

SATURDAY
 TODAY & next morning
HIGH 88 Partly cloudy and nice.
LOW 66
 PAGE A4

NEWS BRIEFS

Chronicle's home and outdoor living show set

The 2021 Citrus County Chronicle Fall Home and Outdoor Living Show will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 25, at the U.S. National Guard Armory, 8551 W. Venable St. in Crystal River.

Local vendors representing everything from home remodeling to health care products and health plans will be on hand to answer your questions.

As a safety precaution against the spread of COVID-19, face masks are suggested for expo attendees and vendors. Hand sanitizers will be available.

For more information, call 352-563-6363.

Celebrate National Voter Registration Day Sept. 28

National Voter Registration Day, Sept. 28, is the USA's largest nonpartisan civic holiday dedicated to encouraging eligible voters to register. Celebrated every year on the fourth Tuesday in September, its goal is to focus attention on the importance of registering to vote.

The Supervisor of Elections Office encourages all Citrus County residents to participate and become a voter!

On National Voter Registration Day, residents can visit the Inverness Government Center located at 212 W Main Street Inverness from 9 to 11 a.m. and the Crystal River City Hall located at 123 NW US Highway 19 Crystal River from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Registration applications are available at Citrus County government buildings and libraries. Also, residents may visit the Supervisor of Elections office located at 1500 N. Meadowcrest Blvd Crystal River, FL or complete an application online at www.votecitrus.gov. For questions, please contact the The Supervisor of Elections Office at 352-564-7120.

CMH to update visitor policy

Due to a decline in COVID-19 hospitalizations, Citrus Memorial Hospital will update its visitor policy beginning Sept. 29.

The policy allows one visitor per patient from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days per week with the following exceptions:

Women and Baby Center: Two visitors are allowed and one may stay overnight postpartum.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) units: For the protection of patients, visitors and caregivers, visitors are not allowed to visit COVID-19 patients or those undergoing investigation for COVID-19.

End of life: Exceptions can be made for end of life situations, but they must be approved by the hospital administrator on call or administration.

— From staff reports

Quarantine optional

Students exposed to COVID-19 can now remain in school

HANNAH SACHEWICZ
Staff writer

On Wednesday, the Florida Department of Health issued a revised rule giving parents the authority to decide whether their child should go to school after being exposed to COVID-19.

According to the DOH rule, "Protocols for Controlling COVID-19 in School Settings," they have observed a large number of students having to quarantine for long periods of time, resulting in the loss of in-person learning.

Citrus County School Board member Thomas Kennedy said

the district has been struggling with asymptomatic students who have had multiple exposures, both in and out of school.

"They're potentially having to be out multiple times," Kennedy said. "The hope is that this is going to provide a better continuity of learning."



Thomas Kennedy

Kennedy emphasized that school districts must follow DOH statues and that board members are not health experts and merely follow DOH determination.

The revised See **SCHOOL/Page A5**

Local churches feed hungry souls

Serving food, hope to the community

NANCY KENNEDY
Staff writer

Everybody is hungry, both for food and human connection.

For decades, local churches have offered free hot meals and the opportunity to connect with others and build friendships — until the coronavirus put a pause on such face-to-face gatherings.

A year and a half later, a handful of local churches with longtime free hot meals programs have managed to survive COVID-19 and are back offering food and fellowship to those who are hungry.

■ ■ ■
 The noon meal at Calvary Chapel in Inverness began more than 25 years ago when the late Madge and Ormie Benson started feeding people out of their home.

They moved it to the church and drew as many as 120 people on Thursdays for a full meal and around 40 on Tuesdays for soup and sandwiches.

Plus a food pantry, sending people home with boxes and bags of nonperishable food.

"It's different now," said Brenda Reid, who has been managing the hot meals and the food pantry programs for many years. "Ormie and Madge and a lot of the original group have passed away, and then we basically stopped for about a year because of COVID."

Now the church offers a soup kitchen from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Thursday in the church's "café" building. People can come and be served either soup or a dish of a one-pot meal and dessert.

"We have a woman, Viola Laviera, who has been with us for more than 20 years, maybe longer. She makes our desserts," Reid said.

Also on Thursdays, from noon to 2 p.m., people can receive a bag of groceries from the food pantry.

"We've been getting between 25 and 30 people each week, but



MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle

Calvary Chapel volunteer Viola Laviera serves a bowl of minestrone soup Thursday morning, Sept. 23, at the Inverness church's soup kitchen ministry. Ms. Laviera has been serving as a volunteer for 39-years.

I'm handing out cards to reach out to more people to let them know we're still here," Reid said. Calvary Chapel is at 960 S. U.S. 41 in Inverness. Phone: 352-726-1480.

■ ■ ■
 The folks at Floral City United Methodist Church love to feed people.

Whether it's chicken and biscuits or a fish fry, they just love cooking and serving the other people in the community.

After a pandemic-imposed hiatus, the church has resumed its tradition of a free community breakfast each Tuesday morning from 7 to 9 a.m. in Hilton Hall, adjacent to the 1884 church at 8478 E. Marvin St., directly across from Floral City Elementary School.

"We started back up on Sept. 13 and we've had quite a few people come," said church secretary Elizabeth Lewis. "Everyone's welcome, anybody who needs a meal or just wants to stop by."



Calvary Chapel's soup kitchen ministry tends to many who gather at the Inverness church for a hot meal each Thursday. Volunteers Marc Hannel and Viola Laviera prepare to serve those inside the church.

The menu is different each week. Sometimes it's bacon and eggs, sometimes biscuits and sausage gravy, sometimes pancakes. There's always juice and hot coffee.

"We would like to have more people come," Lewis said. "We have people who really like to cook, and we never run out of food."

See **FEED/Page A11**

Trial postponed for Citrus Springs woman

Faces child pornography charges

BUSTER THOMPSON
Staff writer

A federal trial was postponed for Ashley Renea Hilligoss, the Citrus Springs woman accused of producing and distributing child pornography to her ex-boyfriend.

During Hilligoss' hearing Friday, Sept. 24, over Zoom, U.S. District Court Magistrate Judge Philip R. Lammens rescheduled the 37-year-old's Oct. 1 trial for

December, according to court records and a spokesperson for the U.S. Attorney's office out of Ocala.

Lammens also scheduled a final pretrial hearing for Hilligoss in November.

If convicted of her two charges, Hilligoss could be sentenced to up to 50 years in U.S. prison.

Hilligoss' codefendant, Citrus Springs 32-year-old Dustin Shane Sandiford, already pleaded guilty in



Ashley Hilligoss

September to his federal charge of exploiting a young girl to produce child pornography, in exchange for a prison term of between 15 and 30 years.

Sandiford would also be subject to between five years and a lifetime of supervision as a sex-offender after he's released from custody.

See **TRIAL/Page A5**

IMS Teens accused of stealing fire extinguisher

See STEAL/Page A5

HANNAH SACHEWICZ
Staff writer

On Sept. 16, two arrests were made, likely in relation to the national "devious licks" TikTok trend wherein students vandalize and steal school property, mostly from restrooms, and share their conquest on the popular social media app.

According to Citrus County Sheriff's Office arrest reports, two 15-year-old Inverness Middle School students were arrested on charges of grand theft of a fire extinguisher. The Chronicle is withholding the teens' names due to their age.

The juveniles reportedly removed a school fire extinguisher on Sept. 15, which was permanently mounted inside the boy's locker room. One of the students took the fire extinguisher home, permanently depriving IMS of the property.



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2017 MAZDA MIATA SPORT 21080276	\$21,992
2018 TOYOTA RAV4 LE 21090028	\$23,551
2019 CHRYSLER 300 LIMITED 21080262	\$23,992
2021 TOYOTA COROLLA SE 21080373	\$24,332
2015 TOYOTA TACOMA BASE 21080355A	\$24,382
2017 TOYOTA RAV4 HYBRID XLE 21080134	\$24,971
2020 HYUNDAI TUCSON SEL 21090063B	\$24,992
2019 TOYOTA RAV4 LE 21080300	\$25,772
2021 JEEP COMPASS LATITUDE 21090026	\$26,322
2019 TOYOTA RAV4 LE 21080372	\$26,692
2018 TOYOTA RAV4 XLE 21080324	\$26,722
2018 TOYOTA PRIUS FOUR 21080369	\$26,722
2020 TOYOTA RAV4 LE 21080257	\$27,773
2020 TOYOTA RAV4 XLE 21080392	\$28,552
2016 NISSAN 370Z TOURING 21090067	\$28,781
2018 TOYOTA TACOMA SR5 V6 21070304	\$29,224
2019 TOYOTA CAMRY XSE 21090039	\$29,552
2019 TOYOTA RAV4 XLE PREMIUM 21099003	\$29,992
2018 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER XLE 21089012	\$32,333
2020 TOYOTA RAV4 XLE PREMIUM 21090046	\$32,772
2020 TOYOTA TACOMA SR5 V6 21080008	\$32,994
2020 TOYOTA TACOMA SR5 V6 21070097	\$33,553
2021 GMC CANYON ELEVATION 21080006B	\$33,993
2017 TOYOTA TACOMA SR5 21099004	\$34,992
2019 TOYOTA TACOMA TRD SPORT V6 21080050	\$34,994
2017 FORD F-150 XLT 21080341	\$36,752
2019 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER XLE 21090058	\$36,822
2018 CADILLAC CT6 3.6L LUXURY 21099001	\$43,772
2018 TESLA MODEL 3 LONG RANGE 21090104	\$44,551
2021 LEXUS GX 460 21090105	\$55,772

2014 CHEVROLET CAPTIVA SPORT LTZ

21090019 **\$11,332**

2015 NISSAN ALTIMA 2.5 SV

21080006 **\$13,223**

2017 HYUNDAI ELANTRA SE

21090045 **\$15,572**

2015 NISSAN ROGUE S

21090064 **\$15,882**

2017 TOYOTA CAMRY SE

21090063 **\$16,762**

2014 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO

21080261 **\$16,991**

2013 MAZDA MIATA PRHT GRAND TOURING

21090061 **\$17,991**

2016 HONDA CR-V EX

21080343 **\$17,992**

2017 FORD ESCAPE S

21090030 **\$18,772**

2018 HYUNDAI ELANTRA SPORT

21080168 **\$18,773**

2015 TOYOTA SIENNA LE

21080351 **\$18,773**

2019 FORD ESCAPE S

21080347 **\$18,992**

2018 KIA SPORTAGE LX

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Map showing location at the intersection of W. Veterans Dr. and W. Longfellow St. in Homosassa, FL. Includes a north arrow and a note: "MINUTES FROM SPRING HILL, OCALA, AND HERNANDO OFF US-91"

Around the
COUNTY

Conservative club to meet today

The North Suncoast Conservative Club will meet on the fourth Saturday of each month beginning at 11 a.m. Sept. 25 at the Marguerita Grill, 10200 W. Halls River Road in Homosassa. Lunch will be available for attendees to purchase. For more information, visit nsconservatives.org or contact Mike Belkin, president, at BelkiMic@earthlink.net. All are welcome.

Landfill to have extra drop-off day in October

Citrus County Landfill's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) disposal program offers an additional drop-off day each quarter for no additional charge. The next quarterly HHW drop-off day will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 9 at the Citrus County Landfill, 230 W. Gulf-to-Lake Highway in Lecanto. Assessed households may bring up to 10 gallons (or 60 pounds) of household hazardous waste for proper disposal from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. For more information, call 352-527-7670 or visit tinyurl.com/jstmykh8.

— From staff reports

Correction

Due to a reporter error, Ken Balogh's last name was misspelled on page A11 of the Chronicle's Sept. 23 edition. The Chronicle regrets the error. Readers can alert the Citrus County Chronicle to any errors in news articles by emailing community@chronicleonline.com or by calling 352-563-5660.

Seven Rivers crowns Homecoming royalty



STEPHEN J. SHANER/For the Chronicle

Liam Aven and Mia McDougal are crowned senior homecoming king and queen during halftime Friday night at Seven Rivers Stadium.

Judge takes over Professionalism Committee for local courthouse

BUSTER THOMPSON
 Staff writer

A new judge was selected to head the Florida Fifth Judicial Circuit's Professionalism Committee for the Citrus County Courthouse. In an order issued Tuesday, Sept. 21, Circuit Chief Judge Daniel B. Merritt Jr. named Citrus County Judge Bruce Carney as committee chair for the county's professionalism panel. Florida Supreme Court justices in 1998 required every county in

each judicial circuit to have a local committee tasked with reviewing and addressing complaints alleging unprofessional conduct against a lawyer. If the panel decides the complaint rises to the severity of unethical behavior, committee members refer the the case to the Florida Bar to consider a greater punishment. Matters heard by the committee

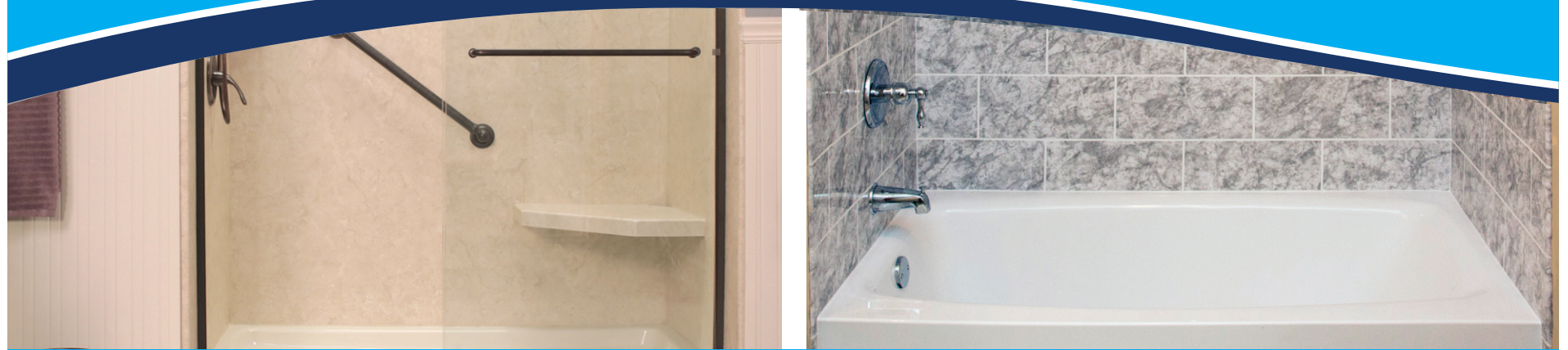


Bruce Carney
 Citrus County judge.

are considered confidential. "It's an informal, non-punitive, educational and instructive intervention," Carney said, summarizing the roles of the committee, "a professional intervention." Carney took over the position from Circuit Court Judge Peter Brigham. "Education, professionalism; that stuff's right up my alleyway," the judge said. "If we

can help somebody, whether a litigant or an attorney, I'm for all it." Joining Carney on the county's professionalism committee are: Citrus County Circuit Court Judge Carol Falvey and attorneys Steven Fichtman, Patricia Morning and Jack Morning. Their two-year terms expire in December, but they're expected to renew them afterward unless a vacancy's created. Contact Chronicle reporter Buster Thompson at 352-564-2916 or bthompson@chronicleonline.com.

