Golf: Thomas rallies to win The Players Championship /B1



COUNTY COVID-19 UPATE

Citrus County passes 10,000 **COVID** cases

According to the Florida Department of Health, 11 positive cases were reported in Citrus County since the latest update. One new death was

reported, for a total of 417. To date in the

county, 10,010 people have tested positive (including 82 nonresidents).

One new hospitalization was reported, for a total of 653 hospitalized.

Totals reflect preliminary reports received by the state, and are subject to later revision.

DOH-Citrus vaccine registration system open

DOH-Citrus' preregistration system to schedule COVID-19 vaccine appointments for individuals 65 and older and frontline health care workers is now available.

Individuals can now be added to a waiting list for vaccine appointments and be notified when appointments are available in Citrus County by visiting myvaccine.fl.gov or by calling 866-201-0442; TTY is 833-476-1036.

As part of the statewide preregistration system, each county has a designated number that individu-



Joe Cappuccuilli, president of Rock Crusher Canyon Pavilion and Amphitheater and vice president of Gulf to Lake Associates, a commercial real estate and development firm, stands before a 20,000-square-foot covered pavilion at Rock Crusher Canyon. The COVID-19 pandemic has taken its toll on the venue. Thus, Rock Crusher management is "exploring our options. We are deciding what to do with it," said Cappuccilli.

Pandemic delivers crushing blow to local entertainment venue

MARGO WILSON For the Chronicle

race Adkins, Vince Gill, Faith Hill and Willie Nelson have performed there. Name a country-western star and his or her tunes probably have reverberated off the quarry walls of Rock Crusher Can-

yon Amphitheater. Rock and folk groups like Her-Trio also have found their way to the venue in Crystal River.

the performance space, which in- the Rock Crusher performance site. cludes not only the amphitheater, But Olsen died Sept. 30, and he al- according to Cappuccilli, and for but the 20,000-square-foot, open-air ways had subsidized the venue, ac- several reasons. pavilion, where many local nonprof- cording to Cappuccilli. its have hosted popular fundraising events and smaller concerts have been staged. The facility has been closed since the pandemic settled in, and that means no revenue has been availstaff, utilities, maintenance, taxes need to be addressed. and insurance.

is "exploring our options. We are deciding what to do with it," said Joe Cappuccilli, manager of the Rock Crusher property and vice president of Gulf to Lake Associates, a commercial real estate and development firm.

He said he hopes there will be a decision within the next couple months.

The late Stan Olsen, an entrepreman's Hermits and the Kingston neur and philanthropist who developed Citrus Hills, Meadowcrest and Black Diamond, also had the vision But COVID-19 has taken its toll on to turn a former limestone mine into

Thus, Rock Crusher management the property or developing portions of it for different uses. Cappuccilli said the land use for Rock Crusher is considered "recreational," which allows everything from single family residential use to an RV park. There already is an RV park on the site.

Another option would be to stay the course and continue to subsidize the property until a full season of events can be offered. Even then, some subsidization probably would be needed.

And it's likely a season of events couldn't be held until 2022. Thus, maintaining the status quo seems less feasible with each passing day,

Biden boosts vaccine surplus for US

ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON President Joe Biden has directed his administration to order another 100 million doses of the Johnson & Johnson coronavirus vaccine, growing a likely U.S. surplus of doses later this year while much of the rest of the world struggles with deep shortages.

Even before Wednesday's order, the U.S. was to have enough approved vaccine delivered by mid-May to cover every adult and enough for 400 million people total by the end of July. Enough doses to cover 200 million more people are on order should vaccines from AstraZeneca and Novavax receive approval from the Food and Drug Administration. The new J&J doses, which would cover another 100 million people, are expected to be delivered in the latter half of the year.

White House aides said Biden's first priority is ensuring that Americans are vaccinated before considering distributing doses elsewhere.

"We want to be over-

als can call and pre-register with if they do not have internet access. Citrus County's designated number is 833-540-2058. Vaccine supply remains limited and appointments may not

- From staff reports

be available.

POLL

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Impact fees are a onetime payment to offset the financial impact of new development on public infrastructure. Citrus County's impact fee is currently 50% of the full amount for transportation and schools. Should county commissioners adopt a consultant's recommendation to increase the fee?

A. I am sick and tired of government fees. B. It would be counterproductive to the county's building surge. C. Not when the economy is struggling from the pandemic. **D.** New growth should pay for its infrastructure impact. E. We all have a stake in

accommodating future growth.

To vote, visit www. chronicleonline.com. Scroll down the home page and look for the poll box in the righthand column.

Results will appear next Monday. Find last week's online poll results./Page A3

Annual Report for 2021 lists Olsen Family Investments as the general partner operating through Gulf to Lake Associates. Cappuccilli said that in deciding what to do with able to offset the ongoing costs of Rock Crusher, estate issues also

Possible options include selling

For one thing, Rock Crusher didn't A Florida Limited Partnership seek government help under the CARES Act during the pandemic, because the site is so intertwined with the real estate ventures that it would be difficult to separate the one from the others, Cappuccilli explained.

See CANYON/Page A7

supplied and overprepared," White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Wednesday, saying Biden wanted contingencies in the event of any unforeseen issues with the existing production timeline.

"We still don't know

See SURPLUS/Page A7

Local nonprofit benefits from more square footage But Nature Coast Ministries still needs more volunteer dentists, hygienists

NANCY KENNEDY Staff writer

What a difference an extra 10,000 square feet makes.

Nature Coast Ministries, the nonprofit that, among other things, offers a no-cost dental clinic to Citrus County residents within 200% of federal poverty guideline, moved its thrift store location from Sunny Days Plaza in Homosassa to Homosassa Square, at the corner of U.S. 19 and Yulee Drive, also in Homosassa.

They went from 1,000 square feet to 11,000 — more space, more merchandise, more foot traffic, which all equals more income to help more people in need.

That's what we're here for, to help our neighbors," said Bonnie McMullin, Nature Coast Ministries spokeswoman.

The new thrift store, which opened in November 2020, is brightly lit, clean and wheelchairaccessible, which had been a problem with the former location, McMullin said.

Thrift store managers, Kevin and Edie Rosio, said the former store had fewer than 20 customers a day.

This store, which is in the same

plaza as Ollie's, Hitchcock's Market, an American Legion post and several restaurants, gets as many as 120 customers a day.

"We get lots of traffic," Edie Rosio said. "And when people come here needing help, we help them."

McMullin said a man who had just gotten out of prison and was staying with a friend came to the Sunny Days Plaza store wearing shoes he had borrowed from his friend.

"He had a job interview the next day and didn't have anything to wear, so we found him two outfits and a really nice pair of shoes," McMullin said. "He sat down and cried."

She said in the past two years, Nature Coast Ministries has helped eight homeless veterans and four women and their children from CASA by giving them the furniture and household items they needed to start a new life.

"At the dental clinic, we had a veteran who lived at the shelter in Inverness who had enough money to get his own single-wide (trailer) but no money to furnish it," she said. "We said, 'That's what we do,' and brought him to our See NONPROFIT/Page A5



NANCY KENNEDY/Chronicle

Nature Coast Ministries recently moved its thrift store location from Sunny Days Plaza in Homosassa to Homosassa Square, at the corner of U.S. 19 and Yulee Drive, also in Homosassa. Pictured are Bonnie McMullin, left, Nature Coast Ministries spokeswoman, and thrift store manager Edie Rosio. Revenue from the store helps fund the no-cost dental clinic in Crystal River.



Classifieds B8 Comics B7 Crossword..... B10 Editorial.....A6 Entertainment.....A4 Extra PuzzlesB5



Horoscope	A4
Lottery Numbers	
Lottery Payouts	. B3

MoviesB7 Nation/WorldA8 TV Listings......B6



Special to the Chronicle

From left are: Mike Engiles, Friends president; Paula Anspach, volunteer; and Joyce Palmer, refuge manager. Anspach wrote a grant which helped to secure funds for the state-of-the-art interactive displays that are being created for the new refuge visitor center.

Friends of the refuge recognizes volunteers

Special to the Chronicle

Recently, the Friends of the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge Complex Inc. recognized the service of two community members and volunteers.

Paula Anspach was presented an engraved clock by Friends President Mike hours of their personal time and skills to Engiles in gratitude for her service.

Anspach wrote a grant which helped to secure funds for the state-of-the-art interactive displays that are being cre-

ated for the new refuge visitor center.

Friends President Engiles also presented Chris Story with an engraved clock for his work in recreating and continuously updating the Friends' website.

Both honorees have donated dozens of the Friends of the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge.

To learn about the Friends and their efforts, visit friendsofthecrystalriver.org.



Veterans group raises Purple Heart flag in Beverly Hills



Special to the Chronicle

Harry M. Bailey, Amvets Post 89 Cmdr. Floyd Blodgett, right, 1st Vice Cmdr. Lou Ann Braglin, left, and Finance Office Arnaldo Rodriguez, center, attended the raising of the Purple Heart flag on George Washington's birthday Monday, Feb. 22. The flag raising took place at the large flag pole behind 1 Civic Circle in Beverly Hills. Amvets Post 80 is always looking for new members to help with the work they do for veterans, youths and the community. Individuals with an honorable or general discharge, as well as active duty are eligible to join. Post 89 meets at 6:20 p.m. the third Monday monthly at 1 Civic Circle, in Beverly Hills.

VFW delivers student letters to cancer patients



VFW Post 10087 Auxiliary delivered 24 bags to the Malcom Randall VA Medical Center in Gainesville. These bags are given to cancer patients at the facility and makes chemotherapy a little easier. Thanks to the efforts of Carol Franker, more than 40 cards were delivered to inpatients. The cards were written by the students of Forest Ridge Elementary. From left are: Deborah Wilson, Mike Yates and Pat Lampasona.

Special to the Chronicle

Friends President, Mike Engiles, left, presents Chris Story with an engraved clock to thank him for working with the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge Complex website.

D-I-Y ONLINE CALENDAR

- Local groups are welcome to add their upcoming events to the Chronicle's online community calendar. Go to www.chronicleonline.com. At the very top of the screen, click on "Submit your news."
- Sign in or create an account. Once signed in, click on "Calendar Events" in the left-hand column, then click on "Create an event."
- Fill in all fields. Click the "Create Event" button at the end.
- Submissions are subject to approval by staff; allow up to a week for processing.





Post 166 celebrates two years

On Feb. 1, American Legion Post 166 celebrated the second year of having a Post home. Part of the celebration was the flag disposal program. Lecanto High School's JROTC participated in the celebration as well. First Sgt. Kelly lowers an American flag into the fire during a flag disposal program at American Legion Post 166. Special to the Chronicle



Page A3 - MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2021 'ATE TRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

Around the COUNTY

American Legion celebrates 102nd anniversary

The American Legion Post 166 is celebrating the 102nd anniversary of the American Legion. Veterans and the general public are invited to take part in the celebration.

The celebrations will start at 11:30 a.m. on March 15 with the arrival of the bloodmobile and the doors of the post will open at noon at the American Legion Post 166 at 4520 S. Suncoast Blvd. in Homosassa. The festivities will continue until 6 p.m.

There will be prizes, raffles, pizza and soft drinks. The Auxiliary Unit, Sons of the Legion Squadron and the Legion Riders will be there to answer questions about their programs.

Drive-thru food drive on March 16 to benefit SOS

The Esther Chapter of the Daughters of the King at Shepherd of the Hills Episcopal Church in Lecanto is asking for food donations to benefit SOS food pantry, which feeds more than thousands of families in Citrus County.

The monthly drive-thru food donation collection is the third Tuesday of each month from 9 a.m. to noon at Shepherd of the Hills Episcopal Church, 2540 West Norvell Bryant Highway (County Road 486), Lecanto.

The Donation Drop-Off is at the Portico entrance at the church

The food collected on Tuesday will be taken to SOS on Wednesday in time for distribution on Thursday. Also, they will have cool-

ers on hand to store refrigerated or even frozen items.

Citrus Community

FRED HIERS Staff writer

The Inverness city council will likely have a new president and vice president during its next county meeting Tuesday.

The city's charter calls for council members to meet the third Tuesday of each March and designate a new president and vice president.

In a letter to the council, City Clerk Susan Jackson reminded the council of the change and said that historically the two positions are appointed on a rotating basis.

required to follow that process, however, and can vote for any of the council members they like to fill the posts.

Currently, Jacquie Hepfer is the council president and David Ryan serves as vice president.

The president's job is to sign various documents on behalf of the city and oversee council meetings.

Also in city business Tuesday, March 16, is the council's consideration to eliminate voluntary annexation fees.

Typically, the city waives

half in and half out of the city border.

This has proven successful to correcting these longstanding circumstances," wrote City Manager Eric Williams in the council's agenda packet.

But for other properties, the council has had to consider each fee individually, Williams said.

This not only adds time to the process, but the elimination of the \$200 fee will reduce further the barriers to more voluntary annexation," Williams wrote.

"Growing the city

The council members are not annexation fees if a property is annexation is in the best interest of the community, and the desire to facilitate and simplify the process for prospective new residents and businesses remains the objective," he said.

> Also in city business, Williams will submit the city's Community **Redevelopment Agency Annual** Report.

> The Inverness Community Redevelopment Agency is required to file the report with its governing body, the city council.

The report cites changes and improvements the city has by undertaken.

Citrus County groups launch solar cooperative

Council contemplates leadership, fees

Special to the Chronicle

Nonprofit group Solar United Neighbors announced the launch of the Citrus County Solar Co-op to help Citrus County residents go solar.

'The co-op will enable Citrus County homeowners and business owners to join the growing community of people saving money by harnessing solar power," said Heaven Campbell, Florida program director for Solar United Neighbors.

Together, we're building a movement to transform our electricity system into one that is solar energy and leverage bulk

cleaner, fairer, and shares its benefits more broadly."

This opportunity comes shortly after Congress passed COVID-19 relief legislation that extends the federal solar investment tax credit.

With the new legislation, residents will be able to deduct 26% of the cost of installing a solar energy system from their federal taxes, making this the opportune time to go solar.

The co-op is free to join and open to homeowners and business owners in Citrus County. Co-op members will learn about

purchasing to ensure competitive obligate members to purchase pricing and quality solar installations.

Partnering on the co-op are the League of Women Voters of Citrus County, Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group, Florida Springs Council, Nature Coast Americans United for Separation of Church and State. Nature Coast Unitarian Universalists and Friends of the Chassahowitzka.

After a competitive bidding process facilitated by Solar United Neighbors, co-op members will select a single solar company to complete the installations.

solar. Instead, members will have the option to individually purchase panels based on the installer's group rate.

Solar United Neighbors will host several free information sessions to educate community members about solar energy and the co-op. Individuals interested in going solar can sign up for the co-op or one of the upcoming information sessions at the co-op web page SolarUnitedNeighbors. org/Citrus

Free virtual information meetings will be at 6 p.m. March 16, Joining the co-op does not 6 p.m. April 7 and noon on May 13.

Residents invited to offer input for countywide study

Water quality, treatment options being eyed

Special to the Chronicle

Citrus County is inviting residents to participate in a second online survey that will help guide a countywide study to find the most cost-effective options to improve freshwater quality. The Citrus County wastewater treatment feasibility analysis will identify opportunities to protect our shared groundwater sources and improve spring water quality in King's Bay and the Chassahowitzka River. Identified by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection as primary focus areas within Citrus County, these springs have been impacted by increased nitrogen and require their conservation and restoration.



pollution reduction methods are most effective for each primary focus area in Citrus County.

Plans will then be developed to accommodate additional sewerage for properties that are not currently connected to the system and to reduce nitrogen discharge from septic systems by upgrading those systems or connecting property to the sewage system.

The Citrus County wastewater treatment feasibility analysis will benefit the community by restoring and protecting the county's natural environment, maintaining the health of groundwater

Center hosts local musician

The East Citrus Community Center invites the public to watch local musical entertainer Larry Rising.

At noon Wednesday, March 17, he will be performing at the community center, 9907 E. Gulf to Lake Highway (State Road 44) in Inverness.

Other events held in March at this location include \$5 line dancing classes with Kathy Reynolds at 1 p.m. on Tuesdays and weekly drum circles at 1 p.m. on Fridays.

Attendees must comply with COVID-19 guidelines and masks are mandatory. Due to limited space, reservations are required.

For more information about this event and other activities, call the community center at 352-344-9666.

Extension announces March garden seminar

The UF/IFAS extension office announces that their next master gardener seminar topic will be "Perfect Flowers for Cutting.'

The seminar will be all about cultivating plants and foliage that will produce beautiful displays inside. Formerly, these seminars were held in person at the county libraries. Due to COVID-19, the seminars are now being offered monthly on Zoom.

To preregister for this free online seminar, visit flowersforcutting.eventbrite.com. All registrants will be sent a link to join virtually at 1 p.m. Monday, March 22. For additional information, call Stephanie Clamer at 352-527-5700.

- From staff reports

in these areas may include the areas where it is reasonable to

additional protections to ensure A calf Manatee eats seagrass in a canal near Hunter Springs Run on May 15, 2019, in Crystal River.

Wastewater treatment options installation of sewer services to do so.

The study will determine which watertfa.com.

Chronicle file

HOW YOUR LAWMAKERS VOTED

Key votes for the week ending March 12, reported by Voterama in Congress.

Protecting Labor's Right To Organize:

Voting 225 for and 206 against, the House on March 9 passed a bill (HR 842) that would protect and expand employee rights to collectively bargain for better pay, benefits and working conditions. The bill would establish the right to organize as a civil right enforceable in federal court, prohibit the permanent replacement of striking workers and enable employees to file class-action lawsuits over working conditions. Daniel Webster, No.

