

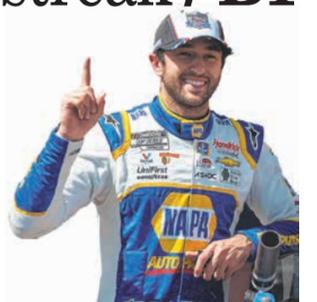
**TUESDAY**

TODAY & next morning  
**HIGH 86** Partly sunny. Scattered PM storms.  
**LOW 66**

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# CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

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**IN BRIEF**

**Food giveaway May 4 and 18 at fairgrounds**

The next two Let's Feed Citrus events will be Wednesday, May 4 and 18. Beginning at 9 a.m. the public can receive food at the Citrus County fairgrounds at 3600 S. Florida Ave., Inverness — drive-thru only.

**Another candidate joins District 2 race**

Noon, June 13, 2022, and ends Noon, June 17, 2022., no party affiliation, of Inverness, pre-filed Monday for Citrus County Commission District 2. Republicans Diana Finegan and Stacey Worthington have previously pre-filed. Qualifying begins at noon, June 13, 2022, and ends at noon, June 17, 2022.

**DeSantis backs money for manatee efforts**

Gov. Ron DeSantis said Monday he will approve more than \$30 million in the coming year's budget to help manatees, after a record number of sea-cow deaths in 2021 in Florida waters.

The Legislature has not formally sent the proposed \$112.1 billion budget to DeSantis, who has line-item veto power. But during an appearance at the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, he expressed support for budget items aimed at helping manatees.

"It will enhance and expand the network of acute-care facilities like the one right here at Jacksonville Zoo to treat injured and distressed manatees," DeSantis said. "The funding will also support restoration efforts for manatee access to Florida's warm-spring waters, habitat restoration in areas with high manatee populations, manatee rescue and recovery efforts and pilot projects like the supplemental feeding that FWC (the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission) conducted this past winter."

The highly unusual supplemental feeding effort involved providing lettuce to manatees, which have been starving because poor water quality and algae blooms have depleted seagrass beds that are prime foraging areas. State and federal wildlife officials anticipate they might again have to provide lettuce to manatees gathering in East Coast waters next winter, as 527 manatee deaths had been reported through April 22. The number of deaths was down from 694 at the same point in 2021, when a record 1,101 manatee deaths were reported. But it remains far higher than in other years, as it was up from 239 through April 22, 2020, and 219 through April 22, 2019.

Of the deaths this year, 23 involved collisions with watercraft. Watercraft were listed as the cause of 34 manatee deaths in 2021. The proposed 2022-2023 budget, which will take effect July 1, would designate \$20 million for the network of acute-care facilities that treat injured and distressed manatees, manatee-rescue efforts, habitat restoration and pilot projects that include supplemental-feeding trials.

## Woman takes plea in DUI death case

**Mother agrees to 12 years in prison for crash that killed her young daughter**

By **BUSTER THOMPSON**  
 Chronicle Reporter

Before a judge handed down what she called her "future," Shelby Gabrielle Collazo wanted the court to know she will never escape the guilt of killing her young daughter in a DUI crash.

"I'm not trying to escape punishment for this tragedy," she told Citrus County Circuit Judge Richard Howard on Monday, May 2. "I'm just trying to convey to you all here that I will forever pay for this every day I wake up without my daughter."

Collazo and prosecutors with the State Attorney's Office agreed for the Beverly Hills 27-year-old to serve 12 years in prison for driving impaired early Oct. 11, 2020, and causing a single-vehicle crash in Citrus Hills, killing her 3-year-old daughter and injuring four others, including three teenagers.

Collazo will also be on drug-offender probation for four years following her imprisonment, which includes a minimum-mandatory term of four years behind bars.

In exchange for her sentence, Collazo pleaded no contest to charges of DUI

manslaughter with a child present, DUI involving serious injuries with a child present, and three counts of DUI involving personal injury with a child present.

"I will forever pay for this," she told Howard from the courtroom lectern, standing by her lawyers, Kali Stauss and Christopher Schisani. "My family will forever pay as well."