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Sheriff's deputy shot during traffic stop

CALLAHAN — A sheriff's deputy was in critical condition early Friday following a shooting during a traffic stop in north Florida, officials said.

The shooting happened shortly after 2:30 a.m. Friday in Callahan, which is northwest of Jacksonville on Florida's Atlantic Coast, the Nassau County Sheriff's Office said.

Officials are searching for Patrick McDowell, 35, who has been named a suspect in the shooting, the sheriff's office said.

"If you see him, please call police immediately. We would like to find him" Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Ashley

Around the **STATE**

Spicer told news outlets. "... Our deputy was shot a couple of times by this man and we just need to find him."

WJXT reported that a second person in the vehicle is cooperating with authorities.

Unvaccinated workers to get reprimands, not fired

ORLANDO — Employees of a Florida county where vaccination for COVID-19 is now required for all workers won't be fired for refusing to get the shots, but will receive written reprimands, the county's mayor said.

Some workers in Orange County, particularly firefighters, have pushed back against Orange County Mayor Jerry Deming's mandate issued in July that county workers receive a first vaccine

shot by the end of September or face discipline. Orange County is the home to Orlando and many of Florida's biggest theme parks.

Over 500 of the 1,456 fire department employees are either unvaccinated or haven't reported their vaccination status, according to the Orlando Sentinel.

"It was never my intention to terminate anyone from our employment," Demings said. "We're a compassionate and caring employer, but we also must balance that with protecting our employees and the public."

Demings said the mandate has still been successful since the vaccination rate for county employees is now at 84%.

— From wire reports

STEAL

Continued from Page A1

The next day, the IMS school resource officer made contact with both juveniles in the presence of their respective parents and school administration.

According to the report, both students admitted to their involvement in the incident and were transported to the Citrus County Detention Facility.

Contact was made with the Department of Juvenile Justice, who advised they would not be accepting either student. Both boys were released to

their parents.

According to Citrus County School District personnel, other students will be attending teen court in relation to the "devious licks" trend. At this time, the exact number is unknown.

CCSO encourages students who witness theft or vandalism of school property to contact their respective school resource deputy or administrator. Students may also contact CCSO and school leadership through Fortify or Campus Crime Stoppers.

Contact Chronicle reporter Hannah Sachewicz at 352-564-2929 or hannah.sachewicz@chronicleonline.com.

Citrus County Sheriff's Office

Arrests from Sept. 23

- **Robert Byron Slusser**, 65, Crystal River, arrested Sept. 23 for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon without intent to kill. Bond \$6,000.
- **Jason Allen Willey**, 40, Floral City, arrested Sept. 23 for driving while license suspended/revoked (habitual traffic offender) and attach tag to vehicle not assigned to it. Bond \$2,500.
- **Darcy Lee Fuentes**, 39, Beverly Hills, arrested Sept. 23 for possession of controlled substance and driving while license suspended/revoked (knowingly — second offense). Bond \$2,500.
- **Gabrielle Christine England**, 20, Hernando, arrested Sept. 23 for retail petit theft.
- **Jordan Debra Gazaway**, 35, Inverness, arrested Sept. 23 for two counts of possession of controlled substance. Bond \$4,000.
- **Chauncey Markham**, 55, Hernando, arrested Sept. 23 for two counts of possession of controlled substance, possession cannabis (less than 20 grams) and drug paraphernalia. Bond \$6,000.
- **Corene Margaret Beck**, 40,

For the **RECORD**

- Crystal River, arrested Sept. 23 for possession of controlled substance and three counts of possession with intent to sell a controlled substance. Bond \$17,000.
- Arrests from Sept. 24**
- **Inostroza Herme**, 49, Lake Wales, arrested Sept. 24 for driving while license suspended/revoked (knowingly — first offense). Bond \$500.
- **Brian O'Neal Luther**, 38, Tavares, arrested Sept. 24 for trespass other property after warning and drug paraphernalia. Bond \$2,000.
- Burglaries, thefts, vandalisms**
- Here are the reported burglaries, thefts and vandalisms (criminal mischiefs) released Thursday and Friday, Sept. 23-24, by the Citrus County Sheriff's Office:
- Vehicle burglary, 4:08 p.m. Sept. 23, 7400 block of West Gulf-To-Lake Highway, Crystal River;
- Retail theft, 3:51 p.m. Sept. 23, 2400 block of East Gulf-To-Lake Highway, Inverness;
- Theft, 2:07 p.m. Sept. 23, 200 block of North Pine Avenue, Inverness;
- Theft, 11:20 a.m. Sept. 23, 400 block of West Main Street, Inverness;
- Criminal mischief, 7:15 a.m. Sept. 23, 1300 block of North Garnett

- Miller Loop, Lecanto;
 - Theft, 6:54 a.m. Sept. 23, 4500 block of South Grandmarch Avenue, Homosassa;
 - Retail theft, 8:42 p.m. Sept. 22, 1900 block of North Lecanto Highway, Lecanto;
 - Auto theft, 7:36 p.m. Sept. 22, undisclosed address, Crystal River;
 - Theft, 5:15 p.m. Sept. 22, 3400 block of East Gulf-To-Lake Highway, Inverness;
 - Residential burglary, 12:15 p.m. Sept. 22, undisclosed address, Lecanto;
 - Vehicle burglary, 11:26 a.m. Sept. 22, undisclosed address, Hernando;
 - Theft, 10:41 a.m. Sept. 22, undisclosed address, Inverness;
 - Auto theft, 10:02 a.m. Sept. 22, undisclosed address, Hernando;
 - Theft, 9:06 a.m. Sept. 22, 700 block of Northeast Fifth Street, Crystal River;
 - Residential burglary, 8:47 a.m. Sept. 22, undisclosed address, Hernando.
- Those with information about these offenses could be eligible for a cash reward by contacting Citrus County Crime Stoppers at 888-269-8477. Tipsters remain anonymous.
- Tips can also be reported to the sheriff's office by calling the agency's non-emergency line, 352-249-2790.

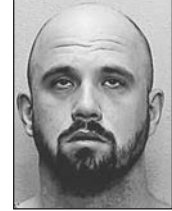
TRIAL

Continued from Page A1

To abide by their plea agreement with Sandiford, U.S. prosecutors agreed to drop his two other charges of possessing and distributing child pornography.

It's alleged Hilligoss photographed a then-4-year-old girl engaged in sexually-explicit conduct, and sent the images to Sandiford at his request.

Before they arrested Sandiford in December, FBI agents discovered the photographs of the girl after seizing and searching his cellphone.



Dustin Sandiford

Sandiford was also using 137 gigabytes of digital storage service split across a handful of foreign countries to house more than 17,000 illicit files and videos.

Hilligoss contacted the FBI a couple weeks after Sandiford's arrest to express concerns about photos she sent him while they were dating.

Among Sandiford's collection of child pornography, FBI agents would find a photograph of Hilligoss standing next to the girl inside her local home.

Federal investigators also uncovered a text conversation between Sandiford and Hilligoss sharing the girl's explicit photos.

In a June interview with FBI agents, before her arrest, Hilligoss admitted to taking the illicit images and sending them to Sandiford because she felt threatened by him to do so.

SCHOOL

Continued from Page A1

rule still requires schools to conduct routine cleanings, encourage handwashing, keep sick students home and allow parents to opt out of facial coverings.

Citrus County School District spokeswoman Lindsay Blair said the district will continue with contact tracing and parents will still be notified if their child has been exposed to COVID-19.

However, if a student is exposed to COVID-19, a parent can now allow their student to continue attending school and school-sponsored activities without restrictions. Parents also have the

option to quarantine their child for no more than seven days after their last exposure or positive test.

Symptomatic or COVID-19 positive students cannot return to school until they have received a negative test, 10 days have passed since the onset of symptoms or positive test result, the student has had no fever for 24 hours with improved symptoms or if they have received written permission from their doctor.

According to the CDC, people who have become infected with COVID-19 can spread the virus as long as two days before presenting symptoms. They recommend a 14 day quarantine for exposed students or at least seven days away from campus if

they test negative for COVID-19.

"I appreciate the parental right," Citrus County School Board member Sandy Counts said. However, she said, "We can't turn all of running our school system over to our parents."

Counts said the road ahead is going to be difficult. She encouraged parents to listen to their child's doctor and emphasized the availability of vaccines and free clinics in Citrus County.

If children are sent to school sick, Counts said



Sandy Counts

so, get a test. If they feel fine, she said, "That's another story."

Powers said she's confident parents know their child and will make a decision in their best interest.



Linda Powers

She encourages parents to talk to their child's doctor and make a decision that is not emotionally based.

To date, the Citrus County School District has reported a total of 1,346 positive COVID-19 cases among students and staff. To view the most up-to-date numbers, visit tinyurl.com/4d2f4hbt.

The News Service of Florida contributed to this story.

7114-0925 SACRN

NOTICE OF PROPOSED TAX INCREASE

The Town of Yankeetown has tentatively adopted a measure to increase its property tax levy.

Last year's property tax levy:

- A. Initially proposed tax levy \$ 215,821
- B. Less tax reductions due to Value Adjustment Board and other assessment changes..... \$ 43,255
- C. Actual property tax levy..... \$ 172,566

This year's proposed tax levy \$ 188,786

All concerned citizens are invited to attend a public hearing on the tax increase to be held on:

Monday, September 27, 2021

6:00 PM

at

**Yankeetown Town Hall
6241 Harmony Lane
Yankeetown, Florida 34498**

A FINAL DECISION on the proposed tax increase and the budget will be made at the hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY TOWN OF YANKEETOWN - FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

THE PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET EXPENDITURES OF THE TOWN OF YANKEETOWN ARE 1.6% GREATER THAN LAST YEARS TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES

General Fund	2.8119	Millage per \$1000		
ESTIMATED REVENUES	GENERAL FUND	WATER FUND	TOTAL ALL FUNDS	
Taxes:	Millage per \$1000			
Ad Valorem Taxes	2.8119	183,122	183,122	
Sales and Use Taxes		117,516	117,516	
Charges for Services		19,682	450,696	470,378
Intergovernmental Revenue		360,467		360,467
Fines & Forfeitures		1		1
Miscellaneous Revenue		1,500	2,600	4,100
Licenses and Permits		78,100		78,100
Other Sources (Loan Proceeds and Reserves)		403,941	0	403,941
TOTAL SOURCES		1,164,329	453,296	1,617,625
Fund Balances/Reserves/Net Assets		700,000	600,000	1,300,000
TRANSFERS & BALANCES		1,864,329	1,053,296	2,917,625
EXPENDITURES				
General Government		406,396		406,396
Physical Environment		132,200	391,667	523,867
Roads & Streets		144,296		144,296
Animal Control		600		600
Debt Service			61,629	61,629
Fire Department Expenses		45,610		45,610
Cultural & Recreation		435,227		435,227
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		1,164,329	453,296	1,617,625
Fund Balances/Reserves/Net Assets		700,000	600,000	1,300,000
EXPENDITURES TRANSFERS, RESERVES & BALANCES		1,864,329	1,053,296	2,917,625

The Adopted Budgets are on file as a public record at the Yankeetown Town Hall, located at 6241 Harmony Lane, Florida 34498 (Mon.- Fri. 8 AM to 3 PM)

Obituaries

Nancy Davis, 71

CRYSTAL RIVER

Nancy McGan Davis, 71, of Crystal River, FL passed away September 15, 2021.

She was born on December 5, 1949 in Davy, WV where she attended Welch High School in Welch, WV and graduated with honors. Nancy attended West Virginia University where she majored in Nursing, earning her bachelor's degree in 1971. She moved to FL in 1977 and began working at the Department of Health. She was a hard worker and eventually became the Nursing Director for Citrus County. She was a great mentor, boss and friend. She was witty, smart and always could find humor in any situation. She was also a loving mother, grandmother and faithful wife. She loved her faith and was a faithful member of Bible Baptist Church, always willing to talk to people about Jesus. She enjoyed nursing, history, traveling and spending time with family and friends. She was always available to help others and touched so many lives on and off the clock.

Nancy is survived by her husband of 39 years, Ron; 2 sons Kurt (Christel) Davis and Brian (Kristie) Green; 7 grandchildren Alex, Wyatt, Sophie, Carly, Keaten, Karsen and Carrissa. She was preceded in death by her father Ralph McGan; mother, Anna McGan; and brother Richard McGan.

Family will receive friends for visitation from 10AM-11AM, with a Funeral Service beginning at 11AM on Monday, September 27, 2021 at the Bible Baptist Church in Crystal River, FL. Burial will follow at Fountains

Memorial Park Cemetery in Homosassa, FL. In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the PSP and CBD Foundation. Brown Funeral Home & Crematory in charge of arrangements.

Sign the guest book at www.chronicleonline.com.



Nancy Davis

Justin Joslyn, 31

CITRUS SPRINGS

Officer Justin Dean Joslyn, 31, of Citrus Springs, Florida was welcomed to Valhalla with joy and hunger on September 11th, 2021 after an epic battle for his life.

Justin spent much of his life fighting. That's who he was. He overcame every adversity that was challenged upon him with wisdom and understanding beyond his years. Along the way, he learned compassion and empathy so deep he would try to fix the smallest wounds of other people with more love and care than most people are used to seeing.

He was a loving husband and father. He leaves behind his wife, Chantel (Tilly) Joslyn, and his three amazing kids Alexander (10), Zachariah (6), and Lilliana (3). Justin and Tilly agreed their three children are the most beautiful parts of themselves. The children definitely inherited their father's confidence and inquisitiveness; which we all pray Tilly has the strength and determination to mold into as beautiful of a soul as their father. The kids will miss him dearly. Zachariah will miss wrestling with his dad, Lilliana will miss watching football and cuddling with her dad, and Alexander will miss debating and discussing the

world with his dad. They look for their superhero in the clouds and rainbows and know they have the MOST protective guardian at their back.

