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**INSIDE TODAY**



**NHL PLAYOFFS**  
LIGHTNING TAKE 3-1 SERIES  
LEAD OVER PANTHERS  
**PAGE B2**

# THE SUNDAY CHRONICLE

MAY 23, 2021

90 62

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**CITRUS COUNTY VIRUS UPDATE**

**INSIDE**  
View the latest COVID-19 data about Citrus County./  
Page A10.

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**COVID-19 vaccines for homebound now available**

Homebound Citrus County residents will now find it easier to get COVID-19 vaccinations.

Due to a lesser demand of the Department of Health in Citrus County for on-site vaccinations, agency spokeswoman Audrey Stasko said the local DOH will be offering vaccines to the homebound.

The program allows for DOH-Citrus staff to visit and vaccinate people 18 years old and older who are unable to leave their home due to lack of transportation, mobility or other issues, she said.

If interested, call 352-527-0068, menu option nine and then press three to speak with staff.

Call center staff will collect some information and relay the information to the outreach team who will be in touch to set up a date and time to visit your home.

For more information about DOH-Citrus, visit [www.CitrusCountyHealth.org](http://www.CitrusCountyHealth.org).

— Fred Hiers

## Unprovoked, dogs still attack

Three Out of the Box rescue dogs go for shelter worker, volunteers

MIKE WRIGHT  
STAFF WRITER

They never saw it coming.

On three separate days, dogs confiscated by the county from Out of the Box rescue attacked two volunteers and a worker at the Citrus County Animal Shelter, according to county records.

The attacking dogs were later euthanized after a judge agreed to the county's request to award it custody of 43 dogs, a pig and three chickens seized in January from Out of the Box, a Floral City rescue run by Robert Schweickert Jr. Schweickert's attorney is appealing the ruling.

Schweickert is facing 27 criminal counts of cruelty to animals. The county would release



From left: Otis, CJ and Ace were among the 43 dogs seized by the county from Out of the Box rescue in January. The three dogs were euthanized after they attacked two shelter volunteers and an employee.

neither names of those who were attacked, nor their injuries, citing privacy laws.

Incident reports have those details blotted out.

But the reports show that in all three cases, the dogs — Ace, CJ and Otis — attacked without

provocation from either other dogs or humans.

See ATTACK/Page A7

## MEMORIES OF HUNGER, HORROR



MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle

Eva Lichtenberg is very fond of teddy bears. She sits with several in her Sugarmill Woods home. When she, her mother and family had to flee the Russians during World War II, she wanted to take her beloved teddy bear with her. "My mother said, 'You can't,' and I never, ever really got over that. It was the first loss I ever experienced. I'm an old lady now, and to this day I can't get over the bear I had to leave behind."

### Eva Lichtenberg: 'The Russians came in, and we had to flee'

NANCY KENNEDY  
STAFF WRITER

Although 76 years have gone by, Eva Lichtenberg still recalls with vivid details the hunger and the terror of her childhood in Germany when the Russians invaded her once-peaceful town.

"We lived in Breslau, and that was as German as German could be," she

said from her home in Sugarmill Woods. "But then the Russians came in and everybody was scared of them ... they were considered savage, because they raped every female they could find."

"I was not 9 years old yet, and we had to leave our home," she said.

It was January 1945. Eva's father had been drafted by the Nazis and her mother was eight months pregnant.

"My parents hated the Nazis," she said. "You had to put out the red flag, hang it out, but my mother didn't do it. There were block wardens who would turn you in, but they said my mother was mentally disturbed because of her pregnancy."

"But my mother escaped being raped by the Russians because she was so highly pregnant," she said.

See EVA/Page A8

## Price of garbage

Board mulls landfill rates

MIKE WRIGHT  
STAFF WRITER

Even as Citrus County commissioners seek bids for a potential universal garbage collection program, landfill rates for residents may be on the rise.

Commissioners at their Tuesday, May 25, meeting will consider a new proposed rate structure at the landfill that includes bumping the annual residential assessment from \$25 to \$27.

Public Works Director Randall Olney said the annual assessment increase will raise about \$140,000 to \$150,000 and is needed to cover contractual increases from vendors.

Individuals who buy annual passes to dispose of garbage would pay more as well, according to the proposed rates. The amount depends on the time of year the pass is purchased.

The fiscal year starts Oct. 1; passes purchased October through December will increase from \$96 a vehicle to \$104 per vehicle. The senior (age 62 and above) rate for a pass purchased in that time period would go from \$68 to \$72.

See GARBAGE/Page A7



Due to earlier production deadlines for the Sunday Chronicle, final lottery numbers are not printed. Visit [www.flalottery.com](http://www.flalottery.com) for final numbers.



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# WEEK IN REVIEW

## PHOTO OF THE WEEK

### BUSINESSES SEEK EMPLOYEES



MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle

Loglyggers Sports Pub and Grill in Crystal River's bar manager and bartender Erica Rhodes pours red sangria Friday afternoon, May 14. Businesses like Loglyggers are struggling to fill open employment positions.

### GOOD NEWS OF THE WEEK

Story about the Nature Coast Young Marines raising funds for a trip to Arizona in mid-August to meet the remaining Navajo Code Talkers, the men who created a code-based on the unwritten Navajo language during World War II, prompted readers to donate toward their trip.



Whether it's kids hoping to go on a trip, a grandma who needs a home to raise her grandchildren or a family needing money for medical needs, Citrus County people are always willing to open their wallets to help. As Chronicle publisher Gerry Mulligan says, "People are good."

### HOT TOPIC OF THE WEEK

Citrus County commissioners recently approved a federally funded program that provides \$1,000 sign-on bonuses to new workers in jobs that pay \$14.99 an hour or less. That hit a nerve with Chronicle readers who commented on Facebook. Here's what some said:

■ **Michelle Boulterice:** "That's great, what about the ones who have been working and never quit working?"

■ **Josh Tucker:** "Or, you could just take away their unemployment benefits to force them to get a job. Just a thought."

■ **JoAnna Jones DesFonds:** "Would they consider rewards for employees who have maintained their employment and have continued to work hard throughout the pandemic?"

■ **Samuel Jared Pivnick:** "Or businesses could just offer a decent living wage and get plenty of applicants."

■ **Denise Hiers:** "Why are we paying people to get off their backs and go back to work? Quit hand feeding them money and they will have no choice but to work!"

■ **Rebecca Jackson:** "A single person cannot afford to live on \$15 an hour in our county. Rents have skyrocketed and are limited in availability. Insurance costs are insane, premiums alone let alone deductible. Add a phone bill and car payment — do the math. Let's trick people into working jobs that don't provide a livable wage with a one-time \$1,000 payment. If we had infrastructure and affordable health care it would be a different world."

## THE MOST POPULAR STORIES FROM THE WEEK THAT WAS

### Bonus plan aimed at drawing in workers

The government, which is paying employers to hire back furloughed workers, is also now paying workers to take jobs because employers are desperate for help.

Recently, Citrus County commissioners approved a federally funded program that provides \$1,000 sign-on bonuses to new workers in jobs that pay \$14.99 an hour or less.

To receive the bonus, which is paid by the employer and reimbursed by CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion, workers need to be on the job for 90 days. The bonuses will be available to businesses with 75 or fewer workers.

Funding from the program comes from the CARES Act and related legislation aimed at boosting the workforce affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Business owners say the ability for potential workers to receive up to \$575 a week in unemployment benefits — the equivalent of \$14.37 an hour for a full-time job — are making it difficult to fill slots.

Not everyone thinks the bonus is a good idea.

"This is just building bigger government," Commissioner Ron Kitchen Jr. said during the board debate.

Commissioner Jeff Kinnard wondered whether a bonus would convince someone who doesn't want to work, to work.

### Tennessee judge releases fugitive accused of arson

Before authorities could return Joseph Bubb to Citrus County for him to face accusations he burned down Sleepy Hollow bar and restaurant in Floral City Jan. 11, 2019, a Tennessee judge set him free.



After being on the lam for a year-and-a-half for not showing up to court in Citrus County, members of the U.S. Marshals Service Fugitive Task Force had apprehended Bubb in Hampton, Tennessee, April 13, 2021.

But as the Citrus County Sheriff's Office was working on coordinating Bubb's extradition back to Florida, the Floral City 62-year-old was released May 10.

"Bubb is currently out of custody and his location is unknown," sheriff's office spokesman Sgt. Lee Carey told the Chronicle on Monday, May 17. "We have requested the assistance of the marshals, but the last known address of Bubb has been vacated."

Information on Bubb's whereabouts can be submitted to the U.S. Marshals Service at [www.usmarshals.gov/tips](http://www.usmarshals.gov/tips).

### Blaze destroys Inverness home; fire pit to blame

Firefighters believe an unattended burn pit ignited a blaze that destroyed an empty Inverness-area home Monday evening, May 17.

When firefighters arrived, a neighbor and Citrus County Sheriff's Office deputy told them they were unsure if people were still inside. A vehicle was also parked in the driveway.

After breaking into the home through a side window, firefighters searched the building and didn't find anyone inside.

Upon inspection, Inverness Fire Chief Steve Marfongella discovered an uncovered fire pit several feet from the house that was left abandoned while the homeowners were away.



### Comings & Goings: Construction set for Glory Days eatery

Last year the Chronicle reported that the sports-themed Glory Days Grill was coming to the southwest corner of County Roads 491 and 486 in Lecanto.

It's still coming and the groundbreaking is scheduled for October and a grand opening is planned for January 2022.



### Law requires boat captains to wear engine-cutoff cord

Passing in January and effective April 1, the National Defense Authorization Act included a requirement for certain recreational boat operators to wear a lanyard tied to their vessel's engine cutoff switch.

The rule applies to all of the country's navigable waterways and targets vessels manufactured after January 2020 with a length less than 26 feet and an engine having more than 3 horsepower.

Jose Hernandez, a public affairs specialist for the U.S. Coast Guard's southeastern district, said having an engine-cutoff switch link, or ECOSL, can immediately stop a boat if its captain goes overboard, helping save their lives and get them back aboard.

"Boats can make sudden and forceful turns that create enough torque to eject an operator or passenger from the helm area or completely out of the boat," the spokesman said. "If thrown out of the boat, there is danger of a spinning propeller, especially since an unmanned boat can often start traveling in circles at the point where the ejection took place."

"We're in a crisis mode right now. We hope people employed right now are being taken care of. We've got to do something. ... We've tried everything else, why don't we try this?"

— JOSH WOOTEN, CITRUS COUNTY CHAMBER PRESIDENT AND CEO, COMMENTING ABOUT THE \$1,000 SIGN-ON BONUSES TO NEW WORKERS IN JOBS THAT PAY \$14.99 AN HOUR OR LESS AND THE EFFECTS ON MORALE OF ESTABLISHED WORKERS.

— compiled by Nancy Kennedy

## NEW Bone Health & Fracture Prevention Program

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Robin Holloway, DNP, APRN, NP-C Fracture Liaison

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CITRUS SPINE INSTITUTE

Dean Toumbis, MD, PhD  
Brittany Olofsson, PA-C  
Allen Conn, PA-C

*Around the*  
**COUNTY**

**MPO Technical advisers to meet**

The Hernando/Citrus Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will hold a public meeting at 10 a.m. Wednesday, May 26, at the Citrus County Transit Center, 1300 S. Lecanto Highway.

The agenda includes:  
 ■ Fiscal year (FY) 2022/2023 list of priority projects – for approval  
 ■ FY 2022-FY 2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – for approval  
 ■ 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) amendment – for approval  
 ■ FDOT presentation

Approximately one week prior to the meeting the meeting agenda may be viewed at [hernandocounty.us/hernandocitrusmpo](http://hernandocounty.us/hernandocitrusmpo).

The public is encouraged to participate. Masks are required in the Transit Center.

For questions, contact Steve Diez, MPO executive director, at 352-754-4082, extension 28013, or [mipo@hernandocounty.us](mailto:mipo@hernandocounty.us).

**Retired nurses to get together**

The Citrus/Marion Retired Nurses will have their final meeting of the year at 11 a.m. Monday, May 24, at the Inverness Golf and Country Club, 3150 S. Country Club Drive.

The cost for lunch is \$15 and the speaker is to be determined. The club will discuss their future plans. Attendees should wear a mask. For questions, contact Judy Herron at 352-860-0232 or [jlherron2@aol.com](mailto:jlherron2@aol.com).

**Museum to open 'Blackbird' exhibit**

A new exhibit, "13 Ways of Looking at a Blackbird," will be on display from May 26 to June 18 at the Old Courthouse Heritage Museum, 1 Courthouse Square in Inverness.

The opening Meet the Artists reception will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, May 27.

Calling themselves "birds of a feather," a group of local artists have come together to display this art exhibition. Using Wallace Stevens' poem "13 Ways of Looking at a Blackbird" as inspiration, seven local artists will be sharing their work in a variety of different artistic mediums. There will be more than 25 two-dimensional and 10 three-dimensional art pieces to view.

For information, call 352-341-6429 or visit [cccourt.house.org](http://cccourt.house.org).

— From staff reports

**Graduation at Seven Rivers Christian School**



SYDNEY AKENS/For the Chronicle

Erika Villanueva helps Jean Cobb put on her cap as they prepare for their graduation Friday evening, May 21, from Seven Rivers Christian School. Seniors were all smiles as they anxiously waited to walk to receive their diplomas. For more photos, visit [www.chronicleonline.com](http://www.chronicleonline.com)

# Conservation along corridor

*Nonprofit seeks protection of properties along river*

SEAN ARNOLD  
*Riverland News*

DUNNELLON — A conservation land trust nonprofit is working with local developer and landowner Jim Gissy to gain state protection of two major pieces of land that would complete a puzzle of protected lands along the Rainbow River Corridor.

Conservation Florida is seeking protection of Gissy Springs and the Rainbow River Ranch (RRR), which would create a stretch of unbroken state-protected lands from Rainbow Springs State Park and the Withlacoochee State Forest.

The lands in question total approximately 300 acres and span the last 4,620 feet of undeveloped shoreline along the river. They contain at least 13 springs that flow into the Rainbow River. The main portion of Rainbow River Ranch is adjacent to Blue Run of Dunnellon Park to the north and northeast, east of the Rainbow River, before the tuber exit. Gissy Springs is located in between the Rainbow Springs State Park and the Rainbow Springs State Campground.

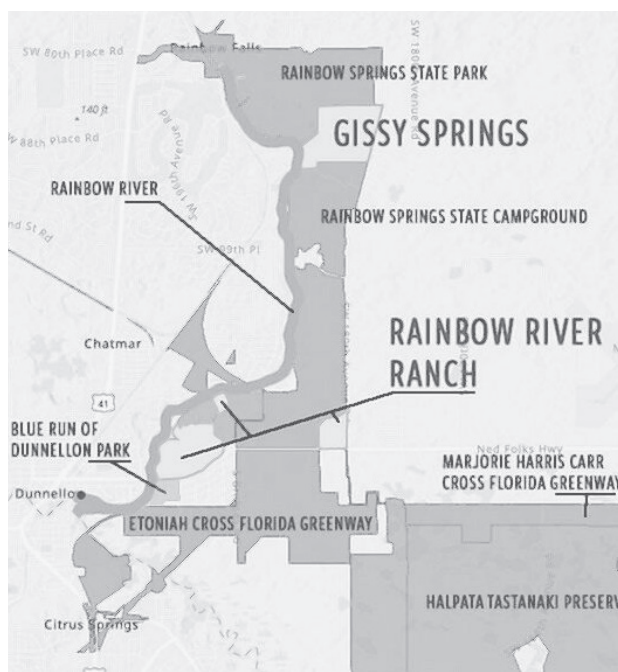
"Swift action to acquire conservation easements on these lands will provide added protection to the Rainbow River and the ecosystem that it supports,"

said Traci Deen, CEO at Conservation Florida, in a news release.

Through the efforts of the Rainbow River Conservation (RRC), the Rainbow River Corridor has been on the Florida Forever Five-Year Plan A-list since 2007. Florida Forever is a public land acquisition program which enables lands deemed environmentally significant to be acquired and/or managed for conservation by state, regional and local entities. The A-listing helped in the acquisition of 32.4 acres on the south side of County Road 484 through an application by RRC, leading to the establishment of Blue Run of Dunnellon Park.

If Conservation Florida is successful, Gissy Springs and Rainbow River Ranch (RRR) would be managed under the Division of Recreation and Parks as Rainbow Springs State Park, which now encompasses the headwaters and much of the eastern side of northern 60 percent of the river. The Marjorie Harris Cross Florida Greenway State Recreation and Conservation Area occupies a part of the Rainbow River Corridor, and the acquisition of Gissy Springs and RRR would fill the gaps of the remaining unprotected land.

Conservation Florida noted multiple natural communities at Gissy Springs



Special to the Chronicle

A map showing the location of two pieces of land owned by Jim Gissy that could be acquired for conservation as part of the Rainbow Springs State Park through the Florida Forever program.

and RRR, including hydric hammock, sandhill, scrubby/mesic flatwoods, and upland mixed forest/mesic hammock. Two rare species — gopher tortoise and eastern diamondback rattlesnake — are associated with the Florida Forever Rainbow River project as well as the preservation of habitats for other turtle species and state-listed wading birds.

"(This project) meets several of the state's highest protection goals, making it an excellent candidate for funding through Florida Forever this year," said Adam Bass, director of conservation at Conservation Florida, in a news release.

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through conservation easements could extend public uses for the Park, including natural resource recreation and water-based recreation. Potential recreational uses could include hiking, biking, and picnicking. The river frontage could be used as a rest stop for canoeists, kayakers and tubers, which could help ease the overcrowding at Blue Run of Dunnellon Park during the active seasons.

The assessed value of the remaining acres available on the Rainbow River Corridor was listed at \$10 million in 2019.

An application to the city of Dunnellon by Gissy's Westgate Resorts to build an ecotourism resort at the riverfront property with an RV park and glamping was met with resistance by a group of local residents and others concerned with the state of the river. The application was withdrawn in August 2020.

"I think there needs to be a balance between keeping nature 'nature' and supporting the local economy. There's no other place like it in Florida, and the timing is good to protect it," Gissy said, referring to the Rainbow River spring run.

"RRC vigorously opposed development on those properties and we are now very pleased that Mr. Gissy has chosen to protect those properties, and the Rainbow River, through conservation easements," said Dr. Burt Eno, president of Rainbow River Conservation (RRC). "We wish him well in this endeavor."

■ Visit [www.chronicleonline.com](http://www.chronicleonline.com)

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## Today's HOROSCOPES

**Birthdays:** You are on a roll. Don't slow down; bring about positive change. Push away negativity, and gravitate toward encouraging people who bring out the best in you.

**Gemini (May 21-June 20):** Personal improvements will turn out as planned, as long as you don't let anyone interfere with your intentions.

**Cancer (June 21-July 22):** Do whatever it takes to soothe your soul. Walk away from turmoil and toward tranquility. Throw yourself into projects that help you relax and bring you joy.

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22):** Get involved in something that excites you. Doing your best to make a difference will boost your morale and reputation.

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Review recent events that could affect your reputation or status, and put more effort and discipline into securing your position. Resist temptation.

**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23):** Expand your mind, liberate your soul and make personal changes that will give you the edge you need to advance.

**Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22):** Don't stop until you are happy with the results. Look for a unique way to present what you have to offer, and you'll get the response you need to move forward.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21):** Move away from temptation and toward something worthwhile. Offer your time and services to make a difference.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Take a serious look at what others are asking of you, and consider your response carefully. Weigh the pros and cons, then think about the consequences.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 19):** Invest time and money in something you want to pursue. Discuss your plans with a loved one, and you'll find common ground.

**Pisces (Feb. 20-March 20):** Listen carefully, and digest the information you receive before you respond. You may not like what you hear, but if it helps you avoid a costly mistake.

**Aries (March 21-April 19):** A partnership looks promising. Discuss your intentions and see what transpires. A subtle change can make a big difference.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20):** Rethink your immediate strategy. Lay down a plan that is consistent with what you are striving to become.

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Kennedy Center honorees still relish slimmed-down tribute

WASHINGTON — This year's Kennedy Center Honors may be a slimmed-down affair as the nation emerges from the coronavirus pandemic — but honoree **Dick Van Dyke** still says it's "the capper on my career."

The 43rd class of honorees also includes country music legend **Garth Brooks**, dancer and choreographer **Debbie Allen**, singer-songwriter **Joan Baez** and violinist **Midori**. They were honored Friday night at a medalion ceremony that had been delayed from December 2020.

All the honorees called the lifetime artistic achievement award a unique honor, even for an accomplished artist.

Brooks joked: "I don't mind being the weak link on the chain. I'm in the chain!"

Normally the medalion ceremony is held at the State Department, but this year it was moved to the Kennedy Center's opera house, with about 120 people spread out at tables on the stage and backstage area looking out at the empty rows of seats.

Singer **Gloria Estefan** hosted the ceremony and cellist **Yo Yo Ma** performed; both are previous Kennedy Center Honors recipients.

The recipients received short tributes and spoke after getting the iconic medalion placed around their necks. Several of the artists said they hoped their modified ceremony would be one of a series of benchmarks in the country's cultural reopening.

Midori said it made her happy, "coming out of these very dark times, to be able to see the arts



Associated Press

**2020 Kennedy Center honorees, from left, choreographer, and actress Debbie Allen; singer-songwriter and activist Joan Baez; actor Dick Van Dyke; country singer-songwriter Garth Brooks; and violinist Midori pose for a group photos at the 43rd Annual Kennedy Center Honors at The Kennedy Center on Friday, May 21, 2021, in Washington.**

coming back."

Allen is a veteran of tribute programs for previous Kennedy Center Honors recipients. She said this year's process was uniquely intimate. "We're spending a lot more time together than other groups of honorees," she said.

Baez brought an unexpected guest: **Dr. Anthony Fauci**.

Baez paints portraits and posts them online, and she painted one of Fauci last year. They started talking and "struck up a mutual fan-ship," Baez said.

Prior to the ceremony Friday evening, several attendees visibly scrambled to put on their masks properly when Baez and the masked Fauci entered together.

Instead of the usual several-

hour black-tie event, followed by dinner, Friday's festivities ran just 90 minutes with a limited audience. The musical performances and tributes — traditionally the centerpiece of the event — were split into two other nights; one took place Thursday and the second is scheduled for Saturday.

Kennedy Center President **Deborah Rutter** told reporters they "had been filming tributes all over campus." All the events will be edited into a television special, which will be broadcast on CBS on June 6.

The honorees met with President **Joe Biden** on Thursday, marking a return to tradition after former President **Donald Trump** avoided the celebration during his tenure.

—From wire reports

## Today in HISTORY

Today is Sunday, May 23, the 143rd day of 2021. There are 222 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight:** On May 23, 1934, bank robbers Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker were shot to death in a police ambush in Bienville Parish, Louisiana.

**On this date:** In 1430, Joan of Arc was captured by the Burgundians, who sold her to the English.

In 1945, Nazi official Heinrich Himmler committed suicide by biting into a cyanide capsule while in British custody in Luneburg, Germany.

In 1984, Surgeon General C. Everett Koop issued a report saying there was "very solid" evidence linking cigarette smoke to lung disease in non-smokers.

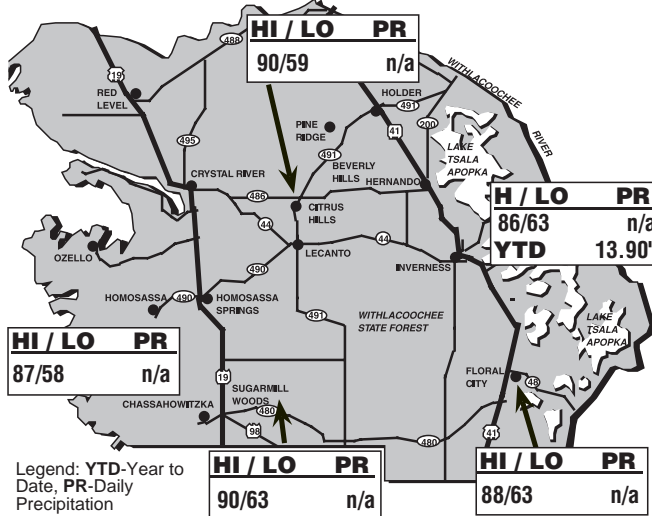
**Ten years ago:** The European Union imposed sanctions on Syrian President Bashar Assad over the continuing crackdown on antigovernment protesters.

**Five years ago:** During his visit to Asia, President Barack Obama, eager to banish lingering shadows of the Vietnam War, lifted the U.S. embargo on selling arms to America's former enemy.

**One year ago:** For the first time since he declared the coronavirus pandemic a national emergency more than two months earlier, President Donald Trump played golf at one of his courses at the start of the Memorial Day weekend.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actor Barbara Barrie is 90. Actor Joan Collins is 88. Actor Charles Kimbrough is 85. Actor Lauren Chapin is 76. Country singer Judy Rodman is 70. Chess grandmaster Anatoly Karpov is 70. Singer Luka Bloom is 66. Actor-comedian-game show host Drew Carey is 63. Actor Linden Ashby is 61. Actor-model Karen Duffy is 60. Actor Melissa McBride is 56. Actor Laurel Holloman is 53. Country singer Brian McComas is 49. Singer Maxwell is 48. Singer Jewel is 47. Game show contestant Ken Jennings is 47.

## YESTERDAY'S WEATHER



## THREE DAY OUTLOOK

**TODAY & TOMORROW MORNING**  
**High:** 90° **Low:** 62°  
 Partly cloudy with lighter winds and a sea breeze.

**MONDAY & TUESDAY MORNING**  
**High:** 91° **Low:** 63°  
 Mostly sunny with a sea breeze.

**TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY MORNING**  
**High:** 92° **Low:** 65°  
 Mostly sunny with a sea breeze.

ALMANAC		Data from Crystal River Airport	
<b>TEMPERATURE</b>	Yesterday 87/62	<b>DEW POINT</b>	Yesterday at 3 p.m. 56°
Record*	98/47	<b>HUMIDITY</b>	Yesterday at 3 p.m. 37%
Normal	90/64	<b>POLLEN COUNT**</b>	Today's active pollen: ragweed, grass, oak
Mean temp.	77		Today's count: <b>5.0/12</b>
Departure from mean	-3		Monday's count: <b>4.9</b>
<b>PRECIPITATION</b>	Yesterday 0.00"	<b>AIR QUALITY</b>	Yesterday observed Good
Total for the month	0.09"		Pollutant PM2.5
Total for the year	9.65"		
Normal for the year	14.08"		
<b>UV INDEX:</b>	11		
0-2 minimal, 3-4 low, 5-6 moderate, 7-9 high, 10+ very high			
<b>BAROMETRIC PRESSURE</b>	30.24		

SOLAR TABLES				
DATE	DAY	MINOR (MORNING)	MAJOR (MORNING)	MAJOR (AFTERNOON)
05/23	SUNDAY	6:34	10:52	8:18 11:18
05/24	MONDAY	6:33	11:45	8:19 None

CELESTIAL OUTLOOK				
SUNSET TONIGHT	8:18 pm			
SUNRISE TOMORROW	6:33 am			
MOONRISE TODAY	5:21 pm			
MOONSET TODAY	4:31 am			

**BURN CONDITIONS**  
**Today's Fire Danger Index is: VERY HIGH. There is no burn ban.**  
 For more information call Florida Division of Forestry at (352) 797-4140. For more information on wildfire conditions, please visit the Division of Forestry's Web site: www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Florida-Forest-Service/Wildland-Fire

WATERING RULES				
For established lawns and landscapes, irrigation may occur during only one (1) of the specified time periods, 12:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m., or 4:00 p.m. - 11:59 p.m., on the allowable watering days below:				
Addresses with house numbers ending in:				
0 - 1	Monday	6 - 7	Thursday	
2 - 3	Tuesday	8 - 9 -or-	Friday	
4 - 5	Wednesday	Common Areas		

Questions, concerns or reporting violations, please call: City of Inverness at 352-726-2321; City of Crystal River at (352) 797-4216, Ext. 313; Incorporated Citrus County at 352-527-7669. For more information, visit: https://www.citrusbocc.com/departments/water\_resources/watering\_restrictions.php

TIDES				
*From mouths of rivers **At King's Bay ***At Mason's Creek				
SUNDAY				
City	High	Low	None	n/a
Chassahowitzka**	4:21 a.m.	0.4 ft	4:37 p.m.	0.5 ft
Crystal River**	2:42 a.m.	1.8 ft	2:48 p.m.	0.1 ft
Withalacochee**	12:05 p.m.	3.4 ft	None	n/a
Homosassa***	3:38 a.m.	1.0 ft	3:33 p.m.	1.2 ft

## FLORIDA TEMPERATURES

City	H	L	F'cast	City	H	L	F'cast
Daytona Bch.	82	65	pc	Miami	80	73	pc
Fort Lauderdale	83	71	pc	Ocala	90	61	pc
Fort Myers	90	65	s	Orlando	88	64	s
Gainesville	89	62	pc	Pensacola	83	67	pc
Homestead	85	69	pc	Sarasota	89	66	s
Jacksonville	88	65	pc	Tallahassee	92	66	s
Key West	84	75	pc	Tampa	90	68	s
Lakeland	91	64	pc	Vero Beach	83	67	pc
Melbourne	82	67	pc	W. Palm Bch.	79	75	pc

## MARINE OUTLOOK

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

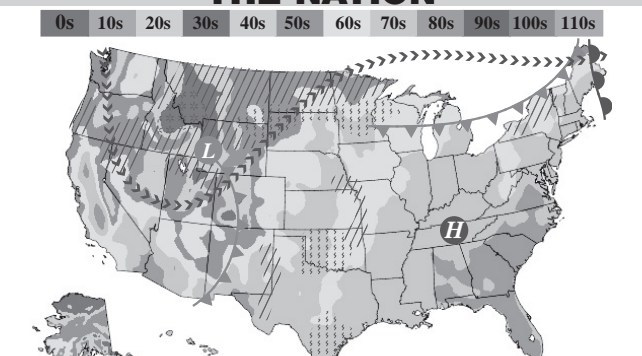
**Gulf water temperature**  
**77°**  
 Taken at Crystal River

## LAKE LEVELS

Location	SAT	FRI	Full
Withalacochee at Holder	27.13	27.13	34.64
Tsala Apopka-Hernando	36.64	36.64	38.66
Tsala Apopka-Inverness	37.73	37.73	39.73
Tsala Apopka-Floral City	38.87	38.87	41.37

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. This data is obtained from the Southwest Florida Water Management District and is subject to revision. In no event will the District or the United States Geological Survey be liable for any damages arising out of the use of this data. If you have any questions you should contact the Hydrological Data Section at (352) 796-7211.

## THE NATION



## FORECAST FOR 3:00 P.M. Sunday

City	SAT		SUN		City	SAT		SUN	
	H	L	Pcp.	H L Fcst		H	L	Pcp.	H L Fcst
Albany	84	60	0.00	79 47 sh	New Orleans	81	75	0.00	83 67 pc
Albuquerque	88	55	0.00	82 47 s	New York City	89	65	0.00	91 61 pc
Asheville	83	52	0.00	84 60 s	Norfolk	89	54	0.00	90 69 pc
Atlanta	85	57	0.00	91 66 s	Oklahoma City	79	66	0.09	76 65 sh
Atlantic City	94	59	0.00	88 59 pc	Omaha	82	68	Trace	84 67 mc
Austin	81	72	0.66	76 68 sh	Palm Springs	83	55	0.00	87 67 s
Baltimore	92	59	0.00	92 65 pc	Philadelphia	92	63	0.00	93 63 pc
Billings	47	30	0.02	66 46 sh	Phoenix	84	63	0.00	88 63 s
Birmingham	86	64	0.00	94 66 s	Pittsburgh	83	61	Trace	85 65 sh
Boise	57	42	0.41	62 45 sh	Portland, ME	77	57	Trace	79 51 sh
Boston	88	62	0.00	90 55 sh	Portland, OR	68	51	0.00	64 51 sh
Buffalo	75	64	0.01	77 55 sh	Providence, RI	73	55	Trace	91 52 pc
Burlington, VT	88	68	Trace	76 46 sh	Raleigh	89	52	0.00	93 67 pc
Charleston, SC	88	58	0.00	90 68 s	Rapid City	55	40	0.40	73 49 sh
Charleston, WV	85	57	0.00	88 64 pc	Reno	57	39	0.12	67 41 pc
Charlotte	86	54	0.00	91 68 pc	Rochester, NY	83	63	0.03	79 53 sh
Chicago	88	66	0.00	83 62 sh	Sacramento	80	46	Trace	81 54 s
Cincinnati	86	55	0.00	89 65 pc	Salt Lake City	70	43	0.00	63 45 t
Cleveland	81	71	0.00	84 62 sh	San Antonio	84	73	0.22	78 69 sh
Columbia, SC	87	57	0.00	95 69 s	San Diego	66	57	0.00	71 57 pc
Columbus, OH	87	59	0.00	88 65 pc	San Francisco	70	48	0.00	63 50 s
Concord, NH	90	62	Trace	85 47 sh	Savannah	84	65	0.00	90 66 s
Dallas	79	71	0.29	76 67 sh	Seattle	63	48	0.00	63 51 mc
Denver	64	45	Trace	77 45 pc	Spokane	70	48	0.00	73 48 mc
Des Moines	79	64	0.04	79 66 mc	St. Louis	86	64	0.00	88 66 pc
Detroit	88	69	Trace	85 59 t	St. Ste Marie	82	64	Trace	64 49 mc
El Paso	99	66	0.00	91 66 s	Syracuse	85	63	0.00	80 50 sh
Evansville, IN	88	57	0.00	90 66 pc	Topeka	73	66	0.06	80 66 sh
Harrisburg	88	62	0.00	91 62 pc	Washington	91	63	0.00	92 67 pc
Hartford	90	55	0.00	91 53 pc					
Houston	83	73	0.28	79 70 t					
Indianapolis	84	62	0.00	86 65 mc					
Kansas City	72	66	0.06	80 66 t					
Las Vegas	72	53	0.00	82 61 t					
Little Rock	85	62	0.00	88 66 mc					
Los Angeles	70	54	0.00	77 58 pc					
Louisville	90	63	0.00	89 66 pc					
Memphis	88	66	0.00	90 67 pc					
Milwaukee	89	68	0.01	76 54 t					
Minneapolis	83	68	0.00	75 64 t					
Mobile	85	68	0.00	87 66 pc					
Montgomery	85	62	0.00	94 67 s					
Nashville	88	61	0.00	90 65 pc					

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

## ALERT CITRUS SIGNUP

- To register for the Citrus County Sheriff's Office's Alert Citrus weather program, visit [www.sheriffcitrus.org](http://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.

# CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

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 call toll-free at 888-852-2340.</

# Families plead for information in Sumter homicides

**BRENDA LOCKLEAR**  
Sumter County Times

WILDWOOD — Two local teens were found murdered May 12, their deaths apparently the result of gunshot wounds, according to the Sumter County Sheriff's Office.

The bodies of Isaiah Alexander Nelson, 17, and Preston Wayne Nixon, 16, both of Wildwood, were found around 5 a.m. Wednesday, May 12, along the road in the area of County Road 219 in Wildwood.

According to investigators, they died from gunshot wounds and "we believe, at this time, that both victims may have known their assailant," said Capt. Jon Galvin in a video released by the sheriff's office.

In a second video the sheriff's office released, the families of both Nelson and Nixon appeared online, with Nixon's uncle, Matt Ohley, speaking on their behalf. A \$10,000 reward has been offered in the case.

Ohley said the families are broken, dealing with despair and sadness and shared information on the character of both young men. Nixon enjoyed playing video games, Ohley said, noting he was a kind and quiet, loving soul and always helpful.

"If he went in the house to grab drinks, he grabbed drinks for his friends."

Nelson worked at a local restaurant, double shifts, and was being mentored by an investment firm, already investing at only 17, Ohley said, adding that he was also kind, quiet and reserved.

"Perhaps that's why they became such good friends, is because they shared those characteristics," he said.

Ohley and other family members were emotional as he spoke. He said their futures were taken from them senselessly.

"Due to the actions of some monster or monsters, however it may play out, their lives ... their futures are no longer there," Ohley said. "For these families, there will be no graduation ceremony," and no possibility of a family in the future.

"All those things have been stolen from these families."

The families are searching for answers as to why the two were "brutally murdered."

"And we need your help. We need your help," Ohley said.

"I understand just a bit, about what I think can be referred to as honor among thieves ... no snitches."

Ohley pleaded with the public to please set aside any reservations they might have about coming forward and



Special to the Chronicle  
**The Sumter County Sheriff's Office is looking for help to solve the apparent murders of Preston Nixon, top, and Isaiah Nelson, bottom photo. The bodies of the Wildwood teens were found May 12 along County Road 219.**

sharing information so that justice can be served.

He said they are "... begging you, imploring you," if you know anything to please come forward.

According to investigators, it does not appear to be a random act, although there is no additional information available at the time. The family video is available through a link in the story at [www.sumtercountytimes.com](http://www.sumtercountytimes.com).

If anyone has any information regarding this case, they're asked to contact the Sumter County Sheriff's Office at 352-793-2621 or to remain anonymous Crime-line at 800-423-TIPS (8477).

## Worth NOTING

### FCC launches broadband discount program

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) launched the Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) program, which provides a discount of up to \$50 per month towards broadband service.

Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer or tablet from participating providers.

A household is eligible if a member of the household meets one of the criteria:

- Has an income that is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines or participates in certain assistance programs

- Approved to receive benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program

- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year

- Experienced a substantial loss of income due to job loss or furlough since February 29, 2020 with a total household income at or below \$99,000 for single filers and \$198,000 for joint filers

- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income or COVID-19 program.

For additional information, visit [fcc.gov/broadband](http://fcc.gov/broadband) benefit.

### Sign up for a boating safety class with USGGA

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary of Homosassa will have an "About Boating Safely" course from 6:45 to 9:15 p.m. June 22 to 25 virtually.