- **Expanding Checks On Gun Sales:** The House on March 11 voted, 227 for and 203 against, to expand federal gun background checks to cover sales conducted at gun shows, over the Internet or through classified ads, with an exception for sales between family members. The bill (HR 8) would plug loopholes that allow millions of U.S. firearms sales to skirt the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System, which is structured to deny guns to the mentally ill, individuals with criminal records and domestic abusers. Daniel Webster, No.
- Checks On Undocumented Immigrants:

Voting 207 for and 217 against, the House on March 11 defeated a Republican motion to HR 8 (above) requiring undocumented immigrants to be reported to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement when federal background checks detect they are attempting to buy a firearm. Daniel Webster, Yes.

- Extending Gun Background Checks: Voting 219 for and 210 against, the House on March 11 passed a bill (HR 1446) that would allow more time for the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System to complete reviews of impending gun sales. Now, sales automatically go through if the check is not finished within three business or weekend days. The bill would extend the window to as many as 20 business days. Daniel Webster, No.
- Giving Final Ok To Virus Relief: Voting 220 for and 211 against, the House on March 10 gave final congressional approval to a \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package (HR 1319). Daniel Webster, No.
- Confirming Merrick Garland As Attorney

General: Voting 70 for and 30 against, the Senate on March 10 confirmed federal appeals judge Merrick B. Garland, 68, as attorney general. Marco Rubio, Rick Scott, No.

- Confirming Marcia Fudge As Secretary Of Housing: Voting 66 for and 34 against, the Senate on March 10 confirmed Rep. Marcia L. Fudge, D-Ohio, as secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Marco Rubio, Rick Scott, No.
- Confirming Michael Regan As EPA Chief: Voting 66 for and 34 against, the Senate on March 10 confirmed Michael S. Regan, 44, as administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the first Black person to lead the agency in its 50-year history. Marco Rubio, Yes; Rick Scott, No.
- **Key Votes Ahead:** The House will take up a bill to protect women against violence during the week of March 15, while the Senate will vote on Biden administration nominees.

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ONLINE POLL RESULTS

QUESTION: With the Legislative session now underway, what should lawmakers focus on the most?

- A. Economic stability/growth. (470 votes)
- B. The pandemic. (183 votes)
- **C.** Education funding. (39 votes)
- **D.** Environmental issues. (94 votes)

E. Hurricane season. (28) **F.** Road projects. (80 votes)

Total votes: 894. Find this week's online poll question./Page A1

sources, expanding the availability of sewer services, improving recreational experiences at and around our springs and enhancing the economic vitality of the community through tourism and smart development. Before any plans are devel-

oped. Citrus County residents can weigh in on wastewater related issues by taking the second online survey at https://www.survey monkey.com/r/CitrusWWFTA2.

For more information, visit citruscountywastewatertfa.com or email info@citruscountywaste

Today's HOROSCOPES

Birthday - Look at the possibilities and start heading in a direction that brings you peace of mind and hope for the future. Enthusiasm, discipline and information will help you in your quest for success.

Pisces (Feb. 20-March 20) — Pace yourself. Make sure that your ideas are doable before you share them with prominent individuals. Put together a solid plan.

Aries (March 21-April 19) — Branch out and discover new possibilities. An opportunity to switch from one field to another will give you something to ponder.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - Put unfinished business to rest before you start something new. Find out where others stand before you voice your opinion.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) - Don't be gullible or let someone's charm lead you astray. Find opportunities and do your own thing. Learn from experience. Cancer (June 21-July 22) - Patience, understanding and affection can lead to solutions and better relationships with others.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - Show passion in what you pursue, and make overdue adjustments. Channel your energy into new beginnings.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Think before you speak. If you want to make progress, you'll have to choose your words and colleagues wisely.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) - Refuse to let uncertainty take control. Find out the truth and proceed with your plans. Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) - A journey will tempt you. You can accomplish plenty if you are honest and committed.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -Open your mind. Observation can be an excellent teacher. Take pleasure in what others have to offer, and be aggressive in pursuing what brings you joy. Keep a healthy perspective.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Don't let anyone goad you into an emotional argument. Keep the peace, and you will bring about positive changes at home and work.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Discipline will pay off. Utilize your space to accommodate what you do well, and take on a new venture. Turn a favorite pastime into a way to help others.

ENTERTAINMENT

Lopez, Rodriguez say J-Rod continues

LOS ANGELES - J-Lo and A-Rod are still J-Rod.

Jennifer Lopez and Alex Rodriguez said Saturday that reports of their split are inaccurate, and they are working things through.

A day earlier, multiple reports based on anonymous sources said the pop star-actor and the former baseball great had called off their two-year engagement. The couple started dating in early 2017.

"All the reports are inaccurate," said the joint statement Saturday "from Jennifer and Alex," emailed to The Associated Press by representatives. "We are working through some things."

The New York Post's Page Six was the first to report that the pair had split.

The couple was given the nickname "J-Rod" three years ago after they landed on the cover of Vanity Fair magazine.

Bowling alley drone video takes off

MINNEAPOLIS — A video taken by a camera-equipped drone buzzing through the nooks and crannies of a historic Minneapolis bowling alley has attracted hundreds of thousands of views online.

The drone in the 1 1/2-minute video at Bryant-Lake Bowl follows bowling balls down the alley and takes viewers behind the alley's reset mechanism, back out onto the floor and into the bar.

The video is the work of 25-year-old cinematographer Jay Christensen, produced by Minneapolis-based Rally Studios and directed by Anthony Jaska, the Star Tribune reported.

still together.

"Guardians of the Galaxy" filmmaker James Gunn tweeted the clip to his 800,000-plus followers, saying he wanted the filmmakers "to come with us to London later this year when we shoot Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3."

Christensen, who lives near the bowling alley, was struck by the destruction and rebuilding along Lake Street following last year's rioting after the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police.

He approached the bowling alley's owner, who let them shoot after-hours because of coronavirus restrictions.

Christensen and Gunn said they were just having fun putting the film together this month and never expected all the attention.

Bangladesh TV hires transgender anchor

Associated Press

DHAKA, Bangladesh — A Bangladeshi satellite television station has hired the country's first transgender news anchor, saying it hopes the appointment will help change society.

Tashnuva Anan Shishir, who previously worked as a rights activist and actress, debuted on Dhaka-based Boishakhi TV on Monday, International Women's Day. She read a three-minute news bulletin, and after finishing cried as her colleagues applauded and cheered.

Since 2013, the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has allowed transgender people to identify themselves as a separate gender. They were given voting rights in 2018. - From wire reports

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Today in HISTORY

Today is Monday, March 15, the 74th day of 2021. There are 291 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight:

On March 15, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson, addressing a joint session of Congress, called for new legislation to guarantee every American's right to vote. The result was passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

On this date:

In 44 B.C., Roman dictator Julius Caesar was assassinated by a group of nobles that included Brutus and Cassius.

In 1964, actor Elizabeth Taylor married actor Richard Burton in Montreal; it was her fifth marriage, his second.

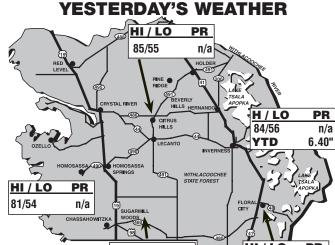
In 1985, the first internet domain name, symbolics.com, was registered by the Symbolics Computer Corp. of Massachusetts.

Ten years ago: The Syrian civil war had its beginnings with Arab Spring protests across the region that turned into an armed insurgency and eventually became a full-blown conflict.

Five years ago: Florida Sen. Marco Rubio ended his campaign for presidency after his home-state loss in the primaries.

One year ago: The Federal Reserve took massive emergency action to help the economy withstand the coronavirus by slashing its benchmark interest rate to near zero and saving it would buy \$700 billion in treasury and mortgage bonds

Today's Birthdays: Actor Judd Hirsch is 86. Singer Mike Love (The Beach Boys) is 80. Rock singermusician Sly Stone is 78. Rock singer Dee Snider (Twisted Sister) is 66. Model Fabio is 60. Rock singer Bret Michaels (Poison) is 58. R&B singer Rockwell is 57. Country singer-musician Matt Thomas (Parmalee) is 47. Actor Eva Longoria is 46. Rapper-musician will.i.am (Black Eyed Peas) is 46. Rock DJ Joseph Hahn (Linkin Park) is 44. Rapper Young Buck is 40.



FLORIDA TEMPERATURES

City	H L	. F '	cast	City	н	L F'	cast
Daytona Bch.			рс	Miami	78	71	рс
Fort Lauderdal	e 82	69	рс	Ocala	84	61	рс
Fort Myers	85	62	S	Orlando	85	63	рс
Gainesville	83	61	рс	Pensacola	76	65	t
Homestead	83	68	S	Sarasota	82	62	S
Jacksonville	79	62	рс	Tallahassee	81	61	mc
Key West	81	72	рс	Tampa	84	64	рс
Lakeland	87	62	рс	Vero Beach	80	65	S
Melbourne	79	65	pc	W. Palm Bch.	79	72	рс

MARINE OUTLOOK

Today: Southeast winds around 5 **Gulf water** knots then becoming southwest late in temperature the afternoon. Seas 2 feet or less. Bay and inland waters smooth.

ALERT CITRUS SIGNUP

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



In this Feb. 24, 2019, file photo, Jennifer Lopez and Alex

Rodriguez arrive at the Oscars at the Dolby Theatre in Los

Angeles. Despite rumors of a breakup, the couple say they are

egend: YTD-Year	to H	l / LO	PR	<u><u><u></u><u><u></u><u></u><u></u><u></u><u></u><u></u><u></u><u></u><u></u><u></u><u></u><u></u><u></u><u></u><u></u><u></u><u></u></u></u></u>	LO PR
Date, PR -Daily Precipitation	86	6/56	n/a	84/54	
	TODA High:	Y & TC 84° Lo		W MORNI	Bay
	High:	BAY & 84° Lo sunny, br	w: 55°	SDAY MOR	NING
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		ALM	ANAC	Crysta	Data from I River Airport
TEMPERATUR Yesterday Record* Normal Mean temp. Departure from r PRECIPITATIC Yesterday Total for the year Normal for the year Normal for the year Normal for the year Official record values fr UV INDEX: 0-2minimal, 3-4 lo 7-9 high, 10+ ver BAROMETRIC	nean DN th car om Tampa I ww,5-6 m. ry high PRES	9 oderate, SURE 30.11	HUMIE Yesterd POLLE Toda Oa Toda Tues Wedn AIR QU Yesterd Pollutar	lay at 3 p.m. DITY EN COUNT** ay's active p k, juniper, n ay's count: 9 day's count esday's count UALITY lay observed at	oollen: ettle 0.5/12 :: 11.0
DATE DAY		-	r tabl Major	LES MINOR	ezfshn.com
03/15 MONDA 03/16 TUESDA	Y 7: Y 7:	(MORN 38 37	ING) 3:02 3:43 OUTL <u>SUNSET TO</u> <u>SUNRISE T</u> <u>MOONRISE</u>	(AFTER 7:37 7:38 LOOK DNIGHT OMORROW	NOON) 3:22 4:04
Mar 21 Mar 28	Apr 4	Apr 11		TODAY	9:47 pm
	BUI				

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

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

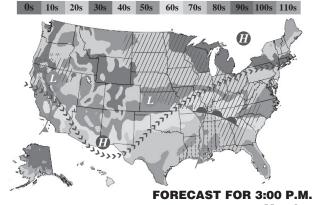
Questions, concerns or reporting violations, please call: City of Inverness at 352-726-2321; City of Crystal River at 352-795-4216, Ext. 313; unincorporated Citrus County at 352-527-7669. For more information, visit: ww.citrusbocc.com/d

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			TIDE	S							
*From mouths	of rivers		**At King	*At N	Mason's Creek						
MONDAY											
City			High		Lo	w					
Chassahowitzka ³	*8:22 a.m.	0.5 ft	8:13 p.m.	0.4 ft	2:31 a.m.	0.0 ft	3:10 p.m.	0.1 ft			
Crystal River**	6:29 a.m.	2.2 ft	6:38 p.m.	2.1 ft	12:46 a.m.	0.2 ft	1:10 p.m.	0.3 ft			
Withlacoochee*	3:53 a.m.	3.1 ft	4:04 p.m.	3.0 ft	10:56 a.m.	0.2 ft	11:16 p.m.	0.1 ft			
Homosassa***	7:34 a.m.	1.1 ft	7:23 p.m.	1.2 ft	2:10 a.m.	0.0 ft	2:18 p.m.	0.2 ft			

Taken at Crystal River											
LAKE LEVELS											
ocation /ithlacoochee at Holder sala Apopka-Hernando sala Apopka-Inverness sala Apopka-Floral City	SUN 27.95 37.35 38.42 39.70	SAT 27.98 37.37 38.44 39.71	Full 34.64 38.66 39.73 41.37								
wels reported in feet above sea leve	el Flood stage for	lakes are based on '	2 33-vear flood								

the mean-annual flood which has a 43-precent 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



Monday

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ouquerque	45	30	0.00	65	35	рс	New York Ci	ity 52	41	0.00	38	26	s	
heville	66	50	0.05	54	38	sh	Norfolk	65	37	0.00	45	36	рс	
anta	81	52	0.00	66	51	sh	Oklahoma C	ity 68	53	0.16	67	46	pc	
antic City	59	36	0.00	40	30	s	Omaha	46	41	1.85	44	34	ra	
stin	77	53	0.03	84	58	s	Palm Spring	s 72	48	0.00	65	43	sh	
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ffalo	39	30	0.00	34	27	s	Providence,	RI 49	32	Trace	29	14	S	
rlington, VT	34	23	Trace	22	8	рс	Raleigh	72	43	0.00	51	39	mc	
arleston, SC	79	55	0.00	61	57	mc	Rapid City	41	30	Trace	36	25	sn	
arleston, WV	55	28	0.00	54	40	ra	Reno	61	28	0.00	40	25	sn	
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icago	47	37	0.00	37	34	rs	Sacramento	56	41	0.00	53	34	sh	
ncinnati	56	28	0.00	41	37	ra	Salt Lake Cit	ty 57	36	0.00	62	38	mc	
eveland	45	36	0.00	40	36	рс	San Antonio	76	52	0.16	82	60	s	
lumbia, SC	77	55	0.00	60	48	, mc	San Diego	63	55	0.00	56	47	sh	
lumbus, OH	55	28	0.00	42	37	ra	San Francis	co 58	50	0.00	56	42	ra	
ncord, NH	42	24	Trace	24	5	s	Savannah	84	53	0.00	66	60	mc	
llas	75	55	0.07	79	57	s	Seattle	48	41	0.05	47	35	mc	
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fg=

pc=partly cloudy; ra=rain; rs=rain/

snow; s=sunny; sh=showers; sm=smoke; sn=snow; ss=snow showers; t=thunderstorms

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Food PROGRAMS

FOOD PANTRIES

Citrus County Family Resource Center - 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday (holiday hours vary), 3660 N. Carl G. Rose Highway, Hernando. For information, call 352-344-1001.

Daystar Life Center — 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday (excluding holidays), 6751 W. Gulfto-Lake Highway, Crystal River. 352-795-8668. Food for dogs and cats may also be available. Other assistance available. A community service resource.

First Baptist Church of Homosassa Life Care Center — 9 to 10:30 a.m. Mondays and Thursdays for bread distribution at 10540 W. Yulee Drive, Homosassa. Homosassa residents may receive a bag of canned and dry goods once a month. Call 352-628-3858. We Care Mobile Pantry is at the church on the first Thursday of every month from 9-11 a.m.

A food pantry is provided by St. Timothy Lutheran Church and Life Tree Church from 9:30 a.m. to noon every Tuesday at Life Tree Church at 1501 SE U.S. 19, Crystal River. Call 352-403-1498.

St. Anne's Episcopal Church — 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in the administration building, 9870 W. Fort Island Trail, Crystal River. Call 352-795-2176.

Citrus United Basket (CUB) — 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, 1201 Parkside Ave., Inverness, to assist Citrus County residents facing temporary hardship. Call 352-344-2242 or go online to citrusunitedbasket.org.

We Care Food Pantry 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, 5259 W. Cardinal St., Homosassa. If you need help, come sign up. The pantry gives away meat, dairy, produce, personal care items and more. Assistance is also available for SNAP. Medicare, Medicaid and Access Florida assistance is temporarily suspended due to COVID-19.

First Baptist Church of Crystal River — 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 700 N. Citrus Ave. Call 352-795-3367.

The First Lutheran Church of

Inverness Food Pantry is open to all from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. For information, call 352-726-1637.

Living Water Ministries 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, 4021 N. Lecanto Highway, in the Beverly Plaza. Call 352-270-8886.

Saint Margaret's Episcopal Church hosts a food pantry from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 114 N. Osceola Ave. in downtown Inverness. The food pantry offers canned, dried and frozen foods to anyone in need in Citrus County.For information, call 352-726-3153.

The Citrus County Veterans Coalition's food pantry, for veterans and their families, operates from 9 a.m. to noon Tuesdays and the first and third Thursdays (excluding holidays) at 1801 N. Paul Drive in Inverness, just west of U.S. 41, on Independence Highway. The pantry offers a variety of dry, canned and frozen goods (cereals, rice, canned vegetables, soups and meats) for veterans in need. For food assistance, call Food Pantry Director Trish Hendry at 352-857-1171, see a member at one of CCVC's flea markets, or ask a volunteer during food pantry hours.

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church — 10 to 11 a.m. the third Tuesday monthly, 6 Roosevelt Blvd. Call 352-746-2144.

St. Margaret's Episcopal Church - 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Call 352-726-3153.

First Presbyterian Church of Crystal River — 9:30 a.m. to noon the second and fourth Tuesdays monthly, 1501 SE U.S. 19. Call 352-795-2259.

Suncoast Baptist Church food pantry open for bread distribution from 7 to 9 a.m. Wednesdays, and the second Wednesday monthly is distribution of bread and vegetables from 7 to 9 a.m. at 5310 S. Suncoast Blvd., Homosassa Springs. Open to Homosassa residents only. For information, call 352-621-3008 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday or Wednesday and ask for Clara.

Homosassa First United Methodist Church Bread of Life Pantry -8 to 11 a.m. Thursdays in fellowship hall. Bag of groceries with bread, meat and produce available for Homosassa residents once a month. Call 352-628-4083.

