

NEWS BRIEFS

Apply for BOCC Aviation Advisory

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 option 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](http://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.

Orange Line fares will resume

In August, Citrus County Transit's (CCT) Orange Line resumed service and continues to operate at a full schedule. Orange Line will resume charging fares Jan. 24 at \$1 each way or \$2 for the day.

Orange Line bus routes, scheduled stops and times have been modified. Visit [citruscountytansit.com](http://citruscountytansit.com) for details. To receive a hard copy brochure, call CCT at 352-527-7630.

Door-to-door service is at full operation and reservations are available. Call CCT and select option 2 to schedule. Reservations must be made no later than noon two days prior and no earlier than 14 days in advance. All fares are in effect at pre-COVID rates.

Customers may be eligible under the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) trust fund for reduced or free door-to-door service and/or Orange Line fares. To determine eligibility, apply on the CCT website or call CCT, option 2.

Face masks are required by the Federal Transit Administration for public buses and transfer facilities. For more information, visit [transportation.gov/safety/mask-travel-guidance](http://transportation.gov/safety/mask-travel-guidance).

Take Stock needs volunteer mentors

Take Stock in Children is a nonprofit, school-based mentoring program that assists in creating a brighter future for deserving youth by providing college and vocational scholarships, volunteer mentors and long-term support.

Take Stock currently monitors 43 active students enrolled in Citrus County's middle and high schools.

The program has started accepting student applications for the new school year and are looking for caring adults who can make a difference by mentoring students once a week for 30 minutes.

See BRIEFS, Page A2

Betty White, television's Golden Girl, dies at 99

By FRAZIER MOORE  
AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES — Betty White, whose saucy, up-for-anything charm made her a television mainstay for more than 60 years, whether as a man-crazy TV hostess on "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" or the loopy housemate on "The Golden Girls," has died. She was 99.

People and the Washington Post reported Friday the news of White's death.

She launched her TV career in daytime talk shows when the medium was still in its infancy and endured well into the age of cable and streaming. Her combination of sweetness and edginess gave life to a roster of quirky characters in shows from the sitcom "Life With Elizabeth" in the early 1950s to oddball Rose Nylund in "The Golden Girls" in the '80s to "Boston Legal," which ran from 2004-08.

But it was in 2010 that White's stardom erupted as never before.

In a Snickers commercial that premiered during that year's Super Bowl telecast, she impersonated an energy-sapped dude getting tackled during a backlot football game.

"Mike, you're playing like Betty White out there," jeered one of his chums. White, flat on the ground and covered in mud, fired back, "That's not what your girlfriend said!"

The instantly-viral video helped spark a Facebook campaign called "Betty White to Host SNL (please?!)," whose half-million fans led to her co-hosting "Saturday Night Live" in a much-watched, watch-hailed edition Mother's Day weekend. The appearance won her a seventh Emmy award.

A month later, cable's TV Land premiered "Hot In Cleveland," the network's first original scripted series, which starred Valerie Bertinelli, Jane Leeves and Wendie Malick as three past-their-prime show-biz veterans who move to Cleveland to escape the youth obsession of Hollywood.

See BETTY WHITE, page A2



Chris Pizzello / AP

Actress Betty White poses for a portrait following her appearance on the television talk show "In the House," in Burbank, Calif., Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2009. Betty White, whose saucy, up-for-anything charm made her a television mainstay for more than 60 years, has died.

Crystal River 2021  
A YEAR IN REVIEW

By BUSTER THOMPSON  
Chronicle Reporter

It seemed like 2021 flew by, with Crystal River and its City Hall moving just as fast. Here are a handful of the many tasks the city on Citrus County's coast either took on or achieved this past year:

Downtown Crystal River welcomes scenic mural

Crystal River officials on Jan. 8 unveiled a 68-foot-wide, 14-foot-high mural featuring the city's wild waterways as a new backdrop to the city's town square at U.S. 19 and Citrus Avenue. It took city resident William Mickey roughly 11 weeks to paint a vibrant rendition of his hometown's waterscape of manatees, kayaking, scalloping and fishing on the northern wall of Exploridra's tour guide business.

Private donations and a \$1,000 grant from the city's Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Board funded the \$18,000 mural,

which the nonprofit Crystal River Main Street envisioned and spearheaded.

Kings Bay Park starts commercial watercraft launching fees

City Council voted 5-0 Jan. 11 to start enacting a \$5 fee Feb. 1 for customers of city-licensed paddlecraft-rental businesses to disembark from the city's Kings Bay Park.

Council also approved franchise contracts with the city-based kayak and paddleboard vendors, including lease agreements for the businesses to rent corrals at either \$750 or \$1,500 a month to store equipment at the park.

These measures followed council's decision to ban commercial paddlecraft customers from launching out of the city's Hunter Springs Park to help alleviate overcrowding there.

Council's vote also committed \$101,000 in expected launch-fee collections to restructure city staff at Kings Bay Park to regulate its new

**RIGHT:** Crystal River Mayor Joe Meek is all smiles as he speaks with a member of Crystal River Mainstreet Friday, Jan. 8, as a mural dedication takes place at Town Square in downtown Crystal River.

Matthew Beck / Chronicle photo editor

paddlecraft operation.

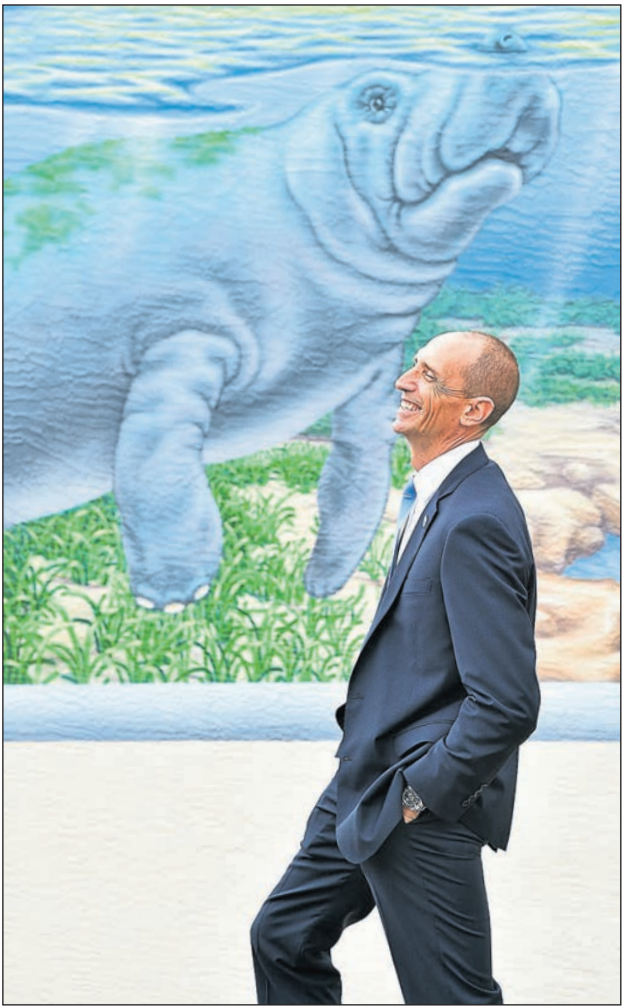
There was also an allocation of \$30,000 for Jones Edmunds and Associates to create a long-term redevelopment plan for the park so it can better handle and move increased traffic.

It's the city's intention to also use launch fees to fund capital projects designed in the plan, along with paying additional staff.

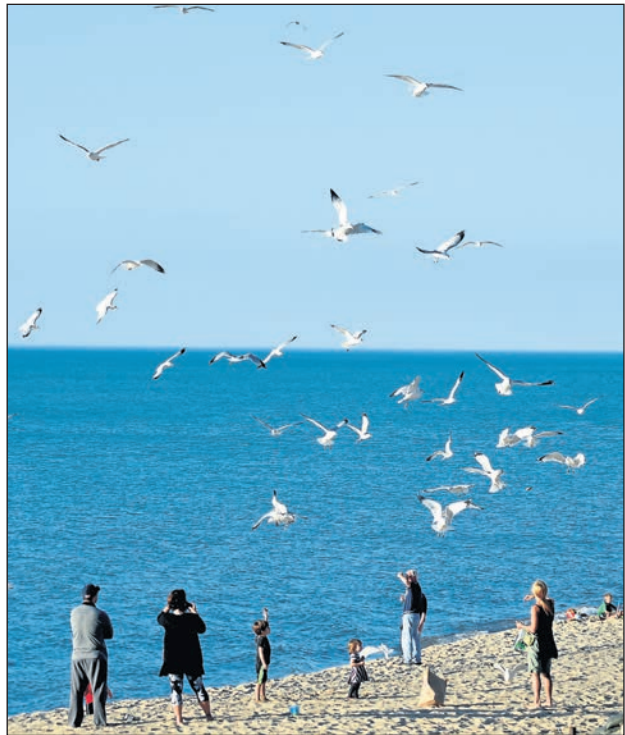
Crystal River Mall trades manatee statue to city

City leaders and the Crystal River Mall made a trade, which gave the city a worthy centerpiece for its town square while also freeing the mall of debt.

See REVIEW, page A2



State agency looks into report of seagull deaths



Seagulls are protected and attempts to run them over or shoot them is a federal misdemeanor that can result in fines up to \$15,000 and imprisonment up to six months.

By MICHAEL D. BATES  
Chronicle Reporter

Acting on a citizen complaint, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) investigated a report that people were shooting seagulls with BB guns in the Crystal River Plaza parking lot off U.S. 19.

FWC spokeswoman Karen Parker said a team visited the site Monday and found 25 gulls that were alive and no evidence of shot birds.

Investigating further, Parker said the crew talked with Bealls management who reported people occasionally speed and hit the seagulls with their cars or trucks. Whether it's intentional or not is unknown.

The agency concluded that what the tipster has been seeing is dead birds in the parking lot and likely assumed it was the result of

BB guns.

But if folks are running the birds over intentionally, that is also a serious problem, Parker said. She added that the gulls seen Monday were comfortable with human contact, indicating that folks have been feeding them.

"If people are purposely running down these birds, we would appreciate people contact our wildlife alert number and let us know," Parker said.

That number is 888-404-3922.

Gulls are protected under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which makes it "unlawful at any time, by any means or in any manner, to pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill, attempt to take, capture, or kill ... any migratory bird."

Accidental killings of protected birds are the same as intentional ones and

breaking the Act is a federal misdemeanor that can result in fines up to \$15,000 and imprisonment up to six months.

Louise Rogers, who lives in Sugarmill Woods, contacted the Chronicle after hearing multiple reports of the birds being abused at Crystal River Plaza.

The Chronicle contacted FWC and that agency looked into it.

Rogers said Thursday it is vital people report any suspicious incidents of seagull abuse to the proper authorities.

"If you see anyone molesting seagulls or see something out of the ordinary, get it on video and get their license plate number," Rogers said. "That's how we get the culprits."

Michael D. Bates is a staff writer with the Citrus County Chronicle and can be reached at [mbates@chronicleonline.com](mailto:mbates@chronicleonline.com)



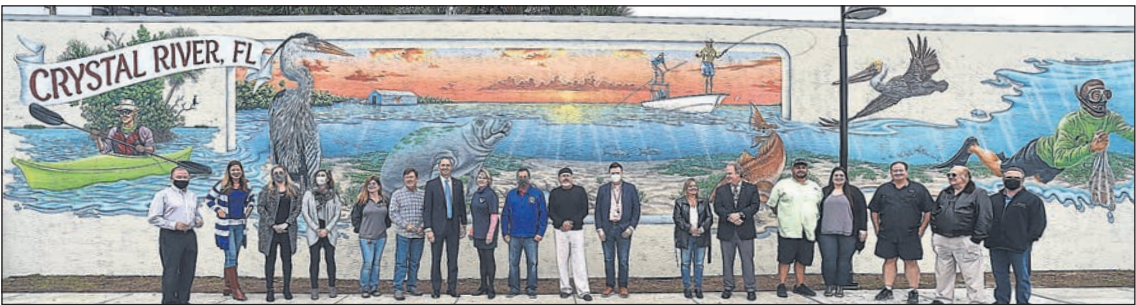
REVIEW

From page A1

Council voted 5-0 March 8 to OK an agreement for the mall to transfer ownership of its bronze manatee statue to the city, which, in exchange, waived the mall's lien of \$95,200 for code violations. Mall owners accrued the property lien because of a faulty fire-sprinkler system from several years ago. While the mall was able to address the issue, it wasn't able to pay off its lien. According to city staff, the figure's appraised value was \$185,000. Commissioned for the mall around its opening in 1990, the statue used to occupy a fountain at the center of the mall's food court before it was relocated to the mall's main entrance.

City charter reviewed, left unchanged

A committee of Crystal River citizens tasked with reviewing the



Matthew Beck / Chronicle photo editor

Members of Crystal River city government, Crystal River Mainstreet, guests and business owners gather Friday, Jan. 8, to dedicate a large mural overlooking Town Square in Crystal River.

city charter every decade decided to leave the city's constitution unchanged. Committee members – nominated by city council – voted 4-1 May 20 to disband without recommending changes for council to consider as charter amendments for city electors to vote on in the 2022 primary. Led by chairman and former city manager John Morrison, the committee met twice to examine the 19-pages charter and its seven articles outlining the city's gov-

ernmental powers. Commissioner Rocco Foley voted against, taking a stand on his suggestion to edit the charter's description of a qualified city council candidate by upping residency requirements.

Crystal River eyes boat ramp relocation for Riverwalk

City staff hosted a public workshop Feb. 25 to gauge support for a new boat ramp to replace Crystal River's ramp at the end of North-

west Third Avenue. Staff said the "Third Avenue boat ramp" within the Dockside Shoppes plaza can't coexist with the city's upcoming Riverwalk boardwalk, planned to run along the northern shores of Cedar Cove in King's Bay. A majority of workshop attendees supported having the ramp within the Crystal River Preserve State Park, modifying the park's existing ramp off of North Sailboat Avenue.

See REVIEW, Page A6



Jeff Bryan / Chronicle staff

Councilman Robert Holmes holds his grandson, Decker Brown, near a blast of water Nov. 12, after a ceremonial ribbon cutting and soft opening of the Crystal River Splash Pad Park in the city's downtown.

BETTY WHITE

From page A1

They move into a home being looked after by an elderly Polish widow – a character, played by White, who was meant to appear only in the pilot episode. But White stole the show, and the salty Elka Ostrovsky became a key part of the series, an immediate hit. She was voted the Entertainer of the Year by members of The Associated Press. "It's ridiculous," White said of the honor. "They haven't caught on to me, and I hope they never do." By then, White had not only become the hippest star around, but also a role model for how to grow old joyously. "Don't try to be young," she told The AP. "Just open your mind. Stay interested in stuff. There are so many things I won't live long enough to find out about, but I'm still curious about them." Such was her popularity that even White's birthday became a national event: In January 2012, NBC aired "Betty White's 90th Birthday Party" as a star-studded prime-time special. She would later appear in such series as "Bones" and Fireside Chat With Esther" and in 2019 gave voice to one of the toys, "Bitey White," in "Toy Story 4." White remained youthful in part through her skill at playing bawdy or naughty while radiating niceness. The horror spoof "Lake Placid" and the comedy "The Proposal" were marked



Nick Ut / AP

Actors from the television series "The Golden Girls" stand together during a break in taping Dec. 25, 1985, in Hollywood. From left are, Estelle Getty, Rue McClanahan, Bea Arthur and Betty White.

by her characters' surprisingly salty language. And her character Catherine Piper killed a man with a skillet on "Boston Legal." But she almost wasn't cast as "Happy Homemaker" Sue Ann Nivens in "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" in 1973. She and her husband, Allen Ludden, were close friends of Moore and Moore's then-husband, producer Grant Tinker. It was feared that if White failed on the show, which already was a huge hit, it would be embarrassing for all four. But CBS casting head Ethel Winant declared White the logical choice. Originally planned as a one-shot appearance,

the role of Sue Ann (which humorously foreshadowed Martha Stewart) lasted until Moore ended the series in 1977. "While she's icky-sweet on her cooking show, Sue is really a piranha type," White once said. The role brought her two Emmys as supporting actress in a comedy series. In 1985, White starred on NBC with Bea Arthur, Rue McClanahan and Estelle Getty in "The Golden Girls." Its cast of mature actresses, playing single women in Miami retirement, presented a gamble in a youth-conscious industry. But it proved a solid hit and lasted until 1992.

BRIEFS

From page A1

Take Stock is not a tutoring program, but a program that provides support, guidance and encouragement for students as they work their way through middle and high school and prepare for college or vocational school. For more information or to receive an application, call Pat Lancaster, student services coordinator, at 352-344-0855.

Seminar on edible landscaping

Edible landscaping is a Florida-friendly technique that incorporates vegetables, fruit trees, berries and herbs into traditional landscaping. Join UF/Citrus County Extension's master gardeners for tips on adding these plants to your landscape at 1 p.m. at every Citrus County Library System location: ■ Jan. 11 at Lakes Region Library, 1511 Druid Road in Inverness ■ Jan. 12 at Central Ridge Library, 425 W. Roosevelt Blvd. in Beverly Hills ■ Jan. 19 at Floral City Library, 8360 E. Orange Ave. ■ Jan. 24 at Coastal Region Library, 8619 W. Crystal St. in Crystal River ■ Jan. 25 at Homosassa Public Library, 4100 S. Grandmarch Ave. Attend a virtual seminar at 1 p.m. Jan 25. Register at least four hours before at citrusediblelandscaping.eventbrite.com. To speak to a master gardener, call 352-527-5709 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday or email IF-SVC-CITRUSMG@ad.ufl.edu. Master gardeners can answer gardening questions, identify samples or address gardening challenges. Information is grounded in research from UF.

# Happy New Year!

# 2022



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# ENTERTAINMENT

## Limited revelers return to Times Square to usher in the new year

By **BOBBY CAINA CALVAN**  
and **JENNIFER PELTZ**  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — New York City readied to embrace the new year — and bid good riddance to another pandemic-marred 12 months — as it prepared to revive its annual New Year’s Eve celebration in Times Square.

It did so as an uneasy nation tried to muster optimism that the worst days of the pandemic are now behind it — even as public health officials cautioned Friday against unbridled celebrations amid surging COVID infections from the omicron variant.

The city said it would limit the number of people it lets into Times Square to witness a 6-ton ball, encrusted with nearly 2,700 Waterford crystals, descend above a crowd of about 15,000 in-person spectators — far fewer than the many tens of thousands of revelers who usually descend on the world-famous square to bask in the lights, hoopla and shower of confetti during the nation’s marquee New Year’s Eve event.

“We are very excited to welcome back visitors to Times Square this New Year’s Eve,” said Tom Harris, the president of the Times Square Alliance. “Our goal is to have a safe and responsible event for the world to see.”

The annual ball drop takes place Friday, as the clock ticks into midnight and ushers in the new year, an occasion usually commemorated with Champagne, clinking pints, joyous embraces and hopes for better times ahead.

But 2022 begins just as the year



Seth Wenig / AP

The 2022 sign that will be lit on top of a building on New Year’s Eve is displayed in Times Square, New York, Monday. New York City is readying to embrace the new year by reviving its annual New Year’s Eve celebration in Times Square—limiting the number of people to about 15,000 in-person spectators.

prior began — with the pandemic clouding an already uncertain future.

Doubts swirled whether the city would have to cancel this year’s bash, as the city posted record numbers of COVID cases in the days leading to it, even as some cities like Atlanta had decided to cancel their own celebrations.

Last year’s ball drop was closed to the public because of the outbreak.

COVID-19 cases in the U.S. have soared to their highest levels on record at over 265,000 per day on average. New York City reported a record number of new, confirmed cases — more than 39,590 — on Tuesday, according to New York state figures.

But Mayor Bill de Blasio, who

will relinquish oversight of the nation’s most populous city at the stroke of midnight, said the festivities at Times Square would “show the world that New York City is fighting our way through this.”

Officials said those attending the spectacle would have to wear masks and show proof of vaccination. Organizers had initially hoped that more than 50,000 revelers would be able to join in, but plans were dramatically scaled back because of widespread infections.

Rap artist and actor LL Cool J was supposed to be among the performers taking the stage in Times Square Friday night, but announced he would pull out of the event because he had tested

positive for COVID.

New York City’s incoming mayor, Eric Adams, is scheduled to take his oath in Times Square soon after the ball drop. He expressed hope Thursday that 2022 would be “a new beginning of our resiliency.”

It was a sentiment shared by ordinary people.

College students and sisters Mary and Vanessa Anyakwo were guardedly optimistic, too, as they took in Times Square on an outing from their home in suburban Elmsford, New York.

“I feel a lot more hopeful than I was last year because I think we have a lot more facilities” to handle the pandemic, said Mary, 20.

Vanessa, 22, pointed to the crowds. “By this time last year,” she said, “I didn’t think it would be like this.”

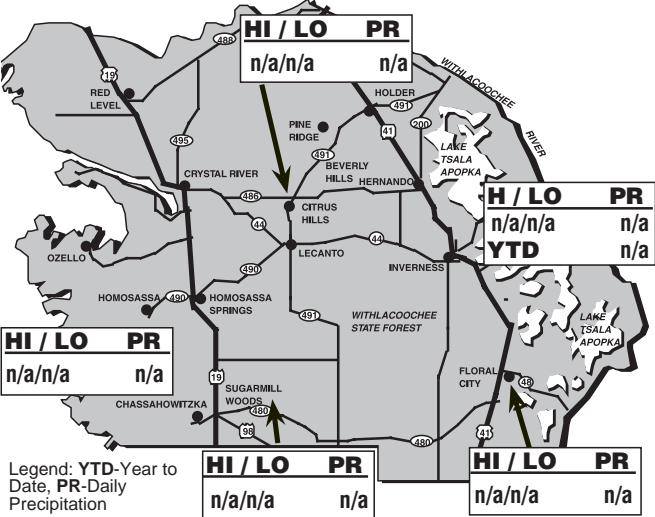
Paolo Brügger, a banker from Zurich, Switzerland, reflected on a world fed-up with having to endure wave after wave of the virus a year after 2021 dawned with hopes bottled up in vaccine vials.

His optimism was tempered by the world’s new reality that the pandemic would linger into the new year.

“A lot of people are asking themselves now, ‘Is this going to be like this every year — when we get into the cold season, we have a new variant, and we are back to square one?’” said Brügger, 55.

Still, he was “extremely optimistic” about 2022, partly because of vaccines and new therapies against COVID-19 and partly, he said with a chuckle, “because it can’t be worse than the last two years.”

