



THURSDAY
 TODAY & next morning
HIGH 81 Partly sunny and warm.
LOW 64
 PAGE A4

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

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Editor's Note:
 Due to early deadlines for the New Year's Day edition, Thursday night's lottery numbers will not appear Friday, Jan. 1.

NEWS BRIEFS

Citrus COVID-19 update

According to the Florida Department of Health, 59 positive cases were reported in Citrus County since the latest update. Eight new hospitalizations were reported; one new death was reported.

To date in the county, 6,567 people have tested positive (including 39 non-residents), 512 have been hospitalized and 261 have died.

Health Dept. to close, testing site will open

The COVID-19 testing site at the Citrus Springs Community Center will remain open on New Year's Day on Friday, Jan. 1, despite the Florida Department of Health in Citrus County's (DOH-Citrus) office closures Thursday, Dec. 31, and Friday, Jan. 1. DOH-Citrus will reopen at its regularly scheduled times on Monday, Jan. 4.

As a reminder, COVID-19 testing is offered to the first 150 individuals from 7:30 to 10 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the Citrus Springs Community Center, 1570 W. Citrus Springs Blvd. Testing is provided at no cost to adults and children over 12, with or without symptoms. No appointment needed. Please bring a photo ID and plan to stay in your vehicle the entire time.

For more information about DOH-Citrus and its COVID-19 testing site, visit www.CitrusCountyHealth.org or follow us on Twitter at @FLHealthCitrus.

Do not call the Citrus Springs Community Center for information.

Cardinal Interchange meeting set

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

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

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

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

— From staff reports

Virus shots start next week

Elderly up first; Department of Health warns initial supplies will be limited

FRED HIERS
 Staff writer

Citrus County residents 65 years old and older wanting to be vaccinated against the coronavirus will have the opportunity next week as the Department of Health offers two drive-thru clinics.

The Florida Department of Health in Citrus County

will offer COVID-19 vaccines to senior citizens from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 7, and Saturday, Jan. 9, at the Central Ridge District Park, 6905 N. Lecanto Highway, Beverly Hills.

DOH spokeswoman Audrey Stasko warned the clinics will be operational only for as long as supplies last. The DOH received

2,000 doses this week and the first to receive them will be emergency first responders such as paramedics and firefighters this week.

"Whatever is remaining will be used at the drive-thru next week," she said.

As for how many vaccinations that will mean for Citrus County residents, Stasko said she did not know.

"We don't know how many vaccinations we'll have. We know we have 2,000 we received (and first responders will receive theirs first) so people can guesstimate based on that," she explained.

"People are going to have to be patient," she said.

People do not have to be a Citrus County resident to

get the vaccinations here, she said.

Seniors wanting the vaccinations are required to bring valid identification and must plan to be in Citrus County to receive their second round of the vaccine 28 days after their first shots, according to Stasko.

See **VACCINE/Page A2**

Brashear to retire after 40 years



As Bob Brashear reflected on his 40-year career as a pharmacist, he recalled learning early on that a pharmacist's role is so much more than simply filling prescription bottles with pills. After 40 years, Brashear is hanging up his white pharmacist's coat and retiring as of Jan. 1, 2021.

Looking back over career, pharmacist says his job has been a 'blessing'

NANCY KENNEDY
 Staff writer

As Bob Brashear reflected on his 40-year career as a pharmacist, he recalled learning early on that a pharmacist's role is so much more than simply filling prescription bottles with pills.

"I remember when I was working as an intern, filling a prescription for a diuretic for a lady. I remembered that she was also on lithium, and I remembered from pharmacy school that there was an interaction between lithium and diuretics," he said.

The woman was in the hospital, and Brashear called and asked how she was doing.

"They said she was doing fine, 'but now she's comatose,' and I told them about the interaction between diuretics and

lithium and to call the doctor and have him check her and get her off the diuretics," he said.

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

"When I look back on the last 40 years, I feel blessed to be a pharmacist," Brashear wrote in a news release. "My friend, the late Harold Eich, once shared with me a Bible verse, Colossians 3:23, which became the theme for my life. He reminded me that my main goal was working for the Lord.

"It's easy to be motivated when you know God as your boss," he said.

Brashear began his pharmacy career in Pinellas County.

In 1979, he cut out a help-wanted ad in the Tampa

Tribune for a pharmacist at Citrus Memorial Hospital and carried it around for several weeks until both he and his wife, Dianne, had time off to make the trip to Inverness.

The couple had wanted to find a smaller community to raise a family, and they decided Citrus County was ideal.

After their twin sons, Jesse and Justin, were born, Brashear left CMH to work at a small retail pharmacy in Inverness, Fedco, staying there for almost 20 years.

"I was the first pharmacist out of our 20 stores that requested a computer to keep up with the volume of prescriptions, and then the other stores followed my plan," Brashear said. "Back then, sometimes the phone would ring at 2 a.m. and it could be Pam Kennedy, director of nursing with

Hospice of Citrus County regarding one of her patients," he said. "A great part of the Fedco pharmacy was having Sunday off so I could attend church with my family."

Because Brashear understood that a pharmacist was more than a prescription filler; throughout his career he offered a number of services, such as spending time with people to educate them about taking their medication properly.

In 1991, while still at Fedco, Brashear started Brashear's Vital Care, providing home infusion medications.

Dianne Brashear left her job at CMH as an ICU nurse to do marketing for the business and also help train people how to use their ambulatory infusion pumps at home.

See **CAREER/Page A2**

Sen. McConnell says no to bigger relief checks

LISA MASCARO
 AP congressional correspondent

WASHINGTON — Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell all but shut the door Wednesday on President Donald Trump's push for \$2,000 COVID-19 relief checks, declaring Congress has provided enough pandemic aid as he blocked another attempt by Democrats

to force a vote.

The GOP leader made clear he is unwilling to budge, despite political pressure from Trump and even some fellow Republican senators. Trump wants the recent \$600 in aid increased threefold. But McConnell dismissed the idea of bigger "survival checks" approved by the House, saying the money would go to plenty of

American households that just don't need it.

McConnell's refusal to act means the additional relief Trump wanted is all but dead.

"We just approved almost a trillion dollars in aid a few days ago," McConnell said, referring to the year-end package Trump signed into law.

McConnell added, "if specific, struggling

households still need more help," the Senate will consider "smart targeted aid. Not another firehose of borrowed money."

The showdown between the outgoing president and his own Republican Party over the \$2,000 checks has thrown Congress into a chaotic year-end session just days before new lawmakers are set to be sworn into office.

It's one last standoff, together with the override of Trump's veto of a sweeping defense bill, that will punctuate the president's final days and deepen the GOP's divide between its new wing of Trump-style populists and what had been mainstream conservative views against government spending.

See **STIMULUS/Page A6**

VACCINE

Continued from Page A1

The vaccinations will be administered to recipients while they remain in their vehicles.

People coming to the site are requested to download and complete the Department of Health COVID-19 vaccine screening and consent. The document can be found at tinyurl.com/yb5bqrb9.

The document will also be available at the vaccination site.

The Moderna vaccination will be offered.

People are also asked to review the DOH Moderna Fact Sheet about what they can expect during and after the vaccination.

That site is tinyurl.com/yccufj75.

The DOH also encourages people to talk to their primary care provider about whether they should have the vaccination.

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

The second dose of the Moderna vaccination should be received 28 days after the initial dose. The second dose must be from the same manufacturer as the first vaccine.

But Stasko said she's not sure where people will get their second dose. The DOH in Citrus County may not have the second dose, she said.

Stasko said she hopes other agencies and the private sector step in if they receive vaccine supplies.

"It's all dependent on supply," she said.

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

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

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

Contact Chronicle reporter Fred Hiers at fhiers@chronicleonline.com or 352-397-5914.

CAREER

Continued from Page A1

When Fedco closed its stores in 2001, Brashear opened his own retail pharmacy in Inverness in 2002 and then another store on County Road 491 in Lecanto in 2007.

"I still know the name of our first patient and that her prescription was \$2.25," Brashear said.

The business grew rapidly, and over the years they've employed about 20 family members as well as family friends.

"I probably would not have become a pharmacist if I had not met Bob when I was 12 years old," said Jon Wright, Dianne Brashear's brother. "I realized he was a man of fine character who loved the Lord, and I looked up to him."

"None of us had any idea that years later we would be in business together for over 20 years. Definitely it has been a great gift from God to our family."

The family business has also included at one time or another all three of Bob and Dianne's sons, the twins' spouses, Dianne's sister and mother

and others in their extended family.

"Bob's knowledge and compassion is well known to all his patients," said Nathan Ott, a longtime friend of the family who is now a pharmacist in Georgia. "But the trait that impacted my pharmacy career the most was his servant leadership behind the counter. His humility and work ethic taught me how to take care of my employees as well as my patients. He often had encouraging words to build us up, and always put others ahead of himself."

Brashear said he plans

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

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

Contact Chronicle reporter Nancy Kennedy at 352-564-2927 or nkenedy@chronicleonline.com. Read more of Nancy's stories at tinyurl.com/yat69grh.

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Around the
COUNTY

UF offers local ServSafe certification

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

The next class will be at 8:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 29, at the UF/IFAS Extension Citrus County office, 3650 W Sovereign Path, Suite 1, Lecanto. The Extension building is the first building on the right. Pre-registration of two weeks is required, due by Jan. 15.

Certification is required in Florida for food managers of all establishments licensed by the Department of Business and Professional Regulation, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and selected licenses of the Department of Health.

To register online, visit tinyurl.com/z6dp7f.

Meals On Wheels in need of volunteer drivers

Citrus County's Meals On Wheels program joins the National Meals On Wheels Association of America with the goal that no senior goes hungry. In order to ensure meals for homebound seniors in Citrus County, volunteers are needed. Meals are delivered Mondays through Fridays.

Each meal route consists of 10 to 20 stops, taking one to two hours to complete and drivers will be reimbursed for mileage.

For information or to become a volunteer driver, call:

■ Homosassa/Crystal River area: West Citrus Community Center, 352-795-3831.

■ Inverness/Floral City area: East Citrus Community Center, 352-344-9666.

■ Hernando/Inverness area: Hernando Area Senior Program, 352-566-2328.

■ Beverly Hills/Lecanto/Citrus Springs area: Central Citrus, 352-527-5942.

Join Friends group to aid library

The Friends of the Homosassa Library are seeking new members and hoping current members renew their memberships for 2021 in order to raise funds for the library. They are also planning a tentative book sale for February 2021, depending on the status of the pandemic.

To become a Friend of the Homosassa Library, submit your name and address. The memberships are: Individual, \$10; Family, \$15; Contributor, \$25; Sponsor, \$50; Benefactor, \$100 or more. Make checks payable to "The Friends of the Homosassa Library" and mail to: Friends of the Homosassa Library, P.O. Box 132, Homosassa Springs, FL 34447.

For information, email reportersr@hotmail.com.

Sunshine Poets meet monthly, welcome new members

Sunshine Poets will meet at 10 a.m. the second Thursday monthly at the Central Ridge Library in Beverly Hills. Bring poems to share or just attend to listen. If you wish a gentle critique, bring several copies. For information, visit the Sunshine Poets Facebook page.

— From staff reports

Woman accused of DUI manslaughter

Jogger died on U.S. 19 in Homosassa

BUSTER THOMPSON
Staff writer

A Homosassa woman who was driving a vehicle that fatally struck a jogger on a local roadway is now accused of being intoxicated while behind the wheel.

Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) troopers arrested 65-year-old Janis Marie Bressan-Stacey the evening of Tuesday, Dec. 29, for DUI manslaughter in connection to the collision from earlier in the day on U.S. 19 in southern Homosassa, according to a report

released Wednesday morning by FHP.

It's alleged Bressan-Stacey had narcotics in her system at around 3:15 p.m. when her southbound Lincoln MKZ sedan veered off of U.S. 19, south of the junction with West Ponce De Leon Boulevard, and struck a 43-year-old Homosassa man jogging along the highway, killing him.

Citing Marsy's Law, Florida's victim-protection law, FHP could not disclose the jogger's identity, agency spokesman Sgt. Steve Gaskins said Wednesday.

Bressan-Stacey was uninjured.

According to Bressan-Stacey's court-filed arrest report, troopers noticed her swaying while she was standing and walking at the crash scene. She later failed troopers' field sobriety tasks.

A witness also told troopers Bressan-Stacey's Lexus was unable to stay within its lane multiple times before it collided with the jogger, the arrest report states.

Bressan-Stacey, according to



Janis Bressan-Stacey

her arrest report, gave a voluntary blood sample to FHP at the crash scene for toxicological analysis.

Gaskins said the agency is awaiting results to determine which substances are present.

Bressan-Stacey was booked into the Citrus County Detention Facility under a \$30,000 bond, which a judge kept during Bressan-Stacey's first court appearance Wednesday morning, court records show.

