

Shutout: Lecanto girls soccer team wins at Citrus High /B1

TUESDAY
 TODAY & next morning
HIGH 77
LOW 56
 Partly sunny.
PAGE A4

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

www.chronicleonline.com



NOVEMBER 5, 2013 Florida's Best Community Newspaper Serving Florida's Best Community **50¢** **VOL. 119 ISSUE 90**

NEWS BRIEFS

Holiday contests available online

With the holiday season coming into full swing, Chronicle Online has put together a number of contests for readers.

The submission deadline for two of the contests — Thanksgiving Recipes and High School Homecoming photos — ends next week. However, four new contests began Friday. To enter, go to www.chronicleonline.com/content/enter-contest and select the contest or contests you would like to enter. Winners receive gift prizes and/or publication of their entries in the newspaper.

You can also get to the contest by going to www.chronicleonline.com; choose features tab and select "Enter a Contest."

Here are the contests and important dates:

■ **Thanksgiving Recipe** — submission period closes 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 6; voting is Nov. 7 to 18. Top five recipes printed in Nov. 21 Food section.

■ **Homecoming Photos** — submission period closes 11:59 p.m. Friday, Nov. 8; voting is Nov. 9 to 22. Winners receive \$50 gift certificates.

■ **Christmas Cookie Jar** — submission period closes 11:59 p.m. Friday, Nov. 15; voting is Nov. 16 to Dec. 3. Winners printed in special cookie section on Dec. 12.

■ **Christmas Ornaments** — submission period ends Wednesday, Dec. 4. Voting is Dec. 5 to 20. Prizes will be awarded in three categories.

■ **Letters to Santa** — submission period ends 9:18 a.m. Friday, Dec. 20. A sampling of the best letters will be printed in the Dec. 25 *Chronicle*.

■ **Wacky Christmas Photos** — submission period ends 10:59 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 4. Voting is Dec. 5 to 20. Wackiest photo receives a prize.

Crist kicks off run for governor as Democrat

ST. PETERSBURG — In many ways, Democrat Charlie Crist's message as he began his campaign for governor Monday was the same as when he was a Republican governor.

He called for investment in clean energy, more money for schools, tax breaks for small businesses. Even the slogan is the same — signs were printed up saying "The People's Governor."

Crist will be up against money and attacks like he's never seen before in a political career where he has won three statewide offices and lost two U.S. Senate races.

—From staff and wire reports

Big cats have big tales



MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle

ABOVE: A Bengal tiger rests Friday morning in a pool of water at the Endangered Animal Rescue Sanctuary in Citra. RIGHT: Founder Jaye Parrett has a special bond with all of the animals in her sanctuary, especially big cats like this male Siberian tiger. FAR RIGHT: A curious leopard peers out of a cage. See more photos/Page A13



Sanctuary gives endangered exotic animals a safe place to live out their lives

PAT FAHERTY
Staff writer

CITRA — Every tiger has a tale. The stories behind the big cats at the Endangered Animal Rescue Sanctuary define the organization's role. And it's not just about tigers; there are lions, bears, leopards and monkeys, along with giant tortoises, a panther, cougars and deer. There's even a liger, a cross between a lion and a tiger, creating the animal kingdom's largest cat. Odin, now 2 years old, is expected to reach 1,200 to 1,300 pounds.

The sanctuary, known as EARS, is an ongoing effort to preserve some of the world's most endangered species while providing them with a safe, comfortable environment.

Many of the animals that made it here came from parks, shows, roadside attractions, seizures by authorities and from individuals who discovered exotic animals were more cost and responsibility than they wanted.

Some were neglected, abandoned or abused and with injuries and temperaments instilled by training

See RESCUE/Page A9

EARS needs help

PAT FAHERTY
Staff writer

CITRA — There are several ways for people to get involved with the Endangered Animal Rescue Sanctuary (EARS).

They can work as volunteers like Mellodie Farfaglia of Inverness, they can become members, sponsor an animal or donate money or materials.

The nonprofit, all-volunteer organization has a

See HELP/Page A6

Leisurely pace lowers C-section deliveries

CR obstetrician leads state stats

CHRIS VAN ORMER
Staff writer

CRYSTAL RIVER — Heather Anderson and her grandmother listened to the thumping heart-beat rhythm of a fetal monitor keeping tabs on the boy who was soon to enter the world on Halloween.

"You've had another contraction," Dr. Rose Sobel, checking the lines the machine drew on a paper roll, told the Homosassa mother-to-be.

As contractions got stronger, excitement was rising for Anderson's firstborn, who could look forward to special Halloween parties that also

would celebrate his birth. Although Anderson had not been aware of the fact, the chance was pretty good for her to deliver by natural childbirth because Sobel, her obstetrician, had the lowest caesarean section rate in 2012 in the state of Florida, according to data compiled by the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA).

What AHCA's data showed was that Seven Rivers Regional Medical Center had a rate of 22 percent for C-section deliveries compared to a statewide average of nearly 40 percent. As Sobel is the only practicing OB-GYN at Seven



CHRIS VAN ORMER/Chronicle

Dr. Rose Sobel, left, checks a fetal monitor Thursday for the progress of the baby Heather Anderson was soon to deliver at Seven Rivers Regional Medical Center near Crystal River.

Rivers, the low rate is the result of her work.

The rate of 22 percent includes all c-sections, whether first or subsequent deliveries. When looking at only first deliveries, Sobel's rates

looked even better.

"From 2012, we had 316 births," Sobel explained last week. "The c-sections are divided into repeat C-sections vs.

See DOCTOR/Page A9

Elections slated

Voters decide coast to coast

Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. — From rural Iowa to urban New York, voters across America will render judgment in a slate of political contests Tuesday, including in New Jersey and Virginia where gubernatorial race outcomes could highlight the Republican Party division between pragmatists and ideologues.

Elsewhere, Colorado voters will set a tax rate for marijuana.

New York City will elect

See ELECTION/Page A7



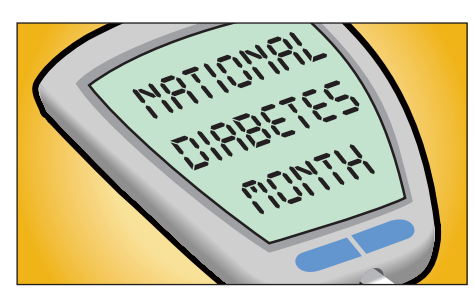
State & Local:
 See a list of winners from Inverness Festival of the Arts./A3



Nation:
 Psychics say the law is unfair to believers./A8



Nation & World:
 The president starts to struggle with favorability ratings./A12



Health & Life:
 Discover 10 ways to reduce your risk of diabetes./C1



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- ✓ HCA will pay \$2 million in property taxes to our community.
- ✓ A lease will reduce the hospital tax millage that Citrus County homeowners/residents pay now. Taxes will go down.

Thank you, Citrus Memorial Health Foundation, for unanimously voting to lease Citrus Memorial Hospital to HCA. Leasing is the best option and provides the most benefit to our community. Leasing Citrus Memorial Hospital will bring financial stability and first-class health care to Citrus County.

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For the RECORD

DUI arrests

Steven Czupka, 58, of South Country Club Drive, Inverness, at 12:44 p.m. Nov. 1 on an active warrant for felony charges of driving under the influence (fourth offense), and driving while license permanently revoked. According to his arrest affidavit, Czupka was already in custody at the Citrus County Detention Facility at the time of his arrest. Bond \$15,000.

