

TENSIONS RISING

BIDEN, PUTIN WILL HAVE VIDEO CONFERENCE ON TUESDAY TO DISCUSS UKRAINE SITUATION

PAGE A14



ALABAMA WINS SEC TITLE GAME

TIDE ROUTS NO. 1 GEORGIA TO COLLECT CONFERENCE CROWN AND PROBABLE PLAYOFF SPOT

PAGE B1

THE SUNDAY CHRONICLE

FEBRUARY 21, 2021

79 ☀ 54

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NEWS BRIEFS

Legislative delegation meeting set

Rep. Dr. Ralph Massullo, chairman of the Citrus County Legislative Delegation, announced the annual Legislative Delegation public meeting will be from 1 to 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 10, at the County Commissioner's Chamber, Room 100, in the Citrus County Court House, 110 N. Apopka Ave., Inverness.

If you would like to be placed on the printed agenda, contact Rep. Massullo's office at adele.hembree@myflorida.house.gov or at 352-527-4510 on or before noon Monday, Dec. 6. You may also complete a Speaker's Form on the day of the meeting and you will be afforded time to speak in the order in which it was received. Please bring or submit four copies of all handouts to the meeting for distribution.

For more information, contact Adele Hembree by email or at 352-527-4510.

Nominate Citrus' top citizen

The Citrus County Chronicle is seeking nominees for 2021 Citizen of the Year. Winners in the past have been honored for everything from philanthropy to volunteerism, civil rights work to service to country, and environmental efforts to governmental initiatives.

While all nominations are considered, preference is usually given to community contributions that are above and beyond the role one plays in their day-to-day job.

Email nominations, in 200 words or less, to Editor Jeff Bryan at jeff.bryan@chronicleonline.com; or, mail to Jeff Bryan, 1624 N. Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34429 by Dec. 15. Nominations received after Dec. 15 will not be considered.

Nominate Citrus' top nonprofit

The Citrus County Chronicle is seeking nominees for 2021 Nonprofit Organization of the Year.

While all nominations are considered, preference is usually given to contributions that are above and beyond the role one organization plays in its day-to-day community efforts.

Email nominations, in 200 words or less, to Editor Jeff Bryan at jeff.bryan@chronicleonline.com; or, mail to Jeff Bryan, 1624 N. Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34429 by Dec. 15. Nominations received after Dec. 15 will not be considered.

— From staff reports

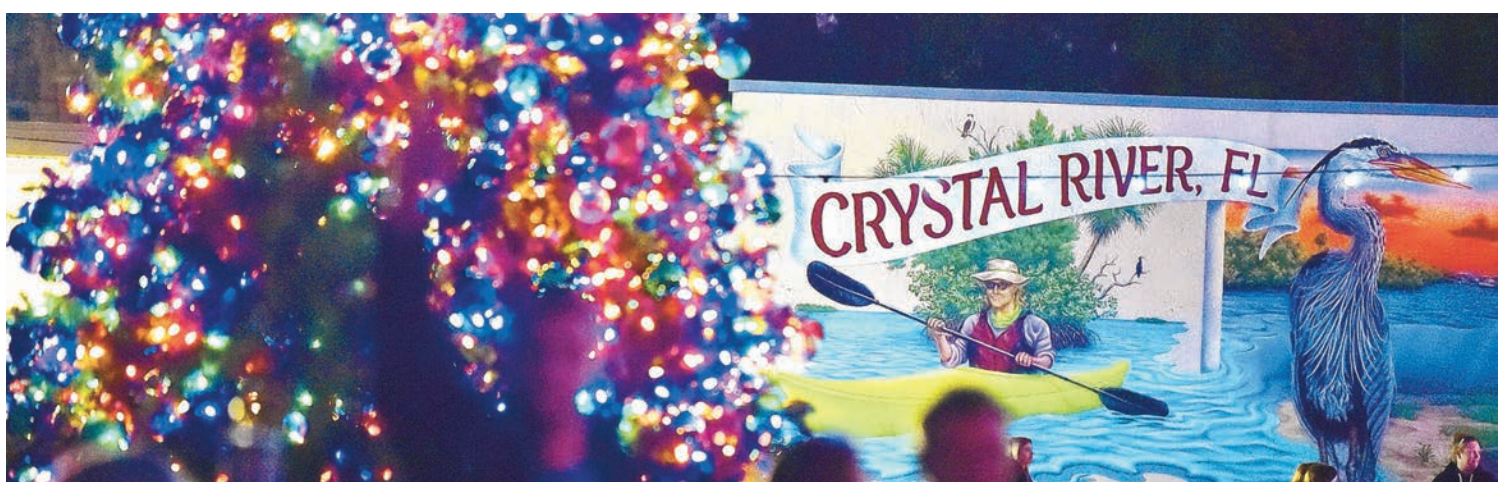
Christmas in TOYLAND



ABOVE: Jaeden Pierre, 8, catches artificial snowflakes that fall across his Christmas parade float Saturday, Dec. 4, during the Crystal River Christmas parade. The youngster represents Noah's Christian Academy.

RIGHT: Members of Reflections Dance Studio ride on their parade float Saturday, Dec. 4, during the Crystal River Christmas Parade.

MATTHEW BECK/
Chronicle



Thousands of spectators and hundreds of parade participants took part in the Crystal River Christmas Parade Saturday, Dec. 4.

City parade a delight for all ages

MATTHEW BECK
Photo editor

Crystal River's "Christmas in Toyland" parade, hosted by the chamber, was Saturday, Dec. 4, with floats beginning their southern route down U.S. 19, from Citrus Avenue to Paradise Point.

A year after COVID-19 caused organizers to plan a "reverse parade," the 2021 event was back to normal.

Chase Palmes was the parade's grand marshal.

Crystal River's three-day Christmas celebration, "Christmas on the Square," wraps up today.

Those wishing to enjoy the event, which features a synthetic ice skating rink alongside a 5,000-square-foot themed maze for ticket holders to enjoy each day, can do so from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday at Crystal River Town Square, 559 N. Citrus Ave.

Anyone who skates on the open-air "ice" rink must have a ticket, including adults accompanying children. Skates — from sizes for toddlers up to adult 13s — will also be provided.

A 30-minute skating session is \$10 per person, and \$3 more gets 30 minutes in the "Snow-Mazing Christmas" maze. A one-hour wristband for the maze is \$5.

Limited walk-up tickets will be available to purchase with cash, checks or Venmo, but it's encouraged tickets be bought online through EventBrite at tinyurl.com/2sr3sart to guarantee a spot and keep waits short. Roughly 25% of tickets have been sold.

Online tickets to attend a specific day will be available for purchase up until 9 a.m. on that day.

More Inverness grants available for events

FRED HIERS
Staff writer

As part of Inverness' new strategy to partner with local businesses when hosting city events rather

than taxpayers bearing the full cost, the city is strongly marketing its events grants program.

City Manager Eric Williams said the program thus far has been a

success and the response by local businesses and nonprofit organizations warrants the city continuing the program at least into 2022.

About 22 organizations

have been awarded some of the \$100,000 the city set aside this year for grants, or are in the process of being reviewed to get money.

The money is from the

Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, also known as the CARES Act. The federal government created the

See GRANTS/Page A5



INDEX

ClassifiedsD4
Crossword.....A17

Editorial.....C2
Entertainment.....A4

Lottery Numbers....B3
Lottery Payouts....B3

MoviesA17
ObituariesA6, A11

TV ListingsA17
Veterans Notes.....A15

Weather.....A4
Week in Review.....A2



WEEK

IN REVIEW

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

DOCUMENTARIAN



MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle

Inverness native Chase Davis is a filmmaker and recent Florida State University graduate. She directed a film that has received international acclaim for her short documentary, "Becoming Wonder Woman." She was honored with the Jury Award for Best Student Documentary at the American Pavilion Emerging Filmmaker Showcase at Cannes, in France.

GOOD NEWS OF THE WEEK

Kudos to innovation! The Suncoast Harmony Chorus has found a "COVID-free" way to spread their musical gifts. They are offering telephone or Zoom Christmas vocal performances to anyone anywhere in the U.S. or Canada, from 7 to 9 p.m. Dec. 16 or from 3 to 5 p.m. Dec. 19, \$15 for one song, \$20 for two and \$5 each for additional songs to the same phone number.

Reserve a spot by Dec. 9 by going online at suncoast-harmony.com, the Suncoast Harmony Facebook page or calling Cindy at 352-597-4376.

HOT TOPIC OF THE WEEK

Strike two of Commissioner Jeff Kinnard's proposal to purchase Pirates Cove in Ozello and transform it into a public park prompted people to add their two cents on the Chronicle's Facebook page. Here's what some said:

■ **Andy Jacoby:** "What's in it for him that he keeps pushing for this?"

■ **Egh Decker,** replying to Andy Jacoby: "... preservation, expanding an existing park and appeasing his supporters. This gulf-front property is in his district, it's considerably higher ground than the county boat ramp and parking lot that floods with tides. The current bathhouse would provide actual facilities out there instead of everyone's favorite port-a-potties. Pirates Cove is seven parcels and two portions commercial, which would be developed in a variety of ways."

■ **Mary Roberts:** "Many in Citrus County will not be content until every piece of land has a building on it. Just shameful. This county will regret this

decision. Climate change is real and Citrus County depends on tourism. Tourists will go somewhere else when Citrus County is destroyed by us."

■ **Anthony Gannon:** "I get it that the roads need replacing and the county has some other needs. However, waterfront property for a park that everyone can use and enjoy does not come along very often. Thank you, Jeff Kinnard; it always seems like you listen to the people and truly do the best you can."

■ **Jack Wetmore:** "Another park would not hurt. Hunter Springs and Fort Island Trail Park both get overloaded."

■ **Jim Heinzman:** "All those in favor of buying this, send your money to Kinnard. Y'all pool your money, buy the land, and Kinnard can then donate it to the county. That is a great solution."

■ **Kristen Schneider:** "Can we solve the fact that the county doesn't have a cold weather shelter in the winter first?"

THE MOST POPULAR STORIES FROM THE WEEK THAT WAS

Inverness native gets international acclaim for short documentary

Just before leaving for college, Chase Davis, a 2017 Citrus High School graduate, watched "Wonder Woman" for the first time.

Now 22 and a writer, film director and producer, she has created her own Wonder Woman-inspired film about Heather Abbott, a then-37-year-old woman in Seattle, Washington, with breast cancer who showed up to every single one of her treatments dressed as Wonder Woman, which became a symbol of perseverance for her and everyone around her.

Davis' short documentary, "Becoming Wonder Woman," won the Jury Award for Best Student Documentary at the American Pavilion Emerging Filmmaker Showcase at Cannes, France and is set to be screened at the Cannes festival in May 2022.

"'Wonder Woman' is what brought me into film school and then to tell this story," Davis said. "I got to meet the person who inspired it all, so it kind of came full circle."



Mother in pain over deaths of two of her children

As Cathleen Grippe grieved the death of her son, she lost her daughter two months later.

Her son 25-year-old Dorian Jackson died Sept. 18 at Seven Rivers Regional Medical Center after being shot earlier that morning outside The Loft Bar & Grill north of Crystal River, and daughter, Bevan Grippe, 22, died Nov. 19 after a drowning incident. As an organ donor, Bevan was able to save three lives.

"This is something that no one foresees happening; you don't know how to act, what to ask for, what not to ask for," Grippe said.

Before she died, Bevan had organized a GoFundMe site to help pay for her brother's funeral, raising almost \$5,000.

"My brother was so full of laughs and love and LIFE," Bevan had written on the still active webpage, [gofund.me/f73e425c](https://www.gofundme.com/f73e425c).

As for Bevan, her mother said, "She always wanted to be on the go, she never wanted to sit still. She just had friends all over the place. ... She had just a genuine laugh you could hear miles away; it was amazing."

Retired CCSO deputy dies in Marion County shooting

Retired Citrus County Sheriff's Office deputy 52-year-old Steven Smolensky was shot and killed in Marion County Tuesday, Nov. 30.



Marion County Sheriff's Office deputies found Smolensky suffering from a gunshot wound while responding to a verbal disturbance at an address in Weirsdale. He had been making a propane delivery when he was shot.

A Weirsdale man, Steven Alan Swearingen, 38, was arrested in connection to the shooting, charged with second-degree murder, false imprisonment and possessing a firearm as a convicted felon.

Smolensky had retired from the sheriff's office in 2017 after a 25-year career.

"Your heart aches because it affects all of us," said Citrus County Sheriff Mike Prendergast. "It has impacted everybody across the agency that knew him."

County soundly rejects universal garbage

It was a resounding, unanimous NO as county commissioners voted against universal garbage, opting to stay with the current system, which allows residents to deal with multiple providers or take garbage to the landfill themselves.



Commissioner Jeff Kinnard set the tone of the debate early by saying he wouldn't support universal garbage because it wouldn't completely solve the main issues: litter along the road, illegal dumping or insufficient landfill capacity.

The issue has come up several times in the past 25 years, but no board has ever taken the plunge.

A packed house showed up for the special meeting. All opposed universal pick-up and they applauded the board's final vote.

County nixes Pirates Cove purchase — again

County Commissioner Jeff Kinnard's second attempt to convince his colleagues to purchase Pirates Cove and transform it into a public park was again shot down as the board voted 3-2 Tuesday not to support Kinnard's updated plan.



Three weeks earlier, the Pirates Cove property owner shot down the county's bid to buy the property for \$616,000. Kinnard said he would return with a new plan and he did.

He asked the board to seek new appraisals for four of the five lots with the county's contribution not to exceed \$375,000, with the money coming out of these revenue pots: \$190,000 from District 1 park fees; \$100,000 from the Citrus County Tourist Development Council (subject to TDC approval); and \$85,000 from the Duke Energy special projects funds.

Kinnard said he has been working with several individuals and a nonprofit to purchase the remaining fifth lot, which it would then convey to the county.

It was still a majority no, with Commissioner Holly Davis supporting Kinnard with a yes vote.

"Being able to drive down the road to see a loved one shouldn't result in having to get a new shock job because the road is so bumpy."

— DR. DEVONTE WHITE, TALKING ABOUT THE ROAD CONDITIONS AT PINE HILL CEMETERY IN INVERNESS.

— compiled by Nancy Kennedy

Compression Fracture?

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CITRUS SPINE INSTITUTE

Around the
STATE

Enjoy the lights at Fort Cooper State Park

Attend "Nights of Lights" at Fort Cooper State Park at 6 p.m. Dec. 10 and 11, 3100 S. Old Floral City Road in Inverness.

Enjoy the park with music, decorations and thousands of lights as you stroll along the walkways and through the buildings. There will also be free refreshments and a visit with Santa.

Admission is a donation of nonperishable food or a new toy for Citrus United Basket (CUB) and/or a donation of pet food for Citrus County Animal Services. All proceeds from monetary donations will be used to fund this and future events.

This year's challenge is "Fill CUB's Truck!" During the two-day event, donations will be loaded into the CUB truck by a local Boy Scout Troop. For more information, visit thefriendsoffortcooper.com.

Key Training Center seeking 'angels'

Help bring the joy of Christmas to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities by participating in the Key Training Center's "Angel Tree." This annual event provides Christmas presents to the Key Center's program participants who are not fortunate enough to spend the holidays with their families.

Select an ornament representing one of the Key Center's clients and purchase a gift valued at \$25. Client sizes, hobbies, favorite games, and suggested presents will be available, but the identity of each client will remain a holiday secret. Drop off unwrapped gifts on or before Friday, Dec. 10, so the Key Center elves can wrap and deliver them on Christmas Day.

Angels will be available November 5 at the Key Center's Inverness Campus, 3896 S. Pleasant Grove Road, Inverness, or the Lecanto office at 5399 W. Gulf-to-Lake Highway, Lecanto. Business hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For information, call the Key Center Foundation at 352-795-5541, ext. 313, or email foundation@keytrainingcenter.org.

College cancels \$1.2 million in student debt

WINTER HAVEN — A central Florida college is eliminating \$1.2 million in student debt to alleviate financial hardships brought on by the coronavirus pandemic.

Almost 1,300 students at Polk State College in Winter Haven received the good news just in time for the holidays.

Students enrolled at the college between March 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021, are eligible for the debt cancellation. In addition, the debts of students who were sent to collections during that period are also being taken care of by the school.

The college covered the debts with money received through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund.

— From staff and wire reports

'Tis the season for holiday scams

Red and green decorations. Christmas trees. Twinkling lights. It's called the "most wonderful time of the year" for good reason. With all of the joy and merriment about, it's hard to not be enchanted by the holiday season. But don't let all of the glitter get into your eyes. As you prepare for the holiday season, be sure to do so safely and securely.

The holiday season brings out good will in people, but it also brings out the scammers. The "grandchild in trouble" is an "oldie but goodie" when it comes to holiday scams. In this scenario, unsuspecting victims receive calls from fraudsters, posing as beloved grandchildren, and hoping

to extort some cash from grandma or grandpa. Don't fall for it!

Before sending or wiring any money to someone on the other end of the phone, confirm their identity. Ask them to verify their birthdate or yours. Question them about family details no one else would know. Call another family member or their parents to be sure that the caller is truly your beloved grandchild, and not a scam artist.

Online shopping is convenient, as it saves you from visiting overcrowded

stores. Be sure, however, that the online retailer's site is safe. If the web address doesn't begin with "https," it could mean that the website isn't secure, which means your credit card details aren't, either.

When buying gifts on Etsy or other sites which feature third party sellers, read the reviews, and pay attention if other shoppers warn of missing shipments or items. If you respond to ads on Craigslist or other re-sell sites, be sure to make arrangements to pick up items during

daylight hours and in a secure location. Make sure the location is in a high-traffic and busy area, like a shopping center parking lot. Take a friend with you, and be sure others are aware of your plans. And never, never arrange to meet a stranger at your home or give out your address.

Traveling for the holidays? Be sure your neighbors and friends know, and arrange for someone to look in on your house. (Or, sign up for the Citrus County Sheriff's Office's Security Watch program.) Stop your mail and newspaper delivery. Be cautious about who knows you're going out of town, and refrain from posting photos of your trip online until after you've returned home.

Staying home for the holidays? Make sure that your Christmas tree and presents aren't visible from the street. Once the holiday festivities are over, don't put all of your empty boxes by the curb while doing your post-Christmas cleanup. That's an advertisement for potential thieves about what goodies Santa brought you. Instead, break the boxes up and put them in larger bags, or, better yet, make a trip to the recycling center to dispose of them.

The holidays can be a fun and festive time of the year. With a little forethought and planning, they can also be celebrated safely.

Amy Douglas is the Senior Services Coordinator for the Citrus County Sheriff's Office.



Amy Douglas
SENIORS VS. CRIME

Wrapping with a purpose

Come wrap toys for local Citrus County children

Chronicle

Volunteers are needed to help wrap gifts for The Spot Family Center's 18th annual Toy Drive, which is in full swing. Two gift-wrapping events with Christmas music and refreshments will be held to wrap thousands of toys for families in Citrus County.

Help local children this season in emergency Christmas need.

Gift wrapping days will be Tuesday, Dec. 7, from 6-8 p.m. and again at those hours on Tuesday, Dec. 14, both days at Crystal River Church of God (in the gym), 2180 NW 12th Ave., Crystal River; 352-795-3079 or 352-212-4851.

Make it a family event; all are invited to participate. You may bring unwrapped toys to donate wrapping paper, tape and scissors if you would like, but it is not mandatory. Your favorite Christmas dessert to share is always welcome.

The Spot Family Center's 18th annual Christmas Jam with Hope, Love and Community.

This year's event will be at a new location — Crystal River Church of God's ministry field at 2121 U.S. 19 — with the same mission: It's time for hope, love, and community to be put back into our lives.

The Spot Family Center's Christmas Jam is a two-day event, from 5:30-9:30 p.m. on Dec. 23 and Dec. 24. As always, the Jam offers emergency Christmas care to families in Citrus County.

The event and will offer festive



STEPHEN E. LASKO/Chronicle file

Vincent Maturo, then 9, and his sister Eva Maturo, then 6, find some clothing and household goods in December 2019 evening during the 16th annual Spot Family Christmas Jam at the Spot Family Center in Crystal River.

music, bounce houses, games, prizes and more. Hot dinners and beverages will be served each

night. Groceries will be distributed Dec. 23 while supplies last.

Florida teen arrested for school shooting threat

Associated Press

PARKLAND — A South Florida teenager has been arrested after investigators learned he made a threat against Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, the site of a mass shooting that killed 17 people on Valentine's Day in 2018.

A caller reported seeing the threat late Wednesday night, according to the Broward Sheriff's Office. Officials said the 17-year-old high school junior had sent a text message to his classmates in a social media chat room just after 9 p.m. Wednesday. The threat came one day after a student allegedly killed four classmates in Michigan.

"I feel like school shooting tmrw (tomorrow). When I sneeze it's a signal go to the bathroom OK. I hope y'all aren't snitches," the text message said, according to a probable cause affidavit.

Investigators found the student at his home, and he was arrested early Thursday on one count of writing a threat to conduct a mass shooting, sheriff's officials said.

The school's principal, Michelle Kefford, notified parents about the threat Thursday morning through a robocall. Stoneman Douglas has been at the center of national debate and activism over gun violence in schools since a former student killed 17 people and

wounded another 17 in 2018.

The mother of the teen told WSVN that he didn't mean it, that to him it was a joke. She said that they had lived in another country where schools are safe at the time of the massacre in Parkland.

"He's a normal kid from a normal family and a safe environment. He doesn't realize the world is not so safe," she said.

"In my country, schools are very safe. Our mindset is very peaceful. He just wanted to show up among his friends," she said. "It's not an excuse for his behavior. It's just an explanation for his behavior. All threats must be investigated. I understand that."

Tony Montalto, president of Stand With Parkland, the group that represents the families whose relatives died in the 2018 shooting, said the threat "further proves the need for timely investigation and notification to parents regarding

threats to schools."

"In the wake of the Michigan shootings this week and this incident ... I urge our elected leaders at all levels of government to commit to a renewed focus on the safety of students and staff," Montalto said.

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Today's HOROSCOPES

Birthdays: Pay attention to detail. Listen carefully, verify information and assess situations before you make promises. Dedication and loyalty will help dismiss uncertainty and insecurity. Search for the truth, but don't let disappointment and anger consume you. Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21): Refuse to be dazzled by someone's pie-in-the-sky plans. Be realistic, innovative and intelligent, and you will far exceed your expectations. Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take the time to reorganize, take stock and prepare for the end of one year and the beginning of another. Leave nothing to chance or in limbo. Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 19): A change of plans will favor you. Consider what you want to contribute, and make your presence count. The input you offer will help you gain respect and encourage others to give you credit. Pisces (Feb. 20-March 20): You can throw your weight around and make a difference. Sign up for something you believe in, and take charge. Aries (March 21-April 19): Don't let your ego get in your way. Be happy for others, and it will help you excel. Look at what you can achieve, not at the impossible. Taurus (April 20-May 20): Don't over-analyze. Put a strategy in place that will help you achieve your goal without taking detours. An organized approach to life, love and responsibilities will help you overcome confusion. Gemini (May 21-June 20): Rethink your strategy. Size up your situation and discuss your plans with a loved one. Cancer (June 21-July 22): A change of heart will take you down a positive path. Show someone how much you care. A kind or affectionate gesture will improve a relationship. Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): A steady pace and a willingness to let others do as they please will help you get through your day unscathed. Stick to the truth. Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Reserve judgment. Saying something critical will not be well-received. Offer compassion, hands-on help, love and understanding, and you will bring about positive changes. Romance is favored. Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Touch base with people you miss. A conversation will bring you up-to-date and lead to plans that lift your spirits. Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22): Be observant; you'll discover fascinating facts about the people around you. Knowing others' likes and dislikes will help you get along with everyone.

ENTERTAINMENT

University awards late musician Tom Petty a Ph.D.

GAINESVILLE — Nearly two decades after earning a place in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and more than four years after his death, rock icon Tom Petty has been awarded an honorary Ph.D. from the University of Florida.

The school's board of trustees unanimously voted to award Thomas Earl Petty a posthumous doctoral degree in music during a Friday meeting. Born and raised in Gainesville, Petty once worked as a groundskeeper at UF as he tried to make it in the music industry, but he was never enrolled.

Petty passed away from an accidental drug overdose in October 2017. Days later during a UF home football game, the song "I Won't Back Down" was played at the stadium as a memorial to Petty. The song has since become a regular feature at Gators games.

Lenny Kravitz wows at private party during art week

MIAMI BEACH — Legendary rocker Lenny Kravitz gave a private performance Friday for a star-studded crowd that included Leonardo DiCaprio and local Latin boy band CNCO during Miami's Art Week.

The lavish party is an annual affair hosted by business mogul and art collector Wayne Boich. He and his wife also hosted a private dinner before the Richard Mille After Dark event at their waterfront estate. Venus and Serena



Doja Cat performs during the 2021 Jingle Ball at The Forum, Friday, Dec. 3 in Inglewood, Calif.

Williams danced and sang along as Kravitz took the stage for a 75-minute concert as a

yacht pulled alongside to hear the rocker.

"This ain't a concert. We're just hanging out," the "Are You Gonna Go My Way," singer said, pulling Miami's Art Week.

Kravitz, who has lived on and off in Miami for years, is a regular during the prestigious Art Basel week and even displayed his photography during an exhibit in 2015, saying he was tired of

always being the subject of photos and wanted to turn the camera around for a change.

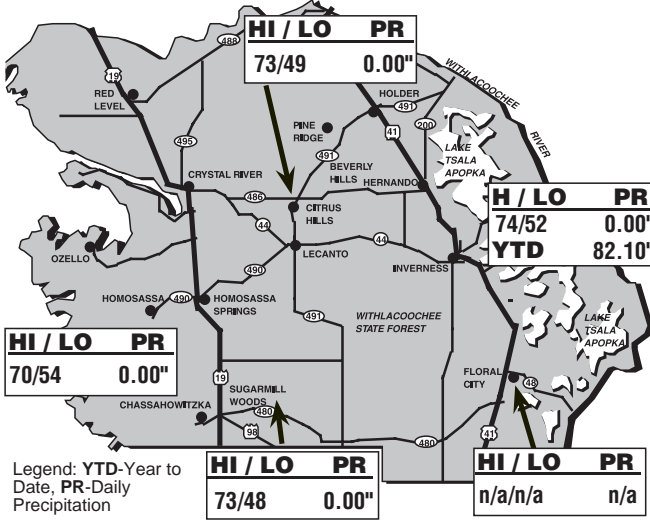
After midnight, rapper T.I. surprised a crowd that included French Montana, "Transformers" actor Amaury Nolasco and NBA star Joakim Noah.

Even the "Live Your Life" rapper seemed impressed by the event, calling it an "extravagant party ... and as the founder of trap music my expectations are high."

The night ended with Hannah Bronfman's husband DJ'ing as she and actress Karrueche danced.

—From wire reports

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER



THREE DAY OUTLOOK

Table with 2 columns: Day (Today & Tomorrow Morning, Monday & Tuesday Morning, Tuesday & Wednesday Morning) and Forecast (High/Low, conditions).

ALMANAC

Table with 2 columns: Category (Temperature, Precipitation, UV Index, Barometric Pressure, Dew Point, Humidity, Pollen Count, Air Quality) and Value.

SOLAR TABLES

Table with 5 columns: Date, Day, Minor (Morning), Major (Morning), Minor (Afternoon), Major (Afternoon).

CELESTIAL OUTLOOK

Table with 2 columns: Event (Sunset Tonight, Sunrise Tomorrow, Moonrise Today, Moonset Today) and Time.

BURN CONDITIONS

Today's Fire Danger Index is: MODERATE. There is no burn ban. For more information call Florida Division of Forestry at (352) 797-4140.

WATERING RULES

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

Table with 2 columns: Watering Day (Monday-Thursday) and Allowed Time Period (0-1, 2-3, 4-5).

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

TIDES

Table with 3 columns: Location (*From mouths of rivers, **At King's Bay, ***At Mason's Creek), Day (Sunday), High/Low Times.

FLORIDA TEMPERATURES

Table with 3 columns: City, High, Low, Forecast. Lists temperatures for various Florida cities.

MARINE OUTLOOK

Today: Northeast winds around 5 knots then becoming north in the afternoon. Seas 2 feet or less. Bay and inland waters smooth. Tonight: Northeast winds around 5 knots then becoming east after midnight. Seas 2 feet or less.

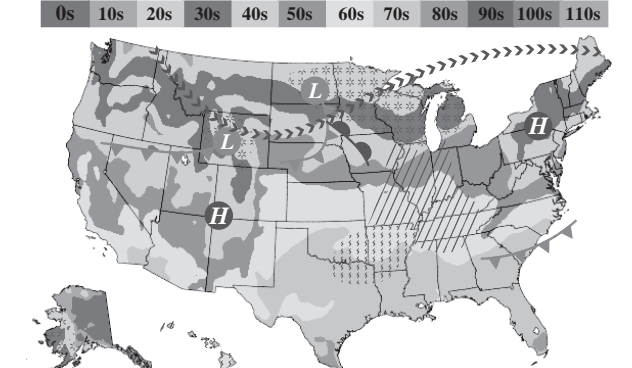
Gulf water temperature 64° Taken at Crystal River

LAKE LEVELS

Table with 4 columns: Location, SAT, FRI, Full. Lists lake levels for various locations.

Levels reported in feet above sea level. Flood stage for lakes are based on 2.33-year flood, the mean-annual flood which has a 43-percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any one year.

THE NATION



FORECAST FOR 3:00 P.M. Sunday

Table with 3 columns: City, SAT, SUN. Lists weather forecasts for various cities across the country.

WORLD CITIES

Table with 3 columns: City, H/L/SKY, Time. Lists weather forecasts for major world cities.

Today in HISTORY

Today is Sunday, Dec. 5, the 339th day of 2021. There are 26 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight: On Dec. 5, 1933, national Prohibition came to an end as Utah became the 36th state to ratify the 21st Amendment to the Constitution, repealing the 18th Amendment.

On this date: In 1791, composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart died in Vienna, Austria, at age 35.

In 1984, the action comedy "Beverly Hills Cop," starring Eddie Murphy, was released by Paramount Pictures.

Ten years ago: The cash-strapped U.S. Postal Service announced \$3 billion in reductions, with cuts to first-class mail service by the spring of 2012 and elimination of more than 250 processing centers.

Five years ago: President-elect Donald Trump chose retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson to be secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

One year ago: A college basketball matchup between top-ranked Gonzaga and No. 2 Baylor was canceled less than 90 minutes before tipoff because of two positive COVID-19 tests in the Gonzaga program.

Today's Birthdays: Author Joan Didion is 87. Author Calvin Trillin is 86. Actor Jeroen Krabbe is 77. Opera singer Jose Carreras is 75. Musician and singer Jim Messina is 74. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL quarterback Jim Plunkett is 74. Country singer Gary Allan is 54. Comedian-actor Margaret Cho is 53. Writer-director Morgan J. Freeman is 52. Actor Alex Kapp Horner is 52. Actor Kali Rocha is 50. Rock musician Regina Zernay (Cowboy Mouth) is 49. Actor Paula Patton is 46. Actor Nick Stahl is 42. Actor Adan Canto is 40. R&B singer Keri Hilson is 39. Actor Gabriel Luna is 39. Actor Frankie Muniz is 36.

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Chronicle file

Inverness Government Center.

GRANTS

Continued from Page A1

\$2.2 trillion economic stimulus package in 2020 in response to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Williams said the CARES Act money is a good fit with the city's efforts to spread the cost of hosting events more among local businesses and organizations. In the past, the city has organized and paid for most Inverness events.

Liz Fernley, Inverness' director of marketing, events, and cultural arts, told the Chronicle the program has been successful, but the city wants more local participation.

"I think it's been well received by local business and nonprofits to enable them to hold events ... to support their cause," Fernley said.

Some of the events the money has helped fund include the Citrus County Blessings Ball in October, Reach Across America in October, and Rowing Organization of Citrus County Students (ROCCS) Casino

night also in October. Another recent example is when The Citrus County Chamber of Commerce organized and oversaw Inverness' Friday night Cooter Festival.

Williams said the city awarded the Chamber \$5,000 to organize the downtown event that led up to this year's Cooter Festival weekend. Williams said it typically cost the city \$30,000 to organize and host the event.

The federal money serves two functions, he said.

It "brings opportunities" to businesses and especially nonprofit organizations hit hard by the COVID pandemic and it creates economic opportunities to the city when visitors come and spend money at restaurants, shops and gasoline stations, Williams said.

Some of the applicants included the Aaron A. Weaver Chapter 776 Military Order of the Purple Heart, Rowing Organization of Citrus County Students, Inverness Cultural Heritage Council, Citrus County Blessings and Pro Events, an entertainment business planning to host

events at the Valerie Theatre.

Williams said the grants also allow the city to utilize its facilities such as the Depot District Pavilion for events that might otherwise not get used as frequently. The grants also give city staff lessons in the cost of the events if Inverness were to create and oversee them, he said.

"The beauty of the CARES Act money is that we're going to stretch that out for years," Williams said. The city received \$600,000 of the federal money.

"We need to be measured" in handing out the grants, he said.

"The program is intended to provide funding for a variety of events and cultural arts programs with the city matching up to 80% of allowable costs," according to the city's website.

To learn more about the grant and the application process, go to tinyurl.com/yekrant6.

Questions about the grant and the application process should be addressed to: covidrelief@inverness.gov.

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Obituaries

David Herbst, 79

Mr. David F. Herbst, 79, passed from this life into eternal life with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Friday, December 3, 2021. The Celebration of Life for Mr. Herbst will be held on Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at 12 Noon at the First Presbyterian Church of Inverness with Rev. Lou Ellen Hartley officiating. The family will receive friends at the church 1 hour prior to the service. David was born on December 16, 1941 in Louisville, KY and was the son of the late Jacob and Lillian Ruth (Elble) Herbst. He retired as an engineering manager and was a member at First Presbyterian Church of Inverness. He was an Eagle Scout and a Scout Leader and enjoyed kayaking the Boundary Waters as well as many trips out west. He also enjoyed boating and taking hunting trips. Most of all he enjoyed spending time with his family and close friends.



David Herbst

In addition to his parents he was also preceded in death by his best friend Walter Yurt. He is survived by his devoted wife, Peggy Herbst; 2 sons, David (Julie) Herbst of Lanesville, IN and Stephen Herbst of Beverly Hills, FL along with his daughter Jan (Jeff) Scott of Louisville, KY. He is also survived by his five grandchildren, Brandon (Kirstie) Appel, Ryan (Francie) Appel, Jena Scott, Jordan Scott and Jacob Herbst. He is also survived by his cousin, Dennis Elble, who he thought of as his brother.

David will be forwarded from the Beverly Hills Chapel of Hooper Funeral Homes & Crematory to Ratterman & Sons Funeral Home in Louisville, KY for funeral services and burial. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.hooperfuneralhome.com. The family would like to offer a special thanks to the staff of Vitas Hospice for the support and care that they provided.

■ For more obituaries, see Page A11.

Mary Croft, 88
HILLARD

Mary Bell Croft, 88 of Hillard, FL, formerly of Hernando, passed away on December 1, 2021 in Jacksonville, FL. Mary was born in Dunnellon, FL, on August 8, 1933 to the late Archie H. and Effie (Wiley) Henry. She was a life long resident of Citrus County. She was a Citrus County school bus driver for many years and attended the Hernando Church of the Nazarene.



Mary Croft

Left to cherish her memory are her children: J. Edward Croft and his wife, Linda of Inverness and their children: Chelsea Rowe, Eddie Croft and great grandchild Riley Imhuelson; May Tomlinson and her husband Robert, of Hillard, FL and her children: Roy Wayne Fennell, Jr. and Jean Ann Bennett and her husband Michael and great grandchildren: Jasmine Fennell, Gabrielle Fennell, Michael J. Bennett; Lacrisca A. Jones of Dublin GA and her children: Bobbie Jo Smith and her husband John, Kristie K. Knight and her husband Joey, Amanda L. Clements, and great grandchildren: Taelar R. Page, and great-granddaughter Laela S. Wynne; Kaela N. Myers, Makaylae B. Smith, Jodynn R. Smith, Toi E. Brown, Maci O. Brown, Brody J. Knight, Braden T. Clements, Lillian G. Clements, and Andi C. Coss. Mary was preceded in death by her daughters: Deborah Self and Gail Jones and her sister, Patsy Henry.

