

TODAY & Thursday morning
HIGH 82
LOW 45
Mostly sunny today, clear tonight and sunny Thursday morning.

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE



NEWS BRIEFS

Zimmerman contacts prosecutor; lawyers quit

ORLANDO — Attorneys for George Zimmerman have withdrawn as his counsel, saying they haven't heard from him since Sunday.

Three puppies perish in barn fire

INVERNESS — An early Tuesday morning fire at an Inverness barn claimed the lives of three puppies. The blaze at 360 Croft Ave., also destroyed a pickup truck and horse trailer.

According to Battalion Chief Ralph Franklin, firefighters went into defensive attack mode to tackle the fire which was described as being in an advanced stage.

COMING TOMORROW: Grand opening

The Homosassa-area Wal-Mart will officially open the doors at its new location at the intersection of U.S. 19 and West Cardinal Street.

INSIDE

OPINION: Our school system and our county government have 'investment grade' ratings...

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CR City Council decides to shelve letter

Plan to sue federal agency over new King's Bay rules on hold

A.B. SIDIBE Staff Writer

CRYSTAL RIVER — Officials have decided to shelve the letter of intent to sue regarding the controversial new federal rules pertaining to King's Bay.

announcement, the City Council decided to heed new information revealed by a city attorney. Michael J. Brannigan of the Hogan Law Firm and one of the city's attorneys, told the panel Monday they had a much bigger window to respond than had been anticipated to the federal rules.

day notice of intent. Brannigan, however, told them after further research, attorneys found there was a six-year statute of limitation, but that they still had to give a 60-day notice of intent.



Ron Kitchen opposes spending taxpayer money on lawsuit.

better to do further research about their options in the future. Council member Ron Kitchen reiterated his belief that, barring an ironclad assurance that the city's chance of success against USFWS is good, he would not like to vote to spend taxpayer money on any kind of litigation.



Maureen McNiff in favor of holding off on litigation, doing more research.

Mayor Jim Farley also repeated his opposition to the rules, but added he was a realist. "We may get back to this and we may not. I don't know," Farley told dozens who turned out in support and opposition to the rules.

See LETTER/Page A2

Ruffled feathers



MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle

This angry bird displays behavior that is a bit different from the popular computer game. The Eastern bluebird above doesn't recognize the reflection as its own and attacks the rival reflection in this truck mirror repeatedly to scare it away.

Board: Keep schools in county housing plan

MIKE WRIGHT Staff Writer

INVERNESS — Citrus County hasn't seen a major housing development in years, but school district officials still want a seat the planning table when the next one comes along.

district has with the county and cities for school planning. Concurrency requires that infrastructure, such as roads, sewers and, if necessary, schools, be in place or planned before a significant development can occur.

would still have input by keeping its non-voting member on the planning and development review board, being informed of all new development applications and receive impact fee revenue from development.

SCHOOL BOARD VOTE

The school board on Tuesday unanimously approved a referendum on the November ballot to keep a .25-mill for operation and capital projects.

See TAX/Page A2

Nuclear court fight over steep rate hike heats up

The News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — With legislative leaders rejecting possible changes, a fight is building in the Florida Supreme Court about a law that allows utilities to pass along hundreds of millions of dollars in costs to customers for nuclear-power projects.

might never be built. But court records show that Florida Power & Light and Progress Energy Florida — the two utilities planning nuclear projects — have hired former Supreme Court justices to represent them in fighting the case.



Mike Fasano opposes utility rate hike.

winkel Vasilinda, D-Tallahassee, and Mark Pafford, D-West Palm Beach, and Sens. Mike Fasano, R-New Port Richey, and Charlie Dean, R-Inverness, filed the brief this week challenging the constitutionality of the 2006 nuclear-cost law.

gions that the law unconstitutionally gives too much power to the Florida Public Service Commission to decide whether to approve the nuclear costs.

Four lawmakers this week filed a brief in support of an effort by the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy to nix the law, which is controversial in part because customers are getting billed for projects that

Progress will be represented by former Chief Justice Stephen Grimes, while FPL will be represented by former Justice Raoul Cantero, according to filings last month.

Rehwinkel Vasilinda and Fasano have been outspoken critics of the law and filed bills this year to try to repeal it, but the bills were not heard in legislative committees. The brief ar-

Legislative leaders have

See RATES/Page A2

Santorum pulls out of race

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — From obscure former senator driving a pickup truck across Iowa, Rick Santorum made a surprising — he calls it miraculous — leap to become the most formidable threat to Mitt Romney's march to the Republican nomination.

Santorum's presence in the race pushed to the fore polarizing social issues, such as abortion, access to birth control, and gays in the military, that many in the party preferred not to delve into as the GOP prepared to court independent voters in the general election campaign against President Barack Obama.

"We did focus a lot, yes, on the families and on the dignity of human life and on the moral enterprise that is America," he said Tuesday in Gettysburg, Pa., as he announced his decision to suspend his campaign.

He added: "We were winning in a very different way because we were touching hearts. We were raising issues that, well, frankly, a lot of people didn't want to have raised."

As it became obvious Santorum could not triumph in the primaries and caucuses, he began talking of an unorthodox strategy of stealing the nomination away from a weakened Romney at a divided Republican National Convention.

Many Republicans bent on showing unity against Obama considered such a strategy disastrous and began calling for the party to unify around Romney as the presumptive nominee.

While Santorum avoided mentioning Romney on Tuesday, he pledged to stay in the fight to defeat Obama, which presumably means embracing the party's nominee at some point.

He seems an unlikely choice for Romney, given that just last month he was calling the former Massachusetts governor "the worst Republican in the country" to challenge Obama.

See GOP/Page A2

GOP

Continued from Page A1

Santorum likes to compare himself to President Ronald Reagan, a fellow conservative who happens to have lost his own first bid for the party's nomination before winning in a landslide four years later. The comparison suggests Santorum might expect better chances for himself in 2016, should Obama win re-election. No matter what, Santorum has made himself a national name and gained influence over his party's agenda.

His withdrawal came after he had fallen hopelessly behind Romney in the race for GOP delegates. And he risked an embarrassing loss in his home state of Pennsylvania if he stuck around for its April 24 primary. Polls indicated his once strong lead slipping away in Pennsylvania, which ousted Santorum from the Senate in a rout in 2006. Many voters there still remember him unfavorably.

Santorum said he made the decision to leave the race with his family over the weekend as his daughter Bella, who suffers from a rare and serious genetic



Associated Press

Republican presidential candidate, former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum turns to his wife Karen, left, after announcing he is suspending his candidacy effective Tuesday in Gettysburg, Pa.

condition, was hospitalized.

One Pennsylvania supporter, Chad Collie, said Santorum's withdrawal left him "speechless." Collie, owner of a plaster and dry-wall business, had brought his wife and two children, ages 3 and 5, to what he expected to be a Gettysburg campaign event for the "truly genuine conservative" he planned to support

in the state's GOP primary. Would he be willing to vote for Romney instead? "We'll see," said Collie, who views Romney as about the same as Obama. "I'm not opposed to a third party."

He seemed to think working mothers would do better to quit their jobs and homeschool their children, as his wife, Karen, did. He called Obama "a snob" for wanting

all Americans to have the opportunity to go to college. And he said fellow Roman Catholic John F. Kennedy's famous 1960 speech about the separation of church and state made him want to "throw up."

Republicans questioned whether Santorum could appeal to party moderates and independents — and female voters — if he were the party's nominee.

RATES

Continued from Page A1

stood behind the law, arguing that utilities need to be able to collect money to offset at least parts of the upfront costs of the multibillion-dollar projects.

During a Fasano-prompted discussion in February, Senate Communications, Energy and Public Utilities Chairman Andy Gardiner, R-Orlando, said customers likely would wind up paying

more if the utilities waited to recoup costs until after the plants start operating.

"If we believe in diversifying electricity in this state, there has to be options," Gardiner said at the time.

Progress plans to build two nuclear reactors in Levy County, while FPL has moved forward with a similar project in Miami-Dade County. Neither site would start producing electricity for at least another decade and are not guaranteed to ever be built.

TAX

Continued from Page A1

development is stagnant today, removing concurrency could place the district in position to provide classrooms for a new community without a developer's assistance.

"We can't predict the future," board member Pat Deutschman said. "All we can do is protect the future."

District planning director Chuck Dixon said Citrus hasn't seen a housing development large enough to trigger a school concurrency issue.

"It only comes to play when you're creating a new subdivision," Dixon said. "From a practical standpoint, it's not an issue."

Dixon added, however, that keeping school concurrency in place protects the school district if a large housing development comes to the county for

approval.

Board member Bill Murray made a motion to approve the builders association's request to remove the concurrency requirement.

The motion had no support and died.

Dixon noted the concurrency issue is relevant because the state dismantled its oversight of local comprehensive plans.

Dixon said he wouldn't be surprised to see the state revisit the issue and adopt a standardized approach to growth management.

He suggested the district revisit the issue in a year.

Chronicle reporter Mike Wright can be reached at 352-563-3228 or mwright@chronicleonline.com.



Chuck Dixon

school district planning director.

LETTER

Continued from Page A1

announced rules of conduct for waterborne activities, including a reduction of boat speeds in the area called the sport zone from 35 mph to 25 mph.

The sport zone will be open for use during daylight hours between June 1 and Aug. 15. Slow or idle speed is defined as speed that allows steering for a boater.

City officials have been adamant in their opposition to the rules since they were first proposed last June. Officials also vowed legal action if the rules were ever implemented.

However, after the rules were announced, officials began to grapple with the reality of that vow, espe-

cially after city counsel told them a suit against USFWS is going to be expensive and difficult to win.

Attorney Brannigan repeated the same thing Monday, adding that the venue of litigation will have to be through the arbitration process "which is a difficult standard."

Officials of USFWS said their service took human safety seriously and drafted a common-sense approach to reducing the risk of collisions between boats and manatees.

Officials also noted it compromised on the final rules after listening to people's concerns. They pointed to leaving a sport zone with a 25 mph speed zone as prime example of concessions about concerns. The proposed rule had sought to make all of King's

Bay slow or idle speed.

In other matters Monday:

■ The City Council heard from Captains Charlie Simmons and Mike Richie, the Citrus County Sheriff's Office's West-side and special operations commanders respectively. Capt. Richie, who oversees the agency's marine unit, said his office is only charged with enforcing state and local laws. He said unless the new King's Bay rules become codified and get absorbed into state and local laws, his agency cannot enforce federal rules. City officials have repeatedly wondered how USFWS will enforce its rules with only two enforcement officers assigned to this entire region.

■ On advice of counsel, the City Council decided to research a resolution supporting Save Crystal River

Inc.'s bid to have the state's (FWC) revisit its cooperative agreement with USFWS.

Save Crystal River is a citizens group opposed to what they view as a federal takeover of the bay at the expense of sovereign state rights.

Mac Williams, who spoke for the group, told the panel, their group seeks to get FWC to tweak its charter with federal authorities and include language that gives state and federal agencies equal footing in making rules and implementing them.

■ The council on first reading OK'd a series of changes to the city charter.

Chronicle reporter A.B. Sidibe can be reached at 352-564-2925 or asidibe@chronicleonline.com.

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Around the
COUNTY

**Citrus Ridge
 Republicans to meet**

The Republican Club of Citrus Ridge will have its next meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 12, at Skeets Family Barbeque Restaurant, 3887 N. Lecanto Highway, in the private room.

Citrus Ridge includes Citrus Hills, Citrus Springs, Pine Ridge, Lecanto and Beverly Hills, but all Republicans are invited.

State Rep. Jimmie T. Smith will be the guest speaker to discuss the past legislative session and other issues that affect Citrus County and the state.

Skeets, on County Road 491 in Beverly Hills, will serve dinner before the meeting for those interested.

**Hazardous waste and
 paint collection slated**

The Citrus County Solid Waste Division will be conducting a drop-off program for residents from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday.

Participants may bring 10 gallons or up to 60 pounds of household paint and hazardous materials free of charge. Hazardous waste over the 60 pounds will be charged at 35 cents per pound.

The Citrus County Landfill collects household hazardous waste and paint weekdays, on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

To view additional program information and items included, visit the County website at www.bocc.citrus.fl.us/pubworks/swm.

Questions may be emailed to hazwasteinfo@bocc.citrus.fl.us, or call Solid Waste Management at 352-527-7670.

**Show to discuss
 synthetic cannabinoids**

Tune into the next edition of the Sheriff's 10-43 show from 7:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesday on WYKE channel 16 for cable customers. Sgt. Justin Ferrara, who leads the Tactical Impact Unit, will be on the show. He'll give an overview of the new law to keep synthetic cannabinoids off the shelves in convenience stores and smoke shops. With names like K2 and Spice, Sgt. Ferrara discusses the products, their impact on users and how TIU has taken thousands of these products off the market over the past few weeks.

The Sheriff's 10-43 can also be viewed on Fridays at 11 a.m. For those with satellite, prior Sheriff's 10-43 shows can be seen via the sheriff's website at www.sheriffcitrus.org.

**State attorney seeks
 nominations**

The Citrus County State Attorney's Office is seeking nominations to honor those who dedicate their time selflessly to victims' rights and services.

People are encouraged to send nominations to victimrightsprogram@gmail.com, including the person's name, agency and job title, along with a brief description of why the person should be recognized.

Those nominated will be honored at this year's victims' rights program, which will begin at 11:30 a.m. Monday, April 23, inside the Board of County Commissioners chambers in the Citrus County Courthouse in Inverness. The program is free and open to the public.

A slideshow will also play continuously during the program, featuring photos of victims. If you would like to have a photo in the slideshow, email the photo to victimrightsprogram@gmail.com. Interested parties can also drop photos off at the state attorney's office, on the third floor of the Citrus County Courthouse.

All photos must be submitted before Friday, April 13, including the person's name and a brief description about the circumstances surrounding the victimization.

— From staff reports

Sonic coming back, bringing jobs

CHRIS VAN ORMER
Staff Writer

INVERNESS — A frisson of excitement swept across the commission chamber Tuesday when the public learned Sonic will return to Crystal River.

"I'm here to bring you good news," said Donna Alexander, marketing director for Sonic/Bell Grande Group, speaking during the public comment session at a meeting of the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). "I'm with Sonic drive-in restaurants. I want to let you know that we are reopening our Crystal River location."

At this point, county residents in the commission chamber responded with applause and cheers. "The really good news is that we are going to be looking to fill between 60 and 75 jobs in Citrus County," Alexander continued.

The fast food restaurant billed as "America's Drive-In," which sometimes features carhops on roller-skates, closed its doors in November

2010, and has been sorely missed for its range of meals, snacks, treats and breakfasts. It was among a number of franchises and other small businesses impacted by the recession.

Alexander told the *Chronicle* that her Florida-based company had taken over the franchises of several Sonic restaurants that had been closed. She said her company's goal was to rehab the properties to bring them back up to Sonic standards.

"We just reopened in Mulberry. That location was closed for six years," Alexander said. "We had 1,000 people wanting to work there. It was crazy."

New equipment has been delivered to the Sonic site at 310 S.E. U.S. 19. The restaurant will be repainted. A Florida-based landscaper will give it green touches.

The business will be green in other ways, too.

"We're committed to participating in all city and county recycling programs," Alexander said.

According to Alexander, the company was looking to give back to the

■ Applications for jobs will be accepted at the Sonic site from noon on Saturday, April 21.

community in other ways, as well as provide some jobs.

"Lots of the things that we did in Mulberry, for example, is we gave a \$998 grant to the local schools for books that they needed," Alexander said. "We're sponsoring the Mulberry High School football team this fall with a platinum sponsorship. We also sponsor currently one of the T-ball teams. They wear their little Sonic jerseys. They're the cutest things."

Alexander said her company expected to be as active in Crystal River. She said the sponsorships she described in Mulberry amounted to a little less than \$4,000.

"That's not a ton of money," Alexander said. "But a little money goes a long way in some of these schools. We're committed to academic work, as well as athletics."

The company would look for a team to sponsor and a school to hook up with, Alexander said.

Applications for jobs will be accepted at the Sonic site from noon on Saturday, April 21.

The grand reopening has been set for June 2, but the company expects to have what is called a "soft" opening sometime before that date.

The next Sonic the company plans to reopen will be in Spring Hill.

■ The BOCC approved the termination of its agreement with the Homosassa Civic Club regarding its use of the Homosassa Fire Station at 10950 Yulee Drive, and it declared the property eligible for use by a nonprofit agency. The agency would be chosen at a future meeting.

The lease agreement has a 90-day notice of termination clause, making the effective date of termination July 16.

Chronicle reporter Chris Van Ormer can be reached at cvanormer@chronicleonline.com or 352-546-2916.

Mark of distinction

*Enthusiast
 'backs up' his
 love for eagles*

NANCY KENNEDY
Staff Writer

— HOMOSASSA
 Bob Griffin likes eagles.

A lot. "They're majestic; they're beautiful," he said. "They have a look about them, their face and the way they fly. There's nothing like it."

About 22 years ago, someone gave him an eagle carved out of wood and he started collecting eagles of all kinds — made from wood, lead crystal and glass.

One is made from volcanic rock from Mt. Etna in Italy. His favorite, made from silk and ceramic, sits on a pedestal in his living room.

Two years ago he began the process of what he calls the "ultimate" addition to his collection — a tattoo mural that covers his entire back. Just last week he completed it — 47 hours of sessions, lasting three to six and a half hours, at a total cost of \$2,200.