Kinchen Black, 26, of East Jane Lane, Floral City, at 2:01 a.m. Nov. 3 on a misdemeanor charge of driving under the influence. According to his arrest affidavit, Black was reported to have been asleep behind the wheel in the turn lane of U.S. 19. Black then drove the vehicle eastbound, the wrong way, across U.S. 19 on to Miss Maggie Drive and then crashed in to the ditch. He was asked to perform field sobriety tests and did poorly. Tests of his breath showed her blood alcohol concentration was 0.251 percent and 0.245 percent. The legal limit is 0.08 percent. Bond \$500.

Domestic battery arrest

Albert McCarty, 33, of Lecanto, at 10:17 p.m. Nov. 2 on a felony charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon without intent to kill, and a misdemeanor charge of domestic battery. No bond.

Other arrests

Kimberly Vihrachoff, 31, of South Spaniel Trail, Inverness, at 9:34 a.m. Nov. 1 on a felony charge of driving while license was suspended or revoked as a habitual offender. According to her arrest affidavit, Vihrachoff's license has been suspended multiple times and it had been revoked in 2012 for 60 months. Bond \$2,000.

Terry Wassink Jr., 34, of North East Street, Inverness, at 12:54 p.m. Nov. 1 on a felony charge of failing to register as a sex offender every six months. According to his arrest affidavit Wassink failed to re-register as a sex offender in October, as required. Bond \$20,000.

Cheryl Cooper, 48, at 5 p.m. Nov. 1 on an active warrant for felony violation of probation stemming from an original charge of aggravated battery on a person 65 years of

age or older. Cooper was already incarcerated at the Citrus County Detention Facility at the time of her arrest. Bond was denied.

Saleen Hoffman, 18, of North Elliot Way, Citrus Springs, at 3:05 p.m. Nov. 1 on a felony charge of possession of a controlled substance and a misdemeanor charge of drug paraphernalia. According to her arrest affidavit, Hoffman is accused of having three unprescribed Lorlab tablets, and three metal pipes. She was released on her own recognizance.

Laverne Boutwell, 70, of Floral City, at 4:14 p.m. Nov. 1 on a felony charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon without intent to kill. No bond.

Phillip Street, 51, of South Sonata Avenue, Homosassa, at 7:49 p.m. Nov. 1 on an active warrant for felony violation of probation, stemming from an original charge of refusal to submit to an urinalysis. Bond was denied.

Richard Roberts, 51, of Ulmerton Road, Clearwater, at 8:30 p.m. Nov. 1 on an active warrant for felony violation of probation stemming from an original charge of conspiracy to drug traffic. He was also charged with four felony counts of failure to appear. Roberts was transported to the Citrus County Detention Facility from Pinellas County. Bond was denied.

Albert Altano, 22, of West Homosassa Trail, Homosassa, at 2:24 a.m. Nov. 2 on an active warrant for attempted burglary of a dwelling and criminal mischief. Bond \$2,500.

Jamie Nicholson, 41, of Lyme Bay Drive, Orlando, at 2:40 a.m. Nov. 2 on an active warrant for felony violation of probation stemming from an original charge of burglary. Nicholson was transported to the Citrus County Detention Facility from Orange County. Bond was denied.

Ryan Larock, 23, of East Werner Court, Hernando, at 6:05 a.m. Nov. 2 on a felony charge of auto theft and a misdemeanor charge of resisting an officer without violence. According to his arrest affidavit, Larock is accused of attempting to steal a Mercedes sedan but was unable to drive away because he could not work the

clutch. He was tasered after refusing to follow the deputy's commands to exit the vehicle. Bond \$2,500.

Hope Lohr, 22, of West Ravine Lane, Dunnellon, at 2:05 p.m. Nov. 2 on an active warrant for felony charges of trafficking in stolen property and false verification of ownership to a metal recycler. According to the arrest affidavit, Lohr turned herself in to the Citrus County Detention Facility. Bond \$14,000.

Dana Durbin, 29, of West Arlington Place, Homosassa, at 4:46 p.m. Nov. 2 on a felony charge of introduction of contraband into a detention facility. According to her arrest affidavit, Durbin is accused of smuggling in seven oxycodone pills and four temazepam pills while she was incarcerated at the Citrus County Detention Facility on charges of misdemeanor violation of probation. Bond \$2,000.

Lonnie Hurst, 43, of St. Benedict Drive, Dunnellon, at 4:14 p.m. Nov. 2 on two felony charges of possession of a controlled substance and a misdemeanor charge of possession of cannabis. According to his arrest affidavit, Hurst was stopped for speeding on West Dunnellon Road. Deputies searched the vehicle and uncovered 0.2 grams of crack cocaine, three baggies of cannabis, and 0.4 grams of cocaine. He was also given a citation for speeding, along with a warning for illegal window tinting. Bond \$10,500.

William Dicks, 41, and Everett Dicks III, 42, both of Homosassa, at 7:44 p.m. Nov. 3 on felony charges of contributing to the delinquency of a minor and aggravated battery, intentionally causing great bodily harm. Bond was set at \$6,000 for each of the accused.

Danielle Moody, 35, of South Jefferson Street, Beverly Hills, at 11:50 p.m. Nov. 3 on a felony charge of possession of a controlled substance and misdemeanor charges of disorderly intoxication, and battery. According to her arrest affidavit, Moody had been drinking at a friend's home, refused to exit a vehicle and became physically abusive when her friend attempted to drive her home. Moody was found to be in possession of an unprescribed

Xanax pill at the time of her booking. Bond \$5,650.

Citrus County Sheriff's Office

Burglaries

A residential burglary was reported at 6:40 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 2, in the 600 block of E. Katie St., Hernando.

A vehicle burglary was reported at 2:11 p.m. Nov. 2 in the 1300 block of E. McKinley St., Hernando.

A vehicle burglary was reported at 9:35 p.m. Nov. 2 in the 5900 block of W. Poplar Springs Circle, Crystal River.

A vehicle burglary was reported at 1:35 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 3, in the 600 block of S. Fairlane Terrace, Lecanto.

Thefts

A petit theft was reported at 8:03 a.m. Friday, Nov. 1, in the 3800 block of W. Educational Path, Lecanto.

A petit theft was reported at 2:09 p.m. Nov. 1 in the 2400 block of E. Gulf-to-Lake Highway, Inverness.

A petit theft was reported at 3:37 p.m. Nov. 1 in the 1600 block of S.E. U.S. 19, Crystal River.

A petit theft was reported at 4:59 p.m. Nov. 1 in the 10000 block of E. Bluegill Court, Inverness.

A petit theft was reported at 12:51 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 2, in the 200 block of S. Monroe St., Beverly Hills.

An auto theft was reported at 5:43 a.m. Nov. 2 in the 6000 block of E. Turkey Trail Drive, Hernando.

A petit theft was reported at 10:39 a.m. Nov. 2 in the 3400 block of E. Flying Arrow Path, Hernando.

A petit theft was reported at 3:16 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 3, in the 2800 block of E. Gulf-to-Lake Highway, Inverness.

Vandalisms

A vandalism was reported at 5:18 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 2, in the 1200 block of N.E. 8th Ave., Crystal River.

A vandalism was reported at 7:28 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 3, in the 16000 block of W. Fort Island Trail, Crystal River.

A vandalism was reported at 10:38 a.m. Nov. 3 in the 10800 block of E. Gobbler Drive, Floral City.

Folk festival set for Saturday

Chronicle

Saturday provides an opportunity to celebrate Florida's rich folk heritage.

Organizers are set for the inaugural Florida Folk Heritage and Music Festival. The event is from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Dade Battlefield Historic State Park in Bushnell.

The festival is the brainchild of park volunteer Jim McAlister. It is being sponsored by the Florida Folk Heritage and Music Festival Association and, in part, by the Friends of Florida Folk.

