


TUESDAY

TODAY & next morning
HIGH 80
LOW 55
 Morning fog then sunny and warm.
 PAGE A4



CITRUS COUNTY

CHRONICLE

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NEWS BRIEFS

Airboat crash injures three

An airboat crash in Inverness-area wetlands injured three people, including someone who had to be airlifted for treatment.

According to Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) spokeswoman Karen Parker on Monday, Dec. 27, an airboat crashed at around 5 p.m. Sunday in a marsh south of Moccasin Slough, ejecting two of the three people onboard.

First responders transported the three boaters to Ocala Regional Medical Center, with one having to be flown out for hospitalization, Parker said.

Parker said two of the injured were later released from hospital, and the third is expected to be discharged pending further care. FWC is investigating the incident, Parker said.

Government offices close for New Year's

Citrus County Government offices will be closed Jan. 3 in observance of the New Year's holiday. Normal hours of operation and services will resume Jan. 4 with the following exceptions:

■ The Citrus County Library System will be closed Jan. 1 and 3. Normal hours of operation will resume Jan. 4. For more information, call 352-746-9077.

■ The Citrus County Central Landfill will be closed Jan. 1 and will close at 2:30 p.m. Jan. 3. The administrative office will be closed. Normal hours will resume Jan. 4. For more information, call 352-527-7670.

■ Bicentennial Park Pool will be closed Jan. 1. Normal operating hours will resume Jan. 2. For more information, call 352-527-7540.

Lane closures planned for Forest Ridge Boulevard

Beginning on Jan. 3 and continuing for the first few months of 2022, citizens should expect single-lane closures on weekdays between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. along North Forest Ridge Boulevard, from County Road 486 (Norvell Bryant Highway) to West Lake Beverly Drive.

An around-the-clock closure is also in place northbound on Forest Ridge Boulevard, from north of West Sugar-maple Lane to north of West Roosevelt Boulevard, through approximately March 2022. These closures are for construction of a "Safe Routes to Schools" sidewalk project that is expected to be completed in spring 2022.

To allow full roadway access during peak school drop-off and pickup times, lane closures will not be permitted on school days from 8:45 to 9:15 a.m. or 3:30 to 4 p.m.

For more information, visit tinyurl.com/2p8s6hfn.

New Turkey Oak sidewalk, road fix set for spring completion

Turkey Oak Drive improvements on target

By **MICHAEL D. BATES**
 Chronicle Reporter

Much has been discussed about turning Turkey Oak Drive into a bypass so motorists can avoid congested downtown Crystal River and have a faster route to U.S. 19.

But that idea is still in the talking stage and mostly likely a few years out – if it happens at all.

However, drivers and pedestrians can look forward to a smaller-scaled

project on Turkey Oak that is only months away from completion.

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) in its most recent update, anticipates the opening of a new \$1.18-million 5-foot sidewalk along North Turkey Oak Drive – between State Road 44 and Bay Avenue, near Crystal River High School – by spring 2022.

Other improvements:

■ The intersections of Turkey Oak Drive at State Road 44 and North Citrus Avenue will be repaved. The pedestrian crossings will be improved and pedestrian signals will be replaced at both

intersections.

■ There will be a wider turn radius for folks driving east to south or south to west at the intersection of North Turkey Oak Drive from Woodbury Court to State Road 44.

■ Look for driveway connections along North Turkey Oak Drive from Woodbury Court to State Road 44.

As for the proposed bypass:

The Hernando-Citrus Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in October voted unanimously to pay \$248,500 to its consultant, Kimley-Horn and Associates, to conduct a feasibility study on the

project. FDOT will pay for that study.

And one of the things Citrus County legislators will be considering this upcoming session is pumping \$20.7 million into upgrading Turkey Oak Drive to serve as a bypass through Crystal River.

Crystal River officials have said the Suncoast Parkway will increase traffic heading west on State Road 44, thus the need for bypassing traffic around the downtown district and alleviating congestion.

Michael D. Bates is a staff writer with the Citrus County Chronicle and can be reached at mbates@chronicleonline.com



Chronicle file, Nancy Kennedy / Chronicle Reporter

ABOVE: Former CCSO detective Gary Atchison, left, supervises two young Explorers as they go through a drill. The 64-year-old who spent 29 years with the sheriff's office was found dead Monday, June 28, in the Keys. **RIGHT:** On July 8, family and friends of Edie Rosio, who died July 3, gathered at the Nature Coast Ministries thrift store in Homosassa to pay tribute and dedicate the store she loved to her memory. In this photo, as Edie's grandchildren, Laura and Kevin, listen, Nature Coast Ministries board member, Sue Grable, reads a tribute to Edie, who was the store manager with her husband, Kevin (shown in the background).



Roland "Ronnie" Smith, a career church musician, died July 2 at age 72. In 2013 he was diagnosed with stage 4 head, neck and throat cancer and yet could still play piano as if he were in a grand cathedral.
 Nancy Kennedy / Chronicle Reporter

More of those we lost in 2021

Today we note those who died from June through December

By **NANCY KENNEDY**
 Chronicle Reporter

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Chronicle continues its annual tribute to those in Citrus County who died during the year, from the youngest at six months to the oldest at 107. Short lives, long lives, all lives, including the many not mentioned here, made a difference in our community.

June

"Miss Marion" Jack died June 10 at age 95.

In her 50 years at Marion's School of Dance she taught preschoolers ballet, tap and acrobatics. She taught jazz and pointe to older kids, taught boys tap and tumbling, ballroom and etiquette to teens and adults.

She even taught tap to a class of deaf students and ballet to the Weeki Wachee mermaids and also the Hernando High School football team one year who then went on to turn a losing season into a winning one.

Sam "Sal" Saputo died June 23 at age 96.

His wife, Jeana Saputo, died two weeks later on July 8 at age 93. The couple, he, the son of Italian immigrants, and she, a Southern gal from Missouri, would have been married 73 years this past July 3. They spent their final years together at Grand Living assisted living facility, both with memory loss issues. Although terminally ill herself and in a wheelchair, Jeana held her husband's hand for hours at his bedside, singing softly, "You Are My Sunshine."

Pat Scott died June 28 at age 71.

Pat was the other half of "Pat and Mike," the wife of the late Mike Scott. The couple moved from Pinellas County to Citrus County in 1977 and established Mike Scott Plumbing in 1987. Pat enjoyed tremendous success in business, but she was most proud of her family.

Gary Atchison died June 28 at age 64.

For 29 years, he rose through the

ranks within the Citrus County Sheriff's Office, serving as a patrol deputy, detective and School Resource Deputy before retiring in July 2015.

Atchison will most likely be remembered for his work alongside Detective Scott Grace on the Jessica Lunsford case, which received international attention. Their investigations into the February 2005 kidnapping and murder of the 8-year-old Homosassa girl, led to the arrest and March 2007 conviction of John Couey.

July

Roland "Ron" Smith died July 2 at age 72.

Born with Asperger Syndrome, adopted as an infant, diagnosed with stage 4 head, neck and throat cancer in 2013, none of it mattered when his fingers were on the keys of a piano or organ.

A career church musician, Smith played all over the United States

and Europe, in small churches and large, majestic cathedrals.

He also played as an accompanist for artists such as Al Green and the Temptations, Bertie Higgins ("Key Largo"), country stars Johnny Russell and Little Jimmy Dickens, and Wayne Cochran, "the White Knight of Soul," was a staff organist/pianist for Bill Gaither, and he played at the Grand Ole Opry several times.

"I'm very good," he told the Chronicle in 2018.

Edie Rosio died July 3 at age 55.

As manager of the Nature Coast Ministries thrift store, she was the hub of the organization, the one others turned to, who took care of everyone and held everything together.

With a decorator's eye, she turned an empty, dark, dirty space into a bright, friendly, well-thought out thrift store, but it was her personality and spirit that drew people in.

See LOST, page A2

Citrus County sees spike in coronavirus cases

By **FRED HIERS**
 Chronicle Reporter

After a month of declining new coronavirus cases in Citrus County, the second half of December again saw a spike; something that's also happening across Florida.

Between Dec. 17 and Dec. 23, there were 105 new cases of COVID-19 in Citrus County. That hike came after weekly cases numbered between about 50 and 75 per week.

The percent of people coming to be tested and being positive also climbed to 3.8 percent. That's also

higher than what health care officials saw during the past few weeks where the positive rate stayed between 2.2-3.3 percent in Citrus County, according to the Florida Department of Health website.

There are now 20,938 people in Citrus County who have been infected with one of the coronavirus variants. At least 838 people in Citrus County have died during the pandemic. The data is the latest provided by the FDOH and is likely higher. The FDOH has lagged behind in its reporting due to the holidays.

The number of hospital admissions in Citrus County due to the

virus was seven during the week ending Dec. 20. There had been three the prior week, according to the CDC.

In Citrus County, 59 percent of the people eligible to be vaccinated received vaccines. The Florida average is 71 percent, according to the Florida Department of Health.

There have been 3.86 million cases of the virus in Florida and 62,347 deaths, according to the New York Times, which collects the COVID-19 data.

In the U.S., there have been 52.4 million cases and more than 817,000 deaths, according to the

Johns Hopkins University of Medicine website.

The spike in coronavirus cases in Citrus County mirrors the trend throughout Florida.

The daily average number of new cases in Florida was 17,825. That was an 818 percent increase over the previous 14 days, according to the New York Times.

There were 124,865 new cases in Florida during the week ending Dec. 26. That was up from 28,841 cases in Florida during the previous week.

See COVID, page A2



LOST

From page A1

“Edie was my person,” said Tammy Pritchard. “Before my mom passed away, Edie helped her pick out a \$2 pair of loafers at the thrift store, and she was so proud of the deal she got. Edie was there for me and helped me through missing my mom.”

Woldemar Horn died July 5 at age 87.

Born in Ukraine, he came to Citrus County 46 years ago from Kansas. He was a watchmaker and jeweler, the owner of Horn’s Jewelry in Crystal River.

Sean Liebman died July 5 at age 30.

A highly decorated Air Force staff sergeant and medic who served on the frontlines in Afghanistan, was honorably discharged in 2020 from his time in service with a 90 percent medical disability, suffering from PTSD.

This past Fourth of July weekend, with three consecutive nights of fireworks going off in his Crystal River neighborhood well past midnight, a continuous barrage of booms, cracks and pops that sounded too much like hostile gunfire, the PTSD was too much for Sean and he went out to his shooting range and ended his torment.

“My son went to the VA and told them he had PTSD and they gave him a prescription for sleeping pills,” Mike Liebman said. “I don’t understand it. Maybe if he had gotten counseling it could’ve saved his life.”

Gust Cougias died July 5 at age 97.

A restaurateur, a World War II underwater demoli-



tion diver performing ‘re-con’ on Iwo Jima, a career in telecommunications, a jitterbug dancer, a devout Christian and a writer – Gust did it all to the glory of God. His passion was writing and he penned hundreds of children’s stories about “The Adventures of Susie and Sam in Tabookaland.”

Robert “Captain Bob” Jernigan died July 9 at age 65.

He was “100 percent” – he loved 100 percent, supported his family and friends 100 percent and lived for Christ 100 percent.

Georgia Inman died July 10 at age 96.

In her younger years, Georgia was an award-winning archer. Jobs throughout her life included working on an assembly line, bookkeeper at a bank, carhop at an ice cream shop, a seamstress and interior decorator for 26 years for a mobile home factory, a camp cook and a designer and seamstress.

She also made custom Barbie doll clothes for serious doll collectors, including real mink stoles and mink coats. Most of her designs were 1950s-1960s style, including an “I Dream of Jeannie” outfit.



Paul Brundage died July 12 at age 70.

He worked in the Citrus County School system for 30 years, first as a fourth-grade teacher and then as a guidance counselor. He loved his job and looked for ways to connect with stu-

dents, even if it meant being a little silly, such as his characters “Louie the Lightning Bug,” “Duso the Dolphin,” and “Clyde Pride.” He also coached the Lecanto High School swim team for many years in the 1980s, 1990s, and early 2000s.

FAR LEFT: Sean Liebman, a 10-year Air Force veteran, served with an Army unit on the frontlines in Afghanistan. He was honorably discharged in June 2020 for medical reasons; he suffered from PTSD. He died July 5 at age 30. *Special to the Chronicle*
LEFT: In this photo from August 2019, Lucille Strickland and her son David, who died in December 2019, talked about the family owning and running the Chassahowitzka Hotel. The hotel had been in the family for four generations. Lucille Strickland died July 12 at age 95. *Matthew Beck / Chronicle photo editor*

Lucille Strickland died July 12 at age 95.

The “matriarch” of Chassahowitzka, as a newlywed in 1946, Lucille Strickland left the “big city” – Homosassa – and moved to “Chazzawhisky” to run the Chassahowitzka Hotel down by the river with her husband Dick Strickland.

Lucille cooked on a gas stove and they used oil lamps at night. The bed linens and towels were laundered with a wringer washing machine and hung out to dry.

“Mom was the last of the Chassahowitzka old timers,” said Lucille’s son, Bobby Strickland. “She lived there for 76 years.”

See LOST, page A3

Applications sought for the BOCC Aviation Advisory Board

The Citrus County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) is seeking applications for the Citrus County Aviation Advisory Board. They are seeking one alternate member position and regular member positions for Districts 1, 4 and 5.

Their mission is to advise the BOCC on all matters involving Citrus County public aviation facilities.

All members participate in discussions and debates of the board. The term is two years for regular member positions and the alternate member position is a one-year term with the op-

tion to be reappointed.

The board meets at 2 p.m. the second Thursday of every month at the Lecanto Government Building, Room 166, 3600 W. Sovereign Path.

Applications are due by Jan. 14 and can be accessed at citrusbocc.com/boardapplication. Send completed applications to Citrus County Administration, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Suite 267, Lecanto, FL 34461.

For more information, call Quincy Wylupek, engineering project manager at 352-527-5446.

COVID

From page A1

According to a USA Today analysis, Florida ranked ninth among the states where coronavirus was spreading the fastest on a per-person basis.

In the latest week, coronavirus cases in the United States increased 47 percent from the week before, with 1,388,833 new cases reported. Across the country, 26 states had more cases in the latest week than they did during the previous week.

The number of likely COVID patients admitted to Florida hospitals also rose.


During the past week, there were 4,979 hospital admissions in Florida during the virus. That was up from 3,039, according to USA Today. Four weeks ago, Florida admissions because of COVID-19 was down to 2,177.

Most health care experts are citing the new Omicron variant as being behind the new wave of cases.

Fred Hiers is a reporter at the Citrus Chronicle. E-mail him at fred.hiers@chronicleonline.com

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LOST

From page A2

Heather Peffers died July 20 at age 57.

Whether it was in the classroom with ESE (Exceptional Student Education) students, organizing a benefit for someone in need, serving drinks at Sleepy Hollow, cheering on her beloved Broncos or being the best "Gigi" to her grandson Maverick, Heather Peffers was 100 percent all in.

She started at Inverness Primary School and ended at Forest Ridge Elementary School where she was named 2021 School Related Employee of the Year. In between she worked at Crystal River Middle School.

"She had a special relationship with the kids," said Michelle McHugh, Forest Ridge Elementary School principal. "She was instrumental in putting a smile on the faces of everyone here, from staff to students. She was a great person, always willing to jump in with both feet, and she will be missed."

Lynda Simmons died July 23 at age 70.

She was an angel with a serving spoon. The second oldest of 16 siblings who grew up in the tight-knit community of Hernando, "Miss Lynda" learned from her mother that feeding people was just something you were supposed to do.

For about 12 years, every Monday at 5 p.m., rain or shine, even in the stifling heat, Lynda would set out pans of food on the tables at Alexander Park, the park named after her family, and serve meals to the homeless and hungry people who would come to eat – and they came in droves.

August**Fredric Brockschmidt died Aug. 10 at age 80.**

He served 27 years as a U.S. Army officer and nurse anesthetist, including in the Vietnam War with the 85th Evac hospital in Phu Bai. In his obituary it says his 57-year love story with a nurse named Beverly "started over an artificial kidney machine" in 1964. They married Aug. 14, 1965.

Nolan Sassard Jr. died Aug. 24 at age 97.

Born in Inverness at his grandmother's house, Nolan grew up in Red Level. When he attended Crystal River High School he played football and then at half-time he played the trumpet in the band.

In the Army during World War II he served in the Battle of the Bulge and received a Purple Heart.

Nolan was known for his woodworking skills and loved serving the Lord by making pews for his church, Red Level Baptist Church.

The Rev. Dairold Rushing died Aug. 31 at age 83.

Pastor Rushing served as pastor of First Assembly of God Church in Inverness for nearly 40 years. "He often said God brought him to Citrus County to help hurting people, and I really think he did that," said Bettye Rushing, Dairold's wife of 60 years.

Wherever he went, he was a pastor, talking to people at the post office or in the aisles at Winn-Dixie, asking, "How are you doing?" "How's the family?" and "How can I pray for you?"

He was known for his listening ear, his mercy and his genuine kindness.

"We shared our dad with the people at church and beyond, but he always made us feel important and he told us we were important," said daughter Rolanda Montenegro. "He was generous and very forgiving. He did not know how to hold a grudge, and I think that was one of the most valuable lessons he taught us, because he lived it."



Brian LaPeter / Chronicle

ABOVE: In this photo from 2009, Lynda Simmons takes Sandy Bender and a meal back to his home during the weekly Monday night dinners in Hernando Park. Simmons, who died July 23 at age 70, learned from her mother, the late Joyce Alexander, the importance of caring for others, especially feeding them.

September**Marguerite Carson died Sept. 7 at age 82.**

Born in London, Kentucky, Marguerite was a champion of her Appalachian heritage. She spent years studying and photographing mostly forgotten graveyards in the region, with an emphasis on gravestone carving and artwork. Her studies led the Smithsonian Institute to invite her to lecture there, which she regarded as one of the highlights of her life.

In Citrus County she was best known as the owner of Longrider Clothing Company in Homosassa.

Retired Master Sgt. Raymond Michael Jr. died Sept. 9 at age 85.

He was a veteran's veteran, a Purple Heart recipient who made it his life's mission to meet the needs of his fellow vets.

Name a veterans organization in Citrus County and Ray Michael was front and center: Citrus County Veterans Coalition, the Veterans Appreciation Week ad hoc committee, Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign War (VFW), American Legion Post 0225, Korean War Veterans and the Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 776, among others.

"He had a big footprint in the veteran community, and he carried himself as a command sergeant major," said John "JJ" Kenney, retired Marine and a former county commissioner and veteran service officer. "If a veteran needed help, Ray was always there."

Dr. Ronald Dumas DVM died Sept. 11 at age 85.

For more than 30 years, the Citrus County native quietly served the community as a veterinarian in Inverness and quietly made a difference in the lives of the animals and people he touched.

In the early days Dr. Dumas traveled from farm to farm checking on cattle and swine, known as the "circuit ride." That eventually evolved into a yearly clinic, checking livestock, deworming and vaccinating them.

Besides being in private practice, he was the first veterinarian at Humanitarians of Florida and was instrumental in getting the clinic started. He was also a member of the Kiwanis of Inverness for 45 years, a retired Air Force Reserve colonel, active with 4-H and the Future Farmers of America, a member of the Citrus County Historical Society and two-term past county commissioner.

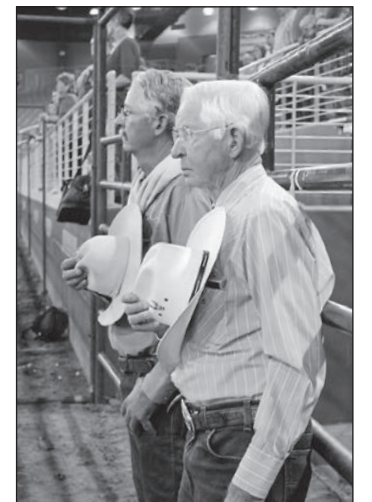
Nancy Davis died Sept. 15 at age 71.

As former director of nursing at the Citrus County Department of Health and then at the Hernando County Department of Health, she loved being a nurse, and public health was a passion of hers.

She also worked in the schools, collaborating with the school nurses to devise easier ways to screen students for vision and hearing.



