

TODAY & Tuesday morning
HIGH 83 Mostly sunny in the morning then partly cloudy.
LOW 57

CITRUS COUNTY
CHRONICLE



SO YOU KNOW

- Due to technical failure, the primary email server for the *Citrus County Chronicle* is out of service. In the interim, those wishing to email the *Chronicle* should use these addresses for the following departments:
- Newsroom: newsdeskchronicle@gmail.com.
- Sports: chronicle.sports@hotmail.com.
- Circulation: circulationchronicle@gmail.com.
- Advertising: advertisingchronicle@gmail.com.
- The *Chronicle* regrets the inconvenience.

NEWS BRIEF

Whispering Pines to close tennis courts

The tennis courts at Whispering Pines Park in Inverness will be closed from March 20 through April 12 for light retrofitting. For details, call the city of Inverness Parks & Recreation Department at 352-726-3913.

INSIDE

LOCAL EFFORTS: Give blood

Find out where the LifeSouth Bloodmobile will be parked for donations during upcoming weeks. / Page A5

ONLINE POLL: Your choice?

What's your opinion on daylight-saving time?
A. I'd like lawmakers to abandon it for one year then let voters decide if it'd be good to make that permanent.
B. The time change is in the best interest of public safety.
C. I hate it because I can never figure out how to set the clock in my vehicle.
 To vote, visit www.chronicleonline.com. Click on the word "Opinion" in the menu to see the poll. Results will appear next Monday. Find last week's online poll results. / Page A4

COMING UP

COMING TOMORROW: Beach work

County closes Fort Island Gulf Beach to add more sand. / Tuesday

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Welcome back, Dennis

Wandering yet well known, missing man returns from Tallahassee

CATHY KAPULKA
Staff Writer

PINE RIDGE — Those who helped with the search for Dennis Williams, 52, a developmentally disabled man who went missing Feb. 18, were more than happy when they heard the news he was found safe and sound in Tallahassee. They decided to throw a party

in his honor to welcome the much-loved man back to Citrus County.

Williams was reported missing to the Citrus County Sheriff's Office on Monday, Feb. 20, after he did not show up for his volunteer job at Nature Coast Ministries two days prior.

Marianne Parker, the ministries' office manager and See WELCOME/Page A7



Dennis Williams, 52, center, is welcomed home by Marianne Parker, left, and Linda Shaffer in Pine Ridge on Sunday. Williams, who's developmentally disabled, was found March 2 after he went missing Feb. 18.

CATHY KAPULKA /Chronicle

Life interrupted



DAVE SIGLER/Chronicle

Peggy Gause was traveling to Charleston, S.C., with her husband, daughter and granddaughter when they were involved in a tragic crash. Gause survived the accident, but her husband, Rodney Gause, and her daughter Elizabeth did not. Her granddaughter Bella was also injured. While Gause is still recovering from her serious injuries, she has to deal with the physical and mental scars. While her scars are not visible, the wounds she feels may never heal.

SCARRED FOR LIFE

Whether it's the pale spot on your leg or chin from shaving too close, a jagged red mark from a dog bite, the telltale "zipper" down your torso from open-heart surgery or any number of marks on your body we call scars, each one has a story behind it — how it got there.

Some scars and the stories behind them are life-altering. Today concludes the *Chronicle's* series of stories about local people whose scars drastically changed their lives.

'If only' — thoughts haunt wreck survivor

NANCY KENNEDY
Staff Writer

— HOMOSASSA er youngest daughter, Elizabeth, was about to be married.

The invitations had been sent, the dress ready to be worn. Peggy Gause, her husband Rodney, 21-year-old Elizabeth and 3-year-old Bella, Elizabeth's daughter, were on their way to Charleston, S.C. Elizabeth's fiancé, Patrick, was graduating from the Citadel.

It was May 6 of last year: The wedding was to be in three weeks, Memorial Day weekend.

They had stopped to eat at a Cracker Barrel, 20 minutes from their motel.

It was raining, but not hard. They were happy, excited. Patrick was graduating, Bella was going to be a flower girl at her mom's wedding.

Everything changed in an instant.

“The next thing I knew, I woke up to my daughter screaming, ‘Where’s Bella?’ That’s a mother’s instinct when you hear your child scream,” said Peggy Gause, 60, from her daughter Sara’s home in Homosassa.

“My husband was slumped over, and he was moving his finger back and forth. That was our signal that meant, ‘Settle down; everything’s OK.’ That’s all I remember,” she said.

Small scar, big change in life story

NANCY KENNEDY
Staff Writer

CITRUS SPRINGS — If the size of the scar determined the scope of its impact on a person's life, then the one on Jerry Husfelt's lower back shouldn't even be worth mentioning.

Just four inches, pale white, and after 14 years, hardly noticeable.

But a back injury and subsequent surgery left him with a permanent four-inch reminder that sometimes the plans we make can be interrupted and forever altered in an instant.

“All I ever wanted to be was a cop, ever since I was a kid,” said 40-year-old Husfelt from his home in Citrus Springs. “I had friends whose dads were cops, and my first father-in-law was with the Philly highway patrol. He bought my gun for me.”

At 18, his plans to go into law enforcement took a slight detour when his son was born and he and his first wife got married. He needed to work to support his new family and trained as a certified nursing assistant.

He went to work at a nursing home facility in Inverness, along with his wife and both of his parents.

But he still wanted to be a cop. When he was able to swing it, while continuing his day job, Husfelt enrolled in the law enforcement academy at Withlacoochee Technical Institute, putting in the long hours and graduating proudly in 1994.

After putting in applications wherever he could, one day he got a call from the Crystal River Police Department offering him a position. He was ecstatic. He was finally going to do what he had dreamed of



DAVE SIGLER/Chronicle

Jerry Husfelt was young and strong, working his way through the police academy and hoping to follow the career he was sure was his calling. His life changed in a fraction of a second when he slipped and fell, injuring his lower back while working at a nursing home. After surgery, he was not able to return to the academy — casting his life in a whole new direction.

all his life.

About a week or so later, Nov. 2, 1996, as he delivered meal trays to

patients, he stepped on wet carpeting — maintenance had just

See CHANGE/Page A5

See SURVIVOR/Page A5

Stuck on history

For a century before Revolution, underground railroad ran south

Associated Press

CHARLESTON, S.C. — While most Americans are familiar with the Underground Railroad that helped Southern slaves escape north before the Civil War, the first clandestine path to freedom ran for more than a century in the opposite direction.

Stories of that lesser-known "railroad" will be shared June 20 to 24 at the National Underground Railroad Conference in St. Augustine, Fla. The network of sympathizers gave refuge to those fleeing their masters, including many American Indians who helped slaves escape to what was then the Spanish territory of Florida. That lasted from shortly after the founding of Carolina Colony in 1670 to after the American Revolution.

They escaped not only to the South but to Mexico, the Caribbean and the American West.

And the "railroad" helps to explain at least in part why the lasting culture of slave descendants — known as Gullah in South Carolina and Geechee in Florida and Georgia — exists along the northeastern Florida coast.

"It's a fascinating story and most people in America are stuck — they are either stuck on 1964 and the Civil Rights Act or they are stuck on the Civil War," said Derek Hankerson, who is a Gullah descendant and a small business owner in St. Augustine. "We have been hankering to share these stories."

Because there are few records, it's unknown how many African slaves may have escaped along the railroad. But the dream of freedom in Florida did play a role in the 1739 Stono Rebellion outside Charleston,

the largest slave revolt in British North America.

Slaves likely started fleeing toward Florida when South Carolina was established in 1670, said Jane Landers, a Vanderbilt University historian who has researched the subject extensively. The first mention of escaped slaves in Spanish records was in 1687 when eight slaves, including a nursing baby, showed up in St. Augustine.

Spain refused to return them and instead gave them religious sanctuary, and that policy was formalized in 1693. The only condition is those seeking sanctuary convert to Catholicism.

"It was a total shift in the geopolitics of the Caribbean and after that anyone who leaves a Protestant area to request sanctuary gets it," Landers said.

That promise of freedom played an important role in the Stono Rebellion, when a group of about 20 slaves raided a store, collecting guns and other weapons, in September 1739.

Mark Smith, a historian at the University of South Carolina, said the slave leaders were from what is now Angola in Africa. They were Catholic, because their homeland was at the time a Portuguese outpost. And they are thought to have been soldiers in their native land.

They would have known about the rumor of freedom in Spanish Florida and decided to start the revolt Sept. 9, the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

"They have a white flag, which is not a flag of surrender. It's a flag of celebrating Mary, and they shout 'Liberty.' They are not revolting just as slaves, but as Catholic slaves," Smith said.

At least 20 whites were killed in the rebellion. The militia later caught up with the slaves and 34 of them were killed. Some who escaped were found and executed later, although some apparently made it to safety in Florida because there are reports of more slaves arriving in St. Augustine in the ensuing days, Landers said.

Gullah creole is still spoken in churches in northeastern Florida, Landers said.

Hankerson, who grew up with stories of the Underground Railroad, said escaped slaves got help from American Indian tribes including the Creeks, the Cherokees and the Yemassee. They also advanced deeper into Florida and found refuge with the Seminoles.

Except for about 20 years when the British held St. Augustine between the end of the French and Indian War and the end of the American Revolution, the Spanish policy of sanctuary remained in effect until 1790 when Secretary of



A roadside marker stands March 14 along U.S. 17 west of Charleston, S.C. The marker is near the site of where the Stono Rebellion, the largest slave insurrection in British North America, took place in 1739.

Escaped slaves ... advanced deeper into Florida and found refuge with the Seminoles.

State Thomas Jefferson convinced the Spanish crown to end it. Many runaways escaped amid the chaos and violence of the revolution, and keeping that corridor open could have drained the Southern colonies of slaves, Landers said.

Unlike the Underground Railroad going north, the early network was more informal: Neither the slaves nor the indigenous tribes who helped them left written records, and there was no church structure like the Quakers organizing the ef-

fort, Landers said. It's unknown exactly how many stayed among the American Indians or how many died.

The British saw slaves as property and labor for their plantations and offered rewards for their return.

By contrast, Landers said, "the Spanish believe the indigenous people and Africans could be converted and as such were humans and had families and souls to save."

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Remedies for easing pain at gas pump

I got pain, you got pain — pain at the pump.

With gas prices rising daily, it's a pain that's not going to go away any time soon, and complaining and throwing a hissy fit won't change anything. (I've tried.)

Thanks to a visit with Mike Baker, service manager at Nick Nicholas Ford, and a nice lady on the phone at AAA, I learned some things that might bring some gas pain relief.

■ **Control your right foot.** Baker said a driver's right foot is the biggest contributor to poor fuel economy.

"How you drive will affect it more than anything else," he said. He said anything over 55 or 60 miles per hour drops fuel economy,



**Nancy Kennedy
 STUFF YOU
 SHOULD
 KNOW**

so watch your speed. Also, using cruise control, while convenient, uses steady acceleration on the gas pedal.

"Without it, you can back your foot off the gas pedal," he said.

■ **Lighten your load.** If you don't need it, don't haul it.

Don't keep a bunch of bricks or books in your trunk or use your car as a storage locker. The more weight you carry, the more fuel the vehicle uses.

Also, Baker said, things like mud flaps or anything that changes the aerodynamics of the vehicle and causes drag will cause the gas gauge to go down more quickly.

■ **Maintenance 101:** Don't neglect it.

I told Baker I really, really hated

paying for things like fuel and air filters because if you can't wear, drink or eat it, what fun is that? He said, "Yes, but," and then explained without proper maintenance I would end up spending even more at the pump and in repair bills.

He added keeping tire pressure consistent will help with fuel efficiency.

Rita Armstrong, the nice lady at AAA, said to check your brakes. If they're not properly adjusted, they can create drag, which wastes gas.

■ **Gas with ethanol** — good for corn growers, bad for car owners. "The biggest problem is the quality of the fuel they're selling is not good, regardless of the price," Baker said. "The ethanol that's in the fuel doesn't burn as well as gasoline, so it leaves deposits and gives you poor fuel economy."

To counterbalance it, there are additives you can add to your gas tank, either at the pump (like at

Wal-Mart when the music goes "do-do-do-do" and a voice asks if you want to get better gas mileage press here), or you can buy a bottle of it at an auto parts store.

"It adds to your fuel expense, but it improves the fuel quality," Baker said.

There are a few gas stations in the county that sell fuel without ethanol, but it costs more.

■ **Don't pump when hot.** This doesn't refer to your temper, but the outside temperature, Armstrong said.

"Try not to fill your tank at the hottest point of the day," she said. "Cooler temperatures keep gasoline at its densest state, giving you more gas for your money."

She added, "Consider the 'half-empty' mark on your gas gauge as 'empty.' The emptier the tank, the more it expands and the more gas you'll need to fill it."

Plus, it won't hurt as much to

pay \$20 rather than \$40 or \$50.

Also, many stations charge less if you pay cash than if you use a credit or debit card, but that usually requires that you pay first. As with everything, you pay extra for convenience.

■ **Eat more fish** (or chicken or bread or cheese).

We like to buy fish from Harry in the seafood department at Winn-Dixie in Inverness, and while there on a recent visit I was introduced to Winn-Dixie's "fuelperks!" feature on the store's customer reward card. For every \$50 spent, you can save 5 cents or more per gallon (maximum of 20 gallons) at Shell.

Is there stuff you want to know about? Have stuff you think people should know? Email your ideas to nkennedy@chronicleonline.com for consideration.

Around the COUNTY

March food drive benefits pantry

The Citrus County Tax Collector's Office is sponsoring a food drive during March to collect nonperishable foods for We Care Food Pantry.

Collection boxes are located at both offices in Inverness and Crystal River: Courthouse Annex, 201 N. Apopka Ave. in Inverness, or the West Citrus Government Center, 1540 N. Meadowcrest Blvd. in Crystal River. The public is invited to donate canned goods and non-perishable food when coming to register a car, obtain a driver's license or conduct business with any of the offices at either site.

The outreach is being done in conjunction with the Agriculture Council of America's celebration of Agriculture Awareness in March. To spotlight agriculture's contribution to Citrus County, a display that showcases what makes up Citrus County agriculture and where our food actually comes from is located at the tax collector's office in the Meadowcrest West Citrus Government Center.

The tax collector's office is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

SOWW group will meet March 19

Citrus 20/20 Inc. Save Our Waters Week Committee will meet at 10 a.m. Monday, March 19, Room 219, Lecanto Government Center, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, off County Road 491.

The meeting's purpose is to plan and coordinate activities for Citrus County's annual Save Our Waters Week in September. All interested organizations and individuals are welcome to attend.

For information, call Lace Blue-McLean at 352-344-5955.

Parade of Homes runs through April 1

The 2012 Spring Parade of Homes for Citrus and Hernando counties, presented by exclusive platinum sponsor Florida Public Utilities, began March 17 and runs through the end April 1.

The 2012 Parade of Homes features 11 entries at scattered sites throughout Citrus and Hernando counties. Models will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sundays.

Official Parade of Homes guides can be obtained from the *Citrus County Chronicle* on Sunday, March 25, or the current edition of the *Nature Coast Real Estate* magazine. Official guides can also be picked up at the Citrus County Builders Association, 1196 S. Lecanto Highway, Lecanto, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

For information and an interactive map, visit www.CitrusParadeofHomes.com or call 352-746-9028.

