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Progress 'premature' to decide tax payment

County fires off letter to power company

MIKE WRIGHT
Staff writer

CRYSTAL RIVER — Citrus County's political leaders are taking Progress Energy Florida to task for a letter that stated the company's plans

for its 2013 tax payment. A letter, signed by Citrus County Commission Chairman Joe Meek, Property Appraiser Geoff Greene, Superintendent of Schools Sandra "Sam" Himmel and Sheriff Jeff Dawsy, was emailed Wednesday to

Alex Glenn, president of Progress Energy Florida. An official version will follow in the mail. The letter is in response to Glenn's letter sent last week to the county. In it, Glenn said the company would pay

Read the county's letter to Alex Glenn, president of Progress Energy Florida on Page A10.

no more than \$19 million in 2013 property taxes and up to \$9 million less if the company decides to permanently retire the nu-

clear plant north of Crystal River. Citrus officials said Greene has begun a full assessment of the company's energy complex for the 2013 tax roll. "Therefore, it is premature for you to unilaterally determine what your taxes should be," the letter stated.

Progress and its parent company, Duke Energy, are locked in a dispute with Greene over the taxable value of pollution-control equipment installed at the power complex's coal plants in 2009. Progress believes the equipment should be

See LETTER/Page A5

INSIDE

FLAIR FOR FOOD:



Comfort food
Anastasia's in Heritage Hills Plaza serves up Greek cuisine./Page C1

ENTERTAINMENT:



In denial
Mariel Hemingway speaks about her troubled family in a new documentary./Page B4

BENGAZI HEARINGS:



Grilled
Secretary of State Clinton questions attack on Americans in Libya./Page A12

DELAYED:



Debt ceiling
Republicans back down on threats not to raise country's borrowing limit./Page A12

NEW WALMART:



Opening day
County's latest Walmart throws open doors to customers./Page A3

INDEX

ComicsC5
CommunityC4
CrosswordC5
EditorialA10
EntertainmentB4
HoroscopeB4
Lottery NumbersB3
Lottery PayoutsB4
MoviesC6
ObituariesA6
ClassifiedsC7
TV ListingsC6



Prosecution sets pace

Murder trial opens with torrent of assertions

A.B. SIDIBE
Staff writer



MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle

Defendant John Campbell attempts to get the attention of his attorney Wednesday morning as his first-degree murder trial begins in Circuit Court Judge Richard "Ric" Howard's courtroom. Along with other offenses, Campbell is accused of homicide in his father's August 2010 death.

INVERNESS — The trial of the man accused in the gruesome death of his father in 2010 got under way in dramatic fashion Wednesday in Circuit Judge Ric Howard's court.

Prosecutors kept up a torrent of assertions and witness testimony to buttress a case, they believe, in which John William Campbell, 39, meticulously planned and viciously attacked and killed his father. John Henry Campbell, 68, was stabbed to death as he sat in a chair in the home the two shared.

Prosecutors Pete Magrino and Rich Buxman alleged Campbell, with forethought, repeatedly split open his father's skull with a wood-handled hatchet in August 2010 and tried to scrub away his actions. Campbell is charged with first-degree murder and may face the death penalty if convicted in the jury trial.

He is also facing a raft of other charges, including attempted murder of a deputy during a high-speed chase on U.S. 19 that ended with him ramming his vehicle into the parked car of Citrus County Sheriff's Deputy Sam Ruby.

Meanwhile, the defense team of Michael Lamberti and Devon Sharkey did not go into whether their client committed the crime. Instead they focused on the issue of whether Campbell's actions rose to the level of murder in the first degree.

In his opening remarks to the jury, Sharkey described the relationship between father and son as estranged and distant prior to the elder Campbell's killing. He described the younger Campbell as being depressed and this was

See TRIAL/Page A2

Board approves building fee increases

Revised schedule more accessible

CHRIS VAN ORMER
Staff writer

Partly for updating, partly for housekeeping, the Department of Planning and Development needed to revise its fee schedule, the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) heard Tuesday.

"The primary reason for developing a new fee schedule today

was borne out of the fact that the existing fee schedules are in several documents," said Vincent Cautero, department director. "The public has a hard time, from time to time, working with our fee schedules, because they can't find them."

The board conducted a public hearing to consider the new fees, and later voted unanimously to accept them, even though some of



Vince Cautero
planning director.

the fees were increased. Cautero said the schedule updating exercise began in earnest after his department revised the Land Development Code. The goal was to place the fees for all four divisions in the department into one consolidated document. The project

also assessed fees affected by the adoption of the Land Development Code. Cautero said it had been more than five years since the fees had been reviewed.

The four divisions include the Building Division, which is self-supporting, Code Compliance, Graphic Resources and Community Planning and Land Development Division, which are funded by property taxes.

See FEES/Page A7

Pentagon lifts ban on women serving in combat

Move overturns 1994 rule

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon is lifting its ban on women serving in combat, opening hundreds of thousands of front-line positions and potentially elite commando jobs after generations of limits on their service, de-

fense officials said Wednesday. The changes, set to be announced Thursday by Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, will not happen overnight. The services must now develop plans for allowing women to seek the combat positions, a senior military official said. Some jobs may open as soon as this year, while assessments for others, such as special operations forces, including Navy SEALs and the Army's Delta Force, may take longer. The services also will have until

January 2016 to make a case some positions should remain closed to women. The groundbreaking move recommended by the Joint Chiefs of Staff overturns a 1994 rule prohibiting women from being assigned to smaller ground combat units. Officials briefed The Associated Press on condition of anonymity so they could speak ahead of the official announcement.

See COMBAT/Page A5



Associated Press

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta has removed the U.S. military ban on women in combat, opening thousands of front line positions.



MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle

Assistant State Attorney Pete Magrino displays a photograph of homicide victim John H. Campbell, who was an Inverness resident. He showed the image to jurors Wednesday morning.

TRIAL

Continued from Page A1

evidenced by his desire to end his life by unbuckling his seat belt and ramming the deputy's car.

He told jurors that after they look at all the evidence they will conclude the case was not premeditated and therefore does not rise to the level of first-degree homicide.

However, Buxman, in his opening remarks, laid out a sequential pattern of actions by Campbell he contended spells out premeditation and an attempt at cover-up.

He bluntly described to jurors the manner in which the elder Campbell was killed.

Buxman said testimony will reveal Campbell told investigators what transpired on that tragic evening, and how "he hit his father with the blade side of a hatchet over and over and over until he was dead. He did this while his father sat in a chair helpless."

Buxman even relayed the chilling last words of the elder Campbell as was re-

portedly told by suspect Campbell to investigators. The elder reportedly uttered: "What was that," after suspect Campbell allegedly buried the blade-end of the hatchet into his skull.

Through cross-examination of nearly a dozen witnesses, beginning with the elder Campbell's neighbor Fred Schofield, and one of the first deputies on the scene, Carey Phillips, Magrino and Buxman tried to establish pattern of behavior by Campbell until he was apprehended in the crash on U.S. 19.

Crime scene technician Sherri Leahy helped introduce video evidence of the crime scene, including the body of Campbell, which

was wrapped in a sleeping bag.

Deputy Charles Beetow testified Wednesday about the evidence he retrieved from the crime scene, while witnesses and CCSO Detectives Chris Cornell and Dan Keszthelyi shared their expertise on retrieving information from phone records and triangulation using phone towers to locate Campbell.

Keszthelyi said when investigators located Campbell traveling northbound on U.S. 19 from the Clearwater area, they began to tail him. He soon noticed the tail and thus began the chase with speeds reaching more than 110 mph. Campbell had also been texting his ex-girlfriend and Cornell was able to share the contents of those texts with the jury. He wrote about wanting to commit suicide and then decided to ram the patrol vehicle.

Deputy Andy Cox, who was immediately behind Campbell during the chase and whose dash camera captured the screaming end, also testified.

Campbell could be seen and heard screaming in pain after being severely injured in the crash. The deputy, who was not in his vehicle, ran toward the tree line when he saw Campbell approaching. The deputy was hurt, but Campbell had to be airlifted to Bayfront Medical Center in St. Petersburg.

Testimony continues at 8:30 a.m. today in what could be a weeklong trial.

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

Key center fashion show features afternoon tea

Chronicle

The 15th annual Key Training Center Fashion Show and Tea will be from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10.

The setting will be an afternoon tea at the Chet Cole Life Enrichment Center, 5521 W. Buster Whitton Way, Lecanto campus.

Spring fashions will be presented by Belk Department Store in addition to a parade of fashions from the Key Thrift Stores.

All guests are asked to wear their own favorite hat, worthy of winning one of the special prizes to be presented — Most Beautiful, Most Creative, and

Best Table Presentation.

Tickets are \$30 but will cost only \$25 for those wearing a hat. There will be a "buffet" of hats that can be rented, as well.

All proceeds go directly to support of the Key Training Center.

For more information or ticket purchase call 795-5541, ext. 311.

Friends of CR refuge meeting set

Chronicle

Paul Boetcher, a former hydrologic data collector for the U.S. Geological Survey, will share his expertise at the annual meeting of The Friends of Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge Complex.

Boetcher, owner of Hydro-Q Inc. — a consulting firm — will be the keynote speaker at the Sunday, Jan. 27, event in Homosassa.

The event is at 2 p.m. in the fellowship hall of First United Methodist Church, 8831 W. Bradshaw St., Homosassa

Boetcher was a lead hydrologic technician with the U.S. Geological Survey for more than 30 years.

The event, open to the public, is free but a donation of non-perishable food is encouraged.

For more information, call 352-586-7140 or visit friendsofchazz.org.

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Around the
STATE

Citrus County

Manatee aerial survey results

Staff from the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge conducted an aerial survey of manatees Jan. 22. In total, 196 manatees were counted along the survey route, stretching from the Cross Florida Barge Canal, near Inglis, south to the Homosassa River. Included along this route are the Crystal River, King's Bay, the discharge canal of the Progress Energy complex north of Crystal River, Salt River and the Homosassa River, which includes the Blue Waters.

The Cross Florida Barge Canal, the discharge canal of the power plant and western sections of the Homosassa, Crystal, and Salt Rivers could not be flown due to low sea fog rolling in.

Count results were:

- King's Bay — 118 adults plus 14 calves for 132 in total.
- Crystal River — 0.
- Salt River — 0.
- Power Plant discharge canal — 9 adults for a total of 9.
- Cross Florida Barge Canal — 3 adults and 1 calf for a total of 4.
- Homosassa River (Blue Waters) — 37 adults and 6 calves for a total of 43.
- Lower Homosassa River — 7 adults and 1 calf, totaling 8.
- In all, 174 adults and 22 calves were spotted, totaling 196.

Ocala

Silver Springs to become state park

Silver Springs, one of Florida's oldest tourist attractions, is going out of business and will become a state park.

The north Florida attraction, famed for its glass bottom boats, has been plagued by low attendance and pollution, which has clouded its once-clear waters.

Gov. Rick Scott and the Florida Cabinet on Wednesday agreed to accept a \$4 million lease buy-out from Palace Entertainment.

The lease had called for the firm to manage the state-owned property near Ocala as an attraction through 2029. It now will end Sept. 30. Palace will continue to manage the property as a tourist attraction until then.

— From staff and wire reports

Correction

Due to a reporter's error, two schools were misidentified in the *Chronicle's* listing of teacher of the year finalists in the Jan. 16 edition and school-related employee of the year finalists in Wednesday's paper. Third-grade teacher Trisha Knox and ESE assistant Sherrie Lucas are from Central Ridge Elementary School.

The *Chronicle* regrets the errors.

Readers can alert *The Citrus County Chronicle* to any errors in news articles by emailing newsdesk@chronicleonline.com or by calling 352-563-5660.

Scott calls for teacher pay raise

Would mean extra \$2,500 a year

The News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — Gov. Rick Scott on Wednesday called on state lawmakers to give every full-time public school teacher a \$2,500 raise, a request that was met with encouragement, caution and a more than a little skepticism by lawmakers and teacher advocates.

Visiting Ocoee Middle School in central Florida, the governor said he would push lawmakers to approve the across-the-board pay increase for full-time teachers, who

have gone several years without raises and been asked to pay more for retirement as the state and local school districts have scrambled for cash.

"Ultimately, I want all Florida families to have more opportunities to pursue their dreams," Scott said in remarks prepared for delivery at the school. "That means more job opportunities. It is impossible to connect more Floridians with great jobs without a strong education system that supports student achievement."

The raise, which would have to

be approved by the Legislature and subject to local collective bargaining agreements, would cost taxpayers about \$480 million — money not everyone is certain can be found.

The state's largest teachers union was "encouraged" by the news.

"This begins to repair the damage that has been done to our students and those who work in our schools," said Andy Ford, president of the Florida Education Association. The union has clashed frequently with Republicans in Florida over the past decade or so, over teacher pay, as well as many other issues.

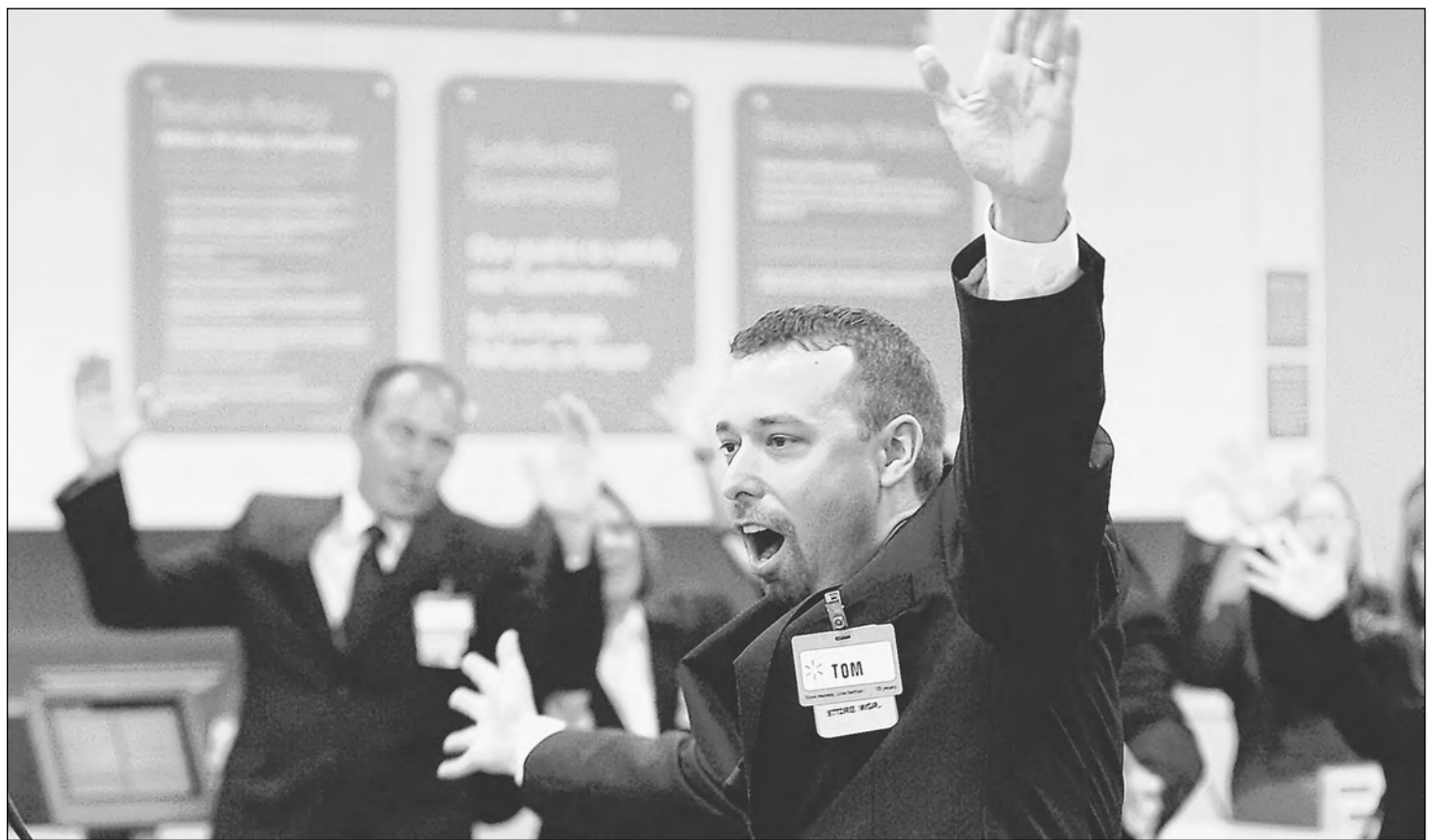
Key lawmakers said they sup-

port the governor's efforts, but stressed any discussion of teacher pay and benefits has to be part of a large budget discussion and some aren't sure the money is available.