Justin met the love of his life, Tilly, when they were just 16 years old. As relationships go, theirs was strong and they grew together as they grew up. After FINALLY getting married on May 15th, 2010, they turned their love into a wonderful life full of fun and laughter. Although their life together was cut short, their love is something that will never be lost. It will live through their children, their friends and family, and every life Justin has touched.

He was loyal. To his friends, to his family. However, he was most loyal to his favorite football team, the 49ers. That poor man rooted his heart out for them (and lost most of his hair) during the 2012 and 2020 super bowl games. However, he stayed and remains to this day a prominent member of the Niners Nation and forever 49ers faithful.

His career took him down paths he never expected. Originally, he wanted to be a history teacher and high school football coach. Justin wound up working for the Department of Public Safety at the Pamlico Correctional Facility in North Carolina for 7 years. There he met his brother, Officer Matthew Davis, who eventually talked him into moving to Florida to work for the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Although only



Justin Joslyn

there a short while, Justin made a significant impact on his brothers and sisters at Coleman, as they did him. He recently graduated with honors from FLETC and was looking forward to eventually working in the education department. His BOP family can rest easy knowing that Justin gained his wings and has their 6.

His family loves him so very much and his friends are the family he chose (he has good taste in people). He has been adopted into so many families as an honorary member because he is that magnetic. The relationships that he has built in his life are beautiful and have left his family with an amazing village that surrounds, protects, and loves them.

Thank you baby, for everything you've done and given for us. Save me a seat...and a turkey leg. I'll fight with you later.

Private cremation is under the direction of Brown Funeral Home & Crematory in Lecanto, FL.

Sign the guest book at www.chronicleonline.com.



Robert Yost Sr., 84

HOMOSSASSA

Robert E. Yost, Sr., 84, of Homosassa, FL, passed away on Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2021 at his home.

A native of East Liverpool, OH, he was born Jan. 27, 1937 to Lert and Esther (Kyle) Yost, one of six children. Bob, as he was known to everyone, served his country honorably and proudly in the United States Marine Corps from 1952 to 1956, serving at Cape Gefu in Japan.

He was the former owner and operator for over 20 years of Redwing Disposal in Citrus County, along with his loving wife of 53 years, Margaret A. (Trotter) Yost, who survives him. Bob's greatest passion in life was surrounding himself with his children and grandchildren every chance he could, and especially loved family gatherings at his camp in Gulf Hammock, FL.

In addition to his parents, Mr. Yost was preceded in death by all of his siblings; Howard, Robert, Dorothy, Lert and Lilly. He is survived by his eleven children Tim Yost (Iva), Rick Takach, Robert E.

Yost, Jr. (Charlene), all of Homosassa; Debbie Ellingham (Bill), New Port Richey, FL; Sherri Lynn Sarneski, Akron, OH; Dale Head (Kimberly), Homosassa; Keith Head (Lisa), Johnston, Rhode Island; Mark Head (Kim) and Misty Baldner (Russ), both of Homosassa; Rocky Yost (Jolene), Akron, OH and Tony Yost, Canal Fulton, OH and many grandchildren and great grandchildren, nieces and nephews and his beloved dog Bear.

Friends will be received on Mon., Sept. 27, 2021 from 12:00 Noon to 1:00 P.M. at Christian Center Church in Homosassa, where a Celebration Of Life will begin at 1:00 P.M. with Pastor Jason Hanks officiating. Military Honors will immediately follow in the church with Honors rendered by the United States Marine Corps and the Citrus County All Veterans Honor Guard. Interment will take place on Tuesday, September 28th at 10:00 AM at Stage Stand Cemetery in Homosassa Springs. www.wilderfuneral.com

■ A flag will be included for free for those who served in the U.S. military: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard or National Guard. Please note the branch of service.

To Place Your "In Memory" ad,
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Closing time for placing ad is 4 business days prior to run date. There are advanced deadlines for holidays.



OBITUARY GUIDELINES

- Obituaries must be verified with the funeral home or society in charge of arrangements.
- Obituaries are at www.chronicleonline.com.
- Email obits@chronicleonline.com or call 352-563-5660 for more information.

Chas. E. Davis
Funeral Home With Crematory

MARY NELSON - Service: Sat. (9/25) 11:00 A.M.
JAMES CUMMONS - Arrangements Pending
RAYMOND PARKER
Graveside: Mon. (10/11) - Florida National Cemetery
ROBERT PUTNEY - Private Arrangements
PATRICK PALMER
Service: Mon. (9/27) 12 Noon - New Testament Church
CLARENCE RABY
Mass: Thurs. (10/7) 10:00 A.M. - Good Counsel Camp
SYLVIA THOMAS
Service: Tues. (9/28) 2:00 P.M.
1st Assembly of God Church - Crystal River
ELIZABETH WESCOTT - Private Arrangements
KIM WATKINS - Service: Sat. (10/2) 10:00 A.M.
FRANK De CHIRICO - Private Arrangements
FRANK IRVIN - Private Arrangements
RAYMOND MICHAEL JR.
Graveside: Fri. (10/8) 12:30 P.M.
Florida National Cemetery

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• Trailer

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• Extended rear deck
• Double captain chairs
• Bar station
• Trailer

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• Galvanized trailer

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• 2018 F150 Yamaha **\$23,500**

2013 SEA CHASER 180
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2008 SWEETWATER 2080
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► *"It does not do to leave a live dragon out of your calculations, if you live near him."*

J.R.R. Tolkien

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

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Founded by Albert M. Williamson

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

— David S. Arthurs publisher emeritus

Gerard "Gerry" Mulligan publisher emeritus

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

CASH FLOW

Residents need to see where funds will flow

Citrus County has been under a deluge from a record-setting summer of rainfall, which has led to flooding issues throughout parts of the county. Those problems could be mitigated in the coming years with the implementation of a newly approved stormwater runoff fee.

Despite rambunctious public meeting to create a mostly flat stormwater assessment fee — Municipal Services Benefit Unit (MSBU) — for each county residents' property and do away with having the funding source embedded in the county's annual property taxes, commissioners held their ground. They deserve credit for withstanding the naysayers.

The county stands to collect upward of an additional \$3.5 million per year with the approved MSBU, because the assessment is not subject to homestead and

other exemptions. The majority of commissioners said they understood residents' frustration, but all would benefit when stormwater was better maintained to avoid flooding and treated before it went back into the aquifer.

According to the county, fees would go toward to build capital improvement projects, maintaining and repairing stormwater infrastructure. Those all make sense, but what projects would be ideal? What is the current state of existing stormwater infrastructure?

County commissioners can tell us it will benefit it, however, citizens are typically skeptical when government levies new taxes and fees at our benefit.

The county would make inroads if it shows the public plans, such as priority projects, for the monies collected to deal with stormwater runoff.

THE ISSUE:

County OKs controversial tax on stormwater runoff.

OUR OPINION:

Right thing to do.

CR should reduce millage rate

The proposed millage rate increase for the city of Crystal River is ridiculous. Property values in Citrus County have recently increased more than anytime in memory, which means a stable millage rate should result in increased tax revenues. The city of Inverness and Citrus County both recognize this and have proposed decreases in their mileage rates. That is what I expect the city of Crystal River to do.

I appreciate the work the city is doing to improve the presentation to visitors, grow its business base and create a desirable destination for tourists dollars. But let's not forget that there are many city residents who receive only additional burden from the seemed improvements in property values, increases in traffic and now potentially higher costs associated with a residence within the city. You must give a higher consideration to those folks who have provided the foundation and support to the city (in tax dollars) to get us to this point over those that may, or have recently discovered Crystal River.

Keith Williams
Crystal River

BOCC made right decision on EMS

The recent decision by the county commission to take over EMS was a pleasant surprise. I rarely give credit to Kitchen and Carnahan but in this case, they made the right decision along with Holly Davis. Continuing to keep shoring up EMS with little control of day-to-day operations makes no sense. To just throw more money at the problems with no clear resolution to challenges facing EMS would be totally illogical. Acting, not choosing to wait for some miracle solution or wanting to study a problem that has ample information available was what I expect from all elected officials. Decisions are not always popular or easy but they have to be made for efficient government.

Commissioners Kitchen and Carnahan have been around long enough to be very familiar with the difficulty of providing emergency medical services in this county. For far too long EMS has not been treated with the same concern and respect as police and fire yet it is just as critical as any public safety

LETTERS to the Editor

OPINIONS INVITED

- **Viewpoints** depicted in political cartoons, columns or letters do not necessarily represent the opinion of the editorial board.
- **Groups or individuals** are invited to express their opinions in a letter to the editor.
- **Persons** wishing to address the editorial board, which meets weekly, should call **Jeff Bryan** at 352-563-5660.
- **All letters** must be signed and include a phone number and hometown, including letters sent via email. Names and hometowns will be printed; phone numbers will not be published or given out.
- **SEND LETTERS TO: The Editor**, 1624 N. Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34429; or email to letters@chronicleonline.com.

function. It should not be private, or a private/government function, it needs to be part of the public safety family.

I would also suggest the EMS training program be put under the umbrella of Withlacoochee Technical College. In addition, I would like to see a salary/benefits study of like size counties to ensure our employees are paid at a comparable rate. This does not need to be done by an outside consultant, I have done of few in my day for police and had no problem doing them in house.

I have spent 40 years in public safety and have the utmost respect for all who serve their community. It is time our emergency medical folks are brought into the fold and treated as the professionals they are.

Roger B. Krieger
Beverly Hills

Individual rights vs. common good

Herein lies the fundamental question of mandates or not. There is ample evidence for medical mandates (polio mass inoculations in the '50s). Now, to the point in question of the COVID-19 virus: Are the majority of Americans potentially being harmed by the anti-vaxers and the anti-maskers?

My answer is a resounding YES! We are in our third COVID-19 spike because the unprotected are spreading the virus. So the president is right to impose a vaccine mandate. Now let's put some teeth into his executive order.

And start treating the compliant with the respect we are due for doing the right thing to protect America. COVID passports to enter restaurants and sporting venues, concerts and rallies.

Lynn Dostal
Homosassa

Robert Burns
Crystal River

How many staff, clients are vaccinated?

Your (front-page) article today, Sept. 4, Saturday, on the Key Training Center, all the cases that they have there, you failed to state how many of these clients and staff have been vaccinated. Since they're all adults and the vaccine has been readily available to them, I don't see why they haven't been. They live together, they work together, just like nursing homes. They should have been all vaccinated by now. For that matter, I feel everyone should be vaccinated. Otherwise, we'll be passing this virus back and forth like ping-pong. The new strains of the virus will emerge and this will go on forever. So what a future that will be, huh? Please get vaccinated, people.

Editor's Note: Due to HIPPA laws, they are not allowed to provide such information.

Why aren't young people working?

This really bothers me: Why are the fast-food places closing their doors and only have drive-thru because they can't get any help? What is wrong with young people? Don't they know that years ago we worked for \$1 an hour? Now they're getting decent pay at McDonald's and Wendy's and they don't even have to be fully educated, yet they don't

even want to work. Where are they getting their money from, as if I don't know where? Let's get these young people out working. ... Go get a job. What is wrong with us? America is not the same, I'll tell you. I just thought we should sound off and start this thing rolling.

Judge erred in his ruling

I'm responding to (Saturday, Sept. 3's Page A8) Sound Off's "Hot Corner: Acquittal," where the person said, "kudos to Judge Howard for acquitting the teens in the killing," that he did not think the kids deserved to be found guilty and there was no harm done. No harm done? A woman died. They were negligent. They should be held accountable for their actions. The only thing that stopped them from going to prison was that the bullet did not stay in the woman's head. It went through her head. If they found that bullet, they should still be in prison. That's where they belong. It's people like you that want to give these teenagers a slap on the wrist, who say, "Oh, they're only teenagers." No, no, no, put them in prison where they belong. I believe it because I worked there and I know. I know how they talk and what they talk about. You are totally

wrong on this. The judge made a wrong decision.

Light at Sugarmill needs to be fixed

I'd just like to comment about the light at Sugarmill Woods at Cypress heading northbound. On Saturday afternoon (Sept. 4), we were backed up 3 miles or so. I think part of the problem is the left-turn lane going southbound will light up no matter what, if there's people there or not, and last way too long. Anyway, we've got a problem there. Let's do something about it.

Hit the brakes or coast?

When you're heading east on Dunklin Street and you're going 50 (mph) and then it turns to 35 at the top of the hill, are you supposed to hit on your brake or coast into a 35? I don't know that rule.

Fix the flooding issue on Turkey Oak

In regards to the flooding on Turkey Oak: I've been here 10 years and they have yet to do anything about the problem. It doesn't take an engineer to figure it out, so my question is, are they too stupid or too lazy to fix it?

May God bless person who found bracelet

This is a very special thank-you to Mr. D, who found my bracelet with the initial "N" on it at the Bella Vita parking lot and turned it in to the main desk. Thank you and may God bless you.

Get off your butt and go to work

Finally, the federal benefits are being stopped. Now they need to get off their butts and go to work. The unemployment benefits that got extended are gone. Now it's time to get off your butts and go to work and be productive.

Socking it to the elderly poor

(Re the Monday, Sept. 6, Page A10 Sound Off, "Notice is not easily understood"): I do feel the same way you do and I am speaking out. Socking it to the elderly poor is typical for this county. I don't even make enough to pay someone to help me work my half acre and 1983 mobile home — mowing, planting, raking, fence work, edging, power-washing, painting, septic, water pump, shed repairs. Come on down, county commissioners. You try and make it on \$893 a month at 70 years old and no help from the county at all. Just tax us some more. Thank God for St. Vincent De Paul Society

of the Catholic Church in Homosassa. They helped me.

Home school fixes mask problem

I have a solution to the mask problem with school kids: If you don't want your child to wear a mask — be it a political reason, a religious reason or you're just plain stupid — then home-school them.

Use nicknames, please

To the caller that complained about the Chronicle adding "Ric" to Judge Howard's name in every article (in Saturday, Sept. 4's Page A8 Sound Off, "This really irks me"): I must disagree. I think that everyone's nickname should be used in the paper. Mr. Dumas from Crystal River always has his nickname used in articles. I'm sure there are many nicknames that can be used for others. Everyone named Michael or Joseph has theirs built in, but how about some of the better ones, like Champ, Gomer or Skipper? I'm sure there are many unprintable names that should not be used. In all fairness, I think that everyone's nickname — or what they prefer to be referred to by friends — should be used, and Judge Howard and Mr. Dumas should not have a monopoly on the name that is used incessantly. Thank you — this is Sam "Sluggo" Smith.