Graveside services for Mary will be conducted on Monday December 6, 2021 at 2:00PM at the Rockwell Cemetery in Dunnellon. Friends may call at the Chas. E. Davis Funeral Home from 11:00 AM until leaving for the cemetery at 1:00 PM.

Sign the guestbook at chronicleonline.com.

Holly Trail, 37
CRYSTAL RIVER

Holly K. Trail, 37, loving mother, daughter, and sister of Crystal River, Florida passed away November 17, 2021. She was born February 18, 1984 in Baltimore, Maryland. She was preceded in death by her sister Rachael Trail and brother Nicholas Trail. She is survived by her two children, Micah Trail and Kaleb LaDuke, parents, Julius and Neva Trail. She was our little Holly Bird that has flown back to God and her bright smile will be dearly missed. A Celebration of her Life will be held at a later date. Private arrangements were under the direction of Strickland Funeral Home and Crematory, Crystal River.



Holly Trail

Sign the guestbook at chronicleonline.com.

SO YOU KNOW

- For information about placing obituaries, email obits@chronicleonline.com or call 352-563-5660.
- The Chronicle does not edit obituaries for content.

Steven Smolensky, 52
INVERNESS

On the morning of November 30, 2021 Steven Wayne Smolensky was taken too soon from his family and friends at the young age of 52. Steve was born to Wayne and Carine Smolensky on February 22, 1969 in Tampa, FL. He is preceded in death by his daughter Meagan Ashley Smolensky. He is survived by his wife, Katie Smolensky, two daughters, Jennifer Smolensky of Longwood, FL, and Caitlyn Smolensky of Crystal River, FL, step-son Jacob Everett, his parents Wayne and Carine Smolensky of Inverness, FL, his first best friend, sister Stacey Engstrom and her children Alyssa and Mitchell Engstrom. He also leaves behind many aunts, uncles, cousins, in-law family, and loved friends.



Steven Smolensky

Sadly, Steve lost his first love and first born daughter, Meagan Ashley, in 1994. He went on to have two more beautiful daughters, Jennifer and Katie. They were his greatest pride and joy and loved them with his whole being. He was also very proud of his step son Jacob, who is currently following in his footsteps with a career in law enforcement. Steve married the love of his life and best friend, Katie, in 2017. They shared their lives together in Inverness, FL doing all the things they loved and living their best lives. In his youth, Steve was a Boy Scout. He achieved the rank of Eagle Scout with troop 302 from Inverness, FL. He graduated from Citrus High School in 1987. Steve started his dream of becoming a law enforcement officer when he became a deputy with the Citrus County Sheriff's Office in 1992. After 25 years, he completed that mission retiring in 2017 doing what he loved; by serving his great community of Citrus County. Steve also obtained his Bachelor of Science and Management Degree in 2011.

Steve was currently working for Suburban Propane as a bobtail delivery driver and regional driver trainer. He proudly served no matter where he was needed. A few of Steve's greatest passions were being on the water in his boat or with his RV at a campground riding his golf cart or motorcycle. He lived his life to the fullest. He also had a great love for movies and music, with a great fondness for Neil Diamond who is the "greatest singer/songwriter/performer of this and any other generation".

A Celebration of Life is scheduled for Wednesday, December 8th at 2:00 PM at Calvary Chapel Church, 960 South Florida Avenue, Inverness, FL. Dr. Doug Alexander will officiate. Chas. E. Davis Funeral Home With Crematory is assisting the family.

Sign the guestbook at chronicleonline.com.

Weekly roundup: Putting local governments on ice

RYAN DAILEY
The News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — Brisk December temperatures weren't the only thing bringing a "chilling effect" to the Capitol this week, according to some local officials who say their decision-making powers would be undermined by a proposal gaining steam in the Florida Senate.

The measure, backed by the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday, could lead to cities and counties facing lawsuits because of decisions that lead to reduced revenue or profits for businesses.

Under the bill (SB 620), companies that have been in operation for at least three years would be able to sue if local ordinances cause at least 15% losses of revenue or profits.

But Seminole County Commissioner Lee Constantine, a former state senator, said the bill would have a "chilling effect" on the ability of local officials to address concerns of residents and would drive up costs.

"This bill, in essence, takes away our legislative powers — what we've voted to do, just like you are, to take care of local problems," Constantine, a Republican, told the Senate panel.

Wakulla County Commissioner Ralph Thomas, president of the Florida Association of Counties, said the measure would force counties to settle lawsuits and pay attorney fees and would "redistribute taxpayer dollars."

"I think this bill is ripe for causing more problems than solutions," said Thomas, who described himself as a lifelong small-government Republican.

The bill, sponsored by St. Augustine Republican Travis Hutson, comes after years of lawmakers considering — and often passing — bills to take away local officials' decision-making powers on issues ranging from ride-sharing services to regulation of sunscreen.

Hutson argued that his bill would give businesses an avenue to recover revenue if losses reached what he called a "pretty high threshold" of 15%.

The measure would give companies "that may be hard-working and can't show up at the county council or the county commission" a way to fight back, he said.

"They're getting hammered by an ordinance and right now, the government's just saying, 'Sorry this is what we're doing,'" Hutson added.

The bill has drawn support from groups such as the Florida Chamber of Commerce, Associated Industries of Florida, the Florida Retail Federation and Americans for Prosperity-Florida. Groups

Under the bill (SB 620), companies that have been in operation for at least three years would be able to sue if local ordinances cause at least 15% losses of revenue or profits.

including the Florida Association of Counties, the Florida League of Cities, the Florida AFL-CIO and Sierra Club Florida oppose the plan.

RAW FEELINGS

A happy ending doesn't appear on the horizon for a controversy that has put the University of Florida and its president, Kent Fuchs, in a national spotlight.

The state's flagship university became embroiled in controversy after court documents revealed a decision by administrators to prevent three political-science professors from testifying against a new state elections law (SB 90), which included making changes to voting by mail.

The university ultimately walked back the decision, allowing political-science professors Sharon Austin, Michael McDonald and Daniel Smith to be hired as expert witnesses by groups challenging the law, as long as they did the work on their own time and without using university resources.

The controversy has continued, with the three professors and two others filing a federal lawsuit alleging violations of First Amendment rights.

But the university's trustees fired back at the scholars this week.

During a meeting Friday, UF Board of Trustees chairman Mori Hosseini sharply criticized the professors and rallied around Fuchs.

"The overwhelming majority of our faculty are here for the reason we are, to educate, research, serve the University of Florida as their employer," Hosseini told the board.

"However, we saw that some have taken advantage of their positions. I am speaking here of faculty members taking second jobs using the university's state resources for their own personal gain. I am speaking about faculty members who use their position of authority to improperly advocate personal political viewpoints to the exclusion of others."

Hosseini didn't mention the professors by name. But he did issue a warning that the tenured professors' actions "will not stand."

A court document in the elections lawsuit said the university told the professors their request to serve as expert witnesses was denied because "outside activities that may pose a conflict of interest to the executive branch of the state of

Florida create a conflict" for the university.

The professors last week issued a statement through their attorneys blasting the work of a UF task force that provided Fuchs with recommendations to update the school's conflicts-of-interest policy.

"We are disappointed but not surprised that a task force created as a public relations tool has returned with window-dressing recommendations," attorneys David A. O'Neil and Paul Donnelly said in a statement last week.

ON GUARD

While outlining plans Thursday to ask lawmakers to increase funding for the Florida National Guard, DeSantis said a budget he will propose next week for the 2022 legislative session will include \$3.5 million to re-establish the Florida State Guard.

The state guard was a defense force set up during World War II to replace Florida National Guard members who were deployed abroad.

"This funding will support the necessary training, equipment and other support functions for up to 200 members who can aid in the response to hurricanes, natural disasters and other state emergencies," DeSantis said during an appearance at the Pensacola National Guard Armory.

The proposal drew immediate criticism from state Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried, a Democratic candidate for governor in 2022.

Fried wrote in a tweet Thursday that "Florida doesn't need a paramilitary force that only answers to" the governor.

STORY OF THE WEEK: In a proposal drawing heavy fire from local governments, a Senate committee Tuesday approved a measure that could lead to cities and counties facing lawsuits because of decisions that lead to reduced revenue or profits for businesses.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "This has been a long saga. It's been a long time coming but it's due. I think it's a big milestone that the state has got to a point (where) they're in a solid regulatory environment now. They're able to officially regulate the industry but simultaneously fulfill their statutory duties and start pushing out some of these licenses." — Attorney John Lockwood, on state health officials' decision to allow Black farmers to apply for a medical-marijuana license in March.

OBITUARIES

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- The Chronicle does not edit obituaries for content.
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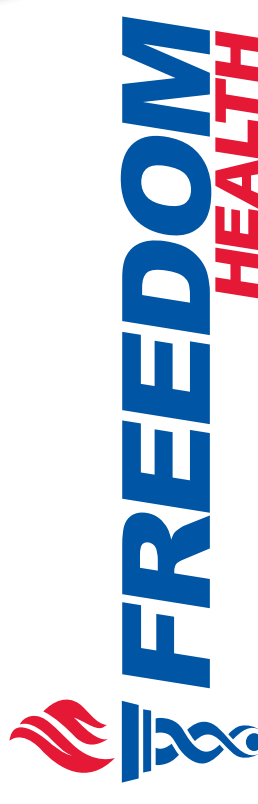


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Investors snatch up Tampa homes at record rate

EMILY L. MAHONEY
Tampa Bay Times

ST. PETERSBURG — For Lou Brown, a Realtor with a firm in Midtown St. Petersburg, it used to be unusual to represent a prospective buyer who lost their desired house in a bidding war to an investor.

Now, it's harder to think of instances where that hasn't happened.

"It's very hard for regular home-buyers ... to actually compete with the investors that are swinging in with their higher offers," he said. "That's just what time it is."

From July through September, investors bought Tampa Bay homes at a record rate, according to data analyzed by Redfin that begins measuring in 2000. For those three months, one in four houses that sold had an investor as the buyer, for a raw total of nearly 5,000 properties.

Tampa Bay's share of investor purchases was even higher than the record-breaking national average of 18%, ranking it as the seventh-hottest metro area for investors nationwide. No other state besides Florida had more than one city in the top 10. The Sunshine State had four — with Jacksonville at No. 4, Miami at No. 5 and Orlando ranking eighth.

That high concentration of investors has made things difficult for regular homebuyers using mortgages, who are easily outbid by companies paying all cash — at often more than the asking price. Some of the busiest activity is taking place in pockets of Tampa Bay that include the few remaining affordable options, pricing out long-time residents, many of them minorities.

Local renters trying to break into homeownership are harmed the most, said Sheharyar Bokhari, Redfin senior economist.



DOUGLAS R. CLIFFORD/Tampa Bay Times

This Nov. 19 photo shows a single-family home in Tampa that was purchased by an investor earlier this year, which beat out six other offers.

"Not only do they have to compete with other homebuyers coming from New York with a lot more money, but there's also investors who have all cash," he said. "For those folks this is really concerning."

With around 20% growth in home prices in Tampa this past year, people are coming "out of the woodwork" to make quick money by doing flips, Bokhari said.

"Certain markets like Florida and the Sunbelt, they've seen a lot of people moving there in this past year, and those are areas where (investors are) most present."

Investors started becoming bigger players in the real estate market after the housing crash that brought on the Great Recession.

But the recent spikes in home prices and rent rates plus the volatility of the stock market during the pandemic has made investing in residential real estate even more attractive, Bokhari said. Flipping and renting out homes are both lucrative propositions.

Redfin defines "investors" as buyers with certain key words in their names, including "LLC,"

"Trust" and "Corp.," which aim to capture both large, institutional real estate investment corporations and mom-and-pop companies. Redfin compiled its data by combing through county property records.

Chris Lai, a Tampa Realtor with People's Choice Realty, has noticed more investors. And they've recently begun behaving in new ways. For a time, those buyers would focus only on new construction. Now, they're scooping up older homes, too, he said, and are generally interested in anything under \$500,000. For these properties, investors are willing to exceed the asking price, he said.

"It's not the old days," Lai said. "They're willing to go over the appraised value now. That used to never be the case but ... they're in this for the long haul."

The high investor interest is good news for some, including property owners who are seeing their home values explode, said Michael Thompson, a Pinellas-based Realtor with Keller Williams.

"People that maybe bought their homes three to four years ago ... are sitting on gold mines

already," he said. "That's all being driven, in my opinion, by these hungry investors, cash-purchasers, first-time buyers."

All the activity is another indicator of Tampa Bay's meteoric rise in desirability for people flocking from around the country, Thompson said. Even as Tampa Bay's prices have skyrocketed, they're still relatively cheap for people coming from high-cost cities in New York and California, fueling the "boatloads of cash purchases," he said.

Still, Thompson also represents a first-time buyer who's been house-hunting on and off for nine months. His client recently got beat on a Clearwater home for which he'd offered \$10,000 above the asking price. It closed for \$70,000 more.

"It just all depends on what side of the fence you're on," Thompson said. For regular buyers, "it's created this Wild West, chaotic sort of cowboy midtown shootout."

Some Tampa Bay ZIP codes are particularly magnetic to investors, Redfin's analysis found. St. Petersburg's 33712, where Brown's office is located in the southern part of the city,

ranked No. 1 with a whopping 37% of its third-quarter buys coming from investors. No. 2 was 33570 in Ruskin at 35%, and Ybor City's 33605 ZIP code was in third with 34%.

All three of those ZIP codes have higher percentages of Black or Hispanic residents, and lower median household incomes, than the Tampa Bay average, census data shows.

Brown, a longtime St. Petersburg resident and Realtor, said he understands that less expensive homes in his area are good values. But the high concentration of purchases is also driving up costs for the many Black families who've lived there for years, many of them renters.

"This has been the ZIP code that has suffered the most, that just had all kinds of declines from really the '50s on. As African

Americans moved into the neighborhoods, whites moved out and it was harder to get financing, property values went down," he said.

Brown said he's observed similar trends in other cities across the U.S., but it's been "interesting" to watch it happen "right in front of you."

"It used to be everybody was investing on the north side, until that was saturated and then they came to the south side," he said. "Affordable housing be damned."

Brown said today's trends are almost the opposite of white flight.

"Sometimes, there's a sense of urban removal because they wait until the property gets to its lowest and the lowest end of the (income) scale lives there," he said. "All of a sudden the residents who were there are no longer there."

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Around the STATE

Police kill student armed with 'edged weapon'

MELBOURNE — Authorities killed a Florida Institute of Technology student who lunged at a police officer with an "edged weapon" on the college campus Friday night, police said.

The Melbourne Police Department on Saturday said 18-year-old Alhaji M. Sow, of Riverdale, Georgia, was fatally shot by police and a school security guard in a campus building during the attack.

In a news release, police said they responded to the campus around 11 p.m. Friday to investigate reports of a man armed with a knife who was assaulting students.

College security and police confronted Sow in a building when he lunged at an officer with an "edged weapon," causing the officer and security guard to fatally shoot Sow, the release said. The officer

sustained an injury, though the news release did not give additional information. Officials also did not give additional details about the "edged weapon."

The college, on its Facebook page, said Sow was a sophomore studying aeronautical science. It is offering counseling services to students.

Seminole Tribe suspends sports betting app

HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole Tribe of Florida shut down its online sports betting app Saturday after being dealt its latest legal defeat in a case that has halted a massive expansion of gambling throughout Florida.

The tribe said it will temporarily stop taking bets on its Hard Rock Sportsbook app in response to a federal appeals court decision rejecting its request to allow wagering to continue as it pursues an appeal.

The Friday ruling from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia follows a lower court's decision to block an agreement between Florida and the Seminoles to allow online sports betting because it violates a federal rule requiring a person to be physically on tribal land when wagering. The lawsuit, which was filed by non-Indian casino owners in Florida, challenged

the approval of the deal by the U.S. Department of the Interior, which oversees tribal gambling operations.

The suspension of the betting app comes just over a month after it started accepting wagers, with it now displaying a message to customers that it will temporarily suspend operations in Florida. A spokesperson for the tribe said account

balances will be refunded as requested and that it looks forward to defending the validity of their agreement with the state in court.

The agreement had made Florida the latest state to legalize sports gambling since a 2018 Supreme Court ruling. About half the states and the District of Columbia have legalized betting on sports in some form.

The lower court's decision, which came late last month, also blocks the tribe from adding roulette and craps to its Florida casinos.

Republican Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis had worked out the compact with the tribe earlier this year and the state was poised to receive \$20 billion over the next 30 years.

— From wire reports

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Obituaries

Ida Johnson, 77

INVERNESS

Ida Helen Johnson, age 77, of Inverness, FL passed away November 20, 2021 at Bayfront Seven Rivers Hospital in Crystal River, FL. Cremation arrangements are private. Chas. E. Davis Funeral Home With Crematory, Inverness.

Keri Manchester, 52

INVERNESS

Keri Lynn Manchester, age 52, Inverness, FL went to her eternal home on November 23, 2021. Keri was born in Ft Lauderdale, FL on September 24, 1969 to Ronald and Sharon (Faucetta) Hansen and came to Citrus County 19 years ago from Fort Lauderdale, Florida.



Keri Manchester

She is survived by her husband, Glenn A. Manchester, Inverness, FL; her parents, Ronald E. and Sharon Hansen of Inverness; 4 sons: Andrew V. (Anahi) Manchester of San Antonio, TX; Matthew, Marc, and Jonathan Manchester, all of Inverness; 1 brother, Steven (Trish) Hansen of San Antonio, TX.

There will be a Celebration of Life scheduled for Keri on December 21, 2021 at 11AM at Tree of Life Lutheran Church with Pastor Richard L. Arndt officiating. Private cremation was with Chas. E. Davis Funeral Home With Crematory.

Sign the guestbook at chronicleonline.com.

Linda Dodge, 78

FLORAL CITY

Floral City Resident Linda Dodge, 79, died at Oak Hill Hospital in Brooksville, FL on November 29th 2021.

At her request, no service will be held.

Linda was born on February 11, 1942 in Elkview, West Virginia to Edward and Marie Chapel. She was always a ball of energy and loved playing cards, gardening, tending to and rescuing plants, cooking, and spending time with her grandchildren. For many years, she was a very proud member of the staff at Camp E-Nini-Hassee and found purpose in serving the young women who would come to stay there.

Linda was predeceased in death by grandson Jack Johnson and the love of her life, Sal Vos Sr. She is survived by daughters Debra Cornwell, Susan Schiemann, Laura Thomas and Mary Dodge. She is also survived by her siblings Beverly, Dorothy, Clayton and Edward; 12 grandchildren and many great grandchildren.

In lieu of sending flowers, please make donations to Ronald McDonald House of Tampa Bay.

Sign the guestbook at chronicleonline.com.



Hugo Fiore Sr., 75

FLORAL CITY

Hugo John Fiore Sr, age 75, of Floral City, FL passed away Tuesday, November 30, 2021. He was born to parents Hugo and Rose Fiore, on July 17, 1946, in Newark, New Jersey.

He married Gail, the love of his life, in 1966, who survives him. Hugo is also survived by his children: Elaine and Dominic, Hugo, Dieder and James, and Gail and Spencer. His grandchildren: Hugo and Kat, Joseph, Candance, Danial, Eric, Tia, Rose and Matthew, Gaetano, Angelina, Gabriella, Amber and Dominic. His great grandchildren: Alannah, Kymara, Carter and Kaisen.

Hugo graduated from High School in Glen Cove, New York and entered the U.S Military, serving honorably in the Army. Hugo was a Boy Scout leader, some camping trips were spent in his beloved woods of ake George. He was a volunteer firefighter for Halesite Fire Department. He later relocated to Florida where he retired as a Florida Correctional Officer.

Hugo enjoyed dancing, his family, friends, and had a childlike love for Disney.

At Hugo's request, there will be no funeral or memorial service. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations to be sent to Hospice care. The Chas. E. Davis Funeral Home with Crematory, Inverness, FL is assisting the family with Cremation with Care arrangements.

Sign the guestbook at chronicleonline.com.

Charles 'Chuck' Meakin, 94

HERNANDO

Charles Bailey Meakin (Chuck), of Hernando Florida passed away Thursday November 11, 2021 at the age of 94. Chuck is survived by his wife Earleen Meakin (Billie), his son Martin and his wife Cheryl, his son Kerry, and his daughter Kristy and her husband John, 7 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

Chuck was born in Detroit, Michigan. He is predeceased by his parents Harry and Francis (Bailey) Meakin, his sister Marilyn Shealy and brother Wendell Meakin.

Chuck worked for the American Oil Company until retiring at age 47. After retiring he and Billie settled into their home on Green Lake in Ellsworth, Maine. While there he enjoyed playing golf, ice fishing, snowmobiling and

For more obituaries, see Page A6.

riding 3-wheelers. He loved the sunsets over the lake.

In 1998 Chuck and Billie moved to Citrus Hills in Hernando, Florida. There he was a member of the Citrus Hills Golf and Country Club where he continued playing his beloved game of golf.

Chuck will be remembered as a true Gentleman and family man. He was a hard working, honest man that truly enjoyed life, especially when he was on the golf course.

At Chuck's request no services will be held. To honor Chuck's life the family asks all who wish to participate please make a donation to the Dementia Society of America. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.hooperfuneralhome.com.

Vernon 'Gene' Yoho, 81

HERNANDO

Vernon Eugene "Gene" Yoho, age 81 of Hernando, Florida, closed his eyes for the last time on November 3, 2021 following a courageous battle with cancer.



Vernon 'Gene' Yoho

Gene started his life on January 27, 1940, in Reader, West Virginia, the son of Stanley and Olive Yoho. At a young age, Gene moved to East Canton, Ohio where he later met his wife of 64 years, Patricia Lautzenheiser Yoho. Together they lovingly raised four children, Tami Raines (Tom), Todd (Mary), Ty (Lisa), and Tricia Yoho.

The couple moved their family to the Newark, Ohio area where Gene worked for American Electric Power for over 30 years. Following retirement, Gene and Pat migrated to Florida where they enjoyed many activities and friendships in the Arbor Lakes Community. Summers were often spent in Ohio and at a fishing camp on Rice Lake, Canada. Gene had an infectious personality and made friends wherever he went.

If you were lucky enough to know Gene, you've laughed with him. He was quick witted, always had a story to tell, and was full of "Geneisms". He had his nurses and family chuckling even to the very end. Gene was a "doer". Rarely would you see him sitting still. He was a member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church where he volunteered many hours assisting with outdoor maintenance. He believed in helping others and would ask for nothing in return. So many people have said he was the best neighbor they ever had.

Gene deeply loved his family and was always more than willing to give advice. He was extremely proud of his nine grandchildren, Nick Raines

(Linda), Joanna Parkison (Todd), Katie Pawlak (John), Joelle Carrocci (John), Danny Yoho (Hayley), Seth Yoho (Brionna), Ondrea Cookman (Sam), Samantha Baker (Charles) and Stefanie Banks (Kenzie). As an added bonus, he was blessed with twelve great-grandchildren. They all enjoyed fishing, playing cards, and just spending time with Grandpa, memories they will always hold dear. Gene remarkably and generously was able to help all of his grandchildren with their college tuition, knowing that education was a gift that would last long after he was gone.

In addition to his immediate family, those left to cherish Gene's memory include his siblings, Wilda (John) Bowers, George Yoho, Kenny (Irene) Yoho, and Darlene (Tom) Lee. He is also survived by two sister-in-laws, Jean Geyer and Judy Eakin, along with many nieces and nephews.

Along with his parents, those welcoming Gene into Eternity include his brother Mack Yoho, sister Velma Miller, father and mother-in-law, Roy and Ida Lautzenheiser, and many brother and sister-in-laws.

Gene brought us joy, made us laugh, and showed us love. He made a difference in so many lives. He will be dearly missed.

A memorial service celebrating Gene's life will be held in Ohio at a later date. In remembrance of Gene, reach out and help a neighbor, family member, or friend and ask for nothing in return. Tell them Gene sent you. He would be honored.

Sign the guestbook at chronicleonline.com.

Jacqueline 'Jacqui' Watkins, 61

BEVERLY HILLS

Jacqueline "Jacqui" Watkins, age 61 of Beverly Hills, FL, passed peacefully away Saturday evening, November 13, 2021, at her home with both her family and a hospice nurse by her



Jacqueline 'Jacqui' Watkins

side. Jacqui was predeceased by her mother, Cecile Meyers, father Maurice Giroux, brother David Giroux and stepfather, John Meyers, Sr. She is survived by her husband, John Schaeffer, son Matthew Watkins and wife Jamie, brother Dr. Robert Giroux and wife Katherine, sister Margaret "Peggy" Dewey, brother Freddy Giroux and wife Sharon, twin sister Kathy Ableman and several nieces and nephews.

Jacqui was born on July 8, 1960, in Troy, NY and moved to Beverly Hills, Florida in 2004. She earned an Associate's degree in Criminal Justice and was the proud owner-operator of Meyers & Wheelers Locksmith, LLC, for the past 15 years. Jacqui assisted her step father, John C. Meyers, Sr. for many years and then, upon his retirement, acquired the business. Jacqui then purchased Wheelers Locksmith in 2014 and combined both businesses to create Meyers & Wheelers

Locksmith, LLC, serving Citrus County and surrounding areas.

When meeting Jacqui you knew she had a sincere dedication to her business providing "peace of mind" with children and adult safety and home protection. She received "Best of the Best" and "Honorary Mention" (Chronicle sponsored) several times and was very proud to have been selected each time. She was a chamber member and an active member in the Citrus Business Network, a life member of the Inverness Lion's Club and a very involved Realtor's Association of Citrus County (RACC) business partner.

A Celebration of life will be announced at a later date. Jacqui's family asks that due to her passions for local charities that all gift considerations be made in Jacqui's name to either the Inverness Lion's Club or a local charity of your choice. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.hooperfuneralhome.com.

HOLIDAY DEADLINES

Production deadlines for New Year's Day will require early deadlines for submission of obituaries.

Obituaries to be published Saturday or Sunday, Dec. 31 or Jan. 1, must be submitted by 3 p.m. the Friday prior.

Obituaries for Monday publication will deadline at 3 p.m. Saturday. Information submitted past deadline will appear in the next available edition.

Submissions must be verified with the funeral home or society in charge of arrangements.

Larger, full-column photos may be accommodated in print, but could be subject to additional fees. Contact the Chronicle staff for details.

A flag will be included for free for those who served in the U.S. military. (Please note the branch of service when submitting an

obituary.)

Additional days of publication or reprints due to errors in submitted material are charged at the same rates.

Obituary deadlines for Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday editions is 3 p.m. the day before. Deadlines for Saturday, Sunday and Monday editions is 3 p.m. Friday.

Obituaries are at www.chronicleonline.com.

Email obits@chronicleonline.com or call 352-563-5660 for more information.

The national database Legacy.com maintains the Chronicle's obituaries and guest books. Per Legacy policy, all guest book comments are screened by its staff for appropriate content before being placed online. Allow 24 hours for review of guest book entries. A printed guest book may be purchased from Legacy in a hardcover or paperback format.



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Abrams faces challenging race for Ga. governor

JEFF AMY
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Stacey Abrams announced a long-awaited second run for Georgia governor this week, but with Democrats facing a sour national environment and Republican Gov. Brian Kemp facing challenges within his own party, the 2022 campaign will look different from 2018.

Abrams' narrow loss, highlighted by her claims that Kemp used his prior post as secretary of state to unfairly push voters away, vaulted her to national stardom in a year when Democrats nationwide capitalized on then-President Donald Trump's unpopularity.

Abrams' contention that Georgia could be dragged into the Democratic column by focusing on registering and mobilizing infrequent Democratic-leaning voters was validated in 2020, when Joe Biden won Georgia by about 12,000 votes and in 2021, when Democrats Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock won runoff to deliver control of the U.S. Senate to Democrats.

But the political tide appears to be running against Biden and other Democrats, with low approval ratings in polls and losses in Virginia elections.

"The environment for Democrats is wretched," said Brian Robinson, who advises Republican candidates in Georgia. "These are terrible dynamics for Stacey Abrams, and she wants to be president and not governor. If she loses twice, she's toast. She's taking a gamble — a big gamble."

The Georgia voters who might change their minds are mostly college-educated suburbanites. But Democrats argue most Georgia voters are fixed in their partisan preferences, and the key is getting your side to vote. Abrams and her supporters argue that outreach and a focus on issues will be more important than national headwinds.

"What I saw in 2020 and 2021 is that when people are reached out to, when we talk to them and we meet them where they are, they will vote and they will turn out," Abrams told WXIA-TV Thursday.

Nse Ufot, CEO of the



In this Monday, Nov. 2 file photo, Stacey Abrams speaks to Biden supporters as they wait for former President Barack Obama to arrive and speak at a campaign rally for Biden at Turner Field in Atlanta.

New Georgia Project, a voter mobilization group Abrams founded, pointed to gains by Black and more liberal candidates in some Georgia municipal elections this year, although more conservative candidates prevailed in some Atlanta suburbs. Those elections are nonpartisan, although party affiliations are often widely known.

"The truth of the matter," Ufot said, is the elections proved "Virginia is not Georgia." Part of Democrats' case is that Georgia's population growth is being driven by nonwhite residents, bringing the state to the cusp of becoming majority nonwhite in the 2020 census. That's partly a story of African American growth, but also driven by rapidly increasing residents of Latino and Asian descent.

"What's different is Georgia is on a demographic and partisan trajectory, that over the last 10 years has moved the state toward Democrats," Robinson said. But Republicans also will be trying to maximize their turnout, especially among exurban and rural white residents, and Emory University political scientist Andra Gillespie said a Democratic advantage is not certain in Georgia.

"There's going to be

times when Republicans win elections and Democrats win elections," she said.

Gillespie said it's inescapable that the Georgia governor's race will be "nationalized because of the polarized moment that we're in politically."

Abrams wants to swing the spotlight to Kemp's record, arguing his failure to expand Medicaid to cover more low-income adults and his opposition to COVID-19 restrictions prove he doesn't have the best interest of Georgians at heart.

"We have a current governor who has failed the people of Georgia, that as the pandemic has raged, he has left behind too

many communities, that he seems to ignore the real pain that's hurting families and hurting areas of the state, and that he seems to be focused on those who agree with him," Abrams told WXIA-TV.

But Kemp is more than ready to fight on that ground, betting that his record on COVID-19, a low unemployment rate and big pay raises for teachers will appeal to the voters he needs.

"That's what we're going to remind people about, is that record," Kemp told reporters Thursday. "That's what I'm going to be running on."

Unlike in 2018, Abrams has not declared

opposition and is likely to cruise to the Democratic nomination in a May primary. But Kemp is under siege by Trump and his supporters who believe the governor didn't do enough to overturn Biden's 2020 victory in Georgia. Republican Vernon Jones is already

among those challenging Kemp, but he faces the more serious threat that Republican former Sen. David Perdue might enter the race.

Kemp and his supporters are making clear that they will fight Perdue if necessary and that a bitter primary could pave Abrams' way to victory.

"So anybody else that wants to get in the race, you would have to ask them why, why are they going to do that? Kemp said Thursday. "Do they not like how great our economy is?"

Democrats are eagerly hoping the Republican Party can't bind up its wounds over Trump's baseless claims that he was cheated out of Georgia's electoral votes.

"I don't know what their mess is going to be," Abrams spokesperson Seth Bringman said. "I know our side is going to be unified, and I know that matters."

For Kemp, though, Abrams' entry is a chance to call the GOP to his side.

"I think it's a rallying point for Republicans because we know that this is just not the Georgia radicals that we're going to be facing," Kemp said. "It's going to be the Hollywood crowd and everybody else is going to flood money in here."

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Biden, Putin to talk

Leaders to discuss rising tensions over Ukraine

DASHA LITVINOVA, AAMER MADHANI AND COLLEEN LONG
Associated Press

MOSCOW — Presidents Joe Biden and Vladimir Putin will speak in a video call Tuesday, the White House and Kremlin said, as tensions between the United States and Russia escalate over a Russian troop buildup on the Ukrainian border that's seen as a sign of a potential invasion.

Biden will press U.S. concerns about Russian military activities on the border and "reaffirm the United States' support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine," White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Saturday, confirming the planned call after first word came from Moscow.

Putin will come to the

call with concerns of his own and intends to express Russia's opposition to any move to admit Ukraine into the NATO military alliance. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said "the presidents will decide themselves" how long their talk will last.

The last known call between the leaders was in July, when Biden pressed Putin to rein in Russia-based criminal hacking gangs launching ransomware attacks against the United States. Biden said the U.S. would take any necessary steps to protect critical infrastructure from such attacks.

Ransomware attacks have continued since then, though perhaps none has been as alarming as the one from May that targeted a major fuel pipeline and resulted in days of gas shortages in parts of the U.S.

Russia is more adamant than ever that the U.S. guarantees that Ukraine will not be admitted to the NATO military alliance. But NATO's secretary-general, Jens Stoltenberg, said this past week that Russia has no say in expansion plans by other countries or the alliance. Numerous former U.S. and NATO diplomats say any such Russian demand to Biden would be a nonstarter.

U.S. intelligence officials, meanwhile, have determined that Russia has massed about 70,000 troops near its border with Ukraine and has begun planning for a possible invasion as soon as early next year, according to a Biden administration official who was not authorized to discuss that finding publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Bond for parents of accused school shooter \$500K apiece

KATHLEEN FOODY AND COREY WILLIAMS
Associated Press

PONTIAC, Mich. — A judge imposed a combined \$1 million bond Saturday for the parents of the Michigan teen charged with killing four students at Oxford High School, hours after police said they were caught hiding in a Detroit commercial building.

James and Jennifer Crumbley entered not guilty pleas to each of the four involuntary manslaughter counts against them during a hearing held on Zoom. Jennifer Crumbley sobbed and struggled to respond to the judge's questions at times and James Crumbley

shook his head when a prosecutor said their son had full access to the gun used in the killings.

Judge Julie Nicholson assigned bond of \$500,000 apiece to each of the parents and required GPS monitoring if they pay to be released, agreeing with prosecutors that they posed a flight risk.

Defense attorneys for the Crumbleys still argued Saturday that they never intended to flee and had made plans to meet their lawyers early that morning. Attorney Shannon Smith accused prosecutors of "cherry picking" facts to release publicly, including that accusation that their teenage son had unrestricted access to the handgun prosecutors say his

father purchased for him days before the shooting.

"Our clients are just as devastated as everyone else," Smith said, adding that the gun "was locked." She didn't provide more detail during Saturday's hearing.

Oakland County Prosecutor Karen McDonald's office filed involuntary manslaughter charges against the Crumbleys on Friday, accusing them of failing to intervene on the day of the tragedy despite being confronted with a drawing and chilling message — "blood everywhere" — that was found at the boy's desk. They could each face up to 15 years in prison, according to a spokeswoman for McDonald's office.

Nation & World BRIEFS

More omicron detected as hospitals strain

New York announced three more cases of the omicron variant of the coronavirus Saturday, bringing the number of state cases linked to the new variant to eight.

"The omicron variant is here, and as anticipated we are seeing the beginning of community spread," state Health Commissioner Mary Bassett said in a news release.

The number of states finding the variant is growing as well, with Massachusetts and Washington state announcing their first cases Saturday, a day after New Jersey, Georgia, Pennsylvania and Maryland reported their first confirmed cases. Missouri reported its first presumed case Friday.

The variant also has been detected in Nebraska, Minnesota, California, Hawaii, Colorado and Utah.

In New York, seven of the cases have been found in New York City, once a global epicenter of the pandemic, and the other in Suffolk County.

CNN fires anchor Chris Cuomo after helping brother

NEW YORK — CNN has fired anchor Chris Cuomo after details emerged about how he assisted his brother, former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, as the politician faced sexual harassment allegations earlier this year.

The network suspended Chris Cuomo earlier in the week to investigate his involvement with his brother's defense.

"We have retained a respected law firm to conduct the review, and have terminated him, effective immediately," CNN said in a statement. "While in the process of that review, additional information has come to light. Despite the termination, we will investigate as

appropriate."

The network did not immediately release additional details.