Though revenues are expected to increase in the coming fiscal year, lawmakers said years of budget deficits and austerity have affected all branches of government.

Senate President Don Gaetz, a former Okaloosa County schools superintendent, said he prefers an approach of providing more funding to local school boards, which would then make decisions about pay increases.

New Walmart opens



MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle

Walmart store manager Tom Cooper leads a crowd in a Walmart cheer Wednesday morning as the store in Beverly Hills is officially opened.

Beverly Hills location is third one in Citrus County

PAT FAHERTY
Staff writer

BEVERLY HILLS — "Fabulous!" exclaimed Barbara Turner, as she left the store Wednesday morning. "I'm so glad it's open, it's so convenient."

Turner, who manages Big Pine Acres Mobile Home Park, had been eagerly waiting for the new Beverly Hills Walmart to open.

"I'm very excited about it," she said, having braved a cold morning for the store's ribbon cutting.

Turner said she has been watching its progress since they first cleared trees from the site at the intersection of County Roads 486 and 491. Her mobile home park is just across the street and she said everyone there was happy about the new store opening.

It's wonderful," Lecanto resident Regina Toriskie said. "It's so convenient, it has everything I need. So many people have asked for a store in this area."

"It's a nice size store," she said, adding it saved her from having to drive up State Road 44 to shop at the Inverness Walmart, which is often crowded.

With the weather on the chilly side, the opening ceremony was moved inside. Hundreds of residents crowded the front of the store, joining Walmart employees, county and Chamber of Commerce representatives and other guests.

"We're finally here," store manager Thomas Cooper said. "I want to thank the 200-plus associates who turned this building into a Walmart."

And he thanked their families for their



Management, family members and county officials receive a cheer as the new Walmart is opened with a ceremonial ribbon cutting. "Let the shopping begin!" store manager Tom Cooper exclaimed.

patience with the project.

Cooper recognized support from the county, the chamber and companies involved with the new store. He also cited help from regional Walmart employees such as Suzanne Green, who came from the Homosassa store to help with the grand opening.

"We want to be a great partner for this community and it starts today," Cooper said. "We are donating a trailer of food."

He said the Walmart semitrailer parked outside had more than \$10,000 worth of food for the Community Food Bank of Citrus County.

He presented a \$2,000 check to the CREST School to build a new playground and a \$500 check to JROTC, which came

out for the flag-raising.

"This is only the beginning," he said. "I promise we're going to be a great partner to the community."

"Let the shopping begin," he said, after his 6-year-old daughter cut the ribbon.

Then the action shifted back to sporting goods where customers quickly lined up to buy ammunition at Walmart prices. There was a two-box limit, with popular calibers selling out quickly.

Grand opening activities involving local groups and civic organizations are planned through Sunday.

Contact *Chronicle* reporter Pat Faherty at 352-564-2924 or pfaherty@chronicleonline.com.

Defense claims snitch lied in Rilya Wilson case

Associated Press

MIAMI — A jailhouse snitch looking for a way out of prison concocted a story about hearing a woman confess to killing a 4-year-old foster child, the woman's defense attorney told a jury Wednesday, seeking to cast doubt on the prosecution's star witness.

Attorney Michael Matters told jurors in a closing argument

there were numerous inconsistencies in testimony by Robin Lunceford, a career criminal who said Geralyn Graham tearfully confessed in 2004 to smothering little Rilya Wilson and burying her body more than a decade ago.

Lunceford, who has spent more than half of her life behind bars, got a life prison sentence reduced to 10 years in exchange for her testimony. She gets out in 2014.

"I suggest to you that every bit of

the story she concocted about my client is absolutely unbelievable," Matters told jurors. "Robin's worked for this. She earned it. She graduated from prison life with a master's of manipulation and a doctorate in deceit."

Graham, 67, faces life in prison if convicted of first-degree murder, kidnapping and aggravated child abuse. Rilya went missing from Graham's home in late 2000, but her disap-

pearance was not noticed by the state Department of Children and Families for 15 months, leading to high-level agency resignations and passage of child welfare reforms.

After eight weeks of trial, jurors are expected to begin deliberations Thursday. Graham has long maintained her innocence, claiming Rilya was taken away by a state employee for mental tests and never returned. Inves-

tigators said there's no truth to her story.

Lunceford testified Graham told her when both were in jail she killed Rilya because the girl was evil and possessed by demons. Lunceford provided details not publicly known, such as Graham reaching a breaking point when Rilya insisted on wearing a Cleopatra mask for Halloween rather than an angel costume.

For the RECORD

Citrus County Sheriff's Office

Domestic battery arrest

Adam Dix, 18, of Homosassa, at 7:44 a.m. Monday on a misdemeanor charge of domestic battery. No bond.

DUI arrest

Donna LaFlamme, 41, of East Dano Street, Inverness, at 1:29 a.m. Monday on a misdemeanor charge of driving under the influence. According to her arrest affidavit, she was pulled over after a law enforcement officer saw her vehicle moving erratically northbound on U.S. 41 in the area of Middle School Drive in Inverness. She admitted to consuming three or four mixed drinks and had difficulty performing sobriety tasks. She refused to submit to a test of her breath. Bond \$500.

Other arrests

Kelsie Lindsay, 20, of West Fanwood Lane, Crystal River, at 3:31 p.m. Sunday on a misdemeanor charge of battery. Bond \$500.

Joseph Pelham, 23, of Homosassa, at 8:08 p.m. Sunday on a misdemeanor charge of violation of domestic violence/protective injunction. No bond.

Christina Boyington, 35, at 2:37 p.m. on Citrus County warrants for trespassing in a structure/conveyance after warning and a failure to appear in court for a misdemeanor charge of trespassing after warning. Bond \$1,000.

Marcus Iacovino, 24, of North U.S. 221, Perry, at 2:36 p.m. Monday on a misdemeanor charge of petit theft and a Citrus County warrant for violation of probation on an original felony charge of burglary. No bond.

Kayla Pearson, 23, of West Foxhill Lane, Homosassa, at 11:59 p.m. Tuesday on a felony charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon without intent

to kill and a Citrus County warrant for a misdemeanor charge of giving false information to a law enforcement officer. According to her arrest affidavit, she is accused of threatening a man with a baseball bat. Bond \$6,000.

Thefts

A grand theft was reported at 11:21 a.m. Jan. 18 in the 9400 block of E. Bushnell Road, Floral City.

A grand theft was reported at 1:30 p.m. Jan. 18 in the 11300 block of W. Bayshore Drive, Crystal River.

A petit theft was reported at 5:04 p.m. Jan. 18 in the 9700 block of W. Poplar St., Crystal River.

A petit theft was reported at 5:50 p.m. Jan. 18 in the 500 block of S. Ponder Ave., Lecanto.

A petit theft was reported at 6:34 p.m. Jan. 18 in the 2400 block of E. Gulf-to-Lake Highway, Inverness.

A petit theft was reported at 12:32 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 19, in the 1500 block of S. Suncoast Blvd., Homosassa.

A petit theft was reported at 11:12 a.m. Jan. 19 in the 5700 block of E. Jasmine Lane, Inverness.

A petit theft was reported at 5:08 p.m. Jan. 19 in the 90 block of S. Pine Ave., Inverness.

A grand theft was reported at 10:50 p.m. Jan. 19 in the 900 block of Duck Cove Path, Inverness.

A petit theft was reported at 10:26 a.m. Monday, Jan. 21, in the 200 block of E. Highland Blvd., Inverness.

A grand theft was reported at 12:03 p.m. Jan. 21 in the 5800 block of N. Summerfield Point, Dunnellon.

A petit theft was reported at 1:33 p.m. Jan. 21 in the 6800 block of S. Suncoast Blvd., Homosassa.

A petit theft was reported at 2:47 p.m. Jan. 21 in the 2400 block of E. Gulf-to-Lake Highway, Inverness.

A grand theft was reported at 7:01 p.m. Jan. 21 in the 1300 block of W. Jackson Hill Court, Lecanto.

An auto theft was reported at 6:50 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22, in the 2200 block of S. Coleman Ave., Homosassa.

Vandalisms

A vandalism was reported at 4:38 p.m. Friday, Jan. 18, in the 5600 block of S. Garcia Road, Homosassa.

A vandalism was reported at 6:35 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 19, in the 3500 block of E. Theo Lane, Inverness.

A vandalism was reported at 2:40 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 20, in the 20 block of N. Melbourne St., Beverly Hills.

A vandalism was reported at 2:42 a.m. Jan. 20 in the 2400 block of E. Gulf-to-Lake Highway, Inverness.

A vandalism was reported at 3:55 a.m. Jan. 20 in the 7000 block of W. Greenwood Lane, Crystal River.

A vandalism was reported at 10:18 a.m. Monday, Jan. 21, in the 2000 block of S. Goode Point, Homosassa.

ON THE NET

www.chronicleonline.com.

New state education chief sets top priorities

Nationwide academic standards at top of list

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — Florida's new education commissioner told a legislative panel Wednesday that his top priorities are implementing nationwide academic standards and a new teacher merit pay and tenure law.

The State Board of Education hired Tony Bennett after the Republican lost a bid for re-election as Indiana's superintendent of public instruction in November.

Florida is among 45 states, the District of Columbia and three territories that have agreed to adopt the Common Core State Standards for kindergarten through high school.

"The one thing we have to get right is the implementation of common core because it will transform the way our children

learn," Bennett said in his first appearance before the Senate Education Committee. "Common core will transform the way teachers teach. It will transform the way we assess our children and know that they're college and career ready."

Bennett said he intends to make sure educators and communities across Florida understand how important and transformative the new standards will be.

Besides serving as a uniform national measuring stick, they'll give schools and teachers wider latitude for developing curriculum to help students learn what's required than currently allowed by Florida's Sunshine State standards.

Florida plans to phase in the standards and corresponding exams, which will replace the existing

Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test, or FCAT, over the next couple years.

The Florida Education Association, the statewide teachers union, is challenging a new law requiring merit pay based heavily on student test scores and abolishing tenure for new hires. A circuit judge in Tallahassee heard oral argument last week but has not yet ruled. His decision, though, is expected to be appealed regardless of which way it goes.

Bennett said Gov. Rick Scott has asked him to make implementation of the law a priority. He said he intends to make sure the Department of Education is prepared to take on that task and wants to assess local school districts' capacity to put it into effect.

He said he'll also be looking at whether the law needs to be "tweaked."

Legal notices in today's Citrus County Chronicle. Meeting Notices...C12. Miscellaneous Notices...C12. Foreclosure Sale/Action Notices...C11, C12.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER. Map showing high, low, and precipitation for various locations in Citrus County.

FLORIDA TEMPERATURES. Table listing temperatures for various Florida cities including Daytona Bch., Ft. Lauderdale, Fort Myers, etc.

MARINE OUTLOOK. Northwest winds around 10 knots. Seas 1 foot or less. Bay and inland waters will have a light chop. Expect sunny skies today.

Gulf water temperature 63 degrees. Taken at Aripeka. LAKE LEVELS table with columns for Location, Tues., Wed., Full.

THREE DAY OUTLOOK. Exclusive daily forecast by Bay News 9. TODAY & TOMORROW MORNING: High: 69 Low: 44. FRIDAY & SATURDAY MORNING: High: 71 Low: 46. SATURDAY & SUNDAY MORNING: High: 74 Low: 50.

THE NATION. Forecast for 3:00 P.M. THURSDAY. Map of the United States showing weather patterns and a table of forecasts for various cities.

ALMANAC. TEMPERATURE* table with columns for Wednesday, Record, Normal, Mean temp., Departure from mean. DEW POINT, HUMIDITY, POLLEN COUNT** table with columns for Today's active pollen, Today's count, Friday's count, Saturday's count.

SOLUNAR TABLES. Table with columns for DATE, DAY, MINOR (MORNING), MAJOR, MINOR (AFTERNOON), MAJOR.

CELESTIAL OUTLOOK. SUNSET TONIGHT, SUNRISE TOMORROW, MOONRISE TODAY, MOONSET TODAY.

BURN CONDITIONS. Today's Fire Danger Rating is: HIGH. There is no burn ban.

WATERING RULES. Lawn watering limited to two days per week, before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m., as follows: EVEN addresses may water on Thursday and/or Sunday. ODD addresses may water on Wednesday and/or Saturday.

TIDES. *From mouths of rivers. **At King's Bay. ***At Mason's Creek. Table with columns for City, High/Low, Thursday, Friday.

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Calif. schools get high-powered rifles

Associated Press

FONTANA, Calif. — The high-powered semiautomatic rifles recently shipped to school police in this Southern California city look like they belong on a battlefield rather than in a high school, but officials here say the weapons could help stop a massacre like the one that claimed the lives of 26 students and educators in Connecticut just weeks ago.

Fontana Unified School District police purchased 14 of the Colt LE6940 rifles last fall, and they were delivered the first week of December — a week before the shooting at Sandy

Hook Elementary School. Over the holiday break, the district's 14 school police officers received 40 hours of training on the rifles. Officers check them out for each shift from a fireproof safe in the police force's main office.