Migrant camp cleared



A bulldozer is seen next to a mound of debris while crews clear an area where migrants, many from Haiti, were encamped along the Del Rio International Bridge, Friday, Sept. 24 in Del Rio, Texas. Associated Press

Nearly 15,000 had been living under border bridge

MARÍA VERZA AND JUAN LOZANO
Associated Press

DEL RIO, Texas — No migrants remained Friday at the Texas border encampment where almost 15,000 people — most of them Haitians — had converged just days earlier seeking asylum, local and federal officials said.

It's a dramatic change from last Saturday, when the number peaked as migrants driven by confusion over the Biden administration's policies and misinformation on social media converged at the border crossing connecting Del Rio, Texas, and Ciudad Acuña, Mexico.

At a news conference, Del Rio Mayor Buno Lozano called it "phenomenal news."

Many face expulsion because they are not covered by protections recently extended by the Biden administration to the more than 100,000 Haitian

migrants already in the U.S., citing security concerns and social unrest in the Western Hemisphere's poorest country. The devastating 2010 earthquake forced many of them from their homeland.

The United States and Mexico appeared eager to end the increasingly politicized humanitarian situation that prompted the resignation of the U.S. special envoy to Haiti and widespread outrage after images emerged of border agents maneuvering their horses to forcibly block and move migrants.

On Friday, President Joe Biden said the way the agents used their horses was "horrible" and that "people will pay" as a result. The agents have been assigned to administrative duties while the administration investigates.

"There will be consequences," Biden told reporters. "It's an embarrassment, but it's beyond an embarrassment — it's dangerous, it's

wrong, it sends the wrong message around the world and sends the wrong message at home. It's simply not who we are."

Later, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas spoke cautiously about the pending investigation into the use of horses. Asked about the discrepancy, White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Biden "was not prejudging an outcome. He was speaking from the heart." She said he is not interfering with any investigation.

Mayorkas said about 2,000 Haitians have been rapidly expelled on 17 flights since Sunday and more could be expelled in coming days under pandemic powers that deny people the chance to seek asylum.

He said the U.S. has allowed about 12,400 to enter the country, at least temporarily, while they make claims before an immigration judge to stay in the country under the asylum laws or for some other legal reason.

They could ultimately be denied and would be subject to removal.

Mayorkas said about 5,000 are in DHS custody and being processed to determine whether they will be expelled or allowed to press their claim for legal residency. Some returned to Mexico.

A U.S. official with direct knowledge of the situation said six flights were scheduled to Haiti on Friday, with seven planned Saturday and six Sunday, though that was subject to change. The official was not authorized to speak publicly.

In Mexico, just over 100 migrants, most of them single men, remained Friday morning in the riverside camp in Ciudad Acuña.

Dozens of families who had been there crossed back to Del Rio overnight after Mexican authorities left the area. With the river running higher, some Border Patrol agents helped families who were struggling to cross with children.

Nation/World BRIEFS

GOP review finds no proof Arizona election stolen

PHOENIX — A Republican-backed review of the 2020 presidential election in Arizona's largest county ended Friday without producing proof to support former President Donald Trump's false claims of a stolen election.

After six months of searching for evidence of fraud, the firm hired by Republican lawmakers issued a report that experts described as riddled with errors, bias and flawed methodology. Still, even that partisan review came up with a vote tally that would not have altered the outcome, finding that Biden won by 360 more votes than the official results certified last year.

The finding was an embarrassing end to a widely criticized, and at times bizarre, quest to prove allegations that election officials and courts have rejected. It has no bearing on the final, certified results. Previous reviews by nonpartisan professionals that followed state law have found no significant problem with the vote count in Maricopa County, home to Phoenix.

Still, for many critics, the conclusions reached by the firm Cyber Ninjas and presented at a hearing Friday, underscored the dangerous futility of the exercise, which has helped fuel skepticism about the validity of the 2020 election and spawned copycat audits nationwide.

"We haven't learned anything new," said Matt Masterson, a top U.S. election security official in the Trump administration. "What we have learned from all this is that the Ninjas were paid millions of dollars, politicians raised millions of dollars and Americans' trust in democracy is lower."

PG&E charged in California wildfire last year

SAN FRANCISCO — Pacific Gas & Electric was charged Friday with involuntary manslaughter and other crimes after its equipment sparked a Northern California wildfire that killed four people and destroyed hundreds of homes last year, prosecutors said.

It is the latest legal action against the nation's largest utility, which pleaded guilty last year to 84 counts of involuntary manslaughter in a 2018 blaze ignited by its long-neglected electrical grid that nearly destroyed the town of Paradise and became the deadliest U.S. wildfire in a century.

Shasta County District Attorney Stephanie Bridgett

announced the 31 charges, including 11 felonies, against PG&E, saying it failed to perform its legal duties and that its "failure was reckless and criminally negligent, and it resulted in the death of four people."

Chinese banks try to calm fears about debts

BEIJING — Trying to dispel investor fears, some Chinese banks are disclosing what they are owed by a real estate developer that is struggling under \$310 billion in debt and say they can cope with a potential default.

The announcements came as Evergrande Group promised to talk with some individual investors in its debt. Other creditors waited to see whether Beijing will step in to oversee a restructuring to prevent financial disruption.

Evergrande's struggle to meet government-imposed debt limits has prompted fears a default might disrupt the Chinese economy or global financial markets. Ratings agencies say a default is likely. Economists say Beijing can prevent a credit crunch in China but wants to avoid bailing out Evergrande while it tries to force companies to reduce debt levels.

One of Evergrande's biggest lenders, Zheshang Bank Co., said it is owed 3.8 billion yuan (\$588 million) and has "sufficient collateral."

Thunberg joins climate rally ahead of election

BERLIN — Tens of thousands of environmental activists staged a rally outside Germany's parliament Friday, two days before the country holds a national election, to demand that politicians take stronger action to curb climate change.

The protest outside the Reichstag in Berlin was part of a string of rallies around the world, from Japan, India and Nigeria to Greece, Italy and Britain — amid dire warnings that the planet faces dangerous temperature rises unless greenhouse gas emissions are cut sharply in coming years. Across Germany alone, hundreds of thousands of marchers joined similar protests in several cities and towns.

The idea for a global "climate strike" was inspired by teenage Swedish activist Greta Thunberg's solo protest in Stockholm three years ago. It snowballed into a mass movement until the coronavirus pandemic put a stop to large gatherings. Activists have only recently started staging smaller protests again.

— From wire reports

China worries loom over meeting

Biden hosts conclave of Indo-Pacific leaders at White House

AAMER MADHANI AND JOSH BOAK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Meeting with the leaders of India, Australia and Japan, President Joe Biden declared Friday that the U.S. and other members of the Indo-Pacific alliance known as "the Quad," are showing they "know how to get things done" in an increasingly complicated corner of the globe.

Biden and his fellow leaders—Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga — are all grappling with a rising China that Biden has accused of coercive economic practices and unsettling military maneuvering.

They made no direct mention of China as they opened the group's first ever in-person meeting, but the Pacific power was sure to be a major focus as they headed into private talks.

On broader issues, Biden has repeatedly made a case that the U.S. and likeminded allies need to deliver results on the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and other

fundamental matters with the world in what he's deemed a race between democracies and autocracies.

Morrison and the others seemed to pick up that message as they opened Friday's summit.

"We are liberal democracies, believe in a world order that favors freedom," Morrison said. "And we believe in a free and open Indo-Pacific, because we know that's what delivers a strong, stable and prosperous region."

Before the gathering on Friday afternoon, Biden sat down with Modi in the Oval Office. He was also to have a one-on-one with Suga, who is soon to step down from his post.

With Modi by his side, Biden played up ties to India — referencing Vice President Kamala Harris' Indian heritage and even his own family ties to the subcontinent.

The president also made clear he saw tightening relations with the world's biggest democracy — one that shares a neighborhood with Taliban-controlled Afghanistan and China — as vital for both sides.

At the afternoon summit, the Quad leaders were expected to announce a coronavirus vaccine initiative and plans to bolster semiconductor

supply chains. Biden announced the Quad had created a program to bring graduate students in science and technology to U.S. universities. After the summit, Morrison and Suga met with Harris for further talks; Modi met separately with the vice president on Thursday.

The Quad is an informal alliance formed during the response to the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami that killed some 230,000 people. Biden has sought to reinvigorate the alliance, putting a spotlight on a chief foreign policy goal: greater attention to the Pacific and a rising China. The alliance met earlier this year, virtually, and announced plans to boost vaccination manufacturing in India.

The Japanese and Indian governments welcomed a recent announcement that the U.S., as part of a new alliance with Britain and Australia, would equip Australia with nuclear-powered submarines.

That will allow Australia to conduct longer patrols and give it an edge on the Chinese navy. But the announcement infuriated France, which accused the Biden administration of stabbing it in the back by squelching its own \$66 billion deal to provide diesel-powered submarines.

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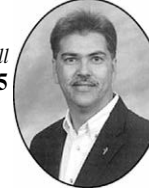
SUNDAY
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Worship.....10:00

WEDNESDAY
Bible School.....6:30

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Mon., Wed. and Friday

Saturday Confession:
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Citrus Springs, FL 34434
(352)489-4889
www.stelizabethcs.org

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Weekly Recorded Services on Hope's Facebook page

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Stephen Brisson, Pastor
hopeelca.com

Trinity Independent Baptist Church

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Sundays.....6:00 PM
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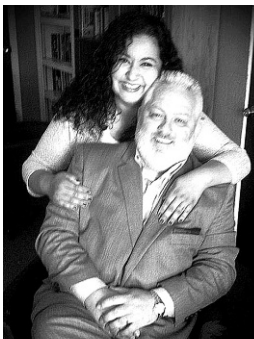
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Sundays
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11 am

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7 pm

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SPECIAL EVENTS

St. Benedict Catholic Church
St. Benedict Catholic Church is hosting a craft and car show from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 11 at the church, 455 S. Suncoast Blvd. in Crystal River.
For an application for inside spaces, contact Sally Krasny at 352-503-4144 or sallykrasny@gmail.com. Inside spaces are \$25 for a 6 foot

table and \$45 for two 6 foot tables. For an application to display an antique car or truck (1969 or older), contact Mike Clemmer at 336-314-8451 or mwcllemmer@aol.com.
This judged show has 20 top prizes, a people's choice award and is limited to the first 50 applicants. The cost is \$5 in advance or \$10 on the day of the event.
Proceeds will go to the St. Benedict Community of Catholic Women

(CCW), men's club and Knights of Columbus. Food, beverages and entertainment will be available.
Gulf to Lake Baptist Church
Gulf to Lake Baptist Church will host, "Your Heart's Desire Art & Craft Fair" at 9:30 a.m. Jan. 22, 1454 N. Gulf Ave. in Crystal River. Art and craft goods will be available for sale. All items are handcrafted.
For more information about the church, visit gulfotolake.com.

SUPPORT

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church
Bereavement Support Group Thursday meetings in the hall behind the church in Homosassa. We take a positive approach to grief by helping grievers learn how to make a new life. Thirty years of experience. The group meets 1-3 p.m. St. Thomas the Apostle is on U.S. 19,

300 yards southwest of Cardinal, just past Walmart, on the west side. For information, call 352-220-1959.
The Hills Church
Celebrate Recovery meets every Monday from 6-8 p.m. at The Hills Church, 2 Civic Circle, Beverly Hills. It is a Christ-centered recovery group for hurts, hang-ups and habits. Call Tom or Sheila Boss for more information, at 410-353-7857 or 410-271-4112. Celebraterecovery.com.



MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle

Calvary Chapel volunteer Marc Hannel places a hot pan onto a table to be served during lunch time Thursday, Sept. 23. Those gathering for the free meals at the soup kitchen ministry have a choice of three hot meals, bread, drinks and a dessert.

FEED

Continued from Page A1

There's also a Bible study at 9:30 a.m. after breakfast for anyone who's interested.

For more information or to volunteer call the church at 352-344-1771.

God's Kitchen started at First United Methodist Church in Inverness when it was still located on Pleasant Grove Road.

For more than a decade there, they welcomed people to have lunch with them on Mondays, and at one time even sent their church bus to pick people up from the city parks near the Withlacoochee State Trail, whether they were homeless or simply didn't drive.

Then in 2014, lightning struck the church and the congregation moved all their services and ministries elsewhere, including God's Kitchen, which they operated out of another local church.

In those days, they served up to 120 people, averaging about 90 in the winter and 50 to 60 in the summer.

The church built a new church building at 1140 E. Turner Camp Road in Inverness in 2018, equipped with a big kitchen and a gathering space with room for tables — ideal for continuing to feed people in the community.

"We were serving every Monday, getting up to 50 people, and we also had someone give a short devotional message and we had singing," said Larry Liverman, the church's facilities manager. "It was sad when COVID shut everything down, but we've started doing drive-thru hot meals on Mondays again. For now, it's working out; at least people are getting a meal."

From 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., people drive up to the church and tell one of the volunteers out front how many meals they need.

The meals, including dessert and a drink, are served in foam to-go containers.

"Last week we had 53 people, and we'd like more," Liverman said. "We also take food next door to CASA (abuse shelter) and we're going to start delivering to shut-ins."

"We've got about eight or 10 women who come in and cook," he said. "A lot of work goes into it, but they love it."

For more information, call 352-726-2522, ext. 0.

The name has remained the same, Our Father's Table, but the location of the Saturday hot meal program in Crystal River has changed over the years.

At one time, three or four Crystal River churches combined their volunteers to cook and to serve, but

“ Our hope is for people to gather again...”

Linda Axelson
assistant to the rector at St. Anne Episcopal Church.

now it's down to two: St. Timothy Lutheran Church and St. Anne's Episcopal Church.

For the past year and a half, the program was shut down altogether because of the pandemic.

Currently, Our Father's Table is set to begin again at St. Anne Episcopal Church, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. the second, third, fourth and fifth Saturdays monthly.

The church is at 9870 W. Fort Island Trail, Crystal River, one mile west of the Plantation on Crystal River.

"We're all prepared and our cooks and food servers are ready to go as soon as we get updated guidelines from the diocese," said Linda Axelson, assistant to the rector at St. Anne's and also the person in charge of the church's food ministry.

"We have a sizable parish hall, so we can space

people out at the tables," she said.

Prior to the COVID-19 shut down, up to 50 people would come to eat each week.

"About three-fourths of them were homeless, because of our location," Axelson said. "But it's not just for homeless people."

And it's not just about food, she said. "We hope people will come and make a connection with someone else. ... Our dream for 2022 is to reach out and collaborate with other churches and have more people join with us."