The Coast Guard approved class will teach the safe

### \*\* CONGREGATE MEALS MENU \*\*

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Hamburgers Baked Beans Mixed Vegetables Hamburger Bun Orange-Apple Juice	Lemon Pepper Chicken Thigh Seasoned Collard Greens Garlic Mashed Potatoes Whole Grain Bread Strawberry Applesauce Fall Free Chocolate Milk	Beef & Bean Chili Broccoli Cuts Creamed Corn Wheat Dinner Roll Grape Juice	Italian Chicken Pasta Salad Beef & Chicken Salad Mixed Salad Greens Mixed Fruit
Sweet & Sour Chicken Thigh Squash Medley Green Beans Whole Grain Bread Pineapple Fall Free Chocolate Milk	Beef w/Brown Gravy Brown Rice Cajun Baked Veggie White Bread Raisins	Tuna Salad Mixed Salad Greens Thyme Bean Salad Whole Grain Bread Orange Juice	Beef Teriyaki Green Peas Yellow Rice w/Vegetables Whole Grain Bread Orange-Pineapple Juice
Beef Marsala Peas & Carrots Brown Rice White Bread Pineapple Juice	Beef & Chicken Taco Black Beans Corn Tortillas Orange Juice	Oven Fried Chicken Thigh Country Vegetable Medley Cherry Mashed Potatoes Whole Grain Bread BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION	Chicken Caesar Salad Carrots w/Raisin Salad Whole Wheat Roll Fresh Apple Special Holiday Dessert FATHER'S DAY CELEBRATION
Chicken Thigh w/Honey Mustard Sauce Northern Beans w/Onion & Peppers Squash Medley White Bread Cinnamon Applesauce Fall Free Chocolate Milk	Beef Stroganoff Shredded Tomatoes Diced Sweet Potatoes Whole Grain Bread Grape Juice	Cobb Pasta Salad Beef & Onion Salad Corn & Tomato Salad Whole Wheat Bread Blessed Juice	Hot Dog Braised & Cauliflower Yellow Corn Hot Dog Bun Apple Juice
Diced Chicken w/Mushroom Gravy Green Beans Caret Corn Whole Grain Bread Blessed Orange	Hamburger Baked Beans Mixed Vegetables Hamburger Bun Orange-Apple Juice	Lemon Pepper Chicken Thigh Seasoned Collard Greens Garlic Mashed Potatoes Whole Grain Bread Strawberry Applesauce Fall Free Chocolate Milk	All meals are served with 8 Oz. Low Fat Milk 

CENTRAL CITRUS COMMUNITY CENTER 527-5993 WEST CITRUS COMMUNITY CENTER 795-3831 EAST CITRUS COMMUNITY CENTER 344-9666  
HERNANDO AREA SENIOR PROGRAMS 352-566-2328

Special to the Chronicle  
**For a menu of June meals to be served by the county's Congregate Meals program, see the Hometown Happenings section of the Chronicle on Wednesday, May 26.**

boating skills needed to avoid a catastrophe on the water.

After successfully completing the test, students will be sent their Florida Safe Boaters card from FWC and possibly become eligible for discount on boat insurance. Anyone born after Jan. 1, 1988 must have a Safe Boater card to legally operate a vessel with a 10 HP motor or greater.

The course is being offered at \$30 payable by cash or check prior to the course date. Discounts are applied for family members sharing a book.

Participants must RSVP no later than June 14. Contact Dee Imhoff at [hal1414@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:hal1414@tampabay.rr.com) or visit [tinyurl.com/fxu2epex](http://tinyurl.com/fxu2epex).

### Citrus County community centers to fully reopen

Citrus County Support Services announced the full reopening of their community centers and senior dining program, beginning Tuesday, June 1. Locations that are set

to fully reopen include:

Central Citrus Community Center, 2804 W. Marc Knighton Court in Lecanto

East Citrus Community Center, 9907 E. Gulf-to-Lake Highway in Inverness

West Citrus Community Center, 8940 W. Veterans Drive in Homosassa

Hernando Area Senior Program, 2415 N. Florida Ave in Hernando

Due to the changes in CDC guidance, community centers will no longer require participants to wear a mask, sign a waiver, have their temperature taken or limit activities to those that can be socially distanced. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. Monday through Friday in a pre-plated container.

Community center staff will continue to sanitize and hand sanitizer is available. Individuals who want to continue wearing their mask will be able to do so.

For questions, call 352-527-5975.

— From staff reports

# VALUE DENTAL CARE



Saluting Our Military Armed Forces...

Memorial Day & Everyday!

## FREE

Implant Consult - which includes CBCT scan  
**Savings of \$375**

For first-time uninsured patients only. Coupon cannot be used with any other offer. All coupons must be presented at the time of service. No exceptions. Expires 5/31/21

## FREE

X-ray and exam or second opinion

Includes: D0150 and D0210  
For first-time uninsured patients only. Coupon cannot be used with any other offer. All coupons must be presented at the time of service. No exceptions. Expires 5/31/21

Uninsured NEW PATIENTS

## \$59

1st Time Cleaning & Exam

01110, 00210, 00150  
For non-insured patients. Coupon cannot be used with any other offer. All coupons must be presented at the time of service. No exceptions. Expires 5/31/21

What is your HMO insurance plan doing for you?

Enjoy **15% OFF** Treatment

Excludes 01110, 04910, 05510, 05511, 0550, 05761  
Cleaning repairs and refinies For non-insured patients only. Must present coupon at time of service. Prices subject to change. Coupon cannot be used with any other offer. All coupons must be presented at the time of service. No exceptions. Expires 5/31/21

Replacement Denture

Starting at **\$500**

D5110 or D5120  
For non-insured patients. Coupon cannot be used with any other offer. All coupons must be presented at the time of service. No exceptions. Expires 5/31/21

Extraction Only

**\$150**

D7140  
Excludes wisdom teeth. Uninsured patients only. Coupon cannot be used with any other offer. All coupons must be presented at the time of service. No exceptions. Expires 5/31/21

Metal-Free Crowns

"The Aesthetic Crowns"  
**\$659**

02740  
Excludes D2950 (ore build-up). For non-insured patients. Coupon cannot be used with any other offer. All coupons must be presented at the time of service. No exceptions. Expires 5/31/21

**20% OFF**

Any Service For Veterans

Must show proper military ID. Expires 5/31/21

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## Crystal River

6824 Gulf to Lake Hwy.

### 352-794-6139

## Spring Hill

7425 Spring Hill Dr.

### 352-684-1274

We take most PPO insurances



## Obituaries

### Una Peters, 99

My mother, Una Marie Collins Peters, is a beautiful soul who passed away at age 99 on May 18, 2021 from dementia and stroke complications.

She was born November 18, 1921 in Atkinson, Illinois. Una graduated from the Chillicothe Business

College in Missouri and was a real estate broker in Crystal River for more than 40 years.

She was very proud of her ruby pin from the Realtors Association for her years of service. Una enjoyed knitting, cooking, reading, and going to flea markets before her precipitous decline two years ago.

Una is survived by her daughter Mona Peters of Crystal River, her granddaughter Kathy Kaiser and husband Paul, and granddaughters Alice and Jane Kaiser of New York.

Una was preceded in death by her husband of 34 years Paul Peters, daughter Lisa Peters, and grandson Sean Peters.

A donation can be made to her favorite charity, The Path, POB 3024, Inverness FL 34451

We are very grateful to the staff of Vitas Hospice and HPH Hospice, Charles Li MD and Connie Davis NP for their support and care.

Private cremation arrangements are under the care of Strickland Funeral Home and Crematory, Crystal River.

Sign the guest book at [www.chronicleonline.com](http://www.chronicleonline.com).

### Daniel Gioia

Superman Daniel Gioia passed on May 18th, 2021 after a 12 year battle with multiple myeloma.

He is survived by his wife Sandy, daughters: Rachel, Lori & Julia; son-in-laws: Chris, Kyle & Jason. He is also survived

by grandchildren: Andrew, Chris, Juliana, Dillon & Caleb; his sisters Vicki, Terry, Jean and Denise; his brother-in-law: David Rose and many nieces and nephews.

Dan Gioia was the calm in the storm, the voice of reason, a man of integrity and just a plain mensche. He was devoted to his family and friends and was truly loved by all.

Look up in the sky, it's Superman Dan.

Sign the guest book at [www.chronicleonline.com](http://www.chronicleonline.com).

### Gilead 'Gillie' McGahee

Gilead "Gillie" Davy McGahee was born December 8, 1991 in Middletown, CT to Dava Davy McGahee and Carlton Howard McGahee III. Gillie attended East Central HS of China Grove, TX and graduated from Alma de Arte HS of Las Cruces, NM in 2009. He completed a degree in Liberal Arts at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque in May 2014.

Gillie was a deeply beloved brother and son, a beautiful person, and a richly talented artist, singer and musician who played many instruments. During his short time with us he contributed a great deal to the artistic treasures of our world. You can hear his music at Band Camp or SoundCloud under his band, "Nocturnal Company" (Band Camp link: <https://nocturnalcompany.bandcamp.com/>, Sound Cloud link: <https://soundcloud.com/nocturnalcompany>). Gil wrote the music and lyrics, performed the vocals, and played many instruments,

creating five albums with several musical collaborators. He was a self-taught drummer. You can hear him drumming for the band "Post War Germany" on these same music media platforms. Always open to spontaneous musical exploration and improv, you may have seen Gil drumming with the TJ Brown Band or supporting other local musicians at River Run in Rainbow River Estates.

Gil had just completed a new album, Phantasy Strength, and was incredibly excited to share it. He felt it was his best work to date and described it as the "most important music I've ever made." Our family is working to put this album out for him on SoundCloud and BandCamp.

In addition to his surreal musical talents, Gillie was incredibly funny and clever. He absolutely loved to laugh. He liked the color purple, guava kombucha, grilled cheese, jalapeño potato chips, Tera Melos, Tame Impala, Fall of Troy, Dodge vans and old Volkswagens.

You could easily spot his 6'5" frame usually attired in his favorite outfit; his Dad's 1970s iconic sweater and his traveler pants. Gil had a unique perspective; always discussing the mysteries of the universe and the human condition. He was sensitive and thoughtful and because he was an organ donor, someone received his corneas and is able to see today.

He was growing his hair to donate to chemotherapy patients. He was looking forward to being the musician for his older sister Genna's wedding this summer, in June 2021.

Gillie was the youngest of five siblings. He was 29 at the time of his unexpected departure from this world. He is so loved and will be deeply missed forever by his loving parents and siblings, Gaea, 43, Gabriel 40, Genna, 36, and Grant, 31. He was our fifth "G" and so precious to us all. He is also mourned and remembered by his sisters-in-law, Chaise Davy and Michelle McGahee, and by his brothers-in-law, Skyler Hackley and Ethan Jackson.

He was preceded in passing by his paternal grandparents in Connecticut and most recently by his grandma and grandpa, Violet "Vi" and Charles Davy in Florida.

Gil moved from Texas to Crystal River, Florida in 2020. This gave him the opportunity to spend time with his Grandma Vi, even visiting during COVID separated by her apartment window, before her passing at 101 in early 2021. They discussed his hopes around music and she told stories from her long life. We trust they are together somewhere in the cosmos, enjoying each other's company.

Nothing can ever repair the sudden loss of our beloved, struck down by a hit and run driver April 25, 9:20 p.m. on County Road 488 (W Dunnellon Rd) just west of North Springvale Terrace, near Crystal River, Florida. Life is fragile and we do not quite realize just how immensely and profoundly precious someone is until we must walk this life without them.

We will think of Gillie and miss him every day of our lives.

If you would like to contribute to the completion of his fifth music album, in memorial, please contribute to our fundraiser through Go Fund Me (Link: <https://gofund.me/13edceaf>). Arrangements for Gilead were private at the Chas. E. Davis Funeral Home, Inverness, FL. Please leave any thoughts for Gil in the Cloud.

Florida Highway Patrol investigators are asking for help. They are looking for a tow truck driver who likely witnessed the traffic fatality and ask that the driver contact Corp. Stavro to assist in the case. Stavro can be contacted at 813-558-1800.

Sign the guest book at [www.chronicleonline.com](http://www.chronicleonline.com).

### Barbara Monahan, 80

FLORAL CITY

Barbara L. Monahan. My Barbara is gone. May 1, 2021 the light of my life passed away peacefully at home in the early morning hours, after 63 years of marriage.

From her early years in life to present day she exhibited a wonderful personality, which was always accompanied by her welcoming smile. She was a charter member of Daytona Beach State College, during which she married me, her lifetime friend and husband, Jim.

At a young age, she joined the Florida State Employment Center as a switchboard operator and advanced to be the Mid Florida Executive Director of the comprehensive employment and training program (CETA). She was responsible for the development and training of workers in Central Florida with staff of over 250 people with an annual budget of \$25 million. She was President of the Southeastern U.S. council of CETA.

She was an avid Toastmaster and spoke before the U.S. Senate committee on the importance of rural county worker development and also was keynote speaker before the National State Governors' meeting in Puerto Rico. She was presented with the key to the city of Louisville, Kentucky.

Barbara retired in Floral City and went on to become Co-Owner of The Digit-up Corporation, JM Communications and Floral City Farm and Garden Center. Furthermore, as a Real Estate agent for JW Morton Century 21 she received multiple top selling awards, while helping countless people with their home buying experience.

She was the proud wife of Justin (Jim) Monahan and mother to two sons, Zachary J. and Timothy R. Monahan, grandmother to Christina, Andrew and Victoria, and great grandmother to Alana and Aiden. Sister to Charles, Robert and Richard Lambright; aunt to Dr. Benjamin K. Lambright, MD and Loretta Redrick.

Barbara lived 80 wonderful years. She is gone to a better place, and will be missed by all of those who knew and loved her. Last but not least, Barbs most lasting hobby was painting with oils. She could look at any object, birds, flowers, and convert what she saw into oil colors.

Yes, she is gone. But her loving spirit will always remain with people fortunate enough to know her.

So Goodbye My Love, Goodbye. I will think about you everyday... Goodbye.... Your Jim.

Private cremation with care is under the direction of the Chas. E. Davis Funeral Home with Crematory in Inverness.

Sign the guest book at [www.chronicleonline.com](http://www.chronicleonline.com).

### D-I-Y ONLINE CALENDAR

Local groups are welcome to add their upcoming events to the Chronicle's online community calendar. Go to [www.chronicleonline.com](http://www.chronicleonline.com). At the very top of the screen, click on "Submit your news."

Sign in or create an account. Once signed in, click on "Calendar Events" in the left-hand column, then click on "Create an event."

Fill in all fields — those marked with a red asterisk (\*) are required. Add photos, if desired.

Click "Create Event" button to finish.

### Norma NeSmith

CRYSTAL RIVER

Norma L. NeSmith of Crystal River, FL was welcomed to her eternal home on March 19, 2021 after a lifetime of serving her Savior Jesus Christ.

She was born in Georgetown, DE to Charles and Virginia Short in 1937 and was married to her husband Rufus H. NeSmith for 61 years.

She is survived by her three children; Charles NeSmith of Frostproof, FL, Kenneth NeSmith of Pompano Beach, FL and Linda Spiddle of Crystal River, FL, her sister Betty Ann Costas of Jacksonville, FL, four grandchildren, four great grandchildren, a niece Debi Kolb and a nephew Steven Costas and his two children.

Norma kept the books for her husband's Refrigeration and Air Conditioning business in Broward County for 25 years before retiring to Inglis, FL. She was always active in her church and also worked for a time at the First Christian Church of Pompano Beach Preschool. After retiring Norma and Rufus traveled extensively in their RV around the United States including two trips to Alaska.

Norma loved to read and some of her favorite books were by author Karen Kingsbury. She had many friends and enjoyed spending time with them volunteering at church functions or just relaxing and having a chat. She moved into the Cedar Creek ALF in January 2020 and enjoyed the wonderful lifestyle there where she will be missed by many.

There was one word in particular that has been used over and over to describe her by those who knew her best and that word is sweet! Norma was a sweet, gentle, loving person who touched the lives of others and truly spread joy and love wherever she went. She was dearly loved and will be sorely missed.

Funeral services will be held at Fero Funeral Home, 5955 N Lecanto Hwy, Beverly Hills, FL on Monday May 24, 2021. Visitation will be from 12:00pm - 1:00pm followed by a service at 1:00pm - 1:30pm. Entombment to immediately follow at Fero Memorial Gardens, Beverly Hills, FL 34465.

Sign the guest book at [www.chronicleonline.com](http://www.chronicleonline.com).

### J.W. 'Trey' Conner III, 59

OZELLO

J.W. Conner III (Trey) was a caring father, grandfather, brother and friend. He left this world suddenly for a new home in Heaven on May 14, 2021 at the age of 59.

He was born to J.W. and Sue Conner on July 6, 1961. The youngest of four children, Trey was a fourth generation Floridian. He grew up in Land O Lakes and as a young "Laker" he loved fishing, hunting, water skiing, frog giggering, golf, tennis and all things Florida.

As a resident of Ozello, Trey became an avid air boat enthusiast and loved nothing more than taking friends, family, and even strangers out for a ride over Ozello's scenic salt marshes that he knew like the back of his hand.

He will be remembered by his family and friends for his fun-loving and big heart, his warm smile, love of assorted music, and the smoked mullet and roasted pig that he artfully cooked in his inherited giant smoker.

Trey is survived by his two loving daughters Chea and Trisha, his sons-in-law Nolan and Randy, and his five grandchildren Paizley, Viv, Parker, Bailey and Whit; his sisters Sandy, Patty and Karen, his ex-wife Traci and his dogs Thor & Gatorbait.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his granddaughter Coraleigh and his beloved dog Daewoo.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Marine Science Station. Donations can be made by going to [citruseducation.org/donate](http://citruseducation.org/donate) and designating funds to the Marine Science.

Sign the guest book at [www.chronicleonline.com](http://www.chronicleonline.com).

### William 'Bill' Hoover

It is with heavy hearts, the Hoover family regrets to announce the unexpected passing of William "Bill" Eugene Hoover, Jr., of Homosassa, who went home to be with His Lord, May 10, 2021.

Bill graduated from Hernando Christian Academy and went on to work for the City of Tampa. Bill was a devoted father and a loving

son. He had a magical ability to make people smile. His fun-loving, often silly nature won the hearts of those that knew him. Bill's generous heart, sharp wit, and warm spirit will be deeply missed.

Bill is survived by his parents, William and Wilma Hoover; his son, Jacob Hoover, daughters Katie Hoover and Cierra Hoover; one granddaughter, Bricelyn Shorette; a sister, Anne Layton Rice, and nephew, Layton Rice, as well as aunts, uncles and many cousins.

A Celebration of Life will be held at St. Anne's Episcopal Church, 9870 W Fort Island Trail, Crystal River, FL on Saturday, May 29th at 11:00 AM. Colorful attire is encouraged. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations be made to St. Anne's Church.

Online donations may be made through their website: <https://www.stanneschurch.org>. Wilder Funeral Home, Homosassa. [www.wilderfuneral.com](http://www.wilderfuneral.com)



### Frank Schiraldi, 73

HERNANDO

Frank J. Schiraldi 1947-2021

Frank J. Schiraldi, 73 of Hernando, FL passed away on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at UF Health Leesburg Hospital in Leesburg, FL. A native of Florida, he was born on July 27, 1947 in Brooksville, FL.

Frank graduated from Crystal River High School in 1965 and from the University of Tampa in 1970. In 1992 he became a graduate of the Citrus County Leadership program.

Frank was a U.S. Army veteran serving in the Vietnam War as a member of the 86th. Combat Engineers.

Along with running a successful boating business in Crystal River as a certified boat captain, Frank served as a Crystal River City Councilman and as a Citrus County Commissioner. He later became the Director for the Department of Historical Resources for the State of Florida, and then the Director of Business Development (Vice President) for the Citrus County office of Hoyle, Tanner & Associates from which he retired.

Frank is survived by Maria, his wife of 50 years.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, June 5th, 2021 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Garden Room located at the Citrus Hills Country Club.

Sign the guest book at [www.chronicleonline.com](http://www.chronicleonline.com).

### OBITUARIES

- For information about placing obituaries, email [obits@chronicleonline.com](mailto:obits@chronicleonline.com) or call 352-563-5660.
- Obituary deadline for Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday editions is 3 p.m. the day before. Deadline for Saturday, Sunday and Monday editions is 3 p.m. Friday.
- The Chronicle does not edit obituaries for content.
- Submissions must be verified with the funeral home or society in charge of arrangements.
- Death notices are \$25, and may include: full name of deceased; age; hometown/state; date of death; place of death; date, time and place of visitation and funeral services and, for members of the military, the branch of the armed services in which they served.

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

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CC-00105DJ

ROBERT



# ATTACK

Continued from Page A1

Animal Services Director Colleen Yarbrough declined to discuss the specific attacks, but said nothing could be done to prevent them. She said employees and volunteers receive extensive training in learning to read a dog's behavioral patterns and ways to de-escalate aggression. But they also want to learn the dog's personality, and that takes time under normal conditions. "It has been a slow process to figure everyone out," Yarbrough said of the Out of the Box dogs. Yarbrough said she is also cautious about dogs that come from Out of the Box, which is known for rescuing dogs deemed for euthanasia due to aggressive or biting behavior.

**Citrus County Animal Services Director Colleen Yarbrough explains how a "rattle paddle" is used by employees as a behavioral tool when interacting with dogs.**

MIKE WRIGHT/Chronicle

plays into it," she said.



When Citrus County sheriff's deputies and animal control officers arrested Schweickert on Jan. 13, the county filed a separate civil case asking a judge to award it legal custody of the Out of the Box dogs, pig and chickens.

Schweickert's attorney, Luke Lirot, suggested instead that the animals be transferred to facilities or adopted out, according to emails between Lirot and the Citrus County attorney's office.

A judge in February sided with the county and awarded it legal possession of the animals. Lirot is appealing the decision.

One dog was euthanized for medical reasons, leaving 42 dogs for shelter staff and volunteers to care for.

The first attack occurred March 24 when "CJ," a 55-pound hound mix, attacked a shelter volunteer in an outdoor play area.

Reports state a shelter worker was working with the volunteer.

"They both then went into the yard with a 'rattle paddle', which is used to dissuade animals for attack

and is a common tool used by staff," the report reads. "The dog was running in the yard with no issue and without provocation, attacked the victim."

The next day, it happened again. This time "Ace," a mixed breed from Out of the Box, attacked a shelter volunteer without provocation as the volunteer was approaching an area where an employee was standing with a leashed Ace, reports state.

The third attack was April 3 when "Otis," a 79-pound mixed breed seized from Out of the Box, charged an employee in the play yard who was trying to separate two other dogs.

Citrus County officials euthanized all three dogs.

The fate of the other dogs is unknown as Schweickert appeals the judge's ruling that gave Citrus County possession of the Out of the Box animals. And, Schweickert's criminal case progresses; his next hearing is June 24.

Yarbrough said she didn't know how many of the remaining Out of the Box dogs will be available for adoption once the court cases run their course.

"Our focus right now," she said, "is taking care of these dogs."

# GARBAGE

Continued from Page A1

A 2015 consultant's study noted an economic imbalance at the landfill: Garbage haulers account for 9% of the transactions, but 73% of tonnage; self-haulers, such as residents, account for 91% of transactions but 27%.

Universal garbage is designed to end that imbalance by eliminating the need for self-haul.

Commissioners in April voted to seek bids from haulers, though commissioners say they are not yet committed to any particular plan.

Tuesday's board meeting begins at 1 p.m. at the county courthouse, 110 N. Apopka Ave., in Inverness.

The agenda includes: Chairman Scott Carnahan will suggest the county use proceeds of the

sale of county-owned property to help pay for a new animal shelter.

Carnahan broached the idea earlier this month when the board voted 3-2 to plan for a new shelter in Lecanto. Carnahan said the county could sell the former Betz Farm property and use the proceeds to reduce the amount the county borrows. The shelter's cost estimate is \$8 million to \$9 million, based on the board's vote.



**Scott Carnahan**  
BOCC chairman.

He said Friday that he wanted to bring it back as a formal agenda item for more discussion.

Contract with the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce for \$100,000 in CARES money to establish the Citrus One-Stop

Recovery and Economic Center in Inverness.

Consider a grant application for continued work at the Historic Hernando School.

## D-I-Y ONLINE CALENDAR

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- Sign in or create an account.
- Once signed in, click on "Calendar Events" in the left-hand column, then click on "Create an event."
- Fill in all fields — those marked with a red asterisk (\*) are required.
- Add photos, if desired, and include all relevant information.
- Click the "Create Event" button at the end.
- Submissions are subject to approval by staff; allow up to a week for processing.

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**Tuesday, May 25th, 2021**  
5:30pm - 7:30pm

**Wednesday, May 26th, 2021**  
10:00am - 12:00pm

**Friday, May 28th, 2021**  
12:00pm - 2:00pm

Join an in-person group:

*Citrus County Library - Lakes Region*

**Saturday, May 22nd, 2021**  
11:30am - 1:30pm

*Citrus County Library - Lakes Region*

**Saturday, June 26th, 2021**  
11:30am - 1:30pm

**JOIN:** By calling **813-929-1000** to register. Pre-registration is required.

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CC-00108WC

*Thank you Citrus County for making the **Brandon Paul 3rd Memorial Golf Tournament a GREAT SUCCESS!***

**The tournament was held at the Citrus Hills Oaks Golf Course on Saturday, April 17th**

**A \$1000.00 scholarship will be awarded to the below listed student athletes -**

**Congratulations to: Molly Covino CHS, Ashton Lewis CHS, Madelyn Linhart CHS, Alexis Sant LHS, Jason Stukes CRHS, Elysia White CRHS**

**We would like to thank the following businesses and families for their support as well as all of the golfers and volunteers:**

ABC Liquors of Inverness	Ecolab / Nalco Water	O'Reilly Auto Parts
Ace Hardware of Inverness	Ed & Michele Snellings	Palma Lake House
Ace Septic Tank Service	ERCOMS LLC	Pam & Richard Garrett
Adams Insulation & Drywall	Eddie Bulls Cookie Dough	Pat Godin
Advanced Septic	Eric & Susan Nelson	Pospeich Contracting
Aesthetics House	Fat Daddy's BBQ	Publix - Crystal River
Alan Vick Stump Grinding	Ferris Groves	Quality Roofing
Ayinde Mathews - State Farm	Floral City Elementary School	Razorbelly Charters - Randy Hodges
Badger So Social	Freedom Boat Rental	Real Senior Management
Balanced Med Spa	G - Watt Crystal Ford	Rock Solid Creations
Better Place Insurance Group	General Store	Sauced Hogs Restaurant
Black Diamond Golf Course	George Olmstead	SELLSTATE - Charles Kelly
Bob Wickes	Glen & Sheila Holbert	Service Master Maintenance
Brannen Bank	Golden X Plumbing	Shawn & Amy Tillis
Brooklyn Deli Too	Grandma Patty Miller	Sheet Metal Workers Local 15
Brooks Septic	H & L Concrete	Sims Crane & Equipment
Chas E. Davis Funeral Home	Haley Rain Skin & Wax Boutique	Skinology
Cino Bugs	House of Clocks	Southbound Polish
Citrus County Parks & Recreation	Inverness Golf & Country Club	Southern Grace Salon
Citrus Hills Golf & Country Club	Janet & Rich Miller	St. John's Tavern
Citrus Medical Weight Loss Center	Janice Reiser	State Farm - Chuck Everidge
Citrus Sports & Apparel	Jim & Wiletha Winborne	State Farm - John Smith
Citrus Well Drilling	JJ & Jen Grow	Stokes Construction & Maintenance
Coach's Pub & Eatery	JM Gibson Mechanical	Sunbelt Rentals
Colonial Pawn	Joe's Bread Service	Sunshine Nursery & Pavers
Connor's Gifts	Kanes Cattle Co.	The Hagar Group
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Dan Miller	Lakeside Country Club	The Woythaler Family
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Darrell & Mitzi Patrick	Live Action Fishing Charters	Townsend Gateway Inn - David Girard
David & Julie Travers	Lloyd Financial Group - Eddie Lloyd	Troy's Irrigation
Deb & Chuck Mills	Marty Wilson Memorial Scholarship Fund	Twisted Moon Boutique
Dew Drop Farms	Matt Warfel & Norman Longfellow	Uppercutz Hair Studio
Dirk's Auto Clinic	Metal Industries	Uzar Enterprise
Doti & Tom Christiansen	Mez Mer Eyes	Walmart
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Dr. Ira Fialko Pediatrics	Moretrench Industrial	WP Fencing & Bush Hogging
Dudleys Auction	Mr. Electric	Yard Dogg Lawncare
Eagle Buick - GMC	Nick Nicholas Ford	
Eco Outfitters - Kyle Cordel	On The Spot Detailing	

# EVA

Continued from Page A1

As Eva and her mother fled their home, they left behind all their treasured possessions, their photos and mementos.

"As a little girl, I didn't like dolls, but I loved teddy bears," she said. "I had a Steiff teddy bear, which was considered the best teddy bear, sitting in the living room on an armchair, and I wanted to take it with me. My mother said, 'You can't,' and I never, ever really got over that."

"That was the first loss I ever experienced," she said. "I'm an old lady now, and to this day I can't get over the bear I had to leave behind. Is that weird?"

"We had no idea where my father was," she said. "We loaded everything into a little wooden cart and pulled it into the railroad station — we got the very last train out of Breslau."

They headed north to Mecklenburg where Eva's half-sister, Ursula, lived.

"It should have taken a few hours to get there, but the railroad tracks were damaged by bombings and we were always taken off the tracks," she said. "We finally made it to Mecklenburg in northern Germany to where my sister lived. 'I loved my sister. She was 12 when I was born and was like a mother to me.'"

Their safety was short-lived, however, as the Russians advanced from town to town.

By that time, Eva's mother had given birth to a baby boy, Frank, and Ursula had fled.

"My mother never forgave her for that," Eva said.

Once again, they loaded up their little wooden cart, plus a baby carriage, and set out for the American lines.

Even though the Americans were at war with Germany, the German people weren't afraid of the Americans troops.

"We heard about a



MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle

**Eva Lichtenberg recalls the atrocities she and her family witnessed during a time in her childhood when she lived in Germany during World War II. She said food was scarce and at times she was forced to eat roots from the ground. She said the only people who ate well were the Nazis.**

farmhouse that was supposedly under American occupation," Eva said. "When we were traveling, the hunger was terrible. We ate roots out of the ground. The only ones who ate well were the Nazis."

"At the farmhouse, there were 18 of us sleeping like herrings together on the floor," she said. "But it was the Americans, and we thought we had made it — then early one morning, all of a sudden there was a terrible upheaval and noise. The Russians had caught up ... and they said to us, 'You all go back to where you came from.' For us, that was where my sister lived before she left."

"So now we had to make it back through the woods and the marshes and get back to where my sister lived," she said. "When we got there, the Russians had already been there ... and they had broken everything — furniture, plates and glasses. As a kid, I couldn't understand how anybody could ever clean it all up."

And they were hungry, terribly hungry.

"My mother was a tremendous cook," Eva said.

"The town was totally filled with Russians and some lived in the ground floor of that house and they (asked) my mother if she could cook for them. That way we had food to eat, but people hated my mother for that, even though she took food to people."

"The hunger was so tremendous that to this day, I

shop too much at Publix. I have this obsession — I need to have plenty of food in the house," she said. "It's amazing how things from your childhood haunt you for the rest of your life."



By the time the war in Europe ended, the Russians had taken over many of the eastern provinces. When the Armistice was signed in 1945, Eva and her mother went to Hamburg in northwestern Germany.

Eva's sister was in east Germany, and they remained separated by the Iron Curtain.

Eva went to school, an hour's walk to the train station every day and another hour on the train.

"I had a little dachshund who came to the train and would run circles around me," she said.

At 18, she got a job writing for the Harbor Port Authority in Hamburg.

She also attended the Hamburg Foreign Language institute to become a French/German translator and eventually went to Paris.

That's where her life began, she said.

She met her late husband Manes (pronounced "Man ess") Lichtenberg, an American artist born to Austrian parents and who looked like Kirk Douglas or Danny Kaye, with reddish-blond hair and freckles.

They married in 1966 and left Paris in 1973 for New York. Later, they lived 19 years in Connecticut before moving to Florida in 1990.

While in Connecticut, Eva graduated from Yale University summa cum laude, an honor she is particularly proud of.

"I had a terrible childhood," Eva said, "but a wonderful marriage. Now every night I talk to the picture of my husband and the picture of my sister. I loved my sister so much, and she loved me."

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Servillano E. Dela Cruz Jr., MD  
Gustavo A. Fonseca, MD, FACP  
Sunil Gandhi, MD, FACP  
William V. Harrer III, MD  
V. Upender Rao, MD, FACP



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\*All required paperwork must be provided at time of referral.

# COVID-19: summary for Citrus County

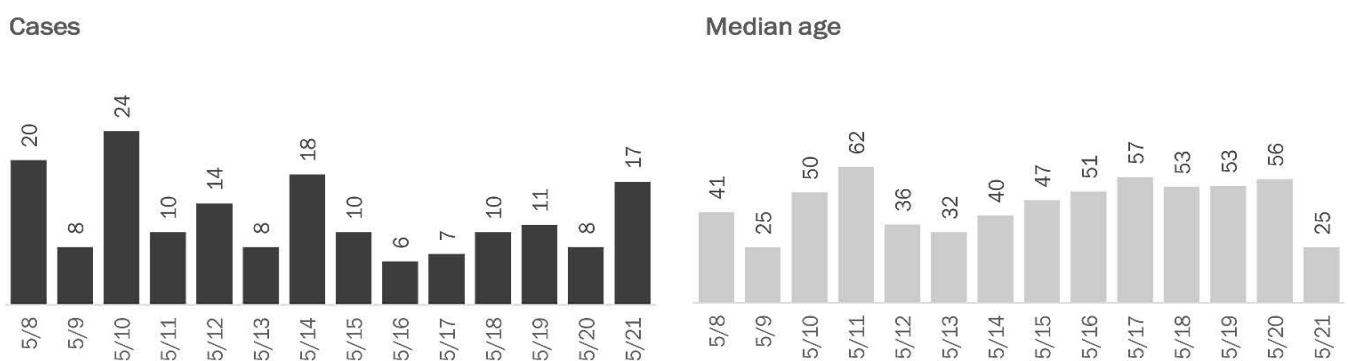
Data through May 21, 2021 verified as of May 22, 2021 at 09:25 AM

Data in this report are provisional and subject to change.

Cases: people with positive PCR or antigen test result

<b>Total cases</b>	<b>11,294</b>
Florida residents	11,195
Non-Florida residents	99
<b>Type of case</b>	
PCR positive	9,121
Antigen positive	2,074
<b>Gender for Florida residents</b>	
Men	4,951
Women	6,149
Unknown	95
<b>Age for Florida residents</b>	
Range	0 - 103
Median age	54

Cases in Florida residents by date case confirmed



Race, ethnicity	Cases	Hospitalizations	Deaths
White	8,816   79%	653   89%	405   88%
Hispanic	394   4%	16   2%	11   2%
Non-Hispanic	7,789   70%	572   78%	349   76%
Unknown ethnicity	633   6%	65   9%	45   10%
Black	426   4%	28   4%	9   2%
Hispanic	35   0%	0   0%	0   0%
Non-Hispanic	373   3%	27   4%	8   2%
Unknown ethnicity	18   0%	1   0%	1   0%
Other	663   6%	32   4%	21   5%
Hispanic	133   1%	7   1%	5   1%
Non-Hispanic	448   4%	21   3%	7   2%
Unknown ethnicity	82   1%	4   1%	9   2%
Unknown race	1,290   12%	17   2%	25   5%
Hispanic	83   1%	1   0%	0   0%
Non-Hispanic	98   1%	2   0%	1   0%
Unknown ethnicity	1,109   10%	14   2%	24   5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,195</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>460</b>

Outcomes for Florida residents

<b>Citrus</b>		
Hospitalizations	730	(7% of all cases)
Deaths	460	(4% of all cases)

Statewide

Hospitalizations	94,080	(4% of all cases)
Deaths	36,463	(2% of all cases)

Cases in facility staff/residents

<b>Citrus</b>		
Long-term care	1,475	(13% of all cases)
Correctional	222	(2% of all cases)

Statewide

Long-term care	85,857	(4% of all cases)
Correctional	32,813	(1% of all cases)

Graphic courtesy of the Florida Department of Health

Age group	All cases	New cases (5/21)	Hospitalizations	Deaths
0-4 years	119   1%	2   12%	4   1%	0   0%
5-14 years	465   4%	2   12%	2   0%	0   0%
15-24 years	1,169   10%	4   24%	6   1%	0   0%
25-34 years	1,293   12%	2   12%	22   3%	3   1%
35-44 years	1,199   11%	1   6%	29   4%	0   0%
45-54 years	1,430   13%	1   6%	54   7%	9   2%
55-64 years	1,882   17%	3   18%	103   14%	41   9%
65-74 years	1,783   16%	2   12%	177   24%	107   23%
75-84 years	1,287   11%	0   0%	215   29%	163   35%
85+ years	565   5%	0   0%	118   16%	137   30%
Unknown	3   0%	0   0%	0   0%	0   0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,195</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>460</b>

## VACCINATION LOCATIONS/DATES

Send information to [community@chronicleonline.com](mailto:community@chronicleonline.com). Call 352-563-5660 for more information.