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

Seniors swarm vaccination sites

BOBBY GAINA GALVAN
Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis begged for patience from anxious seniors waiting their turn to get inoculated against COVID-19, as confusion and frustration arose over the availability of the life-saving vaccine among some of the state's most vulnerable.

At a testing site in southwest Florida, hundreds of seniors formed long lines outside testing sites — camping out overnight with lawn chairs and blankets — to get vaccinated. Before the sun had even risen Wednesday morning, the county's vaccine supply for the day was already accounted for, prompting officials to turn down anyone else who was arriving.

Seniors in other parts of the state were frustrated by busy phone lines and websites that would no longer issue new vaccination appointments.

DeSantis has prioritized Floridians older than 65 to be next in line for the state's stock of vaccine, now that most health care workers and other first responders are protected against the virus that has infected more than 1.2 million Floridians and killed more than 21,000.

More than 82% of those who have died from the disease have been older than 65, underscoring the urgency in getting older Floridians vaccinated, the governor said Wednesday.

"The COVID-19 vaccine supply is still limited. We don't have enough vaccine currently on hand for all 4 million-plus senior citizens in the state of Florida," the governor said during a news conference in Delray Beach.

"We're going to get there but it's not going to happen overnight. So please be patient," the governor implored during a visit to a senior living community.



GREG LOVETT /The Palm Beach Post

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, left, watches Jessica Brown, 77, receive the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine from nurse Sherry Phillips on Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2020, at the King's Point clubhouse in Delray Beach.

Amid uncertainty about how quickly the state can acquire more doses of two now-available vaccines, county health departments and hospitals across the state are scrambling to deliver the vaccine to seniors.

Lin Humphrey, a college professor whose 81-year-old mother lives with him in a high-rise apartment in Miami, said it took him about 80 calls to get someone on the phone at a Miami Beach hospital that began inoculating elderly people last week with limited doses of the vaccines.

"It reminded me of the '80s where you had to call into a radio station to be the 10th caller to get concert tickets," Humphrey said. "When I finally got through, I cried on the phone with the woman."

Humphrey said his mother has only left the apartment twice since March — once to go to the hospital and once for a

medical appointment. "This really will give me more comfort that I can get her out of the building, he said.

Early Wednesday morning, Lee County health officials, located on Florida's Gulf Coast, announced all three sites had reached capacity in its third day of immunizing residents 65 and older. People had lined up outside a library, recreation center and a theater to snatch one of the few hundred doses available after health authorities said no appointment was necessary as they would be administered on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Abdulla Benkhatar, 90, was at the front of the line Tuesday morning at the North Fort Myers Recreation Center.

"We've been at home for almost 10 months now. It's really important to me, for my health, and to be able to do things I like to do and get back to normal," he told WZVN-TV.

As of Tuesday, the Florida Department of Health said it had administered doses to roughly 175,465 in the state, most of them health care workers, emergency first responders and residents of assisted care facilities.

Some seniors began receiving shots Monday in the first eight counties who received their vaccine allotments last week. The state's other 59 counties are expected to soon begin receiving their share of vaccines.

The Orlando Sentinel reported that state health officials in Orange County on Tuesday closed its online portal after generating 30,000 appointments in about 24 hours.

Other counties had to turn people away.

To date, Florida has gotten more than 767,000 doses of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. It was unclear how much more was on the way from the federal government.

Principal Joe Clark dies, inspired film 'Lean on Me'

Associated Press

GAINESVILLE — Joe Louis Clark, the baseball bat and bullhorn-wielding principal whose unwavering commitment to his students and uncompromising disciplinary methods inspired the 1989 film "Lean on Me," died at his Florida home on Tuesday after a long battle with an unspecified illness, his family said. He was 82.

At crime- and drug-ridden Eastside High School in Paterson, New Jersey, Clark expelled 300 students in a single day for fighting, vandalism, abusing teachers and drug possession. That lifted the expectations of those who remained, continually challenging them to perform better. Clark's unorthodox methods, which included roaming the hallways with a bullhorn and a baseball bat, won him both admirers and critics nationwide. President Ronald Reagan offered Clark a White House policy adviser position after his success at the high school.

Morgan Freeman starred as Clark in the 1989 film "Lean on Me" that was



Associated Press

Eastside High School Principal Joe Clark is pictured Dec. 21, 1987, at a rally by student supporters in Paterson, N.J. Clark, the baseball bat and bullhorn-wielding principal whose unwavering commitment to his students and uncompromising disciplinary methods inspired the 1989 film "Lean on Me," died at his Florida home on Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2020, after a long battle with an unspecified illness, his family said in a statement. He was 82.

loosely based on Clark's tenure at Eastside.

Clark was born in Rochelle, Georgia, on May 8, 1938. He is survived by his children, Joetta, Hazel and JJ, and grandchildren, Talitha, Jorell and Hazel. His wife, Gloria, preceded him in death.

Tarpon Springs woman dies in three-vehicle crash

BUSTER THOMPSON
Staff writer

A Pinellas County woman died the afternoon of Tuesday, Dec. 29, after she was involved in a three-vehicle collision on a Crystal River-area roadway that also seriously injured four others.

According to a Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) report, which does not identify motorists, the 33-year-old Tarpon Springs woman was driving a sedan north at around 3:06 p.m. on North Citrus Avenue, approaching the intersection with West Basilio Street.

She was traveling behind another sedan being driven by a 69-year-old Clearwater woman, who was joined by a 77-year-old man from Clearwater.

According to FHP's report, the Clearwater couple's sedan slowed to a

stop for stopped traffic ahead.

However, for unknown reasons, the Tarpon Springs woman failed to brake for the stopped vehicle, which she then rear-ended, FHP's report states.

According to the FHP report, the impact caused the woman's sedan to travel into Citrus Avenue's southbound lane and into the path of an oncoming pickup truck, which then collided head-on with the driver side of the sedan.

Emergency responders pronounced the woman dead at the crash scene, FHP's report states.

According to FHP's report, the Clearwater couple also suffered serious injuries, along with the pickup truck's driver, a 71-year-old Lecanto man, and his passenger, a 95-year-old Lecanto man.

Today's HOROSCOPES

Birthdays — Reaching a place where you feel at ease to do as you please and follow a meaningful path will encourage positive change. Take the initiative and put yourself first.
Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Do something to occupy your time that will bring about a positive and productive change at home. Set yourself up for success, not failure.
Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Be open to change, but don't allow someone to push you in a direction that doesn't suit your needs. Choose to do what's best for you.
Pisces (Feb. 20-March 20) — Be original in the way you approach others, and you will command the attention and help you require to get things done.
Aries (March 21-April 19) — Be reasonable, and problem-solving will be within reach. Concentrate on being better. Choose a path that will lead to your happiness. Make peace, love and romance priorities.
Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Give others the chance to voice an opinion. It may change your mind as well as improve your relationships. Diplomacy will be necessary.
Gemini (May 21-June 20) — At the first sign of trouble, take a step back and evaluate your next move. Don't trust someone offering false information. Focus on personal improvement.
Cancer (June 21-July 22) — A bargain is only useful if you need what you are purchasing. Don't believe all the hype about something that sounds too good to be real.
Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Focus on love, self-improvement and preparing yourself for the best year ever. Opportunities are heading your way, but how successful you are will depend on your ability to make things happen.
Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Catching up will help you put your life in perspective and believe in yourself. Put an end to whatever isn't working for you.
Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Put plans for the new year in place, and the changes you want to make to your living arrangements will fall into place. Make love, romance and keeping the peace your priorities.
Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Don't let uncertainty hold you back or unfinished business stand in your way. Embrace new beginnings, and make a decision that will impact your life.
Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — You can bring in the new year paying more attention to those you live with and less to those urging you to be indulgent.

ENTERTAINMENT

Trek's last new 'Jeopardy!' episodes airing with a tribute

LOS ANGELES — The final new "Jeopardy!" episodes hosted by Alex Trebek will air next week, with highlights that promise to be memorable.
The first of the five episodes will air Monday and start with Trebek's "powerful message about the season of giving," producer Sony Pictures Television said in a release Wednesday.

The final episode, on Friday, will conclude with a tribute to the longtime and beloved host. He died of pancreatic cancer on Nov. 8 at age 80.

Trek, who had been candid about his condition, worked up until 10 days before he died, soldiering on despite debilitating treatments and the disease's toll.

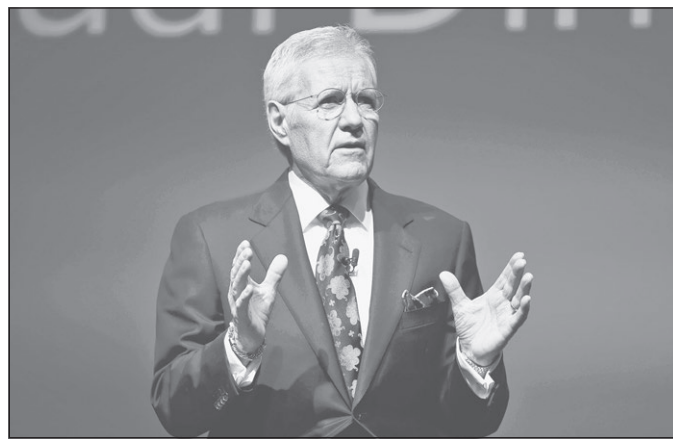
It was unexpected that the episodes taped in late October would be his final ones, Sony said. Trebek had been fighting the disease for nearly two years.

Veteran "Jeopardy!" champion Ken Jennings will take over as guest host starting on Jan. 11. A permanent host has yet to be announced.

Joe and Jill Biden to appear on 'New Year's Rockin' Eve'

NEW YORK — Ryan Seacrest will have a special pair of guests alongside the music stars at this year's New Year's Eve celebration on ABC — the president-elect and the future first lady.

President-elect Joe Biden and Dr. Jill Biden are scheduled to give "their last interview of the year" in New York's Times Square on "Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve with Ryan



Associated Press

In this Oct. 1, 2018, file photo, moderator Alex Trebek speaks in Hershey, Pa. Sony Pictures Television said Wednesday, Dec. 30, that Trebek's final "Jeopardy!" episodes will air the week of Jan. 4, concluding with a special tribute on Friday, Jan. 8. The longtime and beloved host died of pancreatic cancer on Nov. 8 at age 80.

Seacrest 2021."

The Bidens will "share an inspiring message as we come together to close out 2020 and look ahead with hope to 2021," according to a statement by the producers.

Jennifer Lopez will be the musical headliner. The pop star will perform live before the iconic ball drop on Dec. 31. Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the event will be closed to the public.

Other performers in New York include Cyndi Lauper, Billy Porter, Jimmie Allen and Machine Gun Kelly. Lauper and Porter collaborated on the Broadway musical "Kinky Boots" and will join forces for a performance during the TV special, which kicks off on ABC at 8 p.m.

"Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve with Ryan Seacrest 2021" will run until 2 a.m. Eastern on Jan. 1. Seacrest is returning to host the event for a 16th year, and will be joined by Porter and Lucy Hale in New York. Ciara will host from Los Angeles.

—From wire reports

Dave Chappelle to turn Ohio firehouse into comedy club

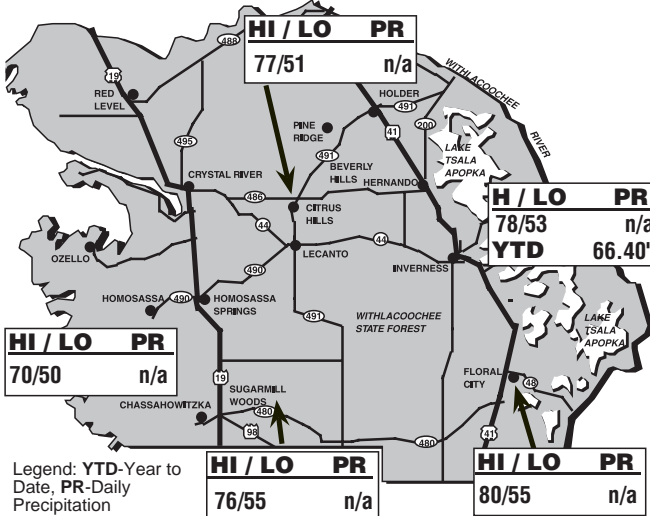
YELLOW SPRINGS, Ohio — Comedian Dave Chappelle is set to buy a former fire station near his Ohio hometown with plans to turn it into a comedy club.

The Miami Twp. Fire Station in Yellow Springs, not far from Dayton, will be sold to the 47-year-old actor's company and turned into a club that will seat 140 people, the Dayton Daily News reported.

Chappelle's ties to Ohio go back to his father, who graduated from Antioch College, in Yellow Springs, and later was a professor there.