LEFT: Citrus County native and longtime veterinarian, Dr. Ronald Dumas, died Sept. 11 at age 85. This photo was taken on Sept. 26, 2009, Dr. Dumas Day in Inverness. **CENTER:** Antonio Hicks, 16, died at Citrus Memorial Hospital Tuesday, Sept. 28, after he collapsed during football practice at Citrus high school. **RIGHT:** Valentine Rooks and youngest son, Larry Rooks, standing for the National Anthem at the 2010 Florida Ranch Rodeo and Heritage Festival where Valentine was awarded honorary team captain. Valentine "Buster" Marion Rooks, fourth-generation Citrus County native and well-known cattleman, died Oct. 30 at age 97.



Special to the Chronicle

"My mom loved being a nurse," her son Kurt said. "I remember in fifth grade we were getting checked for lice at school. We were all lined up and in comes the health department nurses. I spin around and there's my mom with her gloves on and a big grin as she checked me for lice."

Sherry Lee Dunn died Sept. 16 at age 44.

A fifth-grade teacher at Lecanto Primary School, Dunn came into teaching later in life, and teaching was truly her passion, said Lecanto Primary School Principal Vicki Lofton. "She believed she had the greatest job ever and she started every day that way.

"She had an incredible ability to bond with students and also with parents ... and because of that bond, she was able to get her students to soar," Lofton said. "They knew she loved them, and they worked hard for her."

Antonio Hicks died Sept. 28 at age 16.

Goofy and kind, infectious laugh, contagious smile. He would go out of his way to be your friend, to make you laugh, to include you.

No. 56 on the Citrus High School varsity football team, Antonio collapsed during football practice and later died at Citrus Memorial Hospital.

"Everybody loved him, and he loved everybody," said CHS head football coach McKinley Franklin. "He was a worker. When he was in middle school he'd say, 'Coach, I can't wait to play for you one day,' and he did. It was just for a short time, but he did. I'm really going to miss him."

October**Alma Crosby died Oct. 10 at age 97.**

On her apartment door she had a sign that read: "Today, I am thankful," which sums up the attitude she tried to have. She has also lived with a sense of wellbeing saying, "All is well with my soul."

Kaycen Justin Lee Barber died Oct. 15 at age 6 months.

His smile was one that lit up the room and a laugh that was so contagious it would never be forgotten by anyone who came into contact with him. Kaycen passed away peacefully in his sleep.

Valentine Rooks died Oct. 30 at age 97.

The fourth-generation Citrus County native and cattleman was known for his kindness and gentle nature and his love for his family.

He and Frances, his wife of 74 years, both active in the community, mentored kids in 4-H and FFA, helping them with their livestock and their lives.

He was a man of strong faith and character.

"He taught me to be a well-balanced, honorable man," said grandson Justin Rooks. "He showed love, respect, toughness, to be a good listener, have thoughtful respectful communications and be slow to anger.

"He was a leader with many organizations, and

knew how to build consensus as a leader," Rooks said. "He always had great humor, and a smile that would change anyone's attitude ... he could always turn around a bad outlook."

Mike Clemmer died Oct. 31 at age 75.

"Serving others came naturally to him," said his wife, Diane Clemmer. Mike was the one who gave 1,000 percent to anything he did, the one who raised his hand to volunteer before the need was even presented. He was the one who looked for ways to serve others, the one you could count on, the one who came early and stayed late.

Among other organizations and causes, Mike served at his church, St. Benedict Catholic Church in Crystal River, and FFRA, Friends and Families Reaching for Abilities. He had a special affinity for people with developmental disabilities and worked diligently with FFRA to make their lives more enjoyable and meaningful.

November**Bernie Leven died Nov. 5 at age 73.**

A community activist, Leven was passionate about making Citrus County better for future generations. One of his main issues was water quality and the environment.

His "claim to fame" was as creator of the Save Our Waters Week's adult and high school Environmental Jeopardy Games.

Leven ran for county commissioner twice and lost, but it didn't stop him from trying to make a difference.

"He was sincere in the battle," said Teddi Rusnak, a friend and fellow activist and advocate. "He was a very dear person, a friend of the county, a friend of the environment, the local business community and of homeowners. He was tireless, indefatigable, and he is sorely missed."

Bertha Podwys died Nov. 12 at age 98.

Bertha earned her GED at age 65 and drove a school bus for 10 years in Citrus County. At age 68 she reached her lifelong dream of getting a pilot's license and was a proud member of the 99er's Club of Women Pilots, Florida Suncoast Chapter.

Winston "Charlie" Pitman died Nov. 20 at age 82.

When in his 40's, he became interested in the disease of addiction and had a daily radio show, "Feel Free," interviewing people about their addiction and recovery. A few of his well-known guests included Larry Gatlin, jazz pianist Diane Schuur and Tipper Gore. His radio show lasted three years, but his service to people in recovery continued throughout his lifetime.

Donald Lassiter died Nov. 22 at age 66.

A 40-year resident and client of the Key Training Center, Donald loved everyone unconditionally, and everyone he met was his friend. He loved Batman, bowling, classic cars, gos-



Matthew Beck / Chronicle photo editor

In this 2013 photo, Gospel Island resident Raymond Michael Jr. looks through some of the photos and news clippings of his service as an Army tank commander during the Vietnam War. Michael received two Purple Hearts for injuries received during combat operations in the 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry regiment. Michael died Sept. 9 at age 85.

pel country music, "Hee Haw" and his favorite meal at McDonald's: a cheeseburger, fries and a Coke. He especially loved being Uncle Donnie to his nieces and nephews and their children.

Rosann Strawn died Nov. 24 at age 67.

As the Habitat for Humanity of Citrus County family services director, Rose was instrumental in helping more than 150 homeowners get into their homes. She encouraged them, taught them and cheered them on.

"She was a hand holder," said Donna Fore, who processes loans for Habitat. "She was a cheerleader. When people wanted to give up, she wouldn't let them. She'd say, 'You've come all this way; don't give up now. You're almost there.'"

Steven Smolensky died Nov. 30 at age 52.

His dream was to be a law enforcement officer, and he served in the Citrus County Sheriff's Office for 25 years before he retired in 2017. He was working for Suburban Propane as a bobtail delivery driver when he was fatally shot while making a propane delivery in Marion County.

"A 25-year career is a legacy to selfless service and dedication to a calling higher than yourself," said Citrus County Sheriff Mike Prendergast, "and, in this case, he did his job to the standard of excellence we expect in a professional."

December**Mary Bell Croft died Dec. 1 at age 88.**

Mary was born in Dunnington and lived in Citrus County her whole life. She drove a school bus for many years and attended the Hernando Church of the Nazarene.

George Carr died Dec. 1 at age 85.

A farmer who split his

time between Inverness and Northwood, New Hampshire, George was known as the "Tractor Man" because of his collection of tractors. In 1985, he built his own tractor barn to house his more than 40 tractors.

Maryian Elta Havens Milcher died Dec. 2 at age 92.

A native and life-long resident of Old Homosassa, the daughter of Leona Haven, she was involved with the Homosassa Civic Club and the Homosassa Seafood & Art Festival and was a friend to all.

LaVonne Douville Buta died Dec. 4 at age 79.

She was raised by her loving grandparents, joined the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War and served as a hospital corpsman. Later she became a registered nurse.

Esther Burney died Dec. 6 at age 102.

She moved to Beverly Hills from Miami in 1982 and was a retired registered nurse. She was a member of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church where she was involved with the Catholic Women's Club and the Widows Club. She was also involved in the Beverly Hills VFW Auxiliary and United Citizens of Beverly Hills.

Francine Bogart died Dec. 9 at age 78.

She taught middle school, high school and college-level classes in Citrus and Hernando counties, was a Girl Scout leader, Little League baseball coach and the mother of the Bogart boys – Ryan, Brady, Derrick, Damon and Nathan, who died in 2015 – all who were big in Citrus County school sports. Francine, who loved her big family, also had a daughter, Darlinda, who died in 1992.

Nancy Kennedy can be reached at 352-564-2927 or by email at nkennedy@chronicleonline.com.

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ENTERTAINMENT

TODAY IN HISTORY

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 28, the 362nd day of 2021. There are three days left in the year.

Highlight in history:

On Dec. 28, 2014, the war in Afghanistan, fought for 13 bloody years and still raging, came to a formal end with a quiet flag-lowering ceremony in Kabul that marked the transition of the fighting from U.S.-led combat troops to the country's own security forces.

On this date:

In 1612, Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei observed the planet Neptune, but mistook it for a star. (Neptune wasn't officially discovered until 1846 by Johann Gottfried Galle.)

In 1895, the Lumiere brothers, Auguste and Louis, held the first public showing of their movies in Paris.

In 1945, Congress officially recognized the Pledge of Allegiance.

In 1975, the "Hail Mary pass" entered the football lexicon as Dallas quarterback Roger Staubach tossed the ball to Drew Pearson for an improbable 50-yard touchdown with 24 seconds left to help the Cowboys come back to edge the Minnesota Vikings 17-14.

Five years ago: Former world No. 1 Ana Ivanovic said she was retiring from tennis after a series of injuries meant she could no longer play at the highest level.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Nichelle Nichols is 89. Actor Dame Maggie Smith is 87. Rock singer-musician Edgar Winter is 75. Actor Denzel Washington is 67. TV personality Gayle King is 67. Actor Chad McQueen is 61. Country singer-musician Marty Roe (Diamond Rio) is 61. Actor Malcolm Gets is 58. Actor Mauricio Mendoza is 52. Actor Elaine Hendrix is 51. Talk show host Seth Meyers is 48. R&B singer John Legend is 43. Actor Beau Garrett (TV: "The Good Doctor") is 39. Actor Thomas Dekker is 34. Actor Mackenzie Rosman is 32. Pop singer David Archuleta is 31. Actor Mary-Charles Jones (TV: "Kevin Can Wait") is 20. Actor Miles Brown is 17.

NEW THIS WEEK

'Lost Daughter,' NYE in Nashville, Boba Fett

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Here's a collection curated by The Associated Press' entertainment journalists of what's arriving on TV, streaming services and music platforms this week.

Movies

Maggie Gyllenhaal's feature directing debut, "The Lost Daughter," scintillatingly adapts the 2008 Elena Ferrante novel about maternal ambivalence and a holiday in Greece. The film, which begins streaming Friday on Netflix, stars Olivia Colman as a vacationing professor whose interactions with a boisterous, distracting clan (including a young mother in their midst played by Dakota Johnson), recall her own parenting history, seen in flashbacks with Jessie Buckley. "The Lost Daughter" cleaned up last month at the Gotham Awards, which honor independent film, and topped AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr's best-of list for 2021. In her review, the AP's Jocelyn Noveck praised Colman's "blazing" performance as "a veritable onion shedding layers as she plays Leda, a prickly yet exceedingly vulnerable 48-year-old academic."

In the year-end rush of new movies, it's been easy to miss Mike Mills' tender, shaggy indie gem "C'mon C'mon." The film, which became available Dec. 23 for digital rental and video-on-demand, stars Joaquin Phoenix as a radio journalist who temporarily takes care of his 9-year-old nephew (Woody Norman). Shot in black-and-white and featuring interviews with real kids peppered throughout, "C'mon C'mon" is an open-hearted movie about parenting with personal resonances for Mills, Phoenix and Norman. In



Disney+ / Apple TV+ via AP

This combination of photos shows promotional art for "The Book of Boba Fett," a series premiering Dec. 29 on Disney+, left, and "Dickinson," for which the final episode of season three airs Dec. 24 on Apple TV+.

her review, Bahr wrote that Mills "has a unique way of blending everyday banalities with cosmic questions and ideas to create lovely symphonies of humanity."

Holiday festivity might call for a favorite cocktail or a warm fire, but it can, and should, also mean a Technicolor movie. Thankfully, the Criterion Channel collects titles made with this lush color process so you can run through a glittering array of options to fill some of the darkest days of winter. Drink in "Vertigo," bathe in "The River" or sink into "The Red Shoes." Your eyes will thank you.

-AP Film Writer Jake Coyle

Music

■ CBS's New Year's Eve telecast will have a distinctive twang to this year with the five-hour special being hosted in Nashville, Tennessee with 50 performances from country's biggest names. Di-

erks Bentley, Jason Aldean, Blake Shelton, Gabby Barrett, Kelsea Ballerini, Zac Brown Band, Miranda Lambert and more will perform on the CBS special, also airing on Paramount+. Bentley, Hunt and Zac Brown Band will co-headline a free show in Nashville's Bicentennial Mall, while other performances will be shot at the city's honky tonks and clubs. The show will be hosted by radio and TV personality Bobby Bones and "Entertainment Tonight" correspondent Rachel Smith.

-Entertainment Writer Kristin M. Hall

Television

The book is closing on "Dickinson," the Peabody Award-winning series starring Hailee Steinfeld in a reimagining of Emily Dickinson's youth. In the series finale streaming now on Apple TV+, the poet's work is flourishing but there's strife in her family and

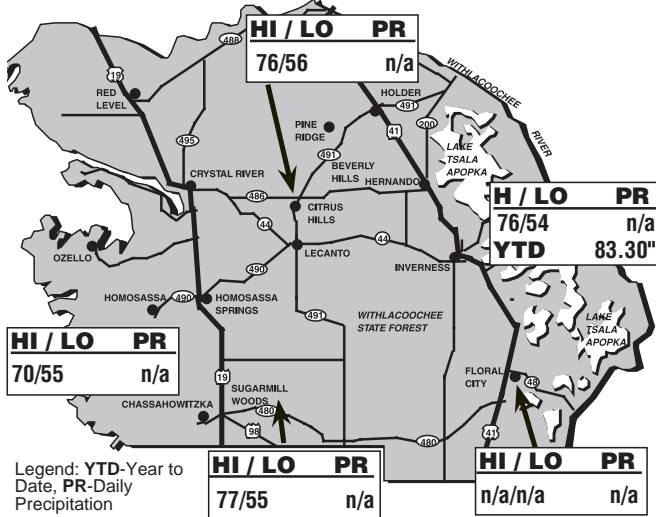
across Civil War-torn America. For viewers playing catch-up on the concluding 10-episode third season, its new and returning guest stars include Ziwe as Sojourner Truth; Billy Eichner as Walt Whitman; Chloe Fineman as Sylvia Plath; Zosia Mamet as Louisa May Alcott and, as Death, Wiz Khalifa.

A looming figure in the "Star Wars" canon is coming into his own. "The Book of Boba Fett," starting Wednesday on Disney+, tracks the bounty hunter and mercenary Fennec Shand as they attempt to claim Tatooine land once controlled by Jabba the Hutt and his criminal syndicate. Temuera Morrison stars as Fett opposite Ming-Na Wen's Shand, with Jon Favreau and Robert Rodriguez among the seven-episode series' producers and directors. A trailer offers insight into Fett's viewpoint: Declaring he will rule with respect, he makes an offer to Jabba's former captains that has a "The Godfather" ring to it. Episodes are out weekly on Wednesday.

Richard Gere is the narrator for "Earth Emergency," about a less-prominent aspect of climate change. According to scientists interviewed for the documentary, human-caused global warming activates a natural response from the Earth that releases further greenhouse gases - and makes the planet even hotter. Activist Greta Thunberg and the Dalai Lama are among those featured in the film, which uses illustrations, graphics and video to examine what's termed a "crucial piece of the climate puzzle" and the urgency of addressing it. The hour-long documentary debuts Wednesday on PBS (check local stations for times) and on PBS.org.

-Television Writer Lynn Elber

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER



THREE DAY OUTLOOK

Exclusive daily forecast by: Bay Street

Day	High	Low	Conditions
Today & Tomorrow Morning	80°	55°	Morning fog then sunny and warm.
Wednesday & Thursday Morning	81°	56°	Foggy early then unseasonably warm.
Thursday & Friday Morning	82°	58°	Foggy start followed by sunshine.

ALMANAC

Data from Crystal River Airport

Category	Value	Record
Temperature	78/53	86/18
Humidity	57	71/43
Precipitation	0.01"	62.51"
UV Index	4	10+
Barometric Pressure	30.08	

SOLUNAR TABLES

Date	Day	Minor (Morning)	Major (Morning)	Minor (Afternoon)	Major (Afternoon)
12/28	TUESDAY	7:21	7:37	5:40	8:02
12/29	WEDNESDAY	7:21	8:27	5:41	8:54

CELESTIAL OUTLOOK

SUNSET TONIGHT	5:40 pm
SUNRISE TOMORROW	7:21 am
MOONRISE TODAY	1:38 am
MOONSET TODAY	1:30 pm

BURN CONDITIONS

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

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:

Watering Day	Watering Period
Monday	6 - 7
Tuesday	8 - 9
Wednesday	Common Areas

Questions, concerns or reporting violations, please call: City of Inverness at 352-726-2321; City of Crystal River at 352-795-4216, Ext. 313; unincorporated Citrus County at 352-527-7669. For more information, visit: https://www.citrusboc.com/departments/water_resources/watering_restrictions.php

TIDES

*From mouths of rivers **At King's Bay ***At Mason's Creek

City	High	Low
Chassahowitzka**	12:52 a.m. 0.4 ft 1:05 p.m. 0.3 ft	8:28 a.m. 0.1 ft 7:47 p.m. 0.2 ft
Crystal River**	11:25 a.m. 1.6 ft 1:38 p.m. 2.0 ft	6:06 a.m. 0.5 ft 6:04 p.m. 0.7 ft
Withlacoochee**	8:53 a.m. 2.2 ft 8:55 p.m. 2.8 ft	3:34 a.m. 0.5 ft 3:33 p.m. 0.8 ft
Homosassa***	12:24 p.m. 0.8 ft None	n/a 6:42 a.m. 0.3 ft 6:16 p.m. 0.2 ft

FLORIDA TEMPERATURES

City	H	L	F'cast	City	H	L	F'cast
Daytona Bch.	77	60	pc	Miami	78	71	pc
Fort Lauderdale	80	69	pc	Ocala	80	57	pc
Fort Myers	80	64	s	Orlando	80	60	s
Gainesville	77	58	pc	Pensacola	77	67	mc
Homestead	80	67	pc	Sarasota	78	64	s
Jacksonville	77	59	pc	Tallahassee	77	64	mc
Key West	80	74	pc	Tampa	80	64	s
Lakeland	81	61	s	Vero Beach	80	62	pc
Melbourne	80	63	s	W. Palm Bch.	78	71	pc

MARINE OUTLOOK

Today: South winds around 10 knots. Seas 2 feet. Bay and inland waters a light chop. Tonight: South winds around 15 knots. Seas 2 feet. Bay and inland waters a moderate chop.