—From staff reports

Sharing shelter

Local insurance agent receives presidential honor

SHEMIR WILES
Staff Writer

CRYSTAL RIVER — Ryan Lampasona doesn't do the work he does for ShelterBox USA to be recognized.

But the Crystal River State Farm insurance agent can't help but be proud and thankful for recently receiving a President's Volunteer Service Award for his work with ShelterBox.

"It was nice. Nice recognition," he said Friday.

Lampasona is a member of the ShelterBox Response Team (SRT), a highly trained group of volunteers who deliver on-the-ground aid to survivors of natural and other disasters around the world.

ShelterBox teams try to enter an affected area to distribute boxes within 48 to 72 hours of the disaster. A ShelterBox provides a 10-person tent, mosquito nets, cooking utensils, a tool kit, thermal blankets, waterproof ponchos and bin bags, a stove, collapsible water containers, water purification tablets and a children's supply kit.

Last year, Lampasona traveled to the Eastern Horn of Africa, a region that was experiencing the worst drought it had seen in 60 years. Millions of families had been affected by massive water and food shortages, the drought and ongoing conflict in war-torn Somalia, which caused many to flee their homes and relocate to refugee camps in Kenya and Ethiopia.

Lampasona spent his days setting up tents in Dadaab, Kenya, the location of one of the largest refugee camps in the world.

In addition to responding when disaster strikes, Lampasona spends a great deal of time raising awareness and funds for ShelterBox.

"It's as important as being on the front lines," he said.

Through Lampasona's efforts, the organization provided more than 17,600 ShelterBoxes to families throughout the world in 2011. Areas were affected by the tornadoes in the southern United States, drought and famine in East Africa, widespread flooding in the Philippines and subsequent earthquakes in Turkey, according to a news release.

Lampasona said donations kept ShelterBox alive. During the slow storm season, he said he has shared stories and spoken to various groups and organizations



Ryan Lampasona coordinates logistics for ShelterBox USA. Since 2000, ShelterBox had provided shelter, warmth and dignity to more than 80 countries following more than 170 disasters. Lampasona, a member of the ShelterBox Response Team (SRT), recently received a President's Volunteer Service Award for his work with ShelterBox.

Special to the Chronicle

about the importance of the ShelterBox organization.

All the while, he remains on call to respond anytime a major catastrophic event happens in the world that calls for disaster relief.

"I am truly proud to honor our volunteers, who work hard year-round to support ShelterBox and our efforts to help families re-

build their lives across the globe," said Emily Sperling, ShelterBox USA president. "It's because of the continuous efforts of our volunteers such as Ryan that we are able to help so many vulnerable families each year."

The President's Volunteer Service Award is part of a national recognition program created in 2003 for individuals of all ages who

contribute a significant amount of time to volunteer activities.

Donations to ShelterBox USA can be made at www.shelterboxusa.org, 941-907-6036 or via text message by sending SHELTER to 20222 for a one-time \$10 donation.

Chronicle reporter Shemir Wiles can be reached at 352-564-2924 or swiles@chronicleonline.com.

State BRIEFS

Surgeon general to spend time with wife

DAYTONA BEACH — Florida's outgoing surgeon general said his wife's cancer diagnosis made him want to spend more time with his loved ones.

Dr. Frank Farmer of Ormond Beach resigned March 9 after less than a year as Florida's

surgeon general and secretary of health.

His wife was diagnosed with breast cancer shortly after Gov. Rick Scott appointed him last year. Farmer told *The Daytona Beach News-Journal* his wife's prognosis is good.

Farmer said he accomplished his two goals as surgeon general: curtailing prescription drug

abuse and streamlining the state's health department.

Sharpton plans rally for black teen slain

SANFORD — The Rev. Al Sharpton is planning a rally for a black Florida teenager fatally shot by a white neighborhood watch volunteer.

Sharpton will hold the rally

Thursday at the First Shiloh Baptist Church in Sanford.

No charges have been filed in the February death of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin in a gated community near Orlando.

Martin's family has criticized police for not arresting 28-year-old George Zimmerman, who admitted to shooting the teen but said he fired in self-defense.

Zimmerman had called police to report a suspicious person walking through the neighborhood.

The teen had gone to a convenience store for candy. Martin's family said 911 calls show the teen was terrified as he tried to flee Zimmerman.

—From wire reports

ONLINE POLL RESULTS

QUESTION: How do you feel about multi-story buildings in Citrus County?

- Anything beyond three stories is undesirable and doesn't fit in with the character of the county. 47 percent (34 votes)
It's past time to accept that buildings four stories and greater are logical for any growing community. 22 percent (16 votes)
They're OK, except in and around waterfront areas. 15 percent (11 votes)
They're desirable on waterfront properties to minimize the footprint while allowing increased density. 15 percent (11 votes)
Total votes: 72.

HOW YOUR LAWMAKERS VOTED

Key votes for the week ending: March 16 By Voterama in Congress

- \$109 Billion for Transportation: Senators voted, 74-22, to authorize federally funded road, bridge, highway-safety and transit programs through September 2013...
Natural Gas Vehicles: Senators failed, 51-47, to get 60 votes for amending S 1813...
Devolution to States: Senators defeated, 30-67, a bid to devolve most federal transportation programs...
Stores on Interstate Highways: Senators refused, 12-86, to allow states to provide food and shopping at rest stops...
Key votes ahead: In the week of March 19, the Senate will debate a bill that uses financial deregulation to help small and mid-sized businesses raise capital.

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Help available to complete tax forms

Special to the Chronicle

AARP Tax-Aide will provide free income tax form preparation and electronic filing services in Citrus County again this year.

AARP Tax-Aide is a nationwide service of the AARP Foundation offered in conjunction with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. It is a volunteer-run program whose mission is to provide high-quality free income tax assistance to low- and middle-income taxpayers with special attention to those 60 and older.

Volunteers are trained locally and certified by the IRS to assist taxpayers in preparing their federal income tax returns. All taxes are prepared using IRS/AARP-provided computers and software and the returns are filed electronically free of charge.

What to bring to the appointment: Social Security cards or comparable documentation for you, your spouse (if applicable), all dependents and anyone listed on your tax return.

An official photo ID (driver's license, passport, student ID or other state-issued photo ID). A copy of your 2010 income tax return, if available. Income-related documents: forms W-2, unemployment compensation

statements, SSA 1099, 1099R and other 1099 forms showing home mortgage interest or other income.

Expense-related documents: receipts, cancelled checks or other documentation showing federal and state taxes paid, 1098 forms, documentation of medical, dental, charity, property taxes, mortgage interest paid, or business expenses. Receipts for expenses need to be in reasonable order and legible.

Brokerage statements or other documentation showing cost basis (purchase price) and date purchased for all securities or property sold or transferred during the tax year. All paperwork related to:

- Health Savings Accounts (HSA);
IRA rollovers, including Form 5498;
The purchase of a home by a first-time buyer;
Purchase and installation of energy-efficient products for a primary residence;
Cancellation of Debt of a credit card(s) or the foreclosure of a primary residence;
Dependent Care Provider information: (name, address, employer ID or SSN) and amount paid;
Documentation of self-employment income and expense (Tax-Aide cannot prepare and e-file your return if expenses exceed \$10,000, or if you had employees, inventory, cost of goods sold, real estate, depreciation or loss from operations.);
A check with your name printed on it for direct deposit/debit of any refund/balance due.

WHERE TO GO

Unless stated otherwise below, all sites are by appointment only; you must go to the library in person to make an appointment; calls are not accepted.

- Central Ridge Library: 425 W. Roosevelt Blvd., Beverly Hills, 352-746-6622; from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Friday through April 13...
Citrus Springs Community Center: 1570 W. Citrus Springs Blvd., Citrus Springs, 352-465-7007; from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Tuesday through April 10...
Coastal Region Library: 8619 W. Crystal St., Crystal River, 352-795-3716; from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. every Thursday through April 12...
Crystal River Moose Lodge: 1855 S. Suncoast Blvd., Homosassa, 352-795-2795; from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Monday and Tuesday through April 16...
Floral City Public Library: 8360 E. Orange Ave., Floral City, 352-726-3671; from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. every Tuesday through April 10...
Homosassa Public Library: 4100 Grandmarch Ave., Homosassa, 352-628-5626; from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. every Wednesday through April 11...
Lakes Region Library: 1511 Druid Road, Inverness, 352-726-2357; from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. every Wednesday through April 11.

rect deposit/debit of any refund/balance due. (A check in your checkbook is acceptable. A cancelled check is not required. It must be a check: no bank statements, deposit slips or other documents will be accepted.)

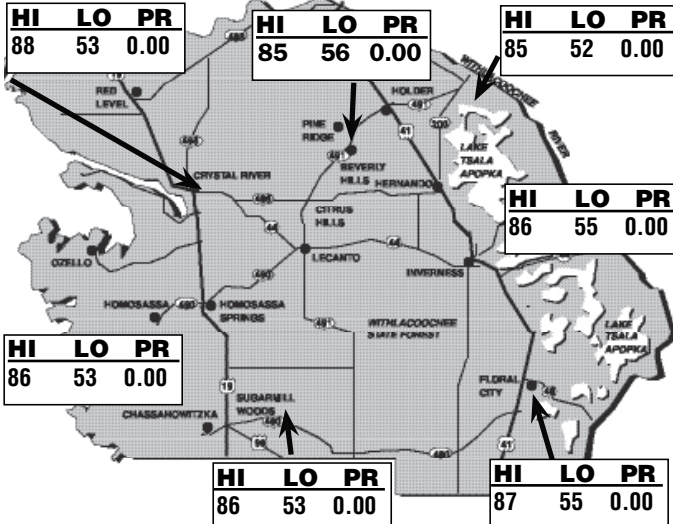
If you receive a pension or annuity from a former employer, bring the date that you began to receive payments. (In some cases, this is required.)

Legal notices in today's Citrus County Chronicle



Miscellaneous Notices.....B12
Notice to Creditors/Administration.....B12
Dissolution of Marriage Notices.....B12
Surplus Property.....B12

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER



FLORIDA TEMPERATURES

Table with 3 columns: City, High (H), Low (L), Forecast (F'cast). Lists temperatures for various Florida cities.

MARINE OUTLOOK

Southeast winds around 10 knots. Seas 2 feet. Bay and inland waters will have a light chop. Partly cloudy today.

Gulf water temperature

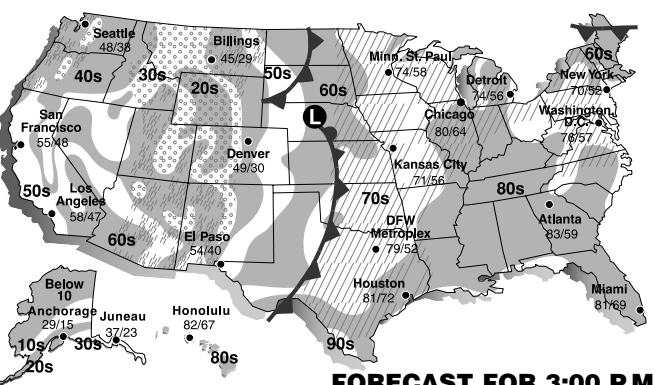
79° Taken at Aripeka

LAKE LEVELS

Table with 4 columns: Location, Sat., Sun., Full. Lists lake levels for Withlacoochee, Apopka-Hernando, Apopka-Inverness, and Apopka-Floral City.

Levels reported in feet above sea level. Flood stage for lakes are based on 2.33-year flood, the mean annual flood which has a 43-percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any one year.

THE NATION



FORECAST FOR 3:00 P.M. MONDAY

Table with 6 columns: City, Sunday H/L Pcp, Monday Fcst H/L, City, Sunday H/L Pcp, Monday Fcst H/L. Lists weather forecasts for major US cities.

YESTERDAY'S NATIONAL HIGH & LOW HIGH 89 Fort Stockton, Texas LOW 17 Bear, Calif.

WORLD CITIES

Table with 3 columns: City, Monday H/L/SKY, Lisbon. Lists weather forecasts for various world cities.

KEY TO CONDITIONS: c=cloudy; dr=driizzle; f=fair; h=hazy; pc=partly cloudy; r=rain; rs=rain/snow mix; s=sunny; sh=showers; sn=snow; ts=thunderstorms; w=windy.

THREE DAY OUTLOOK

Exclusive daily forecast by:



TODAY & TOMORROW MORNING

High: 83 Low: 57 Mostly sunny

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY MORNING

High: 84 Low: 58 Mostly sunny

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY MORNING

High: 84 Low: 58 Mostly sunny

ALMANAC

TEMPERATURE* Sunday 87/51 Record 92/34 Normal 78/50 Mean temp. 69 Departure from mean +5
PRECIPITATION* Sunday 0.00 in. Total for the month 0.56 in. Total for the year 3.79 in. Normal for the year 8.49 in.
UV INDEX: 9 0-2 minimal, 3-4 low, 5-6 moderate, 7-9 high, 10+ very high
BAROMETRIC PRESSURE Sunday at 3 p.m. 30.19 in.

DEW POINT

Sunday at 3 p.m. 57

HUMIDITY

Sunday at 3 p.m. 40%

POLLEN COUNT**

Grasses and weeds were absent and Today's active pollen: Oak, juniper, nettle

Today's count: 10.0/12

Tuesday's count: 10.7

Wednesday's count: 11.1

Sunday was good with pollutants mainly ozone.

SOLUNAR TABLES

Table with 5 columns: DATE, DAY, MINOR (MORNING), MAJOR (AFTERNOON), MINOR MAJOR (AFTERNOON). Lists sunrise and sunset times.

CELESTIAL OUTLOOK

Table with 2 columns: SUNSET TONIGHT, SUNRISE TOMORROW, MOONRISE TODAY, MOONSET TODAY. Lists celestial event times.

BURN CONDITIONS

Today's Fire Danger Rating is: HIGH. There is no burn ban. For more information call Florida Division of Forestry at (352) 754-6777.

WATERING RULES

Citrus County: Irrigation is limited to once per week. Addresses ending in a 0 or 1: Monday, addresses ending in 2 or 3: Tuesday; addresses ending in 4 or 5: Wednesday; addresses ending in 6 or 7: Thursday; addresses ending in 8 or 9: Friday.

TIDES

Table with 5 columns: City, High/Low, Monday, Tuesday. Lists tide times for various locations.

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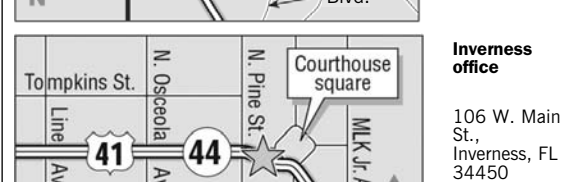
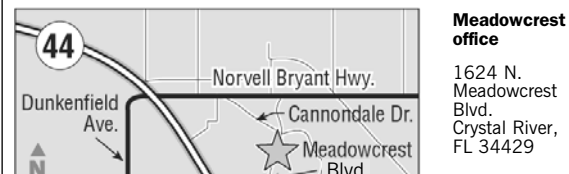
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Where to find us:



Who's in charge:

- Gerry Mulligan..... Publisher, 563-3222
Trina Murphy..... Operations/Advertising Director, 563-3232
Charlie Brennan..... Editor, 563-3225
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CHANGE

Continued from Page A1

shampooed it — and then onto tile.

His feet flew up and over his head as he landed on his upper back.

"I know this sounds crazy, but my wife wouldn't let me see a doctor," he said.