Serving our Savior (SOS) – 8:30 to 11 a.m. Thursdays at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 439 E. Norvell Bryant Highway, Hernando. This is a drive-thru food pantry. Clients are allowed to come every other week. SOS is an equal opportunity provider. Email sos4food@ gmail.com

■ Calvary Church — 10 a.m. to noon Thursdays, 2728 E. Harley St., Inverness. Photo ID and proof of Citrus County residency are required. Visitors can receive food once per month. Calvary Church is an equal opportunity provider.

Calvary Chapel of Inverness — Free bagged groceries available from noon to 2 p.m. Thursdays at 960 S. U.S. 41. 352-726-1480. Calvary Church is an equal opportunity provider.

Floral City First Baptist Church – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. the third Thursday monthly. Proof of residency required.

Food and non-food items are available from 10 a.m. to noon every fourth Saturday at North Oak Baptist Church in Citrus Springs. Remaining in their cars, people can enter at the North Citrus Springs Boulevard entrance. They will be met with a person bringing them a bag of essential non-food items, which could include paper products, detergents, personal items and more. As cars continue around the drive, the food pantry crew waits with pre-assembled bags of food items. Cars then exit onto Elkcam Boulevard. There is no charge for these ministries and all are welcome. Items vary based on availability while supplies last. North Oak Baptist Church is located at 9324 N. Elkcam Blvd. in Citrus Springs. Call 352-489-1688 for more information.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Thomas the Apostle Church Food Pantry is open on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The church is located on U.S. 19, approximately 1/2 mile south of the Cardinal Street intersection. The pantry provides bagged canned goods, non-perishable food items and food staples for people facing temporary hardship

and living within parish boundaries. To be eligible, clients must present photo ID. Call 352-628-3366. Emergency help with utility shut-offs, prescriptions and other emergency services are provided. Volunteers are available from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

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.

Our Lady of Fatima — offers Helping Hands from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday thru Friday, at 604 U.S. 41, Inverness. Food assistance is given every two months; utilities every four months; and clothing and prescriptions every three months for those who qualify. For information, call 352-726-1707.

FREE MEALS

Peace Lutheran Church offers a free community meal from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. the third Monday monthly. This is not a fundraiser and there is no charge. Come be our guest(s). We care and you are important to us. All ages are welcome. Peace Lutheran Church ("The Church on the Hill") is at 7201 U.S. 41 South in Dunnellon (at the corner of U.S. 41 and State Road 40). For more information. call the church at 352-489-5881.

The Salvation Army offers free hot meals from 4 to 5 p.m. Tuesdays in the thrift store parking lot at Daystar Life Center, 6751 W. Gulf-to-Lake Highway, Crystal River, and from 4 to 5 p.m. Wednesdays at the Homosassa Lions Club, 3705 S. Indiana Terrace, Homosassa.

Free hot meals are available Monday through Friday for clients ages 60-plus at the following community centers. Call to reserve your first meal as a visitor: Central Citrus Community Center at 2804 W. Marc Knighton Court in Lecanto (352-527-5993; West Citrus Community Center at 8940 W. Veterans Drive in Homosassa (352-795-3831); East Citrus Community Center at 9907 E. Gulf-to-Lake Highway in Inverness (352-344-9666); and at the historic

Hernando School on the corner of Florida Avenue and Parsons Point Road.

Calvary Chapel of Inverness hosts a soup kitchen from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Thursday, at 960 S. U.S. 41. All are welcome.

The meal includes soup, bread and dessert. For information, call 352-726-1480.

Our Father's Table — 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. the second, third, fourth and fifth Saturdays monthly at St. Anne's Episcopal Church, one mile west of the Plantation Inn on West Fort Island Trail. Call 352-795-2176.

GIVEAWAYS

EI-Shaddai food ministries "brown bag of food" distribution is from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays at Crystal River Church of God, 2180 W. 12th Ave. Although food is distributed once a week, families are only eligible for food once a month. Call 352-628-9087 or 352-302-9925.

Inglesia Comunidad Cristiana Nuevo Comienzo (New Beginnings Church) sponsors a food giveaway at 10 a.m. every second and fourth Wednesday morning at Shepherd's Way Community Church, 965 N. Lecanto Highway, Lecanto. This is drive-thru pre-bagged groceries.

For more information, call 352-804-2263 (Espanol) or 352-527-9900 (English).

Hernando Seventh-day Adventist Church, 1880 N. Trucks Ave., Hernando, provides food distribution for needy families from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. the second Tuesday monthly. Call 352-212-5159.

Christ Christian Bible Ministry distributes food at 1 p.m. Wednesdays at 619 NE Second St., Crystal River. Preparations are being made to provide a hot meal once a week. Call 352-513-8065.

We Care Food Pantry hosts distributions twice a month in Homosassa at the Catholic Charities Outreach Center. We Care also operates three mobile pantries. Once a month the mobile pantry goes to Chasahowtizka Fire Station, First Baptist Church in Old Homosassa and First Baptist Church in Ozello. Hours are 9-11 a.m.

For information or to sign up, contact the office at 352-503-2079.

WE CARE FOOD PANTRY INC. — MARCH MOBILE PANTRIES

■ March 15 — 5 p.m., Knights of Columbus, 2389 W. Norvell Bryant Highway, Lecanto; first 100 cars; 352-419-6125.

March 16 — 9 a.m., Old Chassahowitzka Fire Station, 10300 S. Riviera Drive, Homosassa; first 100 cars; 352-422-8051

■ March 17 — 9 a.m., Church Without Walls; first 500 cars; 352-344-2425

■ March 18 — 9 a.m., MLK Jr. Alliance Inc. at the Independent House of God Church of the living Pillar ground of Truth, 557NE Second Ave., Crystal River; first 100 cars; 352-277-2574

March 20 - noon, VFW Post 4337, Inverness, 906 Highway 44 East; first 100 cars; 352-344-3495

March 23 — 9 a.m., Beverly Hills Civic Association, 1 Civic Circle, Beverly Hills; first 150 cars; 352-746-2657

■ March 24 — 9 a.m., Church Without Walls; first 500 cars; 352-344-2425.

■ March 25 — 10 a.m., Red Level Baptist Church, 11025 W. Dunnellon Road, Crystal River; first 100 cars;

352-795-2086

■ March 29 — 5 p.m., Knights of Columbus, 2389 W. Norvell Bryant Highway, Lecanto; first 100 cars; 352-419-6125

■ March 31 — 9 a.m., Church Without Walls; first 500 cars; 352-344-2425.

All We Care Food Pantry mobile food pantries are subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, check wecarefoodpantry.org or call the contact listed in schedule or We Care at 352-503-2079. Funding for this program provided by a grant from the Citrus County Community Charitable Foundation Inc.

March 27 — ,9 a.m., We Care Food Pantry Inc., 5259 W. Cardinal St.; first 200 cars; 352-503-2079

To make a financial donation to help us feed the community. go online at: wecarefoodpantry.org.



OBITUARIES

- For information about placing obituaries, email obits@chronicleonline.com or call 352-563-5660.
- Obituary deadline for Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday editions is 3 p.m. the day before. Deadline for Saturday, Sunday and Monday editions is 3 p.m. Friday.
- The Chronicle does not edit obituaries for content.
- Submissions must be verified with the funeral home or society in charge of arrangements.
- Call 352-563-6363 for more information.

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Special to the Chronicle

Nature Coast Ministries dental clinic is available to help Citrus County residents in need. Thanks to contributions from generous members of the community, Nature Coast Ministries is able to offer the services completely free of charge. Each patient receives the same high quality service they would at a for-profit office. The goal is to minimize and eliminate unnecessary pain or to help improve appearance and employability.

NONPROF

Continued from Page A1

warehouse and got him a patient visits per year. bed, a recliner — everything he needed."

As a nonprofit, Nature Coast Ministries relies on donations from individuals and groups and however, is the constant grants.

They've received funding from the Black Diamond Foundation, the staff to provide services. Citrus County Community Charitable Founda- benefactors to provide tion Inc. (CCCCF), and funding to continue ofwas given \$175,000 from fering urgent dental care the Citrus Memorial Hos- to veterans and the unpital Board to start the derserved population in no-cost dental clinic, Citrus County. which opened in 2014.

Between 2014 and how you can help, call 352-563-1860 or visit 2020, the clinic has served an average of 150 new patients per year, with an average of 409

"About 49,000 people in Citrus County would qualify to come to us," McMullin said.

The main problem, shortage of volunteer dentists and dental hygienists, assistants and

The clinic also needs

For information on

352-563-1860 or email www.myncm.com. admin@myncm.com.

The dental clinic (by appointment only) is at 7655 W. Gulf-to-Lake Highway, Unit 8, Crystal River.

For information, call





Page A6 - MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2021 PINION

"Sunshine is the greatest disinfectant."

Louis D. Brandeis, 1856-1941 Former Associate Justice of the **Supreme Court of the United States**

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE -

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

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	Gwen Bittnerassistant managing editor, desk	
1.0		

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

by Albert M Williamson

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

SUN SHINES IN FLORIDA

Open government is key to citizen trust

open for the public to organizations that fights review.

boards and commissions are open to the public. That includes the state Legislature, the Citrus County Commission right down to the Mosquito Control Board. Every citizen has the right to attend any public meeting and view any public record.

'n Florida it is presumed a nonprofit organization of that all the business done newspapers, television staby government should be tions and open-government against exemptions pro-

When government operates in the dark, there is greater opportunity for favoritism, shady deals and

OUR OPINION:

THE ISSUE:

Open records and

government in

Florida.

Work hard to keep the sun hard-working shining.

Clerk of Courts helps keep government in the sunshine in Florida

ment in the sunshine. Florida's clerks of court to protecting residents' rights to remain inand comptrollers play an important role in ensuring transparency and accountability of local government, working to provide efficient access government and access to public information to public documents such as court records and audits. Here's how:

■ Florida's clerks of court and comptrollers provide citizens access to public doc-

uments, like court records, Board of County Commission meeting minutes, audits, and more.

■ Florida's clerks of court and comptrollers ensure access to county financial information, including financial records, expenses, and contracts.

■ In many counties, Florida's clerks of court and comptrollers offer fraud services, such as hotlines and departments, to give the public a place to report and shed light on allegations of fraud, waste, and other abuses in county and municipal government.

■ Florida's clerks of court and comptrollers enhance access to public information by providing more official documents and services online.

Florida has an extensive history of protecting citizens' rights to have access to public information. Beginning in 1909 with the Public Records Law and evolving to the Sunshine Law, Florida has long supported providing access and the *Court*.

LETTERS



Angela Vick **GUEST COLUMN**

n recognition of Sunshine Week, March 14-20, ability to participate in government. Florida's the Citrus County Clerk of Court's office is Sunshine Laws rank among the strongest in the honoring Florida's commitment to govern- country, demonstrating the state's commitment formed and engaged.

Florida's commitment to maintain an open makes it one of the greatest states to live. Yearround, but especially during Sunshine Week, I encourage everyone to be active, engaged mem-

bers of their communities. Sunshine Week is a great time to reflect on the value of open government and explore your rights to access public information.

While Sunshine Week is only once a year, clerks uphold government transparency with accurate recordkeeping and efficient reporting every day. Clerks are committed to serving the public and maintaining access to records and information. While clerks provide a myriad of services for residents every day, granting records requests is among one of their greatest privileges.

Florida court clerks and comptrollers encourages constituents to take full advantage of the information they have at their disposal yearround. For more information about public records in Citrus County, please visit our website citrusclerk.org/publicrecords.

Angela Vick is the Citrus County Clerk of the

to the Editor =

- Viewpoints depicted in political cartoons, columns or letters do not necessarily represent the opinion of the editorial board.
- **Groups or individuals** are invited to express their opinions in a letter to the editor.
- Persons wishing to address the editorial board, which meets weekly, should call Jeff Bryan at 352-563-5660.
- All letters must be signed and include a phone number and hometown, including letters sent via email Names and hometowns will be printed; phone numbers will not be published or given out.

The border opening has brought illegal immigrants into this country, not vetted and now testing positive for COVID, and they are being bussed to the interior of the country.

The cities on the Texas border are being submitted to this; how can this administration treat the American people like this, just to get the vote to keep this a socialist country?

They want to eliminate the possibility to keep this country free and take total control of your lives.

All meetings of public posed in the Legislature.

corruption. Most people in government are honest

unfolding events Dr. Suess? Really? Fahrenheit 451? Outrageous! First Mrs. Butterworth, Aunt Jemima, Uncle Bens, decades of honorable estab-

and

lished sport teams, institutions, statues, Mr. Potatoe outright Head.

Stop making mountains out of molehills.

Outraged by

You're insulted by the innocuous antecedents of the past?

OPINIONS INVITED

That is the law.

government often like to make decisions behind those with corrupt intenclosed doors and then let citizens figure out what happened. Back in 1967, Florida citizens endorsed the Government in the Sunshine amendment which mandates that all public meetings and public records should be open to citizens.

This week, March 14-20, we officially celebrate Sunshine Week to remind citizens how critical open government and public access of records are to the integrity of the process. Sponsored by The Florida Society of Newspaper Editors, the event is a reminder that citizens and the press must be vigilant if our rights of open government meetings and public records will be maintained.

The only way records can now be kept secret from Florida citizens is if the state Legislature passes an exemption to the law. Unfortunately, there are currently 1,159 exemptions that have been approved by the Legislature over the years. Just last session, another 123 exemptions were proposed.

Foundation in Tallahassee is away.

folks who are trying to get good

things done. They appreciate the Government in the In reality, some of those in Sunshine rules because it makes it more difficult for tions to do business.

Government constantly gets more complex and it is difficult for citizens to understand all the processes and nuances of how things get done. By doing the work in the sunshine, credibility and understanding becomes a byproduct of the effort.

The press makes use of the Sunshine Laws to serve as the watchdog of what goes on in Florida government. Those same rights belong to all citizens, not just the press.

As the next Florida Legislative session has just begun. there will be another 100plus exemptions that get proposed. The First Amendment Foundation will scrutinize every one of those proposals to make sure the Sunshine continues in the state of Florida.

Openness and transparency are critical to citizen trust and involvement in government. Give that some thought this week as we celebrate Government in the Sunshine Week. If you don't fight for our collective rights, The First Amendment they will slowly be nibbled

What about those of us who are insulted by your cam-

paign to cancel all cultures?

Myself, my parents, my great and great-great-grandparents did nothing to you personally.

I guess with your irrational logic you think it is acceptable that ISIS destroyed irreplaceable treasures thousands of years old. Then with your reasoning, the pyramids should be leveled as well? Should all history books be destroyed? Are we moving to censorship?

Where/when did your thought process go awry?

Good, bad or indifferent, history is history. The past is the past.

Learn from the not so good or nonacceptable history and don't repeat it, don't dwell on it. It's information about incidents that have already happened. Embrace the good, celebrate the accomplishments.

How about canceling your Cancel Culture attitude and be the first on your block to offer a friendly little wave and smile? Be a positive influence in the future, for your children's and grandchildren's future.

The here and now is starving for meaningful communication and community. Safety and security. Resuming normalcy.

Truth, honesty, empathy. Acceptance not criticism. Acceptance not judgement. Believe in the truth not the

- We reserve the right to edit letters for length, libel, fairness and good taste.
- Letters must be no longer than 400 words, and writers will be limited to four letters per month.
- SEND LETTERS TO: The Editor, 1624 N. Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34429; or email to letters@chronicle online.com

believable lies.

Be discerning not duped. Share, discourage greed and avarice.

Be nice, not mean.

J.T. Ellsworth Homosassa

Frustrated with current events

This letter will probably never see the paper pages, but must vent. First, the Washington D.C. wall and security is becoming secured with National Guard personnel, being treated to raw meat, steel shavings in their meals and being treated worse than they would be in foreign countries.

They don't have a decent place to sleep. These are your neighbors and friends, and this truly shows how this new administration really feels about the country and people who live here.

Also, the murder and horrible things on TV and movies and then they pulled six Dr. Seuss books from publication. I'm speechless.

We are looking forward to them taking away our religious rights and any freedom we currently have, with the latest being they want us to go to meatless food. People please watch what you wish for.

> **Judy Hamilton** Floral City

DeSantis avoids critical issues

Gov. Ron DeSantis' third State of the State address, delivered Tuesday to a pandemic-restricted joint legislative session, will be remembered, if at all, for its partisan and self-congratulatory tone and its avoidance of critical pocketbook issues, such as unemployment and rapidly-escalating property insurance costs.

He will also be remembered for picking high end donors in the Villages and the Ocean Reef Yacht Club, an exclusive community of billionaires to get the first COVID vaccines.

Also, he didn't forget Bay of Pigs Cubans who support him.

Jack Burt Inverness

YOUR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

- District 1 (Crystal River, Ozello, Citronelle, Red Level): Jeff Kinnard, jeff.kinnard@citrusbocc.com;
- District 2 (Homosassa, Sugarmill Woods): Ron Kitchen Jr., ronald.kitchen@citrusbocc.com;
- District 3 (Beverly Hills, Pine Ridge, Citrus Springs): Ruthie Davis Schlabach, ruthie.schlabach@citrusbocc.com;
- District 4 (Floral City, part of Inverness): Scott Carnahan, scott.carnahan@citrusbocc.com;
- District 5 (part of Inverness, Hernando, Arrowhead): Holly L. Davis, holly.davis@citrusbocc.com.

THE CHRONICLE invites you to call "Sound Off" with your opinions about local subjects. You do not need to leave your name, and have less than a minute to record. COMMENTS will be edited for length, libel, personal or political attacks and good taste. Editors will cut libelous material. OPINIONS expressed are purely those of the callers.



Special to the Chronicle

An outdoor amphitheater surrounded by tall limestone and situated on 107 acres is known for enhancing acoustics due to the natural environment in which it sits at Rock Crusher Canyon Amphitheater and Pavilion. The facility has been closed since the pandemic settled in, and that means no revenue has been available to offset the ongoing costs of staff, utilities, maintenance, taxes and insurance.

