



THE SUNDAY CHRONICLE

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NEWS BRIEFS

Orange Line to resume service in Citrus County

The Citrus County Transit (CCT) Orange Line (deviated fixed route) will resume service on Monday, Aug. 9.

Bus routes and scheduled stops will be posted on citruscountytransit.com by Friday, July 23.

CCT will continue to operate the demand response (door-to-door) service with no limits on bus capacity. Door-to-door service is available for doctor's appointments, employment, grocery and supplies and prescription pick-ups.

Fares will continue to be suspended until Friday, Oct. 1, at which time all fares will be reinstated.

Applications for the transportation disadvantaged program are available on the CCT website.

Face masks are still required by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for all public buses and transfer facilities.

Passengers without masks will be prohibited from the buses. Bus drivers will have masks available should a passenger need one.

For more information on federal guidelines, visit tinyurl.com/2kn5dy39.

For more information, visit citruscountytransit.com or call Transit Services at 352-527-7630.

— From staff reports

Out the Window: One last time



Gerry Mulligan
OUT THE WINDOW

When I joined the Chronicle staff as editor back in 1978, we were a weekly newspaper located on the courthouse square in Inverness.

The county had a little more than 30,000 residents and just one blinking traffic light.

Times have changed in so many ways.

Over the decades, I got to watch from a unique

position as Citrus County grew. In 1986, I had a once-in-a-lifetime experience of gathering a group of dedicated journalists together to create a daily newspaper.

We doubled the size of the Chronicle staff, expanded our production facilities and went into direct competition with metro daily newspapers from Tampa, St. Pete and Ocala that each wanted to dominate this market.

Many folks told us we would fail, but in the end, the people of Citrus County embraced their own daily newspaper. We thrived.

I am not afraid to say that we have been a newspaper with a point of view. We have always been "pro-Citrus County."

I learned from David Arthurs, the Inverness businessman who owned the Chronicle when I was hired,

that we needed to fight to make our community a better place. It was never about politics; it was about progress.

While I am not a native, I learned to love Citrus County and fought hard to make it better. Over the years, the Chronicle led the fight to start a United Way to help people in need.

See WINDOW/Page A7

Man of action, ideals

Sense of community was Chronicle publisher's driving force



Gerry Mulligan retired Friday, Aug 6, as publisher of the Citrus County Chronicle after a 43-year career at the newspaper.

MIKE WRIGHT
 STAFF WRITER

Gerry Mulligan is of a different ilk.

In a digital world, Mulligan is a throw-back newspaperman. Ink flows through his veins.

At least it did until Friday, when Mulligan's 43-year career at the Citrus County Chronicle ended with the publisher's retirement.

The announcement came Wednesday and is still a shock to community leaders who credit Mulligan for many of Citrus County's greatest achievements: United Way, YMCA, even the current fundraiser for a new animal shelter.

About 50 or so gathered in the Chronicle's parking lot Friday morning to make sure Mulligan knew his impact was felt.

See MULLIGAN/Page A8

LOTTERY



Due to earlier production deadlines for the Sunday Chronicle, final lottery numbers are not printed. Visit www.flalottery.com for final numbers.

Murphy takes leadership reins at Chronicle

MICHAEL D. BATES
 STAFF WRITER

Trina Murphy remembers her first job with the Citrus County Chronicle in 1990 as a sales representative for Lake Life, a zoned newspaper distributed to Inverness folks.

The job, she said, was the "lowest of the low" positions.

Murphy progressed in the company over the past 31 years. As of last week, she wore two hats: advertising director and director of operations.

But as big as those titles were, there is none bigger than the one bestowed on her last Wednesday: publisher.

Murphy officially takes the reins Monday, succeeding Gerry Mulligan, who had been with the paper over 40 years.

"Trina is a very talented leader," Mulligan said. "She grew up here and is very committed to the county. She's smart as a whip. She knows



Trina Murphy is new publisher of the Citrus County Chronicle.

our strengths."

Murphy admits she's still wrapping her mind around this promotion. It's exciting and a bit daunting at the same time.

But there's one thing she knows: The legacy set forth by Gerry Mulligan during his 43-year career will continue.

"He has mentored me really from the beginning," Murphy said. "He has taught me the way he wants

our business to run."

Mulligan's unwavering commitment to community news built the Chronicle and that mission will continue, she said.

"I want to keep our newspaper hyper-local," she said. "We've got to keep the focus on local news."

Thanks to the internet, readers can get their fill of national and world news from many sources. But to find out whose son or daughter graduated from Citrus High School or to find out

See MURPHY/Page A5



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WEEK IN REVIEW

PHOTO OF THE WEEK WITHLACOOCHEE RISES



MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle

Beverly Hills resident Isaac Smith, left, and Dunnellon resident John Martin fish for largemouth bass Tuesday morning, Aug. 3, along the Withlacoochee River at the Spruce Boat Ramp in northeastern Citrus County. Steady rainfall over the last several weeks coupled with heavy, recent downpours have created conditions that are rapidly rising the Withlacoochee River. Southwest Water Management District officials have opened flood gates at the Inglis Dam to reduce the swelling along the river. The gates are expected to be open for the next week.

GOOD NEWS OF THE WEEK

Thanks to a generous community and events like the Citrus County Education Foundation's (CCEF) Stuff the Bus event and the New Church Without Walls annual Back to School Bash, as well as numerous school supplies drives from local organizations and groups, no student in Citrus County has any reason to start school without the necessary supplies. Every year, people in Citrus County give so local kids can learn.

HOT TOPIC OF THE WEEK

It's been a while since the hottest hot topic of the week is COVID-19, but this week the venom was flying on the Chronicle Facebook page about everything from mask mandates to the COVID-19 vaccine. Here's what some people said:

■ **Scott Brooks:** "If our children go back to school unmasked because DeSantis won't permit it, we are going to have a lot of sick and possibly dead children. Real Americans get vaccinated."

"If left up to the parents to make that decision (to have their children wear masks), many will choose not to wear masks. Younger children cannot be vaccinated and they will potentially get very sick from this new strain."

■ **Pamela Stanaback Helton:** "Real Americans make their own decisions."

■ **Cindy Rivera Ziegler:** "Masks didn't stop it, lockdowns didn't stop it, THE VACCINE did not stop it. If you want a shot and wear a mask, you are

entitled to. If we don't, we also have the right. If you're worried, wear your mask, go get another shot, sit home and watch CNN."

■ **David Knazur Jr.:** "I don't wish death on anyone, but if you choose not to get the vax and die, you should've been smarter. A huge waste of medical resources and drain on the system because of ignorance."

■ **Spence Deb:** "So many who hated science classes but now think they are authorities on what science to believe. Many things we were taught in science have changed. Not because the science was wrong because science constantly evolves and has to change. Remember the flat earth era? Don't forget Galileo and the earth revolving around the sun. Many said he was crazy but that's what we believe now. Mask wearing alone is not the answer, however. Masking, washing your hands well and keeping your distance all work together to keep from spreading most diseases."

THE MOST POPULAR STORIES FROM THE WEEK THAT WAS

Heavy rains raise flooding concerns along Withlacoochee River

Heavy rains raise flooding concerns along Withlacoochee River

With all the rain we've been experiencing, all eyes are on the Withlacoochee River. As of Tuesday morning, the river was at 28.9 feet, just shy of flood stage at 29 feet. Forecasters said the river would rise above flood stage later Tuesday and continue rising to 29.5 feet early by Thursday morning.

The National Weather Service (NWS) on Tuesday placed Citrus County under a river flood warning for the Withlacoochee River at U.S. 41 in Dunnellon.

The Citrus County Sheriff's Office on Tuesday morning urged residents along the Withlacoochee River and Barge Canal to secure boats and refrain from swimming.

Man plans condo on site of dilapidated structure

An iconic eyesore along U.S. 41 at the Withlacoochee River could become a four-story, 23-unit condominium complex if a Dunnellon man wins approval from county commissioners.

Robert Hilger is requesting a zoning change from general commercial to residential to build The Confluence on North Water Way, just south of the Withlacoochee River bridge in Dunnellon.

Along with the condominium units, Hilger proposes boat slips and an outdoor veranda.



Existing vs Proposed



Man strikes woman with car at Dunkin Donuts

Samuel Martin, 18, of Beverly Hills was charged with aggravated battery with the use of a deadly weapon after he attempted to run over a woman with his car in the Crystal River Dunkin Donuts parking lot.

According to the arrest report: Martin drove into the parking lot and began verbally harassing a woman and her fiancé who were sitting at an outside table and continued driving in and out of the parking lot for about 30 minutes.

When the woman began walking toward the front of the drive-thru, she noticed Martin attempting to go through it the wrong way, and as she tried to move out of the way, Martin accelerated his car, which hit her right leg, before driving away.

Hospital changes visiting hours

As Citrus County continues to see a staggering spike in COVID-19 cases, both local hospitals reported they have the capacity to take in patients in case the surge continues, and that they are preparing for the worst if it happens.

Bayfront Health Seven Rivers spokeswoman Jennifer Siem said they are seeing the recent surge, going from three or four daily average census COVID-19 patients in June to 12 or 13 in July.

On Aug. 2, the Crystal River hospital had 33 COVID-19 patients.

During the week of July 9 to July 15, 2021, there were 158 new COVID-19 cases in Citrus County. A week later, from July 23 to July 29, the number had jumped to 657 new cases, according to the Florida Department of Health website.

In an email to the Chronicle, Citrus Memorial Hospital CEO Ginger Carroll urged people to get vaccinated.

Carroll wrote, "Across the country, hospitals are seeing that a majority of COVID patients being admitted are unvaccinated."

"One of the safest and most effective ways to end the pandemic is to get vaccinated and our community partners have made that so easy to do. I strongly encourage anyone who hasn't received the vaccine to visit the Department of Health."

'Shantytown' owner seeks backing from county planners

A Crystal River property owner is hoping to convince county officials to approve a zoning change to allow a small RV park where officials say one is now operating illegally.

Property owner Ebrahim Mehranipornejad is seeking a zoning change from low density residential to allow an RV park with five spaces and two park models on his 10 acres.

Neighbors in the area are outraged that unpermitted RVs were allowed to exist at all, with one neighbor referring to it as a "shantytown."

The closest neighbor, Kyle Metz, lives right across the street.

"These people need to be rooted out of this area and the 10 acres needs to stay single family," Metz wrote to county planners. "If this somehow gets the go ahead from the county I need to be notified so I can put my home for sale and get out of here before you ruin my wife and child's safety and suck out all the equity I have in my brand new home."

Mehranipornejad, who lives in Lutz and purchased the property in 2014, told code inspectors the prior property owner used it as an RV park for the homeless and he wanted to keep it like that. He said he didn't realize there were code violations until the neighbors complained.



"Dancing makes everything that seems black and white feel like rainbow colors. When I'm dancing, I feel like I'm in Candyland."

— CARIELLIS RESTO, AGE 7, A DANCE STUDENT AT CITRUS ACADEMY OF DANCE ARTS IN INVERNESS, ABOUT HOW DANCING MAKES HER FEEL.

— compiled by Nancy Kennedy

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Around the
COUNTY

Air Force Association to meet in Ocala

OCALA — Red Tail Memorial Chapter 136 of the Air Force Association (AFA) will meet at 7 p.m. Aug. 19 in the conference room of the Ocala Airport terminal, 1770 SW 60th Ave.

The meeting is open to the public. Guests and anyone interested in joining the AFA are welcome to attend. Contact the chapter membership chairman, Howard Burke, at 352-861-0886 for more information or to join.

The Red Tail Chapter has nearly 400 members from Citrus, Alachua, Dixie, Levy, Marion and Sumter Counties and parts of Lake and Putnam.

The chapter name memorializes the Red Tail Squadron, African American airmen who forged a path into cockpits that were mainly for whites only during World War II. The AFA promotes a dominant United States Air Force, United States Space Force and strong national defense; it honors airmen and guardians and fosters a strong military heritage.

Republicans to host supervisor of elections

The Nature Coast Republican Club will meet at 9 a.m. Aug. 14 at the Hampton Inn, 1103 Suncoast Blvd. in Crystal River. A \$5 hotel breakfast will be available at 8:30 a.m.

The guest speaker will be Maureen "Mo" Baird, Citrus County supervisor of elections. She will speak about election law updates.

For more information, email NCRC2021@aol.com.

Learn about Florida-friendly landscaping

Citrus County Utilities Florida-Friendly Landscaping Program will have a free online gardening workshop, "9 Principles of Florida-Friendly Landscaping," from 2 to 3 p.m. Aug. 24.

The University of Florida developed the nine basic principles to establish a set of gardening practices which aid gardeners in creating sustainable and successful ornamental gardens. These practices allow gardeners to create beautiful landscapes generating little or no impact to our water resources.

To register, visit cuffilprogram.eventbrite.com. For more information, call Steven Davis at 352-527-5708.

— From staff reports



STEPHEN SHANER/For the Chronicle
Augusta Herrero, 7, of Hernando, plays kickball at the inaugural Prosperity Citrus neighborhood cookout at Jim LeGrone Park Saturday afternoon. The event featured games and food, and was meant to bring neighbors together and identify and address needs within the community in a non-intimidating environment. Augusta's mother, Christina Reed, is the executive director of Citrus County Blessings.



STEPHEN SHANER/For the Chronicle
Barbara Sprague, center, from the Community Food Bank in Homosassa, speaks with Karla Poulos and Dr. Jeffrey Wallis from the Doctors Free Clinic of Citrus County at the Prosperity Citrus event Saturday afternoon.

GETTING TOGETHER



STEPHEN SHANER/For the Chronicle
Community members meet with representatives from a variety of nonprofit groups Saturday during the inaugural Prosperity Citrus neighborhood cookout.

Residents speak out against changes

Planning Commission rejects rezoning for potential mixed-use development

BUSTER THOMPSON
Staff writer

Citizen members of the Crystal River Planning Commission turned down a developer's request "to get the ball rolling" on framing their property in the city for condos, apartments and shops.

With a pair of 7-0 votes at the end of a heated, two-hour meeting Thursday, Aug. 5, at City Hall, commissioners denied recommending applications to rezone and reclassify 32 acres of 8800 W. Pure Lane to high density residential.

City Council could either affirm or overturn the commission during two separate public hearings. Nonetheless, Citrus County residents living next door to the property in question wanted commissioners to understand the consequences of giving the project any steam.

"You're the door between these developers and us," said Ben Torricelli, who attended Thursday's meeting alongside roughly a dozen of his neighbors from the Paradise Country Club community. "Whether (council) can override you or not, do the right thing."

While city planning commissioners weren't voting on how the parcel would be developed, they saw a preview of what could be there if the zoning and land-use changes were approved.

It wasn't something they had in mind. "It's hard to see a benefit to the

community," Commissioner Charles Kish said. "Do we want New Port Richey in Crystal River? I know I don't."

Heritage Development Company applied for the changes on behalf of the listed property owner out of Ohio, Crystal River Limited Partnership. Representatives of the developer appeared to Thursday's meeting remotely.

Brian Herrmann, director of city planning and development, told commissioners the developer is asking to designate most of the 51-acre lot as high density residential but leave the remaining acreage as high-intensity/highway commercial.

Herrmann presented commissioners with a conceptual plan of what the changes would allow — a hybrid of apartments, condos, green space and playgrounds alongside shopfronts off U.S. 19.

"This is not what they're going to build," he noted. "All of this could change, but it's good they were thinking along those lines."

Herrmann said a partner of Crystal River Limited Partnership also agreed to have eight acres of their property serve as one of three access roads onto U.S. 19 for the development.

Except for a handful of issues, city staff was OK with the concept because it builds up rather than out, leaving more space for wetlands and stormwater retention ponds.

"They're taking a little area of

the community, and they're starting the beginnings of downtown development there," Herrmann said. "It's an excellent thing from a planning point of view."

Herrmann said the development, because of its height, would have to get approval to build from the Federal Aviation Administration due to its proximity to the Crystal River Airport.

Rob Benjamin, Heritage Development Company's vice president and director of real estate, told commissioners he's worked with city staff for roughly 16 months to fine tune his requests.

"We wanted to make this application to get the ball rolling," he said. "I think what we want to do is a very well thought-out plan ... Based on your code and your staff's thoughts, meetings and recommendations, we thought this would be the best first step to get going."

Dr. Russell Lewandowski, a 25-year resident off North Country Club Drive, reminded commissioners of Walmart's unsuccessful attempt to build there because of the wetlands.

"Now you're going to put a high-density community?" he said. Lewandowski also claimed the property owners were trying to rezone the land to increase its value and sell it off to someone else who might have a different vision for the lot.

According to its website, Heritage Development Company lists a

57-acre "mixed-zoning" property in Crystal River for \$5 million.

According to the Citrus County Property Appraiser, the property was appraised at \$423,690 in 2020.

"All you have to do is look," Lewandowski said.

Most of the residents expressed worries over the buffering in between their lots and the development, and also increased flood risks from the addition of more impervious surfaces.

"If they put anything in at all, we will have more a water problem than what we have now," Janice Jorstad said, echoed by her neighbors whose roadways were flooded from recent rains.

Herrmann said the Southwest Florida Water Management District would have to approve a design that keeps stormwater from leaving the development.

Benjamin also expressed his sympathy for the residents, and tried to assure them.

"We're not trying to jam anything down anyone's throat ... We're trying to follow the codes and application process," he said. "I have no intention to do anything outside of that ... We're not trying to do anything that's trying to sneak by anyone."

Citing the lot's uncertain future and its flood-prone lowlands, commissioners sided with residents.

"The whole area there is really, really low," Chairman Robert Froehling said. "I don't think we should approve this."

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Around the **COUNTY**

Learn to make your lawn Florida friendly

Citrus County Utilities Florida-Friendly Landscaping Program will host a free online gardening workshop, "Lawns in Central Florida," from 2 to 3 p.m. Sept. 7.

Managing a healthy lawn is often a full-time job and recurring expense.

Selection of the right materials to accomplish a specific task is a good place to start.

Sustainable lawn varieties, typical weed infestations and pests which

target lawns are highlighted during this workshop.

To register, visit ccufflprogram.eventbrite.com. For more information, call Steven Davis at 352-527-5708.

Earn FWC safe boater card with auxiliary

USCG Auxiliary of Crystal River will present their new Boat America safe boating class from 6:45 to 9:15 p.m. Sept. 14 to 17 via Zoom.

The information covered includes:
 ● Knowing your boat and motor.
 ● What to do before getting

underway.

- Handling your boat safely in a variety of conditions.
- Legal requirements of boating.
- Boating emergencies.
- Vessel operator responsibilities.
- Small boats and paddle craft.

The cost is \$30 and includes a book, certified USCG Auxiliary instruction and more.

Upon successful completion of the test, participants will receive the FWC safe boater card.

Payment must be received by Sept. 8. Books and materials are mailed.

There are 25 spots available and a discount is available for families. To register, email Linda at lones1501@gmail.com.

Attend a 'Manatee CSI' lecture via Zoom

The Friends of the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge will host biologist, Brandon Bassett, as he discusses his work as a "Manatee CSI" researcher at 6 p.m. Aug. 10 via Zoom.

Properly managing the Florida manatee population relies partly on knowing when, where and how man-

atee deaths occur.