Gulf water temperature

68°

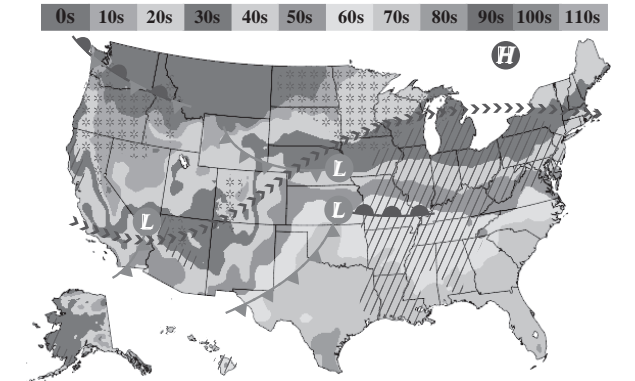
Taken at Crystal River

LAKE LEVELS

Location	MON	SUN	Full
Withlacoochee at Holder	29.45	29.47	34.64
Tsala Apopka-Hernando	37.80	37.80	38.66
Tsala Apopka-Inverness	39.13	39.13	39.73
Tsala Apopka-Floral City	40.29	40.30	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. Tuesday

City	MON	TUE	MON	TUE									
City	H	L	Pcp.	H	L	Pcp.	H	L	Fcst				
Albany	34	26	Trace	44	30	mc	New Orleans	79	64	0.00	79	68	mc
Albuquerque	48	28	0.00	49	31	mc	New York City	39	34	0.01	51	40	mc
Asheville	72	36	0.00	71	57	mc	Norfolk	58	45	0.00	64	55	pc
Atlanta	72	55	Trace	73	62	mc	Oklahoma City	63	43	0.00	69	42	pc
Atlantic City	40	30	0.00	52	43	mc	Omaha	34	27	0.00	45	15	pc
Austin	79	68	0.00	78	63	mc	Palm Springs	61	42	0.00	56	42	sh
Baltimore	43	36	0.03	55	42	cl	Philadelphia	41	37	0.02	51	40	mc
Billings	-2	-12	0.01	21	1	pc	Phoenix	58	49	0.00	56	42	sh
Birmingham	74	64	0.00	75	66	sh	Pittsburgh	55	33	0.70	46	40	mc
Boise	31	24	0.15	24	16	mc	Portland, ME	34	25	0.00	40	28	ra
Boston	36	30	0.00	44	33	mc	Portland, OR	34	26	0.01	32	22	sn
Buffalo	36	28	0.03	39	34	mc	Providence, RI	37	30	0.00	42	33	mc
Burlington, VT	28	23	0.45	37	24	pc	Raleigh	66	45	0.00	73	61	mc
Charleston, SC	75	54	0.00	76	60	pc	Rapid City	14	-1	Trace	20	6	pc
Charleston, WV	67	41	0.01	64	56	sh	Reno	38	28	0.02	32	20	mc
Charlotte	72	50	0.00	74	62	mc	Rochester, NY	34	27	0.04	39	32	mc
Chicago	48	37	0.49	39	32	rs	Sacramento	50	44	0.51	42	39	ra
Cincinnati	72	48	0.02	50	46	sh	Salt Lake City	39	27	0.05	26	17	mc
Cleveland	54	36	0.14	41	37	sh	San Antonio	86	61	0.00	77	64	mc
Columbia, SC	75	48	0.00	76	61	pc	San Diego	56	45	0.00	55	48	sh
Columbus, OH	65	39	0.20	44	40	sh	San Francisco	52	46	0.39	49	44	sh
Concord, NH	31	21	0.00	39	25	mc	Savannah	80	55	0.00	76	60	mc
Dallas	81	62	0.00	78	58	mc	Seattle	23	17	Trace	31	21	mc
Denver	46	15	0.00	39	16	pc	Spokane	25	18	0.04	18	-2	mc
Des Moines	45	28	0.15	41	16	ra	St. Louis	65	46	0.00	52	37	ra
Detroit	40	34	0.21	37	34	pc	St. Ste Marie	25	16	0.19	31	24	mc
El Paso	68	42	0.00	62	43	pc	Syracuse	34	26	Trace	37	33	mc
Evansville, IN	72	55	0.00	63	47	sh	Topeka	63	37	0.00	63	24	pc
Harrisburg	37	30	0.22	46	38	mc	Washington	45	39	Trace	57	45	mc
Hartford	37	27	0.00	43	32	mc							
Houston	81	68	0.00	82	69	mc							
Indianapolis	64	46	0.24	45	39	sh							
Kansas City	64	42	0.00	62	26	ra							
Las Vegas	54	36	0.00	49	34	sh							
Little Rock	75	64	0.00	73	57	sh							
Los Angeles	54	43	0.00	56	41	pc							
Louisville	74	55	0.01	64	53	sh							
Memphis	73	66	0.00	73	62	sh							
Minneapolis	43	34	0.28	37	26	sn							
Milwaukee	34	10	0.27	22	-4	sn							
Mobile	77	63	0.00	77	66	mc							
Montgomery	76	55	0.00	79	65	sh							
Nashville	70	61	0.00	73	63	sh							

WORLD CITIES

CITY	M/L/SKY	Lisbon	64/60/ra
Acapulco	86/66/s	London	50/48/ra
Amsterdam	50/45/ra	Madrid	56/45/s
Athens	59/55/ra	Montreal	31/17/sn
Beijing	35/12/s	Moscow	17/-3/mc
Berlin	36/27/mc	Paris	56/50/ra
Bermuda	70/64/pc	Rio	84/70/ra
Bairo	65/56/mc	Rome	59/51/ra
Calgary	7/-18/sn	Sydney	66/64/ra
Havana	81/68/s	Tokyo	46/34/s
Hong Kong	61/54/cl	Toronto	35/33/ra
Jerusalem	54/47/cl	Warsaw	27/18/pc

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

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Julie Evans for Tri-County Hearing

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^Trade-in amount determined by age and technology of current hearing aids. Max. value of \$500 per unit. With purchase of a pair of qualified 2020 digital hearing instruments. Offer may not be combined. Previous purchases excluded.

10 state, political figures who died in 2021

By NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

TALLAHASSEE — From political and legal trailblazers to longtime education and corrections leaders, here are 10 people who died in 2021 after leaving marks on Florida politics, government and the courts:

ANNE CAWTHON BOOTH: When Gov. Reubin Askew appointed Anne Cawthon Booth to the 1st District Court of Appeal in 1978, she became the state's first woman appellate judge, according to the Tallahassee-based court. Booth, who died in June at age 87, served until 2005, including a stint from 1985 to 1987 as the first woman to preside as a chief judge of an appellate court.

ROBERTO CASAS: Born in Cuba in 1931, Roberto Casas was elected to the Florida House in 1982 and the Senate in 1988. Casas, a Republican who died this month at age 90, served in the Senate until 2000. Miami-Dade County GOP Chairman Rene Garcia said Casas was "someone who opened doors for Cubans and the children of exiles to run for office and make a difference in their communities."

STEPHEN GRIMES: After former Florida Supreme Court Justice Stephen Grimes died at age 93 in September, current Chief Justice Charles Canady described him as a "man steeped in traditional ways." But Grimes, while serving as chief justice in 1994, also authorized placing a Florida Supreme Court website



Patrick Semansky / AP

Rush Limbaugh reacts after first Lady Melania Trump presented him with the the Presidential Medal of Freedom as President Donald Trump delivers his State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress on Capitol Hill in Washington, on Feb. 4, 2020. The talk radio host who ripped into liberals and laid waste to political correctness with a merry brand of malice that made him one of the most powerful voices on the American right died Feb. 17.

on the fledgling internet. Grimes was a member of the Supreme Court from 1987 to 1997, after serving as an appellate judge.

ALCEE HASTINGS: The elections of Alcee Hastings, Carrie Meek and Corrine Brown to the U.S. House in 1992 were landmark events, as they became the state's first Black members of Congress since Reconstruction. Hastings, a Democrat who died in April at age 84, was Florida's longest-serving member of Congress at the time of his death, representing parts of Broward and Palm Beach counties.

JOSEPH HATCHETT: When Joseph Hatchett took the Florida Bar exam in 1959, he could not stay in the hotel where it was administered because of the Jim Crow system. But in 1975, Hatchett became the first Black justice on the Florida Supreme Court and was

named four years later to the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, where he served until 1999, including a stint as chief judge. Hatchett, 88, died in April.

HARRY JOHNSTON: As Florida Senate president in 1985, West Palm Beach Democrat Harry Johnston made a priority of passing a landmark growth-management law in the fast-growing state. Johnston, who died in June at age 89, served in the Senate from 1974 to 1986 and then was a member of the U.S. House from 1989 to 1997.

RUSH LIMBAUGH: After conservative radio host Rush Limbaugh died in February, Gov. Ron DeSantis' decision to lower flags to half-staff drew an outcry from Democrats such as Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried. But Limbaugh, a Palm Beach resident who died at age 70, left a huge

imprint on Florida and national politics with his love-him-or-hate-him style and the influence he had on conservative media.

CARRIE MEEK: Carrie Meek was a woman of firsts. After serving in the Florida House, Meek in 1982 became the first Black woman elected to the state Senate. In 1992, she and fellow Democrats Alcee Hastings and Corrine Brown became Florida's first Black members of Congress since Reconstruction. Meek, who died in November at age 95, remained in the U.S. House for a decade, with her son Kendrick succeeding her.

RALPH TURLINGTON: During his nearly four decades in public office, Ralph Turlington held two of the most-powerful jobs in state government. Turlington, who died in May at age 100, served as House speaker in the 1960s and later served more than a dozen years as state education commissioner, at the time an elected Cabinet position. While he did not run for another term in 1986, he helped lead a drive to approve the Florida Lottery.

LOUIE WAINWRIGHT: Louie Wainwright led Florida's corrections system from 1962 to 1986, a tenure that is almost certain to never be matched. But nationally, Wainwright will go down in history because his name was attached to the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark 1963 Gideon v. Wainwright decision, which established a right to attorneys for criminal defendants. Wainwright, a Lawtey native, died this month at age 98.

OBITUARIES

Harvey Evans, actor in Broadway's golden years, dies at 80

NEW YORK (AP) — Harvey Evans, an actor, singer and dancer who had a knack for landing roles in the original Broadway productions of such classics as "West Side Story," "Follies" "Hello, Dolly!" and "Gypsy," has died. He was 80.

Evans died Christmas Eve at the Actors Fund Home in Englewood, New Jersey, said Lawrence Leritz, a friend and Broadway actor, dancer, singer, producer and director. "He was dearly loved by the Broadway community. Very kind, embracing, funny and always had a smile on his face. I can't ever remember not being hugged by this loving man," Leritz said.

"We lost a great one," wrote Harvey Fierstein on Twitter in tribute. "He's why we love musicals," wrote playwright and author Paul Rudnick. Added Bernadette Peters, Harvey "was the dearest most talented being one could ever have the privilege of knowing."

Evans was rarely cast in leading Broadway roles but found a place in timeless shows. He starred opposite Angela Lansbury in "Anyone Can Whistle" and played Barnaby in "Hello, Dolly!" opposite Carol Channing, then Betty Grable and then Eve Arden.

"When I look back," Evans told Playbill in 2007,

"I think I've had some kind of angel on my shoulder, leading me toward the best shows of Broadway's golden years. I didn't pick and choose them — they just came around that way."

'Dallas Buyers Club' director Jean-Marc Vallée dead at 58

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Director and producer Jean-Marc Vallée, who won an Emmy for directing the hit HBO series "Big Little Lies" and whose 2013 drama "Dallas Buyers Club" earned multiple Oscar nominations, has died. He was 58.

His representative Bumble Ward said Sunday that Vallée died suddenly in his cabin outside Quebec City, Canada, over the weekend. Vallée was acclaimed for his naturalistic approach to filmmaking, directing stars including Reese Witherspoon, Nicole Kidman, Amy Adams and Jake Gyllenhaal over the past decade.

He directed Emily Blunt in 2009's "The Young Victoria" and became a sought-after name in Hollywood after "Dallas Buyers Club," featuring Matthew McConaughey and Jared Leto, earned six Academy Awards nominations, including best picture.

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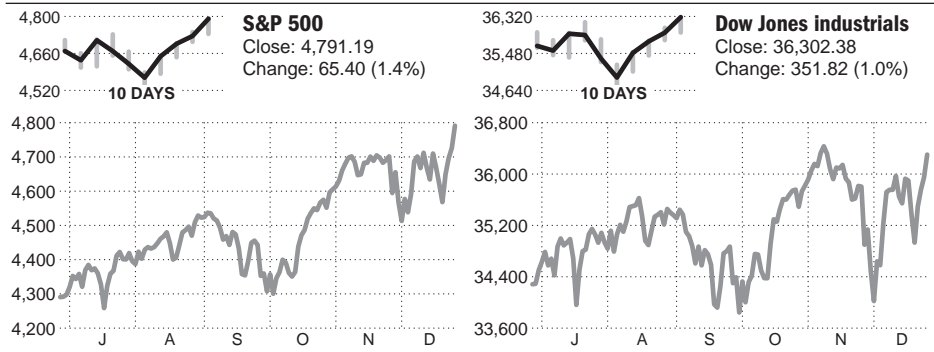
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Pvs. Volume	2,678	3,539	DOW Trans.	16,392.21	16,141.30	16,388.69	+201.73	+1.25%	+31.04%
Advanced	1834	1872	DOW Util.	961.15	954.14	960.82	+5.05	+0.53%	+11.12%
Declined	644	1650	NYSE Comp.	17,141.83	16,963.44	17,141.09	+177.65	+1.05%	+18.01%
New Highs	119	113	NASDAQ	15,871.40	15,696.83	15,871.26	+217.89	+1.39%	+23.14%
New Lows	18	135	S&P 500	4,791.49	4,733.99	4,791.19	+65.40	+1.38%	+27.56%
			S&P 400	2,833.54	2,789.94	2,833.18	+37.36	+1.34%	+22.83%
			Wilshire 5000	48,768.73	48,171.11	48,767.39	+596.29	+1.24%	+23.60%
			Russell 2000	2,261.89	2,230.33	2,261.46	+19.88	+0.89%	+14.51%

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Ametek Inc	AME	106.96	145.06	145.33	+2.76	+1.9	▲	▲	▲	+20.2	+20.6	36	0.80
Anheuser-Busch InBev	BUD	54.08	79.67	60.69	-0.08	-0.1	▼	▲	▲	-13.2	-12.4	21	1.10e
Bank of America	BAC	29.57	48.69	44.64	+2.22	+0.5	▲	▼	▲	+47.3	+54.3	13	0.84
Capital City Bank	CCBG	21.42	29.00	26.91	+3.33	+1.2	▲	▲	▲	+9.5	+10.9	13	0.64f
Citigroup	C	57.40	80.29	60.65	+4.44	+0.7	▲	▼	▼	-1.6	+4.0	6	2.04
Disney	DIS	142.04	203.02	152.80	-0.83	-0.5	▼	▲	▼	-15.7	-10.9
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EPR Properties	EPR	30.79	56.07	47.51	+1.03	+2.2	▲	▲	▼	+46.2	+53.5	3.00	...
Equity Commonwealth	EQC	25.03	29.29	26.10	+0.09	+0.3	▲	▲	▲	-4.3	-1.7	2.50e	...
Exxon Mobil Corp	XOM	40.97	66.38	61.89	+8.7	+1.4	▲	▲	▲	+50.1	+56.4	3.52f	...
Ford Motor	F	8.43	21.49	20.80	+5.5	+2.7	▲	▲	▲	+136.6	+130.3	24	0.40
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Motorola Solutions	MSI	165.60	266.86	268.92	+6.02	+2.3	▲	▲	▲	+58.1	+59.8	47	2.84
NextEra Energy	NEE	68.33	92.70	91.32	+6.2	+0.7	▲	▲	▲	+18.4	+23.6	57	1.54
Piedmont Office RT	PDM	15.10	20.35	18.27	+2.1	+1.2	▲	▲	▲	+12.6	+17.7	45	0.84
Regions FncI	RF	15.70	24.89	21.89	+3.7	+1.7	▲	▲	▲	+35.8	+42.5	9	0.68
Smucker, JM	SJM	110.53	140.65	133.85	+8.6	+0.6	▲	▲	▲	+15.8	+19.3	17	3.96f
Texas Instru	TXN	160.57	202.26	191.84	+4.44	+2.4	▲	▼	▼	+16.9	+17.6	25	4.60f
UniFirst Corp	UNF	189.84	258.86	205.58	+2.35	+1.2	▲	▲	▼	-2.9	-1.1	26	1.00
Verizon Comm	VZ	49.69	59.85	52.68	—	▲	▼	-10.3	-6.3	10	2.56f
Vodafone Group	VOD	14.53	20.36	15.16	-0.06	-0.4	▼	▲	▼	-8.0	-0.3	cc	1.06e
WalMart Strs	WMT	126.28	152.57	140.76	+1.27	+0.9	▲	▲	▲	-2.4	-1.5	40	2.20
Walgreen Boots Alli	WBA	39.03	57.05	50.73	+2.5	+0.5	▲	▲	▲	+27.2	+33.2	19	1.91

Dividend Footnotes: a - Extra dividends were paid, but are not included. b - Annual rate plus stock. c - Liquidating dividend. e - Amount declared or paid in last 12 months. f - Current annual rate, which was increased by most recent dividend announcement. i - Sum of dividends paid after stock split, no regular rate. j - Sum of dividends paid this year. Most recent dividend was omitted or deferred. k - Declared or paid this year, a cumulative issue with dividends in arrears. m - Current annual rate, which was decreased by most recent dividend announcement. p - Initial dividend, annual rate not known, yield not shown. r - Declared or paid in preceding 12 months plus stock dividend. t - Paid in stock, approximate cash value on ex-distribution date.

PE Footnotes: q - Stock is a closed-end fund - no P/E ratio shown. cc - P/E exceeds 99. dd - Loss in last 12 months.

Interest Rates



The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 1.48% Monday. Yields affect rates on mortgages and other consumer loans.

TREASURIES	LAST	PVS	NET CHG	1YR AGO
3-month T-bill	.06	.08	-0.02	.09
6-month T-bill	.21	.18	+0.03	.09
52-wk T-bill	.30	.28	+0.02	.10
2-year T-note	.76	.71	+0.05	.13
5-year T-note	1.26	1.25	+0.01	.37
7-year T-note	1.41	1.42	-0.01	.66
10-year T-note	1.48	1.49	-0.01	.91
30-year T-bond	1.89	1.90	-0.01	1.67

CONSUMER RATES	NAT'L AVG	WK AGO	6MO AGO	1YR AGO
48 month new car loan	3.41	3.42	3.61	4.11
Money market account	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.08
1 year CD	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.30
\$30K Home equity loan	6.46	6.46	6.46	4.68
30 year fixed mortgage	3.24	3.20	3.23	3.13
15 year fixed mortgage	2.51	2.50	2.54	2.43

Commodities

U.S. crude oil rose 2.4%, heating oil prices rose 0.9% and wholesale gasoline rose 1.3%. Natural gas jumped 8.8%. Gold and silver prices were little changed.

FUELS	CLOSE	PVS	%CHG	%YTD
Crude Oil (bbl)	75.57	73.79	+2.41	+55.8
Ethanol (gal)	2.14	2.14	...	+49.1
Heating Oil (gal)	2.35	2.33	+0.95	+58.7
Natural Gas (mmbtu)	4.06	3.73	+8.82	+59.9
Unleaded Gas (gal)	2.23	2.21	+1.26	+56.9
METALS	CLOSE	PVS	%CHG	%YTD
Gold (oz)	1808.10	1811.20	-0.17	-4.5
Silver (oz)	22.98	22.93	+0.21	-12.7
Platinum (oz)	969.20	975.10	-0.61	-9.9
Copper (lb)	4.47	4.39	+1.78	+27.1
Palladium (oz)	1944.30	1954.70	-0.53	-20.6
AGRICULTURE	CLOSE	PVS	%CHG	%YTD
Cattle (lb)	1.37	1.37	+0.18	+21.6
Coffee (lb)	2.27	2.31	-1.79	+77.0
Corn (bu)	6.15	6.06	+1.49	+27.0
Cotton (lb)	1.12	1.09	+2.90	+43.7
Lumber (1,000 bd ft)	1097.40	1052.40	+4.28	+25.4
Orange Juice (lb)	1.39	1.45	-3.93	+13.1
Soybeans (bu)	13.63	13.32	+2.29	+3.6
Wheat (bu)	8.04	8.15	-1.32	+25.5

Mutual Funds

FAMILY	FUND	NAV	CHG	YTD	1YR	3YR*	5YR*
American Funds	AmrcnBalA m	33.49	+27	+15.8	+16.9	+15.5	+11.3
	CptWldGrIncA m	63.67	+60	+14.8	+16.8	+18.8	+13.1
	CptIncBldrA m	69.84	+54	+14.5	+15.7	+11.9	+8.1
	FdmInvsA m	76.25	+85	+23.0	+24.2	+22.0	+15.4
	GrAmrcA m	75.22	+83	+20.8	+22.2	+29.1	+20.8
	IncAmrcA m	25.74	+21	+16.9	+17.8	+13.7	+9.3
	InvCAMrcA m	51.97	+62	+25.4	+27.2	+21.6	+14.6
	NwPrspctvA m	66.79	+71	+18.4	+20.2	+27.6	+19.9
	WAMInvsA m	60.49	+74	+28.5	+30.4	+20.5	+14.9
	Dodge & Cox	Inc	14.06	+01	-0.9	-0.6	+6.1
Stk		246.62	+2.17	+32.5	+34.3	+21.4	+13.9
Fidelity	500IdxInvsPrm	166.16	+2.27	+29.3	+31.2	+26.6	+18.3
	BCGrowth	186.67	+2.58	+24.7	+24.5	+39.7	+29.5
	Contrafund	18.98	+27	+25.8	+27.1	+29.8	+22.5
	GroCo	41.05	+44	+24.9	+23.9	+43.0	+29.8
	TiIMktIdxInvsPrm	134.53	+1.69	+26.4	+27.5	+26.3	+17.8
	USBDIdxInvsPrm	11.98	+01	-1.8	-1.6	+4.9	+3.7
	SP500Idx	72.31	...	+27.5	+29.9	+27.2	+18.0
T. Rowe Price	BCGr	181.01	+2.54	+19.8	+21.4	+28.4	+23.5
	500IdxAdmrl	442.07	+6.04	+29.3	+31.2	+26.6	+18.2
Vanguard	DivGrInv	40.80	+48	+24.3	+26.1	+22.5	+16.7
	GrIdxAdmrl	167.36	+2.54	+29.0	+30.1	+35.7	+24.8
	InTrFEAdmrl	14.72	...	+1.2	+1.2	+4.4	+3.9
	IntlGrAdmrl	139.15	+90	-0.8	+1.4	+28.0	+21.2
	MdCpldxAdmrl	315.69	+3.88	+24.6	+24.6	+24.8	+15.6
	PrmCpAdmrl	170.46	+2.02	+22.6	+24.6	+22.9	+18.1
	STInvMGrAdmrl	10.80	...	-0.4	-0.3	+3.6	+2.8
	SmCpldxAdmrl	108.52	+1.12	+17.9	+17.1	+21.8	+13.2
	TiBMIdxAdmrl	11.20	+01	-1.6	-1.4	+5.0	+3.7
	TiInStIdxAdmrl	34.12	+18	+8.4	+10.3	+14.0	+10.0
	TiInStIdxInv	20.40	+11	+8.3	+10.3	+13.9	+9.9
	TiSMIdxAdmrl	118.22	+1.51	+26.4	+27.5	+26.4	+17.8
	TiSMIdxInv	118.19	+1.50	+26.3	+27.4	+26.2	+17.7
	WIngtnAdmrl	90.14	+7.9	+19.4	+20.6	+17.7	+12.3
WlStyIncAdmrl	70.03	+41	+8.4	+9.2	+11.3	+8.1	

* - Annualized; d - Deferred sales charge, or redemption fee. m - Multiple fees are charged, usually a marketing fee and either a sales or redemption fee. x - fund paid a distribution during the week.