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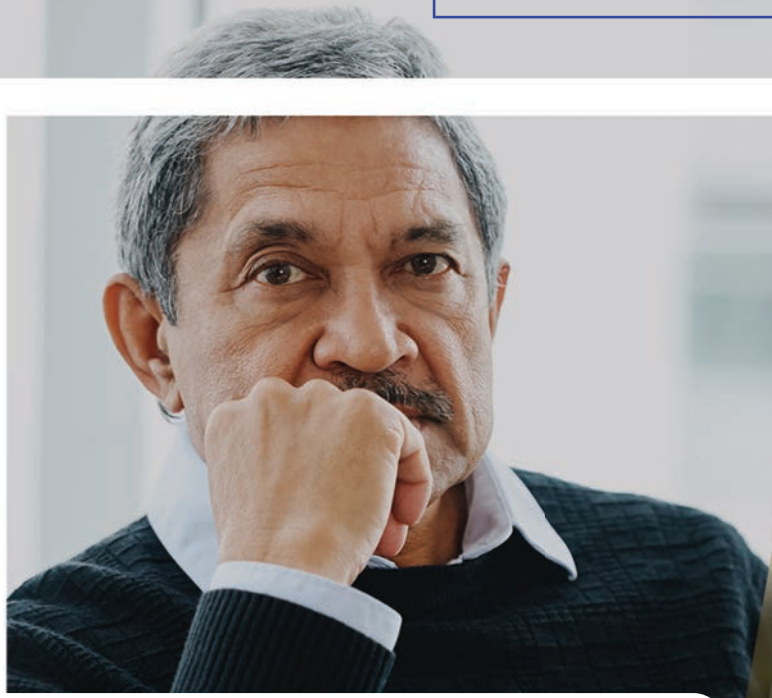


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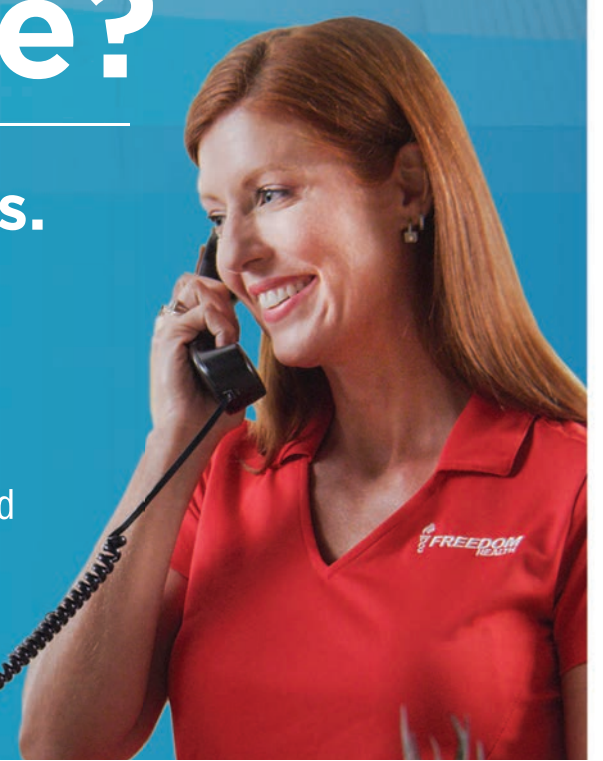


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*Nation & World* BRIEFS

**Ana, first named Atlantic storm of 2021, forms**

MIAMI — The first named Atlantic storm of the season is posing no threat to land and is expected to dissipate in a few days. The National Hurricane Center in Miami says Sub-tropical Storm Ana is drifting east over the Atlantic Ocean after bringing rain to Bermuda.

Ana was located about 175 miles northeast of Bermuda with maximum sustained winds of 45 mph, the hurricane center said in an 11 a.m. advisory. It was moving west at 3 mph.

The system was expected to continue its slow and erratic motion, and then dissipate in a few days, forecasters said.

A tropical storm watch for Bermuda, in effect earlier Saturday, was discontinued. The island likely will experience locally gusty winds, weather forecasters said.

**China's Mars rover touches ground on red planet**

BEIJING — China's first Mars rover has driven down from its landing platform and is now roaming the surface of the red planet, China's space administration said Saturday.

The solar-powered rover touched Martian soil at 10:40 a.m. Saturday Beijing time, the China National Space Administration said.

China landed the spacecraft carrying the rover on Mars last Saturday, a technically challenging feat more difficult than a moon landing, in a first for the country. It is the second country to land and operate a spacecraft on Mars, after the United States.

Named after the Chinese god of fire, Zhurong, the rover has been running diagnostics tests for several days before it began its exploration Saturday. It is expected to be deployed for 90 days to search of evidence of life.

The U.S. also has an ongoing Mars mission, with the Perseverance rover and a tiny helicopter exploring the planet. NASA expects the rover to collect its first sample in July for return to Earth as early as 2031.

China has ambitious space plans that include launching a crewed orbital station and landing a human on the moon. China in 2019 became the first country to land a space probe on the little-explored far side of the moon, and in December returned lunar rocks to Earth for the first time since the 1970s.

**Residents flee volcanic eruption in the Congo**

GOMA, Congo — A volcano erupted near Goma in eastern Congo on Saturday, turning the skies a fiery red and panicking residents in the city of nearly 2 million people.

The Nyamulagira volcano erupted around 7 p.m. local time, according to Honore Chiraba, a volcanologist with the Volcano Observation Office in Goma.

However, there was confusion and fear, as the local governor said it was the Nyiragongo volcano, whose last eruption in 2002 left hundreds dead and coated airport runways in lava.

There were reports that the eruption, whichever volcano it was, had taken out a highway that connects Goma with the city of Beni.

— From wire reports

**Rocket ship ascends from above**

MORGAN LEE  
 Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. — Virgin Galactic on Saturday made its first rocket-powered flight from New Mexico to the fringe of space in a manned shuttle, as the company forges toward offering tourist flights to the edge of the Earth's atmosphere.

High above the desert in a cloudless sky, VSS Unity ignited its rocket to hurtle the ship and two pilots toward space. A live feed by NASASpaceFlight.com showed the ship accelerating upward and confirmed a landing later via radar.

Virgin Galactic announced that its VSS Unity shuttle achieved a speed equal to three times the speed of sound and an altitude of just over 55 miles above sea level before making its gliding return through the atmosphere.

British billionaire and Virgin Galactic founder Sir Richard Branson says the flight and landing bring the roughly 15-year-old



Associated Press

This Saturday, May 22, image provided by Virgin Galactic shows the release of VSS Unity from VMS Eve and ignition of rocket motor over Spaceport America, N.M. Virgin Galactic completed its third spaceflight and the first-ever spaceflight from Spaceport America, N.M.

venture tantalizingly close to commercial flights for tourists. Virgin Galactic says those flights could begin next year.

"Today was just an incredible step in the right direction," Branson told

The Associated Press shortly after the flight landings. "It tested a lot of new systems that the teams have been building and they all worked."

Virgin Galactic CEO Michael Colglazier said at

least two more undated test flights lie ahead — the next with four mission specialist passengers in the cabin. Pending trials also includes a flight that will take Branson to the edge of space.

**Hamas defiant with military parade**

WAFAA SHURAF AND  
 SAMY MAGDY  
 Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Hundreds of masked Hamas fighters brandishing assault rifles paraded in Gaza City and the group's top leader made his first public appearance on Saturday, in a defiant show of strength after the militants' 11-day war with Israel.

Saturday marked the first full day of a cease-fire, and Egyptian

mediators held talks to firm up the truce which ended the fourth Israel-Hamas war in just over a decade.

In the fighting, Israel unleashed hundreds of airstrikes against militant targets in Gaza, while Hamas and other militants fired more than 4,000 rockets toward Israel. More than 250 people were killed, the vast majority of them Palestinians.

In Gaza City, residents began assessing damage. One of Gaza City's busiest commercial areas, Omar al-Mukhtar Street, was covered in

debris, smashed cars and twisted metal after a 13-floor building in its center was flattened in an Israeli airstrike. Merchandise was covered in soot and strewn inside smashed stores and on the pavement. Municipal workers swept broken glass and twisted metal from streets and sidewalks.

Drone video and photos showed some city blocks reduced to rubble, in between homes and businesses left standing. Both Israel and Hamas have claimed victory.



## VETERANS NOTES

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

## NEW THIS WEEK

### WTC scholarships available

For the second year in a row, the Citrus County Veterans Coalition (CCVC) made a \$3,000 scholarship available to the Withlacoochee Technical College (WTC). WTC distributes these funds to veterans who attend classes there.

The funds may be used for the purchase of books, manuals, tools of the trade or uniforms. Veterans can receive grants through the VA for course tuition, but incur many other expenses in the course of their education. These funds are specifically intended to ease the financial hardships of veterans in their continuing education.

To access the available funds, veterans should contact the financial aid coordinator at WTC. For additional assistance, call Bob Bendle, CCVC scholarship officer, at 352-400-8952.

### FWV sets Memorial Day picnic

FWV Post 4864 will have a Memorial Day picnic at noon Monday, May 31. Food includes hamburgers, hot dogs, sausage and peppers, corn on the cob, baked beans, potato salad and free soda and water. The cost per person is \$7.

## COMING UP

### Legion Riders to have BBQ

American Legion Riders Chapter 237 invites the public to join them on Memorial Day weekend from 2 to 6 p.m. May 29 at Post 237, 6726 N. Lecanto Highway.

There will be music by Gypsy Sparrow and BBQ chicken or BBQ pork sandwiches with sides for \$10. All first responders who attend the event will receive a free meal. A 50/50 and silent auction will be held. All proceeds will benefit Wreaths for Our Fallen Heroes.

For questions, call 352-897-4776.

### Name reading of fallen soldiers

The annual reading of the names of Citrus County's fallen heroes from the Civil War to current conflicts will take place at 6 p.m. Sunday, May 30, at the Fallen Heroes Monument in Bicentennial Park, Crystal River.

Attendees should bring their own chairs. Iced bottled water will be provided. The ceremony will be about 30 minutes long.

### FWV Post 10087 to do tag sale

FWV Post 10087 Harry F. Nesbitt, 2170 W. Vet Lane in Beverly Hills, will have a Spring Cleaning Tag Sale from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 22. Tables at the tag sale can be purchased outside of the post for \$10 and inside the post for \$15.

For setup questions or to reserve a table at the tag sale, call Carol Franker, FWV Post 10087 Auxiliary treasurer, at 352-400-9016.

For general event questions, call the post at 352-746-0440.

### Post invites all to breakfast

The public is invited to American Legion Post 155 for breakfast from 8:30 to 11 a.m. every Sunday at 6585 W. Gulf-to-Lake Highway in Crystal River.

### FWV to have monthly meetings

Female Veterans Network (FVN) invites all female veterans to their monthly meeting on the second Thursday monthly at the Citrus County Resource Center on 2804 W. Marc Knighton Court in Lecanto. The meeting is held in the cafeteria.

Masks and social distancing are strongly encouraged.

The mission of the (FVN) is to unite female veterans, develop camaraderie and discuss issues that are important and unique to female veterans.

For information or to support FVN, contact Cynthia at 352-628-6481, Jo Monty at 352-527-6575 or visit femaleveteransnetwork.org.

### Bikes back for Memorial Day

Custom military tribute bikes will soon be on display to honor local veterans.

The Air Force Tribute Bike "The Chief" will be on display at Plaza Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram, 2077 Highway 44 W. in Inverness.

The Navy Tribute Bike "Top Gun" will be at Crystal Harley-Davidson, 1147 S. Suncoast Blvd. in Homosassa.

They will be on display during Memorial Day weekend.

## GOOD TO KNOW

### Post 10087 sets Vittles for Vets

FWV Post 10087 Harry F. Nesbitt will be hosting Vittles for Vets on noon every Tuesday at the post, 2170 W. Vet Lane in Beverly Hills.

For additional information, call the post at 352-746-0440.

See NOTES/Page A15

## Citrus veteran given Living Legend Proclamation



Special to the Chronicle

Barbara Lincoln, a 95-year-old member of Female Veterans Network and World War II nurse cadet was presented with a Living Legend Proclamation recently. The award was presented on behalf of Phyllis Wilson, from the Military Women's Memorial in Arlington, Virginia. From left are: Barbara Lincoln; Cynthia Henderson, founder and president of FVN; and Jo Monty.

## Area art museum honors service

Appleton offers free admission for active military, vets, their families

Special to the Chronicle

OCALA — The Appleton Museum of Art, College of Central Florida, joins museums nationwide in the Blue Star Museums program. This program is a collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and participating museums across America.

Now through Labor Day (Sept. 6), free admission is available to currently serving military personnel and their families. The Appleton is honored to extend this offer to veterans and their families.

"The Appleton is proud to once again be a Blue Star Museums partner. We reaffirm Marion County's long history of respectfully honoring all active military members and veterans," said

Jason Steuber, Appleton Museum director: "Alongside our Appleton and CF staff members who are veterans, we are happy to have this program run concurrently with our Community Heroes Free Admission Program, providing free admission to the state of Florida's first responders, health care professionals, and educators."

This free admission program includes those currently serving in the United States Military — Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard, as well as members of the Reserves, National Guard, U.S. Public Health Commissioned Corps, NOAA Commissioned Corps, as well as veterans and up to five family members.

Qualified members must show a Geneva Convention common access card (CAC), DD Form 1173 ID card

(dependent ID), or a DD Form 1173-1 ID card for entrance into a participating Blue Star Museum. Veterans may present an ID or discharge paperwork.

The Appleton is one of many participating museums that include children's museums, art museums, history and science museums, zoos, nature centers, and more. To find participating museums, locally or during your summer travels, visit [arts.gov/bluestarmuseums](http://arts.gov/bluestarmuseums).

The Appleton Museum, Artspace and store are open Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, noon-5 p.m. A campus of the College of Central Florida, the Appleton Museum of Art is at 4333 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala, east of downtown on State Road 40. Parking is free.

For more information, call 352-291-4455 or visit [AppletonMuseum.org](http://AppletonMuseum.org).

## FWV donates to Tunnel to Towers Foundation



Special to the Chronicle

On May 19, FWV Post 8189 Auxiliary and FWV Riders presented a check for \$6,250 to Jack Oehm, of the Tunnel to Towers Foundation. The fundraising effort was spearheaded by Larry Haynes, post adjutant, who worked to secure donations for the foundation. The Tunnel to Towers Foundation honors the sacrifice of firefighter Stephen Siller, who laid down his life to save others on September 11, 2001. The foundation also honors military and first responders who continue to make sacrifices for our country. Of the money raised, 93% goes to military veterans, first responders and Gold Star families. For information on the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, visit [t2t.org](http://t2t.org).

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

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

■ Submit material at Chronicle offices in Inverness or Crystal River or email to [community@chronicleonline.com](mailto:community@chronicleonline.com).

SUNDAY EVENING MAY 23, 2021. Table with columns for channel, time, and program details. Includes programs like Ellen's Game, The Queen at War, and American Idol.

SUNDAY EVENING MAY 23, 2021. Table with columns for channel, time, and program details. Includes programs like NHL Hockey, Wicked Tuna, and The Bourne Ultimatum.

Annie gives advice

Dear Annie: I am in a quandary about a situation. I am a widow. Some time after my late husband passed away, an old friend and I renewed our friendship. At first, things were very pleasant, and I enjoyed his company. This gentleman was divorced. I believe that his former wife had an affair. I don't think he ever worked through the feelings of rejection he must have felt. He has a great deal of suppressed anger, and at times he seems to have a dual personality. I realized the friendship was not a healthy one, and we no longer see each other. I have not seen him in years. I guess it's important to him to keep in touch by phone, and he'll call from time to time to check on me. If I'm not available to answer the phone, he'll leave a curt remark in my voicemail. He called this week as I was packing up some boxes for Goodwill, and I could not answer the phone in time. He left a sarcastic voice message. He called four times back to back. I did not return the calls. I don't enjoy talking to him. It's usually a rather one-sided conversation, with him talking about things of no consequence. He doesn't have a good outlook on life. I recently found out

he is an alcoholic, and he lies and exaggerates things. His calls upset me. I don't want to change my landline number or my cell phone number. Should I continue letting his calls go to voicemail? I wish him well, but it really would be best for us not to have a telephone friendship. — Feeling Guilty



DEAR ANNIE

Dear Feeling Guilty: That man's disease is the one leaving you curt messages, and you're wise for not returning the calls. Continue letting his calls go to voicemail, and don't bother listening to the messages. You might also want to call your phone provider to see about blocking his number, if you'd rather not let his vitriol take up space on your voicemail. I really hope he seeks help with his alcoholism, but he has to come to that point on his own. You have nothing for which to feel guilty.

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

I recently found out

I recently found out

Today's MOVIES

Table listing movies and showtimes for Citrus Cinemas 6. Includes titles like 'Spiral: Saw', 'Mortal Kombat', 'Godzilla Vs. Kong', 'Raya And The Last Dragon', and 'Scoobi!'.

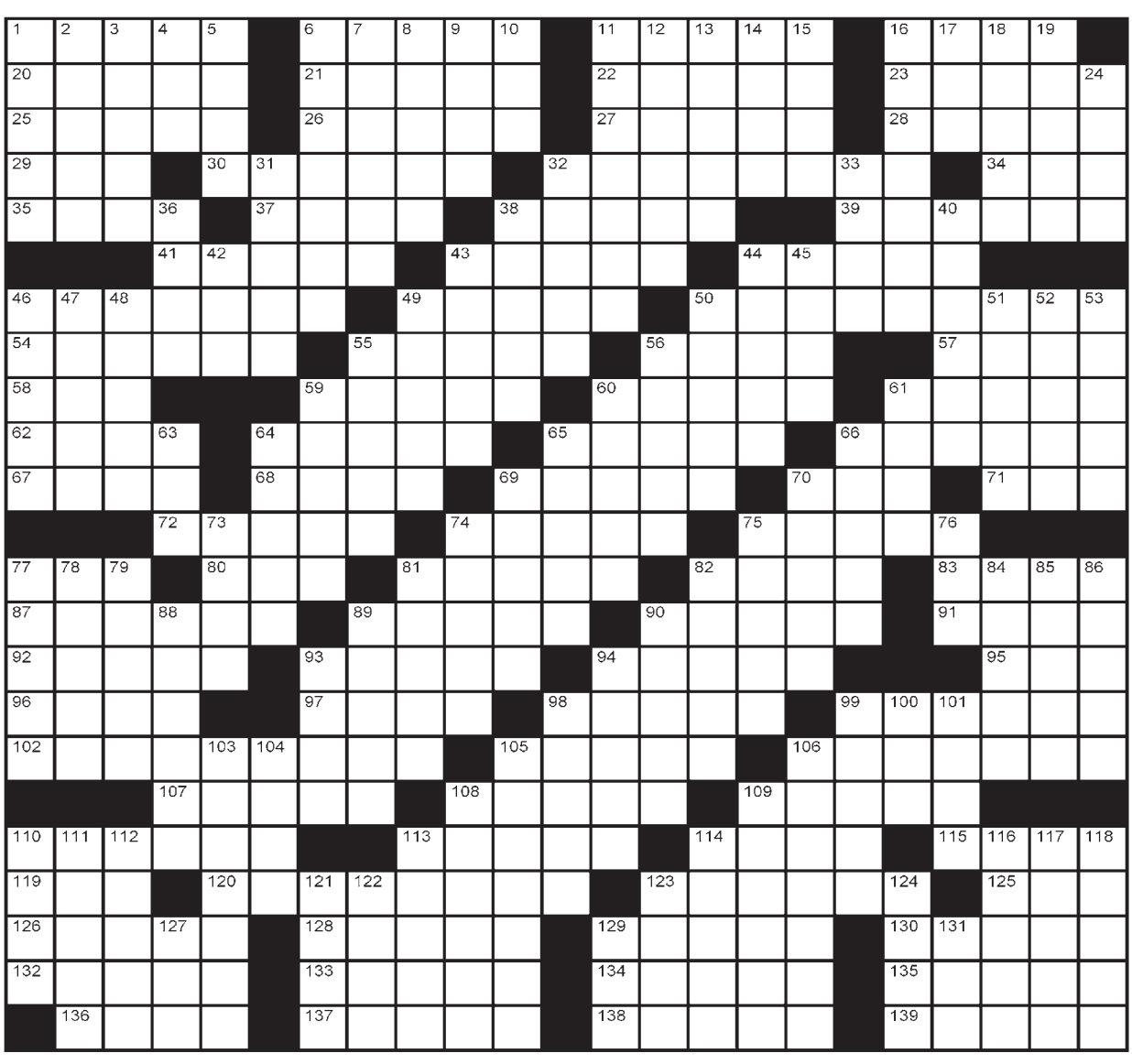
Sunday PUZZLER

- ACROSS
1 Cranium contents
6 Dish
11 Of the blood
16 Gator relative
20 Weapon for a knight
21 Unyielding
22 Rounded molding
23 Entices
25 Stage direction
26 Baking chambers
27 Standards
28 Lower in rank
29 In the past
30 The near future
32 Wag
34 Schoolyard game
35 Till section
37 — and rave
38 Start of a toast
39 Old Roman statesman
41 Leather strip
43 Filled
44 Hullabaloo
46 Lettuce variety
49 Set of rooms
50 Of money
54 Turkish inn
55 Deplorable
56 Hardware item
57 Plumlike fruit
58 Animal doc
59 Tummy
60 Ars —
61 Position, in anatomy
62 On in years
64 Dress royally
65 Loaded
66 Prescribed amount
67 Fat
68 Uncouth fellow
69 Powerful business leader
70 Toy-gun projectile
71 Legal matter
72 Bend in a pipe
74 Washes
75 Small
77 "I — Camera"
80 All right (Hyph.)
81 Delayer's motto
82 Membership cost
83 Top
87 Acting ruler
89 Spiteful
90 Chop
91 Linger in expectation
92 Body part
93 Van Doren or Eisenhower
94 — -nez
95 — degree
96 News item, for short
97 Word of

- 48 Alma —
49 Kind of energy
50 Discussion group
51 Communion table
52 Baton —
53 Affirmatives
55 Asian goatlike antelope
56 Complication
59 Stream
60 Beer
61 Steep
63 JFK predecessor
64 Monks' superior
65 Term of endearment
66 Thick
69 Not shiny
70 — de resistance
73 Country
74 Dead language
75 Stupid one
76 Go off course
77 City in ancient Greece
78 — toast
79 Anew
81 Hamstrung
82 Had a meal
84 Genus of wolves
85 Bishop's headdress (Var.)
86 Lucy's friend
88 Whole
89 Carved gem

- 90 Stuck
93 Labyrinth
94 Part of the eye
98 Kind of bear
99 In — (really)
100 Sine — non
101 Nullify
103 Young child
104 — fixe
105 Truthfulness
106 Concerted effort
108 Learned one
109 Straw hat
110 " — You Babe"
111 Colorful eel
112 Composure
113 Eyelashes
114 Loud sound
116 1970s sitcom
117 Intimidated
118 Imitative behavior
121 Berets
122 Footnote abbr.
123 Official order
124 River in France
127 Timetable abbr.
129 Sts.
131 Cravat

Sunday Puzzle answers are on Page A16.



# NOTES

Continued from Page A13

## CCVC cancels yard sales

The Citrus County Veterans Coalition (CCVC) has canceled monthly yard sales, effective immediately, until further notice.

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

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

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

For information, call 352-400-8952 or visit [www.veterans-coalition.com](http://www.veterans-coalition.com).

## CCVC expands services

In addition to existing clients at the Citrus County Veterans Coalition (CCVC), the coalition is now accepting any veteran who now be unemployed, due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Also, any veteran, whose financial situation has changed, is also invited to attend the CCVC food pantry for assistance.

A DD-214 certificate or other proof of honorable discharge must be shown to qualify for assistance.

The CCVC pantry is located at 1081 N. Paul Drive, Inverness, and is open from 9 a.m. to noon every Tuesday, and the first and third Thursdays of the month.

For further information, call 352-400-8952.

## Transit available to VA

Citrus County Transit provides service to veterans on a weekly basis, excluding holidays. Transportation to VA appointments for both wheel chair and ambulatory patients are available:

- Tuesday to Tampa
- Wednesday to Gainesville
- Thursday to the Villages VA

Other appointments may be available if capacity is available. Contact Janet Gramann at

352-527-7630.

## Tag sales benefit veterans

Veterans dog tags now being made at the Beverly Hills American Legion Post 237 located at 6726 N. Lecanto Highway.

These are the genuine notched and unnotched type tags as were issued. Chains and silencers also in stock. Custom-made tags for any purpose, veterans, pets, luggage, etc.

Call the post at 352-897-4776 to make an appointment. Proceeds go to Post 237 veterans programs.

## Buy a pin, support the FVN

The Female Veterans Network is selling pins for \$5 at Mac 1 Signs, Inc., 7068 W. Grover Cleveland Blvd. in Homosassa.

For additional information, call 352-628-3246.

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<b>Inverness Senior Club Apartments</b> 518 Ella Ave., Inverness, FL 34450 352-344-8477			✓				✓	✓		✓		
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<b>Sunflower Springs Assisted Living Community</b> 8733 W. Yulee Dr., Homosassa Springs, FL 352-794-1984	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓		✓
<b>Sunshine Gardens</b> 311 NE 4th Ave., Crystal River, FL 352-563-0235	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		
<b>Superior Residences at Lecanto Memory Care</b> 4865 W. Gulf to Lake Hwy., Lecanto, FL 352-746-5483	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓

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<b>Home Instead</b> 352-249-1257 <a href="http://HomeInstead.com/671">HomeInstead.com/671</a>	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
<b>Mederi Caretenders</b> 2214 Hwy. 44 W., Inverness, FL 352-726-3874		✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓
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# 65th ANNIVERSARY

## The Conrads

Harry and Christel Conrad will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary on May 26, 2021.

The couple were married on May 26, 1956.

Currently, Harry and Christel live in Crystal River. They share four children, Carmen, Andrew, Dean and Ralph.



### TOGETHER PAGE SUBMISSIONS

- The Chronicle runs birth announcements, engagements, weddings and significant anniversaries at no charge inside the Sunday Veterans section.
- Email [community@chronicleonline.com](mailto:community@chronicleonline.com).

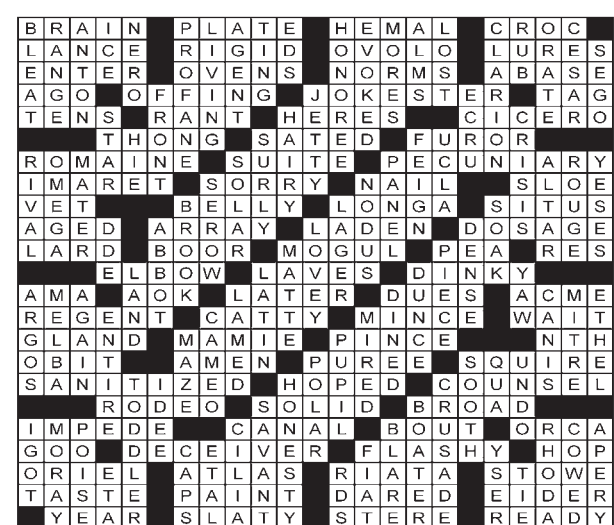
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### Sunday PUZZLER ANSWERS

Sunday Puzzler is on Page A14



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## Funds raised from American Legion Derby Run



The American Legion Riders Chapter 166 had their third annual Derby Run on May 1. The event was open to bikes, trikes and automobiles. All donations went to support Post 166's veterans relief fund. Funds were raised from event participation and donations from the Fraternal Order of the Eagles Aerie No. 4272, the Crystal River Eagles Riders Aerie No. 4272, and the IRRU Family Social Club, which donated \$200. The donations will enable Post 166 to help more veterans in need. Patty Potter, right, presents checks on behalf of the Fraternal Order of the Eagles Aerie No. 4272 and the Crystal River Eagle Riders Aerie No. 4272 to Bob Ballew, director of the American Legion Riders Chapter 166.

- Don't have a photo scanner at home? Bring in photos to go with Together page submissions to be scanned and immediately returned to you at the Chronicle's main office, 1624 N. Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River.

### D-I-Y ONLINE CALENDAR

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

# SHOPPING LOCAL FUNDS LOCAL SERVICES

The Citrus County Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners, City of Crystal River, and City of Inverness is urging our residents to shop local.



Ruthie Davis Schlabbach, County Commissioner District 3, and Cregg Dalton, Property Appraiser, look over documents to supply to the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce for their Shop Local Campaign.



With a population of 150,000 and growing Citrus County businesses employ nearly 48,000 citizens. This equates to an annual private sector payroll of \$1.2 billion.

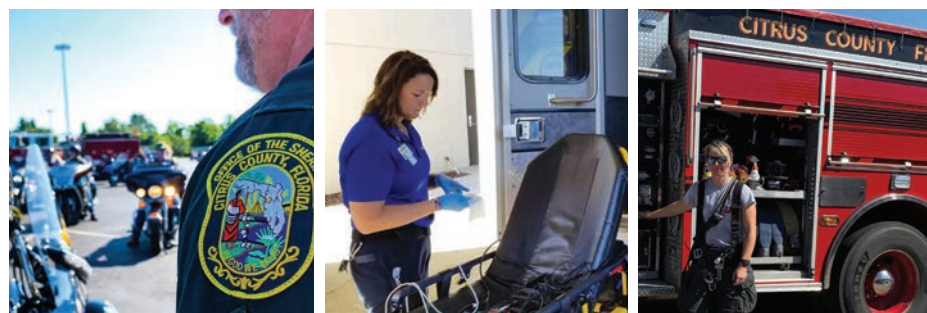


Citrus County Businesses collected and remitted \$108 million in sales tax in FY 2019-2020. Over time, this equates to millions of dollars in revenue sharing coming back to our county.



Commercial properties make up \$3.2 billion dollars in taxable value which produces nearly \$30 million in ad valorem taxes and millions more in tangible taxes that go to pay for local services.

## SHOPPING CITRUS FIRST SUPPORTS LOCAL EMERGENCY & SAFETY SERVICES



CCSO photo from the Citrus County Sheriff's Office, EMS photo from Naturecoast EMS, FIRE RESCUE photo from Citrus County Fire Rescue

## WHEN YOU SHOP LOCAL, DON'T JUST THINK RETAIL.

Think home improvements, professional services, medical care, restaurants and bars, entertainment, personal care, realtors, vehicle sales and service, and every other business that has invested in Citrus County.

Shopping local helps keep our taxes low and the level of service from our local government high like EMS, Fire department, Sheriff department, Public Works, Public health, Public Transit, libraries, parks and recreation, and so much more. If we do not patronize our local businesses, there is a good chance that they will go away. If they go away, we are left with more empty buildings, our citizens are out of work and left to pick up the tab on the loss of sales and property taxes.

Be a local patriot, support your local businesses.

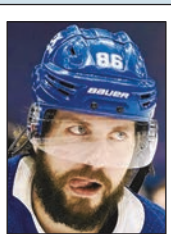




**THE NUMBER:**

**3**

Career 4-point playoff games for Nikita Kucherov after Saturday's 1 goal and 3 assists, most in Lightning team history.



Nikita Kucherov

# SPORTS

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

Section B - SUNDAY, MAY 23, 2021



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## 2020-21 CHRONICLE FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

**KENNEDI BLEVINS SENIOR CITRUS HURRICANES**



# History maker, trailblazer

*Two-time state weightlifting champ Blevins of Citrus sets a high bar*

CHRIS BERNHARDT JR.  
Staff writer

In terms of individual athletic achievements, few if any Citrus County athletes can compare to Kennedy Blevins' the last three years.

The Citrus High senior made girls weightlifting history. Then she did it again. And then one more time.

As a sophomore she finished second at 139 pounds in the 1A state meet. She vowed to come back the next season and capture the state championship, then did that just that in 2020. No other female lifter from the county has ever accomplished that feat.



This year for good measure she became a repeat state champ, this time competing in 2A and posting a 195-pound bench press and 160 in the clean-and-jerk for 355 total, winning the 139 crown by 35 pounds.

"It was exciting, but it still didn't compare to winning the first time after getting second my first year lifting," Blevins said.

When it came time for the Chronicle to pick its Female Athlete of the Year, it wasn't a difficult decision to turn to the champ.

"She has worked very hard throughout the season. She's very deserving," Citrus girls weightlifting coach Linnet Calise said. "Her discipline, her dedication, she works very hard day and day out. She had a goal in mind of what she wanted to accomplish and she was very focused on it. That was her goal."

"It's an honor," Blevins said, "there's a lot of great athletes in our county."

What made Blevins' dominant state victory even more amazing was she was dealing with a sprained anterolateral ligament in her knee. This was after she was limited as a sophomore while recovering from ACL surgery.

"My clean-and-jerk was about 15-20 pounds under what I wanted it to be for states, but other than that it didn't have too much of an impact on my performance," Blevins said. "I just had to be more strategic with my training and recovery."

What also makes Blevins' three-year run stand out is it's basically unprecedented for Citrus County in any sport, let alone girls weightlifting.

"I think she's opened the door for other young girls," Calise said. "Weightlifting is a sport for girls. There's always speculation that it's a boys sport. She's shown girls that if they set their mind to it, you can do whatever you want. As long as you work hard for it, the sky is the limit."

Blevins echoed those sentiments while reflecting on the standard she has established moving forward.

"I just hope future lifters see their potential and realize that if they are willing to put in the work they can achieve



Kennedi Blevins of Citrus rubs chalk on her hands in preparation for a clean-and-jerk lift attempt at the Class 2A State Girls Weightlifting Finals held Feb. 13 at Suwannee High School in Live Oak. Blevins claimed her second state title in a row and has been named the Chronicle's Female Athlete of the Year.

MATT PFIFFNER/  
Chronicle

See BLEVINS/Page B3



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# Killorn, Kucherov lead Lightning

## Bolts rout Panthers in Game 4, 6-2

Associated Press

TAMPA — The sight of Nikita Kucherov crumpled to the ice in pain left a sour taste in the mouths of the Tampa Bay Lightning.

The reigning Stanley Cup champions beat the Florida Panthers 6-2 to take a commanding 3-1 lead in their first-round postseason matchup on Saturday, with Kucherov continuing to sparkle after missing the entire regular season while recovering from hip surgery.

Coach Jon Cooper and Kucherov's teammates understandably were alarmed when the Tampa Bay star went down after being slashed by Florida's Anthony Duclair with the Panthers trailing by four goals midway through the third period.

"The hockey game ended halfway through the second period, then it turned into something else," Cooper said after a penalty-filled afternoon that saw Florida finish with 13 penalties for 50 minutes and Tampa Bay 13 for 42 minutes.

"Not much there for me," Panthers coach Joel Quenneville said of the slashing call on Duclair. "I hope he's all right."

Kucherov had a goal and three assists. Alex Killorn scored a pair of second-period goals and notched two assists, while Andrei Vasilevskiy stopped 39 of 41 shots for the Lightning, who can wrap up the best-of-seven series by winning Game 5 in Sunrise, Florida, on Monday night.

Kucherov remained on the bench for a short time, but did not return to the game. Defenseman Mikhail Sergachev was also shaken up by a late hit.

Cooper would not discuss the injuries.

"Nothing. Next question," the coach said.

"It's tough. You never want to see a guy go down



Tampa Bay Lightning left wing Alex Killorn (17) celebrates his goal in front of Florida Panthers defenseman Brandon Montour (62) during the second period in Game 4 of a Stanley Cup first-round playoff series Saturday, in Tampa.

on the ice and stay there," forward Yanni Gourde said.

"And if one of our guys stays down," Killorn offered, "he's hurt."

The Lightning pushed their intrastate rivals to the brink of elimination by scoring three first-period goals, then building their advantage to 5-1 when Killorn beat goalie Sergei Bobrovsky twice in a span of 94 seconds to break the game open.

Gourde, Anthony Cirelli and Ondrej Palat got Tampa Bay off to a fast start with a trio of goals that signaled it was going to be a rough afternoon for Bobrovsky, who earned his second start of the series by coming off the bench to win Game 3 in relief.

Bobrovsky, a two-time Vezina Trophy winner, stopped all nine shots he faced in the third period and overtime as the Panthers rallied from a two-goal deficit to tighten the series with a 6-5 victory on

Thursday night.

The Lightning scored on three of seven shots in the first period Saturday. The Panthers replaced Bobrovsky with Chris Driedger after Killorn scored on the power play and added another goal off a pass from Steven Stamkos to increase the lead to 5-1.

"It's 3-1 after one and then they score early and they scored the fifth goal," Quenneville said of the move to Driedger. "Just trying to do something different was definitely the thought process on that, slow their momentum down maybe and get some excitement, but at that time a four-goal lead is rather large."

Jonathan Huberdeau and Carter Verhaeghe had power-play goals for Florida.

Kucherov has three goals and six assists in four playoff games after missing the regular season while recovering from hip

surgery performed on Dec. 29. He and Stamkos, who had two assists Saturday, have at least one point in each game of the series.

"It's amazing what he's been able to do the last four games, especially coming back from injury," Gourde said of Kucherov.

The Lightning ended a four-game home losing streak in the playoffs with their first postseason win at Amalie Arena since Game 5 of the 2018 Eastern Conference final against the Washington Capitals.

"We came here to win a hockey game and we did," Cooper said.

"We have better in us, we know that. .... We have to better with our emotions and not getting caught up with the antics that are going on in the game," the Tampa Bay coach added. "We can be more physical, we can be a better hockey team. But I like where we're sitting at

in the series, and believe me we'll be bringing it two nights from now."

### BOUNCING BACK

The Lightning haven't lost consecutive playoff games since being swept by Columbus in the first round in 2019. The defending Stanley Cup champions were 7-0 in games following a loss during the 2020 postseason.

### ON THE BRINK

The Panthers will have to win three straight against the defending champs to end the franchise's 25-year drought without a series win.

"You have to have a short memory. You put this behind you and you go to the next one," Florida defenseman Anton Stralman said. "We look forward to going back home and try to play our best game."

### NO YANDLE

Florida's Keith Yandle

was a healthy scratch for the second time in the series. The 34-year-old defenseman also sat out Game 3.

### STRONG FINISHERS

The Lightning have never lost a series in which they won the first two games. They're 11-3 after holding a 2-1 advantage. On the other hand, the Panthers have never rallied to win a series after dropping the first two games.

### Islanders 4, Penguins 1

UNIONDALE, N.Y. — Ilya Sorokin stopped 29 shots, Oliver Wahlstrom and Ryan Pullock each had a goal and an assist and the New York Islanders beat the Pittsburgh Penguins 4-1 in Game 4 to even the first-round series.

Josh Bailey and Jordan Eberle also scored for New York. Sorokin, who had 39 saves in the Islanders' 4-3 win in Game 1, was back in goal after Semyon Varlamov started Games 2 and 3 — both losses.

Tristan Jarry had 23 saves for Pittsburgh, and drew mocking chants of "Jar-ry! Jar-ry!" from Islanders fans.

Game 5 is Monday night in Pittsburgh, and Game 6 back at Nassau Coliseum on Wednesday.