McAlister said he was involved in folk festivals as a youngster and said the surroundings at Dade Park make it a desirable site for a festival.

The event will include a wide variety of entertainment celebrating the state and its rich history.

Historians will bring Florida's past alive through interpretive programs and presentations while some of Florida's best folk musicians tell

the story of the Sunshine State through music.

Guest musicians include Frank Thomas, known as the Dean of Florida Folk Music; Bill and Eli Perras; Benjamin Dehart, the Cracker Tenor; Chuck Hardwicke; Emmett Carlisle and Dora Anne, the Lullaby Lady.

Both adults and youngsters will have an opportunity to visit with and watch a folk artist and learn the skills necessary for the day-to-day existence in pioneer Florida.

Patrons will also have an opportunity to listen to youngsters compete in the Ann Thomas Youth Story Telling and Writing Contest.

Thomas was a librarian in Polk County who was very involved in folk music, McAlister said. She died several years ago.

Admission to the event is \$5 per carload, with up to eight people. The park is at 7200 Sumter County Road 603.

For more information about the festival, www.crackerheritagefestival.weebly.com.



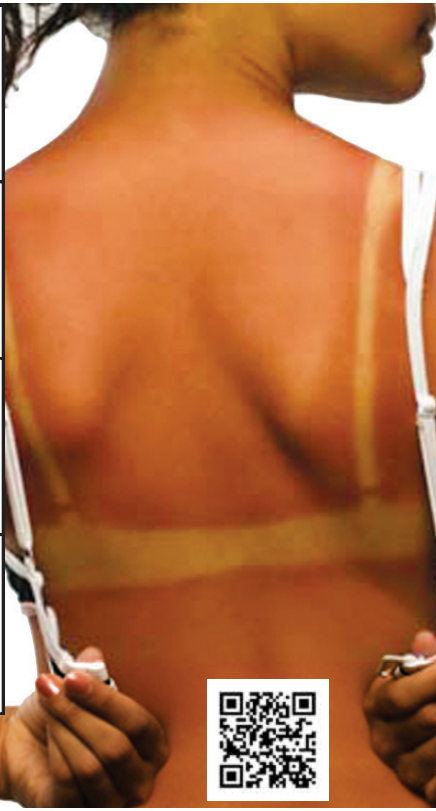
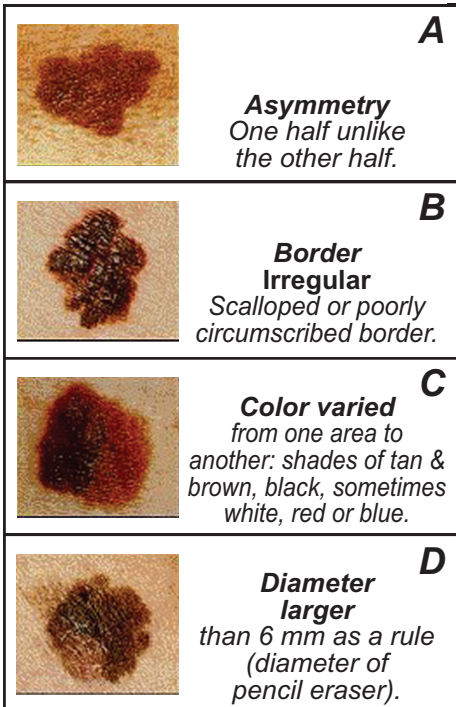
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Self-driving cars on advisers' agendas

CHRIS VAN ORMER
Staff writer

Automated vehicles are cruising into view, two advisory groups will hear on Wednesday.

Tampa Bay could be well positioned to start the implementation of automated technologies, which means the region would benefit from substantial business opportunities, according to a presentation to be made by Bob Clifford, executive director of the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA).

Clifford, consultant to Citrus County Transportation Planning Organization (TPO), will make his presentation to two groups attached to the TPO:

- **WHAT:** TPO Transportation Technical Advisory Committee meeting.
- **WHEN:** 1 p.m. Wednesday.
- **WHERE:** Lecanto Government Building, Room 280, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto.
- **WHAT:** TPO Citizens Advisory Committee meeting.
- **WHEN:** 3 p.m. Wednesday.
- **WHERE:** Lecanto Government Building, Room 280, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto.

Transportation Technical Advisory Committee and Citizens Advisory Committee.

Automated vehicles have the potential to reduce more than 30,000 traffic fatalities and \$450 billion in economic losses that annually occur from traffic collisions in the United States, both groups will hear. The

vehicles also could reduce the \$200 billion in economic losses and environmental damage from traffic congestion.

Two Tampa-area groups have started to work together to explore automated vehicle technology. The Tampa-Hillsborough Expressway Authority has contracted with the Univer-

sity of South Florida Center for Urban Transportation Research to examine and promote such technologies to develop an approach for the Tampa Bay region reflecting infrastructure, policy, transit, safety and planning impacts.

Recent sensor, computing and artificial intelligence breakthroughs have resulted in vehicles that can drive themselves, according to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). Automated vehicles promise to revolutionize the way people travel.

FDOT will host a summit on automated vehicles on Nov. 14 and 15 in Tampa.

The purpose of the summit will be:

■ To discuss current automated vehicle technology and predicted implementation roadmaps.

■ To engage and collaborate with public and private partners.

■ To discuss key regulatory issues to enable the safe deployment of automated vehicle technology.

■ To identify a framework for multi-phased implementation of automated vehicle systems in Florida.

More information about the summit is available at www.FAVS2013.org.

Also on the advisers' agendas:

■ Discussion of Citrus County Federal Functional Classification.

ON THE NET

■ Summit on Automated Vehicles: www.FAVS2013.org.

■ Report about the Oct. 30 workshop with Hernando County Metropolitan Planning Organization regarding a merger of the two groups.

■ Discussion of TPO 2014 legislative priorities.

Public comment will be taken at the beginning and the end of the meetings. The committees will next meet on Dec. 4.

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

Murder trial tentatively scheduled for next week

A.B. SIDIBE
Staff writer

INVERNESS — The trial of the man accused of killing his long-time domestic partner and leaving her corpse behind a shed for several days is slated for next week.

Officials are alleging Arthur Neil Sputa Jr., 50, was inside the house during this period nursing a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Circuit Judge Richard "Ric" Howard has scheduled a motion hearing for Thursday to determine if the medical examiner's testimony ought to be excluded from the trial.

The medical examiner's initial report on the 2011 death of 59-year-old Diane Bartlett was that the manner of death was homicide, but that cause of death was undetermined.

The report now reflects the cause of death and the attorney representing Sputa in the murder case claimed Monday that the change happened not because of scientific determination, but based on information supplied by a detective in the case.

Attorney E. Juan Lynum,

therefore, wants the medical examiner excluded from testimony at trial.

Sputa was the primary suspect in the investigation of the death of Bartlett, Sputa's long-time domestic partner.

According to Sputa's arrest report, deputies went to 6035 N. Tsala Apopka Drive off State Road 200 in Hernando for a well-being check after neighbors said the couple's dog had been loose for several days.

At the residence, deputies reportedly found Bartlett's body lying behind a shed on the property. Investigators also heard noises coming from inside the home where they found Sputa.

Sputa reportedly admitted that he and Bartlett got into a physical fight and that he hit and choked her. According to the report, he then added that he knocked her out and dragged her lifeless body to where the corpse was found, behind the shed.

Sputa reportedly was told his girlfriend was dead and replied, "If she's dead it's from my hands."

Investigators also discovered that Sputa had a gunshot wound inside his

mouth — allegedly a result of a botched suicide attempt after knocking out Bartlett.

Sputa was hospitalized briefly before being transported to the Citrus County Detention Facility.

The prosecution team is Bill Catto and Rich Buxman.