At the time, he was also having some personal problems.

"I had to call Crystal River PD and tell them I couldn't accept the job, which crushed me," he said.

Two years enduring the pain passed, until finally in May 1998 Husfelt saw a doctor and was scheduled for surgery.

"When I had surgery, I knew being a cop wasn't going to happen for me," he said. "My (law enforcement) certification was about to run out."

After he recovered — physically — he returned to work only to fall — again — delivering a breakfast tray — again — on a wet floor — again.

"This time they took me out by ambulance," he said.

He got depressed and ate; his weight ballooned.

"To realize you're not going to do something you've always wanted to do for so long is really crushing," he said. "My life is still not on track; it's not the way I want it."

His marriage broke up, but he met Tina, his current wife, with whom he's happy — happy with his marriage, but not with his career.

After his falls, Husfelt got a \$10,000 settlement, but that didn't last long. Now he works from home, telephone sales. He's a likeable guy, a sunny disposition, talkative and personable.

He can put on the show, but there's a four-inch scar on his back that keeps reminding him of what he almost had and won't ever grasp.

"I've still got the mindset



DAVE SIGLER/Chronicle

Jerry Husfelt displays the area on his back carrying the scar from the fall that changed the course of his life.

"I've even thought about volunteering with Crime Watch — anything to do something. I'm just trying to make ends meet right now, and it's not working."

Jerry Husfelt
injured in 1996.

of a cop," he said.

He still has his handcuffs, police baton and flashlight. He's observant and ready to call the sheriff's office whenever he sees law violations.

He loves watching shows like "CSI." He's always finding ways to "channel his policemen," but it's not the real thing.

"I'd even like a desk job or as dispatch," he said.

He keeps putting in his application, hoping for an opening.

SURVIVOR

Continued from Page A1

Later, she learned someone pulling a trailer had tried to pass in traffic, and when he realized he couldn't, as he pulled back in, the trailer fishtailed and the Gause's car was hit head-on.

"I woke up three and a half weeks later in a hospital in Charleston," Mrs. Gause said.

■■■

If you've been to Ocala, you've seen the Gause name on billboards. The family has owned Gause and Son Jewelers in Ocala for 60 years. Rodney Gause worked with his cousin Jerry at the store in the Paddock Mall.

Peggy Gause worked as a receptionist at Proline Boats and then for radio stations WTRS and WMFQ in Ocala. She grew up in Brooksville. She and Rodney met at the community college in Ocala and had been married for 35 years.

When she woke up from her coma, she asked about her husband. He had moved his finger. He had given her their signal that everything was OK.

She had broken bones and lacerations, wounds all over her body. She had surgery on her shoulder, a rod in her upper left arm. Her left leg looks like someone took a red marker and drew jagged lines willy nilly.

When she woke up, her daughter, Sara, was there — but not her husband and not Elizabeth. Rodney had died at the scene and her daughter the next day.

Bella had suffered only minor injuries.

■■■

For months and months, Peggy Gause has concentrated on learning how to walk again. She spent her 60th birthday in a rehab center in Brooksville. Her scars are still red, but they're healing.

"On Sunday, I was packing some things from the house and I didn't think it would bother me, but then I saw one of my husband's favorite coffee mugs ... Elizabeth was filling her hope chest and I saw some of that stuff and it really got to me."

Peggy Gause

speaking of her husband, Rodney, and daughter Elizabeth who died in a car wreck in May 2011.

John Travolta and his wife Kelly sent her a huge bouquet of flowers. Old high school classmates from Hernando High School and cousins from Brooksville came to see her daily.

"Now it's more the emotional scars that I'm working on," she said. "When I was in rehab, I was busy; I didn't have time to think about the other stuff. Now I do. I had to go through all the firsts without them — his birthday (Aug. 4), Thanksgiving, Christmas."

Of losing a husband and a child together, she said she thinks about them daily, grieving for them separately. Losing a spouse is different from losing a child.

"My sister in Oregon, she's a widow too. 'Widow' — it's a strange word to get used to," she said. "My sister's coming back to Florida and we're getting a duplex together here in Homosassa."

"On Sunday, I was packing some things from the house and I didn't think it would bother me, but then I saw one of my husband's favorite coffee mugs ... Elizabeth was filling her hope chest and I saw some of that stuff and it really got to me," she said.

Gause is realizing that sometimes when you touch a scar, the memory of the pain from the original injury returns. It hasn't even been a year and it still hurts.

"It's getting better," she said. "It is."

She said she copes by taking one day at a time.

"I know that's an old cliché, but it works for me," she said. "I can't go into the future."

She reads a lot to keep her mind occupied. Her sister told her moving in together will be a "new adventure" for them.

"That's how I'm looking at it," she said. "I need to see it that way to move on."

■■■

Only 10 months since the accident, it's too soon to know how Gause's scars will heal, although all scars do eventually heal. She's afraid to drive, and she sometimes catches her mind wandering into "if only." At Cracker Barrel, they always looked through the country store for a few minutes after they ate, but they didn't this one time. If only they had, things would be so different.

"We were just 20 minutes away," she said. "But if I keep thinking like that, I'd go crazy."

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Associated Press

In this Oct. 8, 2010, file photo U.S. Supreme Court justices pose for a photo at the Supreme Court in Washington. Four Republican-appointed justices — front row from left, Antonin Scalia, Chief Justice John Roberts, Anthony M. Kennedy and top right, Samuel Alito Jr. — control the fate of President Barack Obama's health care overhaul. At top left is Justice Stephen Breyer.

4 GOP-appointed justices control health law's fate

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Here's a thought that can't comfort President Barack Obama: The fate of his health care overhaul rests with four Republican-appointed Supreme Court justices.

His most sweeping domestic achievement could be struck down if they stand together with Justice Clarence Thomas, another GOP appointee who is the likeliest vote against.

But the good news for Obama is he probably needs only one of the four to side with him to win approval of the law's crucial centerpiece, the requirement that almost everyone in this country has insurance or pays a penalty.

Lawyers with opposing views of the issue uniformly agree the four Democratic-appointed justices, including Obama's two picks, Elena Kagan and Sonia Sotomayor, will have no trouble concluding that Congress did not overstep its authority in adopting the insurance requirement aimed at sharply reducing the now 50 million people without insurance.

On the other side, Thomas has made clear in several cases he does not take an expansive view of Congress' powers.

Both the Obama administration and the health care law's challengers believe they can attract the other four Republicans to their side. The group includes Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito, the two appointees of President George W. Bush who have swung the court to the right in a number of areas; conservative stalwart Antonin Scalia; and the less doctrinaire Anthony Kennedy.

There is no consensus in the legal and academic worlds which way the court will go or even how each of those four justices will vote. The court has set aside six hours over three days, beginning March 26, to hear arguments.

But a legal challenge, once seen as improbable at best, now has everyone's attention, partly because the justices find it weighty enough to devote six hours over three days to hearing the case. That's the most time for any issue in more than 45 years.

"Arguments that once seemed outlandish don't seem quite so outlandish anymore," said University of Michigan law professor Nicholas Bagley, a health law expert who says the law should be upheld.

The fight over the law has played out in starkly partisan terms. It passed Congress without a Republican vote. All the GOP presidential candidates have called for its repeal.

Some supporters of the law worry about the high court's decision because a simi-

lar partisan split, with a few important exceptions, has emerged in the lower courts.

"I think as a constitutional matter, this should be an easy case," said Erwin Chemerinsky, a liberal scholar and dean of the law school at the University of California, Irvine. "But every judge appointed by a Republican president, with two exceptions, has voted to strike the law down. And every judge appointed by a Democratic president, with one exception, has voted to uphold the law. Thus, the real issue is whether the Republican-appointed justices will overcome ideology and vote to uphold the law."

Among lawyers who appear regularly before the Supreme Court, Carter Phillips of Sidley Austin LLP offered a fairly typical response in predicting the court is more likely to uphold the law than strike it down. But he was far from certain.

"I have no doubt that if the court strikes down the statute, it will be 5-4," Phillips said. "But if the court upholds the statute, it would not shock me if the decision turned out not to be 5-4. I would be somewhat surprised if Justices Thomas and Scalia both did not vote to strike down the law, but I certainly believe that Justice Alito and the chief" could vote to sustain it.

In the view of Phillips and other lawyers, Kennedy is the most likely Republican to vote in favor of the law. He often provides the decisive vote in cases that divide the court by ideology.

But his record in cases involving Congress' constitutional power to regulate commerce offers both sides some hope. Kennedy was part of the majority that struck down a federal law prohibiting people from carrying guns in or near schools. That 1995 ruling was the first time since the New Deal that the court limited Congress' power under the Commerce Clause.

The 26 states and private parties challenging the health care law peppered their briefs with references to Kennedy's writing in the guns case and another decision, from 2010, in which he took a narrower view than the majority of Congress' power to act in an area not spelled out in the Constitution. The court upheld Congress' authority to continue to hold inmates considered "sexually dangerous" even after they completed their prison terms.

At the same time, however, Kennedy said in a concurring opinion in the guns case, "Congress can regulate in the commercial sphere on the assumption that we have a single market and a unified purpose to build a stable national economy." The Obama administration says Kennedy could have been describing health care, which makes up 17 percent of the U.S. economy.

Obituaries

Jacalene 'Jackie' Birmingham, 75

HERNANDO

Jacalene Ann "Jackie" Birmingham, 75, Hernando, died suddenly March 15, 2012, in Emporia, Virginia.

A native of Middleboro, MA, she was born May 7, 1936, to the late William and Gertrude Mcbane and moved to Florida in 1995 from New Hampshire.

Jackie was a retired Registered Nurse and attended St. Scholastic Catholic Church in Lecanto.

She is survived by her husband of 54 years, Paul J. Birmingham; her son, Paul Jr. of Tamworth, NH; 1 brother and sister, William J. McBane Jr. of Emporia, KS, and Mae Wilson of Baton Rouge, LA; 1 grandson, Geoffrey.

Funeral services will be conducted on Wednesday, March 21, at 10 a.m. from Chas E. Davis Funeral Home of Inverness. Cremation arrangements will follow. The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 9 a.m. until the hour of service on Wednesday.

Sign the guest book at www.chronicleonline.com.

Edward Lee, 65

INVERNESS

Mr. Edward Wilson Lee, 65, of Inverness, died Monday, March 12, 2012, in Inverness.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Inverness Chapel of Hooper Funeral Home and Crematory.

Helen Tyson, 8

KISSIMMEE

Helen Tyson, 89, Kissimmee, formerly of Hernando, died Friday, March 16, 2012, at home.

Graveside services at Florida National Cemetery at a later date.

William Whittaker Jr., 69

BEVERLY HILLS

William Francis Whittaker Jr., age 69, Beverly Hills, died Thursday, March 15, 2012, at Citrus Memorial Health System.

William was born on November 16, 1942, in Worcester, MA, to the late William F. and Marion (Healey) Whittaker. He was employed as a physicist for Raytheon for many years as a military contractor. He enjoyed working in electronics and with computers. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus.

He is survived by his loving wife of 44 years, Marilyn Whittaker; his son, Norm, and his wife, Elena Whittaker, New Hampshire; two grandchildren; two sisters, Frances Whittaker, Florida, and Patricia and her husband, Paul Flury, Auburn, MA; one aunt, Alice Rea; and many cousins.

The family invites friends to share in a Celebration of Life Service for William on Monday, March 19, 2012 (today) at 11 a.m. at the Beverly Hills Community Church, 82 Civic Circle. Chas. E. Davis Funeral Home with Crematory is assisting the family with arrangements.

Sign the guest book at www.chronicleonline.com.



Jacalene Birmingham



William Whittaker

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- Deadline is 3 p.m. for obituaries to appear in the next day's edition.

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CATHY KAPULKA/Chronicle

Those who helped with the search for Dennis Williams, who was found in Tallahassee after missing for almost two weeks, gather around him for a group photo during a welcome home party in Pine Ridge on Sunday.

WELCOME

Continued from Page A1

“ I didn't think anyone would miss me, not that bad. ”

Dennis Williams

rode his bicycle to Tallahassee to visit a friend.

volunteer, said it was not unusual for him to disappear for a couple of days, but very strange for him to “just not show up.” This had Parker and other volunteers extremely worried.

They worked numerous hours searching Citrus County, putting up missing person posters and worrying more as each day passed by.

On Thursday, March 1, Juan Santiago, a detective with the Citrus County Sheriff's Office, electronically sent out a missing person flier to other police forces.

Santiago said Williams was found in a park by the Tallahassee Police Department within 24 hours after posting the alert.

Parker said she was overjoyed when she got the call on March 2 from Santiago, saying Williams was alive and in Tallahassee.

She and her husband, Bill, wasted no time. They jumped in their truck and headed straight there, all the while not knowing if Williams would be willing to come back, she said.

They found Williams standing in line waiting to get dinner at the Grace Mission Episcopal Church, which provides assistance to the homeless.

“I jumped out of the vehicle and ran over to him, hugged him, and then slapped his arm, (and asked) where have you been?” she said. “He replied, ‘here.’”

“Don't you ever do this again,” she said describing the situation somewhat like scolding a lost child after finding him in the grocery store. “We were worried sick.”

“I don't think she even took a breath when she got to me,” Williams said.

She said she kindly explained to him how much the people at the mission loved and needed him.

“She didn't ask me if I was coming home,” Williams said. “She said ‘get in the truck, you're coming home!’”

She said Williams reluctantly gave in and agreed to return to Citrus County, but not before helping with breakfast the next day at the Grace Mission, because he had promised.

“There was no way anyone could prevent him from fulfilling a promise,” she said. “I told him that was no problem, and we would come back in the morning at 8 a.m. We actually came back at 7 a.m. because I didn't want to risk missing him.”

The next morning they found Williams cutting celery and onions at the mission. When he saw the Parkers, he dropped the vegetables, grabbed his backpack and headed to the door ready to head for home with the couple.

Williams said the reason he went to Grace Mission was to check on Pastor Mike at the church who recently underwent surgery to install an artificial cardiac pacemaker. Williams was wor-

ried about him and knew him from time he spent volunteering at the mission in the past.

He said Pastor Mike meant a great deal to him, so much that he road his bicycle all the way to Tallahassee to see him.

“I figure it was only a couple of days anyway,” Williams said. “I didn't think anyone would miss me, not that bad. They had my picture plastered all over the place, all over Citrus County, stores restaurants, everything.”

Williams vowed that the next time he decides to leave he would let someone know.

“I will write it in the sky,” he said. “It's good to be back. I mean look at all the family here.”

“It's pretty clear that Dennis would have been fine in Tallahassee,” Parker added. “But the truth is we at the center would not have been.”

Chronicle reporter Cathy Kapulka can be reached at 352-564-2922 or ckapulka@chronicleonline.com.

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Food PROGRAMS

Alan Shawn Feinstein will add money to donations given to the **Beverly Hills Community Church's Food Pantry**. Donations must be received through April 30, and can include cash, checks, and/or food items.

The more donations made to the food pantry, the more Feinstein money will be added to the donation.

The next food distribution at the church is from 11 a.m. to noon and 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 27.

To qualify for assistance, you must be a Beverly Hills resident with identification.

The church office needs to be notified at least a week ahead of time, if requiring food, to ensure its availability. Call the church office at 352-746-3620, or stop by, to make a reservation by Tuesday, March 20. There is an initial registration for each recipient.

