

SATURDAY
 TODAY & next morning
 HIGH **83**
 LOW **59**
 Mostly sunny.
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CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE



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Florida's Best Community

Newspaper Serving Florida's Best Community

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NEWS BRIEFS

Attend a community panel in honor of Black History Month

The Old Courthouse Heritage Museum will host a community panel discussion in celebration of Black History Month. The panel brings together long-time residents of Citrus County and pillars of the community to discuss their lived experiences in their own words.

The event will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. Feb. 26 at the Old Courthouse Heritage Museum, 1 Courthouse Square in Inverness.

The event will feature four panelists: Bailey Wise, Ray Joyner, Alida Langley and Mable Sims Holloway. Donna Lucas of the Afro-American Club of Citrus County will moderate. These pillars of Citrus County's black community will share their experiences, personal stories and recollections of their lives in Florida.

This panel is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. Guests can join in-person at the museum or watch live on YouTube. Sign up at cccourthouse.org or call 352-341-6428 for more information.

PetMeals seeks donations

Citrus County's Pet-Meals program is seeking help from pet lovers throughout Citrus County.

Each month, the Pet-Meals program provides dog and cat food to the companion pets of senior homebound clients who receive Meals on Wheels. The program is currently in need of unopened bags of dry dog and cat food, as well as cans of wet cat food.

The PetMeals Program is a donation-based, volunteer-driven program. Food donations can be dropped off at any Citrus County community center, while monetary donation can be mailed to: Citrus County BOCC, Citrus County PetMeals Program, 2804 W. Marc Knighton Court, Key #3, Lecanto, FL 34461.

Any contributions are accepted and appreciated. For more information on how to help, or to find the nearest location to make a food or monetary donation, call 352-527-5975.

Police: 2 young children, man drown in pool

HOLLYWOOD (AP) — A South Florida woman found her husband and two young children unresponsive in their backyard swimming pool and called 911 for help, police said.

Police officers were called to the home in Hollywood on Thursday afternoon, Hollywood police said in a report released Friday.

Officer performed CPR on the victims, who were taken to Memorial Regional Hospital, where they were pronounced dead.

The children were ages 5 and 2, the report said. There was no information released about the adult found with them.

Police don't suspect foul play, but an investigation is continuing.

Business park project moves forward

County seeking bids for work at Inverness Airport

By **MICHAEL D. BATES**
 Chronicle Reporter

County commissioners Tuesday voted 5-0 to proceed with the bidding for infrastructure construction of the Inverness Airport Business-Industrial Park.

Last year, the county re-

ceived a \$5.08 million state Department of Economic Opportunity grant to be used for the construction of transportation and onsite water utility infrastructures for a 75-plus acre business industrial park.

Infrastructure construction will include all utilities, telecommunications, storm-water treatment system, roads and the reconstruction of 3,115 feet of the main roadway to the business park.

The grant requires the

project to be completed by June, 2023.

Citrus County has been working on developing the Inverness Airport Business-Industrial Park since the county purchased the land in 2001.

In related news:

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) this week announced a 'Notice of Funding Opportunity' totaling \$1 billion in airport terminal program grants.

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Matthew Beck / Chronicle photo editor

The Chamber said due to its location and accessibility to Interstate 75, the Inverness Airport is seen as a prime spot for a business-industrial park that can yield well-paying jobs and county revenue.



Photos by Matthew Beck / Chronicle photo editor

Inverness native Fallon Crowell has recently opened Honest Earth, a spa where she offers a variety of cosmetic specialties including organic facials.

Day spa offers natural beauty services

By **HANNAH SACHEWICZ**
 Chronicle Reporter

An aptitude for business runs through Fallon Crowell's veins.

The 23-year-old is the granddaughter of the beloved Joe Fallon, owner of Joe's Deli for 44 years. Fallon announced his retirement and sold the deli in 2017 and recently, Crowell said, the deli closed down for good.

However, Crowell is continuing her grandfather's legacy — and doing it her own way. In January, she opened an all-natural spa and shop, Honest Earth, where she offers organic and customizable facials, skin care and waxing, along with lash and brow services.

"It's nice to be the next person in line to open something up here," Crowell said. As for her grandfather, "I've really enjoyed watching him be excited to help me."