He said it's well worth the pain and the price — he loves eagles that much.

"About 10 years ago I started thinking about it," he said. "I didn't know how much it would hurt, so five years ago I did a family crest on my arm."

He said for the most part the pain of tattooing his back was not terrible, except for the last session that colored in the blue areas.

"On a pain scale from one to 10, that was a nine and a half," he said. "It's not a usual tattoo. This is a portrait, done free-hand."

Griffin, 68, said when he started collecting ea-



MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle

Bob Griffin displays the large tattoo recently put on his back. He said the entire tattoo took more than 47 hours to complete and cost him \$2,200.

gles he also began studying them. He used to go to Eustis, where there are a lot of eagles around the canals, and he would sit and fish and watch the eagles fly.

"You could see five or six or seven nests out there," he said. "I also like to go out to the end of the Crystal River where there's an eagle's nest that I enjoy watching."

Inside his Homosassa

home, the walls are covered with framed eagle art. An eagle-themed wall calendar hangs by the front door. An eagle pocket knife rests on a shelf in a display cabinet.

And then there are the hummingbirds.

"Those are my wife's," Griffin explained. "We've only been married two years and she likes hummingbirds."

Although the tattoo is

the ultimate eagle, it's not the last for this eagle enthusiast. A large tree stump sits in his front yard with an eagle inside of it, waiting to be carved out.

"That's my next project," he said. "It'll take me about four months to carve."

Chronicle reporter Nancy Kennedy can be reached at nkennedy@chronicleonline.com or 352-564-2927.

Twist in Martin case

*Zimmerman's
 lawyers drop
 him as client*

Associated Press

SANFORD — The Trayvon Martin case took a bizarre turn Tuesday when George Zimmerman's attorneys said they were dropping the neighborhood watch captain as a client, complaining that they have lost all contact with him and that he called the prosecutor and talked to a TV host after they told him not to speak to anyone.

The lawyers portrayed Zimmerman as erratic and his emotional state as shaky, and they expressed fear for his mental and physical health under the pressure that has been building in the month since he shot and killed Martin, an unarmed black teenager.

"As of the last couple days he has not returned phone calls, text messages or emails," attorney Craig Sonner said at a news conference outside the courthouse.

The split came as a special prosecutor neared a decision on whether to charge Zimmerman with a crime in the Feb. 26 shooting.

Sonner and colleague Hal Uhrig said they had not spoken with Zimmerman since Sunday. Since then, they said, they had learned that he spoke to special prosecutor Angela Corey's office and to Fox TV host Sean Hannity without consulting them, in an attempt to give his side of the shooting. They said Corey refused to talk to Zimmerman without his attorneys' consent and Hannity wouldn't tell them what was discussed.

Zimmerman also set up his own website even as the lawyers were creating one for him at his request. Zimmerman said on his website that he wants "to ensure my supporters they are receiving my full attention without any intermediaries." The site allows visitors to give Zimmerman money for living expenses and legal bills.

Sonner and Uhrig said that they still believe in Zimmerman's innocence and that they would probably represent him again if he contacted them and requested it. They said Zimmerman is in the U.S., but wouldn't say where because they fear for his safety.

They said Zimmerman has been under extreme pressure and is basically alone, having gone underground because of the furor.

"This has been a terribly corrosive process. George Zimmerman, in our opinion, and from information made available to us, is not doing well emotionally," Uhrig said.

County offering homebuyers classes

Program aimed at first-time purchasers

Special to the Chronicle

Two classroom sessions will take place this month for first-time homebuyers. There is no charge to attend, but you must reserve your seat.

Participants will receive a Certificate of Completion. This class is a requirement for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program and the SHIP Program.

The Citrus County session will be from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, April 14, at the Citrus County Re-

source Center, 2804 W. Marc Knighton Court, Lecanto.

Please call Jennifer Pollard or Pat Wilkerson at 352-527-7520. This session is sponsored by Citrus County Housing Services, Suarez Home & Finance Corp., RE/MAX Realty One and Florida Cooperative Extension.

The Hernando County session will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, April 28 at Suarez Home & Finance Corp., 51 W. Fort Dade Ave., Brooksville.

Please call Aimee at 352-726-1113 or

Suarez Home Finance at 352-754-6191. This session is sponsored by Suarez Home & Finance Corp., Florida Cooperative Extension and Florida Low Income Housing Associates Inc.

The classes will cover the entire homebuying process, from preparing your credit and finances for loan approval to closing. Speakers will explain and answer questions on the entire process. These classes are free of charge; no child care is provided. Lunch will be provided.

You may also register by email with Jen at jennifer.pollard@bocc.citrus.fl.us (Citrus session) or Aimee at aimee@bellsouth.net (Hernando session).

Obituaries

James Connolly, 74
LECANTO

James F. Connolly, age 74, of Lecanto, Florida, passed away April 9, 2012, at the Citrus Hospice in Inverness, FL. He was born on December 12, 1937, to James F. and Mary Ann (Ochwat) Connolly. James moved to Citrus County 33 years ago from the St. Petersburg, FL, area and prior to that Chicago, IL. He was a retired tile contractor; a member of St. Scholastica Catholic Church and a member of the Inverness Moose Lodge.



James Connolly

He is survived by four children, Lori, Carrie, Kathie and her husband Rick, and Jamie and his wife Sara; one brother Robert and his wife Donna; and five grandchildren, Lexi, Sydney, Tyler, Grayson and Riley.

Family will receive friends on Thursday, April 12, from 4 p.m. until service time at 6 p.m. at the Brown Funeral Home in Lecanto. Private cremation will follow the service under the direction of Brown Funeral Home and Crematory. Burial will be Friday at 2 p.m. at the Crystal River Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to American Diabetes Association. Brown Funeral Home and Crematory, Lecanto, FL. www.brownsfuneralhome.com.

Joyce Hiers, 71
OCALA

Joyce Eyvonne Hiers, 71, of Ocala, FL, died April 8, 2012.

Private arrangements under the direction of Brown Funeral Home and Crematory in Lecanto, Florida.

Renae Juderjahn, 57
JACKSONVILLE

Renae D. Juderjahn, 57, of Jacksonville, FL, died April 9, 2012.

Private arrangements under the direction of Brown Funeral Home and Crematory in Lecanto, Florida.

Leo Knecht, 57
DUNNELLON

Leo F. Knecht Jr., 57, of Dunnellon, died Monday, April 9, 2012. Arrangements under the care of Chas. E. Davis Funeral Home with Crematory, Inverness, Florida.



George Lange, 90
WINFIELD, ILL.

Dr. George H. Lange, age 90, a resident of Winfield, formerly of Villa Park, passed away on Thursday, April 5, 2012, at Central DuPage Hospital in Winfield, Illinois. He was born November 6, 1921, in Chicago to Mae nee Ryan and Henry Lange.



George Lange

He attended Knox College and Northwestern University Dental School, graduating in 1944. He was a veteran of WWII, serving in the U.S. Navy as a dentist on the USS Wilkes-Barre. He practiced dentistry for 57 years, the last 50 in Wheaton and retired in 2001. George loved sports and was an avid golfer and a great Cubs and Bears fan.

He was a member of the Chicago Dental Society, Old Wayne Golf Club, and the Elks Club.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Paula Lange; his children, Carole (James) Hughes of Nanuet, NY, Nancy (Jon) Reimer of Crown Point, IN, Robert Lange and Jennifer Stockwell, both of Hanover Park; seven grandchildren, Adam (MaryKate) Hughes of Washington, D.C., Eric Hughes of New York, NY, Stephanie Grindey of Crown Point, IN, Melissa Reimer of Plainfield, IL, Richard Lange of Hanover Park, and Alexander and Kirby Stockwell of Glen Ellyn; and three great-grandchildren, Maura and

Molly Hughes, and Ashley Grindey. He is also survived by his stepchildren, Paul Buck of St. Charles and Cynthia (Michael) Balane of Appleton, WI; and step-grandchildren, Paul M. Buck, Amanda and Claire Balane, many dear friends and associates and his dog Beau.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 56 years, Norma Dixon Lange; and his sister, Betty Sukup; grandson, Bryan Hughes; and daughter-in-law, Wendy Lange.

A visitation will be held on Tuesday, April 10, 2012, from 4 to 9 at Hultgren Funeral Home, 304 N. Main St., Wheaton, IL, where a funeral will be held on Wednesday at 10 a.m. Interment will follow at Acacia Park Cemetery in Chicago, Illinois.

Memorial gifts may be directed to the American Heart Association, Multiple Sclerosis Society, Breast Cancer Research or your favorite charity.

Family and friends may sign a guest book at hultgrenfh.com. For more information, please call Hultgren Funeral Home at 630-668-0027.



John MacDonald, 92
DUNNELLON

John H. MacDonald, 92, of Dunnellon, died April 4, 2012. A memorial service is April 19, 2012, at the Dunnellon Presbyterian Church. Inurnment will be at Florida National Cemetery.

Isabelle Paprocki, 88
INVERNESS

Isabelle S. Paprocki, 88, of Inverness, Florida died Tuesday, April 10, 2012. Arrangements under the care of Chas. E. Davis Funeral Home with Crematory, Inverness.

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Funeral Home With Crematory

DIXIE TOWNSEND
Service: Thur. 10:00 am-Chapel
NORMA JEAN JOHNSON
Service: Sat. 2:00 pm - Kingdom Hall, Inverness
CHARLES WELLINGTON
Pending
COREY KELLER
Service: Fri. 1:00 pm at residence
LEO KNIGHT
Private Arrangements
WILLIAM KARNES, JR.
Service: Fri. 10:00 am
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Charles McNabb, 84
CRYSTAL RIVER

Charles R. McNabb died April 6, 2012, in Crystal River, Florida. He was born in McLeansboro, Illinois, on December 28, 1927.

He is survived by his wife, Lesley McNabb, and son Tom Cassel.

Became a naval aviator near the end of World War II and moved to Florida after the war ended.

He held many jobs, including swimming at Weeki Wachee with mermaid shows, crop dusting, professional scuba diving, feature film stuntman and location scouting.

He became a pilot for the state of Florida Bureau of Aircraft in 1962, flying department heads and governors for 33 years, retiring in 1995 as senior pilot.

He retired to Crystal River in 1996 to enjoy fishing and gardening.

A celebration of his life will be held in the near future.

Sign the guest book at chronicleonline.com.

Edna 'Ma' Wilson, 63
FLORAL CITY

Edna C. "Ma" Wilson, 63, of Floral City, Florida, passed away Saturday, April 7, 2012, at Citrus Memorial hospital, Inverness, Florida.



Edna Wilson

She arrived in the area in 1936, coming from Kissimmee, Florida. Edna was a homemaker and a member of the Floral City Baptist Church. She enjoyed crafts, the race-track, helping people and spending time with her family and grandchildren.

She is predeceased by her husband, Thomas E. Wilson Jr. Survivors include three sons, Thomas E. Wilson III, Timothy (Hope) Wilson and Michael Wilson, all of Floral City; four daughters, Bonnie Lorene Wilson, Tammy (Robert) Lontz, and Heather C. Wilson, all of Kissimmee, and Kathy M. Cluts of Inverness; mother, Dorothy Clark of National City, California; two brothers, James and Tommy Joe Hoyt; two sisters, Linda Cooper and Kathy Gearhart; brother-in-law Harley (Virginia) Wilson of Floral City; sister-in-law Sharon (Roy) Pitts of Kissimmee; 11 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. Arrangements under the direction of Chas E. Davis Funeral Home with Crematory, Inverness, Florida.

Sign the guest book at chronicleonline.com.

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- Free obituaries, run one day, can include: full name of deceased; age; hometown/state; date of death; place of death; date, time and place of visitation and funeral services.
- If websites, photos, survivors, memorial contributions or other information are included, this will be designated as a paid obituary and a cost estimate provided to the sender.
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Lecanto High School
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Florida high court hears term limit cases

Question hinges on status of state's 20 charter counties

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — The Florida Supreme Court heard oral arguments Tuesday on the constitutionality of term limits for county commissioners in a pair of cases that potentially could affect all 20 of the state's charter counties.

The only opposition came from Bruce Rogow, a lawyer for Rio Vista resident William Telli, who had challenged Broward County's 12-year term limit. In the second case, lawyers for Sarasota County and a citizens group both argued in favor of the eight-year limit there.

Rogow cited a 2002 Supreme Court ruling that struck down term limits for county constitutional officers: sheriffs, court clerks, supervisors of elections, tax collectors and property appraisers.

That 4-3 decision was based on the Florida Constitution's "Eight is Enough" amendment, which sets eight-year term limits for legislators, the governor, lieutenant governor and Cabinet members but does not cover county officials.

"County home rule charters do not trump the constitution," Rogow told the justices. He argued it would take another constitutional amendment to add other disqualifications from office such as a term limits for county commissioners.

Joni A. Coffey, a lawyer for

Broward County, contended that the opinion on constitutional officers' term limits does not apply to county commissioners because their positions are established by a separate constitutional provision. It makes an exception for charter counties to requirements for county governing boards that include having five or seven members serving staggered four-year terms from single-member districts redrawn after every 10-year census.

"The constitution itself establishes a basis on which the people, not the Legislature, can establish a disqualification," Coffey said.

The 4th District Court of Appeal upheld Broward's term limits while a trial judge ruled against Sarasota's limits. The 2nd District Court of Appeal bumped the Sarasota case to the Supreme Court without a decision.

Justice Barbara Pariente noted that the 4th District court ruled county commissioners are different from constitutional officers who have statewide duties. She asked Rogow if that was an "honest distinction."

"It's an honest distinction, but I don't think it's a persuasive distinction," Rogow said.

One option would be for the high court to recede from its 2002 decision, Pariente suggested, but Rogow warned that could lead to unforeseen results.

Three current justices participated in that decision. Justices Pariente and R. Fred Lewis voted with the majority while Peggy Quince dissented.

Andrea Flynn Mogensen, a lawyer for the Sarasota citizens group, said there was no difference between the two cases. She said there was a sense of urgency, though, because the Supreme Court's decision will determine if two Sarasota incumbents will be able to seek re-election this year or be term-limited out of office. Two Broward commissioners are in the same situation.

The high court did not indicate when it would rule.

Ten charter counties currently have term limits. The other eight are Brevard, Clay, Duval, Hillsborough, Orange, Palm Beach, Polk and Volusia.

In January, voters in Miami-Dade, the state's largest county, rejected term limits linked to a pay raise for commissioners. A new proposal without a pay raise will be on the November ballot.

The cases are William Telli v. Broward County, et al., SC11-1737, Cathy Antunes, et al. v. Sarasota County, SC12-109.

Serial killer appeals to Supreme Court

Execution scheduled Thursday

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — Lawyers for Florida serial killer David Gore asked the U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday to block his planned execution later this week.

The 58-year-old convict is scheduled to receive a lethal injection on Thursday at Florida State Prison in Starke for the 1983 rape-murder of 17-year-old Lynn Elliot in Indian River County. Gore also is serving life terms for killing five other girls or women, who were raped and dismembered.

His attorneys asked for a stay and filed an appeal based on a recent Supreme Court ruling that dealt with ineffective legal assistance.

The nation's highest court ruled last month in an Arizona case that the federal courts must hear a convict's claim of receiving ineffective legal assistance — or none at all — for appeals alleging the inmate's trial lawyers also had been ineffective.

Procedural issues cannot

be used to block those appeals, the federal justices ruled in the 7-2 opinion. That decision is limited to states including Florida that do not let defendants claim ineffective counsel until after their initial appeals are resolved.

Gore contends his death sentence should be lifted because a prior appellate lawyer failed to locate a key witness for an appeal that the Florida Supreme Court ultimately denied in 2007. In that appeal, Gore had alleged his trial lawyers were negligent during the case's penalty phase.

The Florida Supreme Court rejected a similar appeal Monday. The unanimous opinion said that while the federal justices' decision contains expansive language, they specifically declined to address the issue of whether there's a constitutional right to effective assistance of counsel in collateral appeals.

Gore's lawyers are asking the U.S. Supreme Court to declare that right in his case.

The state justices also

wrote it appears the Arizona decision was directed toward federal rather than state court proceedings "and is intended to address issues that arise in that context."

Gore's appeal also contends his constitutional rights were violated by the governor's "absolute discretion to carry out death sentences based upon subjective whims or outside influences."

Gov. Rick Scott signed Gore's death warrant after his case was brought to the governor's attention during a newspaper editorial board interview.

A final argument is that his due process rights were violated during clemency proceedings because he didn't have an opportunity to be heard or represented by counsel.

Gore and his cousin, Fred Waterfield, picked up Elliott and a 14-year-old friend who had been hitchhiking. Gore threatened the girls with a gun, handcuffed them and took them to his home. Waterfield, who is serving two life sentences, left before Gore raped the girls, according to authorities.

MEET AND GREET

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- Include the name of the organization, the time, day and place of the meeting, whether it meets weekly, biweekly or monthly, and whom to call for details.
- Send in information attn: Community Page Editor, 1624 N. Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34429, or fax to 352-563-3280, attention: Club meetings.
- E-mail to community@chronicleonline.com. Include "Club Meetings" in the subject line.
- For special events or fund-raisers, submit a separate news release.

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Report: Shoddy screens hurt job-seekers' chances

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Thousands of U.S. job hunters are losing out because employers use faulty background-check data drawn from shoddy records, consumer advocates say in a new report.