To collect as much information as possible, the Florida FWC runs an extensive recovery and necropsy program which involves the public, volunteers and partner organizations, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and FWC staff.

At the lecture, learn details of how the program works and how manatee causes of death are determined.

To attend the lecture, visit tinyurl.com/5wfrb8hs.

- Meeting ID: 3935807027
- Passcode: 342957

— From staff reports



MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle

Trina Murphy, former Citrus County Chronicle advertising director and operations manager, has assumed the position of publisher of the newspaper. She replaces longtime publisher Gerry Mulligan.

MURPHY

Continued from Page A1

what local businesses are expanding — that can't be found anywhere

else but the Chronicle. That's not to say the newspaper will ignore what's going on in the state or nation, she said.

If it affects Citrus County, the Chronicle will cover it and tell readers how it affects their daily lives,

she said.

Murphy said she realizes she has big shoes to fill but she's ready for the challenge.

"What Gerry has done here is impressive," she said. "I want to continue that legacy."

ONLINE CALENDAR AND NEWS BRIEFS

- Local groups are welcome to add their upcoming events to the Chronicle's online calendar.
- Visit www.chronicleonline.com/local-events.
- Local organizations are also welcome to submit news briefs for publication in the Chronicle.
- Send news releases to community@chronicleonline.com. Submissions are always subject to editing.
- For more information, call 352-563-6363.

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MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle

Chronicle Publisher Gerry Mulligan reflects on his more than 40 years at the newspaper, including 31 as publisher. Mulligan announced his retirement effective Friday, Aug. 6.

WINDOW

Continued from Page A1

We helped convince voters that building a strong library system was a wise investment.

We got deeply involved in trying to save Three Sisters Springs from development and turn it into a national wildlife refuge. We joined early environmentalists to stop the development of 10-story condominium projects out near Fort Island Gulf Beach.

We stood with Inverness to keep the county seat where it is. We led the charge to get Florida citizenship for Lucifer, the famous hippo at the Homosassa Springs Wildlife Attraction. We helped create the county education foundation and have always been huge supporters of a strong public school system.

We helped plan and launch Veterans Appreciation Week.

We spent thousands of hours working to raise \$8.3 million to bring the YMCA to Citrus County. We have helped with the Riverwalk in Crystal River.

Newspapers are about reporting the news — but we also have a responsibility to push for civic advancement.

We have exposed bad politicians and stood up to arrogant self-promoters.

I have been blessed to be the leader of this newspaper over the past four decades. Not only have we covered the news and grown a profitable business, but I believe deeply that we have made Citrus County a better place to live.

That is the way the First Amendment is supposed to work. We used the newspaper to stand up to dumb things and fight hard to improve the quality of life in our community.

Along the way, I have made the friends of a lifetime.

While there have certainly been

negatives, I have seen public officials come forward with courage and leadership. I have seen educators use every last ounce of strength to help a child succeed. I have seen cops put their lives on the line. And I have seen medical professionals risk their own health to provide critical care to those in need.

Every day I had the joy of having my faith in people reinforced by the good deeds of my fellow citizens.

A good newspaper tells those stories, and I think we have been a good newspaper. It was mostly possible because the people who work here gave everything to make it happen. There are too many names to mention and I would inevitably leave someone important out, so let me just say “thank you.”

I have been writing this column for 43 years in the Chronicle. I have not missed writing a weekend column since 1989 when the Sunday edition was launched.

Today is a good day to announce that I am retiring from my job as publisher of the Chronicle. I want to thank each of you for the support you have given along the way.

As weird as it seems, I also want to thank all of you who have taken the time out to tell me how bad the newspaper has been in covering this issue or that. It takes that negative feedback to help us to get better.

The Chronicle will continue to grow and thrive in Citrus County. Trina Murphy, my chief assistant for more than a decade and a 30-year employee at the Chronicle, has been named the new publisher. Please extend her every courtesy and be kind to her for at least the first 60 days.

It is time for me to step back and slow down. Thank you for everything. It has been the ride of a lifetime.

Gerry Mulligan is the retiring publisher of the Chronicle.

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MULLIGAN

Continued from Page A1

Mulligan shook hands and hugged friends. Some joked they hoped this wouldn't turn into a super spreader event.

"I like those people. They're very nice people," he says as he walked back toward the office. "That was very humbling."

Joe Meek, Crystal River mayor: "He's a legend. An icon. Someone with a tremendous impact on Citrus County in a multitude of different ways."

Susan Gill, retired supervisor of elections: "They (achievements) just wouldn't be here if not for his leadership. He's always for the community in general."

Janice Warren, tax collector: "He's actively engaged in so many areas. He's leaving a tremendous legacy."

I've sat in this second-floor office many, many times over my 34 years. Me in one chair, him at his desk. Figuring out the Citrus County universe as we strategized stories or talked about the underbelly of local politics. I have my opinions but no doubt who's the mentor in the room.

Thursday morning is different. His senior reporter sits with notepad in hand, interviewing a 67-year-old man across the desk about retirement.

Mulligan's a busy guy and his time is valuable. I expected 15 minutes. We talk for an hour.

The "why" gets out of the way pretty quickly. Mulligan was approaching retirement age but wanted to wait in case the newspaper was sold. Landmark Community Newspapers LLC, which bought the Chronicle and associated



Gerry Mulligan has dozens of badges and name tags from the litany of community organizations where he participates hanging on a coat rack in his Meadowcrest office. He has become a leader throughout the community as well as within the state of Florida, holding offices within both professional and civic organizations.

MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle

Florida weeklies in 1981, had been on the market for 10 years.

So when Paxton Media Group announced in late May it had purchased Landmark, Mulligan began to prepare for his exit. It came Wednesday

when Paxton named Trina Murphy publisher.

"I wanted to see us through the transition," he said.

Mulligan may have his computer gadgets, but it's the printed newspaper that's held his attention

since he was a kid. A die-hard Mets fan from Long Island, New York, Mulligan's career started at age 11 delivering Newsday.

"I love print newspapers. That's my comfort level," he says. "I'm a print advocate."

Mulligan and the Chronicle found thousands of other print advocates in Citrus County. And a relationship began to build.

"We love and appreciate small town values here," he says. "You can walk down Main Street Inverness and say hello to people."

■■■■

Carol Kimbrough, Crystal River business leader: "Gerry has a way of finding the good in people and calling it out. He finds the strength in people. He's a quiet, humble leader."

Melissa Walker, executive director Key Training Center: "He's been such a strong advocate for the Key Center. He's always said the right thing about the Key. He has true love for our clients."

Johnny Cash, businessman and community leader: "Gerry has been on the forefront of the major initiatives in our community. The YMCA is here because of Gerry Mulligan. A lot of people made that happen, but Gerry was steering the boat. This community would look much different if not for his leadership."

■■■■

The list is impressive: United Way, YMCA, special library tax, Veterans Appreciation Week, Citrus 20/20 — projects all either led by Mulligan or hatched under his tutelage.

And don't forget Lu the hippo, a now-permanent resident of the Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park because of a citizen initiative aided by Mulligan and the Chronicle. It was so successful that Gov. Lawton Chiles declared Lu an honorary native of Florida.

Mulligan deflects praise to the thousands of residents and community

See MULLIGAN/Page A9



Melissa Walker
Key Center Executive Director.

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MULLIGAN

Continued from Page A8

leaders who backed their commitment to the community with cash, time or other efforts.

"A lot of people gave money (to the Y) and have never been to the YMCA," he says. "It wasn't for them."

Projects and causes take hold because citizens are attracted to them.

"When you do something like that — save Lu, create the Y — that's something people can really rally around and feel they can deal with the problems they face," he said.

He credits former Chronicle owner David Arthurs, who hired Mulligan as editor, for showing him right away that the newspaper's role is to bolster both the community and those who give their time and resources as well.

"David drilled that into my head," Mulligan says. "They're not doing this for the money. They're doing it for a sense of community."

Patrick Simon, retired Citrus County educator: "He reminds me of the threads on a rug. As soon as things get loose, he knows how to tighten it up again. I can't think of a more tremendous influencer than Gerry Mulligan."

Josh Wooten, former county commissioner and CEO of the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce: "He's irreplaceable. I don't think we've ever had anyone in our community to be a voice of reason amongst disparate groups. His knowledge of community issues and passion is unrivaled."



Josh Wooten
CEO, Citrus County Chamber of Commerce.

owner: "I needed an editor and he turned out to be a great one."

It's not all community causes and happy ribbon cuttings. Politicians, especially county commissioners, and citizens on the other side of a favorable editorial cause, such as extension of the Suncoast Parkway, often saw Mulligan as arrogant and power hungry.

To some extent, he doesn't deny it.

"I became publisher because I'm a know-it-all," he says. "I'm a believer if people know stuff they're more likely to make right decisions."



Patrick Simon
Retired Citrus County Educator.

Some people don't want to do the right thing, and you need to point it out."

He doesn't apologize for rubbing people the wrong way so long as the causes are pure.

The newspaper, for example, withstood an advertising boycott when Mulligan openly opposed a 10-story condominium project on the Gulf of Mexico in his early years as editor.

"That's what a newspaper does. It goes to bat for the things we believe in," he says. "I've been called a son-of-a-bitch just this week, in fact."

He supports candidates who aren't afraid to lead in the face of criticism.

"We don't need county commissioners who just need a job," he says. "We want county commissioners who will get things done."

The Chronicle also has a fairly open policy on getting opinions in the newspaper. Along with letters to the editor, the newspaper's decades-long Sound Off is wildly popular with readers and hated by politicians and bureaucrats.

But Mulligan wants the discourse civil. He recently reined in national letters, particularly those involving former President Donald Trump or President Joe Biden, and told writers the letters won't be printed if they're personal or nasty.

"We have the right to be wacky as long as we don't hurt people along the way," he says. "We're not about shock value. Let's debate the issues in a rational, truthful way."

Patricia Thomas, retired circuit court judge: "What a guy. What a sense of humor. Put me in the crowd who likes him very much."

Meredith Linley, executive director of Crystal River Main Street: "One of my prized possessions is a Christmas card from Gerry where he said he was proud of me."

Kevin Mulligan, Gerry's brother:

He reminds me of the threads on a rug. As soon as things get loose, he knows how to tighten it up again. I can't think of a more tremendous influencer than Gerry Mulligan.

"His impact to the community has been tremendous. This is just the beginning of a new chapter."

Janet Mulligan, Gerry's wife of 38 years: "He's been indispensable for so many years. He's worked every day since I've known him."

And now the wind-down question reporters ask of anyone retiring. He knows it's coming and we both get a little misty.

"What will you miss?" I ask.

He hesitates and I can tell 43 years of memories are gushing through.

"The people who I work with are incredible," he says. "I hired everybody in this building. This is my extended family and it's hard to walk away."

He talks about the standing in the community as the newspaper publisher.

"I'll miss influencing the things that need influencing," he says. "I feel sorry for my wife and my dog. I'll be grumpy when I don't have that opportunity. I'll have to get used to county commissioners not returning my phone calls."

Then he gets quiet for a moment and tells a story. It was during the capital campaign for the YMCA in Lecanto when a woman gave him \$100.

She said she owes who she is today to the Y. Mulligan pressed her for details. Did she join the Y as a child? Did she have a mentor from the Y who was special?

The woman rolled up her sleeve and showed him the concentration camp markings on her arm. She was imprisoned as a child, survived, and sent to live at a YMCA in Jerusalem.

"She wanted to pay me back," he says quietly. "That's the stuff that's hard to walk away from."

It's a clean break for Mulligan. No more editorial board. No more Out the Window (originally Out the Editor's Window) columns, no more Poop in the Shoe awards.

He's going to miss it. We all will.

"What an honor to be put in such a position," he says. "I'm so fortunate to have had a voice to make a difference."



Meredith Linley
Executive Director, Crystal River Main Street.

=Hot Corner: MULLIGAN=

■ In response to the (Friday, Aug. 6, front-page) article where the publisher, Mr. Mulligan, is retiring: It's a shame. He's a man of integrity, honesty and I have a lot of respect for him and admiration for him. It's very sad to see him go. It's a sad day for Citrus County. I wish you luck, Mr. Mulligan. Enjoy your retirement, because you deserve it.

■ Regarding Gerry Mulligan retiring: No, no, no, no, no, no! I can't take it. Gerry, at least I hope you will be doing your "Poop in the Shoe" and maybe a few other articles? Stay with us so we can absorb your wisdom, all right? Have a wonderful retirement.

■ This is in regards to Gerry Mulligan. Everyone deserves their retirement, but I am so sorry to hear that Gerry is retiring. His

article was the first thing I looked for every Sunday in the paper. He was such a nice homespun fellow and wrote such wonderful homespun articles. I do wish him the best.

■ I just want Gerry Mulligan to know the headline in today's paper is "Poop in the Shoe." I really enjoyed his comments on Sundays. Thank you.

■ I'm responding to Sound Off. It's sad news for me that the Chronicle publisher has decided to retire. Mr. Mulligan was a great man with the Chronicle. I talked to him on a few occasions. He's a very caring person. Loved his articles, the "Poop in the Shoe" awards. It's sad to see him go, it really is. So, Mr. Mulligan, thank you so much for everything you've done. Enjoy your retirement and God bless.

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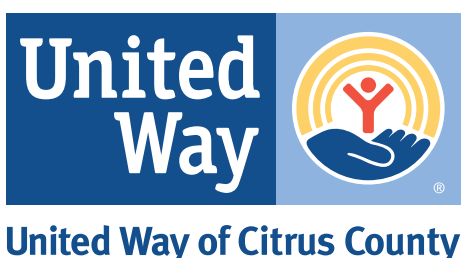
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Family pushes vaccine after COVID-19 hospitalization

KELLI KENNEDY
Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE — As Florida's COVID-19 cases continue to reach record highs, accounting for more than 20% of the nation's new cases and hospitalizations, one Miami family said they wished they'd been vaccinated after all three were hospitalized recently.

Yoiris Duran's family had decided against the vaccine, saying they'd heard too many conflicting messages. The Miami couple are in their mid-50s and try to eat healthy foods. She works out; her husband is an active handyman with asthma. Her 25-year-old son is also in good health, so they felt protected.

A few weeks ago, they all got terrible headaches and lost their sense of taste. Her husband had severe diarrhea, vomiting and was rapidly losing weight. After five days, as he struggled to breathe, he was rushed to the hospital, where they started him on oxygen and eventually a plasma treatment during his five-day stay, she said in a video interview this week given to The Associated Press by Baptist Health South Florida.

Back home, Yoiris Duran said she and her son felt so weak she could barely walk to the bathroom. As their symptoms progressed and they struggled to breathe, they also ended up at Homestead Hospital. "Last week was really bad, and I even actually

New US virus cases top 100K

The seven-day average for new daily COVID-19 infections has surpassed 100,000 in the U.S., returning to levels not seen since the winter surge.

Cases and hospitalizations have skyrocketed in the last month, driven by the highly contagious delta variant. The country was averaging about 11,000 cases a day in late June. Now the number is 107,143.

The virus is spreading quickly through unvaccinated populations, especially in the Deep South. Florida, Louisiana and Mississippi have had hospitals overrun with patients.

The U.S. first crossed the 100,000 average number in November and peaked at about 250,000 in early January before bottoming out in late June.

— The Associated Press

thought that we could die, the way we were feeling," the 56-year-old real estate agent said.

On Saturday, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported 23,903 new COVID-19 cases for Friday. That tops the previous day's record of 22,783 new cases. Florida saw a rise of the seven-day average in news cases to 19,250 this Friday from 15,817 a week earlier.

The state tallied 616 deaths in one week, raising the total COVID-19 death toll to 39,695, according to weekly statistic published late Friday by the Florida Department of Health.

The overwhelming majority of COVID-19 patients hospitalized in Florida are unvaccinated. Of the more than 10.5 million fully vaccinated Floridians, approximately 0.019% are in a Florida hospital with COVID-19, said Mary Mayhew, president of Florida Hospital Association.

"COVID-19 hospitalizations in Florida have doubled in the last two weeks, with younger, healthier individuals getting COVID-19 and being hospitalized," said Mayhew, who called the vaccine a lifesaver.

But the number of people getting first or second shots is also rising, with more than 380,000 people getting them in the last seven-day period, compared with 334,000 who got it the previous week.

"People are reacting to this by going out and getting the vaccine, and that really has to be the reaction," said Justin Senior, CEO of the Florida Safety Net Hospital Alliance, which represents some of the largest hospitals in the state caring for high numbers of low-income patients.

Duran said she and her family now wish they'd been vaccinated.

"We've been finding out that people that get vaccinated, even if they get

COVID, they don't get it as strong as we did," she said. "I've been telling all my friends and my family to go and get vaccinated. I don't want people to go through what we have gone through."

Meanwhile, Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis has encouraged vaccinations, yet repeatedly stressed he will not impose statewide mask mandates or business lockdowns. He's used the surge to fuel his reelection

campaign next year, publicly sparring with President Joe Biden, and accusing federal and state Democrats of being intent on using the virus outbreak to steal Floridians' freedoms.



Associated Press
Passengers wait in a long line to get a COVID-19 test to travel overseas at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, Friday, Aug. 6, in Fort Lauderdale. Recent flight cancellations caused many passengers to redo their tests while others were unable to get the test locally due to long lines caused by the surge of the delta variant.

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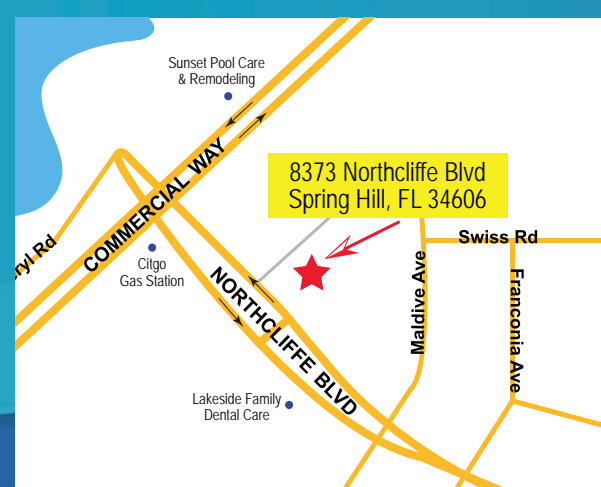
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Sheriff: Cuomo could face misdemeanor in aide's groping case

MARINA VILLENEUVE
Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo could face misdemeanor charges if investigators substantiate a criminal complaint accusing the governor of groping an aide last year, the Albany County sheriff said Saturday.

Sheriff Craig Apple promised a "very comprehensive" investigation in partnership the Albany County district attorney's office, but said it would be premature to commit to a timeline or say whether Cuomo himself will be questioned.

"We have a lot of fact-finding to do. We have a lot of interviews to do," Apple told reporters. "I'm not going to rush it because of who he is. And I'm not going to delay it because of who he is."

The complaint, filed this week, is the first known instance where a woman has made an official report with a law enforcement agency over alleged misconduct by the Democratic governor.

The aide says Cuomo reached under her shirt and fondled her when they were alone in a room at the Executive Mansion last year.

The woman also told investigators with the attorney general's office that Cuomo once rubbed her rear end while they were

posing together for a photo.