The attorney for a Hernando woman facing charges of aggravated child abuse for allegedly starving and severely abusing her infant daughter got her case continued pending further mental assessments.



Alyssia Skinner faces aggravated child abuse charges.

Assistant Public Defender Charity Braddock told Judge Howard she was ready for trial except for one more medical evaluation for her client, Alyssia Skinner, 23.

Skinner was arrested in February on eight counts of aggravated child abuse and torture, and child negligence for allegedly confining her 17-month-old baby to a small, cluttered, filthy "dimly-lit room" in her mobile home. She also reportedly kept the air conditioner cranked up and withheld food from the child. The baby also went for long periods without being changed, causing rashes on the child's pelvic area and causing the room to reek of urine and feces.

Investigators said medical authorities concluded the child suffered from chronic hypothermia and starvation. The baby also was diagnosed by doctors

as having about 1/2 to 3/4 of an inch of blood on the surface of her brain, which reportedly is consistent with "shaken baby" cases.

The baby's legs were frozen and curled in a fetal position due to having to protect against the effects of the low temperatures in the room and to preserve body heat.

According to Skinner's arrest affidavit, even while sedated the child's legs could not be straightened because of muscle and tendon damage.

Doctors also noted that the baby suffered from muscle and brain atrophy, which means they wasted away because of food deprivation for prolonged periods

Jerry Wayne Corbin, 50, of Homosassa, was sentenced to five years in prison Monday and will be designated a sex offender

for the rest of his life after a plea deal.

Judge Howard also told him he may be subject to civil commitment should the state deem him not ready for reintegration into society.

The deal was worked out between Corbin's attorney Charity Braddock and prosecutor Melissa Pendergrass.

Corbin was arrested in July on child pornography charges for reportedly possessing photos and videos depicting child sexual images and activities.

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



Jerry Corbin will be designated a sex offender.

HELP

Continued from Page A1

constant need for farm and garden tools, specific animal supplies, dog and cat food, paper towels, buckets and gloves and office supplies. A complete list is available on its website.

Volunteer opportunities vary, with help needed on a regularly scheduled basis or for particular projects.

EARS offers two levels of membership and various sponsorship opportunities including an upcoming Christmas adopt-an-animal special. Direct financial contribu-

tions and subscription are accepted any time.

Farfaglia has an ongoing bleach drive. Gallons of bleach for EARS may be dropped off at Mellodie's Gym in Inverness and she will deliver them.

She will also be putting up an angel tree for EARS at Mellodie's Gym this holiday season.

"Without people getting involved, we can't do this," said EARS founder Jaye Parrett. "It isn't possible without their support."

For more information on donating or taking a tour, visit www.earsinc.net. For details on volunteering, email sadsun55@yahoo.com.

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State BRIEF

State searching evidence in inmate escape case

TALLAHASSEE — State investigators are combing through thousands of phone calls and text messages that two convicted killers sent and received before they made their brief escape from a Florida prison.

Florida Department of Law Enforcement Commissioner Gerald Bailey said on Monday that it's just one part of an unfolding investigation that could soon yield arrests.

Bailey gave an update to a state Senate panel that was looking into how Joseph Jenkins and Charles Walker were able to be released from prison using forged documents. The two killers were recaptured earlier this month.

Bailey said the investigation so far showed that the men had gotten hold of a cellphone while in jail. He also told senators that authorities were analyzing computers and printers the two inmates accessed while serving at a Panhandle prison.

—From wire reports

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ELECTION

Continued from Page A1

a new mayor for the first time in 12 years, while Boston's mayoral race pits white collar against blue collar, and Detroit's spotlights the city's bankruptcy — just three of the many mayoral contests from coast to coast.

Republican and Democratic strategists alike say that Tuesday's contests are more defined by candidate personalities and region-specific issues than political trends likely to influence next year's larger fight for control of Congress. Turnout is expected to be low across the country, typical for elections held in years when the White House and Congress aren't up for grabs.

Candidates across the country made their last pitches to voters as local elections boards made their final preparations.

"We can't take anything for granted. We are Republicans in New Jersey," incumbent Gov. Chris Christie told supporters Monday, although polls suggest he likely will cruise to a second term over his little-known Democratic opponent, state Sen. Barbara Buono. A potential presidential candidate, Christie could become the state's first Republican to exceed 50 percent of the vote in a statewide election in 25 years.

And a Republican victory in a Democratic-leaning state could stoke the notion within part of the GOP that a pragmatic approach is the answer to the party's national woes. To the south, a defeat of a conservative Republican in the swing-voting state of Virginia also could feed into that argument.

Former national Democratic Party chairman Terry McAuliffe is favored against Republican Ken Cuccinelli, who comes from the GOP's right flank and promotes his role as the first state attorney general to challenge the health care overhaul. Cuccinelli has been hurt both



Associated Press

Democratic New York City mayoral candidate Bill de Blasio campaigns Tuesday at a subway stop in New York. The mayoral election is today.

by the government shutdown that Republicans are bearing most of the blame for and by a political scandal involving accusations of lavish gift-giving by a political supporter to Republican Gov. Bob McDonnell and his family.

A McAuliffe victory would break a three decade-long trend: Virginia has elected a governor from the party not occupying the White House in every gubernatorial election since 1977.

Neither race will offer significant clues about the state of the electorate heading into a midterm

election year.

"They're a far cry from being a crystal ball for 2014," said longtime Democratic pollster John Anzalone. "These two big races are all about the individuals."

The same could be said for down-ballot races across the nation.

In Coralville, Iowa, population 19,000, the national tea party ally Americans for Prosperity is saturating mailboxes and telephone lines to support conservative candidates for city council as the area struggles to control its debt.

The outside group,

backed by the billionaire Koch brothers, spent \$36 million last year mostly supporting Republican candidates and attacking Democrats in the presidential and U.S. Senate races. In Iowa, the group is showing that no race is too small to fight government spending.

The issues extend beyond public debt in Colorado, where voters will decide on a tax rate for marijuana, a suggested 25 percent tax to fund school construction and regulation of the newly legal drug. Also, 11 counties in northern and eastern Col-

orado were taking non-binding votes on secession and creating a new state.

Mayors will be elected in some of the nation's largest cities.

In New York, Public Advocate Bill de Blasio is the heavy favorite to succeed outgoing Mayor Michael Bloomberg, with polls suggesting that he's on the verge of being the first Democrat to be elected mayor since 1989.

De Blasio, an unabashed liberal, positioned himself as a clean break with the Bloomberg years, promoting a sweeping progressive agenda. He faces Republi-

can rival Joe Lhota, former head of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and a one-time deputy mayor to Rudy Giuliani. Lhota has largely campaigned on continuing the policies of both his former boss and Bloomberg.

In Boston, it's a race of blue-collar Democrat against white-collar Democrat as state Rep. Martin Walsh and City Councilor John Connolly vie for the chance to succeed longtime Mayor Thomas Menino.

Walsh, a union laborer before being elected to the state House, has highlighted his life story, including surviving cancer as a boy and overcoming alcoholism as a young adult. Connolly, a corporate attorney, has focused on education issues. Polls suggest the race will be close.

Detroit may feature the nation's most unusual contest. Wayne County Sheriff Benny Napoleon and former Detroit Medical Center chief Mike Duggan are competing for a mayor's title that will have little immediate power as the debt-ridden metropolis is guided through the largest municipal bankruptcy in U.S. history by a state-appointed emergency manager.

One of the top remaining issues for both candidates: Who can work better under the thumb of the state turnaround expert, who will continue to run the show for at least another year.

