zone, cowboy shows, a pie eating contest, music and the different pageants, said Julie Mancini, executive director the Dunnellon Chamber & Business Association.

Until 1 p.m., festival goers will also have the opportunity to see classic cars on display.

Once again, musical entertainment will be offered with three different popular groups: Jake White will start the program at 11 a.m., followed by Groove 41 at 1 p.m. and Dunnellon's own Keith Caton Blues Band will perform at 3.

Don't be surprised to see a few Wild West shows on the streets.

Kidd Carson's Wild West Show will be offered four times during the day: 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m. and 4.

For couples in love, or not, there will be the chance to get hitched at the wedding chapel with a shotgun wedding. Through the festival area, food vendors will be serving up tasty festival foods and beer wag-



Jake White will perform at the Depot on Friday evening at 7 p.m. On Saturday, his show begins at 11 a.m. at the Boomtown festival.

Special to the Chronicle

ons will squelch thirst. The Boomtown Day event is a remembrance of Dunnellon becoming a "boomtown" after the discovery of phosphate near the Vogt Springs area. As news of the discovery of phosphate spread, thousands and thousands of people flocked to the area in hopes of becoming rich.

In honor of Dunnellon's history, the Dunnellon Historical Society will open the doors of the train depot for visitors from 5 to 9 p.m. Friday. Volunteers will run

the "Whistle Stop Cafe" offering fried green tomatoes, Cubans and hobo stew until 8 p.m. or the food runs out. White will take to the Depot's stage at 7 p.m. Friday for a concert featuring oldies and classical rock songs.

For information about Boomtown Days, visit dunnellonchamber.com or call 352-489-2320.

Keith Caton of the Keith Caton Blues Band is on stage at 3 p.m. Saturday. The stage will be on Cedar Street.



WREC gets reimbursed for Hurricane Irma costs

MICHAEL D. BATES
Staff writer

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has awarded grants to Florida totaling \$42,559,595 to reimburse applicants for debris removal, administrative costs and repairs following Hurricane Irma in 2017.

One of those recipients is the Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative (WREC), which has about 26,000 customers in Citrus County.

The nonprofit cooperative will receive \$4,053,137 for storm costs in Citrus and eight other counties. Those costs included labor, equipment, materials, contracts, 293 utility and transformer poles, 329 transformers, 26,852 feet of damaged conductor and 35 security lights — all from Hurricane Irma.

Back in 2019, FEMA approved just under \$1.3 million to Citrus County for debris removal from Irma, which struck Sept. 10-11, 2017.

County contractors picked up 137,178 cubic



MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle file

Eugene Villanti removes tree limbs from the house where he lives in Inverness the morning following the arrival of Hurricane Irma in September 2017. The house sustained roof damage as a result of a large tree falling on top of the roof.

yards of vegetative debris during a two-month period following the storm, FEMA reported.

Both Crystal River and Inverness also received FEMA reimbursement checks in 2019 for Irma costs.

Irma didn't live up to its dire forecasts for Citrus County. But from about Sept. 1-11, 2017, county residents were on edge as they were glued to latest forecasts which showed the storm shifting west toward this area.

U.S. 19, U.S. 41 and the Suncoast Parkway were

clogged with evacuees headed north away from the storm track. Later estimates placed the number at almost 6.5 million — the largest evacuation in the state's history.

Many motorists waited an hour or more at gas stations — at least those that had gas.

Other recipients of the FEMA money this week were Miami-Dade, Monroe and Orange counties, which felt the brunt of Irma's wrath.

Irma made landfall in Monroe County as a Category 4 hurricane.

Inverness Council plans to demolish Manning's Bar in less than a week

FRED HIERS
Staff reporter

April 12 is the end of that extension.

The roofless, dilapidated building that was once Manning's Bar on State Road 44 will soon be no more if the Inverness City Council has its way.

The Inverness City Council voted 4-0 this week to demolish the aged and unmaintained building Monday, April 12, or later.

The city has been trying to get the owners of the building, Milton and Nadeen Kongquee, of Hernando, to repair the abandoned building for the past four years, but Williams said the couple have not complied.

Recently, the roof of the once-popular bar collapsed and now only the walls and mostly broken windows remain.

Williams said that although there are liens on the property, it violates city codes and is a hazard. "We can't allow this condition to persist," Williams told the city council.

Williams reported to the council that he also gave the owners 30 days to demolish the building.

Councilwoman Jacquie Hepfer said she worried about curious children going into the roofless building and getting hurt.

"Kids (are) going to be kids," she said.

Williams said the city has been more than patient. He said that one of the owners contacted him recently to say the building was not unsafe and wanted more time. But Williams told the council that the appeals process for the couple's code enforcement hearings has long come and gone.

The bar closed about 35 years ago, but many know the building by its old Manning name.

Pat Gilligan, one of the city's lawyers, told the council that it was well within its authority to demolish the building given the state of the structure.

Eventually someone will buy the property and improve it, he said.

There's "no downside here," Gilligan said of the demolition plan.

The cost to demolish the building will be \$6,000.

GUN

Continued from Page A1

Indeed, Biden again urged Congress to act, calling on the Senate to take up House-passed measures closing background check loopholes. He also said Congress should pass the Violence Against Women Act, eliminate legal exemptions for gun manufacturers and ban assault weapons and high capacity magazines. Biden said

"This is not a partisan issue among the American people," Biden insisted.

While Biden asserted that he's "willing to work with anyone to get it done," gun control measures face slim prospects in an evenly divided Senate, where Republicans remain near-united against most proposals.

Biden was joined at the event by Vice President Kamala Harris and Attorney General Merrick Garland. Garland said he was "under no illusions about how hard it is to solve the problem of gun violence"

and emphasized a need for a "collective effort to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and save lives."

The Justice Department cannot solve the problem by itself, he said, but "there is work for the department to do, and we intend to do it."

It is currently legal to build a "ghost gun" in a home or a workshop, and there is no federal requirement for a background check.

The Justice Department will issue a proposed rule requiring such gun kits be treated as firearms under the Gun Control Act, which would require that the parts be made with serial numbers and that buyers receive background checks.

Months before Biden was elected, the federal government had already been working on a proposed rule that would change the definition of a firearm to include lower receivers, the essential piece of a semiautomatic rifle, in an effort to combat the proliferation of ghost guns and to stave off losing

court battles over the issue.

The process had been in the works in the waning months of the Trump administration, according to four people familiar with the matter: Justice Department leaders and officials at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives had been working on language for a proposed rule since at least the summer of 2020, the people said.

Another change announced Thursday concerns a proposed rule that will designate pistols used with stabilizing braces as short-barreled rifles, which require a federal license to own and are subject to a more thorough application process and a \$200 tax.

The department also is publishing model legislation within 60 days that is intended to make it easier for states to adopt their own "red flag" laws. Such laws allow for individuals to petition a court to allow the police to confiscate weapons from a person deemed to be a danger to themselves or others.

The department also will begin to provide more data on firearms trafficking, starting with a new comprehensive report on the issue. The administration says that hasn't been done in more than two decades.

The Biden administration will also make investments in community violence intervention programs, which are aimed at reducing gun violence in urban communities, across five federal agencies.

The president argued that gun violence was also a massive economic strain, citing the costs from hospital visits, legal fees, and the cost of keeping people in prison and providing therapy to victims and others. A majority of firearm deaths are from suicides.

Biden is also nominating David Chipman, a former federal agent and adviser at the gun control group of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

The ATF is currently run by an acting director, Re-

gina Lombardo. Gun-control advocates have emphasized the significance of this position in enforcing gun laws, and Chipman is certain to win praise from this group. During his time as a senior policy adviser with Giffords, he spent considerable effort pushing for greater regulation and enforcement on ghost guns, changes to the background check system and measures to reduce the trafficking of illegal firearms.

Chipman spent 25 years as an agent at the ATF, where he worked on stopping a trafficking ring that sent illegal firearms from Virginia to New York, and served on the ATF's SWAT team. Chipman is a gun owner.

He is an explosives expert and was among the team involved in investigating the Oklahoma City bombing and the first World Trade Center bombing. He also was involved in investigating a series of church bombings in Alabama in the 1990s. He retired from

the ATF in 2012.

During his campaign, Biden promised to prioritize new gun control measures as president, including enacting universal background check legislation, banning online sales of firearms and the manufacture and sale of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. But gun-control advocates have said that while they were heartened by signs from the White House that they took the issue seriously, they've been disappointed by the lack of early action.

With the announcement of the new measures, advocates did laud Biden's first moves.

"Each of these executive actions will start to address the epidemic of gun violence that has raged throughout the pandemic, and begin to make good on President Biden's promise to be the strongest gun safety president in history," said John Feinblatt, president of Everytown for Gun Safety.



Eli Lindo Sales Staff



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MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle

Plans to tear down the multi-story building that once was home to Regions Bank near the State Road 44 and U.S. 41 intersection in downtown Inverness are in the works. A new Chili's restaurant and a Capital City Bank are planned for the site.

CHILI'S

Continued from Page A1

Presnick said the location can't be beat. An estimated 41,000 cars per day drive by at that site where State Road 44 meets

U.S. 41 — one of the highest traffic counts in the county, he said.

Presnick said he's still in the permitting stage and under contract to close on the 1 1/2-acre property. That should take 60-90 days and, if all goes well, construction will

then start. Tentative opening of Chili's and the bank is spring 2022, he said.

Banks are building smaller, more compact sites due to new banking trends, he said. For example, Regions — after

30 years at the site where the new Chili's and Capital City Bank are going — opted to move out of its large two-story office in 2019 and open a smaller branch almost directly across the street.

TEEN

Continued from Page A1

Deputies first interviewed the first witness who, the report stated, provided his telephone PIN number to the defendant. Paytel records show that a phone call was made using their PIN number, but it was not completed.

The eyewitness alleged that the defendant was using the telephone, but that he typed in the PIN number to prevent the defendant from learning it. A different PIN was later used to make the bomb threat, and video surveillance shows the defendant using the telephone at the time of the incident.

Deputies conducted an interview with an additional eyewitness, who initially denied any knowledge of the incident, according to the report. Later, the witness

admitted to knowledge of the bomb threat and identified the defendant as the person who made the call.

A third eyewitness also denied any knowledge of the incident, but video surveillance reportedly showed him standing next to the defendant at the time of the call.

Post Miranda, deputies then conducted an interview with the defendant. The juvenile reportedly denied making the phone call, but admitted to making phone calls in his cell on the day in question. He claimed that whoever's PIN was used is who made the bomb threat.

The PIN number used was reportedly registered to a subject housed in a different section of the jail. Records indicate that person has not been housed in the confinement area since 2019.

The defendant was placed under arrest and was turned over to detention facility staff for processing.

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CITRUS MEMORIAL

Performing at the Manatee Festival



Students of Jeffrey Eekhoff provided musical entertainment for the Crystal River Manatee Festival on March 28. From left are: Joy Lin, Caroline Skidmore, Meredith Skidmore, Mckenna Heaton, Anushya Padala, Ananya Padala, Nidhi Krishna, Jordyn Johnson, Kanav Mathur, Anjli Deven and Jeffrey Eekhoff.

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Jovial and joyful, George Bacon was a natural as Santa Claus.

Special to the Chronicle

BACON

Continued from Page A1

“He was one of the most influential teachers I ever had and served a lot of different roles in my life,” said Duane Redding. “He was a father figure, a mentor, a best friend ... and if it hadn’t been for the time he took and the general good-heartedness to look out for me, I doubt very much I would be where I am today, a chief engineer at NASA.”

Redding described Bacon as an “open thinker,” always talking about possibilities and not limiting your dreams.

“He’d say, ‘You have no limit’ and ‘Decide what you want to do and make that happen.’ You could go to him with any problem, and even if you did something stupid, there was never any judgment,” Redding said. “He wasn’t quick to admonish you on your errors; he was quick to help you learn from them.”