### Maple Leafs 5, Canadiens 1

TORONTO — Auston Matthews broke a tie early in the second period and the Toronto Maple Leafs beat the Montreal Canadiens 5-1 in Game 2 to even the first-round playoff series.

Matthews also had assists, William Nylander added a goal and an assist, and Jason Spezza, Rasmus Sandin and Alexander Kerfoot, into an empty net, also scored. Jack Campbell stopped 22 shots, and Mitch Marner had two assists.

Jesper Kotkaniemi scored for Montreal, and Carey Price stopped 29 shots.

The best-of-seven matchup between the Original Six rivals shifts to the Bell Centre for games Monday and Tuesday nights. The Canadiens won the opener 2-1.

# Middleton lifts Bucks past Heat in OT

## Doncic scores 31, Mavs top Clippers

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Giannis Antetokounmpo and the Milwaukee Bucks found themselves in danger of suffering one more devastating playoff loss to the Miami Heat.

Khris Middleton made sure it didn't happen.

Middleton broke a tie with a jumper with 0.5 seconds left in overtime and had 27 points to help the Bucks beat the Heat 109-107 on Saturday in Game 1 of the first-round series.

"I have confidence in myself," Middleton said. "You miss a lot of shots. You make a lot of shots. You just have to trust all the work you put in during the season and practice."

The nip-and-tuck nature of this game — nobody led by more than four points in the fourth quarter and overtime — exemplified the competitive nature of this playoff rematch. Game 2 is Monday night in Milwaukee.

Milwaukee was the No. 1 overall seed in last year's playoffs but lost 4-1 to Miami in the second round. Milwaukee is seeded third and Miami sixth in the Eastern Conference this time.

"The pressure was all on them," said Miami's Goran Dragic, who scored 25 points and tied it with a corner 3-pointer with 20.6 seconds left. "They need to win at home. It was a close game. I feel like we had our chances, but unfortunately we didn't take them."

Milwaukee squandered opportunities to seal the victory before the final second of overtime.

Over the last 1:06 of

regulation, Antetokounmpo was 2 of 5 from the line and had a 10-second violation that prevented him from getting another free-throw attempt.

Antetokounmpo wore a sleeve on his left arm late in the game after appearing to grab his elbow late in the fourth quarter. He still had 26 points, 18 rebounds and five assists but shot 10 of 27 overall and 6 of 13 on free-throw attempts.

"I just tried to stay aggressive the whole game," Antetokounmpo said. "That's what I'm going to try to do the whole series, miss or make."

Milwaukee's struggles from the line enabled Miami's Jimmy Butler to force overtime by making a buzzer-beating driving layup past Antetokounmpo.

Dragic tied it again in the final minute of OT. Milwaukee opted against calling a timeout afterward and instead went right to its offense.

"It shows the trust we have in one another," Middleton said. "On the fly, sometimes we don't have to call a timeout. We can execute our sets and everyone get to their spots and get the best shot out of it."

Middleton dribbled toward the free-throw line, then cut to his right and made a 19-footer while being closely guarded by Duncan Robinson.

"In that situation, you've got to make somebody miss," Robinson said. "Could it have been better? For sure. I will be. I'll learn from it. This obviously stings a lot, but we've got to have a short memory — learn from it and move forward."

Robinson scored 24 points while shooting 7 of 13 from 3-point range. His seven 3-pointers tied a Heat playoff record.

Miami went 20 of 50 on 3-pointers while the Bucks were



Miami Heat forward Jimmy Butler and Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo battle for a loose ball during the second half of Game 1 of their first-round playoff series Saturday, in Milwaukee.

just 5 of 31. Milwaukee had never made below seven 3-pointers in a game during the regular season.

"We don't need 3's to win," said Milwaukee's Jrue Holiday, who missed all five of his 3-point attempts but had 20 points and 11 rebounds. "We do a lot of everything."

The Bucks compensated by outscoring the Heat 56-24 in the paint and outrebounding Miami 64-51. Butler and Bam Adebayo shot a combined 8 of 37 for the Heat, with Butler going 4 of 22 while Adebayo was 4 of 15.

Butler still had 17 points to go along with 10 rebounds and eight assists. He was sometimes defended by Antetokounmpo.

"The ball is going to be in his

hands a lot," Antetokounmpo said. "He draws a lot of attention and you've got to be ready to go against him, but I love the challenge. Last year I didn't have the chance to guard him as much."

### Mavericks 113, Clippers 102

LOS ANGELES — Luka Doncic scored 31 points and the Dallas Mavericks outshot the NBA's leading team from 3-point range, beating the Los Angeles Clippers 113-102 in Game 1 of the first-round playoff series.

Tim Hardaway Jr. added 21 points and Dorian Finney-Smith had 18 for the Mavs, who led most of the game. Doncic and Hardaway Jr. made five 3-pointers each, and

Finney-Smith had four to help Dallas shoot 47% from long-range.

Kawhi Leonard had 26 points and 10 rebounds for the Clippers, and Paul George added 23 points. But they were a combined 3 of 14 on 3-pointers and the Clippers shot 31% after leading the NBA at 41% during the regular season. Marcus Morris missed all six of his 3-point attempts.

Game 2 is Tuesday night at Staples Center.

The Clippers didn't make more than three 3-pointers in a quarter until the fourth, when they hit four. Dallas controlled the closing minutes, stretching a three-point lead into 10. The Clippers were limited on field goal — a dunk by George — in the final minutes.

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Saturday  
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Austin, Texas.  
Lap length: 3.41 miles  
(Start position in parentheses)  
1. (1) Kyle Busch, Toyota, 46 laps, 0 points.  
2. (7) AJ Allmendinger, Chevrolet, 46, 48.  
3. (9) Justin Allgaier, Chevrolet, 46, 43.  
4. (12) Kevin Harvick, Chevrolet, 46, 0.  
5. (8) Austin Cindric, Ford, 46, 34.  
6. (10) Harrison Burton, Toyota, 46, 31.  
7. (3) Cole Custer, Chevrolet, 46, 0.  
8. (5) Tyler Reddick, Chevrolet, 46, 0.  
9. (6) Justin Haley, Chevrolet, 46, 38.  
10. (11) Jeb Burton, Chevrolet, 46, 27.  
11. (35) Michael Annett, Chevrolet, 46, 35.  
12. (21) Brett Moffitt, Chevrolet, 46, 25.  
13. (17) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, 46, 0.  
14. (22) Preston Pardus, Chevrolet, 46, 23.  
15. (18) Jade Buford, Chevrolet, 46, 30.  
16. (29) Riley Herbst, Ford, 46, 21.  
17. (19) Brandon Jones, Toyota, 46, 28.  
18. (13) Andy Lally, Chevrolet, 46, 26.  
19. (16) Spencer Pumpelly, Chevrolet, 46, 18.  
20. (4) Alex Labbe, Chevrolet, 46, 17.  
21. (23) Myatt Snider, Chevrolet, 46, 11.  
22. (30) Landon Cassill, Chevrolet, 46, 15.  
23. (33) Jeremy Clements, Chevrolet, 46, 25.  
24. (31) Ryan Ellis, Chevrolet, 46, 13.  
25. (34) Ryan Sieg, Ford, 46, 12.  
26. (14) Brandon Brown, Chevrolet, 46, 11.  
27. (25) Gray Gaulding, Chevrolet, 46, 10.  
28. (27) Colby Howard, Chevrolet, 46, 10.  
29. (26) Daniel Hemric, Toyota, 46, 8.  
30. (2) Ross Chastain, Chevrolet, 36, 0.  
31. (24) Boris Said, Toyota, 35, 6.  
32. (36) Kris Wright, Toyota, engine, 29, 0.  
33. (28) Timmy Hill, Ford, engine, 29, 0.  
34. (15) Miguel Paludo, Chevrolet, reargear, 25, 4.  
35. (32) Tommy Joe Martins, Chevrolet, engine, 19, 2.  
36. (20) Noah Gragson, Chevrolet, engine, 13, 1.

**Race Statistics**

Average Speed of Race Winner: 72.722 mph.  
Time of Race: 2 hours, 9 minutes, 25 seconds.

Margin of Victory: 11.024 seconds.  
Caution Flags: 4 for 7 laps.  
Lead Changes: 6 among 5 drivers.

Lap Leaders: K.Busch 0-11; A.Allmendinger 12-14; J.Allgaier 15-17; A.Cindric 18-19; K.Busch 20-27; J.Haley 28-30; K.Busch 31-46

Leaders Summary (Driver, Times Led, Laps Led): K.Busch, 3 times for 35 laps; A.Allmendinger, 1 time for 3 laps; J.Allgaier, 1 time for 3 laps; J.Haley, 1 time for 3 laps; A.Cindric, 1 time for 2 laps.

Wins: A.Cindric, 3; J.Allgaier, 2; A.Allmendinger, 1; J.Burton, 1; M.Snider, 1; J.Berry, 1; T.Gibbs, 1.

Top 16 in Points: 1. A.Cindric, 471; 2. H.Burton, 394; 3. A.Allmendinger, 390; 4. D.Hemric, 383; 5. J.Allgaier, 359; 6. J.Burton, 345; 7. J.Haley, 330; 8. J.Clements, 302; 9. N.Gragson, 301; 10. M.Snider, 298; 11. M.Annett, 279; 12. B.Jones, 268; 13. B.Brown, 242; 14. R.Herbst, 227; 15. J.Berry, 222; 16. R.Sieg, 208.

**HOCKEY****NHL Playoffs****FIRST ROUND****(Best-of-7; x-if necessary)****Carolina 2, Nashville 1**

Monday, May 17: Carolina 5, Nashville 2  
Wednesday, May 19: Carolina 3, Nashville 0

Friday, May 21: Nashville 5, Carolina 4, 2OT  
Today: Carolina at Nashville, 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 25: Nashville at Carolina, TBA  
x-Thursday, May 27: Carolina at Nashville, TBA  
x-Saturday, May 29: Nashville at Carolina, TBA

**Tampa Bay 3, Florida 1**

Sunday, May 16: Tampa Bay 5, Florida 4  
Tuesday, May 18: Tampa Bay 3, Florida 1

Thursday, May 20: Florida 6, Tampa Bay 5, OT  
Saturday, May 22: Tampa Bay 6, Florida 2

Monday, May 24: Tampa Bay at Florida, 8 p.m.  
x-Wednesday, May 26: Florida at Tampa Bay, TBA

x-Friday, May 28: Tampa Bay at Florida, TBA  
**Boston 3, Washington 1**

Saturday, May 15: Washington 3, Boston 2, OT  
Monday, May 17: Boston 4, Washington 3, OT  
Wednesday, May 19: Boston 3, Washington 2, 2OT

Friday, May 21: Boston 4, Washington 1  
Today: Boston at Washington, 7 p.m.

x-Tuesday, May 25: Washington at Boston, TBA  
x-Thursday, May 27: Boston at Washington, TBA

**Pittsburgh 2, N.Y. Islanders 2**

Sunday, May 16: N.Y. Islanders 4, Pittsburgh 3, OT  
Tuesday, May 18: Pittsburgh 2, N.Y. Islanders 1

Thursday, May 20: Pittsburgh 5, N.Y. Islanders 4  
Saturday, May 22: N.Y. Islanders 4, Pittsburgh 1

Monday, May 24: N.Y. Islanders at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.  
x-Wednesday, May 26: Pittsburgh at N.Y. Islanders, TBA

x-Friday, May 28: N.Y. Islanders at Pittsburgh, TBA  
**Toronto 1, Montreal 1**

Thursday, May 20: Montreal 2, Toronto 1  
Saturday, May 22: Toronto 5, Montreal 1

Monday, May 24: Toronto at Montreal, 7 p.m.  
Tuesday, May 25: Toronto at Montreal, TBA

x-Thursday, May 27: Montreal at Toronto, TBA  
x-Saturday, May 29: Toronto at Montreal, TBA  
x-Monday, May 31: Montreal at Toronto, TBA

**Winnipeg 2, Edmonton 0**

Wednesday, May 19: Winnipeg 4, Edmonton 1  
Friday, May 21: Winnipeg 1, Edmonton 0, OT

Today: Edmonton at Winnipeg, 7:30 p.m.  
Monday, May 24: Edmonton at Winnipeg, 9:45 p.m.  
x-Wednesday, May 26: Winnipeg at Edmonton, TBA

x-Friday, May 28: Edmonton at Winnipeg, TBA  
x-Sunday, May 30: Winnipeg at Edmonton, TBA

**Vegas 2, Minnesota 1**

Sunday, May 16: Minnesota 1, Vegas 0, OT  
Tuesday, May 18: Vegas 3, Minnesota 1

Thursday, May 20: Vegas 5, Minnesota 2  
Saturday, May 22: Vegas at Minnesota, late Monday, May 24: Minnesota at Vegas, 10:30 p.m.

x-Wednesday, May 26: Vegas at Minnesota, TBA  
x-Friday, May 28: Minnesota at Vegas, TBA

**Colorado 3, St. Louis 0**

Monday, May 17: Colorado 4, St. Louis 1  
Wednesday, May 19: Colorado 6, St. Louis 3

Friday, May 21: Colorado 5, St. Louis 1  
Today: Colorado at St. Louis, 5 p.m.

x-Tuesday, May 25: St. Louis at Colorado, TBA  
x-Thursday, May 27: Colorado at St. Louis, TBA  
x-Saturday, May 29: St. Louis at Colorado, TBA

**TRANSACTIONS****BASEBALL****Major League Baseball American League**

CLEVELAND INDIANS — Recalled LHP Kyle Nelson from Columbus (Triple-A East). Optioned RHP Triston McKenzie to Columbus.

HOUSTON ASTROS — Recalled INF Taylor Jones from Sugar Land (Triple-A West). Optioned RHP Tyler Ivey to Sugar Land.

KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Acquired RHP Domingo Tapia from Seattle in exchange for cash considerations and optioned him to Omaha (Triple-A East). Transferred RHP Jesse Hahn from the 10-day IL to the 60-day IL. Sent INF/OF Hunter Dozier to Omaha for a rehab assignment.

MINNESOTA TWINS — Activated RHP Tyler Duffey.

TAMPA BAY RAYS — Transferred LHP Cody Reed from the 10-day IL to the 60-day IL. Activated RHP J.P. Feyereisen. Recalled SS Taylor Walls from Durham (Triple-A East). Claimed C Deivy Grullon off waivers from N.Y. Mets. Optioned RHP Chris Mazza and C Deivy Grullon to Durham.

**Florida LOTTERY**

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

<b>PICK 2 (early)</b> <b>6 - 7</b>	<b>PICK 5 (late)</b> <b>5 - 1 - 4 - 5 - 5</b>
<b>PICK 2 (late)</b> <b>7 - 1</b>	<b>FANTASY 5</b> <b>Unavailable</b>
<b>PICK 3 (early)</b> <b>4 - 1 - 6</b>	<b>LOTTO</b> <b>Unavailable</b>
<b>PICK 3 (late)</b> <b>5 - 8 - 0</b>	<b>POWERBALL</b> <b>Unavailable</b>
<b>PICK 4 (early)</b> <b>2 - 7 - 8 - 5</b>	<b>POWER BALL</b> <b>Unavailable</b>
<b>PICK 4 (late)</b> <b>0 - 7 - 0 - 7</b>	<b>CASH 4 LIFE</b> <b>10 - 18 - 22 - 38 - 54</b>
<b>PICK 5 (early)</b> <b>2 - 2 - 2 - 7 - 2</b>	<b>CASH BALL</b> <b>2</b>

Friday's winning numbers and payouts:

<b>Jackpot Triple Play:</b> 5 - 16 - 18 - 19 - 40 - 41	4-of-5 MB 2 winners \$10,000
6-of-6 1 winner \$250,000	4-of-5 74 winners \$500
5-of-6 10 winners \$982	3-of-5 MB 176 \$200
4-of-6 1,030 \$23	3-of-5 4,811 \$10
3-of-6 17,154 \$1	2-of-5 MB 4,071 \$10
Combo 10+ No winner	<b>Fantasy 5:</b> 11 - 20 - 22 - 24 - 25
Combo9 7 \$500	5-of-5 4 winners \$54,348.11
Combo8 61 \$50	4-of-5 366 \$95.50
Combo7 479 \$20	3-of-5 9,906 \$9.50
Combo6 2,404 \$10	<b>Cash 4 Life:</b> 6 - 15 - 23 - 47 - 56
Combo5 9,180 \$5	<b>Cash Ball:</b> 1
<b>Mega Millions:</b> 6 - 9 - 17 - 18 - 48	5-of-5 CB No winner
<b>Mega Ball:</b> 8	5-of-5 No winner
5-of-5 MB No winner	<b>Players should verify winning numbers by calling 850-487-7777 or at www.flalottery.com.</b>
5-of-5 No winner	

**On the AIRWAVES****TODAY'S SPORTS****AUTO RACING**

**8:55 a.m. (ESPN2)** Formula 1 Monaco Grand Prix  
**11 a.m. (FS1)** NASCAR Cup Series EchoPark Texas Grand Prix, Qualifying

**12:30 p.m. (28 ABC)** Formula 1 Monaco Grand Prix (Same-day Tape)

**1 p.m. (NBCSPT)** Indianapolis 500, Qualifying  
**2:30 p.m. (8 NBC)** Indianapolis 500, Qualifying

**2:30 p.m. (FS1)** NASCAR Cup Series EchoPark Texas Grand Prix  
**6 p.m. (FS1)** Mopar Express Lane NHRA SpringNationals (Same-day Tape)

**MLB**

**1 p.m. (BSFL)** New York Mets at Miami Marlins  
**1 p.m. (MLB)** Chicago White Sox at New York Yankees or Boston Red Sox at Philadelphia Phillies

**1 p.m. (BSUN)** Tampa Bay Rays at Toronto Blue Jays  
**7 p.m. (ESPN)** Chicago Cubs at St. Louis Cardinals

**COLLEGE BASEBALL**

**1 p.m. (BIG10)** Nebraska at Ohio State  
**NBA PLAYOFFS**

**5 a.m. (ESPN)** Boston Celtics at Brooklyn Nets, Game 1 (Same-day Tape)

**1 p.m. (TNT)** Washington Wizards at Philadelphia 76ers, Game 1

**3:30 p.m. (28 ABC)** Los Angeles Lakers at Phoenix Suns, Game 1

**7 p.m. (TNT)** Atlanta Hawks at New York Knicks, Game 1  
**9:30 p.m. (TNT)** TBA at Utah Jazz, Game 1

**4 a.m. (ESPN)** Los Angeles Lakers at Phoenix Suns, Game 1 (Taped)

**WNBA**

**1 p.m. (ESPN)** New York Liberty at Chicago Sky  
**GOLF**

**10 a.m. (ESPN)** PGA Championship Final Round  
**1 p.m. (10 CBS)** PGA Championship Final Round

**3 p.m. (GOLF)** LPGA Tour Pure Silk Championship, Final Round  
**NHL STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS**

**2:30 p.m. (NBCSPT)** Carolina Hurricanes at Nashville Predators, Game 4

**5 p.m. (NBCSPT)** Colorado Avalanche at St. Louis Blues, Game 4

**7 p.m. (USA)** Boston Bruins at Washington Capitals, Game 5  
**7:30 p.m. (NBCSPT)** Edmonton Oilers at Winnipeg Jets, Game 3

**COLLEGE LACROSSE**

**12 p.m. (ESPNU)** NCAA Tournament, Quarterfinal: Notre Dame vs Maryland

**2:30 p.m. (ESPNU)** NCAA Tournament, Quarterfinal: Loyola (Md.) vs Duke (Same-day Tape)

**OUTDOORS**

**8 a.m. (FS1)** Bassmaster Fishing Elite Series  
**SOCCER**

**10:55 a.m. (NBCSPT)** Premier League Leicester City vs Tottenham Hotspur

**10:59 a.m. (GOLF)** Premier League Wolverhampton Wanderers vs Manchester United

**10:59 a.m. (USA)** Premier League Aston Villa vs Chelsea  
**11 a.m. (8 NBC)** Premier League Liverpool vs Crystal Palace

**4:30 p.m. (13 FOX)** MLS Atlanta United FC at Seattle Sounders FC

**9 p.m. (FS1)** MLS Austin FC at Nashville SC  
**11:30 p.m. (FS1)** MLS Atlanta United FC at Seattle Sounders FC (Same-day Tape)

**COLLEGE SOFTBALL**

**12 p.m. (ESPN2)** NCAA Tournament, Regional: Teams TBA  
**2 p.m. (ESPN2)** NCAA Tournament, Regional: Teams TBA

**4 p.m. (ESPN)** (ESPN2) NCAA Tournament, Regional: Teams TBA  
**4:30 p.m. (ESPNU)** NCAA Tournament, Regional: Teams TBA (Same-day Tape)

**6 p.m. (ESPN2)** NCAA Tournament, Regional: Teams TBA  
**6:30 p.m. (ESPNU)** NCAA Tournament, Regional: Teams TBA (Same-day Tape)

**8 p.m. (ESPN2)** NCAA Tournament, Regional: Teams TBA  
**8:30 p.m. (ESPNU)** NCAA Tournament, Regional: Teams TBA (Same-day Tape)

**10 p.m. (ESPN2)** NCAA Tournament, Regional: Teams TBA  
**10:30 p.m. (ESPNU)** NCAA Tournament, Regional: Teams TBA (Same-day Tape)

**2 a.m. (ESPNU)** NCAA Tournament, Regional: Teams TBA (Taped)  
**TENNIS**

**5 a.m. (TENNIS)** Lyon-ATP Final, Belgrade-ATP 2, Parma-ATP & Strasbourg-WTA Early Rounds

**6 a.m. (TENNIS)** Lyon-ATP Final, Belgrade-ATP 2, Parma-ATP & Strasbourg-WTA Early Rounds

**4:30 a.m. (TENNIS)** Belgrade-ATP 2, Parma-ATP & Strasbourg-WTA Early Rounds, Roland Garros Qualifying Round 1  
**TRACK AND FIELD**

**4:30 p.m. (8 NBC)** adidas Boost Boston Games  
**10:30 p.m. (NBCSPT)** Diamond League Gateshead (Same-day Tape)

**SPORTS BRIEFS****Citrus Springs Horseshoe Club**

May 15 results  
Won 3 Games: Betty Delong, Joe Warburton, Ed Durham  
High Series: Betty Delong 269, Joe Warburton 250  
High Game: Betty Delong 96 & 88 & 85, Joe Warburton 85 & 83, Pam Gallopa 83, Ken Stroh 81, Ed Durham 80  
The club pitches on Saturday mornings at 9 a.m., at the old Citrus Springs Community Center at the intersection of N. Citrus Springs Blvd and W. Withlacoochee Trail (Route 39). We are always looking for new members. For more information or if you have questions, call Joe Warburton 352-489-7537.

**No. 9 Florida drops its regular-season finale**

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — No. 9 Florida (35-19, 17-13 SEC) dropped the third and final game at No. 1 Arkansas (42-10, 22-8 SEC) on Saturday afternoon by a 9-3 tally. With the series finale marking the end of the college baseball regular season, the Gators received the No. 6 seed in the SEC Tournament and will take on 11th-seeded Kentucky in Hoover, Ala. on Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.

**MLB hits 20,000 players when M's Godoy debuts**

SAN DIEGO — There was a big number reached in Major League Baseball during the San Diego Padres' 16-1 blow-out over Seattle, and it had nothing to do with runs.

Because when Mariners backup catcher José Godoy made his big league debut Friday night, he became the 20,000th player in MLB history.

There was no fanfare at Petco Park when Godoy came in to catch in the bottom of the sixth inning with the Mariners trailing 12-1. The 26-year-old from Venezuela who signed with St. Louis in 2011 and joined the Seattle system last winter grounded out and walked in his two plate appearances.

**NBA coaches get to open playoffs without masks**

Just in time for the playoffs, the NBA told its head coaches Saturday they may work without masks during games if they have been fully vaccinated.

And coaches quickly took advantage. The NBA's updated policy is consistent with the way things have been trending in the league during the pandemic: Those who are vaccinated simply have more freedoms than those who are not.

— From staff and wire reports

**Bowling SCORES****Parkview Lanes**

SUMMER LEAGUE OPENINGS: All summer leagues will be started by May 21, and although they are essentially full, substitutes and pacers are frequently needed. Leagues are bowling Monday evening, Tuesday morning and evening, Wednesday afternoon and evening, Thursday afternoon and evening, and Friday evening. Contact the Center at 352-489-6933 to sign up for possible subbing or pacing. Coffee Clubs continue to bowl Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, and everyone is welcome at the 9 a.m. opening time.

LEAGUE SCORES FOR THE WEEK ENDING MAY 16:

**PARKVIEW 7-9-8 NOTAP**

Handicap: Milton Smith 336,973; Gary Strausbaugh 333; Bill Johnson 891; Linda Ferguson 388,967; Jan Ciskowski 362; Susan Fabbre 877. Scratch: Milton 300,865; Bob Manfredi 300; Rich Balke 300; Gary Strausbaugh 300; Glenda Johnston 300,725; Susan Fabbre 300,712; Marilyn Seymour 300.

**YOUNG & RESTLESS**

Scratch (adult): John Saltmarsh 197,529; Chris Blydenburgh 182,497; Hannah Roof 280,719; Cathy Roof 181,528. Scratch (youth): Cameron Rada-baugh 191; Cody Underwood 189,540; John Egan 405.

**MILITARY CHALLENGE**

Handicap: Tony Hyatt 280,818; George Livermore 278; John Ortiz 720; Marilyn Seymour 261; Trina Paliwoda 251,708; Mary Ann Soloway 698. Scratch: Tony Hyatt 258,752; George Livermore 235; Walter Hodosky 598; Marilyn Seymour 185,457; Trina Paliwoda 163,444.

**PARKVIEW NOTAP**

Handicap: Ed Starling 308,752; Morris Frank 305,752; Pam Palmer 314,752; Diana Steuterman 311,752. Scratch: Ed Starling 300,728; Jerry Thompson 265; Bill Johnston 677; Terry Cherry 268,631; Pam Palmer 265; Diana Swoboda 607.

**HOLDER HOTSHOTS**

Handicap: Shaun Cater 271,721;



MATT PFIFFNER/Chronicle

**Kennedi Blevins of Citrus gets set to perform a clean-and-jerk lift during this year's Class 2A Girls Weightlifting State Championships.**

**BLEVINS**

Continued from Page B1

anything they set their mind to, despite any obstacles they may face," Blevins said.

To follow in Blevins' footsteps will take the same type of commitment that she has put into the sport. Calise noted that Blevins is "definitely her worst critic" and often records her lifts so she can evaluate them later.

Calise added that Blevins is an outstanding student, maintaining a high GPA while taking on college courses and balancing all that with her workout routine.

"I typically lift 4-5 days a week, do morning HIIT (high-intensity interval training) workouts 3-4 times a week, then have two active recovery days," Blevins said. "I'd say depending on the week I put in 10-15 hours."

With her time with the Hurricanes coming to a close, Blevins plans to stay close to home for the next year while attending the College of Central Florida, then she'll transfer to UCF. But she isn't leaving weightlifting behind.

"So my focus right now is growing my clientele as a personal trainer," Blevins said. "I may still do some local weightlifting competitions myself, but my priority has shifted to helping others achieve their goals."

# MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

## AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division										
	W	L	Pct	GB	WC	L10	Str	Home	Away	
Boston	28	18	.609	—	—	6-4	W-3	13-12	15-6	
Tampa Bay	27	19	.586	½	—	9-1	W-9	11-12	17-7	
New York	27	19	.587	1	—	7-3	W-5	13-9	14-10	
Toronto	23	21	.523	4	3	5-5	L-4	10-9	13-12	
Baltimore	17	28	.378	10½	9½	1-9	L-5	6-18	11-10	

Central Division										
	W	L	Pct	GB	WC	L10	Str	Home	Away	
Chicago	26	18	.591	—	—	5-5	L-2	14-8	12-10	
Cleveland	24	19	.558	1½	1½	5-5	W-1	11-8	13-11	
Kansas City	21	23	.477	5	5	5-5	W-1	11-13	10-10	
Detroit	18	27	.400	8½	8½	7-3	L-1	9-12	9-15	
Minnesota	16	29	.356	10½	10½	4-6	L-1	8-15	8-14	

West Division										
	W	L	Pct	GB	WC	L10	Str	Home	Away	
Oakland	27	19	.587	—	—	6-4	W-1	14-13	13-6	
Houston	26	20	.565	1	1	7-3	L-2	15-9	11-11	
Seattle	21	24	.467	5½	5½	3-7	L-4	12-12	9-12	
Los Angeles	19	26	.422	7½	7½	3-7	W-2	12-13	9-14	
Texas	19	26	.422	7½	7½	3-7	L-2	10-13	9-13	

## NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division										
	W	L	Pct	GB	WC	L10	Str	Home	Away	
New York	21	18	.538	—	—	5-5	L-1	11-4	10-14	
Philadelphia	22	23	.489	2	5½	4-6	L-3	14-9	8-14	
Atlanta	22	24	.478	2½	6	5-5	W-2	12-14	10-10	
Miami	21	24	.467	3	6½	5-4	W-1	9-10	12-14	
Washington	19	23	.452	3½	7	6-4	W-2	11-10	8-13	

Central Division										
	W	L	Pct	GB	WC	L10	Str	Home	Away	
St. Louis	26	19	.578	—	—	5-5	W-1	15-9	11-10	
Chicago	23	22	.511	3	4½	6-4	L-1	16-9	7-13	
Milwaukee	22	23	.489	4	5½	3-7	W-1	10-12	12-1	
Cincinnati	20	24	.455	5½	7	3-7	L-1	11-12	9-12	
Pittsburgh	18	27	.400	8	9½	3-7	L-2	8-11	10-16	

West Division										
	W	L	Pct	GB	WC	L10	Str	Home	Away	
San Diego	28	17	.622	—	—	9-1	W-7	16-10	12-7	
Los Angeles	28	18	.609	½	—	9-1	W-6	16-6	12-12	
San Francisco	28	18	.609	½	—	6-4	L-2	14-6	14-12	
Arizona	18	29	.383	11	10½	1-9	L-7	9-9	9-20	
Colorado	17	29	.370	11½	11	5-5	W-2	15-12	2-17	

## ROUNDUP/MATCHUPS

**Yankees 7, White Sox 0:** Gerrit Cole shook off rare control problems to pitch four-hit ball over seven innings. **Indians 5, Twins 3:** César Hernández hit a two-run homer in the 10th inning off Alex Colomé. **Nationals 12, Orioles 9:** Ryan Zimmerman hit a tiebreaking three-run homer and finished with three hits. **Rockies 7, Diamondbacks 6:** Charlie Blackmon hit a tiebreaking, two-run homer off Madison Bumgarner in a four-run sixth inning. **Rangers 8, Astros 4:** Adolis García hit two homers and helped power Texas past Houston. **Brewers 4, Reds 3:** Daniel Robertson hit his first home run in more than two years, a tiebreaking, seventh-inning drive. **Marlins 3, Mets 1:** Garrett Cooper hit a two-out, two-run homer in the ninth inning. **Braves 6, Pirates 1:** Ozzie Albies hit home runs from both sides of the plate. **Royals 7, Tigers 5:** Andrew Benintendi drove in three runs, Josh Staumont escaped a bases-loaded jam in the ninth inning. **Dodgers 6, Giants 3:** Max Muncy hit a home run into McCovey Cove. **Cardinals 2, Cubs 1:** Four pitchers combined for five innings of scoreless, two-hit relief. **LATE** Boston at Philadelphia Seattle at San Diego Oakland at L.A. Angels **TODAY'S GAMES** **AMERICAN LEAGUE** Chicago White Sox (Keuchel 3-1) at N.Y. Yankees (Taillon 1-3), 1:05 p.m. Tampa Bay (Fleming 3-3) at Toronto (Ryu 4-2), 1:07 p.m. Minnesota (Happ 2-2) at Cleveland (Plesac 4-3), 1:10 p.m. Detroit (Mize 3-3) at Kansas City (Bubic 0-0), 2:10 p.m. Houston (Javier 3-1) at Texas (Foltynewicz 1-4), 2:35 p.m. Oakland (Manaea 3-2) at L.A. Angels (Bundy 0-5), 4:07 p.m. **NATIONAL LEAGUE** Milwaukee (Peralta 4-1) at Cincinnati (Castillo 1-6), 1:10 p.m. N.Y. Mets (TBD) at Miami (Poteet 1-0), 1:10 p.m. Pittsburgh (Brubaker 3-3) at Atlanta (Fried 1-2), 1:20 p.m. Arizona (Widener 1-0) at Colorado (Gray 4-4), 3:10 p.m. L.A. Dodgers (Urias 6-1) at San Francisco (DeSclafani 4-1), 4:05 p.m. Chicago Cubs (Davies 2-2) at St. Louis (Wainwright 2-4), 7:08 p.m. **INTERLEAGUE** Baltimore (Harvey 3-4) at Washington (Corbin 2-3), 1:20 p.m. Boston (Rodriguez 5-2) at Philadelphia (Wheeler 3-2), 1:05 p.m. Seattle (Kikuchi 1-3) at San Diego (Darvish 4-1), 4:10 p.m.

## BOX SCORES

### Tampa Bay 3, Toronto 1

Tampa Bay		Toronto			
ab	rh	bi	ab	rh	bi
Arozarena lf-rf	5	1	1	0	0
Diaz dh	4	0	0	0	0
Lowe 2b-lf	3	0	0	0	0
Margot rf-cf	4	0	2	1	0
Bosseau 3b-2b	4	0	0	0	0
Choi 1b	4	0	1	0	0
Zunino c	4	1	2	1	0
Walls ss	4	1	2	0	0
Kiermaier of	1	0	0	0	0
Phillips ph-1	0	0	0	0	0
Mejia ph	1	0	0	0	0
Wendle 3b	1	0	0	0	0

Scott p	0	0	0	Bell ph	1	0	0
Sulser p	0	0	0	Hand p	0	0	0
Stewart ph	1	0	0	Gomes c	5	0	1
Armstrong p	0	0	0	Mercer 2b	4	0	1
				Lester p	1	0	0
				Stevenson cf	3	1	1

Robertson 2b	1	1	1	Totals	38	9	12
Totals	32	4	6	Totals	33	3	7
<b>Milwaukee</b>	<b>001 002 100</b>	<b>—4</b>					
<b>Cincinnati</b>	<b>002 001 000</b>	<b>—3</b>					
DP—Milwaukee 1, Cincinnati 1. LOB—Milwaukee 6, Cincinnati 3. 2B—Narváez (5), Stephenson (4), Castellanos (11). HR—Urias (5), Robertson (1), Heineman (1), Winker (12).							

Totals 36 3 8 2 Totals 31 16 1  
**Tampa Bay** 000 010 011 —3  
**Toronto** 100 000 000 —1  
 E—Walls (1), Semien (2), Jansen (2), DP—Tampa Bay 3, Toronto 0. LOB—Tampa Bay 7, Toronto 7. 2B—Choi (2), Walls 2 (2), Zunino (3), Hernández (4), Espinal (3). HR—Zunino (11). SB—Margot (5).

Totals 38 9 12 9 Totals 39 12 15 11  
**Baltimore** 501 010 020 —9  
**Washington** 014 403 00x—12  
 E—Franco (6), DP—Baltimore 0, Washington 1. LOB—Baltimore 6, Washington 7. 2B—Galvis (8), Santander (2), Franco (9), Mountcastle (9), Valaika (2), Turner (9), Soto (4). HR—Mountcastle (4), Santander (3), Harrison (4), Zimmerman (5). SF—Castro (3).

Totals 32 4 6 4 Totals 33 3 7 3  
**Milwaukee** 001 002 100 —4  
**Cincinnati** 002 001 000 —3  
 DP—Milwaukee 1, Cincinnati 1. LOB—Milwaukee 6, Cincinnati 3. 2B—Narváez (5), Stephenson (4), Castellanos (11). HR—Urias (5), Robertson (1), Heineman (1), Winker (12).

Tampa Bay		Toronto			
IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
McClanahan	5	4	1	2	4
Feyereisen	1	0	0	0	1
Kittredge W.5-0	1	1	0	0	2
Fairbanks H.5	1	0	0	0	1
Castillo S.8-10	1	1	0	0	1

Totals 38 9 12 9 Totals 39 12 15 11  
**Baltimore** 501 010 020 —9  
**Washington** 014 403 00x—12  
 E—Franco (6), DP—Baltimore 0, Washington 1. LOB—Baltimore 6, Washington 7. 2B—Galvis (8), Santander (2), Franco (9), Mountcastle (9), Valaika (2), Turner (9), Soto (4). HR—Mountcastle (4), Santander (3), Harrison (4), Zimmerman (5). SF—Castro (3).

### Miami 3, N.Y. Mets 1

New York		Miami			
ab	rh	bi	ab	rh	bi
Villar 3b	4	0	1	0	0
Lindor ss	3	0	1	0	0
Maybin lf	3	0	0	0	0
Do.Smith 1b	4	0	1	0	0
Nido c	4	0	1	0	0
Tovar 2b	3	0	0	0	0
Fargas cf	4	0	1	0	0
Lee rf	4	0	0	0	0
Lucchesi p	1	0	0	0	0
Mazeika ph	1	0	0	0	0
Reid-Foley p	0	0	0	0	0
Loup p	0	0	0	0	0
Peraza ph	0	1	0	0	0
Castro p	0	0	0	0	0
McCann ph	1	0	0	0	0
Dr.Smith p	0	0	0	0	0

Totals 36 3 8 2 Totals 31 16 1  
**Tampa Bay** 000 010 011 —3  
**Toronto** 100 000 000 —1  
 E—Walls (1), Semien (2), Jansen (2), DP—Tampa Bay 3, Toronto 0. LOB—Tampa Bay 7, Toronto 7. 2B—Choi (2), Walls 2 (2), Zunino (3), Hernández (4), Espinal (3). HR—Zunino (11). SB—Margot (5).

Totals 32 1 5 1 Totals 31 3 7 3  
**New York** 000 000 010 —1  
**Miami** 000 000 102 —3  
 DP—New York 1, Miami 0. LOB—New York 8, Miami 4. 2B—Fargas (2), Cooper (6). HR—Cooper (5). SF—Dickerson (1).