### YESTERDAY’S WEATHER



### THREE DAY OUTLOOK

**TODAY & TOMORROW MORNING**  
**High:** 80° **Low:** 60°  
Partly cloudy and warm.

**SUNDAY & MONDAY MORNING**  
**High:** 79° **Low:** 59°  
Windy with scattered thunderstorms arriving late.

**MONDAY & TUESDAY MORNING**  
**High:** 63° **Low:** 46°  
Sunny

#### ALMANAC

**TEMPERATURE**  
Yesterday 71/67  
Record\* 84/18  
Normal 70/43  
Mean temp. 57  
Departure from mean 13

**PRECIPITATION**  
Yesterday 0.00"  
Total for the month 0.87"  
Total for the year 62.53"  
Normal for the year 51.79"

**UV INDEX:** 4  
0-2 minimal, 3-4 low, 5-6 moderate, 7-9 high, 10+ very high

**BAROMETRIC PRESSURE** 30.06

**DEW POINT**  
Yesterday at 3 p.m. n/a

**HUMIDITY**  
Yesterday at 3 p.m. 99%

**POLLEN COUNT\*\***  
Predominant: Trees

**AIR QUALITY**  
Yesterday observed Good  
Pollutant PM2.5

SOLUNAR TABLES				
DATE	DAY	MINOR (MORNING)	MAJOR (MORNING)	MINOR (AFTERNOON)
01/01	SATURDAY	7:22	11:25	5:43
01/02	SUNDAY	7:22	None	5:44

#### CELESTIAL OUTLOOK

**SUNSET TONIGHT** 5:43 pm  
**SUNRISE TOMORROW** 7:22 am  
**MOONRISE TODAY** 6:12 am  
**MOONSET TODAY** 4:36 pm

Jan 2 Jan 9 Jan 17 Jan 25

### BURN CONDITIONS

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

### WATERING RULES

For established lawns and landscapes, irrigation may occur during only one (1) of the specified time periods, 12:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m., or 4:00 p.m. - 11:59 p.m., on the allowable watering days below:

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

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.citrusbocc.com/departments/water\\_resources/watering\\_restrictions.php](https://www.citrusbocc.com/departments/water_resources/watering_restrictions.php)

### TIDES

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

SATURDAY				
City	High	Low		
Chassahowitzka*	4:25 a.m.	0.7 ft	6:35 p.m.	0.1 ft
Crystal River**	2:22 a.m.	2.5 ft	4:11 p.m.	1.5 ft
Withlacoochee*	1:51 p.m.	2.7 ft	None	n/a
Homosassa***	2:40 a.m.	1.6 ft	5:21 p.m.	0.5 ft

### FLORIDA TEMPERATURES

City	H	L	F'cast	City	H	L	F'cast
Daytona Bch.	80	64	pc	Miami	81	74	pc
Fort Lauderdale	83	71	pc	Ocala	82	64	pc
Fort Myers	82	68	s	Orlando	83	65	s
Gainesville	80	65	pc	Pensacola	76	67	sh
Homestead	83	70	pc	Sarasota	82	69	pc
Jacksonville	81	65	pc	Tallahassee	79	68	pc
Key West	82	75	pc	Tampa	84	69	pc
Lakeland	84	66	s	Vero Beach	83	65	pc
Melbourne	83	64	s	W. Palm Bch.	81	74	pc

### MARINE OUTLOOK

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

**Gulf water temperature**

**72°**

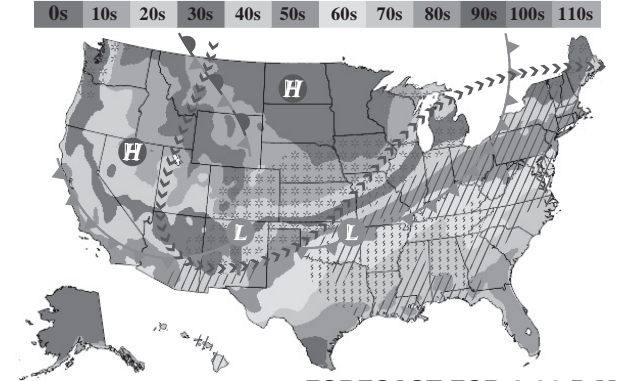
Taken at Crystal River

### LAKE LEVELS

Location	FRI	THU	Full
Withlacoochee at Holder	29.40	29.42	34.64
Tsala Apopka-Hernando	37.79	37.78	38.66
Tsala Apopka-Inverness	39.11	39.11	39.73
Tsala Apopka-Floral City	40.25	40.26	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. Saturday

City	FRI				SAT				City	FRI				SAT			
	H	L	Pcp.	H L Fcst	H	L	Pcp.	H L Fcst		H	L	Pcp.	H L Fcst	H	L	Pcp.	H L Fcst
Albany	45	37	0.05	51	39	sh			New Orleans	83	73	0.02	81	57	sh		
Albuquerque	47	30	0.00	39	8	ss			Sacramento	51	46	Trace	58	53	ra		
Asheville	64	46	0.00	73	50	sh			Norfolk	54	51	Trace	71	64	sh		
Atlanta	70	57	0.44	73	62	t			Oklahoma City	65	43	0.00	53	11	sh		
Atlantic City	50	47	0.00	57	53	ra			Omaha	43	21	Trace	6	-6	sn		
Austin	82	66	0.00	82	29	pc			Palm Springs	61	46	Trace	60	41	s		
Baltimore	54	49	Trace	64	53	ra			Philadelphia	54	48	Trace	61	57	ra		
Billings	20	-5	0.08	16	8	s			Phoenix	63	53	Trace	56	33	s		
Birmingham	75	55	0.00	78	58	sh			Pittsburgh	55	46	0.00	59	44	sh		
Boise	30	25	0.13	21	4	s			Portland, ME	34	32	0.01	40	37	sh		
Boston	43	39	0.07	52	44	ra			Portland, OR	45	36	0.14	36	29	mc		
Buffalo	43	37	0.01	49	30	ra			Providence, RI	43	41	0.10	53	46	ra		
Burlington, VT	40	30	0.03	43	27	ra			Raleigh	67	61	Trace	75	62	sh		
Charleston, SC	73	64	0.00	76	63	mc			Rapid City	19	-2	Trace	12	2	pc		
Charleston, WV	61	37	0.00	68	53	sh			Reno	46	30	0.00	31	10	s		
Charlotte	66	57	0.01	74	61	sh			Rochester, NY	41	37	0.04	49	31	ra		
Chicago	39	34	Trace	35	20	sn			Sacramento	54	36	0.00	45	30	s		
Cincinnati	50	44	0.00	61	36	ra			Salt Lake City	43	27	0.30	22	8	mc		
Cleveland	43	41	0.00	51	33	sh			San Antonio	88	66	0.00	83	34	pc		
Columbia, SC	72	59	0.33	79	64	mc			San Diego	64	54	Trace	61	41	s		
Columbus, OH	49	42	0.00	58	35	ra			San Francisco	53	41	0.00	51	38	s		
Concord, NH	37	33	0.02	38	34	sh			Savannah	82	67	0.00	79	65	pc		
Dallas	75	53	Trace	73	21	pc			Seattle	36	25	Trace	37	33	mc		
Denver	47	24	0.00	13	2	sn			Spokane	18	10	0.01	17	10	mc		
Des Moines	30	21	0.00	7	-9	sn			St. Louis	54	41	0.00	42	17	ra		
Detroit	n/a	n/a	Trace	42	24	rs			St. Ste Marie	28	27	0.01	20	4	mc		
El Paso	59	45	0.40	55	27	ra			Syracuse	45	37	0.06	52	34	ra		
Evansville, IN	52	46	0.00	60	31	sh			Topeka	47	27	0.00	18	-4	sn		
Harrisburg	54	48	0.00	55	50	ra			Washington	54	50	Trace	67	57	ra		
Hartford	45	42	0.06	55	44	ra											
Houston	82	70	0.00	82	36	mc											
Indianapolis	48	37	Trace	51	28	ra											
Kansas City	46	32	0.00	22	-1	sn											
Las Vegas	56	50	0.00	48	28	s											
Little Rock	64	51	0.00	69	26	t											
Los Angeles	55	47	0.96	58	40	s											
Louisville	54	48	Trace	63	39	sh											
Memphis	67	61	0.00	72	30	sh											
Minneapolis	37	33	0.01	24	10	sn											
Milwaukee	27	15	0.00	-1	-16	mc											
Mobile	82	70	Trace	77	63	sh											
Montgomery	82	61	0.43	82	67	sh											
Nashville	60	51	0.01	75	42	t											

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

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Berlin	53/51/ra	Montreal	32/31/sn
Bermuda	70/69/ra	Moscow	33/26/sn
Cairo	64/53/s	Paris	55/48/mc
Calgary	14/-12/mc	Rio	85/72/cl
Havana	82/70/s	Rome	61/48/s
Hong Kong	66/62/pc	Sydney	78/67/pc
Jerusalem	52/49/ra	Tokyo	42/33/s
		Toronto	40/36/cl
		Warsaw	48/44/ra

## TODAY IN HISTORY

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Saturday, Jan. 1, the first day of 2022. There are 364 days left in the year.

### Highlight in history:

On Jan. 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that slaves in rebel states shall be “forever free.”

### On this date:

In 1892, the Ellis Island Immigrant Station in New York formally opened.

In 1942, the Rose Bowl was played in Durham, North Carolina, because of security concerns in the wake of Japan’s attack on Pearl Harbor; Oregon State defeated Duke, 20-16.

In 1953, country singer Hank Williams Sr., 29, was discovered dead in the back seat of his car during a stop in Oak Hill, West Virginia, while he was being driven to a concert date in Canton, Ohio.

In 1954, NBC broadcast the first coast-to-coast color TV program as it presented live coverage of the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California.

In 1985, the music cable channel VH-1 made its debut with a video of Marvin Gaye performing “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

In 2014, the nation’s first legal recreational pot shops opened in Colorado at 8 a.m. Mountain time.

**Ten years ago:** A second NASA probe braked into orbit around the moon, a day after its twin probe executed the same maneuver; it was part of the latest mission to understand how Earth’s closest neighbor formed.

**Today’s Birthdays:** Documentary maker Frederick Wiseman is 92. Actor Frank Langella is 84. Actor Dedee









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IN BRIEF

Vehicle goes around train crossing gate, kills two

AVENTURA (AP) — Two people died when a higher speed commuter train hit their car as the driver tried to make it around the crossing gate, police said.

The crossing gate’s lights were flashing and bells were ringing to signal an approaching train on Thursday morning when the car tried to make it through, police and Brightline train officials said.

The blue Toyota was left mangled on the other side of the street after the crash.

Officials said no one on the train was injured.

“This was a tragic event and the direct result of an individual driving around the gates which were down, flashing and bells ringing, signal-

ing an approaching train,” Brightline said in a statement.

Caesar Tavares, who lives nearby in Aventura, told WSVN he heard the crash.

“I knew right away the train hit somebody because it was real loud. The car was rolling. Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Then all of a sudden it stopped,” he said.

Tavares told the television station that he frequently sees people trying to get around the gates.

“The train comes here every 15 minutes and people are always stopping on the tracks,” he said. “I knew it was bound to happen.”

The trains only recently started running again after being shut down at the start of the coronavirus pandemic in March 2020.

A man who was walking on the tracks in North Miami Beach died when he was

struck by a Brightline train earlier this month. It was at least the 49th involving a Brightline train since the Miami to West Palm Beach line launched in mid-2017.

A pedestrian was killed by a commuter rail train in downtown Orlando on Thursday. Police were investigating the cause of that crash, news outlets reported.

**Family seeks answers in death of teen found in Florida pond**

ROYAL PALM BEACH (AP) — A Florida family is seeking answers after a 14-year-old boy was found dead in a retention pond days after he failed to return home the last day of school before the holiday break.

Family members and friends of Vensly Maxime gathered Wednesday night

for a march outside the Palm Beach County middle school the teen attended. He didn’t return home from Crestwood Middle School on Dec. 22, and his body was found in a nearby retention pond on Christmas Day.

“How did he get into the water?” the teen’s aunt, Louisena Hercule, asked the Palm Beach Post on Wednesday night. “This story, something is missing. We want the truth. We want to make sure it does not happen to another kid.”

The Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office said in a Dec. 28 statement that an investigation was continuing but that detectives didn’t suspect foul play. Preliminary findings showed the teen didn’t drown.

The sheriff’s office told the newspaper Thursday that officials are awaiting a toxicology report from the Palm Beach County Medical Examiner’s Office.

But many of those attending the march Wednesday questioned that conclusion. The family told the newspaper that the boy had no known medical concerns, and they described him as healthy with no known medical concerns.

The sheriff’s office said the teen met with a friend after school Dec. 22. The friend later told investigators that the boy complained of feeling ill, so they started walking home. But, according to the friend, the boy began acting in a strange manner and they became separated during the walk.

The sheriff’s office statement did not describe the strange behavior or indicate how long the teen’s body had been submerged in the water. Relatives reported the boy

missing to the Palm Beach County School District, and district police issued a missing persons flyer. According to the sheriff’s office, the next day, deputies responded to a the Royal Palm Beach recreation center, where the boy’s backpack was found. It was turned over to school district police as part of their investigation.

That night, the sheriff’s office went back to the area to assist the district police in the search for the boy. The search ended about four hours later, the newspaper reported.

The boy’s relatives told the Post they continued searching until his body was found in the pond.

“We’ve got a 14-year-old missing. Why did we have to do our own search until we found him?” the boy’s uncle, Yvenel Clermont, said at Wednesday’s march.



Discussions took place in February 2021 to pick a new location to replace this popular Crystal River boat ramp located within the Dockside Shoppes on King’s Bay.

REVIEW

From page A2

Park Drive, said relocating the city boat ramp would increase vehicle traffic on their main roadway, endangering pedestrians.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection officials turned down the city’s request to built in its park, pushing the city to partner with the county on possibly expanding its boat ramp at Fort Island Trail Park.

Charrette inspires Crystal River’s masterplan

A weeklong, in-person charrette in June launched the creation of the Crystal River Civic Master Plan – the city’s blueprint on how it should grow and develop in the future.

More than 440 city residents and stakeholders met and provided feedback to create the comprehensive and illustrative 228-page document, which covers a variety of development topics such as transportation, parking, waterfronts, shopping centers, wildlife and historical preservation.

Dover Kohl & Partners, the planning consultant the city hired for \$156,000 to facilitate the charrette, unveiled its first major draft of the master plan in October for additional public input, and is expected to release a final product in the near future.

To see the plan, visit [crystalrivercivcmasterplan.com](http://crystalrivercivcmasterplan.com).

Crystal River breaks ground, opens splash pad park downtown

Months after Lecanto contractor Daly & Zilch Inc. broke ground in April on the \$599,890 endeavor, Crystal River opened its first splash pad park next to its water tower on the northeast corner of Northeast First Avenue and Northeast Fifth Street.

A \$450,000 state grant from 2019 and a \$350,000 pledge from the city funded the 1,000-square-foot concrete pad fitted with around a dozen underground fountains, which jet streams of water into the air with the press of a button.

Rings of light at the base of each fountain shine colors into the water, turning an evening at the city park into a dazzling, luminescent show.

A shaded area, shower, sidewalks and landscaping were also installed around the splash pad, along with a concrete patio underneath the water tower to provide space for whatever business rents out the historic and renovated pump house from the city.

Higher millage rate approved to handle costly budget

Following a series of workshops and a pair of public hearings, council voted 5-0 Sept. 15 to approve a property tax rate of 6.59 mills to fund the city’s \$6,887,513 general fund and its CRA \$5,328,308 budget.

Council’s decision to in-

crease the city’s 4.8 millage rate came after city staff said it would not cover a surge of additional expenses.

This included: raising hourly wages up to \$15 by 2026 to abide to state law, paying more in health insurance premiums, agreeing to a higher price for law enforcement services with the Citrus County Sheriff’s Office, and allocating more to dealing with old equipment.

Council announced a tentative millage rate in July of 6.9 mills, with hopes the city’s finance department could lower it before a final rate had to be set in September.

Crystal River works to navigate King’s Bay congestion

City Manager Ken Frink, Councilwoman Cindi Guy and city staff hosted a meeting July 20 with eco-tourism businesses in the city to start finding solutions on how to ease the impacts of watercraft overcrowding in King’s Bay.

After roughly two hours of tense discussion, the group of, dive-, manatee- and paddlecraft-tour operators decided more education and enforcement is needed on the water, especially for unguided boaters or paddlers from out of town.

On Oct. 13, a 14-member King’s Bay Focus Group met for the first time to start refining the the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats the bay has, giving the city a strategy to improve navigability,



Crystal River’s Kings Bay Park, pictured August 2021.

behavior and other uses on the water.

Additional gatherings have been held.

Crystal River expands sewer system, takes septic offline

Crystal River and the Citrus County residents impacted by the city’s Indian Waters Phase One Sewer Expansion Project finalized the septic-to-sewer initiative.

Council voted Sept. 13 to set assessments for the roughly 90 occupied and vacant county homesteads to be connected to the city’s wastewater system, taking 77 septic tanks offline to reduce their harm on groundwater.

Affected residents living in the Indian Waters subdivision were going to pay the balance of what the city couldn’t cover for the \$2.15 million project, which was more than what the city budgeted for prior to COVID-19’s impacts.

At the start of assessment workshops, property owners were tentatively facing either an upfront charge of \$10,304 or an annual payment of \$861 on their

tax bill for the next 20 years.

Before a final assessment had to be set in September, city staff got an additional \$500,000 in state funding to help offset project costs. Crystal River also contributed \$100,000. This brought assessment options down to either a \$5,976 prepay charge or an annual assessment of \$832.

Council voted Sept. 27 to award Inverness-based Pospiech Contracting \$1,707,470 – including a 16 percent contingency – to build and install the expanded wastewater infrastructure.

Contact Chronicle reporter Buster Thompson at 352-564-2916, [bthompson@chronicleonline.com](mailto:bthompson@chronicleonline.com) or visit [tinyurl.com/yxn2ahso](http://tinyurl.com/yxn2ahso) to see more of his stories.

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GARY MOORE - Private Arrangements  
RALPH WALDEMAR  
Service: Wed. 11:00 A.M.  
ANGELA LEWIS - Private Arrangements  
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Crystal River city officials stand for a photo April 21, in front of the newly placed twin-manatee statue at the city’s town square. Pictured, from left to right: Councilwoman Cindi Guy, Mayor Joe Meek, Councilman Pat Fitzpatrick, City Manager Ken Frink, Councilman Ken Brown and Councilman Robert Holmes.

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FACT FOCUS

## Misinformation persists after Maxwell trial ends

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The sex-trafficking trial of Jeffrey Epstein's former girlfriend, Ghislaine Maxwell, ended with a guilty verdict, but that hasn't stopped the flow of false news that has swirled around the case.

On Thursday, posts emerged falsely claiming that trial documents were sealed to protect Epstein — who died by suicide in 2019 while awaiting trial for sex crimes — and his influential friends. At the same time, previously debunked claims reemerged on social media, including assertions that there was no media coverage of the high-profile trial.

Maxwell was found guilty on five of six counts at the conclusion of the month-long trial where she was accused of helping Epstein sexually exploit teenage girls.

Here are some of the claims that spread online, and the facts you need to know about them:

**CLAIM:** The judge in the Maxwell case ordered details of Epstein's network sealed after the jury found Maxwell guilty.

**THE FACTS:** Posts online are claiming that U.S. District Judge Alison J. Nathan ordered details of Epstein's network sealed and that prosecutors made a deal to protect Maxwell's contacts. But that doesn't track with what actually happened.

Details of Epstein's network came out at trial in numerous ways, through multiple witnesses and exhibits, including flight logs and bank records. And almost nothing was sealed. Last June, Nathan even ruled that two 2016 depositions from a civil case involving Maxwell could be used in her criminal trial. And troves of additional materials detailing what went on at homes where Maxwell and Epstein resided have been unsealed in the last two years after federal appeals judges and a Manhattan judge agreed that once-sealed records in a civil case against Maxwell should be released publicly.

Almost every exhibit in the Maxwell trial was released publicly, including pictures of Epstein and Maxwell together. However, the judge did find at the outset of the trial that only certain pages from Maxwell's address book identifying victims with the word "massage" next to



Elizabeth Williams via AP

This courtroom sketch shows Ghislaine Maxwell, center, being led out of the courtroom into the lock up by four U.S. Marshals after a jury returned a guilty verdict in her sex trafficking trial, Wednesday, in New York.

them could be marked into evidence.

**CLAIM:** The judge in the Ghislaine Maxwell case issued a media-wide gag order over the trial with no livestream to keep scandalous details from leaking out to the public.

**THE FACTS:** Members of the media were allowed to watch Maxwell's trial. But federal courts do not allow cameras like some state courts do, and the discrepancy fueled confusion and conspiracy theories on social media.

Ahead of the trial, news that the case would not be livestreamed began circulating. Some compared it to the fully televised Kyle Rittenhouse trial, which took place in state court. At one point, posts falsely claimed the judge placed a media "gag order" on the case and banned the press from attending. But reporters and members of the public were able to watch the trial live, both in the courtroom, as well as in overflow rooms where it was streamed for those who didn't get a seat. Reporters for The Associated Press were among

those who attended the trial and journalists could be seen waiting in line to enter the courthouse. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York confirmed in a statement that the press would be allowed to attend the trial, and that there would be no live feeds except those within the courthouse.

**CLAIM:** Documents unsealed before the trial began showed a list of defendants, including some celebrities, who were named as "co-conspirators" in the case.

**THE FACTS:** The list of purported defendants was not part of the criminal case against Maxwell. It came from a lawsuit filed in August 2020 that was separate from the criminal trial and dismissed as "frivolous" in less than a month. Social media users circulated the list of names and companies as Maxwell prepared to face trial.

The dismissed civil case named nearly 40 defendants, including Epstein, Jay-Z, Beyoncé, Kanye West, Disney and Universal Music Group. Maxwell was included as the 31st name on the list. The lead plaintiff

alleged that over the course of 30 years, the defendants conspired to "unlawfully surveil, drug and abduct" them "for sexual assault, sex trafficking, and other exploitative abuse" and conspired to transact a "purchase agreement" to buy the plaintiff from their mother.

U.S. District Judge Louis L. Stanton for the Southern District of New York dismissed the lawsuit on the grounds that it did not have a legal or factual basis, and that the plaintiff, who did not appear to be an attorney, made claims on behalf of others, according to the dismissal order.

**CLAIM:** The CEOs of Twitter, Walmart and CNBC all resigned on the first day of the Ghislaine Maxwell trial.

**THE FACTS:** Twitter's CEO did step down on that Monday, but in his Nov. 29 announcement, Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey said he would remain on the board until his term expires in 2022.

CNBC does not have a CEO and its chair did not resign. Nor did the CEO of Walmart, although the company said its chief financial officer would be stepping down — but not leaving the company until 2023.

## Roe lawyer Sarah Weddington helped redefine abortion rights

By ACACIA CORONADO and RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR  
Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Sarah Weddington, who as a young lawyer from Texas won the Roe v. Wade case at the U.S. Supreme Court, is being remembered this week as a champion of feminism whose work impacted the nation's politics as views shifted on abortion. She died Sunday at age 76.

Weddington was 26 when she successfully argued the case that legalized the right to abortion throughout the United States. The Supreme Court's ruling in 1973 cemented her place in history.

"I just see her role at that time as being so courageous," said Sarah Wheat, a spokeswoman for Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas. "For all of us who work in what is, you know — it can be a very challenging field — I feel like that's a lesson she has shared with me and so many others."

Roe v. Wade changed the alignment of the major political parties and helped define the playbook U.S. presidents would have to follow to confirm their Supreme Court nominees, said Florida State University law professor Mary Ziegler, who specializes in the legal history of reproduction.

Weddington was "one important part of a bigger picture," Ziegler said. "She was instrumental in reframing how abortion rights are understood."

Prior to the Roe decision, the coalition in favor of abortion rights included family planning advocates, medical professionals concerned about the consequences of so-called back alley abortions and groups that favored curbs on population growth. Roe validated the notion of a woman's right to have an abortion.

The Supreme Court decided the right to privacy under the U.S. Constitution was "broad enough to encompass a woman's decision whether or not to terminate her pregnancy," Justice Harry Blackmun — nominated by Republican President Richard Nixon — wrote in the 7-2 decision.

Longtime women's rights lawyer Judy Waxman witnessed part of the Roe arguments. In framing the question as a matter of individual self-determination, Weddington "really stood



Mike Groll / AP

Attorney Sarah Weddington speaks during a women's rights rally on Tuesday, June 4, 2013, in Albany, N.Y. Weddington, who at 26 successfully argued the landmark abortion rights case Roe v. Wade before the U.S. Supreme Court, died Sunday. She was 76.

up for the rights of women to control their destiny," Waxman said.

"Some people said, 'The issue is over now, and others said, 'No it's just beginning,'" Waxman said.

It was far from over.

Abortion rights has since become one of the most divisive issues in American politics, and Weddington's death comes as it is again reaching a decisive point before the nation's highest court. The Supreme Court is considering a case over Mississippi's ban on abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy that could undermine Roe and the court's 1992 ruling in Planned Parenthood v. Casey, which allow states to regulate but not ban abortion up until the point of fetal viability, at roughly 24 weeks. A decision is not expected until spring.