Bacon grew up in Hampden, Maine, near Bangor, and served 10 years as a helicopter medic in the Army National Guard in Maine.

He and his first wife came to Florida as teachers, first to Ocala and then to Citrus County where Bacon taught science, biology, anatomy and physiology.

At his core, he was a healer, said Nancy Bacon, his wife of six years whom he met at church.

“George was a Reiki master, which he considered one of his ministries,” she said. “That was his way of healing people.”

He was also an ordained minister from the Universal Life Church, and he officiated at many weddings and funerals of former students.

“We felt we were soul mates,” Nancy Bacon said. “God brought us together — we were going to grow old together.”

One of George Bacon’s best attributes was the way he listened.

His was the classroom students went to before and after school, just to hang out and talk.

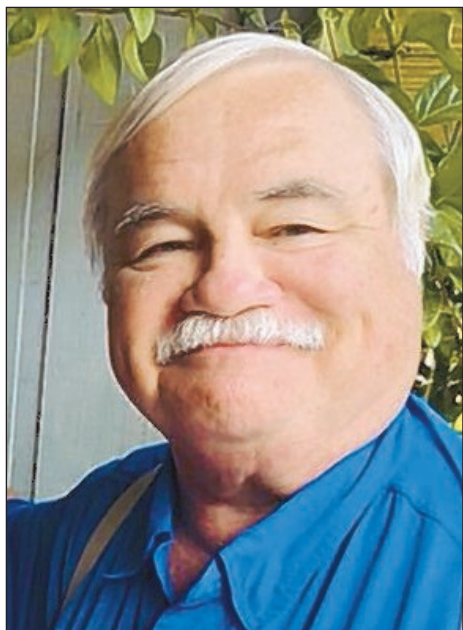
“He was an amazing mentor,” said Megan Bramlett. “He was my home room teacher in high school — full of laughter, guidance and love. As an adult, he tutored me in anatomy and physiology for nursing school.

“He was a godly man who always had a prayer for me,” she said. “When I would see him, he always offered his smile and positive words. He epitomized what a teacher is; he never stopped helping his students.”

“He was my ninth grade science teacher ... and we stayed in contact since then — he and Nancy supported my sheriff’s campaign,” said Patrick Crippen. “George was one of those guys that people were attracted to because he was pure-hearted ... and believed in his students unconditionally. We need more teachers like him.”

As a teacher, Bacon had a way of opening up a topic and inviting you in, telling stories that seemed to not have anything to do with what he was supposed to be teaching until he was finished and you realized he had put flesh on a topic, had illustrated a concept.

“He could be talking to 200 people, but he was talking to just you,” Duane



Special to the Chronicle

Forever a Pirate, George Bacon was a favorite science teacher at Crystal River High School among students and staff. He died April 2 at age 69.

Redding said. “Being able to do that is something very rare.”

George Bacon was a man of many interests.

He collected teddy bears and puppets, sang with the praise team at church, Crystal River United Methodist Church. He kayaked, loved to dive and go snorkeling.

He spent many, many hours diving in Bluebird Springs helping to clean it out.

He wore a kilt sometimes, even to school, Stewart red plaid.

He was good at remembering jokes. His dream was to build an amphibian airplane, but never got the chance.

“He was a master at forming relationships with students, which is the most important thing you can do as a teacher,” Doherty-Koch said. “His students knew he cared about them.”

Bacon loved animals and critters, especially reptiles — his lizards Bonnie and Clyde and his bearded dragon.

He loved to eat lobster and scallops, chocolate chip cookies, chocolate ice cream, brownies (no nuts!) and clam chowder from Dan’s Clam Stand.

He was Santa Claus — jovial, joyful.

“George was a little bit of everything, a little bit of everywhere,” said Jayne Stanley from the church. “He was Santa for the kids at our Bright Beginnings Preschool and the academy, and during COVID, he got himself a Santa face mask and went to people’s homes.”

He was many things, but always a teacher.

After he retired in 2014, he returned to CRHS and volunteered to teach a year of science — without pay — just because they needed a teacher.

“He was the person that fired the cannon at football games when our team scored,” said Thomas Kennedy, Citrus County School Board member and a CRHS Pirate parent. “He also would have likely fired the cannon at this year’s graduation following the singing of the alma mater ... I just can’t imagine a football game or graduation without him.”

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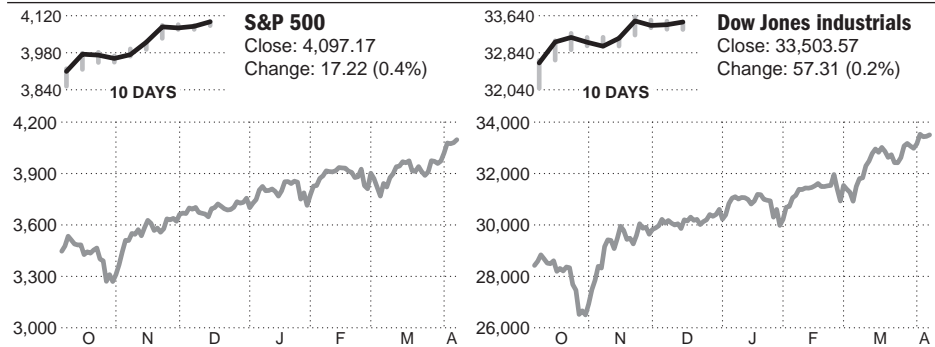
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Money&Markets

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StocksRecap

Table with columns: NYSE, NASD, DOW, HIGH, LOW, CLOSE, CHG, %CHG, YTD. Lists various stock indices and their performance.

Stocks of Local Interest

Table with columns: NAME, TICKER, LO, HI, CLOSE, CHG, %CHG, WK, MO, QTR, YTD, 1YR, P/E, DIV. Lists local companies like AT&T, Ametek, Anheuser-Busch, etc.

Dividend Footnotes: a - Extra dividends were paid, but are not included. b - Annual rate plus stock...

Interest Rates



The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 1.63% Thursday. Yields affect rates on mortgages and other consumer loans.

Table with columns: TREASURIES, LAST, PVS, CHG, 1YR AGO. Lists yields for various Treasury securities.

Table with columns: CONSUMER RATES, NAT'L, WK, 6MO, 1YR. Lists rates for car loans, mortgages, etc.

Commodities

U.S. crude oil slipped 0.3% while wholesale gasoline inched up 0.4% and natural gas prices were nearly unchanged.

Table with columns: FUELS, METALS, AGRICULTURE, CLOSE, PVS, %CHG, %YTD. Lists prices for oil, metals, and agricultural products.



(Previous and change figures reflect current contract.)

Mutual Funds

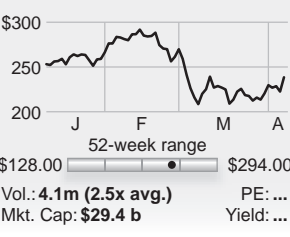
Table with columns: FAMILY, FUND, NAV, CHG, YTD, 1YR, 3YR, 5YR. Lists various mutual funds and their performance.

* - Annualized; d - Deferred sales charge, or redemption fee. m - Multiple fees are charged...

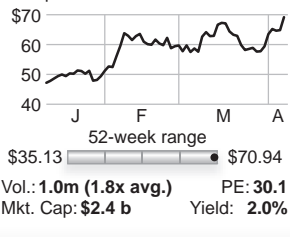
Story Stocks

Stocks are closing moderately higher on Wall Street and the S&P 500 was helped to a new high Thursday. The S&P 500 index gained 0.4%.

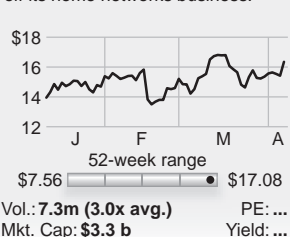
Okta OKTA Close: \$238.48 ▲15.92 or 7.2% The cloud computing company gave investors an encouraging update on its operations and plans for growth.



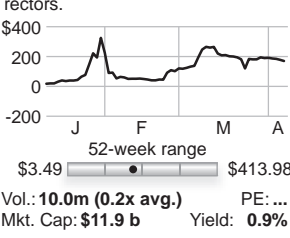
Silicon Motion Tech. SIMO Close: \$69.17 ▲4.33 or 6.7% The supplier of components to the chip industry gave investors a surprisingly good update on its first-quarter revenue.



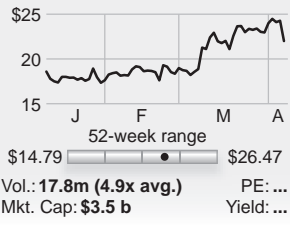
CommScope Holding COMM Close: \$16.35 ▲0.93 or 6.0% The wireless and broadband network technology company will spin off its home networks business.



GameStop GME Close: \$170.26 ▼-7.71 or -4.3% The video game retailer plans to elect Chewy co-founder Ryan Cohen as chairman of its board of directors.



Box BOX Close: \$22.00 ▼-2.27 or -9.4% Private equity company KKR is investing \$500 million in the cloud storage company.



Stocks rise

Lower bond yields help lift tech companies

DAMIAN J. TROISE AND ALEX VEIGA AP business writers

Technology companies led stocks to more gains on Wall Street Thursday, nudging the S&P 500 to an all-time high for the third time this week.

The benchmark index rose 0.4% and is on track for its third straight weekly gain. Stocks within the S&P 500 were about evenly split between gainers and losers, with technology companies driving much of the rally.

Bond yields, which had been steadily ticking higher, continued to inch back from the highs they hit earlier in the month. The yield on the 10-year U.S. Treasury note, which influences interest rates on mortgages and other loans, fell to 1.63% from 1.65% late Wednesday.

That pullback in yields took some pressure off technology stocks, which have slipped over the last few months as yields

jumped and made the shares look pricey. The sector has also seen choppy trading as investors shift more money into companies that stand to benefit from the economic recovery.

"We expect rates to rise because the economy is looking better," said Sylvia Jablonski, chief investment officer at Defiance ETFs. "I don't think that the 10-year (Treasury yield) moving around in the short term is really an issue for the market."

The S&P 500 rose 17.22 points to 4,097.17. The index also set record highs on Monday and Wednesday. The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 57.31 points, or 0.2%, to 33,503.57. The tech-heavy Nasdaq composite climbed 140.47 points, or 1%, to 13,829.31.

Small company stocks, which have been outpacing the broader market this year, also had a good showing. The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies picked up 19.54 points, or 0.9%, to 2,242.60. The index is up 13.6% so far this year, while the S&P 500, which tracks large companies, is up 9.1%.

Verizon recalls mobile hotspots

2.5 million were sold in stores, to schools

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Verizon is recalling 2.5 million mobile hotspots after some reports of overheating and two reports of minor burns.

The 4G hotspots were used by schools and sold by stores. They are called Ellipsis Jetpack mobile hotspots and were imported by Franklin Wireless in San Diego.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission said Thursday that the lithium ion battery in the hotspots can overheat, posing fire and burn hazards.

Out of the 2.5 million units, there have been 15 reports of devices overheating, including six reports of fire damage to

bedding or flooring and two reports of minor burn injuries.

The units were sold by Verizon stores in the U.S., other stores and school districts between April 2017 and March 2021.

They were sold for \$50 to \$150. Users can contact Verizon for a refund or replacement. Parents whose children received the recalled Ellipsis Jetpack from their schools should contact their school for instructions on how to receive a replacement.

Verizon said that of 2.5 million devices being recalled, just over 1 million are currently in use. Of those, several hundred thousand were purchased and are being used by schools.

IMF policy panel endorses \$650B increase in resources

MARTIN CRUTSINGER AP economics writer

WASHINGTON — The International Monetary Fund on Thursday authorized a \$650 billion expansion of the 190-nation lending institution's resources with the aim of providing more support for vulnerable countries as they battle the coronavirus pandemic.

IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said the \$650 billion increase in reserves is the largest in IMF history. The move will provide badly needed reserves for poor countries struggling with deep recessions caused by the pandemic and the need to obtain and administer millions of doses of vaccines, she said.