In June, Chappelle held a private, outdoor performance in Yellow Springs. It was released on Netflix and titled "8:46," in reference to the amount of time that Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin kneeled on the neck of George Floyd, a Black man, before Floyd died.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER



Legend: YTD-Year to Date, PR-Daily Precipitation

THREE DAY OUTLOOK
TODAY & TOMORROW MORNING
High: 81° Low: 64°
Partly sunny and warm.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY MORNING
High: 81° Low: 62°
Mostly cloudy and warm.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY MORNING
High: 78° Low: 56°
Scattered showers arrive late.

ALMANAC

Table with weather statistics: TEMPERATURE, DEW POINT, HUMIDITY, POLLEN COUNT, AIR QUALITY, SOLAR TABLES.

CELESTIAL OUTLOOK

Table with celestial data: SUNSET TONIGHT, MOONRISE TODAY, MOONSET TODAY.

BURN CONDITIONS

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

WATERING RULES

Table with watering rules by day of the week.

TIDES

Table with tide information for Thursday.

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

Table with tide information for Thursday.

FLORIDA TEMPERATURES

Table with Florida temperatures for various cities like Daytona Bch., Fort Lauderdale, Miami, etc.

MARINE OUTLOOK

Today: Southeast winds around 15 knots. Seas 2 to 3 feet. Bay and inland waters a moderate chop.

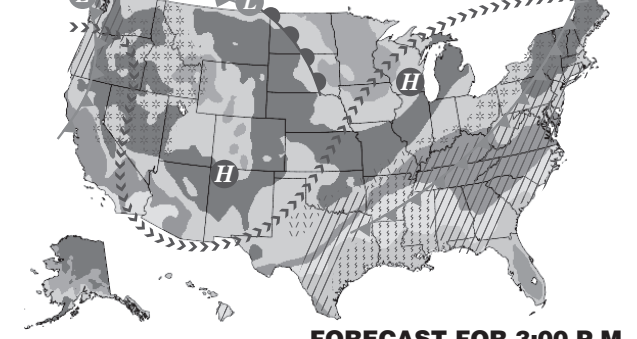
Gulf water temperature 62° Taken at Crystal River

LAKE LEVELS

Table with lake levels for Withlacoochee, Tsala Apopka-Hernando, etc.

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

THE NATION



FORECAST FOR 3:00 P.M. Thursday

Table with national weather forecast for Thursday, listing cities and their conditions.

WORLD CITIES

Table with world city weather forecast for Wednesday.

Today in HISTORY

Today is Thursday, Dec. 31, the 366th and final day of 2020.

Today's Highlight: On Dec. 31, 2019, the health commission in the central Chinese city of Wuhan announced that experts were investigating an outbreak of respiratory illness and that most of the victims had visited a seafood market in the city; the statement said 27 people had become ill with a strain of viral pneumonia and that seven were in serious condition.

On this date: In 1879, Thomas Edison first publicly demonstrated his electric incandescent light by illuminating some 40 bulbs at his laboratory in Menlo Park, New Jersey.

In 1904, New York's Times Square saw its first New Year's Eve celebration, with an estimated 200,000 people in attendance.

Ten years ago: Tornadoes fueled by unusually warm air pummeled the South and Midwest, killing a total of eight people in Arkansas and Missouri.

Five years ago: Belgian authorities announced the arrest of a 10th person in connection with the Nov. 2015 bloodbath in Paris.

One year ago: Former Nissan chairman Carlos Ghosn, who had skipped bail while awaiting trial in Japan on allegations of financial misconduct, surfaced in Lebanon, saying that he had fled to avoid "political persecution."

Today's Birthdays: Actor Sir Anthony Hopkins is 83. Actor Sarah Miles is 79. Actor Sir Ben Kingsley is 77. Actor James Remar is 67. Actor Val Kilmer is 61. Rock musician Scott Ian (Anthrax) is 57. Rapper PSY (Park Jae-bong) is 43. Rock musician Bob Bryar is 41. Rock musician Jason Sechrist (Portugal. The Man) is 41. Actor Ricky Whittle is 41. Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo., is 41. Actor/singer Erich Bergen is 35. DJ/vocalist Drew Taggart (The Chainsmokers) is 31. Olympic gold medal gymnast Gabby Douglas is 25.

ALERT CITRUS SIGNUP

- To register for the Citrus County Sheriff's Office's Alert Citrus weather program, visit www.sheriffcitrus.org and click on the links to register.
Create a profile, list how you want to be contacted in case of a weather emergency (text, mobile phone, home phone, email), then include the address(es) you want alerts for. You can choose what types of emergencies you want to hear about, and set a quiet period for no contact.
Those without computer access may call 352-249-2705.

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Obituary

Ken Carpenter, 73 HOMOSASSA

Ken Carpenter, 73, a resident of Homosassa Florida passed away peacefully on October 16th, 2020.

Described by many as the life of the party, his contagious energy and quick wit could make anyone within earshot laugh out loud. You truly never knew what was going to come out of his mouth but his genuine smile and jovial sense of humor always made you feel like the most important person in the room at any given moment.



Ken Carpenter

No one was a stranger to Ken and everyone was a friend, which sometimes led to comical situations like the time he tapped a town "newcomer" on the back, saying "You look familiar. My name is Ken!" like some sort of unofficial welcoming committee. Imagine the surprise as the man turned and quipped "Thanks a lot. I'm Kevin Costner!"

Ken led a full and active life from his early years in Ohio through his retirement in Florida and always found a way to balance his work with family, friends, and community service. No matter where he lived, his steadfast support and love shined through, never missing a special event in person or through personalized cards with humorous quotes and drawings.

His hard working, lifetime career in newspaper advertising spanned several publications including The Lima News, Cleveland Press, Oberlin News Tribune, and Panama City News Herald. He loved his "job" and would probably tell you that he never worked a day in his life. Even after retiring he continued his morning ritual of literally burying his nose in the classifieds to enjoy the fresh smell of the print.

His dedicated connection to the local community through these news organizations offered countless opportunities to get involved in authentic and helpful ways. He enjoyed assisting the local police force, being an active Rotary member, and having his voice heard ... quite literally in the best possible way.

You see, Ken loved to sing and entertain others. In addition to belting out bars in the shower, his talented voice could be heard from countless karaoke and political events to Sunday service. In true "Ken style" he always made sure everyone felt included and enjoyed themselves, regardless of age or skill level.

He lived in the moment in this way, enjoying the simple pleasures, always appreciative of the things he had and the experiences he shared with others. His one splurge could be seen in his passion for cruising the tropics. He took no less than 23 in his lifetime, which seemed to pair nicely with his ongoing battle against any temperature lower than 80 degrees Fahrenheit. Seriously! His superpower seemed to be his ability to sense if someone had turned the thermostat down.

His favorite days at home would start with a few strong cups of coffee with the morning paper at his sun porch or the local diner. Light morning conversation was always appropriate, but the weekly weather forecast was a topic not to be missed. The afternoon would serve up overflowing plates of cheese, mustard, and crackers while he shouted his armchair sports advice for the Browns, the Indians, or the Buckeyes. The evening would bring a lively dinner with family or friends, closed out by the nightly news and one of his favorite legal drama shows, all while holding Joyce's hand and stealing kisses throughout the day.

Ken lived without regrets, except maybe the time he wasn't awarded a win for catching four pies in his pants when he appeared on the game show Family Double Dare. "At the buzzer rules should apply to pies like they do for basketballs!" of course.

Just like his father before him, in their shared favorite Sinatra song, he did it "My Way." For all the lives that Ken entertained and improved along the way, he will be deeply missed in a way that words can only hope to capture.

His legacy lives on through the love of his life Joyce Carpenter, who cherished and supported him from his heyday throughout their last days together. If you ever had the chance to watch Ken dedicate their song to Joyce during one of his events you would know that love was returned tenfold.

He is also survived by her daughter Christa and husband Tim, with their children Heather and Rachel, his son Brian with his wife Amber and their daughters Kayla and Kylie, his son Craig and his wife Kate, and his niece Theresa. He was predeceased by his father Ken, mother Betty, and his sister Karen.

Ken Carpenter elevated every occasion like no one else and we're truly not the same without him. But as he continues his eternal cruise above the clouds, with the warm sun on his face and huge smile, he'll forever live in our hearts and memories.

Sign the guest book at www.chronicleonline.com.



Associated Press

This Oct. 2, 1978, file photo shows the cast of "Gilligan's Island," from left, Russell Johnson, as the Professor; Jim Backus as Thurston Howell III; Natalie Schafer, as Mrs. Howell III; Alan Hale Jr., as the Skipper; Bob Denver, as Gilligan; Judith Baldwin replacing original cast member Tina Louise, as Ginger, and Dawn Wells, as Mary Ann, posing during filming of a two-hour reunion show, "The Return from Gilligan's Island," in Los Angeles. Wells, who played the wholesome Mary Ann among a misfit band of shipwrecked castaways on the 1960s sitcom "Gilligan's Island," died Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2020, of causes related to COVID-19, her publicist said.

'Gilligan's Island' star Dawn Wells dies

COVID-19 cited

LYNN ELBER
AP television writer

LOS ANGELES — Dawn Wells, who played the wholesome Mary Ann among a misfit band of shipwrecked castaways on the 1960s sitcom "Gilligan's Island," died Wednesday of causes related to COVID-19, her publicist said. She was 82.

Wells died peacefully at a residential facility in Los Angeles, publicist Harlan Boll said. "There is so much more to Dawn Wells" than the "Gilligan's Island" character that brought her fame, Boll said in a statement.

Besides TV, film and stage acting credits, her other real-life roles included teacher and motivational speaker, Boll said.

Tina Louise, 86, who played Ginger the movie star, is the last surviving member of a cast that included



Dawn Wells arrives April 29, 2016, at the Daytime Creative Arts Emmy Awards at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel in Los Angeles.

Bob Denver as the title character; Alan Hale Jr. as the Skipper; Jim Backus and Natalie Schafer as wealthy passengers Thurston and Lovey Howell, and Russell Johnson, known as the Professor.

Wells, a native of Reno, Nevada, represented her state in the 1959 Miss America pageant and quickly

pivoted to an acting career. Her early TV roles were on shows including "77 Sunset Strip," "Maverick" and "Bonanza."

Then came "Gilligan's Island," a goofy, good-natured comedy that aired from 1964-67 that became an unlikely but indelible part of popular culture. Wells' comely but innocent Mary Ann complemented Louise's worldly Ginger, and both became innocuous '60s TV versions of sex symbols.

Wells' wardrobe included a gingham dress and shorts that modestly covered her belly button, with both costumes on display in Los Angeles at The Hollywood Museum.

Two years ago, a friend launched a GoFundMe drive to help cover medical and other costs for Wells, although she protested she didn't need the assistance. She did end up acknowledging her need and accepted more than \$180,000 in donations.

She is survived by her stepsister, Weslee Wells.

'Columbo,' 'Murder, She Wrote' co-creator Link dies

LYNN ELBER
AP television writer

LOS ANGELES — William Link, who co-created the hit series "Columbo" and "Murder, She Wrote" and made 1970s and '80s TV movies about social issues then largely shunned by television, has died. He was 87.

Link died of congestive heart failure Sunday in Los Angeles, his wife of more than 40 years, Margery Nelson, said in a statement Tuesday.

The family helped Link mark his Dec. 15 birthday by playing YouTube videos of interviews in which he recounted his long career, said his niece, Amy Salko Robertson.

"He loved it. It was the best birthday present we could have given him," she said.

"Columbo" was a highlight of Link's award-winning body of work. The series featured a brilliant, deceptively unkept police detective that he and his longtime writing-producing partner, Richard Levinson, originally created for a 1960 TV anthology episode.

The pair earned a writing Emmy for the series,

'Murder, She Wrote,' with film and stage star Angela Lansbury as an amateur sleuth, was created by William Link, Richard Levinson and Peter S. Fischer.

with four acting trophies going to star Peter Falk. He played the role in the 1971-78 "Columbo" run on NBC and when the crime drama moved to ABC from 1989 to 2003 as more occasional TV movies.

Link and Levinson, Philadelphia-area natives who met as mystery-loving teens and soon began collaborating on stories and radio scripts, aimed to produce more than entertainment, Salko Robertson said in an interview.

The fight "for justice and equality" was a central theme in their projects, she said — including "Columbo," which tended to pit the wily detective against wealthy and powerful criminals.

The collaborators' TV movies included 1970's "My Sweet Charlie," a rare small-screen depiction of an interracial romance that earned them a writing Emmy, and

"That Certain Summer" (1972), a groundbreaker for its sympathetic portrayal of gay characters.

Dramas such as those "were not getting on TV, and they really fought for them," said Salko Robertson, a producer who handled business matters for her uncle.

Link, an Army veteran, and Levinson wrote and were executive producers for the Emmy-winning "The Execution of Private Slovik" (1974), about a WWII soldier who became the first executed for desertion since the Civil War.