Those advocates want the government to make sure people know what information prospective employers see, so that errors can be corrected and abusive companies can be held responsible.

Use of criminal-background data is exploding as the economy struggles back from the worst job crisis in decades, the National Consumer Law Center says in the report, which is being released Wednesday. To meet surging demand, countless dubious companies have sprouted up, it says.

“It’s the Wild West for background-screening report companies. They’re generating billions in revenue, but they have little or no accountability.”

“It’s the Wild West for background-screening report companies,” says Persis Yu, lead writer of the report. “They’re generating billions in revenue, but they have little or no accountability.”

Nearly three-fourths of companies conduct criminal background checks for some job applicants, according to a 2010 study by the Society for Human Resource Management. They buy criminal-background data from providers of all sizes, including national names like Lexis-Nexis as well as

upstarts that could include “anyone with a computer, an Internet connection and access to records,” the report says.

Data providers obtain information from online public records, private vendors, jails and police blotters, it says. Sloppy handling of that data can cause a search on one person to turn up a rap sheet about someone with a similar name, for example.

Other common errors include displaying criminal records that were supposed to be sealed or

wiped clean, misclassifying minor offenses as major crimes and listing charges that have been dismissed, the report says.

The information is more widely available in part because local law-enforcement agencies are selling it to raise money, the group says. It says some data providers refuse to correct errors even when people can document inaccuracies.

That’s not an option for many people, Yu said, because employers often ignore laws requiring them to let people correct any

false, negative information before making a hiring decision.

Further muddying the picture, data providers aren’t registered with the government, so it’s impossible to get a full picture of the industry, Yu said.

The report is the first in-depth survey of consumer abuse by private companies that sell dodgy dossiers.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has the authority to write rules governing data companies under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, the law governing credit-report companies, the report says. The CFPB has proposed adding credit-report companies to the list of companies it will supervise closely. It has not discussed regulating consumer-data providers.

Persis Yu
lead author, report by the National Consumer Law Center.

Study: Tax deadline day can be deadly on US roads

Associated Press

CHICAGO — The two certainties in life — death and taxes — may be more intertwined than Ben Franklin ever imagined: A study found that deadly auto accidents increase on Tax Day.

Drivers recklessly racing to the post office to meet the deadline might be one reason. Or it could be that stressing over taxes distracts motorists and contributes to human error, researchers said.

They looked at 30 years of data and found 6,783 traffic-related deaths on Tax Day, or 226 per day. That compares with 213 per day on one day a week before the deadline day and another day a week after.

Drivers were slightly less likely than passengers and pedestrians to be killed.

The traffic death rate on Tax Day — which usually falls on April 15 — was 6 percent higher than on other April days. That doesn’t sound like a lot, but lead author Dr. Donald Redelmeier said it means an average of about 13 extra deaths per day and amounts to about \$40 million in annual losses to society.

That estimate includes loss of life, injury and property damage costs, said Redelmeier, a physician and researcher at the University of Toronto.

The researchers analyzed data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The results appear in Wednesday’s Journal of the American Medical Association.

Russ Rader, a spokesman for the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, said studies have shown drivers are safest on routes they know the best. Risk increases when routes vary — like driving to the post office to mail tax returns.

The nonprofit group is funded by car insurance companies and studies ways to reduce car crashes.

Dr. Mark Nunnally, an associate professor at the University of Chicago who studies patient safety, said while it might make sense to conclude that drivers are more distracted on Tax Day, that is just speculation. Reasons for the increases seen in the study are unknown, he said.

A spokeswoman for the Internal Revenue Service declined to comment on the study. The Canadian Institutes of Health Research helped pay for the study.

The traffic death rate on Tax Day was 6 percent higher than on other April days. That ... means an average of about 13 extra deaths.

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Police: Woman faked cancer for wedding

Associated Press

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. — Strangers donated the beautifully embroidered wedding dress, the two rings, the honeymoon in Aruba. They acted quickly, too, because the bride was dying of cancer. Or so she said.

The state attorney general’s office announced Tuesday that Jessica Vega, 25, has been indicted on charges of fraud and grand larceny for getting her “dream wedding” by falsely claiming she was dying of leukemia.

“By pretending to have a terminal illness, Vega inexcusably took advantage of the community’s hearts and minds, and profited off of their generosity,” said Attorney General Eric Schneiderman.

Schneiderman said that in 2010, Vega, then living in Montgomery, claimed she had just a few months to live and wanted a “dream wedding” to Michael O’Connell, father of her year-old daughter.

Her cause spread quickly around the region, helped by a story in the *Times Herald Record*. The newspaper said Vega



Associated Press
Jessica Vega tries on a wedding gown at Bella Coutre April 8, 2010 in Newburg, N.Y.

showed a reporter what she said was a doctor’s letter confirming the diagnosis.

Vega and O’Connell were married in May 2010. Four months later, O’Connell expressed suspicions to the newspaper. Vega said she hadn’t lied. If convicted of fraud or grand larceny, Vega could be sentenced 16 months to four years in prison on each of six counts.

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Confusion over health care law could cloud deliberations

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A possible misunderstanding about President Barack Obama's health care overhaul could cloud Supreme Court deliberations on its fate, leaving the impression that the law's insurance requirement is more onerous than it actually is.

During the recent oral arguments some of the justices and the lawyers appearing before them seemed to be under the impression that the law does not allow most consumers to buy low-cost, stripped-down insurance to satisfy its controversial coverage requirement.

In fact, the law provides for a cheaper "bronze" plan that is broadly similar to today's so-called catastrophic coverage policies for individuals, several insurance experts said.

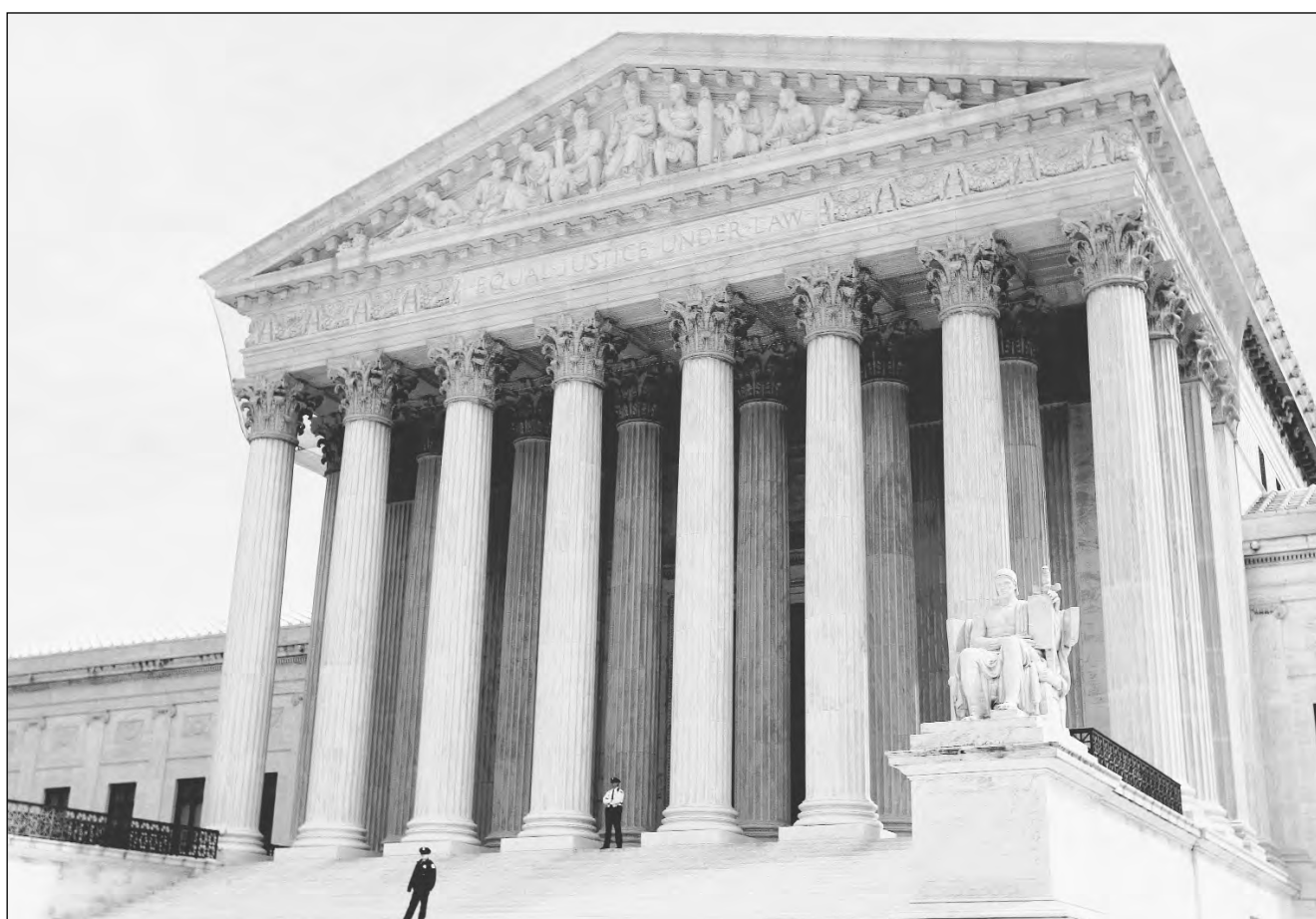
"I think there is confusion," said Paul Keckley, health research chief for Deloitte, a major benefits consultant. "I found myself wondering how much they understood the Affordable Care Act. Several times the questions led me to wonder how much (the justices) clerks had gone back into the law in advance of the arguments."

Monthly premiums for the bronze plan would be lower, and it would cover a much smaller share of medical expenses than a typical employer plan.

"Bronze is a very skinny product," said Keckley.

Starting in 2014, the health care law requires most Americans to obtain health insurance, either through an employer, a government program, or by buying their own policies. In return, insurance companies would be prohibited from turning away the sick. Government would subsidize premiums for millions now uninsured.

The law's opponents argue that Congress overstepped its constitutional authority by issuing the mandate, while the administration says the requirement is permissible because it serves to regulate interstate commerce. The scope of the mandate was one of several key issues argued before the court.



Associated Press

The Supreme Court is pictured March 28 in Washington, D.C.

"If I understand the law, the policies that you're requiring people to purchase ... must contain provision for maternity and newborn care, pediatric services and substance use treatment," said Chief Justice John Roberts. "It seems to me that you cannot say that everybody is going to need ... substance use treatment or pediatric services, and yet that is part of what you require them to purchase."

That may be true, but the law's bronze plan isn't exactly robust coverage. It would require policyholders to spend thousands of dollars of their own money before insurance kicks in. That's how catastrophic coverage works now.

It means anyone — particularly younger, healthy people — can satisfy the health care law's insurance requirement without paying full freight for comprehensive coverage they may not need.

Solicitor General Donald Verrilli did not highlight the bronze plan in his defense of the law, an omission that may prove significant.

"I would definitely say that if you listen to the court proceedings it would be easy to come away with the impression that the health care reform law was requiring people to buy Cadillac insurance, which is certainly not the case," said Larry Levitt, head of the Kaiser Family Foundation's Initiative on Health Reform and Private Insurance. The foundation is a nonpartisan information clearinghouse.

The health care law does impose a minimum set of "essential health benefits" for most insurance plans. Those benefits have yet to be specified, but are expected to reflect what a typical small-business plan now offers, with added preventive, mental health and other services.

On the surface, the minimum benefits requirement does seem to mandate comprehensive coverage. But another provision of the law works in the opposite direction, and the two have to be weighed together.

This second provision allows insurance companies to sell policies that have

widely different levels of annual deductibles and copayments. A "platinum" plan would cover 90 percent of expected health care expenses, but on the bottom tier a bronze plan only covers 60 percent. Employer plans now cover about 80 percent.

"The minimum that people will be required to buy under the health reform law is clearly a catastrophic plan," said Levitt.

In return for taking on more financial risk, you'll pay lower monthly premiums for a bronze plan, making it easier to budget for. You'll be covered for the same kinds of treatments as everybody else, but your plan won't pay the hospital bill until you've spent a good chunk of your own money out of pocket.

A Kaiser study estimated that the annual deductible for a bronze plan could range from \$2,750 to \$6,350. The deductible is the amount a policy holder must pay directly before insurance payments kick in.

A separate study by the foundation found that people buying individual health policies in the current in-

urance market end up paying an average of 35 percent of their medical costs out of their own pockets, in line with the 40 percent consumers with a bronze plan would face.

While the bronze plan is available to anyone, the law also provides for another level of catastrophic insurance limited to people under age 30, and expected to be even skimpier.

Such nuances were seemingly lost before the Supreme Court. One of the lawyers representing the plaintiffs, Michael Carvin, asserted during the arguments that "Congress prohibits anyone over 30 from buying any kind of catastrophic health insurance."

Verrilli did not challenge Carvin's characterization, but it is raising eyebrows among insurance professionals.

"I don't think that's exactly right," said benefits lawyer Mark Holloway of the Lockton Companies, a major insurance broker serving mid-size companies. "It depends on what you call catastrophic coverage."

The confusion, in quotes

WASHINGTON — Some insurance experts say there may be a misunderstanding among members of the Supreme Court about President Barack Obama's health care overhaul law.

During the recent oral arguments, some of the justices and the lawyers appearing before them seemed to be under the impression that the law does not allow most consumers to buy bare bones insurance to satisfy its controversial coverage mandate.

Here are some excerpts from last month's oral arguments:

Chief Justice John Roberts: "If I understand the law, the policies that you're requiring people to purchase ... must contain provision for maternity and newborn care, pediatric services and substance use treatment. It seems to me that you cannot say that everybody is going to need ... substance use treatment or pediatric services, and yet that is part of what you require them to purchase."

Justice Samuel Alito: "The mandate is forcing these people (young, healthy individuals) to provide a huge subsidy to the insurance companies for other purposes that the act wishes to serve ... isn't it the case that what this mandate is really doing is not requiring the people who are subject to it to pay for the services that they are going to consume? It is requiring them to subsidize services that will be received by somebody else."

Paul Clement, attorney for states suing to overturn the law: "If all we were concerned about is the cost sharing that took place because of uncompensated care in emergency rooms, presumably we'd have before us a statute that only addressed emergency care and catastrophic insurance coverage. But it covers everything, soup to nuts, and all sorts of other things..."

"There's a much bigger cost shifting going on here, and that's the cost shifting that goes on when you force healthy people into an insurance market precisely because they're healthy ... precisely because they're not likely to use the insurance they're forced to buy."

Michael Carvin, attorney for the National Federation of Independent Business, suing to overturn the law: "One of the issues here is not only that they're compelling us to enter into the marketplace ... they're prohibiting us from buying the only economically sensible product that we would want, catastrophic insurance..."

"Congress prohibits anyone over 30 from buying any kind of catastrophic insurance. And the reason they do that is because they needed this massive subsidy."

—Associated Press

Sheriff's Summer Safety & Youth Expo



April 28th
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Citrus County Auditorium

Lots of activities for children

- ◆ Free Bicycle Helmets (while supplies last)
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- ◆ Special YMCA Healthy Kids Area
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SHERIFF'S SUMMER SAFETY & YOUTH EXPO



LIGHT SHINE 2012

Presented By Shepherd of the Hills Episcopal Church

Winter & Spring Series

The Florida Dream

Sunday, April 22 • 4pm



A nationally acclaimed, Emmy awarded documentary film on Florida's growth and development since World War II. The film will be introduced and with commentary following by Dr. Gary Mormino, Professor of History, University of South Florida, who authored the book "Land of Sunshine, State of Dreams"

This presentation is funded by the Florida Humanities Council under a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

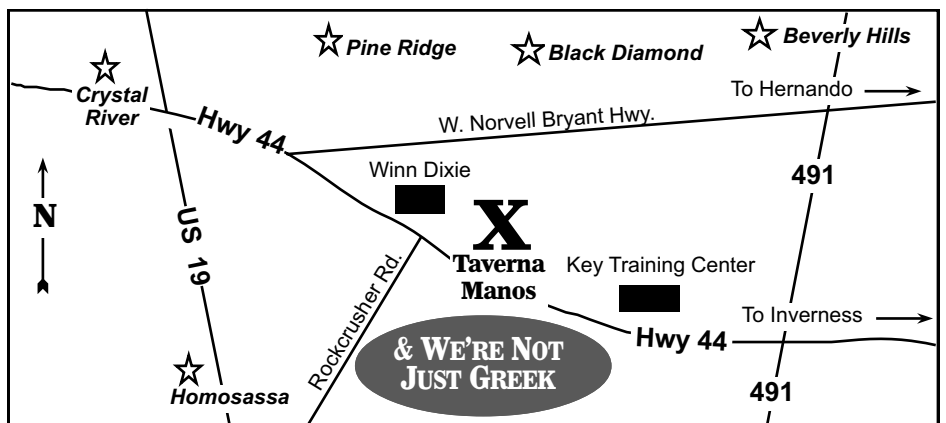
This Light Shine event is produced by Shepherd of the Hills as an enrichment program for Citrus County and co-sponsored by the Citrus County Chronicle

Admission is Free. No Tickets Required. Open Seating but Limited to 200.

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No one should go hungry in our hometown.