Cuomo's lawyer, Rita Glavin, has said the allegation was fabricated.

"He is 63 years old. He has spent 40 years in public life and for him to all of the sudden be accused of a sexual assault of an executive assistant that he really doesn't know, doesn't pass muster," Glavin said.

Apple declined to release the complaint Saturday but described the allegation as "sexual in nature."

He said his office has a "proven record" of helping victims, adding he does not fear retaliation for moving forward with such a high-profile investigation.

"I'm the county sheriff. I'm not going to be intimidated. I'm not going to be coerced," he said. "That would not play out well for anybody."

Cuomo has faced renewed calls to step down after an independent investigation overseen by the state attorney general's office concluded he sexually harassed 11 women and worked to retaliate against one of his accusers.

The attorney general's report describes a series of times Cuomo allegedly acted inappropriately with the aide described as Executive Assistant #1, culminating with the groping encounter at the mansion in November 2020.

Senate votes to advance \$1T infrastructure bill

LISA MASCARO
AP congressional correspondent

WASHINGTON — The Senate moved closer to passing a \$1 trillion infrastructure package Saturday after lawmakers from both parties came together and voted to clear a key procedural hurdle, but the action soon stalled out as opponents tried to slow the rush to approve one of President Joe Biden's top priorities.

The measure would provide a massive injection of federal money for a range of public works programs, from roads and bridges to broadband internet access, drinking water and more. In a rare stroke of bipartisanship, Republicans joined the Democrats to overcome the 60-vote threshold needed to advance the measure toward final votes. The vote was 67-27, a robust tally. If approved, the bill would go to the House.

But momentum dragged as opponents refused to yield 30 hours of required debate before the next procedural vote, which could delay swift passage of the package and result in a dayslong slog.

"We can get this done the easy way or the hard way," Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said as the Senate opened on Saturday.

Senators are meeting for a second consecutive weekend to work on the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which is the first of Biden's two infrastructure packages. Once voting wraps up, senators immediately will turn to the next item on Biden's agenda, the budget outline for a \$3.5 trillion package of child care, elder care and other programs that is a much more partisan undertaking and expected to draw only Democratic support.



Associated Press

Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., chair of the Senate Finance Committee, stops for a reporter as the Senate votes to advance the \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill, at the Capitol in Washington, Saturday, Aug. 7. More votes will be needed before final Senate passage.

Schumer has vowed to keep senators in session until they finish up the bipartisan bill and start the initial votes on the next big package.

Vice President Kamala Harris arrived on Capitol Hill for meetings on the bipartisan legislation, which Biden said offered a potentially "historic investment," on par with the building of the transcontinental railroad or interstate highway system.

Overcoming the 60-vote hurdle was a sign that the tenuous alliance between Republicans and Democrats could hold on the public works package. At least 10 Republicans had to join all Democrats to advance the measure past a filibuster — and in the end 18 Republican senators voted to advance the package.

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky has so far allowed the bill to progress, and his

vote — "yes" — was closely watched. "This is a compromise," he said before the vote.

For some Republican senators the back-to-back voting schedule is what they are trying to delay, hoping to slow or halt what appears to be a forward march by Democrats to achieve the president's infrastructure goals.

Sen. Bill Hagerty, R-Tenn., an ally of Donald Trump, who was the former president's ambassador to Japan, was among those leading the effort for the Senate to take as much time as needed to debate and amend the bill.

"There's absolutely no reason to rush," Hagerty said during a floor speech Saturday.

Senators have spent the past week processing nearly two dozen amendments to the 2,700-page package.

From around THE WORLD

Wildfires rampage in Greek forests, cut island in half

ATHENS, Greece — Three large wildfires churned across Greece on Saturday, with one threatening whole towns and cutting Evia, the country's second-largest island, in half. Others engulfed forested mountainsides and skirted ancient sites, leaving behind a trail of destruction that one official described as "a biblical catastrophe."

A flotilla of ten ships — 2 Coast Guard patrols, 2 ferries, 2 passenger ships and 4 fishing boats — waited at the seaside resort of Pefki, near the northern tip of Evia, ready to evacuate more residents and tourists if needed, a Coast Guard spokeswoman told The Associated Press.

The fire on Evia forced the hasty Friday night evacuation of about 1,400 people from a seaside village and island beaches by a motley assortment of boats after the approaching flames cut off other means of escape.

The other dangerous fires were in Greece's southern Peloponnese peninsula, one near Ancient Olympia and one in the Mani region of the Peloponnese, south of Sparta.

The fire in Eastern Olympia moved east of the ancient site, threatening villages, in a sudden flare-up Saturday afternoon.

Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis on Saturday visited the fire department's headquarters in Athens and expressed his "deep sadness" for the firefighter's death.

A local official in Mani estimated the wildfire there had destroyed around 70% of her area.

"It's a biblical catastrophe. We're talking about three-quarters of the municipality," East Mani Deputy Mayor Eleni Drakoulakou told state broadcaster ERT, pleading for more water-dropping aircraft.



Associated Press

Firefighters try to extinguish a wildfire in Kechries village on the island of Evia, about 90 miles north of Athens, Greece, Thursday, Aug. 5. Forest fires fueled by a protracted heat wave raged into Saturday in Greece, threatening the archaeological site at the birthplace of the modern Olympics and forcing the evacuation of dozens of villages.

Rescued migrants get OK to land after days at sea

ROME — A German charity boat carrying 257 migrants rescued from the Mediterranean docked Saturday in Sicily after Italian authorities granted permission, and hours later a French humanitarian vessel with 549 migrants aboard received a similar port assignment.

After several days in limbo at sea, Sea-Watch 3 sailed into port at Trapani, western Sicily. Among the migrants aboard were 70 minors, some traveling without adults while trying to reach Europe. Health workers were administering COVID-19 tests to the migrants.

The German maritime rescue group Sea-Watch said Italian authorities assigned the ship a port on Friday after sea conditions in the central Mediterranean deteriorated.

Italy appealed to the European Union this week to press fellow EU nations to take some of the thousands of asylum-seekers who have arrived in the country in recent months, a sharp uptick since 2020. But similar past appeals for EU solidarity largely went unheeded.

Hezbollah leader vows retaliation for future attacks

BEIRUT — The leader of the militant Hezbollah group said Saturday his group will retaliate against any future Israeli airstrikes on Lebanon, a day after his supporters fired a barrage of rockets toward Israel.

Hassan Nasrallah said it would be wrong to assume Hezbollah would be constrained by internal divisions in Lebanon, or the country's harsh economic crisis.

Nasrallah's comments came a day after his group fired rockets toward Israel, calling it retaliation for Israeli airstrikes on southern Lebanon a day earlier.

Thursday's airstrikes — the first in years — were in response to mysterious rockets that were fired from Lebanon toward Israel on Wednesday.

Friday's rocket fire was the third day of attacks along the border with Lebanon, a major Middle East flashpoint where tensions between Israel and Iran, which backs Hezbollah, occasionally play out.

Israel and Hezbollah have fought several wars in the past.

— 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

Elks plan Purple Heart breakfast

The West Citrus Elks Lodge 2693, will host a breakfast and program at 9 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 7, at 7890 W. Grover Cleveland Blvd. in Homosassa. The program will honor all Purple Heart recipients and commemorate the 239th anniversary of the Purple Heart.

The families of those who fell in combat, Purple Heart recipients and their guests are invited to the free breakfast served by the lodge's veterans committee.

Established by George Washington on Aug. 7, 1782, and originally known as the Badge of Military Merit, the Purple Heart is a badge of honor that recognizes patriots who have made the supreme sacrifice or shed their blood on the field of battle in defense of our nation's freedoms.

Attendees are requested to register. Contact Curt at 352-382-3847 or curt247@tampabay.rr.com and indicate the number in your party and their names.

For information about Aaron A. Weaver Chapter 776 Military Order of the Purple Heart, visit citruspurpleheart.org or their Facebook page.

GOOD TO KNOW

17th annual golf tourney on tap

Check in for the 17th annual Citrus County Veterans Foundation (CCVF) golf tournament will be at 7:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 11, at the Citrus Hills Golf and Country Club pro shop with an 8:30 a.m. shotgun start.

Groups short of four persons will be combined into teams. You do not need to be a veteran to participate.

The tournament is dedicated to the late Rear Adm. Carlton "Mac" McLeod, retired U.S. Navy and the CCVF president from its inception in 2004 until 2020.

The registration form and \$65 donation must be received by Aug. 30. It includes golf and cart, beverages and lunch. The tournament features a hole-in-one prize and door prizes.

Contributions for door prizes and hole sponsorships for \$425, \$325, \$225 or \$125 are welcome.

The CCVF has provided financial assistance to local honorably discharged veterans and their surviving spouses with close to \$400,000 since 2004.

To register, visit citrusvf.org, call 352-382-0430 or 352-382-3847.

MOPH offers education exhibit

The Military Order of the Purple Heart Aaron A. Weaver Chapter 776 will host a mobile education exhibit from Wreaths Across America at 9 a.m. Oct. 18 at Liberty Park, 268 N. Apopka Ave. in Inverness.

The mission of Wreaths Across America is to remember the fallen, honor those who serve, teach children the value of freedom and bring together active-duty service members, veterans and civilians.

Community members will also have the opportunity to purchase a wreath for \$15 to be placed on a grave at Florida National Cemetery on Dec. 18. To request a specific gravesite, bring the full name of the veteran, the site and grave number.

At Liberty Park, guests will be able to talk to local veterans groups and sign up to vote in the next election.

For additional information, call Sandy Cross at mom4sba@tampabay.rr.com.

Come to VFW's weekly fish fry

The VFW Post 10087 hosts a fish fry from 4:30 to 5:45 every Friday at the post, 2170 W. Vet Lane in Beverly Hills.

The event is open to the public and includes haddock fillet, scalloped potatoes and coleslaw for \$8.

MOAA looks at Veterans Village

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Citrus County chapter welcomes veterans and the public to attend a speaker presentation at 10 a.m. Sept. 9 at the American Legion Post 155, 6585 W. Gulf-to-Lake Highway in Crystal River.

The topic of the presentation will be the proposed Veterans Village of Citrus County, a 100 apartment not-for-profit assisted living facility, which will provide affordable housing to veterans.

The featured speakers are Dr. Paresh Desai and Dr. William Dixon, members of the Veterans Village executive board.

For more information about the speaker event, visit moaaff.org/Chapters/CitrusCounty.

Vets appreciation coming soon

The Veterans Appreciation Week Ad Hoc Coordinating Committee will meet for Citrus County's 29th annual Veterans Appreciation Week at

See NOTES/Page A15

Gifts for cancer patients



ABOVE: Auxiliary members of the VFW Post 10087 took 46 goody bags to the Gainesville VA hospital recently to give some joy to the veteran cancer patients. LEFT: From left, Deborah Wilson, Carol Franker and Pat Lampasona loading up the car. Special to the Chronicle



Special to the Chronicle

From left are: Renee Tennant, auxiliary junior vice; Reno Raines, Riders president; Roger Ingall, auxiliary president; Joan Lane, Quilts of Valor group leader; Doug Tennant, post senior vice; and Ed Carpenter, post junior vice.

VFW Post 8189 groups donate to Quilts of Valor

Special to the Chronicle

Recently, VFW 8189 post, auxiliary and Riders each donated to the Quilts of Valor Foundation.

VFW 8189 Auxiliary member David Buchanan was presented with a quilt. Founded in 2003, the foundation's mission is to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing "Quilts of Valor."

Founder Catherine Roberts' son was deployed in Iraq. The first quilt was awarded in November of 2003 at Walter Reed Army Medical Center to a young soldier from Minnesota who lost his leg in Iraq.

LEFT: Dave Buchanan, VFW 8189 Auxiliary member, was presented with a quilt from the Quilts of Valor Foundation



CCVC expands services to those affected by COVID-19

Special to the Chronicle

In addition to existing clients at the Citrus County Veterans Coalition (CCVC), the coalition is now accepting any veteran who now are unemployed, due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Also, any veteran, whose financial situation

has changed, is also invited to attend the CCVC food pantry for assistance.

We ask that any veteran coming to collect food on Tuesdays and the first and third Thursdays of the month, to please wait in their cars, until the food is delivered to them. We ask that you wear a mask and that any new

applicants, please have proof of residency and proof of honorable discharge from military service. All active duty members of the Armed Forces are also invited to apply for services.

For information, call 352-400-8952 or visit www.veterans-coalition.com.

- 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 Chronicle offices in Inverness or Crystal River or email to community@chronicleonline.com.

SUNDAY EVENING AUGUST 8, 2021. Table with columns for channel, time, and program details. Includes programs like 'The Rock', 'Empire State', 'Uncle Drew', etc.

SUNDAY EVENING AUGUST 8, 2021. Table with columns for channel, time, and program details. Includes programs like 'The Suicide Squad', 'Jungle Cruise', 'Old', etc.

Annie gives advice

Dear Annie: My Florida relocated to Illinois with her husband. When her sisters would come for a visit, she would make a "Whoopie List." It was a list of things to do with them while they were there, such as going to Disney World and other neat things!



DEAR ANNIE

Yes, we now live in a world that has changed greatly, but I try to remember to treat our guests like royalty, as my aunt did. I believe having good hospitality is even biblically based.

reluctant to even visit them. I think we all must make a note to treat visitors — even those who show up unexpectedly at our front door — kindly, politely and with genuine regard. We definitely know that when a family member or friend returns for another visit to our home, we did right with them on their previous visit.

I truly appreciate sharing this with you, and it helps me to write to you about this matter. It has been on my mind for years. — Visiting Family and Friends

Dear Visiting Family: Your letter highlights one of the most important rules of life: the golden rule, which is to treat others as you would want to be treated.

Whether that applies to a guest in your house or to any other situation in your daily life, you will be much happier and relaxed if you practice this rule. If your brothers don't apply it, that's their problem, not yours.

Send questions to dearannie@creators.com. To find out more about Annie Lane and read other features, visit www.creators.com.

Today's MOVIES

Table listing movie titles, times, and theaters. Includes 'The Suicide Squad', 'Jungle Cruise', 'Old', 'Snake Eyes', 'Space Jam: A New Legacy', 'Black Widow', 'Everest', 'To Kill a Mockingbird', 'Jungle Cruise'.

Sunday PUZZLER

- ACROSS
1 Kind of bath
6 Not hidden
11 Parlor
16 Big gulp
21 Secret supply
22 Kitchen gadget
23 Odor
24 Common
25 Edgar — Poe
26 Sharp
27 Drop in on
28 Neighbor of 43-Across
29 Mauna —
30 Anatomical tube
32 Food thickener
34 Baffle
36 Sign
37 Poker stake
39 Gin flavoring
41 Village
43 — Lanka
44 Learning style
45 Keep
48 Remove
50 Old Norse poems
52 Town in Maine
55 Metrical foot
57 Old Venetian magistrate
59 Bike type
63 Charged particle
64 Component
66 Reject, in a way
68 Yarn fuzz
69 Libertine
70 Go wrong
72 Extra
73 Arthur or Benaderet
74 Compass pt.
75 Troubles
76 Irreligious one
78 Cousin to an ology
79 Batter's hit
80 Spray can
82 Fruit stone
83 — Peak, Colorado
85 Worn
86 Intelligence
87 Disallow
88 Roam (about)
89 Male swan
90 Black tea variety
93 Three score
95 Bashful
96 Round Table knight
100 Old flames
101 Wall Street event (Abb.)
102 "There — to be a law!"
104 Certain
105 Student at Yale
106 Pasture
107 Pointless
109 Damage
110 Food fish
111 Profit
112 Document for a printer
115 Wagerer

- 17 Carried
118 Oily seed
119 Bird bill part
121 Postern
122 Sounded a horn
123 Town in Nevada
125 Nobleman
127 Thick soup
129 Oodles
132 Have a late meal
134 Chick's cry
136 Where Cuzco is
137 Royal house
141 Expert
142 Device in a taxi
144 Submissive
146 From soup to —
148 Take legal action
149 Basil sauce
151 — Arabia
153 Fast
155 " — of Two Cities"
157 Gown material
158 George or T.S.
159 Loud sound
160 Compare
161 Make into law
162 Term in grammar
163 Kind of fund
164 Rips
DOWN
1 Milan's La —
2 Claw
3 Brilliance
4 Cry of discovery
5 Repair
6 Ancient Greek priest
7 Triumphant
8 Old French coin
9 Soaks flax
10 Tire surface
11 Enjoyed
12 — Ben Canaan
13 Deprivation
14 Leaves
15 unmentioned
15 Character
16 Witticism
17 Serv. branch
18 Broadcast portion
19 Swoon
20 Thin piece
21 Defunct acronym
22 Denizen of Olympus
23 School test
28 Rye fungus
30 Sidestep
42 Trudge
44 Indian queen
46 Very long time
47 Big bird
49 Sponsorship (var.)
51 Earnhardt or Carnegie
52 Light wood
53 Cordial flavor
54 Forty —

Sunday Puzzler answers are on Page A16.

Grid for the Sunday puzzle with numbers 1-164 indicating starting points for words.

NOTES

Continued from Page A13S

1:30 p.m. Aug. 18 in the conference room of the Citrus County Chronicle, 1624 N. Meadowcrest Blvd. in Crystal River.

All veteran service organizations and civic groups are encouraged to send representatives to participate in the planning process. All interested individuals are also welcome to attend.

For more information, call Chris Gregoriou at 352-302-9777.

Sponsor a wreath

Aaron A. Weaver Military Order of

the Purple Heart Chapter 776 will be supporting 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, 2021.

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.

WTC scholarships

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 monthly meetings

Female Veterans Network (FVN) invites all female veterans to their monthly meeting on the second Thursday monthly at the Citrus County Resource Center on 2804 W. 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 155 breakfast

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.

VFW Vittles for Vets

VFW Post 10087 Harry F. Nesbitt will be hosting Vittles for Vets at 4 p.m. every Tuesday at the post, 2170 W. Vet Lane in Beverly Hills. For information, call the post at 352-746-0440.

See NOTES/Page A16

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Grand Living at Citrus Hills 850 W. Norvell Bryant Highway, Hernando, FL 352-301-8500 GrandLiving.com	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		
The Royal Dalton House Assisted Living & Memory Care 5445 West Oak Park Blvd., Homosassa, FL 352-765-3259	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		
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Superior Residences at Lecanto Memory Care 4865 W. Gulf to Lake Hwy., Lecanto, FL 352-746-5483	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓

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Mederi Caretenders 2214 Hwy. 44 W., Inverness, FL 352-726-3874		✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓
Seniors Helping Seniors 352-610-9934	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
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60th ANNIVERSARY

The Schroedels



Al and Gloria Schroedel of Hernando are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary.

The couple were married in California on Aug. 5, 1961. They met at North American Aviation in Downey, California, where they started work on the same day just out of college.

The couple retired to Hernando from Atlanta after Al's career with Motorola and Gloria's at Data General.

The Schroedels have four sons: Todd, Glen and Shawn of Atlanta and Lawrence of New York.

Over the years the activities they have enjoyed include tennis, traveling, biking, boating, archery, scuba and underwater photography.

TOGETHER PAGE SUBMISSIONS

To submit information, attach photos and email the text to community@chronicleonline.com or fill out the forms online at www.chronicleonline.com.