"Murder, She Wrote," with film and stage star Angela Lansbury as an amateur sleuth, was created by Link, Levinson

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LDriver@chronicleonline.com

and Peter S. Fischer. The series was a durable, 12-season success for CBS, airing from 1984 to 1996.

Link and Levinson's other series included the 1967-75 crime drama "Mannix" and 1973-74's "Tenaflly," an early show with an African American lead character, a private eye played by James McEachin.

The pair wrote screenplays for the '70s big-screen films "The Hindenburg," "Rollercoaster" and for 1980's "The Hunter," among actor Steve McQueen's final movies.

Besides his wife and Salko Robertson, Link's survivors include nieces and nephews John Robertson, Karen Salko Nieberg and Owen Nieberg.

Chas. E. Davis
Funeral Home With Crematory

ELLEN MAY BERGER
Service: Mon., at 3:00 PM
Cornerstone Baptist Church, Inverness

SALLY SULLIVAN - Service: Sun., at 2:00 PM
YASMIN AMORE BRICE
Service: Thurs., (1:07) at 12:00
Live Oaks Community Church

JUAN COLON - Service: Sat., at 12:00 Noon
HELEN BALCHUNAS - Viewing: Sun., 6-8
Mass: Mon., at 10:00 AM - Our Lady of Fatima

PATRICIA BARZ - Arrangements Pending
JEFFREY COOK - Private Arrangements
MILDRED HATT - Private Arrangements
MELANIE DAVIS - Private Arrangements
SANDRA BROADLEY
Service: Fri., (1:08) at 12 Noon
JACK NASH - Deferred Service

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HOLIDAY DEADLINES

- Due to the upcoming New Year holiday, obituaries submitted for publication on any of the following days have a deadline of **noon Thursday, Dec. 31:**
- Friday, Jan. 1. ● Saturday, Jan. 2.
- Sunday, Jan. 3. ● Monday, Jan. 4.

■ The Chronicle does not edit obituaries for content.

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The Nature Coast Volunteer Center
Healthy Food Drive

In honor of **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Donations will be collected through January 14, 2021

Our local food pantries often find their stock of non-perishable food items depleted after the holidays. The Nature Coast Volunteer Center and Retired & Senior Volunteer Program is holding a food drive in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr., who once asked "What are you doing for others?" Our goal is to help our local food pantries serve the citizens of Citrus County by providing nutritional food for their families.

CANNED & non-perishable FOOD DRIVE

ALL DONATIONS SHOULD BE IN CANS, BOXES, PLASTIC CONTAINERS OR SEALED PACKAGES.

Suggested donations include:

- ✓ Peanut Butter
- ✓ Pasta Sauces
- ✓ Brown Rice
- ✓ Canned Fruits
- ✓ Canned Soup (low sodium preferred)
- ✓ Whole Grain Pasta
- ✓ Whole Grain Oats and Cereal
- ✓ Canned Tuna & Chicken in water
- ✓ Canned Vegetables

For more information or to register for the event, (352) 527-5959 or via e-mail at ncvc@citrusbocc.com.

CRYSTAL RIVER
• Citrus County Chronicle, Crystal River
• Citrus County Tax Collectors Office, Crystal River
• Coastal Region Library, Crystal River
• Homosassa Library, Homosassa
• West Citrus Community Center, Homosassa

INVERNESS
• Citrus County Tax Collectors Office, Inverness
• East Citrus Community Center, Inverness
• Floral City Library, Floral City
• Inverness Community Center, Inverness
• Lakes Region Library, Inverness

LECANTO
• Central Ridge Community Center, Beverly Hills
• Central Ridge Library, Beverly Hills

AmeriCorps Seniors
Nature Coast Volunteer Center
CHRONICLE

“Google can bring you back 100,000 answers.
 A librarian can bring you back the right one.”
 Neil Gaiman, British author, 1960-

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

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Founded by Albert M. Williamson

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

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

FAITHFUL FRIENDS OF LITERACY

Library system recognizes outstanding volunteers

Citrus County is known for its robust volunteerism, which benefits us all. One group of volunteers that may not be top-of-mind, but that is so important to so many, is the volunteer cadre of the Citrus County Library System. The county's five library branches recently honored their top volunteers in ways that, like most everything else in 2020, were radically different from the large gatherings of past years, though no less heartfelt and celebratory.

Perhaps you're not a regular in-person patron of the county's library system, but you've met its volunteers if you've attended one of the semi-annual mega-sales. They're put on by the Friends of the Library, a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to ensuring the mission of the libraries is successful. That includes raising funds for programs, materials and technology, as well as physically helping in the libraries or at outreach events.

Friends members are volunteers, but there also are other library volunteers who aren't in the Friends group. All contribute enormously, whether they're physically in the libraries or in the community.

Although the Friends were able to stage the March mega-sale of books and puzzles just before the pandemic closed everything, they had to cancel the October sale. In a dramatic pivot, they came up with the idea of hosting multiple, smaller sidewalk book sales. Starting on Labor Day weekend in September, they have conducted nine sidewalk sales at five locations, and have managed to raise \$20,433. That's about two-thirds of what they typically raise in one mega-sale. The Friends prudently canceled next spring's

mega-sale, as well, and instead have planned monthly sidewalk sales into 2021.

Another challenge they met during the year was having to relocate their “book house” — the warehouse where they store, work on, and sort donated books.

They had to leave the old Hernando school space, where their small rental payment to the county covered maintenance and utilities, when county government took that space back for a different use. The Friends are now in a retail frontage space on State Road 44, a much more expensive proposition.

The space and fundraising challenges combined to the detriment of the Friends' mission: larger rental payments take a bigger bite out of the smaller amounts able to be raised for the library system through sidewalk sales. The Friends are looking for about 1,200 square feet of warehouse space with a restroom, to be either donated or let at a significant discount, so all the monies these volunteers raise can go to library programs and materials not covered in the county budget allotment.

These folks clearly love libraries. Eric Head, library system director, said about 50% of volunteers are happily back on the job, with everyone practicing the recommended health precautions, and he looks forward to the day all can return. This year, 264 volunteers have donated nearly 15,000 hours, helping with shelving, cleaning, crafting, teaching (tutors and mentors) and just being there for patrons' questions.

We give a standing cheer for all the library volunteers. Want to join them? Check opportunities at <https://tinyurl.com/y9y39zyf>.

THE ISSUE:

Citrus County library volunteers.

OUR OPINION:

They make the difference between a good library system and a great one.

LETTERS  to the Editor

Distributing vaccines without prior sign-up a bad idea

The Chronicle reports today (Dec. 30) that vaccines will be distributed without sign-up on a first-come first-served basis. You (Citrus County) commissioners and the DOH are inviting a disaster. Perhaps you have not heard of the debacle this week in Lee County. <https://tinyurl.com/yby58ojk>

With an estimated 53,000 seniors over 65 years of age and the possibility of 1,500 doses available in the first batch to arrive here, there is nothing but trouble ahead.

If Marion County can manage a system of online sign-ups, so can Citrus. And it is inexcusable not to make these arrangements.

And, yes, you will say, “What about those without access to computers?” Churches and service clubs should be motivated to offer assisted sign-ups to these people. There is no reason that our many churches and clubs cannot fill that role.

The governor has done a very poor job responding to the issues of the pandemic. He clearly has no plan for distribution beyond a suggestion to inoculate first responders, then those over 65. It is up to the county to create a sensible, workable distribution plan. And I hope the current commissioners are up to the task.

Nate Williams
 Citrus Springs

Work together or resign

Dear Sen. Mitch McConnell and Speaker Nancy Pelosi. If you two cannot come up with a stimulus package to help American workers through this time of great need, then you both should resign.

I am a conservative, and I understand this country already has a huge national debt. However, if you two continue with this eighth-grade behavior and do not reach an agreement to help the American workers, we the voters will remember this in 2022.

The sad thing about this is that if this was a bill to help illegal immigrants or terrorists or rioters and looters you would have already passed a much bigger bill than is needed now. People are out of work through no fault of their own. This is not about single parents being able to buy Christmas gifts, it is about single parents and parents in the poverty level being able to feed and house their children.

So, Sen. McConnell and Speaker Pelosi, go to the hospital and get a human heart transplanted into your body so you can love your fellow Americans and stop treating them like they are game pieces in your sick game of who has the most power.

Ronnie Rozier
 Homosassa

Short-term rental suggestions

As an owner of a few investment properties — both in state and out — I would like to make a proposal in regards to short-term vacation rentals within the city limits of Crystal River.

It is not difficult to understand the frustrations of many homeowners who happen to have a short-term rental in their neighborhood. Nor is it difficult to understand that property owners would like to use their properties to their greatest advantage. In recent years, short-term rentals have been a great use of their investment.

So is there a way to appease everyone in a fair manner? The city could consider properties on a one-on-one basis. Each property owner submitting a yearly application and fee along with letters from three of their closest neighbors. The fee — let's say \$200 — would be more than

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- **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.
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enough to cover the cost of the city having someone research the property and look at factors that might weigh in to the decision to allow the properties to function as short-term rentals.

Each property would be evaluated based on several questions. Is there substantial parking for the number of guests the house will accommodate? Are the (rental) property owners nearby or able to handle any complaints that might arise from the guests? Would the use of the property be a positive for the city and the community? Plus other factors that the city may see fit to question.

If the property looks to be a good short-term rental candidate, then said property would be allowed to operate on a three strikes you're out for the rest of the year. If multiple complaints — based on real issues — are logged, the property owner will either have to address all issues or risk not being able to resubmit a new application for their property.

I hope this can be taken into consideration and perhaps reevaluated in the coming year.

Michaeline Bodley
 Crystal River

A case for sedition

Sedition (noun): Conduct or speech inciting people to rebel against the authority of a state.

“... The penalty could include death or imprisonment for a minimum of five years. Penalties also include a minimum \$10,000 fine and a lifetime bar on holding any office under the United States.”

Treason (noun): The crime of betraying one's country, especially by attempting to overthrow the government.

“... The punishment for treason in the United States is death or at least five years in prison, and at least a \$10,000 fine. In addition, traitors cannot hold any office in the United States.”

We have almost 150 signatures on public record of people who look to have committed sedition. They are right there for all to see.

Treason is a reach because we're not in a war, but sedition is very apparent, if not obvious.

Will anything be done about it?

There are two state and/or national elections in the next four years. We must remember the people that signed on to support over-throwing a legal election by and for the people.

That includes our representative, Daniel Webster, and senators Rick Scott and Marco Rubio. Also Gov. Ron DeSantis and all who signed on and supported the Texas lawsuit.

These “patriots” didn't like the results of an election, so like the POTUS, they had a temper tantrum and proceeded to overthrow a democratically elected president-elect. These same people swore an oath to protect the very Constitution that they attempted to demolish.

Trump and his minions have now lost 57 consecutive court cases because they had zero credible evidence showing any kind of fraud occurred. Trump's own attorney general, William Barr, incurred the wrath of Trump when he admitted there was no evidence of fraud.

Trump got skunked by the Supreme Court 9-0. Not one of the three he appointed dissented.

We must not forget what these Americans attempted. Had the tables been turned, the GOP would be going to the mattresses and preparing for war.

The rest of the world must be thinking America has become a third-world country. Had this attempted coup been successful, they would be correct.

Mark Stoltz
 Inverness

Sacrificing democracy

I never ever want to hear any Trump cult Republican call a person a snowflake again.

They whine like children when they're asked to wear a mask to save the lives of others. They demand their rights to gather in groups even though science and medical professionals beg them not to.

Even though Republican attorneys general, Republican governors, numerous Trump appointed federal judges and a Trump packed Supreme Court tells them the elections were fair, they throw a tantrum. They listen to the rantings of a narcissistic man crying the elections were rigged as he demands his God-given right to be the president. They're willing to sacrifice our democracy to follow what has turned into a cult with no basis in reality.

That said, I'm guessing the average age of a snowflake in this day and age is about 65 years old.

Barry Stine
 Homosassa Springs

Unraveling democracy

President Donald Trump's effort to unravel democracy hit a dead end at the Supreme Court on Friday night (Dec. 11), capping five weeks in which he dragged the country along on his narcissistic quest to stay in power after President-elect Joe Biden overwhelmingly won the election.

In the end, the guardrails of democracy stayed in place. Trump lost for the second time at the Supreme Court this week. But instead of helping the effort to curb a deadly pandemic that has claimed nearly 300,000 American lives by easing the transition for his successor, he is already scheming about his next political moves. Before the high court rejected his bid Friday, his campaign announced a cable ad buy to further his fraudulent claims about the election, and he clearly intends to try and meddle in Congress' counting of the Electoral College results in January.

More broadly, the damage he has done to Americans' faith and trust in democratic institutions will last long after he packs his bags and ends what will go down as one of the worst presidencies in history. The 126 republicans and 18 secretary of states, will go down in history as traitors to our democracy, as their attempt was crushed 9-0 by the Supreme Court; now they all have egg on their faces, and re-election in 2022 looks dim for Republicans. This onslaught of fabricated lies and deception has made us a laughing stock, that was once a shining star on a hill.