By comparison, to combat the global recession that followed the 2008 financial crisis, the IMF agreed to an increase of \$250 billion in the IMF's reserves of what are known at the agency as Special Drawing Rights.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen told the IMF panel that the SDR increase

would provide a "much-needed boost to global reserves." She said it would be important for rich countries who do not need the increase in resources to supply that extra support to poorer nations.

The idea of increasing IMF reserves gained support when the Biden administration endorsed the plan in February, marking a reversal from the Trump administration which had opposed the effort.

Republican lawmakers in Congress have raised objections to the increase in IMF resources, saying the increase would benefit countries seen as U.S. adversaries such as China, Russia and Iran. The Treasury said that the United States retained the right to refuse to engage in any SDR transactions with "any country whose policies run counter to U.S. interests."

Officials have indicated that the first distribution of the increased reserves could begin in August after a detailed plan is submitted for approval by the IMF's board of directors in June.

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 — David S. Arthurs publisher emeritus

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

ENHANCING TRAILS

Give residents access to parkway trail

The Suncoast Parkway extension into central Citrus County will run immediately east of the sprawling Sugarmill Woods Subdivision, and residents of the development are asking the county to build a multi-use trail from their neighborhood to the trail that runs parallel to the parkway.

This proposed half-mile-long trail would mean Sugarmill Woods residents could access the Suncoast Parkway trail without

THE ISSUE:

Sugarmill Woods residents seek multi-use connector with parkway trail.

OUR OPINION:

The idea makes sense.

for trail connectors, either to the Suncoast Parkway trail or other multi-use paths the county has developed or will develop in the future. Some of these connector requests will make sense, like this one, while others may be asking for the impossible. If the county develops a reasonable policy for building trail connectors, it will make criteria clear and will head off hard feelings from individuals or groups seeking connectors that make no sense and/or cost a fortune.

While Citrus County has historically drawn visitors who want water access and waterway recreation, such as boating or fishing, the county is increasingly being known for its miles of cycling trails. As more of these are connected to create longer and more complex paths, the county will continue attracting visitor and residents who are interested in cycling and other terrestrial outdoor activities.

The proposed Sugarmill Woods connector has the potential to enhance the county's system of cycling and walking trails. County officials need to fund it as an organized part of a continuing expansion of trails in the county.

Hoping for a cancer vaccine

Sometimes topics come up in the news that gets your attention, such as news that there is an anti-cancer vaccine on the horizon,

My father passed away from cancer, so I know what a tragedy cancer has been.

According to The Hill, the co-founder of BioNTech — a company that partnered with Pfizer — who along with her husband discovered the first coronavirus vaccine, said that the same technology will soon tackle cancer with a vaccine.

Ozlem Tureci said in an interview with the Associated Press that she had been working to use the body's immune system (mRNA) to combat cancer tumors before the coronavirus pandemic stopped the world.

According to the article, she said, "We have several different cancer vaccines based on mRNA."

The AP noted, "The coronavirus vaccine made by BioNTech and Pfizer uses messenger RNA or mRNA to deliver instruction to the body to make proteins that will alert it to attack a certain virus — the same technology can in theory be used for cancer tumors."

The scientist concluded by saying, "We can expect that within a couple of years we will also have other vaccines against cancer at a place where we can offer them to people."

The president of Germany recently awarded Tureci and her husband the "Order of Merit" — one of the country's highest honors.

I received the BioNTech-Pfizer coronavirus vaccine and I am thankful also and it is great to know that a vaccine against cancer is on the way!

Renee Christopher-McPheeters
Leclant

A reminder of guilt by association

It's my 80th year. My formative years taught me discipline, morality, honesty, and caring. Family was paramount, so was faith. Patriotism was important. (Dad served in the U.S. Navy in WWII and Korean War. I served in the U.S. Army). I survived the tumultuous political years since, though witnessing the steady destruction of most of what I believed.

As the media warns us about the dire consequences of wrong thinking, it reminds me of the dark days of "McCarthyism" of the 1950s. It was a shameful time when people deemed to have communist sympathies were suddenly unemployable or

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.

shunned, not because they committed any crimes but because of what they believed or were accused of believing.

It was an unjust time that happily exhausted itself, never to be repeated, or so I thought. But, the bad old days of blacklisting and guilt by association are back. It's not McCarthy this time but the "woke" Hollywood elites, Big Tech with their censorship, corporate HR departments, social media censorship, the legacy media and university professors. They are not hunting communists today but those accused of past "white supremacy," anti-LGBT thought, or supporting former President Trump.

The cancel culture bullies are out to "cleanse" the culture of what they consider unacceptable opinion or thought, which is simply code for "conservative thinking or ideas." If this was being instigated by the government, we'd have the Constitution to protect us. But this is the private sector so there is no Constitutional defense to stop it.

Those who would protect the rights of free speech, contrary opinion and thought are shouted down as racists, pro-domestic terrorism supporters, xenophobic, misogynic, and worst of all, conservative. This by the open-hearted, forgiving, and tolerant contemporary Democrat diversity of thought left. What's next, the McCarthy like question for American citizens/voters "Are you now or have you ever been a conservative?"

The same people who accuse conservatives for fomenting insurrection, forment violence themselves by ignoring and supporting the riots and attacks on law enforcement officers by Antifa and BLM. They espouse a Marxist ideology that is supposed to save humanity from

the errors of the past. Then through totalitarian rule, they'll manage human activity, control thought, and limit reproduction and consumption of resources. Marxism isn't working in Cuba, North Korea, China or Venezuela and it didn't work in Russia. So why are the Democrats intent on implementing it here?

Gerard Del Vecchio
Hernando

Former president deserves criticism

Leave the poor man alone? This is in response to a recent letter from Anna DeRose saying people should stop picking on Trump. She says leave the poor man alone.

Anna, the poor man led an insurrection against our government. He had our Capitol attacked and then sat back and watched with glee as police officers were beaten by his followers. He didn't try to stop the attack he caused even as his people were hunting for and attempting to murder the vice president and the speaker of the House. He attempted to turn our Democracy into a fascist state. Many of us will never be happy until this enemy of America spends the remainder of his life in prison. That is the very best this poor man deserves.

Barry Stine
Homosassa

Form your opinion from facts

In an April 5 letter to the editor, Mike Belkin believes there are too many letters to the editor sent by whiners. That is unfortunate. Many of the writers seek to inform with proven facts; others are personal opinions sent by whiners. There is truly a difference, especially at a time when the Capitol is attacked by traitors goaded by Trump to overturn the nation's election process.

Volunteering in the community is also vital. There is greater need and fewer people as our county population ages.

Those who are concerned about our nation, our state and our county can do both — research from various sources for factual information and write letters to the editor, while volunteering in the community.

People who write their opinions formed primarily from propaganda, not independent, verifiable facts are whiners who are harming our nation, our state and our community. They need to do less whining and do more volunteering.

Kathy Dobronyi
Inverness

Vaccine site was well organized

I am responding to "Still waiting for a call back," in Sunday's Sound Off (March 14, 2021, Page C2), regarding the vaccine. They say they have waited over a week for their call. I called the 866-201-0442 number on the Chronicle's front page and waited almost two weeks for a call back. When they finally called, my appointment was scheduled for two days later at 10:15 at Crystal Square Plaza. When I got there, I was really disappointed to see what looked like 50 cars ahead of me, but it turned out to be the most well-organized operation I've ever seen in my life. I arrived at 10:02. I got in my lane, which all four of them were marked off with traffic cones. We all filled out our paperwork. Cars were slowly moving forward the whole time. I got my shot, waited the 15 minutes required to make sure you have no reaction and I was home by 11 a.m. After reading about all the bad experiences at other locations, I was totally impressed by the professionalism at this one. Everyone have a wonderful day.

Sheriff should enforce speed limits

I was driving up through the construction area on (U.S.) 19 in Homosassa

today and people were passing me going probably 75, 85 mph. Of course, no sheriff's department deputies were in sight. Why won't the sheriff have the speed limits enforced in this county? ... I'd sure appreciate an answer to this.

Impact fees are to operate the county

This Sound Off is about impact fees. Impact fees are taxes. Capital construction and operational expenses are all controlled by the county commissioners. Taxes are to operate Citrus County, period.

Replace those tattered flags, please

I don't understand why people leave a flag up — whether it's a Florida flag or an American flag — that's all shredded. That's terrible, especially when you can get a flag at Walmart for about \$6 or \$7. So please, everybody, replace these ripped flags and stand up for your county and your state.

Pleased to see masks in church

I recently returned to church after avoiding it for a year, due to the pandemic. I was pleased to see masks



required and seats appropriately distanced. Father Richard at St. Benedict should be complimented for protecting his parishioners. It's disheartening to go to a store or restaurant and see no masks. I went to my favorite sports bar for takeout in the height of the pandemic and it was packed, with no masks or distancing. I will never return. If a business does not care enough to follow CDC guidelines, they won't get my business and they deserve to fail.

Thanks for beautiful column

Thank you, Gerry Mulligan, Chronicle editor, who wrote such a beautiful commentary in the Sunday paper (March 14, 2021, Page C1, Out the Window column titled), "Be afraid, but don't be frightened." That gave me so much comfort. I enjoyed that so much. I hope others read it. Thank you. Brilliantly written.

Keep Sound Off, lose letters to the editor

I'm responding to Sound Off. What's up with Monday (March 15, 2021)? No Sound Offs — that's really depressing. I'd rather read Sound Offs than letters to the editor. ... I would just rather read Sound

Off. At least you can respond to somebody. So keep the Sound Off going and get rid of the letters.

Emergency room workers very professional

This past Thursday evening (March 11), my wife and I visited the emergency room at the Seven Rivers Hospital. We would like to compliment the staff, the attending physician, the nurses and everybody that helped to take care of us. They were professional, they were courteous and they just did an outstanding job making us feel comfortable and taking care of us and I just want to compliment the staff. It was a great job and many, many thanks.

Thanks to DOH for organized vaccine site

A big thank you to the Florida Department of Health for their wonderful district park up in Holder, Beverly Hills, for this vaccine for the COVID-19. Very well done. In fact, it almost looked like a ballet the way they had the lines circling around and getting taken care of. Thank you very much. Job well done.

Mask is the COVID cure

My opinion may be a fact: The best way to stop the coronavirus is to wear a mask.

Sound OFF

Proposed ramp area too small

Some facts to explore before moving the Crystal River Third Avenue boat ramp to the end of North Sailboat Avenue in the Crystal River Preserve State Park and the St. Martins (Marsh) Aquatic Preserve: The area that can be converted to boat and trailer parking contains two picnic pavilions and a total of nine picnic tables. In addition, there is a canoe-kayak launch and the present area is currently used for the folks that use the canoe-kayak launch. This area cannot support a scallop season free-for-all. From Third Avenue to this proposed boat-launch area is exactly 4 miles. So for 4.9 miles further, you can reach the north side of the "ditch of dreams."

Four-wheelers taking over roads

I guess those roads in Cinnamon Ridge and all these roads around here, I guess they belong to the four-wheelers. Do they pay more taxes than anybody? Does that give them the right to run the roads without any license?

Lawmakers' votes

I always like to read in the newspaper, "How your lawmakers voted." It don't matter what subject comes up, what bill to vote on, you don't have to read anything except Daniel Webster, Marco Rubio, Rick Scott — "No." So if their names is there, you know how they voted, OK? Thank you for letting me sound off. You all stay safe.

We need more people who care

I was just noticing, you know, we had some people down and we went to Disney and I saw the most excellent job of masks and people just taking care of others and protecting who was around them. And we went to the airport and saw the same thing and it was amazing that so many people cared about so many of their fellow man. I just wanted to call that out and say you know what? Good for them. We need more like that. Yes, it's wonderful to be looking forward to not having masks, but remember, there's still a few more people out there that need their vaccines. Let's give them a chance, you know, to have their vaccine and then we can say, "Yippee, we're done with this!" But until such, that's all I have to say.