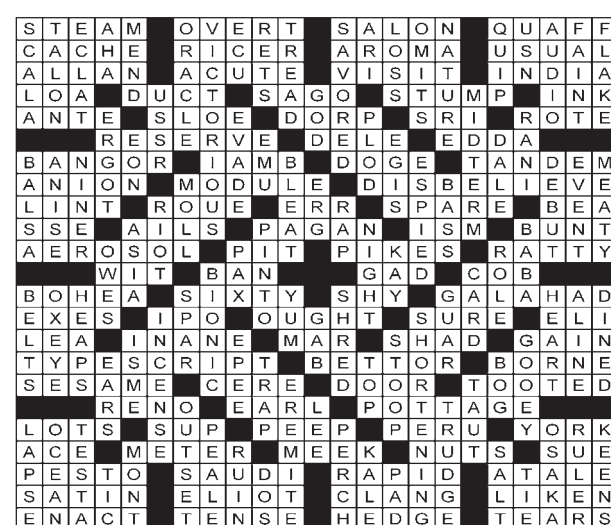
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Sunday PUZZLER ANSWERS

Sunday Puzzler is on Page A14



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NOTES

Continued from Page A15

Transit available for VA appointments

Citrus County Transit provides service to veterans on a weekly basis, excluding holidays. Transportation to VA appointments for both wheel chair and ambulatory patients are available:

- Tuesday to Tampa
- Wednesday to Gainesville
- Thursday to the Villages VA

Other appointments may be available if capacity is available. For reservations and information, contact Janet Gramann at 352-527-7630.

Dog tag sales benefit veterans

Veterans dog tags now being made at the Beverly Hills American Legion Post 237 at 6726 N. Lecanto Highway. These are the genuine notched and un-notched type tags as were issued. Chains and silencers also in stock.

Custom-made tags for any purpose, veterans, pets, luggage, etc.

Call the post at 352-897-4776 to make an appointment. Proceeds go to Post 237 veterans programs.

Fish fry benefits charities

Members of the VFW Post 10087 host a fish fry every Friday to benefit local charities and veterans relief.

The fish fry events are open to the public and are from 4:30 to 5:45 p.m., at 2170 W. Vet Lane, Beverly Hills.

Get a plate of lightly battered haddock, scalloped potatoes, coleslaw and a roll for \$8.

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

Attend a meal for a good cause

The Crystal River American Legion Post 155 hosts a breakfast from 8:30 to 11 a.m. every Sunday, at American Legion Post 155, 6585 W. Gulf-to-Lake Highway, Crystal River, for an \$8 donation.

The proceeds from these meals support the Legion programs, veterans and community.

All are welcome. Information: 352-795-6526.

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Discover Photo Contest

Submit your photos by uploading to the following website:

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We are looking for your exciting, interesting and unique Citrus County photos. Your photo could be among those chosen to be displayed in the 2021-2022 Discover Magazine. Please submit only photos taken in Citrus County and include a brief description, which includes where it was taken along with who took it.

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THE NUMBER:

2

Career medals for Eddy Alvarez, the sixth athlete in Olympic history to earn one in both the Summer and Winter Games.



Eddy Alvarez

SPORTS

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

Section B - SUNDAY, AUGUST 8, 2021



■ "I feel at peace": Felix exits stage with record 11th medal./B6

- Baseball/B2, B6
- Scoreboard/B3
- Sports briefs/B3
- Lottery, TV/B3
- Golf/B4
- Olympics roundup/B5
- Bowling scores/B5
- Track and field/B6

US men's hoops is golden, again

Durant leads way in win over France

TIM REYNOLDS
AP basketball writer

SAITAMA, Japan — Nothing about the summer was easy for the U.S. men's basketball team, and neither was the gold-medal game.

The Americans expected nothing less. And in the end, their Olympic reign lives on.

Kevin Durant scored 29 points and joined Carmelo Anthony as the only three-time men's gold medalists in Olympic history and the U.S. held off France 87-82 on Saturday to win the title at the Tokyo Games — ending a summer that started with sputters but closed with celebration.

"Every championship is special, and the group you're with is

special, but I can be honest and say this is the most responsibility I've ever felt," said U.S. coach Gregg Popovich, who adds this gold to five NBA titles he's won as coach in San Antonio. "You're playing for so many people that are watching, and for a country, and other countries involved. The responsibility was awesome. I felt it every day for several years now. I'm feeling pretty light now and looking forward to getting back to the hotel."

Wine was awaiting, and so was a hero's welcome from the U.S. women's team — which plays for gold of its own Sunday — when the men returned to the team hotel. Later Saturday night, after Australia defeated Slovenia for the bronze, Popovich and the team returned to the arena for their gold medals. One player would drape the prize over another's neck, then they watched the U.S. flag get raised and "The Star-Spangled Banner" blare for them one more time.

See GOLD/Page B3



Kevin Durant, of the United States, celebrates after the win in the men's basketball gold medal game against France at the 2020 Summer Olympics, Saturday in Saitama, Japan.

Associated Press

Finally honored



Edgerrin James, a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame Centennial Class, takes a selfie with his bust during the induction ceremony at the Pro Football Hall of Fame, Saturday in Canton, Ohio.

Associated Press

Pro Football Hall of Fame class of 2020 gets enshrined, one year late

BARRY WILNER
AP pro football writer

CANTON, Ohio — From bone-rattling tacklers Troy Polamalu, Steve Atwater and Cliff Harris to hard-charging runner Edgerrin James to the pass-catching brilliance of Isaac Bruce and Harold Carmichael, the Pro Football Hall of Fame class of 2020 has something for everyone.

Add in blocking dynamos Steve Hutchinson and Jim Covert, Steel Curtain stalwart safety Donnie Shell and such leaders as former NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue and coaches Bill Cowher and Jimmy Johnson.

They all entered the hall Saturday night, a year late due to the COVID-19 pandemic, yet just as rewarding.

"If you told me after I graduated from the University of Michigan that I'd be

excited standing in Ohio in the middle of August," Hutchinson joked, "...to me, there's no place better than Canton, Ohio."

Certainly all 12 men enshrined on this night felt that way.

"I am humbled and honored to wear this gold jacket," Atwater said before looking around at the other Hall of Famers on the stage. "What a group we have up here."

Chasing history

Elliott goes for three-peat at Watkins Glen

JOHN KEKIS
AP sports writer

WATKINS GLEN, N.Y. — Three-peat at Watkins Glen? Not on Chase Elliott's radar.

OK, maybe a little bit.

"I'm just excited to be going back. I'm looking forward to the challenge," Elliott, the reigning NASCAR Cup champion, said this week on a Zoom call. "Every time you go to the track, look, it's always going to be tough. As I've said many times before, past success doesn't equal future success and I don't think that's any different this weekend. I anticipate everybody else will be better than they were last time we were up there. And we just try to make sure we match it ourselves to have another shot."

The NASCAR Cup Series resumes at Watkins Glen International on Sunday after a two-week break for the Tokyo Olympics, and Elliott will be chasing a little history.

He's won the past two races at the natural terrain road course in the Finger Lakes region of New York — last year's race was moved to the road course at Daytona International Speedway because of the pandemic and Elliott won that one, too — and another victory would put him in select company. Only Mark Martin (1993-95) and Jeff Gordon (1997-99) have won three in a row at The Glen since NASCAR began

See ELLIOTT/Page B3

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MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Table with columns: East Division, W, L, Pct, GB, WC, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows for Tampa Bay, Boston, New York, Toronto, Baltimore.

Central Division

Table with columns: W, L, Pct, GB, WC, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows for Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Kansas City, Minnesota.

West Division

Table with columns: W, L, Pct, GB, WC, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows for Houston, Oakland, Seattle, Los Angeles, Texas.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Table with columns: East Division, W, L, Pct, GB, WC, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows for Philadelphia, Atlanta, New York, Washington, Miami.

Central Division

Table with columns: W, L, Pct, GB, WC, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows for Milwaukee, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Chicago, Pittsburgh.

West Division

Table with columns: W, L, Pct, GB, WC, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows for San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego, Colorado, Arizona.

ROUNDUP/MATCHUPS

Yankees 5, Mariners 4: DJ LeMahieu and Kyle Higashioka made savvy baserunning moves... Blue Jays 1, Red Sox 0, Game 1: Marcus Semien hit a walk-off home run... White Sox 4, Cubs 0: Carlos Rodon struck out 11 in five stellar innings...

BOX SCORES

N.Y. Yankees 5, Seattle 4

Box score for Yankees vs Seattle. Includes batting, pitching, and fielding statistics for both teams.

Toronto 1, Boston 0

Box score for Toronto vs Boston. Includes batting, pitching, and fielding statistics for both teams.

Chicago White Sox 4, Chicago Cubs 0

Box score for White Sox vs Cubs. Includes batting, pitching, and fielding statistics for both teams.



Philadelphia Phillies closer Ian Kennedy reacts after striking out New York Mets third baseman J.D. Davis to end the game Saturday, in Philadelphia. The Phillies won 5-3.

Oakland 12, Texas 3

Box score for Oakland vs Texas. Includes batting, pitching, and fielding statistics for both teams.

Houston 4, Minnesota 0

Box score for Houston vs Minnesota. Includes batting, pitching, and fielding statistics for both teams.

THIS DATE IN BASEBALL

1903 — A week after pitching his first doubleheader triumph, Joe "Iron Man" McGinnity of the New York Giants scored a double victory... 1915 — Philadelphia's Gavvy Cravath hit four doubles and drove in eight runs... 1992 — Oakland's Dennis Eckersley had his consecutive save record snapped at 40...

STATISTICAL LEADERS

Table listing statistical leaders in various categories like batting, pitching, and fielding. Includes player names, teams, and their respective statistics.



Tampa Bay Rays first baseman Yandy Diaz celebrates after hitting a solo home run against the Baltimore Orioles during the second inning of a game Saturday, in Baltimore. The game was not completed at press time.

Three cheers for Gerry Mulligan!



Chronicle Publisher Gerard "Gerry" Mulligan greets well-wishers Friday, Aug. 6, at the newspaper's office in the Meadowcrest subdivision. Friday marked Mulligan's last day at the paper after working here for 43 years. JEFF BRYAN/Chronicle

Loyal readers, employees, friends bid farewell to retiring Chronicle publisher



Joe Meek
GUEST COLUMN

Citrus blessed under his leadership

My friend Gerry Mulligan likes to write a lot about people who have made a difference in our community, and I wanted to give it a shot.

This column is about Gerry. Gerry announced his retirement from the Citrus County Chronicle as publisher this week after over 40 years of service to the Chronicle and

See **BLESSED/Page C3**

An outpouring of gratitude and thanks for a job well done was extended on social media to longtime Chronicle Publisher Gerry Mulligan Thursday, who announced his retirement after over four decades of leadership with the Citrus County Chronicle.

Here's what readers said:

David Burns

We're going to miss him.

Luther Willis

Gerry will be missed at the helm of the Chronicle, he is a great man, and a great friend.

Andrea K. McCray

Congratulations Gerry Mulligan! Job well done. Thank you for all you have done for our community, seen and unseen.

Rocky Hensley

Has meant so much to our community both personally and professionally. ... I know he will not be a stranger. ... well deserved retirement. ... enjoy.

Gary Mock

Congratulations Gerry. A trip to Ireland in the future?

Candy Phillips

Gerry has been a true leader in the community and at our office. It has been my pleasure to work with him for over 23 years. A very kind and sincere human being. You will be missed. Thanks again for your leadership.

Pati Kirley Smith

Congratulations Gerry. Such a well-deserved retirement. Enjoy this chapter of your life and all the wonderful plans God has in store for you. Family, travel, family, travel, repeat.

Josh Wooten

Gerry has often been the voice of reason. He will be greatly missed in this position.

Scott Crowell

Great editor and leader. Great respect for the job he did, I cannot even fathom doing it in such polarized times. Have a great retirement Gerry.

Amy Holaday

Oh my goodness! I am so very happy for you and your family, but sad for all of us Chronicle junkies! Congratulations!

See **MULLIGAN/Page C3**

Please join the Chronicle family in wishing Gerry a happy, healthy retirement filled with many blessings.



Cortney Stewart
SEEING BEYOND

Mulligan used position for good

Citrus County isn't a big place. If you live here long enough, it's a rare occasion to go to the store without bumping into someone you know.

One of my family's life-long friends is a retired detective with the Citrus County Sheriff's Office. He's been in Citrus forever. I remember in high school my friends

See **BEYOND/Page C3**

Congratulations On Deciding To Get A Colonoscopy
Choosing The Right Doctor To Do Your Colonoscopy Matters
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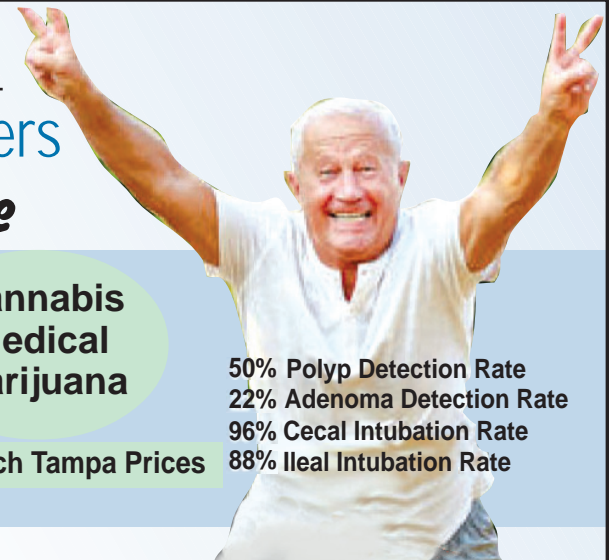
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► *"If you're brave enough to say goodbye, life will reward you with a new hello."*

Paulo Coelho, author

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Founded by Albert M. Williamson

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

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

MASKING CHILDREN

Governor's political school mask mandate

With COVID cases raging due to the delta variant spreading across the country, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's issued new guidance for schools recommending masks for everyone inside buildings. In response, Gov. Ron DeSantis issued an executive order advertised as forbidding school mask mandates.

However, some legal experts believe Executive Order 21-175, labeled "Ensuring Parents' Freedom to Choose — Masks in Schools" is little more than "a glorified press release telling Florida health and education officials to write rules that follow Florida law," said Columbia Law School professor Richard Briffault, who specializes in state and local government law.

Some of the language in the executive order is quite threatening, such as directing Commissioner of Education Richard Corcoran to "pursue all legal means available. ... including but not limited to withholding state funds from noncompliant school boards." This is a direct threat to defund schools that mandate masks.

The order led Broward County to cancel its original plan to require masks in schools. However, the county is reconsidering its decision, and other districts, including Alachua and Duval counties, are moving forward with mask mandates.

According to Andrea Messina, executive director of the Florida School Boards Association, most districts in the state are in continued discussion of how to respond to DeSantis' mandate on masks.

Some experts believe there are significant legal issues involved in the threat to withhold funding to schools

that require masks. According to Ron Meyer, an attorney for the Florida Education Association, Florida law is on the side of school districts, because the Florida Constitution gives school districts the authority to set the conditions for school openings.

Of course, the open question is whether the governor will follow through with his threat to withhold funding, which is likely to put school districts in legal conflict with the state. Just this threat is enough to keep some districts from mandating masks, because litigation is expensive and the outcome is uncertain.

But whatever the final resolution of this issue, this is an example of executive overreach justified more by political hyperbole than fact. For example, the order states, without evidence, that "masking children may lead to negative health and societal ramifications," and that "forcing children to wear masks could inhibit breathing."

People who believe that local governments should largely control local issues should be appalled by this order, which threatens state power to punish another level of government, and which may not even be legal.

Of course, we are not attorneys, and we do not profess to know what courts will do, but our hope is that if this issue ends up in the courts, DeSantis will get a well-deserved putdown for blatant political posturing parading as policy.

Being politically ambitious is certainly not confined to the governor, and political posturing is all too common in governing, but the willingness to sacrifice the health of Florida's children to further political ambition is out of bounds and needs to be called out as such.

The statistical facts are simple

Folks, it's a statistical fact. If you want to reduce the chance of getting sick with COVID, get vaccinated. If you want to reduce the chance of being hospitalized with COVID, get vaccinated. If you want to reduce the chance of dying from COVID, get vaccinated. If you want to reduce the chance of giving someone you know and love COVID, get vaccinated. Please get vaccinated.

Ken Brown
 Crystal River

Unity back-to-school event a success

Unity of Citrus County recently held a successful "Back to School" community event thanks to the collaborative effort between Unity of Citrus and our wonderful local business community. We extend our appreciation to all who gave donations to support this effort.

A special thank you to three donors that gave so generously: Colonial Jewelry and Pawn, Cliff Wiggins at Natural Healing Center on Kings Bay and Harley Davidson.

We were able to distribute 116 school backpacks filled with school supplies to families in our Citrus County community. Together we make a difference for families of Citrus County. Our prayer is that the

OPINIONS INVITED

- **Viewpoints** depicted in political cartoons, columns or letters do not necessarily represent the opinion of the editorial board.
- **Groups or individuals** are invited to express their opinions in a letter to the editor.
- **Persons** wishing to address the editorial board, which meets weekly, should call **Jeff Bryan** at 352-563-5660.
- **All letters** must be signed and include a phone number and hometown, including letters sent via email. Names and hometowns will be printed; phone numbers will not be published or given out.
- **We reserve** the right to edit letters for length, libel, fairness and good taste.
- **Letters** must be no longer than 400 words, and writers will be limited to four letters per month.
- **SEND LETTERS TO: The Editor**, 1624 N. Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34429; or email to **letters@chronicleonline.com**.

children of this community will be safe and that they will have a successful, enjoyable, and healthy school year. In gratitude,

The Rev. Luz Lecour
 Unity of Citrus

Losing two important men

Today has been a day to say goodbye to two important men in my life.

Steve Jerve my weatherman is retiring from Channel 8 and now I see Gerry

Mulligan is retiring from the Chronicle.

Congratulations, Gerry, on your retirement. I am happy for you, but you will be missed in my daily life. I have always especially looked forward to Sunday's Commentary section to see your column. I am hoping we continue to hear your opinion from time to time. Thank you for your contribution to our county by keeping us informed.

Delinda Beem
 Inverness

Fair publisher will be missed

We will miss you Gerry; make sure your shoes are clean in the morning!

Never in the last 50 years have I read a newspaper more fair and lucid, RE: local issues.

Thank you!

Dan Hilliard
 Lecanto

Watching Olympics spurs epiphany

I've spent a lot of the last two weeks watching the Olympic Games on the NBC TV networks (NBC, NBC Sports Network, and USA Network). Now I know exactly what the initials NBC stands for — Nothing But Commercials.

Alfred T. Barnard
 Beverly Hills

An answer for the online poll

I'm calling about the Online Poll that was in the paper on Aug. 2. I'm trying to answer it and my answer would be letter A. ("The once-a-week designation was only supposed to be temporary. It's OK to return to twice-a-week watering.") But I have no phone number and I have no computer, so how do I get in touch to give my answer? It's impossible. But now we had to replace our lawn and it cost \$5,000. Twice a week is sensible; once a week is ridiculous. I would like a phone number that I can get in touch with this Online Poll. If someone could help me, I'd really appreciate it.