Trump's petty obsession of non-admission to any loss, then taking it to extreme levels only to benefit himself is truly unprecedented.

Ben Benassi
 Inverness

United Way needs your help

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

Gerry Mulligan, publisher

California has virus variant

Marks 2nd confirmed case in US

COLLEEN SLEVIN AND CARLA K. JOHNSON
Associated Press

California on Wednesday announced the nation's second confirmed case of the new and apparently more contagious variant of the coronavirus, offering a strong indication that the infection is spreading more widely in the United States.

Gov. Gavin Newsom announced the infection found in Southern California during an online conversation with Dr. Anthony Fauci, head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

"I don't think Californians should think that this is odd. It's to be expected," Fauci said.

Newsom did not provide any details about the person who was infected.

The announcement came 24 hours after word of the first reported U.S. variant infection, which emerged in Colorado. That person was identified Wednesday as a Colorado National Guardsman who had been sent to help out at a nursing home struggling with an outbreak. Health officials said a second Guard member may have it too.

The cases triggered a host of questions about how the version circulating in England arrived in the U.S. and whether it is too late to stop it now, with top experts saying it is probably already spreading elsewhere in the United States.

"The virus is becoming more fit, and we're like a deer in the headlights," warned Dr. Eric Topol, head of Scripps Research Translational Institute. He noted that the U.S. does far less genetic sequencing of virus samples to discover variants than other developed nations, and thus was probably slow to detect this new mutation.

The two Guard members had been dispatched Dec. 23 to work at the Good Samaritan Society nursing home in the small town of Simla, in a mostly rural area about 90 miles outside Denver, said Dr. Rachel Herlihy, state epidemiologist. They were among six Guard members sent to the home.

Nasal swab samples taken from the two as part of the Guard's routine coronavirus testing were sent to the state laboratory, which began looking for the variant after its spread was announced in Britain earlier this month, Herlihy said. Samples from staff and residents at the nursing home are also being screened for the variant at the lab, but so far no evidence of it has been found, she said.

The Colorado case announced Tuesday involves a man in his 20s who had not traveled recently, officials said. He has mild symptoms and is isolating at his home near Denver, while the person with the suspected case is isolating at a Colorado hotel while further genetic analysis is done on his sample, officials said.

'Hindsight is 20/20'

Chief defends officers after report man was making bombs

KIMBERLEE KRUESI, HALELUYA HADERO AND MICHAEL BALSAMO
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — More than a year before Anthony Warner detonated a Christmas Day bomb in downtown Nashville, officers visited his home after his girlfriend told police he was building bombs in a recreational vehicle at his residence, according to documents. But they did not make contact with him, or see inside his RV.

Those revelations, contained in a newly disclosed 2019 incident report, put Nashville's police chief on the defensive Wednesday as he said his officers did nothing wrong and that they had handled the situation properly. He added that other than a 1970s marijuana-related arrest, Warner was "squeaky clean."

"I believe the officers did everything they could legally. Maybe they could have followed up more, hindsight is 20/20," Metro Nashville Police Chief John Drake said at a news conference.

Officers were called to Pamela Perry's Nashville home on Aug. 21, 2019, following a report from her attorney that she was making suicidal threats while sitting on her front porch with firearms, the police department said in a statement.

According to the incident report, when officers arrived, police said she had two unloaded pistols beside her on the porch. She told them the guns belonged to "Tony Warner"



Metro Nashville Police Chief John Drake speaks at a Dec. 27 news conference, in Nashville, Tenn. On Wednesday, Drake said his officers properly handled a visit to the home of the Nashville bomber more than a year before they say he detonated an explosives-laden RV on Christmas Day in the city's downtown.

and she did not want them in the house any longer. Perry, then 62, was taken for a psychological evaluation after speaking to mental health professionals.

"During that visit, before leaving for the evaluation, Perry told police that her boyfriend was making bombs in an RV," the report stated.

The report says police went to Warner's home, about 1 and 1/2 miles away, but he didn't answer the door when they knocked repeatedly. They saw the RV but it was in a fenced-off backyard and officers couldn't see inside the vehicle. They also spotted several security cameras

and wires attached to an alarm sign on a front door.

"They saw no evidence of a crime and had no authority to enter his home or fenced property," the police statement said, adding supervisors and detectives were then notified.

"If we could have had more to go off of, it would have been good," Drake said.

Law enforcement officials did not publicly release the report, which was obtained only after news outlets submitted public records requests. Later, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation announced that Warner's only arrest was for a 1978

marijuana-related charge.

David Rausch, the TBI's director, had told reporters earlier this week that Warner was not on their radar. Rausch was flanked by federal and state officials — including Drake — who did not object or amend the statement.

Drake later told reporters Wednesday he didn't learn of the report until late Sunday evening, but said he believed his officers that they could not smell any explosives and that there was no probable cause for a search warrant. He also added he didn't know why Rausch said Warner wasn't on anyone's radar.

Senator to contest Biden's win

GOP group objects to Electoral College vote

MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo., said Wednesday he will raise objections next week when Congress meets to affirm President-elect Joe Biden's victory in the election, forcing House and Senate votes that are likely to delay — but in no way alter — the final certification of Biden's win.

President Donald Trump has, without evidence, claimed there was widespread fraud in the election. He has pushed Republican senators to pursue his unfounded charges even though the Electoral College this month cemented Biden's 306-232 victory and multiple legal efforts to challenge the results have failed.

A group of Republicans in the Democratic-majority House have already said they will object on Trump's behalf during the Jan. 6 count of electoral votes, and they had needed just a single senator to go along with them to force votes in both chambers.

Without giving specifics or evidence, Hawley said he would object because "some states, including notably Pennsylvania" did not follow their own election laws. Lawsuits challenging Biden's victory in Pennsylvania have been unsuccessful.

"At the very least, Congress should investigate allegations of voter fraud and adopt measures to secure the integrity of our elections," Hawley said in a statement. He also criticized the way Facebook and Twitter handled content related to the election, characterizing it as an effort to help Biden.

Biden transition spokeswoman Jen Psaki dismissed Hawley's move as "antics" that will have no bearing on Biden being sworn in on Jan. 20.

"The American people spoke resoundingly in this election and 81 million people have voted for Joe Biden and Kamala Harris," Psaki said in a call with reporters. She



Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo., speaks during a confirmation hearing for Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett before the Senate Judiciary Committee Oct. 12 on Capitol Hill in Washington. Hawley said he will raise objections next week when the Congress meets to affirm President-elect Joe Biden's victory in the election, forcing House and Senate votes that are likely to delay — but in no way alter — the final certification of Biden's win.

added: "Congress will certify the results of the election as they do every four years."

White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows praised Hawley on Twitter for "unapologetically standing up for election integrity."

When Congress convenes to certify the Electoral College results, any lawmaker can object to a state's votes on any grounds. But the objection is not taken up unless it is in writing and signed by both a member of the House and a member of the Senate.

When there is such a request, then the joint session suspends and the House and Senate go into separate sessions to consider it. For the objection to be sustained, both chambers must agree to it by a simple majority vote. If they disagree, the original electoral votes are counted.

The last time such an objection was considered was 2005, when Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones of Ohio and Sen. Barbara Boxer of

California, both Democrats, objected to Ohio's electoral votes by claiming there were voting irregularities. Both chambers debated the objection and rejected it. It was only the second time such a vote had occurred.

As president of the Senate, Vice President Mike Pence will preside over the Jan. 6 session and declare the winner.

Asked about Hawley's announcement, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said, "I have no doubt that on next Wednesday, a week from today, that Joe Biden will be confirmed by the acceptance of the vote of the electoral college as the 46th president of the United States."

Hawley is a first-term senator and potential contender in the 2024 presidential primary, and his decision to join the House objectors is a rebuff to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who had asked his caucus not to participate in a futile quest to overturn the results.

Nation & World
BRIEFS

Vaccine



A Bedouin woman receives a Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine at a medical center in the Bedouin local council of Segev Shalom near the city of Beersheba, southern Israel, on Wednesday.

Census Bureau to miss deadline, jeopardizing plan

The Census Bureau will miss a year-end deadline for handing in numbers used for divvying up congressional seats, a delay that could undermine President Donald Trump's efforts to exclude people in the country illegally from the count if the figures aren't submitted before President-elect Joe Biden takes office.

The Census Bureau plans to deliver a population count of each state in early 2021, as close to the missed deadline as possible, the statistical agency said in a statement late Wednesday.

"As issues that could affect the accuracy of the data are detected, they are corrected," the statement said. "The schedule for reporting this data is not static. Projected dates are fluid."

Georgia governor pushes back on Trump's tweet

ATLANTA — Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp on Wednesday called a tweet by President Donald Trump demanding his resignation a "distraction" and said he was focused on the state's response to the coronavirus pandemic and upcoming runoff elections for two U.S. Senate seats.

Trump said earlier in the day that Kemp, a fellow Republican, was an "obstructionist who refuses to admit that we won Georgia, BIG!" Trump lost the state to Democrat Joe Biden but has repeatedly made baseless accusations that illegal votes cost him the state's electoral votes. He has also previously criticized Kemp, who has rejected his demands to undermine the results. In Wednesday's tweet, he said Kemp "should resign from office."

"All of these things are a distraction," Kemp said at a news conference at the state Capitol. "I mean, I've supported the president. I've said that many times. I worked as hard as anybody in the state on his reelection up through Nov. 3."

Blast at Aden airport kills 25, wounds 110

SANAA, Yemen — A large explosion struck the airport in the southern Yemeni city of Aden on Wednesday, shortly after a plane carrying the newly formed Cabinet landed there, security officials said. At least 25 people were killed and 110 wounded in the blast.

Yemen's internationally recognized government said Iran-backed Houthi rebels fired four ballistic missiles at the airport. Rebel officials did not answer phone calls from The Associated Press seeking comment. No one on the government plane was hurt.

— From wire reports



Gloria Yoder
THE AMISH COOK

Revisiting Gloria's New Year's treat

Editor's note: Gloria Yoder is taking a deserved Christmas break this week. She'll return next week. I wanted to share a traditional New Year's favorite recipe with readers. This is something Gloria makes each New Year's. — Kevin Williams

Wishing all of our wonderful readers a happy and healthy 2021. The Amish Cook column will celebrate 30 years in August. Can anyone say wow to that?

GLORIA'S SAUSAGE & SAUERKRAUT

- 1 pound bulk sausage (browned)
 - 1 large can or bag sauerkraut
 - 3 tablespoons brown sugar
 - 1 diced onion
 - 1 cup ketchup
- Mix all ingredients. Bake at 275 degrees for 4-5 hours. Stir occasionally. You may want to add a little water to desired consistency.

Gloria Yoder is a young Amish mother, writer and homemaker in rural Illinois. The Yoders travel primarily by horse-drawn buggy and live next to the settlement's one-room schoolhouse. Readers with questions or stories to share may write Gloria directly at: Gloria Yoder, 10510 E. 350th Ave., Flat Rock, IL 62427.

Pandemic demand: COVID cluckers

TERENCE CHEA
Associated Press

ROSS, Calif. — The coronavirus pandemic is coming home to roost in America's backyards.

Forced to hunker down at home, more people are setting up coops and raising their own chickens, which provide an earthy hobby, animal companionship and a steady supply of fresh eggs.

Amateur chicken-keeping has been growing in popularity in recent years as people seek environmental sustainability in the food they eat. The pandemic is accelerating those trends, some breeders and poultry groups say, prompting more people to make the leap into poultry parenthood.

Businesses that sell chicks, coops and other supplies say they have seen a surge in demand since the pandemic took hold in March and health officials ordered residents to stay home.

Allison and Ron Abta of Northern California's Marin County had for years talked about setting up a backyard coop. They took the plunge in August.

The couple's three kids were thrilled when their parents finally agreed to buy chicks.

"These chickens are like my favorite thing, honestly," said 12-year-old Violet, holding a dark feathered hen in her woodsy backyard. "They actually have personalities once you get to know them."

The baby birds lived inside the family's home for six weeks before moving into the chicken run in the yard. A wire-mesh enclosure now houses the five heritage hens — each a different breed — and protects them from bobcats, foxes and other predators.

Mark Podgwaite, a Vermont chicken breeder who heads the American



Members of the Abta family, from left, Allison, Violet, Eli, and Ariella hold hens in front of their backyard chicken run in Ross, Calif., on Dec. 15, 2020. The coronavirus pandemic is coming home to roost in America's backyards. Forced to hunker down at home, more people are setting up coops and raising their own chickens, which provide an earthy hobby, animal companionship and a steady supply of fresh eggs.

Poultry Association, said he and other breeders have noticed an uptick in demand for chicks since the pandemic began. His organization, which represents breeders and poultry-show exhibitors, has seen a jump in new members.