Fontana isn't the first district to try this. Other Southern California districts also have rifle programs — some that have been in operation for several years. Fontana school police Chief Billy Green said he used money from fingerprinting fees to purchase the guns for \$14,000 after identifying a "critical vulnerability" in his force's ability to protect students.



Associated Press

The Fontana Unified School District in California purchased 14 Colt LE6940 semiautomatic rifles to help provide security for the school.

The officers, who already wear sidearms, wouldn't be able to stop a shooter like the one in Connecticut, he said Wednesday.

"They're not walking around telling kids, 'Hurry up and get to class' with a gun around their neck," the

chief said. "Parents need to know that if there was a shooter on their child's campus that was equipped with body armor or a rifle, we would be limited in our ability to stop that threat to their children."

Some parents and stu-

dents, however, reacted with alarm to the news that school resource officers were being issued the rifles during their shifts. The officers split their time between 44 schools in the district and keep the rifles in a safe at their assigned school or secured in their patrol car each day before checking the weapon back in to the school police headquarters each night.

"If the wrong person gets ahold of the gun, then we have another shooter going around with a gun. What happens then, if that situation occurs?" said James Henriquez, a 16-year-old sophomore who just enrolled at Fontana

High School this week after moving from Texas.

Other students said they felt disillusioned that officials would spend money on semiautomatic rifles while the district eliminated its comprehensive guidance counseling program two years ago.

"They should get guns, but not as many and not spend so much money on them," said student Elizabeth Tovar. "They should use the money to get back our counselors because a lot of us really need them."

The district saved millions by restructuring guidance services, said Superintendent Cali Olsen-Binks.

COMBAT

Continued from Page A1

There long has been opposition to putting women in combat, based on questions of whether they have the necessary strength and stamina for certain jobs, or whether their presence might hurt unit cohesion.

But as news of Panetta's expected order got out, members of Congress, including the Senate Armed Services Committee chairman, Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., announced their support.

"It reflects the reality of 21st century military operations," Levin said.

Panetta's move comes in his final weeks as Pentagon chief and just days after President Barack Obama's inaugural speech in which he spoke passionately about equal rights for all. The new order expands the department's action of nearly a year ago to open about 14,500 combat positions to women, nearly all of them in the Army. Panetta's decision could open more than 230,000 jobs, many in Army and Marine infantry units, to women.

In addition to questions of strength and performance, there also have been suggestions that the American public would not tolerate large numbers of women being killed in war.

Under the 1994 Pentagon policy, women were prohibited from being assigned to ground combat units below the brigade

level. A brigade is roughly 3,500 troops split into several battalions of about 800 soldiers each. Historically, brigades were based farther from the front lines and they often included top command and support staff.

The necessities of combat in Iraq and Afghanistan, however, propelled women into jobs as medics, military police and intelligence officers that were sometimes attached — but not formally assigned — to battalions. So while a woman couldn't be assigned as an infantryman in a battalion going out on patrol, she could fly the helicopter supporting the unit, or move in to pro-

vide medical aid if troops were injured.

And these conflicts, where battlefield lines are blurred and insurgents can lurk around every corner, have made it almost impossible to keep women clear of combat.

Still, as recent surveys and experiences have shown, it will not be an easy transition. When the Marine Corps sought women to go through its tough infantry course last year, two volunteered and both failed to complete the course. And there may not be a wide clamoring from women for the more intense, dangerous and difficult jobs — including some infantry and commando positions.

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LETTER

Continued from Page A1

taxed as salvage, or about 10 percent of its value.

Greene, citing a 1998 circuit court decision, says pollution-control should be valued the same as other equipment at the plant.

Progress paid \$19 million for its 2012 property taxes; the county said the company owes about \$35.1 million in total. Progress has since sued Greene over the assessments.

Glenn, in his letter last week, said he wanted to put local officials on notice of the 2013 expected tax payment so they wouldn't be caught off guard.

In their response, Citrus officials said while they appreciated that heads-up, they chastised Glenn for deciding the company's tax payment.

"We further believe it is inappropriate for your company, or any other, to pre-determine a partial payment of a tax bill," the letter states. "Progress Energy/Duke, like every other taxpayer, should pay their fair share, not the share they want to pay."

The letter also suggests that Glenn's declaration of the 2013 tax payment does not help the dispute between the company and county.

"While it appears that you have made a business decision on behalf of your company, the taxing authorities must protect the interest of this community," it says. "You give us no choice but to defend our position."

Contact Chronicle reporter Mike Wright at 352-563-3228 or mwright@chronicleonline.com.

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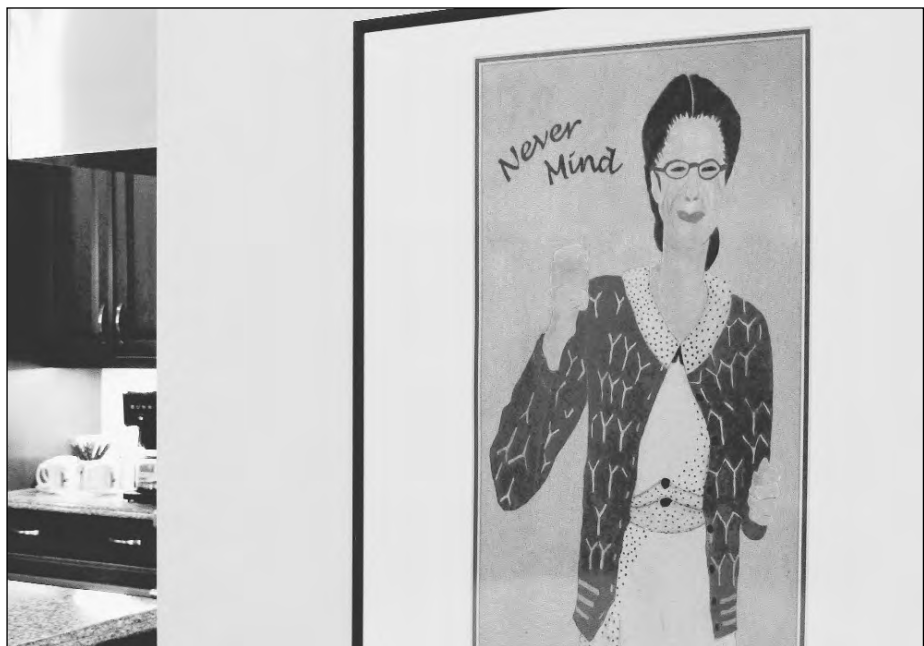
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A framed image of comedian Gilda Radner with one her catch phrases, *Never Mind*, hangs on a wall inside the cancer support group's chapter in Middleton, Wis. The cancer support group said Wednesday it is sticking with its name honoring comedian Gilda Radner following public outcry after the group announced a change in November.

Gilda's Club chapter to maintain its name

Board changes mind after public outcry

Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — Stung by the overwhelmingly negative reaction to removing the name of original "Saturday Night Live" cast member Gilda Radner from a cancer support group's title, a Wisconsin chapter is borrowing one of the comedian's catch phrases for its next announcement: *Never mind*.

Gilda's Club Madison will remain just that, group leaders told The Associated Press on Wednesday. The board voted last week to keep the name after an avalanche of criticism in November when it announced it was switching to the more generic Cancer Support Community Southwest Wisconsin, in part out of concern young people today were unfamiliar with Radner, who died of ovarian cancer in 1989.

"It really struck a chord with folks and all of us agreed we want people to come to Gilda's and get the help that they need," said Wayne Harris, chairman of the board for the Madison chapter. "If this is what it takes to make that happen, we're all as a group happy to make it happen."

The intention of changing to a broader name was honorable, Harris said.

"In retrospect, we probably should have thought that through or understood it more," he said.

Anger over the name change, which was supposed to take effect this

month, came from members of the local Gilda's Club chapter, fans of Radner who saw it as a slight to a woman who confronted cancer with dignity and humor; leaders of other clubs who reaffirmed their commitment to keeping the name, as well as Radner's husband, actor Gene Wilder.

"We started receiving emails right away," said Lannia Stenz, director of the Madison chapter. "For the most part it was simply asking 'Why did you do this? Please reconsider.' It was really, truly passionate feedback. We had some people who were angry, but at the base of everything, it was the love of Gilda and her story."

Reaction to the news led to a flurry of positive comments Wednesday on the Gilda's Club Facebook page and on Twitter.

Ron Nief, a professor at Beloit College in southern Wisconsin who has made a career out of studying how generations view the world differently, said he was glad to know Radner still resonates with people and has not been forgotten.

But Nief also said he

thought the decision to keep the name was more about securing future donations and less about honoring Radner.

"They are an organization that does very good work and in order to do it they have to raise money and the name is related to their ability to raise funds," Nief said.

Stenz, leader of the Madison chapter, said the potential loss of donations "was not as much of a factor in our decision to retain the name." She said it was driven more by feedback from its board, Gilda's Club members and people in the community.

Stenz and Harris said the goal of the name change was always about making clear the group's mission, not to remove Radner's memory.

"We were just talking about changing the name that we went by legally," Harris said.

While Radner would have still been a part of the organization, "in the end, they want to see Gilda's name out front," he said.

Todd Sumlin, 49

SALEM, KY.

Todd L. Sumlin, 49, Salem, Ky., died Saturday, Jan. 19, 2013, at Lourdes Hospital. Todd was born Nov. 3, 1963, in San Antonio, Texas, to James and Lois (Krandall) Sumlin. He was employed at the Lafarge Three Rivers Quarry in Paducah as an assistant manager. Todd was a loving family man and an active outdoorsman, enjoying hunting and fishing.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife of 28 years, Susan L. Sumlin, Salem, Ky.; his daughter, Jennifer and her husband Billy Brightman and their children, Britney, Dakotah, Trenton and Hunter; his parents, James and Lois Sumlin; his brothers and their wives, David and Clara Sumlin, Scott and Sherie Sumlin, all of Florio City, Tyler Sumlin of Colorado Springs, Colo., and his brother, John Sumlin, Inverness. He was preceded in death by a sister, Loralyn Sumlin.

A tribute to Todd's life will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26, 2013, at the Chas. E. Davis Funeral Home. Burial will follow at Hills of Rest Cemetery in Floral City. The family will receive friends in visitation from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 25, at the funeral home.

Sign the guest book at www.chronicleonline.com.

Helen Sloan, 86

LECANTO

Helen L. Sloan, 86, of Lecanto, died Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2013, while under the care of Hospice of Citrus County. Funeral services will be 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26, 2013, at the Fero Funeral Home with interment to follow at Fero Memorial Gardens. The family will receive friends at 1 p.m.

Obituaries

Marlene Goldfarb, 72

HERNANDO

Marlene Miriam Goldfarb, 72, of Hernando, Fla., passed away Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2013, in her home in the community of Hillside Villas in Terra Vista of Citrus Hills. She was born Sept. 3, 1940, in Baltimore, Md., to Freda and Louis Goodman. She came here 12 years ago with her husband, Alan Goldfarb, from Columbia, Md. She was an internal bank auditor, a retail shoe store manager and a home travel agency owner. She enjoyed traveling and marching bands.

She is survived by her husband and a brother, Haron Goodman of Baltimore, Md.

Interment will be at Temple Beth Shalom Cemetery in Sarasota, Fla. Contributions in her memory may be made to Moffitt Cancer Center Foundation, P.O. Box 23027, Tampa, FL 33623-3827 or HPH Hospice Foundation, Donation Department, 12107 Majestic Blvd., Hudson, FL 34667-2465.

Sign the guest book at www.chronicleonline.com.

Juan Moreno, 61

HERNANDO

Juan M. Moreno, 61, Hernando, died Monday, Jan. 21, 2013. Private arrangements are with Chas. E. Davis Funeral Home with Crematory.

Stella Durennel, 97

LECANTO

Stella J. Durennel, 97, of Lecanto, died Monday, Jan. 21, 2013, in Lecanto. Services will be in New York. Arrangements are under the direction of the Beverly Hills Chapel of Hooper Funeral Home & Crematory.

Mindy Gibson, 56

INVERNESS

Mindy Lee Gibson, 56, of Inverness, died Monday, Jan. 21, 2013, under the care of Hospice of Citrus County. Mindy was born Dec. 1, 1956, in Miami, to the late Dayle and Sylvia Frantsen. She enjoyed her working career as a waitress and was an active member of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary Post No. 4337 in Inverness. Mindy truly loved listening to music and knew the lyrics to many songs by heart. She cherished her children and grandchildren.

Survivors include her companion, George Spetnagel, Inverness; her sons, Dwayne (Christy) Gibson, Windermere, Fla., and Seth (Robby) Gibson, Daytona Beach; her sisters, Elisa (Keith) Duval, Gainesville, and Debra (Jake) Gavellas, Inverness; her grandchildren, Dylan, Katelyn and Peyton; her former spouse, Dennis Gibson; and her stepfather, Glen Mull, Gainesville.

A celebration of life service will be at the VFW Post No. 4337 in Inverness at a later date.

Sign the guest book at www.chronicleonline.com.

Raymond Russo, 61

INVERNESS

Mr. Raymond M. Russo, 61, of Inverness, Florida, died Tuesday, January 15, 2013, in Inverness, FL. He was born August 27, 1951, in New York, NY.

He will be forever loved and missed by his wife, Pauline, his dogs Candy Ann and Saunders Ann and many wonderful friends and family. "Wake up happy, chase a cloud, water a garden and laugh out loud."

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.HooperFuneralHome.com. Arrangements by the Inverness Chapel of Hooper Funeral Homes & Crematory.

OBITUARIES

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

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Research chimps headed from lab to leisure

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Chimpanzees who have spent their lives in U.S. research labs being prodded, poked and tested may be headed for retirement in a leafy sanctuary where they can climb trees, socialize at will, play with toys and even listen to music.

More than 300 chimpanzees should be retired from government-funded

research and sent to live in a sprawling refuge outfitted with play areas under a recommendation approved Tuesday by a top national panel of scientists.

The proposal from a National Institutes of Health committee is the latest step in a gradual shift away from using chimps as test subjects, because of technological advances and because of ethical concerns about their close

relation to humans. It would affect all but 50 of more than 350 chimpanzees in labs around the country. The remaining group kept for future federally funded research would have to be housed in spacious conditions laid down in the detail by the committee.

The NIH Council of Councils Working Group proposal, which will go to the agency's director after

a 60-day period for public comment, also calls for major cuts in grants to study chimps in laboratories and no return to breeding them for research.

The chimpanzees would be sent to a national sanctuary, Chimp Haven, that opened in 2005 to house former federal research chimps on a 200-acre site in rural northwest Louisiana.

Under an agreement made late last year, before

the proposal, nine chimpanzees arrived Tuesday at Chimp Haven from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's New Iberia Research Center, which no longer has an NIH chimp research contract. Seven more are expected Thursday and another 95 will arrive over the coming months, sanctuary officials said.