"Our hope is for people to gather again and reconnect and network with each other; bring the community together," she said. "Because of COVID, people are hungry for connection, yet they're also fearful of connecting."

For more information about Our Father's Table, call 352-795-2176.

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11:30 A.M.
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Nancy Kennedy
**GRACE
NOTES**

Well with my soul

With so much craziness and sadness and badness going on in the world, I've been trying to focus on what's good.

Because there is good. Horatio Spafford wrote the hymn "It is Well With My Soul" after he lost a fortune in the Chicago fire of 1871, his 4-year-old son died of scarlet fever and then all four of his daughters drowned when the ship they were on sank on the way to England; only his wife survived.

It's said that as he sailed to England to unite with his wife, as the ship passed over the very spot where his daughters perished, he wrote the words: "When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll; whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, 'It is well, it is well with my soul.'"

As a Christian, as a child of the all-mighty, Almighty God, even when things are so bad it seems they can't get any worse, my hope in Christ enables me to sing, "It is well with my soul" and mean it. And that's good.

Here are some other good things:

- The other day three people messaged me saying they were thinking about me, that God had put my name on their hearts.

God does that sometimes. He drops a name into someone's thoughts who then sends a note, "Hey, you matter."

It's God's way of saying, "I see you. I'm thinking about you."

- In a sermon I heard years ago, the pastor talked about people with crushed spirits, those who have endured trouble after trouble, heartache upon heartache.

The pastor's message was simple yet powerful: God loves you, Christ's love is more powerful than your past and that in Christ you are not who or what you used to be.

If God is for you, the scripture says, who could possibly be against you?

"But you, O God, are both tender and kind, not easily angered, immense in love, and you never, never quit" (Psalm 86:15 The Message).

That's good!

- How about this: the feel of a kitten's fur or a fuzzy afghan blanket tucked around you, the sound of an Irish fiddle or a calming rain outside your window lulling you to sleep?

What about a sunrise over a still lake or a sunset at the beach — is there anything more glorious?

Or roasted eggplant on a toasted ciabatta roll topped with hot, melty white cheddar cheese?

- At the core of my very being I believe there is no greater joy than knowing the greatness of God's forgiveness, mercy and grace.

- Our little cat, Fox, makes bird chirping sounds and chatters like a squirrel. She also screams when she's excited. She's a furry, fluffy gift of personality and delight and mischief.

- In the hymn, "A Mighty Fortress," Martin Luther called God a "bulwark never failing," a bulwark being a defensive wall.

He wrote: "And though this world with devils filled should threaten to undo us, we will not fear for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us."

The world threatens to undo us at every turn, yet God has willed that his truth will triumph through his people. Because he wins, we win, too.

- Two words: maple syrup. Sweet sap flowing from inside a tree? If that's not proof of a good God, then I don't know what is.

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

Council 6168 honors Tony Velez

Special to the Chronicle

Tony Velez of Citrus Hills is the Knights of Columbus Council 6168 July Knight of the Month.

"Tony is a committed to our ideal of charity though good works," Grand Knight Mike Belkin said. "You can always count on Tony. He doesn't say no."

In January, Velez will have been a Knight for 30 years.

He is an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist at Our Lady of Grace Church in Beverly Hills. He also provides food and refreshments at Knights of Columbus bingo and at monthly church flea markets.

In the past, as a member of the AFS Corporation board of directors responsible for maintaining properties used by the Knights, Velez was either the inspiration or muscle behind projects.

They included indoor and outdoor painting of the Knights hall, replacing ceiling tiles, re-surfacing the parking lot, installing a new pro-life banner, laying a wood-like floor in the



Special to the Chronicle
Knights of Columbus Council 6168 Grand Knight Mike Belkin, left, presents Tony Velez with his July Knight of the Month plaque.

hall, installing a new blue awning over the main entrance to the hall and keeping the main

air conditioner running long past its life expectancy. Velez served as the Council

6168 warden for five terms. He says he was "too busy" to move up to Grand Knight.

Instead, he devoted himself to his forte, jack-of-all trades and fixer of all that was broken for the Knights, his friends and his family.

In 2012, he had both knees replaced at the same time, but that didn't stop Velez. His therapist "wanted to clone" him because of his quick recovery.

A few weeks after surgery, he was back at work, attributing the quick recovery to his time in karate and boxing.

Velez grew up in Manhattan's Little Italy, having arrived from Puerto Rico at the age of 4.

He learned on the streets to speak English. It quickly became his first language and posed a communication problem for his Spanish-speaking mother. Now he is fluent in both.

Velez retired in 1998 after 28 years as a trouble-shooter and all-around repairman with UPS. He and his wife, Carmen, came to Citrus County in 1998 from Long Island. They were married in 1967 and have two children.

RELIGION NOTES

JEWISH HOLIDAYS

Bread of Life First Bilingual Church of Citrus County

My Ecclesia will host 91 Days of Glory at 7 p.m. Sept. 6 through Dec. 6 at the Bread of Life First Bilingual Church of Citrus County, 1 Beverly Hills Blvd.

The 91 Days of Glory event is a local expression of a local global move of God to establish prayer and worship around the world.

This season includes five Biblical celebrations. Three remaining this year are:

Sukkot, Feast of Tabernacles, from Sept. 22 to 28

Shemini Atzeret, The Eighth Day, Sept 29

Hanukkah, Festival of Lights, from Nov. 28 to Dec. 6

Focused scriptures include Leviticus 6:13 and Amos 9:11.

For more information, contact Peter Dettman, My Ecclesia president, at 352-364-4466 or peter.dettman@yahoo.com. Visit myekclesia.org or myekclesia.org/glory.

Congregation Beth Sholom

Congregation Beth Sholom, Beverly Hills, has scheduled Holidays Services for 2021. All services will be available via Zoom, and some will also be in person in the sanctuary, with COVID restrictions. At this time, only members or prospective members who have contacted the church to attend in person can come to the live services. We welcome guests to join via Zoom. All nonmembers must contact president Barbara Hamerling at barb4949@gmail.com to register and to receive information about services and Zoom sign-on, and for information on other scheduled activities, such as Zoom bingo.

The schedule is as follows, subject to change, end times approximate:

Tuesday, Sept. 21, 10 a.m. to noon — Sukkot Services in person and Zoom

Tuesday, Sept. 28, 10 a.m. to noon — Sh'mini Atzeret Services (and Yizkor), Zoom only

Wednesday, Sept. 29, 10 a.m. to noon — Simchat Torah Service, in person and Zoom

SPECIAL EVENTS

Connection Church of God

The Community of Care Arts and Crafts Fair will be at 11 a.m. Sept. 25 at the Connection Church of God, 416 U.S. 41 South in Inverness.

Arts and crafts include everything from restored furniture to handmade jewelry. Suzie's Sweet Treats will have sausages, hot dogs, soda, chips, ice cream and pretzels for sale for hungry shoppers.

In addition to shopping, a non-perishable food donation drive will help Connection Church of God feed families for the holidays. Any donations will be accepted.

St. Timothy Lutheran Church

The 2021 Granny's Attic will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. Oct. 20; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 21; and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 22 at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, 1070 N. Suncoast Blvd. in Crystal River.

There will be homemade goodies in the bake shop and other buys throughout Granny's Attic. The ever-popular outdoor men's treasures will also be available for this event.

Sale proceeds will help support various mission projects. For more information, call 352-795-5325.

St. Anne's Episcopal Church

St. Anne's Episcopal Church will celebrate Veterans Day during either of their two Masses at 8 and 10:15 a.m. Nov. 7 at the church, 9870 W. Fort Island Trail in Crystal River.

All veterans are invited to stop by the church for the inaugural signing of a special flag. Following the conclusion of the second Mass, veterans can gather for fellowship in the parish hall at 11:30 a.m. for coffee and snacks.

The flag will be kept on permanent display at St. Anne's.

Also, they will be sending We Care Cards to veterans. To submit a veteran's name and current address for We Care Cards, email

stannescommunications@gmail.com.

First Baptist Church of Crystal River

The Agape House will have a fundraising sale from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 21 to 23 at the First Baptist Church Victory Hall, 700 N. Citrus Ave. in Crystal River.

The Agape House is a volunteer ministry of the First Baptist Church where everything is free for people in need.

New items will likely be put out each day. Funds will be used to purchase Bibles, toiletries and other miscellaneous items.

For more information, call the Agape House on Mondays and Thursdays at 352-795-7064 or the First Baptist Church at 352-795-3367.

Homosassa First Methodist Church

The Homosassa First Methodist Church arts council presents their 2021-22 concert series at the church fellowship hall, 8831 W. Bradshaw St. The lineup is: The Mystics at 3 p.m. Nov. 14; Sidelined Sunday at 3 p.m. Jan. 16; Brass Roots Trio at 3 p.m. Feb. 6; Paul Todd at 3 p.m. March 5.

For single tickets, general admission is \$15 and reserved seating is \$20. For package pricing, general admission is \$50 and reserved seating is \$70.

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

Crystal River Christian Women's Club

The Crystal River Christian Women's Club will meet at 1 p.m. Oct. 12 at the Lion's Club, 109 NE Crystal Street.

Enjoy a meal, guest speaker and fellowship. The cost is \$13.

Seats are limited. To RSVP, call 352-419-8453.

The Hills Church

The Hills Church will host a Trunk or Treat event from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Oct. 30, 2 Civic Circle in Beverly Hills.

There will be photo ops, food and candy. The whole family is invited to this free event. For more information, call 352-746-6171.

Ely Romero Jr. earns Knights' honor

Special to the Chronicle

The St. Benedict Catholic Church Knights of Columbus awarded Knight Ely Romero Jr. the prestigious Knight of the Month certificate for his work with the Knights and the parish.

Romero was born in Cebu, Philippines. He attended high school at Abellana National School and later obtained his bachelor's of science in mechanical engineering from the University of San Jose in Cebu City, Philippines.

He worked as a licensed supervising installation engineer for Fuji Elevators as an installer for several years. Then he joined the Armed Forces of the Philippines in the corps of engineers and attained the rank of captain in the regular force.

Romero then moved to Nigeria, Africa, and accepted a position as principal mechanical engineer and head of the mechanical engineering department at the University of Sokoto, in Soloko, Nigeria. After a few years, he immigrated to the U.S. with his family, where he enrolled in



Special to the Chronicle
Ely Romero Jr. accepts congratulations from Grand Knight Mike Clemer.

Central Florida College in the registered nurse program. He graduated and passed the licensing board in the same year.

Romero went on to work in several area health and rehabilitation facilities as charge

nurse and unit manager in Marion and Citrus Counties. He later became charge nurse of medical/surgical/orthopedic wards in Seven Rivers Regional Center (now Bayfront) and retired in 2014.

While living in Citrus

County, he and his family joined St. Benedict Catholic Church where he joined the parish Knights of Columbus and has served in several capacities, most recently as warden.

He is a Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree and also a member of the Knights of Columbus Assembly No. 1547 in Lecanto. While still operating, Romero and his wife volunteered at Catholic charities in Homosassa and cooked and served meals to the needy families in Citrus County.

He also volunteers with Daystar Life Center and works in the pantry distributing food to families in the community. He has been married to his wife, Fe, for 47 years and has three children and three grandchildren.

Both Ely and Fe remain active at St. Benedict and Ely is always there pitching in when the Knights have a project or event.

He epitomizes what the Knights of Columbus stand for and practices their four principals of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism.

THE NUMBER:
1975

The last year the Americans enjoyed a four-point lead at the end of the first day of the Ryder Cup until Friday.



Dustin Johnson

SPORTS

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

Section B - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2021



Team USA starts strong against Europe at Ryder Cup./B6

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2021 HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL WEEK 5

Springstead 14, Crystal River 7
Osceola 21, Citrus 0

Seven Rivers Christian 49, St. Francis Catholic 6
Dunnellon 20, Forest 0

Pirates battered and bruised in 14-7 loss

Springstead hands CR home defeat

MATT PFIFFNER
Sports editor

CRYSTAL RIVER — The start of Friday night's home game against Springstead couldn't have been any prettier for Crystal River, with a touchdown 12 seconds into the contest. Unfortunately, there was a lot of ugliness over the final 47 minutes and 48 seconds for the Pirates, in a 14-7 loss.

The Pirates lost arguably their top playmakers on offense and defense to injuries during the game, committed eight penalties for 65 yards — several of those at key moments — and generated only 152 yards of total offense to fall to 1-4 on the season.

"It hurts because we're battling. We're fighting," Crystal River head coach Cliff Lohrey said. "Springstead is a great football program, great football team. And yet I really

thought we had our chances. We put a lot of work into it and we're still hurting ourselves. One bad play snowballs into two and sometimes three. Part of that is maturing. Part of that is going through the experience of the disappointment. I love this team because I know they're going to continue to battle."

The Eagles decided to kick short to start the game, right into the arms of David Paulen, who raced through the defense 70 yards for a score. Zach Van Fleet's extra point made it 7-0 Pirates before most fans had a chance to get into their seats.

Springstead tied the game midway through the first quarter on a seven-play, 54-yard drive and took the lead late in the third quarter on an 11-play, 75-yard drive that seemed to take up most of the quarter.

On that go-ahead drive, injury was added to insult, when top rusher Joel Velazquez injured his ankle trying to make the tackle on the touchdown run. He would not return to the game.

That was added onto the Pirates

See PIRATES/Page B5



Crystal River defenders David Abate (75) and Hudson Copeland (24) swallow up Springstead running back Owen Andress during the first half Friday night at Bramlett Stadium at Crystal River High School.

MATT PFIFFNER/Chronicle

Home sweet home



STEPHEN SHANER/For the Chronicle

Seven Rivers Christian wide receiver Aiden Bergstrom tries to break free from St. Francis Catholic defenders Friday night at Warrior Park in Lecanto. The Warriors improved to 4-0 at home on the season with a 49-6 Homecoming victory.

Seven Rivers rolls past St. Francis 49-6; now 4-0 at Warrior Park

CHRIS BERNHARDT JR.
Staff writer

LECANTO — Seven Rivers Christian celebrated homecoming on Friday night, and the home team gave its fans plenty of moments to cheer.

Then again that's the way it has gone all season long at Warrior Park, as the Warriors improved to 4-0 on their home field, routing winless St. Francis

Catholic, 49-6.

"I'm glad to get Homecoming Week over with because there's so many distractions," Seven Rivers head coach Monty Vann said. "We actually had a good week of practice. We made sure to keep homecoming at the school and then when you stepped here, homecoming doesn't follow us here. Our guys did a really good job of that and I'm proud of them. They played a really

good game.