"Without question, the resurgence in raising backyard poultry has been unbelievable over the past year," said Podgwaite, who keeps a flock of roughly 100 birds. "It just exploded. Whether folks wanted birds just for eggs or eggs and meat, it seemed to really, really take off."

The Abta family bought the chicks from Mill Valley Chickens, which sells chickens, feed and supplies and builds coops and runs. Owner Leslie Citroen also offers classes for first-time chicken keepers. She estimates her sales have grown 400% this year.

"Once COVID hit, my phone just started ringing off the hook and it just has not slowed down," Citroen said. "I

don't think it's going to slow down. I think this new interest and passion

in chickens is permanent." Citroen said most of

her customers this year are first-time chicken keepers. They range from parents looking for something to keep homebound children busy to "preppers" who want their own protein supply in case the world falls apart.

"Demand is just through the roof right now," Citroen said. "I've sold all my baby chicks. I've sold all my juveniles. And I'm starting to sell some of my family flock."

One of her newest customers is Ben Duddleston, who lives in nearby San Anselmo. He stopped by her home to buy three hens.

The self-described "first-time chicken dad" wanted to surprise his kids, ages 5 and 10, on Christmas.

"I think it's totally pandemic related. I don't think that I'd be doing this if in normal times," Duddleston said.



Gary Noffsinger Sales Staff



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LET'S ALL #MaskUpCitrus



Citrus County Commissioner
Jeff Kinnard



Citrus County School Board Member
Thomas Kennedy



Citrus County Health Officer
Tito Rubio



Citrus County Administrative Judge
Richard A. Howard

Mask up to protect Citrus County residents, students and business owners from COVID-19.



NEW YEAR FOR BETTER NUTRITION

Take on 2021 with sustainable, low-carb eating plan

Family Features

A new year brings with it new opportunities to better yourself in all kinds of ways, including your health. Start by evaluating your at-home

menu to make sure it aligns with your nutritional goals.

These recipes for Vegetarian Ramen Zoodle Bowls, Broccoli and Bacon Egg Bites and Flourless Salted Peanut Butter Chocolate Chip Cookies from Atkins offer better-for-you options that fit

within a low-carb lifestyle that can help you eat right and make smarter choices in your kitchen.

Each option offers a balanced approach to eating comprised of high-fiber carbohydrates, optimal protein and healthy fats.

Plus, they're easily personalized, allowing each recipe to help you meet your goals regardless of what eating plan you're following and whether you're looking to achieve weight loss, maintain your weight or achieve optimal health.



Photos courtesy of Atkins

VEGETARIAN RAMEN ZOODLE BOWLS

Recipe courtesy of "The Atkins 100 Eating Solution"
Total time: 30 minutes, Servings: 4

- 4 large eggs
- Ice water
- 2 cups fresh water
- 1 quart vegetable broth
- 5 ounces (3 cups) broccoli florets, cut into bite-size pieces
- 10 ounces (4 cups) spiralized zucchini
- 5 ounces (5 packed cups) baby spinach
- 1 tablespoon, plus 2 teaspoons, white miso paste
- 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt, plus additional,

to taste, divided

- 1 tablespoon toasted sesame oil, plus additional for garnish, to taste
- 2 cups mung bean sprouts, for garnish
- Chili garlic sauce, for garnish
- 1 cup shredded raw carrot, for garnish
- 4 tablespoons crushed peanuts, for garnish

In large saucepan of gently boiling water, cook eggs 7 minutes then transfer to bowl of ice water.

Drain cooking water from saucepan then add broth and fresh water. Bring to simmer over medium-high heat. Add broccoli and cook 3 minutes then add zucchini and spinach. Continue cooking until spinach is wilted and zucchini is

crisp-tender, 2-3 minutes. Remove from heat.

Ladle about 1/2 cup broth from saucepan into small bowl. Add miso paste and 1/4 teaspoon salt; whisk to combine. Return mixture to soup, add sesame oil and stir to combine. Add additional salt, to taste. Cover to keep warm.

Remove eggs from ice bath; peel then cut in half lengthwise. Ladle 2 cups soup into four serving bowls. Top each portion with one egg and 1/2 cup sprouts. Drizzle with chili garlic sauce and additional sesame oil, to taste. Top each serving with 1/4 cup shredded carrot and 1 tablespoon crushed peanuts.

Nutritional information per serving: 10 grams net carbs; 17 grams total carbs; 7 grams fiber; 16 grams protein; 13 grams fat; 253 calories.



BROCCOLINI & BACON EGG BITES

Recipe courtesy of "The Atkins 100 Eating Solution"
Total time: 45 minutes, Servings: 4

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 5 slices (4 ounces) no-sugar-added bacon
- 5 large eggs
- 3 ounces cream cheese
- 2 tablespoons feta cheese
- 1 tablespoon hot sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt, plus additional, to taste, divided
- 4 1/2 ounces broccolini (5-7 stalks), stalks and florets thinly sliced
- 1 tablespoon arugula
- 1 1/2 cups baby arugula
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- Freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 1 cup fresh blueberries

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly coat eight silicone egg-bite mold cups or eight cups of standard nonstick muffin tin with nonstick cooking spray and set in large baking pan.

In large nonstick skillet, cook bacon over medium heat until golden, about 5 minutes per side. Transfer to paper towel-lined plate to drain. Chop bacon into small pieces.

In blender, puree eggs, cream cheese, feta cheese, hot sauce and 1/4 teaspoon salt until smooth.

Pour off all but 1 tablespoon fat from skillet. Add broccolini, water and 1/4 teaspoon salt. Cook over medium-high heat, stirring frequently, until broccolini is tender, 3-5 minutes. Remove from heat.

Fill each egg cup with 1 teaspoon bacon and 1 tablespoon broccolini. Top with egg mixture, filling cups to about 1/8 inch from top. Add just enough boiled water to baking pan to come halfway up sides of molds.

Bake egg bites until set, 20-25 minutes. Take pan from oven then take molds from water bath. Let egg bites cool then remove from molds.

In medium bowl, toss arugula, lemon juice, oil and salt and pepper, to taste. Place 3/4 cup salad, two egg bites and 1/4 cup blueberries on four plates and serve.

Nutritional information per serving: 9 grams net carbs; 11 grams total carbs; 2 grams fiber; 14 grams protein; 34 grams fat; 400 calories.

An Easy-to-Follow Food Guide

The latest science continues to support the many health benefits of a low-carb approach to eating beyond just weight loss. Simply reducing your carb and sugar intake by two-thirds over the "Standard American Diet" helps avoid the development of obesity, metabolic syndrome and type 2 diabetes.

While many eating approaches can be vague in their approach, "The Atkins 100 Eating Solution's" fan-favorite program provides a clear-cut way to control your carb intake with 100 grams of net carbs (the total carbohydrate content of the food minus the fiber content and sugar alcohols) and shows you how to make delicious and satisfying food choices that lessen their impact on your blood sugar. This personalized approach is a way of eating you can follow for life.

With cutting-edge research and delicious recipes, this book provides a variety of foods with plenty of room for personalization. This easy-to-use guide, written by Colette Heimowitz, the company's vice president of nutrition and education, can also show you how the plan can be modified to fit in with most ways of eating, including vegetarian, Paleo, Mediterranean and more regardless of food preferences, lifestyle or cooking abilities. Visit atkins.com.

FLOURLESS SALTED PEANUT BUTTER CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

Recipe courtesy of "The Atkins 100 Eating Solution"
Total time: 50 minutes, Yield: 24 cookies

- 1 cup sugar-free smooth or creamy peanut butter
- 2 teaspoons stevia extract powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 large egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup sugar-free semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 teaspoon flaky sea salt

Set oven racks in upper- and lower-third positions. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line two cookie sheets with parchment paper.

In medium bowl, use handheld electric mixer on medium speed to beat peanut butter, stevia, baking soda and salt, scraping down sides if needed, until well combined, about 1 minute. Reduce speed to low, add egg and vanilla extract; beat until combined.

Shape dough into 24 balls (about 1 tablespoon each) and place 2 inches apart on prepared cookie sheets. Using tines of fork, carefully flatten each ball, creating crisscross pattern.

Bake, rotating cookie sheets from top to bottom and back to front halfway through, until edges begin to brown and cookies are set, 7-9 minutes. Cookies should not be browned. Let cool 10 minutes on cookie sheets then carefully transfer to cooling rack to cool completely.

In small microwave-safe bowl, add chocolate chips and microwave on high in 20-second increments, stirring after each, until melted, about 1 minute.

Dip dry fork into chocolate then drizzle over cookies. Sprinkle with sea salt.

Nutritional information per serving (1 cookie): 1.5 grams net carbs; 3 grams total carbs; 1.5 grams fiber; 3 grams protein; 6.5 grams fat; 79 calories.



THE NUMBER:

42

Career-high points for Boston's Jaylen Brown in the Celtics' 126-107 victory Wednesday over the Memphis Grizzlies.

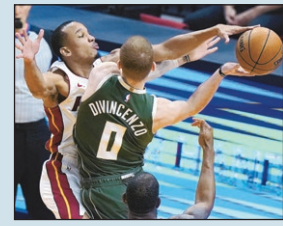


Jaylen Brown

SPORTS

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

Section B - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2020



Heat average blowout loss from night before with win over Bucks./B2

- NBA/B2
- Scoreboard/B2
- Sports briefs/B2
- Lottery, TV/B2
- TV listings/B3
- Comics/B4
- Classifieds/B5

Sooners roll past Gators

Oklahoma shows no mercy to shorthanded Florida in 55-20 Cotton Bowl rout



Associated Press

Florida defensive back Donovan Stiner (13) is unable to stop Oklahoma wide receiver Marvin Mims (17) from reaching the end zone on a touchdown reception during the first half of the Cotton Bowl on Wednesday night in Arlington, Texas. The Sooners rolled to a 55-20 victory. A game story was not available at deadline. See tomorrow's Chronicle for full game recap.

INTs send Wisconsin past Wake, 42-28

Win Duke's Mayo Bowl

STEVE REED
AP sports writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Graham Mertz accounted for three touchdowns and Wisconsin turned four second-half interceptions into 21 points to beat Wake Forest 42-28 in the Duke's Mayo Bowl on Wednesday.

Mertz, a redshirt freshman, threw for 130 yards and ran for two short touchdowns as Wisconsin (4-3) finished a rocky season on a high note.

"I'm truly proud of this group and what they have had to endure and how they did it together," Wisconsin coach Paul Chryst said.

With the game tied at 21 late in the third quarter, Noah Burks intercepted Wake Forest's Sam Hartman on a pass in the flat when the intended receiver failed to turn his head around. Burks returned the ball 41 yards to set up a 14-yard scoring strike from Mertz to Mason Stokke on a wheel route, giving the Badgers their first lead.

See WISCONSIN/Page B10

Wake Forest defenders converges on Wisconsin running back Garrett Groshek, left, during the second quarter of the Duke's Mayo Bowl Wednesday at Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte, N.C. Wisconsin won 42-28.

JEFF SINER/The News & Observer



BASKETBALL

NBA standings

Table of NBA standings for Eastern and Western Conferences, including Atlantic, Southeast, Central, and Southwest Divisions.

Wednesday's Games: Boston 126, Memphis 107; Brooklyn 145, Atlanta 141; Miami 119, Milwaukee 108.

Today's Games: Cleveland at Indiana, 3 p.m.; Chicago at Washington, 5 p.m.

Friday's Games: Boston at Detroit, 7 p.m.; Memphis at Charlotte, 7 p.m.

FOOTBALL

NFL standings

Table of NFL standings for American and National Conferences, including East and South divisions.

2020-21 Bowls: Monday, Dec. 21 Myrtle Beach Bowl; Tuesday, Dec. 22 Famous Idaho Potato Bowl.

Wednesday, Dec. 23 New Orleans Bowl; Thursday, Dec. 24 New Mexico Bowl.

Friday, Dec. 25 Camellia Bowl; Saturday, Dec. 26 Cure Bowl.

Sunday's Games: Atlanta at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.; Baltimore at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 11 College Football Championship Miami Gardens, Fla.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL: Major League Baseball American League; CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Agreed to terms with OF Adam Engel.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: CHICAGO CUBS — Acquired RHP Zach Davies.

HOCKEY: NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE: WASHINGTON CAPITALS — Agreed to terms with D Zdeno Chara.

Florida LOTTERY

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

Florida Lottery winning numbers: PICK 2 (early) 2-9, PICK 2 (late) 9-1, PICK 3 (early) 1-4-3, PICK 3 (late) 2-0-4, PICK 4 (early) 6-8-5-7, PICK 4 (late) 6-0-7-7, PICK 5 (early) 2-6-0-8-5, PICK 5 (late) 1-0-7-4-0.