■ Suncoast Baptist Church, 5310 S. Suncoast Blvd., Homosassa Springs, has its food pantry open from 8 a.m. to noon the second Wednesday monthly for pre-bagged food. Free bread is available from 8 a.m. to noon Wednesdays. This is for Homosassa people in need only.

■ Floral City United Methodist Church hosts a free breakfast from 7 to 9 a.m. Tuesdays in Hilton Hall, 8478 E. Marvin St., across from the elementary school. All are welcome. For more information, call 352-344-1771.

■ Daystar Life Center's Food Pantry is open to Citrus County residents from 9 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Monday through Friday (excluding holidays) at 6751 W. Gulf-to-Lake Highway, Crystal River (across from the Publix shopping center). Applicants will be given an interview for food after a photo ID and Social Security cards for all family members are provided. Call 352-795-8668.

■ Hernando Seventh-day Adventist Church, at 1880 N. Trucks Ave., Hernando, provides food distribution for needy families through its food pantry, open from 10 a.m. to noon the second and fourth Tuesdays monthly. Please have proper photo identification available at the first request for food. For information, call 352-212-5159.

■ Nature Coast Ministries' food pantry is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. The office is at 999 State Road 44 in Crystal River (next to RaceTrac in the old Skidmore building). Call 352-563-1860.

■ SOS Ministry food pantry is open from 9 a.m. to noon Thursday at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 439 E. Norvell Bryant Highway (County Road 486), opposite the entrance to Citrus Hills.

Call 352-527-0052 or 352-746-7161. If new to the program, bring driver's license and Social Security cards for all family members for initial registration. Food is distributed according to family size.

■ St. Anne's Anglican Church food pantry opens from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. daily in the administration building.

■ Citrus United Basket (CUB) food pantry is open to all underserved Citrus County residents from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday at 103 Mill Ave, Inverness (east of the new courthouse).

Participants must provide proof of income, photo ID and Social Security numbers for each family member. Contact CUB at 352-344-2242 or cublisa@embarqmail.com.

■ First Baptist Church of Crystal River has its food pantry open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. The church is at 700 N. Citrus Ave., Crystal River. For information, call 352-795-3367.

■ Our Lady of Fatima's Food Pantry, at 604 U.S. 41 S., is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday to Friday. Proper photo ID, proof of residence and interview are required for assistance to needy residents of Floral City, Hernando and Inverness. Call 352-726-1707.

■ First United Methodist Church of Inverness God's Kitchen serves from 11:30 a.m. to noon Mondays in the fellowship hall, 3896 S. Pleasant Grove Road. A bus is available for transportation to the church on Mondays.

Call 352-726-2522.

■ The New Church Without Walls gives free food boxes away at 5 p.m. Mondays at the

SO YOU KNOW

- Submit information or changes for this feature via email to community@chronicleonline.com or fax to 352-563-3280, attention "Food Programs."
- The *Chronicle* reserves the right to edit notices.
- It is the responsibility of the organizations listed here to provide information and updates about their programs. Contact the groups directly for details.
- For additional information about health and human resources available in Citrus County, call 211.

neighborhood park in Hernando off Railroad Drive where feeding the homeless takes place. Call 352-344-2425.

■ Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church food pantry is open from 9 to 10 a.m. the third Tuesday monthly at 6 Roosevelt Blvd.

Food is distributed on right side of parish office garage area. Parking is available in right parking field next to garage area.

Pantry is open to those who truly qualify for this program. No vouchers or financial aid given. Call Anna at 352-527-2381 or the church at 352-746-2144.

Please have proper photo ID available at the time of the request for food.

For information, call 352-212-5159.

■ El-Shaddai food ministries "brown bag of food" distribution takes place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays at Crystal River Church of God, 2180 W. 12th Ave., behind the former Lincoln Mercury dealership.

Although food is distributed once a week, families are only eligible for food once a month. For information, call 352-628-9087 or 352-302-9925. The USDA is an equal-opportunity provider.

■ Citrus County Veterans Coalition operates a Veterans Food Bank for Citrus County veterans and their family members in need. The Veterans Food Bank has moved to its new location, opposite the Disabled American Veterans building at 1039 N. Paul Drive, Inverness.

This is the only location authorized to accept or distribute food staples for the CCVC Veterans Food Bank. Food distribution is from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The CCVC Veterans Food Bank will gratefully accept any food staples, which can be dropped off between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Call Richard at 352-400-8952 or Gary at 352-527-4537 with any questions or emergency food requests.

■ We Care Food Pantry gives out food to needy people. Initial registrations are accepted from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. To qualify for assistance, participants must be a Homosassa or Homosassa Springs resident with identification. For more information and dates for food distributions, call 352-628-0445.

■ The food pantry of First Presbyterian Church of Crystal River is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesdays.

The pantry is open to meet the emergency needs of people in the community. Everyone is invited to participate once a week as needed.

Bring a photo ID and the date of birth for each member of your household.

The church is at 1501 S.E. U.S. 19, north of Sweetbay. Call 352-795-2259.

■ St. Margaret's Episcopal Church's Feed My Sheep outreach provides a hot lunch at 11:30 a.m. Wednesdays. The food pantry is open from 9:30 to 11:45 a.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays. We are an equal-opportunity provider.

The pantry is no longer open on Wednesday evenings or Fridays.

For more information, call 352-726-3153.

■ Food pantry of Floral City First Baptist Church Emergency Feeding Program is open from 1 to 3 p.m. the third Wednesday monthly.

■ Dunnellon Presbyterian and Holy Faith Episcopal food pantry opens from 9 a.m. to noon Thursdays at 19924 W. Blue Cove Drive, Dunnellon.

■ Calvary Chapel of Inverness "Feed the Hungry" free lunch is served from noon to 1 p.m. Thursdays in the fellowship hall, 960 S. U.S. 41. Bagged groceries are given from 1 to 2 p.m. Thursdays.

For more information, call 352-726-1480.

■ Our Father's Table serves free Saturday lunches from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at St. Anne's Anglican Church, one mile west of the Plantation Inn on West Fort Island Trail.

For more information, call 352-795-2176.

■ St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in Citrus Springs serves those in need with free boxes of food from its food pantry the third Saturday morning monthly.

Call 352-465-6613 on the preceding Tuesday to sign up for the distribution.

■ Inverness Church of God hosts a soup kitchen the first and third Sunday monthly following the 10:30 a.m. worship service in the Family Life Center.

Inverness Church of God is at 416 U.S. 41 S., Inverness. For more information, call 352-726-4524.

LifeSouth bloodmobile schedule for March. To find a donor center or a blood drive near you, call 352-527-3061. Donors must be at least 17, or 16 with parental permission, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and be in good health to be eligible to donate. A photo ID is also required.

The Lecanto branch office is at 1241 S. Lecanto Highway (County Road 491), open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays (7 p.m. Wednesdays), 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sundays.

The Inverness branch is at 301 W. Main St., open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays, (6:30 p.m. Wednesdays), 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturdays and closed Sundays.

Visit www.lifesouth.org for details.

■ 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, March 19, Wal-Mart Supercenter, 2461 W. Gulf-to-Lake Highway, Inverness.

■ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 20, Bealls, 346 N. Suncoast Blvd., Crystal River.

■ Noon to 3 p.m. Wednesday, March 21, Wal-Mart, 3826 S. Suncoast Blvd., Homosassa.

■ 4 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 21, First Baptist Church of Crystal River, 700 Citrus Ave.

■ 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, March 22, Rock Crusher Elementary School, 814 S. Rock Crusher Road, Homosassa.

■ 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, March 22,

Wal-Mart, 3826 S. Suncoast Blvd., Homosassa.

■ 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, March 23, Homosassa Elementary School, 10935 W. Yulee Drive, Homosassa Springs.

■ 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday, March 24, Citrus County Cruisers Car Club, U.S. 19 next to Wendy's, Crystal River.

■ 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, March 24, Lowe's, 2301 E. Gulf-to-Lake Highway, Inverness.

■ 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 25, Citrus County Historical Society, 2415 N. Florida Ave., Hernando.

■ 1 to 3 p.m. Monday, March 26, Wal-Mart, 3826 S. Suncoast Blvd., Homosassa.

■ 8 a.m. to noon Monday, March 26, Anytime Fitness, 5723 S. Suncoast Blvd., Homosassa.

■ Noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 27, Sumter Electric Cooperative, U.S. 301 and Sumter County Road 471, Sumterville.

■ 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 28, Bella Vita Spa & Fitness, 2125 Skyview Crossing, Hernando.

■ 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, March 29, Wal-Mart, 3826 S. Suncoast Blvd., Homosassa.

■ 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, March 30, Bealls, 2851 E. Gulf-to-Lake Highway, Inverness.

■ 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 31, Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park, 4150 S. Suncoast Blvd.

Worth NOTING

■ Email news notes to community@chronicleonline.com.

tendance is required to enter the Habitat program and apply for a Habitat home. Potential applicants will receive a full explanation of the program, timeline, income and service requirements, and other information.

Children cannot be accommodated at this meeting. For information, call the Habitat Office at 352-563-2744.

PetMeals Program needs donations

Each month, the PetMeals Program provides dog food and cat food to the companion pets of senior citizens who receive Meals on Wheels.

The PetMeals Program was started when it was noticed that a very thin man was only taking small bites of his food and then placing his food tray on the floor for a very overweight Chihuahua to finish the meal. When asked why he was doing this, he said he did not have the money to buy dog food any longer and he would

rather go hungry himself than not feed his beloved dog.

The program is a 100 percent donation-based, volunteer-driven program. Do you have a pet who is a member of your family? Do you love animals? The PetMeals Program seeks help from pet lovers throughout Citrus County to donate unopened bags or cans of dog food and cat food at a local community center, or send monetary donations to: PetMeals Program, 2804 W. Marc Knighton Court, Key No. 3, Lecanto, FL 34461.

For more information about the PetMeals Program or drop-off locations for donations, call 352-527-5975.

'Main Course on Main Street'

The city of Inverness will present "Main Course on Main Street," a signature city event, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday, April 14, at the Inverness Government Center.

Experience a "taste" from Inverness' finest eateries, and support the Boys & Girls Clubs of Citrus County.

For information, call the city of Inverness at 352-726-2611.

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CHRONICLE

Letters to THE EDITOR

Generalizations

We Americans generalize about cultures we know little about, because we are lazy about drilling down into each one. "Europeans," "Africans," "Asians," as examples.

"Arabs" are lumped into one pigeonhole, which is, as you know, a very big mistake, and leads to all kinds of trouble.

There is no all-inclusive "Arab spring;" they are a myriad of rebellions against established totalitarian rulers, many historically aided and abetted by the West, who will now be blamed, often unjustly, for any and all ills that particular society has suffered.

Religious fanaticism is often used to replace the old guard, as it justifies oppression in the name of a higher and unquestionable power.

Inevitably and unfortunately, the self-proclaimed "representatives" of the deity are human, and their tyranny will be no less oppressive than the previous secular one.

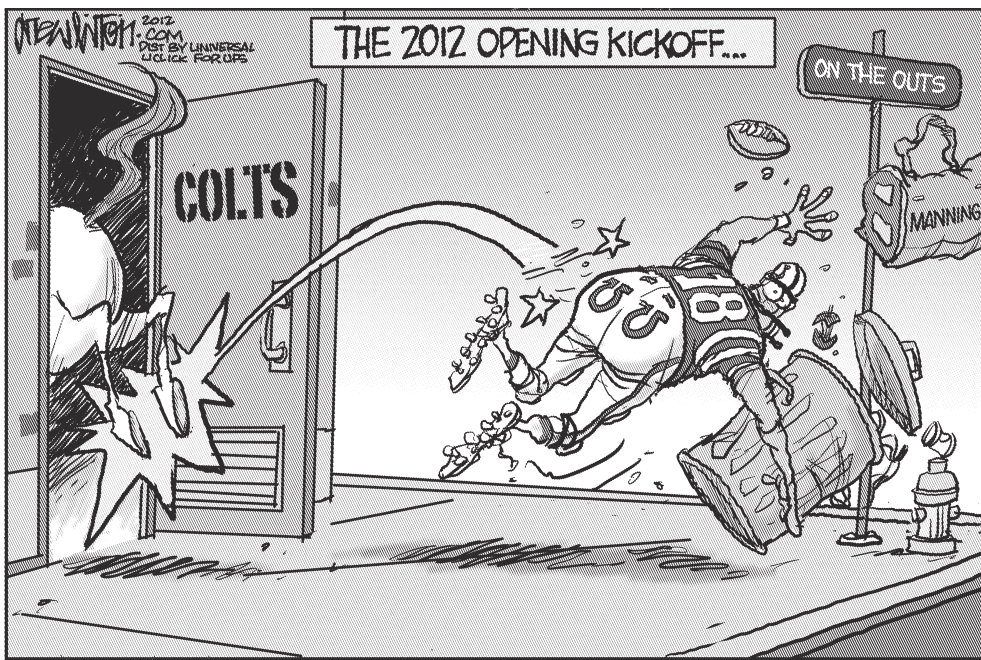
Some dominant religions, historically, have been responsible for incredible inhumanity, in the pursuit of religious purity.

I am not a religious scholar, so my reference points are limited to the Roman Catholic and Muslim religions.

Our Constitution, which forbids a state or state-sponsored religion, has worked marvelously for 235 years, but the human penchant for power and control over others has allowed the incubation of quasi-religions, with the same purpose. "Environmentalism," "global warming," "fairness," "social justice," "diversity," "the planet," and from the French, "equality."

Do we not resemble the ancient Romans, who created many deities, each with his/her own agenda, and their respective human skills? Seems like that failed miserably!

There also seems to be



an eerie if more "civilized" similarity between the events in the Roman coliseum, and our own "football" or world "soccer." The Olympics still go on ... to what social purpose?

Welfare and food stamps instead of "bread" or "cake" as Marie Antoinette called it. Now we have the new and ever changing "human rights" subjectively decided on by the governing elites, but always at a cost to the producers in any society.

Robin Humphrey
Crystal River

Santorum unites

In response to "Santorum divisive" published Feb. 20, I am reminded of some obvious observations:

1. The "something in the air that only affects Republicans" is called the GOP primary, when conservatives rally around the candidate who best represents their principles on both character and policy issues. That candidate has consistently been Rick Santorum, as Colorado, Minnesota and Missouri voters recognized. Santorum's positions on social issues are not peculiar to the Catholic Church, but are those shared by anyone who advocates family, life and basic morality. An irrational bigotry against people of faith is what lies behind these attacks on Santorum.

2. The assertion Santorum did not have a "single" proposal that helped American jobs is true. He had several proposals, including the first real removal of a federal entitlement program under the Welfare Reform Act of 1996, which Santorum authored and shepherded through the Senate. As welfare rolls fell 67 percent nationally, millions of people obtained job training, went to work and learned to cherish personal accountability. He understands a government busy spending our money and regulating our freedoms must be rolled back. That is something with which all Americans can agree.

3. The criticisms of Santorum on evolution, global warming, gay rights, abortion and war are patently absurd. It is the height of ignorance to argue that matter invented intelligence. Likewise, it is the height of arrogance to claim humans control global climate patterns. Santorum understands the military is about national defense, not boyfriends and girlfriends. Santorum also understands society propagates itself through healthy marriages between a man and a woman, as centuries of human experience know to be true. Santorum cherishes life enough to endorse

adoption, not abortion, and the death penalty for those convicted of depriving life from someone else. If anyone has made war a high priority, it is Iran, whose commitment to wipe Israel out of existence and wage jihad against the West is a threat dismissed at our peril. Santorum stands beside the rest of us rightly determined to avoid a nuclear Sept. 11.