### N.Y. Yankees 7, Chicago White Sox 0

Chicago		New York			
ab	rh	bi	ab	rh	bi
Anderson ss	3	0	1	0	0
Eaton rf	3	0	0	0	0
Mendick rf	1	0	0	0	0
Moncada 3b	3	0	0	0	0
Abreu 1b	4	0	2	0	0
Mercedess dh	4	0	0	0	0
Grandal c	3	0	0	0	0
Vaughn lf	2	0	0	0	0
García cf	3	0	0	0	0
Madrigal 2b	3	0	2	0	0

Totals 37 6 12 6 Totals 33 7 10 6  
**Arizona** 000 003 300 —6  
**Colorado** 001 204 00x —7  
 E—Escobar (8), Cron (5), DP—Arizona 0, Colorado 2. LOB—Arizona 10, Colorado 4. 2B—Ahmed (7), Reddick (2), Rojas (9), Vogt (4), Peralta (9), Fuentes (2), Story (12), Cron (6). HR—Escobar (12), Blackmon (3), SB—Hampson (9). SF—VanMeter (1). S—Senzatela (4).

Totals 32 1 5 1 Totals 31 3 7 3  
**New York** 000 000 010 —1  
**Miami** 000 000 102 —3  
 DP—New York 1, Miami 0. LOB—New York 8, Miami 4. 2B—Fargas (2), Cooper (6). HR—Cooper (5). SF—Dickerson (1).

### Colorado 7, Arizona 6

Arizona		Colorado			
ab	rh	bi	ab	rh	bi
P.Smith 1b	5	1	1	0	0
Rojas rf	5	1	3	0	0
Escobar 3b	5	2	2	3	0
Peralta lf	4	1	2	0	0
Locastro pr	0	0	0	0	0
Reddick cf	5	1	1	0	0
Vogt c	5	0	1	0	0
Ahmed ss	2	0	1	0	0
Marte ph	1	0	0	0	0
VanMeter 2b	0	1	1	0	0
Bumgarner p	2	0	0	0	0
An.Young ph	0	0	0	0	0
Clarke p	0	0	0	0	0
Soria p	0	0	0	0	0
Estévez p	0	0	0	0	0
McMahon 3b	0	0	0	0	0

Totals 37 6 12 6 Totals 33 7 10 6  
**Arizona** 000 003 300 —6  
**Colorado** 001 204 00x —7  
 E—Escobar (8), Cron (5), DP—Arizona 0, Colorado 2. LOB—Arizona 10, Colorado 4. 2B—Ahmed (7), Reddick (2), Rojas (9), Vogt (4), Peralta (9), Fuentes (2), Story (12), Cron (6). HR—Escobar (12), Blackmon (3), SB—Hampson (9). SF—VanMeter (1). S—Senzatela (4).

### Atlanta 6, Pittsburgh 1

Pittsburgh		Atlanta			
ab	rh	bi	ab	rh	bi
Frazier 2b	4	0	1	0	0
Newman ss	3	0	0	0	0
Reynolds cf	4	0	2	0	0
Polanco rf	4	0	0	0	0
Craig 1b	2	0	1	0	0
Gamel lf	4	0	0	0	0
Difo 3b	4	0	2	0	0
Perez c	4	1	1	0	0
M.Keller p	2	0	0	0	0
Stratton p	0	0	0	0	0
Howard p	0	0	0	0	0
González ph	0	0	0	0	0
Oviedo p	0	0	0	0	0
Vargas ph	1	0	0	0	0

Totals 34 4 8 4 Totals 3

# Elliott chasing 1st win of season



Associated Press

Chase Elliott prepares for practice for Sunday's NASCAR Cup Series race at the Circuit of the Americas, on Saturday in Austin, Texas.

## NASCAR Cup Series set to run in Texas on Sunday

**JIM VERTUNO**  
AP sports writer

AUSTIN, Texas — NASCAR is set to race the Circuit of the Americas for the first time and all eyes are on both Chase Elliott and an unsettling weather forecast of rain that could make the inaugural Texas Grand Prix a wild one.

Elliott, NASCAR's defending champion and most popular driver, will start Sunday as the favorite given his career mastery of road courses. And he needs a win. NASCAR's season of parity has so far produced 10 winners through 13 races but none from Elliott.

Elliott's been close with five top-five finishes and he was runner-up at the Daytona 500 and at Martinsville. He led a race-high 44 laps on the road course at Daytona but a late yellow flag ruined his chance at victory.

It may not be time to worry about Elliott's season, but his Hendrick Motorsports teammates have all been to victory lane this year. Kyle Larson and William Byron have one win each, while

Alex Bowman's victory last week was his second of the season.

"I'm not one to guarantee things in my life," Elliott said when asked this week if he'd expected to win by now. "We all want to win as a team. I want to win as much as anyone else. But we haven't and that's really the bottom line."

In normal conditions, Elliott should feel as comfortable as anyone on a new track. His five career road course wins are the most among active drivers and he's won four of the last five outings on road tracks.

If he wins a sixth race on a road course, Elliott would be just the seventh driver in history to reach that mark, tying him with Bobby Allison, Richard Petty, Rusty Wallace and Ricky Rudd.

But the dark cloud looming over Sunday is the likelihood of rain, which National Weather Service forecasts at better than 50%. The drivers slipped and slid their way through Saturday morning's windy and wet practice session that may have been fun for some, but likely left none of them feeling comfortable about the race.

For some, it was their first laps around a track that was built for Formula One.

"It was a blast," said Byron, who was fastest in the session. "I hope it rains. For the fans, I think it would be awesome if it rains."

Joey Logano was second in practice, ahead of Kyle Larson and Kyle Busch. Busch and Martin Truex Jr. each have four road course victories.

Elliott, who was fifth in practice, admitted this week he doesn't think he's very good racing in wet conditions.

"The rain tire is certainly a bit of a question mark and it's not one I'm very good at," Elliott said. "Especially coming to a new track. (Rain) completely changes everything about the course and what you do."

"For guys who race in the rain enough, they can make that transition. I just haven't done it enough to feel real confident. What to change, where to change it, how to change it, braking zone changes ... There's really not a good way to prepare for that."

### VEEXING VISIBILITY

Byron and Logano said the visibility was next to zero on the track's two high-speed straights because of the rooster tail of spray spit out by the cars ahead. That could be a factor if there's more rain Sunday.

"If you are going down the straightaway, you just trust the guy in front of you isn't stopped," Byron said. "If there's a wreck on the straightaway, it's going to be a mess."

### ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT

Actor Matthew McConaughey will be the Grand Marshal for Sunday's race. It's his second time in the role and the first since he gave the start command at the Daytona 500 in 2005. McConaughey is part of the ownership group of the expansion Austin FC in Major League Soccer. McConaughey's name has also surfaced as a possible candidate for Texas governor in 2022.

### ODDS & ENDS

Elliott is a 5-2 favorite to snag his first win of the season in the season's first race in Texas, according to FanDuel Sportsbook... NASCAR will be back in the state for the All-Star race weekend in June at Texas Motor Speedway in Fort Worth... Chris Buescher is the only Texas native who is a full-time Cup Series driver. He hails from Prosper, which is near Dallas... Byron has finished in the top 10 in 11 consecutive races, which ties him with Logano (2015) for the third-longest top-10 streak among active drivers... Elliott isn't the only top-flight driver trying to find a breakthrough win this season. Kevin Harvick who had nine wins a year ago, and Denny Hamlin, who had seven, are both chasing their first victory of 2021.

# Busch rolls in Xfinity

**JIM VERTUNO**  
AP sports writer

AUSTIN, Texas — Kyle Busch turned in a dominating performance to win the NASCAR Xfinity race at the Circuit of the Americas on Saturday, with lessons learned for maybe an even bigger victory later in the weekend.

Busch, looking to get some extra laps and much-needed track experience before the NASCAR Cup Series race, stepped into the Xfinity lineup and crushed the field from the pole position with a pace and road course mastery that left little doubt about the outcome from the opening laps.

Busch led 36 of 46 laps and finished 11 seconds ahead of A.J. Allmendinger for his record 98th Xfinity victory and 217th in NASCAR's top three series.

The win and the course knowledge will be a boost heading into Sunday's Cup race if conditions stay the same. The Saturday race was dry. Rain looms in the forecast for Sunday.

NASCAR's inaugural race weekend at the 3.4-mile track built for Formula One is pushing drivers to quickly learn its 20 turns, s-curves and elevation changes. None are trickier than the first corner, a left-handed switchback that quickly send the cars into a 133-foot descent.

Busch had cut through the wet conditions in the morning to earn pole position and was just as dominant when the sun came out.

Ross Chastain started second and challenged Busch from the start through the first corner. But his race was done early as he broke an axle when he left the track in the first lap and his car limped back to the garage.

Busch led most of the first stage but wound up 13th after getting delayed by traffic in pit lane. He quickly returned to the front before pitting again at the end of the second. Justin Haley, who missed last week's race at Dover because of what was termed as problems with coronavirus protocols, won the second stage.

Busch then closed the door on the field with a bolt up the hill out of third-stage restart. He had a car-length lead heading in the first turn, denying Allmendinger's best chance to make a race of it late.

Justin Allgaier finished third. Xfinity series leader and defending champ Austin Cindric, who has three wins and seven top-five finishes this season, finished fifth.

### Gilliland rallies to take trucks series race in Austin

AUSTIN, Texas — Todd Gilliland powered through wet conditions early, then grabbed the lead late to pull away for his first NASCAR trucks series victory of the season at the Circuit of the Americas.

Gilliland was in a four-car group that drew from the pack at the start of the final stage, then overtook Sheldon Creed, Tyler Ankrum and Kaz Grala over the final laps. This was his second career trucks win and first since 2019.

"From the drop of the green flag, I was aggressive," said Gilliland, who started fifth and overcame a penalty that briefly put him in the back of the field. "If you've got the truck to do it ... you've got to get by people when you can."

# Team Penske struggles with speed

## Power outside Indy 500 field

**JENNA FRYER**  
AP auto racing writer

INDIANAPOLIS — It's been 26 years since a Roger Penske car missed the Indianapolis 500 in one of the lowest points for the storied organization. Penske now owns the place, and yet his team stunningly finds itself fighting for a spot in the field.

Will Power, one of the greatest qualifiers in IndyCar history, failed to seal his spot in the 33-car field on Saturday's first day of qualifications. The 2018 Indy 500 winner will be one of five drivers vying for the final three spots in the field Sunday when qualifying is completed.

Power's struggles were the worst of a Team Penske group that has lagged behind the competition all week at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

None of the four Penske entries have been that impressive and the struggle to find speed stretched to Simona de Silvestro, who returned to Indy for the first time since 2015 with a female-led race team that is backed by Roger Penske in his push for diversity.

De Silvestro beat the clock by a mere eight seconds for a final qualifying attempt but it was not

enough to lock her into the top 30. Power and de Silvestro will square off against Charlie Kimball, Sage Karam and rookie R.C. Enerson in a last-row shootout Sunday.

Two drivers will miss the race and the shootout field includes a pair of Penske cars for the first time since 1995 when Al Unser Jr. and Emerson Fittipaldi missed the race.

"You need to be a scientist to work this one out," said Power, who with 62 poles trails only Mario Andretti's record of 67 poles on the career list. Power had qualified in the first three rows of the Indy 500 in 11 of the last 12 years.

"We gave it our best shot. I think that if we just do a conservative run tomorrow we should be OK," Power said. "But if something goes wrong you are out."

No one expected a Team Penske struggle but it was clear immediately Saturday that the Chevy-backed powerhouse had nothing for most of the field. But it wasn't a Chevrolet issue, even though Honda claimed seven spots in the Fast Nine.

The pole and first three rows for the May 30 race are settled Sunday and the quartet from Chip Ganassi Racing has the edge. Six-time IndyCar champion Scott Dixon posted the fastest four-lap average to open qualifying and nobody knocked him from



Associated Press

Will Power, of Australia, watches as Simona De Silvestro, of Switzerland, drives during qualifications for the Indianapolis 500 at Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Saturday in Indianapolis.

the top spot over the next six hours.

Colton Herta for Andretti Autosport was second fastest and followed by Ganassi driver Tony Kanaan. Ed Carpenter was fourth and followed by Rinus VeeKay, the 20-year-old Ed Carpenter Racing driver who scored the first IndyCar win of his career last week on Indy's road course.

Carpenter and VeeKay are the only Chevrolet drivers in the Fast Nine.

The day was dominated

by Honda and at one point Dixon said the engine-maker was chasing all nine slots in the Fast Nine. Helio Castroneves was sixth for Meyer Shank Racing and followed by Alex Palou of Ganassi, Ryan Hunter-Reay of Andretti and Marcus Ericsson in the final Ganassi entry.

Palou was devastated, though, after crashing during a late afternoon qualifying attempt. He'd been worried he was going to be bumped from the

Fast Nine and tried to better his time in the heat of the team against the better judgement of his crew.

"I was pushing the team. The team was on the fence of going out now with the weather, so I was pushing them like 'Hey, guys, we have a fast car, we can go,'" Palou said. "So I'm feeling a bit stupid for not listening to the team and then really sorry for all the work they put in."

The car could be repaired and Palou does not need a backup for Sunday.

# A wild ride for Mickelson, 18 holes from history



Phil Mickelson hits his second shot on the 16th hole from the rough during the third round at the PGA Championship golf tournament on the Ocean Course, Saturday in Kiawah Island, S.C.

Associated Press

KIAWAH ISLAND, S.C. — Phil Mickelson could have done without the thrills Saturday in the PGA Championship.

Losing a five-shot lead in a span of five holes on the back nine. One tee shot into the water, another that ended up under a cart tire. It was all part of a wildly entertaining day at Kiawah Island that ended with Mickelson nearly holding a flop shot that can test the nerves of just about

any 50-year-old but him. That brought Mickelson to the cusp of history not many could have seen coming.

That par save for a 2-under 70 gave him a one-shot lead over Brooks Koepka and left him 18 holes away from becoming the oldest champion in the 161 years of the majors.

When he curled in the 4-foot putt for par on the 18th hole, Mickelson became the oldest player with a 54-hole lead in a major since 59-year-old

Tom Watson at Turnberry in 2009.

That didn't end well for Watson, who lost that British Open in a playoff to Stewart Cink. For Mickelson, it's an opportunity to become the oldest major champion. Julius Boros was 48 when he won the 1968 PGA Championship.

Asked to describe such an occasion, Mickelson was too busy glancing at his watch. Sunlight was fading and he wanted to practice. These opportunities don't come along as

often as they once did. "I'm not really dwelling back on what took place today," he said.

Sunday should get his attention, starting with the guy who joins him in the final group. Koepka survived what he called the worst putting of his career. Statistically, he was middle of the pack, but he missed a 6-foot par on the final hole for a 70 that cost him a share of the lead.

No matter. At stake for Koepka is a shot at his third Wanamaker Trophy in four years. No one has won the PGA Championship so often so quickly since it switched to stroke play in 1958.

"I'm in the final group," Koepka said. "That's what you want."

Mickelson was at 7-under 209. For all his success in the majors — five victories, runner-up finishes in all four of them — this is only the third time he has held the 54-hole lead.

Koepka, shaking off effects from ligament surgery on his right knee that has limited him to two tournaments in three months before arriving at Kiawah, wasn't surprised to have another shot at a major. He already has four of them in the last five years.

"It just feels good, feels normal. It's what you're supposed to do, what you practice for," he said. "I'm right where I want to be, and we'll see how tomorrow goes."

Louis Oosthuizen started the third round tied with Mickelson and had a long three-putt bogey. The South African never caught up, though he had his chances until missing a 4-foot birdie putt on the par-5 16th and a 5-foot par putt on the par-3 17th.

He wound up with a 72 and was two shots behind.

Jordan Spieth matched the low round of the day with a 68, still seven shots behind and most likely too far back to contend with a

dozen players ahead of him. Spieth was headed back to his rental home to flip on the TV, a rarity for him.

But it's Phil. It's theater. "I don't watch golf but I promise you I'm going to turn it on to watch him today," Spieth said. "It's pretty incredible. I have no way to relate to it, right? But I also don't think it's necessarily that special because didn't he win a World Golf Championships in the last couple years?"

"The guy's got four good rounds on any golf course in him, and no one would bet against that."

Mickelson has had three good ones at Kiawah Island.

One more for history.

## Wei-Ling Hsu, Moriya Jutanugarn share Kingsmill lead

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. — Wei-Ling Hsu birdied the final hole for a 6-under 65 and a

share of the third-round lead with Moriya Jutanugarn in the LPGA Tour's Pure Silk Championship.

Jutanugarn eagled the par-5 seventh in a 65 to match Hsu at 10-under 203 on Kingsmill Resort's firm and fast River Course.

### Key hole

KIAWAH ISLAND, S.C. — A look at the key hole Saturday in the third round of the PGA Championship:  
**HOLE:** 13.  
**YARDAGE:** 481.  
**PAR:** 4.  
**STROKE AVERAGE:** 4.28.  
**RANK:** 2.  
**KEY FACT:** Phil Mickelson was bogey-free on the round and had a four-shot lead when he drove into the water. Because of where it crossed the hazard line, he had to re-tee and missed a 12-foot putt to take double bogey, reducing his lead to one shot.

### PGA Championship

Saturday  
 At Kiawah Island Ocean Course  
 Kiawah Island, S.C.  
 Purse: \$8.1 million  
 Yardage: 7,876; Par: 72  
 Third Round

Phil Mickelson	70-69-70—209	-7
Brooks Koepka	69-71-70—210	-6
Louis Oosthuizen	71-68-72—211	-5
Kevin Streelman	70-72-72—212	-4
Christiaan Bezuidenhout	71-70-72—213	-3
Branden Grace	70-71-72—213	-3
Bryson DeChambeau	72-71-71—214	-2
Joaquin Niemann	71-72-71—214	-2
Gary Woodland	70-72-72—214	-2
Paul Casey	71-71-73—215	-1
Sungjae Im	70-72-73—215	-1
Corey Conners	67-75-73—215	-1
Jordan Spieth	73-75-68—216	E
Rickie Fowler	71-76-69—216	E
Tony Finau	74-72-70—216	E
Patrick Cantlay	73-73-70—216	E
Keegan Bradley	69-75-72—216	E

Matt Fitzpatrick	73-71-72—216	E
Charley Hoffman	73-70-73—216	E
Jason Kokrak	71-72-73—216	E
Harry Higgs	72-71-73—216	E
Richy Werenski	71-72-73—216	E

### Pure Silk Championship

Saturday  
 At Kingsmill Resort — River Course  
 Williamsburg, Va.  
 Purse: \$1.3 million  
 Yardage: 6,588; Par: 71  
 Third Round

Moriya Jutanugarn	71-67-65—203	-10
Wei-Ling Hsu	66-72-65—203	-10
Jessica Korda	70-67-67—204	-9
Lizette Salas	73-68-64—205	-8
Sarah Kemp	69-67-69—205	-8
Giulia Molinaro	73-70-63—206	-7
Ryann O'Toole	68-72-66—206	-7
Lauren Stephenson	71-68-67—206	-7
Elizabeth Szokol	68-72-67—207	-6
Ruixin Liu	67-73-67—207	-6
Wichanee Meechai	70-68-69—207	-6

## CBS Citrus County Invites you to a Doo Wop Night Featuring Jim McGreevey

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# Let's look at the bright side



Gerry Mulligan  
**OUT THE WINDOW**

We are trained to complain. And I admit it; I am as guilty as anyone is. Most of us spend a good part of life offering criticism to just anyone who will listen. In Citrus County, we are quick to complain that the sheriff's department does not stop enough speeding drivers; that all our county commissioners are dopes; and we live with thousands of litterbugs who just toss stuff out the windows of their cars.

None of that is true, but it is much easier to complain about things than do something to make life better. From my perspective, we have done a pretty good job in Citrus County on some of the big things. I was a speaker this week at a GOP meeting in Homosassa and had the opportunity to identify some problems and identify some of the things we do right. It got me thinking. Put on your rose-colored glasses

for a minute and read consider some of the great things in Citrus County. We have an excellent public school system. The operation and leadership is outstanding. We survived the pandemic without going bankrupt. We produce strong graduates and our system still believes in student discipline. We have great schools. Our education foundation has become one of the best in Florida. The public donates money to the

foundation and the group uses the funds to pump supplies into the system. What great support. It takes an involved community to build great schools. And we have just that. Three Sisters Springs is one of the top National Wildlife Refuges in the country. Remember, this was going to be developed into a condominium project until citizens stepped up, pulled together more than \$10 million, and turned the 57-acres into a wildlife sanctuary. We See **WINDOW/Page C3**

## Making smart connections



MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle file

Bicyclists pedal along the Withlacoochee State Trail, a 46-mile-long converted railroad bed that runs through Citrus County.

### Time is right to revisit, update Citrus Master Trail Map



Dennis Damato  
**GUEST COLUMN**

Some very good and interesting developments have occurred since the Citrus County Board of Commissioners (BOCC) adopted the "Citrus County Paved Trail Network Map." The amount and quality of non-motorized paved pedestrian trails has increased dramatically in our county. This can be attributed to major construction, upgrading and expansion of state-

funded roadway projects. The Suncoast Parkway extension will add 13 miles of paved trail ways in a North-South direction upon the completion of this long-awaited regional transportation project. It will connect the existing terminus located at U.S. 98 in the southern part of the county with State Road 44 in the center of the county. Planning is ongoing to

extend the current phase of the parkway to County Road 486, U.S. 19 and beyond in the future. This major tollway has created many new connection opportunities that need to be identified, highlighted, approved and documented. Another very important element has also been added with the U.S. 19 roadway

See **TRAIL/Page C3**



Cortney Stewart  
**SEEING BEYOND**

### With graduation comes new opportunity

Dear Class of 2021: You've made it. Can you even believe it?

You completed your senior year in one of the wildest periods in recent American history. Congratulations! You've already started defying the odds.

That's good news because we're going to need you to keep doing that. We're counting on you to grow up to be the leaders of our community, our state, our nation, and our world. And we're depending on you to do a better job than we're currently doing.

That may seem like pressure but think of it more as an opportunity. The possibility of greatness does lie within you. So as you begin your trek into the future, I offer up three small pieces of advice to help you start your journey:

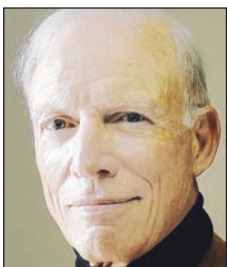
High school doesn't define you. Up until this point in your lives, your status in society has so often been equated with your GPA, the number of varsity letters you've acquired, and the ever-increasing list of extracurricular activities you've managed to hustle through.

The good news is that upon graduation, those factors hold far less weight than they ever have before.

This is your shot to start afresh. No matter what you choose to do with the next phase of your life — college, trade school, the workforce — this is your moment to shed what, for many, have been pretty

See **BEYOND/Page C3**

## Disinformation alters course of pandemic recovery



Dr. William Dixon  
**GUEST COLUMN**

Disinformation about the coronavirus and vaccines is causing needless deaths and permanent injuries. What follows is the best information I can glean from actual scientific publications.

The coronavirus is about 10 times more deadly than the flu. Unlike the flu, it can leave long-lasting and devastating side effects even in young people. Some virus

survivors are reporting chronic lung injury, cardiac injuries, chronic fatigue and some deterioration in mental function, as well as permanent loss of taste and smell. This is not a virus that one should carelessly invite into one's life.

There appears to be little risk of contracting it out of doors or in big box type buildings like a Walmart. The virus accumulates in

the air in smaller rooms containing less volume regardless of whether or not the occupants are wearing masks. In a gathering of 10 to 20 people in such a room there is a high likelihood that one or more of the people will be carrying the virus. Social distancing is meaningless in such an environment.

The only proven value of masks of surgical quality

(but not cloth) seems to be in reducing the spread of viral particles from the wearer. None of the studies I researched indicated that wearing a mask substantially protects one from the virus. The particles of moisture carrying the virus and the virus itself are small enough to pass through any mask and around all masks.

The best prevention is had by being vaccinated.

People who have completed the vaccination process have little likelihood of becoming clinically infected and almost no likelihood of dying from the virus. And they are highly unlikely to spread the virus to others. People who have been vaccinated or who have recovered from a clinical infection seem to have no need for wearing masks or

See **COURSE/Page C3**

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Mahatma Gandhi

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

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

TIME TO MAKE IT HAPPEN

# The community supports a new shelter

The good news is that the Citrus County Commission has voted to move ahead with plans to build a new animal shelter. The current facility has been in need of replacement for more than a decade. Finally, three members of the Citrus County Commission — Ruthie Schla-bach, Holly Davis and Jeff Kinnard — stood strong and voted to proceed with replacement plans. It was the right thing to do.

Commissioner Ron Kitchen led the opposition by throwing up roadblocks everywhere he could.

After decades of roadblocks, three commissioners finally showed the fortitude to overcome the artificial outrage and move ahead.

The commission decision was simply to instruct the county administrator to move forward with a plan. Administrator Randy Oliver now has to come up with a range of options and plans for the county to approve.

Of course, the community wants the commission majority to be thoughtful and conservative in approving spending plans for new shelter. One of the artificial roadblocks originally thrown up by the county administration to derail the animal shelter proposal was getting a consultant to establish an outrageous price tag of \$11.5 million on the project.

Citrus County is not going to spend \$11.5 million on an animal shelter. However, the commission is also not going to force county workers and animals to survive in a sub-standard facility that has needed a major overhaul for more than a decade.

We have confidence the

board majority will make the proper decision in reviewing the options.

At the same time, we would like to help facilitate some fundraising from citizens, organizations and foundations to demonstrate support of a new animal shelter. An individual donor, who insisted on being anonymous, has already dropped a \$100,000 check off at the Chronicle.

Other contributions have followed and we

think that is a clear message to the county commission that this is a community priority. Therefore, we invite all animal advocates to send a contribution to the Chronicle animal shelter fund. We pledge those dollars will be used for the stated purpose.

Commissioner Kitchen made fun of the possibility that people would actually donate to make a shelter happen. He said people would raise their hands but never write a check.

The check for \$100,000 was dropped off at the newspaper 24 hours after those remarks were made.

We invite you to join the effort. Send in your support to: The Chronicle animal shelter fund, 1624 N. Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34429. You can also drop off donations at the front desk of the newspaper.

And finally, to make things easier for the digital crowd, you can contribute at the Chronicle animal shelter fund GoFundMe page at <https://gofund.me/73903811>.

Let us show county leaders just how serious animal lovers are about supporting a new shelter. Citrus County residents are willing to put their money where their hearts are.

**THE ISSUE:**

A new animal shelter.

**OUR OPINION:**

Make a contribution to help fund this community priority.

**Support the shelter**

- You can support the construction of a new animal shelter by contributing to the Chronicle Animal Shelter Fund by mailing a check to The Chronicle, 1624 N. Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River, FL. Contributions can also be dropped off at Chronicle offices in Inverness and Crystal River. Digital contributions can be made at the GoFundMe page at: <https://gofund.me/73903811>.



**Commissioners should have term limits**

We have two commissioners who continue to show why there should be term limits for commissioners, especially the one who continues to vote

**Thank you for paying for breakfast**

Thank you to the kind gentleman who paid for the lady's breakfast at New England Café on Saturday (May 8). It was greatly appreciated.

# Legislative session helped Crystal River move forward

As the Mayor of our coastal community of Crystal River, I would like to thank the Florida Legislature for their hard work this past legislative session addressing numerous issues that are not just important to Crystal River, but to all coastal communities across the state.



Joe Meek  
**GUEST COLUMN**

It was a truly transformative year for Florida's coastal communities with significant funding and projects that will make lasting changes and have a positive impact. From legislation that encourages homeowners to take steps to protect their homes from flooding, including offering tax breaks to those who voluntarily elevate their property, to approving the "Always Ready" bill to address flooding and sea level rise threats through a statewide approach that empowers locals through a grant program — coastal

communities will now have the tools to help them.

On the budget side, there were many standouts for our coastal communities, such as the above-mentioned Resilient Florida Grant Program, which was funded at \$500 million for projects such as storm hardening and infrastructure to help us prepare for the future. The legislature also tackled water quality issues, which is so important to

Crystal River. They funded the Wastewater Grant Program at \$500 million, appropriated \$116.6 million in water projects, which included \$4 million for Kings Bay. They funded an additional \$75 million for Springs Restoration and \$100 million for Coastal Mapping to allow coastal communities to know what areas are most susceptible to flooding so they may fund infrastructure projects accordingly.

From beach restoration and manatee habitat renewal, to springs restoration in Crystal River, and many other water quality initiatives, the Florida Legislature moved forward with major environmental initiatives, backed by significant funding, that will have a positive impact on Crystal River and our entire state.

During an unprecedented year, led by Speaker Chris Sprowls and our local delegation of Senate President Wilton Simpson and Representative Ralph Massullo, with the support of Governor Ron DeSantis — the state took measures to improve our environment.

On behalf of Crystal River, we are thankful to the Legislature for making Florida's coastal communities a priority this session.

*Joe Meek is the Mayor of Crystal River. He was a two-term member of the Citrus County Commission and served as president of the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce.*

LETTERS  to the Editor

**OPINIONS INVITED**

- **Viewpoints** depicted in political cartoons, columns or letters do not necessarily represent the opinion of the editorial board.
- **Groups or individuals** are invited to express their opinions in a letter to the editor.
- **Persons** wishing to address the editorial board, which meets weekly, should call **Jeff Bryan** at 352-563-5660.
- **All letters** must be signed and include a phone number and hometown, including letters sent via email. Names and hometowns will be printed; phone numbers will not be published or given out.
- **We reserve** the right to edit letters for length, libel, fairness and good taste.
- **Letters** must be no longer than 400 words, and writers will be limited to four letters per month.
- **SEND LETTERS TO:** The Editor, 1624 N. Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34429; or email to [letters@chronicleonline.com](mailto:letters@chronicleonline.com).

**Shop local, support your hometown**

Citrus River and Citrus County is extremely fortunate to have a multitude of locally owned, small businesses. They are truly the backbone of our economy. I would like to ask that we focus on shopping local, now more than ever.

Our local businesses support our community through their investment, providing employment to our citizens, providing goods and services to our community, and by always being the first ones to step up and provide charity and support throughout our area. From supporting our local little leagues, to donating funds to nonprofits, locally owned businesses are the ones that make it happen.

In Crystal River, you can shop at a multitude of fantastic shops, that carry everything from name brand clothing to locally produced art. While you are enjoying our local shops, take a break at one of our many local restaurants. In Crystal River, you can enjoy fresh caught seafood from numerous establishments, many of them owned by the same family for generations. Have a drink at one of our sports bars or taverns or find a fine meal at one of our locally owned steak houses or fine dining restaurants.

hard work so many do every day to make Crystal River and Citrus County a better place to call home.

Shop local!  
 Mayor Joe Meek  
 Crystal River

**Thank you for excellent care**

I was having some health issues and went to Dr. Paul Hellstern. He found the problem and immediately referred me to a surgeon.

Dr. Marc Fernandez operated last Monday and I came home Thursday. These two doctors are amazing and truly care for their patients. We are lucky to have these outstanding doctors in our community.

The care I received at Citrus Memorial was top notch.

From the staff in same day surgery to the nurses and assistants on the third floor, each one was attentive and helpful. I am afraid I don't remember everyone's name, but my nurses included Nalese (a traveling nurse), Paige, Lindsay and Tracey. Their assistants were also amazing.

Citrus County has professional, caring, dedicated doctors, nurses and other health care workers. I am proud to live here.

Cindy Staten  
 Inverness

**Hot Corner: ANIMAL SHELTER**

■ The adoption of a new centralized animal shelter by three of the county commissioners — with one commissioner on the fence and one commissioner a total holdout — is in the best interests of the citizens of the county. Now we need a "Best of the Best" donor-recognition plan before groundbreaking for those of us planning to make donations of all sizes to support this new shelter.

■ I'm responding to our animal shelter. This is really pathetic and ridiculous. They've been talking about this for so long. Meanwhile, the more they wait, the more it increases to build, to build, to build. That's our commissioners, they procrastinate, procrastinate, procrastinate. We don't need an outside company to tell us how to build an animal shelter. You mean to tell me we can't get a local architect to design something feasible that takes care of our animals? It's very easy. Stop hiring outside companies trying to tell you what to build and how to build it and stop procrastinating. Build it now, because if you keep waiting, it will be \$20 million before you decide to build it.

■ I have an opinion about the animal shelter. What I don't understand is why you have to spend \$8 million for a new building when there's a lot of buildings that are available. In fact, in Meadowcrest there's one there that the county already owns. All they have to do is convert it to a shelter and put in like a pet's market to pay for it. Anyway, it's just an opinion. It's on (State Road) 44 and in Meadowcrest.

■ I am calling regarding Sunday's Sound Off (May 16's Page C4 "Hot Corner: Animal Shelter"), wherein the caller stated Citrus County did not need a new animal shelter because the animals don't care. They only care about food, water and shade. That is totally incorrect. The dogs at the current shelter don't have air-conditioning. They have huge fans running during the summer months, at least, and there's not a huge enough area for the cats and kittens that come in. So until you get all your facts straight, don't judge the animals.

■ I'm calling about the animal shelter in the paper this morning, Monday (May 17's Sound Off), the "Experience lies

in metro areas," like Miami-Dade, Atlanta, Louisville, etc. That's ridiculous. I've never heard of anything getting consultants from those areas and having to pay all that money. What is the matter with finding consultants in our local area or talking to the other ones that have just built their new animal shelter-hospitals and finding out who they used instead of going into this large-city consultant situation? That's ridiculous. We are just a little one and it should be done locally.

■ At least you commissioners should use some common sense when it comes to the animal shelter, even if the animal lovers don't. \$8 million to \$11 million to build a new animal shelter is totally ridiculous when there's so many things in the county that really seriously need to be done. So come on, commissioners, wake up. Use some common sense. Do what you have to do to make the animal shelter that we have now more usable.

■ Hey, Gerry, would you consider collecting contributions for a new animal shelter like you did for United Way? Also, I will be tipping my carrier from now on. Thanks.





Photo provided by Citrus County Government

This map, provided by the Citrus County Visitors Bureau, depicts the network of existing, proposed, conceptual paved trails in Citrus County.

## TRAIL

Continued from Page C1

capacity expansion and improvement project. An additional new

North-South non-motorized pedestrian trail will connect U.S. 98 to Fort Island Trail in the city of Crystal River. Upon completion, Chassahowitzka, Sugarmill Woods and Homosassa Springs will be

linked to the existing trail ways in the city of Crystal River. In the northern part of the county, the “Closing of the Gap” in the Withlacoochee State Trail is under construction

between the Citrus Springs Trailhead and U.S. 41/County Road 39. A creative solution is being utilized by tunneling under U.S. 41 to form the connection. The “Closing of the

Gap” was the impetus that allowed me to champion the formation of the “Citrus County Paved Trail Network Map” when I served on the BOCC. The timeframe was in 2014, just after the state

and its public/private partners had completed a pedestrian bridge over the Withlacoochee River. This linked Dunnellon in Marion County with a

See TRAIL/Page C4

## WINDOW

Continued from Page C1

protected paradise and won the fight!

■ Compared to most communities, Citrus County is a safe place to live.

■ Family tourism is booming in Citrus County. People who love the outdoors are coming here and creating a completely new branch of our economy.

■ Citrus County residents step up and make good things happen. Citizens raised \$8.3 million and built a state-of-the art YMCA. A countywide food bank was created. The

Boys & Girls Club is thriving. And don't forget what happened around Christmas when the Chronicle told the story about the grandma who suddenly had to raise her two grandchildren but they had no place to live. People donated more than \$70,000 and got the family a new home. (Jimmy at Seafood Seller in Crystal River was a rock star with this effort.) There are dozens of volunteer-driven nonprofits that help in so many areas.

■ Citrus County is booming. Downtown has become a destination and the city is thriving. Mayor Joe Meek and City Manager Ken Frink are the dynamic duo.

■ Inverness is also completely redesigned as a “Small City Done Right.” Twenty-five years ago, some people wanted to tear down the empty buildings. Now the town is a Central Florida hot spot. OK, maybe not a hot spot but we are least lukewarm.

■ We have great health care available. Citrus Memorial, Bayfront at Seven Rivers and the new emergency center in Citrus Hills are all providing strong services. In addition, the number of private practice physicians and specialists has exploded. There are great health care options right here.

■ Recreation is the name of the game in our county. Fishing and boating in lakes, rivers and the Gulf of Mexico. Golf, tennis, kayaking, hiking and some of the best bike trails anywhere. We have so many options to enjoy the great outdoors.

■ Youth sports are such a big deal and they reinforce the small town values of our community. Every weekend the parks are filled with baseball, football, soccer, flag football and basketball leagues. And here is the key — volunteer parents make them all happen. Parents know that being involved in the activities of their children is how we

reinforce family values. It is happening here every day.

■ Economic opportunities exist — especially for entrepreneurs. COVID has slowed things down, but those in service businesses of every type have more work than they can handle.

■ The real estate segment is on fire. Home values have increased dramatically and everything is selling. People want to live here.

So yes, there are plenty of things we can complain about. But how about we all spend a little time being thankful for just how terrific Citrus County is? Almost none of us

really come from Citrus County originally; we made the choice to locate here. Recognize that and enjoy it. We made the right choice.

Recognizing the positive does not give you permission to speed in your vehicle, throw things out the window or make fun of the county commission. On second thought, you can still make fun of the county commission.

A little criticism is good for all of us once in a while.

Gerry Mulligan is the publisher of the Chronicle. Email him at gmulligan@chronicleonline.com.

## BEYOND

Continued from Page C1

cumbersome loads. For some of you it is the sheer number of things you've been juggling; for some, it's the feeling that you're never doing quite enough to be noticed; and for others, it is the massive pressure you feel because somewhere along the way, you dropped a ball or two.

Take a sigh of relief. With graduation comes the moment when the pressure valve is released. It doesn't mean the next stage of life doesn't come with its own set of burdens. Believe me, it does. But hear this: you are now facing possibly the only opportunity in your life where you really get to start over.