Tuesday's winning numbers and payouts:

Lottery payouts table: Jackpot Triple Play: 7-10-11 - 17-18-42; Fantasy 5: 6-17-22-24-30; LOTTO: 12-13-21-39-41-46; POWERBALL: 3-43-45-61-65; CASH 4 LIFE: 2-19-28-29-30; CASH BALL: 3.

On the AIRWAVES

TODAY'S SPORTS MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

3 p.m. (ACCN) Catawba at Wake Forest; 5 p.m. (ESPNU) BYU at Pepperdine; 7 p.m. (ESPN2) Michigan at Maryland; 7 p.m. (FS1) Utah at UCLA.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

1 p.m. (ACCN) Notre Dame at Miami; 6:30 p.m. (SEC) Mississippi State at Georgia; 7 p.m. (ESPNU) Tennessee at Texas A&M; 8:30 p.m. (SEC) Arkansas at Kentucky.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

12 p.m. (ESPN) Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl: Tulsa vs Mississippi State; 2 p.m. (CBS) Arizona Bowl: Ball State vs San Jose State; 4 p.m. (ESPN) AutoZone Liberty Bowl: West Virginia vs Army.

HOCKEY

2 p.m. (NHL) 2021 IIHF World Junior Championship: Czech Republic vs Austria; 6 p.m. (NHL) 2021 IIHF World Junior Championship: Canada vs Finland; 9:30 p.m. (NHL) 2021 IIHF World Junior Championship: Sweden vs United States.

OUTDOORS

4 p.m. (ESPN2) 2020 ACL College Cornhole Championship

Note: Times and channels are subject to change at the discretion of the network.

Lendingtree Bowl Mobile, Ala.; Georgia St. 39, W. Kentucky 21; Tuesday, Dec. 29 Cheez-It Bowl Orlando, Fla.

Alamo Bowl San Antonio; No. 20 Texas 55, Colorado 23; Wednesday, Dec. 30 Duke's Mayo Bowl Charlotte, N.C.

Cotton Bowl Classic Arlington, Texas; No. 8 Oklahoma 55, No. 10 Florida 20; Today Armed Forces Bowl Fort Worth, Texas.

Liberty Bowl Memphis, Tenn.; West Virginia vs. Army, 4 p.m. (ESPN); Texas Bowl Houston.

Friday, Jan. 1 Peach Bowl Atlanta; No. 6 Cincinnati vs. No. 11 Georgia, Noon (ESPN).

Citrus Bowl Orlando, Fla.; No. 15 Northwestern vs. Auburn, 1 p.m. (ABC); College Football Playoff Semifinal Game 1 Arlington, Texas.

Sugar Bowl New Orleans; No. 2 Clemson vs. No. 3 Ohio St., 8 p.m. (ESPN); Saturday, Jan. 2 Gator Bowl Jacksonville, Fla.

Outback Bowl Tampa, Fla.; No. 24 NC State vs. Kentucky, Noon (ESPN); Fiesta Bowl Glendale, Ariz.

Orange Bowl Miami Gardens, Fla.; No. 5 Texas A&M vs. No. 14 North Carolina, 8 p.m. (ESPN); Monday, Jan. 11 College Football Championship Miami Gardens, Fla.

Semifinal Game 1 winner vs. Sugar Bowl winner, 8 p.m. (ESPN); Tuesday, Jan. 12 Boca Raton (Fla.) Bowl; Wednesday, Dec. 23 New Orleans Bowl.

Thursday, Dec. 24 New Mexico Bowl Frisco, Texas; Hawaii 28, Houston 14; Friday, Dec. 25 Camellia Bowl Montgomery, Ala.

Saturday, Dec. 26 Cure Bowl Orlando, Fla.; No. 23 Liberty 37, No. 9 Coastal Carolina 34, OT; SERVPRO First Responder Bowl Dallas.

Sunday's Games: Atlanta at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.; Baltimore at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.; Dallas at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 11 College Football Championship Miami Gardens, Fla.; Semifinal Game 1 winner vs. Sugar Bowl winner, 8 p.m. (ESPN).

Baseball: CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Agreed to terms with OF Adam Engel.

National League: CHICAGO CUBS — Acquired RHP Zach Davies.

Hockey: NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE: WASHINGTON CAPITALS — Agreed to terms with D Zdeno Chara.



Milwaukee guard Donte DiVincenzo (0) looks to pass the ball as Miami guard Avery Bradley defends during the first half Wednesday in Miami. The Heat won 119-108.

Heat quickly avenge blowout loss to Bucks

MIAMI — The Miami Heat engineered a 58-point turnaround against the Milwaukee Bucks in 24 hours. And just like that, an embarrassing loss was avenged.

Goran Dragic scored 26 points off the bench, Bam Adebayo finished with 22 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds and the Heat beat the Bucks 119-108 on Wednesday night.

Tyler Herro scored 21 points and grabbed a career-best 15 rebounds for Miami, which trailed by 14 early in the second half and rallied to get a split of the two-game, two-night series against the team that finished with the NBA's best record in each of the past two regular seasons.

Giannis Antetokounmpo had a triple-double — 26 points, 13 rebounds, 10 assists — for the Bucks. Donte DiVincenzo scored 15 and Jrue Holiday 13 for Milwaukee, while Khris Middleton was held to eight on 3-for-15 shooting.

Celtics 126, Memphis 107

BOSTON — Jaylen Brown had a career-high 42 points, scoring 18 in the second quarter when the Boston Celtics pulled away to earn their 10th straight victory over the Memphis Grizzlies, 126-107.

Jonas Valanciunas had 20 points and 11 rebounds for Memphis, and Gorgui Dieng scored 17 points.

Nets 145, Hawks 141

NEW YORK — Kyrie Irving shook off three rough quarters to score 17 of his 25 points in the fourth, Kevin Durant had 33 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists, and the Brooklyn Nets handed the Atlanta Hawks their first loss with a 145-141 victory.

Tyree Corbett had 24 points to lead Alcorn State (0-5). Jordan Turner and Zach Loveday each scored 10.

Coastal Carolina's Chadwell selected AP coach of year

Coastal Carolina's Jamey Chadwell is The Associated Press college football coach of the year after leading the Chanticleers to a surprising, near-perfect season.

Chadwell received 16 first-place votes and 88 points from the AP Top 25 panel to finish ahead of Indiana's Tom Allen, who was second with 14 first-place votes and 66 points.

Chadwell is the first Sun Belt Conference coach to win the AP award, which was established in 1988, and the third coach to earn it with a team from outside the Power Five leagues.

San Jose State's Brent Brennan finished fifth, meaning Group of Five teams had three of the top five coaches in this year's voting.

The Chants' perfect season came to an end last week when they lost in overtime to Liberty in the Cure Bowl.

Longtime Bruins captain Chara joins Capitals

WASHINGTON — Longtime Boston Bruins captain Zdeno Chara signed with the Washington Capitals on Wednesday, a stunning move less than a week before most NHL teams open training camp.

Chara agreed to terms on a one-year contract worth \$795,000. The 43-year-old defenseman posted on Instagram that the Bruins have decided to move forward with younger players.

No. 2 Baylor beats Alcorn State 105-76

WACO, Texas — Maciej Teague had 18 points to lead six players scoring in double figures for No. 2 Baylor, which beat Alcorn State 105-76 on Wednesday for its second lopsided victory in a 23-hour span.

Jared Butler added 17 points on 6-of-8 shooting and Matthew Mayer had 14 points for the Bears. Davion Mitchell, — From wire reports

THURSDAY EVENING DECEMBER 31, 2020. Table with columns for channel, time, and program details.

Annie offers advice

Dear Annie: Sometimes, in the course of conversation with someone who has an accent, I'll find myself mimicking their speech. It's entirely unintentional and embarrassing, and I'm sure it irritates the other person. I've had to explain multiple times to people of varying vernaculars that I'm not mocking them. How do I defuse awkward situations like this, short of avoiding conversation in the first place? — Don't Shoot the Mockingbird



Dear Annie: Your flock is bigger than you'd think. A common psychological phenomenon known as "mirroring" or "the chameleon effect" leads people to unconsciously emulate those with whom they're speaking. Though it can be embarrassing, this tendency is not inherently a bad thing. In fact, psychologists believe that it signals high levels of empathy, and a 2013 study found that this kind of unconscious imitation actually tends to make conversational partners feel more positively about the speaker.

Of course, we shouldn't go around deliberately imitating people's accents. But when you do find yourself slipping up, briefly apologize when it feels appropriate, and then move on. You're not intentionally hurting anyone, and you're probably not the first person they've encountered who's done it.

Dear Annie: Concerning the lady who was attacked by her neighbor's dogs: You were exactly right to recommend she contact the authorities. I can't imagine any local jurisdiction where vicious unleashed dogs attacking citizens would be allowed or their owners not held responsible. I'm sure I will be one of many voices who would encourage her to immediately contact an attorney to file a civil suit for wrongful injury. There's no doubt she has a case. — Lawyer Dave

Dear Lawyer Dave: If ever I miss the mark, then I can count on my readers to help me find it. Dozens of you wrote that I should have recommended that "Sincerely Confused" hire a lawyer. The following letter includes a few more tips.

Dear Annie: "Sincerely Confused" should notify the dogs' owners' home insurance company of the incident. She'll need to provide a detailed, written personal account of what happened. She should also seek such statements from those good samaritan witnesses, too, if possible. Additionally, she should include copies of the police reports, as well as copies of her hospital records and any notes from follow-up doctor visits. And she should compile an itemized list of every single medical cost associated with her attack (the full charges, not just co-pays).

Since some time has passed, it seems she might be reluctant or fearful of pursuing a lawsuit. But she should still talk it over with an attorney. At the very least, she may be able to negotiate a settlement with the insurance company privately. I encourage her to choose an amount sizable enough to compensate her for all expenses incurred, plus the lifelong burden caused by her injuries. Project what it will cost to pay for future medical visits and to buy the equipment and therapies necessary to cope with her condition for the rest of her life.

If the cops or city doesn't do it first, a claim like this might get the dog owner's attention. If they hope to stay insured, I'll bet they build a fence. My heart goes out to her! — Bitten

Dear Bitten: I'm sorry to hear that you learned from a similar experience, but I appreciate your wisdom, and I'm sure "Sincerely Confused" will as well.

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

Bridge

PHILLIP ALDER Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

Paul Simon's "The 59th Street Bridge Song" begins: "Slow down, you move too fast/You got to make the morning last/Just kicking down the cobblestones/Looking for fun and feelin' groovy."

Bridge game hand with cards and dealer information.

because it is downhill and there are numerous people waiting on 1st Avenue to cheer the runners on. At the bridge table, everyone should slow down at trick one. More mistakes are made at that trick than at any other. In this example, how should South play in four spades after West leads a low heart? In the auction, North made a cue-bid raise to show at least game-invitational values with three or more trumps. If this looks like an overbid with a heart king that could well be worthless, North's hand contains only eight losers even if you count two in hearts, and has the valuable fourth trump. (Regular readers will know that I would have advanced with two no-trump, guaranteeing at least four-card support. I like to know when we have only eight trumps and when we have nine.) South seems to have 10 sure tricks: four spades, one diamond and five clubs. How might he go down? Only if the defenders take one spade, two hearts and one diamond. But to get that diamond, West has to push the suit through the dummy. To stop West from regaining the lead, declarer must play dummy's low heart at trick one, not the king.

JUMBLE

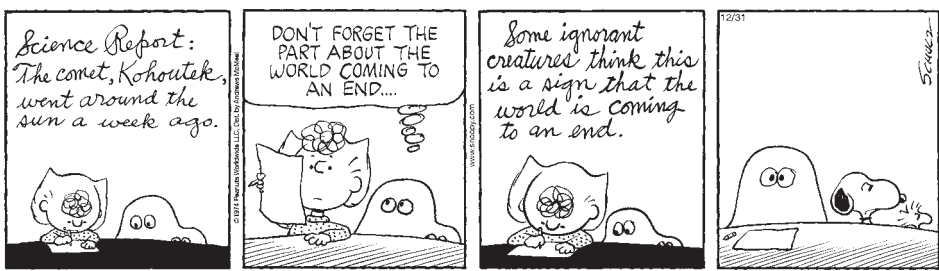
Jumble puzzle grid with words: SIPOE, PMYET, LUDOEB, SANMUK.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Scrambled word game with cartoon and instructions.

MORE PUZZLES section with instructions and a small puzzle.