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Lecanto High Homecoming Queen



STEPHEN E. LASKO/For the Chronicle

Shownee Parker was named the 2013 Lecanto High School homecoming queen Friday night during the Lecanto High School football game halftime. She was escorted by her aunt, Cyndi Schmidt.

DOCTOR

Continued from Page A1

the very first, the primary C-section. Our C-section rate was 22 percent. Thirty-nine of the 70 were repeats."

Therefore, 31 births were primary C-sections, showing a primary rate of less than 10 percent, which is an important consideration.

"Once you have a C-section, unfortunately, you have to have a C-section for the next one," Sobel said.

Following a c-section, the lower abdominal muscles can be weakened to the point where the area can rupture during the next baby delivery.

"If it does rupture, the baby can die," Sobel said, adding that many hospitals will not offer the option because it could pose an unnecessary risk. Therefore, a lower rate of primary c-sections means mothers will have more choices with future births.

Choosing to deliver by c-section with a first baby is not popular.

"I don't get any requests for that at all," Sobel said. However, c-section delivery for a first baby has been known to be preferred in some other cultures, she said.

What Sobel did to lower the rate was simply to give the mother-to-be more than the traditionally recommended time in labor. Sobel pulled out a textbook chart that showed a rate between time in labor and cervical dilation and recommendations for lengths of labor.

"If you didn't dilate a certain amount by every hour or have no dilation for two hours, you'd go for a C-section," Sobel said. "Actually, they did some studies and they found that if the baby looked good on the monitor, then you could give that baby a little bit more time and those babies that would have had the C-section would go on to deliver."

Having been trained to give the mother just two hours, Sobel said she was interested to try out the results from studies that advised that women in labor should be allowed a little more time.

"And lo and behold, they did deliver," Sobel said.

Sobel also pointed out that Seven Rivers' low rate for C-sections is based on her work alone. Therefore, larger hospitals with many obstetricians could have higher average rates simply because of some doctors advising against continuing the labor period, which would raise the overall C-section rate. But individual doctors might match her rate.

As the baby's health is of utmost importance, the question of a C-section is not a major issue.

"If the doctor says you have to have a C-section, most mothers don't really mind," Sobel said.

Sobel, who this year is

"If a doctor says you have to have a C-section, most mothers don't really mind."

Dr. Rose Sobel
obstetrician.

chief of surgery, has been with Seven Rivers since 2002. She served at the naval hospital in Pensacola before choosing to move to Citrus County.

"My husband wanted to be by the water so badly," Sobel said to explain her choice.

Sobel and her husband have a son who is a senior at Crystal River High School.

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

RESCUE

Continued from Page A1

attempts. Others just got too old.

It's not a zoo. It does not buy, sell, breed or trade the animals.

"We just let them be who they are," explained co-founder Gail Bowen.

For the older animals, that means letting them live out their days with attention to their special needs.

While the nonprofit sanctuary houses a variety of exotic animals, one species stands out.

"There is something magical about tigers," said Jaye Parrett, EARS founder and public face. Parrett is a retired Marion County deputy whose long career handling animal-cruelty cases inspired her efforts through EARS. "They have an aura."

"Everyone who visits EARS says when they drive through that gate, something takes over them," she said, citing their role in Chinese medicine. "That's what they're feeling that tiger medicine."

The sanctuary has 23 tigers of various ages. Beyond their size and striking colors, they show an attitude and air of non-chalance, typical of domestic cats.

Unlike the black bears that seem to ham it up for attention and rush to food like dogs, tigers remain

"Every single tiger can walk out and swim and be comfortable and run and be a tiger. But without people's support it wouldn't be possible."

Jaye Parrett
EARS founder.

aloof, eating when they feel like it, stretching in the sun and only acknowledging humans when they need a head rub.

But they also like to swim and be submerged in water. They are let out each day in a turnout area, a 30,000-square-foot brush area with a filtered pool.

"Every single tiger can walk out and swim and be comfortable and run and be a tiger," said Parrett. "But without people's support it wouldn't be possible."

Last year, it cost \$247,000 to operate the facility, which dates to 1988.

The big cats are costly, requiring a large quantity of fresh meat each day. "I could feed a thousand dogs for what it costs to feed a tiger," said Parrett, who also coordinates a food supply network for other sanctuaries throughout the country.

She and Bowen are volunteers, like everyone connected to EARS.

But tigers aren't the most expensive diners at the sanctuary. That honor

goes to the two large tortoises that enjoy salad-bar-size portions of fresh produce.

Taking care of the animals and keeping the facility clean is a seven-day-a-week routine. Bowen lives on site and spends much of her time doing those chores. Helping her out is where outside volunteers like Melodie Farfaglia of Inverness come in.

Farfaglia, owner of Melodie's Body Image Gym, has been donating a day a week to the sanctuary since August, after visiting EARS with her mother on a day-pass tour.

"I fell in love," said Farfaglia. "This is therapy."

In addition to helping out with the obvious animal chores, she collects donations of bleach, which is used daily in large quantities to clean and sanitize. She has also recruited her daughter and son-in-law as sanctuary volunteers.

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

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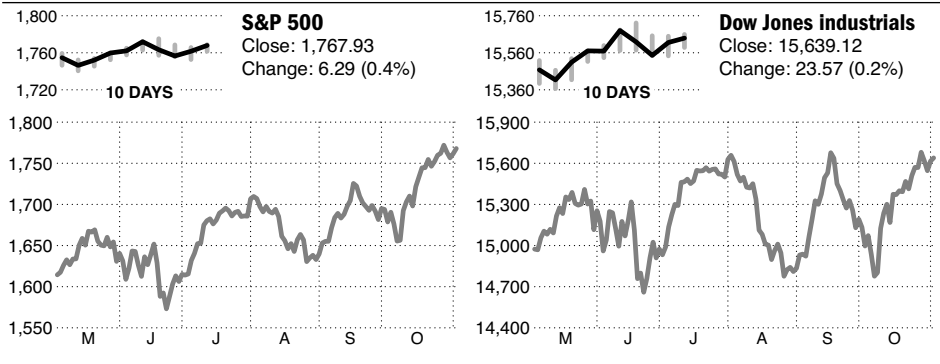
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Money&Markets



StocksRecap

Table with columns: NYSE, NASD, Vol. (in mil.), Pvs. Volume, Declined, New Highs, New Lows, DOW, DOW Trans., DOW Util., NYSE Comp., NASDAQ, S&P 500, S&P 400, Wilshire 5000, Russell 2000. Includes HIGH, LOW, CLOSE, CHG., %CHG., YTD.

Stocks of Local Interest

Table with columns: NAME, TICKER, 52-WK RANGE, HI, CLOSE, CHG, %CHG, WK, MO, QTR, YTD %CHG, %RTN, P/E, DIV. Lists companies like AK Steel Hold, AT&T Inc, Ametek Inc, etc.

Dividend Footnotes: a - Extra dividends were paid, but are not included. b - Annual rate plus stock. c - Liquidating dividend. e - Amount declared or paid in last 12 months. f - Current annual rate, which was increased by most recent dividend announcement. i - Sum of dividends paid after stock split, no regular rate. j - Sum of dividends paid this year. Most recent dividend was omitted or deferred. k - Declared or paid this year, a cumulative issue with dividends in arrears. m - Current annual rate, which was decreased by most recent dividend announcement. p - Initial dividend, annual rate not known, yield not shown. r - Declared or paid in preceding 12 months plus stock dividend. t - Paid in stock, approximate cash value on ex-distribution date. PE Footnotes: q - Stock is a closed-end fund - no P/E ratio shown. cc - P/E exceeds 99. dd - Loss in last 12 months.