After decades of being taken from cages to be

poked and prodded, they'll be part of larger social groups with changing access to forest habitats, play yards, courtyards and jungle gyms.

They'll get a daily assortment of fresh fruits and vegetables along with their nutritionally balanced biscuits. They'll have toys to play with, from balls and backpacks to anything else that's safe and might amuse them.

FEES

Continued from Page A1

Cautero said he asked outside sources what his department could do to entice more business. The Citrus County Builders' Association recommended the department drop the \$25 fee for the pre-application meeting. This fee was recommended for elimination.

The old fee schedule also charged residents \$50 for some property research efforts and letter writing, Cautero said.

"If someone needs an interpretation, that's a completely different issue," Cautero said.

If no legal opinion was involved and the question could be answered by phone, the fee was recommended for elimination.

Since the fall of 2011, department representatives sought review of the proposed fees from the Governmental Affairs Committee of the Citrus County Builders' Association, the Governance Committee of the Citrus County Council (CCC), the Realtors' Association of Citrus County, the Code Review and Appeals Board (CRAB), the Contract and Licensing Advisory Board (CLAB) and the Citrus County Agricultural Alliance. The Realtors and the agricultural alliance did not respond

with comments, Cautero said. Crab and CLAB sent a few comments. Numerous comments were received from the CCC and the builders.

The Planning and Development Commission also conducted a public hearing and recommended approval of the fee schedule.

The question the board should consider in reviewing the proposed fee schedule, Cautero said, was: What should you charge to defray the cost to the taxpayers? The proposed fees did not reflect the exact costs of the services.

The CCC suggested making the Land Development Division self-sustaining as an enterprise fund, similar to the Building Division. Although it was possible to do so, Cautero said, the county did not have enough applications at present to allow the division to pay for itself.

"Your application fees would be significantly higher than they are now, which would discourage individuals" in a way that would hinder economic development, Cautero said.

After a review of all departments' fees, Commission Chairman Joe Meek asked what the changes in fees would mean to the average single-family home. The base fee would go up \$10, Cautero replied.

Commissioner Scott

Adams pointed out the larger increases would affect larger developments. Applications requiring comprehensive plan amendments, Cautero said, were "heavy lifting" and fees were higher.

Commissioner Dennis Damato said the department's records research service for home financing encouraged the use of licensed contractors for improvements and repairs. The work was guaranteed and could satisfy a lender's conditions.

Commissioner John "JJ" Kenney said he was not a builder, but was sure the public would benefit from the revised fee schedule. Commissioner Rebecca Bays agreed that the department had done a good job.

Adams did not like the fee increases.

"Usually in a downturn, I lower my prices," Adams said.

Representing the Builders' Association, Randy Clark of Clark Construction said his group worked closely with the department in developing the fee schedule.

"Do we like to see the fees go up? No. Is it a reality? Yes, it's a reality," Clark said.

The builders agreed the old schedule had some parts covered by ad valorem taxes that should have been funded through user fees, according to

Clark. "Ad valorem taxpayers should be happy with that. It's something that we're satisfied with," he said.

While supporting the proposed fee schedule, Clark said the increases

should be able to decline in the future.

"When things start turning around, and that reserve fund starts to creep up, you need to go back to these fees and start reducing these because it's not

all about just building a big old reserve fund," Clark said.

Chronicle reporter Chris Van Ormer can be reached at cvanormer@chronicleonline.com or 352-564-2916.

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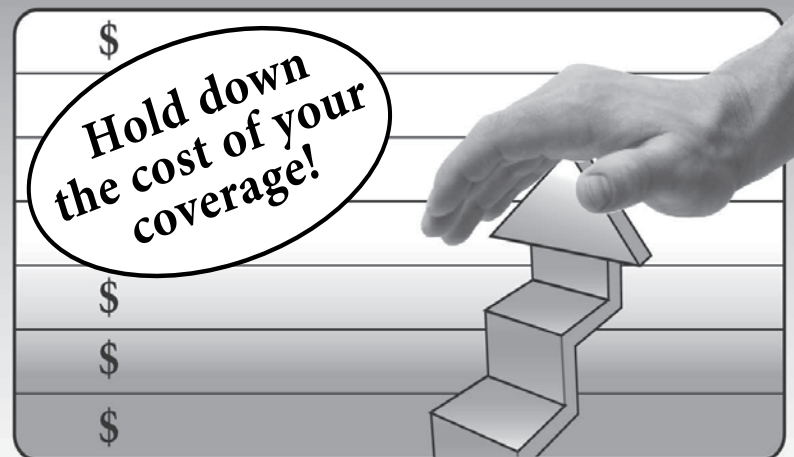
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Women catch up to men in lung cancer risk

Associated Press

Smoke like a man, die like a man.

U.S. women who smoke today have a much greater risk of dying from lung cancer than they did decades ago, partly because they are starting younger and smoking more — that is, they are lighting up like men, new research shows.

Women also have caught up with men in their risk of dying from smoking-related illnesses. Lung cancer risk leveled off in the 1980s for men but is still rising for women. "It's a massive failure in prevention," said one study leader, Dr. Michael Thun of the American Cancer Society.

And it's likely to repeat itself in places such as China and Indonesia where smoking is growing, he said. About 1.3 billion people worldwide smoke.

The research is in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine. It is one of the most comprehensive looks ever at long-term trends in the effects of smoking and includes the first generation of U.S. women who started early in life and continued for decades, long enough for health effects to show up.

The U.S. has more than 35 million smokers — about 20 percent of men and 18 percent of women. The percentage of people who smoke is far lower than it used to be; rates peaked around 1960 in men and two decades later in women.

Researchers wanted to know if smoking is still as deadly as it was in the 1980s, given cigarettes have changed (less tar), many smokers have quit, and treatments for many smoking-related diseases have improved.

They also wanted to know more about smoking and women. The famous surgeon general's report in 1964 said smoking could cause lung cancer in men, but evidence was lacking in women at the time since relatively few of them had smoked long enough.

One study, led by Dr. Prabhat Jha of the Center for Global Health Research in Toronto, looked at 217,000 Americans in federal health surveys between 1997 and 2004.

A second study, led by Thun, tracked smoking-related deaths through three periods — 1959-65, 1982-88 and 2000-10 — using seven large population health surveys covering more than 2.2 million people.

Among the findings:

- The risk of dying of lung cancer was more than 25 times higher for female smokers in recent years than for women who never smoked. In the 1960s, it was only three times higher. One reason: After World War II, women started taking up the habit at a younger age and began smoking more.

- A person who never smoked was about twice as likely as a current smoker to live to age 80. For women, the chances of surviving that long were 70 percent for those who never smoked and 38 percent for smokers. In men, the numbers were 61 percent and 26 percent.

- Smokers in the U.S. are three times more likely to die between ages 25 and 79 than non-smokers are. About 60 percent of those deaths are attributable to smoking.

- Women are far less likely to quit smoking than men are. Among people 65 to 69, the ratio of former to current smokers is 4-to-1 for men and 2-to-1 for women.

Navy to have alcohol tests

Random screenings begin next month

Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. — The Navy said Wednesday it will conduct random blood-alcohol tests on its sailors in the United States starting next month, a sign of how concerned the service's leaders have become about the effects alcohol abuse is having on the force.

The tests are part of Navy Secretary Ray Mabus' 21st Century Sailor and Marine Initiative, an expansive program intended to improve the well-being of sailors and Marines after more than a decade at war.

The Marines announced it would carry out its own random alcohol tests last month. While alcohol has long played a part in the Navy's culture, Navy officials stressed they aren't trying to stop sailors from drinking altogether, but are concerned about their health and safety.

The Navy said it will use the

blood-alcohol tests to determine whether someone is fit for duty or may need counseling. Any sailor whose blood-alcohol level is .04 or higher when reporting for duty won't be allowed to work. In all 50 states and the District of Columbia, a driver with a 0.08 percent blood-alcohol is considered drunk.

A positive test result for a sailor reporting to work — a reading of 0.02 percent or higher — won't be used to punish sailors. But the Navy said it could be used to refer him or her to a drug and alcohol program adviser.

Adm. Mark Ferguson, vice chief of naval operations, said the random tests could help spot sailors who need support before "an incident occurs due to the irresponsible use of alcohol." He also wrote in a message outlining the new details of the policy to the fleet the tests will serve as a safety measure and raise awareness among command-

ing officers of a crew's "culture of alcohol use."

Alcohol is of particular concern because of the role it frequently plays in other destructive behaviors such as suicide and sexual assault. Alcohol also has played a factor in the dismissals of a number of commanding officers in recent years.

"Deterring irresponsible use of alcohol is essential to the readiness of our fleet and ensuring the health and safety of our service members and units," Adm. Bill Gortney, commander of U.S. Fleet Forces, said in a statement.

In a pilot program with 13 commands this past summer, nearly 7,500 sailors were subjected to random alcohol tests. Of those, 87 tested positive for alcohol.

"The test verified that the majority of our service members, who choose to drink alcohol, do so responsibly. It also verified that our commanding officers need a flexible program that serves to increase the Navy's awareness about the impacts of alcohol," Gortney said in a statement.

GOP gathers in N.C. to lick wounds

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Republican soul-searching begins in earnest this week as GOP officials from every state in the nation come together for the first time since their party's November shellacking.

There is broad agreement the Republican Party needs to undergo fundamental changes to remain competitive as surging minority populations reshape the American electorate. But there is no clear path forward. And even as they gather in a Charlotte, N.C., hotel this week — just days after President Barack Obama began his second term — Republicans are in some

ways as divided as ever.

Facing his first re-election test later in the week, Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus is under intense pressure to improve the Republican brand to attract more women and Hispanics, while not upsetting the hard-line conservatives who represent his party's most passionate voters.

"They're really going to have to do full throttle self-examination. They have alienated so many

people who are Republicans," said Olympia Snowe, a three-term Republican senator who retired last year, in part because of her party's shift to the right. "It's going to be a mighty challenge. The party's gone astray."

Indeed, the formal theme of the Republican National Committee's winter meeting — "Renew, Grow, Win" — reflects an understanding from party officials the GOP must grow to survive. In partic-

ular, this week's meeting will focus on the need to abandon harsh rhetoric on illegal immigration, women's issues and the social safety net, rhetoric that helped drive moderate voters and minorities toward Democrats last fall.

"We need to renew our values, renew our party, renew what we stand for," RNC spokesman Sean Spicer said.

Ongoing discussions are expected to swirl about the 2016 presidential voting calendar.

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BABY GIRL
Baby Girl is a 3 year old spayed, terrier mix who weighs 48 lbs. and is heartworm negative. She is friendly, likes children, other dogs, and walks well on a leash. She also has lived with a cat, and was close to her. She is a fun, active girl, but also has a well-mannered, calm side to her. This sweet, energetic girl cannot wait to meet her forever family. ID# 15902545

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

STEPPING UP

CF accepts Gov. Scott's \$10K degree challenge

Everybody loves a challenge, right?

Here's one Gov. Rick Scott threw at the state's colleges late last November: "Find innovative ways to offer a bachelor's degree at a cost of just \$10,000 in fields that will provide graduates with the best opportunities for employment." More than a dozen of the 28 state colleges and community colleges had declared their intentions to accept that challenge as of late December. The good news is our own College of Central Florida (CF) is among them. Now it's up to CF to make it happen.

CF Citrus campus Vice President Dr. Vernon Lawter told the Citrus County Economic Development Council recently the college "has some work to do" to get that cost down from the current \$13,000.

CF targeted its Bachelor of Applied Science in Business and Organizational Management degree to meet the Scott challenge. That program offers four specialties: agribusiness management,

management information systems, health care management and public safety administration — all of which are relevant to local and regional employment needs.

On a state level, this gubernatorial challenge revved up debate over the state's education costs. Supporters of the \$10K challenge applaud it as a step toward making higher education more affordable. Critics charge it's unrealistic to expect quality programs for cut-rate prices, especially when education budgets have been stressed for years.

CF President James Henningsen said even at \$13,000, tuition doesn't pay the full cost of the program. No details are available yet on how CF will manage to offer it for significantly less. Various student requirements have been discussed, and "student responsibility" is certain to be part of the equation for such a tuition break.

We're told details on the program should be appearing within a few months. We'll be watching closely.

THE ISSUE:

Making higher education affordable.

OUR OPINION:

Kudos to CF for trying to meet the challenge.

Restivo on the mark

I just read in your letters to the editor the article "We are broke," by Tom Restivo of Inverness. He has hit it right on the mark. I don't understand why our government can't see things just like what he said.

Worried about hydrants

The reason I'm calling today is there's a concern by us about the fire hydrants not being properly maintained, in particular up in the Highlands area. Some of these, the grass is so overgrown, you can't see the fire hydrant. Even in the daytime you wouldn't be able to find it, but at night, it would be virtually impossible. I understand there's supposed to be a blue reflector of some type for night sighting out on the road opposite the fire hydrant and there's none of those available, either. None of those (are) installed, either.

Stop wasting time

Your editorial advising the county to negotiate a deal with Duke Energy on its tax obligations was right on. The county and the schools don't need to be wasting our money fighting this in the courts. The company is quite confident they will prevail, and, if need be, they are ready and willing to take this issue to the state Supreme Court. We need to wise up and start playing nice. Every day spent on legal preparations is a wasted opportunity to resolve this matter in a way that will benefit the county more than a court judgment will.

Toasted manatees

I saw in the paper where it says it's "Time to toast manatees," and I'm curious. I'm from out of town

and never had them toasted and I just wanted to know what they taste like when they're toasted. They also didn't give any indication of where you can go to taste them once the toasting's done. Is there like a cookout or something that would be done?

No love for Hiaasen

If ultraliberal Carl Hiaasen suggests "that gibbering NRA wingnut, Wayne LaPierre," is in fact a wingnut, then in my opinion, it really does take one to know one. He ought to keep his opinions down in South Florida where they belong.

Medicine returned

I would like to thank the person who returned my medicine to the pharmacy in Dunnellon. I want you to know you were very nice, are appreciated and I'll say an extra prayer for you. Thank you very much, Sylvia. Thank you very much. You were very nice ... It was in Wal-Mart pharmacy they returned my medicine and I said an extra prayer for them and I want to thank them very much. They're very sweet.

Look it up

This is in rebuttal of "Against the law" in the Sound Off column with the man saying that you can't use .223 caliber to hunt. You can use .223 caliber to hunt in Florida. It has to be a five-round magazine like any other semi-auto rifle in Florida for hunting. You should look up the laws before you spout off on things you don't know.

Repair person sought

Does anyone know of a repair person for a EdenPURE Gen 3 heater? Their repair facility is in North Carolina — too far to go. I would appreciate an answer in the column.

Saving GOP from Gov. Scott

Gov. Rick Scott will not face a serious primary challenge when he runs for re-election.

Gov. Rick Scott will not face a serious primary challenge when he runs for re-election.