My advice: grab hold of

it with both hands.

What happened in high school affects the future, for sure. But it's a long road ahead. And if the last four years weren't your best effort, here's your opportunity to reverse course. The key is this — don't stop learning. Ever. Successes feel amazing and we all need them. But failure is a much better teacher. Don't be afraid of it.

■ Don't let the color of the foundation you've been given be the only color that paints you. That sounds weird, I know. An artist generally starts out by applying a generous layer of foundational color to a canvas. At the beginning, a bystander has no idea what is being painted. It just looks like a blob of boring color.

But the artist isn't finished.

Instead, the painter uses that foundational color and mixes it with vibrant hues that, by themselves, would be far too wild to create the intended masterpiece. That's where that foundational color comes in. The mix of the two is enough to give life to the foundation and, at the same time, mute the wild colors just enough to help them convey their meaning.

Citrus County has given you a good foundation but Citrus County is not all the world has to offer. See and experience something different. Don't underestimate how much the world has to offer you. And at the same time, don't underestimate how much you have to offer the world. No matter where you end up — if you stay in Citrus County or you go all over the world — the mix of your experiences are a

powerful force to shape you. And you will shape the future.

Don't forget where you've come from. Your foundation is immensely valuable. But don't limit where you can go. It's the mix of the two that make the world a better place.

■ Take every opportunity to develop perseverance and resiliency. You're going to need them. A very wise man spoke these truths into my life just this past year: I pass it on to you today because I wish he had spoken this to me sooner.

Perseverance is the ability to stand up well over time when faced with difficult circumstances. Class of 2021, you've gotten some practice. COVID-19 has been a difficult circumstance for sure, but it won't be the last one you face.

For every hardship you

endure, take the time to draw out of it the practice of diligence and tenacity. Develop staying power. Be a person who refuses to give up or give in when the going gets tough.

The other side of that coin is to be resilient. While related to perseverance, it's not exactly the same thing. Resiliency is the ability to bounce back; the skill of taking in hardship and adversity, allowing it develop good things within you, but not letting it keep you from getting back into the game.

The truth is that life as an adult is often a series of decisions we make in response to so many things we cannot control. Perseverance and resiliency are what get you through. And more often than not, those skills grow out of difficult circumstances and hard choices. Develop them early on. Use what comes in

the next few years to create the baseline that will serve you for the rest of your life.

Class of 2021, adulting is hard. There's no reason to sugarcoat it. But adulting is also your chance to change the world. Here's your breakthrough moment. Don't waste it.

My best to you as you begin your journey!

Courtney Stewart is a 2003 graduate of Lecanto High School. She has bachelor's degrees in political science and international affairs, a master's degree in intercultural studies and is currently working on her Ph.D. in international conflict management. She most recently spent two years teaching and training students, teachers and government officials in Baghdad, Iraq. Email her at seeingbeyondccc@gmail.com.

## COURSE

Continued from Page C1

avoiding exposure to the virus.

Because of disinformation many of us are fearful of being vaccinated. Indeed, about 4,000 people have died within a two-week period of being vaccinated according to the CDC. This is 4,000 of more than 60 million Americans who have received the vaccine. The CDC is not claiming that the vaccination caused all the deaths. The risk of death or injury

from the vaccine is incredibly small but may be increased because many of the people receiving the vaccine are in poor health and at risk of dying when vaccinated.

While the long-term effects of vaccination cannot be known for at least 10 years, there is no reason whatsoever to believe the vaccines or capable of producing long-term damage. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines send a protein messenger to the cells to reproduce the harmless spike portion of the virus, thereby generating immunity to the virus itself. The

protein message sent to the cells breaks down in a short period of time and does not remain within the cell to cause any long-term changes.

The Johnson & Johnson and other vaccines are dead COVID virus attached to a cold virus to enable entry into the body's cells. This builds immunity to the full virus rather than just the exterior spike. The dead virus is rather quickly broken down by the body's cells and does not stay within them to create long-term damage.

These vaccines appear

to be both safe and effective.

Questions remain unanswered about who needs the vaccination. It appears that children 18 years of age and younger are at very little risk from the virus and any side effects. Neither do they tend to spread the virus. A strong case could be made that children and young people do not need to be vaccinated. However, when vaccinated, they show few if any side-effects and therefore can be vaccinated safely.

In COVID survivors we know protective

antibodies diminish overtime, but T-cell immunity may persist. Within the next six months we should know better whether and when a booster vaccination may be required for those recovered from COVID.

Until we are vaccinated or recovered from a clinical infection, we ought to avoid exposure to COVID so much as possible. Simply wearing a mask won't do. Vaccinated or having acquired natural immunity, we have no need to fear infection or to wear masks indoors or out. Asking children to wear masks

in school or out is not supported by any science.

William Dixon is a graduate of Columbia University, New York Medical College and the USF College of Business Administration. He was an assistant professor of surgery at the University of Georgia before entering private practice. He served 11 years in the Army as a surgeon and as a Special Forces officer, achieving the rank of lieutenant colonel. Dr. Dixon can be reached at dixonbill513@gmail.com.

# TRAIL

Continued from Page C3

three-mile trail through some very sensitive and beautiful riverine wetlands to the U.S. 41/County Road 39 intersection in Citrus County.

With completion of "The Gap Project," the Marion County system of trails, along with Dunnellon, Citrus Springs, Holder, Hernando, Inverness, Floral City and beyond will finally be interconnected by "Closing the Gap." This will provide tremendous recreational and economic benefits and opportunities for an entire regional area.

It proves that long-range strategic planning works by providing trail-way connectivity.

With the Citrus County Paved Trail Network Map forming an important part of our Citrus County Comprehensive Land Use Plan, funding partners like the FDOT, the Florida Greenway, MPOs, county and state regional trail networks see and understand there is a "Full Public Benefit" to identify, fund and complete these vetted trail projects by making them a reality for our residents and visitors.

I believe now is the time for additional trail projects to be added to a revised and updated County Trail Network Map for inclusion in the Comp Plan.

This will help build upon the existing and soon-to-be-completed paved trails by providing additional connectivity within our county, regional and state trail-way networks.

## Crystal River North to the Barge Canal Boat Ramp and the Withlacoochee Bay Trail:

A new connector trail along the west side of U.S. 19 from the existing Cross Town Trail in the city of Crystal River traveling north to the existing Withlacoochee Bay Trail in northern Citrus County should be documented.

This proposed extension would provide a connector from the city of Crystal River to the Withlacoochee Bay Trail, Barge Canal Boat Ramp, Gulf of Mexico and eventually the Town of Inglis in Levy County.

A future link to Dunnellon in Marion County with

its extensive trail network would be provided when State Road 40 is upgraded by including a paved trail from Inglis to Dunnellon. A future connection east of Inglis on State Road 40 traveling northward has been identified and proposed along an old, abandoned railroad right of way.

## The Parkway Loop:

The Central Ridge section of our county now offers an excellent opportunity to connect our existing paved trails on County Roads 486 and 491 to the Suncoast Parkway extension.

A new trail segment starting at the northwest corner of the County Road 491/State Road 44 intersection along the north side of S.R. 44 to the Suncoast Parkway should be identified and proposed within the Interchange Management Area (IMA) of these major state roadways.

This new connector trail would form a very desirable closed loop in the center of Citrus County.

Since the Central Ridge, with its multiple Developments of Regional Impact (DRIs), has been identified to be a growth area for residential construction by our

Comp Plan in the future, funding opportunities can and should be sought from the MPO and FDOT due to valuable connectivity potential.

## State Road 44/ County Road 491 intersection to Inverness:

About 10 years ago, S.R. 44 was resurfaced along with the construction of a new concrete sidewalk on the north side of the roadway.

At that time, Citrus County asked the FDOT not to install a concrete sidewalk on the Withlacoochee State Forest side of the road.

Now is the time to propose a trail project to the existing network recapturing the funding for a paved trail along S.R. 44 within the forest from the signalized C.R. 491/S.R. 44 intersection to Croft Road in Inverness.

## Trailheads:

Along with the existing and proposed trailheads on the current map, the following should also be considered to be placed on an updated Trail Map:

- Suncoast Parkway/ Cardinal Street within the Interchange Management Area.

- Suncoast Parkway at S.R. 44 within the Interchange Management Area.

- Suncoast Parkway at C.R. 486.

## Other connection initiatives:

- A trail along West Halls River Road from U.S. 19 to Riverhaven.

- A connection of the Sugarmill Woods community to the Suncoast Parkway extension trail system.

- Other connector trails identified and vetted by the BOCC.

With the information I have highlighted, the

timing is right for the BOCC to revisit, update, and propose new trail ways and connections for inclusion into a revised "Master Trail Map" within our Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

Funding for future trail expansion and connection should be provided by appropriations, MPOs, FDOT, State Trail Networks, grants, park impact fees and tourist tax collections.

Short-term successes have shown there is no doubt strategic long-view trail planning and documentation will provide future connection opportunities with our funding partners providing "Full Public Benefits" for our community.

*Dennis Damato is a former two-term member of the Citrus County Commission. He is a builder and entrepreneur who also served for many years as the chairman of the Crystal River Community Redevelopment Agency.*

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Dr. Frederick Herzog  
**NONPROFIT BRIEFS**

## Soliciting for charities in Florida

**S**oliciting for charitable donations by nonprofits has come under greater scrutiny. Discovery of deceptive practices, misleading solicitation and outright fraud has led to more regulatory control by a majority of the states.

Currently, 40-plus states, Florida included, have statutory requirements regarding soliciting for donations. 501(c)(3) nonprofits must register with state governmental agencies for permission to solicit donations in their respective states.

Recognized churches are exempt. Many states additionally require registration for out-of-state nonprofits to register with them.

Permission to solicit has become even more complicated as some states now require the federal income tax-exemption from IRS called the Determination Letter to be in place. Add to this criterion, more states are requiring the nonprofits be incorporated in an appropriate IRS exempt category.

Tighter regulations have grown as discovery has shown monies collected may not be used for the purpose stated by the solicitors.

### Registering for permission

Registration for permission to solicit means providing the state with enough detail about the nonprofit, its programs, mission, purpose and finances. The detail required allows professional staff to evaluate, examine factual disclosures and uncover potential misuse of fund donations.

The application processing form is very specific but not at the same level of information when requesting a 501(c)(3) nonprofit federal tax exemption from IRS.

In today's world of rules and regulations, most states now require annual re-registration. Florida requires annual reporting.

See **NONPROFIT/Page D4**

# Double duty



Laura Byrnes  
**CAREER SOURCE**

## Sky isn't falling as waivers end

**W**avers that made it easier for those filing claims for reemployment assistance during the pandemic will most likely end on May 29.

I know you've heard this before, and possibly have lost track of the number of waiver extensions.

Let's see, they were supposed to expire in September, and then December and then February and then April and now at the end of this month.

I suspect that the current extension will be the last.

What exactly does that mean? First and foremost, don't panic.

Rusty Skinner, Career-Source CLM's CEO, said, "We in the workforce system remain committed to helping our residents recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and move forward with new or better careers."

"Yes, we can help claimants meet the requirements to request unemployment compensation benefits," Skinner said, "but more importantly, we are here to help those who are out of work find the kind of good, gainful employment that those benefits can't replace."

Reemployment assistance (RA), commonly referred to as unemployment compensation, is run by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) and designed to provide a temporary safety net for those who have lost their job through no fault of their own, whether due to the pandemic or some other factor.

Work registration and job search requirements had been waived for those filing RA applications from March 15, 2020, through May 29 of this year and the mandatory waiting week has been waived through June 26.

After next Saturday, claimants for all RA programs, including the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and Pandemic

See **BYRNES/Page D2**



MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle

Twelve-year-old Ametri Thomas receives a cut Tuesday, May 18, from barber Anthony Sotto at New Dimensions Barbershop in Crystal River. The shop recently changed locations.

## Pastor Al Hopkins: Saving souls and cutting hair go together

MICHAEL D. BATES  
 Staff writer

**W**hen Pastor Al Hopkins is not in the pulpit reaching souls at Redemption Center Church, he's at his Crystal River barbershop taking care of people's heads.

But when you think about it, there are many similarities between preaching and barbering, he said.

"They complement each other," said Hopkins, sitting in his spacious shop for an interview. "Both are based on relationships with the community."

His Crystal River barbershop is called New Dimensions, and he recently relocated to 6608 State Road 44 — by Jazzercise inside the Bella Vista Plaza.

In 2007, Hopkins opened Majestic Kutz barbershop but he outgrew it and found what he calls an ideal location. The area is growing and when the Suncoast Parkway opens next year about five miles away, he expects to be even busier.

Not that he needs any more help getting customers. Hopkins, 49, said he filled a niche at his old site and his loyal customers have not abandoned him.

"They're finding us," he said. "We're growing. It's become the hub of the community"

Hopkins had a passion for barbering at an early age. At 15, he began cutting his friends' and family's hair and it wasn't long until he decided to step into his own business.

New Dimensions is not your typical barbershop. He and his other four employees can do traditional cuts but they also offer "urban grooming," which incorporates intricate design work.

Hopkins said he intentionally hires people with troubled backgrounds to give them a chance to hone their working skills and change their lives.

"I have a calling to reach out to



Al Hopkins has been cutting hair since he was a child. He recently moved his New Dimensions Barbershop to a new Crystal River location.



New Dimensions Barbershop is now at 6608 W. Gulf-to-Lake Highway.

the community," he said.

The COVID pandemic forced Hopkins to close for five months. Since reopening, business is up about 55%, he said.

People, he said, were anxious to get their haircuts and return to normal.

See **DUTY/Page D4**



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# BYRNES

Continued from Page D1

Emergency Unemployment compensation as well as Florida's state compensation, are now be required to return to DEO's CONNECT system every two weeks to re-quest their benefits or "claim their weeks."

Let's return to that "don't panic" advice. As the impact from COVID abates, and as our lives return to something that resembles normal, businesses are reopening and ramping up and that means they are hiring.

The good news is employers in our region are most definitely hiring and CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion is ready to help with fee-free services and support programs that can lead to employment.

In Citrus County there are 1,675 online advertised jobs and 3,271 open positions posted with us through Employ Florida. Regionally, there are 7,930 jobs waiting to be filled, including 5,920 in neighboring Marion County. Suffice to say, qualified candidates are in high demand in all three counties.

Salaries are pretty good, too, with starting pay of up to \$20 for home health aides and \$25 for engineering technicians; asphalt estimators are being hired at \$46,000 to \$75,000 per year. There

are clearly more jobs than I can detail here, but the opportunities range from entry level to professional. Check them out by searching for jobs in Citrus County at employflorida.com.

How do you apply for these jobs and get your skills up to par to qualify? Visit us at our Career Center at 683 S. Adolph Point in Lecanto or call us at 352-249-3278 or 800-434-JOBS (5627) and we'll get you on your way to replacing that job you lost.

We understand that it may not happen overnight, and in the meantime, you've got bills to pay and that's where the state's unemployment compensation program provides stop-gap assistance. Yes, we can help you register for work through Employ Florida and conduct weekly job searches required to claim your benefits.

But remember, as Skinner noted, the goal of registering for work on and conducting job searches is to be able to get back to work as "unemployment compensation benefits are temporary and can never fully replace a paycheck."

The average weekly salary in Citrus County is \$760 or \$39,520, which is certainly more than temporary unemployment compensation benefits.

All Career Centers are open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for fee-free staff-assisted services

as well as use of Resource Room computers and other resources to facilitate filing claims, conduct job searches and access services that lead to re-employment. Appointments are not required.

In addition to the Lecanto center, CareerSource career centers are located in Ocala and Chiefland and our affiliate Talent Center at the College of Central Florida can be found at CF's Ocala campus. Health safety precautions, including use of face masks by staff and customers, as

well as other measures remain in place.

Those visiting the career centers will find listings for local job openings as well as receive staff-assisted job search and placement services.

Additionally, we can help job candidates improve employability skills as they work toward re-employment. Among CareerSource CLM's fee-free offerings:

■ SkillUp Citrus Levy Marion offers free access to Metrix Learning, a dynamic online training platform with more than

6,000 courses that can be accessed 24/7.

■ 180 Skills focuses primarily on building the next-generation manufacturing workforce, providing high-quality, short-term training in a flexible and responsive manner.

■ Professional workshops are available in a variety of formats — virtually on-demand, live via Zoom, and returning next month, in-person — covering topics such as targeted resume writing, interviewing tips and career development.

To learn more, call 800-434-JOBS (5627) or visit [careersourceclm.com](http://careersourceclm.com) where you will also be able to contact CareerSource CLM by email or Live Chat.

Laura Byrnes is communications manager at CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion, accredited in public relations, a certified public relations counselor and a Florida Certified Workforce Professional. Contact her at 352-291-9559, 800-434-5627, ext. 1234, or [lbyrnes@careersourceclm.com](mailto:lbyrnes@careersourceclm.com).

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## Business DIGEST

### Marketing sauce?

Does your business market your house barbecue sauce, pasta sauce, dressing or the like?

If so and if you wish to be included in an upcoming feature article by business reporter Michael D. Bates, email [mbates@chronicleonline.com](mailto:mbates@chronicleonline.com).

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# Chamber Connection

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## Are you prepared for Hurricane Season?

Hurricane season makes its official debut next Tuesday, June 1st. This Friday, May 28th, begins the 2021 Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday, which extends through Thursday, June 3rd. During this sales tax holiday period, qualifying items related to disaster preparedness are exempt from sales tax. That means IT'S TIME TO PREP! Citrus County Chamber Members are here to make sure you have everything you need.

### AIR CONDITIONING

- Air FX, Inc. (352) 201-7224
- Air Masters of Citrus County (352) 564-8822
- Angelic Air (352) 860-2522
- Bay Area Air Conditioning, Inc. (352) 795-2665
- Byers Discount Air Conditioning, Inc. (352) 746-9484
- Leeper Air Conditioning (352) 746-2223
- Senica Air Conditioning, Inc. (352) 795-9685

### ALUMINUM PRODUCTS/SERVICES

- All American Gutter Protection (888) 323-8090
- All Exterior Roofing & Aluminum, Inc. (352) 621-0881

- Blackshears II Aluminum Inc. (352) 795-9722
- White Aluminum & Windows LLC (352) 622-9717

### BATTERIES

- Batteries Plus Bulbs (800) 341-5944

### EQUIPMENT/TOOL RENTAL

- True Value Rental (Formerly Taylor Rental) (352) 795-5600

### FARM & LAWN EQUIPMENT

- Ag-Pro (352) 651-5143
- Sparr Building & Lawn Supply (352) 462-6670

### HANDYMAN

- T.Smith Home Services (843) 812-5182

### HARDWARE/HOME IMPROVEMENT

- Ace Hardware Co. of Inverness (352) 726-8811
- Carter's Ace Hardware of Beverly Hills (352) 527-1451
- Carter's Ace Hardware of Crystal River (352) 228-4583

- Home Depot (352) 563-9800
- Kane's Ace Hardware (352) 628-3566
- Lowe's Company (352) 860-5800

### OIL/PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

- Crystal River Fast Lube & Repair (352) 795-2333
- Whetstone Oil Co., Inc. (352) 795-3469

### PROPANE/NATURAL GAS

- Florida Public Utilities (352) 447-2790

### RADIO STATIONS

- K-Country & WIND FM (352) 622-5600
- WXCX-FM, WXCZ-FM, WXOF-FM-Citrus 95, Nature Coast Country, & Fox 96.7 (352) 746-9596
- WXJB 99.9 FM-News Talk for the Nature Coast (352) 796-7469

### ROOFING

- AAA Roofing (352) 563-0411
- All Exterior Roofing (352) 621-0881
- All Performance Roofing (352) 228-4500

- C & S Residential Roofing (352) 637-0049
- Quality First Roofing (352) 220-7367
- Roofing & Reconstruction Contractors of America (352) 422-5695

### TREE SERVICE

- Bert Weber Tree Service (352) 697-0673
- Bush Home Services (352) 621-7700
- Griffins Tree Care LLC (352) 249-6495
- USA Tree Service (352) 596-1333

### HOME INSURANCE SAFETY CHECK

Our outstanding Chamber members are ready to go over your current policy or quote you a new policy to ensure you're covered this hurricane season.

- Acentria, Inc. (352) 637-5191
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- Brice Insurance Agency (352) 344-1277
- Brown & Brown of Florida, Inc. - Brooksville (352) 796-8200
- Central Ridge Insurers (352) 527-0110
- Chuck Everidge-State Farm Insurance (352) 726-4183
- David M Rom - State Farm Insurance (352) 341-3276
- Direct Auto & Life Insurance (352) 726-2274
- Fero & Sons Insurance (352) 746-5580
- Gulf to Atlantic Insurance (352) 341-3500
- Insurance Den, Inc. (352) 628-2331
- Lassiter Ware (352) 527-1488
- Michael D Bays State Farm Insurance Agency, Inc. (352) 746-7008
- Nature Coast Insurance Agency (352) 341-0040
- O'Brien Insurance Agency (352) 563-0749
- Ryan Lampasona State Farm (352) 795-4747
- Sheldon-Palmes Insurance, Inc. (352) 628-1030
- Sheldon-Palmes Insurance of Hernando, Inc. (352) 341-4661
- The Hagar Group - Crystal River (352) 795-2697
- The Hagar Group - Inverness (352) 726-1691
- West Coast Insurers - Crystal River (352) 795-2354

## Chamber Says Thank You to First Responders & Frontline Nurses

The Chamber recently hosted their annual First Responders Appreciation BBQ with the much-deserved addition of Frontline Nurses. It was a beautiful day at the Inverness Depot District Pavilion full of salutes, smiles, and delicious food provided by our community partners.

We would like to thank all of our sponsors and supporters who helped make this event possible.

■ **Top Brass Sponsors:** CoreCivic, Duke Energy, and Land Title of Citrus County

■ **First Responder Sponsors:** Phil Royal Legacy, and Tri-Co Communications, Inc.

■ **Table Sponsors:** Charles E Davis Funeral Home Inc With Crematory, Citrus County Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals, Schlabach Security and Sound Inc., The Screen Monkey Corp.,



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■ **Food Sponsors:** M&B Dairy, CoreCivic, Bayfront Health Seven Rivers, Powers Protection Inc., Ag Alliance of Citrus County, MIKE SCOTT PLUMBING, Citrus Memorial

Hospital, and Bubb-aques-BBQ-Crystal River

We would also like to thank our amazing volunteers from the Citrus County Chamber Ambassadors and the Citrus County Chamber Business Women's Alliance.



## 'Chamber Report' on WYKE

Watch the weekly Chamber Report show on WYKE-TV to stay informed on Chamber events, issues, and memberspotlights. Chamber Report is broadcast on Tuesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays at 5 p.m. on Spectrum Channel 16 or through LiveStream ([www.livestream.com/watch](http://www.livestream.com/watch) and search for "WYKE TV 47").

This week, host Jade White, Chamber Public Relations & Communication Coordinator, talks with Veronica Kampschroer, Public Information Officer for Citrus County, about her new position and an update on the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals. Also joining Jade is Shaunda Burdette, Executive Director of the Citrus County Education Foundation, for a recap on the Golden Citrus Scholars, their upcoming Stuff the Bus Event to stock their free teacher store, and the "Beast of the Southeast" Lake Hernando Dragon Boat Race. Chamber Report is your ticket to the many happenings in Citrus County!

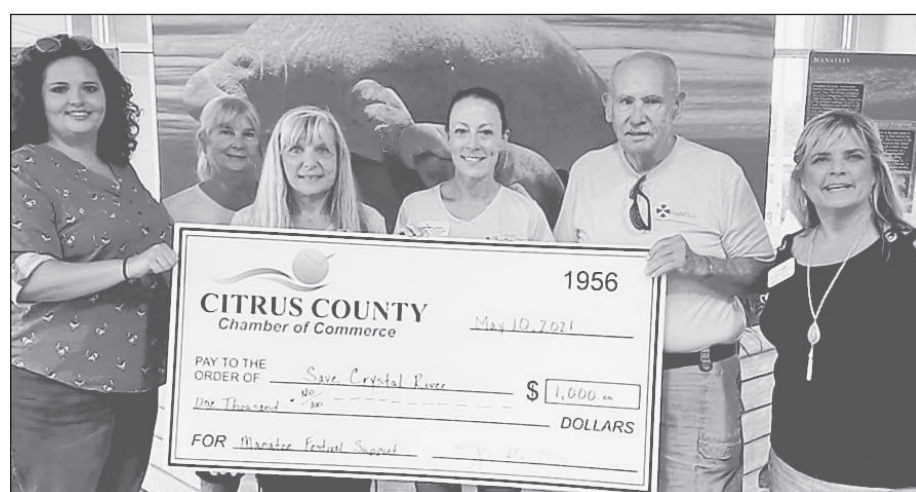


Veronica Kampschroer



Shaunda Burdette

## Chamber Thanks Save Crystal River



Pictured: L-R Jade White, SCR PR/Communications Coordinator; Janis Tripp, SCR Board Member; Liz Thompson, SCR Board Member/Secretary; Tina Champagne, SCR Board Member; Terry Thompson, SCR Board Member/Treasurer; Erika Corley, Chamber Special Events Manager. We were pleased to present a donation to Save Crystal River for their hard work at this year's Florida Manatee Festival. Thank you for your assistance and dedication to our community!



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### Chamber provides grants to businesses that rehire furloughed employees

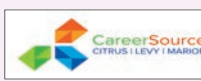
The Citrus County Chamber of Commerce offers a grant program for businesses that furloughed employees due to COVID-19 and have since rehired them. To qualify for full funding, the business must have furloughed an employee for a minimum of two months before rehiring and steadily employing for a minimum of 90 days. The grant amount is \$2,000 per rehired full-time equivalent employee.

All local businesses are eligible. Complete information on the grant program and documentation required is on the application form.

Applications are open at [www.CitrusCountyChamber.com/furlough-rehire-grant](http://www.CitrusCountyChamber.com/furlough-rehire-grant).

For questions, please email [CitrusFurloughRehire@gmail.com](mailto:CitrusFurloughRehire@gmail.com)

## Chamber Legacy Partners



The Chamber recognizes our Legacy Partners that have made a special investment in the Chamber to support the programs and mission of the Chamber. For information on becoming a Legacy Partner, please contact the Chamber at 352-795-3149.

# NONPROFIT

Continued from Page D1

Once the nonprofit registers in Florida, an annual reminder form is sent each year thereafter.

## Noncompliance and fees

Noncompliance penalties can be stiff. They can easily escalate upwards of thousands of dollars.

Not registering is a big gamble not worth the risk. Ignorance of the law is not an excepted excuse. It will not bring relief from compliance.

States today are cash poor. They're quickly learning how to pursue and fine organizations attempting to avoid compliance.

Florida fees to register for solicitation permission start at \$10 for a nonprofit with donations of \$25,000 or less in their previous year. For groups receiving \$10,000,000, the fee is \$400. Late fees can be as much as \$25 for each month re-registration is missed. Organizations can request 60-day extensions to mitigate late penalties.

## Compliance recommendations

Review your state and federal nonprofit documents annually. Comply and keep clearly understood records. Pay the fees required on time.

Need help? The NonProfit Resource Center works with Citrus County nonprofits to stay in compliance with state and federal agencies. Remember: "Experience Matters."

*Dr. Frederick J. Herzog is the founder/executive director of the Non-Profit Resource Center in Citrus County. He can be reached at 847-899-9000 or via email to fherzog@tampabay.rr.com. Need help with your nonprofit? Visit www.TheNonProfitResourceCenter.com.*

# Twisted Moon Boutique celebrates ribbon cutting



Twisted Moon Boutique recently celebrated their ribbon cutting with owner, Regan Elson. The boutique is located at 105 S. Osceola Ave. in Inverness. Special to the Chronicle

# DUTY

Continued from Page D1

Even now, with health restrictions relaxing, Hopkins makes sure his employees remain masked and follow extra disinfecting between customers.

He has five barber chairs right

now but he plans to add two extra to accommodate even more customers.

Hopkins, born and raised in Crystal River, was associate pastor for 10 years at Church of the Living God. He started his own ministry and has been at Redemption Center Church for the past eight years.

It's no problem, he said, juggling barbering and pastoring.

"The barbershop runs itself," Hop-

kins said. "I just manage it."

Hopkins said he caters to all ages, male and female.

"It's a place anybody can come and feel welcome," he said. "I deliberately built it that way — to look like our country."

For more information about New Dimensions, call 352-794-6447 or visit <https://newdimensionsbarbers.com>.

## BUSINESS DIGEST

Submit information via email to [community@chronicleonline.com](mailto:community@chronicleonline.com), attn: Business Digest.

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**Bahia & St. Augustine AVAILABLE!**

Located Just South of Howards Flea Market in Homosassa

**GLASS/PATIO DOORS**

**Haulin Glass**

• Patio Door Rollers

• Track Repair

• Glass Replacement

• Window Repair

We warranty all our work

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Registered with county insured

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Since 1967!

Home and Business. Painting and Drywall Repair. Interior / Exterior.

**10% OFF PAINTING**

if booked by 5/30/21

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**YOU FILL - WE DUMP**

**ROLL OFF CONTAINERS**

RENT ME

Veteran Owned!

• 12 Yards

• 18 Yards

**UNDER \$250**

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Commercial & Residential **352-302-7100**

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**Erik's Tree Service**

Erik 352-476-7314

• Prof. Climbers

• Stump Grinding

• Bobcat Work

• Bucket Truck

• Firewood

• Wood Chips

• Crane Work

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Specializing in Extremely Hazardous Tree Removal

Free Estimates/Licensed & Insured

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**ALTMAN'S FAMILY PEST CONTROL & LANDSCAPING**

• Lawn & Pest Control Services

• Fertilizing, Insecticide & Weed Control

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**Local Hometown Business**

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• Rock Driveways

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• Fill Dirt

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Lamar Budd Owner

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Call Lori at **352-564-2931** to place your ad!

**PROPERTY CLEAN-UP & JUNK REMOVAL**

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• We reuse, recycle & resell

• Free estimates

• Price based on volume & weight

• Customer service is a PRIORITY

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**Down to Earth TREE SERVICE**

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Tree Trimming • Stump Grinding

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**Mr. Electric**

a neighborly company

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To place an ad call **563-5966**

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2020 KUBOTA BX2380 w/ bucket, weight box, draw bar, 4 x 4, High/Low range, 45 hrs on tractor/ asking \$13,995 352-270-8791



**MEDICAL OFFICE ASSISTANT**

Full-time  
Duties include:  
• answering phone at the front desk  
• scheduling appt's  
• checking patients in & out of the office.

\* Must be a high school graduate.  
\* Knowledge in Eclinicalworks & exp. in a pediatric office a plus.  
\* Hourly wage and medical benefits.

Email resume to [wfma.peds@gmail.com](mailto:wfma.peds@gmail.com) or fax to 352-344-3414



—TUES. 5/25 @ 8AM OPEN AIR MARKET dudleysauction.com 352-637-9588 4000 S. FL Ave., Inv. Ab1667 Au2246 15% bp

**Free Offers**

FREE... FREE...FREE... Removal of scrap metal a/c, auto's, appliances & dump runs. 352-476-6600

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\*State of the art equipment  
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**Announcements**

CALL FOR BUSINESS PLANS: Florida State Parks seeks business partner to provide visitor services at Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park in Homosassa, FL. Mandatory Meeting to be held at 1pm, 5/25/21. More at [FloridaStateParks.org/Concessions](http://FloridaStateParks.org/Concessions)

**DOCK SPACE WANTED**  
Private dock or access to private launch anywhere on Chaz-monthly rent or yearly okay - contact Tom 352-228-7715

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Seeking ROOM to Rent, prefer private bath, a little cooking privilege & refing. space. I have a busy work schedule & social activities, RNC/ ref's & income verification avail. (upon acceptance) 352-364-3165

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**OFFICE MANAGER**

Financial Planning Firm in Inverness is hiring a full time Office Manager, Legal/Financial Experience helpful. Multitasker, detail oriented, people skills, proficient in Word, Excel, internet and dictation. Background check conducted. \$15-\$20 per hour & Retirement plan. Send Resume to [Kingc2p1@gmail.com](mailto:Kingc2p1@gmail.com)

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**CLEANING LADY**

for Residential 2 or 3 times per month (Flexible) \$20 per hour

**EXPERIENCE & REFERENCES REQUIRED**  
CALL TODAY! 352-697-1593

**Immediate Need for a CLEANING LADY - Residential - Elderly Man, must be reasonable 352-436-2953**

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**FRONT OFFICE POSITION**

Front Office, Full time, prior medical office experience in check in, check out, or receptionist preferred. Pick up application M-F 8-5 and most Saturdays 8-12. West Coast Eye Institute 240 N Lecanto Hwy Lecanto FL 34461 Resume & questions can be emailed to: [wcei@westcoasteye.com](mailto:wcei@westcoasteye.com)

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**Medical**



**MEDICAL OFFICE ASSISTANT**

Full-time  
Duties include:  
• answering phone at the front desk  
• scheduling appt's  
• checking patients in & out of the office.

\* Must be a high school graduate.  
\* Knowledge in Eclinicalworks & exp. in a pediatric office a plus.  
\* Hourly wage and medical benefits.

Email resume to [wfma.peds@gmail.com](mailto:wfma.peds@gmail.com) or fax to 352-344-3414

**Professional**

**Coordinator - Industry Certification Testing**

Full-Time position  
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**Professional**

**Director - Accessibility and Counseling Service**

Full-Time position  
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**Professional**

**Coordinator - Maintenance - Citrus**

Full-Time position  
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**Professional**

**Enrollment Services Technician**

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**Need a JOB?**

#1 Employment source is...  
**CHRONICLE Classifieds**  
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**Professional**

**Auditorium Assistant**

Part-Time position  
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**Professional**

**Executive Administrative Assistant - Administration & Finance**

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**Professional**

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Full-Time position  
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**Professional**

**Director - Accessibility and Counseling Service**

Full-Time position  
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**Professional**

**Library Technician**

Part-Time position  
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**Professional**

**Staff Assistant II - Financial Operations**

Part-Time position  
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**Staff Assistant II - Financial Operations**

Part-Time position  
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**Professional**

**Executive Administrative Assistant - Administration & Finance**

Full-Time position  
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**Professional**

**Faculty - Clinical Coordinator Surgical Technology**

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**Professional**

**Staff Assistant II - Educational Opportunity Center**

Full-Time position  
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**Staff Assistant II - Educational Opportunity Center**

Full-Time position  
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**Professional**

**Staff Assistant II - Financial Operations**

Part-Time position  
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**Professional**

**Staff Assistant II - Financial Operations**

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**Professional**

**Habitat for Humanity**

of CITRUS COUNTY is NOW HIRING for a **FAMILY SERVICES DIRECTOR**

\$40,000- \$45,000 yr  
Responsibilities:  
• The Homeowner Partnership Program  
• Lending compliance  
• Manage Family Services Staff  
• Act as a community representative.

Requirements:  
• Formal education &/or exp. in, mortgage lending, compliance, housing services or related, plus at least 2 yrs of relevant exp.  
• Exp. w/ non-profit volunteer-intensive organization preferred  
• Must obtain a QLO Certification.