Editor's note: A Chronicle editor has input your vote.

Property needs some maintenance

Maybe we can have the city of Crystal River clean up that area that used to be the Sun-Trust Credit Union at the corner of (State Road) 44 and (U.S.)



19. It's been sold. The bank hasn't been there in awhile and it hasn't been mowed or anything since the bank has left. There's advertisement coming up for a new car wash, but I wish the city would make these people maintain their properties until they do some building or whatever. So if you can, please make this announcement that it's an eyesore that needs to be corrected and I hope the city takes care of it.

Seeing increases in tourist areas

About the increase in Florida and New Orleans with COVID rising: Well, I wonder why. It's because we are tourist states, so no wonder it's high. But do they stop the tourists from coming in? No, they let them come into our state.

Semi truck parking needs enforcement

Today is Saturday, July 31, and riding around downtown, you've got two semis illegally parked in the Save-A-Lot plaza

during the car show. Doesn't matter, it's still illegal. ...

There's two more parked on city property in the old shopping center across the street. Now I realize it's the weekend, but, you know, we could use a little code enforcement and law enforcement. This place is getting as bad as Tampa with semis parked on every single corner, which is illegal.

Please put information in day before

It would be nice if you could put information about the drive-thru food giveaway in the newspaper the day before instead of today, Wednesday, July 28 (Page A3, Around the County brief). You know, a lot of people don't get to read the newspaper until noon when the thing is over. Please put it in the day before the event is going to happen.

Portraits by a golden retriever

My golden retriever stepped in some paint. Maybe somebody's interested in purchasing portraits and paintings by a golden retriever. I hope I get a bid soon.

Hot Corner: WATER CONSERVATION

■ Fair is fair, having to do with water conservation in the editorial on July 22 (Page A9, "Conservation Matters," "The water is under all of us"). It's my understanding that this article talks about fairness within the county and we all should be the same in the county. My concern is outside the county. It's my understanding that Swiftmud sets the law of water we can use. However, south of us in several other counties, twice-a-week watering is still done. Is Swiftmud being fair to Citrus County? It's my understanding that they only set this ruling every five to 10 years. Come on, county commissioners, let's check with Swiftmud and make sure that this county is getting what we deserve. Represent us, county.

■ In regard to the July 22 editorial: People need to think about whether, ultimately, their lovely, green lawn is worth trading their and their grandchild's life for. Mulch is beautiful and you can get it free at the landfill.

■ This is a note for the commissioners, Holly Davis and Jeff Kinnard: I'm curious to know if they know that special

underground water river goes to only certain people when they give exemptions from lawn watering to a certain group other than the rest of us. Is it because they have a permit for \$50 that they can take the water they want? What about the rest of us? Do we have to wait for our permits, too? I don't think it's right that one little area is exempt from watering their lawns. Whoopee! Remember, Holly Davis and Jeff Kinnard, you're for the county commissioners. Remember that and remember when we vote. So, keep that in mind. ...

■ This is a message to Commissioner Scott Carnahan and Ron Kitchen: East Terra Vista gets permitted to water their lawns because they have irrigation-only wells. Guess what? I have a well, you know, in my backyard and it's for irrigation only. So, commissioners, make up your mind. If Terra Vista gets to water because of the wells, I'm going to water also because I've got a well. And there's a lot of people who have irrigation-only wells in our area, so you'd better be careful what you decide for

Terra Vista.

■ What makes the Terra Vista people think that they're special people to use all the water they want? The water is here for everybody, whether you live in Citrus Hills, Pine Ridge or Terra Vista. These people think they're special because maybe they have more-expensive homes than other people. However, we're all citizens here and we all want the right to use water sparingly. After all, they're not any better. They may have a bigger home or something. Good for them. I could have and I would have, but I didn't want to live in there. I live in Citrus Hills in a regular section and we're sparingly always taking care of our lawn. We don't overload and we don't overwater.

■ I keep reading about the water conservation here in the county and that everybody has to do their part, but I never hear anything about the companies that are pumping hundreds of thousands of gallons of water out of our county and sending it out to be bottled and sold. That water never comes back. I just don't understand it.

SUPPORT THE SHELTER

- If you would like to make a contribution to help fund construction of a new animal shelter in Citrus County, you can drop a check off at Chronicle offices in Inverness or Meadowcrest.

Sound OFF

First step is not allowing bottling

I'm responding to Sound Off to your article about restoration of our waterways (Wednesday, July 28's Page A9 editorial, "Battle For The River," "Restoration of river should be a priority"). Yeah, they need restoration. Why don't we start with (a water bottling company) not withdrawing millions of gallons a day from our natural spring's resources? Leave that water where it belongs. Why drop the tables lower because they're allowed to withdraw millions of gallons on a \$50 permit? No, let's start there first. I think that should be the first initial step. But you know what? It's not going to happen...

Would like a big craft store

(Re the Wednesday, July 28, Page A9 Sound Off, "Inverness Harbor Freight could work"): Instead of a Harbor Freight at the old Publix in Inverness, I think we need a big craft store such as a Hobby Lobby or a Michael's or anyplace that sells fabrics, yarns, ceramics and paints, etc. We don't have anything like that here. Let's get something for us ladies who like crafting.

Consulting engineers needed

Norvell Bryant Highway/ County Road 486 is a major east-west arterial highway between U.S. 41 and State Road 44. The traffic engineers of Room 100, Citrus County Courthouse, want to clog and congest it with an interchange. I suggest the BOCC hire some consulting engineers and hold a workshop.

Prioritize manatees over money

(Re Thursday, July 29's front-page story, "Springs to close for renovations"): I'd like to give a big thank-you out to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife for closing down Three Sisters for badly needed repairs because of the tourists and the flooding in there. Three Sisters has become commercialized and the manatee exploited for how much money they can bring in. It's good to see that they do that and I hope that they can get back to the basics of where we care more about the manatee rather than how much money we can make off of them. Thank you.

Dinner paid for anonymously

Sunday afternoon (Aug. 1), I had dinner with three friends at Angelo's in Citrus Hills seated near a lovely lady with her beautiful, well-behaved children. When our bill was presented, we were informed it had been paid by an anonymous diner. We are thankful for their kindness and it will be paid forward. God bless you.

Old-fashioned signs are better

I'm responding to Sound Off (about Thursday, July 29's Page A3 story), "School board discusses neglected signs," where they bought these electronic signs for a cost of up to \$25,000 two years ago and now they're not working. Really? That's a waste of money for \$25,000. What do you need electric signs for anyway? Just put an old-fashioned sign up there on wood or whatever and just put it up there and leave it

there. You don't need electricity to say the name of your school. Totally ridiculous and a waste of money, as usual.

Wondering what the meaning is

(Friday, July 30's Page A10 editorial): I would like for someone — maybe whoever wrote the "Ignorance, censorship must be challenged" — to please publish in the Sound Off what LGBTQ+ means. This is not a joke. I really don't know what it means. Could be people have told me, but I'm not sure. You can hear anything, can't you? I'd appreciate it. The Sound Off readers are so smart. Thank you for letting me sound off. You all stay safe.

Editor's note: LGBTQ+ is an acronym for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning and more. The term is used to describe a person's sexual orientation or gender.

Government silent on bottling

There has been many, many calls to ask or to complain about the water that (a water-bottling company) has been taking out of the Florida water resources. I'm surprised that there isn't one single governmental authority, whether it's county or state, that has responded and explained why they are letting this happen. I want to hear from somebody. I want to hear from the county commissioners or I want to hear from the governor or whoever. Why are they so darned silent about it? I want to know why.

Pondering proper grammar

I'm wondering about something. I was a teacher, but I can't figure this out. In books and newspapers and everything I read, I think they're saying the wrong words,

like "woken up" or "awakened." I believe it should be "awakened," like, "My mother had woken up the baby to feed her." It should be, "My mother had awakened the baby to feed her." If somebody could figure this out and put it in the paper, I'd appreciate it. It's driving me nuts. I see it everywhere.

Fees getting higher and higher

My complaint is about Hunter Springs charging \$5 to use a paddleboat, whether it be a canoe or a kayak, to use the facilities. I already pay \$5 to park and now they want \$5 to use the facilities to launch my vessel. Everybody else comes there, parks for \$5 and then they use the beach. Why don't they charge the people using the beach \$5 to use the beach? I don't get it. It's not the people in the kayaks or the canoes trashing the area; it's the motorboat people.

Pine Ridge gate is desired

From time to time, I read in the paper people saying that Pine Ridge residents should stop complaining about getting an interchange for the parkway at

(County Road) 486. I live in Pine Ridge and I'm not complaining and, you know, I would like to have the interchange at (C.R.) 486. But at the same time, yes, I would like to have the entry into Pine Ridge gated, but I'm not sure if the county would give us the road and let us put a gate there. For that matter, I'd like to have the (County Road) 491 entry into the parkway.

Tell us the honest truth

Deception vs. reality on the interchange at County Road 486 for the Suncoast Parkway: Statements such as, "I talk to the state quite a bit and they are not changing their mind," is deceptive. The promotion by the BOCC that the Florida Turnpike Enterprise is installing this parkway connection at C.R. 486, regardless of the Citrus County choice, is not reality.

Do your research before you move

I'm responding to the person complaining about the "Airboat noise is inconsiderate" (in Tuesday's, Aug. 3, Page A9 Sound Off). Well, you should have did your homework before you moved on the water.

Now you don't want airboats and you don't want the tourists because they're making too much noise. You wanted to live by the water and now you're getting what you deserve. Next time, look for a better place to live.

Water issues in the Highlands

I live in the Highlands and it seems like every time I take a shower anymore that the water at the beginning is kind of dark-yellow-brownish and smells like you know what. My wife says it's just me, but I just wanted to know if anybody else had anything like that. It's in the Highlands and, like I said, it don't last the whole shower, just right at the beginning.

Don't put cart ahead of the horse

Now is not the time to destroy the character and lifestyle of the Nature Coast with a parkway interchange at a three-mile interval. If there is a need in 20 years, do it then. No need to put the cart ahead of the horse. Let the horse graze on the pastures along County Road 486 for now and in 20 years, hook him to the cart to enter the Norvell Bryant interchange.

Hot Corner: COVID STATS

■ I'm responding to the (Wednesday, July 28, Page A9) Sound Off where the person says, "People need to know daily COVID stats," where you could put them back in the paper. Don't speak for me. I don't want to know how many people are vaccinated or not vaccinated or how many people died. I don't care and I don't want to know

about it. I can care less about it. I just want to enjoy life to the fullest and embrace it. Like I said, don't speak for me. I can care less. I don't want it, don't want to see it.

■ The Chronicle should return to publishing the Citrus County COVID statistics on the front page of the newspaper every day. Why was the decision to deprive Citrus

Countians of this vital information made in the first place?

■ The CDC recommends masks where vaccinations are low. May we please have an update for Citrus County? Please publish the cases and deaths again. This is a hometown paper. Well, the home town needs to know. Thank you for letting me sound off. You all stay safe.

■ **SO YOU KNOW:** The Florida Department of Health has ceased the daily COVID-19 reports that have been used to track changes in the number of coronavirus cases and deaths in the state.

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Nerd **WALLET**

Ready to make your first hire?

Prep with these 6 steps

ROSALIE MURPHY
NerdWallet

Despite the pandemic, the IRS received more than 7 million requests for new employer identification numbers between January 2020 and June 2021, according to data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

As those businesses grow, many will reach an important milestone: hiring their first employees. Here are six things business owners should do first.

Make sure you need help.

First, look for signs that your business can't move forward without assistance.

If you're "personally at capacity" and receiving more orders than you can handle, it may be time to hire someone, says Phelan Spence, a services and financial analysis associate at JumpStart, a Cleveland-based nonprofit that works with entrepreneurs.

Hiring may also be on the horizon for business owners who are missing deadlines, fielding customer complaints or thinking about taking on a big project.

Know your numbers.

Before hiring full- or part-time employees, your cash flow should be steady enough to support regular paychecks.

Business owners need to plan for expenses beyond wages, including Social Security, Medicare and payroll taxes, and, in many states, workers' compensation. Benefits like health insurance add additional costs.

At the same time, bringing in a new employee can help you generate more revenue by expanding your capacity.

Spence says metrics like average monthly sales and average revenue per sale can help you understand how hiring someone will affect your finances and when it's time to take that step.

"(Hiring is) not necessarily tied to a date — it's really tied to hitting that number of customers or number of projects or products or services," Spence says.

Find professional support.

Outside experts can help you navigate the hiring process. That team might include an attorney, bookkeeper, accountant and HR consultant.

"Make sure that you get the advice of a professional to kind of lead you along the way," says Angel Washington, owner of Cleveland-based medical billing and coding business Consult 2 Code. "You just want to make sure

See **HIRE**/Page D2

Bundling boutiques



MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle

A colorful chandelier hangs in the Ritz & Glitz on The Square shop on North Apopka Avenue in downtown Inverness where Dorothy Fitzgerald, left, and Brenda Gardner have owned their shop for three years. The business will soon be moving to the Lakeside Ranches in Inverness.

Ritz & Glitz, Sonshine Boutique & Workshop cooperate for better business

MICHAEL D. BATES
Staff writer

Two Inverness boutique owners have joined forces and will share space in one building with hopes of growing their businesses.

Ritz & Glitz on the Square in downtown Inverness will close its current location at the end of August and reopen — probably in October — in one of the empty units inside the building at 115 N. Florida Ave, about three miles north, off U.S. 41 at the Lakeside Ranches plaza.

That building is also the home of Sonshine Boutique & Workshop, run by Hope Wilkins and Jessica Madison.

It's a match made in boutique heaven. Ritz & Glitz specializes in costume and vintage jewelry, colorful hats and used women's consignment clothing. Sonshine is all about upscale and resale home decor and repurposed home items.

"This will help drive more foot traffic to our business," said Hope Wilkins, who also does do-it-yourself classes at her workshop in one of the units. "We complement each other (and) we have the same target market."

It was Wilkins who came to the rescue of Ritz & Glitz owners Brenda Gardner and Dorothy Fitzgerald.

They had announced on their Facebook page a month ago they were closing their downtown boutique after the new landlord doubled their rent. When Wilkins found out, she approached Gardner and Fitzgerald and asked if they would be interested in moving to the empty unit in her building.

They agreed "and it sort of all fell into place," Wilkins said.

Even though Ritz & Glitz will no longer be on the city's square, Gardner and Fitzgerald decided to keep the name intact.

The new location is a bit smaller than the old place downtown so it means downsizing a bit and doing some cosmetic improvements inside, Gardner said.



Special to the Chronicle

The Sonshine Boutique & Workshop is run by Hope Wilkins and Jessica Madison.

But that is preferable to going out of business. And the rent is cheaper too.

"We're thinking it will work out just fine," she said.

For more information about Ritz & Glitz on the Square, call 352-476-1086

For more information about Sonshine Boutique & Workshop, call 352-419-1832 or visit <https://sonshine-boutique-workshop.square.site>.



MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle

The new Ritz & Glitz location at 115 N. Florida Ave, about three miles north, off U.S. 41 at the Lakeside Ranches plaza, is a bit smaller than the old place downtown so it means downsizing a bit and doing some cosmetic improvements inside.



Ritz & Glitz on the Square in downtown Inverness will close its current location at the end of August and reopen — probably in October.



Chamber Connection

915 N. Suncoast Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34429 · 352-795-3149 · 106 W. Main St., Inverness, FL 34450 · 352-726-2801

One-Stop Business Center Celebrates Opening!

The doors are officially open for the Citrus One-Stop Recovery & Economic (CORE) Business Center in Inverness to service our current and aspiring local businesses! CORE's mission is to provide an economic development hub for existing and prospective businesses to obtain all necessary resources to start, grow, and maintain a strong and healthy business in Citrus County.

We thank our community for attending and look forward to CORE being a true one-stop concierge business service! We would also like to thank Marianna's The Stinky Rose for catering the event and The Wine Shop for offering a great wine tasting selection.

Visit CORE at 203 E. Dampier St., Inverness FL, or email info@coreto-success.com.

CORE partners include Citrus County, City of Inverness, City of Crystal River, SCORE Nature Coast FL, Economic Development Authority for Citrus County, and the Citrus County Chamber.

The website is currently under construction but will be available at the end of August at www.CoreToSuccess.com.



Realtor Economist to Speak at September Luncheon

Jennifer Warner is an Economist and the Director of Economic Development for Florida Realtors®, the state's largest trade association with over 200,000 members. In this role she oversees numerous economic and statistical research projects, as well as providing members with key information on pertinent economic development topics such as opportunity zones and land use.

Ms. Warner received her bachelor's degree in environmental science and policy from the University of South Florida and earned her master's degree in urban and environmental policy and planning from Tufts University, where her academic research focused

on land use, affordable housing, real estate development and hip hop. Prior to joining Florida Realtors®, Ms. Warner served the City of Los Altos as Economic Development Manager and CoStar as a Real Estate Economist.

The Florida Realtors' Economist and Director of Economic Development, Jennifer Warner, will be the keynote speaker at the September 10 Chamber luncheon at the Plantation at Crystal River. She will focus on affordable housing and transportation, and the realities of the economic "fiscal cliff" that some families may face despite their efforts to improve their wage base.

To RSVP, call Corrine at 352-795-3149. Last day to



Jennifer Warner
Economist and the Director of Economic Development for Florida Realtors®.

sign up is March 5. \$20 for Chamber members; \$25 for non-members. Thank you to the September Chamber Luncheon is sponsored by Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Chamber Events

- 08/13 – Healthcare Heroes Luncheon sponsored by The Citrus County Chronicle – 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.; Citrus Hills Golf and Country Club
- 08/26 – August Chamber Mixer – 5 p.m.; Kelly's Half Shell in Crystal River
- 09/10 – September Chamber Luncheon sponsored by Big Brothers Big Sisters – 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.; Plantation on Crystal River; Speaker: Jennifer Quinn, Economist & Director of Economic Development | FloridaRealtors®
- 09/23 – September Chamber

- Mixer – 5pm; Realtor's Association of Citrus County in Lecanto
- 10/07 – Big BAM Mixer – 5 p.m.; Bayfront Health Seven Rivers
- 10/15 – Salute to Business Luncheon sponsored by Bayfront Health Seven Rivers and The College of Central Florida – 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- 10/19 – Fire Up Citrus – 6 p.m. – 9:15; The Valerie Theatre in Inverness
- 10/28 – BAM BBQ presented by Crystal Harley Davidson – 6 p.m. – 10 p.m.; M&B Dairy in Lecanto



Network, Market, and Show Your Stuff!

The premiere business expo of Citrus County presents an opportunity for businesses to meet new clients, create new working relationships, and make community connections. Open to the public, free to attend, 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M., Saturday, September 18th, 2021.

Back by popular demand in 2021 is the Money Machine!!! A goodie-bag (LIMITED SUPPLY SO DON'T BE LATE) will be given to the guests as they enter the auditorium on Saturday morning. Included in the goodie-bag, a chance drawing ticket for the opportunity to be randomly selected to step-up and cash grab. Additional chance drawings throughout the event day (items donated by our sponsors, businesses, and community), a DJ, kid's activities, DIY demos, and health talks are just a few of the FUN activities for ALL AGES!