Omicron, storms disrupt air travel for fourth consecutive day

By TALI ARBEL
Associated Press



David Zalubowski / AP

Travelers queue up at the Southwest Airlines curbside check-in area at Denver International Airport Sunday in Denver.

NEW YORK — Flight cancellations that disrupted holiday travel stretched into Monday with thousands of U.S. flights spiked during one of the year's busiest travel periods because of crews out sick with COVID-19 and now storm fronts creating more havoc. Flight delays and cancellations tied to staffing shortages have been a constant this year. Airlines encouraged workers to quit in 2020 when air travel collapsed and have struggled to make up ground this year when air travel rebounded faster than almost anyone had expected.

With the arrival of the omicron variant, that staffing shortage has led

OPINION

► *"If we don't change, we don't grow.
If we don't grow, we aren't really living."
— Gail Sheehy*

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

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"You may differ with my choice, but not my right to choose."

— **David S. Arthurs** publisher emeritus

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

EDITORIAL

City's fight vs. blight proactive

It's no secret, Crystal Square Shopping Plaza has long been an eyesore in Crystal River while the ownership has proved a thorn in the side of city officials with a lack of action or willingness to address the aging structure.

During a recent evidentiary hearing, Crystal Square owners incurred an upgraded code enforcement fine from \$250 to \$500 daily after Magistrate Robert Christensen ruled they failed to fix several violations on their property for almost six months.

The violations include: a leaking roof, crumbling facades, an inoperable fire alarm and suppression system, exposed wiring, missing ceiling tiles and peeling paint. Christensen also found the vacant plaza owners were disobeying two additional, but previously documented code violations: overgrown grass and unsecured structures. Christensen gave the owners 10 days to seal their empty shopfront from homeless people accessing it, noting that it's a public-safety concern.

While Crystal River city officials deserve credit for being proactive in their approach to work toward a resolution, the old adage, it takes two to make a thing go right, the owners of Crystal Square continue to stick their fingers in the eyes of our community.

THE ISSUE: *City ups fines for shopping plaza.*

OUR OPINION: *Hit them where it hurts.*

These problems will continue to persist until the owners of the plaza are forced into resolving the current issues as well as future issues. And while fining the ownership group seems the right step in the direction, the tally is pocket change to a real estate group that has shown no remorse for the current state of the building.

As this saga continues to play out, it would best serve Crystal River officials and their lawyer to exhaust all avenues to increase the fines to truly make a dent in the pocketbook of the owners to force their hands to correct the issues at the dilapidated structure. Ultimately, the property needs to be redeveloped and repurposed.

Something must be done now — and the best solution is likely demolition, as the building is simply crumbling.

However, it's private property, and it's difficult to make changes, especially if the owner lives far out of state and doesn't have a stake in the local community.

Until the financial ramifications hurt, the owners of the plaza will continue to evade addressing the problems they've helped create and continue to manifest.

HOT CORNER: LOTTERY NUMBERS

I noticed again on Sunday's paper (Dec. 19), you did not have the Powerball or the Lotto numbers. You had all the other numbers except those. What is going on?

No lottery or Fantasy 5 numbers. Sorry to see that you're no longer publishing Lotto and Fantasy 5 numbers any longer. It was even good to have them posted a day late. Oh well, new leadership, new ideas. Thank you for your concern.

I'm a loyal customer of the Chronicle for many years and I'm hoping you'll put that lottery format back the way it was. Right now it just doesn't appear to be

useful at all and I know there's some other subscribers feeling like I do. But if you would definitely try to put that back into the format that it was, that would be so much appreciated. Thank you very much.

Can you possibly put our Fantasy 5 lottery numbers in at night now or is that too much, too?

I've noticed several changes in the Chronicle here lately. I've also noticed that in the lottery section, the font is very small and hard to read and I don't understand why you're no longer printing the Fantasy 5 numbers. Just a thought. You put in the other winning numbers, just not Fantasy 5.

No firefighters

No firemen to be found. I had some fire extinguishers to take to the firehouse to have them dispose of them for me, so I go to the one at the playground in Homosassa, the firehouse there. I bang on the door, knock on the door, ring the bell, kick the door and nobody's there at 4:30 in the

afternoon Dec. 17. So I go over to (County Road) 480, to the firehouse over there. I ring the door-

bell, knock on the door, kick the door and there's no answer. Where are these firemen that's supposed to be on duty if they're not at the firehouse? I mean, there's no fire no place and no firemen. All I want to do is dispose of a bunch of fire extinguishers and give them to them, but no firemen at either houses.

There's always someone who'll help

I'm responding to the lady that called in today's paper — I read it — about the credit on apartments (Sunday, Dec. 19's Page C3, Sound Off, "You better have good credit"). You know, I was having bad luck doing the same thing because my credit is zero, but,



Thank you Citrus County

On behalf of the staff and residents here at the Brentwood Retirement Community, we would like to thank the Citrus County Sheriff's Office for their Silver Santa Program, Home Instead Senior Care for their Be a Santa to a Senior Program, the Salvation Army, the West Citrus Elks Lodge Veteran's Committee, Key Elder Care and Veteran's for a Cause, and last, but not least, the community that generously bought gifts for our residents over the holiday season.

The amount of time spent organizing these programs and coordinating the gifts is just amazing. The joy and expressions on the faces of our residents opening these gifts is truly priceless. We are very lucky to have such a caring and wonderful community as Citrus County.

A huge thank you to all involved for your tireless effort again this year and for opening up your hearts!

**Residents and staff
Brentwood Retirement
Community**

Lower fuel cost don't equal lower rates

Re: "Fuel costs could drive up power bills" Dec. 21, 2021.

This article talks about how Duke Energy plans to raise electric rates because of increasing fuel costs. Did I somehow miss the article a year ago that said they planned to lower electric rates because of decreasing fuel costs?

**Alfred T. Barnard
Beverly Hills**

Manchin: A wolf in sheep's clothing

Something is happening that is of critical importance to Citrus County, Florida, and the entire country. This can have a serious negative effect on your life and mine at the local level. I am talking about politics at the national level, where we will find a wolf in sheep's clothing. Please allow me to explain.

Many months ago President Biden introduced his Build Back Better legislation proposal. Perhaps it was too ambitious and too expensive, so there has been a lot of negotiation, much of which has been focused on Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia. However, there is evidence that Manchin had not negotiated in good faith. When changes are

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.

republican pretending to be a democrat. Manchin is the wolf in sheep's clothing.

Let's dig a little deeper. It is now obvious that Manchin is influenced by, manipulated by, or controlled by McConnell. So McConnell, with Manchin, and the Republicans in the Senate, now have the power to do anything they may wish to do. And who controls McConnell and a large majority of the Republicans?

Answer — Donald Trump.
May heaven help us!

**Kenneth J. Clark
Homosassa**

Lack of action reason for so many scams

I received a phone call and my phone indicated the call was from Publix, so I answered it thinking my prescription was ready for pickup.

To my surprise it was my grandson asking for help from his grandpa. Of course, I knew it was a scam call right away but I decided to play along. I said, "Is that you Brandon?" He said yes and he had a car accident and needed money to get out of jail.

I asked how I could get the money to him and he said through his attorney. He gave me the attorneys name and phone number and I could make arrangements through him. Instead of calling his attorney, I called the sheriff's office thinking they would follow up with the phone call to the supposed attorney. But I was advised they don't follow up on scam calls and that I should call the Fed's. They gave me the number. It didn't work.

I called them back to advise them the number did not work. She said that's the only number they have. I bet when the next person calls they will get the same nonexistent number. I was advised to go to Google and look-up the Fed's scam report number. The gentlemen at the Fed's who answered the phone advised me he would take my information and file it. I asked if anyone was going to call the phone number I provided. He said, "No, we just take the information and file it."

It's no wonder there are so many scam calls, no agency follows up and tries to shut down the scammers.

I may be 84 years old but I still know my grandson's voice and I know he does not have a foreign accent.

**James Otenbaker
Inverness**

HELP THE UNITED WAY

The United Way needs your support this holiday season. Please consider writing a check for \$36 — or whatever you can afford — to help the local organization. Become a stakeholder in solving the problems in our community.

Please mail your contribution to: Gerry Mulligan, c/o The Citrus County Chronicle, United Way Fund Drive, 1624 Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34429. Make checks payable to the Citrus County United Way.

believe it or not, there's people out there that will willingly work with you. If you have a guaranteed income, they will rent to you, OK?

Where are all the coins?

A lot of these stores have no change, so they want you to use plastic because they can't get nickels and pennies and dimes. So what is the bank or the government doing now, holding change back and blaming the COVID-19 because they don't want people handling change? Not everybody uses a plastic card.

Do the speed limit or move over I'm calling in reference to the white car driving on Saturday morning on (State Road) 44. He went 35 mph in a 45 mph lane. He had traffic backed up and all the

people were trying to pass him. If he's not going to do the speed limit, stay off the road. It's 45, not 35 mph.

Harsher punishments

I'm responding to Sound Off (about Saturday, Dec. 18's front-page story) "Social media threats result in arrest." Big deal. What good was the arrest? All the kid is facing is out-of-school suspension or expulsion from school. Really? What kind of punishment is that? He or she still gets away with it. You need to enforce the law go see a criminal judge. If he can't go to a juvenile facility for a month or two, then make him clean the highways up every weekend so they learn their lesson. You're not going to teach him a lesson by

suspending him from school and giving him an expulsion. I totally disagree. You have to come up with a more severe penalty than that, especially in today's world with what's going on.

Blame gas prices on the commissioners

(Re Sunday, Dec. 19's Page C3, Sound Off, "Gas is cheaper in Ocala.") To the person that called in about the gas prices, that they're going to contact their commissioners to find out why: It is the commissioners that is causing the gas prices to be so high with the tax they're putting on it. You don't have to call the commissioners. They are the guilty ones making the prices so high with their tax.



SOUND OFF
CALL
563-0579

NATION & WORLD

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE



Petros Giannakouris — staff, AP

People wearing protective face masks walk outside a Christmas decorated coffee shop in Psiri district of Athens, on Monday. Part of new restrictions includes a mask mandate for outdoors and all public areas as the Greek government is expected to announce new measures to contain the spread of the Omicron variant.

Omicron spreads global gloom over New Year's celebrations

By **RAF CASERT**
Associated Press

BRUSSELS — As omicron spreads ever more gloom around the globe ahead of New Year's Eve, governments are moving at different speeds to contain the scourge, with some reimposing restrictions immediately and others hesitating to spoil the party again.

In Britain, where the highly contagious variant of the coronavirus has sent caseloads soaring to record highs, Health Secretary Sajid Javid said Monday no further restrictions will be introduced in England before the new year. New daily infections in England are hovering around 100,000, and hospital admissions were up more than 70 percent on Christmas from a week earlier.

"When we get into the new year, of course, we will see then if we do need to take any further measures, but nothing more until then, at least," Javid said.

Elsewhere in the United Kingdom, though, nightclubs have been ordered closed and limits on gatherings imposed in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales, leaving the country divided in its approach to the crisis.

The Netherlands, meanwhile, has already shut down all nonessential stores, restaurants and bars and extended the school holidays in what largely amounts to a new lockdown. In Belgium, new measures went into effect Monday and over the weekend: Shopping in large groups was banned, and movie theaters and concert halls closed in the middle of the holiday season.

In France, Prime Minis-

ter Jean Castex announced a set of restrictions set to kick in next week, after New Year's. Among them: Big events will be limited to 2,000 people indoors and 5,000 outdoors; eating and drinking will be banned in theaters, at sports venues and on public transportation; and working from home will be mandatory at least three days a week for employees whose jobs make it possible.

Also, a bill will be voted on in France next month to create a vaccine pass that will allow only inoculated people to enter public places, including restaurants, bars and movie theaters.

The measures come after France recorded more than 100,000 COVID-19 infections in a single day for the first time in the pandemic.

In the U.S., the Biden administration has strongly emphasized the importance of vaccinations, boosters and rapid testing, while New York City's sweeping mandate requiring nearly all businesses, big and small, to bar unvaccinated employees from the workplace took effect Monday. It was announced three weeks ago, soon after omicron gained a foothold in the U.S.

The top U.S. infectious-disease expert, Dr. Anthony Fauci, warned that with omicron, "it's going to get worse before it gets better," and he said authorities should seriously consider requiring that domestic airline passengers be vaccinated.

"When you make vaccination a requirement, that's another incentive to get more people vaccinated," Fauci told MSNBC.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on

U.S. officials recommend shorter COVID isolation, quarantine

By **MIKE STOBBE**
Associated Press

NEW YORK — U.S. health officials on Monday cut isolation restrictions for Americans who catch the coronavirus from 10 to five days, and similarly shortened the time that close contacts need to quarantine.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention officials said the guidance is in keeping with growing evidence that people with the coronavirus are most infectious in the two days before and three days after symptoms develop.

The decision also was driven by a recent surge in COVID-19 cases, propelled by the omicron variant.

Early research suggests omicron may cause milder illnesses than earlier versions of the coronavirus. But the sheer number of people becoming infected — and therefore having to isolate or quarantine — threatens to crush the ability of hospitals, airlines and other businesses to stay open, experts say.

CDC Director Rochelle Walensky said the country is about to see a lot of omicron cases.

"Not all of those cases are going to be severe. In fact many are going to be asymptomatic," she told The Associated Press on Monday. "We want to make

sure there is a mechanism by which we can safely continue to keep society functioning while following the science."

Last week, the agency loosened rules that previously called on health care workers to stay out of work for 10 days if they test positive. The new recommendations said workers could go back to work after seven days if they test negative and don't have symptoms. And the agency said isolation time could be cut to five days, or even fewer, if there are severe staffing shortages.

Now, the CDC is changing the isolation and quarantine guidance for the general public to be even less stringent.

The change is aimed at people who are not experiencing symptoms. People with symptoms during isolation, or who develop symptoms during quarantine, are encouraged to stay home.

The CDC's isolation and quarantine guidance has confused the public, and the new recommendations are "happening at a time when more people are testing positive for the first time and looking for guidance," said Lindsay Wiley, an American University public health law expert.

Nevertheless, the guidance continues to be complex.

Monday cut isolation restrictions for people who have the virus, saying it's in line with the science of

when people are most infectious and could also help industries continue to function as cases surge.

Fauci: U.S. should consider vaccine mandate for air travel

By **ZEKE MILLER**
Associated Press

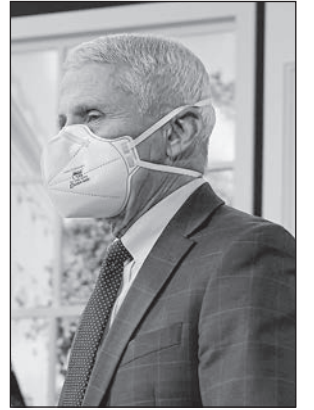
WASHINGTON — Dr. Anthony Fauci, the top U.S. infectious disease expert, said Monday the nation should consider a vaccination mandate for domestic air travel, signaling a potential embrace of an idea the Biden administration has previously eschewed, as COVID-19 cases spike.

Fauci, President Joe Biden's chief science adviser on the pandemic response, said such a mandate might drive up the nation's lagging vaccination rate as well as confer stronger protection on flights, for which federal regulations require all those age 2 and older to wear a mask.

"When you make vaccination a requirement, that's another incentive to get more people vaccinated," Fauci told MSNBC. "If you want to do that with domestic flights, I think that's something that seriously should be considered."

The Biden administration has thus far balked at imposing a vaccination requirement for domestic air travel. Two officials said Biden's science advisers have yet to make a formal recommendation for such a requirement to the president.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations, said a vaccine mandate on planes could trigger a host of logistical and legal concerns.



Carolyn Kaster / AP

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the top U.S. infectious disease expert, says the U.S. should consider a vaccination mandate for domestic air travel as coronavirus infections surge. To date the Biden administration has balked at the idea, anticipating legal entanglements.

The U.S. currently mandates that most foreign nationals traveling to the U.S. be fully vaccinated against the coronavirus, though citizens and permanent residents only need to show proof of a negative test taken within a day of boarding.

Federal rules don't require people travelling by air within the U.S. to show a negative test. Hawaii requires travelers to test or show proof of vaccination to avoid a mandatory quarantine.

Biden did not respond to questions on whether he was considering implementing a domestic air travel vaccination requirement, but he told reporters the subject was discussed on a call with the nation's governors Monday morning.

Flu season already making a comeback

By **CARLA K. JOHNSON**
Associated Press

The U.S. flu season has arrived on schedule after taking a year off, with flu hospitalizations rising and two child deaths reported.

Last year's flu season was the lowest on record, likely because COVID-19 measures — school closures, distancing, masks and canceled travel — prevented the spread of influenza, or because the coronavirus somehow pushed aside other viruses.

"This is setting itself up to be more of a normal flu season," said Lynnette Brammer, who tracks flu-like illnesses for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The childhood deaths, Brammer said, are "unfortunately what we would expect when flu activity picks up. It's a sad reminder of

how severe flu can be."

During last year's unusually light flu season, one child died. In contrast, 199 children died from flu two years ago, and 144 the year before that.

In the newest data, the most intense flu activity was in the nation's capital, Washington, D.C., and the number of states with high flu activity rose from three to seven. In CDC figures released Monday, states with high flu activity are New Mexico, Kansas, Indiana, New Jersey, Tennessee, Georgia and North Dakota.

The type of virus circulating this year tends to cause the largest amount of severe disease, especially in the elderly and the very young, Brammer said.

Last year's break from the flu made it more challenging to plan for this year's flu vaccine.

IN BRIEF

Snow blasts California and freezes Pacific Northwest

SEATTLE (AP) — Severe weather sweeping parts of the U.S. brought frigid temperatures to the Pacific Northwest, heavy snow to mountains in Northern California and Nevada and unseasonable warmth to Texas and the Southeast.

Emergency warming shelters were opened throughout Oregon and western Washington as temperatures plunged into the teens and forecasters said an arctic blast would last for several days. Sunday's snow showers blew into the Pacific Northwest from the Gulf of Alaska, dumping up to 6 inches across the Seattle area.