UK tightens travel testing rules amid omicron concerns

LONDON — Britain's government tightened travel restrictions Saturday amid concerns about the spread of the omicron coronavirus variant, saying all travelers arriving in England will need to take a COVID-19 test before they board their flight.

Health Secretary Sajid Javid said the new rules will apply from 4 a.m. London time Tuesday.

"In light of the most recent data, we are taking further action to slow the incursion of the omicron variant," he said in a tweet.

Javid also added Nigeria to the U.K.'s travel "red list," which means that arrivals from there will be banned except for U.K. and Irish residents, and those travellers must isolate in designated quarantine facilities. He said there was a "significant number" of omicron cases linked to travel with Nigeria, with 27 cases recorded in England.

Anti-lockdown protesters march through Dutch city

UTRECHT, Netherlands — Thousands of people marched peacefully through the Dutch city of Utrecht on Saturday to protest the government's coronavirus lockdown measures.

Holding balloons, umbrellas and banners, including ones that said: "It's not right," protesters watched by a large police presence moved from a park into the city center without incident.

Siebke Koopman said he was demonstrating against more than just the Dutch government's COVID-19 restrictions.

"The privatization of the health care and education, the involvement in the international conflicts that are

nothing to do with the Netherlands, I think we must have more decision rights in those things," he said. "I think that demonstrating is the only way to show our sentiment peacefully."

Le Pen: Right takes step to build European coalition

WARSAW, Poland — European right-wing populist leaders declared Saturday they will cooperate more closely at the European Union's parliament in order to defend the sovereignty of their bloc's 27 member nations.

A statement at the end of the meeting fell short of a declaration to create a new alliance at the European Parliament, an idea that some of the party leaders have sought but that has so far not materialized.

Still, French far-right party leader Marine Le Pen said the meeting was "a key step" toward closer cooperation. It brought together party leaders from more than a dozen nations united in conservative values, nationalism and a sense that the EU is taking powers for itself never given to it in the union's treaties.

"It's a step forward that is very welcome and allows me to be very optimistic about the future," Le Pen said.

Rio de Janeiro cancels NYE party due to omicron

RIO DE JANEIRO — Rio de Janeiro on Saturday canceled its New Year's Eve party due to renewed COVID-19 fears.

Rio Mayor Eduardo Paes announced the decision on social media.

Paes had previously promised the biggest New Year's Eve party ever, with multiple fireworks displays and artists performing on a dozen stages across the city. He said there is no decision about Carnival taking place in March.

— From wire reports

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VETERANS NOTES

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

COMING UP

VFW Post 4337 to host breakfast with Santa

VFW Post 4337 will host breakfast with Santa for children kindergarten through fifth-grade from 10 a.m. to noon Dec. 12, 906 State Road 44 E. in Inverness.

Young guests will enjoy food, music and Santa treats. To RSVP, call 352-250-1593. Post 4337 is a non-smoking post.

Sponsor a gravesite wreath

Aaron A. Weaver Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 776 will support Wreaths Across America during the holiday season.

The chapter is looking for community donations toward their goal of 500 wreaths, which they will place on graves at the Bushnell National Cemetery on Dec. 21.

To donate, visit wreathscrossamerica.org/FL0227P and click on "Sponsor a Wreath." To sponsor a wreath at Bushnell National Cemetery, go to "Specific Site" to enter the location.

The group ID number is FL0227P and the cemetery number is FLNCBU.

For assistance, email mom4sba@tampabay.rr.com.

Police escorted ride to Bushnell will honor veterans

Join the American Legion Riders Chapter 237 and veterans for "Wreaths for Our Fallen Heroes," a police escorted ride to Bushnell National Cemetery on Dec. 19. Registration is at 9:30 a.m. with kickstands up at 10 a.m.

Participants will line up at Crystal Harley-Davidson, 1147 S. Suncoast Blvd. in Homosassa, and take wreaths to Bushnell to place on gravesites. For the past four years, they have honored veterans by placing wreaths at an isolated area of the cemetery for the holidays to ensure veterans and families are not forgotten.

Join the American Legion Riders' Poker Run

The American Legion Riders Chapter 237 will have their 11th annual Poker Run on Jan. 29 beginning at the post, 6726 N. Lecanto Highway in Beverly Hills. Sign up begins at 9:30 a.m. with kickstands up at 10:45 a.m.

A \$15 entry fee includes a poker hand, prize ticket and meal. Event proceeds will benefit Friends of Citrus and the Nature Coast. In its first 10 years, this event has provided a total of \$65,287 to help individuals and families cope with end-of-life issues, grief and loneliness.

Festivities include door prizes, a silent auction, a 50/50 at every stop and music donated by Better Than Nothin'. Best hand wins the Poker Run and all vehicles are welcome.

For more information, call ride chairman John Roby at 352-341-5856 or 352-536-7480, or the post at 352-897-4776. For more information about Friends of Citrus and the Nature Coast, call 352-249-1470, visit friendsofcitrus.org or Friends of Citrus on Facebook.

GOOD TO KNOW

MOAA to have sponsored speaker event

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Citrus County Chapter welcomes veterans and the public to attend a sponsored speaker presentation by Citrus County Commissioner Ruthie Davis Schlabach. The event takes place at 10 a.m. Jan. 13 at the American Legion Post 155, 6585 W. Gulf-to-Lake Highway in Crystal River.

Schlabach will speak on issues and solutions affecting veterans in Citrus County. For more information, visit moaaf.org/Chapters/CitrusCounty.

Chapter 776 MOPH offers scholarships

Aaron A. Weaver Chapter 776 Military Order of the Purple Heart is pleased to announce two scholarship opportunities for local graduating high school seniors.

■ Chapter 776's College of Central Florida (CF) Endowed Scholarship awards \$1,250 to a graduating senior accepted or currently enrolled as a full time student (12 or more semester credit hours) at CF for Academic Year 2022-23.

■ Chapter 776's Sgt. Dennis J. Flanagan Memorial Scholarship awards \$1,000 to a graduating senior enrolled in the JROTC Program and accepted as a full time student (12 or more semester credit hours) at any accredited U.S. college for Academic Year 2022-23.

The Chapter 776 scholarship information and application can be obtained at www.

See **NOTES/Page A16**

Minds on a mission



MARGO WILSON/For the Chronicle

From left, Floral City American Legion officers Roger Galyean, Fred Daniels and Ken Whitty salute in front of the heavy-duty garage door that also serves as a flag wall at American Legion Post 225 on Withlapopka Drive.

American Legion Post 225 focuses on community service

MARGO WILSON
For the Chronicle

They take their mission seriously and see that mission as helping their community.

The Herbert Surber American Legion Post 225 of Floral City presents the community's annual Memorial Day service. It has served as a color guard for Flag Day, and it has coordinated parking for Floral City's Heritage Days.

The post members now have passed the car-parking torch to the Boy Scouts, who supervise where Heritage Days visitors should stow their vehicles.

But the post's spirit of service lives on.

"Even though we're a small chapter, we do as much as we can with the local community," said Fred Daniels, the post's service officer and adjutant.

Each year, the post gives the Floral City Elementary School books and paper. It helps support the Young Marines and the Boy Scouts.

And those who are most active at seeing that this work gets done are a trio of veterans who refer to themselves as "The Three Musketeers."

Besides Daniels, there's Cmdr. Ken Whitty and Financial Officer Roger Galyean.

Post profiles



"We hold it together," Daniels said.

The post is named for Herbert Surber, the first service person killed from Citrus County in Vietnam. He died on Christmas Day in 1966.

Surber was a private who served as a rifleman in the Marines. He died in Quang Nam province in South Vietnam from multiple wounds received during battle. His service earned him a Purple Heart, among other awards.

Surber is buried in Hills of Rest Cemetery in Floral City. And his name is on the Vietnam Wall monument in Washington, D.C.

Founded 47 years ago, the Floral City American Legion post still has a founding member — former County Commissioner Winn Webb, who is a retired deputy sheriff.

Like many fraternal, civic, and membership organizations, Floral City Post 225 has seen its roster of members dwindle as age and attrition take their toll.

"We used to have Eating Meetings. We had pancake breakfasts," Daniels said.

"But it's hard to get people motivated," he said. "The younger people are working and have families. It's

hard for them to get away."

Most posts, he said, see their membership numbers rise and fall.

He said another Citrus County post was down to one member before its membership exploded.

The American Legion welcomes all honorably discharged veterans, according to Daniels. He served in the Naval Reserve. Cmdr. Whitty is a Navy veteran, and Financial Officer Galyean is Army.

The men said their post is best known for the Memorial Day program it stages each year. The group sells ads for the paper program it hands out at the ceremony. And that ad money is one of the major ways the post funds itself and helps out the charitable causes it rallies behind.

The post formerly met in the Floral City Lions Club building on Orange Avenue but moved nearly a decade ago to

See **MISSION/Page A19**



VFW raffle benefits Never Say Never

Howard Wells, left, presents Danielle Monday with a 70-inch Afghan star, made by and donated to VFW Post 4337. Monday won the raffle for the star which was made by Howard's wife, Nancy Wells. Proceeds will go to the Never Say Never Foundation for kids of veterans who have lost their limbs and need replacements as they grow. The Never Say Never Foundation is based in Ocala. For more information about its work and services, call 352-502-0379.

Special to the Chronicle

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

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

■ Submit material at the *Chronicle* office in Meadowcrest, Crystal River; or email to community@chronicleonline.com.

NOTES

Continued from Page A15

citruspurpleheart.org, by contacting your school guidance department or by either emailing info@citruspurpleheart.org or calling 352-382-3847. Applications are due no later than 5 p.m. Feb. 26, 2022.

WTC scholarships available

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

The funds may be used for the purchase of books, manuals, tools of the trade or uniforms.

Veterans can receive grants through the VA for course tuition, but incur many other expenses in the course of their education. These funds are specifically intended to ease the financial hardships of veterans in their continuing education.

To access the available funds, veterans should contact the financial aid coordinator at WTC. For additional assistance, call Bob

Bendle, CCVC scholarship officer, at 352-400-8952.

FVN holds monthly meetings

Female Veterans Network (FVN) invites all female veterans to their monthly meeting at 1 p.m. the second Thursday monthly at the Citrus County Resource Center on 2804 W.

See NOTES/Page A18



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The Coastal Heritage Museum opened in 1986 under the direction of the Citrus County Historical Society, Inc. Owned by the City of Crystal River, the building is leased to the CCHS, Inc. On May 29, 1998, the old City Hall was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Museum was closed in 2000 for repairs and reopened in 2001 under the direction of the volunteers of the Crystal River Heritage Council.

The Museum features an array of exhibits, artifacts, furniture, and photographs of early history of the west side of Citrus County, Florida. Unique features include a 1927 diorama of downtown Citrus Avenue, a fish house facade, and one of the original jail cells.

The historic building was built in 1939 by the Work Project Administration (WPA) labor. The exterior is constructed of natural limestone quarried locally, and the interior ceilings are made from magnolia wood. It served as the first permanent home for the Crystal River City Government, and was used by the city until 1970. It has housed the City Manager Office, the Police Department, the jail, and the fire truck. Admission is free, and the museum is open Wednesday through Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



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Table with columns for channel, time, and program details for Sunday Evening December 5, 2021. Includes programs like 'Football Night in America', 'The Bachelor', 'The Bachelor: Winter Wednesdays', etc.

Annie gives advice

Dear Annie: My wife of 44 years passed away after a nine-day bout with cancer. We started dating at 16, went to college together, married at 20 and graduated at 21, when we started our life together for real.



DEAR ANNIE

Should I try to forget her now that she is gone and look for another type of person to spend my life with? Should I look for another woman like her? Should I pursue her first cousin with similar qualities who lost her husband last year? Are there women out there like her who are good-hearted and looking for a stable, educated man with whom to have a good time? How do I connect with them? I can't go back to the neighborhood front-yard football game again, be tackled by her, injure my shoulder and have her be the first girl to come to my house worried about me, which is how our love affair began. Help! —Lost at Potato Creek

Dear Lost: Your love affair sounds like something out of the movies. I am so sorry for your loss. Of course you are lost and confused, and that is understandable. You are not supposed to have all the answers to what the future will look like right now. Find other widowers who can understand what you are going through and help you work through your grief. The healthier you get with your own emotions, the healthier your next relationship will be. You will never replace your wife. You will now have a new normal, which will look different from your old normal, and that is perfectly natural. Instead of trying to find a replacement for your wife, try to remember all of your beautiful memories, which will live inside you for a lifetime.

Today's MOVIES Citrus Cinemas 6 Inverness; 844-462-7342 Code 187 Please call the number above for movies and show times.

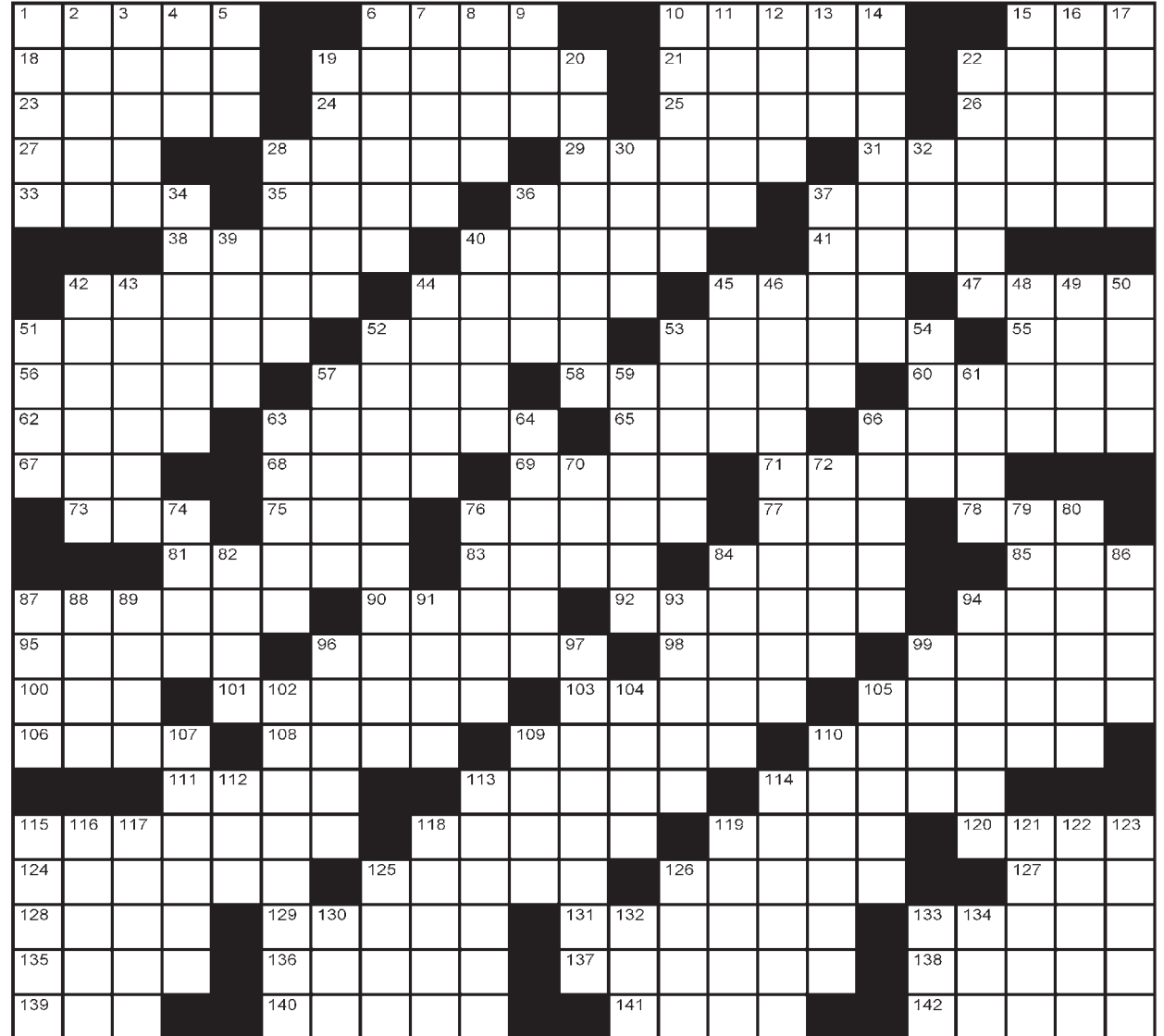
Sunday PUZZLER

- ACROSS 1 Slight error 6 Pip 10 Valuable thing 15 Dog breed, for short 18 A star sign 19 Ad-lib comedy 21 The ones there 22 — cotton 23 Doctrine 24 Breakfast cereal 25 City in Florida 26 Love god 27 WWII arena 28 Trainee at Annapolis 29 Slow the car 31 Team spirit 33 Soaks, as flax 35 — Benedict 36 Support 37 Collected 38 "— Grows in Brooklyn"

- 43 Surface 44 — de chine 45 Achy 46 Town in Alabama 48 Retained 49 Israel's airline 50 Flute 51 Went on 52 No longer needed 53 — of Troy 54 Bridge 57 Cargo vessel 59 Adige River city 61 "Picnic" playwright 63 Of the bishop of Rome 64 Fastened 66 Car type 70 "— Yankee Doodle ..."

- 94 Extremely dirty 96 Way between buildings 97 Mastermind 99 Glove 102 Dickens' Scrooge 104 A single time 105 Horses 107 Alarm bell 109 — vera 110 Of northern regions 112 Acquire 113 Curved at the top 114 Page design 115 Stratum 116 Love 117 Philbin of TV 118 Travel by bike 119 Commence 121 Sidestep 122 LA player 123 Factory 125 Narrow opening 126 Go underground 130 Crete's Mount — 132 Pester 133 Be in the red 134 Boston Red —

Sunday Puzzler answers are on Page A19.



- DOWN 1 Delayer's motto 2 Mountain ridge 3 — grigio 4 Understand 5 Superlative suffix 6 Smear 7 Swords for fencers 8 Formerly, of old Greenback (Abbr.) 10 Assail 11 Creamy drink "— Like It Hot" 12 Fellow player 15 Beans 16 Soap plant 17 Revealed 19 Pictures 20 Cat's stiff hair 22 Interstellar distance 28 Roman goddess 30 Coarse file 32 Hard wood 34 Town in Kansas 36 Bric-a- 37 Lower in rank 39 Hardy girl 40 Cream-filled pancakes 42 Recollection

NOTES

Continued from Page A16

Marc Knighton Court in Lecanto. The meeting is held in the cafeteria.

Masks and social distancing are strongly encouraged.

The mission of the (FVN) is to unite female veterans, develop camaraderie and discuss issues that are important and unique to female veterans. For information or to support FVN, contact Cynthia at 352-628-6481, Jo Monty at 352-527-6575 or visit femaleveteransnetwork.org.

Post invites public eat

The public is invited to American Legion Post 155 for breakfast from 8:30 to 11 a.m.

every Sunday at 6585 W. Gulf-to-Lake Highway in Crystal River.

Buy a pin, support the FVN

The Female Veterans Network is selling pins for \$5 at Mac 1 Signs Inc., 7068 W. Grover Cleveland Blvd. in Homosassa. For information, call 352-628-3246.

Post does Vittles for Vets

VFW Post 10087 Harry F. Nesbitt will be hosting Vittles for Vets at 4:15 p.m. every Tuesday at the post, 2170 W. Vet Lane in Beverly Hills.

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

CCVC food pantry open

The Citrus County Veterans Coalition continues to serve the needs of veterans and their

families at its food pantry, on every Tuesday, and on the first and third Thursdays of every month, from 9 a.m. until noon. Our pantry is at 1039 N. Paul St. just off Independence and U.S. 41 N., Inverness. For more information, call 352-400-8952.

We'd like to thank Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church, and our loyal vendors, and the public, for their support over the past years for the now-discontinued yard sales. We are no longer accepting donated clothes, or article for sale, for the yard sale. Cash donations or non-perishable food goods will still be accepted, during the pantry open hours. Corporate sponsorship would be greatly appreciated. Call 352-400-8952 for more information.

VA needs volunteer drivers

Do you have a few hours during the week to

drive a Citrus County veteran to much-needed services?

Volunteer drivers are desperately needed to drive veterans to appointments at the Gainesville Veterans' Administration Medical Center (VAMC) and to the Villages Out Patient Clinic (OPC).

Drivers volunteer on an on-call basis, one to three times a week. Volunteers will receive a free physical examination at the Gainesville VAMC, lunch the day they drive and participate in the awards program for miles driven.

There is an application process for potential volunteers and a Veterans' Administration (VA) identification badge will be provided.

Fingerprinting and proof of driver's license and vehicle insurance will need to be provided to participate. For information on this volunteer opportunity, call 352-746-8005.

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55th ANNIVERSARY



The Armitages

Jim and Kristin Armitage were married Dec. 3, 1966 at St. Jude's Cathedral in St. Petersburg, Florida. They met on a blind date on Sept. 18, 1965, while Jim was home on a 30-day leave after returning from overseas. After Jim retired from the U.S. Army in



1983, they returned home to Tampa, Florida. Jim worked another 20 years at the James A. Haley Veteran's Hospital in Tampa and Kristin worked 23 years for Dr. Jack W. Morrison's dental practice in Tampa. They have been blessed with two children and two grandchildren. The couple moved to Homosassa in 2016.

100th BIRTHDAY

Louise Nord was recently honored on the occasion of her 100th birthday at an event hosted by her daughter, Nicki Nord Puccio, at Skyview Country Club. It was attended Louise's twin sons, John and Jim Nord and their wives, Angie and Melody. Other family and friends were also in attendance to celebrate. Louise spent most of her life in Grand Forks, North Dakota, but her ties to Florida run deep. Her grandparents could be considered early "snowbirds," traveling to Florida by train every winter and building a home in 1910 on the St. Lucie River in Stuart, Florida. Louise graduated from high school in Stuart in 1938. Later, she and her husband Oscar returned to Florida to live with their children in Boca Raton and Naples. After a 63-year marriage ending with the death of Oscar in 2008, Louise counts six grandchildren and 13 great-children among her lasting treasures. Louise currently lives in Citrus Hills with Nicki. Seated in the center is Louise Nord. Standing from left are: John Nord, Angie Nord, Nicki Nord Puccio, Melody Nord and Jim Nord.



ADOPTABLE PETS

- The Citrus County Animal Shelter and other nonprofit groups showcase adoptable cats and dogs each week in the Wednesday Live & Learn community and education news section of the Chronicle.
- Most all these groups welcome donations — of food, supplies, or money — and volunteers. Looks for the contact information with each animal to find out specific needs.

MISSION

Continued from Page A15

a former fire station on Withlapopka Drive. The quarters are not fancy. There's a make-shift bar and one pool table. It's not the kind of place for "barflies or heavy smokers," according to Daniels. "We're more civic-minded," he said. But it is the kind of place for veterans who want to serve their community. Daniels said he got involved in the Legion because he knew the organization had been the first in Florida to open a hospital for disabled children. The facility was in St. Petersburg.

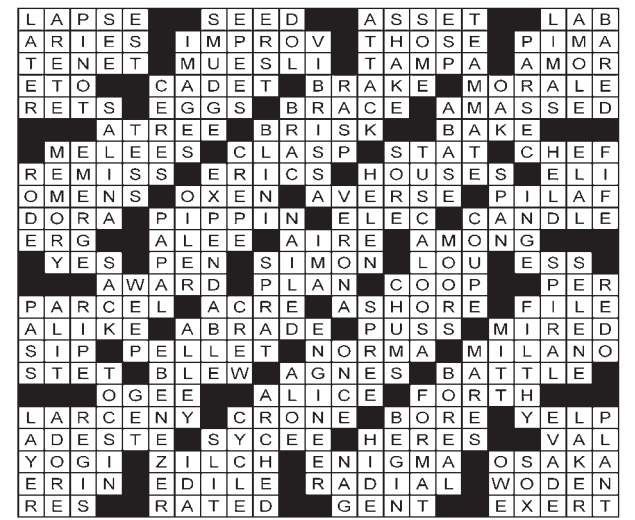
He said he decided, "This is the kind of organization I want to belong to, one that saves kids." Galylean said he

enjoys being around people, and "When you're a vet and you meet another one, you become friends." Whitty said he saw Legion members working at Heritage Days and wanted to get involved. The threesome said they welcome area

groups who need a color guard or some other service to contact the post. And they said they always are looking for veterans who want to help out their community. The post is at 6535 Withlapopka Drive, Floral City. Call 352-860-2615.

Sunday PUZZLER ANSWERS

Sunday Puzzler is on Page A17



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Post 155

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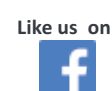


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THE NUMBER:

17

Straight completions to start the Big 12 title game for Baylor's Blake Shapen, who also had 3 TD passes in the opening half.



Blake Shapen

SPORTS

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

Section B - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2021



■ No. 3 Cincinnati claims AAC crown, possible CFP spot./B2

- College football/B2
- Scoreboard/B3
- Sports briefs/B3
- Lottery, TV/B3
- NFL/B4
- Golf/B5
- Men's college basketball/B6

Stamkos' OT score lifts Lightning

Bolts push past Bruins 3-2

Associated Press

BOSTON — Steven Stamkos scored at 1:31 of overtime, and the Tampa Bay Lightning bounced back after blowing a two-goal lead on Saturday night, beating the Boston Bruins 3-2.

Taylor Raddysch had his first career goal, a short-handed score in the first period, and Ondrej Palat also scored for the defending Stanley Cup champions. Andrei Vasilevskiy stopped 37 shots, and Stamkos recorded a point for the sixth straight game.

Charlie Coyle and Curtis Lazar scored after the Bruins fell behind 2-0 early in the second period. Jeremy Swayman made 22 saves for the Bruins, who outshot the Lightning 39-25.

Coming off a shutout against

Nashville — his third in 22 career NHL games — Swayman let Tampa Bay take an early lead when he got caught spread-eagled on Raddysch's short-handed rush late in the first period.

The Lightning took a 2-0 lead early in the second, capitalizing after a Boston possession in which they hit iron twice — once on a David Pastrnak shot off the crossbar and again when Brandon Carlo got a shot past the goalie but it rolled off the post and away. On the next faceoff, Palat shot it off Tomas Nosek's skate and past Swayman.

The Bruins finally broke through against Vasilevskiy late in the second, when Erik Haula slid it between his legs backwards to Coyle in front of the net. In the third, Lazar picked up the puck at the left circle, skated it to the net and then backhanded it off the top shelf on the goalie's glove side.

Top Bruins defenseman

See NHL/Page B3



Tampa Bay Lightning forward Taylor Raddysch (16) scores on Boston Bruins goaltender Jeremy Swayman (1) as Mike Reilly (6) defends during the first period of Saturday's game, in Boston.

Associated Press

Tide rolls to title



Alabama linebacker Will Anderson Jr. (31) and Alabama defensive lineman Phidarian Mathis (48) hold the championship trophy after the Southeastern Conference championship game between Georgia and Alabama, Saturday in Atlanta. Alabama won 41-24.

Associated Press

Playoff bound: Alabama routs No. 1 Georgia 41-24 for SEC crown

PAUL NEWBERRY
AP sports writer

ATLANTA — Bryce Young stunningly carved up the nation's top-rated defense, giving Nick Saban and Alabama a shot at another national championship.

Young threw for three touchdowns and ran for another as the fourth-ranked Crimson Tide rolled over No. 1 Georgia 41-24 in the Southeastern Conference championship game Saturday, a result that likely sends both powerhouse programs to the four-team College Football Playoff.

Young set SEC championship records with 421 yards passing and 461 yards total offense.

"He played great tonight. He's played great for us all year long," Saban said. "It's great to have him leading us."

Georgia (12-1, No. 1 CFP) cruised through the regular season, barely challenged and a unanimous choice as the nation's No. 1 team for the past two months. The Bulldogs boasted a fearsome defensive unit that had allowed only 6.9 points a game.

Young made Georgia's vaunted

defense look like a scout team, earning game MVP honors, bolstering his Heisman Trophy chances and moving on to an even bigger game on the final day of 2021.

"He's soooo good at avoiding the rush," Georgia coach Kirby Smart said. "He buys time with his mobility and makes plays downfield. Give him credit. He did a tremendous job."

The playoff field will be announced Sunday, with the semifinals set for the Orange and Cotton bowls on Dec. 31.

Alabama (12-1, No. 3 CFP) had six offensive scoring drives — five covering at least 75 yards, the other 62 — and finished with a staggering 536 yards against a team that was giving up just under 231 per game.

The Tide's defense wasn't too shabby, either, essentially sealing the victory with Jordan Battle's 42-yard interception return to the end zone with about 12 minutes remaining.

Georgia's Stetson Bennett threw for 340 yards and three touchdowns, but he also had two crucial picks. Freshman Brock Bowers made 10 catches for 139 yards.

This one will be remembered for Alabama's dismantling of the Georgia defense, which had not allowed more than 17 points in a game during the perfect regular season.

"We didn't play our best game," linebacker Nakobe Dean said. "We've got a lot to work on."

After falling into a 10-0 hole on the first play of the second quarter, Alabama outscored the Bulldogs 41-14 the rest of the way. Not even an apparent knee injury that knocked top receiver John Metchie out of the game just before halftime could sidetrack the Tide.

Jameson Williams more than picked up the slack for his injured teammate, finishing with 184 yards on seven receptions and two touchdowns. Metchie had six catches for 97 yards and a TD before his injury.

Coming off a surprisingly difficult win over Auburn and already saddled with a loss, the Tide knew they needed a victory to ensure a trip to the playoff for the seventh time in its eight-year history.

See SEC/Page B3

Falcons want to put heat on Bucs

Brady's bunch takes on NFC South rivals

PAUL NEWBERRY
AP sports writer

ATLANTA — Tom Brady and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers are cruising in the NFC South.

The Atlanta Falcons would like to put a little pressure on the defending Super Bowl champions.

After losing at Tampa Bay in Week 2, the Falcons get another crack at their division rival on Sunday.

Tampa Bay (8-3) has a commanding three-game lead over Atlanta (5-6) in the NFC South, with New Orleans and Carolina (both 5-7) another half-game behind.

But Falcons coach Arthur Smith said his team has shown significant improvement since that 48-25 loss to the Buccaneers back in September.

"We're finding ways to win games," he said. "We're 5-2 in one-possession games. That was a big thing here. You're trying to build a winning culture. Again, the ultimate goal is to build a sustainable football team that wins football games. So that's what we're trying to accomplish short term and long term."

The Buccaneers, of course, have more immediate goals. With the division title seemingly a foregone conclusion, Tampa Bay needs to keep winning to lock up a first-round bye and home-field advantage throughout the playoffs.

The Bucs are battling with Arizona (9-2) and Green Bay (9-3) for the top spot in the NFC.

"There's still a long way to go," Tampa Bay coach Bruce Arians said. "The Saints are a hell of a football team. That defense — I'll never cross them out. Carolina has played good and bad, and Atlanta is a game out of the playoffs. Three-game lead right now, (but) we've got a long way to go."

With two straight victories, the Bucs have shaken off a two-game losing streak that seemed even longer because it was sandwiched around a bye week.

Last week, Tampa Bay rallied

See BUCS/Page B3

No. 3 Cincinnati makes its case

Wins AAC title, playoffs up next?

JEFF WALLNER
Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Jerome Ford rushed for 187 yards and two touchdowns, Desmond Ridder threw three touchdown passes and No. 3 Cincinnati broke open a close game in the third quarter and rolled past No. 16 Houston 35-20 in the American Athletic Conference championship game Saturday.

The Bearcats who are ranked No. 4 in the latest College Football Playoff rankings, are in position to become the first non-Power 5 team to qualify. The final rankings will be announced Sunday.

Head coach Luke Fickell believes the Bearcats have done enough.

"The resounding statement is what we did on that football field," Fickell said. "Nobody is going to call and ask us what we think. I don't think these guys can be denied that opportunity. It would be a shame."

Cincinnati (13-0) which extended the nation's second-longest home winning streak to 27, scored three touchdowns in fewer than eight minutes to finish off its second straight AAC crown. The fans rushed the field amid a shower of confetti.

"I don't really remember last year (after beating UCF in the AAC title game), but this year I wanted to get out there and celebrate with the fans," Ridder said. "It's a blessing to have never lost a game I've played at Nippert. We have such a great atmosphere here."

Cougars junior QB Clayton Tune passed for 250 yards with two touchdowns and an interception as Houston (11-2) lost for the first time since dropping its season-opener to Texas Tech on Sept. 4.

It was a wild first quarter on Saturday with the teams combining for 24 points and 316 yards.

After the Cougars settled for a field goal on their opening possession, the Bearcats responded by going 82 yards in five plays



Cincinnati's Ryan Royer, center, celebrates with fans after winning the American Athletic Conference championship game against Houston on Saturday, in Cincinnati.

capped by Ridder's 25-yard TD pass to Tyler Scott.

Nathaniel Dell's diving 16-yard TD catch put the Cougars back in front, 10-7. But on the first play of Cincinnati's next possession, Ford broke free for a 79-yard TD run to give the Bearcats a four-point lead.

"We went toe to toe with them for as long as we could," Houston head coach Dana Holgorsen said. "They are first-class and deserving of top four. I don't know how you keep Cincinnati out."

Cincinnati led 14-13 at halftime despite Houston having possession for more than 22 minutes.

"Going into the half, it was a battle," Fickell said.

But momentum shifted to the Bearcats early in the third quarter.

After a pass interference penalty on Marcus Jones negated a fourth-down stop by the Cougars, Ridder tossed an 8-yard TD pass to Leonard Taylor.

"During halftime we wanted to keep our foot on the gas," Jones said. "We wanted to limit big plays."

But those big plays kept coming for Cincinnati.

On Houston's next play, Bearcats linebacker Joel Dublanko intercepted Tune and Ridder hit Alec Pierce for a 21-yard TD. Just like that, it was 28-13 Bearcats.

"They were attacking the middle of the field. I just read the QB's eyes and made a play," Dublanko said.

Ford had another long touchdown run of 42 yards, and within fewer than eight minutes, Cincinnati turned a one-point lead into a 22-point advantage.

As for reaching the playoff, the Bearcats say they are ready if an invite comes.

"Put the ball down and let us play," Dublanko said.

TURNING POINT

The pass interference call on Jones shifted the momentum in the third quarter and the Cougars never recovered. Holgorsen said he didn't think it was the correct call, but he also wasn't going to pin the loss at that one moment. "I played his hands," Jones said. "It looked like he didn't want to throw the flag, then he threw it. I can't get mad at him for doing his job."

THE TAKEAWAY

Houston: Momentum was on Houston's side at halftime when they trailed 14-13. But two crucial plays in the third quarter led to 21 straight points for the Bearcats. The first one was the pass interference penalty on Jones. The second was an interception thrown by Tune on the first play after the Bearcats scored. "We didn't play well enough to beat a good team like that," Holgorsen said.

Cincinnati: Despite being 12-0, the Bearcats have mostly relied on help from other teams to earn a spot in the College Football Playoff. They got more assistance earlier on Saturday when Baylor held on to beat Oklahoma State in the BIG 12 championship game. The Bearcats also needed a quality win to put alongside winning at Notre Dame and beating Houston helps with that. "We never wanted to carry the torch for the non-Blue Bloods, or anyone else," Fickell said. "We just want to be us."

UP NEXT

Houston: A bowl game yet to be determined.

Cincinnati: A possible berth in the College Football Playoff.

Baylor holds on for Big 12 championship

Oklahoma St knocked out of CFP picture

STEPHEN HAWKINS
AP sports writer

ARLINGTON, Texas — Dezmon Jackson came up inches short on a desperate, fourth-down dive in the final seconds for Oklahoma State, knocking the fifth-ranked Cowboys out of contention for a spot in the four-team playoff.

"Just heartbreak," Cowboys guard Josh Sills said.

Baylor safety Jairon McVea knocked Jackson out of bounds without letting him reach the pylon with 24 seconds remaining in the Big 12 championship game Saturday, preserving a 21-16 victory for ninth-ranked Baylor.

The Bears' win came a year after they went 2-7 in coach Dave Aranda's debut last season.

"This moment is something that can never take away," Bears linebacker Terrel Bernard said.

Aranda recalled Oklahoma State coach Mike Gundy telling him "that winning is hard" before an earlier meeting between the teams. The title game was a sure example of that.