CANYON

Continued from Page A1

Furthermore, even in the best of times, the site hasn't been totally self-supporting. And it takes time and specialized skills to run such a venue.

Although he supervises the Rock Crusher property, "Real estate is what I do," Cappuccilli said.

He explained it's hard to justify staff time spent on Rock Crusher events when the commercial real estate business is paying the bills, and that business is doing quite well.

It's also been difficult to predict when the coronavirus will be under control enough to start booking events. The Rock Crusher ownership hasn't wanted to book even smaller events at the pavilion because of the cost and potential liability, according to Cappuccilli.

Now is the time when Rock Crusher should be booking larger events for fall and winter. Cappuccilli said it takes at least six months of negotiation and planning. But the future is uncertain, so the site is not booking events for the fall. Also, many performers had to cancel COVID and need to deliver their contracted concerts before signing up for new ones.

That means it's hard to see when money might flow toward Rock Crusher and not away from it.

One more option might be for the out

County Chamber of Commerce Josh Wooten said he recalled previous discussions the county had had about perhaps teaming in some fashion with the Ruth Eckerd Hall performing arts center in Clearwater.

He pointed to the St. Augustine Amphitheater as a publicly operated performance site.

With the Suncoast Parkway extension opening soon, the Rock Crusher site will be easily accessible from events for a 26-week season," he the south, including such large markets as Tampa.

Cappuccilli said if those attending evening events have driven a distance, they often stay overnight in a hotel and visit area restaurants and gas stations. Large night-time events like those Rock Crusher has hosted 'are a huge benefit to the community," Cappuccilli said.

Director of Discover Crystal River John Pricher said it is the hope that the extension will bring more tourism and growth to the county.

Nevertheless, Cappuccilli said large events are not easy to manage, and they are risky.

large-crowed events, Rock Crusher had had to face the economics of booking large concerts.

The last big concert was put on by their shows at other venues during Lee Brice in April 2018, Cappuccilli said. "Contrary to what people think,

the money is made by the artist, and there's a lot of risk to put events on," Cappuccilli said.

goes on, and at the Rock Crusher pacity for opening day, not all vencounty government or other private Amphitheater, that means the audior public groups to step in to help ence is in the rain, although the per- spending time in large crowds, he formers are under a covered stage. Cappuccilli said Rock Crusher People may hold off purchasing tickets to see how the weather's

When COVID struck, "We had just finished Easton Corbin in January," Cappuccilli said. "We were looking for acts for fall. Initially, we thought we could open sometime in 2021.³

However, COVID "decimated what had worked for us for the last three or four years," he said. Rock Crusher had been doing a lot of music, car shows, and community events, among other things.

Before COVID, "We had almost 25 said.

He explained that Rock Crusher's business is seasonal. It's difficult to schedule outdoor events during summer. So now, summer is coming up, the typically slow season, and no events are booked for the fall.

"We would love for someone to step in here tomorrow who has the experience and resources to put on events," Cappuccilli said. "But they are few and far between.'

Pricher said he sympathizes with what Rock Crusher is facing and said the site is "a valuable piece of tourism and local product.'

Wooten said the pavilion is the Even before COVID wiped out largest outdoor, covered pavilion in the county and a useful spot for festivals and large dinners. Unlike many other venues, the pavilion has a stage and restrooms.

"It's very viable to maintain it as an entertainment venue," he said.

Pricher said Rock Crusher is in a tough position with the uncertainty travelers are facing during COVID.

Although the Texas Rangers have For example, if it rains, the show announced they will allow 100% caues, nor all visitors, feel confident said

SURPLUS Continued from Page A1

which vaccine will be most effective on kids," she added. "We still don't know the impact of variants or the need for booster shots. And these doses can be used for booster shots as 45 countries, according to well as needed. Obviously a country-by-country tally that's still being studied by the FDA but again we want Four of China's many vacto be over-prepared as I noted earlier."

Biden's announcement comes as the White House has rebuffed requests from U.S. allies, including Mexdoses produced in the it vaccinates its own popumonths of production runs of this vaccine diplomacy have produced vaccine is to bolster Russia's solely for use in the image.

country. Meanwhile, Russia and China, whose leaders don't face voters in free and fair elections, have used their domestically produced shots for strategic leverage.

China has pledged roughly half a billion doses of its vaccines to more than by The Associated Press. cine makers are claiming they will be able to produce at least 2.6 billion doses this year.

Russia has sent millions of doses of its Sputnik V ico, Canada and the Euro-vaccine to countries pean Union, for vaccine around the world, even as United States, where lation. Analysts say a goal

2109-0315 MCRN

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE **CITY OF CRYSTAL RIVER, FLORIDA NOTICE OF PROPOSED SMALL** SCALE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT AND PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF **CRYSTAL RIVER.**

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Crystal River Planning Commission and Crystal River City Council will hold Public Hearings pursuant to Section163, Florida Statutes, to consider a proposed Small Scale Amendments to the City of Crystal River Comprehensive Plan and proposed Amendment to the Zoning Map of the City of Crystal River, Florida as follows:

ORDINANCE 21-O-01: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CRYSTAL RIVER, FLORIDA, PROVIDING FOR A SMALL-SCALE AMENDMENT TO THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, RECLASSIFYING 2.60 ACRES (MOL) OF PROPERTY OWNED BY NATURE COAST PROPERTY ACQUISITION, LLC, ALSO IDENTIFIED AS PARCEL ID 17E18S27 32440 0020 IN THE RECORDS OF THE CITRUS COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER FROM (SPLIT ZONING) HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (HDR), MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (MDR), AND HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL(HC) LAND USE TO HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL (HC) LAND USE; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



management has had discussions with the county over the years about going to be. forming a partnership, and the county is aware of Rock Crusher's situation.

He said many sites similar to Rock Crusher "are owned by municipalities that recognize the value of events."

Citrus County Administrator Randy Oliver said although the county is constrained by what Florida law allows in terms of taking over or helping out a private entity, the Rock Crusher management has not approached him recently about their plans or concerns.

Executive Director of the Citrus cilli said.

MASKS REQUIRED

Stinger Jackpot Special (max payout \$1,199)

Jackpots \$250 (based on attendance)

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HOMOSASSA LIONS CLUB HOUSE • RT. 490 • 628-2461

Each show requires about 75 security officers, including about 50

"T-shirt" security people and another 25 off-duty sheriff's deputies, Cappuccilli said. Then there's 100 acres of grass to mow, and the elecbringing in entertainment and tric bill, and expense after expense.

> He said 90% of the events at Rock Crusher have been held in the pavilion, which is covered, and thus, event participants can dodge raindrops. The number of security people needed is quite a bit less.

The smaller size makes the events "much more manageable," Cappuc-

"People will feel comfortable at different paces," Pricher said. "This is a difficult recovery for the travel and tourism industry.'

Oliver said he would encourage Rock Crusher management to approach the county's Tourist Development Council and seek a grant. although Pricher said the grants mostly are aimed at marketing events and might not be appropriate.

Wooten said he would recommend that Rock Crusher management "come to the table and bring some sort of plan.'

He said the Rock Crusher site adds enough value to the community that county leaders should sit down and talk about it.

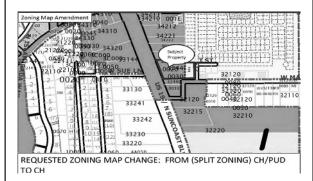
564-2931



Requested FLUM Change: From (Split Zoning) HDR/MDR/HC to HC

AND

ORDINANCE 21-O-02: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CRYSTAL RIVER, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF CRYSTAL RIVER, FLORIDA REZONING 2.06 ACRES (MOL) OF PROPERTY OWNED BY NATURE COAST PROPERTY ACQUISITION, LLC ALSO IDENTIFIED AS PARCEL ID 17E18S27 32440 0020 IN THE OFFICIAL RECORDS OF THE CITRUS COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER FROM (SPLIT ZONING) HIGH INTENSITY COMMERCIAL (CH) AND PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD) TO HIGH INTENSITY COMMERCIAL (CH) ZONING AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 3; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Public Hearings for this Small Scale Comprehensive Plan Amendment and Amendment to the Zoning Map will be held on the following dates:

Planning Commission Thursday, April 1, 2021 at 5:30 PM

City Council Monday, April 26, 2021 at 5:30 PM

City Council Monday, May 10, 2021 at 5:30 PM

The meetings will be held in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 123 NW Highway 19, Crystal River, FL 34428.

Any person requiring reasonable accommodation at this meeting because of a disability or physical impairment should contact the City of Crystal River, City Manager's Office, 123 NW U. S. Highway 19, Crystal River, FL 34428, (352) 795-4216, at least two (2) days prior to the meeting.

All interested persons who wish to be heard on this matter, take due notice of the time and place of the Public Hearings. Information on the proposed map amendments is available for public inspection in the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 123 NW Highway 19, Crystal River, FL 34428.

Page A8 - MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2021 & WONDAY, MARCH 15, 2021 ATION & WONDAY & WONDAY

World NEWS

Pushing for 'fiscally sound'



In this Dec. 16, 2020, file photo, Brazillan President Jair Bolsonaro poses for photos with the mascot of the nation's vaccination campaign, named "Ze Gotinha." or Joseph Droplet, during а ceremony to present Brazil's National **Vaccination Plan Against** COVID-19, at Planalto presidential palace in Brasilia, Brazil. The **Brazilian internet spent** the past few days wondering about his apparent disappearance after Brazil's former President Lula joked that he may have been shoved aside due to political motivations.

Brazil wonders about whereabouts of vaccine mascot

RIO DE JANEIRO - Rumors and conspiracy theories swirled this past week regarding the whereabouts of Zé Gotinha, the mascot for the nation's national vaccination program.

The clamor surrounding the costumed Zé Gotinha began Wednesday, after former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva drew attention to his recent absence.

"Where is our beloved Zé Gotinha?" da Silva said in a speech criticizing President Jair Bolsonaro's handling of the pandemic.

Zé Gotinha, whose name translates roughly as "Joe Droplet" and who resembles an overgrown Casper the Friendly Ghost, was created n the 1980s to help the health ministry promote vaccination against the polio virus and put children at ease "The advertisements about vaccines had been very heavy. They were associated with something terrible, tragic, life-threatening,' Carla Domingues, former coordinator of the national vaccination program between 2011 and 2019, told The Associated Press. Gotinha changed that and, due to his success, he has since made regular appearances to warn about the importance of preventing measles, tuberculosis, whooping cough, diphtheria and, most recently, COVID-19. But the last time Gotinha was seen publicly in a ceremony in Brasilia was Dec. 16, launching the national vaccination program. The character, much beloved by children, declined Bolsonaro's attempted handshake in the name of social distancing. Da Silva, a leftist who is Bolsonaro's rival, presented his own theory about what happened to Gotinha: "Bolsonaro fired him, because he thought he was from the Workers' Party.' One theory is that the mascot's publicity services may not be needed at the moment, as Brazil is using its limited doses to vaccinate the elderly and people in priority groups, not yet children. Many on social networks are speculating about Gotinha's fate. One person spoke of the drama of Gotinha being unemployed. Another reinterpreted a typical poster of a missing child, with the image of the mascot and the caption "disappeared".

Pelosi pledges swift work on major infrastructure package

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Sunday pledged swift work by Congress on a job and infrastructure package that will be "fiscally sound," but acknowledged she wasn't sure whether the next major item on President Joe Biden's agenda will attract Republican backing.

Fresh off a major legislative victory on the \$1.9 trillion virus relief package that passed on near-party lines, Democrats face long and tough battles ahead in winning GOP endorsement of the administration's plans.

Road- and bridge-building legislation has a long history of support from both parties as lawmakers aim to deliver on projects back home. But Republicans disagree with Biden's focus on the environment and the possibility of financing any program with debt after the government borrowed heavily to address the economic fallout from the coronavirus pandemic.

'Building roads and bridges and water supply systems and the rest has always been bipartisan, always COVID-19 relief bill.

been bipartisan, except when they oppose it with a Democratic presi- of the Senate Environment and Pubdent, as they did under President lic Works Committee, and Rep. Peter Obama, and we had to shrink the package," said Pelosi, D-Calif.

"But, nonetheless, hopefully, we will have bipartisanship," she said.

Pelosi has directed key Democratic lawmakers to begin working with Republicans on a "big, bold and transformational infrastructure package."

During the presidential campaign, Biden laid the groundwork by proposing \$2 trillion in "accelerated" investments to shift to cleaner energy, build half a million charging stations for electric vehicles, support public transit and repair roads and bridges. The plan emphasizes the importance of creating unionized jobs and addressing climate change.

The White House originally planned to come out with a plan in February, but more recently hasn't committed to a timeline. A rollout is likely to slide into April as the administration embarks on a nationwide push over the coming weeks to sell Americans on the benefits of the

Sen. Tom Carper, D-Del., chairman DeFazio, D-Ore., chairman of House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, hope to pass a bill out of their committees in May.

The package could include policy changes - on green energy and immigration — and even try to make permanent some of the just-passed COVID-19 assistance such as child tax credits.

"It is going to be green and it is going to be big," DeFazio told The Associated Press.

Democrats used a fast-track budget process known as reconciliation to approve Biden's COVID-19 relief plan without Republican support, a strategy that succeeded despite the reservations of some moderates.

But work on passing infrastructure legislation in a Senate split 50-50 with Vice President Kamala Harris providing a tiebreaking vote will probably prove more difficult. Moderate Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., recently made clear he will block infrastructure legislation if Republicans aren't included.



World News

Associated Pres Floral tributes are placed at the bandstand in Clapham Common in London, Sunday, March 14, in memory of Sarah Everard who was abducted and murdered after last being seen walking home from a friend's apartment in south London on the night of March 3.

London police under pressure over clashes at women's protest

LONDON - London's Metropolitan Police force was under heavy pressure Sunday to explain its actions during a vigil for a woman whom one of the force's own officers is accused of murdering.

Hundreds defied coronavirus restrictions to gather and protest violence against women, but the event ended with clashes between police and those attending.

Home Secretary Priti Patel said scenes from Saturday's vigil in south London were "upsetting" and she is seeking a full report on what happened from the Metropolitan Police. The capital's mayor, Sadiq Khan, said the police response was "at times neither appropriate nor proportionate."

Police were seen scuffling with some women at the event, and one woman was seen pinned to the ground by two officers. Several women were led away in handcuffs as other attendees chanted "Shame on you" at police. The force

Protests result in deaths



- From wire reports

Associated Press Thae Nu Naing, sister of Saw Pyae Naing weeps by his body at their home in Mandalay, Myanmar, Sunday, March 14. Saw Pyae Naing, a 21-year old anti-coup protester was shot and killed by Myanmar security forces during a demonstration on Saturday, according to his family.

At least 4 people shot in Myanmar anti-coup demonstrations

The Associated Press

operations.

YANGON, Myanmar — At least four people were shot dead during protests in Myanmar on Sunday, as security forces continued their violent crackdown against dissent following last month's military coup.

Two of the victims were killed in Yangon, the country's largest city. One of them was shot in the head and another was shot in the abdomen, according to local media covering the demonstrations in Hlaing Thar Yar Township.

A third person died in the northern city of Hpakant when police fired into a crowd of demonstrators, local media reported. A fourth victim, a woman, died after being shot in the head in Mandalay, the country's second-largest city, as security forces were conducting clearance

In Yangon, video posted on social media showed crowds of people, some wearing hard hats and gas masks, running down a street amid sounds of gunfire. The demonstrators quickly sprayed vapor from fire extinguishers as they retreated.

The use of fire extinguishers common now in protests across Myanmar — is intended to smother tear gas and also create a vapor screen that makes it harder for police to pursue or shoot demonstrators.

There were also reports of injuries from live rounds and rubber bullets in other parts of Yangon, including Insein district, where billows of black smoke could be seen after security forces reportedly set roadblocks on fire.

Myanmar's government in hiding vowed to continue supporting a revolution" to oust the military leaders who seized power in the Feb. 1 coup. Mahn Win Khaing Than, who was named the acting vice president by Myanmar's ousted lawmakers and is a member of deposed leader Aung San Suu Kyi's political party, addressed the public for the first time since the coup.

"This is the darkest moment of the nation and the moment that the dawn is close," he said in a video posted on the shadow government's website and social media.

"In order to form a federal democracy, which all ethnic brothers who have been suffering various kinds of oppressions from the dictatorship for decades really desired, this revolution is the chance for us to put On Saturday, the civilian leader of our efforts together," he said.

later said four people were arrested for violating public order and coronavirus regulations.

Defending the force's actions, Assistant Commissioner Helen Ball said "hundreds of people were packed tightly together," posing a very real risk of transmitting the virus. She added that officers had repeatedly encouraged those attending to leave, but "a small minority" of people chanted at police, pushing and throwing objects.

"We accept that the actions of our officers have been questioned," Ball said. "We absolutely did not want to be in a position where enforcement action was necessary. But we were placed in this position because of the overriding need to protect people's safety."

Many of those attending the vigil were already wary of police because a serving Metropolitan Police officer, Wayne Couzens, was charged with the kidnap and murder of Sarah Everard, a 33-year-old woman who vanished March 3 while walking home in London. Her body was found a week later.

The case has sparked a national outcry and a heated debate on women's safety. Organizers had planned an official vigil at Clapham Common, a park near where Everard was last seen alive, but were forced to cancel the event because of COVID-19 restrictions. A huge crowd turned up Saturday nonetheless.

Jamie Klingler, who organized the canceled "Reclaim These Streets" event, blamed police for denying women their right to have a silent vigil in the first place.

Winter storm closes roads out west

The Associated Press

A powerful late winter snowstorm intensified over the central Rocky Mountains on Sunday with heavy snow and wind leading to airport and road closures, power outages and avalanche warnings in parts of Colorado, Wyoming and Nebraska.

The National Weather Service in Wyoming called it a "historic and crippling" winter storm that would cause extremely dangerous to

conditions through at least Laramie Range reported 52 and into the Nebraska panearly Monday.