Interestrates

Table with columns: TREASURIES, YEST, PVS, NET CHG, 1YR AGO. Lists 3-month T-bill, 6-month T-bill, 52-wk T-bill, 2-year T-note, 5-year T-note, 10-year T-note, 30-year T-bond.

Table with columns: BONDS, YEST, PVS, NET CHG, 1YR AGO. Lists Barclays LongT-Bdldx, Bond Buyer Muni Idx, Barclays USAggregate, etc.

Commodities

Table with columns: FUELS, METALS, AGRICULTURE, CLOSE, PVS, %CHG, %YTD. Lists Crude Oil (bbl), Ethanol (gal), Heating Oil (gal), Natural Gas (mm btu), Unleaded Gas (gal), Gold (oz), Silver (oz), Platinum (oz), Copper (lb), Palladium (oz), Cattle (lb), Coffee (lb), Corn (bu), Cotton (lb), Lumber (1,000 bd ft), Orange Juice (lb), Soybeans (bu), Wheat (bu).

MutualFunds

Table with columns: FAMILY, FUND, NAV, CHG, YTD, TOTAL RETURN 1YR, 3YR, 5YR. Lists American Funds (BalA m, CapIncBuA m, etc.), Dodge & Cox (Income, IntlStk, etc.), Fidelity (Income, IntlStk, etc.), Fidelity Spartan (500IdxAdvgt, etc.), Harbor (IntlInstl, IntlI, etc.), Oakmark (GrowStk), T Rowe Price (GrowStk), Vanguard (500Adml, 500Intl, etc.).

Stocks higher

Associated Press

There was no dramatic rally and no records were set. But stocks finished with small gains sprinkled across industries from airlines to steelmakers as the big indexes continued to trade near record highs.

All 10 industries tracked in the Standard & Poor's 500 index rose. Twice as many stocks rose as fell. The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies rose more than one percent, the biggest gain among U.S. market benchmarks.

And some industries rose sharply, including steelmakers, homebuilders, and airlines.

While Monday's gains were modest, they continued a powerful rally in the market that has driven the S&P 500 index up nearly 24 percent this year. The S&P 500 closed at records seven times in October, most recently on Oct. 29, when it set its current all-time high of 1,771.95

On Monday the S&P 500 increased 6.29 points, or 0.4 percent, to close at 1,767.93. Energy stocks had by far the biggest gains among 10 industries in the S&P 500, followed by technology and consumer discretionary stocks.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 23.57 points, or 0.15 percent, to 15,639.12 and the Nasdaq composite also gained 14.55 points, or 0.37 percent, to 3,936.59.

Homebuilders gained after Tri Pointe Homes said it would combine with Weyerhaeuser's home building business in a \$2.7 billion deal. Last week homebuilders fell after the Federal Reserve said in a policy statement that the recovery in that sector has "slowed somewhat" in recent months.

Tri Pointe rose 77 cents, or 5 percent, to \$16.15. D.R. Horton rose 31 cents, or 1.7 percent, to \$18.82. KB Home rose 28 cents, or 1.7 percent, to \$16.88.

Steelmakers rose after Goldman Sachs said the steel sector appears to be "heading to a sustainable recovery." AK Steel Holding rose 40 cents, or almost 9 percent, to \$5. US Steel rose \$1.13, or 4.4 percent, to \$26.91. Steel Dynamics Inc. rose 41 cents, or 2.2 percent, to \$18.85.

So far during the third-quarter earnings season, 68 percent of companies that have reported have beaten analysts' estimates, according to S&P Capital IQ. But 60 of the 78 companies that provided fourth-quarter forecasts came in lower than analysts were expecting.

"Generally earnings have been OK, but revenues have been a little bit light," said Lawrence Creatura, portfolio manager for the Clover Small Value Fund at Federated Investors.

"Management teams seem to be getting it done through cost-cutting rather than vibrant organic growth. The economy is growing slowly, stubbornly slowly," Creatura said.

With just 14 companies reporting earnings on Monday, some investors were on the sidelines. The pace picks up on Tuesday. Investors were also looking ahead to Twitter's highly anticipated public offering Thursday and the Labor Department's employment survey on Friday.

Eleven other companies are also expected to bring IPOs this week. That means this week will be tied for the busiest of the year.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.60 percent from 2.62 percent.

Is Chevron a buy?

Chevron stock is one of the worst performers in the Dow Jones industrial average this year, up 9.2 percent. That trails the performance of the Dow by 10 percentage points.

The nation's second-biggest oil company said Friday that its third-quarter net income fell 6 percent. Profit from refining operations fell 45 percent and higher operating costs offset higher oil and gas production and prices.

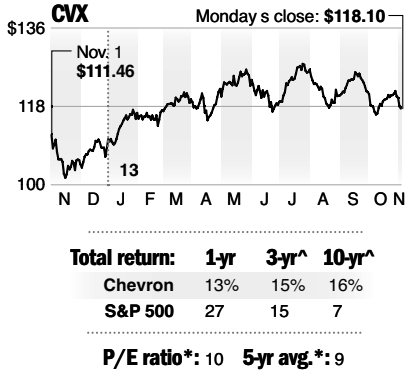
But is this a buying opportunity for investors? Financial analysts are split.

Pavel Molchanov of Raymond James called the latest quarterly results "not ideal" but said there were "no major disappointments." He maintains an "Overweight" rating on the stock and a price target of \$130.00.

One potential catalyst for the stock is Chevron's investment in liquefied natural gas export facilities in Australia and new deep water production platforms in the Gulf of Mexico. The company expects to spend a record \$36.7 billion this year on those projects along with others.



A Dow laggard Chevron stock is trading nearly 8 percent below its 52-week high set in July, but investors may want to take a closer look.



CEO: John Watson
Headquarters: San Ramon, Calif.
52-week range: \$101 - 128
Market value: \$228.2 billion
Annual dividend (yield): \$4.00 (3.4%)
Revenue 2012: \$230.6 bil. est. 2013: \$250.3 bil.
Net income 2012: \$26.2 bil. est. 2013: \$22.4 bil.
Average broker rating: (21 analysts)

Source: FactSet Data as of Nov. 4 *Based on trailing 12 month results ^Annualized Trevor Delaney, J. Paschke - AP

StoryStocks

The major market indexes closed slightly higher Monday in a relatively quiet day on Wall Street. All 10 sectors of the S&P 500 finished higher, but by small margins. With just 14 companies reporting earnings on Monday, some investors were on the sidelines.

US Steel

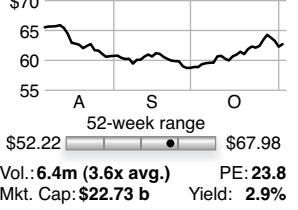
Close: \$26.91 ▲1.13 or 4.4% Goldman Sachs upgraded the steel sector, saying that it is "getting very optimistic on steel demand over the coming years."



Vol.: 14.0m (1.9x avg.) PE: ... Mkt. Cap: \$3.89 b Yield: 0.7%

Kellogg

Close: \$62.72 ▲0.43 or 0.7% The breakfast foods maker announced that it would cut 7 percent of its work force after putting up weak quarterly numbers.



Vol.: 6.4m (3.6x avg.) PE: 23.8 Mkt. Cap: \$2.73 b Yield: 2.9%

Berry Petroleum

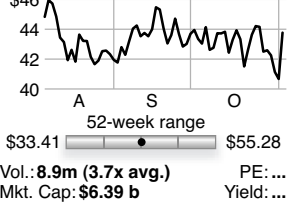
Close: \$51.72 ▲2.97 or 6.1% Linn Energy raised its offer for the driller by \$600 million after the company topped expectations consistently throughout the year.