D. L. Wright
Citrus Springs

Law lacks faith

Donald Holcomb, *Chronicle*, Feb. 15, appears to hold the increasingly prevalent albeit misguided notion that liberals are not moral, religious or Christian. Christians, I believe, could take umbrage with the statement that the Bible defines moral values in just about every chapter of every book.

Many Christians today understand morality has progressed since the Bible was written. For instance, most Christians would not consider the ownership of another person moral, or accept polygamy as moral.

However, I would have to argue Christians and conservatives do not hold a monopoly on morality. Many people regardless of

religious or political beliefs or lack thereof have internalized a moral compass that enables them to live exemplary lives.

The paranoia that Christianity is under attack has been ramped up for political purposes. Putting aside the fact that not all of the founders of this country were Christian, there is little doubt Christian philosophy has influenced European thought for generations. Therefore, one could concede the architects of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution were well-versed in Christian doctrine.

Therefore, it is interesting to note there is no faith-based language in the Constitution. This could only have been a deliberate decision. It is also logical to concede the founders were well aware of the bloody religious wars that raged across Europe for generations. Wisely, the founders deliberately did not establish a theocracy but a democracy where we all have the right of conscience.

Presently, Christians and everyone else are able to freely practice their beliefs. And this freedom is not dependant on the personal religious beliefs of those in power. The religious right is engaged in trying to embed their definition of

morality into civil law.

As Donald quotes the Constitution, "the government shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion..." What part of the government not establishing a religion doesn't he understand?

Jo Darling
Lecanto

Beware Barney

In response to Roger Krieger about the speed traps in Waldo, Lawley and Stark:

I moved to Palatka from Winter Haven in 1949 and grew up there. The speed traps were well-known even as I was growing up, as they are today. I moved to Citrus County in 1968 from Jacksonville and have traveled Highway 301 through these towns hundreds of times. The city cops seem to always have somebody pulled over, and it seems like they get a lot of out-of-state people. Most recently was my daughter, who was visiting from South Carolina.

People should take other routes and bypass these towns and don't spend any money in these places. But if you do decide to go through these towns, beware of Barney Fife!

Gene Knighton
Hernando

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► "He who incites strife is worse than he who takes part in it."
 Aesop, "The Trumpeter Taken Prisoner" 6th Century B.C.

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Founded by Albert M. Williamson

"You may differ with my choice, but not my right to choose."
 — David S. Arthurs publisher emeritus

SHARED BLAME

Feud takes toll on CMHS bond rating

Once again, a bond rating company has downgraded Citrus Memorial Health System, causing great concern over the damage being done to the reputation and financial health of the county's lone public hospital.

Although the Citrus Memorial Health Foundation blames its governance dispute with the Citrus County Hospital Board as reason for the rating downgrade, Moody's Investor Service also blames "poor operating performance."

Each side blames the other for the change in rating, but in actuality both sides have contributed to the deterioration of the hospital's financial picture.

The Foundation, which leases the hospital from the Citrus County Hospital Board and oversees day-to-day operations, has failed to make the tough decisions necessary to improve its operating performance. Cash-on-hand days must be at a certain threshold to meet the

terms of two bank loans and it has \$39.4 million of rated debt outstanding. The latest rating, Ba3, tells investors in the long term the hospital runs the risk of not being able to meet its financial obligations.

The Citrus County Hospital Board carries its fair share of blame. It has withheld millions of dollars it has collected from taxpayers for the hospital. This has

caused the outstanding debt to be much higher than it need be and contributed to the poor rating.

Instead of working together to resolve the dispute and improve the hospital's bond rating, both entities have made matters worse with vitriolic rhetoric, lawsuits and counter suits.

We fear once the dispute is fully settled, the side that ultimately assumes the governance of the hospital will face an insurmountable task of rebuilding its reputation and financial health.

THE ISSUE:

Bond rating company again downgrades CMHS.

OUR OPINION:

Dispute over governance hurting hospital.

Teen's death raises questions

They do not see you. For every black American, it comes as surely as hard times, setback and tears, that moment when you realize somebody is looking right at you and yet, not seeing you — as if you had become cellophane, as if you had become air, as if somehow, some way, you were right there and yet at the same time, not.



Leonard Pitts
OTHER VOICES

Ralph Ellison described that phenomenon in a milestone novel that begins as follows: "I am an invisible man. No, I am not a spook like those who haunted Edgar Allan Poe. Nor am I one of your Hollywood-movie ectoplasms. I am a man of substance, of flesh and bone, fiber and liquids — and I might even be said to possess a mind. I am invisible, understand, simply because people refuse to see me."

Trayvon Martin was killed on Feb. 26 in Sanford, fully 60 years after Ellison published "Invisible Man." The circumstances of the unarmed 17-year-old's death suggest even six decades later, invisibility plagues black folks, still.

It happened like this. He was visiting his father, watching hoops on television. At halftime, he left his dad's townhouse in a gated community and walked to a 7-Eleven for snacks. There was a light drizzle and he was wearing a hooded sweatshirt and jeans. On the way back, he drew the attention of George Zimmerman, cap-

tain of the Neighborhood Watch. Zimmerman, who is white, called police from his SUV and told them he was following a "suspicious" character. The dispatcher promised to send a prowl car and told Zimmerman to stay in his vehicle.

He didn't. When police arrived, they found him with a bloody nose and Martin face down on the grass not far from his father's door, a gunshot wound in his chest. Zimmerman said he shot the boy in self-defense. Police did not arrest him. At this writing, nearly three weeks later, they still have not, citing insufficient evidence. The case has been referred to the state's attorney and the NAACP has asked the Justice Department to intervene.

All of which raises a number of pressing questions:

How can you get out of your truck against police advice, instigate a fight, get your nose bloodied in said fight, shoot the person you were fighting with, and claim self-defense? If anyone was defending themselves, wasn't it Trayvon Martin?

Would police have been so forbearing had Martin confronted and killed an unarmed George Zimmerman?

Of course, the most pressing question is this: What exactly was it that made this boy seem "suspicious?" The available evidence suggests a sad and simple answer: He existed while black.

The manner of said existence doesn't matter. It is the existing itself that is problematic. Again: Sometimes, they do not see you.

That's one of the great frustrations of black life, those times when you are standing right there, minding your business, tending your house, coming home from the store, and other people are looking right at you, yet do not see you.

They see instead their own superstitions and suppositions, paranoia and guilt, night terrors and vulnerabilities. They see the perpetrator, the suspect, the mug shot, the dark and scary face that lurks at the open windows of their vivid imaginings. They see the unknown, the unassimilable, the other.

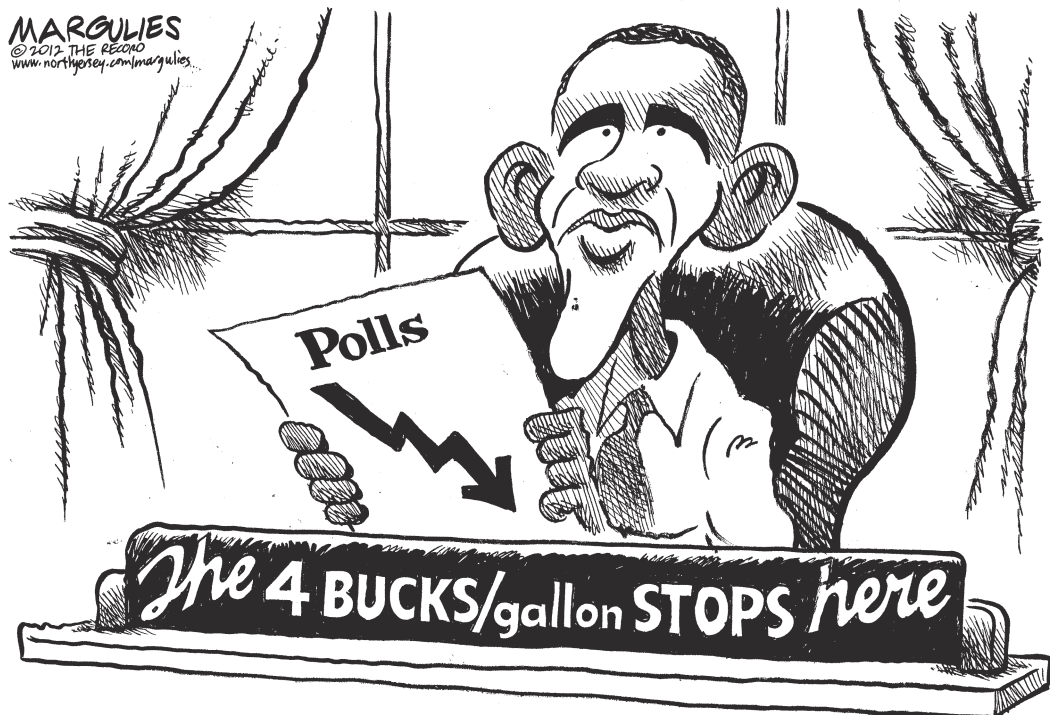
They see every thing in the world but you.

And their blindness costs you. First and foremost, it costs your sacred individuality. But it may also cost you a job, an education, your freedom. If you are unlucky like Trayvon Martin, it may even cost your life.

He lay bloody and ruined in wet grass with nothing in his pockets but \$22, a can of lemonade and a bag of Skittles, not a type, not a kind, but just himself, a kid who liked horses and sports, who struggled with chemistry, who went out for snacks and never came home.

Visible too late.

Write to Leonard Pitts Jr. at 1 Herald Plaza, Miami, FL 33132 or lpitts@miamiherald.com.



Your pension, money

I'm calling about the state employees who don't feel they should contribute 3 percent to their pension. Well, we also have people who have money taken out of their pay for Social Security and as a former state employee, I also contributed to my pension and it was far more than 3 percent. And when I worked under Social Security, I also had money deducted for that. So I think it's only fair people contribute to their own future security.

Also, on the subject of the birth control squabble that's going on: Before the pill was out there, there were other forms of birth control. One of them included self-control and that would include abstinence. People might try that and they would save a lot of money.

Cameras coming

Get ready, people. If you don't like getting a red-light-camera ticket, wait when they start putting our cameras on our roads and highways. Get ready. It's going to happen. Just another way our government can pull in millions off our people who are suffering from our economy.

Commendable composure

President Obama deserves much credit for treating the Iran situation with diplomacy and serious thought. His opponents seem anxious to start another war, whereas President Obama wants to avoid another war.

Why change clocks?

I was calling the "shout out" to say, why are they changing the clocks? There is no farms around and the farmers don't care anymore. So why don't they just leave the time the way it is? I think

everybody would appreciate it. I love your "shout outs."

Defend the defenseless

This afternoon, a middle-aged woman driving a white van turned right by the old Hewitts' Standard Station across from the Court-

house and nearly ran into me. It's a very dangerous intersection and I am always extremely cautious when I must cross there.

I had the light, looked in all directions, and only began to cross when it was safe.

Her anger and hatred was unbelievable since I've never seen her before, and her actions were deliberate. Her van

was only a few inches from my leg and left side. I am in my 60s and I have to use a wheelchair now.

I said, "I have the light. You must yield the right of way to pedestrians and the handicapped." The driver crudely and viciously yelled, "Shut up or I will hit you," and turned.

She threatened me. I couldn't get her tag number. I don't want to — nor should I have to — try to do what only a law enforcement officer is trained to do. It's sad and appalling the elderly and handicapped residents, who pay taxes, help others to continue to work and have the same rights as everyone else does, are treated so disgracefully and so cruelly here.

The Americans With Disabilities Act gives them the rights they should be given with respect and compassion and shouldn't need a law to enforce. I'm asking the good people of Citrus County to stand up and speak out to help and defend the elderly and handicapped. Please spread the word we will prosecute any and every bully who abuses one of our own to the fullest extent of the law.



SOUND OFF
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LETTERS to the Editor

Pie in Port Citrus sky

Lately, we have been treated to constant stories of how wonderful things will be when the Florida Barge Canal becomes Port Citrus. Although the concept changes constantly, the beat goes on. One of our commissioners is quoted as saying, "It will bring thousands of jobs to Citrus County."

Early on, there was the talk about how the expansion of the Panama Canal was going to flood the Gulf of Mexico with lots of shipping so there would be a crying need for all the ports that could be built.

Remembering a chart of local waters, it seemed to me that this part of the Gulf is too shallow to support a maritime port. It still does.

Clearly, the idea of huge container ships entering the 12-foot-deep barge canal was untenable. The next fantasy was an offshore trans-shipment location, 60 miles out where the water is deeper. The ships would transfer their loads to barges, which would then carry tons of freight to Port Citrus.

Joe Meek later commented favorably on a speech given by a lawyer promoting Port Citrus. However, he admitted the trans-shipment concept touted by the lawyer was passé. Essentially, the conclusion was glorious, but the reasoning behind it irrelevant.

I tried to find out if any similarly shallow-water port had created a booming economy. About the nearest thing to Port Citrus seemed to be Port St. Joe. So I took a look at that port.

The first article reported a marginal port operation based

OPINIONS INVITED

- **The opinions** expressed in *Chronicle* editorials are the opinions of the newspaper's editorial board.
- **Viewpoints** depicted in political cartoons, columns or letters do not necessarily represent the opinion of the editorial board.
- **Groups or individuals** are invited to express their opinions in a letter to the editor.
- **Persons** wishing to address the editorial board, which meets weekly, should call **Charlie Brennan** at 352-563-5660.
- **All letters** must be signed and include a phone number and hometown, including letters sent via email. Names and hometowns will be printed; phone numbers will not be published or given out.
- **We reserve** the right to edit letters for length, libel, fairness and good taste.
- **Letters** must be no longer than 350 words, and writers will be limited to three letters per month.
- **SEND LETTERS TO:** The Editor, 1624 N. Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34429. Or, fax to 352-563-3280, or email to letters@chronicleonline.com.

Cut foreign aid

I have been reading and hearing many options on how to cut the federal budget.

Many of our citizens remember when it became necessary to (steal) borrow money from Social Security and put it in a general fund. To this day, it has never been replaced. (We have IOUs.)

That's hard-earned money from hardworking people who today are without jobs mainly because of our hardworking legislators dealing with lobbyists to fulfill their greed.

How do they want to cut the budget? Simple: Cut Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, defense, the space program and so forth.

Has anyone ever heard of our legislators, ever once, mentioning cutting foreign aid? We probably send millions — no, billions — to countries that are not friendly toward us.

Think of what could be done in our own country with a few billion dollars every so often.

We could start to revolutionize refineries in order to convert more oil to gas and free ourselves from foreign oil.

Build cruise ships, locomotives. Rebuild our infrastructure, bridges, roads and put thousands of people to work.

Recently Congress voted in the Social Security payroll tax. Realize more money in people's pockets means less money for Social Security. It's depleting Social Security of more money every week. Not really a good idea.

We need a big change in Congress to bring our country back to where it was!

Pat Condry
 Ozello

Anthony D'Adamo
 Beverly Hills

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World BRIEFS

Rioting



Associated Press
A rioter gets ready to throw a glass bottle during a riot early Sunday in London, Ontario. Police in London said they have made at least 11 arrests after St. Patrick's Day celebrations got out of hand with revellers setting a large street fire and battling police who tried to intervene.