"... It's a great atmosphere here. I put this up against any atmosphere here in Citrus County. Everyone's so supportive. It's been really fun."

The Warriors (4-1) were quick and efficient offensively, recording just five first downs as they generally only needed a handful of plays en route to scoring a touchdown on six of their nine

See HOME/Page B5

Tigers blank Forest

SEAN ARNOLD
Riverland News

For the second week in a row, the Dunnellon football team combined a shutout defensive effort with a late-blooming offensive performance to pull away late in a win.

The Tigers defeated Forest (Ocala) 20-0 in a non-district matchup in Richard Kennedy Stadium on Friday to improve to 2-2.

After a 7-yard touchdown rush by L.J. Fitzpatrick lifted DHS to a 20-0 advantage in the opening seconds of the fourth quarter, the Tiger defense bent but didn't break as the Wildcats (1-3) drove 42 yards before turning it over on downs at the Tiger 23-yard line.

The Tiger offense then chewed up the final 6 minutes of clock in driving the ball 47 yards behind a rush attack led by senior Arrieon High, who finished with 59 yards on just five carries.

DHS senior quarterback

See TIGERS/Page B5

Citrus can't overcome early deficit

Trailing 14-0 just four minutes in the first quarter, Citrus regrouped but couldn't rally back, losing at Osceola on Friday night, 21-0.

"We had missed assignments, bad play calls (falling behind early). After that they played very well," Citrus head coach McKinley Franklin said. "Some things didn't go our way like I thought they should have. We came out in the second half and ran 10:30 off the clock on a drive, but we had a turnover."

Nick Freier had an interception for the Hurricanes, who fell to 0-4 on the season.

"We've got to go back to what we do," Franklin said. "I've got to get our kids more disciplined as far as penalties. We teach our kids to play to the whistle and the kids are doing that. We've just got to be smart about it. They'll be OK."

— From staff reports



McKinley Franklin

NHL training camps open with stars missing

STEPHEN WHYNO
AP hockey writer

ARLINGTON, Va. — Sidney Crosby's injured left wrist and Evgeni Malkin's right knee are keeping them off the ice in Pittsburgh. Jack Eichel and Buffalo cannot agree on a course of action for his back problems. Evander Kane and San Jose agreed it's best he stay away.

Training camps got under way around the NHL on Thursday with several big-name stars nowhere to be found. From Washington's Nicklas Backstrom being considered week to week while rehabbing a hip injury to the Vancouver Canucks not knowing how long they'll be without unsigned Quinn Hughes and Elias Pettersson, the absences overshadowed the attendance in many places on the first day of on-ice workouts.

With more than two weeks until the regular season, there's also no

reason to rush.

"I think you see with the compressed schedule that we've had over the last couple seasons that there's injuries that need to be maintained," Capitals general manager Brian MacLellan said. "Especially if you're an older player, (it's important) that you take the time to get it healed properly and don't insert the player into the lineup too early."

The archrival Penguins will have at least a couple of weeks to see how they play without Malkin and Crosby. Malkin is expected to return in late November at the earliest and Crosby will miss at least the first two weeks of meaningful games.

"They are two generational talents, arguably the best players of their generation, and so those guys aren't easy to replace," coach Mike Sullivan said. "Having said that, I think whenever players go down from an injury standpoint,

it's going to provide opportunity for others and others need to step up."

Someone else will — eventually — step up as the Sabres' captain after Eichel was stripped of the title amid his stalemate with the team over how to treat a herniated disk that has sidelined him for six months. Under the NHL's new collective bargaining agreement reached last year, teams now have the final say on how players can treat injuries, so the Sabres could eventually opt to suspend Eichel, which would likely lead to him filing a grievance.

In San Jose, Kane was cleared of allegations he gambled on his own and other hockey games, but the league is still investigating allegations of sexual and physical abuse made by his estranged wife. The Sharks said a mutual decision was made for him not to attend camp.

"I don't think it's any different than guys getting hurt, not being there for lineup," Sharks defenseman Brent Burns said. "We don't worry about that stuff. We can't. There's too much other stuff."

Asked if Kane would be welcomed back, captain Logan Couture said, "What happens in the dressing room stays in the room."

Some returns Thursday were happy ones. Chicago captain Jonathan Toews is practicing with teammates again after missing all of last season and said with a smile, "It feels really good to be back."

Vladimir Tarasenko is at St. Louis camp despite asking for a trade. Same with Evgeny Kuznetsov in Washington after an offseason of trade rumors.

"As long as I play here I will work 100 percent," Tarasenko said. "I don't want to be a distraction in the room. I'm here to work, I'm healthy, I'm happy to play

hockey again."

The distraction of unsigned players is not affecting most teams. Only Vancouver with Hughes and Pettersson, and Ottawa with Brady Tkachuk, have restricted free agents without new contracts.

Vaccinations do not appear to be a major distraction, either. The league figures 98% of its players will be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by the time the season starts, a rate that could be credited to protocols and Canadian federal law that would prevent border-crossing without it.

"Once they said they weren't going to file for the exemption to go to Canada, it really put a lot of pressure on the people that were holding out because that's a huge chunk of the season that you're not going to get paid for," Sabres forward Kyle Okposo said. "It's funny what happens when you start to affect people's wallets."



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Mullen prepared to sing and dance

Would do anything to pack Swamp vs Vols

MARK LONG
AP sports writer

GAINESVILLE — Dan Mullen is willing to perform a “Fancy Like” rendition at midfield.

The Florida coach vowed to sing, dance or “whatever we need” to entice fans to fill the Swamp again Saturday night against Southeastern Conference rival Tennessee (2-1, 0-0 SEC).

The No. 11 Gators (2-1, 0-1) took advantage of a raucous crowd to nearly upset top-ranked and defending national champion Alabama last week at Florida Field. Right guard Emil Ekiyor was flagged for his third false start on a fourth-and-goal play at the 1 in the fourth quarter, forcing the Crimson Tide to settle for a chip-shot field goal and an eight-point lead. That penalty gave Florida a chance to tie the game late, but the Gators botched a 2-point conversion with 3:10 remaining and lost 31-29.

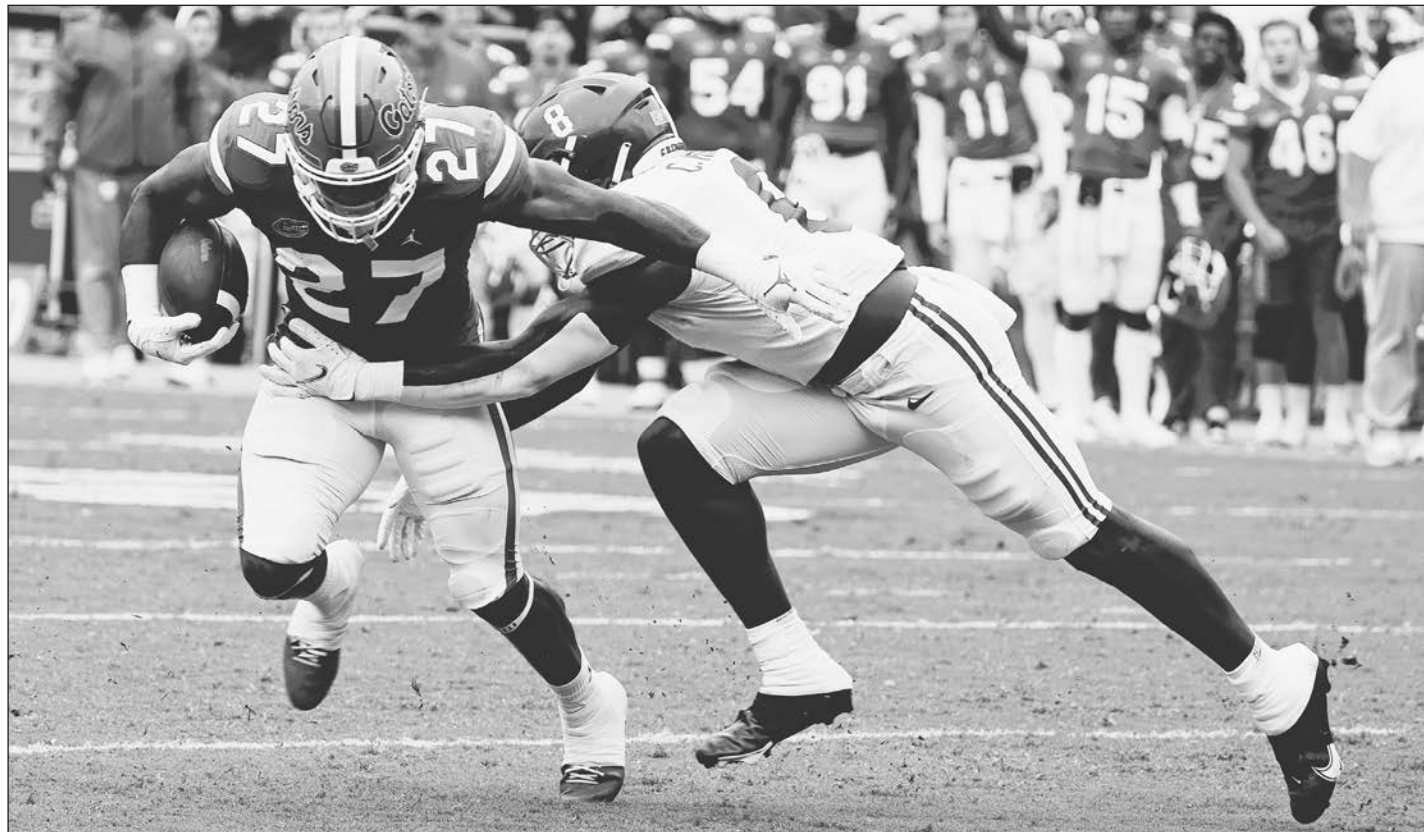
One of Mullen’s takeaways from the near-stunner was the Swamp’s mystique and its effect on opponents. It’s something Mullen witnessed routinely when he served as Florida’s offensive coordinator in the late 2000s. But the Gators have sold out their home stadium just three times in the four seasons since Mullen returned: LSU (2018), Auburn (2019) and Alabama.

“Obviously, last Saturday was a crazy environment,” Mullen said. “We keep that going. It does nothing but help. Helps the current team, helps the program long term and I certainly hope everybody enjoys being in there and feeling that energy and excitement and being a part of that game-day environment.”

“I’ll sing. If they want to give me a mic pregame, I’ll go sing or do a little dance routine, whatever we need if it’ll help people come. I’ll do what we need.”

Mullen later added that his song choice would be something less suited for TikTok and more reminiscent of trop rock.

“I’m a pirate born 200 years too late,” Mullen quipped, paraphrasing a line from Jimmy Buffett’s “A Pirate Looks at Forty.” Mullen’s proposition was well-timed.



Florida running back Dameon Pierce (27) tries to break a tackle by Alabama linebacker Christian Harris (8) during the first half Sept. 18 in Gainesville. After nearly defeating the top-ranked Crimson Tide, the Gators return to the Swamp today against Tennessee.

After all, the Volunteers aren’t the draw they used to be and have been chasing Florida in the SEC’s Eastern Division for the better part of the past two decades.

The Gators have won four in a row in the series and 15 of the last 16, the kind of dominance that led Tennessee to hire Central Florida coach Josh Heupel and task him with leading a resurgence on Rocky Top.

“This is the biggest game on our schedule because it’s the next one,” Heupel said. “At the end of the day, we’re on a journey to become as good as we can as fast as we can. Love a lot of what we’ve done as a football team, how we’ve grown.”

“This is the next challenge for us. We’ve got an opportunity to grow here during the week. Our process, our preparations got to be right. We’ve got to do the ordinary at a really high level in a big game like this against a really good football team.”

QB WATCH

Both teams have decisions to make at quarterback. Michigan transfer and Tennessee starter Joe Milton sat out last week’s game because of a leg injury, leaving Hendon Hooker to get the nod against Tennessee Tech. Hooker, a graduate transfer from Virginia Tech, has better numbers than Milton. But Heupel hasn’t committed to either one for Saturday.

Florida, meanwhile, is hoping to get dynamic backup Anthony Richardson back. He was held out of last week’s game because of a strained right hamstring, but he was still able to do an acrobatic backflip during pregame warmups.

KEY MATCHUP

Florida has the No. 2 rushing attack in the country, second only to Michigan. The Gators average more than 335 yards a game on the ground and should have a formidable challenge against

Tennessee’s run defense, which gives up 54.3 yards rushing a game and ranks fifth nationally.

SPEED IT UP

The Volunteers lead the nation in offensive tempo, averaging 3.08 plays per minute, and they’re still not operating as fast as Heupel would like. The Vols are averaging 77.67 plays a game, 13th nationally. Heupel’s teams at UCF led the nation in those categories.

WELCOME PARTY?

Heupel, who just won his 30th game as a head coach, will try to join Phillip Fulmer as the first Tennessee coach to beat Florida in his first try. Fulmer did it on Sept. 19, 1992, in Knoxville as an interim head coach. Bill Battle is the last Tennessee coach to win his first game against Florida — in Gainesville, no less — on Oct. 24, 1970.

Young ACC squads face off Nothing to lose

Louisville, FSU meet in league matchup

BOB FERRANTE
Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — Louisville coach Scott Satterfield still has modest steps to achieve as he rebuilds the Cardinals football program after an emotional win over UCF last week.

One would be winning back-to-back games against an FBS team for the first time since Satterfield’s first season in 2019.

Florida State’s Mike Norvell would simply settle for a win.

They are two of the youngest teams in the Atlantic Coast Conference. Louisville (2-1, 0-0) coming off a 42-35 win against UCF, looks to continue its momentum when the teams meet on Saturday; Florida State (0-3, 0-1) seeks to find any footing after a disappointing start.

The Seminoles committed six turnovers and were penalized seven times in a 35-14 loss at Wake Forest, falling to 0-3 for the first time since the late Bobby Bowden’s first season in 1976.

“We’re having to go through some painful moments,” Norvell said. “It’s challenging. We are a young team. We’ve got guys that are being put in positions where, with all the right intentions, are learning some tough, tough lessons that they haven’t experienced. And for us we can’t allow the pain of some of our failures to go wasted.”

“We’ve got to learn the lessons and we got to apply the lessons.”

Florida State has 23 true or redshirt freshmen among the 54 players on its offensive and defensive depth chart. That’s 42.6% of the rotational players, and that’s not factoring in redshirt freshmen who are kickers, punters or returners.