Blake Shapen, starting again for injured Gerry Bohanon (right hamstring) threw three TDs while completing his first 17 passes as Baylor (11-2, College Football Playoff No. 9) took a 21-3 lead in the first half.

But the Cowboys (11-2, CFP No. 5) rallied back, then went 89 yards on 17 plays on that final drive before their Big 12 and national championship hopes wound up just shy.

After having first-and-goal from 2 following a pass interference penalty, Jackson gained a yard and

was held for no gain before an incomplete pass by Spencer Sanders.

On fourth down from the 1, Jackson tried to sweep wide left, but with McVea in pursuit, he barely missed while trying to reach the pylon in the front corner of the end zone.

"When I saw the running back with the ball, I thought I've got to run this guy down," McVea said, who wasn't even sure where the ball was when the tackle was made. "The ref signaled not a touchdown, so when I saw that I was pretty happy."

"They made a good play. It's not 27's fault," Gundy said, referring to Jackson.

Sanders threw four interceptions, one by McVea, and the Cowboys were without leading rusher Jaylen Warren because of his lingering ankle and shoulder issues.

There would need to be some chaos, in form of an upset or two in other conference title games later in the day, for third-time Big 12 champion Baylor to have a chance to be in the final four for the first time when the CFP rankings come out Sunday.

Aranda passed on politicking for the playoff. Baylor's 11 wins match a school record and came after the 2-7 record last year, when the pandemic wiped out spring drills when he was coming off a national championship as LSU defensive coordinator.

"I'm sure it will work out the way it's supposed to," he said.

Baylor won with 242 total yards of offense, only 36 after halftime. Shapen finished 23 of 28 for 180 yards passing overall.

Oklahoma State had a 3-0 lead on Tanner Brown's 23-yard field goal set up after all-purpose Baylor back Trestan Ebner fumbled on the opening drive of the game. Sanders threw passes on the next



Oklahoma State running back Dezmon Jackson (27) is tackled by Baylor linebacker Dillon Doyle (5) at the goal line in the second half of the Big 12 Conference championship game on Saturday, in Arlington, Texas.

two drives, setting up Baylor with short fields for three-play TD drives — a 2-yard TD pass to wide-open tight end Ben Sims and Drew Estrada's 4-yard scoring catch.

Baylor's 21-3 lead, and the Cowboys' largest deficit this season, came after an incredible 13-yard diving catch by Tyquan Thornton with a defender on his back with 5 1/2 minutes left in the first half.

The Cowboys got within 21-16 on Brown's 20-yard field goal with 8:17 left. That was set up after Ebner muffed a punt recovered by Korie Black, who had ended the first half by deflecting a field goal attempt that came up woefully short.

McVea had his interception early in the second half, but Baylor failed to get a first down. Instead of punting from their own 36, the Bears went for it on fourth down and Shapen had to just throw the ball away without an open receiver. Eight plays later,

Dominic Richardson scored on a 4-yard run for the Cowboys.

"I told the team in the locker room how proud I was that they've done everything we've asked them to do since January," Gundy said. "Came up just a few inches short, but I also made them aware of that doesn't have anything to do with what they've accomplished this year."

MUCH DIFFERENT

The Bears' season last year ended with a 42-3 home loss to Oklahoma State.

Asked if he could contrast the way last season ended with how his second year played out, Aranda simply said: "No."

THE TAKEAWAY

Baylor: The Bears won the 2013 Big 12 title outright and shared in 2014 with TCU, both of those coming during a six-season stretch when there wasn't a championship

game for the conference. Baylor lost to Oklahoma in the title game two years ago.

Oklahoma State: Sanders had seven interceptions in the two games this season against Baylor, though the Cowboys won the first meeting 24-14 on Oct. 2. The first pick Saturday was right to the defender, and the second one was picked off by leaping linebacker Matt Jones when Sanders, under pressure, tried to throw off his back foot toward the sideline. The other two interceptions were tipped passes. ... Oklahoma State, also without standout center Danny Godlevske had only 70 yards rushing on 40 carries (1.8 yards per carry).

UP NEXT

Baylor: A New Year's Six bowl game, going to the Sugar Bowl if not in the playoff.

Oklahoma St.: Waiting to find out which bowl game awaits.

No. 20 La-Lafayette tops App St in Sun Belt

LAFAYETTE, La. — Levi Lewis scored on a career-high 56-yard run and passed for another touchdown, and No. 20 Louisiana-Lafayette capped off soon-to-be Florida coach Billy Napier's time with the Ragin' Cajuns by defeating Appalachian State 24-16 on Saturday in the Sun Belt Conference championship game.

Emani Baily rushed for 117 yards, highlighted by his 35-yard touchdown run on a third-and-9 play to give the Cajuns a two-touchdown lead early in the fourth quarter.

Lewis passed for 210 yards without a turnover and finished with 43 net yards rushing as Louisiana-Lafayette (12-1, 9-0 Sun Belt) lengthened its school-record winning streak to 12 games.

Cameron Peoples ran for a 43-yard touchdown in the first half for Appalachian State (10-3, 7-2), but the Mountaineers' offense struggled to match its usual production while trying to play catch-up from its first possession.

Utah St routs No. 19 San Diego St in Mountain West

CARSON, Calif. — Less than a year after coach Blake Anderson and several players uprooted their lives and moved across the country to team up at Utah State, they triumphantly raised their new school's first Mountain West Conference trophy.

Whether they're from Arkansas, Texas, northern Utah or points between, these Aggies are all champions.

Brandon Bowling caught two touchdown passes from Logan Bonner during the decisive third quarter, and Utah State won the league title with a 46-13 rout of No. 19 San Diego State on Saturday.

Bonner passed for 318 yards and four TDs, while fellow Arkansas State transfer Bowling had eight catches for a career-high 154 yards. The Aggies (10-3) punctuated their inspiring turnaround under their first-year head coach by blowing out the short-handed Aztecs (11-2) for their first win over an AP Top 25 opponent since 2015.

'Coach Prime' guides Jackson St to SWAC title

JACKSON, Miss. — Deion Sanders checked the primary objective off his coaching-to-do list with a Southwestern Athletic Conference championship, leading Jackson State to a 27-10 victory over Prairie View A&M on Saturday.

And Sanders' Tigers captured the title with a performance befitting his Hall of Fame versatility as a cornerback, receiver and returner: scoring touchdowns on offense, defense and special teams.

The victory capped off an impressive season for "Coach Prime," who earned SWAC coach of the year honors, shared the national spotlight with Alabama's Nick Saban and saw his son, Jackson State quarterback Shedeur Sanders named SWAC freshman of the year.

Not bad considering Sanders is just under 15 months into his first head coaching job. This is his first full season after a 4-3 spring campaign shortened by COVID-19 and despite missing three games following toe surgery. He navigated the sidelines with his left leg propped on a scooter that he sometimes sat on.

"This is unbelievable," Sanders said. "We didn't play best, but all our kids gave it our best. It's one thing to win, but to win without me? Lord, I thank you."

— From wire reports

FOOTBALL

NFL standings

AMERICAN CONFERENCE						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	8	4	0	.667	336	190
Buffalo	7	4	0	.636	326	182
Miami	5	7	0	.417	234	279
N.Y. Jets	3	8	0	.273	199	334
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tennessee	8	4	0	.667	304	290
Indianapolis	6	6	0	.500	340	283
Houston	2	9	0	.182	164	292
Jacksonville	2	9	0	.182	173	283

North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	8	3	0	.727	263	240
Cincinnati	7	4	0	.636	309	226
Pittsburgh	5	5	1	.500	224	267
Cleveland	6	6	0	.500	254	267

West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	7	4	0	.636	281	250
Denver	6	5	0	.545	228	196
L.A. Chargers	6	5	0	.545	273	293
Las Vegas	6	5	0	.545	259	295

NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	8	4	0	.667	353	267
Washington	5	6	0	.455	229	282
Philadelphia	5	7	0	.417	304	273
N.Y. Giants	4	7	0	.364	202	253
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tampa Bay	8	3	0	.727	347	253
Atlanta	5	6	0	.455	199	302
Carolina	5	7	0	.417	236	253
New Orleans	5	7	0	.417	274	276

North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Green Bay	9	3	0	.750	283	242
Minnesota	5	6	0	.455	281	276
Chicago	4	7	0	.364	179	254
Detroit	0	10	1	.045	174	289

West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Arizona	9	2	0	.818	310	202
L.A. Rams	7	4	0	.636	299	263
San Francisco	6	5	0	.545	280	248
Seattle	3	8	0	.273	209	226

Thursday's Game
Dallas 27, New Orleans 17

Today's Games
Arizona at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Indianapolis at Houston, 1 p.m.
L.A. Chargers at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Minnesota at Detroit, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Miami, 1 p.m.
Philadelphia at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at L.A. Rams, 4:05 p.m.
Washington at Las Vegas, 4:05 p.m.
Baltimore at Pittsburgh, 4:25 p.m.
San Francisco at Seattle, 4:25 p.m.
Denver at Kansas City, 8:20 p.m.
Open: Cleveland, Tennessee, Carolina, Green Bay

Monday's Game
New England at Buffalo, 8:15 p.m.

College scores

SOUTH
Alabama 41, Georgia 24
ETSU 32, Kennesaw St. 31
Jackson St. 27, Prairie View 10
James Madison 59, SE Louisiana 20
Louisiana-Lafayette 24, Appalachian St. 16

MIDWEST
Cincinnati 35, Houston 20
N. Dakota St. 38, S. Illinois 7
N. Illinois 41, Kent St. 23

SOUTHWEST
Baylor 21, Oklahoma St. 16
Sam Houston St. 49, Incarnate Word 42

FAR WEST
Montana St. 26, UT Martin 7
Utah St. 46, San Diego St. 13

HOCKEY

NHL standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE						
Atlantic Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF GA
Florida	24	17	4	3	37	93 67
Toronto	25	17	6	2	36	77 56
Tampa Bay	23	14	5	4	32	74 64
Detroit	25	13	9	3	29	71 78
Boston	21	12	8	1	25	61 56
Buffalo	24	8	13	3	19	70 90
Ottawa	22	6	15	1	13	57 86
Montreal	26	6	17	3	15	59 93

Metropolitan Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF GA
Washington	25	15	4	6	36	88 62
N.Y. Rangers	22	15	4	3	33	67 56
Carolina	23	16	6	1	33	75 52
Pittsburgh	23	10	8	5	25	65 66
Columbus	22	12	10	0	24	70 71
New Jersey	22	9	9	4	22	65 76
Philadelphia	21	8	9	4	20	50 65
N.Y. Islanders	19	5	10	4	14	36 58

WESTERN CONFERENCE						
Central Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF GA
Minnesota	24	17	6	1	35	92 71
St. Louis	24	12	8	4	28	80 70
Colorado	21	12	7	2	26	85 71
Nashville	24	13	10	1	27	68 68
Dallas	21	12	7	2	26	60 58
Winnipeg	23	11	8	4	26	68 65
Chicago	22	8	12	2	18	50 72
Arizona	24	5	17	2	12	43 89

Pacific Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF GA
Calgary	24	15	4	5	35	79 48
Edmonton	22	16	6	0	32	85 65
Anaheim	25	13	8	4	30	84 74
San Jose	24	13	10	1	27	62 62
Vegas	23	13	10	0	26	78 71
Los Angeles	22	9	9	4	22	59 62
Seattle	24	9	13	2	20	72 84
Vancouver	24	8	14	2	18	59 76

Saturday's Games
Florida 4, St. Louis 3, SO
Washington 3, Columbus 1
Detroit 4, N.Y. Islanders 3, OT
Tampa Bay 3, Boston 2, OT
Nashville 4, Montreal 3, OT
Minnesota 4, Toronto 3, SO
Ottawa 6, Colorado 5, OT
Carolina 6, Buffalo 2
Chicago at N.Y. Rangers, late
Pittsburgh at Vancouver, late

Today's Games
San Jose at Columbus, 6 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Philadelphia, 6 p.m.
Chicago at N.Y. Islanders, 7:30 p.m.
Los Angeles at Edmonton, 8 p.m.
Toronto at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.
Calgary at Vegas, 10 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

FOOTBALL

National Football League
ARIZONA CARDINALS — Signed LS Beau Brinkley and RB Tavien Feaster to the active roster from the practice squad. Placed S James Wiggins on injured reserve. Promoted LB Joe Walker and CB Jace Whittaker to the active roster from the practice squad. Promoted LB Tahir Whitehead to the active roster as a COVID-19 replacement.
CAROLINA PANTHERS — Placed LB Frankie Luvu on the reserve/COVID-19 list.
CINCINNATI BENGALS — Signed HB Trayvon Williams to the active roster from the practice squad. Placed WR Auden Tate on injured reserve. Promoted G Keaton Sutherland and WR Pooka Williams to the active roster from the practice squad.
DENVER BRONCOS — Signed RB Damarea Crockett. Waived WR Tyrice Cleveland.
DETROIT LIONS — Placed OLB Trey Flowers on injured reserve. Signed OLB Rashod Berry to the active roster from the practice squad.
GREEN BAY PACKERS — Activated LB Jonathan Garvin from the reserve/COVID-19 list.
HOUSTON TEXANS — Signed WR Phillip Dorsett. Signed and promoted S Jonathan Owens to the active roster from the practice squad. Placed

Florida LOTTERY

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

PICK 2 (early) 5 - 5	PICK 5 (late) 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 2
PICK 2 (late) 2 - 6	FANTASY 5 Unavailable
PICK 3 (early) 4 - 5 - 5	LOTTO Unavailable
PICK 3 (late) 2 - 7 - 8	POWERBALL Unavailable
PICK 4 (early) 0 - 4 - 8 - 8	POWER BALL Unavailable
PICK 4 (late) 1 - 7 - 0 - 1	CASH 4 LIFE 8 - 11 - 25 - 45 - 48
PICK 5 (early) 4 - 9 - 1 - 1 - 6	CASH BALL 2

Friday's winning numbers and payouts:

Jackpot Triple Play: 2 - 5 - 6 - 27 - 37 - 44	4-of-5 MB No winner
6-of-6 1 winner \$750,000	4-of-5 13 winners \$500
5-of-6 19 winners \$529	3-of-5 MB 36 \$200
4-of-6 1,050 \$23	3-of-5 950 \$10
3-of-6 18,099 \$1	2-of-5 MB 907 \$10
Combo 10+ 1 \$10,000	Fantasy 5: 5 - 11 - 24 - 30 - 33
Combo9 7 \$500	5-of-5 No winner
Combo8 65 \$50	4-of-5 252 \$555
Combo7 483 \$20	3-of-5 8,397 \$21.50
Combo6 2,541 \$10	Cash 4 Life: 13 - 26 - 39 - 44 - 47
Combo5 9,817 \$5	Cash Ball: 2
Mega Millions: 22 - 45 - 48 - 58 - 61	5-of-5 CB No winner
Mega Ball: 13	5-of-5 No winner

Players should verify winning numbers by calling 850-487-7777 or at www.flalottery.com.

On the AIRWAVES

TODAY'S SPORTS AUTO RACING

12:25 p.m. (ESPN2) Formula 1 Saudi Arabian Grand Prix

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

12 p.m. (ACCN) Belmont at Louisville
12 p.m. (FS1) Notre Dame at Connecticut
12 p.m. (SEC) Georgia Tech at Georgia
2 p.m. (ACCN) Tennessee at Virginia Tech
2 p.m. (FS1) Seton Hall at St. John's
2 p.m. (BIG10) Maryland at Rutgers
4 p.m. (BSFL) Mississippi State at Oklahoma (Taped)
4 p.m. (SEC) Texas at Texas A&M
4 p.m. (BIG10) Michigan State at Iowa

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

12 p.m. (BIG10) Northwestern at Maryland
2 p.m. (ESPNU) Minnesota at Mississippi State
2 p.m. (SEC) Georgetown at South Carolina
3 p.m. (ESPN2) North Carolina at Georgia Tech
4 p.m. (ESPNU) Arizona at Oregon State
5 p.m. (ESPN2) Xavier at Oklahoma State
6 p.m. (ESPNU) Kansas State at Wichita State
7 p.m. (FS1) Fordham at St. John's
7:30 p.m. (BIG10) Ohio State at Penn State

NBA G LEAGUE

3 p.m. (NBA) Lakeland Magic at Memphis Hustle
5 p.m. (NBA) Oklahoma City Blue at G League Ignite

EQUESTRIAN

4 p.m. (FS1) America's Day at the Races

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

12 p.m. (ESPN) College Football Playoff Selection Show

NFL

1 p.m. (10 CBS) Los Angeles Chargers at Cincinnati Bengals
1 p.m. (13 FOX) Tampa Bay Buccaneers at Atlanta Falcons
4:25 p.m. (10 CBS) Baltimore Ravens at Pittsburgh Steelers
8:20 p.m. (8 NBC) Denver Broncos at Kansas City Chiefs

GOLF

5 a.m. (GOLF) Sunshine Tour SA Open Championship, Final Round
11 a.m. (GOLF) PGA Tour Hero World Challenge, Final Round
1 p.m. (8 NBC) PGA Tour Hero World Challenge, Final Round

HOCKEY

9 a.m. (SUN) Tampa Bay Lightning at Boston Bruins (Taped)
12 p.m. (NHL) Chicago Blackhawks at New York Rangers (Taped)
2 p.m. (NHL) Tampa Bay Lightning at Boston Bruins (Taped)
4 p.m. (NHL) AHL Laval Rocket at Toronto Marlies
6 p.m. (SUN) Tampa Bay Lightning at Philadelphia Flyers

OUTDOORS

5 p.m. (8 NBC) Johnny Morris Bass Fishing Championships (Taped)

RUGBY

11 p.m. (NBCSPT) Premiership Rugby Leicester Tigers vs Harlequins (Same-day Tape)

SKATING

8:30 p.m. (NBCSPT) Speed Skating World Cup (Same-day Tape)

SOCCER

8:55 a.m. (NBCSPT) Premier League Manchester United vs Crystal Palace
11:25 a.m. (NBCSPT) Premier League Aston Villa vs Leicester City
3 p.m. (28 ABC) MLS New York City FC at Philadelphia Union
WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER
8 p.m. (ESPNU) NCAA Tournament, Final: Teams TBA

TENNIS

9 a.m. (TENNIS) ATP Sao Paulo-ATP Challenger, Singles Final

WINTER SPORTS

4 p.m. (8 NBC) FIS Alpine Skiing Xfinity Birds of Prey
5:30 p.m. (NBCSPT) IBU Biathlon World Cup: Women's 4x6km Relay (Same-day Tape)
6:30 p.m. (NBCSPT) Luge FIL World Cup (Same-day Tape)
10 p.m. (NBCSPT) Bobsledding IBSF World Cup: Men's Bobsleigh (Same-day Tape)
1:30 a.m. (NBCSPT) IBU Biathlon World Cup: Men's 4x7.5km Relay (Taped)

practice squad. Activate DE DeMarcus Walker on injured reserve. Waived CB Cre'von LeBlanc. **INDIANAPOLIS COLTS** — Waived DB Josh Jackson.
JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — Activated DT Jay Tulele from injured reserve.
LAS VEGAS RAIDERS — Signed FB Sutton Smith to the active roster. Signed WR Dillon Stoner to the practice squad. Promoted TE Matt Bushman to the active roster from the practice squad. Released WR Jeff Badet.
LOS ANGELES RAMS — Placed RB Buddy Howell on injured reserve.
MIAMI DOLPHINS — Waived C Cameron Tom. Activated C/G Michael Deiter and WR DeVante Parker from injured reserve. Promoted S Sheldrick Redwine to the active roster from the practice squad.
MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Activated DT Michael Pierce from injured reserve. Waived DE Eddie Yarbrough. Promoted FB Jake Pargas and S Myles Dorn to the active roster from the

practice squad. Activate DE Kenny Willekes to the active roster as a COVID-19 replacement.
NEW YORK GIANTS — Signed DB Steven Parker to the active roster from the practice squad. Promoted WR Pharoah Cooper and DB Jaren Williams to the active roster from the practice squad.
NEW YORK JETS — Signed K Alex Kessman. Released K Matt Ammendola. Promoted DE Ronnie Blair, TE Dan Brown and RB Austin Walter to the active roster from the practice squad.
PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Activated OLB T.J. Watt from the reserve/COVID-19 list.
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Signed LB Tyrrell Adams. Placed RB Trey Sermon on injured reserve.
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Promoted RB Adrian Peterson to the active roster.
TENNESSEE TITANS — Activated QB Logan Woodside from the reserve/COVID-19 list to the active roster.
WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM — Promoted RB Wendell Smallwood and C Jon Toth to the active roster from the practice squad.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Napier gets 7-year, \$51.8M contract at Florida

GAINEVILLE — A person familiar with negotiations says new Florida coach Billy Napier agreed to a seven-year, \$51.8 million contract that makes him the fifth-highest-paid coach in the Southeastern Conference.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Saturday night because neither Florida nor Napier has publicly released contract details.

Napier will make \$7.1 million in his first season and will get a \$100,000 raise annually before each of the remaining six years, the person said. Only Alabama's Nick Saban (\$9.75 million), Texas A&M's Jimbo Fisher (\$9 million), new LSU coach Brian Kelly (\$8.6 million) and Georgia's Kirby Smart (\$7.13 million) are due to make more in the SEC next season.

The Gators are expected to provide Napier's full memorandum of understanding when he's formally introduced Sunday afternoon in Gainesville.

Jokic scores 32 in just 27 minutes, Nuggets roll

NEW YORK — Nikola Jokic scored 32 points and had 11 rebounds in just 27 minutes, leading the Denver Nuggets over the New York Knicks 113-99 Saturday.

Ball, 3 other Hornets in health and safety protocols

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Four Charlotte

Hornets players, including last year's Rookie of the Year LaMelo Ball, have been placed in the NBA's health and safety protocols on Saturday, an indicator they have tested positive of the coronavirus.

Along with Ball, guard Terry Rozier, center Mason Plumlee and forward Jalen McDaniels will be sidelined for at least 10 days, or until they have recorded two negative tests in a 24-hour period according to league rules.

Barring more positive tests, the Hornets would meet the NBA's minimum required eight

Broncos hope to keep the AFC West jumbled

BARRY WILNER
AP pro football writer

The Broncos don't beat the Chiefs. Andy Reid almost never loses coming off a bye.

The NFL flexed Denver at Kansas City with those facts staring directly at the league Well, yes.

Sunday night's game, which replaces San Francisco at Seattle, is for the AFC West lead, which makes it significant enough. Plus, anytime the NFL and NBC can get Patrick Mahomes, Travis Kelce and the rest of the Chiefs in prime time is an opportunity they tend to seize.

"It's like somebody mentioned the other day: Sunday night is THE game," Broncos coach Vic Fangio said this week, "so players get amped for it. I don't think we'll have an issue being emotionally ready."

"Besides," Fangio added, "we're playing the Chiefs, who have been the best team in football the last three years."

So the Chiefs (7-4), who have won four straight games and have a one-game lead over Denver, Las Vegas and the Los Angeles Chargers in the division, get to showcase not only their offensive prowess but their recent significant improvement on defense. That often-maligned unit has allowed 18 points or fewer in each of those four victories.

"I think guys have done a great job of stepping up in their roles," Mahomes said. "You have the mindset of, 'We're going to go out there and be who we are.'"

Who the Chiefs are against the Broncos is unbeatable in the past 11 meetings. Reid is 19-3 in games immediately after a bye, 6-2 for the Chiefs and 11-1 in such home games. Indeed, Kansas City is 37-13 against the AFC West since Reid became head coach.

Off this week are Green Bay (9-3), Carolina (5-7), Tennessee (8-4) and Cleveland (6-6).

New England (8-4) at Buffalo (7-4), Monday night

AFC East supremacy is up for grabs, something the Patriots owned for more than a decade until Tom Brady left last year.

"People who love football want a chance to play in games like this," said Patriots rookie quarterback Mac Jones.

Jones gets a huge break with Buffalo star cornerback Tre'Davious White gone for the season. Second-year DB Dane Jackson will make his third career start.

Buffalo QB Josh Allen must be aware of Patriots cornerback J.C. Jackson, who ranks second in the NFL with seven interceptions, four in his past four games. Allen has thrown seven interceptions in his past four outings and his 10 interceptions this season already match his total from last year.



Denver Broncos cornerback Pat Surtain II (2) celebrates his interception with teammates during the second half of a game last Sunday against the Los Angeles Chargers, in Denver.

Baltimore (8-3) at Pittsburgh (5-5-1)

For years, this has been among if not the best of NFL rivalries: fierce, hard-hitting football usually featuring powerful defenses and opportunistic offenses.

Yet the Ravens, who somehow rank dead last in passing D but are in first place in the AFC North, and the staggering Steelers don't seem to have the same cachet this time.

We'll be watching anyway, particularly with Baltimore atop the conference standings despite its struggles — including Lamar Jackson throwing a career-worst four interceptions in a less-than-stellar victory against Cleveland.

Meanwhile, the Steelers have allowed 180.5 yards per game on the ground over the past four weeks. Baltimore ranks second in rushing.

"For sure, it's a rival game," Jackson says. "We know it's going to be an intense game, like it always is, and a very physical game, like it always is. I'm ready."

Los Angeles Chargers (6-5) at Cincinnati (7-4)

Whichever team wins this one will vastly upgrade its playoff chances. Indeed, they both are one game behind in their divisions.

Like so many clubs recently, the Bengals have rediscovered the run game. Joe Mixon, healthy for once, has been on a tear, while the Chargers' leaky run defense is allowing an NFL-worst 145 yards per game.

If this comes down to the fourth quarter, either side could take control. The Bengals are third (102 points) in scoring during that period, and the Chargers are tied for fourth (100). L.A. has allowed 24 or more points in seven straight

games, the longest current streak in the league.

Arizona (9-2) at Chicago (4-7)

The Cardinals figure to get back key offensive playmakers in quarterback Kyler Murray and wideout DeAndre Hopkins as they try to go 7-0 on the road. They've won the previous six road games by 10 points or more, something only the 1968 Cowboys and 1936 Bears accomplished. Arizona comes off a bye bringing an opportunistic defense, forcing a league-best 15 fumbles. The Cardinals have recovered 11, second in the league.

Justin Fields is healing from cracked ribs and if he can't go at quarterback for Chicago, Andy Dalton will. Dalton threw for a Bears' season-high 317 yards and a touchdown on Thanksgiving, but that was against the winless Lions.

Jacksonville (2-9) at Los Angeles Rams (7-4)

If the Rams can't stop their three-game slide against the Jaguars, any thoughts of their being a Super Bowl contender should be questioned.

Matthew Stafford has thrown a pick-6 in three straight games, even as the NFL's most productive receiver, Cooper Kupp has managed to stay in peak form with 29 catches for 313 yards. But he doesn't have a touchdown reception in the three losses after getting 10 scores in the first eight games — more an indictment of Stafford and the offensive line than of Kupp.

This will be Jacksonville's first game against the Rams in Los Angeles. The Jags were 0-3 in St. Louis.

San Francisco (6-5) at Seattle (3-8)

Seattle is in the lead for most

disappointing team, and barring a massive turnaround it won't be more than a spoiler down the stretch. The offense has disappeared, with four consecutive losses with Russell Wilson at quarterback.

But the Seahawks have won three straight against San Francisco, which likely will be missing its best offensive (WR/RB Deebo Samuel) and defensive (LB Fred Warner) performers. San Francisco's streak of three straight games scoring at least 30 points is the longest one-season string for the franchise since a five-gamer in 2013.

Indianapolis (6-6) at Houston (2-9)

The Colts like playing in Houston, where they are 13-6. Their chances are pretty strong for improving that mark as long as they put the ball in Jonathan Taylor's hands. He leads the NFL with 1,205 yards rushing and 14 touchdowns; the Texans rank 31st while allowing 135.6 yards rushing a game. Taylor had 145 yards rushing and two scores in the first meeting with Houston this season.

"J.T. (Jonathan Taylor)'s been balling, and props to that guy," says Houston defensive lineman Jacob Martin. "He's been running his tail off all year. I think for us to be successful on defense, it comes to us playing gap-sound defense and limiting those big yards in the run game and those big shots on the play-action."

Good luck with that.

New York Giants (4-7) at Miami (5-7)

Giants quarterback Daniel Jones is out with a neck problem. No such health worries with Tua Tagovailoa, whose sharp recent performances have helped Miami win its past four

games. Veteran Mike Glennon goes for New York.

The Giants are 3-0 at Miami, plus won in London in 2007 for a designated Dolphins home game. They're the only team that has never lost when facing the Dolphins on the road. The Dolphins' 2-7 record against the Giants is their second worst against any opponent. They're 2-8 against Houston, which Miami beat this season.

Philadelphia (5-7) at New York Jets (3-8)

After an absolute stinker by the Eagles versus the Giants at the Meadowlands last Sunday, they try again, this time against the Jets, who are 0-11 against Philly — the only team the Jets have not beaten.

Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts had an awful game a week ago with three interceptions; he had only five in the previous 11 games. His team continued to dominate on the ground, though. The Eagles have 1,078 yards rushing in the past five games, running for 200-plus yards in three straight games for the first time since 1978. Philadelphia has 18 rushing TDs, the most it has gotten through 12 games since 22 in 1953. New York has struggled stopping the run.

Washington (5-6) at Las Vegas (6-5)

Washington defensive coordinator Jack Del Rio coached the Raiders from 2015-17 when they were in Oakland, and is the only coach to lead them to the playoffs since 2003. He's helped Washington win three in a row since its bye week.

Helping just as much: Taylor Heinicke has thrown a TD pass in seven consecutive games.

Third downs could be decisive at Allegiant Stadium, where the Raiders are 5-9 since moving in. The Raiders have been the fourth-worst team on offense at converting third downs at 34.4%. Washington has been the worst team at stopping them, allowing 51.4% to be converted for the sixth-worst rate through 11 games since 1991.

Minnesota (5-6) at Detroit (0-10-1)

Minnesota has won eight straight games against the Lions after Vikings coach Mike Zimmer started 2-5 against them.

Both running games could be hobbled. Minnesota is without Dalvin Cook (shoulder), so Alexander Mattison should be the main man. He had his first rushing TD of the season last week after Cook was hurt, but when the Vikings played at Detroit in the 2020 season finale, Mattison had 95 rushing yards, 50 receiving yards and a receiving TD.

Detroit goes with Jamaal Williams because of D'Andre Swift's shoulder injury. He had a season-high 15 carries for 65 yards and five receptions on Thanksgiving against Chicago.

AFC Individual Leaders

Quarterbacks		Yds	TD	Int
Att	Com			
Carr, Las	413	278	3414	17
Herbert, LAC	438	289	3230	24
Mahomes, KC	449	294	3200	25
Allen, Buf	410	274	3071	25
M.Jones, NE	381	268	2850	16
Burrow, Cin	339	235	2835	22
Wentz, Ind	398	250	2790	21
Tannehill, Ten	389	256	2774	14
Jackson, Bal	341	219	2612	15
Roethlisberger, Pit	384	248	2522	14

Rushers		Yds	LG	TD
Att	Yds	Avg		
Taylor, Ind	209	1205	5.8	83
Henry, Ten	219	937	4.3	76t
Mixon, Cin	208	924	4.4	32
Chubb, Cle	150	867	5.8	70t
Harris, Pit	196	708	3.6	20
Jackson, Bal	123	707	5.7	31
J.Robinson, Jac	129	654	5.1	58
Harris, NE	154	643	4.2	35
Gordon, Den	135	605	4.5	70t
Ekeler, LAC	135	604	4.5	28

Receivers		Yds	LG	TD
No	Yds	Avg		
Hill, KC	84	932	11.1	75t
Chase, Cin	50	906	18.1	82t
Allen, LAC	81	895	11.0	42
Diggs, Buf	67	847	12.6	61
Kelce, KC	67	821	12.3	46t
D.Johnson, Pit	68	809	11.9	50t
Pittman, Ind	61	805	13.2	57
Brown, Bal	60	770	12.8	49t
Andrews, Bal	60	761	12.7	41
Waddle, Mia	77	759	9.9	57

Punters		Lg	Avg
No	Yds		
Cole, Las	45	2303	71
Bailey, NE	34	1648	68
Long, LAC	32	1526	69
Cooke, Jac	48	2258	64
Huber, Cin	41	1914	61
Johnston, Hou	60	2790	69
Sanchez, Ind	44	2000	79
Martin, Den	44	1979	68
Koch, Bal	48	2136	57
Haack, Buf	29	1286	60

Punt Returners		Yds	Long	TD
No	Yds	Avg		
Duverny, Ba I	23	348	15.1	42
Oliszewski, NE	23	288	12.5	27
Rogers, Ten	18	181	10.1	22
Spencer, Den	17	165	9.7	25
McCloud, Pit	22	194	8.8	19
Renfrow, Las	18	158	8.8	21
McKenzie, Buf	17	148	8.7	26
Felton, Cle	30	227	7.6	24
Phillips, Cin	21	157	7.5	17
Hines, Ind	17	126	7.4	16

Kickoff Returners		Yds	Avg	LG	TD
No	Yds	Avg			
Berrios, NYJ	15	381	25.4	38	0
Pringle, KC	19	482	25.4	39	0
McKenzie, Buf	22	548	24.9	75	0
McCloud, Pit	21	503	24.0	40	0
Agnew, Jac	22	525	23.9	102t	1
Roberts, LAC	28	612	22.0	39	0
Spencer, Den	14	229	16.4	23	0

Scoring Touchdowns		Rush	Rec	Ret	Pts
TD					
Taylor, Ind	16	14	2	0	96
Ekeler, LAC	14	7	7	0	84
Mixon, Cin	13	11	2	0	78
Henry, Ten	10	10	0	0	60
Chase, Cin	8	0	8	0	48
Harris, NE	8	0	0	0	48
Hill, KC	8	0	8	0	48

Kicking		PAT	FG	LG	Pts
Folk, NE	29/33	31/34	53	122	
Carlson, Las	23/25	24/27	56	95	
Bass, Buf	34/34	20/23	57	94	
Tucker, Bal	22/22	23/25	66	91	
Boswell, Pit	20/21	22/23	56	86	
McPherson, Cin	34/35	17/20	54	85	
Bullock, Ten	29/32	18/21	51	83	
Hopkins, LAC	22/25	19/22	50	79	
Butker, KC	32/33	15/18	55	77	
McManus, Den	22/23	18/21	53	76	

Quarterbacks		Yds	TD	Int
Att	Com			
Brady, TB	457	309	3403	30
Stafford, LAR	400	266	3316	27
Prescott, Dal	416	287	3170	23
Cousins, Min	406	275	3013	23
Aa.Rodgers, GB	373	247	2878	23
Ryan, Atl	379	256	2617	16
Heinicke, Was	363	244	2613	16
Hurts, Phi	351	211	2435	13
Jones, NYG	361	232	2428	10
Garoppolo, SF	280	187	2342	13

Rushers		Yds	LG	TD
Att	Yds	Avg		
Cook, Min	171	773	4.5	66
Elliott, Dal	173	765	4.4	47
Gibson, Was	183	712	3.9	27
Hurts, Phi	122	695	5.7	31
Mitchell, SF	143	693	4.8	39
Henderson, LAR	142	648	4.6	29
Fournette, TB	139	621	4.5	28t
Pollard, Dal	107	602	5.6	58t
Jones, GB	133	564	4.2	57
Conner, Ari	146	555	3.8	35
Swift, Det	140	555	4.0	57t

Receivers		Yds	LG	TD
No	Yds	Avg		
Kupp, LAR	92	1237	13.4	59
Adams, GB	80	1083	13.5	59

Punters		Lg	Avg
No	Yds		
Lee, Ari	39	1943	62
Anger, Dal	46	2262	63
Fox, Det	50	2455	70
Way, Was	32	1555	66
Gillikin, NO	55	2655	63
Bojorquez, GB	38	1817	82
Dickson, Sea	62	2953	68
Berry, Min	48	2257	63
Wishnowsky, SF	35	1628	67
Mostead, Atl	28	1332	59

Punt Returners		Yds	Avg	Long	TD
No	Yds				
Raymond, Det	16	197	12.3	48	0
Harris, NO	17	191	11.2	26	0
Grant, Chi	18	163	8.9	22	0
Moore, Ari	18	153	8.5	27	0
Aiyuk, SF	20	166	8.3	27	0
Erickson, Car	20	166	8.3	22	0
Westbrook, Min	16	129	8.1	45	0
Am.Rodgers, GB	16	106	6.6	17	0
A.Williams, Atl	16	98	6.1	15	0
Reagor, Phi	22	128	5.8	22	0

Kickoff Returners		Yds	Avg	LG	TD
No	Yds				
Pollard, Dal	17	489	28.8	100t	1
Carter, Was	27	681	25.2	101t	1
Igwebuike, Det	22	526	23.9	41	0
Patterson, Atl	14	332	23.7	32	0
Grant, Chi	22	533	23.7	34	0
Harris, NO	25	591	23.6	39	0
Dallas, Sea	21	467	22.2	38	0

Scoring Touchdowns		Rush	Rec	Ret	Pts
TD					
Conner, Ari	13	12	1	0	78
Evans, TB	10	0	10	0	60
Kupp, LAR	10	0	10	0	60
Samuel, SF	10	5	5	0	60
Thielen, Min	10	0	10	0	60
Elliott, Dal	9	8	1	0	54
Patterson, Atl	9	4	5	0	54

Kicking		PAT	FG	LG	Pts

Morikawa pulls away



Associated Press

Collin Morikawa, of the United States, watches his shot on the second tee on day three of the Hero World Challenge PGA Tour at the Albany Golf Club, on Saturday in New Providence, Bahamas.