Gov. Rick Scott will not face a serious primary challenge when he runs for re-election.

Say that enough times, Scott's handlers believe, and eventually prognostication will take hold as conventional wisdom. Conventional wisdom will then become a fait accompli. And by the time anyone in the Republican Party notices just how politically vulnerable Scott truly is, it will be too late for the GOP to do anything about it.

How vulnerable would Scott be in a primary? Public Policy Polling released numbers from its first 2013 survey of the state. It's clear that Scott is in a very bad position. Scott's approval rating is just 33 percent, with 57 percent of voters disapproving of him. Scott's numbers had gradually improved over the course of 2012, but these numbers represent a regression from early November when he was at a 37/48 spread. Scott meets with near universal disapproval from Democrats (21/71) and independents (32/64). Everyone from Key West to the Panhandle already knew Scott was unpopular with the average Floridian. That doesn't necessarily mean he'd lose a primary election.

Actually, Scott is even on pretty shaky ground with Republicans. His approval rating is only at 49 percent within the GOP; 38 percent of Republicans have an unfavorable view of him. Here's the key takeaway from the PPP poll: Only 50 per-

cent of Republican primary voters want Scott to be their candidate again next year, compared to 40 percent who would prefer someone else.

Who might that someone else be? Well, it won't be one of the Tallahassee triumvirate of Jeff Atwater, Pam Bondi or Adam Putnam.

Atwater would like to run and has a reputation for being a political giant killer (when he first ran for the state Senate, he upset Bob Butterworth). But Atwater can neither outmaneuver Scott inside the Republican establishment, nor raise enough money to compete with what Scott can spend out of his personal fortune.

Bondi, who has spent much of her time in office tacking even further to the right of Scott, nevertheless trails the governor 49 percent to 25 percent in the PPP poll. Those kinds of numbers put to bed any thought of the telegenic attorney general challenging Scott.

Putnam is the candidate Republicans whisper about most often when daring to consider a mutiny. The agriculture commissioner is a talented politician popular in both Tallahassee and Washington and with both the establishment and rank and file. But Putnam is too respectful of protocol and tradition to entertain the idea of running against Scott. Still, he shouldn't be surprised if some serious Republican heavyweights — Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio, Al Cardenas — approach him about stepping up in 2014.

But it's not in Tallahassee where Republicans might find a viable alternative to Scott. For that, they should look to Tampa Bay. Although none of them would have the resources to

keep up with Scott's wallet, there is a roster of possible candidates who could beat Scott and compete with Charlie Crist or Alex Sink in the general election.

First and foremost is Speaker Will Weatherford. The charismatic reformer could quickly raise eight figures for a statewide campaign, while running on a record of real legislative accomplishment. Were Bush and Rubio to line up behind Weatherford, the son-in-law of former House Speaker Allan Bense — a man they've worked with — Scott would have a genuine uprising on his hands.

Beyond Weatherford, there are several dark horses who would present unique, almost intellectual, candidacies.

Former state Sen. Paula Dockery, who bowed out early in the 2010 gubernatorial race, is the Cassandra of Republican politics, more right than she's ever been about the challenges facing her party and the state. Another maverick who should run simply for the sake of having something important to say is Pinellas state Sen. Jack Latvala. Imagine Latvala in a debate with Scott! Former St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Baker, a close ally of Bush's, could run were he to have the former governor on his side.

However, it's most likely none of these capable pols are even thinking of running for governor in 2014 — even if they should be.

Someone needs to step up to save the Republican Party of Florida from its Republican governor.

Peter Schorsch, a political consultant based in St. Petersburg, publishes and edits the Florida political blog SaintPetersBlog.com. Readers can contact Schorsch at saintpeter4@gmail.com



Peter Schorsch
FLORIDA VOICES



"FIRST I HAD A FEAR OF FALLING OFF THE FISCAL CLIFF... NOW I HAVE DEBT-CEILING CLAUSTROPHOBIA..."

LETTERS to the Editor

The following is the county's response to a Jan. 17 letter from Alex Glenn, Progress Energy state president.

Partial payment not acceptable

Dear Mr. Glenn, We are in receipt of your letter dated Jan. 17, 2013. The expression of your strong commitment to Citrus County is important and we acknowledge the value of the County's 50-year relationship with the power companies before Duke. Likewise, we recognize some value in the forewarning of your intention to make another partial payment for taxes in the upcoming fiscal year 2013/14. However, the full assessment of your properties has just begun to establish its value for 2013. Therefore, it is premature for you to unilaterally determine what your taxes should be. It is our intention to complete that evaluation in the coming months in accordance with Florida Statutes and the Florida Constitution.

We further believe it is inappropriate for your company, or any other, to pre-determine a partial payment of a tax bill. Progress Energy/Duke, like

OPINIONS INVITED

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every other taxpayer, should pay its fair share, not the share it wants to pay. Progress Energy/Duke would not accept a partial payment of a monthly electric bill from their customer, nor should they.

We know you are aware of the potential negative impact this issue will have on our schools, public health and safety and to our quality of life in Citrus County. As we move forward with these discussions, let us remember that your ratepayers, your customers, and even your employees, are

our citizens. We all are bearing the cost of your attorneys, our attorneys and the negative impacts to the community.

While it appears you have made a business decision on behalf of your company, the taxing authorities must protect the interest of this community. You give us no choice but to defend our position. We are committed to working through these issues efficiently and amicably. We appreciate keeping an open line of communication, and we look forward to working with you now, and in the future. It is our sincere desire to have a solid relationship with your organization, and one that is based on trust and is mutually beneficial to all parties involved.

Respectfully,

Joe Meek
 chairman, Board of County Commissioners

Geoffrey Greene
 Citrus County property appraiser

Sandra Himmel
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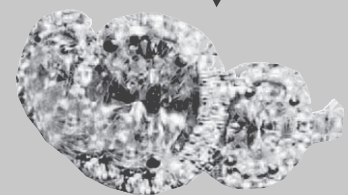
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Associated Press

Moene Sullivan, 15, of Phillipsburg, N.J. is colorfully bundled up as she walks home Wednesday from Phillipsburg High School. A cold wave with sub-zero temperatures was expected to keep its icy grip on much of the eastern U.S. into the weekend.

Deep freeze to continue

PORTLAND, Maine — A teeth-chattering cold wave with subzero temperatures is expected to keep its icy grip on much of the eastern U.S. into the weekend before seasonable temperatures bring relief.

A polar air mass blamed for multiple deaths in the Midwest moved into the Northeast on Wednesday, prompting the National Weather Service to issue wind chill warnings across upstate New York and northern New England and creating problems for people still trying to rebound from Superstorm Sandy.

Lawyers duel over drink ban

NEW YORK — The city defended its groundbreaking size limit on sugary drinks Wednesday as an imperfect but meaningful rein on obesity, while critics said it would hurt small and minority-owned businesses while doing little to help health.

The first courtroom arguments in the closely watched case ended without an immediate ruling. Opponents said they planned to ask a judge to delay enforcement during the suit, which has broached questions of racial fairness alongside arguments about government authority and burdens to business.

The NAACP's New York state branch and a network of Hispanic groups have joined a legal effort to block the first-of-its-kind restriction, igniting questions Wednesday about the groups' ties to the beverage industry.

Beverage makers, restaurateurs, minority advocates and other critics told a judge the upcoming 16-ounce limit was a finger-wagging incursion on consumer choice, rife with inconsistencies that would cost a hot dog vendor business while still allowing New Yorkers to buy belly-buster sodas at the chain convenience store next to him. Opponents' lawyers called it "ham-handed," "grossly unfair" and just "plain silly."

Couple forced kids into boxes

STUEBENVILLE, Ohio — An eastern Ohio couple has pleaded guilty to punishing their three children by forcing them into plastic storage boxes sealed with duct tape and only a square cut in the top for air.

The children, ages 5, 6 and 8, were crammed into the boxes as punishment June 16 at the family home in Steubenville while the parents went to the grocery store and left two uncles at home with them, authorities said. A friend of the family arrived at the house, got the children out of the boxes and contacted police.

Their father, James Taylor, faces up to three years in prison on charges of felony child endangerment and misdemeanor unlawful restraint.

— From wire reports

Debt fight pushed to spring

GOP passes legislation temporarily extending borrowing limit

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Retreating with a purpose, Republicans sped legislation through the House on Wednesday to avert the imminent threat of a government default but pointing the way to a springtime budget struggle with President Barack Obama over Medicare, farm subsidies and other benefit programs.

The current legislation, which cleared the House on a bipartisan vote of 285-144, would permit Treasury borrowing to exceed the limit of \$16.4 trillion through May 18. As it passed, Speaker John

Boehner pledged Republicans would quickly draft a budget that would wipe out deficits in a decade, and he challenged Democrats to do the same.

The Democratic-controlled Senate is expected to approve the debt bill as early as Friday or perhaps next week. The White House welcomed the legislation rather than face the threat of a first-ever default at the dawn of the president's second term in the White House, and spokesman Jay Carney pointedly noted a "fundamental change" in strategy by the GOP.

House Republicans cast

the bill as a way to force the Senate to draft a budget for the first time in four years, noting if either house fails to do so, its members' pay would be withheld. They called the bill "no budget, no pay," a slogan if not a statement of fact, since lawmakers would be entitled to collect their entire salaries at the end of the Congress with or without a budget in place.

With polls showing their public support eroding, the Republicans jettisoned, for now at least, an earlier insistence that they would allow no additional borrowing unless Obama and the Democrats agreed

to dollar-for-dollar federal spending cuts in exchange.

The average American family "can't buy everything they want every day; they have to make tough choices. It's time to make Congress make the same choices," said Rep. Dave Camp, R-Mich., underscoring the new Republican rallying cry.

Rep. Paul Ryan, the Wisconsin lawmaker who will be responsible for drafting the budget for Republicans, said Congress has "a moral obligation" to prevent a debt crisis that he said will hit hardest at seniors and others who depend on government the most.

Clinton faces heat



Associated Press

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton listens Wednesday to questions from lawmakers during her testimony on Capitol Hill before a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on the deadly September attack on the U.S. diplomatic mission in Benghazi, Libya, that killed Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans.

Senators grill Secretary of State on Benghazi attack

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton delivered fiery rejoinders Wednesday to Republican critics of the Obama administration's handling of the deadly attack on a U.S. mission in Benghazi, facing off with lawmakers who included potential 2016 presidential rivals.

At times emotional and frequently combative, Clinton rejected GOP suggestions in two congressional hearings that the administration tried to mislead the country about the Sept. 11 attack that killed Chris Stevens, the U.S. ambassador to Libya, and three other Americans. She insisted the State Department is moving swiftly and aggressively to strengthen security at diplomatic posts worldwide.

In her last formal testimony before Congress as America's top diplomat — but perhaps not her

last time on the political stage — Clinton once again took responsibility for the department's missteps and failures leading up to the assault. But she also said that requests for more security at the diplomatic mission in Benghazi didn't reach her desk, and reminded lawmakers that they have a responsibility to fund security-related budget requests.

Her voice cracking at one point, Clinton said the attack and the aftermath were highly personal tragedies for the families of the victims who died — Stevens, Sean Smith, Tyrone Woods and Glen Doherty — as well as herself.

Clearly annoyed with Republican complaints about the initial explanation for the attack, she rose to the defense of U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice, who was vilified for widely debunked claims five days after the attack that protests precipitated the raid rather than terrorism.

Clinton said, "People were trying in real time to get to the best information." And she said her own focus was on looking ahead on how to improve security rather than revisiting the talking points and Rice's comments.

Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., pressed her on why "we were misled that there were supposedly protests and something sprang out of that, an assault sprang out of that."

"With all due respect, the fact is we had four dead Americans," she said, her voice rising and quivering with anger as she and Johnson spoke over each other.

"Was it because of a protest? Or was it because of guys out for a walk one night decided they would go kill some Americans? What difference, at this point, does it make? It is our job to figure out what happened and do everything we can to prevent it from ever happening again, Senator."

States rethinking mental health cuts

Shootings put issue in spotlight

Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — Dozens of states have slashed spending on mental health care over the last four years, driven by the recession's toll on revenue and, in some cases, a new zeal to shrink government.

But that trend may be heading for a U-turn in 2013 after last year's shooting rampages by two mentally disturbed gunmen.

The reversal is especially jarring in statehouses dominated by conservative Republicans,

who aggressively cut welfare programs but now find themselves caught in a crosscurrent of pressures involving gun control, public safety and health care for millions of disadvantaged Americans.

In many states, lawmakers have begun to recognize that their cuts "may have gone too deep," said Shelley Chandler, executive director of the Iowa Alliance of Community Providers. "People start talking when there's a crisis."

About 30 states have reduced mental health spending since 2008, when

revenues were in steep decline, according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness. In a third of those states, the cuts surpassed 10 percent.

As a result, nine state-run psychiatric hospitals were closed and another 3,200 beds for mental health patients were eliminated, dramatically reducing treatment options for the poor and people in the criminal-justice system. Thousands of patients were turned onto the streets.

Making matters worse, the cuts came as unemployment was rising, causing more people to lose private insurance and forcing them to shift to public assistance.

The steepest drop by percentage was in South Carolina, where spending fell by nearly 40 percent over four years — an amount that Republican Gov. Nikki Haley has called "absolutely immoral."

Now Haley, who took office in 2011, has pledged to bolster a mental health system that dropped case workers, closed treatment centers and extended waiting lists. She also wants to expand remote access to psychiatrists through video conferencing.

Both Pennsylvania and Utah have put aside plans to scale back their mental health systems.

World BRIEFS

India



Associated Press

A woman poses Wednesday with a knife she received during a distribution by local leaders of Shiv Sena, a right-wing party in Mumbai, India. Local leaders of the party distributed the knives to women for their self-defense at an event held to mark the birth anniversary of party founder Bal Thackeray, who died recently.

Venezuela VP: Plot revealed

CARACAS, Venezuela — Venezuelan Vice President Nicolas Maduro said Wednesday the government has uncovered a plot to assassinate him and National Assembly President Diosdado Cabello.

"For some weeks we've been following groups that have infiltrated in the country and have the goal of trying to kill comrade Diosdado Cabello and me," said Maduro, speaking to a crowd of government supporters.

Maduro referred to the alleged plot after announcing he would travel to Cuba on Wednesday along with Oil Minister Rafael Ramirez to see the ailing Chavez, who underwent cancer surgery more than six weeks ago.

Gang nabbed for 16 killings

TOLUCA, Mexico — A drug gang was responsible for the dismemberment killings of 16 people just west of Mexico City over the past 10 days, prosecutors said Wednesday.

The public safety secretary of Mexico State, Salvador Neme, said 11 people were detained for the killings, including a teenager.

Inquiry demanded in Bolivia sex case

LA PAZ, Bolivia — Women's groups on Wednesday demanded a criminal sexual assault investigation for a provincial lawmaker who was caught by security video having what appears to be forced sex with a female legislative employee so drunk she may have been unconscious.