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Five days of events for a local cause – the We Care Food Pantry. Members from the Spring and Ridge Masonic Lodges and the Citrus Shiners will be on hand each day collecting non-perishable food items. Drop off donations, enjoy the free special events, and buy \$50 raffle tickets for a chance to win a Dodge Ram truck.

Wednesday, April 11

Military Day 7am- 2pm

March on over for information about local organizations, how you can get involved, and how you can support these groups in our community.

Thursday, April 12

Environmental Day 8am-2pm

There's plenty to discover about our community's natural resources, including exhibits on animals, river restoration, and a plant clinic.

Friday, April 13

Health & Wellness Day 8am-2pm

Keep your health in check with a variety of FREE health screenings by local health professionals.

Saturday, April 14

Kids Day 8am-2pm

Bring the whole family to come kid around with us. We'll have kid-friendly activities like dance and sports, as well as specialized assistance programs and child IDs.

Sunday, April 15

Reflection Dance 8am-2pm

The parking lot will be filled with chrome, corvettes, and classic cruisers. A performance by one of our local dance troupes (11am-12pm) is sure to stop everyone in their tracks, too.

Special thanks to our sponsors:

Spring Masonic Lodge, Ridge Masonic Lodge, Citrus Shiners, Coast Guard, Civil Air, Greyhound for Vets, Sons of the American Revolution, VFW, Herbie Hot Pocket, Homosassa Wildlife Park, Homosassa Wildlife Rescue, River Alliance, Master Gardener, Citrus for the hearing impaired, Flex Physical Therapy, 7 Rivers Hospital, Habitat for Humanity, Citrus for Memorial, Miss Debbie's School of Dance, Shop with a Cop, Citrus County Fast Pitch, Boy & Girls Club, Harley Davidson, Citrus Cruisers, and the Corvette Club.

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THE MARKET IN REVIEW

How To READ THE MARKET IN REVIEW

Here are the 825 most active stocks on the New York Stock Exchange, 765 most active on the Nasdaq National Market and 116 most active on the American Stock Exchange.

Name: Stocks appear alphabetically by the company's full name (not abbreviation). Names consisting of initials appear at the beginning of each letter's list.

Last: Price stock was trading at when exchange closed for the day. Chg: Loss or gain for the day. No change indicated by ...

Stock Footnotes: cld - Issue has been called for redemption by company, d - New 52-week low, dd - Loss in last 12 mos, ec - Company formerly listed on the American Exchange...

Source: The Associated Press. Sales figures are unofficial.

INDEXES

Table of stock indices including S&P 500, NYSE Composite, NASDAQ Composite, and Russell 2000, showing their values and changes.

NYSE MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE) - Table listing top active stocks like Apple, Microsoft, and Amazon.

AMEX MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE) - Table listing top active stocks on the American Stock Exchange.

NASDAQ MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE) - Table listing top active stocks on the Nasdaq National Market.

Stocks of Local Interest - Table listing local stocks with columns for Name, Div, Yld, PE, Last Chg, and YTD.

NYSE GAINERS (\$2 OR MORE) - Table listing top gainers on the NYSE.

AMEX GAINERS (\$2 OR MORE) - Table listing top gainers on the AMEX.

NASDAQ GAINERS (\$2 OR MORE) - Table listing top gainers on the NASDAQ.

NYSE LOSERS (\$2 OR MORE) - Table listing top losers on the NYSE.

AMEX LOSERS (\$2 OR MORE) - Table listing top losers on the AMEX.

NASDAQ LOSERS (\$2 OR MORE) - Table listing top losers on the NASDAQ.

DIARY

Table showing dairy stock performance including Dairyland and others.

DIARY

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NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

Table of NYSE stock listings from A-B-C to S-T-U.

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Table of NYSE stock listings from J-K-L to P-Q-R.

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Table of NYSE stock listings from A-B-C to S-T-U.

AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE

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NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Table of NASDAQ stock listings from A-B-C to S-T-U.

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Table of NASDAQ stock listings from A-B-C to S-T-U.

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Table of NASDAQ stock listings from A-B-C to S-T-U.

To Request Stocks & Funds

Request stocks or mutual funds to be listed here by writing the Chronicle, Attn: Stock Requests, 1624 N. Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34429; or call 563-5660.

So You Know

The remainder of the NYSE listings can be found on the next page.

CURRENCIES

Table showing currency exchange rates for various countries like Argentina, Australia, and Brazil.

MONEY RATES

Table showing interest rates for Prime Rate, Discount Rate, and others.

COMMODITIES

FUTURES

Table showing futures prices for Crude Oil, Wheat, Soybeans, and other commodities.

MUTUAL FUNDS

How To Read The Mutual Fund Tables

Here are the 1,000 biggest mutual funds listed on Nasdaq. Tables show the fund name, sell price or Net Asset Value (NAV) and daily net change.

Name: Name of mutual fund and family. NAV: Net asset value. Chg: Net change in price of NAV. Data based on NAVs reported to Lipper by 6 p.m. Eastern.

Table of mutual funds with columns: Name, NAV, Chg. Includes funds like Advance Capital I, Balance p, Retinc, etc.

Table of mutual funds with columns: Name, NAV, Chg. Includes funds like US Bond I, Fidelity Spirt Adv, First Eagle, etc.

Stocks slump again

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The stock market suffered its worst loss of the year Tuesday because of uncertainty about coming corporate earnings reports and concerns that the borrowing costs of Spain are creeping close to a crisis level.

The decline extended the longest and deepest slump of the year for Wall Street to five days. More than half the first-quarter gain of the Dow Jones industrial average has been wiped out, and more than a third for the Standard & Poor's 500.

The Dow fell 213.66 points, its third triple-digit loss in four days. It closed at 12,175.93, its lowest since Feb. 2.

The dollar and U.S. Treasury prices rose as investors shifted money into lower-risk investments. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note fell for the fifth straight day and dropped below 2 percent for the first time in a month.

After the market closed, Alcoa reported much better quarterly earnings than Wall Street expected, providing hope that the losing streak might end. Alcoa is

Market watch

April 10, 2012

Market watch table showing Dow Jones Industrials (-213.66), Nasdaq Composite (-55.86), Standard & Poor's 500 (-23.61), Russell 2000 (-19.31), NYSE diary (Advanced: 462, Declined: 2,606, Unchanged: 85), Nasdaq diary (Advanced: 455, Declined: 2,070, Unchanged: 102).

the first of the 30 stocks in the Dow to report results. "Hopefully this would change the tone for the market for the next couple of days, but a lot can happen overnight. That's the big unknown," said Colleen Supran, a principal at the investment adviser Bingham, Osborn & Scar-

borough in San Francisco. Alcoa, which sells aluminum and is watched as a barometer of the global economy, reported a quarterly profit of 9 cents per share. Analysts were expecting a loss of 4 cents.

After nine consecutive quarters of earnings growth, analysts think earnings will be flat this time. Those predictions came before Alcoa's impressive results, however.

While Wall Street was still sleeping, European markets sold off. The main stock indexes in Spain and France closed down about 3 percent, the equivalent of a 400-point drop in the Dow.

The yield on 10-year Spanish bonds rose to almost 6 percent. Seven percent is generally considered the level at which governments can no longer afford to raise money on the international bond markets.

The 7 percent level forced Greece, the last focal point of the European debt crisis, to seek rescue loans. But Spain is widely considered too big to bail out: It makes up about 11 percent of the economic output of the countries that use the euro currency. Greece makes up about 2 percent.

Business HIGHLIGHTS

Brian Dunn resigns as Best Buy CEO

WASHINGTON — Best Buy CEO Brian Dunn is stepping down from the helm of the nation's largest consumer electronics retailer, which has been criticized for not responding faster to growing competition and the changing shopping habits of Americans.

Best Buy Co., based in Minneapolis, said Tuesday that it was a mutual decision, and that there were no disagreements with Dunn on any matter relating to operations, financial controls, policies or procedures.

Employers posted more job openings in February

WASHINGTON — Employers posted slightly more job openings in February, suggesting that modest hiring gains will continue in coming months. The Labor Department said Tuesday that employers advertised 3.5 million job openings in February. That's up from a revised 3.48 million in January but still below the three-year high of 3.54 million in December.

The fact that job openings remained steady in February suggests that the disappointing March jobs report issued last week may be a temporary bump. It usually takes one to three months for employers to fill openings.

US wholesale stockpiles rose 0.9 percent in February

WASHINGTON — U.S. wholesale businesses stepped up restocking in February, while more expensive gasoline drove sales higher.

The Commerce Department said Tuesday that stockpiles at the wholesale level rose a seasonally adjusted 0.9 percent in February to \$478.9 billion. The government also revised January wholesale inventory growth to show a 0.6 percent increase, up from the initial reading of 0.4 percent.

Sales at the wholesale level rose 1.2 percent, largely on the strength of gas, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment. Sales were unchanged in January.

Drivers to pay 6 percent more for gas this summer

NEW YORK — U.S. drivers will pay an average of 24 cents more per gallon for gasoline during this summer's travel season, the government says.

The Energy Information Administration says gasoline will cost an average of \$3.95 per gallon from April through September, an increase of 6.3 percent from the same period last year. The peak monthly average should be \$4.01 in May.

The government says there's a small chance the price for a gallon could climb as high as \$4.50 in June.

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Table of stock prices with columns: Name, Last, Chg. Includes Sunoco, Sunoco, Sunoco, etc.

► "What can I know? What ought I to do? What may I hope?"
Immanuel Kant (1724 - 1804)

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

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

BONDING

County, schools get 'A' ratings for prudence

Bond ratings are not exactly the kind of issue most people discuss at the dinner table. In fact, bond ratings are not the kind of issue most people ever think about, or really care about.

But if a government agency needs to borrow money, bond ratings are important. They are the government or corporate equivalent of a credit rating: They determine if the agency can secure funding, and at what cost.

For citizens, the bond rating of their government agencies can ultimately determine if major projects such as building a new school or upgrading roads get funded or if they cannot be done.

The good news for citizens of Citrus County is that both our school system and our county government have "investment grade" ratings from the Fitch Group rating agency, a company that issues opinions on the creditworthiness of government agencies and businesses.

Both government agencies get an 'A' rating, which in bond ratings is not the top rating, but is still a very good one. Bond ratings by Fitch range from the very highest "AAA" to the lowest of "C," which means the organization is in default on its obligations. Fitch defines its "A" rating as "expectations of low credit risk. The capacity for payment of financial com-

mitments is considered strong. This capacity may, nevertheless, be more vulnerable to adverse business or economic conditions than is the case for higher ratings."

Since bond ratings are issued based on overall financial condition of an organization, they are ultimately the result of many actions over some period of time. This means that despite the economic downturn of the last few years, the rating agency believes both boards have been fiscally prudent in their expenditures and commitments for future expenses.

Ratings are also affected by actions of citizens, such as the vote by Citrus County residents to impose a .25 mill levy for school construction. This helped offset some of the reductions in state funding for the school district, and is a positive indicator to a ratings agency that citizens of the county are willing to take actions to protect the financial integrity of their local school system.

Maintaining a solid bond rating is as important to our county agencies as a good credit rating is to an individual. We commend fiscally prudent decisions in the past, and we urge continued fiscal responsibility by both boards so that the ratings will be maintained going forward.

THE ISSUE:
Both county government and the local school system have "A" rated bonds.

OUR OPINION:
Good news for residents.

Argenziano responds to critic

Re: Chronicle letter to editor, April 8, 2012, "A friend disappoints me" by Robert E. Hagaman.



Nancy Argenziano
GUEST COLUMN

Mr. Hagaman refers to me as his "friend," but never did I get a call from him asking me about anything. He assumes I was "frustrated," and assumes way too much about my ... "wrong tactic..." and "sudden decisions."

He writes of my "exemplary service," in the Legislature and while at the Public Service Commission "... she attempted to take the politics out of the commission and make it truly a public service organization."

For nearly 16 years I have worked hard and promoted good public service, and never forgot who I was working for: The people, not the political party.

I was honored that the people of Tallahassee and surrounding counties asked me to run for the U.S. House. They told me that it did not matter to them what political party I ran in. I knew in good conscience I could no longer remain in the Republican Party that did not practice Republican principles anymore, whose party chair was carted off in handcuffs accused of stealing money from contributions, legislators who were getting two or three paychecks on the government teat and not doing much for it, selling out the people, using contributions for their personal use, and too many transgressions to ignore. I wrote an editorial in newspapers to advise people of the "R" hypocrisy and I gave examples of the R leadership corruption.

I wonder where Bob's outraged voice was when Republican Sen-

ate President Mike Haridopolos received \$154,000 taxpayer dollars for a sophomoric writing exercise. Things I could never close my eyes to, apparently Mr. Hagaman could.

I also knew that to run for a U.S. office, one had to be in one of the two major parties to get the funding necessary to run.

After years working in the political arena, I have found titles and labels — "Democrat," "Republican," "conservative," "liberal" — many times means nothing. What is a "conservative"? One of the reasons I became a Republican, was the R platform of less government in our lives. Nothing could be further from the truth today with the Florida Republican cabal.

There is selling of policy to the highest contributors; Republican leaders passing legislation that benefit themselves monetarily. This has not one thing to do with the Republican principles Mr. Hagaman thinks they practice. Mr. Hagaman even points out that the lobbyists "...again gain control of the legislature," yet expects me to go along? Nothing "sudden" about my not following the leader, Bob.

Did he care when I and others exposed this? Did he help us to fight and rid the party of wrongdoers? Did he say a single word?

I can't help wonder where Mr. Hagaman was when the Republican leadership, taking millions from the electric utilities, attacked me when I was on the Public Service Commission for voting against unjustified rate increases, while I was fighting to "...take the politics out..." and make it truly a public service organization." Not a peep of sup-

port from my "disappointed friend."

Mr. Hagaman has been involved with the local Republican committee, but seems to have no clue what really occurs in the backroom politics of Tallahassee, and doesn't appreciate knowing, even when advised. I fear that he may prefer to keep blinders on. Is it more important for his team to win, at all costs?

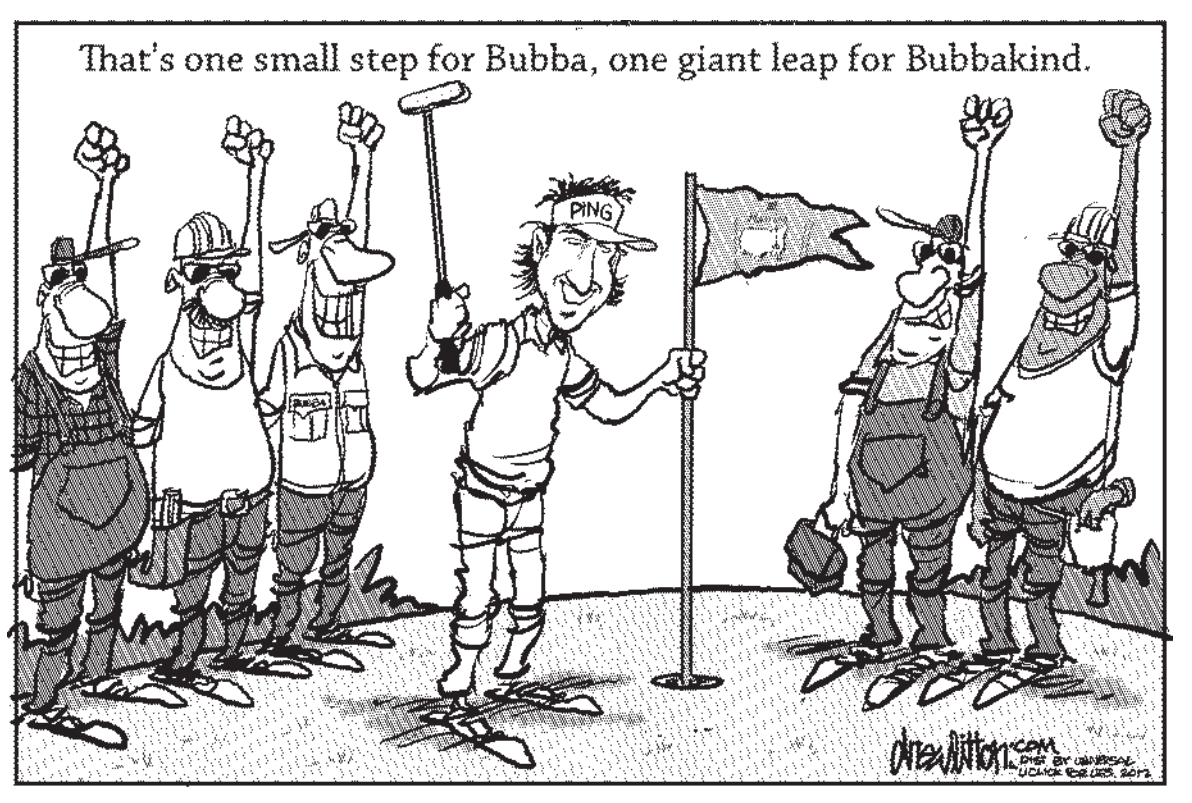
I have had many people from Citrus County who have observed my public service for years, who know me, and have weighed my history of public service, call me to come back home to run for the Senate or House.

My "motivation" is as it always has been — to fiercely protect the people I represent. At a time in America when far too many elected officials put political party politics above all else, it is time for some adults to show up and start to actually solve problems, not add to them.

If it was my "...desire to again become an elected official just to hold an elected office..." I would run for county commission, which I have also been called to run for; stay closer to home, and collect a much larger salary.