The National Weather Service said Seattle's low Sunday was 20 degrees F, breaking a mark set in 1948.



A snow plow travels down a street in Tenino, Wash. on Sunday.
Steve Bloom / AP

Bellingham was 9 degrees F, three degrees colder than the previous record set in 1971.

In West Seattle, Keith Hughes of the American Legion Hall Post 160, said his warming center can welcome about a dozen people — its capacity limited by lack of volunteer staff.

"Volunteers, this is a problem for myself as well as everyone else in town, it's really hard to get with COVID going on," he said.

The storms that have been pummeling California and Nevada in recent days also brought rain and snow to Arizona. A record inch of rain in one day was reported

at the airport in Phoenix Friday.

More storms are expected to hit the desert state starting Monday afternoon and continuing throughout the week.

Temperatures were unseasonably warm in parts of the Southern Plains, including in Arkansas, where several cities broke records on Christmas Day for daily high temperatures.

But forecasters warned that severe storms were possible midweek when a storm system moves through the Deep South, with Alabama and Mississippi at greatest risk for bad weather.

2021 Holiday Appeal

WOW! This year has flown by like none before. Whether we were busy fighting Corona Virus or making sure our kids had the best Club experience possible; it's hard to believe the end of 2021 is upon us. The good news is that the Boys & Girls Clubs of Citrus County have weathered each storm with grace and hopefully made our youth, parents, and community feel less stress knowing that their child is safe and well taken care of inside our blue doors.

This year has been tough, but helping kids shouldn't be. When you support the Boys & Girls Club of Citrus County, you turn everyday moments into great futures for kids who need us most.

- \$10 can give a kid an hour with a mentor.
- \$35 can feed 10 kids a nutritious snack they can count on.
- \$50 can provide books, supplies and learning activities to help seven children improve their reading skills and stay on track in school.

Now through Dec. 31, your donation to the Boys & Girls Club of Citrus County will ensure kids and families can continue accessing food, everyday necessities, learning support and positive adult influences who will help them overcome the toughest times in the year ahead. Together, let's give kids the moments they need now to make great futures possible.

Will you join us and invest in a child this giving season and help keep the Club affordable so no child who seeks our help is ever turned away. Please go to www.bgccitrus.org and make a one time or monthly donation, become a 2022 Corporate Sponsor, by mail at 2021 S Suncoast Blvd. Homosassa Fl. 34448, or by texting BGCCITRUS to number 41444.

Travis Anderson
Chief Executive Officer

HEALTH & LIFE

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

HEALTH NOTES

Get your American Red Cross Lifeguarding Certification

The City of Inverness is offering an American Red Cross Lifeguarding Certification Class on the following dates at Whispering Pines Park Pool, 1700 Forest Drive in Inverness:

- 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jan. 22
- 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 23
- 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 29
- 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jan. 30

There is a mandatory pre-requisite swim from 2 to 3 p.m. Jan. 9. The \$150 registration fee is due after completion of the swim.

Swimmers must demonstrate the following:

- Swim 300 yard continuously.
- Proper kick, stroke and rhythmic breathing using the breaststroke/freestyle.
- Tread water for 2 minutes using legs only.
- Swim 20 yards (no goggles), surface dive to 10 feet, retrieve a 10-pound object, swim on back holding the object, return to the starting point and exit the water within 1 minute and 40 seconds.

Candidates must be 15 years old, pass the prerequisite swim, turn in completion for online studies and attend all class sessions. For more information, call 352-726-1995.

Make mental health resolutions for the new year

Citrus Memorial Hospital will present a mental health seminar at 2 p.m. Jan. 18 at the Citrus Memorial Health Foundation YMCA, 4127 W. Norvell Bryant Highway in Lecanto.

"Mental Health Resolutions for the New Year" will feature a presentation from Laura Sturdevant, licensed clinical social worker. The seminar will focus on ways you can improve your outlook on life and regain your sense of balance in 2022 with realistic New Year's resolutions for mental health. A brief question and answer session will

follow. Seating is limited, so an RSVP is required to attend. To make a reservation, call 352-637-3337 or visit citrusmh.com.

'Stepping Stones to Wellness' meets weekly

Stepping Stones to Wellness will meet from 9:30 to 11 a.m. every Tuesday at the Friends of Citrus and the Nature Coast Wings Grief Center, 8471 W. Periwinkle Lane in Homosassa.

The group is facilitated by yoga teacher Ellen Armitage. By combining walking in place, guided meditation/relaxation exercises and a process group, it is designed to help promote overall well being.

Provided as a community service, the class is offered at no charge. To reserve a spot, call 352-249-1470. For more information, call friends of citrus.org or visit Friends of Citrus on Facebook.

Wings Grief Center offers advanced yoga

The Friends of Citrus and the Nature Coast advanced yoga group meets from 4 to 5 p.m. every Thursday at the Wings Grief Center, 8471 W. Periwinkle Lane in Homosassa.

The class is facilitated by Ellen Armitage, a yoga teacher with more than 20 years of experience helping others find their way to their highest self.

Sessions are provided as a community service and are offered at no charge. To reserve a spot, call 352-249-1470. For more information, call friends of citrus.org or visit Friends of Citrus on Facebook.

Free pregnancy testing, sonograms available

Citrus Pregnancy Center is offering free pregnancy testing and free early pregnancy sonograms at both locations: 726 NE U.S. 19 in Crystal River and 3185 E. Thomas St. in Inverness.

For more information, call 352-341-5176.

Senior Center offers low-impact Zumba classes

Zumba Classes with Certified Instructor Donna Scarpello are held from 11 a.m. to noon every Monday, Wednesday and Friday (except holidays) at 2804 W. Marc Knighton Court in Lecanto.

Classes are lower impact and geared toward seniors. Cost is \$5 per class.

To pre-register, call 352-527-5993 or email instructor Donna Scarpello at miss-donna@tampabay.rr.com.

Attend Dr. Bennett's 'Fireside Chats'

Dr. Joseph Bennett offers monthly "Fireside Chats" beginning noon the first Wednesday of each month at the Robert Boissoneault Oncology Institute (RBOI), 522 N. Lecanto Highway.

Sessions often feature guest speakers, as well as open discussion regarding health and cancer care. A light lunch is provided, therefore RSVP is requested.

Bennett welcomes questions and open discussion, so bring your questions or email them ahead of time to cjbenett@rboi.com. Those who have not received their COVID-19 vaccination will be asked to wear a mask and practice social distancing inside the building.

Call Shawn at 352-527-0106 to make a reservation.

Free hearing screening available

Citrus Healing Impaired Program Services (CHIPS) is offering free hearing screenings for Citrus County residents at the old train depot, 109 NE Crystal St. in Crystal River.

Screenings are by appointment only. Low-income hearing aid assistance is available.

To learn more, call Maureen 352-795-5000.

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HEALTH & LIFE

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

Old versus new

Acknowledging advancements, appreciating old methods too

Every once in awhile I get the idea for a column during patient care. In this case it was on a close friend of mine.

She needed a filling and I suggested a silver one, or amalgam. Hence, the reason for this column: Old versus new. Is old really obsolete?

Dr. Frank Vascimini
Sound Bites



As you already know I usually give the short answer first; in this case it is a definite no!

As I was working on her I said to myself that there is no way I could have done the job that I did had I chosen to use composite (or tooth-colored filling) instead of amal-

gam. It must have been obvious because as I sat her up she said, "Another sculpture!"

It gives me great pleasure when someone says something like that. We all work so hard to earn a compliment like that in our everyday care for our patients.

I am sure many of you will agree with me that advances in technology are great. I myself enjoy so many of the benefits. However, I feel like it is prudent to not discard the old way of doing things. This goes for everyday dentistry, as well as so many other things in life.

Let's just say that I no longer kept amalgam in the office like some offices do. They claim to be metal free practices. In this particular case the end result would have been less than ideal in my opinion. Just about every area of dentistry has made leaps and bounds in regards to advancements. This includes everyday restorative work, implants, dentures and root canals to name a few. When the newer technology works it is truly amazing, but there are times that having the experience of doing something the "old-fashioned" way proves to be such a blessing.

Like anything else in life, enjoy the new innovative way of doing things, but never forget the old and remember that without the old you may not even have the new.

You are likely reading this after the Christmas holiday. As you probably know, I always take off a couple of weeks this time of the year. I love the extra time spent with family and friends. Both my boys will be with us through the holidays along Rita's Dad.

He continues to do well with us, though he does have his good and bad days. I feel like at 93 that is to be expected. It's been a blessing to have him with us since Rita's mom's passing. All of your thoughts, prayers and kind notes have meant a lot to us.

I hope each and every one of you have enjoyed the holidays with your family and friends. My thoughts and prayers go out to all of you. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Dr. Frank Vascimini is a dentist practicing in Homosassa. Send your questions to 4805 S. Suncoast Blvd., Homosassa, FL 34446 or email them to him at DrVascimini@MasterpieceDentalStudio.com.



Thomas Barwick / Getty Images

When a large segment of the workforce started working from home, the rituals of before- and after-work gym visits fell by the wayside. People grew more accustomed to improvising where they work out.

Shifting wellness attitudes shape 2022 fitness trends

By FAMILY FEATURES

In adjusting to the constraints of the pandemic, many Americans had to improvise where and how they work out. After months of adapting to a "gym anywhere" mentality and learning to accommodate more flexible workout schedules, this new fitness mindset is inspiring some larger trends for healthier living.

"We've learned that wellness is not one-size fits all, and that it's achieved by small habits like regular hydration that can really impact how you feel throughout the day," said celebrity fitness trainer Harley Pasternak. "Collectively, nourishing both body and mind together as one makes holistic health a sustainable lifestyle."

Pasternak and the experts at Propel Fitness Water are forecasting five fitness and wellness trends to watch for in 2022:

Accountability buddies

When gym closures ran rampant, folks leaned on others for inspiration to get moving, so it's no surprise working out in pairs (or more) is a continued way to focus on fitness. Feelings of burnout may be common heading into 2022, so having a partner who gives you a healthy sense of camaraderie and competition can help

push you to show up on days when you'd rather rest and stay committed to your goals. It also provides a sounding board when you need suggestions for nutritious recipes or fresh at-home cardio ideas.

Versatility in gym spaces, schedules

When a large segment of the workforce started working from home, the rituals of before- and after-work gym visits fell by the wayside. People grew more accustomed to improvising where they work out, whether it was their neighbor's garage, their living room or a running path in the city. As exercisers are less beholden to studio or gym schedules, the "gym anywhere" mentality is a level of flexibility many are holding on to, even as they ease back into more normal work routines.

Health in small, achievable doses

This trend is all about recognizing health transformations don't happen overnight, and even modest steps can make a big difference in how you feel throughout the day. One example is paying more attention to your hydration. If you aren't properly hydrated, few other things tend to go right either. Small habits like throwing Propel Powder Packs into your gym, work or school bag can make a difference. Filled with enough electrolytes to replace

what is lost in sweat, they are handy for on-the-go hydration and are easy to add to a water bottle.

Wellness goals vs. fitness

Committing to overall wellness is more about lifestyle changes than numbers like weight loss or muscle mass. People embracing this trend are forgoing numeric goals based on performance in the gym or on the scale and instead emphasizing outcomes that affect life, nourishing both body and mind together as one. Fitness goals are an essential component, but so is supporting your mental health as well as being cognizant of what you're putting into your body. When each piece is well taken care of, your body is better able to work like a well-oiled machine.

Low-impact workouts

This year, walking treadmill challenges gained virality on social media, marking the increasing popularity of workouts that are low impact yet effective. Getting moving is the key, even if it means taking your tempo down. You don't need to do hours of HIIT every day to see results. In fact, less time- and energy-intensive workouts are easier to sustain and can often yield the same, or better, results.

Find more hydration options and wellness tips at propelwater.com.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Griefshare group can help with loss

A GriefShare support group will begin meeting at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 5 at North Oak Church, 9324 N. Elkcam Blvd. in Citrus Springs.

GriefShare seminars and support groups are led by people who understand grief and want to help. Gain access to valuable resources and workbooks to help recover from loss and look forward to rebuilding.

Attendees learn helpful, practical information that will help with recovery from the pain of grief and loss. Group members will have the opportunity to tell their story, but there's never pressure to do so.

Become part of a family and learn how to go through a healthy season of grieving, then begin transitioning to emotional and spiritual wholeness. They call this "your journey from mourning to joy."

Join this GriefShare group any time after Jan. 5. For more information, call 352-489-1688.

TOPS weight loss groups meet weekly

The following TOPS weight loss support groups meet weekly in Citrus County:

■ Chapter 692 at 9:30 a.m. Fridays at Grace Bible Church, 6382 W. Green Acres St. in Homosassa. Call 352-628-2024.

■ Chapter 826 at 8:10 a.m. Tuesdays at First

Lutheran Church, 1900 State Road 44 in Inverness. Call 352-464-1349.

■ Chapter 743 at 7:30 a.m. Wednesdays at the DAV building, 1039 N. Paul Drive in Inverness. Call 352-637-6553.

■ Chapter 9365 at 10 a.m. Wednesdays at the First Christian Church of Homosassa, 7030 W. Grover Cleveland Blvd. Call 352-533-2607 or 352-212-8550.

■ Chapter 408 at 2 p.m. Thursdays at the First Baptist Church, 700 N. Citrus Ave. in Crystal River. Call 352-212-7946.

■ Chapter 443 at 3 p.m. Thursdays at the Dannel-Thurston Women's Club, 11756 Cedar St. Call 352-566-0742.

■ Chapter 401 at 8:15 Wednesdays at First Baptist Church, 3790 Parsons Pt. Road in Hernando. Call 352-637-7196.

For more information about TOPS, visit tops.org.

Memory support group meets weekly

The free Memory Lane Support Group & Respite Program meets from 1 to 3 p.m. every Monday at First United Methodist Church of Homosassa, 8831 W. Bradshaw St.

This program has been in existence for nearly 10 years. It started as a support group for caregivers, but quickly evolved into a support group for those caring for loved ones with memory issues and dementia.

For more information, call 352-628-4083 or visit lumc.org.

Mental health support available

The local National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI Citrus) offers in-person and virtual support groups from 6 to 7 p.m. Thursdays at the First Christian Church of Inverness, 2018 Colonade St.

Support groups are for persons living with a mental health condition and their families.

For more information, call 844-687-6264 or visit namicitrus.org/calendar.

Support available for dementia caregivers

North Oak Church is offering group support for caregivers of dementia patients at 6:30 p.m. the first Thursday monthly at the church, 9324 N. Elkcam Blvd. in Citrus Springs.

Caregiving is a difficult job and often goes unrewarded. Dementia has a unique set of difficulties and circumstances that can be helped by meeting with other caregivers who may be experiencing the same problems.

The group will be led by Bernie Collins, retired psychiatric nurse. No religious affiliation is needed to attend.

For more information, call 352-489-1688 or visit northoakbc.org.

Why do I pee several times at night?

If you need to go to the bathroom more than twice regularly during an eight-hour sleep, you might have frequent nighttime bathroom trips disorder called "nocturia." A period of sleep must precede and follow the bathroom visit for it to count as nocturnal urination.

Dr. Raj Ayyathurai
Urology Today



Nocturia is the most common and bothersome of all the urinary symptoms. It impacts more than 50 million Americans, with 10 million diagnosed with nocturia but only 1.5 million receiving specific therapy for it. More than 70 percent of these individuals report reduced quality of life due to nocturia. It affects overall health and daytime functioning from loss of sleep which reduces productivity and may even affect the health of the partner whose sleep is often disturbed as well.

Older adults with nocturia, who make multiple nocturnal trips to the bathroom, are at a higher risk of serious falls. Despite its common occurrence, nocturia is often underreported, inadequately treated, and difficult to manage.

Nocturia has many possible causes. Generally, it is caused by your body

producing too much urine at night (nocturnal polyuria) or your bladder can't hold the urine long enough. Another important cause can be underlying sleep disorders and other medications which are often overlooked. It is not uncommon to see a combination of these which leads to symptomatic nocturia. However, in men, prostate-related disorders could present as nocturia.

Among the causes, nocturnal polyuria is the most common cause of nocturia, as it is found in more than 80 percent of patients. It is more prevalent in older men and women. Caffeine, alcohol, and increased fluid intake can contribute to increased nighttime urine production.

In addition, poorly controlled diabetes, leg swelling, high salt intake and afternoon use of water pills (diuretics) are frequent coexisting causes. The underlying theory for this disorder is primarily hormonal which regulates the hourly urine production in our body.

Management of nocturia starts with you. Several lifestyle modifications can help improve the symptoms. Start with limiting your fluid intake after dinner, followed by cutting down caffeine and alcohol. Review your medications and time them appropriately. Pay attention to your sleep, whether you feel tired or irritable during the day. Look for any coexisting new symptoms.

If the symptoms persist despite changes in lifestyle, it's time to seek help. Pre-

pare for your doctor's visit by collecting data on your symptoms and your attempts to address them. This will help the physician to do a thorough evaluation. Take a list of your medications to the visit. Men should seek advice on their prostate health and cancer screening. Neurologic conditions such as multiple sclerosis, dementia, and Parkinson's may have to be addressed to control the symptoms.

Many times, nocturia may be easily fixed by addressing prostate enlargement, sleep apnea, or achieving better control of diabetes. We should take nocturia as a warning symptom to search and alleviate the underlying cause which can result in a well-rested and productive community.

As we wrap up another "memorable year" 2021, I would like to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a healthy New Year 2022.

Dr. Raj Ayyathurai is board certified in urology and specializes in all aspects of genitourinary surgery with specific focuses on prevention and management of kidney stones, minimally invasive treatments for BPH, and female urinary incontinence. He is a robotics-trained surgeon and urologist who has been practicing with the Advanced Urology Institute at Lecanto and Dunnellon. He believes and practices that excellent outcomes are achieved through effective communication and patient understanding of their condition and treatment options. He is a strong believer of the saying "I dressed your wounds, God healed them."

NHL set to resume after 6-day break, eyes new guidance

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**
AP Hockey Writer

Tampa Bay Lightning officials pulled a player out of a meeting because he tested positive for the coronavirus and no one in the room flinched.

As Anthony Cirelli went into the now-familiar COVID-19 protocol, the two-time defending champions practiced with their goaltending coach and an emergency backup in net and prepared to play Montreal on Tuesday night in a Stanley Cup Final rematch without either of their NHL goalies or their coach on hand.

"It's just the norm," assistant Derek Lalonde said Monday. "Not trying to downplay it, but I just think it's a reality of today's world and today's NHL."

Hockey will return Tuesday after the league took an extended holiday break in the hope that virus cases will not continue to disrupt the season. While three more games this week were postponed — bringing the total to 70 this season — the NHL like other leagues will try to power through the latest twist in the pandemic with a possible boost on the way in the form of shorter absences for players and coaches who test positive.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Monday cut the recommended isolation period from 10 days to five, and other North American professional sports leagues have already moved in that direction. NHL Deputy Commissioner Bill Daly said, "Obviously it will spur a review of the protocol" currently in place, which includes 10 days away for those who contract the virus and experience symptoms.

While many of the cases across hockey have been asymptomatic or mild, the spread of the highly contagious omicron variant has led to a rash of positive COVID-19 test results across the league's 32 teams. Dozens more players entered virus protocol Monday, with minor leaguers taking their place and taxi squads added to keep the NHL season going amid concerns about the quality of the on-ice product.

"Unfortunate what's going on around the league with a lot of teams having to deal with COVID issues right now, including ourselves, but I don't think a lot is going to change moving forward here for the next couple weeks," Lightning captain Steven Stamkos said. "We do have to get some games in if we can do it safely, and we can do it where teams

See **NHL**, page B2



Mike Groll / AP

Hall of Famer Hank Aaron waves to the crowd during the Baseball Hall of Fame induction ceremony on July 28, 2013, in Cooperstown, N.Y. Aaron made history with one swing of his bat. A year later and on the other side of Georgia, Lee Elder made history with one swing of his driver. Their deaths in 2021 were mourned beyond the sports world and were reminders of the hate, hardships and obstacles they endured with dignity on their way to breaking records and barriers.