Complete job description avail. at: [habitatcc.org](http://habitatcc.org)  
Email resumes to [info@habitatcc.org](mailto:info@habitatcc.org)

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**Professional**

**Staff Assistant II - Educational Opportunity Center**

Full-Time position  
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**Professional**

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**Trades Technician**

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**Professional**

**Staff Assistant II - Educational Opportunity Center**

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**Professional**

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**Professional**

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New Blade  
\$30  
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\$20  
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2020 KUBOTA BX2380  
w/ bucket, weight box,  
draw bar, 4 x 4, High/Low  
range, 45 hrs on tractor/  
asking \$13,995  
352-270-8791

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BEDROOM SET  
(4 pc) Queen, \$300  
ELEG. FIREPLACE  
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CURIO CABINET  
82"HX40"WX13"D  
with shelves, white  
wash \$100  
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Room Set / 12 pieces,  
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\$15 to \$25  
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1 quart \$10 ea 4 for  
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With seat and brakes  
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Retail \$19 Sell \$12  
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reflects the sun, silver  
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14.5" Sell \$20  
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Pet Mate Ultra  
28"LX15"WX21.5"H  
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CAR TO KIDS.  
Your donation helps  
fund the search for  
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Accepting Trucks,  
Motorcycles & RV's  
too! Fast Free  
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-Running or Not  
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Maximum Tax  
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Blackout Back Tab  
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Eureka  
Electric  
Broom \$10  
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Stryker AT22X11-10  
\$60 352-613-0529

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Ballast and 1000 Watt  
sodium bulb, with light  
reflector, only \$60.00  
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COVERED GRILL  
W/ THE GAS \$35  
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Car Seat, & an Airline  
Pet Carry-on! all for  
\$100 (352) 795-3510

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MAKER K-Select in  
good condition  
\$30  
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stainless steel, \$30  
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2 DOORS EZ SETUP  
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Sell \$40 352-513-5339

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NEW FLAMINGO  
TROPIX 15" x 12"  
Retail \$39 Sell \$25  
352-513-5339

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COCO WOOD  
9" TALL  
Sell \$10  
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Dressmaker Zig Zag  
Sews Great  
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Brian 352-270-9254

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Beaufort Striped Stone  
Sell \$5 352-513-5339

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\$175  
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\$15 352-513-5339

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fillgree edge Sell \$10  
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be used also as a  
shower chair only \$30  
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w/ no lift \$700 Call for  
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use from your chair or  
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simulator. Keeps legs  
moving while seated.  
Helps to improve  
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Manual Wheelchair  
with footrests.  
Used little/  
only \$100  
352-464-0316

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

TOILET SEAT RISER  
Raises four inches.  
Easier to get up. Only  
\$30 352-464-0316

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

**Musical Instruments**

COMPLETE DRUM SET  
with Ardis Zidjian cym-  
bals. Percussion drum  
with Evans head. Also  
Yamaha keyboard  
\$500 takes call  
(989) 402-7140

**Household**

PAULA DEEN  
AIR FRYER  
9.5 Qt. BRAND NEW  
still in BOX \$85  
(352) 249-1164

**Fitness Equipment**

4 Steps & Platform  
Exerciser  
\$20  
(352) 382-1191

ELLIPTICAL  
VERY NICE  
looks brand new -  
needs batteries, only  
\$100 352-464-0316

RECLUMBENT  
EXERCISE BIKE  
great shape All digi-  
tal readout only \$100  
352-464-0316

SCHWINN BICYCLE  
girls, 10-speed, \$50  
BICYCLE  
girls, 21 speed, \$50  
352-464-2953

**Sporting Goods**

FISHING LURES  
9 Rapala fishing  
Lures LN jointed etc all  
for \$25  
352-382-4558

Fishing spinning rod  
Antique 7 foot METAL  
copper 2 piece \$80  
352-382-4558

**Jewelry**

BRACELET, JAGUAR  
SILVER+BLUE SAPPHIRE  
New Retail \$69 Sell \$40  
352-513-5339

EARRINGS, JAGUAR  
SILVER+BLUE SAPPHIRE  
New Retail \$49 Sell \$30  
352-513-5339

EARRINGS, REAL LAPIS  
BLUE SODALITE Hoops  
Sell \$25 352-513-5339

JEWELRY BOX  
COPPER, 5" x 3" x 3"  
Sell \$10 352-513-5339

JEWELRY BOX LEATHER  
6" x 6" x 4" Sell \$25  
352-513-5339

NECKLACE & EARRING  
SET, RUBY SILVER,  
Sell \$25 352-513-5339

NECKLACE  
EGYPTIAN SCARAB  
Turquoise Costume 24"  
\$20  
352-513-5339

NECKLACE  
SILVER 5 STRAND  
Vintage/ Beautiful  
Sell \$35  
352-513-5339

NECKLACE, GREEN SET  
& BRACELET RING SET  
new size 7.5 - 8  
Retail \$99 Sell \$50  
352-513-5339

RING, JAGUAR  
SILVER + BLUE  
SAPPHIRE Size 7.5 to 8  
Retail \$49 Sell  
\$30 352-513-5339

**Wanted to Buy**


Freon Wanted:  
We pay \$\$\$ for  
cylinders and  
cans. R12 R500  
R11 R113 R114.  
Convenient.  
Certified  
Professionals.  
Call  
312-291-9169  
or visit  
Refrigerant  
Finders.com

I buy, jewelry, silver,  
gold, paintings, instru-  
ments, records, an-  
tiques, coins, watches  
& MORE!  
352-454-0068

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

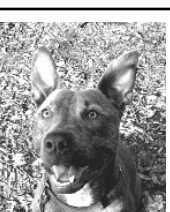
**Wanted Model Trains**  
\$ INSTANT CASH \$  
For old Lionel & other  
model trains, any  
quantity - one piece  
or a house full!  
330-554-7089

**Pets**



Evie is an 8-year-old  
spayed terrier mix,  
weight 55 pounds.  
She is spayed, HW  
negative, and  
housebroken. Her  
name is Evie but  
we call her Evie  
because she is so  
cute and sweet!  
She is great to walk  
on a leash, gets  
along with other  
dogs, loves treats  
and takes them  
gently. Very gentle  
and sweet, loves to  
walk with her person  
but also loves to  
cuddle on the  
couch. She would  
be wonderful as  
someone's compan-  
ion dog, which  
would make her  
very happy too. To  
see Evie, please  
contact Jackie at  
352-464-1707, or  
email  
rescuedogsdream@g  
mail.com.

—FREE KITTENS—  
3 female, 1 male  
7 weeks old / orange  
tabby w/ white mark-  
ings. (352) 770-3850



**TUCKER**  
is a 3-4 year old  
Staffordshire/  
Doberman mix. He is  
friendly with both large  
and small dogs, is  
also friendly with  
children. Very  
affectionate and loves  
to play with other  
dogs. He would love  
a home with a fenced  
yard and another dog  
to play with. He is  
heartworm-negative,  
neutered,  
microchipped and up  
to date with his shots.  
To meet Tucker  
please contact  
Gina at  
352-634-1591

**Boat Accessories**

NEW 2020 MERCURY  
EFI 15 HP, 4 Stroke  
Long shaft Boat Motor.  
Elec. start/New gas tank  
incl. - \$2,850 Cash Only  
352-795-1119

**Boats**

**PRICE REDUCED!**

12ft SATURN  
inflatable Dinghy -Model  
SD365 w/ wheels- bimini  
top- TORQEDDO Travel  
1103 Elec. Outboard  
Motor & Speedy air  
pump inc. Like New!  
\$2500 (352) 272-7441

Carolina Skiff  
16 ft, 25 HP Tohatsu  
motor, flats boat, load  
rite trlr, Mint Condi-  
tion. Well Maintained  
\$8900; 352-497-6945

KAYACHT - 13ft  
Minnkota motor  
with trailer  
(352) 220-2324

Like New KAYAK SOT  
10' Pelican Bandit-  
Stable 300# cap. 40#  
wt. Great color & cond.  
w/ ALL acc/ total pkg  
price only \$245. Loc.  
Citrus Hills. Please call  
413-896-7750  
9A - 5P only.

**MONTREY**  
18 Ft BOWRIDER  
2010 like new, garage  
kept, well maintained,  
130 VOLVO, low hours,  
bimini top, mooring  
cover, storage cover,  
extra swim platform  
w/ ladder, compass,  
GPS, stereo, & extras,  
easy loading trailer w/  
steps, newer 10 ply  
tires, \$12,900 obo  
call for pictures  
352-220-1617

**SPORTSMAN**  
2021, 232 Open, white  
w/ seamist hull sides,  
white cushions. On  
board charging unit,  
WHF radio, 2nd 9"  
Garmin, Go light w/  
remote; custom white  
Yamaha, F250 X8 motor,  
EZ loader, Alumi-  
num Trlr with a spare.  
Tank full of gas. Ap-  
proximately 14 hours.  
Serious Buyers only.  
\$7,900  
401-835-1666  
401-835-1661

**Campers/Travel Trailers**

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

5th WHEEL  
2017 Forest River  
Cardinal 3875FB  
\$56,995 Bath & 1/2 -  
W/D 352-795-7820

**TRAVEL TRAILER**  
2021, lightweight,  
sleeps 2, furnished,  
with extra's \$15,900  
(352) 212-6949

**Auto Parts/Accessories**

(4) S/Steel Wheel well  
opening trim moldings,  
new in box, 607-13  
Chevy Truck \$100 obo  
(352) 489-2823 Lv MSG

**THIS OUT!**

**THIS OUT!**

**Vehicles Wanted**

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

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

**Cars**

**PRICE REDUCED!**

1995 Oldsmobile  
CUTLASS SUPREME  
CONVERTIBLE - RED  
w/ White int. , A/C &  
Pwr everything \$6900  
352-795-7335 LV Msg

2002 BMW  
325i, 4-door, white tan  
leather, very good  
cond., 82K mi., \$5500  
404-245-2292

2005 FORD Focus  
Runs Great! Looks  
good & good mileage.  
Auto w/ A/C \$2800 obo  
352-341-0383

CADILLAC  
2005 DeVille DTS,  
Gold, low miles,  
exc cond, reduced  
\$5995. 352-442-1925

Ford Escape SE  
2014, one owner, 58K  
mi., excellent cond.  
\$16,000 352-464-1977

VOLVO  
2013 S80 / White,  
4DR, Premium PKG  
\$10K or Best Offer  
352-897-4237

**Dissolution Of Marriage Notice**

**Dissolution Of Marriage Notice**

**Dissolution Of Marriage Notice**

**Auto Parts/Accessories**

(4) S/Steel Wheel well  
opening trim moldings,  
new in box, 607-13  
Chevy Truck \$100 obo  
(352) 489-2823 Lv MSG

**THIS OUT!**

**THIS OUT!**

**Vehicles Wanted**

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

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

**Cars**

**PRICE REDUCED!**

1995 Oldsmobile  
CUTLASS SUPREME  
CONVERTIBLE - RED  
w/ White int. , A/C &  
Pwr everything \$6900  
352-795-7335 LV Msg

2002 BMW  
325i, 4-door, white tan  
leather, very good  
cond., 82K mi., \$5500  
404-245-2292

2005 FORD Focus  
Runs Great! Looks  
good & good mileage.  
Auto w/ A/C \$2800 obo  
352-341-0383

CADILLAC  
2005 DeVille DTS,  
Gold, low miles,  
exc cond, reduced  
\$5995. 352-442-1925

Ford Escape SE  
2014, one owner, 58K  
mi., excellent cond.  
\$16,000 352-464-1977

VOLVO  
2013 S80 / White,  
4DR, Premium PKG  
\$10K or Best Offer  
352-897-4237

**Dissolution Of Marriage Notice**

**Dissolution Of Marriage Notice**

**Dissolution Of Marriage Notice**

1483-0613 SUCRN  
Brandon Christopher Johnson 2021-DR-254  
Dissolution of Marriage  
PUBLIC NOTICE  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND  
FOR CITRUS COUNTY FLORIDA  
CASE NO: 2021-DR-254

BRANDON CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON  
Petitioner,  
and  
DONNA ELIZABETH CARSON,  
Respondent,

**NOTICE OF ACTION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE  
(NO CHILD OR FINANCIAL SUPPORT)**

TO: Donna Elizabeth Carson  
30079 W. Lake Mack Rd.  
Deland, FL 32720

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for dissolution of marriage  
has been filed against you and that you are required to serve  
a copy of your written defenses, if any to Brandon Christopher  
Johnson whose address is 2376 S. Nolen Terr., Inverness, FL  
34452 on or before June 22, 2021, and file the original with the  
clerk of this Court at 110 North Apopka Avenue, Inverness, FL  
34450 before service on Petitioner or immediately thereafter. If  
you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the  
relief demanded in petition.

Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are  
available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may re-  
view these documents upon request.

You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of  
your current address. (You may file Designation of Current Mail-  
ing and E-mailing Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved  
Family Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be  
mailed or e-mailed to the address(es) on record at the clerk's  
office.

**WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure,  
requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and infor-  
mation. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dis-  
missal or striking of pleadings.**

Angela Vick, Clerk of Court and Comptroller  
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

Dated: 3/5/2021  
(COURT SEAL)

By: /s/ L. Pickett, Deputy Clerk

Published May 23 & 30 and June 6 & 13, 2021

**Notices to Creditors/ Administration**

**Notices to Creditors/ Administration**

**Notices to Creditors/ Administration**

1484-0530 SUCRN Nina Sue Hinnant  
2021-CP-421 Notice to Creditors  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR CITRUS COUNTY, FLORIDA  
PROBATE DIVISION  
File No. 2021-CP-421

IN RE: ESTATE OF  
NINA SUE HINNANT,  
Deceased.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

The administration of the estate of NINA SUE HINNANT, de-  
ceased, whose date of death was September 9, 2019, is pen-  
ding in the Circuit Court for CITRUS County, Florida, Probate Divi-  
sion, the address of which is 110 N. Apopka Ave., Inverness, FL  
34450. The names and addresses of the personal representa-  
tive and the personal representative's attorney are set forth be-  
low.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having  
claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a  
copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims  
with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER  
THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS  
AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having  
claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their  
claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE  
FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN  
FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.  
NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY  
CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S  
DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this Notice is May 23, 2021.  
Personal Representative:  
TAMMY L. MCDONALD  
2340 Seiler Pt., Lecanto, FL 34461

Attorney for Personal Representative:  
ROBERT S. CHRISTENSEN, ESQ.  
Florida Bar Number: 0075272  
PO Box 415, Homosassa Springs, Florida 34447  
Telephone: 352-382-7934 Fax: 352-382-7936  
E-mail: christensenlaw@earthlink.net  
Published May 2





### 2021 Bronco Sport Big Bend



Save Up To  
**\$500**  
Off MSRP  
or .9%/60 mos  
+ \$500

### 2021 Escape



Save Up To  
**\$2,000**  
Off MSRP  
or 1.9%/60 mos  
+ \$1,000

### 2021 EcoSport SE



Save Up To  
**\$3,000**  
Off MSRP  
or 4.9%/60 mos

### 2021 Edge SEL



Save Up To  
**\$2,250**  
Off MSRP  
or 1.96%/60 mos

### 2021 Ranger



Save Up To  
**\$2,500**  
Off MSRP  
or 3.9%/60 mos

### 2021 F-150 XLT



Save Up To  
**\$6,000**  
Off MSRP  
or 3.9%/60 mos  
+ \$2,500

## NICK NICHOLAS PRE-OWNED SUPER CENTER



**2015 FORD TAURUS SEL**  
NEW TIRES!! LEATHER AND MORE. ONLY 36K MILES. N0T514A  
**\$15,968**



**2020 KIA SOUL**  
8,850 LOW MILES. 1-OWNER. BALANCE KIA 5/60 WARRANTY. NP7529A  
**\$17,968**



**2017 FORD EXPLORER FWD XLT**  
GREAT VALUE. STNC. THIRD ROW SEATING. N1T212A  
**BLUE CERTIFIED \$18,968**



**2017 TOYOTA CAMRY**  
SE MODEL. POWER MOONROOF & NAVIGATION. N1T255A  
**\$19,968**



**2020 MERCEDES-BENZ GLA 250**  
17K MILES. Balance Mercedes Warranty. Super SHARPI N1T220A  
**\$31,968**

**WE ARE BUYING CARS, TRUCKS, VANS! WANT TO SELL YOURS? BRING IT ON IN.**



**2017 LINCOLN MKX**  
16k Low Miles. Lincoln Factory Warranty. Select Plus. Navigation & BLIS. NPR1420  
**\$32,968**



**2019 CHEVROLET COLORADO REDLINE CREW CAB**  
22K Miles On This Redline Edition LT Crewcab. Balance Chevy Factory Warranty. NP7550  
**\$35,968**



**2020 LINCOLN MKZ**  
1,910 miles. Balance Lincoln Warranty. Convenience pkg. Navigation, power trunk lid. On the showroom floor. NPR1417  
**\$35,968**



**2018 LINCOLN MKX**  
6,500 EXTRA LOW MILES. Select PLUS. Navigation, Blis, SYNC3. Balance Lincoln Warranty. NPR1418  
**\$37,968**



**2019 RAM 1500 LARAMIE 4X4**  
SPORT CREW CAB 4X4. BALANCE RAM FACTORY WARRANTY. LEVEL 2 EQUIPMENT. N1T211A  
**\$49,968**



**2019 FORD F150 LARIAT FX4**  
LEVEL/WHEEL/TIRE PACKAGE. Lariat 4x4. 3.5 EcoBoost. Twin Panel Moonroof. Max trailer tow pkg. FX4 Off road. NPR1399  
**\$54,744**



**2019 FORD F250 LARIAT 4X4 SUPERCREW**  
15k low miles. Lariat ULTIMATE pkg. 6.7 DIESEL 4x4. High Capacity Trailer Tow. FX4 OffRoad. Twin panel moonroof. N1T182A  
**\$74,968**

Gold Certified Benefits Only. See dealer for list of Blue Certified Benefits.

- Ford cars, SUVs, crossovers & trucks (up to 350-Series) that are current or 5 previous model years and have less than 80,000 miles can qualify
- 12-month/12,000-mile Comprehensive Limited Warranty Coverage
- 7-year/100,000-mile Powertrain Limited Warranty Coverage
- 172 points of inspection by CERTIFIED mechanics
- Vehicle History Report • 24-hour roadside assistance
- A full tank of fuel, fresh oil and filter, and new wiper blades at delivery
- Service available at any Ford or Lincoln Dealer in the 50 states & Canada

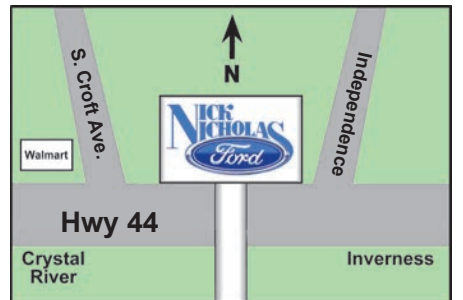


**Blue Advantage**



See Our Entire Inventory at:  
[NickNicholasFord.com](http://NickNicholasFord.com)

2901 Hwy. 44 W.,  
Inverness, FL  
**352-726-1231**  
Mon-Fri: 8-7 • Sat: 8:30-5 • Closed Sunday



\*MSRP for base vehicle. Excludes destination/delivery fee plus government fees and taxes, any finance charges, any dealer processing charge, any electronic filing charge, and any emission testing charge. Optional equipment not included. See dealer for qualifications and complete details. Limited time offer Dealer retains incentives. Not all buyers will qualify for Ford Credit financing. Prices do not include tax, tag, title and administrative fee of \$399. W.A.C. Dealer is not responsible for typographical errors. Vehicle shown are for illustrative purposes only and may have optional equipment not included. All offers, prices and incentives end 5/31/21.

# LOVE Honda MAY-DAY...MAY-DAY!

IT'S A TRADE-IN EMERGENCY, WE NEED YOUR TRADE & WILL GIVE YOU MORE!

**BRAND NEW 2021 CIVIC LX**  
CVT, Sedan



**\$169** OR **1.9% FINANCING** **60 MONTHS**

\*Plus down payment, tax, tag, and dealer fees. See dealer for complete details. Offer expires 6/1/2021.

**BRAND NEW 2021 ACCORD LX**  
CVT, Sedan



**\$229** OR **1.9% FINANCING** **60 MONTHS**

\*Plus down payment, tax, tag, and dealer fees. See dealer for complete details. Offer expires 6/1/2021.



**\$250 Gift Card**  
WALMART • PUBLIX • GAS

**BRAND NEW 2021 HR-V LX**  
2WD



**\$159** OR **0% FINANCING AVAILABLE** **36 MONTHS**

\*Plus down payment, tax, tag, and dealer fees. See dealer for complete details. Offer expires 6/1/2021.

**BRAND NEW 2021 CR-V LX**  
2WD



**\$249** OR **0% FINANCING AVAILABLE** **36 MONTHS**


\*Plus down payment, tax, tag, and dealer fees. See dealer for complete details. Offer expires 6/1/2021.

Lovehonda.com • 2219 South Sun Coast Blvd. Homosassa Fl • 352-628-4600

# LOVE Motor Sports



HONDA DREAM GARAGE SALES EVENT  
**OFF-ROAD**



**POLARIS** THE RIDE OF YOUR LIFE IS JUST A PRE-ORDER AWAY  
Call to Reserve Yours Today

GET AS LOW AS **1.99% APR**  
FOR 36 MONTHS QUALIFIED BUYERS\*  
OR  
UP TO \$1,500 CUSTOMER CASH\*\*



**SUZUKIFES**

THE **POLARIS HEROES ADVANTAGE PROGRAM**

Get 10% off MSRP • 2-year warranty  
+ \$100 savings on parts, apparel and accessories\*  
Exclusively for active military, veterans and healthcare workers as part of the Polaris® Heroes Advantage program.

SEE IF YOU'RE ELIGIBLE >



**POLARIS**

# MAY-DAY...MAY-DAY! LOVE Chevrolet

IT'S A TRADE-IN EMERGENCY, WE NEED YOUR TRADE & WILL GIVE YOU MORE!

**LOVE Advantage** Every New Chevrolet Comes With The Love Chevrolet Advantage

Complimentary **1 Year Vehicle Return Plan** And Our **Best Deal Guarantee!** NOBODY BEATS YOUR HOME TOWN DEALER!

**BRAND NEW 2020 CHEVY TRAX LT**  
FWD



**\$169** OR **0% APR FOR 84 MOS.** **39 MONTHS**  
Plus \$1,300 Cash Allowance

\$1,989 Due at signing. After all other offers. 0% Security Deposit. Tax, title, license, and dealer fees extra. Mileage charge of .25/Mile over 32,500 Miles. For well qualified buyers only. See dealer for complete details. Offer expires 6/30/2021.

**BRAND NEW 2021 CHEVY EQUINOX LT**



**\$189** OR **0% APR FOR 72 MOS.** **39 MONTHS**  
Plus \$2,150 Cash Allowance

\$2,709 Due at signing. After all other offers. 0% Security Deposit. Tax, title, license, and dealer fees extra. Mileage charge of .25/Mile over 32,500 Miles. For well qualified buyers only. See dealer for complete details. Offer expires 6/30/2021.

**0% Financing For 72 Months Plus up to \$3,250 Cash Allowance**

**BRAND NEW 2021 CHEVY BLAZER LT**



**\$219** OR **0% APR FOR 72 MOS.** **36 MONTHS**  
Plus \$1,400 Cash Allowance

\$2,909 Due at signing. After all other offers. 0% Security Deposit. Tax, title, license, and dealer fees extra. Mileage charge of .25/Mile over 32,500 Miles. For well qualified buyers only. See dealer for complete details. Offer expires 6/30/2021.

**BRAND NEW 2021 CHEVY SILVERADO**  
1500 Crew Cab LT w/2.7L Turbo



**\$299** OR **0% APR FOR 72 MOS.** **39 MONTHS**

\$3,139 Due at signing. After all other offers. 0% Security Deposit. Tax, title, license, and dealer fees extra. Mileage charge of .25/Mile over 30,000 Miles. For well qualified buyers only. See dealer for complete details. Offer expires 6/30/2021.



Lovechevysales.com • 2209 Highway 44 West Inverness Fl • 352-341-0018

# HomeFront

SUNDAY, MAY 23, 2021

Look closely to see firebush's reddish petioles or leaf stems where it grows from the stem. Resident throughout Florida, a Long-tailed Skipper butterfly, *Urbanus proteus*, nectars on firebush. It has multiple generations a year. Its caterpillars host on various pea family legumes including at least 14 native species like ticktrefoils and beggarweeds, invasive wisteria and kudzu vines and on veggie legume plants like soybean, radish and bean leaves where people have eradicated their natural host plants.

JANE WEBER/Special to the Chronicle



Inside this week:

Jane's Garden

Jane looks at Firebush in Florida./Page E6

# SELLERS! Sell Your Home With ERA!

**HOME SWEET HOME IN THIS HOT MARKET!!**



**TEXT LYNNHARRIS TO 35620 FOR ELECTRONIC BROCHURE**  
 This 4/2/2 beauty is located in the lovely sought after neighborhood of FOREST RIDGE. The spacious, open living room greets you upon entry and flows effortlessly into the spacious dining room where you can enjoy many family gatherings or perhaps grab a quick snack at the breakfast bar in the adjoining kitchen. The beautifully spacious kitchen has updated appliances, a large pantry & tons of storage. So much to mention, call or an appointment to see!  
**LYNN HARRIS**  
 352-269-8499  
 RACC 2020 Realtor of the Year  
 Multi-Million Dollar Producer  
**MLS# 801510**

**STOP THE SEARCH!! THIS BEAUTY IS BACK ON THE MARKET!!**



**TEXT LYNNHARRIS TO 35620 FOR ELECTRONIC BROCHURE**  
 This spectacular rare 3/2 updated remodeled 1,448 sq. ft. home is back up for grabs! Home offers a split floor plan w/open concept. Home features, NEW Roof December 2020, NEW Vinyl plank flooring throughout the entire home, NEW Updated Kitchen w/ NEW Cabinets & Granite, NEW Appliances, Updated NEW Bathrooms w/tiled showers, FRESHLY painted inside & out, NEW Windows & Doors 2021 and much more. All fixtures match throughout the stunning home. Don't miss your opportunity for this beauty, it will not last long!  
**LYNN HARRIS**  
 352-269-8499  
 RACC 2020 Realtor of the Year  
 Multi-Million Dollar Producer  
**MLS# 799122**

**BRAND NEW HOME READY TO MOVE INTO!**



**TEXT 606337 TO 35620 FOR ELECTRONIC BROCHURE**  
 2 bedroom, 2.5 baths, 2 car garage. Lots of upgrades. Park your RV on the concrete pad. Membership at Inverness Golf and Country Club optional.  
**\$233,900**  
**MLS# 799872**  
**ROGER LANGLEY**  
 352-302-0689

**BEAUTIFUL BLACK DIAMOND ESTATE LOT**



**TEXT 962800 TO 35620 FOR ELECTRONIC BROCHURE**  
 This exciting Building Site will be the perfect location for your new "work of art" home. Sited on the 12th hole of the award winning Quarry Course.  
**BRUCE LOWELL**  
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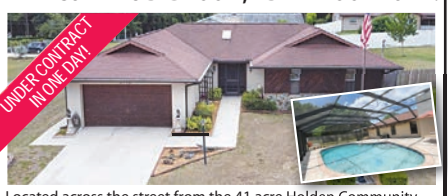
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# US home construction drops an unexpected 9.5% in April

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. home construction fell a surprisingly sharp 9.5% in April and economists attributed that partially to builders who delayed projects because of a surge in lumber prices and other supply constraints.

The April decline left construction at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.57 million units, the Commerce Department said Tuesday. That was down from a rate of 1.73 million units in March, which had been the best showing since homes were constructed at a rate of 1.74 million units in July 2006 at the peak of that decade's housing boom.

Applications for building permits, considered a sign of future activity, rose 0.3% in April to an annual rate of 1.76 million units, suggesting that the April construction dip will be temporary.

Economists linked the April decline to reports of builders delaying projects because of soaring lumber prices and snarled supply chains that have made it difficult to get products like appliances.



Associated Press

**A carpenter aligns a beam for a wall frame at a new house site in Madison County, Miss.**

The price of lumber alone has added \$35,872 to the price of an average single-family home, according to the National Association of Home Builders. Part of those increases are border taxes imposed by the Trump administration in a trade dispute with Canada.

See **BUILDING/Page E11**

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Steve Latiff has been a real estate professional since 1983 and is the recipient of many state and national awards for his accomplishments. Steve can be reached directly at 352-634-0101, by email at slatiff@erasuncoast.com or at the Crystal River office of ERA Realty at 352-795-6811.

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HomeFront is a weekly real estate section published Sundays in the Citrus County Chronicle.

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### REAL ESTATE DIGEST PHOTOS

- Headshots of real estate agents and associates submitted for the Real Estate Digest are kept on file in the Chronicle Editorial Department. It is the responsibility of the individuals submitting news notes to ensure headshots have been sent to the newsroom, and to advise staff of any name changes.
- Photos need to be in sharp focus.
- Photos submitted electronically should be in maximum-resolution JPEG (.jpg) format.

# Six frugal tips to help save money in yards and gardens

## Living SPACE

Better Homes & Gardens



iStockphoto

You don't need a lot of cash to create a beautiful garden.

**B**udget landscaping and yard care doesn't mean cutting corners; it means making the most of your tools and existing plants. Follow these six easy-to-implement tips to save money on your great outdoors.

1. Remember: Seeds are cheaper than plants.

Many vegetables are easy to grow from seed, and a \$2 seed packet is a lot cheaper than a full-sized plant — or buying vegetables from the store. Try tomatoes, peppers, squash, cucumbers, beans, lettuce and beets from seed. They're easy, even for beginning gardeners. Start them indoors under lights for a head start or sow directly in the garden. If you're nervous about starting from seed, seedlings purchased from a nursery are typically only slightly more expensive.

See LIVING/Page E5

# John Sikorski sizes up a pair of pictures from readers

**Dear John:** I have had the oil painting in the enclosed photograph for 35 years. My mother-in-law bought it at an estate sale here in Florida. I loved it and she gifted it to me. She has passed, so I do not know where in Florida or when she bought it before she gave it to me. I have tried to find out about the artist but have not had any luck. Is it worth anything? Should I have it cleaned? — P.L.R., Inverness



John Sikorski  
SIKORSKI'S  
ATTIC

**Dear P.L.R.:** I am glad you included several photographs of your painting, including one of the artist's signature. The painting depicts a young man of the 18th century. I can see the

signature is Kallina, also the date 1907. I was not able to find any biographical information or track record of sales. It would be good to have it properly cleaned. As is, I think it would sell in the \$100 to \$200 range.

**Dear John:** Thanks for your column in the newspaper. I always look forward to it. I have a picture drawn by Howard Chandler Christy in 1905. In the margin it says "Copyright 1905 Moffat, Yard & Co. NY." The image is of a young lady and young man and is called "Teasing" on a plaque on the frame. It is just over 12 inches by 16 inches.

I bought the picture decades ago at an estate sale in upstate New York just because I thought it was charming. I am sure I did not spend very much. Can you tell me anything about the artist and if my picture has any value? — T.Z., internet

**Dear T.Z.:** You have a commercial print, not a drawing, as noted on the print itself with the copyright notice.

Howard Chandler Christy was American, born in 1873 and died in 1952. He is widely recognized in the art market for his illustrations of beautiful women, often referred to as Christy Girls. These Christy prints are very collectible and have been for some time.

One of his most famous paintings is the "Signing of the Constitution," which hangs in the rotunda of the Capitol in Washington, D.C. He also did illustrations for "Scribner's" and "Leslie's" weekly magazines and later in life he produced murals.

The vibrancy of the color and paper condition of the print are paramount to value. The print should be properly mounted in acid free materials for conservation. If the print is pre World War I, it has a potential dollar value of \$150 to \$300.

John Sikorski has been a professional in the antiques business for 30 years. Send questions to Sikorski's Attic, P.O. Box 2513, Ocala, FL 34478 or [asksikorski@aol.com](mailto:asksikorski@aol.com).



Special to the Chronicle

This painting is dated 1907; there is no record of the artist.

# Mortgage rates rise; 30-year loan up to 3%

## Inflation rattles markets

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Mortgage rates rose this week, pushing the benchmark 30-year home loan to the 3% mark for the first time since mid-April. Signs continued of the economy's recovery from the pandemic recession and a burst of inflation rattled stock markets.

Mortgage buyer Freddie Mac reported Thursday that the average for the benchmark 30-year home-loan rate increased to 3% from 2.94% last week. At this time last

year, the long-term rate was 3.24%.

The rate for a 15-year loan, popular among those seeking to refinance, rose to 2.29% from 2.26% from last week.

The government reported last week that a worrisome bout of inflation struck in April, with consumer prices for goods and services surging 0.8% — the largest monthly jump in more than a decade — and the year-over-year increase reaching its fastest rate since 2008. The report showed sharply higher

See RATES/Page E11

## LIVING

Continued from Page E4

### 2. Invest in a mulching mower.

A good mulching mower pays for itself in several ways. First, you don't have to pay to have grass clippings bagged and hauled to a composting facility. Second, returning clippings to your lawn is like free fertilizer. Over the course of a full season you'll return about as much nitrogen as one full-strength feeding. And when fall comes, do the same with fallen leaves.

### 3. Save money on soil.

A large container can be expensive to fill with fresh potting soil. To save money, place one or more empty nursery pots upside down in the bottom. Not only does it reduce the amount of soil needed, it reduces weight, too.

### 4. Inspect your sprinklers.

Long watering is an expensive proposition in the summertime. To make sure your sprinklers are operating efficiently, have an irrigation expert do a walk-through water audit and suggest ways to reduce water bills. If you have an automatic irrigation system, use sensors to make it more efficient. They can help you water exactly as much as needed, and no more.

5. Trade perennials with other gardeners.

Mature perennials in your garden are a valuable resource. Most perennials can be dug up and divided, yielding two, three, even four splits. And each of these can be replanted elsewhere. Even better, trade with other gardeners, swapping divisions of your perennial for varieties in their gardens that you'd like to try.

6. Plant a tree for a more efficient house.

If you have a hot western wall

exposed to the afternoon sun, try planting a tree that will shade it. Not only can it add to the overall aesthetic of your surrounding yard, the shade it throws can significantly reduce your cooling costs.

*Better Homes and Gardens is a magazine and website devoted to ideas and improvement projects for your home and garden, plus recipes and entertaining ideas. Visit them online at [www.bhg.com](http://www.bhg.com).*



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# Native Firebush in Florida

There are about 40 species in the *Hamelia* genus in the tropical and subtropical Americas. Firebush, *Hamelia patens*, ranges from Florida's USDA cold zone 9 in the north through Central America in zones 9-11, across the equator and as far south as subtropical Argentina. It is a large perennial shrub in the Rubiaceae family that includes coffee. Gardeners use firebush as a specimen or accent plant, in a privacy screen, wildlife buffer zone, mixed border or mass plantings. Nature-lovers plant firebush



Jane Weber  
**JANE'S GARDEN**

to attract pollinators including bees, wasps, butterflies and hummingbirds and the natural small predators that feed on insects including toads, lizards, bluebirds, wrens, chickadees, etc.

Native firebush is a soft-stemmed, non-woody, multi-stemmed, perennial shrub with a spreading habit and dense foliage of a medium texture. Further south in frost-free zones 10 and 11, it remains evergreen and may reach 12 to 15 feet tall by 8 feet in diameter. Seasonally fast-growing, in my zone 8b to 9a garden it re-emerges in April and attains full height of 6 to 8 feet by the first frost. Hard freezes will kill the top growth to the ground, so frozen dead, defoliated, brittle stems can be pruned off at ground level and the roots protected with a few inches of mulch such as pine needles, pine bark or wood chips. Some folks call it a "root-hardy perennial."

Tinged red, young leaves

also have reddish hairs. Stems and the leaf petiole may also be reddish. In Central Florida, fall leaves are also tinged red. Simple leaves usually grow in whorls of three. Ovate mid-green leaves are 4 to 8 inches long with undulating edge margins. In South Florida, where firebush remains evergreen, older leaves may become speckled with red or purple.

Florida's variety of *Hamelia patens* has showy narrow, tubular, orange-red flowers 1 to 1.5 inches long. In north Central Florida, fire-

bush blooms constantly from May to the first frost of December, but in South Florida it flowers year-round. Flowers are borne in terminal forking cymes or clusters at the stem branch tips. Once pollinated, oval fleshy fruit develops and turns black when ripe. Birds and small wildlife feed on the fruit. This frost tender, root-hardy perennial shrub takes full sun to light part shade. Flowering will be less in denser shade.

Super heat-tolerant, firebush is moderately drought-tolerant once established. Water during the dry months of April and May until the summer rains arrive in June. It grows in a variety of well-drained soil types from acidic to alkaline sand, loam, clay or occasionally wet soils. It is not tolerant of salt in the soil. Plant five or more feet apart, as each plant will grow 5 to 8 feet in diameter and 6 to 8 feet

See JANE/Page E7



JANE WEBER/Special to the Chronicle

Native Florida *Hamelia patens* has attractive and showy orange-red, narrow, tubular, flowers, 1 to 1.5 inches long. Flowers are borne in terminal forking cymes or clusters at the stem branch tips. In north Central Florida, firebush blooms constantly from May to the first frost of December. In South Florida, firebush has flowers year-round.





Firebush planted and pruned in a corner lot in Crystal Glen, Lecanto. Planted in full sun with regular irrigation and surrounded by inorganic river rock that stores heat, it is unlikely to need further protection from mild winter frosts in Central Florida's Citrus County. This compact, densely foliated, native perennial shrub flowers and attracts butterflies, moths and hummingbirds.

## JANE

Continued from Page E6


tall over the summer in Central Florida. In the south it can be pruned. Pruning too much below 5 to 8 feet or too often during the flowering and growing season will reduce flowering and encourage denser foliage. No serious disease or insect problems affect firebush.

Thousands of the more tropical variety of Firebush, named *Hamelia patens var. glabra*, are imported as rooted cuttings or liners from Central America and grown to marketable size in Florida. *Glabra* is smaller, less cold-tolerant and has tubular yellow-orange flowers that have a pinched waist toward the tube

bottom. It is sometimes marketed as being dwarf and compact. There are named cultivated varieties or cultivars including "Firefly" with smaller flowers and half-sized leaves.

Spring is an ideal time to buy and plant firebush in Central Florida. Gardeners enjoy watching plants grow to maturity. Firebush is idea in a butterfly garden. Plant a firebush and soon a dozen butterfly and moth species will arrive to sip the ample sweet nectar. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds frequently nectar on firebush flowers too. Enjoy this attractive, trouble-free plant in the garden.

Jane Weber is a professional gardener and consultant. Semi-retired, she grows thousands of native plants. Contact her at [jweber12385@gmail.com](mailto:jweber12385@gmail.com) or phone 352-249-6899.




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# Clay, sand, silt, loam: The dirt on different soils

LEE REICH  
Associated Press

By now, you probably know what kind of soil you have out there in your “back 40.” If planting that rose bush brought up wads of gummy goo, you know to call it clay. If instead you scooped up gritty particles that didn’t clump together, you have the other extreme, a sand.

Both extremes in soil have their advantages and shortcomings.

These soils act the way they do mostly because of the size of the particles that make them up. Sand particles are relatively large (by definition from 2- to 5-hundredths of a millimeter across). At the larger end of this range, you can easily see them with your naked eye and feel them between your fingers. Clay particles are very small (by definition less than 2-thousandths of a millimeter across).

Tiny clay particles have tiny spaces between them — small enough to draw in water and cling to it by capillary action. That can be a bad thing this time of year, when you’re likely waiting for the soil to dry enough to become crumbly for planting, or anytime if there’s not enough pore space open for roots to get air. Don’t let clay soil get too dry before planting, though, or it becomes rock-hard.

The way clay slurps up and holds water makes it a good thing as summer weather turns dry. Some of that water, though, is held so tightly that even roots cannot get at it.

In sandy soils, the larger spaces don’t hold water. This makes for pleasant digging in spring mud season, but has plants gasping for water in dry summer weather.

Another asset to many kinds of clay particles is that



LEE REICH/Associated Press

**A shovelful of soil in New Paltz, N.Y. Good care, mostly by regularly adding plenty of organic materials and avoiding compaction, results in a soil with many pore spaces, some to retain water and some for air.**

they are negatively charged on their surface. That means that positively charged plant nutrients like potassium and calcium can latch onto those clay particles instead of being washed below the roots by rainfall or watering.

Sand particles are uncharged, letting plant food just wash right through and leaving these soils naturally infertile.

You can cure the ills of either clay or sandy soils in basically the same way: with plenty of organic matter. That includes compost, manure, leaves, peat moss, straw, hay, grass clippings, wood chips, and anything else that is or once was living.

As these materials decompose and feed microbes, a witches’ brew of natural compounds is created that affects a soil’s physical, nutritional and biological properties — all for the better. Sandy soils become more spongy so they hold water better, and charged so they retain nutrients. Gums form that stick clay particles together into larger units with larger spaces between them, from which excess water can drain away and let in air.