I imagine that state Sens. Fasano, Paula Dockery, Alex Villalobos, U.S. Sen. Olympia Snowe, Gov. Christine Todd Whitman, and so many other good Republicans who have opposed the new neo-Republican agenda, might also be a disappointment to the man who wears blinders. No wonder we are in such a mess.

Nancy Argenziano represented Citrus County in the Florida House and Florida Senate and served on the Florida Public Service Commission. She is again running to represent Citrus County in the Florida House.



Rodent infestation

Does anybody have a remedy for getting rodents out of your car? I believe I have some living in my car and I can't seem to get them out. They keep chewing my wires. I've got mothballs and I've put traps, but I believe they might be in the air-conditioner ducts. If anybody has any advice, that would be great.

Dad's watch gone

I lost my dad's old watch and it's very sentimental to me. It's black and gold and inscribed "To Frank, Love Kay 12/25/48." I will give a reward to the finder. Please call me, 352-527-6956.

Rush speaks for Rush

I am calling in response to "Truth speaker," who tells us that Rush Limbaugh speaks for most of us. Please speak for yourself, sir or madam. He does not speak for me and if it was my choice, he would not be allowed to spew the hatred that he does. Do please check out another commentator. You might find some actual facts.

Too many guns

Too many guns in the hands of too many people. Look what happened in Oakland, Calif. — five dead and five wounded. People are not satisfied anymore with just killing one. I don't know what the heck is going on, but there's no place that you can go that you may not be a target for some nut that got a gun illegally or found it at one of these

sales that they have when people sell guns at flea markets and places like that. Anybody can go and pick up a gun and buy it and go out and be a nut and maybe kill six, seven or eight people. This has got to have to stop.

Horse before cart

It will be months before the feasibility study for the Port of Citrus County is completed or accepted. Citrus County Port Authority and Board of County Commissioners are wasting time and money selecting a logo for the Citrus County Port Authority. There is too many other issues that is more important that need attention in this county. It is time for new blood in some of the Citrus County's offices.

Students littering

I'm calling in about littering here in Beverly Hills on Regina Boulevard at the bus stop. The students (are) throwing their trash on lawns and roads. It's a shame they are not proud of having a clean Citrus County. I'm sure there are trash containers on the school buses. They show what our future generation has to contend with.

Tie down cargo

Today while driving, I saw an open-bed truck with a mattress ready to fly off. Another driver pulled alongside to alert them. Always tie such an item. Besides losing a mattress, it's dangerous to the driver behind.

LETTERS to the Editor

Liberal distortions

Ms. Weiser's letter published in the March 27 issue blatantly distorts my statements in a previous letter.

Even if Ms. Weiser had been out of the country in February, she must have been aware of Mr. Obama's arrogant and deliberate attack on our Constitution when he dictated that religious institutions had to provide birth control to their employees. He was fully aware that his edict runs contrary to the religious freedom provision of the Constitution whereby the government can't and shouldn't intrude in the affairs of religious institutions, but Mr. Obama counts on the blind and unquestioned support of the radical liberals to do his bidding.

However, when every religious institution in our country filed strong objections, and when even Vice President Biden and Sen. Bob Casey of Pennsylvania (devout Catholics) apprised him of their opposition and disagreement with Obama's dictate, he reversed this decision (see Chronicle's headline of Feb. 11).

My point in the letter was that the same liberals who rant and rave about religious intrusion into politics have no qualms about the administration's (government's) intrusion into religious, century-old tenets. That was the only point my letter

OPINIONS INVITED

- 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.
- 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.

Refund security

A simple solution to the stolen income tax refund checks would be for each taxpayer filing for a refund would have their own personal identification number to put on their tax forms: No PIN number, no refund check.

Richard B. Sartell
Homosassa

A powerful vote

The economic system of any human collectivity by whatever name (empire, nation, union, tribe) determines its ethos, its social structure and its creed.

At the risk of sounding histrionic, the Supreme Court's decision on the constitutionality of the Affordable Health Care Act is a turning point in this nation's history. That act, which was opposed by a significant majority of us, will determine whether we will be a socialist or a capitalist society. It will even influence future decisions by the Court.

So it is that the decision as to whom we are going to be has already been made, and according to experts on this particular Court's behavior, it has been made by a single judge's opinion.

How did we come to this?

Gino Calderone
Beverly Hills

Open land

Oil companies presently pay \$86 million a day in taxes, while oil and natural gas subsidies combined amount to \$3.6 billion per year total. Subsidies to ethanol alone gets \$4.7 billion plus, and that does not count biodiesel, wind and solar. Expansion of oil exploration is only being done on private land due to the president's refusal to open federal land to development. Welcome to higher prices.

Earl Ehley
Inverness

John McFadden
Inverness

THE CHRONICLE invites you to call "Sound Off" with your opinions about any subject. You do not need to leave your name, and have less than a minute to record. COMMENTS will be edited for length, libel, personal or political attacks and good taste. Editors will cut libelous material. OPINIONS expressed are purely those of the callers.

Facebook buying Instagram for \$1B

Transaction is biggest yet for social media giant

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Facebook is spending \$1 billion to buy the photo-sharing company Instagram in the social network's largest acquisition ever.

On the surface, that's a huge sum for a tiny startup that has a handful of employees and no way to make money.

But the lack of a business model rarely dampens excitement about hot tech upshots these days. As Facebook has shown, itself without ads or revenue in its early days, money goes where the users are.

Instagram lets people share photos they snap with their mobile devices. The app has filters that can make photos look as if they've been taken in the 1970s or on Polaroid cameras. Its users take photos of everything from their breakfast egg sandwiches to sunsets to the smiling faces of their girlfriends.

In a little more than a year, Instagram attracted a loyal and loving user base of more than 30 million people. Apple picked it as the iPhone App of the Year in 2011.

Instagram's fans, brand recognition and its potential are difficult to put a price tag on. Yet Facebook has — and can afford it. The company is preparing for an initial public offering of stock that could value it at as much as \$100 billion in a few weeks. What's \$1 billion? A drop in the bucket, really.

"Facebook after this IPO is going to be in a position to be predatory. They can make sure no one steps in their way and buy anyone who gets in their way," said Wedbush analyst Michael Pachter, who follows social media.

Buying Instagram, he added, not only eliminates a rival but gives Facebook the technology "that is gaining crazy traction."

Facebook is paying cash and stock for San Francisco-based Instagram and hiring its dozen or so employees. The deal is expected to close by the end of June.

It's a windfall not just for Instagram's employees, but the venture capital firms backing the company. Last week, Sequoia Capital led an investment round that valued Instagram at \$500 million, according to a person familiar with the matter. The person was not authorized to speak publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Going by the \$1 billion price tag, Facebook is paying about \$33 for each Instagram user. That's a fraction

of the \$118 that Facebook investors will be paying per Facebook user if the company gets its expected \$100 billion valuation after going public. By that math, Pachter said, \$1 billion "doesn't sound crazy."

Getting Instagram is a big win for Facebook as it works to harness people's growing obsession with their mobile devices and sharing every moment of their life. The company's own mobile application is not as easy to use as Instagram, and sharing photos can be downright clunky. Facebook's way, noted Pachter, has always been to buy technology if it's better than what it can build on its own.

Facebook, which is based in Menlo Park, Calif., said it plans to keep Instagram running independently. That's a departure from its tendency to buy small startups and integrate the technology — or shut them down altogether just so it can hire talented engineers and developers.

"This is an important milestone for Facebook because it's the first time we've ever acquired a product and company with so many users," CEO Mark Zuckerberg wrote on his Facebook page Monday announcing the deal. "We don't plan on doing many more of these, if any at all."

He said Facebook plans to keep allowing people to post from Instagram to other social networks. Users will also be able to keep their Instagrams off Facebook if they want to.

"We think the fact that Instagram is connected to

other services beyond Facebook is an important part of the experience," Zuckerberg said.

Tech bloggers and analysts immediately began wondering whether Facebook's commitment will be eternal.

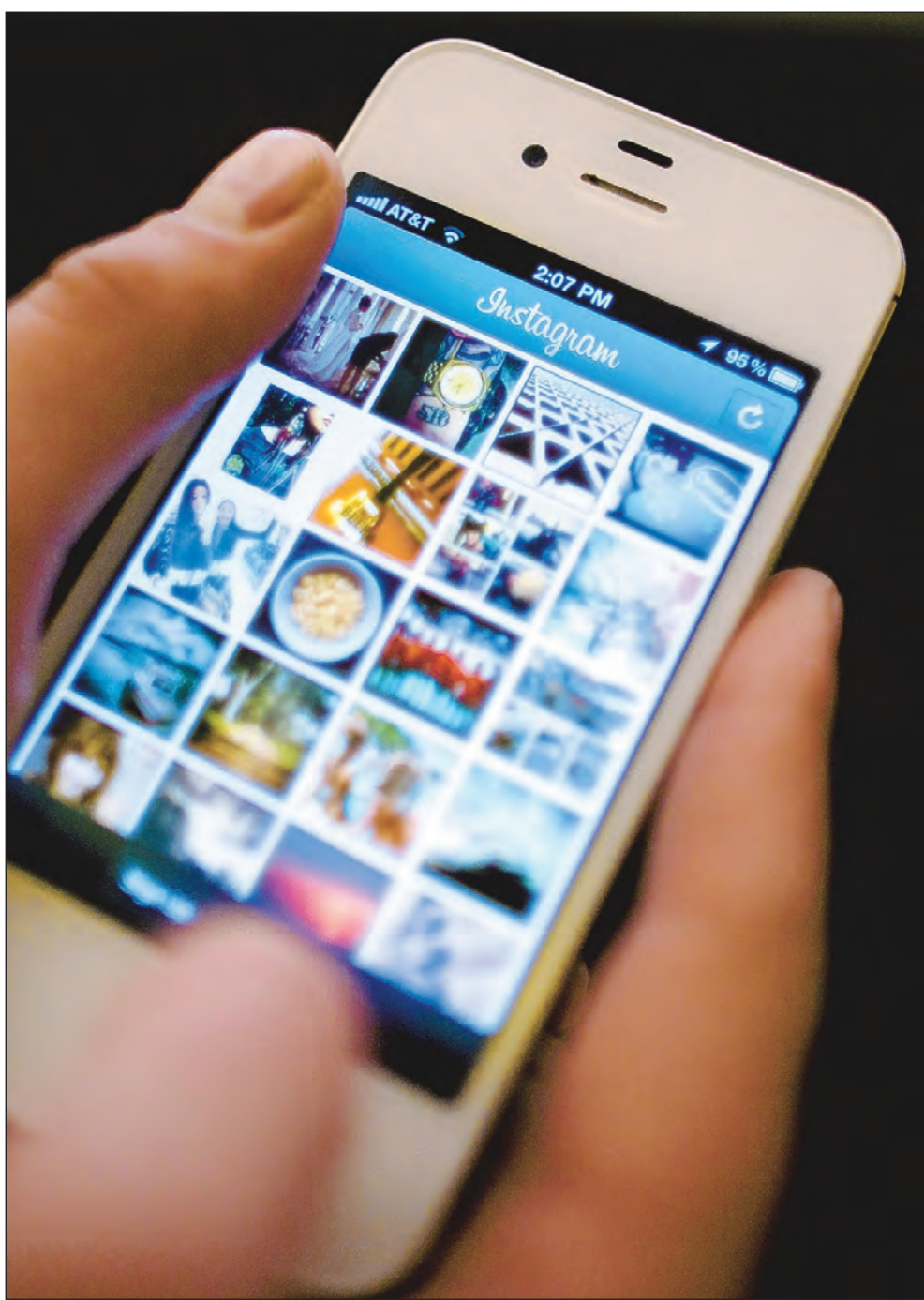
"There's a long history of companies acquiring other companies and saying that they are going to continue to support the service — and then not," said Debra Aho Williamson, an analyst with research firm eMarketer.

One relatively recent example is Cisco Systems Inc., which killed off the much-loved Flip video camera less than two years after buying the company behind it.

There were some mutterings online about users leaving Instagram now that Facebook has bought it, though in reality Facebook will probably make it more popular.

There's a good reason for Facebook to keep Instagram going as a separate product, even if Facebook integrates some of its technology into its own service so that mobile photo sharing becomes easier. Google, for example, has kept YouTube separate even as it integrated some of its features into other products.

"Look at who Facebook is competing with — the Googles, Apples, Microsofts of the world. They have to build a strong brand and strong consumer platform," Gartner analyst Brian Blau said. "Having a separate social network... is something they needed to do a long time ago."



Associated Press

Instagram is used on an iPhone on Monday in New York. Facebook is spending \$1 billion to buy the photo-sharing company Instagram in the social network's largest acquisition ever. Instagram lets people apply filters to photos they snap with their mobile devices and share them with friends and strangers.

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Nation BRIEF

New rule



Associated Press

Jenna Talackova, who advanced to the finals of the Miss Canada competition, part of the Miss Universe contest, is pictured April 3 during a news conference in Los Angeles. Talackova was born male and underwent a sex-change operation.

Transgender ladies allowed in pageant

NEW YORK — A rule change that would allow transgender women to participate in the Miss Universe beauty pageant next year is a step forward for equality, advocates said Tuesday after pageant officials announced the policy shift.

The announcement of the policy change came a week after the organization decided to allow Jenna Talackova to compete in the Miss Universe pageant this year.

Talackova, a Vancouver resident, underwent a sex change four years ago after being born a male. The advocacy group GLAAD called on the Miss Universe Organization to review her case, as well as open the competition to transgender women, after she was disqualified from competing in the Miss Universe Canada contest.

World BRIEFS

Drug vote



Associated Press

A police officer unpacks marijuana June 3, 2009, in Cali, Colombia. The Spanish village of Rasquera, Spain, is voting in a regional referendum to decide whether to allow the cultivation of marijuana as a source of revenue to pay off municipal debt, with a population of some 960 people in the northeastern Catalonia region.

Rebels seek \$10 million ransom

LIMA, Peru — Shining Path rebels are seeking a \$10 million ransom for 40 Peruvian construction workers abducted in a pre-dawn raid at the country's main natural gas field in the Amazon jungle, local officials said Tuesday.

The abducted workers, employees of Skanska of Sweden and the Peruvian company Ransa, were seized early Monday in Kepashiato, a hamlet of just over 1,000 inhabitants and no police station, about 60 miles from the Camisea gas fields.

A spokesman for the Swedish construction company Skanska, Edvard Lind, said 29 of the workers were Skanska employees. Nine worked for a subsidiary of Ransa, said company spokesman Victor Melgarejo.

The workers, who had been building a new gas treatment plant, were rounded up at about 3 a.m. Monday from their hotels.

She said they lingered for three hours, buying groceries from local merchants and summoning about 20 residents to an assembly where they railed against the government and the natural gas industry.

—From wire reports

Syria defies cease-fire plan

Kofi Annan says there's still time to salvage truce

Associated Press

BEIRUT — Syrian troops defied a U.N.-brokered cease-fire plan on Tuesday, launching fresh attacks on rebellious areas, but special envoy Kofi Annan said there was still time to salvage a truce that he described as the only chance for peace.

More than a year into the Syrian uprising, the international community has nearly run out of options for halting the slide toward civil war. On Tuesday, Annan insisted his peace initiative remains "very much alive" — in part because there is no viable alternative.

The U.N. has ruled out any military intervention of

the type that helped bring down Libya's Moammar Gadhafi, and several rounds of sanctions and other attempts to isolate President Bashar Assad have done little to stop the bloodshed.

"If you want to take (the plan) off the table, what will you replace it with?" Annan told reporters in Hatay, Turkey, where he toured a camp sheltering Syrian refugees.

Facing a Tuesday deadline to pull back its tanks and troops, the Syrian government had said it was withdrawing from certain areas, including the rebellious central province of Homs. But France called the claims a "flagrant and unacceptable lie," and ac-



Associated Press

Independent U. S. Sen. Joe Lieberman of Connecticut, left, and Republican Sen. John McCain, of Arizona, are seen with Syrian refugees Tuesday at a camp in Yayladagi, Turkey. McCain and Lieberman toured the refugee camp at the Turkish border with Syria on Tuesday and met Syrians who have fled the violence in their country.

tivists said there was no sign of a withdrawal.

Residents of Homs reported some of the heaviest shelling in months.

"Hundreds of mortar rounds and shells were

falling around all day," resident Tarek Badrakhan told The Associated Press.

He said a makeshift hospital housing wounded people and dozens of corpses was destroyed in the shelling.

Remembering Titanic



Associated Press

Laurie and Dan Castaneda, from Long Beach, Calif., walk the pool deck of the Azamara Journey, bound for Halifax, Nova Scotia, for the Titanic Memorial Cruise on Tuesday in New York. Passengers will visit a cemetery where 150 victims of the Titanic are buried. The ship will also feature lectures about life on board the doomed ocean liner and hold a memorial service at sea.

Ship leaves NYC to visit Titanic graves in Canada

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Passengers dressed in fur coats and wide-brimmed hats strolled the decks of a memorial ship as it began its journey to Canada to visit the spot where the Titanic sank to the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean a century ago.

The ship was packed on Tuesday with history aficionados who have long been obsessed with the doomed ocean liner. Quite a few wore period costumes, and one boy in a fake white beard was dressed up as Captain Edward John Smith.