Major roads southeast of a line that crosses diagonally from the southwest corner of Wyoming to its northeast corner were closed Sunday, including roads in and out of Cheyenne and Casper.

Over 2 feet of snow had fallen just outside Cheyenne by 9:30 a.m. Saturday, the weather service reported, while other areas around the city had seen 16 to 19 inches. A SNOTEL impossible travel site at Windy Peak in the across southern Wyoming said in social media posts.

inches of snow in a 24-hour period ending Sunday morning, the weather service said.

A person who answered the phone at the Love's Travel Stop in Cheyenne, but declined to give his name, said 98 trucks were stranded there. They were taking fuel out a can at a time to fill up generators on the trucks to keep their refrigerators or freezers running, he said.

Interstate 80 was closed

handle, where a foot (30 centimeters) of snow was reported just north of Kimball, Nebraska. Interstate 25 was closed north from Fort Collins, Colorado, to its end at Buffalo, Wyoming.

At Denver International Airport, the runways were closed just before noon Sunday due to blowing snow and poor visibilities. 'Many flights have already been canceled so the runway closures have minimal impacts," airport officials

THE NUMBER: 92

Points scored by Ohio State's Duane Washington Jr. in the entire Big Ten Tournament, a new record for a single B10 Tourney.



PORTS **CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE** Section B - MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2021



Martin Truex Jr. wins NASCAR Cup race at Phoenix Raceway./B4

College basketball/**B2** Scoreboard/B3 Sports briefs/B3 Lottery, TV/**B3** NASCAR/B4 NBA/**B4** NHL/B4 Spring training/**B5** Puzzles, TV/B5, B6 Comics/**B7** Classifieds/B8

Crosswords/B10

Brackets set, the 'Madness' returns

Kansas, Virginia in despite recent COVID issues

> **EDDIE PELLS** AP national writer

The biggest unknown leading into a March Madness bracket reveal more than a year in the making had nothing to do with bubble teams or top seeds. Instead, it was the not-so-simple matter of which programs would be healthy enough to play.

Kansas and Virginia, two programs hit with COVID-19 breakouts over the past week, made it into the bracket released Sunday by the NCAA selection committee. It was a signal that both teams believe they'll have enough healthy players to be ready for their tip-offs next weekend.

That there was any doubt about the Jayhawks and defending champion Cavaliers securing spots in the 68-team field

that the 2021 tournament itself will look and feel much different than any that's come before.

"The one thing I've found out through this, probably as much as anybody, is expect the unexpected," said Kansas coach Bill Self.

A year after the tournament was canceled as the COVID-19 virus was mushrooming into a worldwide pandemic, all 68 teams will gather in Indiana for all 67 games beginning Thursday and ending April 3 and 5 with the Final Four. But all it takes is a single COVID outbreak to upend the finely calibrated beauty of that plan. Multiple outbreaks could crater the entire endeavor.

Selection committee chair Mitch Barnhart said the committee was in frequent contact with leaders at Kansas and Virginia to ensure "the protocols were being met that would allow them to come to Indianapolis and participate."

'We're confident at this point that we're moving forward to tip off Thursday with a full field of 68," Barnhart said.

Virginia coach Tony Bennett was the most jarring reminder said most of his team remained among the four No. 1 seeds. 2-1 favorite to win it all and



Associated Press

Georgetown's Dante Harris celebrates while holding the Most Outstanding Player trophy after playing Creighton in the championship game of the Big East Conference tournament on Saturday, in New York.

in quarantine Sunday night, but Gonzaga, Baylor, Illinois and become the first team since the expected to be in Indy this week. Michigan earned those slots — 1976 Indiana Hoosiers to finish There were no surprises with the Bulldogs the early a season undefeated.

See BRACKETS/Page B3

Living on the edge

Thomas rallies back to win The Players Championship

> **DOUG FERGUSON** AP golf writer

PONTE VEDRA BEACH — The resilience it takes to get through a nerve-jangling Sunday at Sawgrass was nothing compared with what Justin Thomas had been through already this year.

An otherwise impeccable start to his





BRETT MARTEL AP sports writer

career on and off the course came under scrutiny in January with a slip of the tongue when he muttered an anti-gay slur under his breath that cost him one sponsor and led another to publicly reprimand him. Tougher still was the death last month of his grandfather, Paul, part of the legacy of golf pros in the Thomas family.

He found the right time to deliver a gem.

Thomas took on every shot in The Players Championship, right down to the 5-wood that rode the edge of the lake down the left side of the 18th fairway, and closed with a 4-under 68 for a one-shot victory over Lee Westwood.

He won for the seventh straight year, his 14th career title, and became only the fourth player to win a major, The Players Championship, the FedEx Cup and a World Golf Championship.

"It's been a crappy couple months. I've had stuff happen in my life I never thought I'd have happen," Thomas said. "Losing grandpa was terrible, and having to play a round of golf dealing with that, and then on top of that not playing well, it just was a lot, and it took a lot on me mentally.

"This week was huge to win a big championship like this in front of fans again, which is incredible. It tested me mentally, physically, emotionally, and I'm very proud of myself for getting it done.'

Like most Sundays at this championship, it was wild as ever.

Thomas was four shots behind when he walked off the green on the par-3 eighth with a three-putt bogey. Four holes later, he walked off the 12th green with a two-shot lead.

He hit a 5-iron to 20 feet to set up a two-putt birdie on the par-5 ninth. He took on a tough pin at No. 10 for a 6-foot birdie. He drilled a 4-iron to 20 feet for an eagle at No. 11 for his first lead of the week, and he capped off the run with a nifty pitch from behind the green on the reachable par-4 12th for birdie.

Westwood was a hard-luck runner-up for the second straight week — to Bryson DeChambeau at Bay Hill, to Thomas at The Players, two major champions who were born in 1993, the year the 47-yearold Westwood turned pro.

He was tied for the lead until he couldn't match Thomas, playing in the group ahead, on the par-5 16th.

Thomas teed it low and slung a hard, low draw that ran out some 40 yards and set up a 5-wood into 50 feet, which he

golf tournament on Sunday, in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Justin Thomas waves on the 18th green after the final round of The Players Championship

lagged down for a two-putt birdie. Westwood's 3-iron clipped a tree and dropped into the sand, and that quirky 65-yard shot went into another bunker and forced him to scramble for par.

"When you're in contention, you'd like to win every tournament you're playing in," Westwood said after a 72. 'But I didn't quite have my game today." He made birdie on the 18th to finish

alone in second. DeChambeau (71) and Brian Harman (69) were another shot behind.

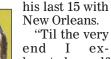
Thomas finished at 14-under 274. He was outside the cut line after nine holes Friday, made it with two shots to spare and then tied The Players Championship record with а 12-under 132 weekend.

See PLAYERS/Page B3

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS - The Drew Brees era with the New Orleans Saints — marked by a Super Bowl celebration, raucous record-setting nights in the rebuilt Superdome and the undersized quarterback's outsized role in a historic city's rebirth - has ended.

Brees, the NFL's leader in career completions and yards passing, has decided to retire after 20 NFL seasons, including



"Til the very end I exhausted myself to give everything to the Saints organization, my team and the

great city of

Drew **Brees**

New Orleans," Brees said in social media post on Sunday, 15 years to the day after he signed with the Saints.

"We shared some amazing moments together, many of which are emblazoned in our hearts and minds and will forever be a part of us," Brees continued. "I am only retiring from football. I am not retiring from New Orleans. This is not goodbye.

The post also included a short video in which his four young children — the three boys wearing No. 9 Saints jerseys — exclaimed, "Our dad is finally going to retire so he can spend more time with us!'

The decision comes after the 42-year-old quarterback won nine of 12 regular-season starts while completing 70.5% of his passes in 2020, and then won a wild-card round playoff game before New Orleans' season ended with a divisional-round loss to eventual Super Bowl champion Tampa Bay.

Brees missed four games this season with multiple fractured ribs and a collapsed lung. It marked the second straight season Brees had to miss part of a season with an injury after missing just one game because See BREES/Page B3

B2 MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2021

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

CITRUS COUNTY (FL) CHRONICLE



No. 6 Alabama adds another SEC title, edges LSU

No. 3 Illinois beats No. 9 Ohio St. to take Big Ten title

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Skip calling Alabama simply a football school anymore. The Crimson Tide have courted a new moniker they think fits so much better.

Just call them a Championship School.

Herbert Jones drove for a goahead layup with 19.5 seconds and No. 6 Alabama won the Southeastern Conference Tournament for the first time since 1991, holding off a late flurry to edge LSU 80-79 Sunday.

Coach Nate Oats and the Crimson Tide added to their regular-season title with a victory that helped Alabama match its highest seed ever in the NCAA Tournament. The Tide, which was No. 2 in both 1987 and 2002, is seeded second and will play Iona on Saturday.

Alabama, the reigning national champions in football, won its seventh tournament title overall, second in the SEC only to Kentucky's 31. The Crimson Tide (24-6) hadn't even reached this game since 2002.

Now they've joined Florida (2006-07) as the only SEC schools with both the league football and basketball titles in the same year. Alabama did it by adding two more SEC titles in basketball after Nick Saban's squad won both the SEC and national championships a couple months ago.

Oats noted Alabama football set the new name Saturday, referring to the Tide on Twitter as a "CHAMPIONSHIP SCHOOL."

"So we don't have to be a football school or a basketball championships. We're a championship school."

The basketball team now has its sights set on another title.

"I have full faith that we can Petty Jr. said. "And we did. And



Alabama players celebrate after beating LSU in the championship game of the Southeastern Conference Tournament on Sunday, in Nashville, Tenn. Alabama won 80-79.

take this thing, take the NCAA we champs."

tournament by storm and win the whole thing," Alabama guard and tournament MVP Jahvon Quinerly said.

Alabama still needed its defense after Jones went a long way down the lane for his shot.

Keon Ellis blocked a shot by LSU's Javonte Smart and the Tigers took a timeout with just over seven seconds left to set up the final attempt.

After the inbounds pass went astray and nearly to midcourt, Trendon Watford's 3 was well short of the rim. Aundre Hyatt's putback hit the back of the rim and bounced out and LSU couldn't get another good shot off in the scramble before the buzzer.

That set off yet another Alabama celebration — this time on the basketball court.

"I just know we had to stop school," Oats said. "We just win them from scoring that last seven seconds, no matter what we had to do, who did it, somebody just had to get them stop," Alabama senior guard John

Hyatt, meanwhile, was on the floor with his head in his hands. Watford was on his knees and slammed the court with a hand. Smart said he thought Hyatt's shot went in, calling it "crazy" it rimmed out.

This is a hard one to take, losing by one with that many opportunities to win the game," Smart said. "We gave it all we got. We really wanted this win.'

Jones, both the SEC Player of the Year and Defensive Player the Year, finished with of 13 points and 11 rebounds.

Jaden Shackelford led Alabama with 21 points, and Ellis and Quinerly each had 14.

tournament since 1980, and this nine rebounds and they made the was the Tigers' first time in the final since 1993. LSU coach Will Wade said the final sequence wound up starting too far out but liked that they had the shot from 3 and two more up close.

We just missed, a little bit short there at the end," Wade said

Watford finished with a career-high 32 points and Justice

career-high 30 points for LSU. Smart added 21 and Cameron Thomas had 18.

No. 3 Illinois 91, No. 9 Ohio State 88, OT

INDIANAPOLIS - No. 3 Illinois accomplished one major goal. The next one will be even more difficult.

As the Fighting Illini celebrated their first Big Ten Tournament title since 2005 with a 91-88 overtime victory over No. 9 Ohio State, they quickly turned the focus to their No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament and the opportunity it presents.

Dosunmu, Kofi Cockburn and Andre Curbello all scored 16 points. LSU (18-9) hadn't won this Cockburn and Dosunmu each had key plays in overtime. Cockburn sank the go-ahead free throws with 1:39 to go, Dosunmu followed that with a back-breaking 15-footer with 50 seconds left to make it 84-81 and Illinois finally sealed it at the freethrow line.

Duane Washington Jr. had a

Sueing added 22 as the Buckeyes refused to go away despite the numerous times Illinois appeared to be in control.

No. 7 Houston 91, Cincinnati 54

FORT WORTH. Texas - Kelvin Sampson and No. 7 Houston are going to their third consecutive NCAA Tournament, this time with an American Athletic Conference tournament title after finally getting past Cincinnati in the championship game.

The Cougars were already a lock for the 68-team NCAA field before AAC tourney MVP Quentin Grimes scored 21 points with five 3-pointers and Marcus Sasser had 16 points as they led the entire way in a 91-54 victory, after losing in each of the last two finals to the Bearcats.

St. Bonaventure 74, **VCU 65**

DAYTON, Ohio — Kyle Lofton scored 23 points and Osun Osunniyi scored 14 points with 12 rebounds and St. Bonaventure beat VCU 74-65 in the Atlantic 10 Conference tournament to clinch an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

St. Bonaventure (16-4) entered the A-10 tournament as the conference's top seed after clinching the regular season crown.

The Bonnie's Alejandro Vasquez buried a 3-pointer with 11:36 before halftime to break a tie at 12 and St. Bonaventure led the rest of the way.

Colgate 85, Loyola (Maryland) 72

HAMILTON, N.Y. - Tucker Richardson scored 17 points and Jordan Burns and Jack Ferguson 16 each to lead Colgate to a 85-72 win over Loyola (Maryland) for the Patriot League tournament championship.

Colgate (14-1) advances to its fourth NCAA Tournament where its never won. Its last appearance came in 2019.

The top-seeded Raiders, in their fourth straight Patriot title game, led the entire way in extending their program-record win streak to 13.

points

25

31. (24) Cole Custer, Ford, 308, 6.

32. (35) Quin Houff, Chevrolet, 305, 5.

34. (34) Garrett Smithley, Ford, 300, 0.

38. (37) Timmy Hill, Ford, engine, 15, 0.

Margin of Victory: 1.698 seconds.

Lead Changes: 22 among 9 drivers

Caution Flags: 7 for 45 laps.

mph.

onds.

M.Truex 288-312

33. (38) James Davison, Chevrolet, 303, 4.

35. (36) Josh Bilicki, Ford, garage, 258, 2.

36. (31) Cody Ware, Chevrolet, accident, 101,

37. (28) Anthony Alfredo, Ford, accident, 87, 1

Race Statistics

Average Speed of Race Winner: 103.802

Time of Race: 3 hours, .0 minutes, 20 sec

Lap Leaders: B.Keselowski 0-2; D.Hamlin

3-33; B.Keselowski 34-43; R.Blaney 44-78; B.

Keselowski 79; J.Logano 80-141; K.Larson 142

B.Wallace 143; C.Lajoie 144-155; J.Logand

156-193; D.Hamlin 194; J.Logano 195-223

M.Truex 224-253; R.Stenhouse 254; M.Truex

255-263: D.Hamlin 264: B.Wallace 265-267

J.Logano 268; B.Keselowski 269-273; J.Logano

274-283; B.Keselowski 284; J.Logano 285-287

Leaders Summary (Driver, Times Led, Laps

Led): J.Logano, 6 times for 143 laps; M.Truex, 3

times for 64 laps; R.Blaney, 1 time for 35 laps;

times for 19 laps; C.Lajoie, 1 time for 12 laps;

B.Wallace, 2 times for 4 laps; K.Larson, 1 time

Wins: M.Truex, 1; K.Larson, 1; C.Bell, 1

Top 16 in Points: 1. D.Hamlin, 236; 2. B.Kes

elowski, 197; 3. J.Logano, 192; 4. M.Truex, 180;

5. K.Larson, 179; 6. C.Elliott, 179; 7. K.Harvick

176; 8. C.Bell, 167; 9. W.Byron, 152; 10. Ku.

Busch, 144: 11. M.McDowell, 140: 12. A.Dillon

135; 13. R.Blaney, 134; 14. R.Preece, 123; 15

BASKETBALL

National Invitation

Tournament

Richmond (13-8) vs. Toledo (21-8), 7 p.m.

Saint Mary's (Cal) (14-9) vs. Western Kentucy

Ky.Busch, 115; 16. R.Stenhouse, 113.

for 1 lap; R.Stenhouse, 1 time for 1 lap.

W.Bvron, 1: M.McDowell, 1.

First Round

Wednesday, March 17

At UNT Coliseum

At Comerica Center

Denton, Texas

Frisco, Texas

(20-7), 9 p.m.

