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IN BRIEF

Landfill disposal program drop-off day scheduled

Citrus County Landfill's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Disposal Program offers an additional drop-off day each quarter. The next quarterly HHW drop-off day will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on April 30 at the Citrus County Landfill, 230 W. Gulf-to-Lake Highway, Lecanto.

As a reminder, residents who can use the regular HHW program on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday of each week are encouraged to do so. Wait times will be longer on a Saturday HHW drop-off day.

Assessed households may bring up to 10 gallons, or 60 pounds, of household hazardous waste for proper disposal on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays or on quarterly Saturday drop-off days for no additional charge.

For information, call 352-527-7670 or visit citrusbocc.com/departments/public_works/solid_waste_management.

Special library board seeking five members

The Citrus County Special Library District is seeking applications for five positions on the Special Library District Advisory Board. They are seeking qualified members for two-year terms that expire Jan. 31, 2024. Eligible applicants must be a qualified elector of Citrus County.

The board meets the fourth Tuesday of every other month at the Lecanto Government Building, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Room 166 in Lecanto. Their purpose is to advise the Board of County Commissioners on public libraries' budget, policies, services and other pertinent matters. The next meeting is scheduled for 8 a.m. May 10.

Applications will be accepted until April 5. To apply, visit citrusbocc.com/boardapplication and submit to Denise Gallagher, Citrus County Administration, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Suite 267, Lecanto, FL 34461. Nominations and appointments will occur at the April 26 meeting of the Special Library District Governing Board.

For more information, visit citruslibraries.org or call 352-746-9077.

Supervisor of Elections holding outreach event

To help citizens prepare for the upcoming Primary Election on Aug. 23, the Supervisor of Elections office will be holding an outreach event at the Homosassa Post Office on April 14 from 9-11 a.m.

Register to vote, make changes to voter records, or request a vote-by-mail ballot. Information to apply for election worker positions will also be available. Anyone interested in having the elections office staff at an organization or business, contact Supervisor Maureen 'Mo' Baird.

The Homosassa Post Office is at 4610 S. Suncoast Blvd., Homosassa. Visit votecitrus.gov, email vote@votecitrus.gov, or call 352-564-7120.

Insurance crisis hitting pocketbooks

Fraudulent roof scams part of the problem

By MICHAEL D. BATES
Chronicle Reporter

You're sitting on your couch and there's a knock on the door.

You answer it, and it's a "roofing contractor" asking if he can inspect your roof for free to detect weather or age damage. If so, you could be eligible for a new roof fully paid through your insurance company.

Even the deductible is waived. This scammer is sure to find wear and tear, even if it's a matter of tearing off shingles to make it look like wind damage.

Hard to believe you'd fall for it. Or would you? Carl Rockman, vice president of Agency and Market Services for Citizens Insurance, asked members of the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce at its Fri-



ROCKMAN

day luncheon at the Plantation on Crystal River. Rockman was the keynote speaker and painted a dire picture of what he calls a property insurance crisis in Florida and these fraudulent roof scams are part of the problem. "If you haven't felt it, you're about to," he said. Citrus County homeowners, al-

ready hit hard by high gas prices and record inflation, are already contending with skyrocketing property insurance premiums.

The Insurance Information Institute said Florida homeowners insurance premiums have increased 25 percent this year. Some are seeing triple the rates.

Compounding the problem, many private insurers are pulling out of the Florida market, leading to

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Photos by Matthew Beck / Chronicle photo editor

Maria Rodriguez prepares cattle for milking Monday, April 4, at M&B Dairy in Lecanto. The process is automated and takes the milk away from the milking area where it is cooled and stored. M&B Dairy is now producing lactose-free, A1-free milk that many consumers find easier to digest.

In search of 'A Perfect Milk'

M&B Dairy develops a more easily digested A1-free milk

By NANCY KENNEDY
Chronicle Reporter

When Dale McClellan visits a school, one thing he hates to see is kids throwing milk cartons still full of milk into the trash can.

A few years ago, McClellan, owner/president of Lecanto-based M&B Dairy, got a call from a school in one of the 29 Florida counties that carries his dairy's milk for student breakfasts and lunches.

The woman on the phone was concerned that some of the students were throwing their milk away and she wanted McClellan to go with her to talk to the principal about the school offering water as a replacement for the milk.

"Ma'am, I sell milk for a living, not water," McClellan told her.

But after talking to her some more, McClellan learned that the woman thought the problem was a lactose intolerance in the kids, that they were throwing the milk away because it upset their stomachs.

"Let me work on this and see if we can come up with a solution," he told her, then started researching.

At that time, M&B already had lactose-free milk available to



Cattle wait for the milking process to begin at M&B Dairy in Lecanto.

schools. Andrea McClellan, Dale McClellan's daughter-in-law and M&B's general manager at the Tampa plant, was one of the first to test it.

"If I drink regular milk, I get gassy and my stomach hurts," she said. "I've never been diagnosed, but I

thought it was probably lactose intolerance."

She said she had agreed to be the test case for their first batch of lactose-free milk and drank down a full glass.

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Inflation hits nonprofits' services, ability to fundraise

By DAN PARKS
Chronicle of Philanthropy

Last Mile Food Rescue in Cincinnati started shopping in November for a refrigerated box truck to move perishable donations from food retailers to distribution sites. The purchase would take some of the pressure off overstretched volunteers, who would have to make three or more runs in their cars to haul as much food as a single truckload.

But Last Mile is experiencing sticker shock. Prices for the kind of truck its leaders have in mind have soared thousands of dollars in recent months, to as much as \$80,000. For an organization with an annual budget of \$650,000, that's too big a hit to absorb.

Frustrated, the charity started looking for used trucks, but the prices of used vehicles have shot up as well.

"We look every day," says Julie Shifman,



Denise Johnson / Last Mile Food Rescue

Food is distributed at a Last Mile Food Rescue pop-up food pantry in a Cincinnati parking lot in November 2021. Nonprofits of all kinds are getting hit hard by inflation, experts say.

Last Mile's executive director. "We hope that we will be able to afford it, or a major donor will be able to come in to help us."

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County explores ways to enhance communications

By MICHAEL D. BATES
Chronicle Reporter

Playwright George Bernard Shaw once said the single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place.

County commissioners at a recent goals-setting retreat identified as a priority the improvement of communications between government and citizens. Getting the right (and correct) message out to the citizens can build more trust in government, they said.

A lack of good commu-

nication in the past has led to misconceptions or even faulty information getting out to the electorate and that has to stop, they agreed.

To that end, the board will hold a workshop geared toward improving communications between government and citizens at 9 a.m. Tuesday at the Citrus County Courthouse, 110 N. Apopka Ave., Inverness.

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