In Texas, a separate law that took effect in September has banned most abortions in the state, meaning some patients have traveled hundreds of miles to Louisiana, Oklahoma and other states for the procedure.

The Supreme Court ruled in December that the law could stand under its unusual structure of allowing lawsuits against abortion clinics and anyone who "aids or abets" the procedure to be performed after cardiac activity is detected in an embryo, which is at around the sixth week of pregnancy and before some women even know they're pregnant.

Ruth Pennebaker, 72, had an abortion in Texas in 1974, just over a year after the Supreme Court made it legal. She said having the freedom to make her choice safely allowed her to finish her studies at the University of Texas School of Law and build a life with her

husband of almost 50 years, with two children and four grandchildren. Pennebaker, who became an author and columnist, said Weddington and her co-counsel, Linda Coffee, were inspiring.

"She was a 26-year-old lawyer who had never tried a case before the Supreme Court," Pennebaker said. "That two people could make such a difference in the world. I think for those of us who have seen more history, things that can be seen as progress are not necessarily a given. Things can be taken away."

Conservatives are now rallying behind that principle.

Carol Tobias, president of the National Right to Life Committee, said Weddington's legacy can be summed up in millions of abortions. As medical science advances, Tobias said, Weddington's arguments will find less support.

"The technology is proving that these are human beings," Tobias said, "and they just can't be swept under the rug with some private rights issues."

In January 1973, fresh off her Supreme Court victory, Weddington was sworn in as a Democratic Texas state representative for Austin. One of the other six female members of the Texas House — which at the time was its largest group of women ever — was Eddie Bernice Johnson, who has been a member of Congress since 1993.

As state lawmakers, Johnson said she and Weddington worked with other female legislators, to advocate for women's rights. That included passing a law that allowed women to obtain credit on their own, without needing a husband to cosign.

## Stocks inch lower in subdued trading on the last day of 2021

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stocks were slightly lower in thin trading Friday, closing out what has turned out to be another banner year for Wall Street. Energy and banks were among the biggest gainers, a common occurrence for the last month.

The S&P 500 index was down 0.1 percent as of 12:45 p.m. Eastern, flipping between small gains and losses. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down less than 0.1 percent and the Nasdaq composite was down 0.3 percent.

The vaccine makers were among the better performers Friday, with Pfizer and Moderna both up roughly 2 percent each. Additional governments had approved their vaccines for younger adults as well as boosters this week.

2021 has been a strong year for stock investors. The S&P 500, which hit its latest record high on Wednesday, is heading for a gain of roughly 27 percent for the year, or 29 percent including dividends. That's nearly as much as the index gained in 2019.

It's also been an eventful year. A wave of consumer demand fueled by the reopening of economies pumped up corporate profits more than expected, which helped keep investors in a buy-

ing mood. There was also intense interest in so-called "meme stocks," in which large groups of individual investors bought up shares of beaten-down companies like GameStop and AMC Entertainment, causing institutional investors like

hedge funds to lose billions.

The Federal Reserve and other central banks also helped prop up the market by keeping interest rates extremely low, which makes borrowing money more affordable for both companies as well as consumers.

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OPINION

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE



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

EDITORIAL

Manatees facing dark future without real help

The gentle manatee has been important to Crystal River for years, bringing tourists and other visitors and helping drive tourism on the Nature Coast. We have recognized the fragility of the species and made efforts to restore habitat so manatees visiting here have adequate food supplies, but in other areas of the state there are significant problems that threaten the species.

Manatees face threats from many sources, including boat props and collision with watercraft. But one of the most significant recent threats they face is loss of an adequate food supply, particularly on the Florida east coast. There, pollution has led to a reduction in sea grass, which is a primary manatee food source.

Last year, more than 1,000 manatees, or nearly 15 percent of the total population died. This is a significant and threatening loss. For example, 10 years ago there were 453 manatee deaths, or less than half the losses last year. At the current level of deaths, the species faces possible extinction.

Our legislators have recognized this fact and are proposing the funding of a new manatee recovery center to join other rehabilitation facilities. This is a good thing. But it is not a solution. It is a bandage on a gaping wound. It will help, but it will not solve the problem

While prop cuts and boat collisions will continue to be a problem, the major reason more manatees are dying is because they are starving to death. Pollution has reduced the seagrass they depend on for food. This is the issue that we

THE ISSUE:

Manatee population is on the cusp of collapse.

OUR OPINION:

Lawmakers need to act fast.

must solve to protect our manatee population.

The situation is so severe that in some areas wildlife officials have taken the unusual step of feeding manatees, and three conservation groups have taken steps toward filing a lawsuit against the Environmental Protection Agency over water quality issues that have led to a loss of manatees along Florida’s east coast

Here in Crystal River, we have taken great steps to clean up Kings Bay and restore sea grass beds. This program is one that needs to be exported and put into place in other areas.

Legislators need to examine programs like those that have led to the cleanup of Kings Bay to determine what is working, and seek to replicate them across the state. Crystal River has shown that cleaning out the bay and other waterways and replanting eel grass can help restore manatee habitat.

Also, the federal government needs to return the manatee to the list of endangered species. In 2017, when it appeared manatee populations were growing, the federal Fish and Wildlife Service upgraded the manatee from endangered to threatened. This needs to be reversed to restore the additional protections and funding for manatee protection programs.

The loss of manatees can be reversed, but it will take efforts from the public, and from our legislators. We encourage both.

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.

SOUND OFF

■ The Chronicle invites you to Sound Off with opinions about local and state issues by calling 352-563-0579.

■ We do not publish Sound Offs about political candidates, political campaigns or national issues.

Now that Santa’s gone ...

‘Well that’s it for the holidays,” my husband said, a note of resignation in his voice. “Au contraire,” I responded.

And yet, even as I objected to throwing Christmas out to the curb, sadly I realized this

was where many Christmas trees were destined to land within hours or days, icicles and the odd ornament still clinging to mostly bare branches.

It is not unusual to feel a mixture of emotions once the jet lag of all your efforts becomes clearly visible. Wads of tissue paper and Christmas wrapping strewn about. Bows morphed into toys for the cat to bat around. Some gifts, not hitting the mark, already having you dig for that blasted receipt. “I know I put it in my drawer, where I put all my receipts.” But that elusive piece of paper has yet to be found.

Personally, what I miss the most as the holidays come to their inevitable end is the holiday airwaves’ void of Bing Crosby. Nat King Cole, Michael Buble, Burl Ives, Brenda Lee, and Joni Mitchell. Each year, new artists’ release their CD’s to add to the mix.

But what can ever replace the David Bowie/Bing Crosby collaboration on “The Little Drummer Boy” and “Peace on Earth”? Or Bing’s “White Christmas”? James Taylor’s “Baby, It’s Cold


Outside” or Mannheim Steamroller’s “Deck the Halls”? Vince Guaraldi’s musical masterpiece from “A Charlie Brown Christmas.” The religious themes of “Greensleeves” or “Silent Night”?

The child in me does not want to wait out another 320 days before I get to hear these classics once more. Or experience the challenge of locating a myriad of gift options for my husband.

This year, Mel Brooks’ autobiography, as well as an anthology text of James Bond movies, from the very first Bond up to Daniel Craig’s swan song performance in “No Time to Die.” In addition, my brain cells were running a marathon over completing a calendar through a difficult online site. But it arrived in time, and I was pleased with the finished product. The effort, the outcome, hardly a sure bet.

Stress has been an unavoidable accompaniment to the holidays, at least for this senior. Every year I say that next year, I will shop less and worry less, but to no avail. For when those gifts are finally opened, whether by my husband, or by family up north and out west, I experience something bordering on cosmic relief. And, come to think of it, some comic relief too.

Watching our cat, Rapunzel – Punzi, for short – poised atop an unopened present, salivating at its ribbon adornment, I laugh one of those deep, Santa, “Ho Ho Ho” laughs that travels from my toes all the way up to my mouth. I grab for my cellphone



Lynne Farrell Abrams  
Other Voices

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Seniors upset by rules for adopting animal

I am writing about age discrimination in seniors for adopting dogs. We just lost our dog and now I find that no one wants to let you have a dog. They put an age limit on getting a dog.

I am not senile, and I love dogs and have had one my whole life. We were heart broken when we lost our Shih Tzu. But we can’t have one unless it is really old or have medical problems. I just want one about 7 or 8 (years old). I don’t expect to drop dead at any moment.

Some rescues want \$500 or more, but still we can’t get a dog. This is pure discrimination of seniors, and if the dog outlived us, my family would gladly take care of it.

This makes me sick to my stomach. I am so depressed over this. All we want is to adopt Shih Tzu.

Barbara Young  
Inverness

Republicans should vote for their own interests

The article “Demolishing Democratic delusions” by Byron York in the Dec. 26 Chronicle is in itself a delusion. Quoting from a right-leaning spokesperson, the delusion is that Democrats are shocked by Senator Manchin’s failure to support the Build Back Better bill and by Republicans’ failure to support the bill. This is not what is causing shock.

Manchin’s delivery of his decision on Fox News clearly shouts that he prefers to support his donors rather than his constituents. York also cavalierly threw

OPINIONS INVITED

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

■ 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.

out the letters FDR and LBJ as though the establishment of Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid are minor events in history. These are among the most popular advancements for the middle class and disadvantaged in the history of our country.

Under the previous Republican administration, the wealthy and businesses received a tax credit that will keep our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren paying the damages due to the \$2.3 trillion debt this tax credit created.

The shock that continues to be astounding is how Republican middle-class voters continue to vote against their own interests. The Build Back Better bill will do more for Manchin’s constituents and the entire drowning middle class and disadvantaged than anything proposed to date. The shock is that Republican voters do not question their representatives as to why they refuse to pass legislation that will raise the economic status of their constituents, whom they have taken an oath to serve.

Caller pays property tax, gets his pass

This is another Sound Off about the \$10 boat ramp fee and their \$25 annual pass. Well, I pay my property taxes. How about that? I got my pass.

Put some positive news on front page

A Merry Christmas to all over there. I have a suggestion, though. It’s Christmas Eve and all year long, the first thing people do is read that front page. I think every day of the year, it should have a positive thing on the front page. For example, on Christmas Eve today, the letter to Virginia to Santa Claus would have been perfect (Page A10’s editorial). Or the Salvation Army picture (Page C1) in color on the front page or just “Merry Christmas Eve” on the front page on Christmas Eve. I really am not interested in that drainage problem or whatever. There’s always a little room on the front page for something positive. Just a suggestion – and Happy New Year!

Train station a bad investment

(Re Friday, Dec. 24’s Page A3 story, “Inverness leases former train station”): A bad investment, like so many others – Inverness garden, visitor center, Valerie Theatre. The city

► “And now we welcome the new year. Full of things that have never been.”  
– Rainier Maria Rilke

to capture the moment, only to have Punzi turn away, feigning she has suddenly become camera shy. Funny turned into annoyance, turned into “She’s a cat. Get used to it.” Plus, she has provided countless other Kodak moments since we first rescued her from a shelter last April.

These are the memories I will resurrect over the seemingly bleak winter months ahead. The snapshots of candid expressions worn by the people I love the most, caught off guard, being themselves. The sounds of laughter shared by good friends over silly situations only they can appreciate. The unexpected kindness of the grocery store clerk as he helps me unload my cumbersome bags into my car. A phone call from a friend, simply inquiring how I am doing. A neighbor dropping off a bag of cat treats for Rapunzel he had forgotten to include with their already too generous bag of gifts.

These are but a few of my personal reassurances that the Christmas spirit will be lingering, even if sleigh bells aren’t ringing and Bing isn’t singing timeworn holiday classics over the next eleven months.

Here in Citrus County, we will be maintaining the Christmas spirit throughout all of 2022.

Lynne Farrell Abrams has a bachelor’s degree in communications. She has been a writer and editor, an adult education writing instructor, and a substance abuse counselor. A resident of Citrus County for over ten years, Lynne is now happily retired. She extends wishes to everyone for a safe and happy 2022!

Some of the benefits of passage include childcare assistance, a tax cut to 35 million families, and high-quality home care for seniors and the disabled. It includes efforts to address climate change with clean energy, improve affordable health care coverage, and provide for more affordable housing. The cost will not continue to be shifted to the middle class and disadvantaged, but rather upward to profit-making corporations, billionaires, and millionaires, who have failed to pay their fair share of taxes due to the 2017 tax cuts.

So in response to York, no one is shocked at the failure of the Republican Senate minority and Manchin to support the bill that will assist the middle class and disadvantaged. They have proven that they prefer to pass legislation that supports their wealthy donors. The shock is that middle-class Republican voters continue to support them as they refuse to pass legislation that will elevate the middle class and disadvantaged and provide a more level playing field.

Nancy Tomaselli  
Hernando

Use Gasbuddy to find price deals on gas

Ref Local Gas Pricing – Citrus County

Get a clue on how to shop gas pricing before you leave home. Google “Gasbuddy.com” and do search by your zip code. I use a lot of gas so I keep tabs on the best local pricing. They use our local input on prices to keep each other informed.

Jack Matthew  
Citrus Springs

has put a \$1 million in the train station and is going to put another quarter of a million dollars in improvements and then over the next five years, collect only \$180,000 in rent. Doesn’t that sound like a dumb investment?

Sheriff, agency need to enforce laws

I see our Sheriff Prendergast really informs his men about enforcing the law. After a person moves to the state of Florida, I thought they had 30 days to change their plates and (enroll) their kids in school. Well, somebody down my street from New York has been here over three years and they still have the same plates on their car. I like how we enforce that rule. Thank you, Prendergast.



# NATION & WORLD

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE



David Zalubowski / AP

Debris surround the remains of homes burned by wildfires after they ripped through a development, Friday, in Superior, Colo. Tens of thousands of Coloradans were driven from their neighborhoods by wind-whipped wildfires.

## Wildfire burns hundreds of homes in Colorado, thousands flee

By **BRITTANY PETERSON, PATTY NIEBERG and COLLEEN SLEVIN**  
Associated Press/  
Report for America

SUPERIOR, Colo. — Tens of thousands of Coloradans driven from their neighborhoods by a wind-whipped wildfire anxiously waited to learn what was left standing of their lives Friday as authorities reported more than 500 homes were feared destroyed.

At least seven people were injured, but there were no immediate reports of any deaths or anyone missing in the aftermath of the blaze that erupted outside Denver on Thursday and swept over drought-stricken neighborhoods with terrifying speed, propelled by gusts up to 105 mph.

“We might have our very own New Year’s miracle on our hands if it holds up that there was no loss of life,” Gov. Jared Polis said, noting that many people had just minutes to evacuate.

By first light Friday, the towering flames that had lit up the night sky were gone, leaving smoldering homes and charred trees and fields. The winds had died down, and light snow soon began falling, raising hopes it could snuff out hot spots.

The fire erupted in and around Louisville and Superior, neighboring towns about 20 miles northwest of Denver with a combined population of 34,000. Residents were ordered to flee as the flames closed in, casting a smoky, orange haze over the landscape.

The wildfire broke out unusually late in the year, following an extremely dry fall and amid a winter nearly devoid of snow so far.

Cathy Glaab found the Superior home she shares with her husband, Richard, had been reduced to a charred and twisted pile of debris, the mailbox still standing. It was one of seven houses in a row that burned to the ground.

“Just hard. So many memories,” Glaab said, holding her head as she took in the scene. Despite the devastation, she said, they intend to rebuild the house, which

had a view of the mountains from the back.

Boulder County Sheriff Joe Pelle said more than 500 homes were probably destroyed. He and the governor said as many as 1,000 homes might have been lost, though that won’t be known until crews can assess the damage.

“It’s unbelievable when you look at the devastation that we don’t have a list of 100 missing persons,” the sheriff said.

The sheriff said some communities were reduced to just “smoking holes in the ground.” He urged residents to wait for the all-clear to go back, warning that it was still too dangerous in many neighborhoods because of fire and fallen power lines.

Sarah Owens, her husband, adult son and their dog got out of their Superior home within 10 minutes of learning about the evacuation from a Facebook post. But as everyone tried leaving by way of the winding streets of the affluent Rock Creek neighborhood, it took them 1.5 hours to go 2 miles

Once they safely found their way to a pet-friendly hotel, their cellphones and computers could not provide them with the only thing they wanted to know: Was their house still standing?

“The good news is I think our house may be OK,” Owens said.

But from now on, she said, she plans to have a bag packed in case of another fire.

“I never thought a brush fire could cause this kind of destruction,” Owens said. “I want to stay here. No matter where you live, there are always going to be natural disasters.”

Mike Guanella and his family were relaxing at their home in Superior and looking forward to celebrating a belated Christmas when reports of a nearby grass fire quickly gave way to an order to leave immediately.

Instead of opening presents, Guanella and his wife, their three children and three dogs were staying a friend’s house in Denver, hoping their house was still standing.



David Zalubowski / AP

Homes burn as a wildfire rips through a development near Rock Creek Village, Thursday, near Broomfield, Colo. An estimated 580 homes, a hotel and a shopping center have burned and tens of thousands of people were evacuated in wind-fueled wildfires outside Denver, officials said Thursday evening.

## Biden talks sanctions, Putin warns of rupture over Ukraine

By **AAMER MADHANI and VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV**  
Associated Press

WILMINGTON, Del. — President Joe Biden has warned Russia’s Vladimir Putin that the U.S. could impose new sanctions against Russia if it takes further military action against Ukraine, while Putin responded that such a U.S. move could lead to a complete rupture of ties between the nations.

The two leaders spoke frankly for nearly an hour Thursday amid growing alarm over Russia’s troop buildup near Ukraine, a crisis that has deepened as the Kremlin has stiffened its insistence on border security guarantees and test-fired hypersonic missiles to underscore its demands.

Further U.S. sanctions “would be a colossal mistake that would entail grave consequences,” said Putin’s foreign affairs adviser Yuri Ushakov, who briefed reporters in Moscow after the Biden-Putin phone conversation. He added that Putin told Biden that Russia would act as the U.S. would if offensive weapons were deployed near American borders.

White House officials offered a far more muted post-call readout, suggest-



Adam Schultz

In this image provided by The White House, President Joe Biden speaks with Russian President Vladimir Putin on the phone from his private residence in Wilmington, Del., Thursday.

ing the leaders agreed there are areas where the two sides can make meaningful progress but also differences that might be impossible to resolve.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Biden “urged Russia to de-escalate tensions with Ukraine” and “made clear that the United States and its allies and partners will respond decisively if Russia further invades Ukraine.”

Putin requested the call, the second between the leaders this month, ahead of scheduled talks between senior U.S. and Russian officials Jan. 9 and 10 in Geneva. The Geneva talks will be followed by a

meeting of the Russia-NATO Council on Jan. 12 and negotiations at the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe in Vienna on Jan. 13.

White House officials said Thursday’s call lasted 50 minutes, ending after midnight in Moscow.

Biden told Putin the two powers now face “two paths”: diplomacy or American deterrence through sanctions, according to a senior administration official. Biden said the route taken, according to the official who briefed reporters on the condition of anonymity, will “depend on Russia’s actions in the period ahead.”

Russia has made clear it wants a written commitment that Ukraine will never be allowed to join NATO and that the alliance’s military equipment will not be positioned in former Soviet states, demands that the Biden administration has rejected.

Biden told Putin a diplomatic path remains open even as the Russians have moved an estimated 100,000 troops toward Ukraine and Kremlin officials have turned up the volume on their demands for new guarantees from the U.S. and NATO.

White House officials said Biden made clear that the U.S. stands ready to exact substantial economic pain through sanctions should Putin decide to take military action in Ukraine.

Putin reacted strongly.

He “noted that it would be a mistake that our ancestors would see as a grave error. A lot of mistakes have been made over the past 30 years, and we would better avoid more such mistakes in this situation,” Ushakov said.

Russia’s demands are to be discussed during the talks in Geneva, but it remains unclear what, if anything, Biden would be willing to offer Putin in exchange for defusing the crisis.

## Germany shuts down half of its six remaining nuclear plants

By **FRANK JORDANS**  
Associated Press

BERLIN — Germany on Friday is shutting down half of the six nuclear plants it still has in operation, a year before the country draws the final curtain on its decades-long use of atomic power.

The decision to phase out nuclear power and shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy was first taken by the center-left government of Gerhard Schroeder in 2002.

His successor, Angela Merkel, reversed her decision to extend the lifetime of Germany’s nuclear plants in the wake of the 2011 Fukushima disaster in Japan and set 2022 as the final deadline for shutting them down.

The three reactors now being shuttered were first powered up in the mid-1980s. Together they provided electricity to millions of German households for almost four decades.

One of the plants – Brok-

dorf, located about 25 miles northwest of Hamburg on the Elbe River – became a particular focus of anti-nuclear protests that were fueled by the 1986 Chernobyl catastrophe in the Soviet Union.

Some in Germany have called for the decision on ending the use of nuclear power to be reconsidered because the power plants already in operation produce relatively little carbon dioxide. Advocates of atomic energy argue that it can help Germany meet its climate targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

But the German government said this week that decommissioning all nuclear plants next year and then phasing out the use of coal by 2030 won’t affect the country’s energy security or its goal of making Europe’s biggest economy “climate neutral” by 2045. “By massively increasing renewable energy and accelerating the expansion of the electricity grid we can show that this is possible in Germany,” Economy



Christof Stache / AP

The nuclear power station is seen in Gundremmingen, southern Germany, May 23, 2006. Germany on Friday is shutting down half of the six nuclear plants it still has in operation, a year before the country draws the final curtain on its decades-long use of atomic power.

and Climate Minister Robert Habeck said.

Environment Minister Steffi Lemke has dismissed suggestions that a new generation of nuclear power plants might prompt Germany to change course yet again.

“Nuclear power plants remain high-risk facilities that produce highly ra-

dioactive atomic waste,” she told the Funke media group this week.

A final decision has yet to be taken about where to store tens of thousands of tons of nuclear waste produced in German power plants. Experts say some material will remain dangerously radioactive for 35,000 generations.

## New laws take effect across U.S.

By **WILSON RING**  
Associated Press

Minimum wage increases, animal protections, police accountability, cutting and increasing taxes are all part of a series of new laws taking effect across the country on Saturday, the first day of 2022.

Some of the laws such as abortion restrictions in New Hampshire or police reform measures passed in Illinois, Oregon and North Carolina address some of the most contentious issues of our time.

Others, such as a Maine law passed in the aftermath of a September 2019 explosion that killed a firefighter and injured a number of others, are more narrowly focused and were passed to remedy specific situations.

The Connecticut Parentage Act allows unmarried, same-sex or nonbiological

parents to establish parenting rights through a simple form that gives parents legal capabilities immediately after a child is born.

In Kansas, people will be allowed to buy specialized license plates featuring the “Don’t Tread on Me” and coiled snake symbol featured on what’s known as the Gadsden flag. Critics suggested that the Gadsden flag has become a racist symbol that has been adopted by some far-right groups.

Here is a rundown of some of the new laws taking effect Saturday across the country:

### Abortion

In New Hampshire, abortion will be prohibited after 24 weeks of gestation, with exceptions for the mother’s life or physical health.

Democrats have already drafted legislation seeking

to repeal the new restrictions. Some also want to include the right to make reproductive medical decisions a constitutional right.

The new law in New Hampshire comes as the U.S. Supreme Court is considering a case that could severely erode abortion rights that have stood for half a century. Republican lawmakers across the country are ready to further restrict or ban abortions outright while Democratic-led ones are seeking to ensure access to abortion in their state law.

### Drug law changes

Recreational marijuana will become legal in Montana. State voters approved the change in a November 2020 initiative.

Under the new law, only businesses that had been providing medical marijuana prior to Nov. 3, 2020,

are eligible to grow, manufacture and sell adult-use marijuana, concentrates and edibles through June 30, 2023.

A new Mississippi law eliminates the requirement for a prescription to buy decongestants that contain ephedrine or pseudoephedrine. Under the new law, the medicine will be available behind the counter of pharmacies, and pharmacists will be required to keep track of how much is sold to one person.