The Chamber Business Expo is a great opportunity to show off what YOU, our local businesses have to offer, make contacts within the business and Citrus County Community, and mingle with fellow business leaders, building important relationships within our very own Citrus County!

To reserve your slot, visit www.CitrusCountyChamber.com/Business-Expo
For sponsorship opportunities email Corrine@CitrusCountyChamber.com



Questions? Call Erika Corley at 352-795-3149 or email Events@CitrusCountyChamber.com.



'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 Ashley Bruner, partner at Kovach Law Firm about the services they specialize in, the importance of staying local for legal representation, and why community involvement is so important for their business. Jade also speaks with Dr. Ken Savage, owner of Nature Coast Health Care, about their practice, services, Covid Vaccines, and new patient availability.

Chamber Report is your ticket to the many happenings in Citrus County!

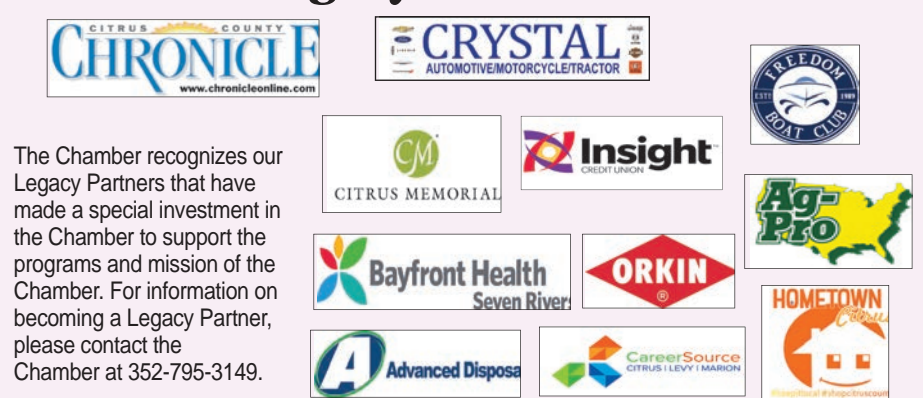


Ashley Bruner



Dr. Ken Savage

Chamber Legacy Partners



The Chamber recognizes our Legacy Partners that have made a special investment in the Chamber to support the programs and mission of the Chamber. For information on becoming a Legacy Partner, please contact the Chamber at 352-795-3149.

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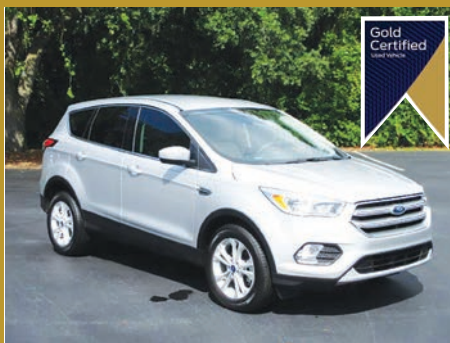
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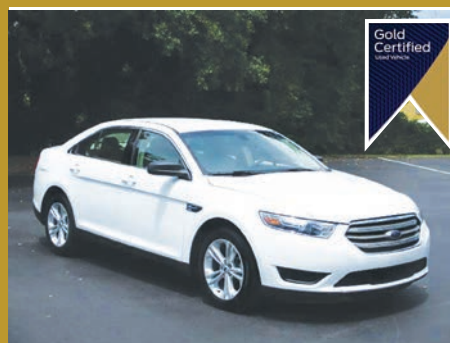
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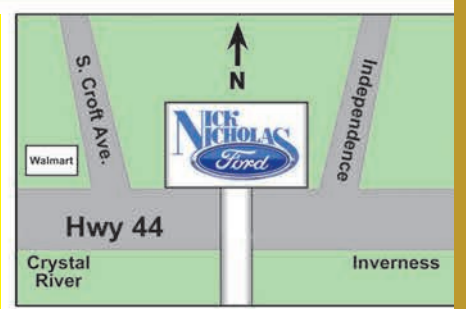
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HomeFront

SUNDAY, AUGUST 8, 2021



Three pinecone gingers top foot-tall inflorescences that grow directly from underground rhizomes. The cones remain green for weeks then turn red as they age and begin to wither. The cone is made of modified leaves called bracts.

JANE WEBER/Special to the Chronicle

Inside this week:

Jane's Garden

Asian gingers./Page E6

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Directions: Lecanto Highway (CR 491) to Pine Ridge Blvd. Pine Ridge to a right on Bedstrow. Take first left, Begonia, then 1st house on the left.

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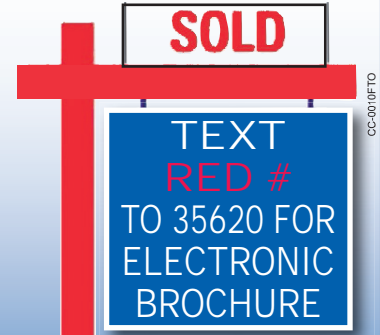


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Real Estate DIGEST

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The brokers, owners and staff of RE/MAX Realty One are proud to announce the outstanding accomplishments of our agents. All RE/MAX Realty One agents are full time, top producing agents, and we are proud of our excellent team of sales agents.

Mike Orlito and **Kim Devane** had more than \$13 million in sales volume and 48 transaction sides. **Louis Miele** and **Marlo Marcaisa** had more than \$10.3 million in sales volume and 39 transaction sides. **Dan Ford** and **Kendra Jule** had more than \$6.8 million in sales volume and 28 transaction sides.

Among individual agents, **Alan Ivory** had more than \$9 million in sales volume and 44 transaction sides. **Sherry Potts** had more than \$5.4 million in sales volume and 24 transaction sides. **Sally Cure** had more than \$4.5 million in sales volume and 27 transaction sides. **Laura Ivory** had more than \$4.5 million in sales volume and 28 transaction sides. **Kristi Bortz** had more than \$4.4 million in sales volume and 16 transaction sides. **Nathan Barnes** had more than \$4 million in sales volume and 28 transaction sides. **Bobi Miller** had more than \$3.8 million in sales volume and 17 transaction sides. **Kathy Green** had more than \$3.6 million in sales volume and 26

transaction sides. **Steve Varnadoe** had more than \$3.5 million in sales volume and 25 transaction sides. **Dianne MacDonald** had more than \$3.1 million in sales volume and 50 transaction sides.

Pam Shemet had more than \$2.8 million in sales volume and 18 transaction sides. **Mark States** had more than \$2.7 million in sales volume and 27 transaction sides. **Kelly Goddard** had more than \$2.6 million in sales volume and 27 transaction sides. **David Ivory** had more than \$2.5 million in sales volume and 16 transaction sides. **Pat Thompson** had more than \$2.3 million in sales volume and 26 transaction sides.

Bonita Tholund had more than \$1.7 million in sales; **Linda Meahl** had more than



Mike Orlito
RE/MAX



Kim Devane
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Louis Miele
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Marlo Marcaisa
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Dan Ford
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Bonita Tholund
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Linda Meahl
RE/MAX



Mark Gathman
RE/MAX



Jennifer Stoltz
RE/MAX

\$1.6 million in sales; **Mark Gathman** had more than \$1.4 million in sales; and

Jennifer Stoltz had more than \$1.4 million in sales. See DIGEST/Page E11

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CHRONICLE EVENT CALENDAR

- The Chronicle's community calendar solution changed June 7 to better serve our readers and event-goer audience.
- To submit events on the new Evtnt system, visit www.chronicleonline.com/local-events/ and click on "promote your event" and follow the prompts. All areas with an asterisk (*) must be filled.
- Calendar submissions are complimentary; however, paid options are available to further promote your event across central Florida.

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HomeFront is a weekly real estate section published Sundays in the Citrus County Chronicle.

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REAL ESTATE DIGEST PHOTOS

- Headshots of real estate agents and associates submitted for the Real Estate Digest are kept on file in the Chronicle Editorial Department. It is the responsibility of the individuals submitting news notes to ensure headshots have been sent to the newsroom, and to advise staff of any name changes.
- Photos need to be in sharp focus.
- Photos submitted electronically should be in maximum-resolution JPEG (.jpg) format.

Reader's insect visitors are likely drain flies

Dear Gardener Gal: I hope you can give me some direction even though my problem isn't in the yard.

For the last few weeks we have been invaded by little tiny flies. They are heaviest in the kitchen, but seem to follow us to the dining area when we eat. They aren't regular flies. Very small! I have thoroughly cleaned my kitchen and dining area and it doesn't seem to matter. We are actually getting more of them all the time. They don't bite or even make noise, but it is gross having them in these areas with food.

Sorry if this is a weird question, and I swear we aren't dirty people.

Any help would be appreciated.
— *Anonymous*

Dear Anonymous: I flippantly say this all the time, but "Welcome to Florida!"

Just when you think you have

roaches in the house and giant grasshoppers in the garden under control — a new bug pops up.

It sounds like you have drain flies. I'm not giving a scientific name because I'm not sure exactly which little fly you have. It doesn't matter.

If I'm right, the steps to getting rid of them are the same.

First of all, I believe you when you say you keep a clean home. It doesn't take much to attract these guys and keep 'em happy. I've had them. I have a friend with a million dollar home who has had them, so zero judgement. Drain flies are attracted to fruit, vegetables and even the tiniest amount of drain debris. The drains

with a disposal are favorites. So many little nooks and crannies.

First step, if you have a disposal, is to take a flashlight, pull the rubber flaps aside and really look around down there. Warning: It might be gross. It is shocking how much the disposal doesn't take down the drain. Take a long-handled bottle-type brush and really scrub the blade area and up under flaps. Keep checking with flashlight to see how you are doing. You can pour boiling water

down first to soften things up if it's really bad.

Some folks are reading this and

See GAL/Page E8



Leslie Derrenbacher
GARDENER GAL

Disney 'Fantasia' memorabilia value mostly sentimental

Dear John: As a lover of all things Disney, I have had these items for many years. Can you help me put a value on these three items of my favorite all time Disney movie, "Fantasia"? The first is a framed poster that I have had since high school, early '70s. I bought the poster as a kid and had it framed and matted. The poster is 12 inches by 18 inches.

The second is an unopened 12- by 15-inch boxed Collector's Edition of the movie "Fantasia." You can see the gold label on the box that describes the contents.

The third item is a framed cell of Mickey as the Sorcerer's

Apprentice. This cell came from a 1988 magazine (see cover photo) that was celebrating Mickey's 60th birthday. The cell is 9.5 inches by 6 inches and was included inside the magazine with a paper background to enhance it if framed. The magazine is in pristine condition as well.

As a lover of classical music and Disney, I thought Fantasia hit on all cylinders when it came out in 1940. First music video

ever with all the genius of Disney! Thank you for offering your opinion and valuation. I never miss reading your column and will most certainly look forward to seeing this! — *N.H., Homosassa*

Dear N.H.: I imagine most of our readers have pleasant memories of Disney's "Fantasia," since it has been re-released for each generation since 1940. Current collective interest is focused on the original released posters and other memorabilia from Fantasia. Re-released memorabilia from "Fantasia" generally sells at bargain prices. The items you have would be in the below \$50 range, certainly far less than sentimental value. Thank you for the good photographs.

Dear John: I have a pair of vases. The word "Weller" is inscribed in cursive into the bottom of each vase. They are 10 inches tall and are about 2 inches across the top. They are both in good condition without any chips or cracks, though there is some crazing in the

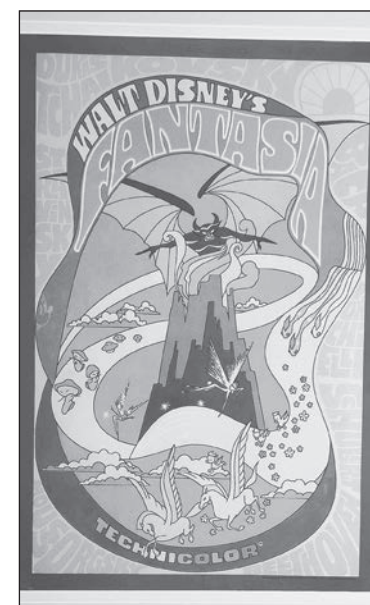
glaze. They have been in the family for over 50 years, but no one knows anything about them. I recognize the name Weller from your articles. Are these very collectible? Sorry the photo is not very good. Is there anything you can tell me about them in general? — *H.S., internet*

Dear H.S.: Yes, your Weller Pottery vases are of specific collector interest. The company was located in Zanesville, Ohio, from the 1880s until the late 1940s. The photograph is not clear enough for me to identify the pattern. The time of production is circa 1920s. I think they would currently sell below \$100 for the pair.

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.



John Sikorski
SIKORSKI'S ATTIC



Special to the Chronicle
This poster is from a re-release of the Walt Disney classic "Fantasia."

US average mortgage rates flat or lower; 30-year at 2.77%



Associated Press

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Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Mortgage rates were flat to lower this week, with the average for the key 30-year home loan below 3% for the sixth straight week.

Uncertainty over the surging delta coronavirus variant and its potential effect on the U.S. economic recovery remained as a backdrop suppressing mortgage rates.

See **RATES/Page E8**

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A look at useful Asian gingers

Pinecone Ginger or Bitter Ginger, *Zingiber zerumbet*, is one of about 100 species of flowering plants in the Zingiber genus of the family Zingiberaceae. Perennial tropical gingers grow well in temperate and subtropical Florida cold zones 7b-11 gardens. In my garden, several gingers grow and flower in summer but, when temperatures fall below 50°F, gingers go dormant, and leaves die to the ground.



Jane Weber
JANE'S GARDEN

Many gingers have forked (sympodial) rhizomes that can be dug up and divided when dormant. A rhizome is an underground stem from which adventitious roots grow to anchor the plant and absorb nutrients and water. Florida gardeners can grow cardamom seeds, *Elettaria cardamomum*; galanga, *Alpina galanga*; edible spicy ginger rhizome (not a root), *Zingiber officinale*; turmeric, *Curcuma longa*; and pinecone ginger.

The University of Kentucky has an informative pdf on commercially farming ginger and turmeric at <https://tinyurl.com/4mdzdszf>. Home-grown ginger and turmeric in Florida is explained at gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu. Tropical galanga spice has a lemony aroma and is less hot and peppery than ginger.

Ginger rhizome is used as a ground spice, in herbal tisanes, infusions or teas, and in folk remedies. Ginger stems are tight leaf sheaths, called pseudostems, that can be a meter tall. The alternate leaves are long and narrow. Flower stems grow up from the rhizomes and have small flower with pale yellow petals with purplish edges.

Pinecone ginger rhizomes are edible too but somewhat bitter. Its leaves can be used as a food wrap



JANE WEBER/Special to the Chronicle

Large, freshly harvested ginger rhizomes are readily available in the produce aisles of grocery stores. Timing of local harvest is in different months depending on latitude and hemisphere. There were grown in Brazil and shipped to the U.S. during the northern hemisphere's winter. Fresh ginger can be sliced, chopped or ground for use in teas, tisanes and herbal infusions or to spice foods. Keep it in the fridge as one would other fresh produce. Snap off and plant a part of the rhizome in March after frosts have finished.



Turmeric is sold in small plastic pint-sized punnets, as are many small fruits such as raspberries, blueberries and blackberries. That rough measure of irregular-shaped produce is a dry pint measure in the U.S. or an imperial pint in Britain — equal to about 550 milliliters in volume. Strawberries are usually sold in larger punnets that might be labeled as weighing a pound — 16 ounces or 454 grams. The quart-size punnet volume in the U.S. is about 1100 ml, or 1.1 liters in volume. Global standards are metric except in a few sovereign nations.



Pinecone ginger flowers are small and a pale whitish-yellow color. A few flowers at a time poke out from between the bracts. The cone is wet and shiny, full of a clear, fragrant fluid.

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CC-0010E0B



Bits of debris and damaged flowers can be sieved from the pinecone ginger fluid using a fine tea strainer.



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Special to the Chronicle

A couple share their birdhouse collection, including the fancy birdhouse that started it all.

GAL

Continued from Page E4

shaking their heads and saying, “why not just pour bleach down the drain?” Well, if you don’t have a disposal and also don’t have a septic tank, that might be OK. I’m assuming Anonymous has both.

The next step works for either case and is stupid simple: Keep your drains plugged unless you are using them. I’d even make sure there is a little water in the sink to make sure it is really, truly plugged. The drain is where these little jerks are laying their eggs and where the larvae live.

You will break the life cycle by blocking them. Two weeks ought to do it.

Meanwhile, keep fruit in the fridge and if you compost, scraps have to go in an airtight container until you take them to your compost pile.

They are attracted to these items and can come in through screens or the tiniest of holes. Good luck.

Dear Readers: This time, the “Favorite Garden Spot” features a collection of birdhouses. Who doesn’t love birdhouses?

Dear Gardener Gal: The story behind this favorite spot in our yard is simple. It all started when my wife Margaret fell in love with a fancy

birdhouse at the flea market. It has a real stone chimney and little front porch. We paid way too much for it. When we got home, I attached it to a dead tree in the front yard and that was it — we started collecting. Now we have so many!

When a house rots and falls down, I just leave the backing to it up or put up another birdhouse. This tree makes us happy every day, and it all started with the overpriced one that is still in good shape!

Enjoy. — Samuel
“Gardener Gal” Leslie Derrenbacher is a Master Gardener and native Floridian. Send your questions to askgardenergal@gmail.com.

RATES

Continued from Page E5

Mortgage buyer Freddie Mac reported Thursday that the average for the 30-year mortgage fell to 2.77% from 2.80% last week. The benchmark rate, which reached a peak this year of 3.18% in April, stood at 2.88% a year ago.

The rate for a 15-year loan, a popular option among homeowners

refinancing their mortgages, remained at a historically low 2.10%.

Concerns have been mounting in global financial markets around the delta variant’s spread in the U.S., Europe and Asia, and especially in China, which is on high alert as it confronts hundreds of fresh cases.

China has sealed off residential communities, suspended flights and trains, and ordered mass coronavirus testing in Wuhan, the city where the disease was first detected in late 2019.

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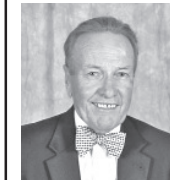
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Pinecone ginger grows well in Florida. Leaves and leaf stems will die to the ground for winter when temperatures are below 50 degrees in Central Florida. Leaves alternate up the stem on either side, giving it a flat look. Look closely to see the stem is made of the stacked leaf sheaths.

JANE WEBER/
Special to the Chronicle



JANE

Continued from Page E3

for fish and chicken to impart a ginger flavor. Oil from the ground rhizome can be used in perfume, cosmetics and soaps. Harvest the cones' clear viscous fluid for a pleasantly fragrant soothing skin gel.

These gingers grow in part shade in Florida with up to five hours of full sun. Gingers thrive in moist but well-drained, humus-rich soils. Dormant rhizomes prefer to be dry. Luckily, winter is Florida's drier season, and the ground does not freeze solid, so ginger rhizomes can be mulched and left in the garden bed. Farther north, dig them up and store indoors for winter. Potted gingers must be brought indoors during freezes.