The lawmaker, Domingo Alcibia, was arrested Tuesday, a week after the scandal broke, and prosecutors said he would be charged with abuse of power but not with rape because the woman, a janitor, had not filed charges against him.

Flight missing in Antarctica

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — A small plane carrying three Canadians disappeared while flying over an Antarctic mountain range, and bad weather Thursday was hampering a search.

The flight was going from a station near the South Pole to an Italian research base in Terra Nova Bay. Its emergency locator started transmitting about 10 p.m. Wednesday in a mountainous area about 280 miles north of the pole.

New Zealand, U.S. and Italian authorities are working together to find the de Havilland Twin Otter plane, which they presume has crashed.

— From wire reports

Three Hurricanes win sectional titles

Citrus, Crystal River, Lecanto girls weightlifters compete for spot at state

LARRY BUGG
Correspondent

NEW PORT RICHEY — Leslie Mena is one of six happy Citrus High School girls weightlifters who are practically headed for Disney World.

Actually the 'Canes lifters, plus two from Crystal River High School, are headed to Kissimmee for the FHSAA state girls weightlifting meet on Feb. 9. Coincidentally, the meet is just a few miles from Disney World.

To a high school lifter, the state meet can be the happiest place on earth.

Mena took second in the 183-pound class Wednesday night at the 2013 District Qualifier at River Ridge High School.

Mena had a bench press of 180 pounds and a 125-pound clean and jerk for a 305-pound total.

"Amazing," she said of her feeling. "I basically fixed my

clean way better than last year. I'm feeling strong and healthy. (Going to state) would mean that I accomplished my goal."

She actually tied for first with teammate Anna Venero. Venero had a 160-pound bench and a 145-pound clean and jerk, also for 305 pounds.

Ashley Nichols was second in the 119-pound class. She had a 140-pound bench and a 120-pound clean and jerk for a 260-

pound total.

Aaron McIntyre won the 129-pound class. She had 120-145 for a 265-pound total.

Samantha Kanawall was second in the 199-pound class. She went 175-155 for a 330-pound total.

Hannah Evans won the 154-pound class. She had 155-150 for a 300-pound total.

See TITLES/Page B2

Girls soccer REGIONAL QUARTERFINALS

Pirates' ship sails

Keystone Heights upends CR in two OTs

CLIFF OLSEN
Correspondent

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — In Wednesday night's Class 2A, Region 2 quarterfinal, the Crystal River girls soccer team ended up playing in its first contest that went into double overtime.

Unfortunately for the Pirates, the outcome was not what they were looking for. Raychel Trimble scored in the 93rd minute to lift Keystone Heights past Crystal River 3-2 in double overtime.

Christina Bresson and Natalie Ezzell each had goals for the Pirates (11-11-2 overall), who advanced to the regional semifinals in 2010 and 2011.

"I am proud of these girls, Crystal River High School Lady Pirates soccer never made it to regionals prior to these girls in their freshman year," Crystal River coach Bill Reyes said. "This year we got back to regionals, the prior two years we won in regionals."

"This was a game we could have won, but in a back and forth, 50/50 contest, someone's got to win. They got one more goal than us."

The Pirates jumped out to a 1-0 lead in the 10th minute as Bresson drilled a shot from about 10 yards out on the left side that deflected off Indians goalkeeper Haley Arzie and into the net.

The Indians (19-3-1) answered back in the 27th minute as Morgan Gibbs chested in a rebound to knot the score at 1-1.

Keystone Heights got off to a fast start in the second half. In the 44th minute, Trimble took a shot right at Pirates goalkeeper Minnah Barajas from about 10 yards out on the left side. Barajas bobbled the ball and Madison Colaw buried the rebound for her 38th goal of the season to give the Indians a 2-1 edge.

Then it was the Pirates' turn to respond. Natalie Ezzell ripped a shot from about 17 yards straight away that went off the hands of Arzie and into the back of the net, evening the score at 2-2 in the 57th minute.

See CR/Page B2

Strong at home



Photos by STEPHEN E. LASKO/For the Chronicle

Members of the Lecanto Panthers girls soccer team walk off the field following a 3-2 victory over Orange Park Ridgeview in a Class 4A regional quarterfinal match Wednesday night at Lecanto High School. From left is Jessica Allen, Taylor Christian, Laura Hamilton, Jordan Martin and Chloe Benoist. Lecanto hosts Fleming Island on Saturday in a Class 4A regional semifinal game.

Lecanto girls soccer wins regional quarterfinal game

JAMES BLEVINS
Correspondent

LECANTO — The two-time District 4A-4 champion Lecanto Panthers, for the second year in a row, hosted a FHSAA regional quarterfinal soccer game. This time around, the Lady Panthers were hoping for a different outcome.

Last year's battle against the Orange Park Raiders ended Lecanto's season in double overtime. This time around, a different Panther team, no less aggressive or talented, emerged victorious over the visiting Ridgeview Panthers 3-2 in regulation Wednesday night at Panther Stadium.

Twins Jordan and Breanna Martin, both Lecanto juniors, celebrated their shared birthday on game night

with a goal and an assist each, giving the Panthers the edge required to stay ahead of Ridgeview.

"Little birthday presents for each other," Lecanto head coach Roselle Lattin said of the goals. "All of our goals came from the outside, from the corners but we were able to finish them. For the most part everyone had a stellar game."

Lecanto (17-5-1 overall) started the game nervously with no one really stepping up and forcing possession of the ball. All of that changed when Ridgeview (16-3-1

See STRONG/Page B3

Ridgeview girls soccer coach Trevor Clark, right, congratulates Lecanto coach Roselle Lattin after the Lady Panthers beat Ridgeview.



CR wrestlers triumph

JOE KORNECKI III
Correspondent

CRYSTAL RIVER — The Crystal River Pirates wrestling team defeated a depleted Dunnellon squad 45-22 during Senior Night on Wednesday. For the Pirates, it was their last home match of the season.

"It's hard to get momentum because they had too many forfeits ... and I thought the 120-pound class would be tight," Pirates head coach Craig Frederick said. "We'll see

them in districts.

The Tigers delivered the first blow, as Tristan Corbett (113-pound class) was pinned in the second period by Bryce Forlett to give Dunnellon an early 6-0 lead. The next match featured the Pirates' Michael Allen (120-pound class) and Jonathan Padilla. The match went the full three periods, which Allen won by a 9-2 score to cut the Tiger lead in half.

Three straight Dunnellon forfeits followed in the 126, 132 and 138-

pound weight classes to give Crystal River a commanding 21-6 cushion. Justin Burcroff (145 pounds) took down Dustin Molina 10-3 in full time to give the Pirates a 24-6 advantage, followed by a forfeit in the 152-pound class.

The tightest match of the night featured Crystal River senior Robert Brooker against the Tigers' DeAndre Munford, in which Brooker prevailed in his last

See TRIUMPH/Page B3

Lecanto thumps Wildwood

JUSTIN PLANTE
Correspondent

LECANTO — With just seconds remaining on the clock, Lecanto High School's Megan Straight received an inbound pass, ran the ball up and launched a half-court prayer.

The buzzer went off, the ball went in and the crowd went crazy.

And that was just the end of the first quarter.

But such was the night for the Panthers girls basketball team. On Senior

Night, and the last game of the regular season, everything seemed to go right.

Behind Marie Buckley's double-double (25 points, 13 assists) and Paige Richards' game-high 26 points, the Lady Panthers would run away from Wildwood, taking a whopping 92-27 victory.

The Panthers' defense forced turnovers their offense was happy to turn into quick transition buckets, and it wasn't long before Lecanto found itself up 17-4 with over 4 minutes to play in

the first quarter.

Lecanto head coach Brittany Szunko credits her defense for the offensive output.

"Honestly, we were not concentrating on offense," she said. "Every time out I said 'we have to play defense.' We have to box out, and we have to make hustle plays. This was just us in rare form, with us not really being able to miss from the field. Everyone was definitely just cooking on of-

See THUMPS/Page B3

Manatee, pirogi and a Super Bowl sampler



Julianne Munn
OVER EASY

Visitors to the annual Manatee Festival in historic downtown Crystal River enjoyed one of the nicest weekends of the winter. The crowds were phenomenal and, by all reports, everyone had a smashing good time.

It's so good to see our merchants and vendors doing well — I hope festival and event enthusiasm con-

tinues throughout the year.

A.J.'s Cafe in Crystal River bumped up its menu a bit this week, offering a big plate lunch of smoked sausage, sauerkraut, caramelized onions and, to top it off, served with that Slavic favorite, pirogi. Now, you don't see that very often around here.

For those unfamiliar with them, pirogi are small, soft

dumplings, a tradition in many Eastern European countries. They are usually boiled briefly, then browned in butter. Fillings can be almost anything, from savory to sweet, with sauerkraut and mushrooms, mashed potatoes and bacon often used. Dessert pirogi can be made with fresh strawberries. For some good homemade

recipes, visit www.allrecipes.com.

With teams now set for the Super Bowl in two weeks, folks are starting to plan their game-day dips, spreads, canapés and hors d'oeuvres, plus plenty of other no-fuss stuff. Be sure to read the Jan. 31 Flair for Food for some mighty tasty ideas. In the meantime, here is a dip courtesy of a fa-

vorite brand, Boar's Head:

THREE-PEPPER COLBY JACK CHEESE DIP

- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 4 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 8 scallions, chopped finely

See EASY/Page C2



MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle

Anastasia's restaurant, located in the Heritage Hills Plaza in Hernando, offers many meals prepared from recipes straight from Greece, according to owner Bill Patides — including this stuffed bell pepper dish, which features marinated ground beef, rice and seasonings with a red sauce atop the peppers. Mashed potatoes and vegetables are served alongside the peppers.

That's the stuff

Greek comfort food on offer at Anastasia's

JULIANNE MUNN
Chronicle food writer

The meatloaf is so good you might want an extra order to make meatloaf sandwiches at home the next day, and that's just for starters at the new Anastasia's in Heritage Hills Plaza on County Road 486.

Only open since Jan. 2, the owners say customers were lined up on Friday nights for the special lamb shank and crab stuffed haddock dinners at the affordable prices of \$10 for each.

From 4 p.m. to closing, for \$9 each on Mondays, there are boneless pork loin and pasticcio; and on Thursdays, half a Greek-style roast chicken with orzo and spanakopita dinners; for \$8 on Wednesdays, manicotti and linguine with clam sauce dinners; and on Saturdays for \$11 and \$12 you can get stuffed shrimp and prime rib dinners, respectively.

Tuesday nights are for kids, with youngsters under the age of 12 offered a free meal from the kids' menu (one child per each adult entree).

The new and spacious 86-seat eatery

is owned and managed by the Patides family, originally from Tarpon Springs, where they operated five restaurants over the years, including the popular Zorba's Night Club.

It is an oasis of traditionally loved foods, all homemade and cost-friendly with flavors that evoke mom and grandma's cooking.

The abovementioned meatloaf is one of those dishes, a homey entree, but elevated to deliciousness with the right seasonings, glaze and gravy, moist and even tasty as a leftover hot or cold sandwich.

"We do take pride in everything being homemade," said Melinda Patides, who, along with her mother-in-law Eleni Patides, deftly prepares most of the menu items from generations of family recipes.

The Greek traditions are evident in the daily specials, but diners will also find plenty of non-ethnic dishes as well for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

The Patides family, natives of Athens and Corinth in Greece, have strong

See ANASTASIA'S/Page C3



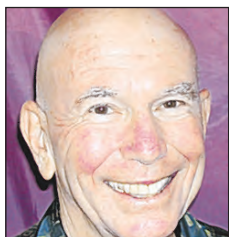
Greek-style chicken, top, is also a popular meal at Anastasia's. The chicken is baked with 11 herbs and spices and served with mashed potatoes and a vegetable. An authentic Greek gyro is filled with seasoned lamb and beef, tomato and tzatziki sauce. The restaurant is located next door to Domino's Pizza in the Heritage Hills Plaza.

MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle

Bordeaux: A river runs through it

Lesson three of our ongoing education course deals with the red wines of Bordeaux. This is a simpler region to study than last week's review of white Burgundy wines; the landholdings are much larger and owned by fewer proprietors. It is truly fundamental to know Bordeaux. As the English writer Samuel Johnson said, "He who aspires to be a serious wine drinker must drink claret (dry red Bordeaux)."

Let's begin with the expression "appellation d'origine contrôlée" shortened to AOC or AC. You will see this icon often while studying French wine. AC is a certification installed in 1935 as a means of safeguarding the quality of a designated wine region. Bordeaux is divided into a number of these



Ron Drinkhouse
WINES & SUCH

the details need not concern us here. Just remember they are in place to protect the consumer. Winemakers, for example, are prohibited from substituting cheap Algerian fruit for the real McCoy.

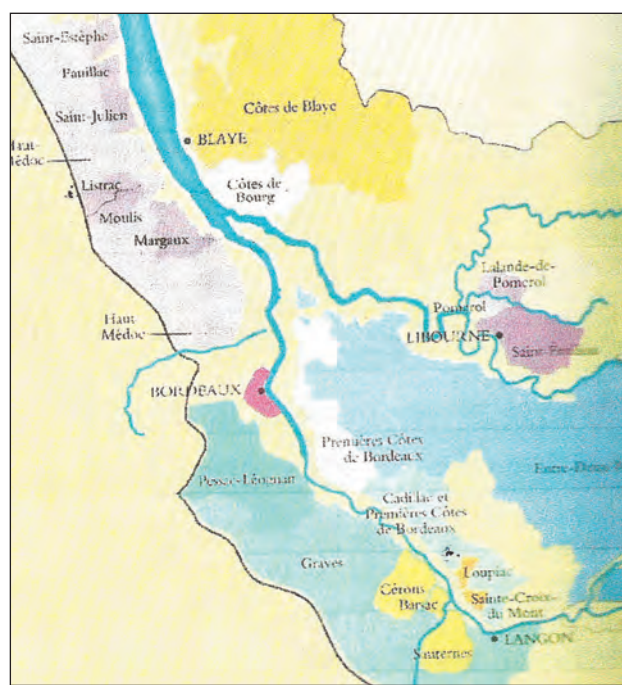
The three key grapes are Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet

AOCs; the major five are Margaux, Pauillac, St. Julien, St. Estephe and the Medoc (see map). The individual statutes apply to some 400 nationwide AOCs, and

Franc. Unlike burgundy, where the winemakers must use 100 percent pinot noir to make red Burgundy, the three varieties and several others are almost always blended in varying degrees depending on location and the wine crafter's preferences. Château wines, the top quality rating, are the products of individual vineyards. There are more than 7,000 châteaux in Bordeaux, but only 61 are considered "grand cru classé," a kind of super-top shelf.