D.Hamlin, 3 times for 33 laps; B.Keselowski, 5

NASCAR Florida LOTTERY **Cup Series Instacart 500 Results** *Here are the winning numbers selected* Sunday Sunday in the Florida Lottery: At Phoenix Raceway PICK 2 (early) **PICK 5 (early)** Avondale, Ariz. Lap length: 1.00 miles 9 - 9 6-3-4-8-1 (Start position in parentheses) PICK 2 (late) 1. (5) Martin Truex Jr. Tovota, 312 Japs, 49 PICK 5 (late) 5 - 6 0 - 2 - 6 - 7 - 7 2. (9) Joey Logano, Ford, 312, 54. **PICK 3 (early)** 3. (3) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 312, 49. **FANTASY 5** 0-7-0 4. (1) Brad Keselowski, Ford, 312, 48. 4 - 5 - 8 - 25 - 30 5. (6) Chase Elliott. Chevrolet. 312. 40. PICK 3 (late) 6. (18) Kevin Harvick, Ford, 312, 40. **CASH 4 LIFE** 7. (2) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, 312, 32. 2-1-0 5 - 9 - 16 - 53 - 57 8. (10) William Byron, Chevrolet, 312, 36. **PICK 4** (early) 9. (4) Christopher Bell, Toyota, 312, 29. 10. (8) Ryan Blaney, Ford, 312, 43. 9-8-5-8 11. (32) Aric Almirola, Ford, 312, 29. 12. (11) Ricky Stenhouse Jr, Chevrolet, 312, PICK 4 (late) 6 - 5 - 4 - 8 13. (21) Alex Bowman. Chevrolet. 312. 24. 14, (20) Matt DiBenedetto, Ford, 312, 24, 15. (12) Kurt Busch, Chevrolet, 312, 22. 16. (25) Bubba Wallace, Toyota, 312, 21. **Powerball:** 5 – 11 – 51 – 56 – 61 17. (13) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, 312, 20. Powerball: 2 18. (17) Chris Buescher, Ford, 312, 19. 5-of-5 PB No winner 19. (22) Ross Chastain, Chevrolet. 312. 18 20. (14) Erik Jones, Chevrolet, 312, 17. No Florida winner 5-of-5 21. (27) Daniel Suarez, Chevrolet, 312, 16. 5-of-5 No winner 4-of-5 22. (26) Chase Briscoe, Ford, 312, 15. No Florida winner 3-of-5 23. (16) Michael McDowell, Ford, 312, 14. Lotto: 3 - 7 - 11 - 20 - 36 - 47 24. (29) Justin Haley, Chevrolet, 312, 0. No winner 48 6-of-6 25. (7) Kyle Busch, Toyota, 311, 17. Cash Ball: 1 26. (15) Ryan Preece, Chevrolet, 311, 11 5-of-6 2x 5 winners \$6,000 27. (33) Corey Lajoie, Chevrolet, 311, 10. 5-of-6 3x 10 winners\$9,000 28. (19) Ryan Newman, Ford, 311, 9. 5-of-6 4x 6 winners \$12,000 5-of-5 No winner 29. (23) Tyler Reddick, Chevrolet, 310, 8. 30. (30) BJ McLeod, Ford, 309, 0.

On the AIRWAVES

TODAY'S SPORTS SPRING TRAINING BASEBALL

1 p.m. (FSNFL) Boston Red Sox at Tampa Bay Rays 1 p.m. (MLB) Washington Nationals at St. Louis Cardinals 4 p.m. (MLB) Cincinnati Reds at Los Angeles Angels 8 p.m. (MLB) Philadelphia Phillies at New York Yankees or Los Angeles Dodgers at Colorado Rockies (Same-day Tape) 11 p.m. (MLB) Boston Red Sox at Tampa Bay Rays (Sameday Tape)

2 a.m. (MLB) San Diego Padres at Milwaukee Brewers (Same-day Tape)

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

7 a.m. (ESPNU) Big 12 Tournament, Final: Teams TBA (Taped)

7 p.m. (ESPN) NCAA Women's Selection Special

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

10:30 a.m. (ESPNU) SEC Tournament, Final: Teams TBA (Taped)

2:30 p.m. (ESPNU) AAC Tournament, Final: Teams TBA (Taped)

4 p.m. (ACCN) Teams TBA (Taped) NBA

8 p.m. (ESPN) New York Knicks at Brooklyn Nets 10:35 p.m. (ESPN) Los Angeles Lakers at Golden State Warriors

BOATING

11 p.m. (NBCSPT) America's Cup (Taped) BOWLING

8 p.m. (FS1) WSOB PBA Cheetah Championship GOLF

8 a.m. (GOLF) Players Championship Final Round (Taped) NHL

12 p.m. (NHL) Carolina Hurricanes at Detroit Red Wings (Taped)

- 4 p.m. (NHL) Nashville Predators at Tampa Bay Lightning
- 7 p.m. (FSNFL) Chicago Blackhawks at Florida Panthers 7 p.m. (NBCSPT) Philadelphia Flyers at New York Rangers **COLLEGE HOCKEY**

4:30 p.m. (BIG10) Big Ten Tournament: Wisconsin vs TBA, semifinal

SPORTS BRIEFS

Colorado State seeded No. 1 in 16-team NIT

Colorado State, Saint Louis, Memphis and Ole Miss are the No. 1 seeds for the National Invitation Tournament.

The four second seeds are Richmond, Davidson, Saint Mary's and Boise State.

Seeded third are Toledo, Western Kentucky, North Carolina State, and SMU, and the remainder of the field includes Buffalo, Dayton, Mississippi State and Louisiana Tech.

The top seeds open play Friday night, with Colorado State (18-6) facing Buffalo (16-8), and Ole Miss (16-11) taking on

BRACKETS

Continued from Page B1

There was also none of the traditional drama about who was going where — which team was getting shipped to Boise, which was staying close to home in Memphis. The NCAA did, however, keep the names of the regions - East, West, Midwest and South - even though everyone's gathering together in a single city.

The last of the 37 at-large bids went to Drake and Wichita State, which play Thursday in a First Four game, and UCLA and Michigan State, two decorated programs with surprisingly low seeds that meet in another play-in game.

Four teams that didn't make it -Louisville, Colorado State, St. Louis and Mississippi — have been put on stand-by. They could find their way into the bracket if a team in the field notifies the NCAA by Tuesday night that it must withdraw because of health concerns. After that, if a team pulls out, its opponent will advance via what is essentially a forfeit.

Fittingly for such an unpredictable season, some teams hoping to sneak in off the bubble were denied when Oregon State, picked last in its conference in some preseason polls, and Georgetown, a storied program coached by its own former superstar, Patrick Ewing, won their conference tournaments to steal bids they wouldn't otherwise have won.

"It's a different year. Different world," Ewing said. "The pandemic has definitely changed everything. I'm here quarantining in a room for 24 to 48 hours before we can get out and do things.³

Another unexpected entry is a familiar face: Rick Pitino. The coach, ousted at Louisville after a sordid recruiting scandal that enveloped the program for years, led his new team, Iona, from the ninth seed in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference all the way to the league title and the automatic bid that comes with it. Pitino said he'll bring eight suits to Indy, just only 13 regular-season games because

Louisiana Tech (21-7). On Saturday, Saint Louis (14-8) will play Mississippi State (15-14), and Memphis (16-7) will face Dayton (14-9).

Rozner makes long birdie putt to win Qatar Masters

DOHA, Qatar - Antoine Rozner of France holed a 60-foot birdie putt on the final hole Sunday for a 2-under 69 and a one-shot victory in the Qatar Masters, moving him high enough in the world ranking to qualify for the World Golf Championship in Texas in two weeks. - From wire reports

of COVID-19 concerns that sidelined

the Gaels for weeks. It was that kind of season. Speaking of which, for the first time

since 1976, both Duke and Kentucky will both be missing from the tournament. Like Virginia and Kansas, Duke pulled out of its conference tournament last week because of COVID-19, marking the end of a 13-11 season that never got on track.

Virginia and Kansas were never in doubt until the coronavirus hit both programs. The Jayhawks (20-8) will bring a No. 3 seed into the tournament's West region while the Cavaliers (18-6) will be a 4 seed in the same part of the bracket. They come in as the most unusual of defending champions.

They won it all in 2019, and were poised for the run at a repeat last March when sports got wiped off the map by the still-nascent pandemic.

A year later, sports are back, but the hoops the NCAA is jumping through to make this tournament go are a symbol of how far we are from normal.

The decision to place all the games in and around the Indianapolis area is a first-of-its-kind move. Also unique are the quarantine-like situations all teams will be under during their stay. Players will get their own rooms and teams will have their own floors in a cluster of hotels around the downtown convention center. That facility, usually a magnet for fan fests and coaching conferences, will turn into the practice and meeting area for all the teams. Players will have to produce negative tests for seven days before arriving in Indianapolis to be eligible to play.

In one of its most eye-grabbing tidbits, the NCAA announced that if a team is hit with the virus but still has five players who can pass the protocol, that's enough to get on the floor for tip-off.

All par for the course and part of the plan for March Madness during a pandemic.

"This year has been unlike any other year we've ever been through,' said Tad Boyle, the coach of fifthseeded Colorado. "And I'm hopeful in case. Big talk for a team that played unlike anything we'll go through again.'



Thursday, March 18 At UNT Coliseum Denton, Texas Davidson (13-8) vs. NC State, 7 p.m. At Comerica Center Frisco, Texas Boise State (18-8) vs. SMU (11-5), 9 p.m. Friday, March 19 At UNT Coliseum Denton, Texas Colorado State (18-6) vs. Buffalo (16-8), 7 p.m At Comerica Center Frisco, Texas Mississippi (16-11) vs. Louisiana Tech (21-7) 9 p.m. Saturday, March 20 At UNT Coliseum Denton, Texas Memphis (16-7) vs. Dayton (14-9), noon At Comerica Center Frisco, Texas St. Louis (14-6) vs. Mississippi State (15-14) 5 p.m. At Comerica Center Frisco, Texas Quarterfinals Thursday, March 25 Colorado State-Buffao winner vs. Davidson-NC State winner, TBD Boise State-SMU winner vs. Memphis-Daytor winner, TBD St. Louis-Mississippi State Richmond-Toledo winner, TBD Saint Mary's (Cal)-Western Kentucky winner vs. Mississippi-Louisiana Tech winner, TBD Semifinals Saturday, March 27 Colorado State-Buffao-Davidson-NC State win ner vs. Boise State-SMU-Memphis-Dayton winner, noon/3 p.m. St. Louis-Miss. St.-Richmond-Toledo winner vs. St. Mary's (Cal)-W. Kentucky-Ole Miss.-La Tech winner, noon/3 p.m.

SOCCER 12 p.m. (BIG10) Rutgers at Penn State 1 p.m. (NBCSPT) Mexico Primera Division Chivas de Guadalajara vs Am"erica (Taped)

8:30 p.m. (BIG10) Big Ten Tournament: TBA, semifinal

2 p.m. (BIG10) Michigan State at Indiana 3:55 p.m. (NBCSPT) Premier League Wolverhampton Wanderers vs Liverpool

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

7 p.m. (SEC) Mississippi State at Ole Miss **COLLEGE TRACK AND FIELD**

12:30 p.m. (ESPNU) NCAA Cross Country Championship (Same-day Tape)

WINTER SPORTS 1 a.m. (NBCSPT) IBU Biathlon World Cup: Single Mixed Relay (Taped)

COLLEGE WRESTLING 2 p.m. (ACCN) ACC Championship (Taped)

Note: Times and channels are subject to change at the discretion of the network. If you are unable to locate a game on the listed channel, please contact your cable provider.

Prep CALENDAR

TODAY'S PREP SPORTS BASEBALL

4 p.m. Lecanto vs Land O' Lakes at Hernando at Farm Bureau Insurance Classic

4 p.m. Citrus at Weeki Wachee at Farm Bureau Insurance Classic

6 p.m. Seven Rivers at The Villages 6:30 p.m. Crystal River at Forest

BREES

Championship Sunday, March 28

Semifinal winners, noon

Continued from Page B1

of injury in the previous 13. In 2019, Brees missed five games because of a thumb injury on his throwing hand that required surgery.

Saints coach Sean Payton said Brees had plenty of other injuries or ailments during his Saints tenure, but willed himself to play through them whenever possible.

'Over the years his durability and availability is quite amazing. I can recall so many of these different injuries," Payton said. "He's as courageous and as tough a player as I've ever been around.'

Brees is the NFL's all-time leader in yards passing with 80,358, although that mark will be under threat next season by 44-year-old Tom Brady, who has 79,204 career yards passing. Brees' 571 career touchdown passes rank second behind Brady's 581.

Brees had dropped hints about his intentions, saying he considered himself to be on reserve.

"borrowed time." After his final game, he returned to the Superdome field in street clothes, embraced his wife, Brittany, and played catch with his children for nearly two hours. When Brady saw them on his way to the Tampa Bay bus, he stopped, chatted, threw passes to Brees' children and hugged Brees before departing.

Still, Brees declined to confirm his plans until now, even throwing many for a loop when a video of one of his recent workouts appeared on social media.

'Congrats my friend on an incredible career," Brady said in a social media post Sunday. "Thank you for the inspiration and dedication on and off the field! Look forward to seeing what's next.'

The Saints currently have one quarterback under contract: Taysom Hill, who went 3-1 as a starter during Brees absence in 2020. New Orleans also is expected to pursue another veteran QB to compete for a starting job, including free agent Jameis Winston, who spent 2020 as a Saints



ontinued from Page B1

Thomas still had one more shot before he was in the clear. He took on the water framing the left side of the 18th fairway, the ball moving right-toleft and bouncing straight off the crown of the first cut, safely in the fairway. Only when he saw it on land did Thomas twirl his club, pulling his cap over his face and wiping his brow.

"I've seen some crazy stuff happen on TV in the past, and I'm glad to be on this side of it," he said.

All the crazy stuff came early.

DeChambeau topped a hybrid on the par-4 fourth hole that went only about 140 yards until it plunked into the water.

"Dude! I don't know what happened!" he said to his caddie. "I've never done that before.'

From 237 yards on a forward tee to slice with a 4-iron that landed some 40 yards right of the green.

"Oh my gosh! What is going on?" DeChambeau said.

He made double bogey and was scratching the rest of the way to stay in the game. He still had a chance with an eagle on the 16th hole to get within two, but when Thomas made par on the 17th, his chances were about over.

Westwood hit his tee shot into the water on the fourth hole and had to make an 8-footer to save bogey. He hit his approach out of the pine straw that clipped two branches and found water on the par-5 second hole to make bogey. But he was never far away from the lead, and Westwood regained a share of the lead with an 8-foot birdie putt on the 14th.

His hopes ended with a three-putt bogey on the par-3 17th.

Thomas won \$2.7 million from the \$15 million purse, and he found some peace between the ears that required talking to plenty of people and pouring out some of his emotions. He said a green protected by water, he hit a he was in a good place when he teed off, and he felt even better when he was posing with the trophy.

The Players Championship

	Sunday	
	At TPC Sawgrass	
	Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.	
	Purse: \$15 million	
	Yardage: 7,189; Par: 72 Final Round	
Justin Thomas (600), \$2,700,000	71-71-64-68-274	-14
Lee Westwood (330), \$1,635,000	69-66-68-72-275	-14
Bryson DeChambeau (180), \$885,000	69-69-67-71-276	-13
Brian Harman (180), \$885,000	67-71-69-69-276	-12
Paul Casey (115), \$579,375	73-67-67-70-277	-12
Talor Gooch (115), \$579,375	71-68-71-67-277	-11
Corey Conners (100), \$506,250	68-72-72-66-278	-10
Shane Lowry (94), \$468,750	68-74-69-68-279	-9
Daniel Berger (71), \$339,375	74-68-71-67-280	-8
Matthew Fitzpatrick (71), \$339,375	68-68-72-72-280	-8
Sergio Garcia (71), \$339,375	65-72-71-72-280	-8
Charles Howell III (71), \$339,375	73-70-71-66—280	-8
Si Woo Kim (71), \$339,375	72-70-67-71—280	-8
Jason Kokrak (71), \$339,375	70-72-71-67—280	-8
Victor Perez, \$339,375	73-71-69-67—280	-8
Jon Rahm (71), \$339,375	72-68-67-73-280	-8
Charley Hoffman (54), \$221,250	70-68-76-67—281	-7
Sungjae Im (54), \$221,250	72-66-77-66—281	-7
Ryan Palmer (54), \$221,250	70-72-68-71—281	-7
Cameron Smith (54), \$221,250	71-73-65-72-281	-7
Will Zalatoris, \$183,750	70-71-70-71-282	-6
Dylan Frittelli (40), \$135,964	71-68-76-68-283	-5
Tyler McCumber (40), \$135,964	72-69-72-70-283	-5
J.T. Poston (40), \$135,964	76-68-69-70-283	-5
Patrick Reed (40), \$135,964	70-72-70-71-283	-5
Abraham Ancer (40), \$135,964	72-70-68-73-283	-5
Tom Hoge (40), \$135,964	69-71-71-72-283	-5
Adam Long (40), \$135,964	70-74-67-72-283	-5
Keegan Bradley (29), \$96,125	70-72-73-69-284	-4
Doug Ghim (29), \$96,125	71-67-68-78-284	-4
Adam Hadwin (29), \$96,125	74-69-71-70-284	-4
Harry Higgs (29), \$96,125	71-73-67-73-284	-4
Joaquin Niemann (29), \$96,125	73-71-70-70-284	-4
Cameron Percy (29), \$96,125	73-70-73-68—284	-4

Truex wins at Phoenix Raceway

Isles top Devils in shootout

Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. - Anthony Beauvillier and Oliver Wahlstrom scored on New York's final two shootout attempts and the Islanders won their ninth straight game, beating the New Jersey Devils 3-2 on Sunday night to take the NHL overall lead.

The Devils thought they had won 27 seconds into overtime on a goal by P.K. Subban, but a lengthy review showed Jesper Bratt was offside.

Beauvillier beat Scott Wedgewood on the Islanders' third attempt to extend the shootout, and Wahlstrom extended New Jersey's winless run at home to 0-10-1.

Kieffer Bellows and Brock Nelson scored in the first period for the Islanders, who pushed their points streak to 11-0-1. Rookie Ilya Sorokin made 29 saves, allowing only Nikita Gusev to score in the shootout.

Janne Kuokkanen and Yegor Sharangovich scored for New Jersey, while Wedgewood made 32 saves, including an inclose stop on Casey Cizikas in overtime.

Hurricanes 2, **Red Wings 1**

DETRTOIT - Dougie Hamilton and Nino Niederreiter scored, Alex Nedeljkovic made 25 saves and Carolina beat Detroit for its eighth consecutive victory.

Carolina moved into the Central Division lead at 20-6-1, a point ahead of idle Tampa Bay and Florida.

Anthony Mantha scored his eighth goal of the season for Detroit with just 9.4 seconds left in regulation, spoiling Nedeljkovic's bid for his second career shutout.

Wild 4, Coyotes 1

ST. PAUL, Minn. - Nick Bonino and Kevin Fiala scored in a three-goal third

Beats Logano for Cup Series triumph

DAVID BRANDT AP sports writer

AVONDALE, Ariz. Joey Logano has won a few times at Phoenix Raceway and knows a good restart when he feels one. With 25 laps to go Sunday, he got a good run on the green flag, dipped down low on the dogleg and felt great.

Then he realized Martin Truex Jr's No. 19 Toyota was still right next to him. That was a big problem.