As a companion plant to mark where the gingers are dormant in the garden, I use evergreen, perennial, self-seeding, native violets, *Viola sororia*, that flower prominently throughout winter and spring. A bonus is that violet leaves and flowers are nutritious and edible.

Gingers are low-maintenance, pest and disease resistant, need no supplemental irrigation or fertilizer and spread by seed and rhizomes. In wet soil conditions, ginger root rot may be caused by *Fusarium* fungus, *Meloidogyne* nematode, *Rhizoctonia solani* fungi, *Pythium* fungi, and *Pseudomonas* bacterium. Commercial growers may treat their rhizomes before planting.

Pinecone gingers have tall flower stems by July topped with a pinecone shaped structure of green modified leaves called bracts. Small whitish-yellow flowers poke out between the bracts. The cone turns red as it ages. It fills with a fragrant, soothing viscous liquid that can be collected and used as a skin lotion and hair cleanser. Sturdy leaf stems are tightly rolled, overlapping leaf sheaths called pseudostems. This ginger could be aggressive or invasive in suitable habitat, climate and soil conditions.

Gently squeezing pinecone ginger cones yields a soothing liquid. This natural fragrant lotion can be strained and stored in a small jar in the fridge or freezer or boiled before storing in a sterilized jar.

There are 56 genera and some 1,300 species in the ginger family. According to Encyclopedia Britannica, other major ginger genera are *Alpinia* with about 200 species, *Etingera*, (110), *Curcuma* (100), *Globba* (100), *Renealmia* (75), *Riedelia* (75), *Amomum* (65), *Aframomum* (60), *Boenbergia* (60), *Hedychium* (50), *Hornstedia* (50) and *Meisteria* (42) — in case you wanted to know.

Gardeners can plant large pieces of rhizomes in spring. Bought from the produce aisle in grocery stores, turmeric and spice ginger are easy to grow.

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.

DIGEST

Continued from Page E3

RealTrust Realty shines in 2021

The associates of RealTrust Realty continue to climb the ladder in 2021.

The pace of activity points to the firm blasting past annual production levels of 2020.



David Collins
RealTrust Realty.



Sue Banden
RealTrust Realty.



Susan Mullen
RealTrust Realty.



George Sleeman
RealTrust Realty.



Bill Decker
RealTrust Realty.



Carl Manucci
RealTrust Realty.



Maria Fleming
RealTrust Realty.

Year-to-date sales leaders for RealTrust Realty are **David Collins** with more than \$10 million and **Sue Banden** with more than \$9 million in sales volume. **Susan Mullen** and **George Sleeman** have both

exceeded the \$6 million mark. **Bill Decker** and **Carl Manucci** exceeded \$5 million, and **Maria Fleming** exceeded the \$4 million level. The Realty firm has its office at 2477 Citrus Hills Blvd., Hernando (in the Drummond

Bank building) and is comprised of a team of select agents with successful long-term track records in the Citrus County real estate marketplace. The firm's main number is 352-770-7002.

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<p>MODEL HOME</p> <p>PINE RIDGE ESTATES</p>	<p>5625 W. YEARLING DR. 3/2/2 802693 \$459,900</p>	<p>1196 N. MAN-O-WAR 4/2/3 802959 \$399,900</p>	<p>181 W. REXFORD DR. 3/2/2 802868 \$399,900</p>
	<p>1386 E. MCKINLEY ST. 3/2/2/2 804171 \$399,900</p>	<p>810 W. DEACON PLACE 3/2/2 804347 \$185,000</p>	<p>5241 S. TERESA PT. 4/2 804373 \$179,900</p>

CITRUS SPRINGS LOTS	COMMERCIAL/HWY 41
10297 N. ATHENIA DR. 804025..... \$7,900 8291 N. DOWNER WAY 804014..... \$11,500 6767 N. ELKCAM BLVD. 23 ACRE, 802236..... \$12,000 7155 N. CRICKET DR. 23 ACRE, 801316..... \$12,500 1896 W. CARY DR. .33 ACRE, 801340..... \$12,500 3149 W. FAIRBANK DR. .23 ACRE, 803021..... \$13,000 7848 N. IBSEN DR. .33 ACRE, 803023..... \$13,000 11863 N. MONICA DR. .23 ACRE, 777664..... \$13,500 7483 N. GIMS WAY .31, 804377..... \$16,900 8254 N. KROUSE WAY .23 ACRE, 803349..... \$19,900 10253 N. ATHENIA DR. 804026..... \$19,900 2819 W. EDISON PL. .45 ACRE, DOUBLE LOT, 803022..... \$26,000 9208 N. PEACHTREE WAY .23 ACRE, 802589..... \$27,500 10100 N. OCEAN DR. .25 ACRE, 802817..... \$28,000	51 E. CITRUS SPRINGS BLVD. 2.73 ACRES, 795215..... \$199,900 HERNANDO LOTS 2656 N. LEESBURG AVE. 4.86 ACRES, 800783..... \$154,900 LAUREL RIDGE LOTS 169 W. CLIFTON PL. .22 ACRE, 799917..... \$24,000 593 W. PLAYER PATH .14 ACRE, GOLF COURSE, 787880..... \$24,900 PINE RIDGE LOTS 5818 N. HAZELWOOD DR. 1.00 ACRES, 803854..... \$55,000 5361 N. PEPPERMINT DR. 1.00 ACRE, 804005..... \$59,900 3070 W. BRAZILNUT RD. 1.03 ACRES, 799519..... \$59,900 4378 N. SHAWNEE DR. 1.54 ACRES, 803850..... \$65,000 3076 N. STIRRUP DR. 3.01 ACRES 801440..... \$125,000 6208 W. PINE RIDGE BLVD. 7.38 ACRES, 803864..... \$195,000

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OPEN HOUSE 1-4PM



815 N. BENNINGTON TER., INVERNESS
CITRUS HILLS - Meticulously cared for move-in ready 3/2/2 home with office/den and 2,371 sq. ft. living. Spacious outdoor lanai perfect for entertaining!
MLS #803197 \$364,900
Call Rena Cooper at 352-428-7222.

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1315 WHITTIER ST., INVERNESS
3/2/1 pool home. Located close to Rails-to-Trails. Over 1,600 living sq. ft.. Wood cabinets, granite countertops, in-door laundry room, living room, and family room! Fenced-in yard and mature queen palms. Must see!
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Call Jake Salute for more information at 352-257-1582



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334 SOUTH BLVD., INVERNESS
Impeccably maintained 3/2/2 located in the heart of Inverness. Gourmet kitchen, marble countertops, wood cabinets, family room, living room, and den! Over 1,800 living sq. ft.! AC & roof 2015. ONE-YEAR HOME WARRANTY INCLUDED.
Asking \$289,900
Call Joan Donnelly for more information at 352-553-3791



6183 N. SILVER PALM WAY, BEVERLY HILLS
NEW CONSTRUCTION 2021 - Check out this 3/2/2 home located in the Oakridge Subdivision and all the amenities it has to offer, clubhouse, community pool, BBQ, gazebo, tennis courts, and pet-friendly.
MLS #802872 \$272,000
Call Luke Whitehurst 352-476-5578 and schedule your private showing today!



835 SWEET PINT POINT, INVERNESS
Check out this 3/2/2 split plan home located in the Pine Grove Subdivision in the City of Inverness which allows for quick access to major stores, restaurants, parks, and trails. This home backs up to 140 acres of privacy so you can sit outside in your screened lanai and enjoy your mornings or evenings.
MLS #802043 \$233,900
Call Kimberly Miner 352-586-9549 to schedule your showing appointment today!



621 S. ROOKS AVE., INVERNESS
Darling 2 bedroom, 1 bath home with family room (or add a door and have a 3rd bedroom), fenced yard, newer roof, and A/C. Updated kitchen, updated bath, metal shed, super-cute, spotless, and it is furnished! Will not last long.
MLS #804368 \$135,000
Call Jeanne Pickrel 352-212-3410 today!



1812 SILVERWOOD
What a great buy for this 2/2 home with Florida room comes completely furnished as seen. No HOA fees here, walk across the road and be in Whispering Pines park. Enjoy all the amenities that our beautiful Town of Inverness has to offer. Let me show you this home before it is gone.
MLS #804326
Call Ruth Frederick 352-563-6866 today!



S. SUNCOAST BLVD., CRYSTAL RIVER
Check out this 3-acres of prime real estate located on busy Hwy. 19 in Crystal River. It has two ways to access from either U.S. 19 or 7th Ave. Great for a bar/tavern, medical/dental, office building, restaurant, or retail.
MLS #779914 \$289,000
Call Laura Grady 352-302-2340 for additional property information.



1420 KEATS ST., INVERNESS
Look at this 2/2/2-detached carport home located in the Inverness Highlands South Subdivision. This is home is just across the street from the Withlacoochee Bike Trail, boat ramp to Lake Spivey, and just minutes from historic downtown Inverness where you can enjoy all the indoor/outdoor amenities the town has to offer.
MLS #804264 \$199,900
Call Kate Von Staden 352-464-2787 to schedule your viewing appointment today!



9188 N. COMMODORE DR., CITRUS SPRINGS
Look at this 2/2/1 home that is nestled on a .34-acre corner lot and has been very well cared for.
MLS #804291 \$182,500
Call Daniel Gaddi 352-634-2217 to schedule your showing appointment today!

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David A. Kurtz 954-383-8786



9894 E. TRYON COURT, INVERNESS
Come build your new home on this .57-acre lot on a cul-de-sac located in Bay Meadows at Seven Lakes subdivision and is just within minutes from historic downtown Inverness and enjoy all the indoor/outdoor amenities it has to offer.
MLS #795933 \$35,000
Call Vanesa Bennett 614-562-6224 for additional property information today!



4097 W. SANDDOLLAR LN., CRYSTAL RIVER
Looking for a place to build your dream home, launch your boat from your own backyard and within minutes be in the Gulf of Mexico? Then look no further. This .49-acre waterfront lot is ready for some owners.
MLS #804287 \$135,000
Call Skyler Hastings 352-422-6096 for additional property information today!



2521 N. BUCKNELL TER., HERNANDO
Check out this 3/1.5 manufactured home located in the Parsons Point Subdivision on a corner lot. It has a 50 amp electric, water hookup for your RV, 12x16 workshop, and has access to Lake Hernando with a boat ramp just only a block.
MLS #804070 \$119,900
Call Rena Cooper 352-428-7222 to schedule your showing appointment today!



8420 N. SARAZEN DR., CITRUS SPRINGS
Look at this 4/2/2 Citrus Springs home that is move-in-ready. This home is near the golf course, schools, library, community center, short drives to Crystal River, Ocala, and Inverness.
MLS #803129 \$227,000
Call Kim Miner 352-586-9549 to schedule your showing appointment today!



2400 FOREST DR. - UNIT 228, INVERNESS
Check out this 2/2 condo located in the 55+ community of Inverness Village and enjoy all the amenities like a BBQ area, clubhouse, dog run, shuffleboard, community pool, RV/boat storage, and more.
MLS #804317 \$120,000
Call Luke Whitehurst 352-476-5578 to schedule your showing appointment today!



1818 N. GIBSON POINT, HERNANDO
Check out this 3/2/2 home located in the beautiful community of Terra-Vista-Citrus Hills. Enjoy all the amenities it has to offer, billiard room, clubhouse, community center, golf course, Dog run, exercise room, hot tube/spa, lighted tennis courts, and so much more.
MLS #804135 \$359,900
Call Judith McCoy 352-601-1355 to schedule our private showing today!



5561 W. CAGNEY LOOP, HOMOSSASSA
Check out this 2/2/1 home nestled on a .38-acre lot located in the Campbell Woods Subdivision with no HOA or restrictions. It has a screened-in-ground pool to cool off from the summer heat.
MLS #804289 \$175,000
Call Jakob Salute 352-257-1582 to schedule your showing appointment today!

THE CHRONICLE **SUNDAY** August 8, 2021

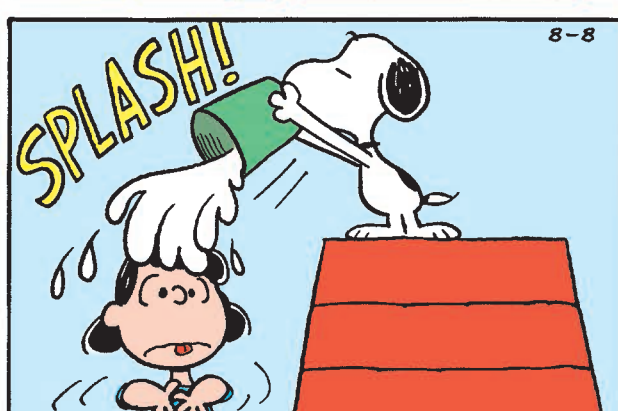
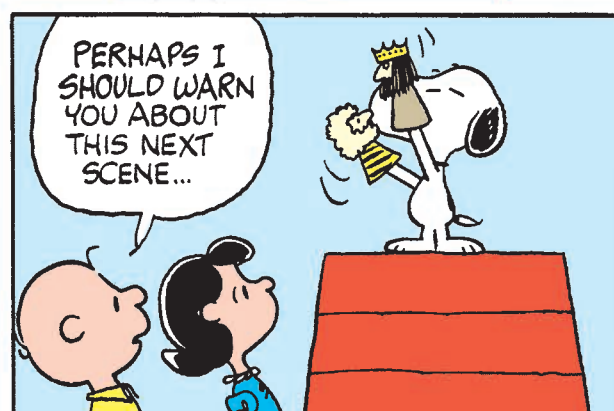
PEANUTS

PEANUTS

featuring
"Good ol' Charlie Brown"

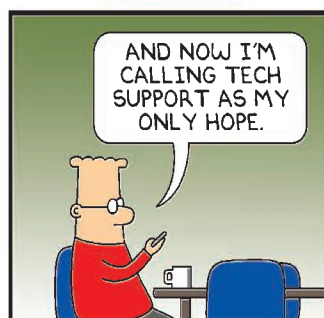
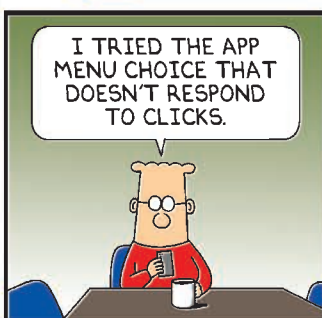
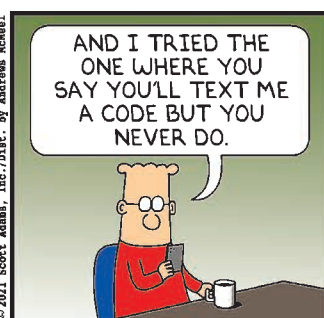
by SCHULZ

PAWPET SHOW TODAY
NOW PLAYING
"IN THE BEGINNING"



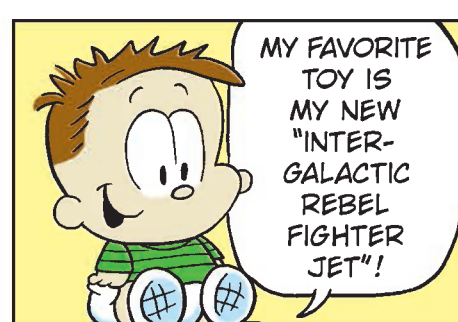
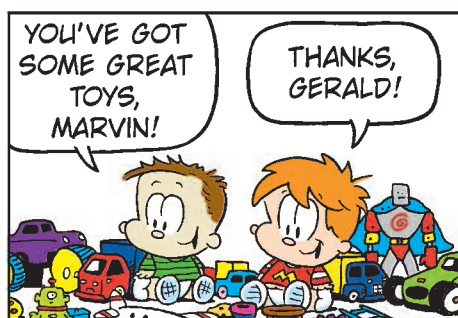
DILBERT

by SCOTT ADAMS
dilbert.com



MARVIN

by Tom Armstrong



Bob Weber Jr.'s SLYLOCK FOX and COMICS FOR KIDS

Shady Shrew slipped a stink bomb into a box at the circus. The smell is driving away customers. Slylock Fox used some quick thinking to rid the area of the pungent package. What did Slylock do?

Solution - Slylock tied the clown's helium balloons to the box. The stench sailed skyward and away from the area.

HOW TO DRAW a coyote

Bob Weber Jr. and Sr. 8-8

YOUR DRAWING

Today's terrific artist is Stella, age 7.

Submit your drawing to www.slylockfox.com

The scrambled words are animals that have a strong sense of smell. How many can you unscramble?

- 1) AREB
- 2) ESANK
- 3) NETPALHE

Answer - 1) Bear, 2) Snake, 3) Elephant

Spot six differences between these panels.

Answer - 1) Leaves, tree, belly button, mouse, moon and tent.

For more Spot Six Differences, Slylock Fox and other puzzles and comics go to www.slylockfox.com

Sunday Puzzle Fun

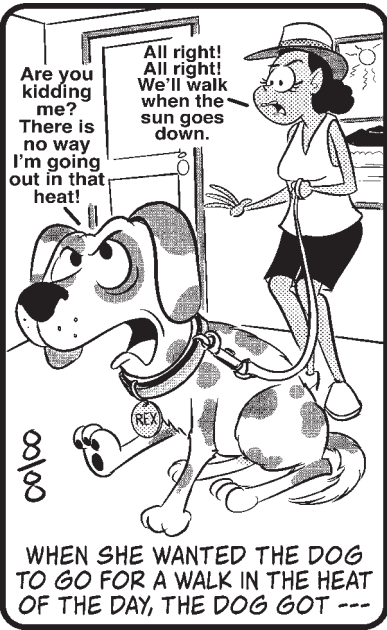
JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form six ordinary words.