Be careful about tilling sandy soils. They already have plenty of air and charging them with more causes organic matter to “burn away” too quickly. And be careful about treading or driving on clay soils; compaction, especially when such soils are wet, breaks down those aggregated particles, creating a mass of small particles and pores.

Most soils, of course, are not all sand or all clay. They are a mix of different-size particles that might also include silt, which is intermediate in size between sand and clay. Silt particles make a soil feel silky.

The ideal soil is not one that is predominantly sand, silt, or clay, but one that has all these particles in amounts that let each express itself. The result is a range of pore sizes, some to hold water and some to hold air. Such soils — the holy grail to gardeners — are called loams.

It is neither practical, wise nor necessary to improve any soil by hauling in material to change the particle sizes. All soils though, even loams, benefit greatly from regular additions of organic matter.

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- Local groups are welcome to add their upcoming events to the Chronicle’s online community calendar. Here’s how:
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- Once signed in, click on “Calendar Events” in the left-hand column, then click on “Create an event.”

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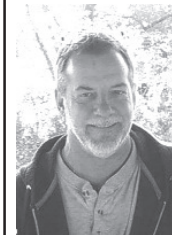
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## BUILDING

Continued from Page E3

There was also a temporary shut-down in production when the pandemic hit a year ago.

Even with the higher prices, economists expect housing, one of the stand-out economic performers in the pandemic, will continue to show strength in 2021.

“Strong demand, a need for inventory and home-builder optimism will support housing starts over the rest of 2021, while record-high lumber prices and supply chain bottlenecks may act as headwinds,” said Nancy Vanden Houten, lead economist at Oxford Economics.

She predicted housing construction would hit 1.6 million units this year, up from 1.38 million last year. That would be the best annual showing since 2006.

Part of that optimism reflects upbeat builder sentiment. A monthly survey by the home builders

association and Wells Fargo released Monday showed builder confidence held steady at a high reading of 83 in May, unchanged from April.

“In recent months, aggregate residential construction material costs were up 12% year-over-year and our surveys suggest those costs are rising further,” said Robert Dietz, chief economist for the home builders. “Low interest rates are supporting housing affordability in a market where the cost of most materials is rising.”

The construction weakness in April reflected a 13.4% drop in construction starts for single-family homes, which declined to an annual rate of 1.09 million units.

Construction of apartments with five units or more rose by 4% to 470,000 units.

The April decline in construction was led by a 34.4% fall in the Midwest followed by an 11.5% drop in the South. Construction rose 9% in the West and was up 6.2% in the Northeast.

## RATES

Continued from Page E5

prices for everything from food and clothes to housing.

The acceleration in prices, which has been building for months, has unsettled financial markets and raised concerns that it could weaken the economic recovery.

The spike in inflation caused stock markets to tumble this week because investors worry that higher prices will force the Federal Reserve to prematurely cut back on its efforts to stimulate growth. The Fed has set as its goal keeping its key interest rate near zero until the economy recovers from the pandemic.

The latest positive news came in a government report Thursday that the number of Americans seeking unemployment aid fell last week to 444,000, a new pandemic low and a sign that the job market keeps strengthening as consumers spend freely again, viral infections drop and business restrictions ease. The decline in filings for jobless aid was the fifth in the past six weeks.



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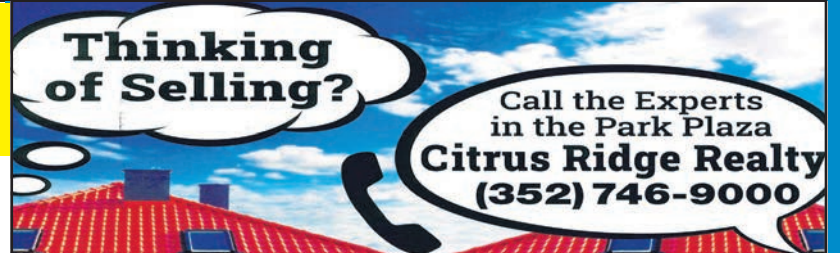


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Check out this 2,777 Lv Sqft 3/2-with Den/3-garage with  
screened enclosed pool home located in the Rainbow  
Springs River Run subdivision & is nestled on a .36  
acre lot that backs up to the Golf Course & includes The  
River Park, Club House, Tennis Courts & Pool.  
MLS #801199 \$432,900  
Call Deanna Hance, 352-502-2048,  
to schedule your view appointment today!

**21**

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Inverness, FL 34450

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**6059 N. SUNCOAST BLVD., CRYSTAL RIVER**  
92.39 Acres with Central Water, adjoining  
Seven Rivers Hospital-Highway frontage,  
total of 3 lots-land use Commercial & Single  
Family Residential, Zoned PSO.  
MLS #801607 \$1,342,046  
Call Jim Morton, 352-726-6668 or 352-422-2173  
for additional property information.



**7158 E. ANELLA COURT, INVERNESS**  
Check out this spacious 3/2/2 1,802 Lv Sqft  
home nestled on a .34 acre lot at the end of  
the street & has been well maintained with an  
open floor plan & close to public boat launches,  
dining, shopping, & Historic Downtown Inverness  
with all the indoor/outdoor amenities it has to offer.  
MLS #801524 \$325,000  
Call Luke Whitehurst, 352-476-5578,  
and schedule your showing appointment today!



**8497 W. ELOSSA COURT, HOMOSASSA**  
Check out this 3/2 manufactured home  
nestled on a .25 acre lot at the end of a  
cul-de-sac, and located in the Crystal River  
Heights subdivision and is within minutes from  
shopping. It is chain link fenced on 3 sides  
with a storage/utility building in the back yard.  
MLS #801530 \$134,900  
Call Pat Davis, 352-212-7280, to schedule  
a showing appointment today!



**3110 N. BARTON CREEK CIR., LECANTO**  
4/4/2 plus den or office, 2,370 living  
sq. ft., private backyard, nice covered  
lanai, open floor plan.  
MLS #799372 \$359,000  
Call Linda Thomas 352-464-4881



**MOONRISE RESORT:** This 3 bedroom, 2 bath,  
24x60 mobile built in 1991 has a carport, lanai,  
storage room & small shed, lot rent is only \$360 per  
month & includes water, sewer, trash & lawn, has  
water access, club house & friendly neighbors. Walk  
across the street to the 47 mile Withlacoochee Trail,  
bring your bike, enjoy the Florida SUNSHINE.  
All of this for only \$42,000  
CALL ME TO SEE, RUTH FREDERICK 352-563-6866



**BEVERLY HILLS  
BEAUTIFUL 2/2/2,  
1,604 SQ.FT**  
MLS #801432 \$185,000  
THAO LE 352-586-3666



**594 S. WOLFE POINT, LECANTO**  
Check out this 3/2/2-detached carport nestled  
on a 2.42-acre lot of privacy and enjoy your  
morning or evenings in your screened-in back  
porch also included is a utility shed.  
MLS #801458 \$169,000  
Call Daniel Gaddi, 352-634-2217, to  
schedule your viewing appointment today!



**5241 S. SHORELINE DR, FLORAL CITY**  
Look at this 3/2/2 Waterfront nestled on a .89  
acre lot with beautiful quiet & tranquil park-like  
setting backyard with rock/gravel/pavers walkways  
throughout the backyard with an open patio with a  
fire pit & benches. This is a MUST-SEE-HOME!  
MLS #801478 \$309,000  
Call Ryan Hazelton 352-445-7693, to  
schedule your viewing appointment today!

**2 VACANT LOTS  
LISTINGS**  
**BAY MEADOWS AT SEVEN LAKES**

**E. LINDALE COURT, INVERNESS**  
.51-acres, zoned - CLR  
MLS #795934 \$35,000  
**9894 E. TRYON COURT, INVERNESS**  
.57-acres, zoned - CLR  
MLS #795933 \$35,000  
Call Vanessa Bennett 614-562-6224  
for property information!



**CONVENIENTLY LOCATED 2 BEDROOM,  
2 BATH, FULL 2 CAR GARAGE. HALF  
ACRE HOMESITE** provides plenty of room to  
add pool. Large screened porch, fenced  
backyard and patio. No HOA. OK to park RV,  
boat. Minutes to shopping. MLS #800502  
Call Pat Davis, 352-212-7280, to schedule  
your viewing appointment today!



**COME TO THE COUNTRY & BRING YOUR TOYS.**  
This is a great property. 3 bedroom, 2 baths, newly updated.  
Inside utility. Huge screened porch for entertaining. Plenty of room to  
add backyard pool. Patio w/firepit. Fully fenced spacious yard.  
Beautiful old oaks. PLUS 4 cars+ garage/workshop w/attached  
carport. 2 garden/storage buildings. Full acre plus homesite.  
MLS #801002 Priced to sell \$299,900  
Call Pat Davis, 352-212-7280, to schedule  
your viewing appointment today!



**404 W. INVERNESS BLVD., INVERNESS**  
Look at this 2/2/2 home with a completely  
fenced-in backyard, is located in the Inverness  
Highlands South Subdivision, just minutes from  
historic downtown Inverness, and enjoy all the  
indoor/outdoor amenities Inverness has to offer.  
MLS #800828 \$175,000  
Call Skyler Hastings 352-422-6096  
and schedule your viewing today!  
to schedule your showing appointment.



**9362 N. OATS WAY, DUNNELLON**  
Check out this 3/2 manufactured home  
nestled on a .74-acre corner lot in the  
Withlacoochee Homes Subdivision. This  
is just minutes from the boat ramp with  
access to the Withlacoochee River and is  
within 20 minutes from Ocala & Inverness.  
MLS #799478 \$124,899  
Call Kimberly Miner 352-586-9549  
to schedule your showing appointment today!



**8910 E. TSALA APOPKA DR., INVERNESS**  
Check out this quaint 2/2/1-detached carport located  
in the Hickory Hill Retreats subdivision and enjoy the  
convenience of having the Tsala Apopka chain of  
Lakes right in your backyard and is within minutes  
from the Historic Downtown Inverness with all the  
indoor/outdoor amenities it has to offer.  
MLS #801368 \$164,900  
Call Luke Whitehurst, 352-476-5578, to  
schedule your showing appointment today!



**2545 S. ZELLNER DRIVE, INVERNESS**  
Look at this 3/2/2, 1,678 Lv Sqft home nestled on a  
.57 acre lot located in the Lake Davis Est Subdivision  
with a wood-burning fireplace & screened-in lanai  
for enjoying your morning/evenings of relaxation &  
tranquility, a piece of paradise.  
MLS #801600 \$242,500  
Call Laurie Callahan, 352-464-0743, to  
schedule your showing appointment today!



**3911 N. INDIANRIVER DR., HERNANDO**  
If you're looking for vacant land in Citrus Hills-  
Fairview Estates to build your dream home, then  
check out this 1.04-acre lot. It has public water/  
sewer & is centrally located to go to Rivers, Gulf of  
Mexico, Parks, Lakes, Springs, Orlando, & Tampa.  
MLS #801379 \$38,000  
Call Vanessa Bennett, 614-562-6224,  
for additional property information.

**THE CHRONICLE** **SUNDAY** **PEANUTS** **NOBODY HOME** **GOODS**

May 23, 2021

**PEANUTS**  
featuring  
**"Good ol' Charlie Brown"**  
by SCHULZ

CHOW

GOOD GRIEF!  
ANOTHER NOTE!

"DEAR SON, I HOPE YOU ENJOY AND ALSO APPRECIATE THE LUNCH I MADE FOR YOU TODAY"

"DID YOU HAVE A NICE MORNING? DID YOU VOLUNTEER IN CLASS AS I SUGGESTED? TEACHERS ARE ALWAYS IMPRESSED BY STUDENTS WHO VOLUNTEER...IT IS A SURE WAY TO BETTER GRADES..."

"REMEMBER, BETTER GRADES NOW WILL MEAN A BETTER COLLEGE LATER ON... DID YOU EAT YOUR CARROTS? PROPER NUTRITION IS ESSENTIAL TO GOOD STUDY"

"ARE YOU SITTING IN THE SUN? I HOPE SO, FOR A LITTLE SUN IS GOOD AS LONG AS WE DON'T OVERDO IT...PERHAPS TEN MINUTES A DAY THIS TIME OF YEAR IS ABOUT RIGHT"

HI, LINUS...WHAT ARE YOU HAVING FOR LUNCH?

CARROTS, PEANUT BUTTER AND GUILT!

**DILBERT** by SCOTT ADAMS  
dilbert.com

IF YOU FINISH BY THE DEADLINE, I'LL RECOMMEND YOU FOR A MILLION-DOLLAR BONUS.

YOU'RE LYING. I'M SERIOUS.

BUT YOU'RE ALSO LYING. ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT.

I'D NEED TO WORK AROUND THE CLOCK FOR WEEKS TO MEET THE DEADLINE!

THAT'S THE SPIRIT!

IF YOU'RE LYING ABOUT THE BONUS, I'M GOING TO BE BOILING MAD.

FIVE WEEKS LATER  
IT NEARLY KILLED ME, BUT I FINISHED BY THE DEADLINE.

WHERE'S MY MILLION-DOLLAR BONUS?  
I TOLD YOU I'D RECOMMEND IT. THEY SAID NO.

**MARVIN & Bitsy**

I'M HUNGRY

I'D BETTER ALERT MOM!

WAH!!

YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME

THERE'S NO CRY-FI SERVICE OUT HERE

Bob Weber Jr.'s  
**SLYLOCK FOX**  
and COMICS FOR KIDS

Slylock Fox received reports accusing Count Weirdly of threatening forest citizens with his creepy creature this evening. But Weirdly claims he's been home reading a library book all night and insists he has just now stopped to walk his little beast around the castle. What evidence did Slylock discover that suggests the count is lying?

Solution - The reading light's bulb is cool. If Weirdly had just turned it off to go for a walk, it would still be warm.

**HOW TO DRAW a mouse on a baseball**  
BOB WEBER JR and SR  
5-23

**YOUR DRAWING**  
Today's terrific artist is Pearl, age 9

Submit your black-and-white drawing to [www.slylockfox.com](http://www.slylockfox.com)

Which one of the following wild cats cannot roar?  
a) Lion  
b) Tiger  
c) Cheetah  
d) Jaguar

Answer - (c)

Spot six differences between these panels.

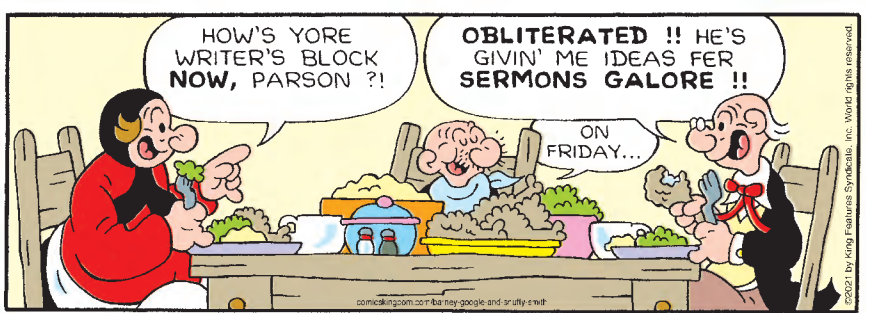
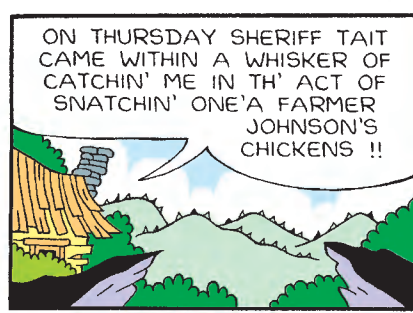
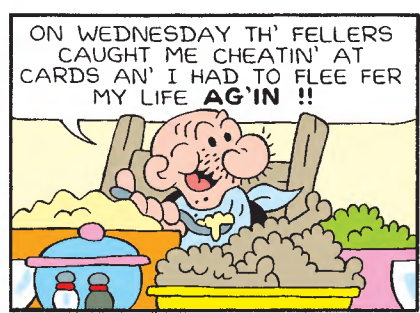
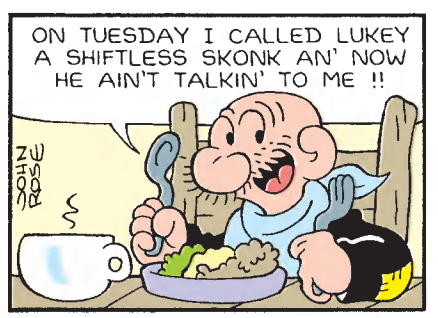
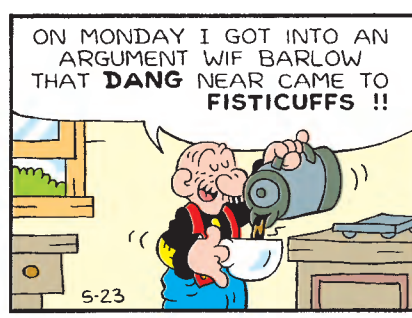
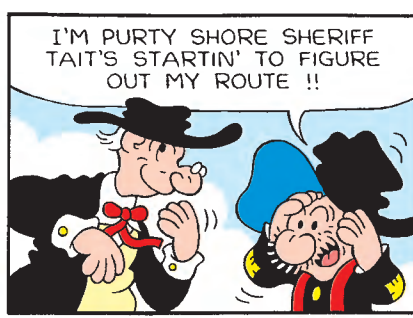
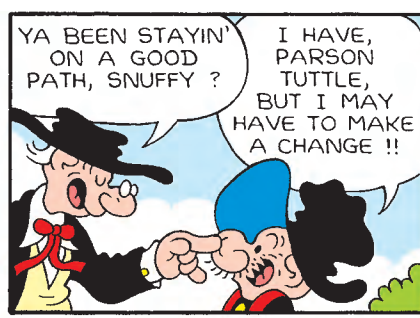
Answer - Mouse, cat's eye, boy's mouth, cookie, chair and shirt cuff.

For more Spot Six Differences, Slylock Fox and other puzzles and comics go to [www.slylockfox.com](http://www.slylockfox.com)

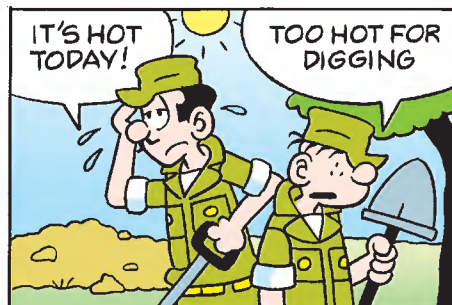




**BARNEY GOOGLE and SNUFFY SMITH**  
BY JOHN ROSE

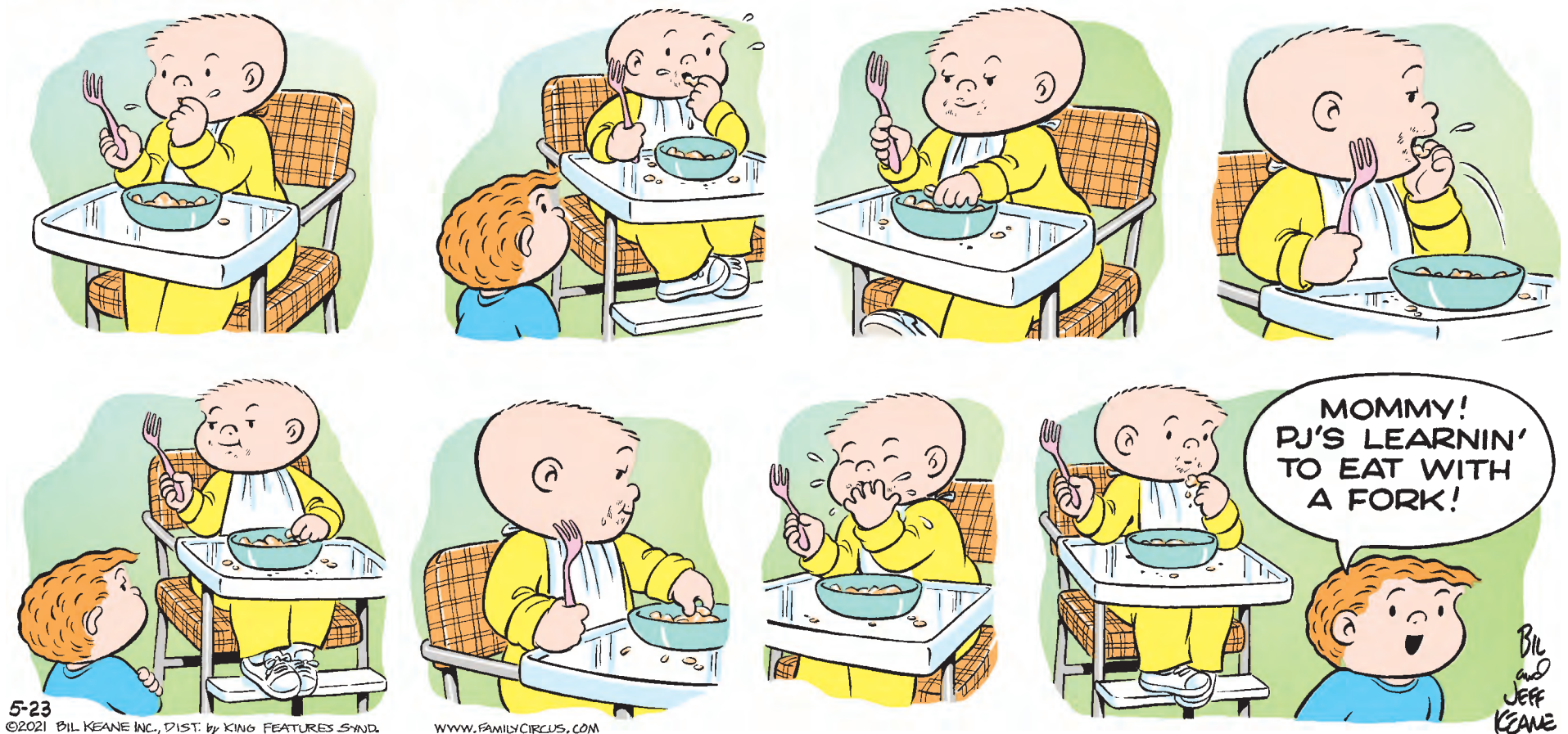


**Mort Walker's beetle bailey**

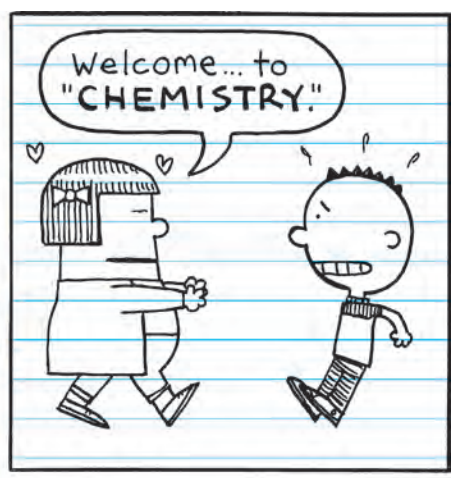


**THE FAMILY CIRCUS**

By **BIL KEANE**



**bluie**  
by Lincoln Peirce



# PICKLES

by BRIAN CRANE

IT'S SUCH A PAIN TO HAVE TO UNBUTTON EACH BUTTON, ONE BUTTON AT A TIME, WHEN YOU TAKE YOUR SHIRT OFF.

YEAH, IT IS.

ESPECIALLY IF YOU HAVE ARTHRITIS IN YOUR HANDS.

I LOVE WESTERN SHIRTS. YOU KNOW WHY?

WHY?

BECAUSE THEY HAVE SNAPS INSTEAD OF BUTTONS. THAT'S WHY.

BUT WITH SNAPS YOU CAN JUST RIP YOUR SHIRT OPEN!

OH, SHOOT. I FORGOT- I'M NOT WEARING MY WESTERN SHIRT TODAY.

I'LL GET THOSE BUTTONS FOR YOU.

# SALLY FORTH

by Francesco Marciuliano

WHY DID I RECEIVE AN ENGRAVED INVITATION TO YOUR BACKYARD PATIO?

YOU'LL SEE. OH, AND NO FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY.

ONCE AGAIN WE GATHER HERE FOR A TRULY MOMENTOUS OCCASION...

UH...WHAT'S GOING ON?

MY DAD IS ABOUT TO UNVEIL HIS NEW OFFICIAL BURGER OF SUMMER.

OHHHHH. WHAT?

EACH MAY MY DAD TRIES TO TOP HIS PREVIOUS OFFICIAL BURGER OF SUMMER.

YOU KEEP SAYING "OFFICIAL BURGER OF SUMMER" LIKE THAT'S A THING.

IT IS AROUND HERE. MY DAD WORKS HARD ON HIS GRILLING CREATION. UNPREDICTABLE RECIPE. UNANTICIPATED INGREDIENTS. HE TINKERS. HE EXPERIMENTS...

ALL SO HE CAN UNVEIL THAT BURGER THAT REDEFINES OUR VERY UNDERSTANDING OF BURGERS.

THAT OPENS A STARTLING NEW WINDOW INTO CULINARY-

WHAT ON EARTH IS HAPPENING?!?

THIS YEAR'S OFFICIAL BURGER OF SUMMER APPEARS TO BE FLYING. AND BURNING.

AND SINGING "O FORTUNA. O FORTUNA! VELUT LUNA!"

HUH. THIS...THIS IS UNEXPECTED. ESPECIALLY SINCE I USED GRUYERE CHEESE INSTEAD OF MONTEREY JACK.

# BY MASTROIANNI AND HART

A SINGLE MICROBE CAN DECIMATE A POPULATION THAT KNOWS NO IMMUNITY. -PETER

MAYBE I SHOULD WASH MY HANDS BEFORE SENDING THESE.

# Hank Ketchum's Dennis the Menace PROFESSOR MOM

HOW COME YOU KNOW ALL THIS STUFF?

ALL MOMS KNOW THIS STUFF.

NOT DADS?

WELL...

...DADS KNOW A LOT TOO...

...BUT THEY LEARNED IT FROM THEIR MOTHERS

# CURTIS

by RAY BILLINGSLEY

I HOPE THIS CEREAL HASN'T GONE STALE...

I HAVEN'T EATEN ANY IN A WHILE

I CAN HEAR YOUR HEART BEATING FROM HERE

I EAT HEART-HEALTHY CEREAL

PLAIN FLAKES, WHOLE GRAIN, HIGH IN FIBER, LOW IN SODIUM

THAT'S NO FUN

IT'S BREAK-FAST, NOT AN AMUSEMENT PARK RIDE

IT'S STUFF A HORSE WOULD EAT!

I CAN'T GET EXCITED OVER A BOWL OF PENCIL SHAVINGS AND SHREDED CARDBOARD

**Luann!**

By Greg Evans

DON'T SIT SO CLOSE TO THE SCREEN!

GREG 5-23

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**HAGAR**  
the horrible  
by DIK BROWNE

REMEMBER, LUCKY EDDIE, IT'S BETTER TO BE A LIVE FOLLOWER THAN A DEAD LEADER!

LEADERS ARE TARGETS!  
IT'S SAFER BEHIND!  
I HEAR YOU, DAD!

SO GO OUT AND BE THE BEST LICKSPITTLE YOU CAN BE!

LOOK! LUCKY EDDIE IS SINGLE-HANDEDLY RAMMING THE CASTLE DOOR!

GO! GO! GO!

SMASH

HE'S INSIDE!

HE'S RUNNING OUT WITH GOLD!

HOORAY!

HE'S STILL RUNNING...

I CAME HOME TO TELL MY DAD!

5-23

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**Wizard of ID**  
by Hart, Mastroianni and Parker

ALL THAT FOR ONE MAN...

SAD IT'S THE SYSTEM WE LIVE BY

BEER ME! TOWER 4

FING

SWOOSH

FATTOING

NAB

THESE ARE THE PEOPLE I ENTRUST MY LIFE TO...

WizardofId.com

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**BLONDIE**  
BY DEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL

YAWN!

THAT WAS A TERRIFIC NAP! I FEEL LIKE A MILLION BUCKS!!

WONDERFUL, DEAR! IT'S PROBABLY A GOOD OMEN

A GOOD OMEN?

THIS MIGHT BE A GOOD DAY TO TACKLE SOME CHORES YOU'VE BEEN PUTTING OFF, DEAR

YOU HAVE A LIST?

IT ISN'T SO BAD...THE SINK IS LEAKING AGAIN AND THE HALLWAY CLOSET NEEDS TO BE DECLUTTERED...

MY CATERING VAN COULD USE A GOOD WASHING, THE MAILBOX NEEDS TO BE REPLACED, AND THE GRASS IS GETTING A LITTLE HIGH

OH! THE WINDOWS ARE DUE FOR CLEANING ON THE OUTSIDE

I WAS NEVER A BIG FAN OF OMENS!

5-23

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**Hi and Lois**  
by BRIAN and GREG WALKER

SPRING IS HERE!

THE FLOWERS ARE GROWING.

THE GRASS IS GROWING.

THE PLANTS ARE GROWING.

WHAT'S WRONG, TRIxie?

THE WEEDS ARE GROWING TALLER THAN ME!

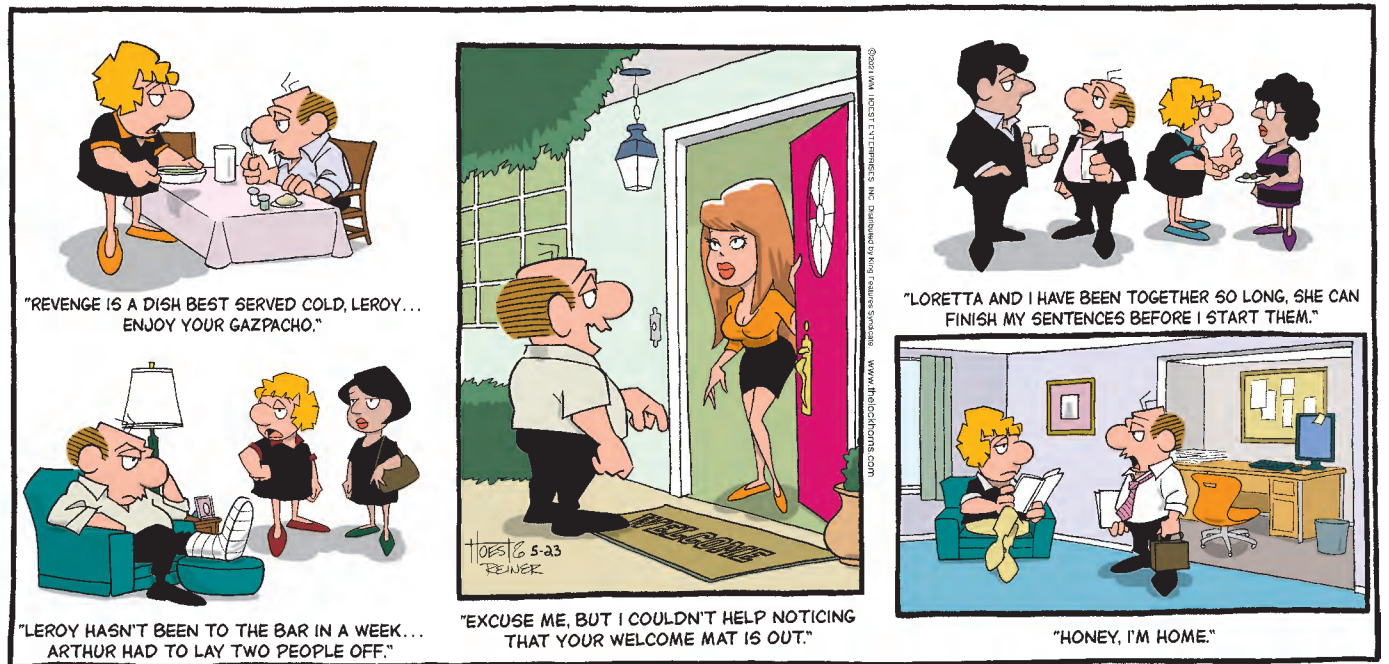
WA!

5-23

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# THE LOCKHORNS

BY BUNNY HOEST AND JOHN REINER



"REVENGE IS A DISH BEST SERVED COLD, LEROY... ENJOY YOUR GAZPACHO."

"LEROY HASN'T BEEN TO THE BAR IN A WEEK... ARTHUR HAD TO LAY TWO PEOPLE OFF."

"EXCUSE ME, BUT I COULDN'T HELP NOTICING THAT YOUR WELCOME MAT IS OUT."

"LORETTA AND I HAVE BEEN TOGETHER SO LONG, SHE CAN FINISH MY SENTENCES BEFORE I START THEM."

"HONEY, I'M HOME."

## What to consider when buying a new bike

Do you want to buy a new bike? It can be hard to find the right one when there are so many models to choose from. Here are a few criteria to keep in mind when making your decision.

### PURPOSE

You should use a road bike for getting around town but a mountain bike for riding on unpaved trails. That's why it's important to consider how you intend to use your bike before selecting one.

Think about how long, how often and what type of terrain you want to ride on. You should also consider if you plan on taking your children with you or if you need the bike to fit on the bus or subway. Once you answer all of these questions, you'll be able to find a bike that meets your needs.

### SIZE

When seated on a bike, you should be able to comfortably reach the handlebars and almost fully extend your legs while pedalling. Standing over it, make sure there are a few centimetres of clearance between the frame's top tube and your leg inseam.

Note that bike models designed for women usually provide better comfort for female riders. In any case, you should have your bike adjusted



by a professional to make sure it's as comfortable as possible.

### QUALITY

Your budget will largely determine the quality of your frame. In general, more expensive bikes use lighter, more durable materials and have better adjustment options. To get the best value for your money, do your research and compare prices.

Keep in mind that the staff at your local bike shop can help you find the perfect bike for your needs, as well as a helmet, bike lock and lights.

## 5 tips for having safe family bike rides

If you enjoy cycling around the neighbourhood and want to get the whole family involved, you'll need to take some precautions. For a fun and safe bike ride, follow these tips.

**1. GET YOUR KIDS USED TO THEIR BIKES**  
Take your kids somewhere safe to practise pedalling, using their brakes and managing their speed. Once they're ready, you can venture out as a family. On your first few outings, stick to quiet streets and gentle slopes as much as possible.

**2. CHECK EVERYONE'S CLOTHING**  
Make sure everyone's dressed in bright colors, that all shoelaces are securely tied and that there's no risk of clothing getting caught in a bike chain. Most importantly, everyone should wear a snug-fitting helmet.

**3. CHOOSE YOUR ROUTE CAREFULLY**  
The fastest route may not be the best choice for children. If a small detour allows you to avoid an area with heavy traffic, don't hesitate to take it.

**4. USE THE SIDEWALK WHENEVER POSSIBLE**  
If allowed by law, have your kids use the sidewalk



as you ride along beside them on the bike path. This will help keep them further away from vehicles. However, make sure they're mindful of pedestrians.

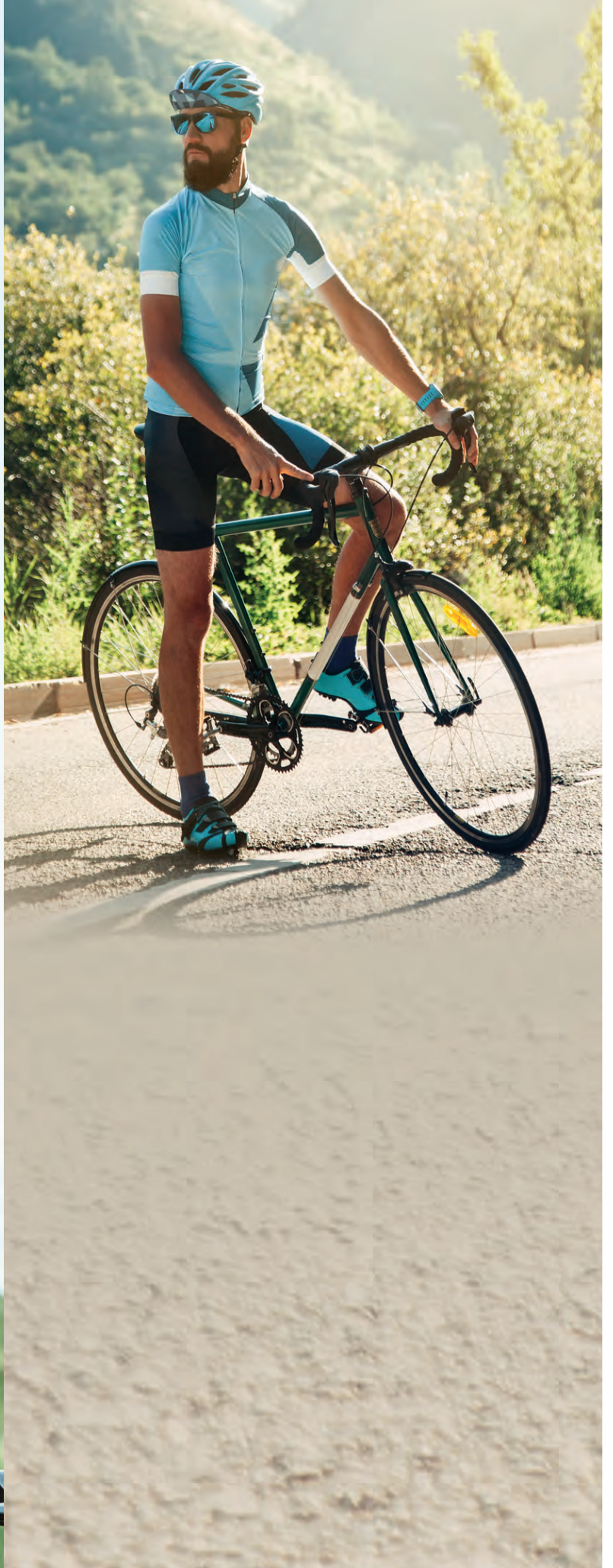
**5. MODEL GOOD BEHAVIOR**  
Always be respectful toward drivers, pedestrians and other cyclists, and obey the rules of the road. In other words, lead by example.

Happy biking!



## BIKING

# Pedal your way to happiness



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