Code Enforcement might help you

To the person in the Sound Off (titled "Have a little integrity, decency," on Tuesday, March 16) who was agitated about the signs all over town: I agree with them. Most places forbid signs in your yard unless you are selling your house. A "For Sale" sign for a house or a real estate sign is permissible. Now this is from the code and it's in writing. No signs in the yard. So call Code Enforcement and see if they'll help you. You all stay safe.

Thanks for the sports results

Thank you, Chronicle, for printing the women's Final Four going to the Final Four NCAA Tournament (Page B2, Tuesday, March 16). I was ready to call you this morning if I did not find it in my paper like the men's tournament bracket, but thank you. You're a great hometown paper. Thank you again from all of us who watch men's and women's sports. Thank you.

Our jewel being quickly taken away

You know, the drive between Crystal River and Homosassa used to be a really nice drive; the trees lining the roadway and wild phlox growing in the median. Now the trees are all gone and there is no median. Our little jewel of the Nature Coast is quickly being taken away from us. I would like to know what our community leaders are doing to save the town of Crystal River.

Please yield to pedestrians

I have to sound off about drivers at a major grocery store who do not yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk. I was coming out of a major grocery store and a woman was on her cellphone paying no attention to me. There was a car behind her and I thought, well, I am going to cross over here because pedestrians have the right of way. Hopefully, I will not get struck by a vehicle. I think there should be more police presence at the major grocery stores in Citrus County, Florida, specifically off of Forest Ridge Boulevard.



THE CHRONICLE invites you to call "Sound Off" with your opinions about local subjects. You do not need to leave your name, and have less than a minute to record.

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Nation BRIEFS

Walkies



Associated Press
A pedestrian walks her Chihuahua along Market Street in Kingston, Pa., on a warm spring day, Thursday, April 8.

1 dead in paint plant explosion

COLUMBUS, Ohio — An explosion and fire rocked a paint manufacturer early Thursday in Ohio's capital, killing one person and injuring eight others.

Some of the injured were able to get out of the Yenkin-Majestic Paint plant in Columbus, authorities said. Others were rescued and taken to the hospital. All of them, including two initially listed as in critical condition, were stable by later Thursday.

The employee who was killed was found in the rubble of the collapsed building after the fire was extinguished, Battalion Chief Steve Martin said. The employee was identified as 44-year-old Wendell Light, a press room supervisor for the family-owned business, which makes paints, resins and other coatings.

The company is working with firefighters and workplace safety investigators as they try to determine the cause of the explosion and fire, CEO Andrew Smith said in an emailed statement.

The company hired environmental contractors to ensure that runoff from the firefighting efforts is contained and removed.

Native Americans: Change date of marathon

BOSTON — Native Americans in Massachusetts are calling on the organizers of the Boston Marathon to move the already rescheduled date for the storied race because it now conflicts with a day meant to commemorate the contributions of Indigenous people.

The Boston Athletic Association announced in January that the 125th edition of the marathon would be pushed back from its traditional April running to Oct. 11, assuming road races are allowed to take place under Massachusetts' COVID-19 restrictions by then.

But the Indigenous Peoples Day Newton Committee complained the new day undercuts a day reserved for recognizing the contributions of Native Americans, past and present. The group said its first planned celebration of the Oct. 11 holiday in the Boston suburb of Newton has to be canceled because of the marathon's new date.

"Unfortunately, the Boston Athletic Association has decided that Indigenous Peoples Day is a 'side' holiday that can be usurped," the committee said in a recently launched online petition. "By doing this, they are perpetuating the myth that Indigenous peoples are part of the past and irrelevant."

Indigenous Peoples Day is observed instead of Columbus Day in a number of states and dozens of U.S. cities. It's usually held on the second Monday of October, coinciding with the federal holiday.

— From wire reports

Record high at border

Number of kids entering alone hits all-time high in March

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. government picked up nearly 19,000 children traveling alone across the Mexican border in March, authorities said Thursday, the largest monthly number ever recorded and a major test for President Joe Biden as he reverses many of his predecessor's hardline

immigration tactics.

A complex mix of factors in the United States and Central America drove the increase. It has coincided with the Biden administration's decision to exempt unaccompanied children from pandemic-related powers to immediately expel most people from the country without giving them an opportunity to seek asylum.

Children are instead released to "sponsors" in the U.S., usually parents or close relatives, while being allowed to pursue their cases in heavily backlogged immigration courts.

The Border Patrol encountered 18,663 unaccompanied children in March, well above previous highs of 11,475 in May 2019 and 10,620 in June 2014. The agency started publishing the numbers in 2009. Before then, adults made up the vast majority of those crossing the border.

March's count was

roughly double the number of unaccompanied children encountered by the Border Patrol in February and more than five times the number in March 2020.

The huge increase in children traveling alone — some as young as 3 — and families has severely strained border holding facilities, which aren't allowed to hold people for more than three days but often do. It's left the government scrambling to find space and hire staff to care for children longer term until they can be placed with sponsors.

World BRIEFS

Food hunt



Associated Press

A rooster searches for food Thursday, April 8, beneath olive trees in the town of Rihaniye in the northern city of Tripoli, Lebanon.

2 dozen monkeys escape zoo

BERLIN — About two dozen monkeys broke out of a southwestern German zoo and spent the day lolling in the sun near a forest before being recaptured, authorities said Thursday.

The Barbary macaques, commonly known as Barbary apes, escaped from the zoo in Loeffingen, southwest of Stuttgart and not far from the Swiss border. It was not entirely clear how they got away, but construction work at the zoo might have been a factor, police said.

The primates were spotted roaming the area in a pack, but zoo employees were unable to recapture them and eventually lost track of them. A few hours later they were spotted, recaptured and returned to their cages without incident, police said.

"The animals apparently took advantage of the nice weather and spent the afternoon on the edge of a forest near the zoo," police said.

The Barbary macaque is native to the Atlas Mountains of North Africa and has a small but famous presence across the water in Europe in the British territory of Gibraltar.



The Dutch cargo ship Eemslift Hendrika is guided to land Thursday at Alesund, Norway.

Salvage crews tow freighter to port in Norway

HELSINKI — Despite heavy seas, a joint Norwegian-Dutch salvage operation managed to safely tow to land Thursday an abandoned Dutch cargo ship that had been adrift off the coast of Norway.

The Eemslift Hendrika, a Netherlands-registered ship designed to carry large boats, securely docked in port late in the afternoon in the western city of Alesund.

"It's a happy ending to an event. We are always happy when things go well, so it's a good feeling," said Captain Sverre Aas from the Norwegian Coast Guard, as quoted by the Norwegian public broadcaster NRK.

The ship's crew of 12 was rescued by helicopter late Monday after a power outage in its main engine. The Norwegian Coastal Administration, based in Alesund, launched salvage operations late Wednesday as it became clear that churning seas could make the drifting ship crash into the shore.

The vessel has substantial quantities of diesel and fuel in its tanks, which could have caused an environmental disaster.

The Eemslift Hendrika was adrift in the area where the North Sea and Norwegian Sea meet.

— From wire reports



Associated Press

Dr. Shmuel Rosenman, chairman of the March of the Living poses for a photo Wednesday, April 7, at his house in Moshav Hemed, Israel. The March of the Living is saluting medical heroes this year. The annual Holocaust education event is usually marked with a march on the grounds of the former Auschwitz death camp in Poland. But for a second straight year, it is being held virtually due to the coronavirus pandemic.

March of the Living honors medical workers battling COVID-19

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Like so many mothers, Raul Artal's insisted that her son was going to be a doctor.

But there was a history — and heroism — behind her ambitions for him. A determined Jewish doctor in a concentration camp in 1943 delivered Artal in a barn, despite his feet-first position — and saved the lives of both mother and son.

His mother was right: Now, Artal, 78, is a retired obstetrician himself.

"I've heard that story so many times, I could become nothing else" but a doctor, he chuckled during a recent interview from his Los Angeles-area home. By birth and by choice, he personifies the theme of this year's International March of the Living — an educational program that coincides with Israel's annual Holocaust memorial day.

Thousands of people usually take part in the march on the grounds of the former Auschwitz death camp, which had been run by Germany, in Poland. But for a second year in a row, Wednesday's event took place virtually due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Doctors like the one who delivered Artal in the most harrowing circumstances "served as rays of

Holocaust memorial day is one of the most somber days in the Israeli calendar, marking the anniversary of the 1943 Warsaw Ghetto uprising.

light during the Holocaust," the event's organizers said. In 2021, "we salute the relentless commitment of the selfless professionals facing today's world health crisis."

The online ceremony included a special award for Dr. Anthony Fauci, chief medical adviser to U.S. President Joe Biden, who was recognized for moral courage in medicine.



Dr. Anthony Fauci

"I believe that the healing arts lie on the path of goodness, the same path all of you have chosen in remembering and listening to the voices of those who perished in the Holocaust," Fauci said.

The enduring lesson of the

ages, Fauci said, is not just "that goodness and evil coexist, but that we are free to choose one over the other."

The scale and circumstances differ between the pandemic's toll and the Nazi-engineered genocide of 6 million Jews during World War II. But organizers of the annual march said they wanted to honor the frontline workers who treat and counsel people who are suffering, at great risk and cost to themselves.

"We look at the pandemic, it happens once in 100 years. Doctors all over the world are fighting to save people," said Shmuel Rosenman, chairman of the march. "It think it's our job as educators to come to the world and say, 'Listen people. The world cannot afford to forget what happened, (or) not embrace what's happening now.'"

Holocaust memorial day is one of the most somber days in the Israeli calendar, marking the anniversary of the 1943 Warsaw Ghetto uprising — the most significant act of Jewish resistance against Nazi Germany during the Holocaust. Israel gained independence in 1948 in part as a refuge for Jews.

Israel began marking the 24-hour period at sundown Wednesday with a ceremony at Yad Vashem, the national Holocaust memorial.

Expert: Lack of oxygen killed George Floyd

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — George Floyd died of a lack of oxygen from being pinned to the pavement with a knee on his neck, a medical expert testified at former Officer Derek Chauvin's murder trial Thursday, emphatically rejecting the defense theory that Floyd's drug use and underlying health problems were what killed him.

"A healthy person subjected to what Mr. Floyd

was subjected to would have died," said prosecution witness Dr. Martin Tobin, a lung and critical care specialist at the Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital and Loyola University's medical school in Illinois.

Using easy-to-understand language to explain medical concepts and even loosening his necktie to illustrate a point, Tobin told the jury that Floyd's breathing was severely constricted while Chauvin and two other

Minneapolis officers held the 46-year-old Black man down on his stomach last May with his hands cuffed behind him and his face jammed against the ground.

The lack of oxygen resulted in brain damage and caused his heart to stop, the witness said.

Tobin, analyzing images of the three officers restraining Floyd for what prosecutors say was almost 9 1/2 minutes, testified that Chauvin's knee was "virtually on the neck"

for more than 90% of the time.

He cited several other factors that he said also made it difficult for Floyd to breathe: officers lifting up on the suspect's handcuffs, the hard surface of the street, his prone position, his turned head and a knee on his back.

Chauvin kept his knee on Floyd's neck for 3 minutes, 2 seconds, after Floyd had "reached the point where there was not one ounce of oxygen left in the body," Tobin said.

— From wire reports

THE NUMBER:

1

Complete games in the majors this season after Lance Lynn's five-hit shut-out Thursday for the White Sox against the Royals.



Lance Lynn

SPORTS

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

Section B - FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 2021



Four-goal first period carries Lightning to victory at Columbus./B4

- Baseball/B2
- Scoreboard/B3
- Sports briefs/B3
- Lottery, TV/B3
- NBA/B4
- NHL/B4
- Outdoors/B4

Lecanto's Rice named 5A POY

Second in Miss Soccer voting

Chronicle

Lecanto senior soccer standout Ava Rice was recently chosen as the Florida Dairy Farmers 2021 Girls Soccer Class 5A Player of the Year.