Vol.: 3.9m (8.9x avg.) PE: 17.9 Mkt. Cap: \$2.73 b Yield: 0.6%

Realty

Close: \$43.77 ▲3.10 or 7.6% The real estate brokerage returned to a third-quarter profit on strong revenue due to a surge in the number of homes sold.



Vol.: 8.9m (3.7x avg.) PE: ... Mkt. Cap: \$6.39 b Yield: ...

BlackBerry

Close: \$6.50 ▼1.27 or -16.4% The sale of the troubled smartphone pioneer was called off and the company announced the departure of CEO Thorsten Heins.



Vol.: 129.9m (4.7x avg.) PE: 1.2 Mkt. Cap: \$3.4 b Yield: ...

Advertisement for Movember featuring a mustache graphic and text: 'Agricultural Alliance of Citrus County presents Mo Show & Finale Party Thursday, November 21 5:30p High Octane Saloon, Homosassa Live Auction • Hot Towel Shaves Drawings • Surprise Bartenders'.

Advertisement for Citrus County Veterans' Fair & Health Fair: 'Twenty-First Annual Citrus County Veterans Appreciation Week October 26 - November 17, 2013. Citrus County Veteran's Fair & Health Fair Friday, November 8th, 2013 NOON-3:00pm Citrus County Resource Center'.

OPINION

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

▶ "I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts."
Will Rogers, 1879-1935

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

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

FINAL STRETCH

Not singing Kumbaya yet, but close

Real progress has been made. The hospital governance controversy that has torn this community apart for more than three years finally seems headed toward a conclusion.

Both of the battling governing boards agree that Citrus Memorial hospital should be taken over by HCA, the nation's largest hospital management firm. And both boards agree that a long-term lease is the best option for the community.

While we have maintained that a sale of the hospital was the best option to bring finality to the issue, a poorly written state statute that manages the process involving public hospitals makes the lease the only logical avenue.

If the hospital was sold using this existing untested legislation, too many restrictive requirements would control how the proceeds from the sale should be spent.

By having a long-term lease, the projected \$90 million in proceeds from the transaction could be used to meet real community needs in Citrus County.

Both the governing board and foundation board have agreed that the proceeds from the deal should become part of a new foundation that is created to meet health care needs of people in our community.

All parties involved appear to agree that the foundation principal will not be spent and only the earnings from the \$90 million investment will be used to meet the broad community needs. Negotiations are under way to create the framework for who sits on the foundation board. We favor a large community-based board that is not dominated by any of the political factions that got us involved in this very expensive controversy in the first place. We also like the idea that two of the positions on this new

foundation board could be elected by the citizens of Citrus County.

Critical to this happening is the concurrence of the county commission. Our elected commission has statutory claims to the hospital proceeds, so it is imperative that the board helps develop what the new foundation will look like and has complete buy-in.

The members of the county commission have said publicly they have no designs on using the proceeds for other purposes, but their support of new foundation is necessary to make sure no legal challenges arise.

One of the other reasons we originally liked the idea of the hospital sale was that it would be great to see the hospital governing board go away along with the taxing authority it currently holds. The hospital board can levy a 3-mill property tax for all property in Citrus County. Without a public hospital, we see no reason for the taxing authority to continue.

Under the lease, the governing board and taxing authority can still exist. We would urge Sen. Charlie Dean to push through legislative changes this next session that reduces the taxing levy to .1 of a mill. This is a real opportunity to reduce the tax burden that exists in our community.

This expensive and painful ordeal is almost over. While there is great personal animosity between the individuals involved in this dispute, we urge all involved to work as quickly as possible to sign off on the details.

The rebuilding of Citrus Memorial needs to begin. That cannot happen until the keys are turned over to the new owners.

The employees, physicians, medical consumers and taxpayers deserve that conclusion as quickly as possible.

THE ISSUE:

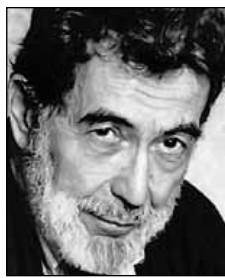
Citrus Memorial transaction deal.

OUR OPINION:

Move quickly.

Great leaders, great students

Soon after I began reporting on education in the 1950s, I found the principal of Public School 119, an elementary school in Harlem. His office was always open to parents — and often to kids. Dr. Elliott Shapiro knew the names of many of his students and paid particular attention to those who especially needed help.



Nat Hentoff
OTHER VOICES

In largely black neighborhoods of New York City in those days, there was an active parents' movement to have more black principals in public schools. But Shapiro was so respected by many parents of kids at P.S. 119 that they called him "the principal of the neighborhood" because they felt so welcome there.

For most of a year, I spent many days in the school, getting to know him, the teachers and a number of the students. That experience was responsible in large part for my continuing to write on education from then on, as I also kept looking for other principals continually involved with their students.

A few weeks ago, I found such an administrator: Seventy-year-old Joann Barbeosch, principal at P.S. 94, an elementary school in Little Neck, Queens. She has been paralyzed from a spinal cord injury and can no longer get to the second floor, where she has access to the classrooms. Instead, she is moored in "a cramped first-floor utility room with no ventilation" ("Paralyzed NYC Principal Holed Up in Cramped Room Waiting for Wheelchair Lift," Susan Donaldson James, abcnews.com, Oct. 16).

Students and parents are angrily agitating for the New York City Department of Education to install a lift or elevator, but, as of this writing, she's still marooned.

And dig this: In New York City, whose self-described "education mayor," Michael Bloomberg, is finishing his third term, the principal "would not elaborate on her situation at the school because of a DOE policy that prevents employees from

speaking publicly."

Have the kids at P.S. 94 heard of the First Amendment?

I'm told Principal Barbeosch will soon be liberated, but it's still vital for students, parents and principals around the country to know she was the center of a community of learning at that elementary school.

Parent Gia Ann Bonavita told ABC News: "Before, she was all over the place. Kids would constantly pass her office ... Her door was always open and she was in plain sight. She was there and could hear what was going on."

According to Bonavita, whose two daughters go to P.S. 94, Principal Barbeosch "had a very open-door policy. In my experience, whenever we had an issue, we could always speak to her and surprisingly enough, you never had to make an appointment."

An employee of the DOE told the *New York Post*: "This is her life. Her life is school. Watching kids learn, and just being there" ("Disabled principal stuffed away in school's basement," Laura Italiano, *New York Post*, Oct. 14).

An active, available principal who helps make school a communal learning experience for all involved may positively affect the current splintered state of teachers' job satisfaction in American schools:

"Anywhere between 40 and 50 percent of teachers will leave the classroom within their first five years (that includes the nine and a half percent that leave before the end of their first year)" ("Why Do Teachers Quit? And Why Do They Stay?" Liz Riggs, theatlantic.com, Oct. 18).

In this Atlantic article, Richard Ingersoll, a professor of education at the University of Pennsylvania who previously taught in public and private schools, said that one of the reasons he quit teaching was "just a lack of respect. Teachers in schools do not call the shots. They have very little say. They're told what to do; it's a very disempowering line of work."

Not in all schools. But in many.

Adding to Ingersoll's explanation is Emma (no last name given), who formerly taught at a Kansas public school: "It stems from this sense that teachers aren't real people."

But many kids, I've found, also feel that they're not real people in school. Like the suddenly surprised fifth-grader in one former Bronx, N.Y., school, which at the time was beginning to focus on individual students rather than on collective standardized tests.

"You know," this kid said to me, "here they know my name!" But when there is a principal like Joann Barbeosch or Elliott Shapiro visibly focused on how students can keep discovering their capabilities and on how teachers can stay motivated, educators seldom want to leave.