Truex blew past Logano on the final restart and pulled away for his first NASCAR Cup Series victory of the season and 28th overall. That set off a hearty celebration from the his Joe Gibbs Racing team, especially after a frustrating 2020 season that included just one win.

"I'd say we were really hungry for it," Truex said. struggled earlier this year, "We really wanted it, obvifinishing 25th at Daytona. ously. We worked really But he's raced much bethard, we've got a great ter in recent weeks, finishteam and it just seemed ing third at Homestead like for whatever reason, it and sixth at Las Vegas last was always little things bitweek. ing us. We were always so close, always second or the final half Sunday and third. became just the second

This time he was first. By a lot.

16-car playoff field to qual-Truex beat the four ify for the postseason. It championship finalists was good day for Toyota from last year. He had and Joe Gibbs Racing, failed to advance into the which had the winner in season-ending finale for Truex and Hamlin in the the first time in four years third spot. and could only watch as Chase Elliott beat Logano, He said even if he was Denny Hamlin and Brad able to hold Truex on the Keselowski for the title at restart, he probably would the desert oval. All four have passed him before tailed Truex across the the checkered flag. finish line Sunday.

Phoenix Raceway will car," Logano said. again host the championship race in November.

> minutes without a point. Butler's steal of a Michael Carter-Williams pass

speculation the veteran was contemplating retirement. But Truex also collected 11 finishes of second or third and missed the championship finale for just the second

Kyle Larson who raced to his first victory with Hendrick Motorsports last week in Las Vegas — had to start at the back of the field after a pre-race inspection failure. He worked his way back to the front and briefly led about halfway through the race.

But soon after he made a critical error, getting flagged for speeding on pit road. He had to pass through pit road as a penalty, causing him to fall to the back of the lead lap in a contract extension with seventh.

143 laps — won the second final 35 laps during a long ing. But he couldn't hold one else," Truex said. back Truex, who won his ninth race with JGR.

Hamlin was fast early in the race, leading for Hendrick Motorsports -31 laps until the competition caution midway after a pit stop that althe field. Blaney won the leading 35 laps.

FANS IN STANDS

the win in front of some fans in Phoenix. The track allowed about 20% of the

we miss seeing them in the stage after leading the infield, we miss pre-race, we miss practice, we miss stretch of green-flag rac- qualifying just like every-

Associated Press

NOTES

Six drivers — three from had to start at the back of the field, including Elliott, through the first stage. But William Byron, Larson, he fell back a few spots Cody Ware, Quinn Houff and Garrett Smithley. Larlowed Ryan Blaney a win- son, Byron and Ware went dow to get to the front of to back because of prerace inspection failures, 75-lap first stage after Elliott and Houff had unapproved adjustments and Smithley was a replacement driver. ... Lyn St. Truex enjoyed getting James was the honorary starter. St. James is one of just nine women to qualify for the Indianapolis 500.

UP NEXT

NASCAR makes the try for a race at Atlanta Motor Speedway next "Most we've seen in weekend. Kevin Harvick



at the championship."

The 40-year-old Truex

He was dominant during

driver from last year's

Logano finished second.

They just had a fast

this, I wish it was Novem- season-opening Daytona ber," Truex said. "Hope- 500, rebuked questions fully, we can come back in about retirement before November and have a shot he'd even been asked. After last year's one-win season, there had been

time in six years.

grandstand to be filled. Phoenix was the site of the last "normal" race last March before COVID-19 long trip across the counshut down the sport for about two months.

Truex, who announced 22nd place. He finished awhile and the more the won at the track last merrier. We love having season.



nstacor

period and surging Minnesota beat Arizona.

Victor Rask and Joel Eriksson Ek also scored to help Minnesota move within two points of West-leading Vegas. Minnesota is 11-2-1 in its past 14 games, has won four straight overall and seven in a row at home.

Cam Talbot made 21 saves after shutting out the Covotes 4-0 on Friday night in the opener of the three-game set.

Phil Kessel scored for Arizona.

Senators 4. Maple Leafs 3

OTTAWA, Ontario -Drake Batherson scored twice in 53 seconds in the second period in Ottawa's victory over slumping Toronto.

North-leading Toronto has lost two straight and five of six to drop out of the top overall spot in the NHL.

Brady Tkachuk and Ryan Dzingel also scored for Ottawa, and Joey Daccord made 33 saves for his first NHL victory. Matt Murray was supposed to start in goal, but he was injured during pre-game warmups.

Zach Hyman scored twice and William Nylander added a goal for Toronto.

Avalanche 4, Kings 1

DENVER - Philipp Grubauer made 27 saves, Andre Burakovsky and Nazem Kadri each had a goal and an assist and Colorado beat Los Angeles.

Stars 2, Blue Jackets 1, SO

COLUMBUS, Ohio - Alexander Radulov returned after missing 15 games and scored in the third round of the shootout to lift Dallas past Columbus.

Golden State

Green leads

over Jazz

Associated Press

ORLANDO — Jimmy Butler started Sunday night's game against Orlando by winning the opening tip and ended it with a steal and winsealing layup as the Miami Heat topped the Magic 102-97.

In between, the standout guard was pretty good, too, helping the Heat win their fourth straight and for a 10th time in 11 games.

'He has very disciplined gambles and I know that's counterintuitive, but Jimmy's a disciplined team defender," Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said of Butler, who had 29 points, nine assists, seven rebounds and five steals for the suddenly surging Heat. "He has a knack, that super-high IQ and that cat quickness that you can't teach, and it surprises everybody.'

Tyler Herro came into the game listed as questionable because of a shoulder strain, but he came off the bench and contributed 22 points, eight rebounds and four 3-pointers. Ten of his points came in the fourth quarter.

Miami trailed by as many as six points in the second half and faced a four-point deficit at the start of the fourth. The Heat are 3-12 when trailing after three periods.

The teams traded the lead five times in the fourth period before the Heat pulled away in the final three minutes behind their defense and Butler's scoring. A 7-0 run started by a Butler jumper and a Herro 3 – gave Miami a 100-94 lead. Orlando missed five straight shots and went three

and subsequent layup with four seconds remaining sealed the win. Butler's defense led to 23 Orlando turnovers and 26 points off those mistakes for the Heat.

"We should have taken care of the ball better." said Magic guard Terrence Ross, who had 31 points and made 8 of 13 3-point shots. "That was the game right there — turnovers."

All-Star center Nikola Vucevic scored 17 of his 38 points in the third quarter for Orlando, which lost its eighth straight. The Magic, who are 1-2 this season against the rival Heat, haven't won since Feb. 21. Vucevic finished with 10 rebounds for his 26th double-double.

Said Spoelstra of Vucevic, who has repeatedly bedeviled Miami through the years: "It feels like you're looking at the modern-day Dirk Nowitzki."

Replied Vucevic, who hit six 3-pointers: "Dirk? That's one of the nicest thing anybody has ever said to me. To hear him say that, it means a lot."

Ross' 28-footer that could have tied the game with 16 seconds left fell well short.

Miami's Kelly Olynyk had 18 points and seven rebounds, and Duncan Robinson chipped in 14 points, with four 3-pointers. The Heat won despite shooting 41.6% home floor. from the floor.

Warriors 131, **Jazz 119**

SAN FRANCISCO - Draymond Green had his 26th career triple-double with 11 points, 12 rebounds and 12 assists and the Golden State Warriors held off the NBA-leading Utah Jazz 131-119 to end a seasonworst four-game losing streak.

Green also had four steals in his second triple-double of

Associated Press

Miami Heat forward KZ Okpala (4) blocks a shot by Orlando Magic guard Michael Carter-Williams (7) during the second half of a game on Sunday, in Orlando.

the season. Stephen Curry had 32 points with six 3-pointers to go with nine assists.

Andrew Wiggins added 28 points as Golden State returned home for a rare Sunday matinee at Chase Center, where the Warriors had

played just one time over the previous 24 days. Rudy Gobert had 24 points and a career-high 28 rebounds for Utah (28-10), which became the league's last team to reach double-digit

losses. Donovan Mitchell added 24, Mike Conley 23 and Jordan Clarkson 21.

Utah had won the last five against Golden State and two in a row on the Warriors'

76ers 134, Spurs 99

PHILADELPHIA - Tobias Harris scored 23 points, Seth Curry had 21 and Philadelphia won it first game since Joel Embiid was lost with an injury, beating San Antonio.

The Sixers' hold on the top spot in the Eastern Conference appears tenuous with Embiid out for at least two weeks with a bone bruise on his left knee. Embiid had

emerged as an MVP candidate, averaging 29.9 points and 11.5 rebounds in 31 games until he was injured Friday night at Washington.

Derrick White and Drew Eubanks led the Spurs with 17 points.

Hawks 100, **Cavaliers 82**

ATLANTA — John Collins scored 22 points, Danilo Gallinari had 20 and Atlanta beat Cleveland for its fifth consecutive victory under interim coach Nate McMillan.

Collins set a season high with 13 rebounds. Trae Young scored 14 points.

Collin Sexton had 15 points for the Cavaliers. They have lost three in a row.

Timberwolves 114, Trail Blazers 112

MINNEAPOLIS — Anthony Edwards scored a career-high 34 points and short-handed Minnesota held off Portland.

Ricky Rubio added 15 points, including eight free throws in the final seconds. Karl-Anthony Towns had 13 points as Minnesota started with just 10 players after rookie Jaden McDaniels was added to the health and

safety protocols before the game.

The Timberwolves have won two of their past three games and are 2-6 under new coach Chris Finch.

Damian Lillard scored 38 points for Portland. The Trail Blazers had won four of five and beat Minnesota 125-121 on Saturday.

Thunder 128, **Grizzlies 122**

OKLAHOMA CITY - Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 30 points and Aleksej Pokusevski had a career-high 23, helping Oklahoma City beat Memphis.

Kenrich Williams added 17 points on 7-for-8 shooting. Ja Morant had 22 points and seven assists for Memphis.

Celtics 134, **Rockets 107**

HOUSTON — Jaylen Brown scored 24 points, Jayson Tatum added 23 and Boston handed Houston its 16th straight loss - one short of the franchise record.

Boston won for the fifth time in six games. Victor Oladipo led Houston

with 26 points.

Amazin' at-bat: Mets' Guillorme draws 22-pitch walk

Associated Press

amazin' at-bat of the entire career." season.

Yep, in a spring training game.

With his New York Mets teammates cheering, dancing and going crazy in the dugout, Luis Guillorme stood at the plate for more than 10 minutes against rocket-armed St. Louis reliever Jordan Hicks, eventually drawing a 22-pitch walk Sunday.

"It's pretty cool," Guillorme said.

Guillorme took a called strike on the first pitch, then swung and missed at the second. Quickly down 0-2, the backup infielder wound up hitting 16 foul balls — nine in a row with a full count.

Pete Alonso, Michael Conforto and the rest of the Mets got more and more animated with every curve, changeup and fastball, including a half-dozen at 100 mph. Finally, Guillorme took a slider down and in for ball four and trotted to first base as the shouts and hollers erupted.

"It was definitely a good battle," Hicks said.

Since Major League Baseball officially began keeping track in 1988, the longest at-bat in a regular-season game was a 21-pitch duel between San Francisco's Brandon Belt and Angels rookie Jaime Barria that finished with a flyout.

What timing, too.

Hicks had just entered in the bottom of the fifth inning and Guillorme was the very first major league batter the righthander had faced since June 2019. Hicks underwent Tommy John surgery shortly after that and opted out of the 2020 season because of coronavirus concerns, having been diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes in high school.

"It was probably the last thing I thought was going to happen, to be honest, because it's never run, walk-off homer in the

happened before," Hicks told St. Louis media. "I don't even think This easily could be the most I've had a 13 pitch at-bat in my

> Hicks was scheduled to pitch one inning. But after the long matchup, he was pulled. Cardinals manager Mike Shildt thanked the umpiring crew for not enforcing the rule that relievers must face at least three batters unless they're injured. "Common sense prevailed,"

Shildt said. Hicks said he felt fine, other than being a little tired in his

legs, after the remarkable return to the mound. Guillorme also felt good, espe-

cially after he wound up scoring the tiebreaking run on a bases-loaded walk to Francisco Lindor in the Mets' 7-5 win at Port St. Lucie, Florida.

"I'm just happy I ended up with the walk because if I would've gotten out that would've been not fun for me. All that work for nothing," he told New York media.

STRAS NOT STRESSED

Washington star Stephen Strasburg left his second spring training start in the third inning because of a problem with his left calf that he called "nothing major.'

The 2019 World Series MVP, whose 2020 season was cut to just five innings because he needed carpal tunnel surgery on his right wrist, said his calf "grabbed" as he stood on that leg at the end of his pitching motion.

'Just kind of more of a precautionary thing and just kind of take it day-to-day and see how it feels tomorrow," said Strasburg, who allowed one hit, struck out four and walked one in 2 1/3 scoreless innings against Houston. Opening day is April 1.

BRAVES 8, RAYS 7

Ehire Adrianza hit a three-



Associated Press

New York Mets second baseman Luis Guillorme, center, draws a walk off St. Louis Cardinals relief pitcher Jordan Hicks during the fifth inning of a spring training game on Sunday, in Port St. Lucie.

Shea Langeliers and Sean Kazmar Jr. hit back-to-back homers in the eighth. Will Smith struck out three of the four batters he faced.

Rays reliever Yacksel Ríos gave up home runs to Jason Kipnis and Ronald Acuña Jr. Dalton Kelly, Miles Mastrobuoni and Moises Gomez each homered for the Rays.

METS 7, CARDINALS 5

David Peterson worked four innings in the start for New York, allowing three runs on four hits and two walks. Corey Oswalt retired all six batters he faced in relief, five on strikeouts. Alonso hit a two-run single and Lindor the Rangers. drove in a run with a hit.

RED SOX 5, **TWINS 5 (8)**

Maeda struck out five in four hitless innings. Byron Buxton homered, Miguel Sano hit a tworun double and Andrelton Simmons had an RBI single.

PHILLIES 6, PIRATES 5

bottom of the ninth for Atlanta. home run for Philadelphia. Alec Bohm had an RBI double and Matt Joyce had a pair of RBI singles. Phillies starter Matt Moore allowed one hit, a homer to Jacob Stallings in the first, in four innings.

PADRES 10, REDS 4

San Diego starter Yu Darvish pitched three perfect innings, striking out three.

RANGERS 3, **ROCKIES 1**

Kohei Arihara allowed just two hits and struck out three over four innings for Texas. Bubba Thompson homered for

WHITE SOX 1. **ATHLETICS 0**

Chicago starter Lance Lynn Minnesota starter Kenta pitched 3 1/3 innings, giving up one hit and walking three while striking out four. Evan Marshall struck out four of five batters he retired and Codi Heuer struck out the side. Five White Sox pitchers combined to record 15 strikeouts. Matt Reynolds Odúbel Herrera hit his second broke a scoreless tie with a home

run in the eighth off Cole Irvin.

GIANTS 6. DIAMONDBACKS 3

Mike Yastrzemski hit a tworun homer and Evan Longoria singled to drive in a run for San Francisco. Conner Menez started and recorded eight outs for the Giants, blanking Arizona on a hit and a walk.

MARINERS 5, **BREWERS 4 (8)**

Yusei Kikuchi struck out five consecutive Milwaukee batters and six overall in $3 \frac{1}{3}$ innings. Jack Reinheimer homered and Kyle Lewis hit a two-run double.

ASTROS 5, **NATIONALS 0**

Houston starter Lance Mc-Cullers. Jr. struck out six in four innings, scattering three hits. Steve Cishek struck out the side in an inning of relief and Hector Velázquez fanned two in the ninth. Carlos Correa homered off reliever Brad Hand and Yuli Gurriel hit a two-run drive,

YANKEES 5, **BLUE JAYS 1**

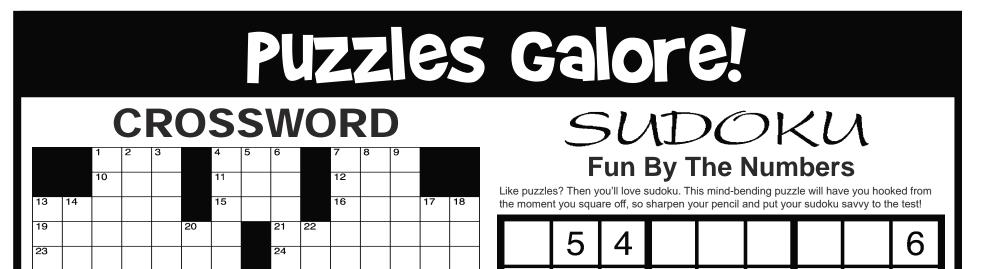
New York starter Deivi García gave up one hit and an unearned run in three innings. Max Mc-Dowell hit a three-run double.

TIGERS 5, ORIOLES 1

Spencer Turnbull allowed a run on three hits and a pair of walks over four innings, striking out four for Detroit. Daniel Norris pitched one-hit relief for three innings. Zack Short and Akil Baddoo homered.

ANGELS 1, CUBS 1

Trevor Williams scattered three hits over 3 2/3 innings for Chicago. Rex Brothers and Brandon Workman both had solid innings of relief. Anthony Rizzo hit an RBI single in the seventh to break a scoreless tie.