The Old Dominion University signee also finished second to 4A player of the year Maddie Young from Cardinal Gibbons in the voting for the Florida Dairy Farmers 2021 Miss Soccer award, following a final round of voting by a statewide panel of girls' high school soccer coaches and media representatives.

Young received seven first-place votes and finished with 122 total points in the Miss Soccer voting, while Rice garnered six first-place votes and had 112 points.

Rice has been a key member of the Panther soccer team the past few years and finished her senior season with team highs in goals (47) and assists (18).

Lecanto posted another stellar campaign with an 18-4-1 mark and advanced to the Class 5A regional semifinals.



MATT PFIFFNER/Chronicle

Ava Rice of Lecanto, left, was recently named the Florida Dairy Farmers 2021 Girls Soccer Class 5A Player of the Year and finished second in the Miss Soccer award voting.

A walk in the park

Key hole at the Masters

AUGUSTA, Ga. — A look at the key hole Thursday in the first round of the Masters:

- HOLE:** 8.
- YARDAGE:** 570.
- PAR:** 5.
- STROKE AVERAGE:** 4.76.
- RANK:** 16.

KEY FACT: Justin Rose hit 5-wood off the mounds left of the green to 10 feet and made eagle. That was the start of a 10-hole stretch he played in 9-under par on his way to a 65 to build a four-shot lead.



Associated Press

Justin Rose walks on the 12th hole Thursday during the first round of the Masters in Augusta, Ga. Rose fired a 7-under par 65 in the opening round for a four-shot lead at the first major of the season.

Rose torches tough Augusta for 65 and 4-shot Masters lead

DOUG FERGUSON
AP golf writer

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Seven holes into the Masters, Justin Rose was 2-over par and in no position to panic.

He knew Augusta National in April was no picnic compared with the last one in November. He figured if he could get back to around even par by the end of the day he would be fine.

Rose never expected his best score in

his 59 rounds at Augusta National.

No one could have seen it coming, either.

Rose made seven birdies and an eagle during a torrid 10-hole stretch for an opening 7-under 65, giving him a four-shot lead Thursday in conditions that might only get tougher the rest of the way.

"It's incredible," Rose said. "It's a good reminder that you just never know what can happen out there."

It started with a nice hop off the mounds left of the green on the par-5 eighth that set up a 10-foot eagle. Only two of his birdie putts were outside 8 feet. He holed a 12-foot par putt on the one green he missed. Not bad for a 40-year-old from England playing for the first time in a month while resting an ailing back.

Twice a runner-up, including a

See WALK/Page B3



Lecanto girls rule league

Panthers earn GCE track and field crown

CHRIS BERNHARDT JR.
Staff writer

The Lecanto girls track and field team enjoyed a championship-caliber performance, as the Panthers got to celebrate collecting the top prize in their conference.

On Wednesday at the Gulf Coast 8 Championship meet at Weeki Wachee, Lecanto's girls scored 186 team points, well in front of Nature Coast (143) and Springstead (107), laying claim to the conference crown.

Senior Celine D'Anna ran to a first-place finish in all three of her individual races to lead the Panthers' efforts. She clocked a 27.02 to win the 200 meters, then swept both hurdle events with a 16.45 in the 100 and 46.77 in the 300.

Also for Lecanto, Catalina Veldwijk crossed the finish line first in the 3,200 in a time of 11:57 and was third in the 1,600 (5:38.45). J'Niyah Crumbley took the high jump title with a 4-11 and Liberty Lohmeyer won the pole vault with an 8-11 3/4.

The Panthers had a handful finish second, including Starr Mastin in the 400 (1:03.60) as well as Victoria Urbaez in the 800 (2:28.52) and 1,600 (5:38.45). Abigail Cochran was second in the long jump (14-4 1/2) and third in the high jump (4-7). Those three plus D'Anna were second in the 4x400 relay (4:19.21).

Also, Urbaez, Alex Garcia, Elise Leturno and Veldwijk came in second in the 4x800 relay (11:02.16), while Leah Hughes, Victoria Lantzy, Mastin and Crumbley were third in the 4x100 (55.83). Leturno added a third in the 3,200 (14:03.24) and a third in the pole vault (6-5). Abcydee Rome placed third in the discus (87-2).

In the boys meet, Lecanto came in third with a 103, behind Nature Coast (123) and Weeki Wachee (121).

Austin Recta recorded a first-place 40-2 3/4 in the triple jump for the Panthers. Joseph Sullivan, Ikenna Nkwocha, Travis

See LECANTO/Page B3

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Table with columns for East Division, Central Division, and West Division, listing teams like Baltimore, Boston, New York, Toronto, Tampa Bay, Minnesota, Chicago, Detroit, Kansas City, Cleveland, Houston, Los Angeles, Texas, Seattle, and Oakland with their respective stats.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Table with columns for East Division, Central Division, and West Division, listing teams like Philadelphia, New York, Washington, Atlanta, Miami, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Chicago, Milwaukee, Pittsburgh, Los Angeles, San Diego, San Fran, Colorado, and Arizona with their respective stats.

ROUNDUP/MATCHUPS

Mets 3, Marlins 2: Jeff McNeil launched a tying homer in the bottom of the ninth inning and the Mets were handed the winning run on a disputed hit by pitch. With the bases loaded and one out, a scuffling Michael Conforto appeared to stick out his right elbow pad just enough to get it grazed by a 1-2 breaking ball from closer Anthony Bass that looked to be in the strike zone. Cardinals 3, Brewers: Nolan Arenado hit a tiebreaking, two-run homer in the eighth inning of his home game with the Cardinals. Twins 10, Mariners 2: Mitch Garver, Byron Buxton and Luis Arraez hit home runs. White Sox 6, Royals 0: Lance Lynn pitched a five-hitter for the first complete game and shutout in the major leagues this season. Yermín Mercedes kept up his scorching start with a 485-foot homer and the White Sox gave manager Tony La Russa the win in his first home game on the South Side in 35 years.

BOX SCORES

N.Y. Mets 3, Miami 2

Box score for N.Y. Mets vs Miami, including batting order, individual player stats, and totals for both teams.



Associated Press

New York Mets' Michael Conforto, center, celebrates Thursday after being hit by a pitch to force in the winning run during the ninth inning against the Miami Marlins in New York.

Minnesota 10, Seattle 2

Box score for Minnesota vs Seattle, including batting order, individual player stats, and totals for both teams.

Chicago Cubs 4, Pittsburgh 2

Box score for Chicago vs Pittsburgh, including batting order, individual player stats, and totals for both teams.

St. Louis 3, Milwaukee 1

Box score for St. Louis vs Milwaukee, including batting order, individual player stats, and totals for both teams.

Boston 7, Baltimore 3

Box score for Boston vs Baltimore, including batting order, individual player stats, and totals for both teams.

Chicago White Sox 6, Kansas City 0

Box score for Chicago White Sox vs Kansas City, including batting order, individual player stats, and totals for both teams.



Associated Press

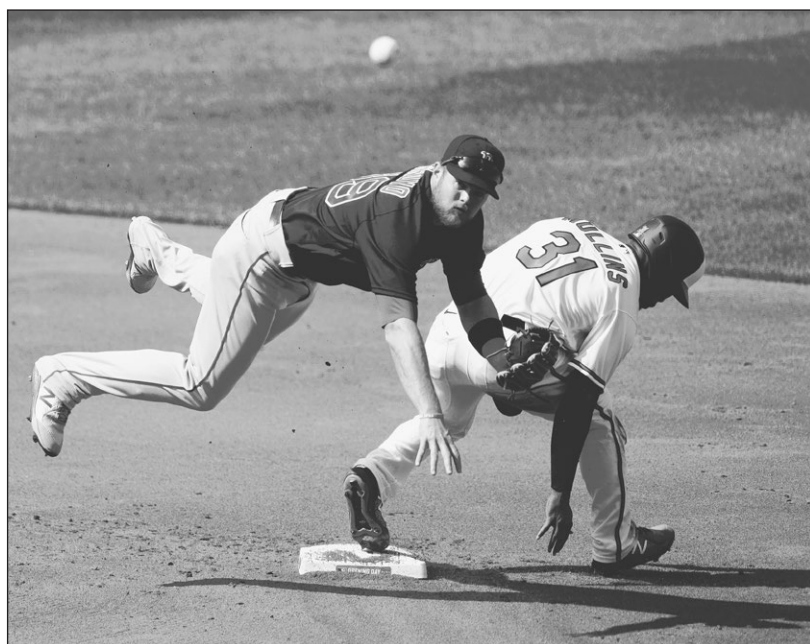
Oakland Athletics starting pitcher Cole Irvin winds up during the first inning of the team's game against the Houston Astros on Thursday, in Houston.

THIS DATE IN BASEBALL

1913 — Ebbets Field opened in Brooklyn and Philadelphia defeated the Dodgers 1-0 before a crowd of 10,000. The stadium, which cost \$750,000 to build, was named after Charles Ebbets, the club's principal owner. 1947 — Dodgers manager Leo Durocher was suspended for one year by commissioner Happy Chandler for "the accumulation of unpleasant incidents" detrimental to baseball. 1959 — The Baltimore Orioles, playing against the Washington Senators, became the first team in history to execute a triple play on opening day. The Senators won the game, 9-2. 1965 — The Houston Astrodome opened with an exhibition game between the New York Yankees and Astros. President Johnson attended and Gov. John Connally threw out the first ball. Mickey Mantle hit the first home run, but the Astros won 2-1 in 12 innings. 1969 — Billy Williams of Chicago hit four consecutive doubles to lead the Cubs to an 11-3 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies. 1974 — San Diego Padres owner Ray Kroc criticized his club over the public address system during a game! "Ladies and gentlemen, I suffer with you," Kroc said. "I've never seen such stupid baseball playing in my life." The announcement occurred during San Diego's 9-5 loss to the Houston Astros. Also, the San Diego Chicken team mascot made its debut that day. 1981 — Fernando Valenzuela made his first major league start a stunning success by pitching a 2-0, five-hit triumph over the Houston Astros in Los Angeles. He would go on to win his first eight games. 1985 — Chicago's Tom Seaver made his 15th opening day start to break Christy Mathewson's record. Seaver pitched 6 2-3 innings and was credited with the victory as the White Sox beat the Milwaukee Brewers 4-2. 1993 — The Colorado Rockies beat the Montreal Expos 11-4 for their first win and set a National League record for attendance in their home debut. The crowd of 80,227 broke the record of 78,672 set on April 18, 1958, by the Los Angeles Dodgers. 2000 — In a 13-7 win over Kansas City, Minnesota's Ron Coomer, Jacques Jones and Matt LeCroy hit consecutive home runs. The Royals' Carlos Beltran, Jermaine Dye and Mike Sweeney repeated the feat, marking the first time in major league history that both teams hit three consecutive home runs in the same game. 2003 — Detroit became the second major league team to start successive seasons 0-7 after a 9-6 loss to Kansas City. The Tigers started 0-11 last year. The 1962-63 New York Mets started 0-9 and 0-8 in their first two seasons. 2006 — Cory Sullivan tied a major league record by hitting two triples during a seven-run fifth inning, helping Colorado rout San Diego 10-4. 2014 — Garrett Richards and two relievers combined on one-hitter as the Los Angeles Angels beat the Seattle Mariners 2-0. Richards threw seven shutout innings. Abraham Almonte was the only Seattle batter to reach via hit when he singled in the third inning.

STATISTICAL LEADERS

Table listing statistical leaders for the American League and National League in categories like Batting, Pitching, Fielding, and Miscellaneous.



Associated Press

Boston second baseman Christian Arroyo, left, avoids colliding with Baltimore's Cedric Mullins while throwing to first base on a double play attempt Thursday on Opening Day in Baltimore.