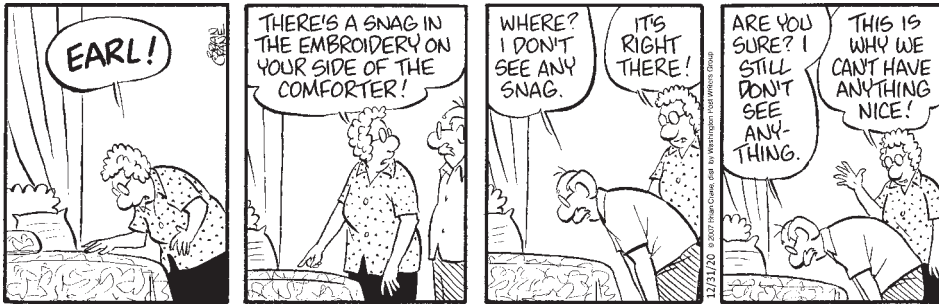
Peanuts



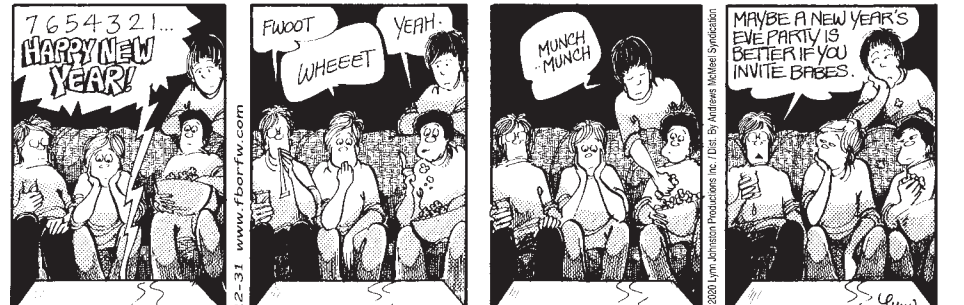
Garfield



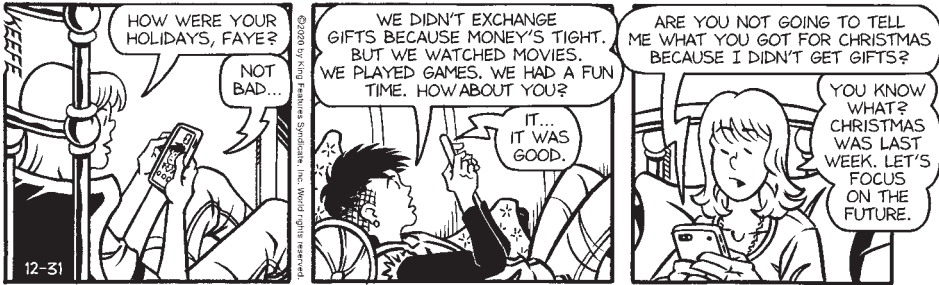
Pickles



For Better or For Worse



Sally Forth



Beetle Bailey



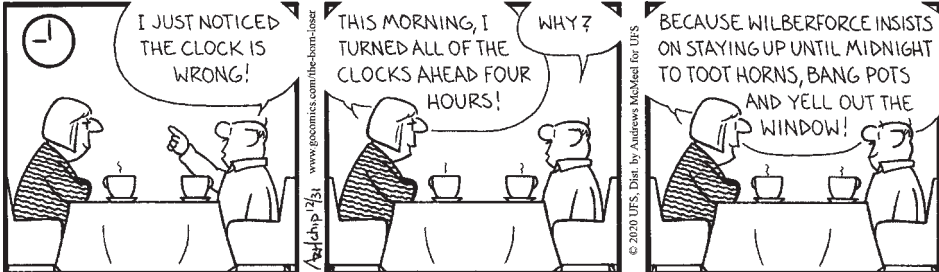
Dilbert



The Grizzells



The Born Loser



Blondie



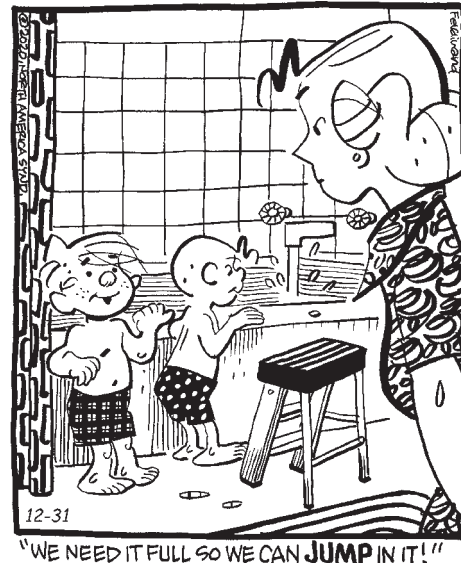
Moderately Confused



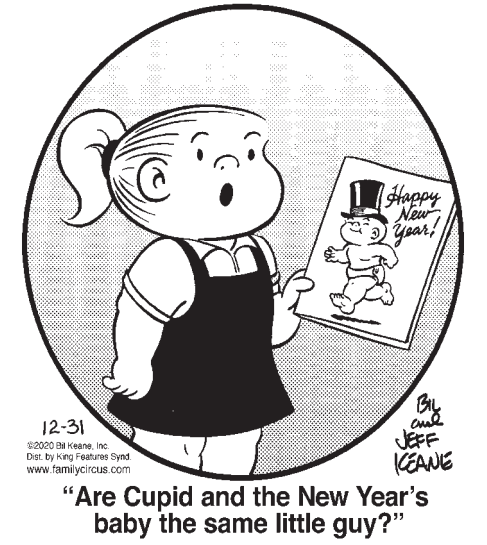
Rubes



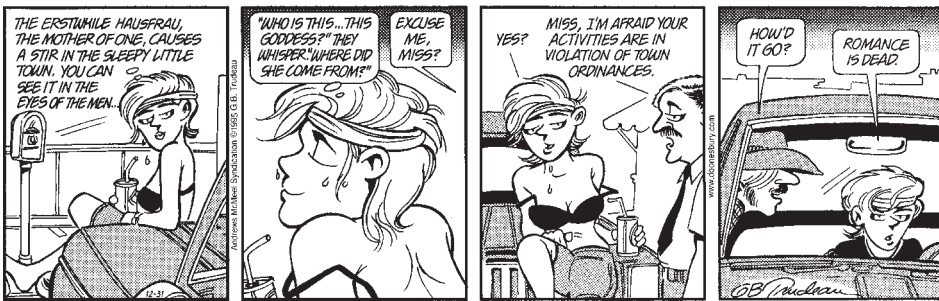
Dennis the Menace



The Family Circus



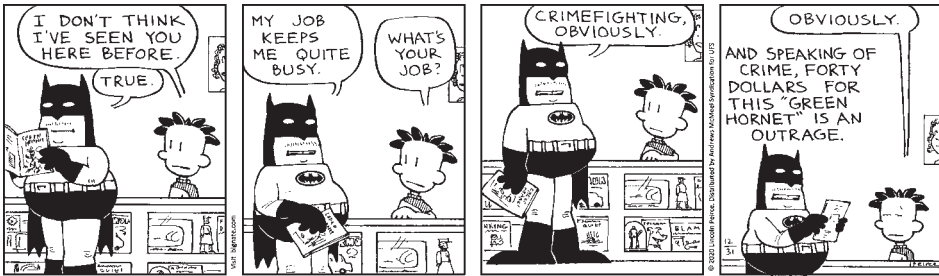
Doonesbury Flashbacks



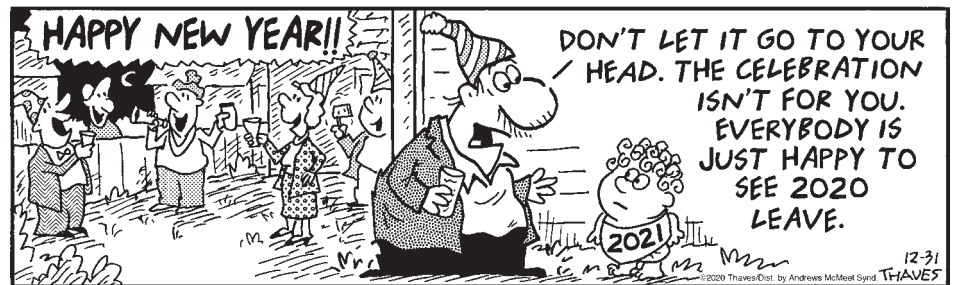
Betty



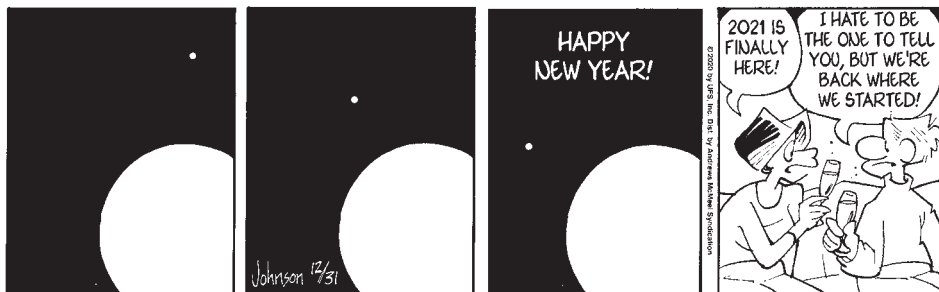
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WXJB 99.9 FM News Talk
WXCZ 103.3 Country

- WXCZ-FM 104.3 Country
WUVV 105.5 FM Hudson
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Today's MOVIES

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

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NOTE THAT COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS ARE IN PLACE.

- 'The Dukes - Live Performance' Jan. 1, 7 p.m.
'Willy Wonka And The Chocolate Factory' (G) Jan. 2, 3 p.m.
'The Out Of Towners' (G) Jan. 3, 3 p.m.
'All About Eve' (NR) Jan. 4, 1 p.m.
'Glason' (R) Jan. 6, 1 p.m.
'Dr. Zhivago' (PG-13) Jan. 9, 1 p.m.
'Cape Fear' (NR) Jan. 10, 3 p.m.
'Mr. Smith Goes To Washington' (NR) Jan. 11, 1 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: l equals C

'GPZNY YB D FYLZ DLGZN TZYRH DG

GPZ AYRRDIFZ VL KVCN TZDCGK.

AFZRGK VL FYLZ DRE LCR.' EYDRD

NYHH

Previous Solution: 'You kind of took it for granted around the Yankees that there was always going to be baseball in October.' Whitey Ford

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WISCONSIN

Continued from Page B1

Hartman, who had thrown only one interception all season, was picked off on the next three possessions as well.

Scott Nelson had a 60-yard interception return and Collin Wilder returned a pick 72 yards to set up short TD runs that gave the Badgers a 42-21 lead, resulting in Hartman getting benched. Jack Sanborn had 11 tackles and an interception and was named MVP of the game.

"We've been facing a lot of adversity this year. ... and to finish this thing out

with this group, it means the world," Sanborn said.

Hartman finished 20 of 37 passing for 318 yards with three touchdowns and four interceptions.

"All of a sudden the dam opened the floodgates and wow, I never thought we would lose a game like that," Wake Forest coach Dave Clausen said.

Clausen said he felt Hartman was telegraphing his passes.

"I think he held on to targets too long and Wisconsin broke on his eyes and his arm actions," Clausen said.

Wake Forest (4-5) outgained Wisconsin 518-266 on offense, but the Badgers had 176 return yards off interceptions.

Hartman threw three touchdown passes to Jacquarii Roberson to give the Demon Deacons a 21-14 lead early in the third quarter against the nation's No. 1-ranked defense.

The game was played in front of no fans other than family and friends due to the coronavirus pandemic.

THE TAKEAWAY

Wake Forest: Hartman seemed to implode after playing a really nice first half. The redshirt sophomore should learn from his rough day against the Badgers.

Wisconsin: Mertz appears to have solidified his role as the team's starting

quarterback moving forward. He had struggled down the stretch with five interceptions and one touchdown in his previous four games. But it's been hard to fully evaluate his play since he's been missing his two top wideouts, Danny Davis and Kendrick Pryor.

UP NEXT

Wake Forest: The Demon Deacons are slated to open their 2021 season with a Sept. 4 home game against Old Dominion.

Wisconsin: The Badgers will need to add some weapons for Mertz heading into next season. They open at home against Big Ten foe Penn State on Sept. 4.

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<p>Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl</p>  <p>TCU Golden Hurricane vs Mississippi State Bulldogs Dec. 31 @ 12:00 PM ESPN</p>	<p>TaxSlayer Gator Bowl</p>  <p>Kentucky Wildcats vs North Carolina State Wolfpack Jan. 2 @ 12:00 PM ESPN</p>
<p>Chick-Fil-A Peach Bowl</p>  <p>Cincinnati Bearcats vs Georgia Bulldogs Jan. 1 @ 12:00 PM ESPN</p>	<p>Outback Bowl</p>  <p>Ole Miss Rebels vs Indiana Hoosiers Jan. 2 @ 12:30 PM ABC</p>
<p>VRBO Citrus Bowl</p>  <p>Northwestern Wildcats vs Auburn Tigers Jan. 1 @ 1:00 PM ABC</p>	<p>Capital One Orange Bowl</p>  <p>Texas A&M Aggies vs North Carolina Tar Heels Jan. 2 @ 8:00 PM ESPN</p>

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