The cruise ship Journey, operated by Azamara Club Cruises, was

carrying 440 passengers when it departed a pier on New York's West Side on Tuesday evening, 100 years after the Titanic left Southampton, England. After stopping in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where more than 100 Titanic victims are buried, the cruise will continue on to conduct a memorial service at the spot in the Atlantic where the Titanic sank.

Along the way, passengers will listen to lectures about life on board the Titanic and dine at a costume-themed dinner.

Ticket prices dropped in recent weeks from about \$5,000 per person to \$1,000 per person.

"It's just such a human tragedy that just resonates through the

years," said Carol Owens Campbell, 61, of Long Grove, Ill., who was on board with her husband. "What would any of us do if that happened to us?"

There was a festive atmosphere above deck as passengers sipped champagne and explored the ship, which was not decorated in any way to resemble the Titanic and looked like an ordinary cruise liner.

Another ship operated by the same British travel agency is retracing the route of the Titanic. The memorial cruise aboard the MS Balmoral set sail from southern England on Sunday and made a brief stop in the Irish town of Cobh on Monday.

Kids stop school bus after driver stricken

Surveillance video shows 13-year-old take the wheel

Associated Press

MILTON, Wash. — A dozen students may not have been looking forward to school on the first day back after spring break, but they knew what to do when their bus driver slumped over the wheel unconscious.

Surveillance video shows 13-year-old Jeremy Wuitschick rushing down the aisle and grabbing the wheel on Monday morning as other students yell: "Call 911!"

Wuitschick had noticed the driver was shaking and his arms flailing just as the bus started to pull into Surprise Lake Middle School in Milton, about 30 miles south of Seattle.

Wuitschick saw the dri-

Students are taught what to do — to turn off the ignition — if a bus driver collapses, as part of the safety training.

ver's eyes bulging and heard rasping noises.

Students can be heard yelling, "Oh my God!" and "Call 911! Call 911!" on the video, as they realize the bus is out of control. Others cried, "Stop the bus!" and "Take the keys out of the ignition!"

Wuitschick heeded the calls, removing the keys and turning the steering wheel to pull the bus over. The bus slowly came to a stop against the curb.

"I was just thinking, 'I don't want to die,'" Wuitschick said.

"I turned to the right. Turned to the side of the road. Took the keys out of the ignition. We started slowing down, and I said, 'Somebody call 911!'"

Wuitschick and another student, Johnny Wood, who trained in first aid by the Red Cross, started chest compressions on the driver until adults arrived.

Fife Deputy Schools Superintendent Jeff Short said Tuesday he had no update on the condition of the 43-year-old driver, who was hospitalized in "grave con-

dition" Monday. The man's wife asked authorities not to release any details about him as relatives were being notified, Short said.

The students on the bus met with the principal and counselors, and things were "as normal as we can get" on Tuesday, Short said.

Students are taught what to do — to turn off the ignition — if a bus driver collapses, as part of the safety training. "It's just for this type of situation," Short said. "I think they did an outstanding job."

The bus didn't hit any other vehicles, and no one was injured. Police Chief Bill Rhoads credited Wuitschick's quick actions.

"We're just happy the kid was thinking on his feet," he said.

China ousts top politician, accuses wife of murder

Associated Press

BEIJING — A flamboyant and telegenic politician who until recently seemed destined for the top ranks of China's leadership was stripped of his most powerful posts on Tuesday and his wife named in the murder of a British businessman, as Chinese leaders moved to stem a scandal that has exposed divisive infighting.

The announcement that Bo Xilai was being suspended from the Communist Party's Politburo and Central Committee and that his wife was a suspect in a homicide investigation put an end to a colorful political career. Media-savvy with a populist flair, Bo gained a nationwide following for busting organized crime and for reviving communist culture while running the inland mega-city of Chongqing.

His publicity-seeking ways angered some in the top leadership, however. In recent weeks, allegations of Bo's and his family's misdeeds leaked into public view, threatening to complicate preparations by the leadership for a delicate, once-a-decade transition to younger leaders at a congress later this year.

"This means the political career of Bo Xilai is over," said Cheng Li, a Chinese politics expert at the Brookings Institution in Washington. "The party wants to really resolve the Bo Xilai crisis in a relatively short period of time. They want to make sure that the attention for the 18th party congress will not suffer too much from the Bo Xilai episode."

Bo's patrons included retired party elders who retain influence over senior appointments, and among his vocal supporters were influential generals and party members, scholars and ordinary Chinese who identify themselves as leftists. His removal raises questions about whether Chinese leaders will have to make concessions to them to achieve the political balance that has restrained factional fighting in recent decades.

"A political succession that seemed completely predictable has been upended," said June Teufel Dreyer, a China politics expert at University of Miami. "We may be in for more surprises."

An editorial to run Wednesday in the party's *People's Daily* newspaper appealed for unity and said the investigation into Bo's violations would show the leadership's "solid resolve in safeguarding party discipline and the rule of law."

Tuesday's announcement, carried by state media, provided details of what has been a lurid and embarrassing scandal for the leadership.

Bo's removal from top government posts came on suspicion of involvement in unspecified but "serious discipline violations," the Central Committee said, and his case was handed over to internal party investigators.

His wife, Gu Kailai, and an orderly at their home were being investigated for intentional homicide in the death of Briton Neil Heywood, the Xinhua News Agency said. Heywood's death in November in Chongqing was initially blamed on excessive drinking, something his friends have said he was not known to do.



No sunshine in Motor City

Rays fall to Tigers 5-2 for first defeat

Associated Press

DETROIT — With the score tied in the fifth inning, Tampa Bay manager Joe Maddon intentionally walked Miguel Cabrera to

load the bases for Prince Fielder. The move worked when Fielder hit a routine flyball. In the eighth, Maddon decided to challenge Fielder again, with first base open and a left-hander

on the mound. "Prince hit the ball in the perfect spot," Maddon said. Fielder's single up the middle scored Miguel Cabrera from second, part of a snowy eighth-inning rally that gave the Detroit Tigers a 5-2 win over the Rays on Tuesday. Austin Jackson homered for De-

troit, which is the AL's last unbeaten team after handing the Rays their first defeat. After Fielder's tiebreaking single, a light snow shower passed briefly over Comerica Park. Jonny Peralta added a sacrifice fly later in the inning, and Gerald Laird's RBI single gave the

Tigers a three-run lead. Phil Coke (1-0) pitched the eighth, and Jose Valverde finished for his first save of the season. Valverde blew a save for the first time since 2010 in Thursday's opener against Boston. After Cabrera's leadoff double

See RAYS/Page B4

Racking up wins

Lady Pirates beat Nature Coast 4-3

JUSTIN PLANTE
Correspondent

CRYSTAL RIVER — Another win, another chance to play.

On Tuesday, the Crystal River girls tennis team survived a close call against visiting Nature Coast in the Class 2A regional semifinals, eking out a close 4-3 victory, thanks in big part to wins from Jessica Reynolds, Veronica Williams and doubles tandem Kayla Papp and Ashley Allen.

Crystal River moves on to the regional finals Thursday, where they will travel to Pasco High School, which won 4-3 over Gainesville Eastside.

The Lady Pirates got off to a fast start. Crystal River took the lead behind singles wins from Papp (No. 1), Williams (No. 5) and Jessica Reynolds (No. 4), despite their No. 2 and No. 3 singles players dropping their sets 3-6, 1-6. With the three wins, Crystal River had a 3-2 advantage heading into the two doubles matches.

Crystal River's final win came via the district champions, Papp and Allen in the No. 1 doubles match. For the duo, the outcome never seemed to be in doubt, as both sets cruised by with the Lady Pirates taking it 6-3, 6-1.

"I've played my opponent before. I lost to her once, so she's tough."

Jessica Reynolds
first-year player at Crystal River High.

Papp also performed well in her singles match. She took a decisive 6-1 first set, before holding off a late surge from her Nature Coast opponent to end the second set 6-4.

Following losses from Allen and Nikki Moynihan, No. 5 singles Williams evened the teams' scores with a win. She found her groove early, taking a quick 6-3, 6-1 victory.

In the No. 4 slot, first-year player Reynolds overcame a rusty start to take both sets, 7-5, 6-1.

"I've played my opponent before," Reynolds said of her match. "I lost to her once, so she's tough. The first set was a little rough, I wasn't quite warm yet, but I pulled it out and ended up beating her in two sets. So I'm happy."

After the last win, the No. 2 doubles match turned into an 8-game pro-set. Crystal River's Reynolds and Nikki Moynihan battled back from a 3-6 deficit to take a 6-5 lead. The Pirates' tandem, however, couldn't hold the lead en route to an 8-6 loss.

But the outcome was merely for fun, as Crystal River wrapped up another win on its way to the regional finals.

"I'm very excited for regionals," Jessica Reynolds said. "I really hope we go to state. This is my first year playing, so I think it would be really cool."



Crystal River's No. 4 seeded player Jessica Reynolds returns a shot to a Nature Coast player in the Class 2A regional semifinals Tuesday at Crystal River High School.



Crystal River's No. 1 seeded player Kayla Papp returns a shot to a Nature Coast player in the class 2A regional semifinals Tuesday at Crystal River High School.

Citrus girls take Zephyrhills by storm

LARRY BUGG
Correspondent

ZEPHYRHILLS — The Citrus girls tennis team simply overpowered Zephyrhills High School on Tuesday at a Class 3A regional semifinal match in Pasco County.

Citrus High School jumped to a 3-1 singles lead and downed Zephyrhills 5-2 in the match.

Zephyrhills (11-3), winner of the District 3A-6, will advance senior No. 1 singles winner Sarah Vande Berg to the state meet next week at Lake Brantley High School.

Citrus (12-2) will play at Ocala Forest, 4-1 winners over Land O' Lakes, on Thursday. Ocala Forest won the District 3A-5 title while Citrus was runner-up.

There was only one Zephyrhills girl who posed a threat to the 'Canes.

Vande Berg defeated Citrus's Sarah Labrador 6-0, 6-2. She also combined with Amanda Smith to win the No. 1 doubles 6-0, 6-2.

Citrus sophomore Melanie Dodd made her record 18-0 as she won the No. 2 singles match over Sydney Owens 6-2, 6-0.

"I did what I had to do to win," Dodd said. "I was being consistent and hit winners when I had a good chance. I had good serves."

Dodd wasn't the only one with a good day on the court. The Hurricanes' Taylor Jordan beat Alyssa Angelo 6-3, 6-0 to give Citrus a 4-1 lead and ensure the victory. And Jordan's victories are an omen for the team.

"So goes Taylor, so goes Citrus

High tennis," Citrus first-year tennis coach Scott Waters said. "Every time Taylor wins, we win. We are 12-2 with Taylor. She is a senior. She has been rock steady at the five position."

Citrus's Jackie Ear won the No. 3 singles, beating Hannah Ungerer 6-3, 6-2. Lena Martone took the No. 4 singles, beating Amanda Smith 6-1, 6-1.

The team of Ear and Dodd took the No. 2 doubles, beating Owens and Ungerer 6-0, 6-1.

Waters said he is always pleasantly surprised when the team wins.

"You never know what to expect," he said.

Dodd hoped the team would do this well.

"I knew our team was quite capable of it," she said.

Pasco routs CR boys 4-0

JAMES BLEVINS
Correspondent

DADE CITY — Two Pirates teams battled on the dry land of a tennis court, but only one raised the flag of victory. And it wasn't Crystal River.

The Crystal River boys tennis team hit the road to Dade City to play the Pasco High School Pirates in Class 2A regional play Tuesday afternoon.

At the day's conclusion, Pasco smoothly defeated Crystal River 4-0 in a best-of-four competition, proceeding to the next round and effectively ending Crystal River's season.

Crystal River's No. 1 seed Brandon Papp lost 6-4, 6-4 while the No. 2 match went much the same for Travis Swanson, who lost in straight sets 6-4, 6-2.

Matt Allen was soundly dispatched in the No. 3 seeded match 6-1, 6-3.

The No. 4 match decided the day as Alex Papp lost 6-1, 6-0. His loss ended the meet, interrupting the No. 5 match that was in the middle of being played by Ryan Johnson.

Crystal River head coach Bill Reyes had nothing but praise for his team and how hard they played this season despite the recent loss.

The Pirates finished in the top two in the district for the second consecutive year and Reyes believes they will be back again for many future seasons to come.

Crystal River slams Tavares



Pirates blank Bulldogs 11-0

SEAN ARNOLD
Correspondent

CRYSTAL RIVER — Three Crystal River batters slugged home runs as Pirates senior Donnie Dewees delivered five shutout innings Tuesday to help his baseball club even its district record for the regular season and secure the No. 3 seed in the upcoming District 5A-7 tournament with an 11-0 mercy-rule victory over Tavares.

Dewees allowed three hits and two walks while striking out five and received plenty of support, including 13 total Pirate hits and a pair of double plays by his defense. The senior lefty also aided his cause at the plate, launching a solo homer in the second inning moments after Crystal River junior center fielder Brandon Brooks drilled a hanging curveball over the left-field fence for two runs.

As a team, the Pirates (15-6, 5-5) sent 11 batters to the plate in the second, getting six hits for seven runs. Senior first baseman Josh Howell led off the third inning with a home run to right to ignite Crystal River for four more runs off five hits in the inning.

Pirates sophomore catcher Mason Pateracki went 3 for 3 on the night, while Dewees and junior second baseman Michael Kidd each added a pair of hits.

"Donnie throws for contact, and when he's working fast and throwing strikes, he's tough," Crystal River coach Bobby Stack said. "The defense plays well behind him when he works fast and gets out there and does his thing."

"Our players and coaches did an outstanding job and I was proud of everybody," Stack added. "But by the same token, we're trying to keep that as an expectation."

Bulldogs junior starter Ra-keem Frederick exited in the second after yielding six hits. He was relieved by freshman Brady Singer, who surrendered Crystal River's other seven hits while also walking two and striking out one. Senior Wade Irwin came in for the final three Pirate outs, forcing a fly out and a double-play groundball.

Howell discussed taking advantage of the Bulldog pitching struggles and getting himself back on track with his solo blast.

"I've been kind of slumping lately, just trying to heat back up," he said. "The new pitcher came in and he wasn't bringing anything impressive. It looked like a beach ball coming in, and I got a good hack on it."

Tavares' loss drops it to the No. 4 seed in District 5A-7 and puts the club at 8-11 overall (3-7 in district).

Crystal River plays at Citrus on Friday.

Finishing holes challenge players at 7 Rivers

The Presidential Invitational trophy is displayed on a shelf in the golf shop at 7 Rivers Golf & Country Club. Past champions' names engraved on the trophy include Mike Sanderson, Rick Powers, Bob Bleakley, Kelly Gosse, Danny Aylwin, Denny Allen and Pip Patton. These names bring to mind how competitive this high-level tournament has been throughout its 45-year history.

The emotional roller coaster golf often provides throughout a round reminds us of the joy of winning and disappointment of defeat. What is it like coming down the stretch on Sunday at The Presidential as one of the finishing holes at 7 Rivers Golf & Country Club play?

The final three holes are capable of providing drama. Nerves and pressure can do funny things to the golf swing. Negative thoughts can creep in. The player with a strong positive mind can play these holes under par, but we also know disaster lurks beyond the fairways. Let's examine what the players will face Sunday.

No. 16 is a 397-yard par 4 from the back tees. It is a tree-lined hole that doglegs to the left and the green is not visible from the tee box.

The dogleg may tempt the long hitter to cut the corner, but most competitors will aim their tee shot for the middle of the fairway. The hazard on the left side of the fairway will quickly gobble a drive that hooks too much and can block out the second shot. A drive that fades may gratefully find the



Special to the Chronicle
ABOVE: From the blue tees, Hole No. 16 is a tree-lined hole that doglegs to the left and the green is not visible from the tee box. **BELOW:** From the tee, the 18th hole may look rather benign with a generous fairway, but an errant tee shot may find water to the right and trouble to the left. Both are par 4's.

waste bunker and make the second shot more complicated but not impossible to hit the green in regulation.

A good tee shot in the fairway will leave a distance of 150 yards or less to the green. If players were asked before the round if they would take par on this hole, most would take even par and run.

No. 17 is a 556-yard par 5 slight dogleg right from the blue tees. It will yield birdies all day.

The tee shot is the first key for success. A drive hit down the left side with a slight fade is perfect. There is trouble on the right side of the fairway if the fade turns into a nasty slice.

A fairway wood on the second shot should leave the player a third shot somewhere inside the 100-yard marker. Distance con-

trol with a sand wedge on the third shot leaves a putt for birdie, but this green can be easily misread. Experience here is a plus.

No. 18 is a great finishing hole. It is a 377-yard par 4. From the tee, it may look rather benign with a generous fairway, but an errant tee shot may find water to the right and trouble to the left.

The second shot to the green is critical. A shot finishing above the hole leaves a tough fast putt especially when the palms get sweaty from nerves. Birdies are earned on this hole. Titles are won and lost on this sometimes diabolical green, but this hole is definitely attackable.

The entire back nine has some great holes. The 10th hole is a fun dogleg right. The 14th hole will challenge the best of players as the No. 2 handicap hole on the course.