Colorado 7, Arizona 3

Box score for Colorado vs Arizona, including batting order, individual player stats, and totals for both teams.



Associated Press

Tampa Bay forward Ross Colton, left, gets crossed up with Columbus forward Zac Dalpe during the second period Thursday in Columbus, Ohio. The Lightning won 6-4.

Lightning strike early, often

Four first-period goals in 6-4 win over Blue Jackets

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Tampa Bay scored three times in the first six minutes of the game, Andrei Vasilevskiy made 32 saves and the Lightning beat the Columbus Blue Jackets 6-4 on Thursday night.

Blake Coleman roofed a shot 58 seconds in, and then Steven Stamkos and Barclay Goodrow scored a minute apart to put the Blue Jackets in an early hole.

Ryan McDonagh scored twice, and Ross Colton also had a goal as the Lightning stopped a three-game skid and earned a split of the two-game series with Columbus as they duel the Florida Panthers and Carolina Hurricanes for supremacy in the Central Division. Yanni Gourde had four assists, and Goodrow added two assists.

Jack Roslovic had a goal and an assist, and Michael Del Zotto, Zach Werenski and Max Domi also scored for the Blue Jackets, who have dropped eight of the last 10 games. Joonas Korpisalo stopped three of the Lightning's first six shots before being benched for Elvis Merzlikins, who made 21 saves the rest of the way.

Goodrow's goal, which went in off the skate of Blue Jackets forward Patrik Laine, chased Korpisalo just 5:41 into the game.

Del Zotto cut the lead to two goals when he snapped in a shot from the slot late in the first, but the Lightning extended it again when a puck off the stick of McDonagh trickled under Merzlikins and across the line.

Colton kept up the pressure for the Lightning on a rush early in the second period. A charging Roslovic scored for the Blue Jackets late in the second, but McDonagh answered 1:48 later with his second goal.

Werenski and Domi got third-period goals but the Blue Jackets ran out of time.

Penguins 5, Rangers 2

NEW YORK — Kris Letang and Evan Rodrigues scored in the second period, and the Pittsburgh Penguins beat the New York Rangers 5-2.

Oilers 3, Senators 1

OTTAWA, Ontario — Devin Shore broke a tie with 7:02 left, Mike Smith made 39 saves and the Edmonton Oilers beat the Ottawa Senators 3-1 to sweep the nine-game season series.

Bruins 4, Capitals 2

WASHINGTON — Brad Marchand scored a shorthanded goal, Jeremy Swayman made 31 saves to win his second NHL start and the Boston Bruins

beat the Washington Capitals 4-2.

Devils 6, Sabres 3

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Jesper Boqvist scored the go-ahead goal with 11:15 remaining and the New Jersey Devils beat the Buffalo Sabres 6-3.

Jets 4, Canadiens 2

MONTREAL — Connor Hellebuyck made 36 saves and the Winnipeg Jets beat the Montreal Canadiens 4-2.

Hurricanes 3, Panthers 0

RALEIGH, N.C. — Alex Nedeljkovic made 24 saves for his third career shut-out, all in his last 12 games, as the Carolina Hurricanes defeated the Florida Panthers 3-0.

Islanders 3, Flyers 2 SO

UNIONDALE, N.Y. — Brock Nelson scored in regulation and got the only goal in a five-round shootout to give the New York Islanders a 3-2 win over the Philadelphia Flyers.

Predators 7, Red Wings 1

DETROIT — Viktor Arvidsson scored three times to lead the surging Nashville Predators in a 7-1 win over the Detroit Red Wings. The Predators have won nine of their last 10 games.

Stars 5, Blackhawks, 1

CHICAGO — Blake Comeau scored twice, Roope Hintz had a goal and three assists and the Dallas Stars beat Chicago 5-1 to end a two-game slide.

Butler, Heat beat depleted Lakers

Associated Press

MIAMI — Jimmy Butler scored 28 points to lead the Miami Heat past the depleted Los Angeles Lakers 110-104 on Thursday night.

Victor Oladipo had 18 points and Tyler Herro finished with 15 points for the Heat, who bounced back from Tuesday's 12-point home loss against Memphis.

Miami went on a 9-2 run late in the fourth period and took a 104-94 lead with 2:14 remaining on Butler's two technical free throws following Markieff Morris' ejection for arguing with the officials.

The Lakers cut it to 106-100 on Kentavious Caldwell-Pope's 3-pointer with 29 seconds remaining. Butler's four throws on Miami's next two possessions secured the win.

Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored 28 points, including 6 of 11 3-pointers.

Recently acquired Andre Drummond returned from a four-game absence and had 15 points and 12 rebounds for the Lakers.

Bulls 122, Raptors, 113

TAMPA — Nikola Vucevic and Zach Levine each scored 22 points and the Chicago Bulls beat the Toronto Raptors 122-113 for their third straight victory.

LaVine also had 15 assists, and Lauri Markkanen came off the bench to score 18 points on 8-of-10 shooting.

Chris Boucher scored a career-high 38 points and had 19 rebounds for the Raptors. They have lost 15 of 18.

Pascal Siakam added 27 points and eight rebounds for Toronto.

Cavaliers 129, Thunder 102

OKLAHOMA CITY — Collin Sexton scored 27 points and the Cleveland Cavaliers ended a five-game series losing streak to Oklahoma City, beating the Thunder 129-102.

Taurean Prince scored 22 points, Darius Garland added 21 and Kevin Love had 18 points and 11 rebounds for Cleveland. The Cavaliers broke open a tight game with an 11-0 run to begin the second half.

Ty Jerome led the Thunder with a career-high 23 points.



Associated Press

Miami forward Jimmy Butler, left, drives to the basket as Los Angeles Lakers guard Wesley Matthews defends, during the first half Thursday in Miami.

Citrus County FISHING REPORTS

CHRIS BERNHARDT JR. Staff writer

FRESHWATER

LAKE ROUSSEAU — Bill Burgess of Lake Rousseau RV and Fishing said bluegill are starting to move up a little bit, but their spawning season seems to be delayed. Bass fishing is good using top-water baits, moving up shallow close to the weed beds in the early morning and the evening. During the day, they're moving toward the scattered grass and vegetation, hitting on Devil's Horses, poppers and topwater baits. For bigger fish, use wild shiners.

SALTWATER

CRYSTAL RIVER/BARGE CANAL — Ed's Tackle Shop reports trout and Spanish mackerel are on the flats in 3-5 feet of water. Cobia are showing up along with tripletail and kingfish in 30-50 feet of water. Redfish and snook are in and around the mangrove islands. Use live shrimp or D.O.A. jerk shad in glow or new penny.

HOMOSASSA RIVER — Bill Korade of Blue Water Bait and Tackle said trout are in 5-6 feet of water, biting on live shrimp under an equalizer or light-colored plastics. There are a lot of Spanish mackerel and bluefish in the same area, north of Marker 4 to

the Bird Rack. Shrimp or something shiny should get the catch. Redfish and snook are around the outer islands, hitting on cut mullet or gold spoon.

KING'S BAY — Captain Louie Argiro of Florida Fishing Adventures (352-601-1963, www.floridafishingadventures.com), based out of Pete's Pier in Crystal River, said, "What started as a very cold week of fishing has turned into one of the prettiest weeks of the year so far. With slow tides we have not seen the spectacular fishing that we would like to see with the weather but we have made it work to our benefit."

"The big talk of the week has been the small numbers of tripletails starting to show up on the crab pot buoys in our waters just to the west of the main Crystal River channel. Running these buoys and spotting these fish is one of my favorite things to do and what can seem like a lot of running around can yield some great catches. My bait of choice has been a live shrimp."

"The snook fishing has held strong and should continue to for the rest of the summer. Luckily we are seeing more and more schools of redfish showing up which is extremely exciting for our summer as that is when they thrive."

"On the offshore fronts we are seeing great fishing for sheepshead and

hogfish but that should come to a close in the next week as the spawn is mostly over. This will turn the offshore fish of choice into the cobia as it is a crowd favorite. They're big, they fight hard and they taste great. There's nothing better. Tight lines."

AROUND CITRUS

Captain William Toney

(352-422-4141) said, "A great week of fishing is on its way. Last week's cold front helped by rewinding us back just a little to keep the spring fishing coming. There are two ways to find trout. One way is to fish the shallow rocks out at 8 feet with a MirrOlure Lil John in watermelon red flake. The other way to catch them is to fish the rocky points and ribbon

rock near Chassahowitzka Bay. The best bait is a D.O.A. 5.5 glow jerk bait.

"On the keys north of the Homosassa River look for jumping mullet to locate redfish. With the clear you would think that it would be easy to see them but it's best to stake out for a few minutes to let the redfish make the first move. A small school of reds can blend in with the bottom

very easily and what I've found if they're swimming or move, the ball will be in your court."

"On the offshore side there are good catches of mangrove snapper and hogfish coming to the docks stating at 18-30 feet. A few cobia are showing up on the larger structure and wrecks. High incoming tide will be the afternoon this weekend."

Mark Your Calendar For Saturday
April 10, 2021
THE INAUGURAL
Kings Bay Heron Hop
Decorate Your Land Yacht

Golf Cart Poker Run
Winners • Prizes • Fun

\$20 Entry Fee (optional \$10 more for one Passenger Hand)
Proceeds Benefit Friends of Citrus and the Nature Coast Services

Silent Auction **Best Poker Hand Wins** **Raffles & 50/50**

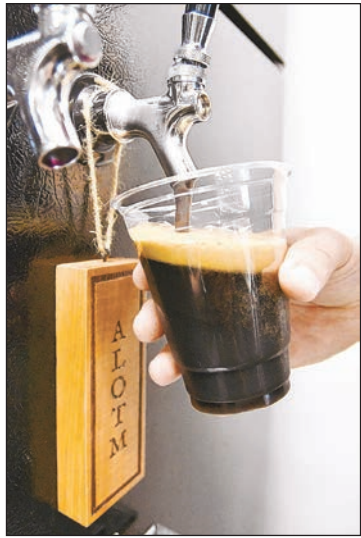
THEME . . . Nautical/Land Yacht (Prize for Best Decorated Vehicle)

STOPS (All in Crystal River)
#1. Plantation Tiki Bar #4. The Crab Plant
#2. Waterfront Social #5. Norton's Riverside Sports Bar and Grill
#3. Lollygaggers Sports Pub & Grill

SCHEDULE
10:30 a.m. Check-In/Registration at open lot on corner of N. Islamirada Way and W. Ft. Island Trail, Crystal River (trailer-in-w/ golf carts welcome; local rentals may be available)
11:30 a.m. Pedals Down!
4:30 p.m. Last Cart/Vehicle In at Norton's Riverside Sports Bar and Grill
5:00 p.m. Prizes Awarded, Raffles & Silent Auction

Questions? Call 352.249.1470
Friends of Citrus and the Nature Coast • www.friendsofcitrus.org • info@friendsofcitrus.org

Registration No. CH1413 A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL FREE (800) 452-7252 WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.



Chronicle file

Good Times

Citrus Writers announce meeting

Citrus Writers will meet at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 10, at the Hope Lutheran Church Hall in Citrus Springs.

The guest speaker will be Jan Hancock who will talk about writing poetry. All writers, wannabe writers, editors and published authors are welcome to attend the meetings.

The first time is free. For any subsequent meetings, a membership application can be filled out. Annual dues are \$20 per person and \$35 for couples.

For additional information email Jim Meyer, president, at jacobsglampy@msn.com.

Craft Brew Fest to support CASA

Nine State Brewery will host the first annual Inverness Brewers Union Craft Brew Fest from 3 to 7 p.m. April 10 at the brewery, 200 Tompkins St. in Inverness.

The Citrus County Abuse Shelter Association, Inc. (CASA) has been chosen as the beneficiary for the event. Proceeds will benefit CASA and their support of survivors of domestic violence.