Takes big step toward earning No. 1 ranking

DOUG FERGUSON
AP golf writer

NASSAU, Bahamas — Tiger Woods joined the broadcast booth for his Hero World Challenge, and what he saw from Collin Morikawa must have looked familiar.

Morikawa carved up Albany Golf Club to build a five-shot lead Saturday over Brooks Koepka, and too many pursuers faded from contention with a series of mistakes that only made another victory look inevitable for Morikawa.

With an 8-under 64 — the first bogey-free round of the week — Morikawa took a big step toward reaching No. 1 in the world.

“You love being in these spots and you don’t get them every week,” Morikawa said. “You wish you did. But when you do, you want to take advantage of them. So hopefully, we can take advantage tomorrow.”

Morikawa chipped in for eagle on the par-5 third hole. His 10-foot birdie putt on the ninth hole gave him the lead. And then he shifted into another gear with a series of smart shots he executed flawlessly, a few par putts to keep momentum and par save from the bunker on the final hole to keep his distance.

Koepka fell back with a soft chip that didn’t get up the hill on the par-3 eighth and led to double bogey. He was

bogey-free the rest of the way for a 69 that at least got him into the final group.

“Just keep doing what I’m doing, play good and hope for the best,” Koepka said.

Morikawa would stay at the top of the ranking with a victory, but only for a week based on the two-year rolling formula. Even so, only 24 other players have reached No. 1 since the ranking began in 1986.

Morikawa was at 18-under 198 as he tries to win his second straight start. He is coming off a Sunday rally in Dubai to win the DP World Tour Championship, making him the first American to be the No. 1 player on the European Tour.

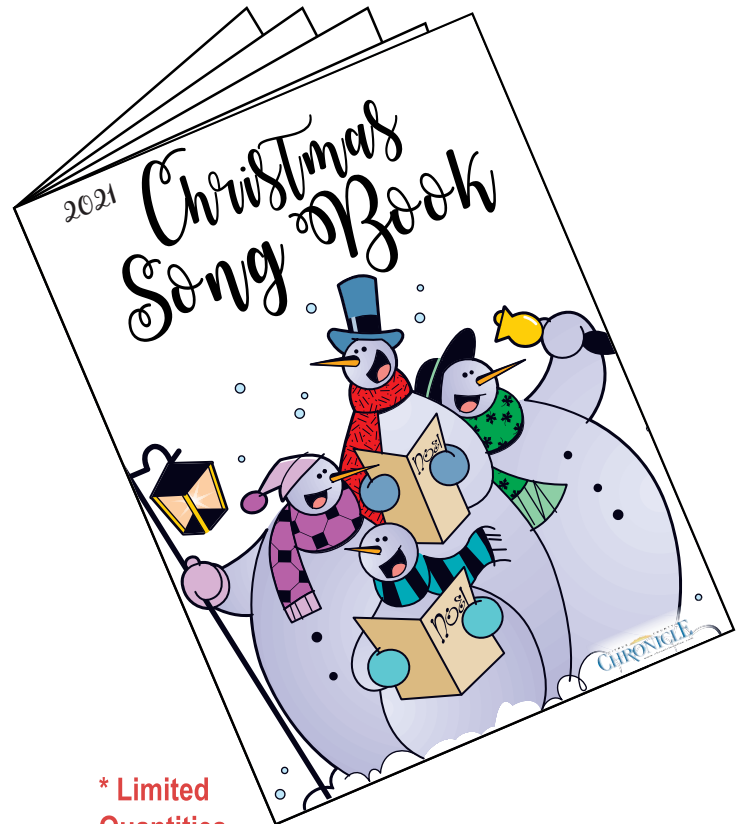
Hero World Challenge

Saturday
At Albany
Nassau, Bahamas
Purse: \$3.5 million
Yardage: 7,414; Par: 72

Third Round

Collin Morikawa	68-66-64—198	-18
Brooks Koepka	67-67-69—203	-13
Daniel Berger	66-69-69—204	-12
Sam Burns	71-65-68—204	-12
Tony Finau	68-66-70—204	-12
Viktor Hovland	68-69-67—204	-12
Patrick Reed	68-69-67—204	-12
Scottie Scheffler	71-68-66—205	-11
Bryson DeChambeau	69-64-73—206	-10
Tyrrell Hatton	69-67-71—207	-9
Harris English	75-70-63—208	-8
Matt Fitzpatrick	71-70-68—209	-7
Xander Schauffele	70-70-70—210	-6
Webb Simpson	67-72-71—210	-6
Justin Thomas	67-72-71—210	-6
Abraham Ancer	66-73-72—211	-5
Justin Rose	71-70-70—211	-5
Rory McIlroy	66-71-75—212	-4
Henrik Stenson	72-75-70—217	+1
Jordan Spieth	71-72-75—218	+2

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Miami tops Clemson 80-75

Associated Press

CORAL GABLES — Sam Waardenburg scored a career-high 18 points and Miami used a late 12-0 run to edge Clemson 80-75 in the Atlantic Coast Conference opener for both teams on Saturday.

Jordan Miller and Kameron McGusty scored 13 and 15 points, respectively, for the Hurricanes (6-3) and Isaiah Wong had 13.

PJ Hall led the Tigers (5-4) with 18 points, Chase Hunter and David Collins had 15 apiece and Hunter Tyson 10.



Associated Press

Miami guard Kameron McGusty (23) drives to the basket as Clemson guard David Collins (13) defends during the first half of Saturday's game, in Coral Gables.

Syracuse 63, Florida State 60

TALLAHASSEE — Cole Swider had 16 points, 10 rebounds and two big free throws in the final minute as Syracuse defeated Florida State 63-60 in the ACC opener for both teams.

The loss snapped FSU's 25-game homecourt winning streak in ACC play. The conference record is 26, set by Duke from 1997 to 2000.

Joe Girard scored 16 points, Jimmy Boeheim 13 and Jesse Edwards 11 for Syracuse (5-3). Buddy Boeheim, the Orange's leading scorer at 21 points per game, scored six. The starters scored all but one point for Syracuse.

Caleb Mills led Florida State (5-3) with 16 points and Malik Osborne added 10 points and eight rebounds. The Seminoles made 4 of 30 3-point attempts.

No. 6 Villanova 81, Saint Joe's 52

VILLANOVA, Pa. — Collin Gillespie scored 23 points to lead No. 6 Villanova to an 81-52 victory over Saint Joseph's.

No. 4 Baylor 99, Arkansas-Pine Bluff 54

WACO, Texas — LJ Cryer led five players in double

figures with his 20 points, and Baylor beat Arkansas-Pine Bluff.

No. 10 Arkansas 93, Little Rock 78

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — Au'Diese Toney and JD Notae had 18 points each to lift Arkansas past Little Rock.

No. 13 Tennessee 69, Colorado 54

BOULDER, Colo. — Freshman Kennedy Chandler scored 16 of his season-high 28 points in the first half and No. 13 Tennessee pulled away from Colorado.

No. 17 UConn 88, Grambling State 59

STORRS, Conn. — R.J. Cole scored 18 points to help UConn, which was playing without two injured starters, rout Grambling State.

Mississippi 67, No. 18 Memphis 63

OXFORD, Miss. — Jarkel Joyner scored 20 points and Mississippi converted 10 of 11 free throws in the final four minutes to defeat No. 18 Memphis.

No. 20 USC 63, Washington St 61

PULLMAN, Wash. — Chavez Goodwin sank a layup and a free throw with 16 seconds left to lift undefeated No. 20 Southern

California to a 63-61 victory over Washington State.

No. 21 Auburn 86, Yale 64

AUBURN, Ala. — K.D. Johnson scored 19 points, Jabari Smith added 17 points and seven rebounds and No. 21 Auburn blew past Yale.

No. 22 Michigan State 81, Toledo 68

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Max Christie had 14 points, Gabe Brown scored 12 and Michigan State built a big lead early to beat Toledo.

No. 23 Wisconsin 89, Marquette 76

MADISON, Wis. — Johnny Davis scored 25 points to lead four Wisconsin players in double figures as the Badgers downed in-state rival Marquette.

No. 24 Michigan 72, San Diego St 58

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Hunter Dickinson had 23 points and 14 rebounds, freshman Caleb Houston scored a season-high 17 points and Michigan beat San Diego State.

No. 25 Seton Hall 113, Nyack 67

SOUTH ORANGE, N.J. — Seton Hall had a trio come off the bench and combine for 66 points, leading the Pirates over Division II Nyack.

2 Guys Shows

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United Way needs your support



Gerry Mulligan
OUT THE WINDOW

Some traditions are important to continue. More than three decades ago a group of concerned Citrus County residents came together to create the United Way. Population was booming at the time and there was a disconnect with the ability of nonprofit organizations in our community to keep up with the needs. I was a member of that group that worked with Wilson Burns, Jean Grant, Steve Lamb, Anne

Pope, Dawn Arline, Marge Dearborn, John Marmish and so many others. We had no idea what we were doing. But we did it anyway and today the Citrus County United Way is one of the most important nonprofits we have. There is an inherent problem with the concept of United Way in a retirement community like Citrus County. Fundraising traditionally takes place at the workplace. Employees are asked to contribute

a small amount each week through payroll deductions. In the end, when thousands of employees participate, significant funds can be raised to address our local problems. But in our community, where more than half of the population does not work, it has always been difficult to raise money. That task is compounded by the fact that so much of our employment is in small businesses and it's impossible to approach all of them about

creating payroll deductions. That is why each year, at this time, I make a request that every household in Citrus County step up and make a small contribution to the United Way effort. There are more than 50,000 households here and the impact of us acting together can make a huge difference. I ask this holiday season that you consider contributing \$36 for the United Way effort.
 See **WINDOW/Page C3**



Jeff Bryan
THE OTHER GUY

Progress comes with a cost

"Nice things cost money, so if you want those nice things, you'd better be prepared to pay for them." — Tim Worstall, British-born writer and blogger and senior fellow of the Adam Smith Institute.

That Citrus County has been growing leaps and bounds over the past two decades is no surprise. The quality of life is pretty good, especially considering the natural resources, health care providers, a respectable school system and relatively low taxes. Because we all like a low tax rate, whether it is the millage on our houses or the sales tax. Despite the growth over the past 20 years, Citrus County's commissioners and its citizens find themselves at a crossroads. The commission nixed the idea of floating a 1-cent sales tax to pay for road improvements. The notion was bemoaned by outraged citizens. Not one more cent, they said. That was before we could discuss the merits of raising the sales tax 1 cent. One penny. The commission has promised to find a way to include road repaving in the Fiscal Year 2023 budget next fall; promising cuts and tightening of the belts where applicable. If Johnny Carson were alive today, his "Carnac the Magnificent" would

See **GUY/Page C3**

Stay safe this season

Citrus County Fire Rescue encourages us to exercise caution, avoid tragedy

The holidays are a wonderful time for families and friends to

gather and decorate. This means greater risk of fire and cooking incidents.

In an effort to promote fire safety and reduce the number of uncontrolled fires by increasing awareness of fire hazards and unsafe behaviors, Citrus County Fire Rescue

presents the following holiday safety tips: Make sure that live trees are fresh. Pull on the needles, if they fall away, the tree may be too dry.



Craig Stevens
GUEST COLUMN

Ensure that artificial trees bear a UL label of approval and are made of fire retardant materials. Keep holiday trees fresh. Place in water and water frequently. Keep them away from sources of heat such as space heaters, heating ducts or other warm air appliances. Use candles with care. Keep candles out of the reach of children and pets. Keep candles away from combustibles. Candles should be at least 1-foot away from combustibles such as curtains, furniture, bedding, etc. Further the better. Use sturdy candleholders with wide bases that will not tip over. Never leave a burning candle unattended. Extinguish candles before going to sleep! Make sure all holiday lights are UL labeled and verify that they are not broken, cords are not frayed, no bare wires, or have loose connections. Due to the reduced amount of heat given off, use LED lights since they operate cooler. Discard all damaged lights. Follow manufacturers' instructions when hanging holiday lights. This includes the number of strands that may be connected end to end. Verify that the electrical circuit is not overloaded with too many lights. Consider purchasing or using LED type lights for less energy usage and less generated heat. When decorating, remember not to block stairways, doors or

See **SAFE/Page C3**



Citrus County Fire Rescue Chief Craig Stevens lights wooden pallets Tuesday, Nov 16, that will be used to create heat and smoke for a training exercise. Once the interior of the container is filled with smoke and heat, the training begins.

MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle file



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“Every man is my superior in that I may learn from him.”

Thomas Carlyle, 1795-1881

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

— David S. Arthurs publisher emeritus

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

TRASH TALK

Commission punts again on universal garbage

For three decades, Citrus County Commissioners have discussed universal garbage, but each time it got near decision time, they kicked the can down the road.

Last week, they gave it a giant boot and cut off further discussion.

Two years after starting the three-year clock for notification to current hauling companies required under state law, when presented with specific bids from garbage haulers and a hostile audience in the hearing room, they punted once again.

Some commissioners agreed that universal collection is the right thing for the county, but in the face of opposition they folded, and gave the same excuses that have come from the mouths of different commissioners throughout the years.

There was the same praise of free enterprise, the same issues of illegal littering, the concerns about cost, dealing with public acceptance, and a more recent excuse that while universal collection is the way for the county to go, now is not the time to do it.

One of the more interesting reasons for rejecting the proposals is that there were unanswered questions and the county has not ironed out all the details. It was as if commissioners were bystanders to the process, and they could not have called for further discussion between staff and bidders rather than flatly rejecting the whole idea.

The current county garbage collection policy is basically free market, where multiple providers can bid to provide service, or homeowners can

take garbage to the landfill themselves.

What this means is that if you live in a subdivision where there are many houses close together, you may be able to secure bids from multiple contractors. But if you

live where houses are further apart, your options may be far more limited and more expensive. And we also have a problem with illegal dumping, particularly with large items such as old sofas or mattresses, which too often end up in the woods or on the roadside.

It should be clear that universal collection is not a magic bullet to resolve all of the issues around waste disposal, such as landfill space, and it will not alone resolve issues like littering and illegal dumping. But it will help solve these, and it would move the county forward to join all of the other counties in Florida that have county-wide universal collection.

There is no doubt that moving to universal garbage collection will be a tedious process, but it is a necessary one to assure that the needs of consumers, haulers and the county are all protected. It can be done if commissioners have the will. What was clearly demonstrated in the meeting last week is that commissioners do not have the will, so for now the idea is dead.

This commission joins the ever-growing list of other Citrus County commissions who have agreed in principle that universal collection is needed in the county, but when faced with opposition have folded and kicked that can down the road one more time.

people that brought it up in the first place and now all of a sudden they’re assuming and taking the accolades for turning it down. Yay for the people! Their voice has been heard, not the commissioners’.

■ The universal garbage pick-up was rejected because of the cost increase to homeowners. The figures listed was \$259 to \$344 per year. My current cost is \$267 to \$316 per year. So the cost is not the problem. ... What’s the real reason?

THE ISSUE:

Commissioners vote to reject universal garbage.

OUR OPINION:

They kicked the can down the road one more time.

Shop local for the season

Every holiday season, local chambers of commerce encourage their citizens to shop locally. There are good reasons for this, chief among them is that for every dollar spent, 68 cents continue to circulate among our local economy.

Keeping the money circulating through our local economy means jobs, better services, parks, public safety and schools. Local businesses occupy local buildings and pay local property tax. They are also the first to support our local nonprofits. Without a strong, vibrant business community, our local charities could not be as successful as they are now. Using a local business supports your neighbors, lets you receive in-person advice and service, creates a unique experience and eliminates many worries about

deliveries.

Just think: If every U.S. family spent an additional \$10 per month at a local shop, the result would be an additional \$9.3 billion directly returned to the local economy. (Based on Civic Economics Andersonville Study of Retail Economics, <http://www.andersonville.org/business-resources/retail-attraction-market-research>.)



Josh Wooten
GUEST COLUMN

I hope you have noticed that the Citrus County Chamber in conjunction with Citrus County, the cities of Crystal River and Inverness, and private sector partners Citrus County Life Magazine, Citrus County Chronicle, Citrus 95, 96.7 The Fox, Nature Coast Country, 99.9 WXJB, Hometown Citrus, Digital Hound Media and Good Signs Fast, have partnered together on several months-long shop local campaigns. We have used catchy

slogans like “Buy Local or Bye-Bye Local,” “Be a Local Patriot: Shop Local,” “Shop Citrus First” and “Keep the Cheer Here.”

As we wind down this campaign, we want to continue to support our local businesses. Not only is the right thing to do, but I would also argue it is the moral thing to do. I challenge all of you to do an inventory of all the products and services you use over the course of a year. You will be surprised how many of your dollars are being exported out of our county. Imagine what a better standard of living we would enjoy if we would all make a concerted effort to shop our Citrus County businesses first.

So as we embark on the holiday season, let us resolve to support our community with our dollars, not just during this season, but every day throughout the year.

Josh Wooten is the president/CEO of the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce.

LETTERS to the Editor

Keep your infection to yourself

This is a personal letter to you, the unvaccinated. I do not include those who have a legitimate medical, ethical or religious reasons for not wanting to be vaccinated. I feel sure you are wisely wearing a mask and taking other precautions to protect against infection. I am writing to you who seem to believe your version of the truth is superior to the facts and science. You who proclaim your right and freedom to make all decisions regarding your own life and health. You, the unvaccinated. You know who you are. You know where you are. The problem is, I do not.

But, in fact, I do fully support your right and freedom to make your own personal decisions. You most certainly can choose to expose yourself to the possibility of serious illness, hospitalization and perhaps even death from COVID. I do not support your right to make such decisions on behalf of your family members. Nor do I support your right to swamp the hospital ICUs with your infections, denying others their right to the hospital care they deserve if they have serious or life threatening issues.

And I definitely do not support your right and freedom to make decisions that impact and control my life. What do I mean by that? I cannot dine in any restaurant because I know you will be there. The aerosol spread will carry your air over to my table where it will become my air. I cannot take that risk. I have been unable to attend indoor meetings because I know you will be there. When I shop at a local store I must always wear a mask because I know you will be there. Wherever I go and whatever I do, I

OPINIONS INVITED

- Viewpoints depicted in political cartoons, columns or letters do not necessarily represent the opinion of the editorial board.
- 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.
- Letters must be no longer than 400 words, and writers will be limited to four letters per month.
- SEND LETTERS TO: The Editor, 1624 N. Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34429; or email to letters@chronicleonline.com.

know you will be there. My life no longer belongs to me, it belongs to you.

I will not ask you to get vaccinated. I will not ask you to have the decency to stay home and keep your infection to yourself. I would be wasting my breath. I will just continue to do what I must do, or not do. And I really do hope you will never have to suffer the potentially horrendous consequences of your selfish recklessness. I sincerely hope you will live to enjoy all your rights and freedom.

Kenneth J. Clark
 Homosassa

The gift of our Founding Fathers

Reflecting back on our past confirms that our passion for freedom runs very deep in our souls; it’s in our DNA. We find that we are indebted to a small group of individuals — the separatists — who were fleeing from religious persecution by King James of Great Britain. These separatists, whom we know as the Pilgrims, had to endure a most difficult ocean voyage, and once here they still had to face a multitude of

challenges. It’s clear that the America we know and love today would be a clearly different place without their influence!

During the voyage, the Mayflower had been blown hundreds of miles off course and finally landed in a place we now call Cape Cod, where their existing charter had no standing. This allowed the Pilgrims the freedom to draft a document initially untitled but, over time became known as the “Mayflower Compact.” This document which was drafted 401 years ago aboard the Mayflower and signed by 41 male members before they came ashore established self-rule, the right to worship as one saw fit, and the rule of law. As I reflect back, I doubt that the signing members had any idea of just how powerful this compact — which is only a little over 200 words — would be, and the great influence that it would have on the future of the nation.

What became the first foundation of their government influenced the Founding Fathers’ great experiment. These rights contained in the Mayflower Compact were codified in the Bill of Rights. We tend to credit Thomas Jefferson, who inspired the Bill of Rights, and James Madison, who drafted them, of acting on their own, but the path to these freedoms we now enjoy was paved for by the Pilgrims, and it was our Founding Fathers who protected them.

Please remember, as we enjoy (our time) with family and friends this year to take a moment to give thanks for this great gift — to be able to reside in a free society — which the Pilgrims and our Founding Fathers passed on to us.

Bill Claustre
 Inverness

Litter is disgraceful

This county is a disgrace, a disgusting disgrace of litter and trash along our beautiful roadways. The county commissioners need to stand up and notice how disgusting the problem is.

The dump along (U.S.) 41 is a disgrace. They don’t cover their trash on a daily basis. There’s trash up and down (State Road) 44 like you’ve never seen before and it’s there for days, if not weeks.

So the county commissioners need to fund and get educating the people and clean up this stinkin’ mess.



CALL 563-0579

No construction

Here’s a good question for Citrus County: Well over a month ago, a sign went up on (County Road) 486 saying that road construction would start Nov. 1. Well, now it is Dec. 1. The sign is still up, still says the same thing and absolutely nothing has been done to the road. So what in the world is going on?

Problem is low wages

There was an article about Inverness building low-income housing. It’s kind of ironic because if the employers in Inverness and elsewhere paid a living

wage so that people could afford housing at the going rate, our economy would be in such good shape. It’s ironic that we’re building low-income housing when we pay people low incomes.

We don’t tolerate that

(Re Sunday, Nov. 28’s Page C4 Sound Off, “One person in a booth for four.”) I am so angry! To the person who called in about one local person sitting in a large booth alone and told them to go sit in his car — key word “local”: You go sit in your car, take your rude crew with you and go back where you came from. We do not tolerate or behave that way in this community. Management should have tossed them to the curb.

YOUR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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

Tolerance for school shootings an epidemic

I was in high school on April 20, 1999.

That was the day when two high school boys from Littleton, Colorado, killed 13 people and wounded more than 20 others as they went on a rampage through Columbine High School.

That day changed a lot of things for me.

It wasn't the first school shooting I had heard about but it was definitely the closest one I had ever felt. Maybe it was the news coverage. Maybe it was the vast scale of the killings. Maybe it was because, for the first time, I felt like I was just as vulnerable as those who had been mercilessly gunned down at school.

School had always been a safe space. I know that I was blessed to have been raised in a school district full of loving and compassionate teachers and

staff. Many of my elementary school teachers had been teaching at the same school for decades. I had the same first-grade teacher as two of my siblings — and there's more than 10 years between our ages.

Those teachers made me feel safe. I had never felt fear walking into school before.

Then Columbine happened. And fear became a part of my daily routine, shattering my belief that my teachers held my safety in their hands.

After the Columbine shooting, school shootings no longer seemed to be a rare event.

As of August 2021, there have been more than 200 school shootings, not including



Cortney Stewart
SEEING BEYOND

misfires or unsuccessful attempts, leading to more than 300 deaths and close to 500 injuries. This year alone there have been 28 school shootings resulting in injury or death — 20 of those since August 1.

Until Tuesday, none of those shootings had involved more than one death.

But that shouldn't be a consolation.

Tuesday's shooting at Oxford High School in Oxford, Michigan, where a 15-year old student killed four and injured seven, has once again brought this devastating reality to the forefront — safety at school is no longer a foregone conclusion.

In the wake of a global

pandemic that seems to be never ending, an economy that is fighting inflation and serious supply chain issues, and a general sense of malaise over American quality of life, it seems that there isn't room to have the kinds of conversations we need to have about the mass killings that plague our country. I'm not talking about gun control or security in schools or anti-bullying measures. All of those play a role in a long-term solution to this specifically American problem. But we've been down all of those roads before.

Those conversations and the quality of our responses to them are clearly not enough.

There's a bigger question that needs to be answered; a deeply introspective analysis that needs to be done. There's an attitude that accepts violence as an inevitable reality.

What has caused our societal acquiescence to violence as a normal part of life? How have we developed such a posture of acceptance? And how do we make it stop?

School shootings don't come as a shock anymore. Our tolerance for it is an epidemic in and of itself.

And it just shouldn't be that way. Something has to change.

Cortney Stewart is a 2003 graduate of Lecanto High School. She has bachelor's degrees in political science and international affairs, a master's degree in intercultural studies and is currently working on her Ph.D. in international conflict management. She most recently spent two years teaching and training students, teachers and government officials in Baghdad, Iraq. Email her at seeingbeyondccc@gmail.com.

Don't like what's happening? Just blame it on Biden

Two tiresome realities about being president of the United States: First, everybody blames you for things over which you have little or no control, such as the worldwide price of oil and international shipping schedules. Should there be too few electronic geegaws on store shelves to pacify American teenagers this Christmas, it will be Joe Biden's fault.

Second, everybody gives you advice, whether you ask for it or not. Everywhere you look, Democrats and Democratically inclined pundits are tempted to panic.

"The cold reality for Biden," writes New York magazine's Jonathan Chait, "is that his presidency is on the brink of failure." A return to Trumpism, and essentially the end of American democracy, strikes Chait as altogether likely.

Everybody cites Biden's "plunging" or "nose-diving" poll numbers, although they've held steady at roughly 43% pretty much since the news media's

collective freak-out over Afghanistan. Definitely not good, but still better than, well, Donald Trump's, whose numbers hovered permanently around 40%.

Chait mainly blames congressional Democrats, specifically the preening and posturing of the Democratic left, along with the stonewalling of "centrists unable to conceive of their job in any terms save as valets for the business elite." In short, Sens. Joe Manchin and Kyrsten Sinema. He notes that when Manchin goes home to consult his West Virginia constituents, he meets the Chamber of Commerce at the Greenbrier golf resort.

When in Washington, Sen. Manchin lives aboard "Almost Heaven," his 60-foot yacht — some distance from the coal mines. Sinema has

shifted from campaigning as a trendy leftist to expressing tender concerns for the well-being of, yes, Arizona's Chamber of Commerce. Between them, the two Democratic senators have the capacity to cripple or kill President

Biden's Build Back Better plans to make life better for working Americans.

By any rational measure, meanwhile, the U.S. economy is booming. In late November, for example, new unemployment claims fell to the lowest level in 52 years. If you're like most Americans — Democrats, Republicans and Independents alike — that's probably news to you. You may not even believe it.

"Given the U.S.'s steady job growth," Chait comments, "nobody can ascertain exactly why the public has turned so sour so fast."

Expressing similar concerns from further left on the ideological spectrum is Ryan Grim of The Intercept. "IT'S NOT JUST WHITE PEOPLE," Grim's analysis is headlined; "DEMOCRATS ARE LOSING NORMAL VOTERS OF ALL RACES." Basically, he too blames left-wing culture warriors speaking the otherworldly cant of academia. They'd do far better, he argues, with "candidates who focus on ... economic issues but don't talk like juniors at Oberlin."

No kidding. Maybe the dumbest political slogan in recent American history, as I've written

before, is "Defund the Police." Without exception, and nationwide, every Democratic candidate espousing the idea not only lost last November, but lost big. Buffalo, Seattle, Austin, Philadelphia, from sea to shining sea. Even in Minneapolis, where George Floyd was murdered.

And why? Well, imagine yourself a Black parent in an inner-city neighborhood. Bullying, condescending cops can be aggravating and worse. But well-armed street gangs shooting up whole neighborhoods are an existential crisis — one we rarely hear about unless the victim is a small child.

Defund the police? What planet do you live on?

Planet Woke, in all too many cases. Or, as Grim puts it, "Democratic elites are creating conflict within the working class while protecting their own class and cultural interests." Left-wing imagineers, fantasizing about a revolution that's never coming. President Biden could do worse than to pick a fight with these Froot Loops — low-hanging Froot Loops at that.

Then there are the Republicans, a party rapidly morphing into a Jonestown-like death cult. Not figuratively, mind you.

Literally.

COVID vaccine mandates — public health requirements that citizens accept what's essentially a miracle cure to protect themselves and their neighbors from a deadly, transmissible disease — are deemed "tyranny" and "communism" by Republican politicians.

As a direct result, their constituents are dying. While fully vaccinated Fox News celebrities — the job is a condition of their employment — broadcast denialist propaganda, data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that unvaccinated individuals are currently five times more likely to test positive with the virus and 13 times more likely to die.

In a saner political time, you'd think a party doing everything to resist the president's efforts to control a deadly disease outbreak would be ill-advised to expect COVID survivors' support.

But that's not the world we live in.

Arkansas Times columnist Gene Lyons is a National Magazine Award winner and co-author of "The Hunting of the President." Email eugenelyons2@yahoo.com.

SAFE

Continued from Page C1

windows. Always unplug lights and extinguish candles before leaving the house or going to bed.

Have an escape plan in case you have a fire:

Design a plan for your home and your family. Make sure everyone understands exactly what to do and where to go in an emergency. Pay special attention to young children, elderly people and the disabled. Be sure to include them in your plan.

Know two ways out of every room and practice fire drills to ensure that everyone can get out. Consider using windows for a second way out.

Crawl low under smoke and feel closed doors for heat. If door is warm, find another way out.

If you become trapped, close doors and stuff the door cracks to keep smoke out. Try to call 911 and let them know exactly where you are. If you cannot climb out the window, signal for help from it.

Sleep with doors closed. Most fire deaths occur while sleeping. Closed bedroom doors provide a barrier to give more time for an escape.

Get out fast and stay out. Go to a previously designated "meeting place." Never go back inside. Once safely outside, call 911 from a neighbor's house.

Keep matches and lighters away from children. Store them in a safe place above the reach of children. Also teach youngsters to never touch them, instead, tell a grown-up or adult.

Have a fire extinguisher readily available in your home and make sure it is fully charged. Know how to use your fire extinguisher.

Remember the PASS system:

- Pull the pin,
- Aim the nozzle at the base of the fire,
- Squeeze the trigger lever, and
- Sweep the stream side-to-side at the base of the fire.

Have your chimney and fireplace inspected by a professional to make sure it's clean and free of obstructions. Never burn paper or trash in the fireplace.

Contain sparks from escaping from a fire place. Utilize a metal screen across the front of the fire box and at the top of the chimney.

Verify that working smoke alarm(s) are outside of every bedroom and on every level of your house. Test monthly and change batteries every six months, usually when changing clocks.

With children out of school, people doing yard work, dry vegetation,

high-winds and low-humidity, remember that wildfires can happen quickly. Keep excessive brush and debris at a minimum. Especially, within 30 feet of your home or other buildings

If you are enjoying the great outdoors during the holidays, don't leave campfires, warming fires, and other authorized fires unattended — make sure they are completely out! Keep firefighting equipment such as water hose, rakes, shovels, etc. easily available.

Never leave cooking food unattended. Handles on pots should be turned away from the front, so they won't be accidentally tipped or knocked over.

Before you cook that holiday dinner, make sure that the oven and stovetop are clean, free of grease, and are in good working order.

Keep cooking areas clean and free of grease and other combustibles (e.g. pot holders, towels, rags, drapes, and food packaging).

Do not burn wrapping paper in the fireplace because of the high flammability, dangerous sparks and increased potential of flash fires.

Never use a range or oven to heat your home. These items are not efficient at warming your home and they greatly increase your risk of fire.

Never smoke in bed or a chair that you may fall asleep in. When smoking, make sure to use a deep ashtray and keep them away from furniture. When

done smoking, thoroughly extinguish the cigarette in a safe ashtray.

The longer your decorations stay up, the greater the fire hazard. Use care when taking down your decorations and lights. Use caution when packing them to prevent damage.

Be safe and responsible. Don't drink and drive. If you plan to celebrate the New Year, have a designated driver before you go out. If you need a ride call a friend or a taxi.

Use extra caution when using things that could cause a fire such as irons, hair curlers and other hot items. These items should be turned off and unplugged when not in use. They should be kept away from combustible materials, even when cooling down.

When using electric blankets or warmers make sure they have been tested and approved by an independent laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL). Always inspect them for damage before use and make sure to turn them off prior to falling asleep.

Check out our Facebook "Keep the Wreath Green," a holiday safety program CCFR is participating in and designed to promote fire safety during the month of December.

We wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season.

Craig Stevens is fire chief for Citrus County Fire Rescue.

GUY

Continued from Page C1

explain it like this: Ask for road repairs and ye shall receive a tax increase to pay for it.

That's just one of many issues citizens are facing. The others include increasing staffing for the Citrus County Sheriff's Office, Citrus County Fire Rescue and additional spaces for both public service agencies. If we

want to feel safe and secure, we want top-notch services from first responders.

We need to provide educational opportunities for our youths.

The adage, if you want nice things, then you have to pay for them, comes to mind.

We should not be cheering commissioners for prematurely killing the idea of a 1-cent sales tax; we should be encouraging them to tell us why it makes sense. Maybe not for roads.

Maybe it's for more deputies, police cruisers, firefighters, paramedics, EMTs, fire trucks, ambulances and firehouses.

Maybe it goes toward education for our youths, so we can provide additional opportunities to prepare the next generation of doctors, teachers, deputies, firefighters and civic leaders. We must remember, generations before us have done the same for each of us. We, in turn, must repay the favor.

The commission's idea of a

1-cent sales tax referendum was doomed before it even began, because it lacked a plan residents could digest. Such a move means everyone pays, from the thousands of tourists who pour into our county on an annual basis to my children eager to spend their soon-to-be-in-hand Christmas money from grandparents and great-grandparents.

That's the challenge before us as we are less than a month away from a new calendar year.

We must all understand, if we

want a better place to live, we must be willing to pay for it. In doing so, we must understand where we've been, where we are and where we're going. Otherwise, we will not be able to move forward.

We cannot put a price on making Citrus County a better place for everyone.

Jeff Bryan is the editor for the Chronicle. Contact him at jeff.bryan@chronicleonline.com or 352-564-2930.

WINDOW

Continued from Page C1

Those dollars are used to help children, seniors, veterans and all sorts of people in need.

Now, if you can contribute more than \$36, please do that.

But at this simple level each of us can be considered stakeholders in helping solve problems right here in Citrus County.

Our community prides itself on being very conservative and not expecting government to have all the answers. That, in turn, requires that we the

people come up with the answers to our own problems.

United Way is one of the ways we do that. The local board of United Way gathers the donated dollars and directs it to dealing with the needs of the Citrus County community.

It's about local folks who have the capacity to give

donating funds to a local non-profit that has a legacy of getting things done.

With great humility I ask that you consider joining the United Way effort in Citrus County. A check for \$36 will make you a stakeholder in the effort to make things better.

Please mail your contribution

to: Gerry Mulligan, The Citrus County Chronicle, United Way Fund Drive, 1624 N. Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34429. Make checks payable to the Citrus County United Way.

Gerry Mulligan is publisher emeritus of the Citrus County Chronicle.