St. Patrick's party mob battles police

LONDON, Ontario — Police in London, Ontario, said they have made at least 11 arrests after St. Patrick's Day celebrations got out of hand with revellers setting a large street fire and battling police who tried to intervene. The trouble began Saturday night in a district heavily populated by college students, which has been the site of previous disturbances. District Fire Chief Jim Holmes said crews were called to the scene after revellers flipped over a TV news van and set it on fire.

Former Mr. Universe turns 100 in India

KOLKATA, India — A former Mr. Universe who has just turned 100 said Sunday happiness and a life without tensions are the key to his longevity.

Manohar Aich, who is 4 foot 11 inches tall, overcame many hurdles, including grinding poverty and a stint in prison, to achieve body building glory. His children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren gathered Sunday in the eastern city of Kolkata to celebrate his birthday the day before.

Gauck elected new German president

BERLIN — A far-reaching majority of lawmakers elected former East German pro-democracy activist Joachim Gauck as Germany's new president Sunday. The 72-year-old Gauck is an outspoken former Lutheran pastor and relentless advocate of democracy and civil rights who enjoyed the backing of most major parties. He received 991 of the 1,232 ballots cast.

3 dead in viewing of Coptic Pope

CAIRO — An Egyptian church official said three mourners died of suffocation while paying their final respects to Egypt's Coptic Christian spiritual leader. Church official Anba Younes said the three died of suffocation inside Cairo's main Abbasiya cathedral as thousands of mourners gathered Sunday to catch a glimpse of Pope Shenouda's embalmed corpse. The Coptic Pope, who was patriarch for four decades, died Saturday. He has been embalmed and was placed in a seated position on an ornate throne for mourners to see until his burial Tuesday.

Afghan shooting charges expected

Villagers said other soldiers were involved

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Charges against an American soldier accused of killing 16 Afghan civilians are expected to be filed within a week and if the case goes to court the trial, it will be held in the United States, said a legal expert with the U.S. military familiar with the investigation.

Army Staff Sgt. Robert Bales is suspected of leaving a U.S. base in southern

Afghanistan, entering homes and gunning down nine children, four men and three women before dawn on March 11. Bales, a 38-year-old married father of two from Lake Tapps, Wash., is being held at a U.S. military prison in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

The shootings have further strained ties between the U.S. government and President Hamid Karzai who has accused the U.S. military of not cooperating with a delegation he appointed to investigate the killings in Panjwai district of Kandahar province. The Afghan inves-



Robert Bales accused of killing 16 civilians.

tigative team also is not convinced that one soldier could have single-handedly left his base, walked to two villages, shot and killed 16 civilians and set fire to some of their bodies.

Syed Mohammad Azeen, a tribal elder from Balandi village, said Sunday in Kandahar that he and other villagers believe more than a dozen soldiers were involved. Other villagers said they saw 16 to 20 U.S. troops in the villages. It's unclear whether the soldiers the villagers saw were part of a search party that left the base to look for Bales, who was reported missing.

Lawyer for Afghan killings suspect to visit him in Leavenworth

Associated Press

SEATTLE — With formal charges looming against his client within days, the lawyer for an Army sergeant suspected in the horrific nighttime slaughter of 16 Afghan villagers was flying Sunday to Kansas and preparing for his first face-to-face meeting with the 10-year veteran.

John Henry Browne of Seattle said he planned to meet Monday with Army Staff Sgt. Robert Bales, who is being held in an isolated cell at Fort Leavenworth's military prison.

Bales, 38, hasn't been charged in the March 11 shootings, but formal charges are expected to be filed within a week, said a legal expert with the U.S. military familiar with the investigation.

That expert said charges were still being decided and that the location for any trial had not yet been determined. If the suspect is brought to trial, it is possible that Afghan witnesses and victims would be flown to the United States to participate, he said.

Working to survive



Associated Press
Eleven-year-old Sagira Ansari, right, rolls bidi tobacco with her family at their house Jan. 26, 2012, in Dhuliyian, in the eastern Indian state of West Bengal. Sagira and her family earn \$1.50 for every 1,000 bidis rolled which brings in \$150 a month.

Indian girl trapped in circle of cigarette rolling for the future

Associated Press

DHULIYAN, India — Sagira Ansari sits on a dusty sack outside her uneven brick home in this poor town in eastern India, her legs folded beneath her. She cracks her knuckles, then rubs charcoal ash between her palms.

With the unthinking swiftness of a movement performed countless times before, she slashes a naked razor blade into a square-cut leaf to trim off the veins. She drops in flakes of tobacco, packs them with her thumbs, rolls the leaf tightly between her fingers and ties it off with two twists of a red thread.

For eight hours a day, Sagira makes bidis — thin brown cigarettes that are as central to Indian life as chai and flat bread. She is 11 years old.

Sagira is among hundreds of thousands of children toiling in the hidden corners of rural India. Many work in hazardous industries crucial to the economy: the fiery brick kilns that underpin the building industry, the pesticide-laden fields that produce its food.

Most of the children in Sagira's town of Dhuliyian in West Bengal state work in the tobacco dust to feed India's near limitless demand for bidis.

Under Indian law, this is legal. Sagira, who has deep brown eyes and a wide smile, joined her family's bidi work when she was 7. At first she just rolled out thread for her older sisters and brother, then she helped finish off the cigarettes, pushing down the open ends. Last year, she graduated to full-scale rolling.

She is not alone. Her best friend, Amira, also rolls bidis. So do Wasima and Jaminoor and the rest of the girls in a neighborhood that is, at its heart, a giant, open-air bidi factory.

Parents and children roll cigarettes on rooftops, in the alleyways, by the roads. Of the roughly 20,000 families in Dhuliyian, an estimated 95 percent roll bidis to survive.

Sagira is expert enough that even when distracted, her fingers con-



Sagira rolls bidi tobacco at her house. She is among hundreds of thousands of children toiling in the hidden corners of rural India, many working in hazardous industries crucial to the economy: the fiery brick kilns that underpin the building industry, the pesticide-laden fields that produce its food.

tinue to flit blindly through the tobacco shavings in front of her.

She says the work can make her ill, with a cold, a cough, a fever. Her head often aches. So do her fingers.

Sometimes, she takes her woven basket of tendu leaves and tobacco to the banks of the Ganges to roll in a circle with her friends. She stops every so often to splash in the river for a few moments. Then she gets back to work.

"I can't play around," she said. A 1986 law barred children under 14 from working with bidis and other hazardous industries, but left a huge loophole that allowed children to assist their families with work performed at home.

So now, while the tobacco is threshed, cut and blended in factories, it is then given to Manu Seikh, the bidi king of Sagira's neighborhood, and other middlemen to distribute to families for rolling. The bidis are then brought back to the factory for roasting, packaging and shipping. A pack of 10 to 12 will retail for 6 rupees, or 12 cents.

The informal nature of the work makes it nearly impossible to count how many of India's 7 million bidi rollers are children, but estimates range from 250,000 to 1 million.

Every noon, adults and children carry baskets and tubs filled with bundles of bidis to Seikh's corner stall, where his men scan them for quality, reject those deemed substandard and stack the others in shallow wooden boxes. A book-keeper makes a note in a ledger and hands over a chit for payment.

Then the rollers receive more tobacco and tendu leaves for another day's work.

Seikh blames poverty for forcing the children to work, and the government for failing to stop it.

"I am very concerned about children not going to school and losing their futures. But we are helpless," Seikh said.

In his nearby factory, Ranjan Choudhary, 37, also distances himself from blame, even as boys aged about 7 or 8 slide bidis into plastic pouches and seal them on a small stove.

Whatever the child labor laws say, he sees the industry as "a lifeline" for the people.

"It affects children, but for them to survive, this is the only industry here. There is no other source of income," he said.

The industry's chief trade group also brushed off responsibility.

Occupy protest ends in arrests

Demonstrators return to mark anniversary

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Dozens of police officers cleared the park where the Occupy movement was born six months ago and made several arrests after hundreds of protesters returned in an anniversary observance and defiantly resisted calls to clear out.

Some demonstrators locked arms and sat down in the middle of Zuccotti Park near Wall Street after police announced on a bullhorn at 11:30 p.m. Saturday the park was closed. Officers then poured into the park, forcing most of the crowd out and surrounding a small group that stayed behind. Police formed a human ring around the park to keep protesters out.

Several people were arrested, police said. An unused public transit bus was brought in to cart away about a dozen demonstrators in plastic handcuffs. One female under arrest had difficulty breathing and was taken away in an ambulance to be treated.

For hours, demonstrators had been chanting and holding impromptu meetings in the park to celebrate the anniversary of the movement that has brought attention to economic inequality, as police mainly kept their distance.

But New York Police Det. Brian Sessa said the tipping point came when the protesters started breaking the park rules.

"They set up tents. They had sleeping bags," he said.

Electrical boxes also were tampered with and there was evidence of graffiti.

Sessa said Brookfield Properties, the park owner, sent in security to advise the protesters to stop pitching tents and leave the park. Protesters, in turn, became agitated with them. The company then asked the police to help them clear out the park, the detective said.

"Most of the people, they left the park," Sessa said. "People who refused to leave and were staying were arrested."

Many protesters shouted and officers took out their batons after a demonstrator threw a glass bottle at the bus that police were using to detain protesters.

■ Roger Federer tops John Isner to win BNP Paribas Open./B5



■ Baseball, NBA/B2
 ■ NCAA men's tournament/B3
 ■ NCAA women's tournament/B4
 ■ Golf, tennis, hockey/B5
 ■ Entertainment/B6
 ■ Puzzles, comics/B7, B8
 ■ Classifieds/B9

SPORTS BRIEFS

Two more boaters killed at regatta

TAVARES — Two boaters have died in a collision at a central Florida regatta, bringing the number killed at the weekend event to three.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission spokeswoman Joy Hill told *The Orlando Sentinel* the Sunday afternoon collision killed 64-year-old Charles Woodruff of Jensen Beach and 73-year-old Dea Wisely of Sun City. The spokesman said Woodruff's boat ran over the top of Wisely's boat on Lake Dora; both men were ejected. A day earlier, a man and a woman were ejected from their vessel while participating in a race. Hill said the woman was rescued in the water, but the man was struck and killed by another boat. The man's name wasn't released.

The regatta typically attracts 8,000 to 10,000 spectators, vendors and participants.

49ers contenders in Manning pursuit

SAN FRANCISCO — Jim Harbaugh coaching Peyton Manning. In the Bay Area, they're beginning to think about the possibility and believe it truly might happen.

A former NFL quarterback, Harbaugh worked wonders with Alex Smith last season and now all signs point to the 49ers being a serious player in the Manning sweepstakes.

If San Francisco doesn't sign Manning, the 49ers will have some serious relationship-building to do.

The Tennessee Titans and Denver Broncos, the other two Manning finalists, could face similar issues if they don't get him.

Alex Smith concludes visit with Dolphins

MIAMI — San Francisco 49ers free agent quarterback Alex Smith left the Miami Dolphins' complex after a 5 1/2-hour meeting with the team.

The visit Sunday could affect the Peyton Manning sweepstakes, because the 49ers are among three finalists for Manning, along with the Denver Broncos and Tennessee Titans.

The 49ers had been working to re-sign Smith. Smith and Manning have the same agent, Tom Condon.

The Dolphins' unexpected courtship of Smith came after they were spurned by Manning. They then courted former Green Bay Packers backup quarterback Matt Flynn, who instead agreed to terms Sunday with the Seattle Seahawks on a multiyear deal.

Broncos' Quinn signs with Chiefs

DENVER — Deciding not to wait for the Peyton Manning saga to play out in Denver, Broncos backup Brady Quinn has agreed to terms with the Kansas City Chiefs.

The former first-round pick of the Browns is expected to back up quarterback Matt Cassel, who will be coming back from a season-ending injury to his throwing hand.

Quinn started 12 games over three seasons in Cleveland, completing 52 percent of his passes for 1,902 yards and 10 touchdowns with nine interceptions. He did not play as a backup last season with the Broncos.

Gophers win NCAA women's hockey title

DULUTH, Minn. — Sarah Erickson scored two goals, Noora Raty stopped 42 shots and Minnesota beat Wisconsin 4-2 in the NCAA women's hockey final on Sunday.

Amanda Kessel and Emily West also scored for Minnesota, which won its third national title.

The Badgers had an opportunity to grab the lead at the end of the first period with the score tied at 2, but failed to score on a 5-on-3 power play.

—From wire reports

Gators' D too much for upstart Spartans

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — No big upset this time. Kenny Boynton and Florida were just too good for surprising Norfolk State.

Boynton scored 20 points and the balanced Gators routed the 15th-seeded Spartans 84-50 on Sunday to reach the regional semifinals of the NCAA tournament for the second straight year.

Norfolk State shook up the West Regional when it upset No. 2 seed Missouri 86-84 on Friday, and was trying to become the first 15 seed to reach the round of 16.

Florida put a quick end to that idea, making five 3-pointers

during a 25-0 run that made it 29-6 midway through the first half.

The seventh-seeded Gators (25-10) made it to the regional semifinals for the sixth time in 12 NCAA tournament appearances under coach Billy Donovan. They will play No. 3 seed Marquette on Thursday in Phoenix after their second straight runaway win.

Florida was 4 for 23 from beyond the arc in its tourney opener, but still managed to beat Virginia 71-45. It rediscovered its shooting touch early against Norfolk State (26-10), making five of its first eight 3-point attempts and 10 of 28 for the game.

Erving Walker finished with 15 points for the Gators. Bradley Beal scored 14, Mike Rosario had 12 and Erik Murphy 10.

The resounding loss put a damper on a fun couple of days for Norfolk State center Kyle O'Quinn, who got the celebrity treatment after collecting 26 points and 14 rebounds against Missouri.

O'Quinn was a walking quote machine in the 24 hours after the shocking win over Missouri. He talked about how the upset even blew up his own bracket, how he watched the cheerleaders during breaks in the action and how

See GATORS/Page B3



Norfolk State's Quasim Pugh tries to shoot past Florida's Patric Young in the first half Sunday in Omaha, Neb. The Gators shut down the Spartans, winning 84-50.

Associated Press



CATHY KAPULKA/Chronicle

Preston Knox tees off on the fifth hole Sunday during the 50th annual St. Patrick's Golf Championship at the Inverness Golf & Country Club.

Third time's the charm

Preston Knox wins St. Pat's tourney

C.J. RISAK
Correspondent

INVERNESS — Fate intervened, finally.

Preston Knox did not enter the 50th St. Pat's Tournament believing fate would do so on his behalf.

He could have. This marked his ninth appearance in the St. Pat's, competing on the Inverness Golf and Country Club course he grew up playing on.

And he'd been on the brink before, coming so close to victory only to finish second. Twice.

Not this time. Knox stayed near the top of the leaderboard through the first two rounds, then fired a tournament-best four-under-par 68 in the final round to

claim the title that had previously eluded him.

"This means a lot," Knox said after collecting his trophy. "More than words can say. I wanted to win this for my grandfather. ... He passed away two years ago. He and my dad taught me how to play on this course."

Knox's grandparents lived next to the course and were members.

See ST. PAT'S/Page B5

Keselowski dominates in Bristol win

Associated Press



Associated Press

Brad Keselowski celebrates Sunday as he drives into victory lane after winning the Food City 500 in Bristol, Tenn.