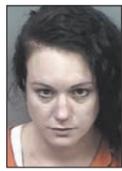
Collazo also pleaded no contest to resolve her second felony case connected to an April 2 disturbance she caused while out on bond at

a Crystal River gas station that led to her trying to hide her identity and drugs from authorities.

As punishment for charges of disorderly conduct, providing a false name to law enforcement, resisting without violence, evidence tampering, and possessing marijuana, Collazo will serve 60 months of drug-offender probation after she completes the probationary term for her DUI offense.

After ratifying her plea

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**COLLAZO**



Joseph Beaulieu pumps his legs during a Pedaling for Parkinson's spin class at the Citrus Memorial Health Foundation's YMCA in Lecanto. Instructor Jo-Anne Mahar makes her way through the room, interacting with each exerciser ensuring they are keeping pace.



Instructor Jo-Anne Mahar uses a photograph of herself to light-heartedly motivate one of the participants in the Y's Pedaling for Parkinson's spin class. She placed the picture to the front of a stationary bikes as a reminder to help the individual when she was working with others in the class.

## Bravera Health offers support group to those with Parkinson's

By **FRED HIERS**  
 Chronicle Reporter

Patti Gale was not always the way she is now: confined to a wheelchair, her hands shaking, and panicked when her husband is out of sight.

Bill Maurer was a science professor at College of Central Florida. He was a long-distance runner and traveled. He was not always confined to his home. He did not always need his wife to button his shirt or tie his shoes.

Stewart Grumbling did not always need a cane to walk. There was no need for the former print shop owner in Inverness to worry how to slow his Parkinson's Disease. He was healthy and

active. He enjoyed running and waterskiing.

There are one million Americans who suffer from Parkinson's, for which there is no cure, only drugs to try and slow

its relentless progression. There will be 1.2 million by 2030.

People are typically diagnosed when they are in their 60s.

Many Parkinson's patients complain they feel left on their own emotionally to deal with the disease after being diagnosed.

In Citrus County they need not go through it by themselves.

Bravera Health Seven Rivers Hospital in Crystal

See **HEALTH**, page A6

## Nonprofit Spotlight: Citrus Pregnancy Center

By **NANCY KENNEDY**  
 Chronicle Reporter

*Editor's note: Every community depends on the resources and support that nonprofit agencies provide people, whether physical, material or emotional.*

The Chronicle's ongoing series, Nonprofit Spotlight, profiles the nonprofit agencies in Citrus County that exist to help make life better for us all.

To have your nonprofit organization considered for a spotlight, here's the link to an online form you can fill out: [https://www.chronicleonline.com/site/forms/nonprofit\\_spotlight](https://www.chronicleonline.com/site/forms/nonprofit_spotlight).

In 1998, a handful of local pastors got together and talked about starting a crisis pregnancy center.

They knew that only God could do it, and they were willing to step out on faith that it would happen.

The ministry to women and families dealing with an unplanned pregnancy opened in 1999 as Life



In this July 2021 file photo, Barb Gosa, Citrus Pregnancy Center executive director, and Patti Kinderman, ministry assistant, share a laugh as they give a tour of the baby boutique room at the center's Inverness location at 3185 E. Thomas St. in Inverness.

Choice Care Center. Today it's called Citrus Pregnancy Center with two locations, Inverness and Crystal River.

In 2021, the center served 488 clients, women and men, who received their services,

with a total of 1,337 appointments, their highest number of appointments to date.

**What does Citrus Pregnancy Center do? What is the mission/purpose as an agency?**

Citrus Pregnancy Center exists to help women and their partners who are facing unplanned pregnancies to choose life for their babies and then equipping the parents-to-be with the

things they need to give their baby and themselves a good foundation.

**What services do you offer?**

All services offered by Citrus Pregnancy Center are free to the clients and include: lab-quality pregnancy tests, sonograms, evidence-based information about abortion so a woman considering abortion can make an educated and informed decision, parenting training, fatherhood classes, adoption education, and for those who have had abortions and are struggling with the emotional after-effects, even years later, the center offers post-abortion counseling.

The center also has a Baby Boutique that's filled with baby clothes, diapers, baby wipes, vitamins, formula, car seats, strollers — everything a newborn needs, thanks primarily to a grant from the Citrus County Community Charitable

See **CENTER**, page A6