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ere's How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are rmatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers through 9 must fill each row, column and box. ch number can appear only once in each row, lumn and box. You can figure out the order in nich the numbers will appear by using the meric clues already provided in the boxes. The pre numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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WORD SEARCH (Workplace)

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(WFTV) ABC	20	7	20			News at 6pm	World News		Wheel of Fortune		or (Season F		n Stereo)	· · ·	or "After the	Eyewit. News	Jimmy Kimmel
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(WYKE) FAM	16	16	16		15	-		'G'	Today					Virtual Vega	as	Court	Today
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(A&E)	54	48	54	25	27	Intervention Miriam" '14'		Intervention Kaila" '14' @	Gina;	Interventior and gambli	ng. '14'	turned to h	n "Susan" Aft eroin. (In Ste	er OxyContil reo) '14' 📼	n, Susan	Intervention C." '14' CC	n "Samant
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(BET)	96	71	96			**½ "The H and a hitma	litman's Bo	dyguard" (2 down a dict	017) Ryan R ator. 'R' 📾	Reynolds. A	oodyguard	** "Tyler meets her	Perry's Mee ate father's u	t the Brown	s" (2008) Ty	ler Perry. A	woman
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(FNC)	44	37	44		32	Special Rep	ort	FOX News	Primetime	Tucker Car	• •	Hannity (N)	CC	The Ingraha	. ,	Fox News	
(FOOD)	26	56	26			Guy's Game		Guy's Game		Guy's Gam	es *** <i>"Won</i>	Spring Bak	ing Julia Robert:	Easter Bas		The Big Ba The 700 Cl	ake: Spring lub (In
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(FX)	30	60	30		51	★½ <i>"Fantas</i> Teller, (In S	tic Four" (2 tereo) 'PG-1	015, Action) 3' ©	Miles	**½ "Ghos	tbusters" (2	2016) Meliss York. (In St	a McCarthy. ereo) 'PG-13	Four womer	h battle mis-	**½ "Ghos (2016) 'PG	
(GOLF)	727	67	727			Golf Centra	'G'	Golf	Golf	2021 Playe	rs Champior	ship Final R	ound. 📼				
(HALL)	59	68	39	45	54	"The Color (2014) 'NR'	of Rain"	"Love on H Morgan Koh	larbor Islan nan, Marcus	d" (2020, Rosner. 'NR	omance)	Gonzalo, T	Romance" (yler Hynes. 'l	2019, Roma NR' 📼	ance) Julie	Golden Girls	Golden Girls
(HBO)	302	201	302	2	2	Last Week	*** "The I An aimless	King of State slacker lives	en Island" (with his sind	2020) Pete I	Davidson. R'	Beartown (N Subtitled- A'	** "Battle	ship" (2012	Science Fi	ction) Tayl
(HB02)	303	202	303			*½ "Wrath	of the Titan	s" (2012) Sa		Beartown (Subtitled-	***½ "Tin	ker Tailor So	oldier Spy"		***½ "Tru	e Grit"
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(HGTV)	23	57	23	42	52	Home	Home	Home	Home			'G' 📧		'G' 📼 🥈		'G'	
(HIST)	51	54	51	32	42	American P © (DVS)		American Pi (DVS)		American P Record Dea		KeystoneS	Pickers Mike tate. (N) 'PG'	00		American F © (DVS)	
(LIFE)	24	38	24		21	Rizzoli & Isl for You" '14	es "Crazy	Rizzoli & Isl Like a Knife	es "Cuts " '14'	Rizzoli & Is	es '14' 📼	Rizzoli & Is	les '14' 📼	Rizzoli & Is	les '14' 📼	Rizzoli & Is	sles '14' 📼
(LMN)	119	50	119			"Killer Pro	m" (2020, Si	uspense) Yvo u. 'NR' 📼	onne Zima,	"Pool Boy	Nightmare' rris. Premier	'(2020, Sus	pense)	"Sleeping	With My Stu Gina Holden	ident" (201	9,
(MSNBC)	42	41	42			The Beat W		The ReidOu		All In With		Rachel Ma		The Last W		The 11th H	lour
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(NGEO)	109	65	109			Life Below Z		Life Below Z	'ero '14' 📼	Life Below 2	Zero "Into	Life Below		Life Below 2		Life Below	Zero The
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(OWN) ŕ	125	24	103		-	Dateline on NCIS (In Ste	OWN	Dateline on	OWN	Dateline on	OWN	Dateline on NCIS (In St	OWN	Deadline: C	rime	Dateline or	OWN
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(SHOW)	340	241	340			Beanie Feld		,	VICE 'MA'	'MA' 📼	Cancelled	Tika Sumpt	er. 'PG-13'	100 (2016)	Felicity Jon	es. 'PG-13'	``
(SUN)	36	31	36			Rays Prospect	To Be Anno	unced							Rays All-Ac	cess 2020	Inside Pitch
(SYFY)	31	59	31	26		**½ "Cold I	Pursuit" (20	19) Liam Neo d and his cre	eson. A vigil	ante seeks	*** "The l	Fifth Eleme	nt" (1997) Bi h in 2259. 'P	ruce Willis. A	New York	**½ "The Seven" ©	Magnifice
	-	23	49			Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Family Guy	'14'	American		Conan (N)	Seinfeld
(TCM)	169		169	30		*** "Robin	n and Maria	1" (1976, Ad haw. 'PG' 📼	venture)	*** "Midn Day, Rex H	ight Lace" (arrison. 'NR'	1960, Myste	ery) Doris	**** "The	e Man Who bense) Jame	Knew Too I	Much"
(TDC)	53	34	53	24		Street Outla	ws (In	Street Outlav	ws: Full	Street Outla	ws "The Col	d Dark Road	d" A 405 mer		-	Street Out	aws (In
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		261						ense) Haley b) 'R' ©		***½ "Dall	as Buyers (ley. (In Stere	Club" (2013)	Matthew	* "The Se	a of Trees" ney. (In Stere	(2015) Mat	thew
				24	24	**½ "Aquai	nan" (2018.	Action) Jasc	on Momoa. A	Aquaman mi	•	Snowpierce		Snowpierce		*½ "Geost	orm" (20
		33 58	48 38	31 33	34	Atlantis from Teen Titans	his power-h	ungry brothe	er. 'PG-13' 🖾	© (DVS)	Burgers	cc (DVS)		(DVS)	Rick	Gerard But Fam. Guy	ler.
		106	9			UFOs: Unco	vering	UFOs: Unco	vering	UFOs: Unco	overing	UFOs: Unc	overing	UFOs: Unc	overing	UFOs: Und	overing
(TRAV)		55	25	98		Andv G.	Andv G.	Andy G.	Andy G.	Raymond	Jokers Raymond	Jokers Raymond	Jokers Raymond	Raymond	Friends" (20 Raymond	05) 'PG-13' King	' 🚾 King
(TRAV) (truTV)		49	32	34	24	, . . 1										Queen of t	
(TRAV) (truTV) (TVL)				34 17	24 18	Chicago P.C '14'	. "Ghosts"	Chicago P.D (In Stereo) '1	. "Payback" 14'	WWE Mond	ay Night RA	W (N) (In St	ereo Live) 'P	G, V 📼		14' CC	ne South
(TRAV) (truTV) (TVL) (USA)	32 47	49 32	32		18	Chicago P.D '14' Criminal Mir Line" '14'). "Ghosts"	Chicago P.D (In Stereo) '1 Criminal Min Family Affair	14'	WWE Monc Criminal Mir (DVS)	ay Night RA	W (N) (In St Criminal Mi "Foundatior	,	G, V ₪ Criminal Mi (DVS)	nds '14' 📼		inds "The

Annie offers advice

ear Annie: My husband and I have been married for 12 years. Overall, I think we have a great marriage. All marriages have an area where they struggle, and ours is children.

We were both married previously, and all of our children are from our previous marriages. But we consider them "ours." They still have relation-



DEAR ANNIE

any animosity. But here's the problem: paying for things for our children.

tions to-

gether

and chat without

I am a successful professional with a few college degrees. I come from a humble background and had to pay for all of my own college through scholarships, working my tail off and mostly loans. It was hard work, and I appreciate what I did to earn it. My husband is very successful and did not have to obtain a college education. He also came from a humble upbringing. He wants the kids to have more than he had as a child and does not want them to struggle.

We have a daughter who is in community college. Her mother expects us to pay half. While I feel we should contribute some, I expect our daughter to contribute. She is working part time, and I believe she needs to be responsible for part of her college expenses. We have provided her with a car. Her mother has provided insurance. If our daughter can afford to go to a salon every two weeks, then surely, she can learn to appropriately budget \$500 to \$1,000 a semester toward school.

Our oldest son is paying his student loans. Our second oldest did not go to college. The third son only went for one semester, and his tuition and other expenses were paid for out of his savings by his father. Our youngest daughter is still in high school. I expect her to also earn her way, as does her father. My husband gets very angry when we have these discussions and feels like I'm "picking" on HIS children. Should I just let it go and pay for all her college? - To Pay or Not to Pay? Dear To Pay or Not to Pay?: Only you and your husband can decide whether to pay her college tuition. Allow him to do what he thinks is best for his own children and you will likely start to get along in this area. Education might be part of his divorce settlement, anyway. It really is none of your business if his daughter wants to go to the salon, and she should be allowed to keep some extra money for her own enjoyment. He should decide how much to pay for his children's education, and you should do the same for your children's education. Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@ creators.com. To find out more about Annie Lane and read features by other Creators Syndicate columnists and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.

Bridge

PHILLIP ALDER Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

This year, I received far more entries for my Christmas Competition than last year, even though in 2019 a typo ruined the main question.

There was one perfect entry, from Steven Stein of Larkspur, Calif. The runner-up was Stanley Morris of Amherst, Nova Scotia. Morris also included two senryu, of which I preferred this one: Have a bridge party / Make bids

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4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
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your partner knows well / Praise partner's good plays.

If your partner made today's contract, you should congratulate him — or thank him if you were playing for money! How should South plan the play in four spades after West cashes the heart ace and continues with the heart king? Did West have a more successful defense available?

North had an awkward rebid over three diamonds. He hoped that his partner would read him for only two spades, because with three, he would have raised spades immediately. South thought about continuing with four clubs, but game in that strain would have failed if West had started with his two top hearts.

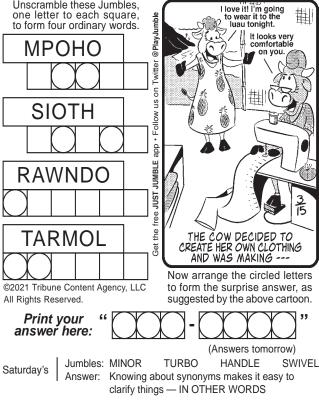
The declarer realized that he had to draw trumps before running the clubs. That would be easy if they were 3-3, but what if they were the more likely 4-2?

South saw the solution. After ruffing the second heart, he led his remaining low spade. Now declarer could ruff a third heart on the board; when instead East played two rounds of diamonds, South won, drew trumps and took the clubs.

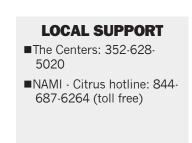
To defeat the contract, West had to shift to a diamond at trick two — very tough to find.



Unscramble these Jumbles,



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



MORE PUZZLES

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

COMICS



CELEBRITY CIPHER by Luis Campos

WXCZ 103.3 Country

WEKJ FM 96.3, 103.9 Religious

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

Today's clue: G equals U

WRZN-AM 720 Religious

"DVUP J DYM 5 TUYOM CWE J DCGWE

WJU JP XUE, WCCN YL LVU OYEJC,

YPE J DYPLUE LC XU CP LVU OYEJC. J

ECP'L NPCD DVT." — WYOOT NJPR

Previous Solution: "If the world should blow itself up, the last audible voice would be that of an expert saying it can't be done." — Peter Ustinov

LOCAL THEATER INFORMATION

Today's **movies**

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

VALERIE THEATRE CULTURAL CENTER

Note that COVID-19 safety protocols are in place. Masks are recommended, general admission with social distancing, capacity is 40 individuals for films. "The Quiet Man" (NR) March 15, 1 p.m.

"Jerry Maguire" (R) March 19, 7 p.m.

"The Wizard Of Oz" (G) March 20, 3 p.m.

"Dirty Harry" (R) March 21, 3 p.m.

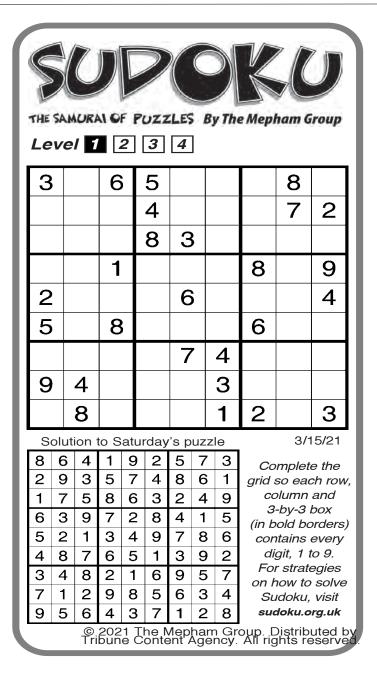
"The Pride Of The Yankees" (NR) March 22, 1 p.m.

"Monty Python And The Holy Grail" (PG) March 26, 7 p.m.

"Grease" (PG) March 27, 3 p.m.







Monday, March 15, 2021



TODAY'S WORD -- ENFORCER

(ENFORCER: en-FORS-er: One who compels observance of or obedience to.)

Average mark 16 words Time limit 25 minutes

Can you find 21 or more words in ENFORCER? The list will be published tomorrow.

SATURDAY'S WORD -- AUTHORITY

ahoy	thirty	trio	hairy	ratty
airy	thou	trot	hart	riot
arty	throat	troth	hoar	rout
auťhor	throaty	trout	hoary	rutty
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taro	tort	truth	hour	your
tarot	tour	tryout	houri	youth
tart	tout	tutor	hurt	yurt
taut	trait	tyro	oath	·
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3-15

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BY TRICKY RICKY KANE very answer is a rhyming air of words (like FAT CAT nd DOUBLE TROUBLE), and ney will fit in the letter quares. The number after the efinition tells you how many llables in each word.

2021 UFS, Dist. by Andrews McMeel for UFS

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 explicit Saxe at kzsaxe@gmail.com.

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6. Ramses II's fortune-telling cards (2) 7. Cruelly making fun of rapping on a door (2) **5. BROKER SMOKER 6. PHARAOHS TAROTS 7. MOCKING KNOCKING** 1. TART ART 2. ZINC CLINK 3. GRADS PADS 4. STUNNED FUND 3-15-21 **SHEWSNAERS** AUTIFUL RESULTS! ADVANCED All of our structures withstand

MM *News Flash*** BES Will Construction Corp. ALSO Offers: 120mph winds Installations by Brian CBC #12538 CORP Est. 1988 m .BEST/ **Door Replacements - Insurance Inspections** BEST CBC1252474 EREE We're only limited Safety Grab Bars - Dryer Vent Cleanings WINNER Call by your imagination \leq **Permit And Engineering Fees** WINNER 2019 Performed with the same dedication and meticulou Zn mm Up to \$200 value 352-628-2291 attention to detail as on our larger projects! 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Too appreciate, 121 K mi good tires, \$6,000 **352-341-5124** \$2500 Internet. flrs, \$15K -WANTED Auto trans \$29.995 352-795-7820 352-465-6335 also avail 352-564-2756 <u>Much to List</u>- Discs, SS Exhaust, etc. \$12,000 (352) 436-9718 JUNK & ESTATE CARS radiator +more- 202K mi- Runs Great - Needs 1 of a Kind- Pics 5th WHEEL Sport/Utility Vehicles HARLEY 2016 2017 Forest River Cardinal 3875FB online- Reaso Up to \$1,000 & MORE (352) 342-7037 me care - \$15,700 (516) 233-6040 \$19,900 352-341-3803 chback, 2,935 mi SOLD HD extended war-\$59,995 Bath & 1/2 ranty 2023, \$11,500 S PRICED TO SELL W/D 352-795-7820 TRIUMPH 352-765-4679 Cars 1973 TR6, 4 spd, 6 cyl, 2 Tops, Red w/ Black Interior \$15,000 Firm **352-503-6859** THOR 2008 T@B FORD ESCAPE 2002 5th Wheel Wanderer Toy Hauler Harley-Davidson '08 FLHX Street Glide, Very Clean, Low Miles, **Dutchmen RV** CADILLAC- 2008 XLT DTS, Must See! Gold w/ Av Very Good Condition 5010 4.0 Onan Generator Model 320 \$7000 Fully self contained, air/heat, stove, oven loaded, low miles, VG /well maintained. New \$8900 OBO SELL battery,alternator, spark plugs, valve cover 2013 Rockwood Cond. \$5800 obo -No 352-277-9175 Dealers 352-897-4967 352-270-2732 Lv Msg YOUR VEHICLE Windjammer 34ft, bunk Trucks microwave, fridge, full 1977 MGB Complete bath, new tires, very house w/outdoor kit. 2 gaskets & Michelin IN THE Defender tires. Leather interior & all wheel drive. 2005 - 128,000 miles. \$4,000 (989)424-0371 lides, model 3006WK frame-on restoration -both tops 650 mi since CHRYSLER good condition. SELL CHRONICLE 2010 PT Cruiser, 80k mi., gd cond. must see to appreciate - JUST REDUCED \$4700 252 554 7756 DODGE Includes 5th Wheel sleeps 9- Good con YOUR VEHICLE rosto Call for detail Loaded and ready to go. \$19,900 (941) 356-5467 1987 RAM 2500 to much to list \$14,800 Only 67K orig. mi., A/C, Manual Trans. 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Very low miles CHEVROLET cab / Great Cond. - a/c \$11,500 **352-601-0383** for 7 days ONLY HD STC, 103 eng. 6sp trans., DD 2 into 1 Tweet <u>1969 CAMARO</u> - 454 Engine / 700R4 trans., MANY upgrades! Call for details! \$40,000 810-841-2692 6 speed manual trans-(352) 465-4023 ~\$69.95~ mission and a V6 en-gine. Health forces sale \$29.95 \$19.95 DODGE Tweet exhaust, Hwy pegs, klockwerks for 14 days '94 RAM, V6 magnum, Auto, great work truck \$1500 OBO, Call 352-860-0664, 201-9772 Vans for 7 days gorgeous car, \$17,500 352-746-2558 windshield, LED Run 'til it sells \$49.95 for 30 days lights, luggage rack, \$29.95 2012 VW Minivan 12" bars, off-white, LIKE NEW! \$12,995 -for 14 days FORD 103K mi, Good Need a \$69.95 Run 'til it sells!! 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