Next question: How and when were these particular estate wines classified, and what exactly is a "château?" The word itself in this context indicates a French "castle," and several beautiful estates do

See WINES/Page C3



Special to the Chronicle

It's still winter, but no one told the chickens

We attended both funerals of my cousins over the weekend. So nice to see cousins, uncles, aunts, and friends that we don't often see, but sad for the reason we had to gather. Chris's funeral was on Saturday at 9 a.m. Danny's funeral was at 9 a.m. on Sunday. Both funerals were largely attended. Our sympathy goes to both families. Such a tragedy and we question "why?" But let us trust that God makes no mistakes and that it is all for a reason. Someday we will all understand. It does seem to draw everyone closer at times like these. God has not promised us another day, so let us all be prepared.

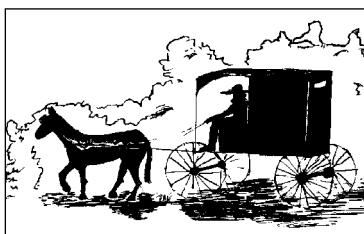
Brother Amos was not able to attend Chris's funeral due to still being very sore. He felt better Sunday morning and attended Danny's funeral. All of the co-workers will have a hard time dealing with their emotions through their accident.

We do not understand why

God spares one life and takes another, but only He knows when our time on Earth is through. We left early Saturday morning and arrived home Sunday at 3 p.m. thankful to have made it home safely.

On Feb. 9, Joe's family plans to get together for a belated Christmas at Joe's sister Salome's house. We will have a carry-in brunch at 10:30. Hopefully the roads will be in good shape for the two-hour drive. Only patches of snow are remaining here and there, so sledding has been put off until the next snow comes. Some are ice fishing on the lakes already. My husband Joe is getting eager to get out there, but is still recovering from a bad ear infection. The doctor thinks he has asthma now, so he needs to get that checked out. He just seems to have a hard time all winter getting over a cough.

Yesterday I took son Joseph, 10, to the eye doctor. He lost his glasses at school, so I needed to order another pair for him. It



Lovina Eicher
THE AMISH COOK

was time for him to have another eye exam anyway, but I am still hoping he can find the ones that he lost so he has a spare pair. After that I had to take Loretta for her therapy appointment. Susan had to babysit all day, so she was not home to help me with the laundry. I guess I am spoiled when I do not have help to do the laundry when she is working.

This winter seems to be going fast, and I keep thinking that we need to butcher beef and pork. Winters used to seem to last forever when the children were all

younger. Now they seem to fly by just as fast as the other seasons.

Our neighbor Irene gave us four 1,000-piece puzzles, and it seems we don't have time to put those together. Next week our second oldest child has her 17th birthday. Susan usually does the morning chores, which she doesn't mind. She loves to spend all the time she can with the horses and ponies. She had an extra chore this morning, though. Kevin usually gathers the eggs at night and must have forgotten to close the chicken house doors. So Susan, with the help of our Border Collie, gathered the 40 chickens and mean rooster into the chicken coop. We are still getting 40 to 46 eggs a day. All we can figure out is some of hens are laying more than one egg a day. Needless to say, we still have plenty of eggs. I told Joe we better get our "eggs for sale" sign back out. Every week making noodles seems to get pushed back. God's blessings to all. Enjoy this easy recipe!

CORNBREAD SALAD

- 10 cups crumbled cornbread
- 8 bacon strips, cooked and crumbled
- 2 medium tomatoes, chopped
- 1 medium green pepper, chopped
- Half cup chopped onion
- 1 1/3 cup mayonnaise

Combine cornbread, bacon, tomatoes, green peppers and onion. Add mayo and toss to coat. Best if served immediately.

Lovina Eicher and her husband, Joe, are raising eight children on their rural Michigan homestead. Lovina inherited the Amish Cook column from her mother, Elizabeth Coblentz. For information about the Amish Cook, or to ask a question, write The Amish Cook, P.O. BOX 157, Middletown, OH 45042 or visit amishcookonline.com.



Associated Press

Shrimp and shitake noodle stir-fry is pictured Jan. 14 in Concord, N.H.

Ring in Chinese New Year with oodles of noodle cheer

Associated Press

These noodles are a fun and approachable dish equally good for a busy weeknight or to celebrate Chinese New Year.

Asian markets are jammed with many different noodle varieties. We've opted for a thick noodle for this quick stir-fry dish, but you can use other varieties for a different texture. Just be sure to cook the noodles until just a few minutes shy of being done; they will continue to cook while being stir-fried.

SHRIMP AND SHIITAKE NOODLE STIR-FRY

As with all stir-fries, which by definition are cooked fast and at a high heat, it's best to prep all of your ingredients and have them near the stove before you begin cooking.

- Start to finish: 30 minutes
- Servings: 4
- 2 tablespoons sesame oil
- 1 small sweet onion, sliced
- 7 ounces shiitake mushrooms, stems removed, thinly sliced
- 1 red bell pepper, cored and thinly sliced
- 9 1/2-ounce package thick Asian-style noodles, such as udon
- 1 pound small shrimp, cooked and peeled
- 2 tablespoons oyster sauce
- 3 tablespoons low-sodium soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon toasted sesame seeds
- 1/4 cup thinly sliced scallions

Bring a large saucepan

of water to a boil.

While the water heats, in a large deep skillet or a wok over medium-high, heat the oil. Add the onion and sauté for 4 minutes, or until tender. Add the mushrooms and cook for 6 to 7 minutes, or until browned and tender. Add the red pepper and cook for 2 minutes.

Just after adding the red pepper to the pan, add the noodles to the boiling water. Cook for 2 minutes, or until just al dente.

After 2 minutes, use tongs to pull the noodles out of the boiling water and add directly to the wok. Add the shrimp, oyster sauce and soy sauce,

then toss well. Cook until heated through and the noodles have finished cooking, about another 3 to 4 minutes. Toss with the sesame seeds and scallions.

Nutrition information per serving: 500 calories; 110 calories from fat (22 percent of total calories); 12 g fat (1.5 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 170 mg cholesterol; 62 g carbohydrate; 6 g fiber; 6 g sugar; 36 g protein; 970 mg sodium.

Alison Ladman is a recipe developer for the Associated Press. Follow her on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/CrustAndCrumbCo>

EASY

Continued from Page C1

- 8 slices bacon, prepared crispy to package directions
- 1 cup Boar's Head three-pepper Colby Jack cheese, shredded
- 1 cup Boar's Head chipotle Gouda cheese, shredded

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Finely dice the cooked bacon. In large bowl, mix together the Colby Jack, Gouda, mayonnaise, cream cheese and the scallions. Place in an oven-safe baking dish and cook for 15 to 20 minutes, until warmed through and cheese is melted. Stir before serving and garnish with crispy chopped bacon.

Alexia Products, which produces so many frozen foods made from sweet potatoes, has introduced another terrific item, sweet potato dinner rolls. And here is a recipe to savor:

SWEET POTATO CROSTINI WITH PROSCIUTTO

- 1 package Alexia Sweet Potato Rolls
- 1 large onion

- 1/4 cup fig preserves
- 1/4 pound prosciutto (roughly 6 slices), sliced thin
- 3 cups baby arugula
- 3 tablespoons olive oil

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Bake sweet potato rolls from frozen for 3 to 4 minutes or until thawed. Use a bread knife to cut each roll into 3 slices (across top). Discard edges. This should make 24 crostini. Return to oven for 8 to 10 minutes or until lightly toasted.

Heat pan to medium with 2 tablespoons olive oil. Dice onion and toss in pan. Stir until caramelized and soft. Remove from heat and set aside.

Spread each crostini with fig preserves. Top with caramelized onions. Lay small, thin slice of prosciutto atop onions. Return to oven for 2 to 3 minutes to warm ingredients (optional). Toss arugula with remaining tablespoon of olive oil. Top crostini with arugula and serve.

Julianne Munn is the food writer for the Citrus County Chronicle. Email her at jmunn2@tampabay.rr.com.

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WINES

Continued from Page C1

resemble ancient grand manor houses. But most are not regal, just comfortable residences; some fancy, the majority not. The important thing to get is that "châteaux" refers to estate-bottled top-quality grapes, and not to mass production plots in the Bordeaux region. The adage "You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear" applies.

In 1855, wine brokers of the Medoc created a ranking of the chateau based on the market prices of 61 estate wines. They were divided into five ranks or "crus," from first to fifth. Since that date only one chateau has broken the original ranking, when in 1973 Baron Rothschild, after five decades of lobbying, was able to re-classify his second-growth "Mouton" into the first-growth "Mouton-Rothschild" it is today. The celebrated family could not tolerate being second to anyone.

Is this old ranking system if effect today? It is, but time and tides do not linger. The original 61 estate wines are still high-status, but quality levels have wavered over the years. There are some that no longer belong on the 1855 list, while others should be added. One good example, Chateau Gloria (a personal favorite) did not exist in 1855, and today produces a superb product, but it is still not included in the illustrious list.

After this brief introduction to Bordeaux wine, you may ask, "What's the best way to try these products, and can I even afford them?" It's a fallacy that all Bordeaux is very expensive. The difference between a \$200 bottle and one costing less than \$20 depends on several factors. The vintage is important; a rainy harvest month will affect quality. The yield of a vineyard matters; low yields mean better quality. Winemaking techniques are a big factor. Wood fermentation and aging do produce higher quality.

By all means, try some Bordeaux in an affordable price class. Several Citrus County wine shops retain consultants who will offer suggestions. More Merlot in the blend generally equates to softer flavors; if Cabernet predominates, the wines tend to be more robust. If you want to impress the adviser, tell her; "I prefer right-bank vineyards" (the Gironde River run through them and Merlot predominates) — or ask for left-bank to taste wine with more Cabernet in the blend (see map).

Finally, remember Bordeaux wine is about elegance and subtle intensity of flavor. If you want to drink fruit bombs, stick with New World California. And here's a last tidbit of trivia: The name Bordeaux comes from the French expression "au bord de l'eau," meaning "alongside the waters."

Oak Ridge resident Ron Drinkhouse was a buyer and seller of wines in his native Connecticut. He welcomes inquiries, and can be reached via email at ronoct9@aol.com or via telephone at 352-445-0328.

Go ahead, play with your food — she does

Associated Press

RENO, Nev. — Long before Hostess Brands' plan to shut down made Twinkies the rage, Nancy Peppin found something special about the cream-filled snack cakes.

No, she doesn't have a sweet tooth for them.

But she has featured Twinkies in hundreds of pieces of quirky, satirical artwork because of an obsession with what she calls the "ultimate American food icon."

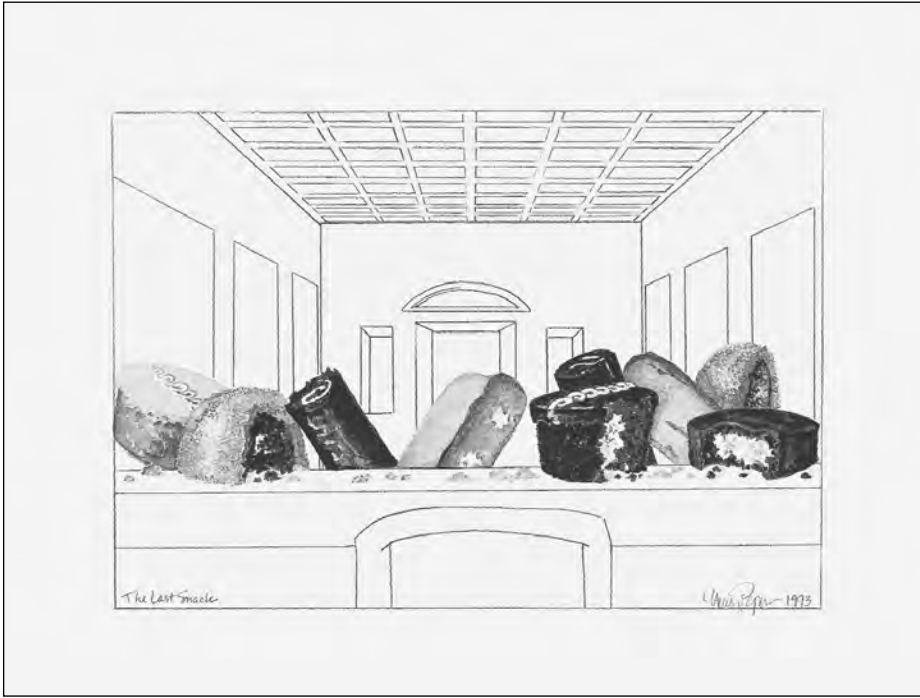
The prolific Reno artist said she was first influenced to focus on Twinkies in 1975 by Andy Warhol, who demonstrated that even a Campbell's soup can could be an object of art.

"He showed you a new way of looking at a familiar object," said Peppin, who has sold and exhibited her artwork. "That's what I'm doing with Twinkies. I'm having people look at Twinkies in a brand new way and in an entertaining way."

Shortly after Hostess Brands Inc. announced plans to go out of business last year, Peppin was among those who joined the rush to stores to fill shopping carts with boxes of the spongy cakes.

But unlike others, she didn't buy 12 boxes with 10 Twinkies each to turn a profit on eBay or Craigslist.

"I needed art supplies,"



Associated Press

Artist Nancy Peppin's "The Last Snack," modeled after Leonardo da Vinci's "The Last Supper." It's one of the dozens of pieces of art Nancy Peppin has created over the years using Twinkies and other Hostess products. A graphic artist by day for slot machine-maker International Game Technology, Peppin doesn't like to eat Twinkies. She uses them to depict popular culture similar to Andy Warhol.

said Peppin, who uses Twinkies and their packaging to create some of her pieces. She also features renderings of the snack cakes in watercolor paintings, mixed media, prints and artwork.

Her works include her "Twinkies in history series," which portrays how scientists such as John James Audubon, Charles Darwin and Leonardo da Vinci would have sketched and written about Twinkies in journals or books.

Peppin, an Oakland, Calif., native who earned a bachelor's degree in anthropology from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1966, conducted extensive research to make the series seem as authentic as possible.

Her Audubon series on the "North American Twinkie (twinkopus hostus)" includes illustrations of three "important subspecies — Cream-bellied Twinkie, Strawberry-throated Twinkie, and Golden-backed

Twinkie" — as well as writings describing the "birds" and explaining their migration patterns.

"Twinkies radiate out from the spring St. Louis breeding area to the summer nesting habitats throughout the world. Populations are heaviest in the North American 7-11 meridian," she wrote. St. Louis and 7-Eleven stores both share a long history with Hostess and its brands.

She updated the

Audubon series after Hostess shut down operations in November: "It went from being the most popular snack cake in the world to sudden extinction due to consumption by raptors — capitalist vultures (cathartes wallstreetidae)."

Her painting titled "The Last Snack" is a takeoff of da Vinci's "The Last Supper" featuring Twinkies, Ding Dongs, Ho Hos and other Hostess products at a table with the same arrangement and background as da Vinci's classic.

