

Track & field: Citrus, Lecanto compete at regionals / B1

SATURDAY
 TODAY & next morning
 HIGH **83**
 LOW **62**
 Passing showers and storms.
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Inverness fails to get road paving grant

City moves forward with beach project

By **FRED HIERS**
 Chronicle Reporter

It was the kind of phone call Inverness City Manager Eric Williams was hoping he wouldn't get. Nearly a year ago Williams and his staff applied for two federal grants to pave the dirt roads that

crisscross Inverness Acres and Inverness Village and provide utilities. The roads are so deteriorated that school buses, emergency vehicles, and mail delivery vehicles will not drive down many of them. The city council in June



WILLIAMS

2021 agreed with Williams to apply for the grants totaling \$32 million and hired North Carolina-based Kimley-Horn and Associates as its consultants. Williams told the Chronicle that the consultants contacted him late Thursday to say that Inverness was not selected. It was a letdown for Williams after submitting detailed applications asking for help and a share of the

Community Development Block Grant Mitigation fund. Williams told the Chronicle there were 247 applicants and only 17 awards. He said a letter from the grant program would likely be forthcoming. "We're going to keep looking at options," Williams said. "We're going back to the drawing board." The county spent \$30,000 to pay for the consultants

and apply for the grants for the two areas north and south of State Road 44. The deterioration of the roads were so severe last year that the council approved spending several thousand dollars for emergency repairs. The subdivisions and their dirt roads have been a dilemma for the city for years. The problem is the plats for the two subdivisions were accepted by the coun-

ty half a century ago. Later, the county presented the plats to Inverness. The subdivisions are inside the city limits. But part of the city's plat acceptance was that the city would not be responsible for the subdivisions' roads. The vast majority of the combined 2,051 lots are still owned by Miami-based Inverness Properties

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Special to the Chronicle

At 18, Kinsey Bogart has spent most of her life in and out of the hospital, mostly at UF Health Shands Hospital in Gainesville. Last year, UF Health Arts in Medicine worked with Kinsey to create a coloring book of her artwork to give to their pediatric patients to color.

Despite health challenges, she lives life to the fullest

By **NANCY KENNEDY**
 Chronicle Reporter

Kinsey Bogart's positivity is positively infectious. Now 18 and about to graduate high school, she has spent most of her life in and out of hospitals. As an infant, she was diagnosed with atypical hemolytic uremic syndrome, which destroyed her kidneys. She also has severe cardiomyopathy, an enlargement of the left ventricle, limiting the amount of blood her heart can pump out. Plus, she has autism, ADHD and some learning difficulties.



Artwork by teen artist Kinsey Bogart.

especially in Dairy Queen Blizzards, all things Disney and drinking strawberry Frappacinos from Starbucks.

Meet the artist

As a regular patient at UF Health Shands since she was 8 months old, from the time she could hold a crayon, Kinsey started making art "because I was bored in the hospital," she said. In 1990, UF Health Shands Arts in Medicine (AIM) was founded to enrich the hospital experience for patients, families, visitors, health care providers and even the outside community, but especially for patients. AIM employs professional artists in residence who work with hospital patients on expressing themselves through art.

"I started by coloring and then I learned to paint with the Arts in Medicine program," Kinsey said. "I like to paint with acrylics, make mosaics and color with gel pens." Her drawings are big and bold, frogs and flowers and hot air balloons, and she likes color. Last year, the staff at the AIM program had an idea and asked to use some of Kinsey's vibrant paintings to create a coloring book for their young hospital patients. The result is: "My Vibrant Island: A Coloring Book by Kinsey Bogart." "When Arts in Medicine said they wanted to make

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Photos by Matthew Beck / Chronicle photo editor

Comic book collector and expert Max Obstfeld, 32, displays a Daredevil comic book he owns. It is one of more than 30,000 collectible books that date back decades. Obstfeld works at Pat's Pawn in Crystal River and sells, trades and buys many comics. Saturday, May 7, is National Comic Book Day and it not only celebrates comic books but encourages young readers to partake in the hobby.



This DC comic book Batman #232 from 1971, is signed by Adam West, Burt Ward and renowned illustrator Neal Adams

Love for comics leads to lifelong hobby

By **GEORGIA SULLIVAN**
 Chronicle Reporter

With the takeover of Marvel and DC Comics movies, having knowledge about comic books is no longer "nerdy." Today marks National Comic Book Day, and for someone like Max Obstfeld with a collection of 30,000 comics and a treasure trove of comic book knowledge is sharing his passion with those in the community. Growing up in Citrus County, he started reading comics when he was a kid, going to the nearest comic

book store with his dad and reading comics like "Sonic the Hedgehog" - Knuckles being his favorite character. Obstfeld's love for comics has been lifelong, but he truly began his collection when he was in middle school. "I was bullied a lot in middle school, so I became very introverted, and comic books and video games after school was how I got through it," said Obstfeld. During middle school, he and his family moved to Taiwan since his parents

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DeSantis signs tax 'holidays,' gas-tax break

By **JIM TURNER**
 The News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — A series of sales-tax "holidays" on such things as school clothes, hurricane supplies and tools and a suspension of the state gas tax in October topped a package signed into law Friday by Gov. Ron DeSantis. The tax package (HB 7071), passed by the Legislature in March, will reduce state and local revenues by



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\$804.3 million during the upcoming fiscal year, according to a House staff analysis. The total will increase to about \$1.1 billion when future impacts are factored in. Along with holding traditional tax-holiday periods before the school year and as hurricane season starts, the package will eliminate taxes during all or part of the 2022-2023 fiscal year on items including baby clothes, diapers, children's books, Energy Star appliances, impact-resistant doors and windows, new mobile homes and admissions to Formula One Grand Prix races and the Daytona 500.

"This bill comes at an opportune time, as families grapple with the rising costs of everyday expenses like gas, food and clothing," Department of Children and Families Secretary Shevaun Harris said during an appearance with DeSantis in Ocala. "I know that every penny saved counts." State leaders touted that the election-year package will help consumers. "The tax relief you're going to see are going to be breaks for really critical needs, like gas, diapers, disaster supplies, tools for skilled trades, recreational activities, you name it," DeSantis said. "And, so, fami-

lies are going to be able to save for things that really matter for them." DeSantis, whose youngest child is 2 years old, highlighted the tax breaks for diapers and baby clothes during a bill-signing ceremony at Sam's Club in Ocala. The ceremony included a stack of Huggies diapers and several families. "You've got to do the diapers, there is no way around that," DeSantis said. First Lady Casey DeSantis chimed in, saying, "We have one child in diapers now. But 2 1/2 years ago, we had 2 1/2 kids in diapers."

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