Aaron, Elder overcame hate to achieve records, milestones

By **BERNIE WILSON**
Associated Press

Henry Aaron made history with one swing of his bat. A year later and on the other side of Georgia, Lee Elder made history with one swing of his driver.

They both overcame racist threats to reach milestones that will always be part of sports lore. "Hammerin' Hank" supplanted Babe Ruth at the top of baseball's all-time home run list and Elder became the first Black golfer to play in the Masters.

Their deaths in 2021 were mourned beyond the sports world and were reminders of the hate, hardships and obstacles they endured with dignity on their way to breaking records and barriers.

The sports world also lost four-time Indianapolis 500 winner Al Unser, high-flying NBA superstar Elgin Baylor, fiery former Los Angeles Dodgers manager Tommy Lasorda, folksy college football coach Bobby Bowden and controversial Kentucky Derby winner Medina Spirit.

Aaron will always be remembered for hitting his 715th home run on April 8, 1974, at Atlanta



Elise Amendola / AP

Lee Elder signs autographs for patrons outside the club house at the 2008 Masters golf tournament.

Stadium to break Ruth's record of 714. Aaron finished his Hall of Fame career with 755 homers, a record that was eclipsed by Barry Bonds in 2007. Some baseball fans consider Aaron the true home run king because of allegations that Bonds used performance-enhancing drugs.

Aaron received extensive hate mail as he closed in on Ruth's cherished record, much of it be-

cause he was Black. Although he handled the threats with stoic dignity, Aaron kept the hateful letters and never forgot the abuse he faced.

"If I was white, all America would be proud of me," Aaron said almost a year before he passed Ruth. "But I am Black."

Aaron died in January and the Braves honored him all season, including painting his No. 44 on

the center field grass at Truist Stadium for the World Series, which they won in six games over the Houston Astros.

One year after Aaron's historic swing in Atlanta, Elder took a historic swing with his driver at Augusta National when he became the first Black golfer to play in the Masters, helping to open doors for Tiger Woods and others.

The Masters had been an all-white tournament until Elder received an invitation in 1975 after winning the Monsanto Open the previous year. He missed the cut at his first Masters but became a groundbreaking figure in a sport that had never been known for racial tolerance. Twenty-two years later, Woods became the first Black golfer to don a green jacket.

Elder developed his game during segregated times while caddying and hustling for rounds in his native Texas. He reportedly received death threats at the 1975 Masters that shook him so badly he rented two houses in Augusta so no one would be quite sure

See **DEATHS**, page B5



Special to the Chronicle

The Lecanto boys basketball team poses with the trophy after winning the Hornet Holiday Christmas Tournament last week at Weeki Wachee High School.

Lecanto claims holiday hoops tournament title

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Lecanto boys basketball team won the Hornet Holiday Christmas Tournament last week at Weeki Wachee High School.

Darius Gainer was named tournament MVP and Colby Ellis was named to the All-Tournament Team.

Lecanto beat Umatil-

la in the quarterfinals 83-79. Nick Post had 25 points and 10 rebounds, Josh Berrios had 23 points and Darius Gainer had 23 points, eight assists and five steals.

The Panthers beat Hudson in the semifinals 52-38 led by Post with 18 points, Berrios with 16 and Gainer with 10.

In the finals Lecanto beat Weeki Wachee 74-51.

Berrios had 19 points and Colby Ellis added 16.

The Panthers moved to 9-2 on the season and play Jan. 4 against Central.

Special to the Chronicle

Lecanto's Darius Gainer (1) was named tournament MVP and Colby Ellis (4) was named to the All-Tournament Team after the Panthers won the Hornet Holiday Christmas Tournament last week.



NBA changes COVID protocols, shortens path to return to play

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP Basketball Writer

NBA players who test positive for COVID-19 now have a quicker path to return to play, after the league completed a significant update to its health and safety protocols on Monday.

The biggest change: Isolation periods for players who test positive may now be significantly shortened — down to six days from what has been the customary 10 — provided those players are asymptomatic and meet other testing standards. Teams were told of the new protocols Monday in a memo sent by the league, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press.

That memo was sent on the same day the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention cut isolation restrictions for Americans who catch the coronavirus from 10 to five days. CDC officials made that move saying that evidence shows people with the coronavirus are most infectious in the

two days before and three days after symptoms develop.

The NBA also relied on data, telling teams the updated protocols "reflects analysis of testing data that the league and its infectious disease experts and epidemiologists have gathered throughout the pandemic." The changes were made in agreement with the National Basketball Players Association.

The NBA has seen coronavirus numbers soar in recent days, even with 97 percent of players vaccinated and at least 65 percent of eligible players boosted against the virus. A pair of coaches — Phoenix's Monty Williams and Portland's Chauncey Billups — entered the NBA's health and safety protocols Monday.

"In the league, everyone's kind of going through the same thing," said Suns assistant Kevin Young, who is taking over in Williams' absence. "We had a slogan going back to last year — navigating uncertainty — and here we are."

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Brooklyn	22	9	.710	—
Phila.	17	16	.515	6
Boston	16	18	.471	7½
Toronto	14	16	.467	7½
New York	15	18	.455	8
Southeast Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Miami	21	13	.618	—
Washington	17	16	.515	3½
Charlotte	18	17	.514	3½
Atlanta	15	18	.455	5½
Orlando	7	27	.206	14
Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Chicago	21	10	.677	—
Milwaukee	22	13	.629	1
Cleveland	20	13	.606	2
Indiana	14	20	.412	8½
Detroit	5	27	.156	16½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Memphis	20	14	.588	—
Dallas	15	17	.469	4
San Antonio	14	18	.438	5
New Orleans	12	22	.353	8
Houston	10	24	.294	10
Northwest Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Utah	23	9	.719	—
Denver	16	16	.500	7
Minnesota	16	17	.485	7½
Portland	13	19	.406	10
Oklahoma City	12	20	.375	11
Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Golden State	27	6	.818	—
Phoenix	26	6	.813	½
L.A. Clippers	17	16	.515	10
L.A. Lakers	16	18	.471	11½
Sacramento	13	21	.382	14½
Sunday's Games				
Miami 93, Orlando 83				
Cleveland 144, Toronto 99				
Memphis 127, Sacramento 102				
Phila. 117, Washington 96				
Oklahoma City 117, New Orleans 112				
San Antonio 144, Detroit 109				
Chicago 113, Indiana 105				
Denver 103, L.A. Clippers 100				
Monday's Games				
Charlotte 123, Houston 99				
Chicago 130, Atlanta 118				
Minnesota 108, Boston 103				
Utah at San Antonio				
Memphis at Phoenix				
Dallas at Portland				
Brooklyn at L.A. Clippers				
Tuesday's Games				
Milwaukee at Orlando, 7 p.m.				
Phila. at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.				
Washington at Miami, 7:30 p.m.				
Cleveland at New Orleans, 8 p.m.				
L.A. Lakers at Houston, 8 p.m.				
New York at Minnesota, 8 p.m.				
Denver at Golden State, 10 p.m.				
Oklahoma City at Sacramento, 10 p.m.				
Wednesday's Games				
Charlotte at Indiana, 7 p.m.				
New York at Detroit, 7 p.m.				
L.A. Clippers at Boston, 7:30 p.m.				
Atlanta at Chicago, 8 p.m.				
L.A. Lakers at Memphis, 8 p.m.				
Miami at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.				
Oklahoma City at Phoenix, 9 p.m.				
Utah at Portland, 10 p.m.				
Dallas at Sacramento, 10:30 p.m.				
Thursday's Games				
Cleveland at Washington, 7 p.m.				
Milwaukee at Orlando, 7 p.m.				
Phila. at Brooklyn, 7 p.m.				
Golden State at Denver, 9:30 p.m.				

FLORIDA LOTTERY

Monday's winning numbers

Cash4Life
05-29-36-38-59, Cash Ball: 3

Mega Millions jackpot
\$201 million

Pick 2 Evening
4-7, Fireball: 1

Pick 2 Midday
8-1, Fireball: 4

Pick 3 Evening
7-4-7, Fireball: 1

Pick 3 Midday
2-2-8, Fireball: 4

Pick 4 Evening
9-5-9-2, Fireball: 1

Pick 4 Midday
0-9-7-3, Fireball: 4

Pick 5 Evening
4-6-4-8-1, Fireball: 1

Pick 5 Midday
0-2-9-5-6, Fireball: 4

Powerball
36-38-45-62-64, Powerball: 19, Power Play: 2

ON THE AIRWAVES

NBA

7 p.m. (BSFL): Milwaukee Bucks at Orlando Magic
7:30 p.m. (NBA): Washington Wizards at Miami Heat
10 p.m. (NBA): Denver Nuggets at Golden State Warriors

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

6:30 p.m. (BTN): New Orleans at Ohio State
7 p.m. (FS1): Connecticut at Xavier
8 p.m. (ACCN): Notre Dame at Pittsburgh
8 p.m. (ESPN2): Cincinnati at Houston
8:30 p.m. (BTN): TBD at Maryland
9 p.m. (FS1): Georgetown at Creighton

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

12 p.m. (ESPN): Ticketsmarter Birmingham Bowl – Houston vs Auburn
3:15 p.m. (ESPN): Servpro First Responder Bowl – Air Force vs Louisville
6:45 p.m. (ESPN): AutoZone Liberty Bowl – Mississippi State vs Texas Tech
8 p.m. (FOX): San Diego County Credit Union Holiday Bowl – UCLA vs NC State
10:15 p.m. (ESPN): Guaranteed Rate Bowl – West Virginia vs Minnesota

HOCKEY

4:30 p.m. (NHL): 2022 IIHF World Junior Championship Switzerland vs United States
7 p.m. (NHL): 2022 IIHF World Junior Championship Austria vs Canada

PREMIER LEAGUE SOCCER

7:25 a.m. (NBCSPT): Arsenal vs Wolverhampton Wanderers
9:55 a.m. (NBCSPT): Southampton vs Tottenham Hotspur
12:25 p.m. (NBCSPT): Leeds United vs Aston Villa
2:55 p.m. (NBCSPT): Leicester City vs Liverpool

Chicago	30	11	15	4	26	72	97	(FOX)
Arizona	29	6	21	2	14	56109		

Pacific Division							
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Vegas	32	20	12	0	40	114	98
Anaheim	32	17	9	6	40	103	89
Calgary	28	15	7	6	36	87	62
Edmonton	29	18	11	0	36	101	90
Los Angeles	30	14	11	5	33	80	79
San Jose	30	15	14	1	31	78	85
Vancouver	31	14	15	2	30	81	90
Seattle	30	10	17	3	23	84	108

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Monday's Games							
All games postponed.							
Tuesday's Games							
Montreal at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.							
Columbus at Chicago, ppd							
Arizona at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.							
Vegas at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.							
Wednesday's Games							
N.Y. Rangers at Florida, 7 p.m.							
Nashville at Washington, 7 p.m.							
New Jersey at Buffalo, 7 p.m.							
Boston at Ottawa, ppd							
Chicago at Winnipeg, 7:30 p.m.							
Detroit at N.Y. Islanders, 7:30 p.m.							
Pittsburgh at Toronto, ppd							
Edmonton at St. Louis, 8:30 p.m.							
Dallas at Colorado, 10 p.m.							
Philadelphia at Seattle, 10 p.m.							
Vancouver at Anaheim, 10:30 p.m.							
Thursday's Games							
Montreal at Carolina, 7 p.m.							
Nashville at Columbus, 7 p.m.							
Tampa Bay at Florida, 7 p.m.							
Buffalo at N.Y. Islanders, 7:30 p.m.							
Calgary at Seattle, 10 p.m.							
Philadelphia at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.							
Vancouver at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.							

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

2021-22 Bowl Guide							
Friday, Dec. 17							
Bahamas Bowl							
Nassau, Bahamas							
Middle Tennessee 31, Toledo 24							
Saturday, Dec. 18							
Boca Raton Bowl							
Boca Raton, Fla.							
W. Kentucky 59, Appalachian St. 38							
Celebration Bowl							
Atlanta							
SC State 31, Jackson St. 10							
New Mexico Bowl							
Albuquerque							
Fresno St. 31, UTEP 24							
Independence Bowl							
Shreveport, La.							
UAB 31, No. 12 BYU 28							
Lending Tree Bowl							
Mobile, Ala.							
Liberty 56, E. Michigan 20							
LA Bowl							
Inglewood, Calif.							
Utah St. 24, Oregon St. 13							
New Orleans Bowl							
New Orleans							
No. 16 Louisiana-Lafayette 36, Marshall 21							
Monday, Dec. 20							
Myrtle Beach Bowl							
Conway, S.C.							
Tulsa 30, Old Dominion 17							
Tuesday, Dec. 21							
Famous Idaho Potato Bowl							
Boise, Idaho							
Wyoming 52, Kent State 38							
Friday, Dec. 22							
Armed Forces Bowl							
Fort Worth, Texas							
Army 24, Missouri 22							
Thursday, Dec. 23							
Frisco Football Classic							
Frisco, Texas							
Miami (Ohio) 27, North Texas 14							
Gasparilla Bowl							
Tampa, Fla.							
UCF 29, Florida 17							
Friday, Dec. 24							
Hawaii Bowl							
Honolulu							
Memphis (6-6) vs. Hawaii (6-7), canceled							
Saturday, Dec. 25							
Camellia Bowl							
Montgomery, Ala.							
Georgia St. 51, Ball St. 20							
Monday, Dec. 27							
Quick Lane Bowl							
Detroit							
W. Michigan 52, Nevada 24							
Tuesday, Dec. 28							
Birmingham Bowl							
Birmingham, Ala.							
No. 21 Houston (11-2) vs. Auburn (6-6), Noon (ESPN)							
SERVPRO First Responder Bowl							
Dallas							
Air Force (9-3) vs. Louisville (6-6), 3:15 p.m. (ESPN)							
Liberty Bowl							
Memphis, Tenn.							
Mississippi St. (7-5) vs. Texas Tech (6-6), 6:45 p.m. (ESPN)							
Holiday Bowl							
San Diego							
UCLA (8-4) vs. No. 18 NC State (9-3), 8 p.m.							

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

AP Men's Top 25

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Dec. 26, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking

Rank	Team	Record	Pts	Prv
1	Baylor (61)	11-0	1525	1
2	Duke	11-1	1448	2
3	Purdue	11-1	1371	3
4	Gonzaga	10-2	1335	4
5	UCLA	8-1	1296	5
6	Kansas	9-1	1233	7
7	Southern Cal	12-0	994	8
8	Iowa St.	12-0	985	9
9	Arizona	11-1	973	6
10	Michigan St.	10-2	901	11
11	Auburn	11-1	826	12
12	Houston	11-3	801	13
13	Ohio St.	8-2	787	14
14	Tennessee	9-2	729	19
15	Seton Hall	9-1	716	15
16	LSU	10-2	609	17
17	Texas	9-2	567	16
18	Kentucky	9-2	459	20
19	Alabama	9-3	426	10
20	Colorado St.	10-0	366	21
21	Providence	11-1	315	22
22	Villanova	8-4	312	23
23	Xavier	11-2	237	18
24	Wisconsin	9-2	207	24
25	Texas Tech	9-2	121	25

Others receiving votes: Illinois 72, Oklahoma 62, West Virginia 52, Loyola Chicago 39, UConn 34, Michigan 7, Loyola 7, San Francisco 4, Wake Forest 4, Iowa 2, Davidson 2, Minnesota 1, Creighton 1, Memphis 1.



Hakim Wright Sr. / AP

Atlanta forward Cam Reddish defends against Chicago Bulls forward DeMar DeRozan (11) during the first half of Monday's game.