Like many other states, Mississippi mandated a prescription years ago because drug enforcement agents said medications with ephedrine or pseudoephedrine were being used as an ingredient in crystal methamphetamine. Some consumers complained that nonprescription decongestants were not strong enough.



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9:45 A.M.  
Morning Worship Hour  
11:00 A.M.

**TUESDAY:**  
Home League  
11:30 A.M.

**Major Hank Harwell**  
**Major Eunice Harwell**

**712 S. School Ave.  
Lecanto  
513-4960**

**Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church**

4705 West Gulf to Lake Hwy.  
Lecanto, Florida 34461

Phone: 352-527-0766  
[www.stmichaelgoc.org](http://www.stmichaelgoc.org)

Sunday Services  
Orthros 9:00 am  
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

**St Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church**

**Sunday Masses:**  
8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

**Saturday Vigil Mass:**  
4:00 p.m.

**Weekday Mass:**  
8:30 a.m.  
Mon., Wed. and Friday

**Saturday Confession:**  
By Appointment Only

1401 W. Country Club Blvd.  
Citrus Springs, FL 34434  
(352) 489-4889  
[www.stelizabethcs.org](http://www.stelizabethcs.org)

**HERNANDO United Methodist Church**

In-Person and Online Services 10:00 am

Website:  
[www.hernandoumcfl.org](http://www.hernandoumcfl.org)

2125 E. Norvell Bryant Hwy. (486)  
(1 1/2 miles from Hwy. 41)

**For information call**  
**(352) 726-7245**  
**Reverend Eric McCrea**

**NCUU Nature Coast Unitarian Universalists**

Join us for the holidays in our newly reopened Sanctuary at 10:30 a.m.

Those who are fully vaccinated are welcome to join us.  
Those who aren't, are welcome to join us on Zoom.  
To join us on Zoom, email: [contactncuu@gmail.com](mailto:contactncuu@gmail.com)

We are a welcoming, liberal, religious community of diverse beliefs.

[www.ncuu.org](http://www.ncuu.org); (352) 465-4225  
7633 N. Florida Ave., Citrus Springs

**First Baptist Church Of Hernando**  
*Reaching and restoring lives through Jesus Christ*

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Service 10:45 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Service 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Prayer Meeting/Bible Study 6:00 p.m.

Rev. Keith Dendy

3790 E. Parson's Point Rd.  
Hernando, FL 34442  
352-726-6734  
Visit us on the Web at [www.fbc hernando.com](http://www.fbc hernando.com)

**CONNECTION CHURCH OF GOD**

**Sunday Services:**  
Worship Services.....10:15 AM  
Bible Study.....9:00 AM

**Wednesday Night:**  
Classes For All Ages at 7:00 PM

Located at 416 Hwy. 41 South in Inverness Just Past Burger King  
Church Office 726-4524

**Joy & Praise Fellowship**  
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

**A Light to Citrus County**

Sunday's 8:30 & 10:30am\*  
Children's Church at 10:30am  
Wednesday's 7:00pm\*

\*These services also livestreamed on YouTube & Facebook  
Nursery available  
If you need prayer, call the church office

**6670 N. Lecanto Hwy,  
Beverly Hills  
Pastor Eddie Padgett  
352-527-8612**

**Church of Christ**

8599 E. Marvin St., Floral City, FL  
**726-2965**

A warm welcome always awaits you where we teach the true New Testament Bible.

**Sunday Bible Study • 9:30 a.m.**  
**Sunday Worship • 10:30 a.m.**

**Steven Walling - Minister**

**We Choose Hope Hope Lutheran Church Citrus Springs**

**Sunday Service**  
**10:00 a.m.**

*Weekly Recorded Services on Hope's Facebook page*

9425 N. Citrus Springs Blvd.  
**352-489-5511**  
Stephen Brisson, Pastor  
[hopeelca.com](mailto:hopeelca.com)

**We Choose Hope Hope Lutheran Church Citrus Springs**

**Sunday Service**  
**10:00 a.m.**

*Weekly Recorded Services on Hope's Facebook page*

9425 N. Citrus Springs Blvd.  
**352-489-5511**  
Stephen Brisson, Pastor  
[hopeelca.com](mailto:hopeelca.com)

**Redemption Christian Church**

**SUNDAY**  
Bible School.....9:00  
Worship.....10:00

**WEDNESDAY**  
Bible School.....6:30

*Currently meeting at East Citrus Community Center 9907 East Gulf-to-Lake Highway*

For more information call  
352-422-6535

**Pastor Todd Langdon**

**Crystal River Church of God**

Church Phone  
**795-3079**

**Sunday Morning**  
Adult & Children's Worship  
8:30 & 11:00 AM  
Sunday School 9:45 AM

**Wednesday**  
Life Application Service  
Salt Lyfe Youth Ministries & Teen Kid (ages 4-11) 7:00 PM

2180 N.W. Old Tallahassee Rd. (12th Ave.)  
Nursery Provided

**Homosassa Seventh-day Adventist Church**



**Come, Fellowship & Grow With Us In Jesus**  
5863 W. Cardinal St.  
Homosassa Springs, FL 34446  
Telephone: (352) 628-7950

**WORSHIP SERVICE**  
Saturday at 2 pm  
**PRAYER MEETING**  
Wednesday at 7:00 pm

Pastor William Earnhardt  
[www.homosassaadventistchurch.com](http://www.homosassaadventistchurch.com)

**FCCI**

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF INVERNESS**

*We welcome you and invite you to worship with our family.*

**Tom Thomas Minister**

**Sunday:**  
9:00 A.M. Sunday School  
10:15 A.M. Worship Service

**Wednesday:**  
6:00 P.M. Bible Study

2018 Colonade St., Inverness  
344-1908  
[www.fccinv.com](http://www.fccinv.com)

**CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH**  
Non Denominational

**Sunday**  
Contemporary Service  
10:00 am

**Wednesday**  
Bible Study  
6:30 pm

Adult / Youth / Children  
Nursery provided for all services.

7961 W. Green Acres St. US 19  
Homosassa, FL

[www.christian-center.church](http://www.christian-center.church)  
352-628-5076

**Real Hope In Christ**

God Loves You No Matter What!

Join Us Every Sunday  
Worship 10am  
Breakfast 9am  
Come As You Are  
Everyone Is Welcome

- Christ Centered
- Contemporary Worship
- Bible Based
- Non Denominational
- We Celebrate Communion
- All Ages Are Welcome
- Wednesday Bible Study

**RHC**

2041 N Donovan Ave  
Crystal River, FL  
Corner of Norvell Bryant & Donovan

[RealHopeInChrist.com](http://RealHopeInChrist.com)  
352-897-0352

**JOIN US THIS SUNDAY!**

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)**

**First Presbyterian Church of Inverness**

**Sunday Worship**  
10:00 a.m.

206 Washington Avenue  
Inverness, FL 34450

*All are Welcome*

**Pastor Lou Ellen Hartley**

352-637-0770  
[www.fpcinverness.org](http://www.fpcinverness.org)

**Faith Lutheran Church (L.C.M.S.)**

935 S. Crystal Glen Dr., Lecanto  
Crystal Glen Subdivision  
Hwy. 44 just E. of 490  
352-527-3325

**COME WORSHIP WITH US**

**Saturday Service**  
6:00 P.M.

**Sunday Service**  
9:30 A.M.

LIVE STREAMING  
Sunday Services available at:  
[faithlecanato.com](http://faithlecanato.com)

Calendar of Events,  
Audio of Sermons at:  
[faithlecanato.com](http://faithlecanato.com)

*A Heart From God...  
A Heart For Others.*

**Crossroad Baptist Church**

5335 E. Jasmine Lane,  
Inverness  
1 1/2 Miles North Of K-mart  
Off 41 North

**You're Invited To Our Services**

**Sunday**  
10:45 AM & 6:00 PM

**Wednesday**  
6:00 PM

*Independent Fundamental*

**Pastor Terry Roberts**  
Ph: 726-0201

**WELCOME HOME**

**CRYSTAL RIVER FOURSQUARE CHURCH**

**WORSHIP SERVICES**

**Sundays**  
10:30 . .

**Wednesdays**  
6:30 . .

**Pastor John and Liz Hager**

1160 N. Dunkenfield Ave.  
**Crystal River**  
**795-6720**

**RedemptionPoint Assembly of God**

4201 So. Pleasant Grove Rd.  
(Hwy. 581 So.) Inverness, FL 34452

**Steve and Jessica Miller**

**"Reach, Restore, Redeem"**

**Small Groups**  
9:30 a.m.

**Sunday Worship**  
10:30 a.m.

**Wednesday Worship and Youth Group**  
7:00 p.m.

Nursery Available  
[www.RedemptionPointAG.church](http://www.RedemptionPointAG.church)

**OFFICE: (352) 726-1107**



# RELIGION

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE



Special to the Chronicle

From left are: Ginger West, Hernando Family Resources Center director; Mike Belkin, Knights of Columbus Council 6168 Grand Knight; and Denise Uva, Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary president.

## Knights deliver toys to Family Resource Center

### SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Members and friends of Knights of Columbus Council 6168 pitched in to help Santa's elves before Christmas by delivering an estimated 200 toys to the Family Resource Center in Hernando.

Volunteers at the Family Resource Center wrap these and other toys for children who might otherwise go without a gift from Santa Claus at Christmas.

Large bags full of toys were the result of an annual campaign led by Council 6168 treasurer Jim Louque. Toys and money to

buy more were donated by Knights, the Ladies Auxiliary, bingo players and other friends of the council.

Ginger West, director of the Family Resources Center, was confident there would be a Santa for every child on her list. With COVID-19 restrictions relaxed, she anticipated a list of at least 2,000 names and was hoping it would not grow too far beyond that number.

The center responds to requests for gifts for children in need from schools, teachers, the Florida Department of Children and Families and other case-workers.

## Harveys honored by Knights Council 14485

### SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Jim and Jan Harvey were named Family of the Month for November 2021 by St. Scholastica Knights of Columbus Council 14485. They have lived in Citrus County since 1998.

Jim has been a Knight for six years at St. Scholastica Council 14485. He has held the positions of community director, program director, Deputy Grand Knight, Grand Knight and is currently serving as a trustee and past Grand Knight.

Last summer, Jim and Jan were recognized as Family of the Year for 2020-21. Jim received the Knight of the Year award from the council for the 2017-18 year.

Jim has advanced to the Patriotic 4th Degree of the Knights of Columbus and is a member of Father James Hoge Assembly 1547 in Le-canto. Jan is an active member of the Council of Catholic Women and helps the Knights with their projects at every opportunity.

Jim is very active in the community. He currently serves on the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce board of directors and has done so for more than 20 years. Jim has served two different terms as chairman of the board, in 2003 and 2016.

He also served on the board of directors for the Pregnancy and Family Life

Center and the architectural control board of the Clear-view Estates Homeowners Association.

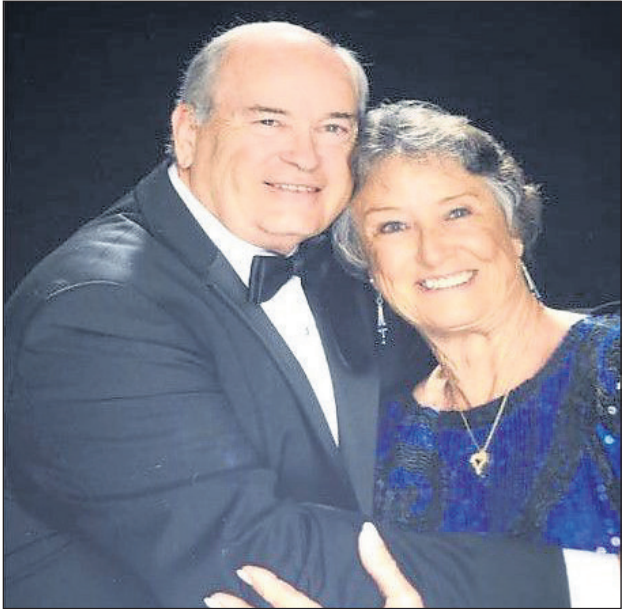
Jim is a past president of the Citrus County Economic Development Council and served on the Seven Rivers Regional Medical Center board of governors for seven years.

Since moving from Western New York to South Florida in 1978, he worked in college administrative positions for 34 years, serving 20 years at Miami Dade College and 14 years at the College of Central Florida (CF).

His positions included collegiate athletic director, associate dean, dean of faculty and staff, campus president, provost, senior vice president for administration and finance and as president. Jim retired in 2012 as president of CF.

Jan served as a teacher and faculty member at the university, college and high school levels for 25 years in Oklahoma, Tennessee and Florida. She taught a wide range of science courses, including marine biology, oceanography, physiology and anatomy.

Jan also coached and served as a faculty sponsor for many student organizations. She retired as an adjunct professor at CF, teaching in the health and wellness program at the Citrus campus.



Special to the Chronicle

Jim and Jan Harvey.

Jim holds a bachelor's, master's and earned a doctorate degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo in higher education administration. Jan has a bachelor's in education from Central State University and a master's in science from Oklahoma State University.

Jim has been inducted into five national and state hall of fames, including the National Athletic Directors Hall of Fame. He has been honored with the Florida College System Administrative Award for Professional Excellence.

Jim has received two national service awards and

three distinguished service awards. He was honored with the O.J. Humphries Community Service Award by the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce in 2004 and the EDC/CoFC Person of the Year in 2001.

Jim and Jan just recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary in March, 2021. They enjoy helping others and volunteer regularly at the Pregnancy and Family Life Center in Inverness.

The board of directors of the Pregnancy and Family Life Center recently dedicated their new satellite center in Beverly Hills in their names.

## RELIGION NOTES

### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will have their 2021-22 Winter Music Series at the church, 439 E. Norvell Bryant Highway in Hernando on the following dates:

- Larry Stephenson Bluegrass Band at 6 p.m. Feb. 18.
- Johnny Carlsson & The MegaBones at 3 p.m. Feb. 27.

Five professional trombone players will perform original compositions that characterize jazz from the 50s and 60s.

Grammy nominee and IBMA "Best Song of the Year" award winner, Special Consensus bluegrass band, at 7 p.m. April 29.

Tickets for each concert are \$15 at the door. They will be masking and distancing based on current CDC requirements. Call, text or email for confirmation. For more information, contact Angela Busler at 860-906-8723 or AMBusler@gmail.com.

#### Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church

The Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church Women's

Club annual Military Card Party will take place Jan. 19 at the church parish hall, 550 U.S. 41 in Inverness. Doors open at 11 a.m., lunch is at noon and games begin at 1 p.m.

The entrance fee is \$15 and includes games, lunch buffet, dessert and door prizes. Funds raised will benefit the many charities the women's club supports.

For more information or to make a reservation, call Jeanne Messersmith at 763-560-7324.

#### Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church will hold an outdoor flea market from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jan. 8 on the church property, 6 Roosevelt Blvd. in Beverly Hills. The church holds flea markets monthly from September through May, usually on the first Saturday of the month.

Shoppers are welcome. Commercial vendors and private individuals are welcome to bring and sell goods. Spaces are available for \$10 and should be reserved in advance although there is always room for one more.

For more information or to reserve a space, call Rose Mary at 352-527-6459 or email wjeselso@tampabay.rr.com.

#### Homosassa First Methodist Church

The Homosassa First Methodist Church arts council presents their 2021-22 concert series at the church fellowship hall, 8831 W. Bradshaw St. Remaining shows are:

- Sideline Sunday at 3 p.m. Jan. 16
- Brass Roots Trio at 3 p.m. Feb. 6
- Paul Todd at 3 p.m. March 5

For single tickets, general admission is \$15 and reserved seating is \$20.

Those who are vaccinated need not wear masks. Masks are recommended for those who are not.

For tickets or more information, call the church at 352-628-4083, Ron Hesketh at 352-382-4518 or Karen Kline at 352-382-7263.

#### Homosassa Seventh-day Adventist Church

Calvin Taylor, pianist and recording artist, will appear in a live concert of sacred music at 5 p.m. Jan. 8 at the Homosassa Seventh Day Adventist church, 5863 W. Cardinal St. in Homosassa. Taylor has toured the

world and holds degrees in music from Oberlin Conservatory, the University of Michigan and the University of Kentucky. He has also authored several music books and has more than 10 solo recordings to his credit.

See RELIGION, page A12

# Happy New Year to all!

**Good Signs FAST**

Welcome 2022!

**786 N Suncoast Blvd.  
Crystal River, FL 34429  
352-503-0042**

### INVERNESS First United Methodist Church

Rev. Mike Kramer  
Inverness First UMC  
Service 9am - Modern  
10:30am - Traditional  
(also on youtube)

Shortly afterwards the service is posted on the Church's Facebook page: Inverness First United Methodist Church

You can also go to the youtube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCht11DPk11/EgwPa5KNcyRg>

**1140 Turner Camp Rd. Inverness, FL 34453 (352) 726-2522**  
[www.invernessfirstumc.org](http://www.invernessfirstumc.org)

"Rightly dividing the word of truth" II Timothy 2:15

### Grace Bible Fellowship Church

4979 East Arbor St., Inverness, FL 352-726-9972  
Pastor Ken Lawson

Recommended by Les Feldick

**Sunday**  
Bible Study.....9:15 AM  
Worship Service. 10:15 AM

**Wednesday**  
Bible Study.....7:00 PM

Watch Pastor Ken Live!  
What does the Bible say?  
WYKE TV Channel 16  
[www.livestream.com/wyke](http://www.livestream.com/wyke)  
Saturdays....6:30 PM  
Sundays.....6:00 PM  
[www.gracebfcinverness.com](http://www.gracebfcinverness.com)  
Hearing impaired & nursery

### Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

ELCA

### Come Worship With Us!

**Worship 8:30 am & 11:00 am**  
In-person, Facebook Live & You Tube  
[gshernando.org](https://www.facebook.com/gshernando.org)

**Weekly Communion**  
**Dennis W. Koch, Pastor**  
439 E. Norvell Bryant Hwy. Hernando, Florida  
Building is Barrier-Free  
**352-746-7161**

### Trinity Independent Baptist Church

2840 E. Hayes Street, Inverness  
Corner of Croft and Hayes  
(352) 726-0100

"We don't just say something... we have something to say."

**WE STILL... use the old King James Bible**

**WE STILL... Preach the unsearchable Riches of Christ**

**WE STILL... Have old-fashioned worship services**

**Sunday School 10 am**  
(Children, Teens, Adults)

**Jr. Church 11 Am**  
(Ages 4 To 12 Years)

**Morning Service 11 am**

**Evening Service 6 pm**

**Wednesday Bible Study 7 pm**

Please join us for any or all services.  
**We welcome you!**



# Listen for pig wings

*Editor's note: This Grace Notes column is from March 2013.*

Some time last year a woman emailed me asking for advice and for my prayers.

**Nancy Kennedy**  
Grace Notes



She wrote that her husband used to love God, but when a tragedy happened he thought God had turned his back on him.

He refused to believe that God still loved him, that God was and is still good. He stopped going to church, and the woman was afraid that her husband would never regain his faith.

She was also afraid for her marriage, which had become extremely difficult. She wanted to believe, and did believe, that God is still good and kind and that his will was that their souls would prosper, that God would continue to care for and about them, that just because her husband's business had failed it didn't mean God wouldn't continue to provide.

She wanted to believe, and did believe, that God's will is for his kingdom to grow and expand, but she was afraid that when it came to her family, that expansion

would stop with her, now that her husband said he no longer believed.

The woman wondered about vision, about the possibility of the impossible ever happening, whether doubters and skeptics could ever become dreamers and believers and those, like her husband who now feels unloved and unvalued, disappointed and discouraged, could ever return from the spiritual far country where they've gone.

I felt the sadness in her words, and I struggled to find words of hope that I could give her.

Without hope, without vision or the possibility of the impossible, we die.

I replied and told her about my theory of flying pigs, that God does what we think is impossible, without also picking him up and restoring him, and just maybe she'll see a winged pig readying for take off.

Offering hope is tricky, because it's cruel to tell people things that won't ever come true. But it's different when it comes to telling people what God can do – not that he will, but

that he can and just might. I believe this because I believe in the Resurrection. Jesus said he would die, and he did. But he also said he would not stay dead. That's why he was buried in a borrowed tomb – he only needed it for a few days.

Because of the Resurrection, I believe the impossible can and does happen, that God is "able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us" (Ephesians 3:20), that what I think can and will never happen can – if God wills it.

Communities grow and flourish, relationships heal, lives change, families reconcile, hearts of stone turn soft and pliable, those who run from God return.

It's been a while since I heard from the woman who emailed me. A month or so ago she wrote to say things are still not the way she would like them to be, but things are changing and God is moving. She said she is listening for the "flapping sound of pigs' wings."

I believe one day she will hear them.

*Nancy Kennedy is the author of "Move Over, Victoria – I Know the Real Secret," "Girl on a Swing," and her latest book, "Lipstick Grace." She can be reached at 352-564-2927 or via email at nkennedy@chronicleonline.com.*

## KNIGHT'S FAMILY OF THE MONTH

### The Dohns

**SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE**

Keith Dohn and his mother, Claire Dohn of Beverly Hills are the Knights of Columbus Council 6168 November Family of the Month.

Both work hard to support the Knights. Claire often minds the hall for the Knights when it is rented to other organizations and Keith can always be depended upon to make himself available to help when needed.

"Keith is a regular and sustaining force at bingo games and Claire gets him where to needs to go," Grand Knight Mike Belkin said. "Society after COVID has not returned to normal but these two are stronger than ever."

Claire and Keith attend Our Lady of Grace Church where she is a reader and he a hospitality minister.

Keith has been a Knight for just more than three years and already has advanced to fourth degree and membership in Father James Hoge Assembly 1547.

Claire, recipient of the rare "Volunteer of the Year," award from the Knights, is the head cashier on three bingo teams, two on Wednesday and one on Friday. Before the



Special to the Chronicle

Claire and Keith Dohn.

pandemic, she worked at Sunday night dances.

Claire also has been a Ladies Auxiliary "Lady of the Month" because of her commitment to that group.

Both were deeply involved in scouting when Keith was growing up. Claire said she progressed through many adult scouting positions while Keith worked his way toward Eagle Scout – an award he nearly but never attained because his paperwork was lost, Claire said. Claire moved to Citrus

County from the Brentwood, Long Island, area in 2002 and Keith moved more recently.

Keith joined the U.S. Navy after high school and has worked at a number of different jobs since getting out. He now lives in Inverness.

Claire is retired in Beverly Hills after working almost 30 years, 15 in shipping and receiving in a Spartan factory that made displays for J.C. Penney stores and the remainder at Target.

## KNIGHT OF THE MONTH

### Ray Perkins

**SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE**

Ray Perkins has been awarded Knight of the Month for November by St. Scholastica Knights of Columbus Council 14485 in Lecanto.

Perkins resides in the Meadowcrest community of Crystal River. With his late wife, Patricia, they have a son, Stephen; a daughter-in-law, Virginia; a daughter, Kathleen; and a grandson, Ryan.

In 2012, Perkins joined the Knights of Columbus Council 14485 at St. Scholastica Church. He has held the officer positions of outside guard and warden for the council. In the past, he has received certificate of merit awards from the council.

Perkins has been involved with several ministries at St. Scholastica Church. He has been an usher and catechist for faith formation classes and the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) classes.

Perkins served in the U.S. Army in the Finance Corp at Fort Chaffe, Arkansas, and Fort Sam in Houston, Texas.

After working 36 years in the home offices of two ma-



Special to the Chronicle

Ray Perkins.

for insurance companies, he retired in 1998 and moved from Holden, Massachusetts to Citrus County.

Perkins received a bachelor's in business administration from Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts. He also achieved the Life Office Management certification while working

in the insurance industry.

Perkins worked as a substitute teacher in the Citrus County Public School System after his retirement from the insurance industry.