The event is \$25 and includes four hours of unlimited beer tasting. Selections include home brews and local favorites such as COPP Brewery, Marker 48 and Hiatus Brewing Company.

Tickets are available online at EventBrite or at Nine State Brewery.

To learn more about CASA, visit casaf.org.

Woman's Club to have annual purse auction

The Woman's Club of Beverly Hills will be hosting their annual "ladies only" purse auction from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, April 17, at The Hills Church, 2 Civic Circle.

Participants can browse the handbag selection and bid on their favorite one. The event will be a silent auction.

All proceeds will go to various charities at the Woman's Club's closing meeting in May.

For additional information, call Nanci Martin at 203-915-7407

Knights to host fourth annual car show

The St. Scholastica Knights of Columbus will conduct their fourth annual car show from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 17, at Wallace Brooks Park, 328 E. Dampier St. in Inverness.

Trucks and motorcycles are welcome and the event will be held come rain or shine. Awards will be presented at 2 p.m.

Pre-registration is \$20 and registration on the day of the show is \$25. Admission for spectators is free. Hot dogs, hamburgers, chips and soda will be provided for sale.

For additional information, contact Mike Bonadonna at 352-341-1019 or mib5355@hotmail.com, or Ben DiVona at 352-527-3497 or bdivona22@gmail.com.

Heritage Museum sets Inverness walking tour

The Old Courthouse Heritage Museum invites the public to their

See GOOD/Page C2

Camera Club hosts virtual lectures

Photo creativity continues on Zoom

Special to the Chronicle

The Citrus County Camera Club, in conjunction with the Art Center of Citrus County, invites local photographers and anyone interested in photography to their monthly meetings.

Due to COVID-19, physical meetings are suspended but they have successfully conducted their workshops, photo contests and sharing field trip adventures via Zoom.

The Camera Club offers a wide range of hands-on workshops, field trips and photo opportunities as well as noted

guest lecturers. In April, they will present three Zoom meetings available to the public.

The first will be "Tech Tips: Godox Flashes" at 7 p.m. April 12 via Zoom. Larry Munne will instruct how to use three Godox flashes with on and off camera techniques.

The next lecture will be "Dicks Challenge" at 7 p.m. April 19 via Zoom. It will include a structured photo exercise that challenges participants to expand their photographic vision by submitting photos on a common theme.

See CAMERA/Page C2



Special to the Chronicle

Photographers and those interested in photography are invited to the next meeting of the Citrus County Camera Club at 7 p.m. Monday, April 12. Pictured is photo, "Racers."

Crafting through COVID



Special to the Chronicle

Citrus artisans' creative crafts, clockwise, from top left, are: A mixed media card created at Betty's Creative Studio in Lecanto; colorful rosaries handmade by women of the CCW at St. Benedict Catholic Church in Crystal River; floral greeting cards created at Betty's Creative Studio; paper rose Tootsie roll pop covers made by children at the Coastal Region Library in Debbie Robitaille's class; and some of the sewing creations made at the Coastal Region Library — a quilted table runner, a wall hanging and a tablet cover.

Citrus residents keep up with active artistry

CLAIRE PHILLIPS LAXTON
 For the Chronicle

People of all ages enjoy creating crafts — and that has continued even during the pandemic, but in smaller groups or from their homes.

At St. Benedict Catholic Church in Crystal River, women have been designing colorful homemade rosaries that are sent to Africa and other places where those wishing to have a rosary can finally have one.

Jean Doyle heads up the rosary creations for the Council of Catholic Women, CCW, at St. Benedict Catholic Church and has been doing this for many years.

She began making rosaries 20 years ago in another county where she lived. After moving to Citrus County, she asked Father Ryszard Stradomski if she and another woman could make rosaries and send them to people in need who didn't have access to them. He was

wholeheartedly for the idea.

Later, she found that the place where she ordered the beads, Our Lady's Rosary Makers, would also ship them to Africa, India, to priests and monks and also to the military. So, she didn't have to pay the large amount for shipping anymore.

She later put a notice in the church bulletin asking for volunteers to meet at church Hall at the church from 10 a.m. to noon to help craft.

"We had 14 volunteers, but two moved away, so now we are down to 12," said Doyle.

"I just sent 460 rosaries yesterday and for this year, which ends in May 2021, we've sent a total of 6,000 rosaries so far," she said.

Dee Reynolds is one of those members who enjoys making rosaries for those in need. She's been making them all year and enjoys creating them as "a way of giving back."

"It is a neat thing to do and I get a lot



Special to the Chronicle

Jane Doyle stands next to Father Ryszard Stradomski. The crafted rosaries are sent to those in need in Africa and India, to those in the military, and to priests and monks.

of gratification in helping someone," said Reynolds. Since COVID began she says, we started making them at home instead of at the church hall.

See CRAFT/Page C2



Spring Porch Sale at Knight House Studio set May 1

The Studio & Artists Gallery located at the Knight House in Floral City will hold their annual Porch Sale event from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 1. The Knight House is located at 8219 Orange Ave. in Floral City. Local artists will have artwork, arts and crafts supplies, frames, books and more on sale on the porches around the gallery. Studio artists will be doing demonstrations of different art mediums. Everyone is invited to attend. For more information



on the Spring Porch Sale, call 352-586-2014.

Special to the Chronicle

FRIDAY EVENING APRIL 9, 2021. Table with columns for channel, time, and program details. Includes sub-headers for C, S, D/I, F, H, and program titles like 'The Office', 'The Bachelor', etc.

Annie offers advice

Dear Annie: I am 57 years old and autistic. Due to my inability to read people and my own bad choices, I am the single mother of three adult children, whom I love and am indescribably proud of. But I have never been loved. As a child, I was sexually abused by my father for years. A teacher sexually assaulted me in high school. I'm terrified of male doctors. But two years ago, I started having to go to a doctor regularly to get injections in my eyes. If any other man even got that close to me, I'd go through the roof. But this man can get up in my face with a hypodermic and poke a hole in my eye, and, somehow, I'm fine. In fact, I feel safe around him. I have had nightmares on a couple of occasions and found that I changed the dream to imagine I was lying next to this doctor with my head on his shoulder, and I wasn't afraid anymore. Why can't I find a man like this? And are autistic people like me allowed to be loved? — When Will I Be Loved



DEAR ANNIE

Dear WWIBL: I'm so sorry that people who should have protected you instead hurt you. That should never happen to anyone. None of it was your fault. It makes sense that you would find yourself attached to this doctor, an authority figure with a gentle manner. You've been vulnerable with him, and he has validated that trust. It's just the opposite of what you got growing up. But the healing that you seek won't come from any man, no matter how caring he is. It will come from you, working through the severe trauma you've been carrying for decades, with the help of trained specialists.

There are several resources I'd encourage you to make use of. The first is the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network hotline at 800-656-4673, which can connect you with a trained staff member from a sexual assault service provider in your area.

I also urge you to find a counselor, preferably one who specializes in trauma and/or serving clients who have autism. Find one by asking your primary care doctor or calling the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration hotline at 800-662-4357. (SAMHSA can also provide referrals to support groups and community-based organizations.)

You may also be interested in the book "The Body Keeps the Score" by Bessel van der Kolk, a psychiatrist and researcher who has decades of experience helping patients recognize, cope with and recover from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Lastly, you're not just allowed to be loved; you are loved. You've raised three children who, no doubt, care a great deal for you.

Dear Annie: I'm a 39-year-old woman who wears full-mouth dentures. I'm insecure and feel as though I'll never find someone who would want to be with me because of them. I'm currently in a toxic relationship and stay in it because of the fact I wear dentures. How do I overcome these insecurities and find someone who wants to be with me? — Scared to Smile

Dear Scared: For what it's worth, dentures are usually only obvious to the person who's wearing them. But you're not alone in your feelings — many who have dental implants report feeling self-conscious. I encourage you to connect with some of them at community.dentureliving.com.

And you must break up with your current partner. Building up your self-esteem will be hard, if not impossible, while in a toxic relationship. You can and will find someone who truly values you as a person inside and out, who makes you smile with no reservations. It will have been worth the wait. Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

Bridge

PHILLIP ALDER Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

Our friend A.N. Onymous said, "There are no traffic jams when you go the extra mile."

In a bridge deal, a jam that stops you from crossing between your two hands might cost an extra trick.

How does that apply in today's six-spade contract after West leads the club king?

North was a little light for his three-spade raise; he should have settled for four spades. However,

Bridge hand diagram showing North and South hands with cards like ♠ Q 4 2, ♥ J 10 9, ♦ J 8 3, ♣ 10 7 6 3.

Dealer: South Vulnerable: North-South South West North East 2♣ Pass 2♦ Pass 2♠ Pass 3♠ Pass 6♣ Pass Pass Pass

maybe this South, who had the reputation of being somewhat cavalier, would have gone the extra two miles, taking a shot at the slam anyway.

South saw 11 top tricks, with potential losers in each red suit. At first glance, declarer thought that he needed the heart finesse to work. But then he spotted another chance — maybe he could establish a second diamond trick.

South cashed his spade ace, happy to see both opponents follow suit. Then he carefully led the spade eight to dummy's queen, keeping his three so that he could return to the dummy via the spade four later in the play.

Now came a low diamond from the board. If East had played low, declarer would have put in his 10 and been pleasantly surprised to win the trick. However, East put up his queen. Now, though, South won with his ace and returned the diamond 10 to establish dummy's jack as a winner, reached, as already noted, by overtaking South's spade three with dummy's four.

Yes, that was lucky: about a 24% chance. But if West had had a diamond honor, South would have fallen back on the heart finesse.

JUMBLE

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

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

Jumble puzzle grid with words GACOR, WLRIH, CRNETH, IKIBIN and circled letters for the answer.

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

Answers tomorrow Yesterday's Jumbles: GROSS HALVE TOPPLE RITUAL Answer: When they completed the jigsaw puzzle, they were — ALL TOGETHER