TUESDAY EVENING DECEMBER 28, 2021															
C: Comcast, Citrus S: Spectrum D/I: Comcast, Dunnington & Inglis															
	C	S	D/I	6:00	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
2	(WESH) NBC	19	19	News	NBC News	Ent. Tonight	Hollywood	American	Grand Crew	This Is Us (In Stereo) '14'	New Amsterdam '14'	News	J. Fallon		
3	(WEDU) PBS	3	3	World News America	BBC News	PBS NewsHour (N) (In Stereo) '14'	In Their Own Words 'Angela Merkel' (N) 'PG'	In Their Own Words 'Angela Merkel' (N) 'PG'	American Experience 'The Codebreaker' 'PG'	American Experience 'The Codebreaker' 'PG'	Frontline 'Opioids, Inc.' (In Stereo) 'PG' '14'	"River City Drumbeat" (2019, Documentary) 'NR'			
5	(WUFT) PBS	5	5	DW News	BBC News	PBS NewsHour (N) '14'	In Their Own Words 'PG'	In Their Own Words 'PG'	Eat Your Medicine: The Pagan Diet With Mark	Eat Your Medicine: The Pagan Diet With Mark	New Amsterdam (In Stereo) '14' '14'	Easy Yoga for Arthritis			
8	(WFLA) NBC	8	8	News	NBC Nightly News - Hof	NewsChannel 8	Ent. Tonight	American Auto '14'	Grand Crew '14'	This Is Us "The Adirondacks" '14' '14'	New Amsterdam (In Stereo) '14' '14'	NewsChannel 8	Tonight Show		
9	(WFTV) ABC	20	7	20	News at 6pm	ABC World News	Jeopardy! (N) 'G' '14'	Wheel of Fortune 'G'	black-ish 'PG' '14'	black-ish 'PG' '14'	black-ish (In Stereo) 'PG' '14'	black-ish (In Stereo) 'PG' '14'	Eyewitness News 11PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live!	
10	(WTSP) CBS	10	10	10	10 Tampa Bay	CBS Evening News	Wheel of Fortune 'G'	Jeopardy! (N) 'G' '14'	FBI A serial killer must be stopped. '14' '14'	FBI: International "American Optimism" '14' '14'	FBI: Most Wanted "Chattanooga" '14' '14'	10 Tampa Bay	Late Show-C Colbert		
13	(WTVT) FOX	13	13	FOX13 6:00 News (N)	FOX13 6:30 News (N)	Access Hollywood 'PG'	FOX College Pregame	College Football San Diego County Credit Union Holiday Bowl -- UCLA vs NC State. (N) (In Stereo)	College Football San Diego County Credit Union Holiday Bowl -- UCLA vs NC State. (N) (In Stereo)	College Football San Diego County Credit Union Holiday Bowl -- UCLA vs NC State. (N) (In Stereo)	College Football San Diego County Credit Union Holiday Bowl -- UCLA vs NC State. (N) (In Stereo)	College Football San Diego County Credit Union Holiday Bowl -- UCLA vs NC State. (N) (In Stereo)	FOX13 11:00 News		
20	(WCJB) ABC	11	11	TV20 News	World News	Ent. Tonight	Inside Ed.	black-ish	black-ish	black-ish	black-ish	black-ish	black-ish	News at 11	J. Kimmel
22	(WCLF) IND	2	2	2	Christian Bridges	Praise	Great Awakening with	Word	Contending	Andrew	Perry Stone	Watch	Purpose	The Great A	
24	(WYKE) FAM	16	16	16	Vegas Unveiled	Daily Flash	Citrus	Business Brew	Al Berstein	This Corner	Al Berstein	900 Series	Citrus Court	Citrus	
23	(WFTS) ABC	11	11	11	News	World News	Inside Ed.	The List (N)	black-ish	black-ish	black-ish	black-ish	black-ish	J. Kimmel	
28	(WMOR) IND	12	12	12	Sheldon	Sheldon	Big Bang	Mom '14'	Mom '14'	Last Man	Last Man	Creek	Creek	Big Bang	Sheldon
63	(WTTA) MNT	6	6	6	Extra 'PG'	Ent. Tonight	Family Feud	Family Feud	NewsChannel 8	Noticias	Seinfeld	Chicago Fire '14' '14'	Chicago Fire '14' '14'		
40	(WACX) TBN	21	21	21	Vic Show	The 700 Club	Babers	SkyWatch 'Perry Stone	Action/Life	Beacon	Ang. Courte	Jewish	Faith Build.	Prince	
44	(WTOG) CW	4	4	4	Mike & Molly '14'	Mike & Molly '14'	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Popstar's Best of 2021 (N) (In Stereo) 'PG' '14'	Masters of Illusion 'PG'	Masters of Illusion 'PG'	CW44 News (N) '14'	CW44 News (N) '14'	Dateline Details from the hunt for El Chapo. 'PG'	
50	(WVEA) UNI	15	15	15	Noticias	Noticiero	¿Qué le pasa a	La rosa de Guadalupe	Vencer el pasado (N)	Vencer el pasado (N)	La desamada (N) '14'	Noticias	Noticiero		
51	(WOGX) FOX	13	13	13	Fox 51 at 6	Fox 51	Big Bang	Pregame	College Football San Diego County Credit Union Holiday Bowl -- UCLA vs NC State. (N) '14'	College Football San Diego County Credit Union Holiday Bowl -- UCLA vs NC State. (N) '14'	College Football San Diego County Credit Union Holiday Bowl -- UCLA vs NC State. (N) '14'	College Football San Diego County Credit Union Holiday Bowl -- UCLA vs NC State. (N) '14'	51 News		
65	(WXPX) ION	17	17	17	Chicago Fire '14' '14'	Chicago Fire '14' '14'	Chicago Fire '14' '14'	Chicago Fire '14' '14'	Chicago Fire '14' '14'	Chicago Fire '14' '14'	Chicago Fire '14' '14'	Chicago Fire '14' '14'	Chicago Fire '14' '14'		
(A&E)	54	48	54	48	54	48	54	48	54	48	54	48	54	48	54
(ACC)	55	64	55	64	55	64	55	64	55	64	55	64	55	64	55
(AMC)	55	64	55	64	55	64	55	64	55	64	55	64	55	64	55
(ANI)	52	35	52	35	52	35	52	35	52	35	52	35	52	35	52
(BET)	96	71	96	71	96	71	96	71	96	71	96	71	96	71	96
(BIGTEN)	742	809	742	809	742	809	742	809	742	809	742	809	742	809	742
(BRAVO)	254	51	254	51	254	51	254	51	254	51	254	51	254	51	254
(BSFL)	35	39	35	39	35	39	35	39	35	39	35	39	35	39	35
(CC)	27	61	27	61	27	61	27	61	27	61	27	61	27	61	27
(CMT)	98	45	98	45	98	45	98	45	98	45	98	45	98	45	98
(CNN)	40	29	40	29	40	29	40	29	40	29	40	29	40	29	40
(ESPN)	33	27	33	27	33	27	33	27	33	27	33	27	33	27	33
(ESPN2)	37	28	37	28	37	28	37	28	37	28	37	28	37	28	37
(FBN)	106	149	106	149	106	149	106	149	106	149	106	149	106	149	106
(FLIX)	118	170	118	170	118	170	118	170	118	170	118	170	118	170	118
(FNC)	44	37	44	37	44	37	44	37	44	37	44	37	44	37	44
(FOOD)	26	56	26	56	26	56	26	56	26	56	26	56	26	56	26
(FREEFORM)	29	52	29	52	29	52	29	52	29	52	29	52	29	52	29
(FS1)	732	112	732	112	732	112	732	112	732	112	732	112	732	112	732
(FX)	30	60	30	60	30	60	30	60	30	60	30	60	30	60	30
(GOLF)	727	67	727	67	727	67	727	67	727	67	727	67	727	67	727
(HALL)	59	68	59	68	59	68	59	68	59	68	59	68	59	68	59
(HBO)	302	201	302	201	302	201	302	201	302	201	302	201	302	201	302
(HBO2)	303	202	303	202	303	202	303	202	303	202	303	202	303	202	303
(HGTV)	23	57	23	57	23	57	23	57	23	57	23	57	23	57	23
(HST)	51	54	51	54	51	54	51	54	51	54	51	54	51	54	51
(LIFE)	24	38	24	38	24	38	24	38	24	38	24	38	24	38	24
(LMN)	119	50	119	50	119	50	119	50	119	50	119	50	119	50	119
(MSNBC)	42	41	42	41	42	41	42	41	42	41	42	41	42	41	42
(NBCSN)	448	26	448	26	448	26	448	26	448	26	448	26	448	26	448
(NGEO)	109	65	109	65	109	65	109	65	109	65	109	65	109	65	109
(NICK)	28	36	28	36	28	36	28	36	28	36	28	36	28	36	28
(NWSNTN)	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18
(OWN)	125	24	125	24	125	24	125	24	125	24	125	24	125	24	125
(OXY)	123	44	123	44	123	44	123	44	123	44	123	44	123	44	123
(PARMT)	37	43	37	43	37	43	37	43	37	43	37	43	37	43	37
(SEC)	745	72	745	72	745	72	745	72	745	72	745	72	745	72	745
(SHOW)	340	241	340	241	340	241	340	241	340	241	340	241	340	241	340
(SUN)	36	31	36	31	36	31	36	31	36	31	36	31	36	31	36
(SYFY)	31	59	31	59	31	59	31	59	31	59	31	59	31	59	31
(TBS)	49	23	49	23	49	23	49	23	49	23	49	23	49	23	49
(TCM)	169	53	169	53	169	53	169	53	169	53	169	53	169	53	169
(TDC)	53	34	53	34	53	34	53	34	53	34	53	34	53	34	53
(TLC)	50	46	50	46	50	46	50	46	50	46	50	46	50	46	50
(TMC)	350	261	350	261	350	261	350	261	350	261	350	261	350	261	350
(TNT)	48	33	48	33	48	33	48	33	48	33	48	33	48	33	48
(TOON)	38	58	38	58	38	58	38	58	38	58	38	58	38	58	38
(TRAV)	9	106	9	106	9	106	9	106	9	106	9	106	9	106	9
(truTV)	25	55	25	55	25	55	25	55	25	55	25	55	25	55	25
(TVL)	32	49	32	49	32	49	32	49	32	49	32	49	32	49	32
(USA)	47	32	47	32	47	32	47	32	47	32	47	32	47	32	47
(WE)	117	69	117	69	117	69	117	69	117	69	117	69	117	69	117

'Walden' wisdom

DEAR READERS: I hope you enjoy some quotes below from one of my favorite poets, Henry David Thoreau. May he inspire you to live your lives to the fullest, spend time with nature, seek truth and always choose kindness and love. Follow your dreams; live deliberately, wild and free.

"I learned this, at least, by my experiment: that if one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours."

Annie Lane
Dear Annie



"Rather than love, than money, than fame, give me truth."
"I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived. I did not wish to live what was not life, living is so dear; nor did I wish to practise resignation, unless it was quite necessary. I wanted to live deep and suck out all the marrow of life, to live so sturdily and Spartan-like as to put to rout all that was not life, to cut a broad swath and shave close, to drive life into a corner, and reduce it to its lowest terms."

"The question is not what you look at, but what you see."

"Dreams are the touchstones of our characters."

"The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation. What is called resignation is confirmed desperation. From the desperate city you go into the desperate country, and have to console yourself with the bravery of minks and muskrats. A stereotyped but unconscious despair is concealed even under what are called the games and amusements of mankind. There is no play in them, for this comes after work. But it is a characteristic of wisdom not to do desperate things."

"You must live in the present, launch yourself on every wave, find your eternity in each moment. Fools stand on their island of opportunities and look toward another land. There is no other land; there is no other life but this."

"If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put the foundations under them."

"Books are the treasured wealth of the world and the fit inheritance of generations and nations."

"Do not be too moral. You may cheat yourself out of much life so. Aim above morality. Be not simply good, be good for something."

"All good things are wild and free."

"If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away."

"I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately."

"Our life is frittered away by detail. Simplicity, simplicity, simplicity."

"We need the tonic of wildness ... At the same time that we are earnest to explore and learn all things, we require that all things be mysterious and unexplorable, that land and sea be infinitely wild, unsurveyed and unfathomed by us because unfathomable. We can never have enough of Nature."

"Read the best books first, or you may not have a chance to read them at all."

"Live in each season as it passes; breathe the air, drink the drink, taste the fruit, and resign yourself to the influence of the earth."

"I learned this, at least, by my experiment; that if one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours."

BRIDGE

By PHILLIP ALDER

Our friend A.N. Onymous, not Ambrose Bierce, defined "antonym" as the opposite of the word you're trying to think of.

At the bridge table, often the hardest part is actually thinking of the right bid or play. It does not sound like such a Herculean task because the number of choices is limited, but many players do not train themselves to analyze the options.

In today's deal, what are the best plays by each side in three no-trump after West leads the heart queen?

South sees seven top tricks: one spade, two hearts, two diamonds and

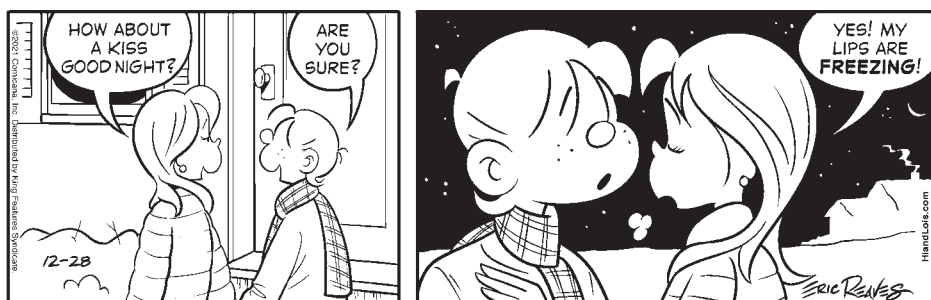
BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



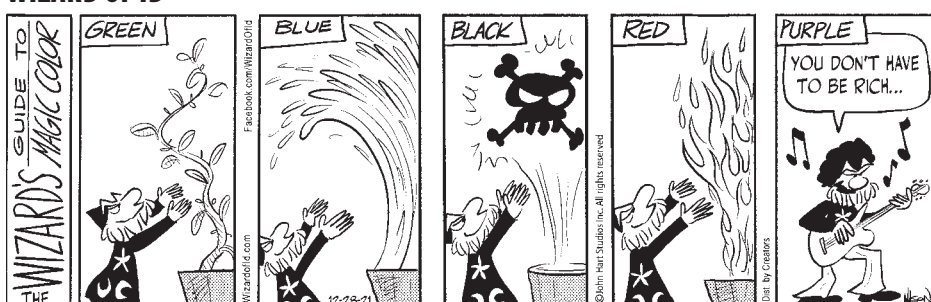
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ASTROGRAPH

By EUGENIA LAST

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28

Timing is critical, and knowing when to start and when to stop will determine your success. Listen to your inner voice, and you will discover what works best for you. Embrace change and activate skills that can help you overcome obstacles. Push your emotions aside, let go of the past and do what makes you happy.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Take a unique approach to life. Make changes that will clear the path to a brighter future. Put your heart on the line and be honest about your feelings. Set your plans in motion.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Don't believe everything you hear. Check the facts and walk away from any deal that asks for too much and gives too little. Go over personal paperwork to ensure you have everything up to date.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Keep your wallet in a safe place. The temptation to buy things you don't need will be high. Put more emphasis on making personal gains,

stabilizing your future and improving your lifestyle.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Listen carefully and observe how others react. Don't feel pressured to make a move if you are unprepared. Look to someone you respect for advice; you'll get a different perspective.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) A change will spark your imagination and push you in a new and exciting direction. Express your desire to make a difference, and someone influential will support you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) What you know may not help you when dealing with your peers if you let your emotions get in the way. Stick to the truth to avoid trouble and sticky situations. Protect your reputation.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) If you are fun to be with, everyone will want to be with you. Put on a happy face, share memories with a loved one and make plans. Taking control of your life will ease stress.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Don't feel that you must follow the crowd or bend to someone's persuasive tactics. Change is

good only if it improves your life. When in doubt, step back and gain some perspective.

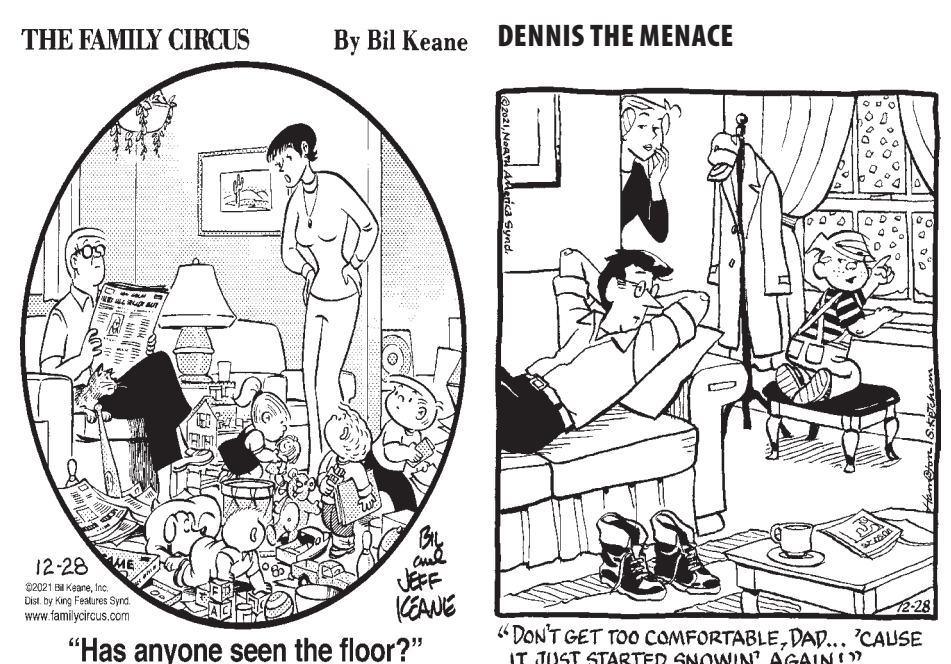
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Get in touch with someone who makes you laugh. Sharing your feelings and plans will encourage you to initiate a stabilizing lifestyle change. Focus on what you need to do.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Emotions will surface regarding domestic matters. Don't act in haste or say something you'll regret. Bide your time, use your resources and ensure that the changes you make are warranted.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) You'll receive mixed messages from friends, relatives and colleagues. Don't rely on others. Do your due diligence, and leave no room for error. Say what's on your mind and get things done.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Research things that will help you get ahead. Learn all you can and be ready to stretch your mind. Don't let anger take the reins when progressive action can turn a negative into a positive.

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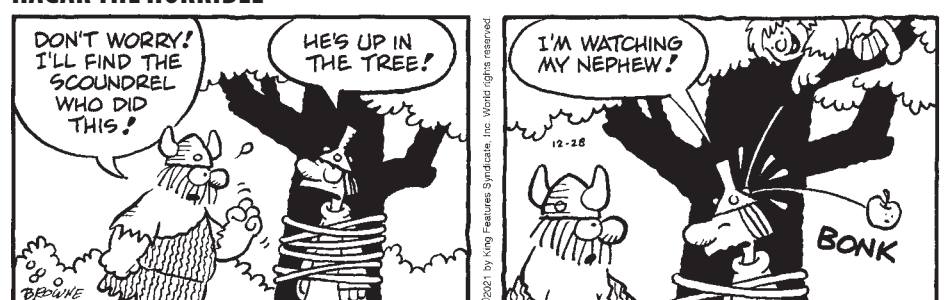
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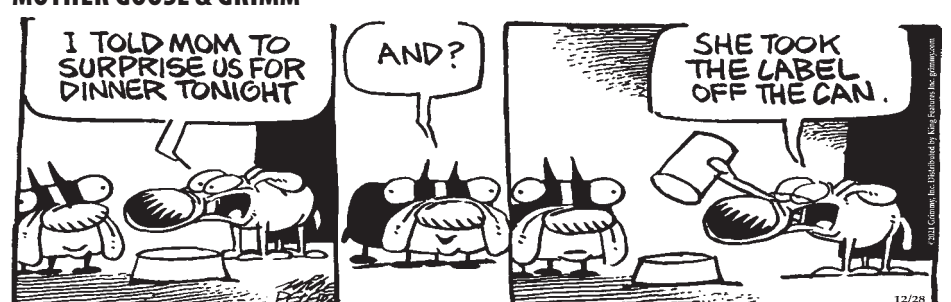
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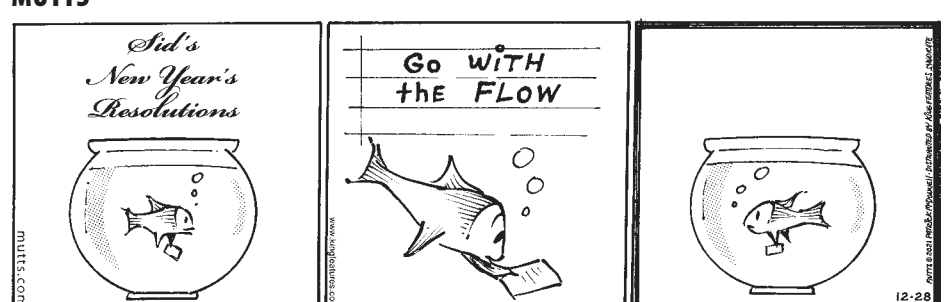
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MOVIE SCHEDULES

Citrus Cinemas 6 Inverness; 844-462-7342 Code 187	"Spider-man: No Way Home" PG13: 11 a.m., 2:30, 3, 6:30, 7:15, 10, 10:35 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 28	Thursday, Dec. 30
"American Underdog" PG: 11:30 a.m., 3:30, 7:45, 10:45 p.m.	"American Underdog" PG: 11:30 a.m., 3:30, 7:45, 10:45 p.m.
"Sing 2" PG: noon, 1, 3:45, 7, 9:45 p.m.	"Sing 2" PG: noon, 1, 3:45, 7, 9:45 p.m.
"The King's Man" R: 11:45 a.m., 3:15, 7:30, 10:30 p.m.	"The King's Man" R: 11:45 a.m., 3:15, 7:30, 10:30 p.m.
"The Matrix Resurrections" R: 11:15 a.m., 2:45, 6:45, 10:15 p.m.	"The Matrix Resurrections" R: 11:15 a.m., 2:45, 6:45, 10:15 p.m.
"Spider-man: No Way Home" PG13: 11 a.m., 2:30, 3, 6:30, 7:15, 10, 10:35 p.m.	"Spider-man: No Way Home" PG13: 11 a.m., 2:30, 3, 6:30, 7:15, 10, 10:35 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 29	Valerie Theatre, Inverness; 352-341-7850
"American Underdog" PG: 11:30 a.m., 3:30, 7:45, 10:45 p.m.	Wednesday, Dec. 29
"Sing 2" PG: noon, 1, 3:45, 7, 9:45 p.m.	"How the Grinch Stole Christmas" (2000) PG: 3 p.m.
"The King's Man" R: 11:45 a.m., 3:15, 7:30, 10:30 p.m.	Friday, Dec. 31
"The Matrix Resurrections" R: 11:15 a.m., 2:45, 6:45, 10:15 p.m.	"The Polar Express" (2004) G: 3 p.m.

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

DEATHS

From page B1

where he was staying for the week.

At this year's Masters, Elder was invited to hit a ceremonial opening tee shot alongside greats Jack Nicklaus and Gary Player. Elder was not well enough to take a swing but he stood briefly and held up his driver while acknowledging the cheers of the gallery.

The football world recalled how Sam "Bam" Cunningham, an All-American fullback at Southern California, helped open doors for Black athletes in the South. A member of USC's all-Black backfield, Cunningham was so dominating in his college debut in the Trojans' rout at Alabama in 1970 that it influenced Crimson Tide coach Bear Bryant to widely recruit more Black players and accelerate the integration of the sport in the South. Cunningham went on to a successful NFL career with the New England Patriots.

Al Unser was the third member of one of America's most-accomplished racing families to die in 2021, following his older brother Bobby, a three-time Indy champion, and Bobby Unser Jr. Known as "Big Al" after his son also became a racing star, Unser was one of four drivers who won the Indy 500 a record four times, with victories in 1970, 1971, 1978 and 1987. Unser was the only driver in history to have a brother and a son also win at Indy. Bobby Unser won at Indy in 1968, 1975 and 1981.

Lasorda was the fiery Hall of Fame manager who spent a total of 71 seasons in the Dodgers organization, in Brooklyn and Los Angeles, as a player, coach and then manager for 21 years. He led Los Angeles to World Series titles in 1981 and 1988, and was fond of saying, "I bleed Dodger blue." At 93, he had been the oldest living Hall of Famer.