Crowell graduated from Citrus High School in 2017. After some soul searching, she went to esthetician school in St. Petersburg with the goal to obtain her microblading license.

However, when her class began learning about skin care, it piqued her interest. She was shocked at some of the ingredients allowed in products.

"I started making my own organic skin care products at home for my friends and people in my class," Crowell said. "People went crazy for them."



Honest Earth offers a variety of products to use at home in between visits.

This was the deciding factor for Crowell to pursue a career in skin care. With the idea for Honest Earth, some local friends encouraged her to open it in Citrus County. She began by offering free facials to test the market. "Everyone loved it."

Currently, Crowell is the spa's sole esthetician, providing nearly all services herself. "Every single person that comes in, I know who you are," she said. "It's a very personal experience."

For example, Crowell performed an Express Lift Facial on client Abby Wells on Feb. 23. "Depending on what kind of skin she has, or her skin concerns, it would completely shift everything I do."

The 40-minute facial treatment included a double cleanse, exfoliation, extraction, mask, serum, gua sha lift and moisturizer to hydrate and lift the skin.

"We call it a red carpet facial," Crowell said.

For Wells, Crowell decided to customize with a Vitamin C serum, niacinamide and a high frequency tool to promote hair growth.

Other services at Honest Earth include Dermalglow, anti-aging and detox facials, lash and brow tints and brow lamination. Lash extensions are offered by a lash technician, who rents a space from Crowell.

True to its name, every product used and sold at Honest Earth is organic. For facials, Crowell uses One Love Organics, Dermalogica and Eminence Organics. According to Crowell, these are the most natural skin care lines available, while still keeping services affordable.

"I don't believe it should be a luxury," she said. "It's

See **SPA**, page A6



Carolyn Kaster / AP

Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson speaks Friday after President Joe Biden announced Jackson as his nominee to the Supreme Court in the Cross Hall of the White House in Washington.

Biden nominates Ketanji Brown Jackson, first Black woman, to Supreme Court

By **COLLEEN LONG, MICHAEL BALSAMO and ZEKE MILLER**
 Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden on Friday nominated federal appeals court Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court, the first Black woman selected to serve on a court that once declared her race unworthy of citizenship and endorsed American segregation.

Introducing Jackson at the White House, Biden declared, "I believe it's time that we have a court that reflects the full talents and greatness of our nation."

With his nominee standing alongside, the president praised her as having "a pragmatic understanding that the law must work for the American people." He said, "She strives to be fair, to get it right, to do justice."

In Jackson, Biden delivered on a campaign promise to make the historic appointment and further diversify a court that was made up entirely of white men for almost two centuries.

He also chose an attorney who would be the high court's first former public defender, though she possesses the elite legal background of other justices as well.

Jackson would be the current court's second Black member — Clarence Thomas, a conservative, is the other — and just the third in history. She would replace liberal Justice Stephen Breyer, 83, who is retiring at the end of the term this summer, so she won't change the court's 6-3 conservative majority.

Jackson would join the court as it weighs cutbacks

See **COURT**, page A11

Fero Funeral Home reopens services after damaging blaze

By **BUSTER THOMPSON**
 Chronicle Reporter

After being gutted by a fire, the Fero Funeral Home in Beverly Hills is reopening its services.

"Temporary offices have been established on-site and funeral and cemetery professionals are available to meet with families," spokeswoman Beth Dombrowa said Friday, Feb. 25.

To contact Fero, call 352-746-4551.

A downed power line ignited the Feb. 16 blaze, which destroyed 80 percent of the funeral home and damaged 10 percent of another building on the property off of North Lecanto Highway.

Citrus County Fire Rescue Chief Craig Stevens said a tree service company cut down a tree, which

fell onto the power line. No injuries were reported.

"Most of the damage occurred in the funeral home," Dombrowa said, "which will be rebuilt to serve Beverly Hills and Citrus County."

Dombrowa said Fero started the planning and permitting process to renovate an existing structure into a "Celebration of Life Venue" to use while the funeral home is under construction.

"We are still in the insurance processes," Dombrowa said, "however, we anticipate starting construction on a new funeral home as soon as possible."

Contact Chronicle reporter Buster Thompson at 352-564-2916, bthompson@chronicleonline.com or visit tinyurl.com/yxn2ahso to see more of his stories.

