

# Abortion: Biden blasts 'radical' leaked draft / B1

WEDNESDAY

TODAY & next morning  
HIGH 86  
LOW 68  
Afternoon storms possible.  
PAGE A4

# CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE



www.chronicleonline.com

MAY 4, 2022

Florida's Best Community Newspaper Serving Florida's Best Community

\$1 VOL. 128 ISSUE 124

## IN BRIEF

### Another candidate joins District 2 race

Paul Micheal Grogan, 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.

### Pierson withdraws from House race

Nancy Pierson, a retired sheriff's deputy and the sole Democrat vying for Florida House District 23, withdrew from the race Tuesday.



PIERSON

"Taking care of my family is one of my guiding principles," Pierson said in a statement. "Circumstances have necessitated that I bring my mother from Michigan to Florida so that I can take care of her in my home and avoid placing her in a facility."

The four Republicans running for the seat are incumbent Ralph Massullo, Robert Bagdanovich, Rebecca Bays, Tod Cloud and Paul Reinhardt.

### Coalition halts dental program

The Citrus County Veterans Coalition has put its popular Dental Care Program on hold temporarily. The program, in cooperation with Value Dental in Crystal River, has once again run out of funds. At this point, the coalition has expended \$13,000 on the program.

The program offered up to \$500 per veteran, to be used toward any dental issues at Value Dental. Any expenses over the \$500 limit became the responsibility of the veteran. Due to long delays in the VA dental program, the coalition made the program available for immediate use by local veterans.

To make a donation earmarked for the program, contact Bob Bendel at the CCVC, 352-800-8952.

### Ribbon cutting ceremony for Fort Island Beach

Join Citrus County Parks & Recreation on May 9 at 10:30 a.m. for a ribbon cutting at Fort Island Gulf Beach. This event will celebrate the official opening of the newly installed Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible concrete walkway and beach mat.

200 feet of the concrete walkway are being installed to give ADA accessibility to the north end of the beach; an additional 100 feet of ADA accessible concrete walkway will provide access to the boardwalk. The accessible beach mat will allow an additional 100 feet of access towards the water.

Contingency funds were used to fund \$13,653.51 in construction costs. Installation was performed by Citrus County Grounds Maintenance staff, which kept project costs low.

Contact Citrus County Parks & Recreation at 352-527-7540.

## Countdown to new county administrator

July 12 set for candidate interviews, selection

By MICHAEL D. BATES  
Chronicle Reporter

If the timeline holds, Citrus County will have a new county administrator by Sept. 5.

Now that county commissioners have hired a search firm to conduct the nationwide hunt for Randy Oliver's replacement, the wheels are moving closer

to getting someone on deck before a new commission is on board after the November election. Commissioners last week chose Georgia-based Slavin Management Consultants out of five total consultant applications. Slavin has agreed to do the job for not more than \$24,000.

The board assented to

Commission Chairman Ron Kitchen Jr.'s recommendation to go with Slavin. Kitchen said he chose Slavin after consulting with various government colleagues.

From now through May 24, each commissioner will develop a recruitment profile for Slavin, listing the attributes they want in a candidate.

Commissioner Scott Car-

nahan already expressed what he's looking for: "a clone of Oliver" who rises to his expertise in finances.

After more than seven years on the job, Oliver submitted his resignation and gave the board no later than Nov. 29 to find a replacement.

Other timeline goals:

■ From May 24 to June

24, Slavin will screen candidates and discuss them individually with county commissioners.

■ On July 12, the board will interview the final candidates and make a selection.

■ From July 12 to July 26, the county will negotiate and approved a contract with the new administrator.

■ Sept. 5, the new administrator comes on board.

Michael D. Bates is a staff writer with the Citrus County Chronicle and can be reached at mbates@chronicleonline.com



OLIVER



KITCHEN JR.



CARNAHAN



Photos by Matthew Beck / Chronicle photo editor

W.B. "Doc" Freer has restored this 1927 "T" Track Roadster he has named Courage Remembered. The 2.8-liter V-6 classic car has various scenes incorporated on a wrap on the exterior of the car that commemorates historic times in American war history dating back to World War II.

## A car with a message

Scenes of war on vintage vehicle 'to make people think'

By NANCY KENNEDY  
Chronicle Reporter

W.B. "Doc" Freer is a car guy, always tinkering, always thinking about his next project.

He and his "car guy" friends like to hang out in Freer's garage and talk cars.

Freer is also a veteran, a U.S. Army combat medic who served in Vietnam, logging about 60 missions tending to his comrades injured on the battlefield.

A number of years ago, he had an idea.

He wanted to take a vintage car and turn it into a piece of art that would honor the American veterans who served in World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam and the Gulf wars.

Recently, Freer finished his project: a patriotic roadster, an homage to those who served in battle.

Now he's ready to take it on the road to display it at



Korean War and MASH unit images adorn the passenger side of the roadster.

events, festivals, parades, etc.

His plan is to use it as a fundraiser to benefit veterans and other local community causes.

"This is a 1927 Ford T-Track Roadster," he said from his Citrus Springs home. "It came from Troy, Michigan. These were used

primarily as a race car - it has no doors, no roll-up windows."

He and his friends put in a 1974 V-6 motor from a Ford Capri, and the undercarriage is from a 1966 Ford Econoline.

"It's street legal, but it's a very rough riding car," Freer said, which is OK, because

this car is not about the ride, but about the message.

After going through hundreds of photos and artwork from the four wars, Freer chose what he considered the most iconic and meaningful and Ultra Graphics in Homosassa produced a

See ROADSTER, page A5

## Court rules former attorney incompetent to stand trial

Wildwood man accused of threatening judges

By BUSTER THOMPSON  
Chronicle Reporter

Edward Juan Lynum, the Wildwood 46-year-old accused of threatening four judges while a Sumter County attorney, was found incompetent to stand trial on his felony threat charges.

Citrus County Circuit Court Judge Richard Howard made the ruling Tuesday, May 3, after Lynum's

lawyer, Charles Vaughn, and Assistant State Attorney Joseph Church said their respective psychologists determined Lynum wasn't competent to stand trial.

"I have to base my ruling on what they have said," the judge told Lynum, who appeared to court via a live video link from the county jail.

Howard ordered for Lynum to be housed at a state-

run mental health facility to be restored to competency before he resumes facing eight counts of issuing threats.

Aug. 23 was scheduled as Lynum's next court date.

"Sometimes it takes at least that long for the restoration to begin," Howard said before asking Lynum if he was taking medication to ease his stressors.

"I have no stress," Lynum replied. "I have no mental issues."

It's alleged Lynum threatened circuit court judges Mary Hatcher, Michelle

Morley, Paul Militello and retired judge Daniel Merritt Sr. in social media postings from October 2019 to July 2020, in an attempt to change the ruling of his prior divorce case.

Authorities arrested Lynum Jan. 5, 2021, at a convenience store in his hometown, and the Florida Supreme Court revoked his license to practice law.

Lynum's case was transferred to Citrus County after a judge granted a change of venue. If convicted as

See COURT, page A2

See CLINIC, page A5

INDEX Classifieds..... B4

Comics..... C6  
Crossword..... B8

Editorial..... A10  
Entertainment..... A4

Horoscope..... C5  
Lottery Numbers..... B3

Movies..... A4  
Obituaries..... A6

TV Listings..... A4  
Weather..... A4