Baseball lost three notable former players, Hall of Famer Don Sutton, Ray Fosse and J.R. Richard. Sutton won 324 games with five teams. Fosse was the strong-armed catcher whose career was upended when he was bowled over by Pete Rose at the 1970 All-Star Game and later was a beloved broadcaster with the Oakland Athletics. Richard was an intimidating right-hander for the Houston Astros in the late 1970s before suffering a stroke during the 1980 season that ended his big league career.

At 100, Eddie Robinson had been the oldest living former major league player. His more than six decades in professional baseball in-

cluded being general manager for Atlanta and Texas. Baltimore fans mourned the loss of Joe Altobelli, who managed the Orioles to the 1983 World Series title.

Baylor was remembered for bringing a trailblazing aerial style to the NBA and was the Lakers' first superstar in Los Angeles. Although he never won a championship, his silky smooth jumper and fluid athleticism carried him to 11 All-Star games and the Hall of Fame and helped revolutionize the game with a style that set the tone for modern players. He teamed with Jerry West in one of the most potent tandems in hoops history.

West once called Baylor "one of the most spectacular shooters the world has ever seen." The Lakers honored him with a statue outside Staples Center in 2018. He also spent 22½ years as GM of the Los Angeles Clippers.

The NBA also remembered Paul Westphal, a Hall of Fame player who won a championship with the Boston Celtics in 1974 and later coached in the league and in college, and Mark Eaton, who used his 7-foot-4 frame to block shots and win two Defensive Player of the Year awards. Bob "Slick" Leonard was remembered for his outstanding playing career in college and the pros, and his coaching accomplishments.

Bowden was the beloved, folksy Hall of Fame coach who took Florida State from an afterthought to one of the most prolific college football programs in history. Bowden had 377 wins during 40 years as a major college coach and his teams won a dozen Atlantic Coast Conference titles, and national championships in 1993 and 1999. The Seminoles finished the season ranked in the top five of The Associated Press college football poll an unmatched 14 straight seasons (1987-2000).

Alabama coach Nick Saban called Bowden "probably the greatest ambassador of all time ... He wasn't always just about him; he was always about helping other people."

Outspoken former Temple basketball coach John Chaney left a legacy of 741 career victories and fighting against NCAA policies he said discriminated against Black athletes.

The boxing world mourned the deaths of former heavyweight champion Leon Spinks and Marvelous Marvin Hagler, one of the greatest middleweights in history. Spinks, who had an easygoing personality and a big grin that often showed off his missing front teeth, won an Olympic gold medal and then shocked the boxing world

by beating Muhammad Ali to win the heavyweight title in only his eighth pro fight in 1978. Spinks lost the rematch seven months later before 72,000 fans at the New Orleans Superdome and a national television audience estimated at 90 million people. Spinks fought for the title only once after that, when he was stopped in the third round in 1981 by Larry Holmes. He finished with a record of 26-17-3.

Hagler fought on boxing's biggest stages against its biggest names, as he, Sugar Ray Leonard, Thomas Hearns and Roberto Duran dominated the middleweight classes during a golden time for boxing in the 1980s. Quiet with a brooding public persona, Hagler finished 62-3-2 with 52 knockouts.

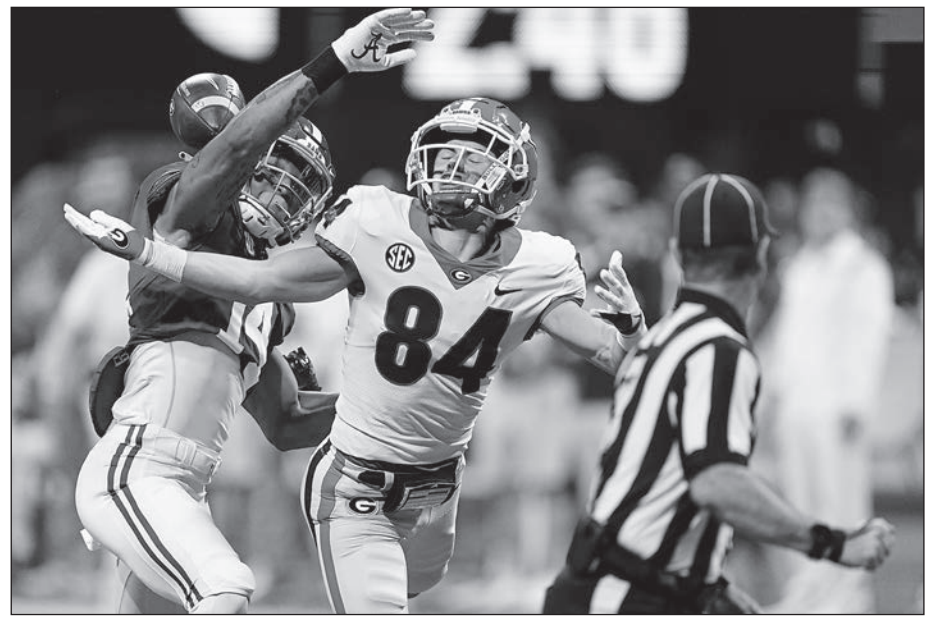
Medina Spirit suffered a heart attack and died after completing a workout at Santa Anita in suburban Los Angeles on Dec. 7. The 3-year-old colt's Kentucky Derby victory in May came under scrutiny because of a positive test for betamethasone, a legal medication that is not allowed on race day.

The hockey world mourned the loss of Hall of Famers Tony Esposito, the goalie who helped popularize the butterfly style, and Rod Gilbert. Also gone were Walter Gretzky, who built a backyard rink that helped turn his son, Wayne, into the Great One, and Mark Pavelich, a member of the "Miracle on Ice" team.

Jacques Rogge, a former Olympic sailor and orthopedic surgeon, was remembered for a bringing stability to the International Olympic Committee in his 12 years as president and for pursuing a hard line against doping.

The Pro Football Hall of Fame mourned the loss of three of its members, Sam Huff, Curly Culp and Floyd Little. Marty Schottenheimer was remembered for coaching 200 NFL victories with his brand of smash-mouth football. Former NFL stars Demaryius Thomas, Vincent Jackson and Darrius Johnson were gone way too soon. Also gone were two-time Super Bowl winning defensive back Mike Davis of the Raiders and Ted Thompson, the Green Bay Packers GM who drafted Aaron Rodgers when they already had Brett Favre on the roster and won a Super Bowl.

Other notable sports figures who died in 2021 were Gerd Müller, who scored the winning goal for West Germany in the 1975 World Cup final against Holland; Tony Trabert, who won three of tennis' four major singles titles in 1955 and five overall; former Olympic swimmer Clara Lamore Walker; and track star Milkha Singh of India.



John Bazemore / AP

Georgia wide receiver Ladd McConkey (84) attempts a catch against Alabama defensive back Brian Branch during the first half of the Southeastern Conference championship game Dec. 4.

Can 'Bama's success help Michigan vs. Georgia?

By **RALPH D. RUSSO**
AP College Football Writer

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Georgia's defense was nearly invincible for three months, allowing less than a touchdown per game.

Then came the Southeastern Conference championship game against Alabama, where the Crimson Tide seemingly cracked the code on the Bulldogs' stingy D in a 41-24 victory.

As No. 2 Michigan prepares to face No. 3 Georgia in the College Football Playoff semifinal at the Orange Bowl on Friday night, how much of Alabama's plan can be replicated by the Wolverines?

"It's hard to say blueprint because if it only happens one game in a year it obviously didn't work too well for too many other people," Michigan offensive coordinator Josh Gattis said Monday. "But you know, it does give you a little bit of confidence."

Good teams have bad games, but Georgia's defensive meltdown against Alabama was a special kind of outlier.

Since 2000, only four teams have held their opponents below 10 points per game for an entire season: Alabama in 2011 (8.15); USC in 2008 (9.0); Miami in 2001 (9.36); and TCU in 2000 (9.64).

Georgia has a chance to become the fifth, entering the playoff having allowed 9.5 points per game.

None of those previous four teams allowed more than 27 points in a regular-season game. The 41 points Georgia allowed to the Crimson Tide represents a third of the Bulldogs' season total of 124.

Going back to 2009, no defense that has led the nation in yards per play — which Georgia currently

does at 4.01 — has had a worse single game than the 7.66 ypp the Bulldogs allowed to Alabama.

Only Texas in 2009 (7.29 against Texas A&M) and Alabama in 2011 (7.41 to Georgia Southern) have led the country in yards per play allowed and had a game in which they permitted more than 7.0 yards per play.

Georgia defensive coordinator Dan Lanning, who is working two jobs these days as he prepares to take over as Oregon head coach, said one poor performance didn't send the Bulldogs scrambling back to the drawing board.

"I think you have to approach it like any game that we have had this season where you go back and you try to be analytical, regardless of the result," Lanning said. "We take a deep dive every single game when we're successful, we take a deep dive when we're not."

The Bulldogs weren't about to share any schematic tweaks they may have made over the past month to shore up a defense that generated no sacks and allowed Alabama receivers to run free.

Mostly, the Bulldogs talked about getting back to basics: Tracking the ball in the air, tackling in space, getting multiple defenders to a ball carrier and communicating.

"It's just the little things that make a big difference when it comes to the games. A lot of people might not think so, but we think so and that's why we're really focused on that," Bulldogs safety Lewis Cine said.

Lanning said Michigan's offense stresses a defense's discipline with misdirection, motion and some gadgetry. The Wolverines are run heavy, but still have more plays of 50-plus yards (17) than any team in major

college football this season. "There's multiple plays they use to set up the next play, whether it be play-action runs to set up play-action shots down the field; whether it be their misdirection game, with reverses, flea-flickers," Lanning said. "They do a great job utilizing trick plays to get the ball down extended down the field, as well as those shots."

ESPN analyst Kirk Herbstreit, who will call the Orange Bowl, said the Alabama game wasn't so much about what the Crimson Tide ran but who was running it. Heisman Trophy winner Bryce Young (421 yards passing) and receiver Jameson Williams (seven catches for 184 yards and two TDs) took apart a Georgia secondary that had not been similarly challenged all season.

"But I don't think Michigan has an offense that necessarily can just draw up a play or a sequence of plays and say, 'OK, we're going to be in a good spot to run the exact same offensive scheme that Alabama did. Hey, Alabama gave us the blueprint, let's just do exactly what 'Bama did,'" Herbstreit said. "Just because that's not their identity."

Michigan has run the ball more (548 attempts) than any playoff team behind an offensive line that won the Joe Moore Award as the best in the nation. Third-team All-American Hassan Haskins is a 6-foot-1, 220-pounder who has run for 1,288 yards and 20 touchdowns.

Georgia might find Michigan's approach refreshing compared with Alabama's. The Bulldogs' front seven is anchored by three massive tackles, including All-American Jordan Davis.

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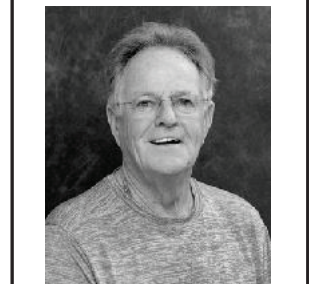
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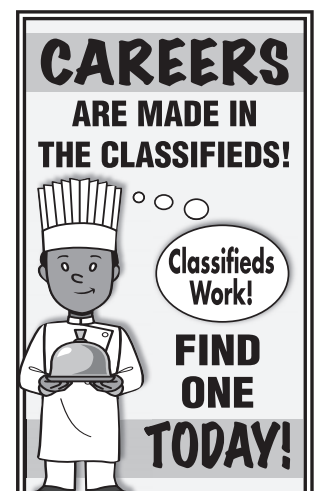


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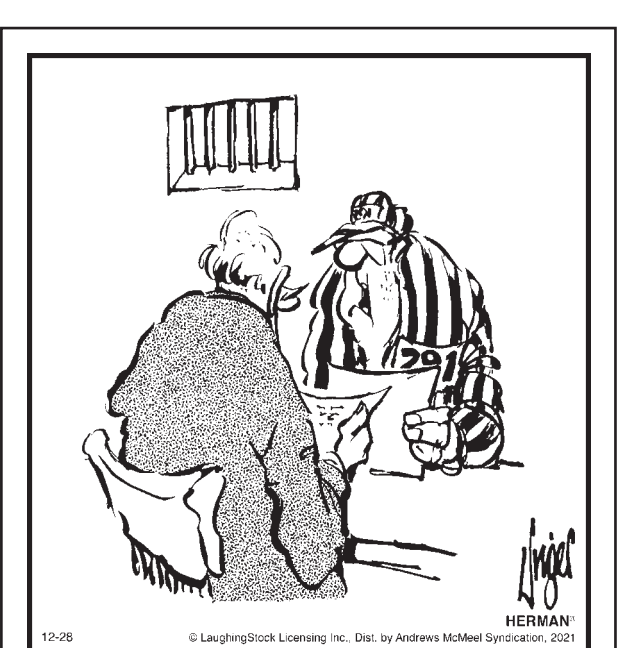
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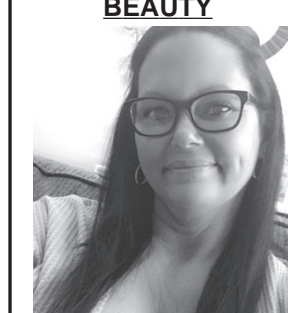
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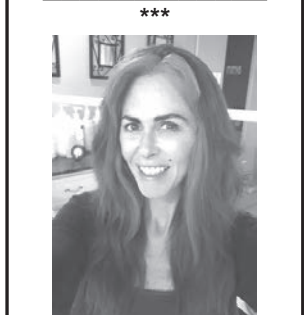
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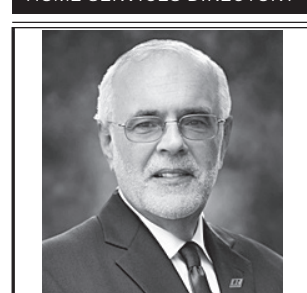
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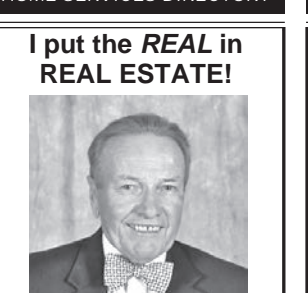
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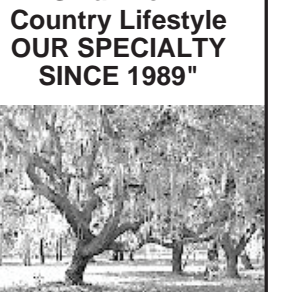
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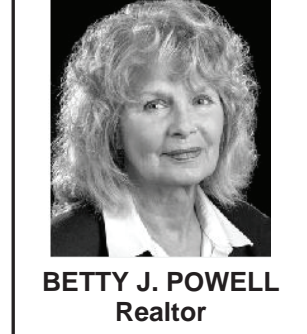
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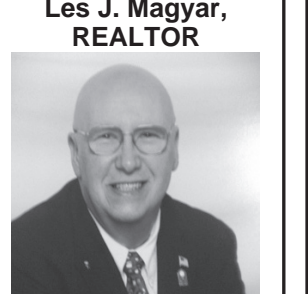
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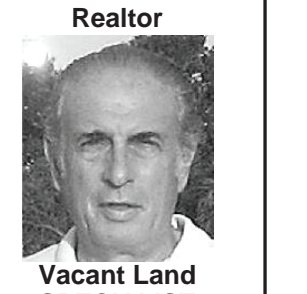
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Level **1** 2 3 4

8				5				4
				2	6	9		1
		2		4	3			
				6				
2	5		7				4	8
				3				
		4	5			2		
5	8	6	9					
7			4					3

Solution to Monday's puzzle 12/28/21

3	1	6	4	2	7	9	5	8
4	2	9	5	1	8	7	3	6
5	8	7	6	3	9	1	2	4
6	9	5	7	8	4	3	1	2
8	3	1	2	5	6	4	7	9
7	4	2	1	9	3	8	6	5
2	6	3	8	4	1	5	9	7
1	5	4	9	7	2	6	8	3
9	7	8	3	6	5	2	4	1

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

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Tuesday, December 28, 2021

KATHLEEN SAXE

WORD GAME

TODAY'S WORD -- BAUBLES

(BAUBLES: BAW-buls: Trinkets; small ornaments.)

Average mark 18 words
Time limit 35 minutes

Can you find 23 or more words in BAUBLES?
The list will be published tomorrow.

YESTERDAY'S WORD -- FULGENT

felt	left	lute	gulf
flue	lent	gent	engulf
fluent	luge	glen	tune
flung	lune	glue	
flute	lung	glut	
fuel	lunge	gluten	

RULES OF THE GAME: 1. Words must be of four or more letters. 2. Words that acquire four letters by the addition of "s," such as "bats" or "dies," are not allowed. 3. Additional words made by adding a "d" or an "s" may not be used. 4. Proper nouns, slang words, or vulgar or sexually explicit words are not allowed. Contact Word Game creator Kathleen Saxe at kzsaxe@gmail.com.

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ACROSS

- 1 Ho-hum
- 5 Insert sound effects
- 8 Ranch segment
- 12 Vacillate (hyph.)
- 13 Happy — clam
- 14 Ticket info
- 15 Mr. Scrooge
- 17 Alice's chronicler
- 18 Bite off too much
- 20 England's FBI
- 21 Category
- 24 Prop up
- 26 Water, on the Seine
- 27 Scatterbrain
- 31 Fish-eating bird
- 33 Distant
- 34 Grabs a bite
- 38 Pet lovers' grp.

- 39 Mexican Mrs.
- 40 Criticize
- 41 Dives
- 44 Rhea cousin
- 45 Piccolo kin
- 48 Day one
- 50 Ca++ or Na+
- 51 City in Spain
- 55 Checkbook no.
- 57 King's government
- 61 Unlikely story
- 62 Throw in
- 63 Put in a lawn
- 64 Arctic transport
- 65 Home tel.
- 66 Vast ages

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

DOWN

- 1 "So long!"
- 2 Slow pitch
- 3 Response on deck
- 4 Accept, as a check
- 5 Bewilder

- 6 Tech support caller
- 7 Minstrel
- 8 — glance
- 9 Roughly
- 10 Curio
- 11 Form a gully
- 16 Smooth and level
- 19 Kyoto sash
- 21 Turns right
- 22 Dodge City marshal
- 23 Now, to Caesar
- 25 Road map info
- 28 In that case (2 wds.)
- 29 Polynesian staple
- 30 Stole
- 32 Toward sunrise
- 35 Pub pints
- 36 Tractable
- 37 Black mark
- 42 Hose down
- 43 Pop-top beverage
- 45 Decrees
- 46 Not express
- 47 Dad's brother
- 49 From Oslo
- 52 Khayyam or Sharif
- 53 Mine find
- 54 Terminates
- 56 Danson or Turner
- 58 Corp. biggie
- 59 Biddy
- 60 Fabric meas.

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15				16					17			
				18					19		20	
21	22	23							24	25		
26				27	28	29	30					
31			32		33				34	35	36	37
38					39				40			
				41	42				43		44	
45	46	47							48	49		
50				51	52	53	54					
55				56		57				58	59	60
61						62			63			
64						65						

12-28

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WORDY GURDY®

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

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

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- 1. Paid athlete's schnozz (1)

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- 2. Touched a waist-circling strap (1)

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- 3. Extra, available type of drum (1)

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- 4. Fictional Ichabod's rural roads (1)

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- 5. Berlin-based white-furred weasel (2)

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- 6. Hairstylist's shady retreats (2)

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- 7. Inundating poet Elizabeth Barrett (2)

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5. GERMAN ERMINE 6. BARBERS ARBORS 7. DROWNING BROWNING
1. PROS NOSE 2. FELT BELT 3. SPARE SNARE 4. CRANES LANES
ANSWERS

12-28-21

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MEETINGS

3685-1228 TUCRN
PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners will meet in **Regular Session on Tuesday, January 4, 2022, at 1:00 P.M.**, in the Citrus County Courthouse, 110 North Apopka Avenue, Inverness, Florida, for the purpose of conducting the regular business of Citrus County.

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

If you need a Spanish Translator please make arrangements with the County by telephone within two days of the publication notice at 352-527-5370

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

Any person who decides to appeal any decision of the Governing Body with respect to any matter considered at this meeting will need a record of the proceedings and for such purpose may need to provide that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. (Section 286.0101, Florida Statutes).

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