He enjoys spending his time with family and friends and his favorite pastimes are traveling, dining, reading and exercising.

**SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE**

Jerry Doceti is the Knights of Columbus Council 6168 November Knight of the Month.

"Jerry is solid like a rock and a great source of stability during these tough times of recovery from COVID," Grand Knight Mike Belkin said. "He works hard and effectively behind the scenes. He is a model of what the Knights of Columbus stand for."

Jerry serves as an elected director of the AFS Corporation, which is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of council buildings and property.

He also has been the council's recruiter, managed Sunday night dances and helped paint Our Lady of Grace Church. He continues to see that council and parish newsletters get distributed and serves as a hospitality minister at Our Lady of Grace.

Jerry and his wife, Kathy Doceti, find themselves "thoroughly at home" in Cambridge Green in Citrus Hills. Jerry joined the Knights of Columbus more than 40 years ago in New York.

After a career as a New



Knights of Columbus Council 6168 Grand Knight Mike Belkin, left, presents the November Knight of the Month plaque to Jerry Doceti.

Special to the Chronicle

York City building code enforcement inspector, Jerry, Kathy and his father moved to Florida in 2007 from Long Island, New York.

More recently, Jerry's brother, Al, moved to Florida, joined this Knights of Columbus council and volunteered to become a member of the AFS Corporation.

Their father, Salvatore J. "Sal" Doceti, 97, died in November. He was also a member of Council 6168 and a Knight for more than 10 years.

Jerry speaks with tact that he probably learned as a building inspector, but he expresses himself freely. He likes the Sunshine State.

"My wife and I came to Florida to build a house. We soon realized that what we needed was not just brick and mortar," Jerry said. "We found a builder, we found the Knights of Columbus, we found Our Lady of Grace Church and we found great neighbors, but mostly, we found a home. And we thank God."

The Knights of Columbus are an international organization of practicing Catholic men, 18 and older, who stand for the principles of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism. Council 6168 is associated with Our Lady of Grace Church in Beverly Hills.

## RELIGION

From page A11

Movements from his Sunrise Symphony have been recorded by several orchestras including Nashville, Shreveport, South Arkansas, Salt Lake City and Detroit Symphony Orchestras.

With an unusually large hand span of more than 1.5 octaves, Taylor presents sounds and colors on the keyboard which would normally require four hands.

There is no charge for admission. A freewill offering will be received. For more information, call 352-628-7950 or email rghhmoneta@aol.com.

**Gulf to Lake Baptist Church**  
Gulf to Lake Baptist Church will host, "Your Heart's Desire Art & Craft Fair" at 9:30 a.m. Jan. 22, 1454 N. Gulf Ave. in Crystal River.

Art and craft goods will be available for sale. All items are handcrafted.

For more information about the church, visit gulfтолake.com.

## FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

**Rivers of Life Restoration Ministry**  
Rivers of Life Restoration Ministry Inc. operates the

Seven Loaves Food and Clothing Pantry at Helping Hands Thrifty Treasures, 9699 W. Fort Island Trail, Crystal River. The free-to-all Food Pantry is now open from noon to 3 p.m. every Tuesday. Call 863-666-4129 for more information.

### St. Timothy Church and LifeTree Church

Food pantry from 9:30 a.m. to noon every Tuesday at LifeTree Church, 1501 SE U.S. 19 in Crystal River during the pandemic, outside in front of the building. For more information, call 352-403-1498.

### First Lutheran Church of Inverness

Food pantry from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. For more information, call the church at 352-726-1637. The church is at 1900 W. State Road 44, Inverness.

### St. Margaret's Episcopal Church

The Food Pantry is open from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The pantry offers canned, dried and frozen foods to anyone in need in Citrus County. Call 352-726-3153.

### Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church

Helping Hands Our Lady of Fatima, 604 U.S. 41 S.

in Inverness offers an outreach program to help those in need, supported by their thrift store. Those who qualify are assisted with utilities every four months, prescriptions every three months, clothing every three months and food every two months.

To qualify for the outreach program, bring a current picture ID, proof of residence, Social Security cards for all household members, proof of income (pay stubs, tax forms, SSI statement, etc.), car payment and car insurance to an intake meeting.

The thrift store is accepting donations from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday of slightly used clothing, household items, furniture in good shape (no mattresses), food (not outdated) and personal hygiene items.

## LIVE & LEARN

### Cross Bound Ministry

Broadcasts with a focus on Bible teaching and strengthening the family on radio station 720AM every Sunday at 8 a.m.

### Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

The Family History Center at 3474 W. Southern St., Lecanto, is open from

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for the family-friendly, free ancestry resource/research center. For information, call Frances Austin at 352-746-5943.

## SUPPORT

### First Lutheran Church

Attend GriefShare classes at 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. beginning Jan. 20 at First Lutheran Church, 1900 State Road 44 (Gulf-to-Lake Highway) in Inverness. For more information, visit 1stlutheran.church/helpforyou.htm.

### Homosassa First United Methodist Church

The free Memory Lane Support Group & Respite Program meets from 1 to 3 p.m. every Monday at Homosassa First United Methodist Church, 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 1umc.org.

### St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

Bereavement Support Group Thursday meetings in the hall behind the church

in Homosassa. We take a positive approach to grief by helping griever learn how to make a new life. Thirty years of experience. The group meets 1-3 p.m. St. Thomas the Apostle is on U.S. 19, 300 yards southwest of Cardinal, just past Walmart, on the west side. For information, call 352-220-1959.

### The Hills Church

Celebrate Recovery meets every Monday from 6-8 p.m. at The Hills Church, 2 Civic Circle, Beverly Hills. It is a Christ-centered recovery group for hurts, hang-ups and habits. No child care; authorized to sign court slips. Call Tom or Sheila Boss for more information, at 410-353-7857 or 410-271-4112. Celebrate recovery.com.

### North Oak Church

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. Elkcarn 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.

A GriefShare support group will begin meeting at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 5 at North Oak Church, 9324 N. Elkcarn 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."

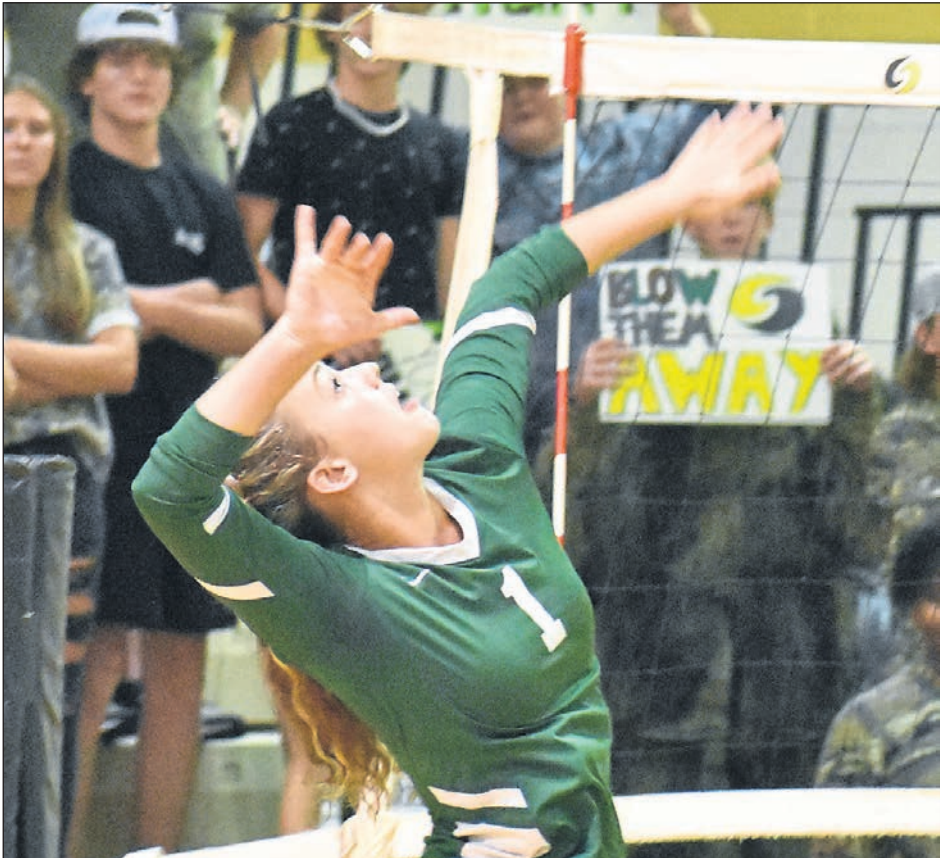
Join this GriefShare group any time after Jan. 5. For more information, call 352-489-1688.





**College Football Playoff**  
■ Due to New Year's Eve holiday deadlines, results of Friday's College Football Playoff semifinals were unavailable.

2021 ALL-CHRONICLE VOLLEYBALL TEAM



Mallori Grey, junior, Lecanto



Mackenzi Grey, junior, Lecanto

## Citrus County's best at covering the court

By **MATT PFIFFNER**  
Sports editor

**2021 All-Chronicle Volleyball Team**

Cassidy Bacon, junior, libero/defensive specialist/opposite hitter, Citrus  
Bailee Einspahr, junior, setter/outside hitter, Crystal River  
Mallori Grey, junior, outside hitter/defensive specialist/setter, Lecanto  
Mackenzi Grey, junior, setter/right side/outside hitter, Lecanto  
Jaelynn Richardson, senior, Middle blocker/right side/outside hitter, Lecanto  
Julia Shipes, junior, middle blocker/setter/outside hitter, Seven Rivers Christian  
Sophie Wood, freshman, libero/opposite hitter/setter, Citrus

**Volleyball player of the year finalists**

**Mackenzi Grey, Jr., Lecanto**

The Panther standout was all over the

court, finishing first on the team in aces with 87 and assists with a staggering 444. She was third on the club with 108 kills and 231 digs and also added 11 blocks.

**Mallori Grey, Jr., Lecanto**

Like her twin sister, Mallori Grey excels in all areas on the court. She led the Panthers with 240 kills and 293 digs and was second with 67 aces and 150 assists and third with 14 blocks.

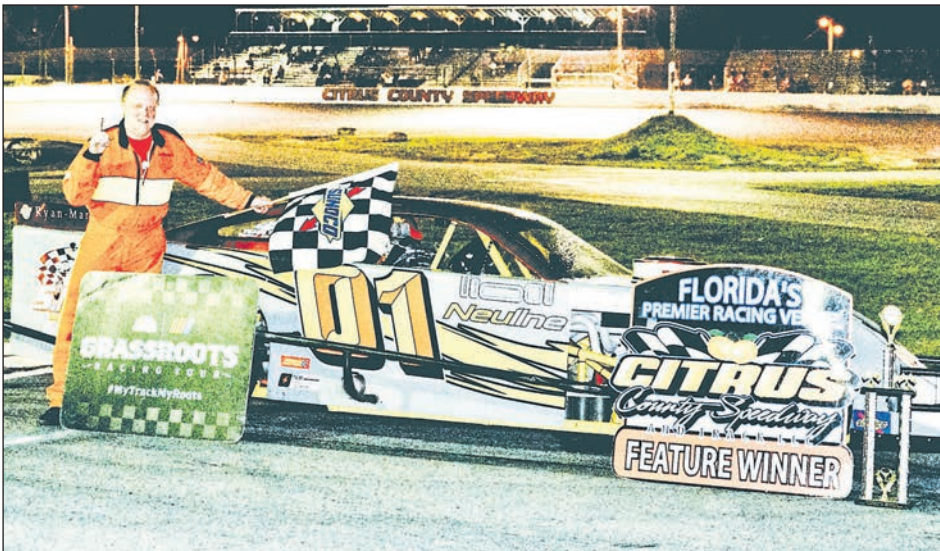
**Julia Shipes, Jr., Seven Rivers Christian**

A third great all-around finalist. Shipes led the Warriors in a trio of areas with 213 kills, 264 digs and 215 assists. She was also third on the team with 62 ace serves and 10 blocks.

*Note: The athlete of the year finalists and winners in each sport will be honored this spring at the annual Student Athletic Recognitions banquet.*



Julia Shipes, junior, Seven Rivers Christian



TYLER SONTAG / Speed Racer

Herb Neumann Jr. celebrates in victory lane this season after winning the Sunoco Race Fuels Open Wheel Modified 50 at Citrus County Speedway. It was his first time winning since Neumann suffered a medical incident April 5, 2019, while practicing for a race at the Inverness facility. The veteran driver posted two wins in 2021.

## A look back at CCS's 2021 stock car season

Racers in it to win it with over 540 participants

By **KIMBERLY KELLY**  
For the Chronicle

Looking back on Citrus County Speedway's 2021 race season it is clear that race car drivers just wanted to race. The number is staggering at over 540 participants.

"We had a lot of good nights," said CCS General Manager Camron Ray.

But there were a lot of bad nights too.

Track management canceled 20 race events, eight due to weather, two due to pandemic-related supplies and repairs.

"Seems like the weathermen were wrong," Ray said. "On Saturday morning they said there was a 70 percent chance of rain all evening. We pull the plug and two hours later the forecast clears up and it's a nice day."

But with competitors traveling from nearly two hours away Ray has to look at the bigger picture.

"You get them here only to have to offer them a rain check," he said.

The season opener, delayed twice for inclement weather, saw Jared Irvan drive to his first Super Late Model win at the Inverness venue and later go on to win the SLM championship.

"It was a bad season for them," Ray said of the division. "But they were good shows."

That night's events also saw the turn No. 3 light pole knocked down which forced the closure of the next week's events while repairs were made.

Racing resumed with the Night of Carnage.

"They are always exciting," Ray said. "The (Grocery Getter Enduro) 150 lapper had seven different leaders. Every time you thought the guy leading was going to win and had a two-

lap lead, he gets a flat tire or something happens. Then the next guy has a two-lap lead and something happens to him. It's a crazy exciting show with something crazy going on the track somewhere."

The first night for Outlaw Street Stocks saw eventual division champion Travis Blotz set the bar high as he showed his strength with five wins.

"There was never a dull moment," Ray said. "It kept you on your toes all the time. Every race was definitely exciting."

Jason Waller followed suit in the Pure Stock division with eight wins, four of them back-to-back, in the 69-car division.

"A lot of different people could have won a race in different situations," Ray said. "Waller was the stand-out driver. It was never easy for him."

After a month-long break

See **SPEEDWAY**, page B3

## Buccaneers seek to improve playoff seeding

By **FRED GOODALL**  
Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Now that the Tampa Bay Buccaneers have won the NFC South, the defending Super Bowl champions are turning their attention to getting healthy while also pursuing the highest seed possible for the playoffs.

That means winning without taking unnecessary risks with injured players that are hoping to get back on the field.

While there's a chance receiver Mike Evans (hamstring) might return down the stretch, running back Leonard Fournette (hamstring), linebacker Lavonte David (foot) and sacks leader Shaquil Barrett (knee) likely won't play again in the regular season.

With games remaining against the last-place New York Jets and Carolina Panthers, who the Bucs trounced 32-6 to clinch their first division title in 14 years on Sunday, the schedule is favorable for a strong finish.

"We're 11-4. That's not the greatest record in the world, but it's certainly not the worst, either," Brady said after Tampa Bay's wrapped up its first NFC South crown since 2007.

"We've lost some tough games, and I think we've learned from each of the tough losses," Brady added. "But everything's ahead of us. ... We've got to finish these next two games really strong and then we'll see where things stack up after that."

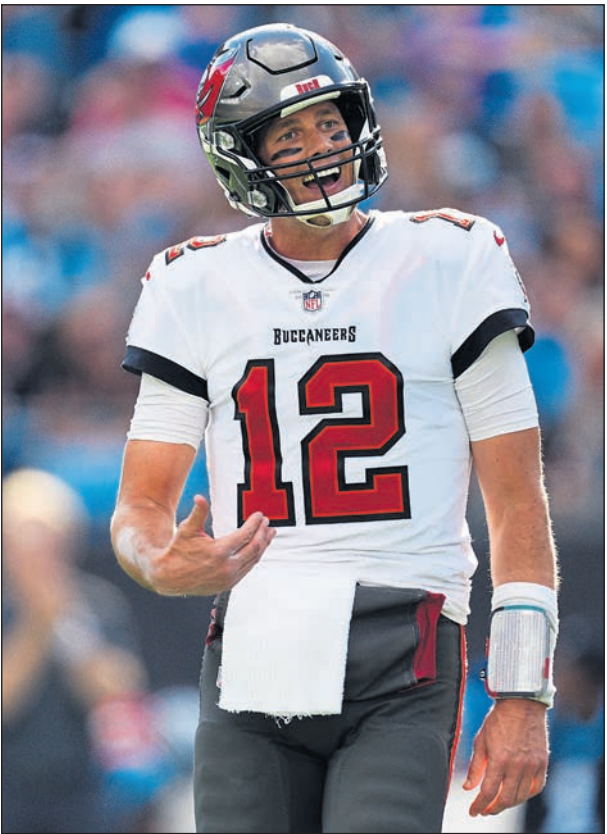
A week after leading receiver Chris Godwin was lost for the year to a knee injury and Fournette and David wound up on injured reserve, Barrett left Sunday's game against Carolina with what coach Bruce Arians described as a knee sprain.

"It's not severe, but he's probably out the rest of the regular season," Arians said Monday. "Hopefully we'll have him back for the playoffs."

At 11-4, the Bucs share the second-best record in the NFC with Dallas and the Los Angeles Rams but currently are the No. 4 seed in the conference because the Cowboys and Rams hold tiebreakers over Tampa Bay.

Arians asked Sunday if he might be inclined to rest some of his starters now that the division has been decided.

"The last game maybe, if nothing would change," the



Jacob Kupferman / AP

Tampa Bay quarterback Tom Brady reacts during the first half of a Dec. 26 game with the Carolina Panthers.

coach responded.

**What's working**

A defense that because of injuries has been at less than full strength most of the season hasn't yielded a touchdown the past two weeks. Tampa Bay allowed three field goals in a 9-0 loss to New Orleans and two more field goals against Carolina. Granted, the Saints and Panthers haven't been lighting up the scoreboard lately, but the Bucs have gotten healthier in the secondary and it's beginning to show.

**What needs help**

Arians called out the kicking game following the

See **BUCS**, page B3



# Vikings lose Cousins to COVID

By DAVE CAMPBELL  
AP Pro Football Writer

The Minnesota Vikings placed quarterback Kirk Cousins on the COVID-19 reserve list on Friday, two days before their most important game of the season at Green Bay.

Cousins is unvaccinated. Even if he were asymptomatic, he wouldn't be able to return in time to face the Packers. The NFL recently reduced the required quarantine period to five days for asymptomatic players.

The Vikings (7-8) are one game out of the last wild-card spot in the NFC with two weeks to go. The Packers (12-3) are in control of the top seed and a first-round bye.

The Vikings activated back-up quarterback Sean Mannion from the COVID-19 reserve list, putting the seventh-year veteran in line to start at frigid Lambeau Field on Sunday night. Rookie Kellen Mond, who was drafted in the third round, has not developed quickly enough this season to be considered.

"Sean is extremely bright. He studies like crazy. He's a great competitor. He's put in this time. He's earned this opportunity and I think he'll be ready," coach Mike Zimmer said after practice on Friday. "I think they're going to rally behind Sean. They know how important this game is, and they believe in Sean."

Mannion started one game for the Los Angeles Rams in 2017 and one game for the Vikings in 2019, when Cousins was held out of the final regular-season game as a precaution prior to the playoffs.

After Minnesota's last game, a 30-23 loss to the Los Angeles Rams, Cousins acknowledged the predicament of the case numbers climbing within the team like all across the league.

"It's in our building. It's going to be in our building. It's going to spread. We've just got to be disciplined to keep our distance and make sure that to the best of our ability we don't get it," Cousins said, "but it is going to be difficult."

Cousins has 30 touchdown passes and seven interceptions this season and is fourth in the NFL in passer rating (101.3). He is 29 yards passing short of hitting the 4,000 mark for a sixth time in seven years as a starter. Cousins is in his fourth season with the Vikings, who have him signed for 2022 with a \$45 million salary-cap charge.

Mond and recent addition Kyle Sloter are the other quarterbacks on Minnesota's roster. When Mond tested positive in training camp, Cousins had to sit out five days as an unvaccinated close contact.

Zimmer didn't hide his frustration in August with the players who remained unvaccinated, expressing resignation that they would miss games at some point during the year. Plenty of vaccinated players have tested positive and had to sit out, of course, but the rate of infection by the virus among unvaccinated people is much higher.

Unvaccinated players must continue to test daily. Any player, regardless of vaccination status, must test while they have symptoms.

Around the league, teams were experiencing more gains than losses as players in the pre-Christmas surge of positive tests have begun to trickle back to action.

The Jacksonville Jaguars activated seven players from their COVID-19 reserve list, including defensive starters Josh Allen, Myles Jack and Damien Wilson. Allen, Jack and Wilson cleared protocols and will fly with the team to New England.

The Jaguars (2-13) still have 20 players on the COVID-19 list, including three starting offensive linemen. Interim coach Darrell Bevell said Friday he hopes center Brandon Linder and guard Andrew Norwell will be cleared in time to play the Patriots. Jacksonville has a second plane lined up to take players who could still clear protocols as late as Sunday morning.

Left tackle Cam Robinson is among four Jacksonville players already ruled out. Safeties Rudy Ford and Andrew Wingard and returner Jaydon Mickens also are out.



Jeff Dean / AP

Cincinnati wide receiver Ja'Marr Chase, top, is tackled by Baltimore's Josh Bynes during the second half of a Dec. 26 game.

# Rookies propel their teams into playoff races

By ARNIE STAPLETON  
AP Pro Football Writer

DENVER — After a recent road win by the Dallas Cowboys, receiver Simi Fehoko tweeted, "Just trying to find my seat on the plane and was sacked by Micah. ... Nobody is safe."

Everybody seems to have their head on a swivel for rookie linebacker Micah Parsons.

The do-it-all defender combines a rare versatility — he lines up at linebacker, defensive end and even over center — with a dogged determination as he chases down quarterbacks, ball carriers, rookie records, the playoffs, NFL honors and even history.

Parsons' 13 sacks are 1½ shy of the rookie record set by Jevon Kearse of the Tennessee Titans in 1999. Parsons is already the first rookie in 15 years to get a dozen sacks and three forced fumbles. And with 79 tackles so far, he has an outside chance of getting triple-digit tackles to go with his double-digit sacks.

Better are the odds that he'll become the first player in 40 years to sweep the league's two biggest defensive awards, player and rookie of the year. The previous to do that was Pro Football Hall of Famer Lawrence Taylor in 1981.

"I will say it's hard to have expected what No. 11 is doing in terms of doing all the things that he's asked to do, whether it's make great plays in coverage, whether it's make plays on the quarterback from the blitzing spot, whether it's a natural pass rusher, whether it's just running plays down sideline to sideline," Cowboys executive vice president of personnel Stephen Jones said on his radio show. "Who could have ever thought that he could digest all of that and be able to line up at all those different positions and get it done?"

Parsons, that's who.

Early glimpses of his ambition came through during HBO's "Hard Knocks" series from training camp. Parsons begged to get back into preseason games, and wasn't happy when he didn't. He

told an assistant coach, "The lion is always hungry," and has since trademarked that unexpected catchphrase.

After allowing a franchise-high 29.5 points a game last year, the Cowboys are allowing just 19.5 points per game, and Parsons is the biggest reason for that dramatic drop.

Parsons skipped college football's truncated COVID-19 year in 2020 before getting drafted 12th overall by the Cowboys last April. Dallas moved down two spots in the draft after two cornerbacks the club was targeting at No. 10 were taken. South Carolina's Jaycee Horn went to Carolina at No. 8, and Patrick Surtain II of Alabama was taken ninth by Denver.

Now, Parsons leads a group of rookies who have helped put their teams in the heat of the playoff race. They include New England quarterback Mac Jones, Cincinnati receiver Ja'Marr Chase and San Francisco running back Elijah Mitchell, who hopes to return from a knee injury this week.