Sound OFF



Nothing hard to understand

I'm responding to Sound Off about your (Monday, Nov. 29) Online Poll about Medicare. "What is the toughest part of it all to understand?" There's nothing hard to understand, but let me tell you something: I take an abundance of medications. A couple of plans I called, my out-of-pocket - which I don't have with Medicare Part D - with those companies would be over \$4,000 on every one of them, just on medications alone. I don't have Medicare Part D, so do you think I'm going to go through those plans? No. I could tell you so much about those plans, it's unbelievable. It's not worth it. People, you do what you think you've got to do, but I totally disagree. Sound Off don't have enough time to print it all.

Traditional gospel music available

I'm calling in to respond to the person that put a Sound Off in about praise bands in churches (Monday, Nov. 29, Page A7, "Cut out the 'praise bands'"). I know of three churches in the Floral City, Inverness areas and Brooksville that are very into traditional gospel music - no praise bands - just regular old hymns and regular choirs: New Testament Baptist Church in Floral City; also, Fort Cooper Baptist Church in Inverness, Florida; and Grace Independent Baptist Church in Brooksville, Florida - three very good churches.

EMS asked for money months ago

Citrus County has a lot of senior citizens, but our commissioners must be under the impression that all of us are losing our

memory and that's not true. I'm looking at the newspaper today at, "Costs for emergencies could go up" (Tuesday, Nov. 30's front-page story). We remember that some time ago, the company that was running the (EMS) asked for more money and the commissioners took the job away from them...

Put cigarette butts in your ashtray

I'm reading the article, "Litter on roads is out of hand" (Tuesday, Nov. 30's Page All Sound Off). Don't you think that people that throw cigarette butts out their window in the road is littering the roads? I see it all the time. I just blow the horn when I'm behind them. When I see them throw a cigarette butt, I get on my horn. Sometimes there might be oil, there might be a car passing with a leaky gas tank or under their engine that could explode. If they think cigarettes are that good, why don't they keep them in their own ashtray? Quit dumping them in the parking lots at the grocery stores and put them in a bag and put them in a garbage can. People, wake up with your smoking and your cigarette butts. Have a great day. God bless you anyway.

Read smartphone manual

This is in Tuesday's paper (Nov. 30's Page A13 Sound Off), "Smartphones aren't that smart." Now if you bought a smartphone, you'll usually get a book. In the book, it will tell you how to do it. All you have to do is take where you charge it and plug it into your computer in the adapter place and download your photos. I do it every day and I ain't that smart.

Signal an early Christmas gift

An early Christmas present has arrived for those folks who need or want to work in Ocala. No more half-mile traffic backups on County Road 491 upon entry to State Road 200 during morning rush hours. Upon the new traffic signal turning green, the

left hand turns to Ocala, flowing (traffic) quickly and seamlessly. Safety is a bonus under the tree.

Get rid of the vagrants here

Here's my question: Do we have vagrancy laws here in Citrus County? This question is for the county commissioners and for our law

enforcement agencies. We have vagrancies all over the county. We have people sleeping out in the woods. We have tent encampments. If this is something that we do not address, we will be looking like Los Angeles or San Francisco. These people will multiply in areas if they're not addressed. Citrus County is no place for vagrancies. We

need to address these laws if we have them. If we don't have them, then they need to be adopted. We can't have Citrus County looking like a tent city.

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What is your HMO insurance plan doing for you?
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Exclude cleanings, repairs and relines For non-insured patients only. Must present coupon at time of service. Prices subject to change. Coupon cannot be used with any other offer. All coupons must be presented at the time of service. No exceptions. Expires 12/31/21.

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\$500

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Metal-Free Crowns
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D2740
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Fixed Bridge
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Dr. Frederick Herzog

NONPROFIT BRIEFS

Donate, document

When you donate money or property to a nonprofit organization you will need written documentation describing the contribution.

This is to support the deductibility claim on your tax return. The responsibility to see this is done is shared by both the donor and the recipient.

The nonprofit organization accepting a gift, money or property must cooperate in an IRS-defined process so the donor can list the contribution as an allowable deduction. The donor must see to obtaining the receipt of a proper document describing the gift.

IRS denial

The IRS can and has denied deductibility of legitimate donations to a charitable nonprofit. A US Tax Court denied a \$25,000 cash donation made by a husband and wife in business to a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit. IRS stated the absence of a qualifying receipt for the donation was absent. Paper documentation from the nonprofit receiving large donations must be present.

Rules of deductibility

There is no required format for documenting a donation, but there are strict requirements that must be met and articulated, in writing, for charitable donations to be deductible.

Nonprofits need to substantiate donations over \$250. The donor needs to receive a "contemporaneous confirmation," which means timely and simultaneously relative to the date the contribution is made.

If the contribution is not substantiated before the deduction is stated on the tax return, denial can result.

The "quid pro quo"

A "quid pro quo" disclosure is required if a nonprofit provides goods or services in return for the donation. This means only the value of the gift over and above the value of either services or goods supplied by the nonprofit in response to the gift provided is deductible.

This must be disclosed in a statement by the nonprofit. Gifts exceeding \$75 fall under this rule.

Substantiation of gifts

Here are a few basic requirements in a written document a nonprofit should follow when substantiating charitable gifts:

- Provide donor's name.
- State the amount of cash or property description.
- Disclosure and a good-faith estimate must be provided to the donor by the nonprofit of the value of goods or services the nonprofit may provide in response to the gift.
- Make a good-faith estimate of the value of the contribution(s).

Please note each of the points stated above are generic and are dependent on the individual circumstances of the donor and the nonprofit organization. Carefully defining the details and facts of the donation may be required for a complete understanding and application of the income tax deductibility.

Dr. Frederick Herzog is not a licensed attorney, certified public accountant or tax adviser. He provides guidance and counseling services to nonprofit organizations. His credentials include years of practical experience and a certification in nonprofit management. He holds memberships in multiple national organizations serving professional nonprofit organization managers and welcomes questions relating to the management of nonprofit organizations. Email ferzog@tampabay.rr.com or visit thenonprofitresourcecenter.com.

THE WAITING GAME



Chronicle file photo

Aldi is one of a few chain establishments that Citrus County residents say they would love to see go in. At this time, however, rumors of Aldi, Starbucks and Chick-fil-A remain just that.

Sorry, Citrus County: We have to keep our fingers crossed a bit longer

Aldi is coming to Lecanto. Starbucks will open its first coffee house in Inverness. Chick-fil-A is building a fast food restaurant (name the city).

Citrus Countians would love to see all of these places come to fruition. At this time, they remain rumors.

I don't publish rumors. The worst thing in the world is for me to write that a (you-name-it) is headed to Citrus County and it never happens. Eventually, nobody would take me seriously.

Rest assured, I check out each and every rumor that reaches me. Heck, I'm just as anxious as you to see the above businesses come here.

But first, I look into the veracity of each tip before rushing to print. For me to "break" a story about any new store, business or restaurant, I must at least get hold of a submitted request to the county or city government.

And so far, nada on these three chains. But I am here to provide you with a

little hope.

About a month ago, I got a tip that Aldi was headed to the corner of County Roads 491 and 486. I was even more excited when I was forwarded a future projects list from a Florida real estate development and investment company that included the Aldi logo on a promotional map.



Michael D. Bates
MIKE'S MUSINGS

This is a common practice among real estate firms who try to entice prospective businesses with a potential layout and schematic of where they believe the chain would make a good fit. Nothing wrong with that.

But in this case, the over-zealous representative said he jumped the gun. Aldi, he said, was still at the very, very early stages of interest and — while that is encouraging — it means little until it gets past the real estate committee phase.

The same thing occurred with Starbucks. A company (inadvertently?) put a Starbucks logo on a plat where Culver's is

going in at the corner of State Road 44 and Pleasant Grove Road. I'd heard this before and each time I call Inverness City Manager Eric Williams, he assures me every time that nothing has been submitted.

As for Chick-fil-A, I visited the Hernando County location earlier this year and happened to see the franchise owner sitting in one of the booths. We've known each other for years, so I couldn't help but ask him when Citrus County will get its first Chick-fil-A.

As much as he believes Citrus deserves to "Eat mor Chikin," he said the chain follows stringent marketing guidelines. Each restaurant, for example, is meticulously spaced from the next. Although a potential lucrative market, Citrus is not on the radar, he said.

Bottom line: Until a chain submits actual documentation, deals can fall through. I can't tell you how many times I've seen it happen.

But I assure you, I'm checking out each and every tip I get. Keep sending them to me. Maybe yours will be the one that actually pans out.

BUSINESS DIGEST

LIVE UNITED 365 Small Business Circle



Special to the Chronicle

Heather Fritz, executive director at Cedar Creek Assisted Living Residence, is pictured with Meghan Pitzer, United Way CEO. They are two-year members of the LIVE UNITED 365 Small Business Circle of the United Way of Citrus County. To learn more about the program, call the United Way at 352-795-5483.

Making career connections for younger workers

OCALA — Rep. Yvonne Hayes Hinson and Ocala City Councilman Ire Bethea, Sr., have partnered with CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion and the College of Central Florida to hold a job fair on Wednesday, Dec. 8, from 2-4 p.m. at CF's Hampton Center, 1501 W. Silver Springs Blvd., in Ocala.

The Career Connections Job Fair is free and open to all job seekers. Opportunities include a variety of industries and all job levels, including entry-level positions. High school diplomas are not required. Those interested in attending are asked to register ahead of time at bit.ly/ConnectCareers.

"My aim for this event is to give members of the younger generation a legitimate hope for their professional future," Rep. Hayes Hinson said. "Work creates dignity, and every citizen deserves the chance to work. Our city thrives when we all participate, empower, and work together."

To date, the following businesses — all with immediate jobs to fill — plan to attend: Central Florida Electric of Ocala, City of Ocala, City of

Ocala Water Resources, Encompass Health, Marion County Public Schools (custodial, food services, and transportation departments), Marion County Board of County Commissioners, Ocala Oaks, Visiting Angels, and the World Equestrian Center.

CSCLM's CEO Rusty Skinner said, "We are so excited to team up with Rep. Hayes Hinson, Councilman Bethea, and CF to bring such outstanding opportunities to the community."

"We are equally excited to share the word that there are plenty of jobs available," Skinner continued. "Anyone who wants employment stands a very good chance of getting hired, and we are here to help."

Those planning to attend are encouraged to dress for success and bring printed copies of their current resume. Anyone who would like professional assistance updating their resume or preparing for the job fair — including prepping for on-the-spot interviews — may receive fee-free services by contacting CareerSource CLM at 800-434-JOBS (5627) or visiting careersourceclm.com.

For more information about the job fair, contact 352-562-0514.

WORTH NOTING

Extension Citrus County to have ServSafe class

The University of Florida/IFAS Extension Citrus County provides training for the ServSafe food protection manager's certification to help managers and staff keep food safely served to Florida's consumers.

Training provides the most up-to-date information and regulations. The ServSafe manager's exam is given at the end of the training and the certification is good for five years.

The next eight-hour class will be at 8 a.m. Jan. 14 at UF/IFAS Extension Citrus County, 3650 W. Sovereign Path, Suite 1 in Lecanto. Pre-registration is required by Dec. 31. After class, participants will have two hours to take the certification exam. There is no "test only" option.

Participants must bring valid picture identification and a sack lunch. Cost for the course and exam is \$110. Participants are encouraged to study the ServSafe textbook prior to attending the class, which can be purchased for \$55 in English or Spanish.

To register and/or purchase a book, visit tinyurl.com/z6dp7jf. For more information, call 352-527-5700.

Additional hazardous waste drop-off day available

Citrus County Landfill's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) disposal program offers an additional drop-off day each quarter. The next

quarterly HHW drop-off day will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jan. 22 at the Citrus County Landfill, 230 W. Gulf-to-Lake Highway in Lecanto.

Residents who can use the regular HHW program on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday of each week are encouraged to do so. This Saturday collection is no different from the weekly program, but is meant to facilitate residents who work or are otherwise unable to participate during the week. Wait times will be longer on a Saturday HHW drop-off day.

Assessed households may bring up to 10 gallons (or 60 pounds) of household hazardous waste for disposal at HHW drop-off days for no additional charge.

For more information, call 352-527-7670 or visit tinyurl.com/d44vtwj4.

Supervisor of Elections to have outreach

The Supervisor of Elections office invites the public to an outreach event from 9 to 11 a.m. Dec. 9 at the Crystal River Post Office, 18 NE Fourth Ave. in Crystal River.

This is a convenient way to register to vote, make changes to your voter record or request a vote-by-mail ballot. Information to apply for election worker positions will also be available. If you are interested in having the elections office staff at your organization or business, contact Supervisor Maureen 'Mo' Baird.

To learn more, visit votecitrus.gov, email vote@votecitrus.gov or call 352-564-7120.

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12/04/21 6 P.M.

Inverness Parade
12/11/21 12 P.M.

Christmas in Toyland

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The Gift of Giving!

As you're planning and prepping and stressing over the holidays, take a moment to remember the true reason for the season and consider one of our outstanding charitable organizations that do some much good for our community all year! And even though Giving Tuesday was a few days ago, charity is in season every day. Skip the tinsel and a little extra fluff this year and offer the gift of GIVING!

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- American Academy of CME, Inc.**
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Homosassa, FL 34446
(352) 382-0623
- American Legion Post #155**
6585 W Gulf to Lake Hwy
Crystal River, FL 34429
(352) 795-6526
- American Legion Post #237**
6726 N Lecanto Hwy
Beverly Hills, FL 34465
(352) 897-4776
- Anti-Drug Coalition of Citrus County**
212 W Main St Room 102C
Inverness, FL 34450
(352) 601-6620
- BFF Society**
1645 N Bath Rd
Crystal River, FL 34429
(352) 595-5600
- Big Brothers Big Sisters**
1502 N Abalone Ter
Hernando, FL 34442
(352) 410-4442
- Boys & Girls Club - Beverly Hills**
901 W Roosevelt Blvd
Beverly Hills, FL 34465
(352) 270-8841
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Citrus County - Corporate Office**
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Homosassa, FL 34448 0417
(352) 621-9225
- Cayla's Coats, Inc**
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Dunnellon, FL 34434

- (352) 316-6409
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- Citrus County Blessings**
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(352) 433-3778
- Citrus County Community Charitable Foundation**
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(352) 419-4039
- Citrus County Education Association**
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- Citrus County Veterans Foundation, Inc.**
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(352) 346-2141
- Citrus Firefighters**
P.O. Box 39
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- Citrus Hearing Impaired Program Services**
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(352) 795-5000
- Citrus Pregnancy Center**
3185 E Thomas St
Inverness, FL 34453

- (352) 341-5176
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- Community Foundation of Tampa Bay**
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Tampa, FL 33607
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- Confederation of American Patriots, Inc./COAP**
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Homosassa, FL 34448
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- Covenant Children's Home**
11350 N Covenant Path
Citrus Springs, FL 34434
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- Crystal River Eagles Aerie 4272**
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- Crystal River Lions Club**
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- Daystar Life Center**
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- Democratic Club of Citrus County**
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- Friends of Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge**
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(352) 563-2088 x 215
- Friends of Crystal River State Parks**

- 3266 N Sailboat Ave
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(352) 228-6028
- GFWC - Crystal River Woman's Club**
P O Box 1672
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- Habitat for Humanity of Citrus County, Inc.**
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- Warrior Community Support Outreach**
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Floral City, FL 34436
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Lecanto, FL 34461
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- YMCA - Jim LeGrone Park**
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Crystal River, FL 34429
(352) 500-9622
- Youth And Family Alternatives, Inc.**
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CHRISTMAS PARADES!!

Inverness Parade 12/11/21 12 P.M.

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- **Franklin Anderson Gallery of Arts:** 659 N Citrus Ave, Crystal River FL 34428, 352-697-2702, www.FranklinAndersonGallery.com
- **Painted Pony Luxe Studios:** 3355 E Gulf to Lake Hwy, Inverness FL 34453, 352-270-0168, www.PaintedPonyLuxeStudios.com
- **Wicked Wall Art:** 5713 W Pecan St, Dunnellon, FL 34433, 321-229-0559, www.WickedWallArtLLC.com
- **Southern Pride Design:** 3351 E Gulf to Lake Hwy, Inverness, FL 34453, (352) 423-3080, www.SouthernPrideDesign.com

Chamber Events

- 12/11 - Inverness Christmas Parade; HWY 44 Downtown Inverness
- 12/16 - Chamber Parade Awards Mixer; Re/Max Realty One - Crystal River
- 12/17 - December Chamber Luncheon hosted by BWA; Citrus Hills Golf & Country Club
- 1/15 - 1/16 - 35th Annual Florida Manatee Festival; Downtown Crystal River
- 3/5 - 3/6 - 35th Annual Floral City Strawberry Festival; Floral Park (Floral City)

WYKE 'Chamber Report' on WYKE

Watch the weekly Chamber Report show on WYKE-TV to stay informed on Chamber events, issues, and member spotlights. Chamber Report is broadcast on Tuesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays at 5:00 p.m. on Spectrum Channel 16 or through LiveStream (www.livestream.com/watch and search for "WYKE TV 47").

This week, host Jade White, Chamber Public Relations & Communication Coordinator, talks with Liz Fernley, Director of Events, Marketing, and Cultural Arts with the City of Inverness, about their new event grant cycle. Also joining Jade is David Reed, Executive Director of the Naturecoast YMCA, about their new location in Crystal River; membership, financial assistance, and upcoming winter camp! Finally, Dawn Faherty, Executive Director with the CORE Business Center, sits down to discuss what the CORE Business Center is and how they assist aspiring business owners to get up an running!

Chamber Report is your ticket to the many happenings in Citrus County!

Liz Fernley

David Reed

Dawn Faherty

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ROLL OFF CONTAINERS
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Veteran Owned!

12 Yards 18 Yards

UNDER \$250

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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"Central Florida's Largest & Most Diverse Auction Company"

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96 Harley FLH Reverse Trike Conversion, club car
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15% bp

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BELLAMY GROVE
Fresh Citrus, Broccoli,
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9am-5pm MON. - SAT.
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NEED INVESTORS
for Multiple Property
Development Opportunities.
Call Diane at **352-249-8443**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SALON UPDATE!

Nature Coast Hair Salon,
Homosassa's local hair salon
for many years, closed their
doors due to severe shoulder
injuries to the owner Kim and
seasoned Hair technician,
Brooke. Hopefully in 3-4
months both Kim and Brooke
will return to what is their new
home now at **Changes Hair Salon!**
While recovering from
the shoulder surgery, Kim,
made sure that most of
Nature Coast's loyal clients
were taken care of for their
hair color, cut and style needs
at the Changes Hair Salon.

Changes Hair Salon owners,
Sheryl and Neil ensured that
they have the appropriate hair
color cards and the products
for Nature Coast Hair clients
so there is seamless transi-
tion for all the clients.

Changes Hair Salon is
located in the Homosassa
Neighborhood Plaza and has won the
Neighborhood Favorite Award
for three years in a row.
Changes Hair Salon offers a
clean, healthy and friendly
environment along with a
delicious cup of beverage with
cookies!! We are open
Monday through Friday
8:30am - 4:30pm, Saturday
8:30am-3:30pm. Please call
us at **352-382-HAIR(4247)**
for an appointment and our
friendly experienced hair
experts will be happy to make
your hair the best look it
deserves.

BTW **Changes Hair Salon** is
expanding, so if you are a
passionate hair stylist looking
to join a fun, well paying hair
salon family, (whether part
time or full time), give us a
call at **352-382-HAIR(4247)**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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"Central Florida's Largest & Most Diverse Auction Company"

--TUES. 12/7 @ 8AM
OPEN AIR AUCTION
96 Harley FLH Reverse Trike Conversion, club car
dudleysauction.com
352-637-9588
4000 S. FL Ave., Inv.
Ab1667 Au2246
15% bp

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Avg 16" stump \$25.
No stump to big or too small.
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FRUSTRATED?
NEEDING HELP?
CALL ME, NOW.

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and God Bless"

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1097.5 Board Feet + 1x8x8=64
New 1x8x8 Tongue & Groove
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JUNK & ESTATE CARS
Up to \$1,000 & MORE
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LOST / FOUND

FOUND- Large White/Gray
Male Cat found off of Forest
Ridge Blvd in Beverly Hills,
near Library - afraid of humans
CALL **352-464-1567**

LOST ORANGE TIGER CAT
Male- 1 ear mishapen - not fer-
al just scared of people but
loved my 100 lb dog the minute
he saw him. 2 months ago we
lost our dog to illness and now
our cat goes missing. Area of
Chicken King just off rails to
trails in Hernando
352-637-1714

LOST / FOUND

LOST KITTY (Allie)
Medium gray fur w/ bushy tail &
gold eyes - polydactyl front
paws. Microchipped, spayed &
vaccinated Indoor Cat. On
October 9th delivery from
Browallia Court in Sugarmill
Woods to Florida Ave
Inverness - possible that she
was accidentally taken on that
truck - NOT SURE- may have
escaped home in Sugarmill
Woods - so looking in Sugar-
mill Woods and Inverness on
Florida Ave- Please call with
any information or sightings
330-416-1957

LOST
YELLOW & WHITE CAT
in the vicinity of Deerwood in
INVERNESS
Please call **352-423-4163**
w/ any information

LOST- My Missy is a Gray Cat
w/ Tan patches and has Big
Beautiful Green Eyes- lost in
vicinity of Harrison Ave/ Lin-
coln Ave/ Forest Ridge Blvd in
Beverly Hills on April 17th,
2021- Please Call
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FREE ORGAN,
Wurlitzer, small organ with
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LOTS OF VARIOUS ITEMS
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All proceeds go to
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Christmas items, Kitchen
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 Become a Medical Office Professional online at CTI! Get Trained, Certified & ready to work in months!
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EMPLOYMENT

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

COORDINATOR/ ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

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

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

Please send resume to janem@capitalsteelfl.com

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Full-Time / M-F 8am - 4:30pm

Must have computer skills and attention to detail. Must be at least 21 yrs of age. Clean driving record & reliable transportation.

ABSOLUTELY NO PHONE CALLS

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 Or email resume to: GoldenX1@tampabay.rr.com

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 Starting wages...
GRILL \$12.50/hr;
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SHIFT MANAGERS \$14.50/hr.
 Bowling background a plus!
 Apply in person to **Brandy Burgard** or call **352-795-4546** for more information **Manatee Lanes, Crystal River FL**

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Multi-Media Account Executive

Citrus County Chronicle and our weekly newspapers are growing our sales force in Marion County. Our advertising sales representatives sell digital and print advertising to local and regional businesses of all sizes.

We are looking for a seasoned account executive with a proven track record of success, aggressive, and ready to hit the ground running. Bring your passion for sales and developing strategic business solutions for your clients and we will provide you with a vast array of impactful solutions to target their ideal audience and grow their business.

The successful candidate will have a strong focus on new business development and be charged with growing revenue through a consultative selling approach. You will have a vast array of digital and print products so that you can meet the advertising and marketing needs of every client.

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OFFICE PERSONNEL

Must Have a minimum of five years previous experience with computer knowledge, answering phones, scheduling, filing, and all other general secretarial skills.

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HELP WANTED

Thrift Shoppe Coordinator

FULL TIME w/ BENEFITS

MUST BE: Dependable & able to lift or move items up to 50 lbs

Will assist w/ Thrift Shoppe operations including receiving & evaluating merchandise, sales, cash management, customer service and supervision of volunteers

JOIN OUR TEAM at Friends of Citrus and the Nature Coast!

Send resume to:
Administrator@friendsofcitrus.org

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 Pet Mate Ultra, large, 28"Lx15"Wx21.5"D. Taupe/black \$60
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 Very young kittens available 2 with tails & 3 with no tails
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 Two FREE STANDING GATES White, 24x54x1, Purchased from Pier One - Brand New Still in Box - \$35 ea
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 15ft Extension \$75
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 19"x 19"x 32" Ivory, farmhouse style, storage trunk. \$75
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 "Be Prepared"
 Only \$35 each
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 1 PLANO (over/under) & 1 Rubbermaid/ \$25 for both.
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 20"x 20"x 36" Sturdy, caramel brown wicker, storage trunk.
 \$45 **(863) 304-2697**

FRAMED ART
 31"x 35" Rich forest green, country, vine berries and wicker picture. \$35
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 including Trees and Lighted wreaths- \$50 for all or make offer for individual items.
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 15 hand knitted hats to keep you warm. 3 for \$5 or \$2 each. Call **(352)746-9573 LM**

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 2 Piece pantsuit Micky Mouse; 2 piece pantsuit Minny Mouse. Womens size 18-20. Exc cond \$20 ea **(352)746-9573 Lve Msg**

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 two matching lamps, bronze with beige shades, 30" high, \$60 for both. **352-613-0529**

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 20 quarter round, plastic, 12 ft long, plus 2 laminate molding kits, retails \$250, asking \$125 **(207)576-1355**

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 with wicker basket bed w/ handles- infant size \$60 **352-560-3019**

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 Beautiful - Like New Condition! Comes with Beautiful Silver Breastplate! **BEST OFFER**
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 Brinkman electric smoker, round top. (bullet). only \$100
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 Lg stereo speakers, Advent & BSR. Only \$100
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 Avg 16" stump \$25. No stump to big or too small. Ask about our Disc: Veterans, Volume, & Seniors!! Free Est. Cheapest price guaranteed. Call Rich
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 Same owner since 1987
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 Up to \$1,000 & MORE
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BEAUTY

Sandy's Barbershop has moved

New location is 725 SE 9th Circle Crystal River (Behind KFC)

Walk-ins Welcome
 Men's & Boy's Cuts just \$12
 We cut womens hair too!
Sandy's Barbershop
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HANDYMAN

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 Serving Citrus 30 yrs.
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 Proudly serving Citrus County Since 2001. Licensed/Insured
 Lowest rates! FREE estimate
352-860-1452

MERCHANDISE

TONER CARTRIDGE
Brother TN -550 Brand New,
still in original box \$60.
352-613-0529

TOOLS - JIGSAW
Bosch with case \$40
Call or Text
352-586-4576

TOOLS - SANDER
Makita orbital sander BO5010
\$15 call or text **352-586-4576**

TOOLS - SANDER
Black and Decker 1/3 sheet
sander, \$15
call or text **352-586-4576**

TOOLS - SAW SHARPNER
Chainsaw sharpner \$15
call or text **352-586-4576**

TOOLS - DRILL
Makita 1/2 inch corded drill
with case \$30 Call or Text
352-586-4576

TRAIN SET
Battery Operated, runs on
tracks, works great, \$65
(352) 422-4802

UMBRELLA STROLLER
Blue and Red, in good cond.
\$10 **352-613-0529**

VALOR COMFORTER
KING SIZE in Bag \$25
(352) 527-2085

VINTAGE BARN LUMBER
1097.5 Board Feet + 1x8x8=64
New 1x8x8" Tongue & Groove
122pc Plain 1x8x8" 8pc, 3-Oak
Mantel 8"x4"x65" / Call **(321)
890-4020 /** Crystal River, FL

WEDDING GOWN
SIZE 3 - \$100
(352) 527-2085

**WET BRUSH - HAIR
BRUSHES - GLITTER**
EDITION, 2 in boxes - NEW
\$20 **(352) 527-2085**

Wooden Book Shelf
3 Feet Tall- Unused \$20
(352) 527-2085

APPLIANCES

**SMITTY'S
APPLIANCE REPAIR**
352-564-8179

WASHER & DRYER
GE PROFILE PRODIGY
Good Condition! \$200 ea
(863) 840-1424 Lve Msg

FURNITURE

Armore
3ft x 6ft 2 doors; 4 drawers,
dark wood \$99 **(352)503-6399**
Furniture: Beautiful queen BR
set, drawers underneath and
dresser \$200, Wood dining
table and 6 chairs \$40, antique
refinished dresser and mirror,
\$100 OBO Need to sell! **Text
for photos (845)283-1698**

CORNER CABINET
SOLID OAK- 4 Doors
Unused- \$50
(352) 527-2085

Curio Cabinet
82"H x 40"W x 13"D with
shelves- White washed \$100
352-613-0529

END TABLE - Dark Wood \$10
(352) 560-3019

Mattress & Box Spring
Full Size , good condition \$99
863-840-1424, leave msg

ROCKER
OAK carved rocker with wicker
seat. Great Condition! \$99
(863) 304-2697

WATERBED
QUEEN, Pedestal FRAME w/
Reg. Mattress included. Head-
board w/ mirror, multiple draw-
ers & cabinets Lots of storage-
Dark wood - Good Condition
\$400 **863-840-1424 Lve msg**

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

4 Wheeled Walker
with seat and brakes, used
only once. Just \$65
352-464-0316

**6 packages of Briefs or
Shields.** All Sizes. \$15 each
352-416-0316

Bedside Commode
adjustable legs can be used
also as a shower chair. only
\$35 **352-464-0316**

**Blood Pressure Digital
Monitor - Fitreno- New in box**
\$20 **352-410-8262**

Briefs - NEW-
Four 26ct packages - Assorted
sizes/ \$10 each **352-410-8262**

Depends Briefs - NEW- Hi
quality gray LG/XL 26ct,
3 pkgs/ \$10 each
352-410-8262

Inversion Machine
Spinal Stimulation
-tips you upside down.
Only \$100
352-464-0316

Manual Wheelchair with
footrests. Used little. Only
\$100 **352-464-0316**

**Metro Mobility Electric 4
Wheel SCOOTER-**(M1 series
LITE) **NEW IN BOX-** Black w/
red trim, 8 in wheels, anti-tip,
easy portability. Paid over
\$959- Sacrifice \$700 obo Cash
Only-**(352) 410-8262 or (732)
857-5120**

**BED RAIL- NICE STAINLESS
STEEL \$15 (352) 423-4163**

Shower Chair
Large - slide over the tub
type. Very adjustable.
Only \$35 **352-464-0316**

STEP UP EXERCISER
w/ support handle. Great for
rehab/stability - NEW.
\$30 obo **352-410-8262**

Transport Chair
NEW with or without Footrest
Only \$65 **(352)464-0316**

SPORTING GOODS

Belt Massager
SUNTENTOWN - Like New!
\$50 **352-419-4066**

GOLF BALLS
Excellent Titleist Velocity and
Trufeel \$36
352-228-9030

SPORTING GOODS

BICYCLE-GIANT
21 SP MENS, SHIMANO
RIGGED
\$100 Call or Text
352-586-4576

GOLF CLUBS w/ Carrier, \$15
352-560-3019

GOLF CLUBS
FULL SET- NAME BRAND
WOMEN'S Golf Clubs & Bag.
Good Condition! \$100
352-201-2859

**HURRICANE GOLF
UMBRELLA**
HAAS - Jordan 1) green/white
& 1) blue/white - New \$40 ea
(352) 527-2085

LIFE JACKET
West Marine off shore
inflatable life jacket, New \$100
call or text **352-586-4576**

TRANSPORTATION

**ATV
HONDA**
2014 TRX 400X
Low Miles-
**\$4,500 obo cash only
(352) 613-8173**

MOTOR HOIST W/ CHAIN
\$50 **(352) 560-3019**

WANTED
JUNK & ESTATE CARS
Up to **\$1,000 & MORE**
(352) 342-7037

UTILITY TRAILER
Buy a 6' x 12', 2021 for the
price of a 5' x 10': NEW Paint,
Tires, Kayak & Bike Rack
included. \$1,950 OBO
772-370-9374

BOATS

SOLD
- 14 Foot G3 Yamaha
Wide Jon Boat w/ Trailer
and 9.9 Yamaha Motor 4
stroke Looks NEW , Very Low
hrs (5) \$5000

**WANTED - ALL RV's &
BOATS - Any condition - We
come to you- SAME DAY
CASH (941) 284-3498**

CARS/SUV

2017 Kia Soul
Low miles, FL car,
\$13,999 OBO **(727)422-4433**

DODGE 1999 Caravan
Runs good, \$1500 obo
352-465-2836 or 352-422-0380

JAGUAR
2003, 1ST YR W/ V8
\$10k
(352) 422-7170

**89 Mustang
Convertible 5.0**
5sp, Rust Free, Many Extras!
Too much to List- Discs,
SS Exhaust, etc \$15,000
(352)436-9718

TOYOTA AVALON
2011 / 1-owner, garage kept,
reg maint, GPS, Exc Cond
fully loaded, cold a/c, 127K mi
moon roof, \$10,400 obo
808-203-9621 call or text

Toyota 2014 Prius,
Hybrid, 60,200 mi, exc gas mil
(50 mpg). Dark blue with light
gray interior, great condition
\$10,900 813-760-8690

****VEHICLE NEEDED****
Senior in need of vehicle
(car/van/suv/pickup) low
mileage preferred, reasonable,
cash paid. Please call
352- 4 two two-08 one 7

CLASSICS

MG
1976 MGB, Red, NEW
top & upholstery, wire
wheel, \$6900 Make Offer
(352)346-1053

PLYMOUTH
1969 Sport Satellite
Numbers Matching Car
383 V8 (Prof. Rebuilt
Power Brakes)
SHOW WINNER
\$34,500 **352-746-3749**

MOTORCYCLES

HARLEY 2016
Switchback, 2,935 mi.,
\$10,500 or BEST OFFER
352-765-4679

HARLEY DAVIDSON
2007 Fat Boy, Vance & Hines
Pipes, 13k Original Miles, Well
Maintained! \$7950 OBO
516-819-9196

HARLEY-DAVIDSON
2001 FAT BOY
1-owner, lots of extras,
low miles, Excellent Shape!
\$7500
352-220-4752

HARLEY-DAVIDSON
SPORTSTER 1200
3 wheeler- (rear end kit-
IMC Trike)-has Reverse,
Emergency Brake & Hitch
for towing. Call **RICK
352-637-1647**
if no ans LV msg

TRIKE V8
MUST SEE! Factory Made,
Excellent Cond./ Low Miles,
Auto Trans w/ reverse
1 of a Kind- Pics online
Reasonable \$19,900
231-330-5553

VOYAGER TRIKE KIT
Asking \$1800 - Call for Details
352-637-0397

TRUCKS

2016 GMC SLE V6 Crew Cab
Tow pkg. Chrome pkg. tool
box, dark gray, title in hand,
Excellent Condition! 47,500
miles \$29,900 **727-504-5920**
or **727-483-4085**

TRUCKS



FIRE TRUCK
**1994 INTERNATIONAL 4900
CREW CAB TURBO DIESEL**
17,985 orig mi., 1K gal. water
tank w/ 1250 GPM pump. Runs
& Drives PERFECT! \$39,500
obo Call/Text **305-720-8033**

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

2007 Trail Cruiser Lite
19ft., Loaded, Cold A/C &
Heat, Very Clean, sleeps 6-7
\$7900 OBO **(352) 765-3089**

2017 FOREST RIVER
TRAVEL TRAILER Micro Lite -
Couples Cabin 26ft - 1 Slide
\$22,995 **352-795-7820**

2018 STRYKER
TOY HAULER, FIFTH WHEEL,
2 Slides, 41ft, \$59,995
352-795-7820

2020 JAYCO
NORTH POINT, FIFTH WHEEL,
5 Slides, 44ft, \$70,995
352-795-7820

LEGALS

9059-1205 MXDCRN 2018-GA-13
Guardianship Mary Caputo
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR CITRUS COUNTY, FLORIDA
File No. 2018-GA-13

IN RE: GUARDIANSHIP OF
MARY CAPUTO,
An Incapacitated Person

NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on October 29, 2021 there was placed on deposit in this office, funds received from the **Guardianship of Mary Caputo, deceased**, in the amount of \$421.48. Said funds are all the assets due to:

The Estate of Mary Caputo

Unless said funds are claimed on or before six (6) months from the first date of publication of this notice, said funds will be forwarded to the State of Florida, pursuant to Florida Statutes 744.534 (3).

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and official seal at Inverness, Citrus County, Florida, on October 29 2021.

ANGELA VICK, Clerk of the Circuit Court
{County Court Seal}

By /s/ Sonia Prylepa
Deputy Clerk
Publish Citrus County Chronicle November 5, 2021 and December 5, 2021

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished to Tanya M. Williams, Esquire (tanyawilliams2@tampabay.rr.com and ifll tampabay.rr.com), via electronic mail, this 2nd day of November, 2021.

Published November 5 & December 5, 2021.