TEDONR
 DAYRLH
 GUHNOE
 SOWHOH
 LUURYN
 SECCSA

Download the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble



WHEN SHE WANTED THE DOG TO GO FOR A WALK IN THE HEAT OF THE DAY, THE DOG GOT ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

PRINT YOUR ANSWER IN THE CIRCLES BELOW

○ ○ ○ ○ THE ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level

1 2
3 4

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

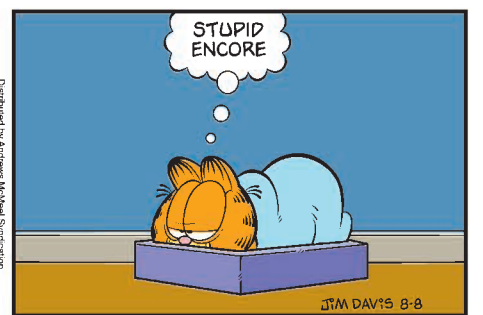
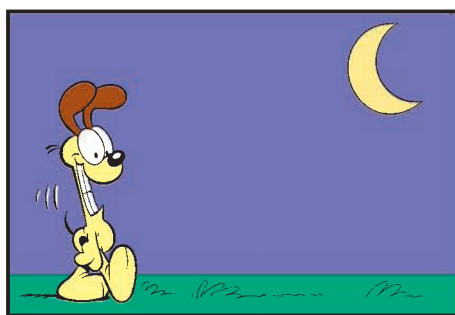
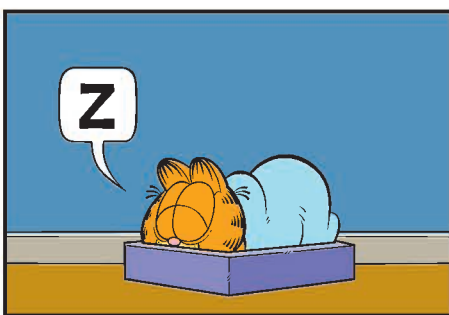
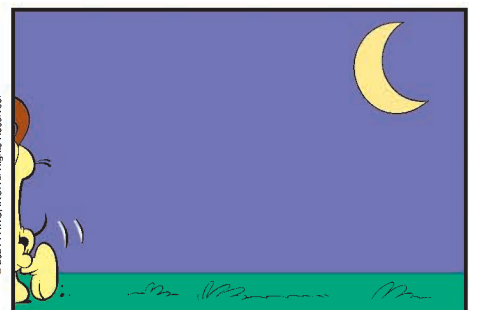
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, please visit sudoku.org.uk

Solution to Last Weeks puzzle

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

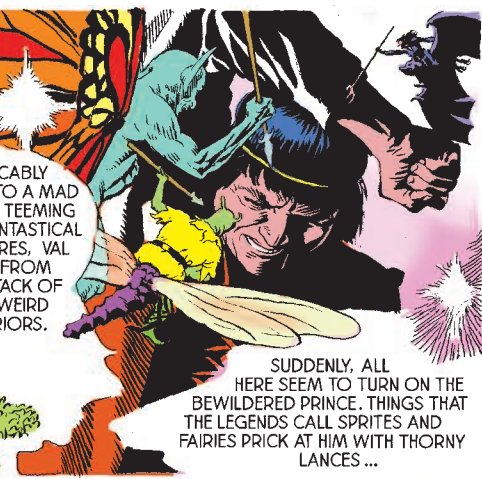
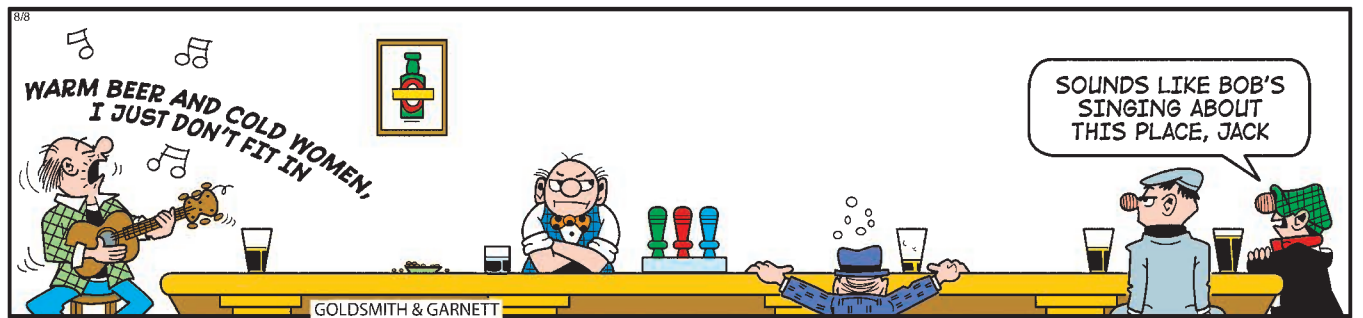
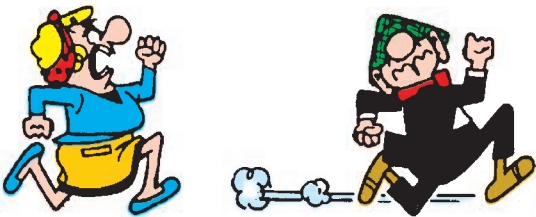
8/8/21

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ANDY CAPP

by Smythe



THE COLLAR
HOT UNDER
HOT UNDER
— dog got
a walk in the heat of the day, the
When she wanted the dog to go for
RODENT ENOUGH UNRULY
HARDLY WHOOSH ACCESS
Answer:
JUMBLE

BARNEY GOOGLE and SNEEZES WITH IT BY JOHN ROSE

I GOT A NEW ALARM CLOCK, ELVINEY !! DOES IT WAKE YA UP TO MUSIC ?

I WISH !! COCK-A-DOODLE-DOO!!

HOPE I DON'T MISS TH' MAILMAN !!

GIT BACK IN YORE PEN !!

TATER !! STAY PUT !!

GOTCHA !! TIME FER YORE BATH, OL' BULLET !!

PAW !! WAIT !! YA FERGOT YORE MARKED DECK !!

HEY, AUNT LO, YA WANNA PLAY CATCH ?!

Mort Walker's beetle bailey

YOU SHOULD REALLY CLEAN UP THE PAPERWORK ON YOUR DESK

HAVE YOU MADE UP YOUR MIND ABOUT ANY OF THESE PROPOSALS ?

GIVE ME A FEW MINUTES

YES, NO, YES, YES AND NO

YOU'RE GETTING SO MUCH MORE DECISIVE LATELY!

I'M TRYING A NEW METHOD

GREG + MORT WALKER

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bill Keane

I'VE BEEN CALLING YOU FOR FIVE MINUTES!

YOU HAVE?

BILLY! DO YOU HEAR ME?

WHY DIDN'T YOU ANSWER ME? I WANT YOU TO RUN AN ERRAND FOR ME!

BILLY!

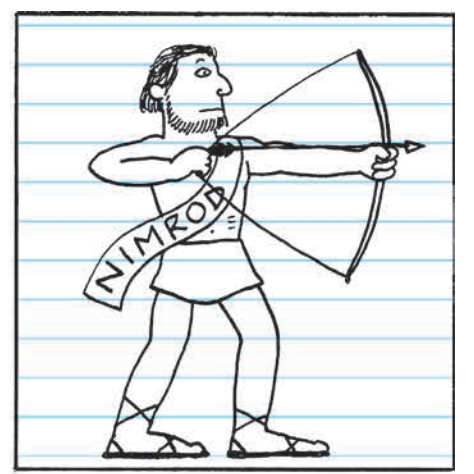
BILLY! DINNER'S READY!

SOMETIMES I THINK THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOUR HEARING!

PSST! AWAKE, HON? I WAS JUST THINKING-- HOW ABOUT A TRIP TO THE GRAND CANYON FOR THIS YEAR'S VACATION? WE WON'T SAY ANYTHING TO THE CHILDREN TILL WE'RE ABSOLUTELY SURE.

HEAR THAT, JEFFY? WE'RE GOIN' TO THE GRAND CANYON!

blitz by Lincoln Peirce



I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, BUT THE LIFE-GUARD'S YELLING AT RANDY.

PFFT! RANDY! WHAT A NIMROD!

EH? WAIT, WHY RANDY IS A NIMROD?

HE JUST IS, ARTUR! BUT YOU SAY "NIMROD" LIKE IT IS BAD.

NIMROD IN REAL LIFE WAS MIGHTY HUNTER!

HA! BUGS BUNNY DOESN'T THINK SO!

WHO IS BUG BUNNIES?

BUGS BUNNY! HE'S A RABBIT!

YEAH, BUGS CALLS PEOPLE NIMRODS ALL THE TIME!

IT'S A RIOT!

AH! HOKAY, YES! A TALKING RABBIT! SUPER HILARIOUS!

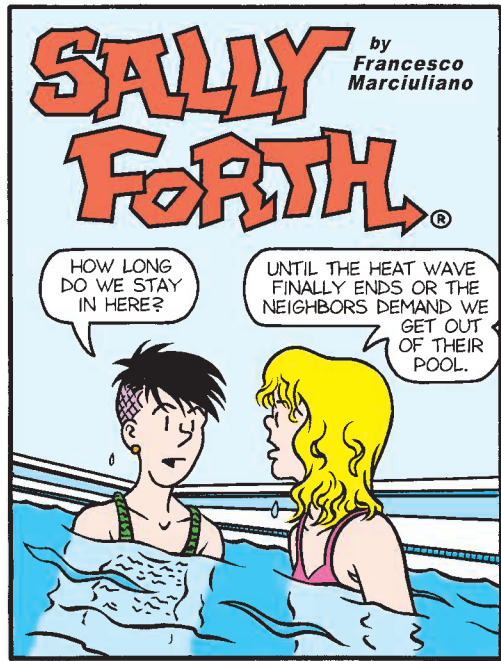
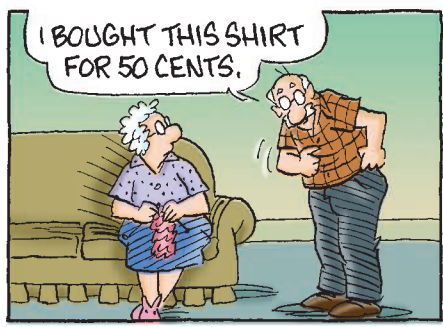
BUT WHY RANDY IS A NIMROD?

YOU EXPLAIN IT.

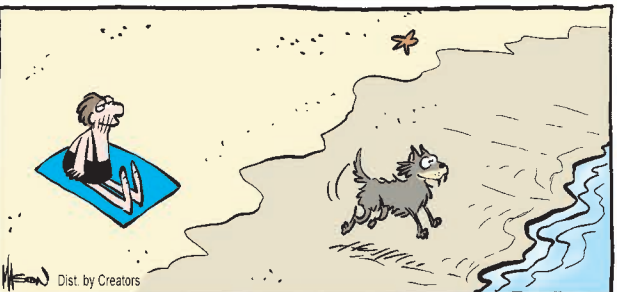
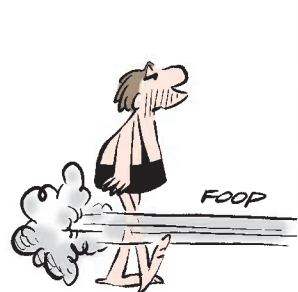
LET'S JUST USE "PINHEAD" FROM NOW ON.

PICKLES

by BRIAN CRANE

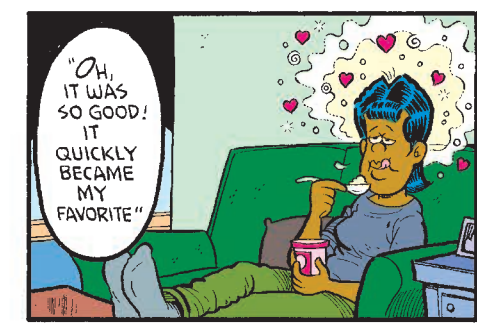
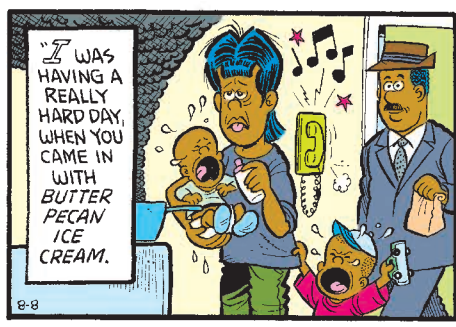
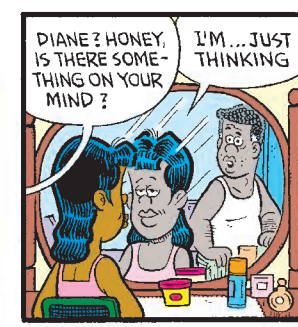
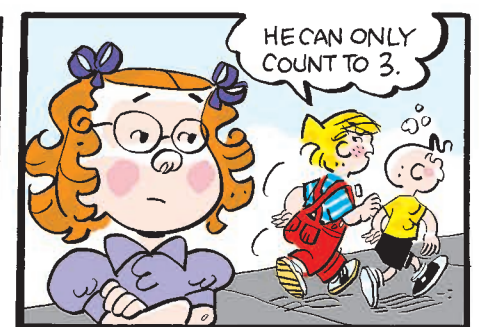
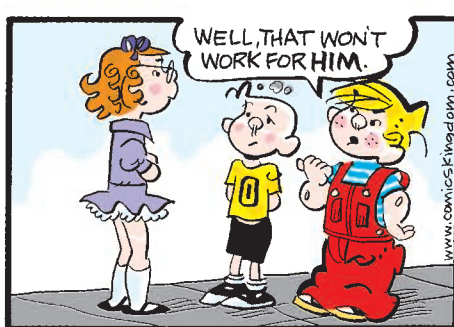
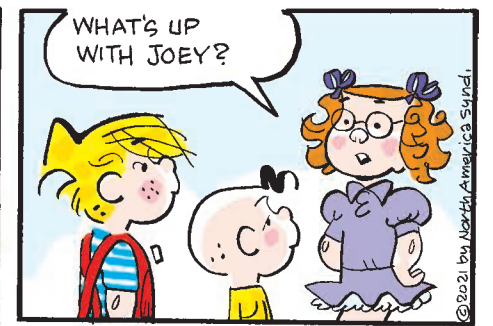
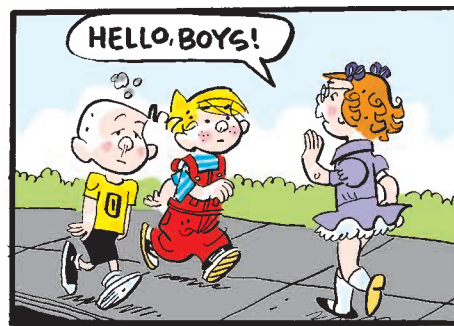


BY MASTROIANNI AND HART



Hank Ketchum's Dennis the Menace

COUNT DOWN



TAKE AN UMBRELLA, I THINK IT'S RAINING!

Luann
by greg evans

HAGAR
the horrible
by DIK BROWNE

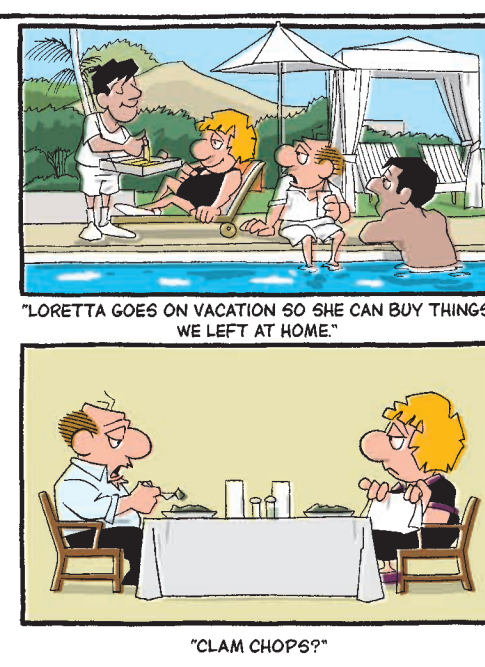
Wizard of ID
by Hart, Mastroianni and Parker

BLONDIE
BY DEAN KUNZE & JOHN MARSHALL

Hi and Lois
by BRIAN and GREG WALKER

THE LOCKHORNS

BY BUNNY HOEST AND JOHN REINER



QUIZ

How much do you know about insects?



Whether you find them fascinating or creepy, insects are interesting creatures to learn about. Here are 12 skill-testing questions to broaden your knowledge.

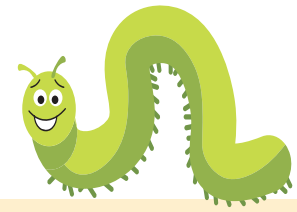
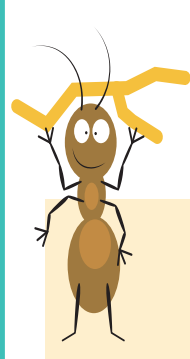
TRUE OR FALSE

- Ladybugs are part of the coccinellidae family.
- When a butterfly is in its cocoon, it's called a chrysalis.
- Carpenter ants live in dead or rotten wood where they carve out tunnels.
- Flies rub their legs together as a way to clean themselves.
- Grasshoppers have longer, thinner antennae than crickets.
- Fireflies light up because of a chemical reaction in their abdomen.
- Mayflies usually live for just three or four days.
- Orchid mantises have legs that resemble flower petals, which helps them remain camouflaged.



MULTIPLE CHOICE

- This insect is also known as a water-bug or Croton bug. Most people don't like to have them in their home because they're considered a pest.
 - A cockroach
 - A bed bug
 - A ground pearl
- This insect lives in treetops and eats sap. It's known for its high-pitched buzzing.
 - A tiger beetle
 - A cicada
 - A dragonfly
- This insect is often confused with other members of the hymenoptera order, but you can tell it apart by its narrow body and lack of hair.
 - A wasp
 - A bee
 - A hornet
- Part of the grasshopper family, this insect can grow to be up to 10 centimeters long and is the heaviest insect in the world. It lives in New Zealand.
 - A titan beetle
 - A rhinoceros beetle
 - A giant weta



- ANSWERS**
- True
 - False (It's called a chrysalis)
 - True
 - True
 - False (Crickets are the ones with longer antennae)
 - True
 - False (They usually only live for a few hours)
 - True
 - False (Crickets are the ones with longer antennae)
 - True
 - False (It's called a chrysalis)
 - True
 - False (They usually only live for a few hours)

ARTS AND CRAFTS Beautiful butterflies to brighten up your summer!

Do you enjoy crafts? Follow these seven steps to make colorful cardboard butterflies.

SUPPLIES

Here's what you'll need to make one butterfly:

- Construction paper (including one white sheet and one black sheet)
- Scissors
- An empty toilet paper roll
- A stick of glue
- A black marker
- A pencil



STEPS

- Cut a sheet of construction paper (in a color of your choice) into a strip that's the same width as the toilet paper roll. Make sure it's long enough to go all the way around. Glue the paper to the roll so that it's completely covered.
- To make the butterfly's eyes, cut out two small circles from the black paper and two larger circles from the white paper. Glue the black circles in the middle of the white circles, then glue the eyes on the side of the roll near the top.
- Using a black marker, draw on the butterfly's mouth and eyebrows.
- Fold a sheet of paper in half (you can choose a different color than the body). Use a pencil to draw the outline of a butterfly wing. Make sure

the wing starts and ends at the fold, as if it were the body of the butterfly.

- Carefully cut along the pencil line, then unfold the paper. You should now have a pair of wings. Glue them on to the back of the butterfly.
- Cut out circles of construction paper in different sizes and colors. Glue them onto the wings as decoration.
- Use a pencil to trace two antennae on a sheet of paper. Cut them out and glue them to the front of the toilet paper roll on the inside.

You can display your beautiful butterfly on a shelf or use string to hang it somewhere in your home.

Why wolves howl

Has anyone ever told you that wolves howl at the moon? Since these animals are often heard at night, many people mistakenly believe that they're howling at the moon. However, in reality they use these calls to communicate. Here are some of the reasons that wolves howl:

- To gather the pack
- To indicate their location
- To find a mate
- To warn others to stay out of their territory

The reason wolves tend to be more vocal when the moon is out is simply because these nocturnal creatures are most active at night. This doesn't mean they don't also howl during the day or on cloudy nights when the moon is hidden. It just depends on whether they have something to say.

The moon isn't the reason wolves raise their head toward the sky when they howl either. They do this because it helps project sound upward and throughout their environment. Turning their head upward when they howl allows their message to travel over long distances.



Finally, it's interesting to note that not all howls are alike. In particular, the duration of a wolf's cry can completely change its meaning.

DID YOU KNOW?
Just like humans, wolves communicate and express their emotions with different facial expressions.