Other teams feature rookie duos setting them up for bright futures and perhaps the possibility of sneaking into this year's postseason.

In Denver, it's Surtain and tackle-breaking, bulldozing running back Javonte Williams, although the Broncos' playoff chances are almost nil after their 17-13 stumble at Las Vegas last weekend left them at 7-8 and facing long odds.

In Miami, it's Jaylen Waddle and Jaelen Phillips, whose Dolphins are in the AFC postseason mix after their 20-3 win over New Orleans that made them the first team in NFL history to win seven consecutive games in the same season that they endured a seven-game losing streak.

Surtain has been everything the Broncos' front office and coaching staff envisioned. He's broken up or intercepted a dozen passes, including a pair of fourth-quarter picks of Justin Herbert in Denver's 28-13 win over the Chargers last month.

He picked off Herbert in the end zone early in the fourth quarter

and sealed the win by returning his second interception 70 yards for a touchdown.

Surtain reached a top speed of 22.07 mph on his pick-6, according to Next Gen Stats, the fastest by a defensive back with the ball in his hands in the past five years.

That made him the first rookie since Marcus Peters in 2015 for Kansas City to have multiple interceptions, including a pick-6, in the same game.

Broncos coach Vic Fangio suggests Surtain, with his ever-so-rare combination of speed, size and length for a cornerback, ought to win Defensive Rookie of the Year honors for excelling so quickly at what's notoriously a difficult transition from college.

"I do. He's playing a very hard position, and one where it's hard to find quality players," Fangio said. "He's done a great job. He's definitely very deserving of Rookie of the Year, or any honor that could come his way."

In any other year, Surtain might be a lock. But Parsons is having an even better rookie season and while the Broncos are teetering on another losing campaign, the Cowboys have gone from 6-10 last year to 11-4 this season.

The Bengals have turned around from 4-11-1 to 9-6 and sit atop the AFC North after overtaking the sinking Baltimore Ravens last weekend. A key part of Cincinnati's resurgence is the combination of former LSU stars Chase and Joe Burrow, the top pick in 2020 whose rookie season was cut short by a knee injury, leaving the Bengals with a top-5 pick again this year.

With it, they selected Chase, who has 68 catches for 1,173 yards and 10 touchdowns.

Jones hasn't quite made Patriots fans quit longing for Tom Brady, but he's helped turn New England's rebuild into a one-year affair instead of the six-year quagmire the Broncos have endured post-Peyton Manning as they've churned through 10 starting QBs, including five different ones to start each of the past five seasons.

# In passing league, some teams still find success on ground

By JOSH DUBOW  
AP Pro Football Writer

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Relying on a big-play quarterback to carve up opposing defenses in the passing game remains the best path to offensive success in the modern NFL.

But for teams that don't have an accomplished passer like Aaron Rodgers, Tom Brady or Patrick Mahomes, sticking to the ground can also work.

"If you want to establish any type of dominance, especially in the trenches, I think it is necessary," San Francisco 49ers left tackle Trent Williams said. "You got to run the ball. You got to make your opponents respect that."

The 49ers are one of several teams with less-than-elite quarterbacks that have relied on the run to get into playoff contention, along with Indianapolis, Philadelphia and New England.

Perhaps no team has transformed as much as the Eagles, who flipped their script by running just 39 percent of the time the first seven weeks to a league-high 61 percent the last nine weeks. That has coincided with a resurgence that has taken Philadelphia from 2-5 to 8-7 and playoff contention.

"I think you're always evolving and changing to make sure you're doing the best things for your players," Eagles coach Nick Sirianni said. "I think we definitely changed who we had been and who we are, and to find out what we do best."

Running behind a powerful offensive line and using quarterback Jalen Hurts in the run game has been that as the Eagles became the first team since the 1985 Bears to run for at least 175 yards in seven straight games.

The Colts, Titans, 49ers and Eagles all rank in the top eight in the league in running on first and second downs in the first 28 minutes of the game, when the game situation doesn't dictate strategy like it might later and on third downs.

Even as offense has regressed a bit this season, passing the ball on average still generates more yards, with teams averaging 6.26 yards per drop back compared to 4.31 per rush.

While the pass leads to more explosive plays that have a big influence on wins and losses, running the ball does bring other elements to the game.

"The data will tell you that you don't need a run game to play pass. You don't need that," Chargers coach Brandon Staley said. "But what the running game does for you, it brings a physical dimension to the football game. What the running game does that the passing game does not, is the running forces the defense to play block and to tackle."

# Jaguars' Lawrence joins 2021 All-Absent Team

By MARK LONG  
AP Pro Football Writer

Every year, players in every NFL city fail to meet expectations. Sometimes it's due to injuries and other times it's simply poor performance.

They ruin fantasy teams and real teams alike.

Often the biggest names become the biggest busts. Some are even repeat offenders.

The league could put together a talent-packed all-star team of players who came up well short for whatever reason this year. From rookie Trevor Lawrence to running back Christian McCaffrey to wide receiver Julio Jones, this year's "All-Absent Team" is packed with star power:

## Quarterback

Trevor Lawrence, Jaguars. The can't-miss prospect can't seem to throw a touchdown pass. The top pick in the 2021 NFL draft was supposed to be a generational talent, but he's looked more like an Ordinary Joe as the face of the league's most dysfunctional franchise.

The former Clemson star has one touchdown pass in Jacksonville's last eight games and has lost seven consecutive starts.



Corey Sipkin / AP

New York Jets linebacker C.J. Mosley, left, tackles Jacksonville quarterback Trevor Lawrence during the first half of a Dec. 26 game.

## Running back

Christian McCaffrey, Panthers. The 2019 All-Pro was a popular early pick among fantasy owners expecting a bounce-back year after an injury-plagued 2020. Instead, it was more of the same for the former Stanford star who signed a four-year, \$64 million contract extension in 2020 that made him the highest-paid running back in NFL history.

## Wide receiver

Julio Jones, Titans. Tennessee traded a 2022 second-round pick

and a 2023 fourth-round selection to Atlanta in the offseason for the seven-time Pro Bowl receiver and a 2023 sixth-round pick. The Titans also picked up his \$15.3 million salary, but Jones has just 26 catches for 376 yards and no touchdowns in nine games.

## Tight end

Jonnu Smith, Patriots. New England gave Smith a four-year, \$50 million contract in free agency in April. But the former Tennessee tight end has 27 receptions for 274 yards and a touchdown, tak-

ing a backseat to fellow tight end Hunter Henry. Smith has just seven catches in his last seven games.

## Defensive line

Chase Young, Washington. The second-year pro was having a down year when he sustained a season-ending knee injury in mid-November. Young finished with 1½ sacks, three tackles for loss, four quarterback hits and a pair of forced fumbles.

## Linebacker

Za'Darius Smith, Packers. The star pass rusher underwent back surgery in late September after being limited in the season opener. Green Bay has been able to handle his absence thanks to Rashan Gary and Preston Smith. The Packers have won 12 of their last 14 games. But there's little doubt they would love to have Za'Darius Smith back on the field.

## Special teams

Rodrigo Blankenship, Colts. The place kicker landed on injured reserve in mid-October because of a hip injury that caused him to miss an extra point and two field goals in Indianapolis' overtime loss at Baltimore. Michael Badgley has been nearly perfect since replacing Blankenship.



NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Tampa Bay	32	21	7	4	46	106	93
Florida	31	20	7	4	44	117	93
Toronto	30	20	8	2	42	89	76
Detroit	31	15	13	3	33	88	104
Boston	26	14	10	2	30	71	69
Buffalo	32	10	17	5	25	86	112
Ottawa	28	9	17	2	20	79	101
Montreal	33	7	22	4	18	71	118

Metropolitan Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Carolina	30	22	7	1	45	99	62
Washington	32	19	6	7	45	113	84
N.Y. Rangers	31	19	8	4	42	89	81
Pittsburgh	30	17	8	5	39	91	76
Philadelphia	31	13	12	6	32	82	100
Columbus	29	15	13	1	31	95	98
New Jersey	31	11	15	5	27	86	108
N.Y. Islanders	27	9	12	6	24	61	78

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
St. Louis	32	18	9	5	41	110	87
Minnesota	30	19	9	2	40	112	92
Nashville	32	19	11	2	40	95	88
Colorado	27	17	8	2	36	115	91
Winnipeg	30	14	11	5	33	90	87
Dallas	29	15	12	2	32	82	85
Chicago	30	11	15	4	26	72	97
Arizona	30	6	21	3	15	63	117

Pacific Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Vegas	33	21	12	0	42	120	101
Anaheim	33	17	9	7	41	104	91
Calgary	29	16	7	6	38	93	66
Edmonton	30	18	12	0	36	103	94
San Jose	32	17	14	1	35	89	94
Los Angeles	32	15	12	5	35	85	86
Vancouver	33	15	15	3	33	84	93
Seattle	32	10	18	4	24	90	117

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.

Thursday's Games

Carolina 4, Montreal 0  
Florida 9, Tampa Bay 3  
Columbus 4, Nashville 3, SO  
N.Y. Islanders 4, Buffalo 1  
Calgary 6, Seattle 4  
San Jose 3, Philadelphia 2, OT  
Los Angeles 2, Vancouver 1, SO

Friday's Games

Edmonton at New Jersey  
Pittsburgh at Ottawa, ppd  
Anaheim at Vegas  
N.Y. Rangers at Tampa Bay  
Washington at Detroit  
Colorado at Dallas, ppd  
Winnipeg at Calgary, ppd

Saturday's Games

Buffalo at Boston, 1 p.m.  
Carolina at Columbus, 1 p.m.  
Montreal at Florida, 1 p.m.  
Chicago at Nashville, 2 p.m.  
Edmonton at N.Y. Islanders, 2 p.m.  
Ottawa at Toronto, 7 p.m.  
St. Louis vs. Minnesota at Target Field, 7 p.m.  
Vancouver at Seattle, 10 p.m.  
Philadelphia at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

Sunday's Games

Tampa Bay at N.Y. Rangers, 12:30 p.m.  
Boston at Detroit, 1 p.m.  
San Jose at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.  
Anaheim at Colorado, 3 p.m.  
New Jersey at Washington, 3 p.m.  
Winnipeg at Vegas, 4 p.m.  
Calgary at Chicago, 7 p.m.  
Dallas at Arizona, ppd.

NBA					
EASTERN CONFERENCE					
Atlantic Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
Brooklyn	23	10	.697	—	
Phila.	19	16	.543	5	
New York	17	18	.486	7	
Boston	16	19	.457	8	
Toronto	14	17	.452	8	
Southeast Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
Miami	22	13	.629	—	
Charlotte	19	17	.528	3½	
Washington	18	17	.514	4	
Atlanta	15	19	.441	6½	
Orlando	7	29	.194	15½	
Central Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
Chicago	22	10	.688	—	
Milwaukee	24	13	.649	½	
Cleveland	20	15	.571	3½	
Indiana	14	21	.400	9½	
Detroit	5	28	.152	17½	
WESTERN CONFERENCE					
Southwest Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
Memphis	22	14	.611	—	
Dallas	16	18	.471	5	
San Antonio	14	19	.424	6½	
New Orleans	13	22	.371	8½	
Houston	10	25	.286	11½	
Northwest Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
Utah	25	9	.735	—	
Denver	17	16	.515	7½	
Minnesota	16	18	.471	9	
Portland	13	21	.382	12	
Oklahoma City	12	22	.353	13	
Pacific Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
Golden State	27	7	.794	—	
Phoenix	27	7	.794	—	
L.A. Clippers	18	17	.514	9½	
L.A. Lakers	17	19	.472	11	
Sacramento	15	21	.417	13	



# What are we watching? COVID puts fairness, quality in limbo

By **EDDIE PELLIS**  
AP National Writer

There’s a term for the sort of NFL contest that went down Monday night between Miami and New Orleans – a battle featuring a third-string quarterback for the Saints making his debut on a roster with about one-quarter of its regulars in street clothes.

It’s called a preseason game.

More and more these days, the NFL and all the major sports leagues are calling this product the real thing.

The coronavirus pandemic and the onslaught of the omicron variant have forced a rapid rethinking and reshuffling of policies, as the leagues try to protect their schedules, their players and fans, along with their bottom lines.

While the policies are recalibrated, the leagues and sports fans have mostly avoided the question that first hit hard in the dark days of March 2020: Are we so thirsty for entertainment that we’ll risk everything – or watch anything – simply to make it feel like normal?

Back then, the answer was “no.” Starting with the NBA, then moving to March Madness and the NHL, leagues abandoned their schedules, well aware that there was too much uncertainty, and the risks were too high, to keep pretending sports could run like business as usual.

Now that sports are back, vaccines are widely available and data-based health decisions are easier to make, no league appears prepared to turn away again. This puts the NFL on a potential collision course with a disruption that could wreak havoc on the road to the Super Bowl. In turn, it puts fans in a position of paying full price – both in pure money terms, but also in emotion and time invested – for a product that is, for lack of a better word, compromised.

Not that anyone expects the ratings to decline.

“It’s not that different from what we’re used to seeing,” sports marketing expert Joe Favorito said. “It’s an inability to play for whatever reason, whether it’s the virus or a bad knee.”

Other headlines this week:

■ The NBA set a record when Greg Monroe of the Minnesota Timberwolves became the 541st different player to play in a game this season. We haven’t reached the All-Star break yet. No fewer than 63 players were ruled out of Monday night’s seven games.

■ The NHL partially resumed a schedule it had put on hold for nearly a week over Christmas while cases soared. But games in Canada are still being postponed. The Tampa Bay Lightning geared up to host Montreal in a Stanley Cup Final rematch by using a coach and an emergency goalie in net during practice, then brought in a minor leaguer for the game.

■ Only hours before the scheduled kickoff, Tuesday night’s Holiday Bowl became the fifth postseason college football game to get scrapped because of COVID-19 cases. Meanwhile, administrators in charge of the three most important postseason games – the winners on Friday between Alabama-Cincinnati and Michigan-Georgia will

meet next week for the national title – have said those teams could forfeit if they can’t field healthy rosters for any of those games.

The NFL finds itself on much different footing than in the early days of COVID-19, which hit during its 2020 offseason. While other leagues canceled and postponed, then eventually resumed in makeshift bubbles and with makeshift schedules, the NFL took the best of all the ideas and made a season out of it.

A few of the 256 games from last season were debacles, such as when the Broncos were forced to play the Saints using a wide receiver as a quarterback. And without fans in the stands, and with the U.S. election season in full swing, and with a number of games being rescheduled, ratings actually dropped by more than 6%.

That did not, however, keep the league from making new TV deals in the off-season worth nearly double the old ones. And it hasn’t kept fans away from their stadiums and TV sets this season. Ratings are up again. “This is not replacement football,” the likes of which we saw during a short strike in 1987, Favorito said. “That was really kind of a detriment to the game. These are elite athletes, many of whom have spent the season on practice squads.”

But it’s hard to argue the product on the field is not being threatened by the virus. As of Monday, more than 400 players had tested positive for COVID-19 in December. That compares with 262 during all of the 2020 season. Even in a league used to large-scale attrition due to injuries, this number is jarring.

This week, the 400-plus includes 17 players from the Chargers, 13 from the Colts (including quarterback Carson Wentz) and 12 from the Dolphins. All those teams are in the playoff hunt. So, too, were the Saints, as they headed into Monday night’s meeting with the Dolphins. But they played with their top two quarterbacks, four defensive starters and 11 other players on the COVID-19 reserve list.

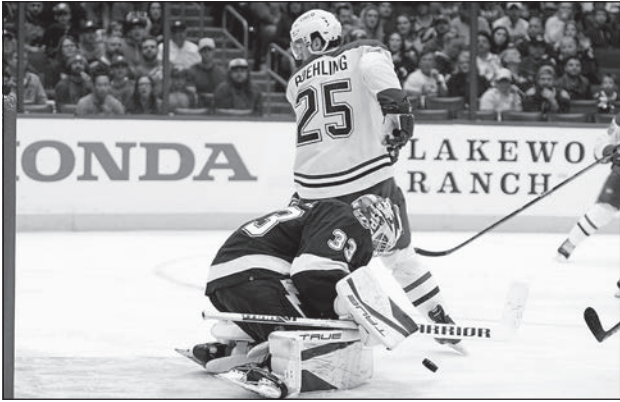
It wasn’t just that they lost – that was expected – but the game was a world-class snooze. Miami prevailed 20-3, and other than the Dolphins, the real winners were those hoping to get to bed early.

“One of those perfect storms,” Saints coach Sean Payton said, laying out the difficulty of analyzing rookie Ian Book’s performance considering the circumstances.

Could there be more to come?

The thought of the Chiefs meeting the Buccaneers for a rematch in the Super Bowl, but this time with Tom Brady or Patrick Mahomes forced to watch from a quarantined hotel room, isn’t as unimaginable as it seemed a mere month ago.

The thought that wide swaths of football-loving America might find something better to do with their evenings if such a scenario transpires? Close to zero. Even the least-watchable games, such as Saints-Dolphins, were regularly drawing more than double the audience of the next-best-rated shows on Monday nights this season.



Chris O’Meara / AP  
**Tampa Bay goaltender Maxime Lagace (33) makes a save on Montreal center Ryan Poehling during the third period of Tuesday’s game.**



L.E. Baskow / AP  
**Wisconsin linebacker Jordan Turner, left, and linebacker Noah Burks, right, sack Arizona State quarterback Jayden Daniels during the second half of the Las Vegas Bowl on Thursday.**

## Allen, Wisconsin hold off Arizona State in Las Vegas Bowl 20-13

By **DANNY WEBSTER**  
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Braelon Allen thought his week in Las Vegas was rather uneventful.

After all, it’s hard to really soak in Sin City when you’re only 17 years old. He’ll have to settle for his MVP award.

Allen ran for 159 yards and Wisconsin drained the final 9:57 off the clock with an 18-play drive that sealed a 20-13 victory over Arizona State in the Las Vegas Bowl on Thursday night.

Allen, a true freshman from Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin, had 101 yards by halftime for his eighth 100-yard game of the season. He averaged 6.8 yards per carry this year, falling just short of joining NFL stars Melvin Gordon and Jonathan Taylor as the only Wisconsin running backs to average 7 yards per attempt over a full season.

“Being able to have the season that I ended up having, I can’t thank the guys enough for the support,” said Allen, selected the game’s MVP. “Keeping my head on straight and keep on encouraging me, just telling me my time was going to come. All the credit goes to the O-line and all the guys in the room.”

Graham Mertz finished 11 of 15 for 137 yards and a 7-yard touchdown toss late

in the first quarter to senior tight end Jake Ferguson, who caught three passes for 33 yards for Wisconsin (9-4).

“Really proud of this group,” Badgers coach Paul Chryst said. “Took a lot of guys to get us that victory. It’s really what this season’s been. It’s a special team.”

The Badgers started 1-3 with Big Ten losses to ranked opponents Penn State and Michigan but answered with a seven-game winning streak to earn a 20th consecutive bowl bid.

“It was all of us just coming together, trusting each other, being confident in our prep and taking that extra step to perfect what we were doing,” Allen said.

Clinging to a seven-point lead, the Badgers took over at their own 3 with just under 10 minutes remaining and drove 90 yards to run out the clock in the first bowl game at Allegiant Stadium, home of the NFL’s Las Vegas Raiders.

Arizona State quarterback Jayden Daniels accounted for 199 total yards and threw an interception for the Sun Devils (8-5), who are 3-6 in bowls since 2011.

The Sun Devils were held to 219 total yards, including 102 in the first half. Wisconsin entered with the nation’s top defense, allowing 240.8 yards per game.

John Chenal had an ear-

ly 8-yard touchdown run and Collin Larsh kicked a pair of second-quarter field goals to help Wisconsin build a 20-6 halftime lead.

Cristian Zendejas connected on a couple of first-half field goals and Daniyel Ngata scored on a short TD run in the third quarter for Arizona State.

“Disappointing outcome for us,” said Sun Devils coach Herm Edwards. “We got off to a bad start, I thought. Fell behind, and you don’t want to fall behind to a team like this. They chew a lot of time off the clock with the running game.”

Arizona State has made the postseason in each full season under Edwards; the Sun Devils played only four games in 2020 due to the pandemic.

### Tough Badgers defense

Arizona State allowed just 21 sacks this season, an average of 1.75 per game. Daniels was sacked a season-high four times and Wisconsin held the Sun Devils to 60 yards rushing on 33 carries.

Wisconsin came in with the top-ranked run defense in the country, permitting 65.2 yards per game.

“They’re one of the top-ranked defenses in the nation for a reason,” Daniels said. “They’re very disciplined. We knew coming into the game that the game

would be won at the line of scrimmage. I feel like we could have done a little bit better job run blocking, getting the run going.”

Sophomore linebacker Nick Herbig had two sacks for Wisconsin and finished with a team-high nine this season.

“We knew it coming in, that it was going to be tough. We had a good plan,” said Badgers linebacker Jack Sanborn. “Credit to (Daniels), he’s a great player. When it mattered, we got it done.”

### Valiant effort from Daniels

The Sun Devils’ quarterback tried all he could to rally his team in the second half. Daniels, who finished 11-of-21 passing for 159 yards, completed two nearly miraculous heaves; one to Ricky Pearsall for 38 yards that led to Ngata’s 3-yard touchdown run, and a 35-yard completion to Jaylin Conyers on 3rd-and-18. Arizona State failed to score after that play.

“We battled,” Daniels said. “Even if I was under duress, I took a hit, and still delivered the ball. If we want to be a 10-, 11-, 12-win team, we’ve got to connect on those shots, we’ve got to connect on some big plays and go out there and just execute.”

## For NCAA, year of upheaval leads to need for transformation

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

From court losses to political pressure to questions about how – and if – athletes should be compensated, the NCAA and college sports have faced all sorts of potential existential threats for more than 100 years.

The difference in 2021 was volume. It was as if a century’s worth of issues fell on college sports all at once.

Lawmakers took aim at the NCAA, undercutting its ability to govern. The Supreme Court issued a scathing rebuke of the so-called collegiate model. Internally, a new era of athlete empowerment was clumsily ushered in with all sorts of unintended consequences. Another wave of conference realignment swept through college sports, causing disruptions and distrust among its leaders.

“I think it is unquestionably an unprecedented potential crisis the NCAA is facing today,” said Gabe Feldman, the director of Tulane University’s sports law program.

If 2021 was about upheaval in college sports, 2022 will be largely defined by reform.

College sports leaders

will attempt to redefine the NCAA. The goal is to shift power away from the national governing body to conferences and schools, while still maintaining the association; To be more accommodating to the wide-ranging goals and needs of a wildly diverse membership, while still remaining tethered through competition.

“I see value in the national association,” Southeastern Conference Commissioner Greg Sankey said. “I see value in the big tent. But we’re challenged in new ways.”

Sankey has been appointed co-chairperson of the NCAA’s Division I Transferee Committee, along with Ohio University athletic director Julie Cromer.

That group will begin its work in earnest after the NCAA convention in late January, when a new pared-down constitution is expected to be ratified by membership. That will open the door for each of the NCAA’s three divisions to create a unique governance structure.

For Divisions II and III that will mean little change. In Division I, which is comprised of 350 schools that compete in the NCAA’s biggest championship events – such as the

March Madness basketball tournaments – the transformation could be radical.

“What does that mean about the structure and governance? What does it mean about enforcement? What does it mean about how we think about eligibility? What does it mean about NIL? You could go on and on and on down the list,” said Baylor President Linda Livingstone, a former college basketball player who has become deeply involved in the NCAA.

NIL is shorthand for name, image and likeness. After decades of prohibiting athletes from earning money from their fame, the NCAA loosened those restrictions close to the point of total deregulation this past summer.

For the vast majority of athletes, the endorsement deals have produced modest financial gains with little attention paid. According to data compiled by Opendorse, a company that works with schools on various NIL issues, the average NIL compensation for Division I athletes between July 1 and Nov. 30 was approximately \$250 per month.