MISCELLANEOUS

1690-1212 SUCRN

NOTICE OF INTENT TO USE UNIFORM METHOD OF COLLECTING NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENTS

The Town of Inglis, Florida (the "Town") hereby provides notice, pursuant to section 197.3632(3)(a), Florida Statutes, of its intent to use the uniform method of collecting non-ad valorem special assessments to be levied within the incorporated area of the Town, for the cost of providing fire protection services, facilities and programs commencing for the Fiscal Year beginning on October 1, 2022 and continuing until discontinued by the Town. The Town will consider the adoption of a resolution electing to use the uniform method of collecting such assessments authorized by section 197.3632, Florida Statutes, at a public hearing to be held at 6:00 p.m. on December 14, 2021 in the Town Commission Meeting Room, Inglis Town Hall, 135 Highway 40 West, Inglis, Florida. Such resolution will state the need for the levy and will contain a legal description of the boundaries of the real property subject to the levy. Copies of the proposed form of resolution, which contains the legal description of the real property subject to the levy, are on file at the Town Clerk's office in Town Hall, located at 135 Highway 40 West, Inglis, Florida. All interested persons are invited to attend.

In the event any person decides to appeal any decision by the Town with respect to any matter relating to the consideration of the resolution at the above-referenced public hearing, a record of the proceeding may be needed and in such an event, such person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the public hearing is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence on which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation or an interpreter to participate in this proceeding should contact the Town Clerk at (352) 447-2203, ext. 101, at least two (2) business days prior to the date of the hearing.

DATED this 12th day of November, 2021.

By Order of: Cery Logeman
TOWN OF INFLIS, FLORIDA

Published November 21 & 28 and December 5 & 12, 2021

MISCELLANEOUS

1698-1205 SUCRN
CITRUS COUNTY BUILDING DIVISION
PUBLIC NOTICE

Contractor Licensing Special Master – R. Colt Kirkland

The public is hereby notified that Citrus County Building Division - Contractor Licensing will conduct a Special Master Hearing on **Tuesday, December 14, 2021, at 1:00 p.m., in Room 166, at the Lecanto Government Building, 3600 W Sovereign Path, Lecanto, Florida 34461**, at which time and place all persons interested are invited to attend. The following cases will be heard by the Contractor Licensing Special Master: however, cases may abate prior to the hearing date. If you have any questions, please contact Contractor Licensing at (352) 527-5401.

Administrative Complaints:
• Citrus County, Florida, a political subdivision of the State of Florida v. Anna Torres, property owner of 884 N Prairie Point, Inverness, Florida 34450 – Case #280806, violations of Florida Statute § 489.127(1)(h).

• Citrus County, Florida, a political subdivision of the State of Florida v. Jennifer Ford, 5129 N Crossgate Pt, Beverly Hills, Florida 34465 – Case #274354, violations of Florida Statute § 489.127(1)(h).

Persons are advised that any individual who might wish to appeal any decision made at this hearing regarding any matter is hereby advised that they will need a record of the proceedings for such purpose and that they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made which record shall include the testimony and evidence upon which such appeal is to be based.

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

Published December 5, 2021

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

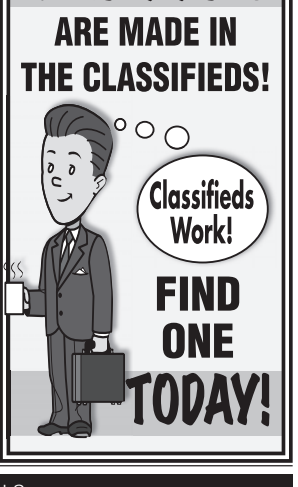
FIFTH WHEEL- 2021 44.5ft
LUXE Toy Hauler- Arctic Pkg
+W/D, 2 heat pumps & 1 A/C-
heater, bath tub, side covers,
loaded, plus more \$165K Call
Bruce at **352-398-7012**

RV TOY HAULER, 2014 PUMA
Canyon Cat, 24 ft, full bath/kitchen, AC/Heat, self contained elec/gas 2 couches fold up to wall and covert to 2 queen beds exc cond \$16,200 **352-727-9542**

**WANTED - ALL RV's &
BOATS - Any condition - We
come to you - SAME DAY
CASH (941) 284-3498**

CAREERS

**ARE MADE IN
THE CLASSIFIEDS!**



LEGALS

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Guardianship Mary Caputo
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
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{County Court Seal}

By /s/ Sonia Prylepa
Deputy Clerk
Publish Citrus County Chronicle November 5, 2021 and December 5, 2021

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Published November 5 & December 5, 2021.

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DATED this 12th day of November, 2021.

By Order of: Cery Logeman
TOWN OF INFLIS, FLORIDA

Published November 21 & 28 and December 5 & 12, 2021

MISCELLANEOUS

1698-1205 SUCRN
CITRUS COUNTY BUILDING DIVISION
PUBLIC NOTICE

Contractor Licensing Special Master – R. Colt Kirkland

Things you didn't know about your toilet

Toilets are a pretty important part of your life is my guess. They may appear simple to you, but in reality, they're quite complex. I'm going to try to demystify the porcelain pedestal in an effort to minimize problems you might have with one in the future.

I've been a master plumber since 1981, so I've not only installed my fair share of toilets, but I've also helped folks like you unclog them and keep them running quietly. Let's start with the basics.

The toilet in your home connects directly to a drain pipe. In almost all instances the pipe you can't see has an inner diameter of 3 inches. Toilets have a curved passageway, it's called a colon, that will normally allow a 2-inch-diameter ball to pass through with no issues. It's the same thinking for central vacuum cleaners. The opening at the end of the wand as well as the wand tubing are a smaller diameter than the invisible

pipe in the wall. You want to make it very hard for the hidden pipes to get clogged.

The connection between your toilet and the plumbing drain pipe must be leakproof, for all the obvious reasons. Not only must it not leak water, but it absolutely can't allow rank sewer gas to seep into your home. Wretched sewer gas is a chronic problem for many people. Every week, I get a frantic phone call helping



Tim Carter
ASK THE BUILDER



TIM CARTER/Tribune Content Agency

Here's a rare photo of a toilet that you've undoubtedly never seen. It's the underside of the commode with a new wax gasket applied to the outlet hole.

someone solve a sewer gas problem. Most are traced to a failed seal between the toilet and the special flange on the floor that is the termination of the drain pipe.

This flange must sit on top of the finished flooring material. In many cases, for a host of reasons, it doesn't. Two classic errors are commonly made: One is when a plumber attaches the flange to the house subfloor. The other is

when a homeowner installs a new floor on top of an existing one and buries the flange's top surface below the plane of the new floor.

When this happens, a rookie homeowner trying to install a toilet might not realize the wax or rubber gasket that creates the seal is not making solid contact with both the underside of the toilet and the top of the flange.

Once a toilet is bolted correctly to the flange, the gap between the base of the toilet and the floor should be grouted using regular tile grout. Don't

See BUILDER/Page E15

Beautiful Terra Vista home located at
1424 N. Whisperwood Drive, Hernando FL



Priced to sell at \$667,500 Put this one at the top of your list!
3 bedrooms / 3 bathrooms / 3 car garage / 1,817 total Living sq. feet.



Welcome to the home of your dreams! This luxury pool home features upgrades at every turn!

As you enter the home, you will immediately notice the 14 foot ceilings, trimmed with crown moldings. Incredible features like wood-plank tile, designer light fixtures, quartz counter tops, gas stove, gas fireplace and more! You will love entertaining family and friends in this beautiful retreat.

The pool and spa are both heated, which means year round fun on the patio. This "Carefree" home relieves you of exterior maintenance. Your monthly fees cover the cost of lawn maintenance, exterior paint every 7 years and roof cleaning services. Come live the Terra Vista lifestyle and enjoy the restaurants and amenities of this fabulous gated community. Why build and wait when you can buy the home of your dreams today!



Amy Meek

Licensed Real Estate Agent

Call 352-212-3038

amy.meek@meekrealestate.com



SELLERS! Sell Your Home With ERA!

OVER \$198,079,561 SOLD IN 2021!



TEXT 942305 TO 35620 FOR ELECTRONIC BROCHURE

LOOKING FOR THE PERFECT LOCATION TO BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME?

This beautifully wooded lot of almost 1 acre is on a paved road and only 10 minutes from town. It is conveniently located near Crystal River, Inglis and Dunnellon. Public boat ramps to Crystal River and the Withlacoochee River are just a short drive away. Enjoy the sunshine and all that the Nature Coast has to offer. Call today!

MLS# 800472 \$25,000

JAMES DAVIS
352-476-3990



TEXT 1041131 TO 35620 FOR ELECTRONIC BROCHURE
WELL-MANICURED NEIGHBORHOOD, WITHOUT HOA FEES

A couple of blocks from Withlacoochee State Forest, 2 blocks from main thoroughway in Inverness, couldn't be in a more convenient location! Lot is over an acre w/plenty of room to spread out. Split floor plan, large kitchen, dining, and family room area in the center. Rear of the home is a full wall of sliding glass doors that open to a sitting porch to view the back yard. A small area fenced for pet safety! Plenty of room to add a pool!

MLS# 807810 \$223,000

GERI JONES GAUGLER
609-214-9963



TEXT 878140 TO 35620 FOR ELECTRONIC BROCHURE

WONDERFUL PIECE OF PROPERTY THAT OFFERS YOU SOLITUDE, SERENITY AND ALL THE PRIVACY YOU DESIRE!

Build your dream home here! Level with trees throughout. Paved roads, easy drive to restaurants, banking, and shopping. Only about 15-20 minutes away from Dunnellon, and all the water activities you could wish for. 30-45 minutes to Ocala or Crystal River and only about an hour and a half from Orlando or Tampa. If it's nature you desire the Goethe State Forest is out your back door and you also have access to all the grand splendor the nature coast has to offer.

MLS# 806393 \$8,900

JAMES DAVIS
352-476-3990



TEXT 638119 TO 35620 FOR ELECTRONIC BROCHURE

GORGEOUS 1+ ACRE LOT IN PRESTIGIOUS PINE RIDGE AREA OF BEVERLY HILLS WAITING FOR YOUR BEAUTIFUL FOREVER HOME

Deed restricted; HOA fees are minimal. Beautiful YMCA facility close with all the equipment and facilities you can imagine. Minutes from shopping, restaurants, banking, and more. Short drive from Inverness, Crystal River or Dunnellon and all the water activities. Only 60 minutes +/- to Orlando or Tampa and only 30 minutes from Ocala. Equestrian trails? Golf courses? Got those too!

MLS# 802658 \$59,000

JAMES DAVIS
352-476-3990



TEXT 616336 TO 35620 FOR ELECTRONIC BROCHURE

INVERNESS POOL HOME!

2 bedroom, 2 bath, split plan, living rm, family rm w/gas fireplace, Florida rm, fenced backyard, 1 car garage, 1 car detached garage/workshop.



MLS# 807759 \$260,000
ROGER LANGLEY/BETTY POWELL
352-302-0689/352-422-6417



TEXT 136001 TO 35620 FOR ELECTRONIC BROCHURE

PICTURE PERFECT IN CITRUS SPRINGS!

3/2/2 built in 2019- great kitchen with wood cabinets. Tile flooring (wood look), plant shelves, dining area. Split plan- granite in both bathrooms, 2 car garage- chain link fenced backyard. Concrete patio- great starter or retirement home!

MLS# 807865 \$249,900

STEVE LATIFF
352-634-0101



TEXT LYNNHARRIS TO 35620 FOR ELECTRONIC BROCHURE

"T'WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS, WHEN ALL THROUGH THE HOUSE NOT A CREATURE WAS STIRRING, NOT EVEN A MOUSE"

...Heck, Santa is on his own this year... Grab some elves and get busy on this 3/2 home with a screened porch, covered carport and shed. Situated on 1 acre located in Rainbow Lake Estates, where you can enjoy all the peace and privacy your heart desires. With some tender love and care, this home could be Santa's next stop. You'll be enjoying those milk and cookies in no time!

MLS# 807727

LYNN HARRIS
352-269-8499



TEXT 136000 TO 35620 FOR ELECTRONIC BROCHURE

STUNNING ESTATE HOME BUILT IN 2014 ON 2.85 ACRES IN PINE RIDGE

Gated entry. Custom 5 bedroom, 4.5 baths with huge screened in pool/entertainment area with paver brick. Fabulous kitchen with custom wood cabinets, granite, and deluxe appliances. Large home office, game room, formal living and dining room, and family room. Attached 2 car garage plus huge 24 x 36 detached garage or workshop. Summer kitchen with built in stainless gas grill, granite, refrigerator, and sink. This home is exceptional in every way. Totally fenced and contiguous to the horse trail.

MLS# 804484 \$899,000

STEVE LATIFF
352-634-0101



TEXT LYNNHARRIS TO 35620 FOR ELECTRONIC BROCHURE

WRAP IT UP, YOU'LL TAKE IT!

This impeccably cared for 1300sqft cutie is the perfect retirement or starter home. This 3/2/2 home boasts vaulted ceilings, stainless steel appliances and plenty of cabinets. Abundant storage space throughout. Master bedroom with ensuite and a HUGE walk-in closet. Interior is painted in soft tones. Freshly painted light and bright on the outside. Backyard is fully fenced and a clean palette to let your creativity flow. Security alarm & sprinkler system too. FREE 1 YEAR HOME WARRANTY for PEACE of MIND as a GIFT to the FUTURE BUYER at closing.

MLS# 807726

LYNN HARRIS
352-269-8499



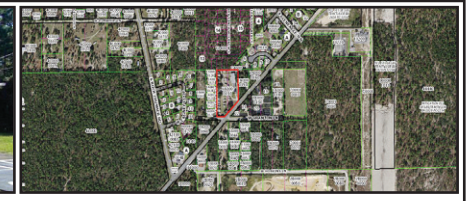
TEXT 134218 TO 35620 FOR ELECTRONIC BROCHURE

4.12 ACRES - GNC

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8 clever ways to make your holiday celebration more sustainable

KARLA WALSH
Tribune Content Agency

Living **SPACE**

The holidays are a time of gifting thoughtful presents and adding festive decor inside and out. However, all the cheer often means a lot of "stuff." And a lot of waste. Americans toss 1 million extra pounds of garbage each week between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, according to the National Environmental Education Foundation. Wondering how to channel your inner Santa without hurting Mother Nature? Use these tips and tricks to celebrate more sustainably this holiday season.

1. Deck the halls with LED lights. American cities shine 20% to 50% brighter from space between Thanksgiving and Christmas, according to NASA research. "While



Channel your inner Santa without hurting Mother Nature.

that can bring a lot of cheer during this dark time of the year, it also takes a lot of energy. LED bulbs use at least 75% less energy, so that's a much smaller climate footprint and much lower bills,"

says Darby Hoover, a senior resource specialist at the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Admittedly, the initial investment for strands of LED lights is higher (generally about \$5 to \$15 more

for a strand of LED lights compared to conventional), but Hoover says the lower energy bill quickly makes up for the difference in upfront costs. "They also last a lot longer — up to 40 seasons—so you are saving money and sending fewer strands into the trash year after year," she says.

2. Opt for a real tree. "Real trees are almost always a better choice for the environment than artificial trees," Hoover says, since they're grown locally and are made from biodegradable materials. "You can also decorate a tree that exists on your property already, or even decorate a houseplant," she says. Just be sure to dispose of it properly after you pack up the decor.

Skip the landfill, if

See **SPACE/Page E5**

Reader's picture memorializes famous site

Dear John: I have my mother's old three-dimensional cast picture "The Old Curiosity Shop, London." On the back it says Ivorex (Ossoront) Copy, Made in England. The printing is very hard to read, and I am sure I got some of it wrong!

Over the years it has fallen, and the bottom corners have some damages. It is old and I wonder if it is worth trying to sell and what it might be worth. Thanks for your help. — S.S., *Hernando*

Dear S.S.: The item you have depicting "The Old Curiosity Shop" is a souvenir of the most famous shop in London. The shop was built in 1567 and is the oldest shop still in operation in London.



John Sikorski
SIKORSKI'S ATTIC

It inspired Charles Dickens to write his book titled "The Old Curiosity Shop" in 1840, which was serialized through 1841, about little Nell and her grandfather who owned the shop. The book was a smash hit in London and the United States.

The Ivorex on the back of the picture is a marketing word intended to give the idea it is made of ivory, which it is not. The words "made in England" indicate it was made well into the 20th

century.

There is no specific collector interest, but the subject is most interesting. A nice item to pass on in the

See **ATTIC/Page E5**



This picture is a souvenir image of The Old Curiosity Shop — the oldest shop still in operation in London.

Special to the Chronicle

SPACE

Continued from Page E4

possible, and opt to recycle trees into mulch or compost, which helps return nutrients and organic matter back to soils and nutrient cycles. Check your local municipality's website to find out if — and how — they might be able to help recycle your Christmas tree, Hoover says.

3. When gifting, think quality over quantity. Presents don't need to be new to be noteworthy. "The main misconception most of us have when purchasing gifts is that in order for it to be nice, it has to be new. The best way to reduce environmental impacts associated with gifts is to reduce and reuse — and then recycle, in that order," Hoover says. Yes, that means you have full permission to regift, or to shop for interesting finds at thrift stores or antique shops.

When you do purchase new items, prioritize those that are durable, made from recycled content and can be repurposed or recycled at their end of life, suggests Hoover.

4. Splurge on experiences rather than things. If possible, gift activities or services rather than items. Bonus points if it's something you and the recipient can enjoy together, such as two tickets to a cooking class or a couple of memberships at your local museum.

5. Donate to a charity in the recipient's name. For a gift that will give back for years to come, consider a charitable donation in someone's name. "The holidays are the perfect time to make donations to charities that are working on causes near and dear to your loved one's heart," Hoover says. Plus, donations to nonprofit organizations are tax-deductible.

6. Wrap in an eco-friendly way. Even if you share experiences and charitable donations, you'll likely have at least a few items to wrap. In that case, seek out recycled options such as newspaper comics, old wall calendars, fabric or paper maps, Hoover suggests. You can even reuse wrapping paper.

Since Americans discard thousands of miles of ribbon each year, try twine or raffia instead (or just skip the bow altogether).

7. Send recycled or plant-able cards. More than 2.6 billion holiday cards are sent each year, which can really add up in terms of paper use and environmental impact for transport. The best option is to call with a holiday greeting or send an e-card.

But if you're set on sending a handwritten note, invest in cards printed on 100% post-industrial recycled paper. For a go-green bonus that will offset the shipping carbon footprint, send plant-able cards that are studded with seeds. After opening the card and enjoying the sentiment, your loved one can soak the card overnight, tear it into tiny pieces, plant it under a layer of soil and water it until emerging seedlings deliver another gift.

8. Right-size your menu. "One of the best things you can do to host a more sustainable meal is to eat what you make. In our quest to show people how much we care via their stomachs, however, a lot of uneaten food ends up in the trash. When good food goes to waste, so does all of the water, energy, land and money it took to get it to our plate," Hoover says.

Better Homes and Gardens is a magazine and website devoted to ideas and improvement projects for your home and garden, plus recipes and entertaining ideas. Visit them online at www.bhg.com.

ATTIC

Continued from Page E4

family along with the story of the shop. There is a lot of information on the internet; just Google the title.

Dear John: I have several war ration books from World War II. My mom kept them all these years.

Some of them have stamps with different symbols on them which I suppose represent the different items they were for; one of the books has a whole row labeled coffee.

On the back of one book of stamps it says, "When you have used your ration, salvage the tin cans and WASTE FATS, they are needed to make munitions for our fighting men. Cooperate with your local Salvage Committee."

Is there anyone who collects these books? Is there anywhere I could donate them to? — G.S., *internet*

Dear G.S.: The story

and history of World War II ration books should be read by all. World War I and II memorabilia is a large category of collecting.

World War II ration books are low on the totem pole of collector interest. In general, complete books sell from \$4 to \$8, partial books below \$4.

One website to check out for those interested is www.wartimecollectables.com.

The story and a good explanation about ration books can be found at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans. The website is www.nationalww2museum.org. If you plan on keeping them for future generations, make sure to contain them in acid neutral plastic containers. They are readily available at hobby, craft and office supply stores.

John Sikorski has been a professional in the antiques business for 30 years. Send questions to Sikorski's Attic, P.O. Box 2513, Ocala, FL 34478 or asksikorski@aol.com.

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Gardening workshop Dec. 21: 'Minimizing Nuisance Pests & Plants' offered in Lecanto

Special to the Chronicle

Citrus County Utilities Florida-Friendly Landscaping Program is offering a free gardening workshop, "Minimizing Nuisance Pests & Plants," from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Dec. 21 at the Citrus County Extension Service building, 3650 W. Sovereign Path in Lecanto.

Several plant and wildlife species have been

introduced, both intentionally and accidentally to the Florida peninsula which cause control problems.

Learn which species to be aware of and what non-harmful controls are being developed to control invasive populations.

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Outdoor decorating trends: natural, cozy, sustainable

KIM COOK
Associated Press

Home, as we know, has become more central to many of us during the pandemic, and that means outdoors as well as in. This holiday season, designers and retailers have suggestions for updating window, door and yard decorations.

Trends include sustainability, naturalness and coziness.

Nature show

New York interior designer John Douglas Eason appreciates a season where “over the top” is often just what’s needed.

“But that said, I like subtle holiday design, incorporating nature and keeping it tonal. I love monochromatic gourds with a gnarly tree branch tossed in for interest and fresh greens,” he says.

Eason suggests luminarias to light walkways, “and I’ve been playing around with the idea of connecting them with thick garlands and woodland elements.

“I really think a more natural holiday design is absolutely on point this season.”

When the holiday is over, he notes, recyclable decor can go back to nature “and help to ensure the gift of a safer earth for generations to come.”

Professional organizer Shira Gill, whose new book, “Minimalista” (Ten Speed Press), offers decluttering tips, also suggests going biodegradable. String a popcorn and cranberry garland for window boxes or railings, or make a front-door wreath out of tree trimmings or fallen twigs.

“These can all hit the compost bin when the new year rolls around,” she says.

Holiday lodge

If heading off to a cozy cabin is more aspirational than doable, you can still achieve the chalet vibe. A few birch logs placed in a galvanized steel or enameled planter, with pine or cedar boughs and some faux or real moss bedding the pot, will look inviting with or without a strand of warmly hued fairy lights.

Peel-and-stick removable decals can dress up a front door or street-facing windows. Tempaper’s white Christmas Village wall decal set gives you pine trees, deer, various buildings and an array of stars to create a silhouetted scene.

Grandin Road also has a silhouette theme, with powder-coated metal deer and mountains.

Home Depot’s Polar Wishes collection includes a herd of lighted white deer in various poses, as well as a sleigh and deer combo. A slim, white-lighted tree would look enchanting on a city stoop or in a suburban yard.

Instead of the usual wreath, hang a set of Terrain’s leather and silver sleigh bells.

Traditional colors

Nicole Fisher, who bases her BNR Interiors firm in New York’s Hudson Valley, likes to blend the time-tested colors of Christmas with fresh twists.

“My color palette this year is going to be green and red with black and white accents,” she says. “I love the traditional concept of black and white, but also how it’s unexpected for the holidays. Harlequin and checkered prints in small doses, for ornaments or decorative accents, work for both inside and out of the house.”



A traditional front door decoration from Lowe’s. Frame the front door or wrap a railing with a lighted garland, and add a coordinating wreath, for a cozy, festive vibe. There are plug-in versions as well as battery operated ones, with a timer — great if you have no handy plug.

Lowe’s

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Another great residence custom-built in 2005. This 3/2/2home features 1,802 sq. ft. living space w/ vaulted ceilings, open living/dining area, no carpet anywhere. Main bedroom suite has a tray ceiling, double vanities, garden tub & step-in shower. Nice modern kitchen w breakfast nook, Florida Room.

\$275,000

TRENDS

Continued from Page E6

She likes magnolia-leaf garlands with green tops and a rich burgundy red on their fuzzy undersides.

“They’re my favorite to use because they pop against a blanket of snow,” Fisher says. “They’re also very hardy and last through the entire season, always looking fresh.”

If you can’t find magnolia garlands locally, Food52 quick-ships good-looking fresh ones. And there are lovely faux versions that you can embellish with extra pops of green, red or copper magnolia sprigs, at Etsy, Jamali Garden and West Elm.

Garlands of all kinds of greenery can warm up the look of railings or frame doorways. Leave them au naturel, or dress them with metallic accents and small decorations for your overall theme.

A 9-foot multicolored garland at Lowe’s is battery-operated, if you don’t have an outdoor plug nearby. Set the timer, and the lights go on and off at the same hours each evening. There’s also a 24-inch wreath with the same features.

Modern winter

Gill’s aesthetic is minimalist, but striking. “Engage all the senses,” she advises. “Project festive images on your front door — think snowy winter wonderland, or a slideshow of your favorite holiday memories.”

Like Eason, she loves the idea of lining walkways with lanterns or tall white candles for “a chic, minimalist look that still feels festive and lovely.”

LightShow’s Projection SnowStorm sets an 8-foot-wide blizzard of snowflakes dancing across the front of the house. Another version has gently falling snowflakes across a 30-foot expanse.



Grandin Road

Oversized fiberglass ornaments, from Grandin Road. The ornaments are whimsical and eye-catching. Kids can imagine they’ve fallen off a giant’s Christmas tree, and adults can enjoy the bold, statement-making patterns.

While winter white is great for a modern look, Eason says adding colors to the scheme can make it “2020s fresh.”

“Womp up your contemporary design with vintage ornaments, or add gorgeous velvet ribbon in teal, purple or a scrumptious chocolate brown,” he says.

Peachy-pink is another trending holiday shade, in bright and blush tones.

For Hanukkah, Wayfair has fabric door and garage murals printed with blue, white and silver symbols and greetings.

Kids’ christmas

Grandin Road’s bright, oversize fiberglass ornaments look like they plopped off a giant’s Christmas tree. Or keep things small: Those handy little solar stick lights that you pop in the ground around a garden or walkway have been given a holiday dress-up with candy cane stripes and a snowy cap, at Lowe’s.

Inflatable décor may not be for everyone, but if you’ve got little kids, it’s hard to ignore the delight sparked by seeing a gigantic character on a front lawn. Lowe’s has favorites

from Toy Story, Frozen, Grinch, Peanuts and Star Wars. At Home Depot, there’s a big Millennium Falcon, inflatable sleighs, trees, Santas, snowmen, and a gingerbread house you can walk through to get to the holiday fun indoors.



Tempaper

Christmas Village decals from Tempaper. The decals can be attached to any smooth surface. They’d make an interesting vignette on a front window or door, and they remove easily with no residue.



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Native Florida hollies can make tea, feed birds

Using sprigs of holly as traditional winter decorations originated in Europe and Britain, with the prickly, glossy green leaves and shiny bright red berries of the European Holly, *Ilex aquifolium*. Historically, settlers in coastal North American colonies adopted the widespread American Holly for making attractive festive decorations.



Jane Weber
JANE'S GARDEN

American Holly, *Ilex opaca*, is a medium-sized canopy tree ranging the eastern and south-central United States as far south as humid subtropical Central Florida. Average trees grow 98 feet high and 33 to 66 feet wide. Trunks can reach 20 to 47 inches in diameter. Bark is smooth, light gray and roughened with warty-looking patches and lumps. American Holly grows in full sun and moist humus-rich soil in cold hardiness zones 5-9. There are several regional named cultivars cloned from female parent trees that produce clusters of berries at the axils where the prickly leaves join the twigs.

Globally there are about 480-500 species of *Ilex* holly plants. Based on modern scientific molecular data, *Ilex* is now the only genus in the family Aquifoliaceae. Florida has 14 native *Ilex* hollies. Woody hollies can be trees, shrubs or climbing plants and occur in temperate and tropical climates. Some are evergreen, others deciduous. Those used in landscaping tolerate pruning, which butchers the natural shape and removes flowers and fruit. Some cultivars are naturally low-growing shrubs.

All *Ilex* hollies are dioecious, where the female pistillate flowers are on one plant and the male staminate flowers are on another



JANE WEBER/Special to the Chronicle

Bernice Rambert, a Canadian visitor, crushes crisp dried yaupon leaves in a bowl. Bright green leaves seen in the white bowl were fresh plucked from bushes in Jane's garden. Volunteers can call Jane to schedule a visit to help harvest evergreen yaupon tea any month of the year. They can take free, fresh leaves home to share with friends. See more photos with teamaking instructions online at www.chronicleonline.com.

of the same species. Only female plants produce berries. *Ilex* hollies have simple (not lobed) alternate leaves with either serrate (prickly), crenate (with scalloped rounded teeth) or entire (smooth) margins (edges).

Female Weeping Yaupon, *Ilex vomitoria*, grows into a small tree 25 to 30 feet high and 10 to 15 feet wide. Plant a compact male yaupon holly shrub for crosspollination to produce fruit. This yaupon is the only indigenous plant in the U.S. that contains caffeine and theobromine in its leaves. For thousands of years, yaupon leaves have been used to brew "black drink" by indigenous people. Stimulating caffeinated yaupon tea is jitter-free due to the theobromine.

In addition, the yaupon's theophylline, theacrine, saponins and polyphenols may have anti-inflammatory, antioxidant,

anti-diabetic, cardiovascular and anti-carcinogenic properties.

Colonists adopted yaupon tea and preferred the taste over expensive imported and taxed Asian tea. In my garden, I grow about 50 male yaupons named "Schilling's Holly" and wither (dry) yaupon tea leaves. Florida's commercial producers sell this natural herbal "tea" online. Homeowners can dry their own leaves on a tray made of a window screen and covered by a dark breathable cotton sheet or in an oven or dehydrator. Volunteers can visit my garden to help prune and harvest *Ilex* yaupon leaves to take home.

The tree form, female Weeping Yaupon variety can be used to soften the corners of buildings, shade air conditioner units and screen trash cans. Yaupon's alternate, crenate small leaves allow air circulation and filtered sunlight.

Originally found in 1923 in Walton County in West Florida's panhandle and scientifically described in 1924, the naturally occurring hybrid Topal Holly, *Ilex x attenuata*, is the only variety still found in the wild. Topal hollies are widely cloned and cultivated as landscape trees. Named cultivars, primarily from female trees, include East Palatka, Foster's and Savanna Holly. East Palatka Holly (EPH) was found in 1927 near Palatka along the north-flowing, 310-mile-long St. Johns River, Florida.

Topal hollies are various crosses between Dahoon Holly, *I. cassine*, and American Holly, *I. opaca*. These hybrids produce mostly sterile drupe fruit if not pruned as topiary specimens. In mid-spring, topals have small white flowers with ample pollen and nectar that attracts bees, butterflies and other pollinators and the birds that prey on



This Weeping Yaupon, *Ilex vomitoria*, is a female small tree maturing 25 to 30 feet tall.



East Palatka and other topal hollies, *Ilex x attenuata*, are grown for their abundant attractive clusters of berries that ripen bright red-orange in fall in time for the festive holiday season.

insects to feed their baby nestlings. Holly fruit ripens from green to red by late November and persists into winter.

Ilex fruit is an important food source for wildlife and birds in winter. A flock of winter migratory American Robins, *Turdus migratorius*, can devour a tree full of berries in a few hours.

Jane Weber is a professional gardener and consultant. Semi-retired, she grows thousands of native plants. Contact her at jweber12385@gmail.com or phone 352-249-6899.

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Associated Press

A homes sale sign is shown in front of a new home construction site in Northbrook, Ill.

US home prices register 19.1% annual gain in September

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. home prices rose briskly in September, another sign that the housing market is booming in the aftermath of last year's coronavirus recession.

The S&P CoreLogic Case-Shiller 20-city home price climbed 19.1% in September from a year earlier. The strong price gains marked a deceleration from August's 19.6% year-over-year increase. Still, September prices in all 20 cities set new records.

Phoenix was the nation's hottest market, registering a 33.1% price increase. It was followed by Tampa (where prices rose 27.7%) and Miami (25.2%). All 20 cities reported double-digit increases. The smallest gains were in Chicago (up 11.8%) and Minneapolis (12.8%).

The housing market has been strong, thanks to rock-bottom mortgage rates, a limited supply of homes on the market and pent-up demand from consumers locked in last year by the pandemic.

"Housing prices continued to show remarkable strength in September, though

the pace of price increases declined slightly," said Craig J. Lazzara, managing director at S&P Dow Jones Indices. He added: "We have previously suggested that the strength in the U.S. housing market is being driven by households' reaction to the COVID pandemic, as potential buyers move from urban apartments to suburban homes."

Last week, the National Association of Realtors reported that sales of previously occupied homes rose 0.8% last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 6.3 million, strongest annual pace since January.

The Commerce Department reported last week that new-home prices edged up a disappointing 0.4% last month as median prices rose nearly 18% from a year earlier to a record \$407,700.

"Most indicators suggest prices have continued to edge higher, albeit at a slightly slower pace, amid tight supply conditions and the structural shift in demand towards single-family, suburban homes induced by the pandemic," Contingent Macro Advisors said in a research report.

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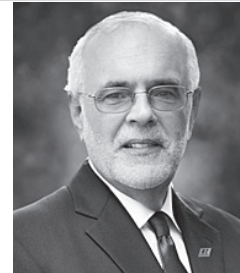
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Weather vanes: Exhibit looks at artworks

KIM COOK
Associated Press

Perched atop churches, barns, businesses, homes and seats of government, weather vanes have over hundreds of years taken the form of everything from farm animals to pets, storybook figures to race cars.

They were invented for one important job: telling which way the wind was blowing. Gradually, they became appreciated as an art form.

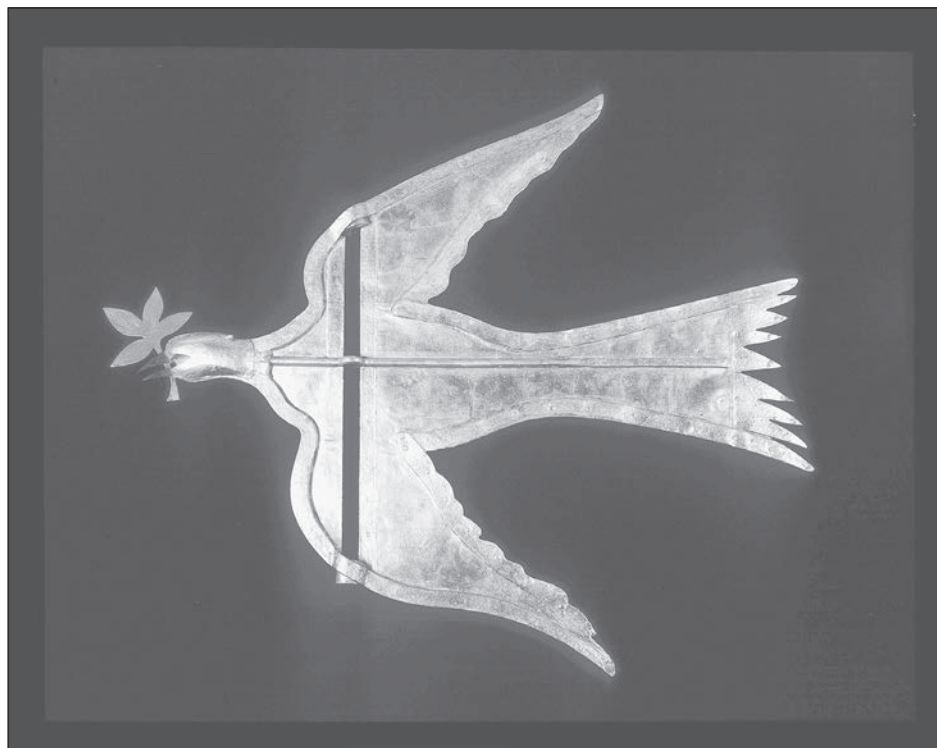
A new exhibition at the American Folk Art Museum in New York, "American Weathervanes: The Art of the Winds," showcases the history, technical virtuosity and artistic beauty of vanes made between the late 18th and early 20th centuries. The free exhibit runs through Jan. 2.

"Weathervanes have always been at once tools and sculptural architectural elements, combining function with visual interest and symbolism," the show's curator, art historian Robert Shaw, writes in a companion book (Rizzoli/Electa).

The galleries feature around 50 weather vanes and patterns, along with ephemera like bills of sale, advertisements and vintage photographs.

The weather vanes range from simple carved birds, fish, livestock and dogs to figures that seem to literally be riding the winds — loping ponies, racing horses, fire trucks, and wildly imaginative witches, sea serpents and vehicles with many moving elements.