Louisville has 70 freshmen and 13 sophomores on its 115-player roster (72% are underclassmen). But the Cardinals have a leader in quarterback Malik Cunningham, who has completed 61.2% of his passes and has six rushing touchdowns in three games. Cunningham is just one behind the FBS leaders in rushing touchdowns.

“He obviously is a great runner, and he just puts a lot of pressure on defenses,” Satterfield said. “We’ll see as the season goes on if we’re going to be able to utilize him in that run game. I don’t want him to run it 20 sometimes either. He’s not a running back. He’s a quarterback. We want to take advantage of that when it presents itself.”

SACK ATTACK RETURNS

Florida State had just nine sacks in nine games in 2020 but have



Florida State wide receiver Malik McClain (11) catches a pass Sept. 18 over Wake Forest defensive back Caelen Carson during the first half in Winston-Salem, N.C. The Seminoles are still searching for their first win of the season when they host Louisville today.

already accumulated 12 sacks this fall. The Seminoles have revitalized the pass rush in large part due to transfers like Jermaine Johnson, a former Georgia defensive end who has 28 tackles, seven tackles for loss and five sacks.

FORD TOUGH

Louisville tight end Marshon Ford caught eight passes for a career-best 100 yards against UCF. Ford is the first Cardinals tight end to hit the 100-yard receiving mark since Cole Hikutini in 2016.

DEPLETED UP FRONT

Florida State has played three different offensive line starting lineups in three games. But tackle Robert Scott and center Maurice Smith have practiced, and Norvell

said “it’s trending in the right way” that the Seminoles will have the linemen back for the Louisville game.

MISTAKES ADD UP

Sometimes statistics can be misleading. But not for the Seminoles. Florida State’s mistakes are adding up and contributing to its early season struggles. The Seminoles lead the FBS in turnovers (10) and are 118th in penalties with 27 (for 233 yards).

GROUND GAMES

Louisville averages 165 yards on the ground — when combining offensive and defensive states. The Cardinals give up nearly as many rushing yards (162) as they produce in their rush offense (168).

Blue Devils face reeling Miami

TIM REYNOLDS
AP sports writer

MIAMI GARDENS — There’s been an interesting phenomenon at Central Connecticut State this week.

Some players with things like nagging aches and sore ankles, maladies that might keep them out of a practice in other weeks, seem to have quickly healed. Seems like everybody wants to make sure they can play this week.

The lower-division Blue Devils (1-2) visit the now-unranked, banged-up and reeling Miami Hurricanes (1-2) on Saturday, a game that even amid Miami’s current struggles is expected to be a one-sided mismatch.

“This one’s easy to motivate for,” CCSU coach Ryan McCarthy said. “It shouldn’t be like that, but these are 18- to 22-year-old kids. Trust me, I won’t have to say much to get them ready to play this one.”

The last time CCSU — which went 11-2 in 2019, then didn’t play last season because of the pandemic — faced a Power Five team, it lost by 43 points to Syracuse in 2017. It lost a game to Southeastern Louisiana last weekend by 46 points, at its home 5,500-seat stadium in New Britain, Connecticut with about half the seats unfilled.

This week, they play in an NFL palace that routinely hosts Super Bowls, on television, against a program with five national championships and a whole slew of alumni who make millions by playing on Sundays. And while there will be some wide-eyed looks when CCSU goes over to Hard Rock Stadium for its Friday walk-through, McCarthy is preparing for this game just like he does any other.

“What will be will be,” McCarthy said. “I know, really, there’s not a lot of pressure per se because

we’re not supposed to win this game. We’re supposed to come down, play a game, obviously make the Miami fans happy for a couple days before they play another team and collect the check. Well, that’s not why you get into this business. You get into this business to compete.”

MIAMI QB’S

QB D’Eriq King (shoulder) is hurting and not expected to play, meaning either Tyler Van Dyke or Jake Garcia will get their first career start for the Hurricanes. Miami coach Manny Diaz said both of those quarterbacks will play. King has started all 13 Miami regular-season games, as well as last season’s bowl game, since he arrived on campus in 2020.

SIZE DISPARITY

Miami, as would be expected when an FBS school plays against an FCS school, is going to have a major size advantage in the trenches. The Hurricanes have 20 players weighing 300 pounds or more on their roster; CCSU has eight players checking in at 300 or more. The Hurricanes’ total roster weighs about two tons more than CCSU’s, with a Miami player on average weighing about 15 pounds more than his CCSU counterpart.

THE LAST TIME

The schools have never met, but CCSU’s last game against an FBS opponent almost led to a big upset. The Blue Devils led Eastern Michigan 29-28 after a 68-yard touchdown pass with 2:05 remaining, then got the ball back after an interception with 1:15 left. But the ensuing CCSU drive ended in disaster, with a punt getting blocked and EMU running it back 30 yards for the game-winning touchdown with 10 seconds left on the clock.

SHORT WEEK

Miami only has five days after this game to prepare for the Atlantic Coast Conference opener against Virginia. The Hurricanes plan to use a slew of young players against CCSU, with hopes of getting some first-stringers rest before conference play.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division table showing stats for Tampa Bay, Boston, New York, Toronto, and Baltimore.

Central Division table showing stats for Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Kansas City, and Minnesota.

West Division table showing stats for Houston, Seattle, Oakland, Los Angeles, and Texas.

x-clinched division z-clinched playoff berth

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division table showing stats for Atlanta, Philadelphia, New York, Miami, and Washington.

Central Division table showing stats for Milwaukee, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Chicago, and Pittsburgh.

West Division table showing stats for San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego, Colorado, and Arizona.

ROUNDUP/MATCHUPS

Yankees 8, Red Sox 3; White Sox 1, Indians 0; Padres 6, Braves 5; Phillies 8, Pirates 6; Cardinals 12, Cubs 4, 2nd game; Twins 3, Blue Jays 1; LATE Seattle at L.A. Angels; Cardinals 8, Orioles 5; Cardinals 8, Braves 5, 1st game; Cardinals 12, Cubs 4, 2nd game; Twins 3, Blue Jays 1; Tampa Bay 8, Rays 0; Houston at Oakland; Toronto (Ray 12-6) at Milwaukee; N.Y. Mets (Hill 6-7) at Philadelphia; Washington (Fedorov 7-9) at Cincinnati; Atlanta (Ynoa 4-5) at San Diego; Chicago White Sox (Lynn 10-5) at Cleveland (Morgan 3-7); L.A. Dodgers (Kershaw 10-7) at Arizona (Gallen 2-10), 8:10 p.m.; San Francisco (DeSclafani 12-7) at Colorado (Gray 8-11), 8:10 p.m.

BOX SCORES

Tampa Bay 8, Miami 0

Box score for Tampa Bay vs Miami. Tampa Bay: 8 runs, 10 hits, 2 errors. Miami: 0 runs, 0 hits, 0 errors.

St. Louis 8, Chicago Cubs 5

Box score for St. Louis vs Chicago Cubs. St. Louis: 8 runs, 10 hits, 2 errors. Chicago: 5 runs, 10 hits, 0 errors.

St. Louis 12, Chicago Cubs 4

Box score for St. Louis vs Chicago Cubs. St. Louis: 12 runs, 16 hits, 2 errors. Chicago: 4 runs, 16 hits, 0 errors.

Chicago White Sox 1, Cleveland 0

Box score for Chicago White Sox vs Cleveland. White Sox: 1 run, 3 hits, 0 errors. Cleveland: 0 runs, 3 hits, 0 errors.

San Diego 6, Atlanta 5

Box score for San Diego vs Atlanta. San Diego: 6 runs, 10 hits, 1 error. Atlanta: 5 runs, 10 hits, 0 errors.

Milwaukee 5, N.Y. Mets 1

Box score for Milwaukee vs N.Y. Mets. Milwaukee: 5 runs, 10 hits, 0 errors. N.Y. Mets: 1 run, 10 hits, 0 errors.

Kansas City 3, Detroit 1

Box score for Kansas City vs Detroit. Kansas City: 3 runs, 5 hits, 0 errors. Detroit: 1 run, 5 hits, 0 errors.

Texas 8, Baltimore 5

Box score for Texas vs Baltimore. Texas: 8 runs, 10 hits, 0 errors. Baltimore: 5 runs, 10 hits, 0 errors.

Box score for Yankees vs Boston. Yankees: 8 runs, 10 hits, 1 error. Boston: 3 runs, 10 hits, 0 errors.

N.Y. Yankees 8, Boston 3

Box score for N.Y. Yankees vs Boston. Yankees: 8 runs, 10 hits, 1 error. Boston: 3 runs, 10 hits, 0 errors.

Minnesota 3, Toronto 1

Box score for Minnesota vs Toronto. Minnesota: 3 runs, 5 hits, 0 errors. Toronto: 1 run, 5 hits, 0 errors.

Philadelphia 8, Pittsburgh 6

Box score for Philadelphia vs Pittsburgh. Philadelphia: 8 runs, 10 hits, 0 errors. Pittsburgh: 6 runs, 10 hits, 0 errors.

Box score for Rays vs Marlins. Rays: 8 runs, 10 hits, 0 errors. Marlins: 0 runs, 0 hits, 0 errors.

Tampa Bay Rays 8-0 during the fourth inning of a game Friday, in St. Petersburg.

Rays beat Marlins 8-0

MARK DIDTLER Associated Press Tampa Bay Rays reliever Ryan Yarbrough pitches against the Miami Marlins during the fourth inning of a game Friday, in St. Petersburg.

ST. PETERSBURG — Ryan Yarbrough allowed two hits over six innings of splendid relief and the Tampa Bay Rays beat the Miami Marlins 8-0 on Friday night to close in on another AL East title.

The defending American League champions got three RBIs apiece from Randy Arozarena and Kevin Kiermaier, who was a homer short of the cycle.

Tampa Bay, which clinched a post-season spot Wednesday, has a magic number of two to win the division. A Rays victory and Boston loss to the New York Yankees on Saturday would secure Tampa Bay's second consecutive AL East crown.

"Our whole group, we know what situation we're in, and we just want to take advantage of that," Kiermaier said. "Try to take that next step in winning the division, and hopefully once we do we just keep going and do not get content. We have to keep that motivation because we just need to keep this competitive fire that we've had and just ride that out as long as possible."

WILD CARD STANDINGS

Table showing American League Wild Card standings for Boston, New York, Toronto, and Seattle.

THIS DATE IN BASEBALL

1941 — Pete Reiser's homer and Whitlow Wyatt's five-hitter helped Brooklyn beat the Boston Braves 6-0 and clinch the Dodgers' first pennant in 21 years.
1955 — Detroit's Al Kaline, at the age of 20, became the youngest player to win a batting title, finishing his second season with a .340 average.

Americans start strong

U.S. leads Europe 6-2 after Day 1 of Ryder Cup

DOUG FERGUSON
AP golf writer

SHEBOYGAN, Wis. — The Americans haven't opened with a lead this large in the Ryder Cup since Jack Nicklaus and Lee Trevino were playing, and before Tiger Woods was even born.

That didn't seem to be big enough to satisfy U.S. captain Steve Stricker.

Dustin Johnson and Xander Schauffele each won two matches, Bryson DeChambeau smashed a drive that had everyone talking and the Americans were relentless Friday at Whistling Straits in losing only one match to build a 6-2 lead.

"It's a great start. We are happy with the start," Stricker said. "But my message to the guys is tomorrow is a new day. Pretend today never happened, and let's keep our foot down and continue to play the golf that we know we can play."

Oh, how Europe would like to forget this day ever happened.

Rory McIlroy never made it to the 16th hole in losing both his matches on the opening day for the first time. The lone bright spot was Jon Rahm, living up his No. 1 ranking by winning in four-ones with Sergio Garcia and keeping Europe in a tight four-balls match long enough for Tyrrell Hatton to birdie the last hole to at least salvage a half-point.

Europe has never trailed by four points after the first day since the Ryder Cup was expanded to include the continent in 1979, the modern era of these matches that Europe now dominates.

Go back to 1975 to find the last time the U.S. had a four-point lead in the Ryder Cup.

"No doubt, it was a tough day," European skipper Pádraig Harrington said, attributing the difference to a putt here, there and pretty much everywhere. "There's obviously still 20 points to play for."

Suddenly, though, there seems to be a sense of urgency. The Americans were delivering big moments and the big smiles, waving up hands to get the



Team USA's Dustin Johnson reacts Friday after winning the 11th hole during a four-ball match the Ryder Cup at the Whistling Straits Golf Course in Sheboygan, Wis. Johnson and Xander Schauffele defeated Europe's Paul Casey and Bernd Wiesberger.

one-sided gallery to cheer even louder, cupping hands to their ears to urge them along.

They are looking for a fresh start after a quarter-century of losing, and its youngest team in history took a big step to creating their own memories.

"They fought hard every single shot out there, from what I saw," DeChambeau said after he and Scottie Scheffler earned a halve in fourballs. "This is a great start, but the job's not over. We have two more days. A lot more golf. And we cannot lose our mindset to win."

The first point of the 43rd Ryder Cup, postponed one year by the pandemic, went to Europe and its new "Spanish Armada" of Rahm and Garcia.

The final match ended in a halve when Justin Thomas delivered a late eagle putt that allowed him and Patrick Cantlay to come all the way back from a 3-down deficit.

Through the morning chill, the midday warmth, a ferocious wind in the afternoon and even a little rain, the one constant was American red scores filling the boards across Whistling Straits.

"We can come back from 6-2," said McIlroy, trying to summon calm and confidence after losing both matches.

Europe will have to do it without him. McIlroy is not part of the foursomes lineup Saturday morning, the first time he has sat in a Ryder Cup.

Both captains stuck to their plans, and it only worked out for one of them.

Even with a 3-1 start in foursomes, Stricker broke up all his American teams as planned and still won the afternoon fourballs session with two wins and two draws.

Johnson and Schauffele never trailed together, while the high-spirited Tony Finau made six birdies as he and Harris English trounced McIlroy and Shane Lowry.

DeChambeau still hasn't won a Ryder Cup match, but he delivered quite a show.

He pounded a drive to where no one had dared to go on the par-5 fifth hole. It cleared a massive bunker complex and stopped rolling at 417 yards, setting up a 72-yard flip wedge for an easy eagle.

"There are two towers behind the green — I can't even describe to you — they are like 250 or 200 yards right of where I'm trying to hit my drive," Scheffler said. "And it's crazy for him to be able to commit to that shot."

"It was great. That was a good spark for us and good momentum for the rest of the day."

DeChambeau and Scheffler were poised for a 1-up victory until Hatton hit 5-iron into a hard left-to-right wind that landed near the hole and settled 7 feet away. He made the birdie putt to scratch out a halve and

could only hope it was worth more.