The artwork reflects the offbeat sense of humor of a woman who by day creates special effects animation for Reno-based International Game Technology, one of the world's largest slot machine makers.

Steven High, executive director of the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art in Sarasota, Fla., said he finds Peppin's artwork — and use of Twinkies as a metaphor to explore various subjects — clever, humorous and imaginative.

"In some ways, she takes this kind of silly item and treats it as a cultural artifact and imagines it as a subject of scientific studies," he said. "She's an excellent illustrator and the way she pulls these (works) together is amazing. They're fascinating and draw you in, even though the subject matter is unusual."

ANASTASIA'S

Continued from Page C1

Citrus County ties. They attend the St. Michael Greek Orthodox Church in Lecanto and for a long time handled Friday fish fries at the church.

"The biggest thing here is using fresh ingredients," Melinda emphasized. "Our meals are made daily from fresh whole roast turkeys and roast beef and corned beef. There is no microwaving in this restaurant."

That's no easy task for the young mother of six children, including 10-year-old restaurant namesake Anastasia.

Breakfast at Anastasia's is served from 7 to 11 a.m. with home fries or grits and toasts with every meal. All the standard favorites are on the menu, with the priciest order at \$5.45 for the ham steak and eggs. You can also get a two-egg meal for \$2.19 and a "big man's plate" of three pancakes, two eggs, two bacon strips and two sausages for \$4.95.

Daily lunch specials, all at \$5.95 each, include meatloaf, chopped sirloin, country fried

steak, and a fried fish platter, all with a choice of potato and veggies or a salad-stuffed tomato. The price is also for a variety of sandwiches and burgers and soup-and-salad combos.

A twosome can get two complete dinners for \$15.99 after 3:30 p.m. with such choices as stuffed peppers, fried clams, calamari, meatloaf, spaghetti and meatballs and fried shrimp, to name some on the list. The lamb shank, at \$10, is served Fridays only.

Adding to menu items already noted are authentic Greek gyros and gyro platters, Tarpon Springs-style Greek salad with potato salad, triple-decker club sandwiches, wings, open-face turkey and beef with mashed potato plates. Reubens served with French fries or soup are \$5.45.

The owners promise the dessert list will soon get longer with added pastries, but for now there is a delectable Greek-style rice pudding and bread pudding and gelatin.

Anastasia's is located in Heritage Hills plaza just a short distance east of the Publix shopping plaza on County Road 486 (Norvell Bryant Highway). Hours are 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 7 a.m. to 2

p.m. Sunday. For information, call 352-513-4860.

Here are two family recipes shared by Melinda:

SPANAKOPITA

- 1 pound spinach, drained and squeezed
- 1 pound phyllo dough
- 1/2 cup feta cheese
- 4 to 6 ounces cream cheese
- 5 eggs, beaten
- 1/3 cup onions, sautéed
- 1/4 cup melted butter or margarine plus 1/2 cup melted of either for dough
- 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon dill
- 1/4 teaspoon oregano

Mix all ingredients except phyllo dough in large bowl. Heat oven to 350 degrees. In a large baking pan, layer 1/2 pound phyllo dough, brushing each layer with butter. Pour spinach mixture over bottom layer; then continue layering over top, buttering each sheet in between. Place in oven; bake about 45 minutes or until top is a golden color.

RICE PUDDING

- 1/2 gallon milk
- 1/4 cup rice
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 3 eggs, beaten
- 4 teaspoons cornstarch
- 1/4 teaspoon vanilla
- Cinnamon for topping

Bring milk almost to a boil. Add rice and stir often until rice is cooked completely; a slow roll of rice is preferred. When rice is close to being done, add sugar; continue stirring. When rice is done, beat the eggs and temper by adding some of the rice liquid to the eggs so they don't scramble when poured into the mixture. Dissolve corn starch in a little milk, then add to the mixture, stirring continuously until it starts to thicken some. Pour into pan, sprinkle with cinnamon if desired; let sit out until cool or serve warm.

Julianne Munn is the food writer for the Citrus County Chronicle. Email her at jmunn2@tampabayrr.com.

WHAT'S FOR DINNER?

- Want to share your recipes with the world, or see what your neighbors are having for dinner? Visit the *Chronicle's* online Recipe Exchange at <http://tinyurl.com/citrusrecipes>.

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THURSDAY EVENING JANUARY 24, 2013. Table with columns for time slots (6:00-11:30) and rows for various TV channels (WESH, WEDU, WUFT, etc.) listing programs and their descriptions.

North 01-24-13. ♠ K 7 5 2. ♥ Q 10 4. ♦ A K 8 6 4 3. ♣ —. West ♠ 8 6. ♥ K 7 5 2. ♦ Q J 10 9. ♣ J 5 3. East ♠ Q J 3. ♥ A J 3. ♦ 5 2. ♣ 8 7 6 4 2. South ♠ A 10 9 4. ♥ 9 8 6. ♦ 7. ♣ A K Q 10 9. Dealer: South. Vulnerable: East-West. South 1♣ Pass 1♦ Pass 1♠ Pass 4♣ Pass. Opening lead: ??

Bridge PHILLIP ALDER Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

B. Cybrill wrote, "When the bold branches / Bid farewell to rainbow leaves / Welcome wool sweaters."

Now, in the depth of winter, we can relate to that. At the bridge table, when we bid farewell to the auction, whether colorful or monochrome, we welcome hot leads.

Look at West's hand. What should he lead against four spades after the given auction? Note North's one-diamond response. With a good hand, bid the longest suit first. Do not skip diamonds to show a major except with a weak hand (and only then if the major is particularly strong). Then, on the second round, North makes a splinter bid, indicating four-card spade support, at least game-going values, and a singleton or void in clubs. South, with so much in clubs and three low hearts, signs off in game. (If you do not use splinters, North should rebid four spades.)

West has two sensible lead choices: the diamond queen (top of touching honors) and the heart two (low from an honor). In general, leading an unbid suit works better than one in a suit bid by an opponent. Also, North rates to have at least five diamonds. With four diamonds and four spades, he might have responded one spade.

Here, the heart lead is necessary. East, knowing West has length and strength in the suit, wins the first trick with his jack, cashes the ace, and continues with a third round. Then he awaits the setting trick with his high trump.

After a diamond lead, South, aided by the club jack dropping, can win 12 tricks.

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek. Includes a cartoon of a man at a bank counter and a grid of scrambled letters: RREVI, DEEWG, DRANTS, COTREK. Answer: WHARF MOUTH PLEDGE YONDER.

- ACROSS 1 Pulpits 6 Taunted 11 Ritzy residence 12 Martial art 13 House companion 14 Reckons 15 Not trendy 16 Sourdough strikes 17 Guideline 19 Gardener, often 23 Mao - -tung 26 Potting medium 28 Suffix for forfeit 29 Ploy 31 Rudner and Moreno 33 Swat 34 Most reliable 35 Charged atom 36 Stately trees 39 Is, for them 40 - - grip!

Answer to Previous Puzzle. Crossword grid with words: SAGE, WINERY, ROTATE, ATONES, ANEMIC, DUNE, END, RES, REREAD, HOGAN, WREAKS, ADULT, CNOTE, DELLA, INBED, SPYING, DUETS, LIZ, FOE, LIMB, YOGURT, EDITOR, ROONEY, DINERO, SPRIG, MGMT.

Dear Annie: After 44 years of marriage, I can no longer trust my husband. "Steve" reconnected with a high school flame, and the end result was late-night emails, texts and calls. He even bought throw-away phones so they could stay in touch and meet out of town.

Went for counseling, and Steve took a stack of note cards to the first session with ultimatums for me. He accused me of being a lesbian and having affairs with women at work and in our neighborhood. He then shared the intimate details of our sessions with his old flame and invited her to come along! He wrote long multiple-page letters and slipped them to my therapist when he thought I wasn't watching. Recently, Steve spent \$12,000 of our money on a facelift, and he has set up at least 10 email accounts to hide things from me.

modulating her voice and felt that men were turned off by her loud personality. Please tell her to look into whether Kelly has Asperger syndrome, a form of high-functioning autism. Asperger's often goes undiagnosed until later in life, but its primary symptom is extreme social awkwardness and an inability to appropriately "read" the social cues of others.

Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com. Includes a crossword puzzle grid.

- 11 Mind reader's gift 12 Seoul site 16 Corrida cheer 18 Checkout ID 20 Peripheral 21 Clean the board 22 Doctor's advice 23 Lake near Reno 24 Barely enough 25 List ender 27 Play about Capote 29 Branch offshoot 30 Eisenhower nickname 32 Retiree's kitty 34 Form 1040 into 37 Release (2 wds.) 38 CAT scan relative 41 Lapis lazuli color 43 Wed on the run - 500 45 "My Name Is -" 48 On the summit 49 Boggy places 50 Almost grads 51 Quiet! 52 Chinese "way" 53 Basketball hoop 54 Prudhoe -

their time and talents. I have a friend who is becoming increasingly critical of everyone's efforts, and it is depressing to be in her company. How do I tell her that we are tired of her constant complaining while still remaining her friend? I'm taking out my hearing aids at our next encounter. — Florida

Dear Annie: I live in a small community where many people volunteer for countless jobs, giving of their time and talents. I have a friend who is becoming increasingly critical of everyone's efforts, and it is depressing to be in her company. How do I tell her that we are tired of her constant complaining while still remaining her friend? I'm taking out my hearing aids at our next encounter. — Florida

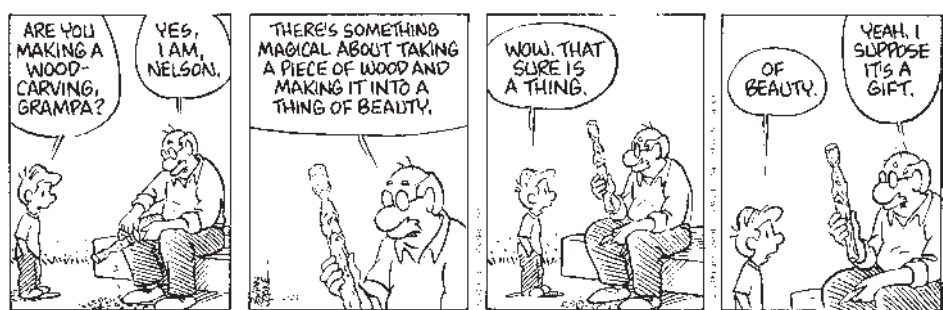
Peanuts



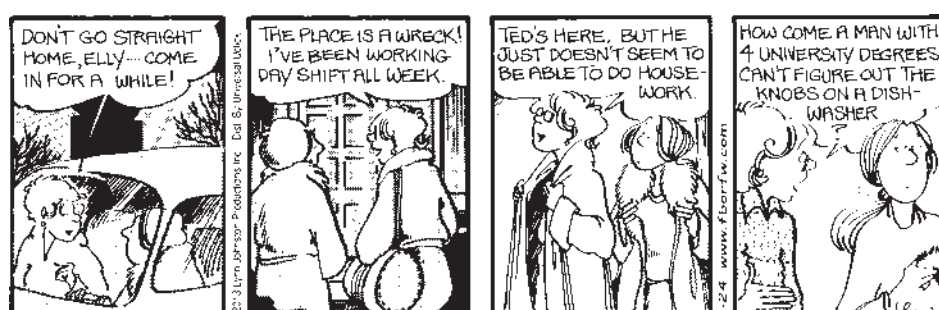
Garfield



Pickles



For Better or For Worse



Sally Forth



Beetle Bailey



Dilbert



The Grizzwells



The Born Loser



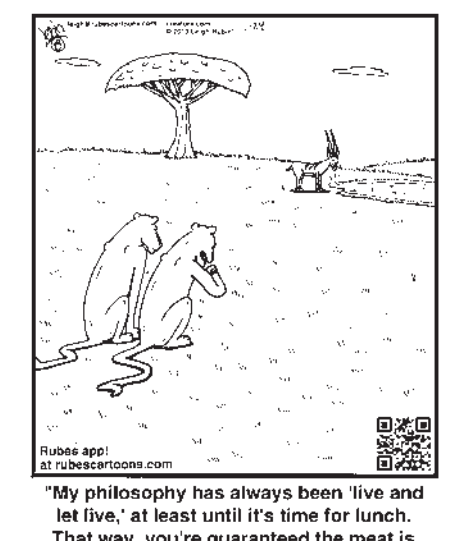
Blondie



Kit 'N' Carlyle



Rubes



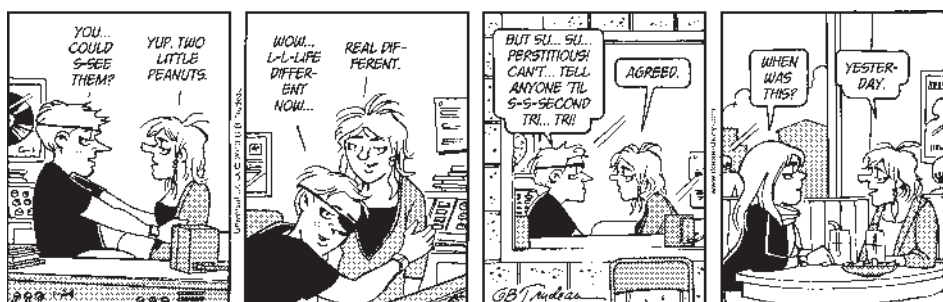
Dennis the Menace



The Family Circus



Doonesbury



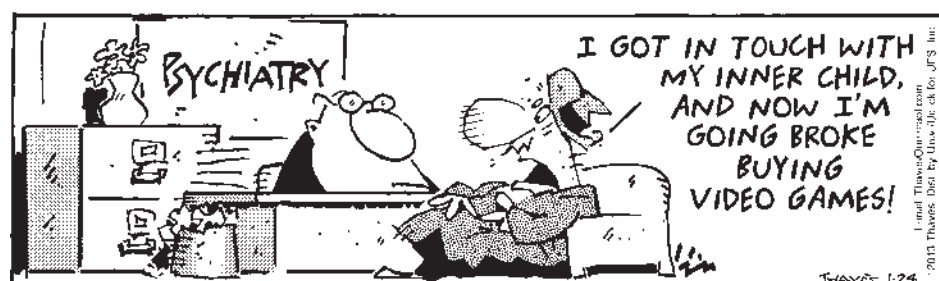
Betty



Big Nate



Frank & Ernest



Arlo and Janis



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Today's MOVIES

Times provided by Regal Cinemas and are subject to change; call ahead. Citrus Cinemas 6 — Inverness; 637-3377. "Mama" (PG-13) 12:50 p.m., 4:20, 7:30, 10:30.

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: F equals O. "FK FD DS YZDM KS CSIEYK KWZK KWFD FD ESST KWZK BY'IY ZAFJY. BY DWSRAT UY YGPSMFGE KWFD EFCK SC UYFGE ZAFJY." — JFHKSIFZ OIFGHFOZA



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