Other deals have been far more lucrative, made national headlines, and in some cases, seem to flaunt

rules that still prohibit pay for play or recruiting inducements.

The NCAA has pleaded with Congress to pass federal NIL legislation to override dozens of state laws that have forced a patchwork of rules and seemingly no enforcement.

Congressional help appears nowhere in sight, and the lawmakers who seem most motivated to get involved in college athletics do not want to stop at NIL.

A restructuring or reimagining of the NCAA and its top division is in many ways a chance for the leaders of college sports to prove to lawmakers, judges, athletes and – to some extent – each other that college sports can manage its own house.

“There’s a desire to have federal intervention so that the NCAA can protect college sports,” Feldman said. “But I think there’s also a desire from Congress to see a plan to protect college sports before intervening.”

Sankey, Livingstone and others who will be part of the transformation committee say they enter the process with open minds, ready to share ideas and facilitate solutions that can gather consensus.



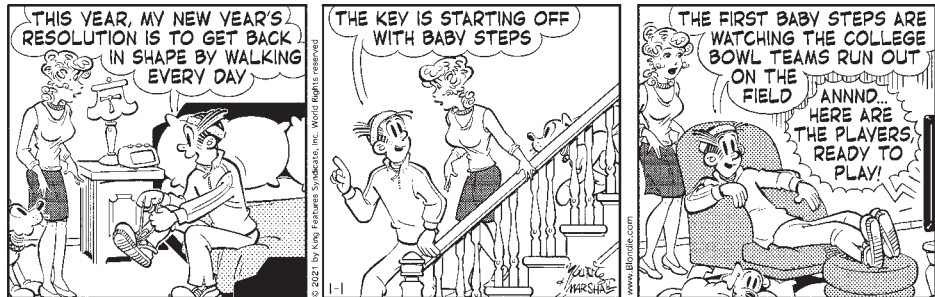
SATURDAY EVENING JANUARY 1, 2022										C: Comcast, Citrus S: Spectrum D/I: Comcast, Dunnellon & Inglis									
	C	S	D/I	6:00	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30				
2	(WESH) NBC	19	19	News	NBC News	Entertainment Tonight (N)		The Wall 'PG'		Dateline NBC		Saturday Night Live '14'	News	SNL					
3	(WEDU) PBS	3	3	NewsHour Wk	Growing Bolder 'G'	The Lawrence Welk Show 'New Year's' 'G'		Great Performances Ringing in the New Year in Vienna. (N) (In Stereo) 'G'		Midsomer Murders		Midsomer Murders "Wild Harvest" 'PG'	Vera Vera investigates a victim's past. 'PG'						
5	(WUFT) PBS	5	5	Classic Gospel 'G'	Antiques Roadshow 'G'	Great Performances (N) 'G'				*** <b>"Downton Abbey"</b> (2019) Hugh Bonneville.			Front Center						
8	(WFLA) NBC	8	8	News	NBC Nightly News - Hoft	Bucs All Access	Bucs Bruce Arians Show	The Wall 'Tammy and Doug' 'PG'		Dateline NBC (In Stereo)		Saturday Night Live "Eddie Murphy; Lizzo" '14'	NewsChannel 8	Saturday Night Live					
9	(WFTV) ABC	20	7	20	News at 6pm	ABC World News	Jeopardy! 'G'	Wheel of Fortune 'G'	America's Funniest Home Videos 'PG'	(DVS)	When Nature Calls With Helen Mirren (N) '14'	When Nature Calls With Helen Mirren '14'	News Saturday	Hot Topics					
10	(WTSP) CBS	10	10	10	To Be Announced	CBS Weekend News	Wheel of Fortune 'G'	Jeopardy! 'G'	S.W.A.T. A sex trafficking ring preys on women. '14'	FBI A man is killed by an explosive package. '14'		48 Hours (N) (In Stereo)	10 Tampa Bay	Storm of Suspicion					
13	(WTVT) FOX	13	13		To Be Announced		To Be Announced	I Can See Your Voice (In Stereo) 'PG'	(DVS)	9-1-1: Lone Star "Dust to Dust" '14'	(DVS)	To Be Announced	Gordon Ramsay's Road Trip '14'	(DVS)					
20	(WCJB) ABC			11	WCJB TV20	World News	Entertainment Tonight (N)	Funniest Home Videos		When Nature Calls		When Nature Calls	WCJB TV20	The Song					
22	(WCLF) IND	2	2	2	Turning Point With David	R. Jeffress	The Three	Gaither Homecoming		Leslie Hale		Healing Tch   Christian	Church	Passion					
24	(WYKE) FAM	16	16	16	Citrus	Bible Say?	Chasing M	Vegas	Your Citrus County Court			Macabre Theater							
23	(WFTS) ABC	11	11		News	World News	Getting Real	Paid Prog.	Funniest Home Videos		When Nature Calls	When Nature Calls	News	Inside Edit.					
32	(WMOR) IND	12	12		Sheldon	Sheldon	Big Bang	Big Bang	Mom '14'	Mom '14'	MacGyver '14'	The First 48 'PG'	Family Guy	Family Guy					
33	(WTTA) MNT	6	6	6	Extra (N) 'PG'		Family Feud	Family Feud	NewsChannel 8		Bucs All	Bucs	S.W.A.T. "Payback" '14'	Ring of Honor Wrestling					
40	(WACX) TBN	21	21		Shake the	Roots	Jim Raley	Healing Touch		Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Gospel	Paid Prog.	S.Channel	Victory Gospel Hour				
44	(WTOG) CW	4	4	4	Friends 'PG'	Friends 'PG'	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Whose Line Is It?	Whose Line Is It?	Funniest Animals	Funniest Animals	SEAL Team "Never Say Die" (In Stereo) '14'	SEAL Team A warlord steals virus samples. '14'					
50	(WVEA) UNI	15	15	15	Vecinos	Noticiero	Vecinos	Vecinos	Vecinos (N)	Vecinos (N)	*** <b>"Unknown"</b> (2011) Liam Neeson. (N) 'PG-13'		Nosotr.	Noticiero					
51	(WOGX) FOX			13	Boxing		FOX 51 News		I Can See Your Voice		9-1-1: Lone Star '14'		FOX 51 News Saturday	Gordon Ramsay's					
55	(WXPX) ION			17	Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU					
				A&E	54	48	54	*** <b>"Transporter 3"</b> (2008) Jason Statham. 'PG-13'				*** <b>"Olympus Has Fallen"</b> (2013) Gerard Butler. 'R'				*** <b>"Den of Thieves"</b> (2018) 'R'			
				ACCN			99	College Basketball Duke at Notre Dame. (N) (Live)				College Basketball Virginia at Syracuse. (N) (Live)				Nothing But Net (N) (Live)			
				AMC	55	64	55	*** <b>"Lethal Weapon"</b> (1987) 'R'				*** <b>"Lethal Weapon 2"</b> (1989, Action) Mel Gibson. 'R'				*** <b>"Lethal Weapon 3"</b> (1992) Mel Gibson. 'R'			
				ANI	52	35	52	Crikey! It's the Irwins				Crikey! It's the Irwins (N) (In Stereo) 'PG'				Crikey! It's the Irwins			
				BET	96	71	96	** <b>"Kidnap"</b> (2017, Action) Halle Berry. 'R'				*** <b>"The Equalizer"</b> (2014, Action) Denzel Washington. Premiere. 'R'				** <b>"Sleepless"</b> (2017)			
				BIGTEN	742	809		To Be Announced				To Be Announced				Campus			
				BRAVO	254	51	254	*** <b>"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows"</b>				*** <b>"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2"</b> (2011) 'PG-13'				*** <b>"Fantastic Beasts"</b>			
				BSFL	35	39	35	Football	Inside	Pregame	NBA Basketball			Postgame	In Magic	In Magic			
				CC	27	61	27	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office			
				CMT	98	45	98	*** <b>"Caddyshack"</b> (1980, Comedy) Chevy Chase. 'R'				*** <b>"National Lampoon's Vacation"</b> (1983) 'R'				** <b>"Vegas Vacation"</b> (1997) 'PG'			
				CNN	40	29	40	The 2000s 'PG'	The Nineties			The Eighties 'PG'	Jimmy Carter: Rock and Roll President (N)		The Sixties 'PG'				
				ESPN	33	27	33	Rose Bowl Utah vs Ohio State. (N) (Live)				Allstate Sugar Bowl Baylor vs Ole Miss. (N) (Live)							
				ESPN2	37	28	34	Rose Bowl Utah vs Ohio State. (N) (Live)				Allstate Sugar Bowl Baylor vs Ole Miss. (N)							
				FBN	106	149	106	How America Works				How America Works				The Pursuit!	The Pursuit!		
				FLIX			170	**** <b>"The Last Picture Show"</b> (1971) 'R'				*** <b>"Hoosiers"</b> (1986) Gene Hackman. 'PG'				*** <b>"The Natural"</b> (1984) Robert Redford. 'PG'			
				FNC	44	37	44	Fox Report		Gutfeld!		Watters' World (N)	Justice With Jeanine		Unfiltered with	Watters' World			
				FOOD	26	56	26	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners			
				FREEFORM	29	52	29	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office			
				FS1	732	112	732	Football		PBC Countdown		Herd for the Holidays	College Basketball New Mexico at Nevada. (N)		WWE's Top 10 of 2021				
				FX	30	60	30	*** <b>"Fast &amp; Furious Presents: Hobbs &amp; Shaw"</b>				*** <b>"Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom"</b> (2018) Chris Pratt. 'PG-13'				*** <b>"Spider-Man: Far Home"</b>			
				GOLF	727	67	727	2021 TOUR Championship Final Round.				PGA Tour Golf Fortinet Championship, Final Round.				PGA Golf			
				HALL	59	68	39	*** <b>"My Christmas Family Tree"</b> (2021) 'NR'				*** <b>"Where Your Heart Belongs"</b> (2022) Jen Lilley. 'NR'				*** <b>"Pride, Prejudice and Mistletoe"</b> (2018) 'NR'			
				HBO	302	201	302	*** <b>"Godzilla vs. Kong"</b> (2021) 'PG-13'				*** <b>"Fast &amp; Furious 6"</b> (2013) Vin Diesel.				Euphoria "Pilot" 'MA'			
				HBO2	303	202	303	Insecure	Insecure	Insecure	Insecure	*** <b>"The Way, Way Back"</b> (2013)	Landscapers	MA'	*** <b>"The Great Gatsby"</b> (2013)				
				HGTV	23	57	23	Dream	Dream	Dream	Dream	HGTV Dream Home 2022	Home Town 'G'		Home Town 'G'				
				HIST	51	54	51	American Pickers 'PG'	American Pickers 'PG'	American Pickers 'PG'	American Pickers 'PG'	American Pickers (N) 'PG'			American Pickers 'PG'				
				LIFE	24	38	24	*** <b>"My Wife's Secret Life"</b> (2019) Jason Cermak. 'NR'				*** <b>"Deadly Infidelity"</b> (2022) Kate Watson. 'NR'				*** <b>"Deadly Cheers"</b> (2021) Katherine Marsh. 'NR'			
				LMN	119	50	119	*** <b>"Deadly Girls Night Out"</b> (2021) Gina Vitori. 'NR'				*** <b>"Twisted Little Lies"</b> (2021) Jessica Morris. 'NR'				Voices-Alicia Menendez			
				MSNBC	42	41	42	Voices-Alicia Menendez				To Be Announced				To Be Announced			
				NBCSN	448	26	730	SPORTS ARE HEADING TO USA NETWORK BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2022				SPORTS ARE HEADING TO USA NETWORK							
				NGEO	109	65	109	The 80's: Decade/Made	The 80's: Decade/Made	The 80's: Decade/Made	The 80's: Decade/Made	The 80's: Decade/Made	The '80s: Top Ten (N) '14'	The '80s: Top Ten (N) '14'	The '80s: Top Ten (N) '14'	The '80s: Top Ten (N) '14'			
				NICK	28	36	28	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	To Be Announced		SpongeBob	Friends '14'	Friends '14'	Friends '14'	Friends '14'			
				NWSNTN	18	18	18	Last Man	Last Man	NewsNation Prime (N)	NewsNation Prime (N)	NewsNation Prime (N)	Dan Abrams Live		Banfield	On Balance			
				OWN	125	24	103	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters			
				OXY	123	44	123	Cold Justice '14'	Cold Justice '14'	Cold Justice '14'	Cold Justice (N) '14'	911 Crisis Center (N) 'PG'		New York Homicide	911 Crisis	911 Crisis			
				PARMT	37	43	37	Yellowstone	Yellowstone 'MA'	Yellowstone 'MA'	Yellowstone 'MA'	Yellowstone 'MA'	*** <b>"The Magnificent Seven"</b> (2016) Denzel Washington.						
				SEC	745	72		TrueSouth	TrueSouth	TrueSouth	TrueSouth	TrueSouth	TrueSouth	TrueSouth	SEC Now (N) (Live)				
				SHOW	340	241	340	*** <b>"Lee Daniels' The Butler"</b>				*** <b>"Titanic"</b> (1997, Historical Drama) Leonardo DiCaprio. 'PG-13'							
				SUN	36	31	36	MLB Baseball											
				SYFY	31	59	31	Twi. Zone	Twi. Zone	Twi. Zone	Twi. Zone	Twi. Zone	Twi. Zone	Twi. Zone	Twi. Zone	Twi. Zone			
				TBS	49	23	49	*** <b>"Back to the Future Part III"</b>				Burgers				Amer. Dad			
				TCM	169	53	169	**** <b>"Twelve O'Clock High"</b> (1949) 'NR'				*** <b>"Penny Serenade"</b> (1941) Irene Dunne. 'NR'				*** <b>"Children of a Lesser God"</b> (1986) 'R'			
				TDC	53	34	53	The Repair Shop (N) 'PG'	The Repair Shop (N) 'PG'	The Repair Shop (N) 'PG'	The Repair Shop (N) 'PG'	The Repair Shop (N) 'PG'	The Repair Shop (N) 'PG'	The Repair Shop (N) 'PG'	The Repair Shop (N) 'PG'				
				TLC	50	46	50	My 600-Lb. Life 'PG'	My 600-Lb. Life 'PG'	My 600-Lb. Life 'PG'	My 600-Lb. Life 'PG'	1000-Lb. Sisters (N) '14'	1000-Lb. Sisters (N) '14'	1000-Lb. Sisters (N) '14'	1000-Lb. Sisters (N) '14'				
				TMC	350	261	350	*** <b>"First Cow"</b>				*** <b>"No Man's Land"</b> (2021) Frank Grillo. 'PG-13'				*** <b>"The Witch"</b> (2015) 'R'			
				TNT	4	33	48	NHL on TNT Face Off (N)		NHL Hockey St. Louis Blues at Minnesota Wild. From Target Field in Minneapolis.		NHL on TNT	*** <b>"Black Panther"</b> (2018)						
				TOON	38	58	38	Bears	Bears	Bears	Bears	King of Hill	King of Hill	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama			
				TRAV	9	106	9	Ghost Adventures 'PG'		Ghost Adventures 'PG'		*** <b>"Demon House"</b> (2018) Zak Bagans. 'NR'		Kindred Spirits (N) 'PG'	Kindred Spirits 'PG'				
				truTV	25	55	25	Jokes	Jokes	Jokes	Jokes	Imp. Jokers	Imp. Jokers	Imp. Jokers	Imp. Jokers	Imp. Jokers			
				TVL	32	49	32	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men				
				USA	47	32	47	Chicago Fire (N) '14'	Chicago Fire (N) '14'	Chicago Fire (N) '14'	Chicago Fire (N) '14'	Chicago Fire (N) '14'	Chicago Fire (N) '14'	Chicago Fire (N) '14'	Chicago Fire (N) '14'				
				WE	117	69	117	NCIS '14'	NCIS '14'	NCIS '14'	NCIS "Family" '14'	NCIS "Ex-File" 'PG'	NCIS 'PG'	NCIS "Leap of Faith" '14'					



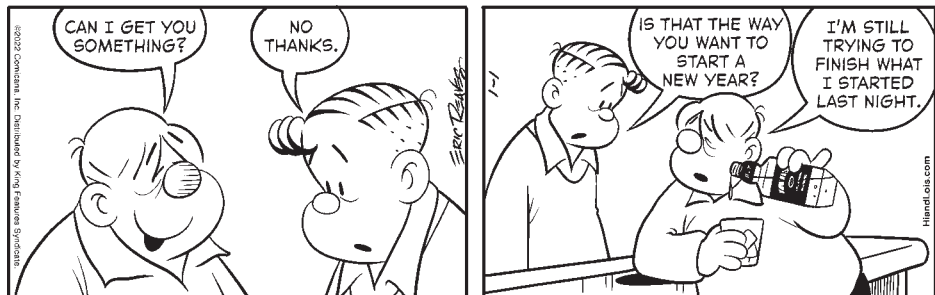
BEETLE BAILEY



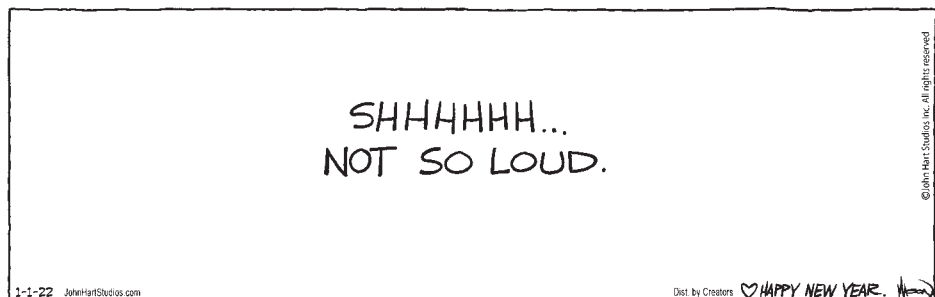
BLONDIE



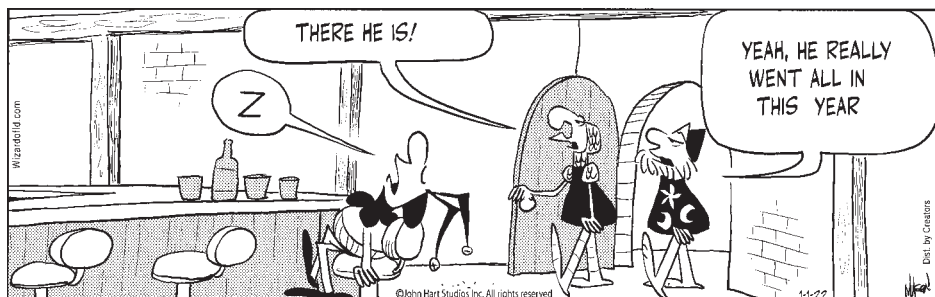
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WIZARD OF ID



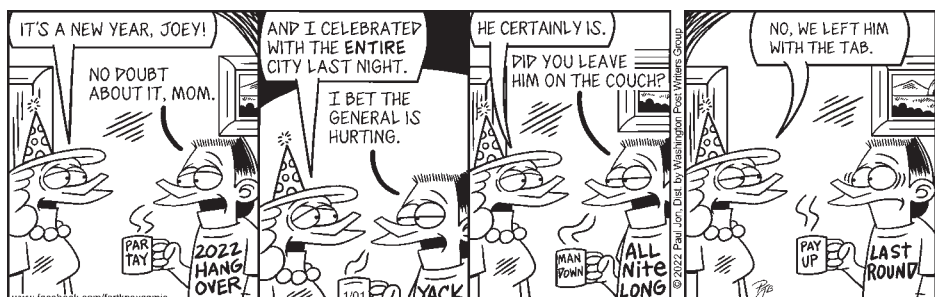
DILBERT



GARFIELD



FORT KNOX



PICKLES



ASTROGRAPH

By EUGENIA LAST

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1

Give yourself a once-over to see what improvements you want to make. Personal and home adjustments will give you the boost you need to start the year off with a positive frame of mind. Refrain from letting outsiders interfere or lead you astray. Do what's best for you.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** Rethink your financial plan and living arrangements, and figure out how to shore up your financial situation. It's up to you to take responsibility for your actions.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)** Get moving and muster up the energy to make your dreams come true. Take responsibility, and charge into the new year aiming to make a difference. Live, love, laugh and enjoy.

**PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)** Leap forward with optimism as well as apprehension. Make sure everything is in its place before you proceed if you want to reach your target. Give your all, and good things will happen.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** Leave nothing to chance. Go over details carefully. Ask questions and do your due diligence. Preparation is critical if you want to make your way forward. Verify all information that comes your way.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** Give more thought to contracts, agreements, money matters and your health before you decide to sign up for something. Don't give in to someone who doesn't have your best interest at heart.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** You'll feel uncertain about the future. Too much input from persuasive people will hold you back from doing what's best for you. Be honest about what you want, and don't fear doing your own thing.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** Put love first. Share your thoughts and feelings, and make plans. Make changes that bring you closer to your dreams and improve your quality of life. It's time to venture down an exciting path.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** Choose to spend quality time with someone who matters to you. Keep your spending down and your

attitude mellow. Arguments will set you back emotionally and can lead to regrettable mistakes.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** Refuse to let someone disrupt your plans or your life. Look into options that will help you move toward things that raise your enthusiasm. Take control instead of being controlled.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)** Don't put up with things that no longer work for you. Set your sights on making your life less stressful and more enjoyable. Surround yourself with like-minded people for optimum results.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)** Don't overspend. Touch base with uplifting people who can offer insight into the changes you want to make this year. Consider what you need to finish in order to head in a direction you want to pursue. Traveling and learning are favored.

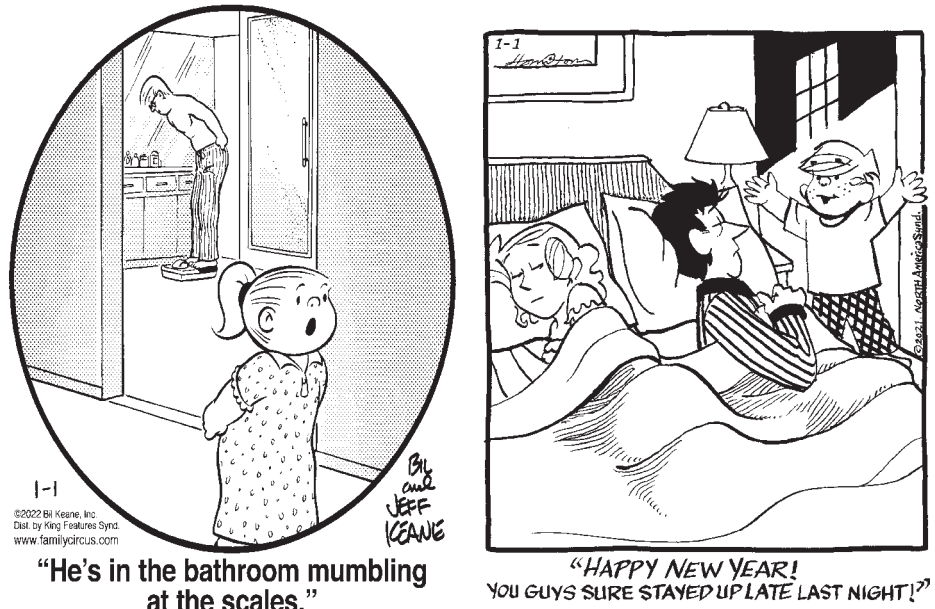
**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)** Don't make resolutions or promises you can't keep. Listen more and say less. Don't let a last-minute change of plans disrupt your day. Spend your time making personal improvements.