One work, "Dove of Peace," was commissioned by George Washington. An amateur meteorologist, he asked Mount Vernon's architect, Joseph Rakestraw, to



A Dove of Peace weather vane. "Dove of Peace" is loaned by the Mount Vernon Ladies Association to the American Folk Art Museum for an exhibit on weather vanes.

design the dove-shaped weather vane with olive branches in its mouth.

The museum's curator, Emelie Gevalt, cited the museum's own "Hudsonian Curlew" as one of her favorites.

The 1874 piece is large — nearly 7 feet tall and 4 feet wide. A relatively simple design, it depicts the body and distinctive curved beak of the shorebird in gold-leafed sheet metal, and once sat atop the Curlew Bay sportsmen's club in Seville, New Jersey.

"The magnificent silhouette of this large vane communicates exactly why early 20th century Americans found weather-vanes so appealing," Gevalt said. "The graphic impact is strikingly modern, speaking to the strong intersections between the modern aesthetic and what we call 'folk.'"

The exhibit also



A Touring Car and Driver weather vane.

includes a 62-inch-tall, gilded statue of a Native American with bow and arrow pointed skyward. The work set a record for a weather vane sale, \$5.8 million, at Sotheby's in 2006.

Native Americans were a common subject of early American weather-vane art. In the exhibit, Joseph

Zordan, consulting scholar and a member of the Bad River Ojibwe, contributed interpretive text about these vanes and the legacy of colonialism. "Inevitably, such images tell us more about the people who made them than those they are said to represent," he said.

See VANES/Page E15



A copper fox weather vane. Perched atop churches, barns, businesses, homes and seats of government for hundreds of years, weather vanes have taken the form of everything from farm animals to pets, storybook figures to race cars. They were invented for one important job: telling which way the wind was blowing.

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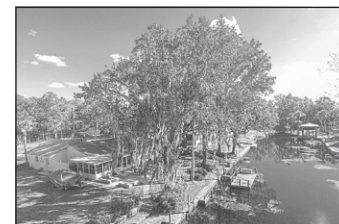
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BUILDER

Continued from Page E2

use caulk. Grout dries solid because it's no different than brick mortar. Caulk is normally flexible. You never want the toilet to move whatsoever when you sit on it. If your toilet wobbles when you sit on it, trouble lies ahead, as the seal will eventually fail.

The water in the bowl serves a very important function. It prevents sewer gas and vermin from entering your home. All traps under sinks, tubs, showers, floor drains, etc. do the same thing. The issue is these other traps have much less water in them than your toilet bowl. The large amount of water in the toilet bowl acts as a target for your bodily waste.

Clogged toilets are the bane of many a person. I created a very interesting video showing how to use a bucket of water to unclog a toilet. Just a month ago a young woman avoided shame — her words — after she had clogged the toilet at her boyfriend's house. Panicked and still in the bathroom, using her smartphone to get help, she found my video, watched it, and then used the wastebasket in the bathroom as her bucket. I thought she was quite resourceful! (You can watch this video on my AskTheBuilder.com.)

You might be flummoxed about the fill valve in the tank of your toilet. It's a very simple valve, although it looks quite complex. Believe it or not, if yours has worn out or is making noise, you can usually install a new one in less than 30 minutes. It's easy to do if the shut-off valve under the toilet works. New fill valves are affordable and extremely reliable. Your slow-filling toilet will stop whistling once you install a new fill

Now's a good time to talk about those wretched flushable wipes. If you must use flushable wipes, never flush them down a toilet.

valve.

Now's a good time to talk about those wretched flushable wipes. Millions of these adult wet wipes are sold, and sewer-plant operators despise most of them. I invested two full days a couple of years ago setting up a toilet on a pipe-scaffolding platform in my driveway. I then re-created the drain pipes you'd have in your home. I wanted to demonstrate what happens to several brands of flushable wipes when they travel down your pipes to the city sewer or your septic tank. The video I created has become quite popular.

You should absolutely watch this video at AskTheBuilder.com. If you must use flushable wipes, never flush them down a toilet. Treat them as you would an infant's dirty diaper. Have a special trash can, with a lid, in your bathroom. Put the soiled flushable wipes in that trash can.

Failure to do this might cause you to have to hire a drain-cleaning company to unclog your drain lines. This will cost you hundreds of dollars. Avoid the problem altogether by just using some common sense, a simple plastic liner for the small trash can, and cooperation from all in your home.

Subscribe to Tim's free newsletter and listen to his new podcasts. Go to AskTheBuilder.com.

VANES

Continued from Page E14

A simple tool

What makes a weather vane work? The arrow on the structure is a balancing weight, so when the wind blows, it — and whatever object is attached above it — turns in that direction.

A change in wind direction can mean a storm is coming, so the weather vane was a key tool for farmers or seafarers over the centuries.

For people in towns and cities, looking up to see a wildly swinging vane meant it was time to head indoors.



American Folk Art Museum

The museum's curator, Emelie Gevalt, said one of her favorite pieces in the exhibit is the museum's own "Hudsonian Curlew."

A long history

Shaw said weather vanes date back at least to the ancient Greeks.

In medieval times, they were often fabric flags;

later, those flags were made of metal, and some can be seen on public buildings from colonial America.

(The ubiquitous rooster? Shaw says that

was the result of a papal decree in the 9th century. Plus, the bird's shape made for an efficient capturer of wind direction.)

Shipbuilders, butchers, carriage makers and others often used weather vanes to advertise their businesses.

Copper became a metal of choice because it was easily cut and shaped into interesting forms, took well to gilding or painting, and didn't rust.

While their usefulness has faded, replaced by high-tech meteorology, weather vanes remain popular as roof ornaments.

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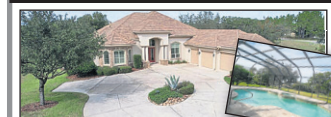
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**BACK ON THE MARKET**

00 PONCE DE LEON BLVD,
BROOKSVILLE

MLS #799635 **\$74,800**

BACK ON THE MARKET

0 PONCE DE LEON BLVD,
BROOKSVILLE

MLS #799636 **\$44,000**

**VACANT LOTS
PINE RIDGE SUBDIVISION
BEVERLY HILLS**

5923 N Buffalo Dr,
1.17-acre corner lot,
zoned RUR, flood
zone X, \$56K
MLS 805833,

5461 W Pine Ridge Blvd,
1.00-acre lot, zoned
RUR, flood zone X,
\$49,999
MLS 800663

These lots are in an equestrian subdivision with 28 miles of trails, a country club, bike trails, tennis courts, horseshoe pits, shuffleboard and so much more. Call Linda Thomas, 352-464-4881, for additional property information today!

NEW LISTING**5906 N WHISPER POINT, HERNANDO**

Check out this 21.5 Single Wide Mobile home located on a 30-acre waterfront lot on a Cul-de-Sac and located in the Tsala Apopka Retreats Subdivision. This would be a great weekend get-a-way or winter home where you can fish right from your own backyard. The property is fully fenced and is Move-In-Ready.

MLS 807718 **\$125,000**
Call Judith McCoy, 352-601-1355, to schedule your showing appointment today!

NEW LISTING**6001 E PEACH ST, INVERNESS**

Check out this 2/2/2 home located Inverness Highlands West Subdivision and is on a .30-acre corner lot with a fenced-in backyard and just minutes from schools, shopping, restaurants, hospital, churches, golf, and more.

MLS 807788 **\$205,000**
Call Pamela Miller, 352-566-3327, to schedule your showing appointment today!

NEW LISTING**2481 S SUMMERWOOD POINT, INVERNESS**

Check out this 3/2/1 Waterview pool home nestled on a .41-acre lot located in the Waters Oaks Subdivision and fish right from your own backyard. Call Luke Whitehurst, 352-476-5578, and schedule your showing appointment today!

MLS 807852 **\$290,000**
Call Luke Whitehurst 352-476-5578 to schedule your showing appointment today!

NEW LISTING**9739 E BAY MEADOWS DR, INVERNESS**

Look at this 4/2.5/2 home nestled on a 1.01-acre corner lot located in the Bay Meadows at Seven Lakes. It has over 2,600 Sqft of living space and is just minutes from town, shopping, restaurants, medical facilities and is Move-In-Ready.

MLS 807829 **\$375,000**
Call Laurie Callahan 352-464-0734, to schedule your showing appointment today!

THE SUNDAY CHRONICLE
December 5, 2021

PEANUTS

PEANUTS

featuring
"Good ol' Charlie Brown"
by SCHULZ

AND NOW IT IS MY PLEASURE TO INTRODUCE OUR SPEAKER MY STOMACH!

STOP COMPLAINING... IT'S NOT SUPPERTIME YET!

WOULD I LIE TO YOU?

WHEN IT'S SUPPERTIME, THE ROUND-HEADED KID WILL SHOW UP... JUST BE PATIENT!

SEE? HERE HE IS NOW.... RIGHT ON TIME!

CHOMP CHOMP CHOMP!

NOW, AREN'T YOU ASHAMED OF YOURSELF?

I HATE A STOMACH THAT ALWAYS HAS TO HAVE THE LAST WORD!

DILBERT

by SCOTT ADAMS
dilbert.com

WISH ME LUCK. I NEED TO GET A PERMIT RENEWED AT THE DEPARTMENT OF ANGRY MISFITS.

STAY ALIVE!

DEPARTMENT OF ANGRY MISFITS

I BELIEVE THESE ARE ALL THE DOCUMENTS YOU NEED TO RENEW MY PERMIT.

WHAT ARE YOU, SOME KIND OF FANCY ENGINEER? I'LL BET YOU LOVE YOUR JOB.

WELL, I HATE MY JOB, AND SOMEONE HAS TO PAY FOR THAT!

DENIED! DENIED! DENIED!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY A "PARTIAL WIN"?

VALIDATED PARKING.

MARVIN & Bitsy

by Tom Armstrong

I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING TO LOOK AT YOUR BOOKS

I AM

THE TV IS JUST ON FOR BACKGROUND NOISE

REALLY?

THEN WHERE ARE THE BOOKS?

I'LL GO LOOK FOR THEM DURING THE NEXT COMMERCIAL

Bob Weber Jr.'s SLYLOCK FOX and COMICS FOR KIDS

Kopy Kat believed he had pulled off the greatest forgery of his life. He flawlessly duplicated a painting by a famous early 20th-century abstract artist. How did a paintbrush bristle he found embedded in the paint by Slylock Fox prove Kopy Kat's painting is a fake? Hint: How have beverage bottles changed since the early 20th century?

Spot six differences between these panels.

Answer - Suomarine rudder, fish, tentacle, goggles strap, seaweed and crab.

NEW! Spot the Six Differences collection is here! Get your fun-filled book at www.slylockfox.com

HOW TO DRAW a wolf
Bob Weber Jr. and SR 12-5

YOUR DRAWING
Today's terrific artist is Felix, age 12

Submit your black-and-white drawing to www.slylockfox.com

Which of the following has the largest eyes of any living creature in the world?
a) Whale
b) Ostrich
c) Giant squid

Answer (c) Giant squid has eyes up to 10 inches in diameter.

BARNEY GOOGLE and SMIF'S WITH IT
BY JOHN ROSE

DADBURNIT, PAW, I'VE BEEN CALLED FER JURY DUTY !!

DANG !! SORRY, MAW !!

ON TH' OTHER HAND, YORE VOTE COULD COME IN HANDY IF'N I FIND MYSELF IN NEED OF AN AQUIT'L ENNYTIME SOON !!

IS THAR ENNY REASON YA'D BE UNABLE T'SERVE AS A JUROR, MISSUS SMIF ?

THAT ALL DEPENDS, YORE HONOR !!

DEPENDS ON WHAT ?

TH' ODDS !!

ODDS ?!!

YEP !! 'CUZ TH' ODDS ARE PURTY GOOD...

THAT TH' FELLER WHO'D BE ON TRIAL WOULD BE MY DEAR OL' SNUFFY !!

12-5

Mort Walker's beetle bailey

HERE COMES LT. FUZZ

I'M LEAVING

THAT'S A POOR SALUTE! A SALUTE SHOULD SHOW RESPECT!

HOW'S THIS?

BETTER

MAYBE TWO HANDS ARE EVEN BETTER!

WELL...

AND THROW IN A BOW!

NICE... BUT...

MAYBE A LITTLE FLOURISH

UM...

AND A WEE CURTSY

STOP IT! I WILL NOT BE CURTSEYED!!

12/5

THE FAMILY CIRCUS
By Bil Keane

Grandma's Quotes

FOR YEARS FAMILY LIFE IS FILLED WITH TRIALS AND FRUSTRATIONS...

... BUT THEN THEY GROW UP.

GRANDMA SAYS SHE'S SEEN IT ALL, DONE IT ALL AND HEARD IT ALL. SHE JUST CAN'T REMEMBER IT ALL.

DON'T FORGET-- NOTHING IS REALLY OVER UNTIL YOU STOP TRYING.

12-5
WWW.FAMILYCIRCUS.COM

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blitz
by Lincoln Peirce

NATE

12-5

RED TEAM, YOU'RE SHOOTING AT THAT BASKET. BLUE TEAM, LET'S RUN OUR ZONE DEFENSE.

COACH?

COACH?

WHAT IS IT, NATE? KEEP AN EYE ON ME WHILE WE SCRIMMAGE!

WHY'S THAT? BECAUSE I'VE BEEN WORKING ON MY LEFT HAND LIKE YOU TOLD ME!

12/5

EVERYTHING I DO RIGHTY I CAN NOW ALSO DO LEFTY!

FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, I'VE BECOME AMBIDEXTROUS!

SO NOW YOU CAN DRIBBLE THE BALL OFF BOTH FEET?

BLOW IT OUT YOUR EAR, LIAM.

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

OUR TEAM CHEMISTRY NEEDS WORK.

12-5

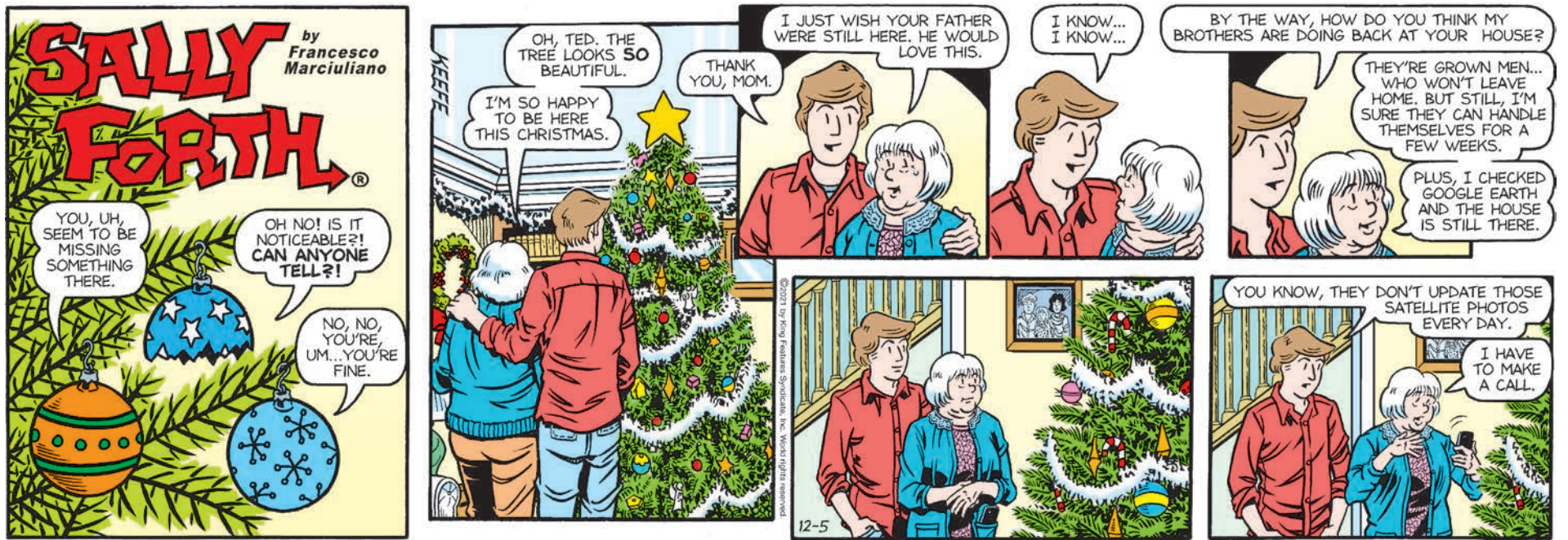
PICKLES

by BRIAN CRANE

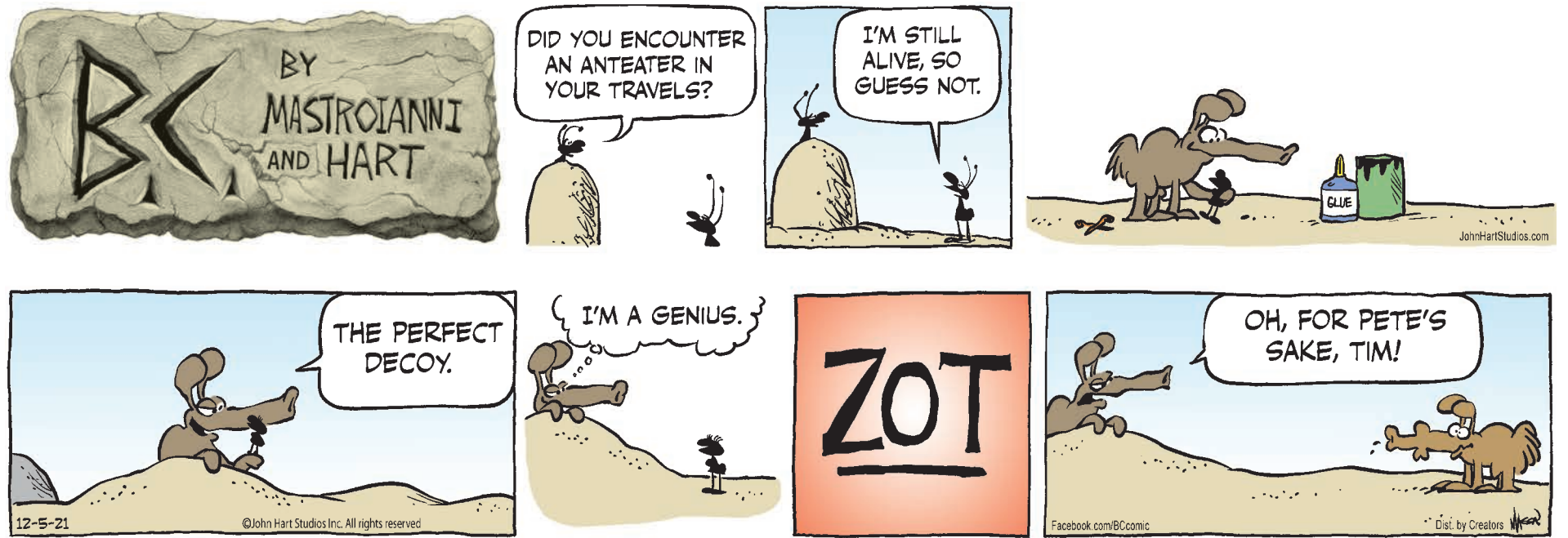


SALLY FORTH

by Francesco Marciuliano

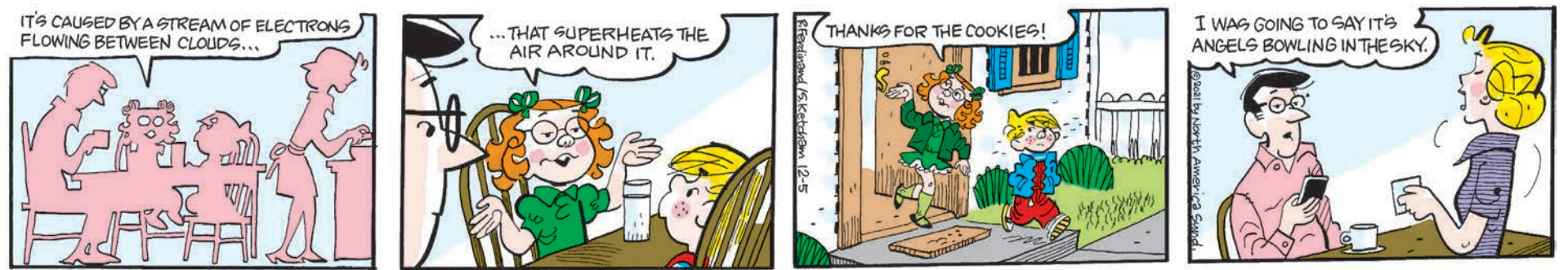


BY MASTROIANNI AND HART



Dennis the Menace WEATHER VAIN

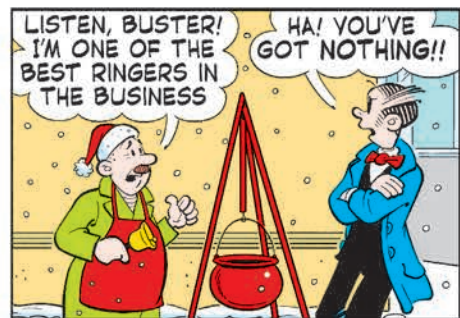
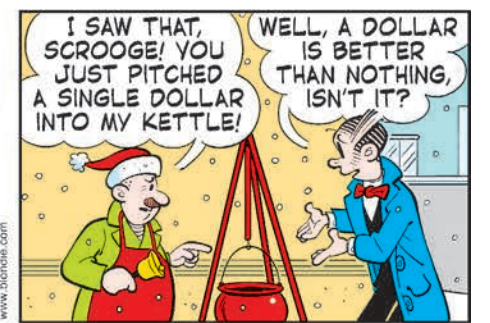
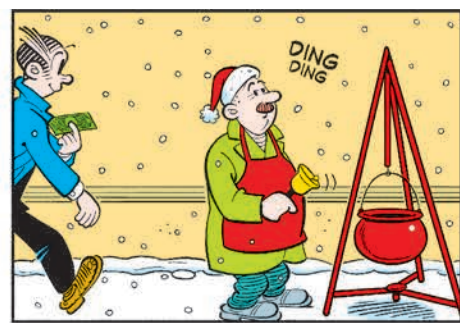
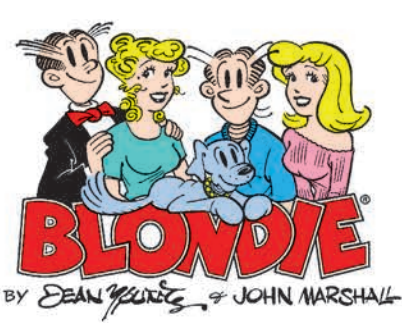
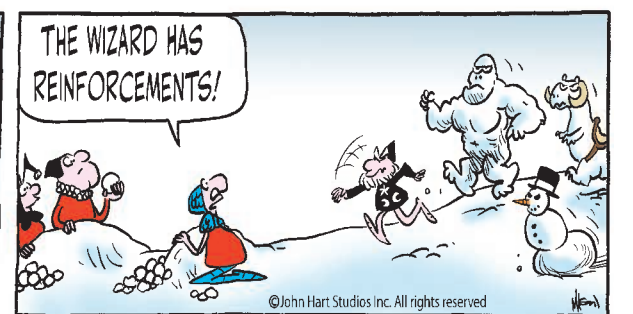
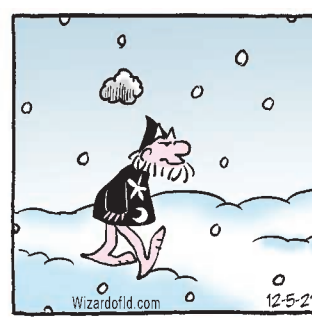
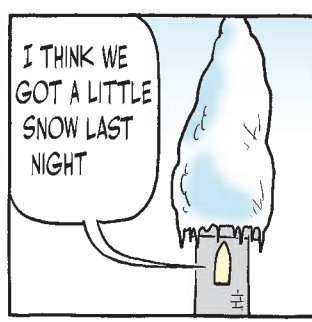
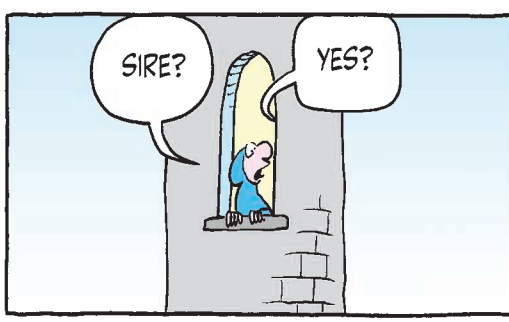
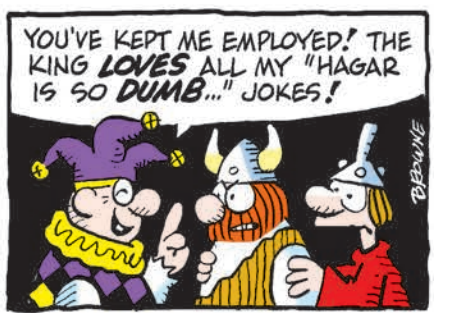
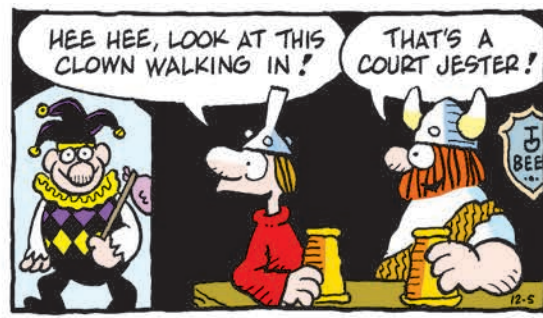
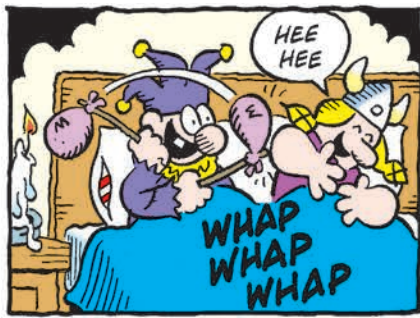
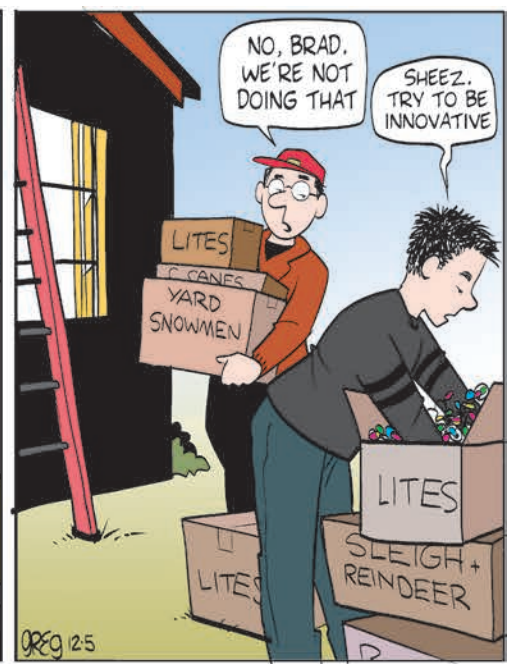
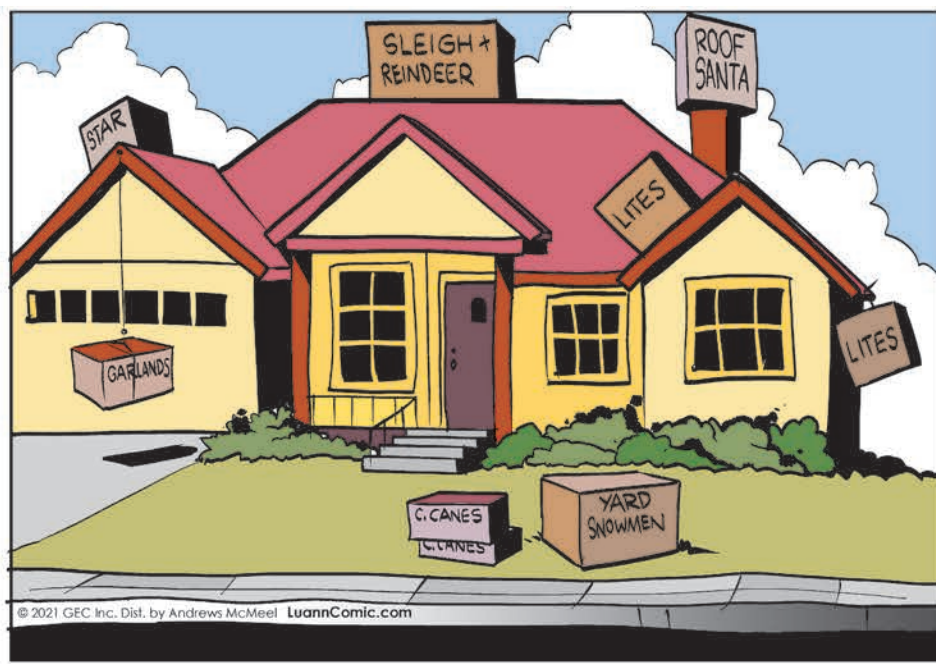
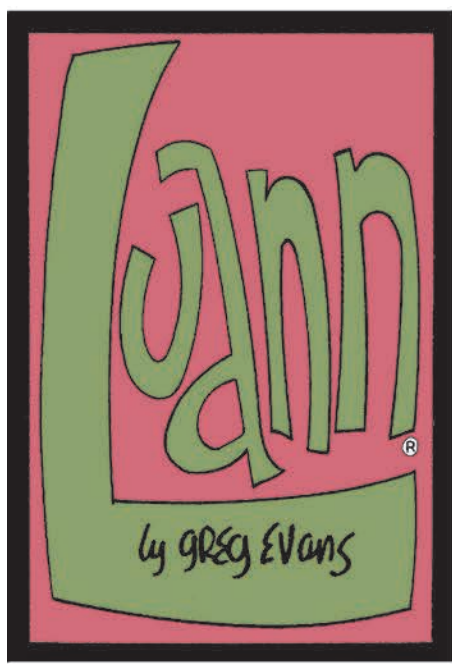
by Keith Temple



CURTIS

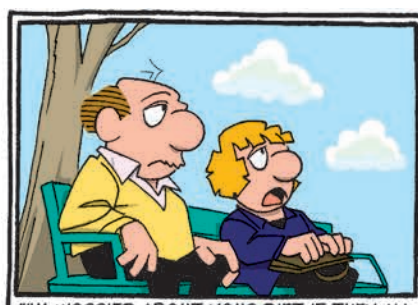
by RAY BILLINGSLEY





THE LOCKHORNS

BY BUNNY HOEST AND JOHN REINER



"I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOUR DIET IF THEY ALL LOOK LIKE WHIPPED CREAM TO YOU."



"EVERYONE THERE RECOGNIZED YOU, LEROY... UNFORTUNATELY, THEY REMEMBERED YOU, TOO."



"THE PRATTLE OF THE SEXES."



"I'M CONFUSED... ARE WE UP TO SEASON THREE, DISC TWO OR SEASON TWO, DISC THREE?"



"AND LEROY DOESN'T EVEN HAVE THE EXCUSE THAT HE'S COLORBLIND."



Christmas is for pets too



Have your pet groomed just in time for Christmas

When you're busy buying gifts, preparing meals and shopping for the perfect outfit to wear to the office Christmas party, it can be hard to find the time to tend to your four-legged friend's hygiene. Sound familiar? Don't worry — the pet grooming salons in your area will be happy to lend a hand.

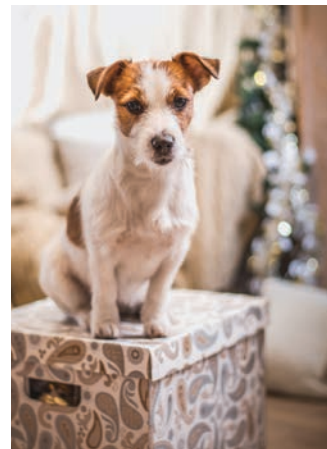
HEALTH AND CLEANLINESS

Professional dog and cat groomers offer a range of services that can improve your pet's health, appearance and overall well-being. Here are some examples:

- Bathing, deodorizing and detangling
- Teeth brushing
- Ear cleaning or flushing
- Anal gland cleansing
- Flea and tick prevention
- Nail clipping and filing
- Skin disease and parasite detection and treatment
- Fur trimming and shaving
- Protective balm application on the nose and paw pads
- Nail polish and claw-cover application
- Fur chalking or stenciling
- Jewelry and fur extension application
- Massage therapy or aromatherapy

In addition to smelling nice, your dog or cat will look great and feel completely relaxed after getting pampered by expert hands. And why not bring your freshly groomed friend to a photo studio to immortalize their sweet little face?

Have your pet's portrait taken by a photographer in your area — in front of a Christmas background, of course!



Holiday pet hazards to look out for

Keep your four-legged friend safe this holiday season by keeping hazardous products out of paw's reach.

FOOD

What's good for you isn't necessarily good for your dog or cat. Many popular holiday foods are actually quite toxic for animals. Keep this list of dangerous ingredients handy while you cook for the humans around the table.

- Garlic and onions
- Alcohol
- Peanuts and tree nuts
- Coffee, tea and soft drinks
- Candy
- Mushrooms
- Chocolate
- Peach and nectarine pits

- Bones and fats
- Grapes and raisins

To avoid unfortunate events over the holiday season, keep your pet on its regular diet and away from harmful foods. You may also want to warn your guests not to feed your animals any "treats" under the assumption that this is a harmless gesture.

PLANTS

Traditional Christmas plants, such as holly, mistletoe and poinsettias, as well as potpourri can be very attractive to cats and dogs. Keep them out of reach of your pets.

DECORATIONS

Holiday decorations are another source of potential danger for your pets. Tinsel, glass ornaments, candles, stringed lights and unstable Christmas trees are a few household hazards to be careful of.



What should you put under the tree to spoil your little fur ball?

Do you love your dog more than anything in the world? Would you not be able to live without cuddling with your cat? The following gift suggestions are aimed at all pet owners who are unabashedly crazy about their four-legged friends.



If you want to spoil your pet, keep its age and personality in mind. For example, puppies and kittens, which

have energy to spare and love to chew things, will adore a colorful toy that they can destroy to their heart's content.

Is your loyal companion something of a four-legged foodie? Homemade Christmas cookies are a great bet. Go online or visit your local bookstore to find pet-friendly recipes that are as nutritious as they are delicious. These treats are made with healthy ingredients like oats, eggs and fruit — you may even be tempted to take a few bites yourself (for quality control, of course!)

For an older, calmer pet, keep comfort in mind with a gift like a cozy bed or a soft blanket. If Fido or Mittens hates the cold, pick out a snazzy outfit for trips outside. Specialized stores have a wide variety of options for you to choose from; think rain boots, jackets, sweaters and even snowsuits. Visit your local pet shops to browse a selection of irresistibly cute designs.



Planning to board your pet for the holidays?

If your holiday plans involve visiting far away loved ones, you might not be able to bring your pet with you. If this ends up being the case, you'll need to find someone trustworthy to take care of your furry friend while you're away. Can't find a sitter? Board your pets at a reputable establishment that will treat them like royalty. Here are three pieces of advice you should follow to make sure your plan goes off without a hitch.

1. Tour the establishments. In the weeks leading up to your trip, ask for a tour of the facilities you're interested in. During your visit, inspect the cleanliness of the space

and inquire about how they entertain the animals, what kind of food they serve, cost, staff training, etc.

2. Think of vaccines.

Boarding facilities usually require all animals to be vaccinated against various diseases, such as rabies, canine distemper and kennel cough. Make an appointment with your veterinarian as soon as possible to make sure that your pet's immunization records are up to date.

3. Study the contract. Make sure you've read all of the rules



Make sure your pets are properly vaccinated before you leave them in the care of a boarding facility.

and conditions detailed in your boarding contract before you sign. Contracts should include a list of accepted personal items, such as toys and blankets, as well as the facility's policy in case of illness, injury or other issues your pet could face during its stay.

Visit **Citrus County Events Calendar**

For all the Fun Fall Events

chronicleonline.com/local-events