

# Subway shooting: Suspect taken into custody / A10

**THURSDAY**  
TODAY & next morning  
HIGH **87**  
LOW **67**  
Warm, more humid.  
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# CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE



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## IN BRIEF

### Tamposi submits Betz farm offer

A last-minute offer on the 350-acre Betz Farm property in Crystal River prompted county commissioners Tuesday to table discussion of its sale until the April 26 meeting.

Lecanto Properties, LLC, of which local developer Steve Tamposi is general partnership manager, made an offer of \$5.5 million.

Hamid Ashtari, a real estate developer at Tampa-based Sweetwater Group, earlier made an offer of \$5.5 million and commissioners were set to discuss it Tuesday before the Tamposi offer came in.

The property north of Turkey Oak Drive was appraised in 2020 at \$5.38 million. Commissioners plan to use the proceeds from the sale to build a new animal shelter.

### Supervisor of Elections holding outreach event

To help citizens prepare for the upcoming Primary Election on August 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.

The Homosassa Post Office is located at 4610 S. Suncoast Blvd., Homosassa. To learn more, visit [votecitrus.gov](http://votecitrus.gov), email [vote@votecitrus.gov](mailto:vote@votecitrus.gov), or call 352-564-7120.

### County gov't offices closed for Easter

Citrus County Government offices will be closed April 15 in observance of Good Friday and Easter.

Bicentennial Pool will be open on April 15, but closed on April 17. Citrus County Animal Services will be closed on April 15 and reopen on April 16.

The Citrus County Central Landfill will close at 2:30 p.m. on April 15 and reopen on April 16. The Landfill Administration Office will be closed all day on April 15.

All branches of the Citrus County Library System will be closed on April 15. Normal hours will resume on April 16.

### 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.

Residents who can use the regular HHW program on Tuesday...

By BRUCE SCHREINER - Associated Press

## School board pursuing athletic trainers

### District drafting contract with UF

By BUSTER THOMPSON  
Chronicle Reporter

Citrus County School Board members were satisfied with how school district staff is proposing to get athletic trainers onto campuses.

During its regular meeting

Tuesday, April 12, the board agreed to have a contract drafted with the University of Florida Health Orthopedics and Sports Medicine Institute to hire four athletic trainers to work 40 hours a week for 44 weeks, from Aug. 1 to May 31.

Three of the trainers will each be assigned to one of the three county high schools, while the fourth will rotate among middle

schools. Trainers will also provide support to unassigned schools if need be.

It's estimated the total price tag for the trainers at 44 weeks will be \$446,420, including \$187,819 in start-up and continuous costs for equipment - an expense expected to decrease with the school district already owning some supplies.

"This is very important to me," said school board

member and Florida High School Athletic Association board president Doug Dodd. "Cost isn't going to be an issue ... I think we can find the money to pay for it."

Board members will also consider second option of paying

\$510,271 to have four athletic trainers for 52 weeks to have summer conditionings and practices covered.

After board members tasked him at their last assembly to secure athletic-training services, Assistant Superintendent Jonny Bishop introduced school officials Tuesday to a proposal from UF Health's



DODD

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Matthew Beck / Chronicle photo editor

Amaya Brown giggles as she picks up Easter eggs in this 2018 file photo at the Seven Rivers Christian Church's annual Easter egg hunt in Lecanto. This weekend will feature similar egg hunts around Citrus County.

## Egg hunts lead into Easter

### BY THE CHRONICLE

It's time once again to get hoppin' as Easter egg hunts and family activities abound around Citrus County this week, leading up to Easter Sunday.

### Egg-streme Flashlight Hunt and Festival

Citrus County Parks and Recreation presents the annual Egg-streme Flashlight Hunt and Festival at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 14, at Bicentennial Park in Crystal River. This free event is an evening Easter Egg Hunt and Festival prior to Good Friday each year.

### Indoor Easter Egg Glow Hunt

River Life Baptist Church will host its indoor Easter Egg Glow Hunt from 6 to 8 p.m.

Friday, April 15. The event is open to children ages 2 to 10. The church is at 2872 W. Dunnellon Road. For information, call 352-489-8455.

### Wildlife park plans Egg-stravaganza

The Friends of Homosassa Springs Wildlife Park will host a Spring Egg-stravaganza starting at 8 a.m. Saturday, April 16, in the field behind the main entrance and Visitors Center of Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park, 4150 S. Suncoast Blvd.

Hundreds of eggs will be available for children to find. Each age group will have

gold and silver eggs, awarding the finder a special prize. Arrive early and visit with the Easter Bunny, bring a basket and create lasting memories.

There is no charge to participate in the Spring Egg-stravaganza. Regular park admission applies for entrance into the wildlife park.

For information, call 352-628-5343 or visit [florida.stateparks.org](http://florida.stateparks.org).

### First Baptist Homosassa egg hunt

First Baptist Church of Homosassa will host an Easter Egg Hunt from

See HUNTS, page A2

## Officials warn: Get ready for hurricane season

ORLANDO (AP) — Emergency preparedness officials on Wednesday warned Floridians not to get complacent during the upcoming hurricane season, particularly in coastal areas that haven't experienced strong storms recently.

Deanne Criswell, administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and Ken Graham, director of the National Hurricane Center, said they worried

that many Floridians living in coastal communities had gotten complacent about making hurricane preparations since there hadn't lived through major storms in recent years.

Some of these coastal communities act like a cat "with nine lives" in that hurricanes seem to be heading their way but then change course at the last minute, lulling residents into believing their neighborhoods

will never be hit, Criswell said at the National Hurricane Conference in Orlando, Florida.

"Complacency worries me," Criswell said. "Disasters don't discriminate. Just because it hasn't hit your neighborhood doesn't mean that it isn't going to hit it this year."

Hurricanes in recent years have intensified more rapidly than they did in the past, giving emergency managers

less time to prepare, and their impacts are being felt well beyond coastal communities, Criswell said.

Forecasters at Colorado State University are predicting that the upcoming Atlantic hurricane season will have 19 named storms and nine hurricanes, slightly higher than the yearly average for the past three decades. The season starts in June and ends in November.

## Animal shelter donation confusion causes vote delay

County has received \$2.1M in donations

By MICHAEL D. BATES  
Chronicle Reporter

County commissioners Tuesday were poised to vote on a \$986,000 design contract for a proposed new animal shelter.

But there was confusion as to where the money would come from to pay for it: the general fund or public donations.

The county has received \$2.1 million in donations. But the board was not sure if that money was to be used for design costs or future facility add-ons.

The confusion was enough that the board tabled the matter. County Administrator Randy Oliver said he should have it straightened out in time for the April 26 meeting.

To date, the county has received \$2,182,390 in donations for the new shelter, not including the \$500,000 pledge from Rep. Ralph Massullo, R-Lecanto.

Commissioner Ruthie Schlabach, who's been leading the charge for this project, told the Chronicle on Wednesday the new shelter has much support in the community. The final size of the new facility is still unknown because the county doesn't have the final engineering plans, she said.

The board last November selected Florida-based Toco Engineering Inc. to handle the design of the facility.

Oliver said the new shelter will be the same size as the existing facility, with the ability for future add-ons such as a cattery, educational room, pole barn, additional kennel. Those add-ons, of course, would depend on funding sources at the time, he said.

County Commission Chairman Ron Kitchen Jr. was the most vocal opponent of the agenda item, citing what he believes is

an exorbitant cost.

"We are now at \$986,000 for design," he said. "Let that sink in people: \$1 million for a design before the first scoop of dirt is turned."

Kitchen said "people I've talked to" are against

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