"Things like this can turn the tide," Rahm said.

After one day, it already feels like a strong tide, and that makes Saturday and another round of foursomes and fourballs more important than ever.

Harrington also broke up all his pairings. This was the first time since the Ryder Cup was expanded to include all of Europe in 1979 that no one from the morning played together in the afternoon from either team.

Cantlay and Schauffele were tough as ever in foursomes, which set the tone for the Americans. They were 5 up through five holes against McIlroy and Ian Poulter, and closed out their impressive 5-and-3 win with four straight birdies, the last one conceded.

"I don't know if anyone could have beat Xander and Patrick today," McIlroy said.

Only one shot went into the lake — a pull-hook from Tommy Fleetwood on the par-5 16th. And there almost was one player who went into Lake Michigan. That would be Jordan Spieth, facing an impossible shot beneath the 17th green with the ball on a severe slope in the morning round.

He swung so hard with a 52-degree wedge that momentum sent him backward, scrambling to keep his footing and then running down toward the edge of the bank until he could get his balance. The shot? Remarkable as ever, plopping down 6 feet away.

Thomas missed the par putt and the match was over. That was one of the few moments that didn't go the American's way.



Team Europe's Rory McIlroy hits from a bunker on the second hole Friday during a foursome match at the Ryder Cup at the Whistling Straits Golf Course in Sheboygan, Wis.

Trio of golfers tied at the top

After 1st round of LPGA's Arkansas event

Associated Press

ROGERS, Ark. — A Lim Kim, Katherine Kirk and Eun-Hi Ji each shot 8-under 63 Friday for a one-shot lead over Sarah Burnham after the first round of the Walmart Northwest Arkansas Championship.

Five others — Nasa Hataoka, Lindsey Weaver, Pajaree Anannakarn, Aditi Ashok and Klara Spilkova — were another stroke back after 6-under 65s at Pinnacle Country Club.

Kim, of South Korea, and Burnham posted career-low rounds, while Ji, the 2009 U.S. Women's Open champ, matched her career best.

Kim, the 2020 U.S. Women's Open winner, didn't make her first birdie

until the seventh hole, and that kicked off a run of five straight from Nos. 7-11. She added another birdie at the 16th and punctuated her round with an eagle on the par-5 18th.

Kirk, from Australia, and Ji each recorded eight birdies, and Burnham had seven, all with bogey-free rounds.

"It was fun," said Kirk, a three-time winner on the LPGA Tour. "I got off to a good start and this is the kind of golf course where you just have to keep the pedal down. I was fortunately able to do that and rattled in four birdies on each side."

Kirk is one of three golfers to have played in all 15 editions of the tournament, along with Brittany Lang and hometown favorite Stacy Lewis, the 2014 champion who played collegiately at Arkansas in nearby Fayetteville.

Lewis lurks four shots back after an opening 67.

Lim is playing the event for the first time. She had no problem with the near-perfect weather and

scoring conditions.

"Tight grass and clear greens, I love it," Lim said.

Burnham came in at No. 132 on the CME points list and needs strong finishes over the final four weeks to keep her LPGA card.

"I just wanted to get off to a good start today," Burnham said. "I just told myself to swing easy and play it smart and we'll see what happens. Things worked out, and I made a lot of putts. This is one of my favorite weeks on tour. The course is so beautiful with the little creeks throughout the course and just super nice greens."

Ariya Jutanugarn of Thailand, a two-time major winner and twice a winner this year, is among six players three shots off the lead after an opening 66.

Some of the tournament's biggest names are in a group of 13 golfers at 4-under par, including Lewis, Lexi Thompson, Brooke Henderson and Minjee Lee. Amateur Brooke Matthews, a senior at Arkansas, was also at 4 under.



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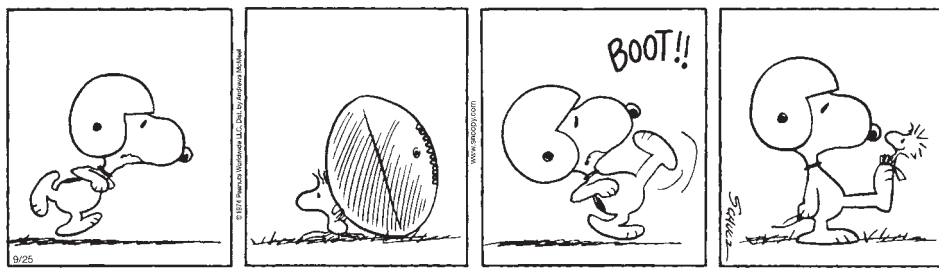
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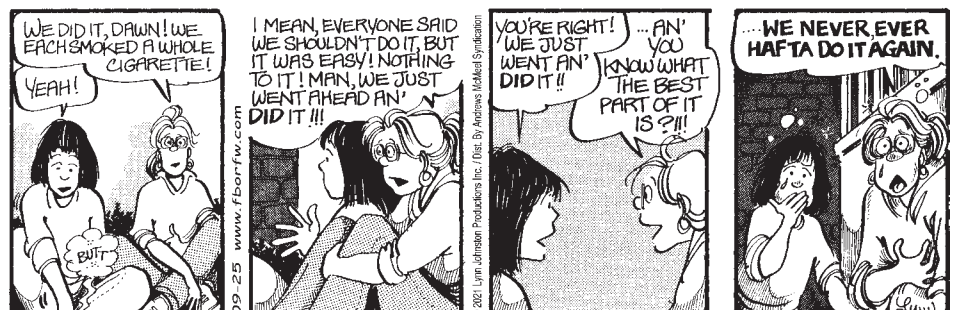
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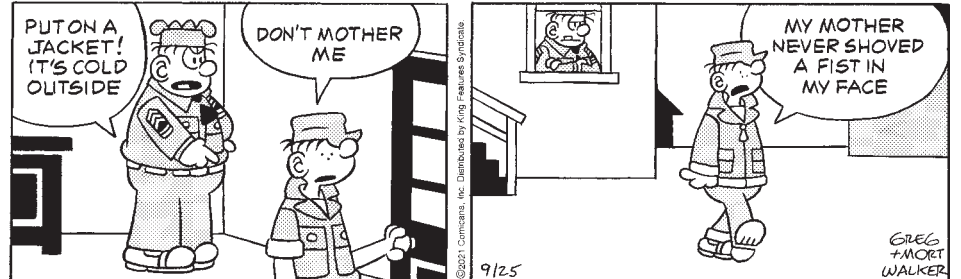
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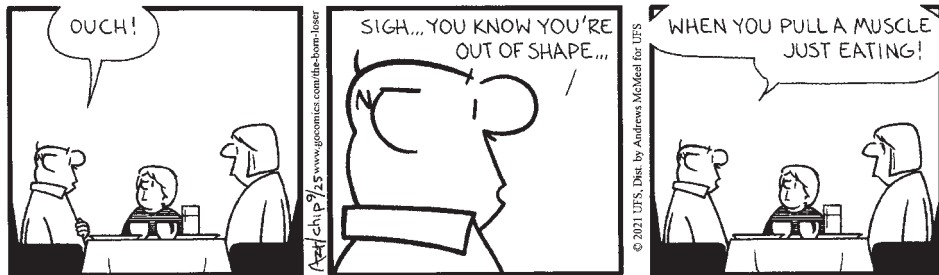
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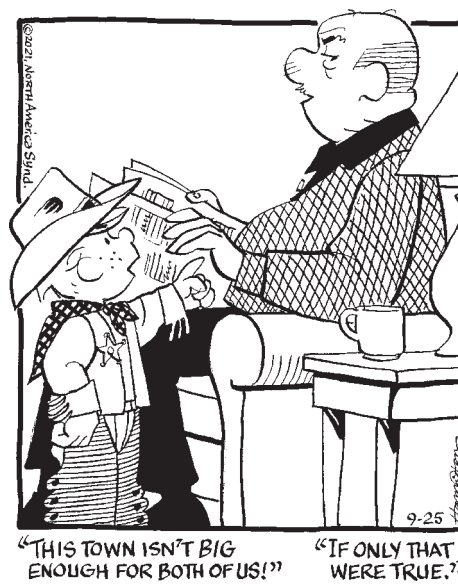
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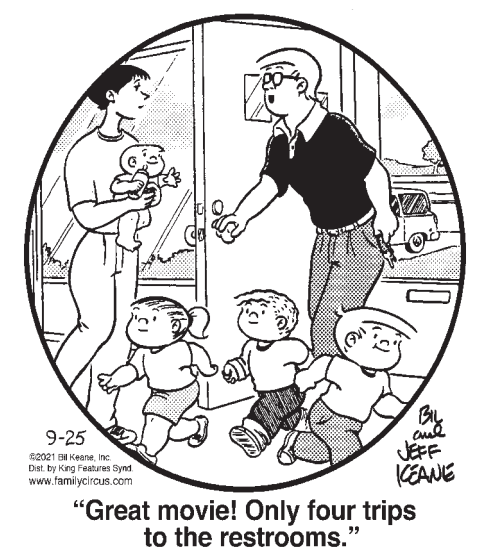
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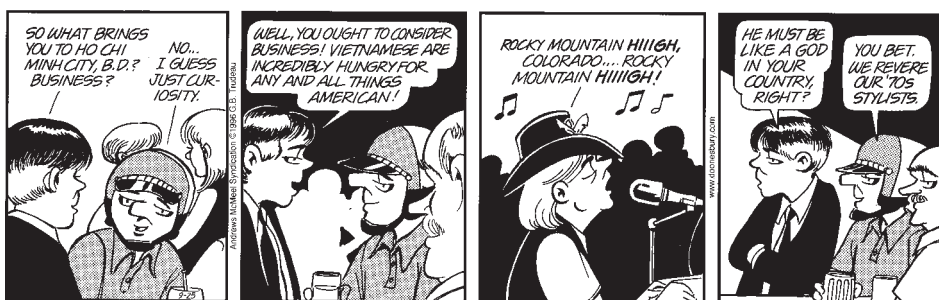
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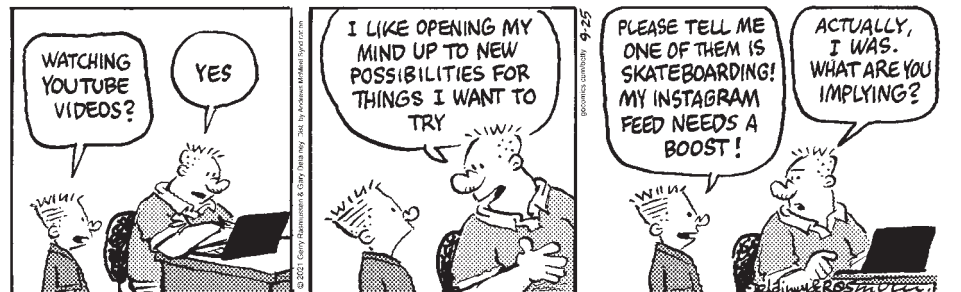
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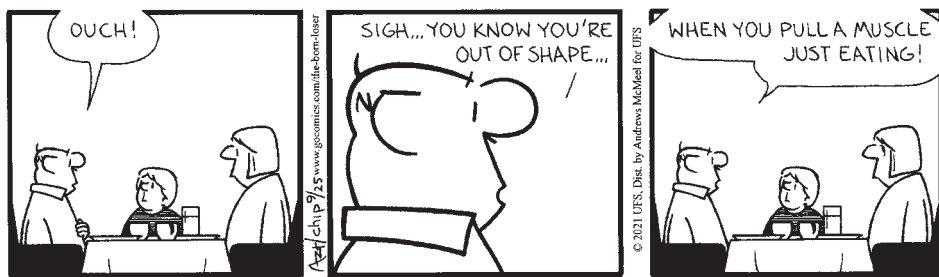
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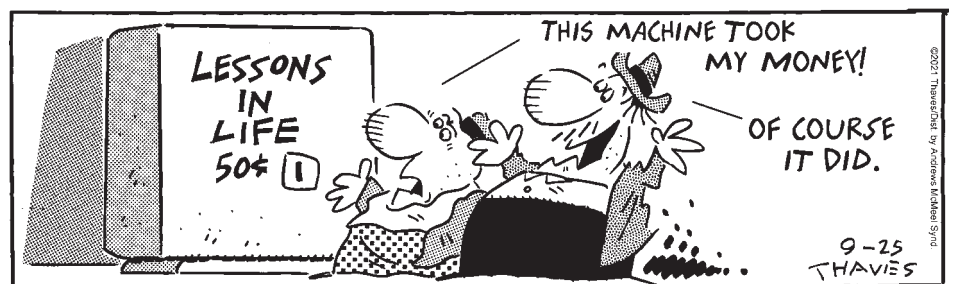
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Today's MOVIES

Times provided by Regal Cinemas and are subject to change; call ahead. Citrus Cinemas 6 Inverness; 844-462-7342 Code 187. Saturday, Sept. 25: "Dear Evan Hansen" (2021) PG-13 — 11:45 a.m., 12:15, 3:30, 6:45, 7:15, 10 p.m. "Copshop" (2021) R — 12:45, 4, 7:45, 10:30 p.m. "Cry Macho" (2021) PG-13 — 12:30, 3:45, 7:30, 10:15 p.m. "Malignant" (2021) R — 3, 9:50 p.m. "Shang-Chi and The Legend of The Ten Rings" (2021) PG-13 — 12, 3:15, 7, 10:05 p.m. "Free Guy" (2021) PG-13 — 1, 4:15, 6:30, 10:25 p.m. Monday, Sept. 27: "Dear Evan Hansen" (2021) PG-13 — 3:30, 6:45, 7:15 p.m. "Copshop" (2021) R — 4, 7:45 p.m. "Cry Macho" (2021) PG-13 — 3:45, 7:30 p.m. "Malignant" (2021) R — 3 p.m. "Shang-Chi and The Legend of The Ten Rings" (2021) PG-13 — 3:15, 7 p.m. "Free Guy" (2021) PG-13 — 4:15, 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 26: "Dear Evan Hansen" (2021) PG-13 — 11:45 a.m., 12:15, 3:30, 6:45, 7:15, 10:15 p.m.

CELEBRITY CIPHER by Luis Campos. Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another. Today's clue: O equals G. "WPFWMH YPJ JYUIF NM IYPE XPNVSZ VJ. VE JYUIMG NM P SUCM EYPE V FCMH LFMI HMPSSZ MBVJEMG." — NVWYPMS GUTOSPJ. Previous Solution: "As I tell my daughter when she is mischievous, 'Well-behaved women rarely make history.'" — Nia Vardalos

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