It will be a great weekend for all the competitors. Who will take home the



tee. Spectators are welcome.
Club in Crystal River. She is a Class A Member of the PGA and LPGA.
Tea times begin at 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday and Sunday on both the first and 10th
Marion Walker is the general manager of 7 Rivers Golf & Country



Marion Walker
MOVE WITH MARION

Petrino out at Arkansas following wreck

Associated Press

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — Arkansas fired coach Bobby Petrino on Tuesday, publicly dressing him down for unfairly hiring his mistress and intentionally misleading his boss about everything from their relationship to her presence at the motorcycle accident that ultimately cost him his job.

Athletic director Jeff Long announced his decision at an evening news conference and laid out a stunning laundry list of misdeeds against the man he hired away from the Atlanta Falcons four years ago.

The 51-year-old Petrino, a married father of four, had maintained an inappropriate relationship with 25-year-old Jessica Dorrell for a "significant" amount of time and at one point had given her \$20,000, Long said. He would not disclose details of the payment, but said both parties confirmed the "gift."

Dorrell, a former Razorbacks volleyball player, worked for the Razorbacks Foundation before she was hired by Petrino on March 28. Long said she was one of three finalists out of 159 applicants and got the job after a time frame Long said was "shorter than our normal affirmative action hiring process."

Petrino never disclosed his conflict of interest in hir-



Associated Press
Arkansas football coach Bobby Petrino speaks April 3 during a news conference at Fayetteville, Ark., after being released from a hospital after he was injured in a motorcycle accident Sunday, April 1.

ing Dorrell or the payment, Long said.

And he ignored multiple chances to simply come clean.

"He made the decision to mislead the public, (and it) adversely affected the university and the football program," Long said, choking up at one point as he discussed telling players that their coach was gone. There was a "pattern of misleading and manipulative behavior to deceive me."

It was an abrupt ending for Petrino, who had built Arkansas into a Southeastern Conference and na-

tional power over four seasons, including a 21-5 record the past two years. But Long made it clear that the success on the field was overshadowed by repeated deceptive acts and that no one was more important than the program itself.

Long said Petrino was fired "with cause" — meaning he will not receive a multimillion-dollar buyout — and there were no discussions about ways to keep Petrino at Arkansas. Long declined comment when asked about Dorrell's job status.

Petrino finishes his

tenure at Arkansas with a 34-17 record in four seasons, leading the Razorbacks to a No. 5 final ranking last season and a Cotton Bowl win over Kansas State.

He did not immediately issue a statement.

The April 1 accident left him with four broken ribs, a cracked vertebra in his neck and numerous abrasions on his face. The avid motorcy-

cle rider said the sun and wind caused him to lose control on the windy two-lane highway about 20 miles southeast of Fayetteville.

What he failed to mention, both at a news conference and to Long, was the presence of a Dorrell.

That revelation was made public when the state police released the accident report. Petrino informed Long of Dorrell's presence 20 minutes before the police released the report to the public, also admitting to what he called a previous inappropriate relationship with Dorrell.

Long placed Petrino on paid leave later that night, saying he was disappointed in Petrino and promising to review the coach's conduct. He said his review found that the relationship between the two had lasted a "significant" amount of time.

As the review continued, the state police released the audio of the 911 call reporting Petrino's accident. It revealed Petrino didn't want to call police following the crash, and a subsequent police report showed he asked police if he was required to give the name of the passenger during the accident.

GOLF STATS

PGA Tour Statistics Through April 8
Scoring Average
1, Rory McIlroy, 68.97. 2, Tiger Woods, 69.03. 3, Justin Rose, 69.31. 4, (tie), Dicky Pride and Lee Westwood, 69.36. 6, Jim Furyk, 69.53. 7, Matt Kuchar, 69.60. 8, Keegan Bradley, 69.63. 9, Bubba Watson, 69.73. 10, Phil Mickelson, 69.84.
Driving Distance
1, Bubba Watson, 313.1. 2, Jamie Lovemark, 307.7. 3, Jason Kokrak, 306.4. 4, Dustin Johnson, 305.9. 5, Robert Garrigus, 305.8. 6, Kyle Stanley, 305.0. 7, Charlie Beljan, 303.9. 8, Harris English, 301.2. 9, (tie), Jhonattan Vegas and J.B. Holmes, 300.9.
Driving Accuracy Percentage
1, Jim Furyk, 74.92%. 2, Paul Goydos, 73.76%. 3, Graeme McDowell, 73.21%. 4, David Toms, 72.22%. 5, (tie), Colt Knost and Heath Slocum, 71.47%. 7, Hunter Mahan, 71.36%. 8, Zach Johnson, 70.52%. 9, Jeff Maggert, 70.24%. 10, John Mallinger, 69.98%.
Greens in Regulation Pct.
1, Lee Westwood, 75.00%. 2, Bubba Watson, 73.60%. 3, Bryce Molder, 72.20%. 4, Will Claxton, 72.00%. 5, John Senden, 71.80%. 6, Hunter Mahan, 71.20%. 7, Robert Garrigus, 71.10%. 8, Nathan Green, 70.90%. 9, Matt Kuchar, 70.80%. 10, Justin Rose, 70.60%.
Total Driving

UPCOMING PGA TOURNAMENT

- RBC HERITAGE**
■ Site: Hilton Head, S.C.
■ Schedule: Thursday-Sunday.
■ Course: Harbour Town Golf Links (7,101 yards, par 71).
■ Television: Golf Channel (Thursday-Friday, 3-6 p.m., 8:30-11:30 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 1-2:30 p.m., 9:30-11:30 p.m.) and CBS (Saturday-Sunday, 3-6 p.m.).

1, Bo Van Pelt, 63.2 (tie), Tiger Woods and Lee Westwood, 66.4, Roberto Castro, 68.5, Boo Weekley, 72.6, Louis Oosthuizen, 75.7, Jason Dufner, 77.8, John Rollins, 79.9, John Senden, 82.10, Keegan Bradley, 92.
Putting Average
1, Brian Harman, 1.705. 2, Bo Van Pelt,

1.711. 3, Richard H. Lee, 1.716. 4, (tie), Ben Crane and Aaron Baddeley, 1.721. 6, (tie), Chris DiMarco and Greg Chalmers, 1.724. 8, Zach Johnson, 1.726. 9, Jonas Blixt, 1.727. 10, Two tied with 1.730.
Birdie Average
1, Rory McIlroy, 4.42. 2, (tie), Peter Hanson and Bubba Watson, 4.36. 4, Bo Van Pelt, 4.35. 5, Webb Simpson, 4.32. 6, Phil Mickelson, 4.29. 7, (tie), Keegan Bradley and Lee Westwood, 4.25. 9, John Senden, 4.23. 10, Three tied with 4.19.
Eagles (Holes per)
1, Gary Woodland, 67.5. 2, (tie), Ben Crane and Rory McIlroy, 72.0. 4, Danny Lee, 75.0. 5, (tie), Steve Wheatcroft and Bobby Gates, 81.0. 7, Bubba Watson, 84.0. 8, (tie), Scott Brown and Johnson Wagner, 90.0. 10, Bo Van Pelt, 93.6.
Sand Save Percentage
1, Jonas Blixt, 74.14%. 2, David Toms, 68.97%. 3, Billy Mayfair, 68.89%. 4, Lee Westwood, 68.57%. 5, Rory McIlroy, 68.42%. 6, Aaron Baddeley, 67.39%. 7, Brian Gay, 67.24%. 8, Martin Flores, 66.00%. 9, Dicky Pride, 64.71%. 10, Greg Chalmers, 64.29%.
All-Around Ranking
1, Bo Van Pelt, 183.2, Keegan Bradley, 199. 3, Rory McIlroy, 223.4, Tiger Woods, 247.5, Lee Westwood, 254.6, Peter Hanson, 292.7, Jason Dufner, 293.8, Justin Rose, 296.9, Matt Kuchar, 300.10, Bubba Watson, 314.

American Irish Club Annual Invitational Golf Tournament
Saturday April 21st
Seven Rivers Country Club
Sign in by 11:15am • Shotgun start at 12:30pm
Scramble Best Ball Format
LINCOLN MKZ* FOR HOLE-IN-ONE ON #11 sponsored by NICK NICHOLAS FORD LINCOLN OF CRYSTAL RIVER *2-YEAR LEASE
Cost \$55 per person includes golf, cart, prizes, & lunch
Social hour with cash bar and appetizers during the awards ceremony at 4:45 - 6pm.
For information and sign-up contact:
Dave Horsman 897-1398
Russ Doring 795-4548
Herb Duval 794-7465
NICK NICHOLAS Ford CHRONICLE
Course Rules Apply • No Denim or T-Shirts

April Madness Basketball Tournament
Saturday, April 21st
9 a.m.
Lecanto High School Gymnasium
12 Local Teams Co-ed Tournament to benefit United Way of Citrus County

United Way
\$3 donation or donation of food or new clothes at door.
• Drawings for Apple iPads
• Family's: Bring the kids to have fun watching your neighbors play basketball
• Entertainment
• Food
For more information call: 795-5483
CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE



Pre-K access on rise, but quality a concern

Report: state has lowest teacher qualifications in country; funding lower than national average

Associated Press

MIAMI — Florida has the highest enrollment nationwide of 4-year-old children in a state pre-kindergarten program, but a new report warns the state may see little return on its investment because of poor quality and underfunding.

Early Education Research's annual report released Tuesday finds Florida tops the nation in access, with 76 percent of children enrolled. Yet state funding per child is significantly below the nationwide average, and Florida meets only three of 10 quality benchmarks.

"Unfortunately, Florida has the lowest teacher qual-

ifications in the country," said Steve Barnett, director of the research center at Rutgers University. "What makes it especially unfortunate is that Florida has the highest enrollment."

Because teacher qualifications are so low, Barnett said, "It's very unlikely you have much of an impact, and the impact is going to be

especially weak for poor kids."

Stuart Greenberg, director of Florida's Office of Early Learning, said the state's universal, free program for 4-year-old children has seen positive results: Nearly 77 percent of children who had completed the program scored as "kindergarten ready" on

two assessments given within the first 30 days of kindergarten last school year. By comparison, only 52.9 percent who had not participated scored at the same level on those exams. "We are seeing students that attend VPK come in better prepared," Greenberg said.

In Florida, teachers in

state pre-kindergarten programs are required to have completed coursework in early literacy and a child development associate credential, which Barnett characterized as "little more than a high school diploma."

Florida also falls behind

See Pre-K/Page C2

Lifelong learner



'Kid-driven' Crystal River Primary School principal to retire

MATTHEW BECK
 Staff writer

— CRYSTAL RIVER
If you ask Eddie Speight to sum up her 33-year career as an educator in the Citrus County School District, she can do it in one word — "exciting."

"It's been exciting because of all the changes that have happened during my career," she said. "I feel so fortunate because I've touched the lives of children. That's what I wanted to do."

Speight, 64, will leave her post as principal of Crystal River Primary School at the end of the school year in May. Her plans are to work until her 65th birthday in December and retire through the DROP program afterward.

Although she will be officially retired, her plans don't include sitting around and watching time pass.

"I will do volunteer work. I don't want to get out of the learning mode. I think of myself as a lifelong learner," she said. "Whether it will be in the school or volunteering in other ways, I'm sure I will be volunteering in some way to help children."

Speight began her career as a classroom teacher at Crystal River Primary School in 1979. Through the years she filled a number of roles at the school, including media specialist,

Title I reading specialist and a technology specialist.

In 1998 she left the school for two years to work as a regional technology specialist assisting eight schools with their technology issues.

In 2001 she returned to the primary school where she served as assistant principal for several years before taking the position of principal in December of 2005.

The past couple of years at her school have presented some unique challenges in the way of a major renovation to the facility that lasted parts of two school years.

"The project involved renovation of the whole school," she said Friday. "It wasn't just one section, it was the entire school. It was a very large undertaking but we've reaped the reward from it."

The renovation brought the school into the modern era, especially regarding technology. Each classroom is now equipped with the latest, high-tech teaching tools to further childhood education.

Over the three decades teaching students, Speight has seen many changes in student education, changes designed to tailor individual learning for students to maximize their education.

"What we've seen a lot of is the amount of data that we actually analyze and use to really look at differentiated instruction," she said. "Although it's not new, it became a buzz word about mid-way through my career, and we started looking at how can we help individual students in ways of being able to diagnose what they need, as well as how

Crystal River Primary School Principal Eddie Speight has spent the vast majority of her 33 years as an educator at the primary school, serving in various positions. At left, she encourages students last week in a class. At the end of the school year she will retire from her position.

MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle

See RETIRE/Page C2

National PTA seeks to reverse drop in membership

Some parents want to form their own new organization

Associated Press

When Otha Thornton, president-elect of the National PTA, signed up to help lead the PTA at Maryland's Meade Senior High School in 2005, the chapter had about 25 members. Within two years, membership soared to 400 as the school community mobilized to boost morale and academic performance. Now he's trying to rekindle that spirit on a larger scale as the PTA strives to reverse a steady decrease in its national membership.

"I tell parents: 'Other people are making choices for you and your children. We need you at the table,'" said Thornton, who will become the National PTA's first male African-American leader next year.

By any measure, the PTA is one of the most venerable and iconic of America's volunteer-based nonprofits. It was founded in 1897 as the National Congress of Mothers and at its peak in the 1960s claimed about 12 million members.

Membership plummeted in the

late '60s and 1970s, in part because of the racial rifts caused by school desegregation, then stabilized. But it has dropped steadily over the past 10 years from about 6 million to under 5 million.

Demography is part of the reason: Compared to the PTA's heyday, there are many more single parents and working mothers now who feel they can't spare extra time for engagement at their children's schools.

But the PTA's shrinkage can't be explained only by such factors, given that parents are active at tens of thousands of schools in independent parent-teacher organizations not affiliated with the PTA. Factors driving this trend include frustration with having to pay state and national PTA dues, and disenchantment with the PTA's role as a vocal advocate on such issues as charter schools, juvenile justice and home-schooling.

"We're still strong, but it is a concern," the current national president, Betsy Landers, said of the membership decline. "We've chosen to try to attack it in several

different ways."

One initiative involves expanded use of social media. Members are being kept up-to-date via podcasts on National PTA Radio, some meetings and training sessions are being conducted through Skype, and members with expertise as bloggers or tweeters are being recruited as "social media ambassadors" to enhance the PTA's online presence.

Landers, of Germantown, Tenn., hopes these tactics will help cut costs while also enticing more parents to join.

"We're really trying to give our members the information they seek in a way they prefer," she said.

Thornton, a retired Army colonel who now works as a senior analyst for General Dynamics in Georgia, said other membership-boosting strategies include encouraging urban parents to be more involved in their local schools, expanding outreach to rural schools, and training a new wave of leaders from minority groups.



Associated Press

Gary Parkes, president of the PTA at Carmel Elementary School in Woodstock, Ga., said he and many other parents in the local organization would like to sever ties with the National PTA and become an independent parent-teacher organization, but had been told by the school district that this would not be allowed.

For Thornton, 44, his PTA mission is intertwined with his family history — a Georgia family that refused to let borderline poverty derail the quest for college education. "Education was a way out," Thornton said. "When I had kids,

it was very important for me to be involved and be sure they got the best education possible."

While Thornton and Landers say the PTA needs to be creative with new membership strategies,

See PTA/Page C2

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 3rd SESSION



READING ROCKS WINNERS!

Reading Rocks is a special program sponsored by **Van Allen Insurance** and the **Citrus County Chronicle** to promote reading within the county's third grade elementary school classes. A \$50 prize is awarded quarterly to the third grade class in each school that reads the most books. A grand prize will be awarded for the school with the highest percentage of books read during the program. For more information, call 352-637-5191.



