

**TUESDAY**

TODAY & next morning  
**HIGH 86** Partly sunny, warm and breezy.  
**LOW 67**

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# CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE



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## IN BRIEF

### Webb announces run for county commission

A former county commissioner has thrown his hat into the ring for the District 4 race, the Supervisor of Elections Office announced Monday, April 4.

Republican Winfield "Winn" Webb filed for the District 4 race. Webb previously served on the County Commission from 2008 to 2012, when he ran for sheriff against Jeff Dawsey, before losing in the General Election. Webb sought a second term on the Board in 2014, losing to Scott Carnahan in the 2014 Primary Election.

Webb is one of three candidates seeking to replace Carnahan, who previously announced he would not seek a third term in office. Also vying for the seat are Republicans Philip Nichols Jr. and John Murphy Jr.

### Man fatally shot; initial investigations indicate self-defense

A man was shot and killed in what Citrus County Sheriff's Office authorities believe to be an act of self-defense.

Sheriff's office deputies responding to a disturbance at around 4:28 a.m. Saturday, April 2, found 36-year-old Kyle Davis dead near the back door of a home off of West Mistflower Place in Homosassa Springs, according to sheriff's office spokeswoman Brittney Carman on Monday.

Carman said preliminary investigations revealed Davis had struck a woman, who then returned to her house with significant injuries.

When the woman's roommate, a man, tried to figure out what happened to her, Davis forced his way into their home and attacked the woman's roommate. During the fight, Carman said, the roommate was able to retrieve his pistol and fatally shoot Davis.

Carman would not identify the woman or her roommate because they are both listed by the sheriff's office as victims in the case.

"At this time, initial findings are indicating that this shooting was in self-defense," she said. "However, this is still an open, active investigation, and no further details will be provided."

## ONLINE POLL

Within a month of opening, the Suncoast Parkway has averaged 6,000 vehicles daily. What are your thoughts about the segment of the toll road opening and future usage?

- A. As a regular parkway user, it's been a godsend for my commute. The numbers will only increase as the county grows.
- B. As an infrequent parkway user, it's a welcome addition and I can avoid U.S. 19 or other backroads.
- C. As a person who was against the parkway extension, I'll never use it.

# Strategic plan will chart local growth

## Residents weigh in on county's future

By MICHAEL D. BATES  
 Chronicle Reporter

Preserve the beauty of Citrus County. Fix deteriorating roads. Stop the northern Florida Turnpike extension. Build more workplace housing. Open a manatee rehabilitation center.

Those were just some of the recommendations from the 85-member crowd that attended Monday's strategic

planning town hall meeting at the Citrus Springs Community Center in Beverly Hills.

The county is developing a strategic plan it will use to chart local growth over the next five years.

County Commissioner Holly Davis, the leading proponent of the project, thanked attendees Monday for coming because it is important they speak up about their vision for Citrus County.

It is imperative people speak up about this.

"We need to be a frugal and proactive county going

forward," Davis said.

Many speakers represented the "no-build" group opposing the northern extension of the Florida Turnpike through Citrus County. They fear more road congestion and environmental destruction should the state choose one of the two potential routes that would cut through Citrus County.

Resident Art Jones, founder and president of the nonprofit One Rake at a Time Inc., received a few catcalls from the audience when he advocated working with the Flor-

ida Department of Transportation to bring the road to Citrus County and make it easier for tourists to visit the manatees in Crystal River.

Jones also pushed for a manatee rehabilitation center, an idea Davis told the Chronicle after the meeting might have some merit.

Debbie Selsavage, with Coping With Dementia LLC, said any strategic plan must address the "economic and cultural contribution" of seniors. Plans for a dementia education facility are vital, she said.

"Any plan that is beneficial to seniors is beneficial to the county," she said.

Others stressed the plan must preserve the beauty of Citrus County and at the same time, provide more affordable housing.

Karen Esty of Inverness said the county must revisit concurrency regulations to prevent unregulated development and traffic gridlock.

Esty said landfill capacity needs to be addressed to deal with new development.

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World War II veteran George Hausold served as a bombardier on a B-24 over Europe, eventually becoming a prisoner of war. Hausold turned 100 years old on Monday.

## At 100, Citrus County man reflects on life

By FRED HIERS  
 Chronicle Reporter

George Hausold never thought much about being killed while flying over Nazi Germany and its allies in his B-24 Liberator as shrapnel pierced the plane's aluminum skin and the crews' flesh and bones.