BRISTOL, Tenn. — Brad Keselowski used Bristol Motor Speedway last fall to cement his spot in NASCAR's championship race.

At the track Sunday, Keselowski again made his way to Victory Lane. And he began to think about a Sprint Cup title.

Keselowski led a career-best and race-high 231 laps, then held off Daytona 500 winner Matt Kenseth on a late restart to cruise to his first

victory of the season.

"What can I say? I love Bristol and Bristol loves me," said Keselowski, who immediately began taking pictures in Victory Lane to send to Twitter. "The goal at Penske Racing is to win a Sprint Cup championship, and one win certainly doesn't achieve that, but it's a great step."

The Chase for the Sprint Cup championship has a wild-card provisional for the winningest driver not otherwise eligible.

See BRISTOL/Page B4



Associated Press

South Florida forward Victor Rudd Jr. looks up Sunday after dunking against Ohio in the first half in Nashville, Tenn.

Bulls' run over Ohio 62, USF 56

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Walter Offutt and Ohio are moving on in the NCAA tournament.

Step aside, VCU. Enjoy your memories, Butler. The Bobcats are well on their way to becoming the mid-major darlings of this March Madness.

Offutt scored 21 points, D.J. Cooper had 19 and No. 13 seed Ohio beat South Florida 62-56 on Sunday night to advance to the Midwest Regional semifinals.

The Bobcats (29-7), who opened the tournament with an upset against fourth-seeded Michigan, will play No. 1 seed North Carolina in St. Louis on Friday in their first trip to the round of 16 since they lost to the Wolverines in the regional finals in 1964.

Ohio trailed by two when Offutt swished a 3-pointer, launching a 10-0 run for the Bobcats. A pair of free throws by Cooper made it 54-46 with 3:28 left.

The Bobcats had a 59-53 lead when Toarlyn Fitzpatrick connected for South Florida's first 3-pointer of the half. But Cooper went 3 for 4 from the line while the Bulls missed three shots in the final 36 seconds.

Victor Rudd Jr. and Anthony Collins scored 13 points apiece and Augustus Gilchrist had 12 for the Bulls (22-14), who were playing in their third game in five days with a travel day in between.

If fatigue was a concern for South Florida, it didn't show it. The Bulls relied on their stingy defense to limit Ohio to just 30.4 percent shooting in the first half.

But while the Bulls managed to keep the Bobcats away from the rim, they couldn't stop them at the perimeter. Half of Ohio's second-half buckets were 3s, and the Bobcats finished 9 for 18 from long range.

The Big East's top scoring defensive team and the Mid-American Conference tournament champions turned out to be a good match for one another.

Strong defense from both sides turned the first half into a mostly slow-paced affair. South Florida managed just 40.7 percent shooting in the first 20 minutes.

Wolfpack stuns Hoyas; Spartans roll

Xavier, down big early, holds off Lehigh

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Draymond Green scored 16 points with 13 rebounds and set up Keith Appling's crucial 3-pointer with 1:34 left, giving top-seeded Michigan State a 65-61 win over Saint Louis on Sunday and sending the Spartans to the round of 16 in the NCAA tournament.

Michigan State will play No. 4 seed Louisville in the West Regional semifinals Thursday in Phoenix.

Appling added 19 points for the Spartans (29-7), who had to scrap their way past the ninth-seeded Billikens (26-8). Saint Louis controlled the tempo but never got a complete handle on Green, Michigan State's superb senior. He added six assists and even helped mop up sweat off the floor in the final minute.

Kwamain Mitchell scored 13 and Brian Conklin 11 for Saint Louis, back in the tournament for the first time since 2000.

MIDWEST REGIONAL

No. 1 North Carolina 87, No. 8 Creighton 73

GREENSBORO, N.C. — John Henson proved he's healthy enough to help North Carolina's latest push for the Final Four. It remains to be seen if Kendall Marshall will be able to help the Tar Heels.

Henson had 13 points, 10 rebounds and four blocks in his return from a wrist injury, but Marshall broke a bone in his right wrist during the second half of North Carolina's third-round victory over Creighton.

Coach Roy Williams confirmed the injury after the game, and said he would talk to Marshall and his parents about his status Sunday night. The point guard still finished with 18 points and 11 assists.

North Carolina got off to a fast start and built a 15-point lead in the first half, then kept control and pushed the margin to 19 after the break on the way to its second straight double-digit victory in the Midwest Regional. The top-seeded Tar Heels (31-5) reached the round of 16 for a record 25th time.

Doug McDermott scored 20 points for the Bluejays (29-6), who shot 41 percent and couldn't keep up with the hot-shooting Tar Heels.



Associated Press

North Carolina State's C.J. Williams celebrates Sunday as the team defeated Georgetown 66-63 in Columbus, Ohio.

No. 11 N.C. State 66, No. 3 Georgetown 63

Lorenzo Brown hit three free throws in the final 10.6 seconds and North Carolina State conjured up its glorious tradition by upsetting Georgetown.

The Wolfpack (24-12) advance to play the Purdue-Kansas winner on Friday in St. Louis.

A lowly 11th seed coming in, they had to survive a furious comeback by the Hoyas (24-9) and only were assured of the win when Jason Clark's 3-point attempt from the right wing was

off the mark at the buzzer.

C.J. Williams, Scott Wood and C.J. Leslie each had 14 points, and Brown added 12 for the Wolfpack, who earned their first trip to the round of 16 since 2005.

Hollis Thompson led the Hoyas with 23 points.

SOUTH REGIONAL

No. 10 Xavier 70, No. 15 Lehigh 58

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Xavier is making a habit of reaching the round of 16.

Senior center Kenny Frease

scored a career-high 25 points to go with 12 rebounds and the Musketeers knocked off upset-minded Lehigh 70-58 Sunday.

Lehigh, which stunned No. 2 seed Duke on Friday, was looking to become the first 15 seed to make it to the tournament's second weekend. But the 7-foot Frease stood in the way.

He dominated in the paint, hitting 11 of 13 shots, and Tu Holloway was his normal productive self with 21 points as 10th-seeded Xavier (22-12) moved on to play No. 3 seed Baylor on Friday in the South

Regional at Atlanta.

The Musketeers held C.J. McCollum, the nation's fifth-leading scorer, to 14 points on 5-of-22 shooting and overcame a 15-point first-half deficit. Mackey McKnight had 20 points for Lehigh (27-7), which tied a Patriot League record for wins in a season.

The Mountain Hawks started strong, opening a 35-20 lead behind 53 percent shooting and 14 first-half points from McKnight. Xavier clawed back to cut the lead to 37-33 at halftime behind a 3-point buzzer-beater by Holloway.

GATORS

Continued from Page B1

he was more concerned with having fun than playing basketball in high school.

He wasn't nearly as entertaining on the court against Florida. He missed eight of nine shots and finished with four points — his lowest output since he scored two points in a 32-point December loss at Illinois State. His only field goal was a first-half dunk, and he played only 23 minutes after logging 37 against Missouri.

He didn't get much help, either.

The Spartans, who shot 54 percent and made 10 of 19 3-pointers against Missouri, shot 27 percent and were 4

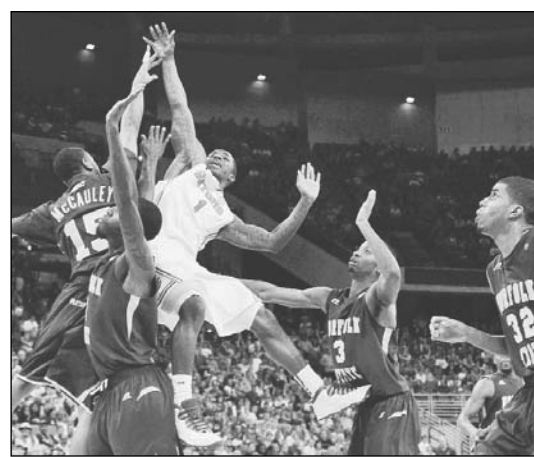
of 24 on 3s against the Gators.

Boynton, who had made just 4 of his previous 21 3s, hit from long distance to start Florida's decisive run.

The big surge featured the frenetic temp that Florida enjoys. The Spartans missed 10 shots in a row, and each time the smaller Gators got the rebound, they pushed the ball quickly up the floor.

Erik Murphy hit back-to-back 3s. Bradley made one and Beal tipped in Scottie Wilbekin's missed 3 before Norfolk State ended a field-goal drought that lasted more than 7 minutes.

Norfolk State got into the tournament by winning the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference tournament. They carried an eight-game winning streak into the



Florida's Kenny Boynton is surrounded by defenders as they compete for a rebound in the second half Sunday.

Associated Press

matchup with Florida and came into the arena exuding confidence — and played with it the first few minutes.

O'Quinn, who took only 30 3-pointers for the season, opened the game by launching one from above the top of the key. He missed, then

went back on defense and blocked Patric Young's first shot.

Chris McEachin hit a 3, and Rodney McCauley swooped in to put back a miss, got fouled and made the free throw, and Norfolk State was up 6-4.

Norfolk State's small but loud cheering section loved it.

Then came Florida's game-breaking 25-0 run, and the Gators were on their way to improving to 22-0 all-time against MEAC opponents.

The Spartans' next, and last, highlight came nine minutes later on a backboard-shaking dunk by O'Quinn. Problem was, that was the big guy's first points of the game, and it only cut Florida's lead to 33-13.

If Norfolk State's spirit was broken, the same couldn't be said about its fans. They kept chanting "DEE-FENSE, DEE-FENSE" even as the Spartans fell behind by 31 points in the second half.

The Spartans received a standing ovation as they walked off the court after the game.

Drexel squeaks past N. Iowa

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Samme Givens scored 28 points to lead Drexel to a 65-63 win over Northern Iowa on Sunday in the second round of the NIT.

Chris Fouch added 16 points for the Dragons (29-6), who host Massachusetts in a quarterfinal game on Tuesday.

Johnny Moran scored 19 points to lead Northern Iowa (20-14).

Drexel led by as many as 18 in the first half before Moran's 3-pointer with 34.6 seconds left closed the margin to 61-60. Northern Iowa then fouled Givens out of a timeout and he made 1 of 2 free throws with 24.3 seconds to go. The Panthers' Anthony James missed a driving layup at the other end and Damion Lee hit two free throws with 12.9 seconds left to make it 64-60.

Chip Rank gave the Panthers life with a 3-pointer with 6.1 seconds remaining, but Frantz Massenat made 1 of 2 free throws before Moran's last-second 3-point attempt went off the back rim.

Oregon 108, Iowa 97

EUGENE, Ore. — E.J. Singler scored 25 points, Olu Ashaolu had 22 points and Oregon defeated Iowa 108-97 in the second round of the NIT on Sunday.

Carlos Emory also had 19 points, and Devoe Joseph and Garrett Sim scored 15 each for the Ducks (24-9), who rallied from a 15-point deficit in the first half to advance to the quarterfinals and a game against Pac-12 rival Washington in Seattle on Tuesday.

Oregon's 108 points was its most in a game since beating UC Riverside 108-67 Dec. 28, 2002.

Devyn Marble led the Hawkeyes (18-17) with 31 points and made all seven of his 3-point attempts. He shot 10 of 15 overall.

Aaron White also scored 22 for Iowa, Melsahn Basabe had 17 points and Bryce Cartwright had 12 points and 10 rebounds.

Oregon took the lead for good on a 3-pointer by Joseph with 11:44 to play in the game that made it 71-68.

Nevada beats Bucknell 75-67 in NIT second round

Nevada 75, Bucknell 67

RENO, Nev. — Olek Czyn scored 24 points, Malik Story had 18, and Nevada beat Bucknell 75-67 in the second round of the NIT on Sunday.

Nevada (28-6) went on a 10-1 run to lead 42-29 at halftime. The Wolf Pack take on the winner of the Stanford-Illinois State game.

Bucknell (25-10) cut the deficit to three points with 44.6 seconds left after Mike Muscala's two free throws, but the Bison couldn't get any closer.

Muscala led Bucknell with 25 points while Cameron Ayers scored 21.

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MONDAY EVENING MARCH 19, 2012. Table listing TV programs by channel and time slot, including shows like News, Entertainment Tonight, Jeopardy!, and various reality and drama series.

JUMBLE: THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME. Includes a cartoon illustration and a grid for scrambling letters to form words.

Print answer here: [Grid]. Saturday's Jumbles: HONEY KIOSK SYMBOL CRAFTY. Answer: What they called the bad Irish tribute band - SHAM ROCK.

Bridge. PHILLIP ALDER Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

Tom Shales, a Pulitzer Prize-winning TV critic, described actor and comedian Robin Williams as "a fellow with the inventiveness of Albert Einstein but with the attention span of Daffy Duck." Tom discusses bridge strategy, including the importance of the auction and the distribution of cards.

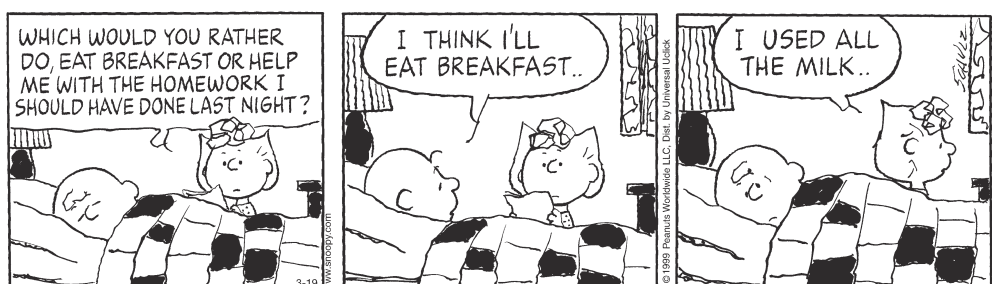
Bridge hand analysis. Shows a deal with North and South hands, a vulnerable contract of 3NT, and a play sequence starting with South leading the Queen of Spades.

CROSSWORD puzzle. Includes clues for Across (1-37) and Down (1-16) and a grid for the puzzle.

Dear Annie: Four years ago, my adult son was divorced and then lost his job. He tried selling his house, but couldn't find a buyer. My sister and I came up with what we thought was a win-win situation: My niece would take over my son's house payments. We hoped she could obtain a mortgage within two years and purchase the house for the balance. My son would make no profit. The only condition was that she maintain the place. After two years, my son was still unemployed, and my niece was unable to qualify for a mortgage. So we let the arrangement continue. We recently learned that my niece moved out without any notification or explanation. We were shocked when we saw that the house had been completely destroyed. We had the property evaluated and were told it would take \$25,000 to get it back into saleable condition. With the help of relatives and contractors and more than 500 hours of free labor, the house is now in decent shape. My husband and I (both retired) invested \$15,000. I have sent emails and letters to my sister and niece, with absolutely no response. If they would not help repay the money, at least they could offer an explana-

ANNE'S MAILBOX. A collection of letters and responses from readers regarding family issues, divorce, and financial matters.