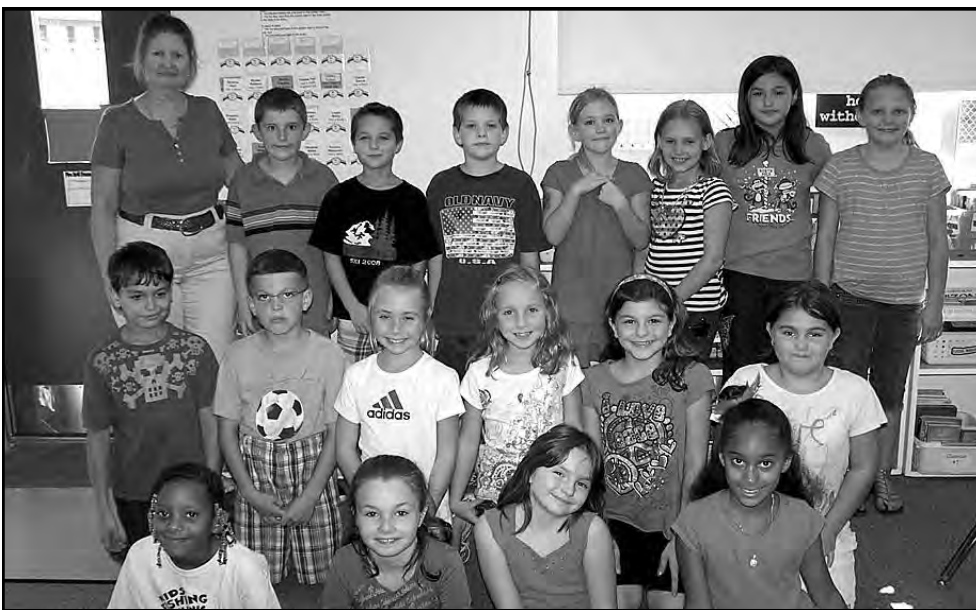
MS. TREMANTE - CENTRAL RIDGE ELEMENTARY



MRS. WELDON - CRYSTAL RIVER PRIMARY



MRS. TRAINOR - CITRUS SPRINGS ELEMENTARY



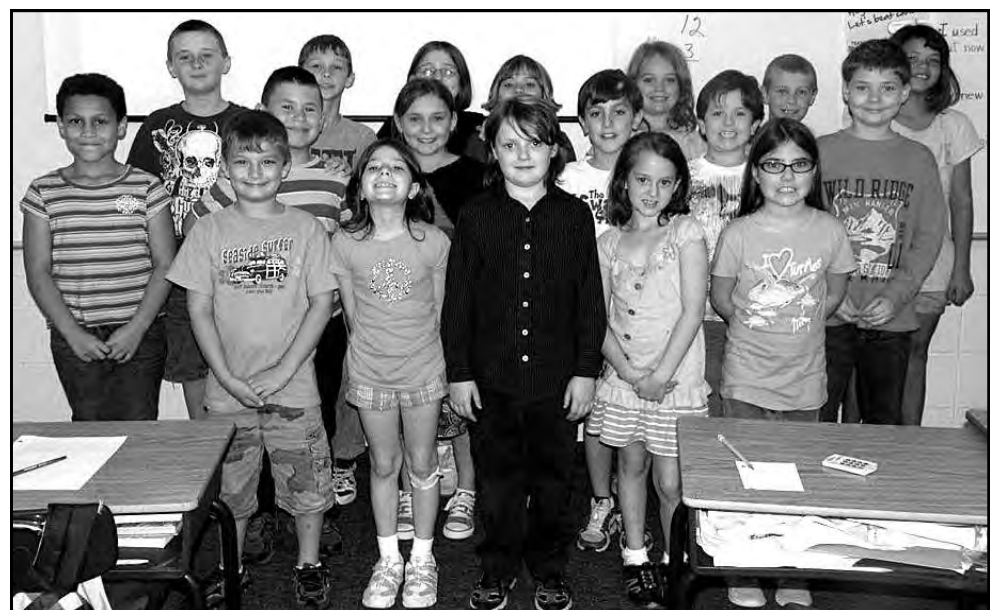
MRS. BISHOP - FLORAL CITY ELEMENTARY



MR. MATTINGLY - FOREST RIDGE ELEMENTARY



MS. BIGGS - HERNANDO ELEMENTARY



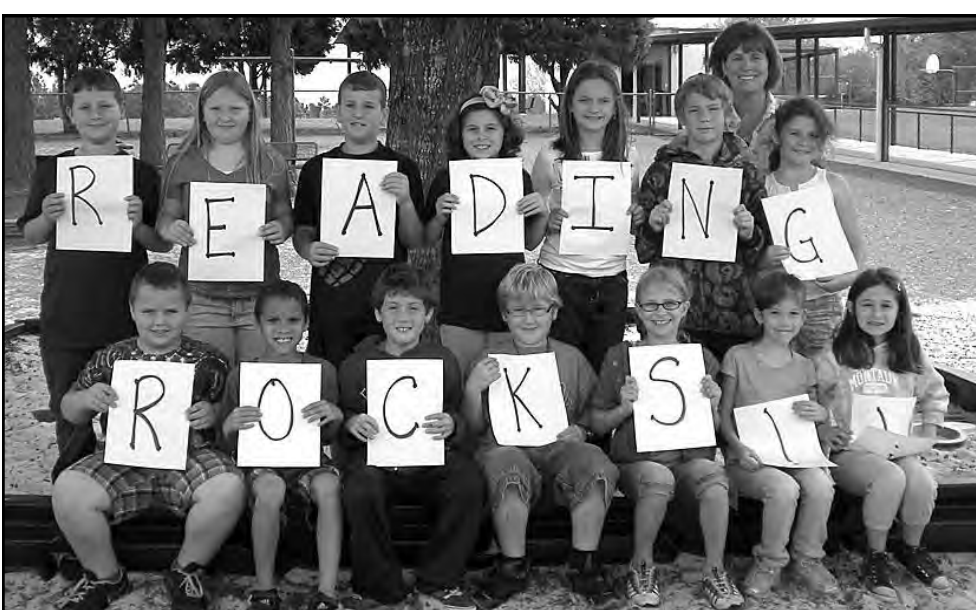
MS. CHAMBERS - HOMOSSASSA ELEMENTARY



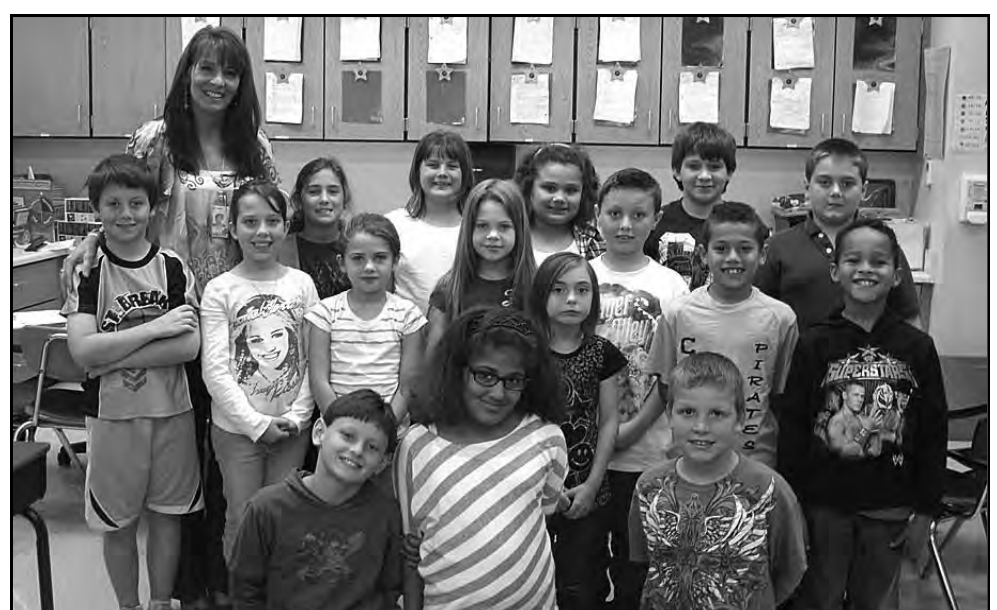
MS. WISELY - INVERNESS PRIMARY



MS. CIRONE - LECANTO PRIMARY



MS. BOGART - PLEASANT GROVE ELEMENTARY



MRS. BYRNE - ROCK CRUSHER ELEMENTARY

Table with columns for channel, time, and program details for Wednesday Evening April 11, 2012. Includes programs like 'Storage Wars', 'The Mindy Project', 'The Bachelor', etc.

JUMBLE word game section featuring a cartoon and a grid of letters to be rearranged into words.

Bridge section with a 'Phillip Alder' column and a hand analysis for North, West, and East.

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Dear Annie: I am a 22-year-old senior in college and will graduate in May. There is a growing rift in my family, and most of it is due to my stepmother. She says horrible things about my family (and others) when she thinks no one is listening. But we've heard her. In fact, my grandmother and I recently overheard some awful remarks on the way to a family member's funeral. When anything she says or does gets back to my dad, he claims we blame her for everything and blows up at us. I can barely speak to him anymore without accidentally starting a fight. Last year, these tiffs ruined my birthday and our family celebrations. Dad refused to come to Christmas Eve dinner and really upset my elderly grandmother. My stepmom ran up a massive credit card debt, and my father had to stop helping me pay for tuition halfway through the school year. It has gotten to the point where I'm considering medication for stress in order to handle coming home during spring break. I really don't want to become one of those people who loses contact with her family, but this has been building for a long time. It's harder and harder to forgive and forget and behave as if nothing is wrong. What can I do to alleviate this situation? — Too Much Drama in Virginia

Dear Virginia: You need to step back from the drama and understand that your father will always defend his wife. He isn't going to leave her because of your criticisms, nor is he willing to make her behavior an issue within his marriage. We recommend you spend as little time as possible around your stepmother; don't bring up her faults to your father and, when you graduate, move into your own place. Dear Annie: I have eight grandchildren from high-school age on up. None lives nearby, although I see them several times a year at family events. I truly love them all. Long ago, not knowing sizes or preferences, I stopped sending gifts and now send \$100 checks for their birthdays and at Christmas. Some of them respond immediately with thank-you notes, emails or phone calls. A few grandchildren respond most of the time. But there is one I never hear from at all. What should a grandmother do? I enjoy being able to give them each a check and don't want to stop, but I admit that I'm getting more and more annoyed when I don't get a response, especially with the one granddaughter in her early 20s who never says thank you. If I send a card acknowledging her birthday, but without the expected check, do you think she would figure out the reason? — Schenectady, N.Y. Dear N.Y.: Maybe, but even if she does, it doesn't guarantee a change in her response. We suggest being more direct and then giving her one more opportunity to show her gratitude for your generosity. Call or email your errant granddaughter, and tell her you are never sure your gifts arrive because she doesn't acknowledge them, and it makes you wonder if perhaps she'd rather not receive them. Say that even a brief email would be much appreciated. Consider it a teachable moment. Dear Annie: This is for "Steve in Ohio." My father-in-law was Frank, my sister's husband was Frank, and another brother-in-law was Frank. When our son was born, we named him Frank after my father-in-law. My sister named her son Frank. So did my sister-in-law. We also had two cousins named Frank. When we were together, things could get quite confusing and funny, but when someone called Frank Paul or Frank Peter, they knew they were in trouble. They are all grown now and just fine. The next generation is carrying on the tradition of naming their first son Frank. — Pennsylvania Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please email your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 737 3rd Street, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254. To find out more visit www.creators.com.

Peanuts



Garfield



Pickles



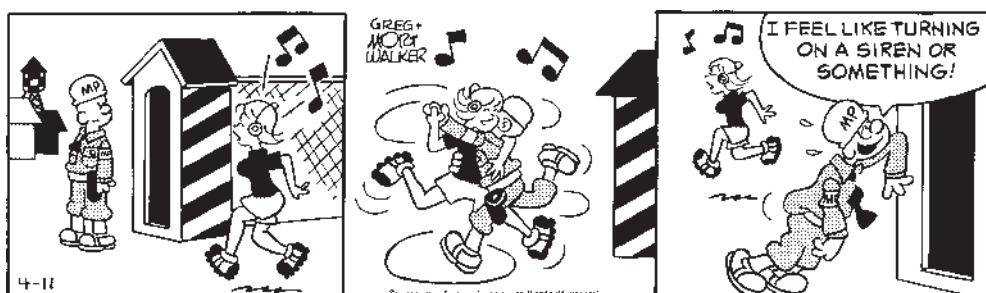
For Better or For Worse



Sally Forth



Beetle Bailey



Dilbert



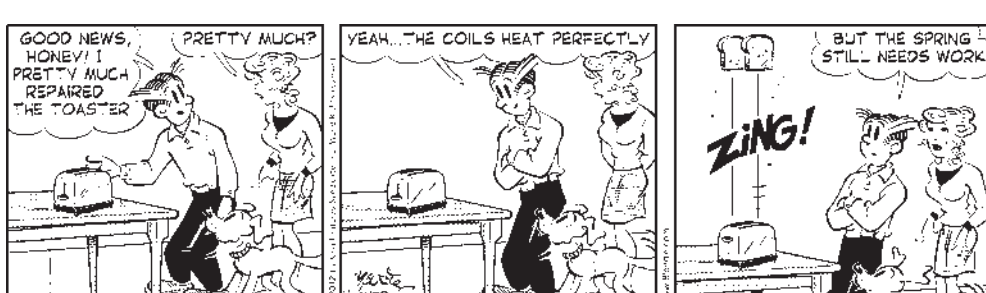
The Grizzwells



The Born Loser



Blondie



Kit 'N' Carlyle



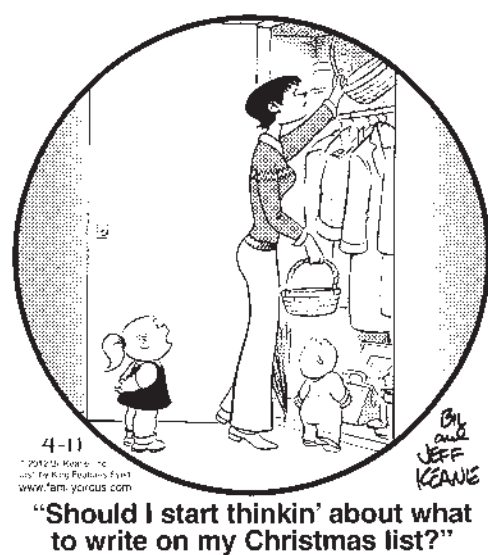
Rubes



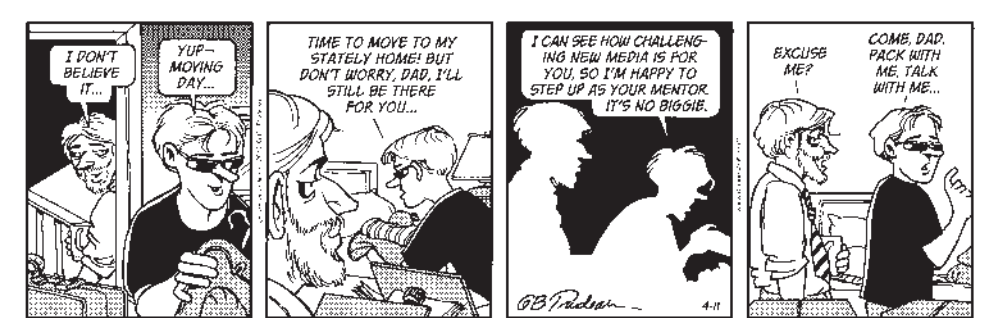
Dennis the Menace



The Family Circus



Doonesbury



Betty



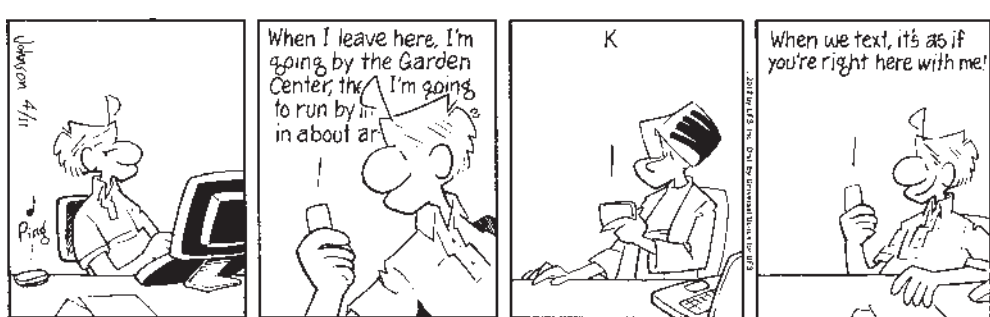
Big Nate



Frank & Ernest



Arlo and Janis



Today's MOVIES

Citrus Cinemas 6 - Inverness; 637-3377
American Reunion (R) ID required. 1:20 p.m., 4 p.m., 7:20 p.m.
Titanic (PG-13) In real 3D. 2 p.m., 7 p.m. No passes.
Wrath of the Titans (PG-13) In real 3D. 1:45 p.m., 4:45 p.m., 7:45 p.m. No passes.
Mirror Mirror (PG) 1:40 p.m., 4:40 p.m., 7:40 p.m.
The Hunger Games (PG-13) 1:10 p.m., 4:10 p.m., 7:15 p.m.
21 Jump Street (R) ID required. 1:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7:10 p.m.
Titanic (PG-13) In real 3D. 1 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m. No passes.
Mirror Mirror (PG) 1:15 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 7:15 p.m.
Wrath of the Titans (PG-13) In real 3D. 1:50 p.m., 4:50 p.m., 7:50 p.m. No passes.
The Hunger Games (PG-13) 1:10 p.m., 1:40 p.m., 4:10 p.m., 4:40 p.m., 7:10 p.m., 7:40 p.m.
21 Jump Street (R) ID required. 1:45 p.m., 4:45 p.m., 7:45 p.m.
A Thousand Words (PG-13) 1:20 p.m., 4:20 p.m., 7:20 p.m.
Dr. Seuss' The Lorax (PG) In Real 3D. 1:05 p.m., 4 p.m. No passes.

Crystal River Mall 9; 564-6864
American Reunion (R) ID required. 1:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m.
Visit www.chronicleonline.com for area movie listings and entertainment information.
Times subject to change; call ahead.

Local RADIO
WJUF-FM 90.1 National Public
WNGN-FM 91.9 Religious
WXCX-FM 95.3 Adult Contemp.
WXOF-FM 96.3 Adult Mix
WEKJ FM 96.7, 103.9 Religious
WYKE-FM 104.3 Sports Talk
WUVU 105.5 FM Hudson
WJQB-FM 106.3 Oldies
WFJV-FM 103.3 '50s, '60s, '70s
WRZN-AM 720 Adult Standards

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: r sjenba X
'HGL TMZWP MELVF FGW TJLVRP HGWY
HW'ZW FLCWFGWZ? XVPF PDYC M PLYC
MYR EZDYC FGW PVYYK HWMFGWZ.
- RMJW WAMYP
Previous Solution: "You don't have to burn books to destroy a culture. Just get people to stop reading them." - Ray Bradbury
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