Even as he parachuted from his falling plane over Hungary and saw angry farmers and German soldiers awaiting his landing, did he think he was going to die.

"But they beat the hell out of me," he told the Chronicle, chuckling.

And when he was sent to POW camps across Axis controlled lands he never thought he would not make it back home to New Jersey.

But then again, he also never thought he'd beat the odds and make it to 100 years old, either.

But on Monday, April 4, Hausold did just that, becoming a member of a small group of men and women



The exact aircraft George Hausold escaped from over Europe before it exploded is seen above. The bombardier said when it was time to jump he exited from the nose-gear opening at the front of the aircraft and deployed his parachute. He was captured and sent to a prison camp in Germany.

owning the title of centenarian.

Of the world's 7.9 billion people, only 0.004 percent of them are centenarians living today.

Hausold shrugged about turning 100 when sitting at his kitchen table in Hernando with a Chronicle reporter.

His memory is still sharp as he recalled his life and

family. Reflecting on his many years, he said he tried not to get overly concerned about things and rolled with the punches.

His greatest accomplishment was not his dangerous stint in the U.S. Army Air Corps during the World War II, but rather his family.

His father was a bus driver in New Jersey and his mother was a homemaker.

Before the war and during the first war's first year, Hausold worked as a machine operator for BG Corporation in Manhattan, which supplied spark plugs to the military.

"I was driving to my girlfriend's at the time ... in my 1935 Dodge. I had the radio on when they announced

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## Study finds 'challenged' books soared in 2021

By HILLEL ITALIE  
 AP National Writer

NEW YORK — Deborah Caldwell-Stone, director of the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom, has never been so busy.

"A year ago, we might have been receiving one, maybe two reports a day about a book being challenged at a library. And usually those calls would be for guidance on how to handle a challenge or for materials that support the value of the work being

challenged," Caldwell-Stone told The Associated Press. "Now, we're getting three, four, five reports a day, many in need of support and some in need of a great deal of support."

"We're on the phone constantly," she added.

Accounts of book banning and attempted book burnings, along with threats against librarians, have soared over the past year and the ALA has included some numbers in its annual State of America's Libraries Report, released Mon-

day. The association found 729 challenges — affecting nearly 1,600 books — at public schools and libraries in 2021, more than double 2020's figures and the highest since the ALA began compiling challenges more than 20 years ago.

The actual total for last year is likely much higher — the ALA collects data through media accounts and through cases it learns about from librarians and educators and other community members. Books preemptively pulled by librarians

— out of fear of community protest or concern for their jobs — and challenges never reported by libraries are not included.

The number could well grow again in 2022, Caldwell-Stone said, as conservative-led school boards and legislatures enact more restrictions. Last week, the Georgia legislature passed a bill that would accelerate the process for removing books seen as "harmful to minors."

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## Man pleads no contest to child-porn charges

Also in court: Mugging, kidnapping case from 2019 coming to end

By BUSTER THOMPSON  
 Chronicle Reporter

A Crystal River man agreed to leave up to two decades of his life in a judge's hands for stockpiling illegal pornography.

In exchange for a prison sentence of up to 20 years,

58-year-old Wayne Adams pleaded no contest Monday, April 4, to 13 counts of possess-

ing 10 or more images of child pornography.

Citrus County Circuit Court Judge Richard Howard will sentence Adams May 2. Adams' lawyer, Eric Evilsizer, reminded Howard on Monday that his client's open plea was the subject of discussions in the judge's chambers with prosecutors.

Assistant State Attorney Blake Shore told Howard that Adams scores 14 years in state prison as a guidelines sentence, giving the judge a sentencing range of between 14 and 20 years unless he finds a basis for a downward departure.

Howard could also order Adams to serve probation or house arrest after he's released from custody, Shore noted.

According to Adams' arrest report, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children alerted Citrus County Sheriff's Office authorities in June 2020 to an online-storage provider finding 459 images of suspected child pornography on an account belonging to Adams.

Sheriff's office investigators executed a warrant in October 2020 to search Adams' home, where they seized computers, hard drives and other electronic devices.

Adams, according to his arrest report, at first denied viewing child pornography but then admitted to seeking out, downloading and then saving the illicit images.

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