FAMILY CIRCUS

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

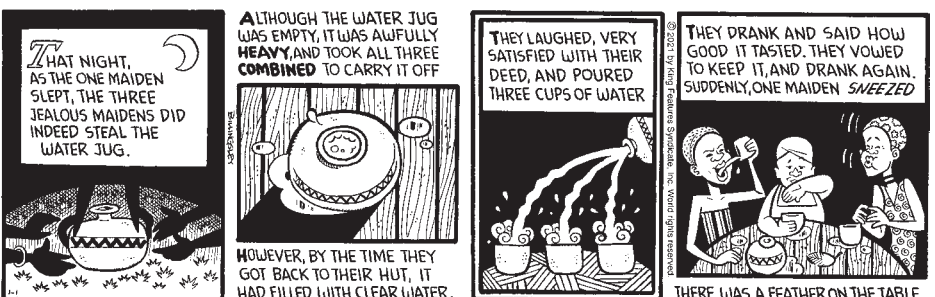
DENNIS THE MENACE



BABY BLUES



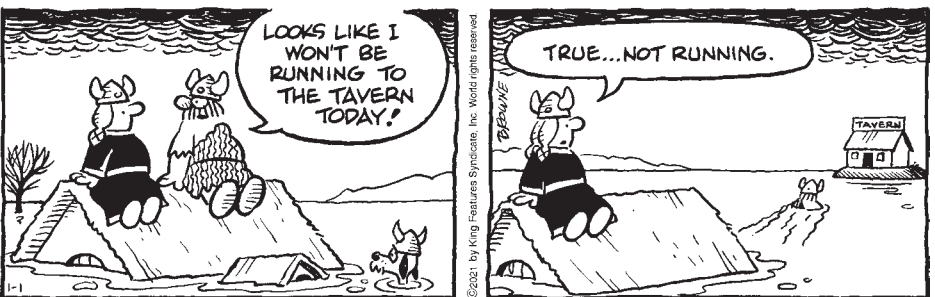
CURTIS



ZITS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



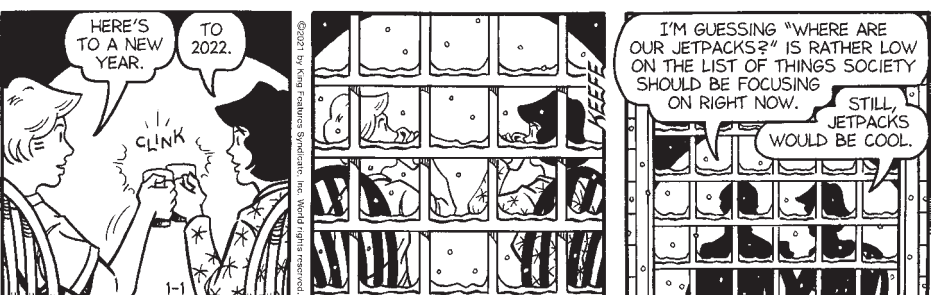
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM



MUTTS



SALLY FORTH



MOVIE SCHEDULES

**Citrus Cinemas 6 Inverness; 844-462-7342 Code 187**

**Saturday, Jan. 1**

**"American Underdog" PG:**

11:45 a.m., 3:15, 7:30, 11 p.m.

**"Sing 2" PG:** 12:15, 3:30, 7:45,

11:15 p.m.

**"The King's Man" R:** noon, 3:45,

7:15, 10:45 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, 11:30 a.m., 2:30, 3,

6:30, 7, 10, 10:30 p.m.

**Sunday, Jan. 2**

**"American Underdog" PG:**

11:45 a.m., 3:15, 7:30, 11 p.m.

**"Sing 2" PG:** 12:15, 3:30, 7:45,

11:15 p.m.

**"The King's Man" R:** noon, 3:45,

7:15, 10:45 p.m.

11:15 a.m., 2:45, 6:45, 10:15 p.m.

**"Spider-man: No Way Home" PG13:** 11, 11:30 a.m., 2:30, 3,

6:30, 7, 10, 10:30 p.m.

**Monday, Jan. 3**

**"American Underdog" PG:**

11:45 a.m., 3:15, 7:30 p.m.

**"Sing 2" PG:** 12:15, 3:30,

7:45 p.m.

**"The King's Man" R:** noon, 3:45,

7:15 p.m.

**"The Matrix Resurrections" R:**

11:15 a.m., 2:45, 6:45 p.m.

**"Spider-man: No Way Home" PG13:** 11, 11:30 a.m., 2:30, 3,

6:30, 7 p.m.

**Valerie Theatre, Inverness; 352-341-7850**

No movies announced at this time.

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





**CITRUS COUNTY**  
**CHRONICLE**  
www.chronicleonline.com



To place an ad, call (352) 563-5966



Pets



Real Estate



Cars



Help Wanted

Email: [Classifieds@chronicleonline.com](mailto:Classifieds@chronicleonline.com) - Website: [www.chronicleonline.com](http://www.chronicleonline.com)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\*\*\*FREE\*\*\*FREE\*\*\*  
I WILL REMOVE  
ANTENNA TOWERS  
For Free 352-322-6277**

**DirectTV Satellite TV  
Service** Starting at \$59.99 /month! Free Installation! 160+ channels available. Call Now to Get the Most Sports & Entertainment on TV! **844-614-2532**

**FREE... FREE...FREE...**  
Removal of scrap metal a/c, auto's, appliances & dump runs. **352-476-6600**

**I BUY, jewelry, silver, gold, paintings, instruments, records, antiques, coins, watches & MORE!**  
**352-454-0068**


**GOOD THINGS  
TO EAT**

**\* NOW OPEN \***  
**BELLAMY GROVE**  
Fresh Citrus, Collard, Kale, Mustard Greens and Strawberries **9am-5pm MON.- SAT.**  
**CLOSED SUN.**  
**352-726-6378**

**Wanted Model Trains  
\$ INSTANT CASH \$**  
For old Lionel & other model trains, any quantity - one piece or a house full!  
**330-554-7089**

**WANTED:**  
Typewriter in good condition. Call **(760)379-6440**

**Dudley's Auction**

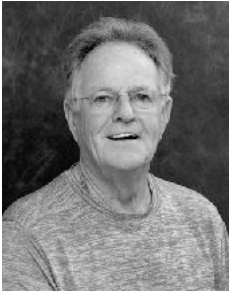
  
**WILLISTON  
ONSITE AUCTION  
-SAT. 1/8/22 PREV  
8am AUCT 9am,**  
contents of 7000+sq ft. historic home, antiques, 2+ bldg, camper, truck, REAL ESTATE avail 4 purchase. [dudleysauction.com](http://dudleysauction.com)  
**352-637-9588**  
4000 S. FL Ave., Inv. Ab1667 Au2246  
**15% bp**

TODAY'S NEW ADS

**Stump Grinding Cheap!!!**  
Avg 16" stump \$25. No stump to big or too small. Ask about our Disc: Veterans, Volume, & Seniors!! Free Est. Cheapest price guaranteed. Call Rich **352-586-7178**  
**352-789-2894**  
[CitrusStumpGrinding.com](http://CitrusStumpGrinding.com)

**SUGARMILL WOODS  
Sellers & Buyers  
FRUSTRATED?  
NEEDING HELP?  
CALL ME, NOW.**

**Hello I'm**

  
**Wayne Cormier  
Key One  
352-422-0751**

[wayne@waynecormier.com](mailto:wayne@waynecormier.com)  
"Have a great day and God Bless"

**LOST / FOUND**

**FOUND:**  
Cell phone left on school bus. Call with description of phone and bus number 352-637-1857

**FREE OFFERS**

**DESK**  
Excellent condition but very heavy. Yours to come and pick up. **(352)341-5505**

**FREE BAMBOO  
- ALL SIZES  
YOU COME AND CUT  
CALL (727) 470-5374**

**Kitten Free to good home**  
Orange, male, 10 months, neutered, microchipped, & up dated on shots. Gets along well with other cats. **(352)613-0529**

**STYROFOAM COOLERS  
w/ Lids (8) EIGHT - Clean  
352-527-2085**

**OTHER**

**ATTENTION MEDICARE  
RECIPIENTS!** Open Enrollment for Medicare health plans is here! Call our licensed insurance agents for an affordable quote for your needed coverage. **Call for a no obligation free quote now! 833-260-2632**

**DISCOUNT AIR TRAVEL.** Call Flight Services for best pricing on domestic & international flights inside and from the US. Serving United, Delta, American & Southwest and many more airlines. Call for free quote now! Have travel dates ready! 888-858-0128

GARAGE / ESTATE SALES

**MOVING  
SALE  
EVERYTHING MUST GO!**

**PINE RIDGE**  
Jan 2nd **Thru** Jan 8th 9a-4p  
5624 W Cisco St

**INSTRUCTION**

**Career Training and Medical Billing- TRAIN ONLINE TO DO MEDICAL BILLING!**  
Become a Medical Office Professional online at CTI! Get Trained, Certified & ready to work in months! Call 877-324-4096. The Mission, Program Information and Tuition is located at [CareerTechnical.edu/consumer-information](http://CareerTechnical.edu/consumer-information). **(M-F 8am-6pm ET)**

**EMPLOYMENT**

  
Citrus Publishing located in Crystal River Florida is currently seeking a Full Time Lead Press Operator. Our central office is in Crystal River, FL printing newspapers that serve Citrus, Sumter, Marion and Levy Counties. Applicants must have a minimum 5 years' experience running a Goss Community/ DGM 430 printing press. This is a night shift position, four days per week.

We offer an excellent benefits package including health, life, dental, eye care, 401K, paid vacations and holidays.

**Apply in person or send resume to:**  
**Citrus County Chronicle**  
Attn. Tom Feeney  
1624 North Meadowcrest Blvd.  
Crystal River, Fla. 34429  
Office 352-563-3275 or Fax # 352-563-5665

**PART TIME  
ASSOCIATE**

Part time associate for funeral home, guaranteed 27 hours, lifting required, light inside and outside duties, need verifiable driving record, hourly wage well above minimum, training provided. Interview appointment required, call **352-726-8323** (ask for human resources)

**MERCHANDISE**

**GARDEN HOSE**  
150 ft. long, like new, \$20.00  
**352-201-1929**

EMPLOYMENT

**Structural Steel Fabricator in Citrus County NOW HIRING P/T or F/T**

**COORDINATOR/ ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

**need only have computer skills, organizational skills and a desire to learn.**

**We offer:**  
**Competitive Salary, Bonus Program, medical/dental/vision insurance, 401K w/ 100% company matching funds.**

**Please send resume to [janem@capitalsteelfl.com](mailto:janem@capitalsteelfl.com)**


**EXPERIENCED PAINTER**

McKenzie Painting is Hiring!! Must wear white and have five years experience, transportation & tools, To apply call **352-400-1404**

**KITCHEN HELP NEEDED**  
MACRAE'S of Homosassa Apply at Motel office **5300 S Cherokee Way, Homosassa**

**PETS**

**4 WHEEL MOBILITY SCOOTER**

  
**Golden Technologies GC440 model, made in the USA.** Weight capacity of 350 lbs, speed of 5.3 mph, range of 18 miles between charging. Adjustable seat with arm rests, lots of leg and foot room provides for riding comfort. 10" tires, adjustable head light and tail lights, electronic speed control, automatic electric brakes, and battery charger included. Ideal for car travel, trips to the mall, dining out, or riding around your neighborhood with your 4-legged companion. Excellent Condition. Asking \$1,795. Call **352-422-0179**

**DOG CARRIER**  
Pet Mate Ultra, large, 28"Lx15"Wx21.5"D. Taupe/black \$60  
**352-613-0529**

PETS

**KITTEN**  
8 weeks old - FREE TO GOOD HOME - **(727) 470-5374**

**Kitten, free to good home.** Orange, male, 10 months, neutered, microchipped, & up dated on shots. Gets along well with other cats. **(352)613-0529**

**PET STROLLER**  
VIAGDO - Never Used \$100 Can send pics **(810) 956-3406**

**PET GATES**  
Two free standing, Petmaker, White, 54"(w) x 24"(h) Purchased Pier One - Brand New \$30 ea **(727) 247-3025**

**MERCHANDISE**

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50 plus year Sports Memorabilia, ALL TEAMS Also quality Art Works **(443) 602-0677**

**ART COLLECTION**  
For sale, Call Mr. B **(352)419-8554**

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PHILOSOPHY - Fresh Cream Lemon or Coconut -16oz NEW still Sealed - 2 for \$25 or \$15 Each **(352) 527-2085**

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Brand new 74pc Dinnerware Set - serves 10+ people with Duck Pattern -Excellent Condition! Looks brand new \$75 - **(352) 503-6337**

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- SIMPLY STRAIGHT- BRAND NEW - \$17 **(352) 527-2085**

**CORNER CABINET**  
SOLID OAK- 4 Doors Unused- \$45 **(352) 527-2085**

**Set of 11 Natural Solid Gemstone Cross Pendants w/ chain in Magnetic Gift Box**  
NEW / \$20 **(352) 527-2085**

**CUISINART -Ceramic Knife Set**  
NEW in box- \$20 **(352) 527-2085**

**Diamond Baguettes Cross Pendant**  
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**Emjoi - 1 epilator - 1 pedicure**  
BRAND NEW - Both \$20 **(352) 527-2085**

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30 fishing lures, J plugs \$40 **352-382-4558**

**FISHING LURES**  
35+ Rapala Lures all colors, sizes, types, all for \$80! **352-382-4558**

**GOLF UMBRELLA**  
HAAS - Jordan 1) green/white & 1) blue/white - New \$35 ea **(352) 527-2085**

**JOY MANGANO SET of 2 HANDY HOOK MIRRORS** 2 sided w/ one side magnified 10x - both in velvet pouches/ \$20 for the set **(352) 527-2085**

**VACUUM**  
JOY MANGANO PURPLE HAND/STICK VACUUM in box \$20 **(352) 527-2085**

MERCHANDISE

**LAMPS**  
two matching lamps, bronze with beige shades, 30" high, \$50 for both. **352-613-0529**

**JUST REDUCED!!!**  
**Metro Mobility Electric 4 Wheel SCOOTER- NEW IN BOX,** Only \$650 - SAVE \$400 **(352) 410-8262**

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Brand New - Top Name Brand \$30 **(352) 503-6337**

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BEEKMAN - Set of 6 in tin box Unused \$25 **(352) 527-2085**

**Bob's DISCARDED Lawn Mower Service « FREE PICK-UP »**  
**352-637-1225**

**PRINTER INK CARTRIDGE**  
950XL - BLACK - Sealed \$40 **(352) 527-2085**

**PRINTER INK CARTRIDGE**  
BLACK 96 - 2 FOR \$65 OR \$35 EACH **(352) 527-2085**

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\$35 **(352) 527-2085**

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NFL, NBA, NHL, MLB & NASCAR - Over \$300 value - \$100 for All **(352) 503-6337**

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\$35 **(352) 527-2085**

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**UMBRELLA STROLLER**  
Blue and Red, in good cond. \$10 **352-613-0529**

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LAVENDER - KING SIZE in Bag \$20 **(352) 527-2085**

**VINTAGE BOOKS- 2 large**  
duffle bags full. 1800's to the 1940's. \$100 obo for all **(352)503-6337**

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SIZE 3 - \$100 **(352) 527-2085**

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\$15 **(352) 527-2085**

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5 Piece Circa 1917 Bedroom Set \$1000 - pictures available upon request **(352) 212-5081**

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82"H x 40"W x 13"D with shelves- White washed \$100  
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Individual Hide-Away folding bed w/ cover. Used only once- Like New! \$100 **(352) 503-6337**

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Same owner since 1987 **ROOF** Leaks, Repairs, Coating & Maintenance License #CC-C058189 Gary : **352-228-4500**

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Avg 16" stump \$25. No stump to big or too small. Ask about our Disc: Veterans, Volume, & Seniors!! Free Est. Cheapest price guaranteed. Call Rich **352-586-7178**  
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[CitrusStumpGrinding.com](http://CitrusStumpGrinding.com)

**UPDATE YOUR HOME** with Beautiful New Blinds & Shades. FREE in-home estimates make it convenient to shop from home. Professional installation. Top quality - Made in the USA. Call for free consultation: **866-636-1910. Ask about our specials!**


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**New location is 725 SE 9th Circle Crystal River (Behind KFC)**

Walk-ins Welcome Men's & Boy's Cuts just \$12 We cut womens hair too! **Sandy's Barbershop (352) 228-8912**

**WANTED JUNK & ESTATE CARS**  
Up to **\$1,000 & MORE** **(352) 342-7037**


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**A-1 Complete Repairs**  
Pres. Wash, Painting (Int/Ext) 25 yrs, Ref, Lic #39765, **352-513-5746**

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**A TREE SURGEON**  
Proudly serving Citrus County Since 2001. Licensed/Insured Lowest rates! FREE estimate **352-860-1452**


  
**AMERICAN PRIDE LAWN SERVICE - Tractor Work, Final Grades, Driveways & Mowing / 352-302-3495**


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For stumps: **352-201-7323**

**Stump Grinding Cheap!!!**  
Avg 16" stump \$25. No stump to big or too small. Ask about our Disc: Veterans, Volume, & Seniors!! Free Est. Cheapest price guaranteed. Call Rich **352-586-7178**  
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[CitrusStumpGrinding.com](http://CitrusStumpGrinding.com)

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**COUNTY WIDE DRY-WALL 30 Years Experience**  
License #2875. for ALL your drywall needs!! Ceiling & Wall Repairs - Popcorn Removal **352-503-7193**

  
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**AFFORDABLE SENIOR TRANSPORTATION**  
Anytime, Anywhere, FREE Upgrades / **586-217-8202**



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**Patio Furniture**  
Table and Chairs  
36 x 36 Table  
\$100 (352) 637-2188

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

**ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS!** Inogen One G4 is capable of full 24/7 oxygen delivery. Only 2.8 pounds. FREE information kit. **Call 866-925-2362. Inogen**

**Depends Briefs** - NEW- Hi quality gray LG/XL 26ct, 3 pkgs/ \$10 each  
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**JUST REDUCED!!!**  
**Metro Mobility Electric 4 Wheel SCOOTER**- NEW IN BOX, Only \$650 - SAVE \$400 (352) 410-8262

**STEP UP EXERCISER** w/ support handle. Great for rehab/stability - NEW. \$30 obo **352-410-8262**

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**WET SUITS**  
IST, all brand new, long sleeves, Adult Lg and LX \$100 each, Childs' short sleeve ML, & XL. \$80 each Masks \$30 ea. Call for Appt. **352-564-0557**

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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

**BEST LOT IN CITRUS SPRINGS** - 7851 N. Golfview near the Golf Course, 86 x 120, 10,500 sqft, 1yr land contract with warranty deed - **586-217-8202**

**CITRUS SPRINGS**  
FSBO, 3/2/2 plus bonus room. With extra lot and storage building. 2183 SF living space. Lg screened lanai. \$348,000 (405)990-5570 by appt only

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

**ACTION RENTAL MANAGEMENT REALTY, INC.**  
**352-795-7368**

**HOMOSASSA**  
\$1300  
**3827 S. Flamingo Ter.**  
2/2/1 Fenced Yard, handicap ramps, walk-in shower.

**CRYSTAL RIVER**  
\$1000  
**8380 N Desertrose Ter, Apt A**  
2/2 Apt. Includes Lawn, Water and Trash Removal  
\$1,200

**HOMOSASSA**  
\$1200  
**2369 S Tennyson Pt**  
2/2/1 Fenced back yard. Newly remodeled home  
\$2500

**9 Dahoon Ct.**  
3/2/2 Pool home, lawn & maintenance included  
\$1200  
**9779 W Cleveland Lane (NO PETS)** 2/1/1 with fenced in yard

**COMMERCIAL - INVERNESS**  
1,000 sq. ft. units located at Croft Plaza

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# SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephram Group

Level **1** 2 3 4

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

Solution to Friday's puzzle 1/1/22

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

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](http://sudoku.org.uk)

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Saturday, January 1, 2022

KATHLEEN SAXE

# WORD GAME

TODAY'S WORD -- SAPIENT

(SAPIENT: SAY-pee-ent: Sagacious; wise.)

Average mark 44 words  
Time limit 60 minutes

Can you find 61 or more words in SAPIENT?  
The list will be published Monday.

YESTERDAY'S WORD -- FLUCTUATE

face	fetal	leaf	cleft	taut
facet	flat	left	clue	teal
fact	flea	luau	cult	teat
fate	flue	lute	cute	tufa
faucet	flute	cafe	cutlet	tuft
fault	fuel	calf	tact	tutu
feat	lace	cattle	tactful	acute
felt	late	cleat	talc	
feta	latte	clef	tale	

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](mailto:kzsaxe@gmail.com).

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### ACROSS

1 Was a passenger  
5 Disturb  
9 Runway sight  
12 Stravinsky or Sikorsky  
13 Slimy vegetable  
14 Thurman of "Gattaca"  
15 Make hazy  
16 Attention-getter  
17 Playful bite  
18 Tahini base  
20 Wax theatrical  
22 Magritte's name  
23 Halter  
24 — -turvy  
27 Heath  
31 Less than one  
34 Cashmere  
35 Liniment target  
36 Gadget  
38 Range in Asia

### DOWN

1 Umbrella parts  
2 Leering sort  
3 Put out a fire  
4 Kind of knight  
5 Thick cord

### Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

6 Signs off on  
7 1040 collectors  
8 After a while  
9 Roman goddess  
10 Give off, as rays

11 Record  
19 Feeding time cry  
21 Toddler's cry  
23 Rule  
25 Hunt illegally  
26 By oneself  
28 Autumn mo.  
29 Sounds of surprise  
30 Standing, slangily  
31 Highest degree  
32 Item in a poker pot  
33 Written record  
37 Hop  
39 Dots in "la mer"  
43 Nefarious plan  
45 Words to the audience  
47 Wearing vestments  
48 Municipal  
49 — -Aid  
50 Icicle site  
51 Q.E.D. part  
52 Penny —  
53 Is, in Avila  
56 Rotter  
57 Assn.

1-1

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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. 2022 present on this spot (1)

2. Essential name for a book (2)

3. Luxurious hair-stroking tool (1)

4. Retrieve a rough drawing (1)

5. Discipline Aquaman player Momoa (2)

6. Engineless plane path director (2)

7. The past's still unexplained events (3)

ANSWERS

1. YEAR HERE 2. VITAL TITLE 3. PLUSH BRUSH 4. FETCH SKETCH 5. CHASTEN JASON 6. GLIDER GUIDER 7. HISTORIS SYRLOSIH

1-1-22

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### MEETINGS

7127-0101 SACRN  
PUBLIC NOTICE  
INVERNESS COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

The ICRA normally meets on the 1st Thursday of every month at 5:00 pm, at the Inverness Government Center, City Council Chambers – 212 W. Main Street, Inverness.

Meetings in 2022 are scheduled for:

January 6, 2022	July 7, 2022
February 3, 2022	August 4, 2022
March 3, 2022	September 1, 2022
April 7, 2022	October 6, 2022
May 5, 2022	November 3, 2022
June 2, 2022	December 1, 2022

Any person who decides to appeal any decision made at the meeting in respect to any matter considered at this meeting will need a record of the proceeding, and for such purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made.

If reasonable accommodations are needed for you to participate in the meeting, please call 352-726-3401, 48 hours in advance so arrangements can be made.

Published January 1, 2022

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MODEL#4430  
\$349/MO. FOR 36 MOS.

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LE**

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AVAILABLE**



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**\$21,993**

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2019 TOYOTA AVALON TOURING 21120157	Certified Used Vehicles \$36,991
2019 CADILLAC XT5 LUXURY 21110348	Certified Used Vehicles \$37,773
2020 TOYOTA SIENNA XLE 21129007	Certified Used Vehicles \$37,992
2020 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LIMITED 21110293	Certified Used Vehicles \$37,993
2020 RAM 1500 BIG HORN/LONE STAR 21129008	Certified Used Vehicles \$39,872
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2020 TOYOTA SIENNA XLE PREMIUM 21120172	Certified Used Vehicles \$42,881
2021 JEEP GLADIATOR SPORT 21110046	Certified Used Vehicles \$43,774
2020 RAM 1500 BIG HORN/LONE STAR 21120101	Certified Used Vehicles \$46,992
2021 TOYOTA SIENNA XLE 21120021	Certified Used Vehicles \$48,882
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