MORE PUZZLES

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

Peanuts



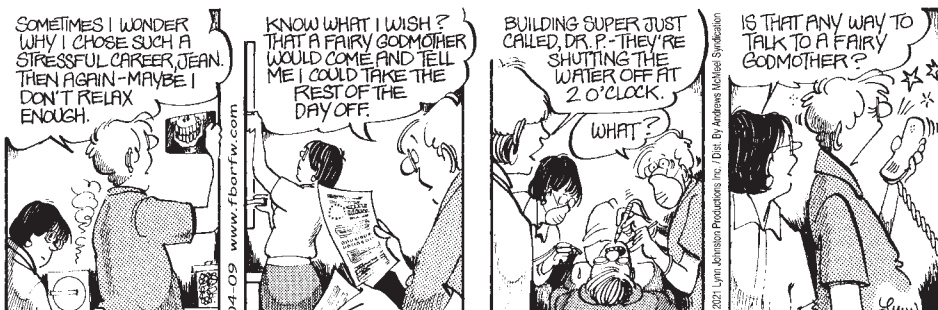
Garfield



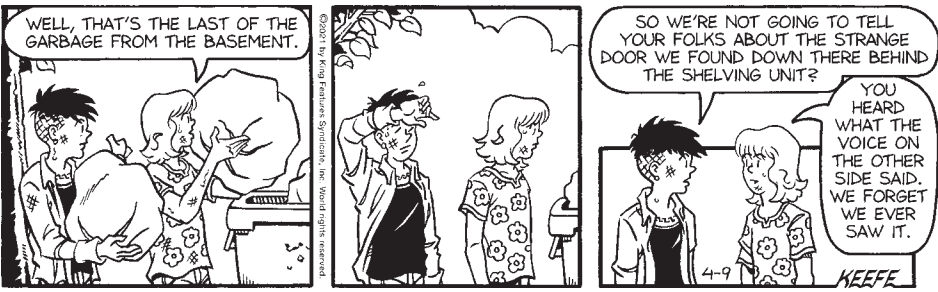
Pickles



For Better or For Worse



Sally Forth



Beetle Bailey



Dilbert



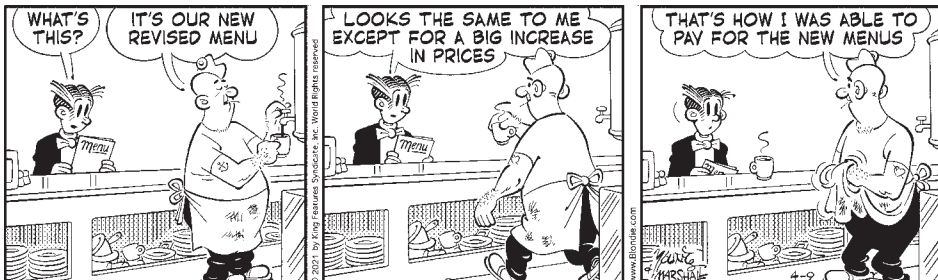
The Grizzwells



The Born Loser



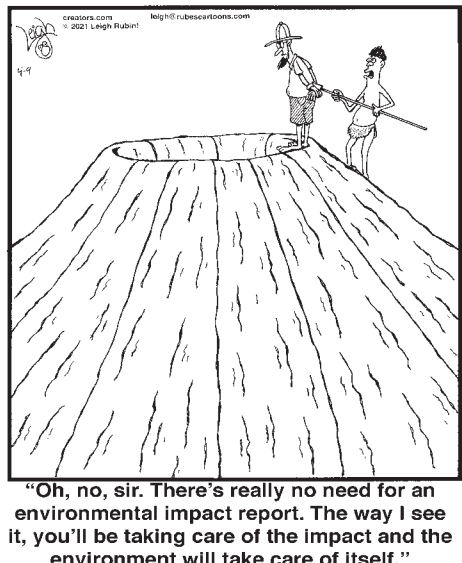
Blondie



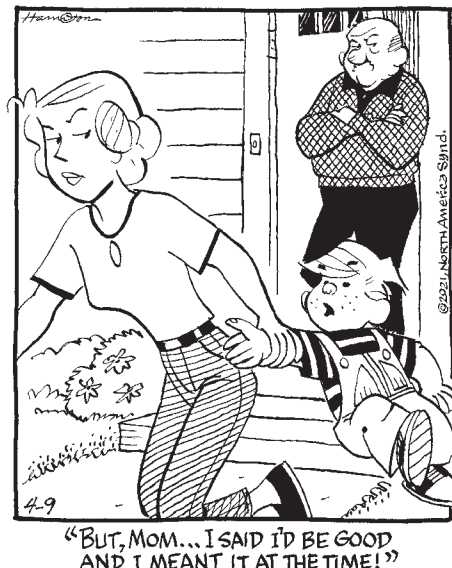
Moderately Confused



Rubes



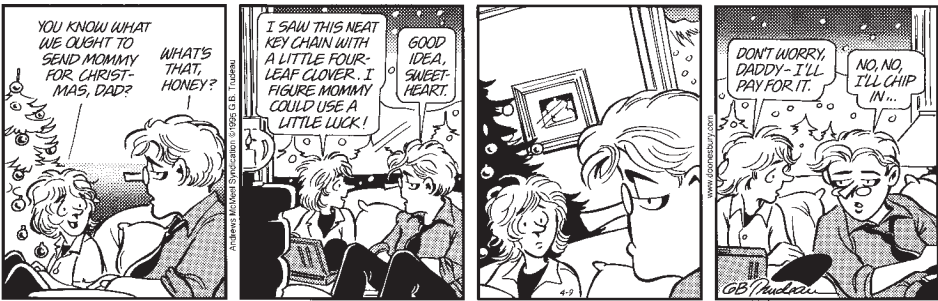
Dennis the Menace



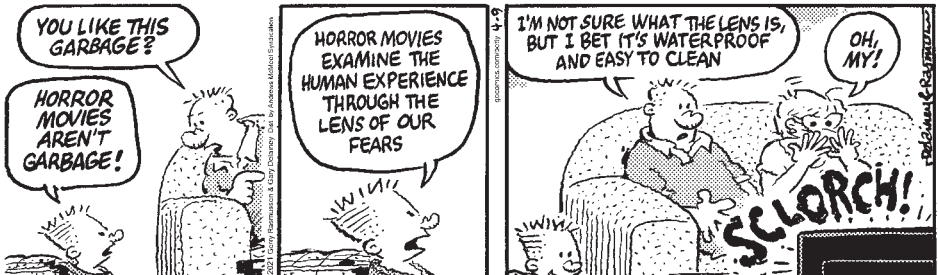
The Family Circus



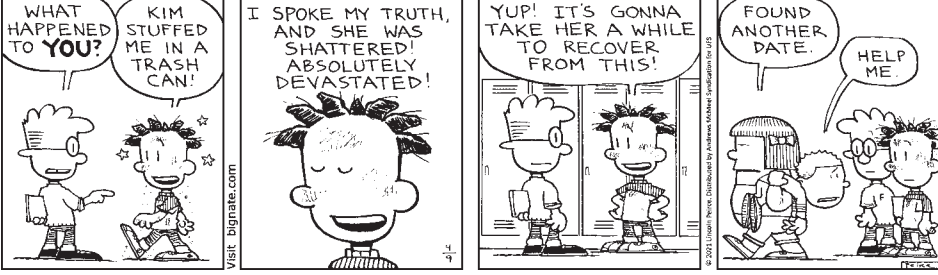
Doonesbury Flashbacks



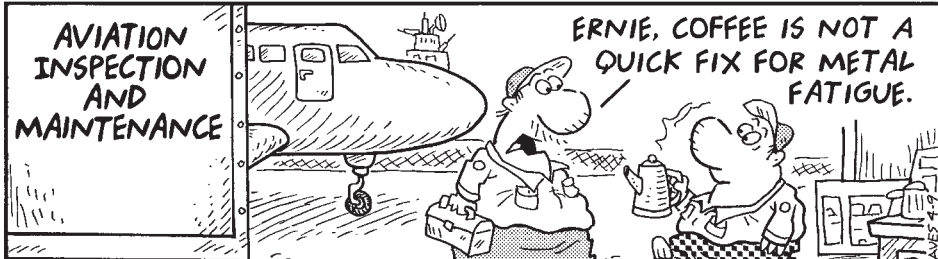
Betty



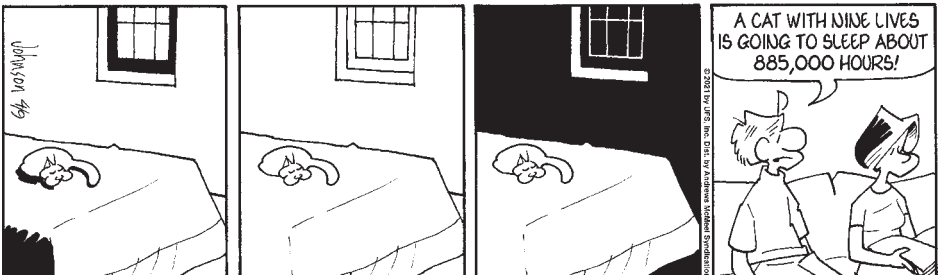
Big Nate



Frank & Ernest



Arlo and Janis



- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| WJUF-FM 90.1 National Public | Local RADIO | WXCZ-FM 104.3 Country |
| WHGN-FM 91.9 Religious | | WDUV 105.5 FM Hudson |
| WXCW-FM 95.3 Adult Mix. | WSKY 97.3 FM News Talk | WJQB-FM 106.3 Oldies |
| WXOF-FM 96.7 Classic Hits | WXJB 99.9 FM News Talk | WFJV-FM 107.5 Classic Rock |
| WEKJ FM 96.3, 103.9 Religious | WXCZ 103.3 Country | WRZN-AM 720 Religious |

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. Masks are recommended, general admission with social distancing, capacity is 40 individuals for films.

- "Roman Holiday" Monday, April 12, 1 p.m.
- "Titanic" Friday, April 16, 7 p.m.
- "Ghostbusters" Saturday, April 17, 3 p.m.
- "My Cousin Vinny" Friday, April 30, 7 p.m.

CELEBRITY CIPHER by Luis Campos

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

Today's clue: V equals B

"DH TUM'NI WP YUPIJA LINJUP, TUM'BB
 FWCI FDJAWCIJ, VMA AYWA'J ZYIP AYI
 FUJA DPAINIJADPX AYDPXJ YWLLIP."

— CNDJAIP JAIZWNA

Previous Solution: "Whether a revolution succeeds or fails, people of great hearts will always be sacrificed to it." — Heinrich Heine

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level 1 2 3 4

9x9 Sudoku grid with some numbers filled in.

Solution to Thursday's puzzle

9x9 grid showing the solution to the puzzle.

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

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Friday, April 9, 2021

KATHLEEN SAXE

WORD GAME

TODAY'S WORD -- ULTIMATE

(ULTIMATE: UL-tih-mit: Being last in a series, process or progression.)

Average mark 31 words
Time limit 45 minutes

Can you find 44 or more words in ULTIMATE?
The list will be published tomorrow.

YESTERDAY'S WORD -- ACTIONS

Grid of words for yesterday's word game.

RULES OF THE GAME: 1. Words must be of four or more letters. 2. Words that acquire four letters by the addition of "s," such as "bats" or "dies," are not allowed.

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ACROSS

- 1 Reimbursed
5 Satchel
8 Tubular pasta
12 Wind instrument
13 Outback jumper
14 Arkin or Alda
15 Lawn wetters
16 Pub order
17 Blouse part
18 Newspaper, often
20 - kebab
22 Pit stop item
23 Charge
24 Reddish horses
27 Get a mortgage
30 Time divs.
31 Distinct period
32 Extinct bird
34 Attend a banquet
35 Large vat

- 37 Dog's bark
38 Chameleon
40 Beyond well done
42 Poached item
43 French wine
44 Small wood
46 Waned
49 "Hogwash!"
50 Hassle
52 "Garfield" dog
54 Enemy's opposite
55 Form 1040 expert
56 Reside
57 Secure a boat
58 "Over there"
59 Cheek dampener

DOWN

- 1 Pea container
2 Sleeping
3 Midwest state
4 Motif
5 Makes like a mule

Answer to Previous Puzzle

Crossword grid with answers filled in.

- 6 Yahoo! rival
7 Really likes (2 wds.)
8 Goofier
9 Cousteau's islands
10 RPM dial
11 Fingerprinting need
19 - Cruces, N.M.
21 Zeus' wife
24 Whiskey grain
25 Vaccine type
26 Italian wine city
27 Curve
28 Actor - Sharif
29 Shabby
33 Toward the stern
35 Dogs' IDs
36 Need for speed
39 Soft breeze
40 Highchair attire
41 Open
43 Meat avoider
44 Wyo. neighbor
45 Norwegian port
47 Falco or Sedgwick
48 Aria performer
49 "Ka-pow!"
53 Always, to the bard

Large crossword grid with numbers.

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WORDY GURDY

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

- 1. Shall do rote training in boot camp (1)
2. Jammed-in-place hockey disc (1)
3. Singer Legend's "ugly ducklings" (1)
4. Home Depot rival opens more stores (1)
5. Girl's or woman's online messages (2)
6. Primarily (to a K.C. NFLer?) fleetingly (2)
7. Steadily dying down flimflamming (2)

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

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1. WILL DRILL 2. STUCK PUCK 3. JOHNS SWANS 4. LOWES GROWS 5. FEMALES EMAILS 6. CHIEFLY BRIEFLY 7. DWINDLING SWINDLING

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6409-0416 FCRN Notice to Creditors: Estate of James E. Hart, deceased. Includes attorney contact info for Thomas G. Tripp.

6402-0409 FCRN NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: Notice of public auction for property at 2004 KING mobile home. Includes contact info for Michelle Leeper.

6410-0409 FCRN PUBLIC NOTICE: The Citrus County School Board will hold an Administrative Hearing on April 13, 2021.

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