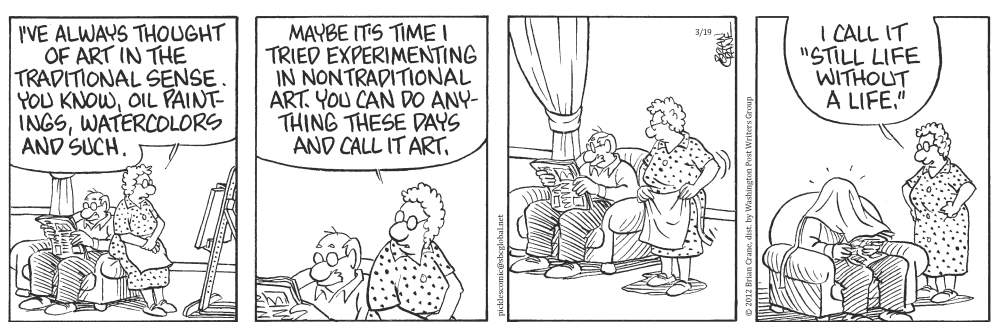
Peanuts



Garfield



Pickles



For Better or For Worse



Sally Forth



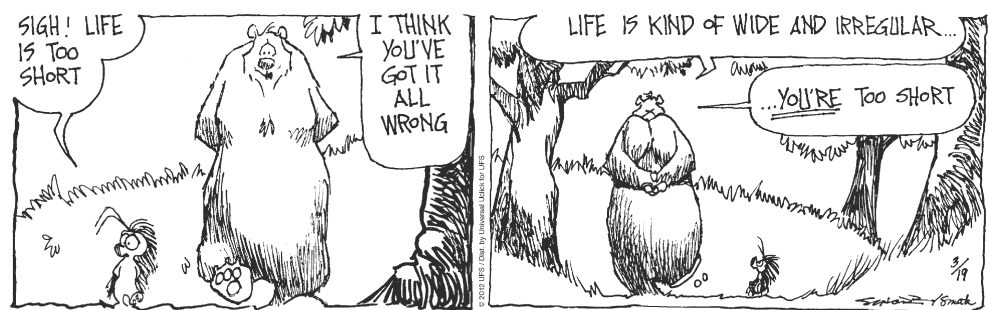
Beetle Bailey



Dilbert



The Grizzwells



The Born Loser



Blondie



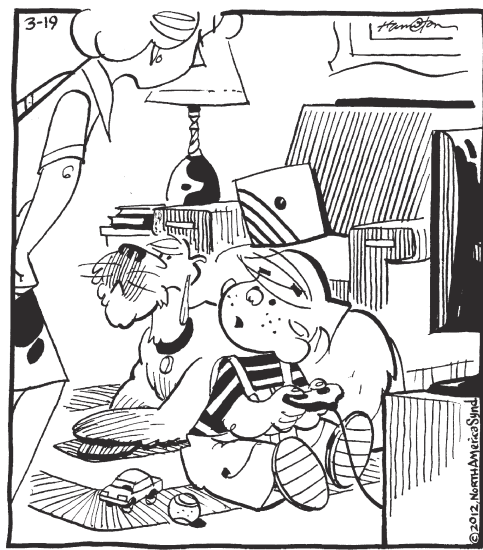
Kit 'N' Carlyle



Rubes



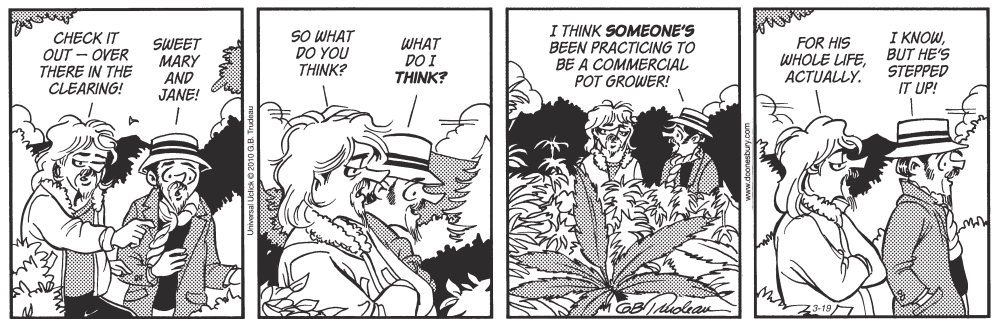
Dennis the Menace



The Family Circus



Doonesbury Flashback



Betty



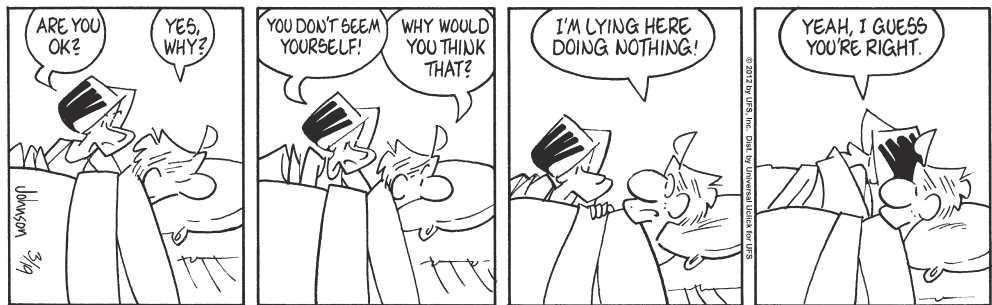
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Today's MOVIES: Citrus Cinemas 6 - Inverness; 637-3377. '21 Jump Street' (R) ID required. 1:10 p.m., 4:10 p.m., 7:20 p.m. 'John Carter' In Real 3D. 1 p.m., 4 p.m., 7 p.m. No passes. 'Dr. Seuss' The Lorax' (PG) In Real 3D. 1:45 p.m., 7:45 p.m. No passes. 'Act of Valor' (R) ID required. 1:20 p.m., 4:20 p.m., 7:10 p.m. 'This Means War' (PG-13) 1:40 p.m., 4:40 p.m., 7:40 p.m. 'Journey 2: The Mysterious Island' (PG) In Real 3D. 1:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. No passes. Crystal River Mall 9; 564-6864. '21 Jump Street' (R) ID required. 1:40 p.m., 4:40 p.m., 7:40 p.m. 'John Carter' In Real 3D. 1 p.m., 4 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m., 7:30 p.m. No passes. 'A Thousand Words' (PG-13) 1:25 p.m., 4:25 p.m., 7:20 p.m. 'Project X' (R) ID required. 1:15 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 7:55 p.m. 'Dr. Seuss' The Lorax' (PG) 1:05 p.m., 5:25 p.m. 'Dr. Seuss' The Lorax' (PG) In Real 3D. 3:15 p.m., 7:35 p.m. No passes. 'Gone' (PG-13) 1:35 p.m., 4:45 p.m., 7:15 p.m. 'Act of Valor' (R) ID required. 1:45 p.m., 4:50 p.m., 7:45 p.m. 'Journey 2: The Mysterious Island' (PG) In Real 3D. 1:50 p.m. No passes. 'The Artist' (PG-13) 1:30 p.m., 4:05 p.m., 7:05 p.m. Visit www.chronicleonline.com for area movie listings and entertainment information. Times subject to change; call ahead.

CELEBRITY CIPHER by Luis Campos. Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another. TODAY'S CLUE: A s enba d. 'JVTL T KTCN OLLT MTBOZ JTZ. ZVO JTZ LVO XKLFBTLO YDFSFGTK. F ZOGC TTK BN KYPO LY VOD ETBFKN TGC EDFOGCZ.' - TCOKO. Previous Solution: 'Geographically, Ireland is a medium-sized rural island that is slowly but steadily being consumed by sheep.' - Dave Barry. (c) 2012 by NEA, Inc., dist. by Universal Uclick 3-19

Sound OFF

DUI deaths

Tornadoes killed 36 innocent people in the last three days. How sad. But listen to this: 41 people — I said 41 innocent people — have died every day on our highways from a drunk driver. Forty-one people killed from a drunken drunk, not counting injured little children and babies for life, broken homes. You pot-scrubbing judges and attorneys let this go on. You need to be caned. Don't you ever think you'll get away with this, judges. You have an appointment with the final judge — God almighty — and you'll answer to him.

Let educators work

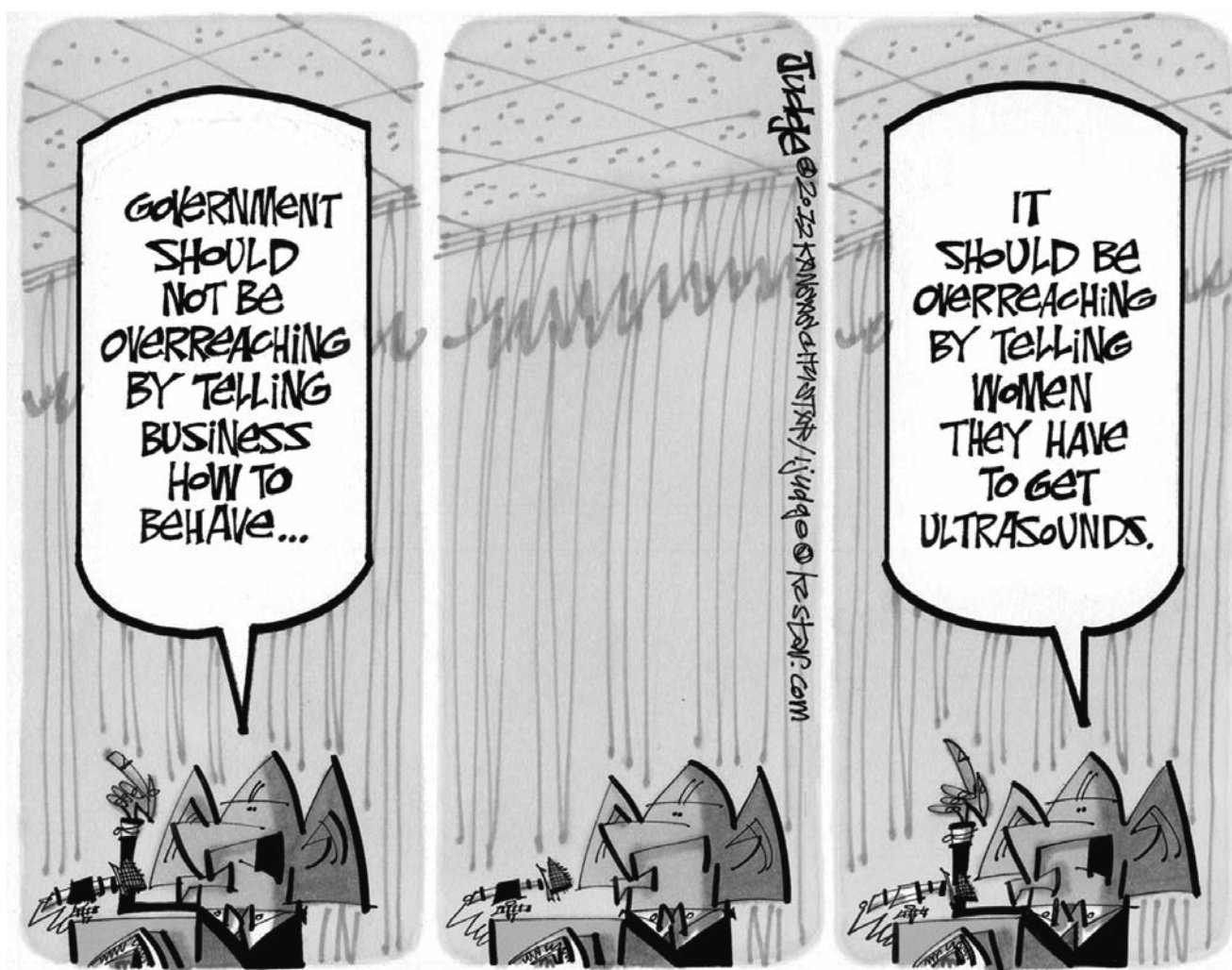
Today is March 8. In your editorial about the "Parental trigger" not the solution, you're right on the money. As with trying to privatize the presence and giving their opinions and all that with education, I suggest they let the educators educate and the politicians politick, but get your hands off of the tax money for the schools. I agree with you just 100 percent.

Just Americans?

Recently, a Sounding Off caller said that he did not care about the people in Syria or any other country, only those in the United States. Fortunately, this attitude is becoming archaic, as the newer generation is more global. But I must ask, when Jesus taught us to love one another, do you think he meant just those in the U.S.?

New rules

With the new watering restrictions, I believe it would be wise for the county to in-



clude a copy of the watering regulations in the next bill residents receive for their water. They can pay for that additional page — one sheet of paper — from the fines that they collected over previous watering fines for individuals. It will eliminate the, "I didn't know," or "I didn't hear," or "No one told me."

Tortoise poachers

Attention, users of the Withlacoochee Trail: In the Holder area, I noticed a couple poaching gopher tortoises. They had milk crates attached to the front of

their bikes. One tortoise was placed into the crate and covered by a cloth or a shirt. When they saw me watching, they hopped on their bikes and sped away. I reported them to the Crime Watch driver and a park worker, but the poachers were long gone. Please be on the lookout to protect our endangered species.

Cost of gossip

When repeating malicious gossip, one should be aware of the fact this country has severe libel and slander laws. It can be expensive

not biting one's tongue.

Young workers

With all the panic about the Social Security fund going broke, there's one picture everyone forgets: There are 125 million Americans under the age of 30 and there are all those over age 30 in the workforce, not to mention the seniors working part time and all paying into Social Security.

Talk is cheap

The comment on "Gene and Don gone," what are they replaced by? Talk

shows. We have so many talk shows now. These people replaced these men with talk shows when people enjoyed the music. It's a shame that (we) can't have what the people really want.

Wasted water

Reading about water restrictions, I do hope that someone will alert Terra Vista and Citrus Hills for wasting water on the roadsides on (County Road) 486 and their community. They water often, with no regard to restricted days or hours. We've seen sprinklers on

even when it's raining. Maybe a fine from Swiftmud will force them, Citrus Hills and Terra Vista, to abide by the rules. Why should they be exempt? We all have to conserve. Someone should get after them and have them adjust their sprinkler system and abide by the new rules.

Thanks, everyone

I've been a resident of Citrus County for over 30 years and I want to say many, many thanks. I live in Beverly Hills now; I used to live in Crystal River. Many thanks to all the students and the project people that are working on cleaning up Hunters Spring Park. It's a wonderful thing they're doing — all the time and effort. It's just super. You know, it's wonderful. It is truly wonderful.

What's Obama done?

It's amazing how so many people can be misled by not really paying attention to the facts. Now there's letters to the editor and comments in Sound Off saying, "Why are we blaming Obama because the problems stem back from the Republicans?" That may be a very fair statement, but in four years, what has Obama done to solve the problem? Putting us deeper in debt; not bringing the troops home when he promised. There's an array of promises he made three-and-a-half years ago that he's hardly kept any of them. He was going to reduce taxes. He was going to set the world on fire. So these people that are blaming each other better go back, study the facts in the beginning and then make an assessment.

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meds. last seen Sun 8/7
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female last seen
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9	2	7	1	3	5	6	8	4
8	6	3	7	9	4	1	5	2
5	4	9	8	2	7	3	1	6
3	7	6	5	4	1	9	2	8
1	8	2	3	6	9	5	4	7
7	3	4	6	5	2	8	9	1
6	9	8	4	1	3	2	7	5
2	5	1	9	7	8	4	6	3

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4	5	2	8	6	7	9		
9		1		5			4	
5	4	9				3	1	6
3								8
1	8	2				5	4	7
6		4	3					5
2	1	9	7	8	4			3

Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

Found
Found Black & White,
Medium Size young
Male Dog, found Near
Mama Sally's across
from Crystal River Mail
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3/14
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