Elliott Shapiro was like the head of a family at P.S. 119. In a Feb. 23, 2003, *New York Times* obituary, Wolfgang Saxon wrote of the former Harlem elementary school principal, who died at 91:

"People of the neighborhood honored Dr. Shapiro for his years of 'outstanding service to the children and parents of the Harlem community' with a dinner in 1964 at Riverside Church. The event drew 450 guests and helped start a college scholarship fund for black students."

Principals still have much to learn from Dr. Shapiro. For example, he once said to me: "If we do give tests, let's give them on a one-to-one basis — one child to each tester. That way, the test would involve real communication between the tester and the child."

"If a test is being given to a group of 30, how can one tester know which children are daydreaming that morning and which didn't have any breakfast?" (from my book "Our Children Are Dying," Viking Press, 1966).

Nat Hentoff is a nationally renowned authority on the First Amendment and the Bill of Rights. He is a member of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, and the Cato Institute, where he is a senior fellow.



BYSTANDER-IN-CHIEF

Hot Corner: PORT CITRUS

Still wasting money

I'm wondering who's wasting Citrus County's money. Who's in charge of the Port Citrus? It's the most ridiculous idea ever.

1. They'd have to dredge. 2. The manatee lovers will be screaming at the top of their lungs that the big propellers are going to be chopping the manatees in half. I really don't see where this is going. There's nothing to import. There's nothing to export. Just don't understand why they're still wasting money.

More money wasted

Boy, that port's really moving forward. Another \$36,000 for attorneys' fees for a Sunshine violation. ... And the consultant says, "Hey, you need to get somebody to pay for it, some-

body else to come in and do the business of a port." How much did we pay that consultant to tell us absolutely nothing we didn't already know? Just pathetic.

Wake up, commission

When will our county commissioners wake up and understand we're just throwing good money after bad and bad money after good? Now we're paying \$36,000 of taxpayers' money to settle a lawsuit. They keep saying they're not going to use taxpayers' money. Of course they are. Now the feasibility study says we have to build the port on land that we don't own and the company that owns it doesn't show any interest in selling it. Time to give up, go home and forget about it.

LETTER



to the Editor

A man of faith?

I have to admit that after I read the article about our president in the Religion section of the *Saturday Chronicle*, I was stunned and confused. The implication of the article is that this is a man of deep faith, as indicated by his daily devotions and seeking scripture to influence his decision.

I have a hard time reconciling his implied righteousness with his frequent public demonstrations of a complete lack of humility for anyone who opposes him or his policies. In addition, the fact that our government and military have become hostile and intol-

erant towards people of faith does not reflect a righteous leader as implied in this article.

Perhaps the article is further example of how the liberal media (especially AP) paints a picture of the president to suit their bias.

I find it odd that when George Bush was in the White House, the media constantly lambasted him for his religious beliefs and practices. Now the same media cast a righteous person as someone to behold and admire!

What have I missed here?

Floyd Ford
Crystal River

OPINIONS INVITED

- The opinions expressed in *Chronicle* editorials are the opinions of the newspaper's editorial board.
- Viewpoints depicted in political cartoons, columns or letters do not necessarily represent the opinion of the editorial board.
- All letters must be signed and include a phone number and hometown, including letters sent via email. Names and hometowns will be printed.
- We reserve the right to edit letters for length, libel, fairness and good taste.
- SEND LETTERS TO: The Editor, 1624 N. Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34429. Or, fax to 352-563-3280, or email to letters@chronicleonline.com.



A white Siberian snow tiger rests comfortably in its enclosure as the morning sun warms him.

Safe sanctuary

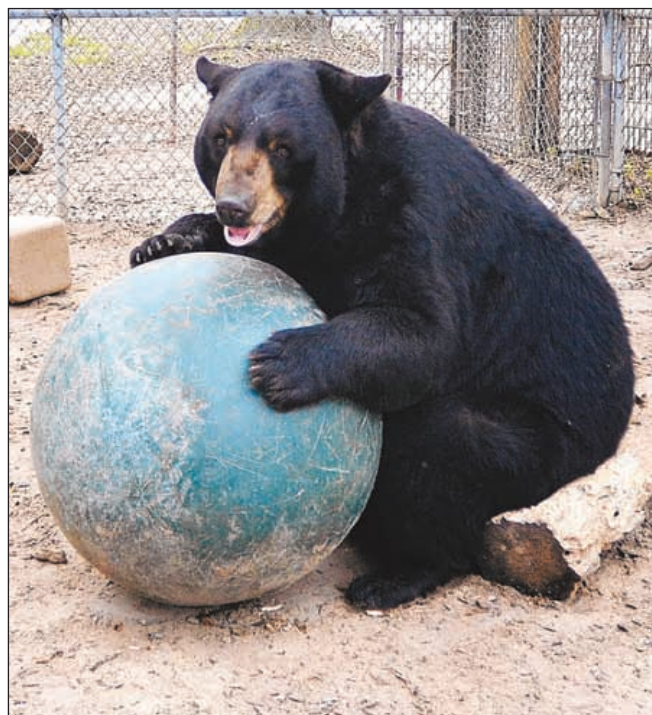


Melody Faraglia of Inverness volunteers one day each week to EARS. "I fell in love," she said after visiting. Faraglia touches the mane of an adult Barbary lion, a species that is extinct in the wild.



Tigers are beautiful, powerful creatures that many cultures revere. Male Siberian tigers can exceed 650 pounds. This male curiously stares at some of the visitors near his enclosure.

*Photos by
Matthew
Beck*



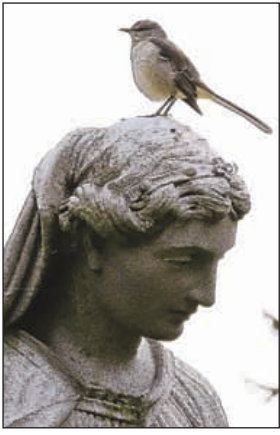
Lions and tigers are not the only large animals at the EARS. A half-dozen Florida black bears also make the sanctuary home. This adult bear sits on a log while holding a giant ball in its enclosure.



EARS is home to two leopards. Their striking markings make for excellent camouflage in the wild.

Nation BRIEFS

Perch



Associated Press

A bird perches on top of a monument Monday at Spring Grove Cemetery in Cincinnati.

Maine Candidate comes out as gay

PORTLAND, Maine — Rep. Mike Michaud of Maine had endured more than a dozen elections without anyone discussing his sexuality. Now everyone knows he's gay — including his mother.

Michaud said Monday he told his mom that he was gay just hours before he released an op-ed in which he came out publicly. He said he wrote the piece to end "whisper campaigns, insinuations and push-polls" that were dogging his gubernatorial campaign.

With Michaud's announcement, there are now seven members of the U.S. House who are openly gay, along with one member of the U.S. Senate. There are no openly gay governors.

Paul dismisses plagiarism claims

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — For days now, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul has sought to dismiss criticism over similarities between his speeches and material on Wikipedia, accusing "footnote police" and "hacks and haters" of unfairly criticizing him.

It all began last week when MSNBC host Rachel Maddow accused the senator of lifting passages about the 1997 science fiction film "Gattaca" from the movie's Wikipedia entry when he made a speech on Oct. 28 supporting Virginia gubernatorial candidate Ken Cuccinelli. The passages are similar, with only a few words changed here and there.

Then the website BuzzFeed reported that a Paul speech in June describing the movie "Stand and Deliver" also included substantial similarities to its Wikipedia entry.

Questioned last week about the matter, Paul initially downplayed the allegations. By Sunday, he was acknowledging sloppy speechwriting while criticizing those who had made the plagiarism allegations.

"The footnote police have really been dogging me for the last week. I will admit that," he told ABC's "This Week." "And I will admit, sometimes we haven't footnoted things properly."

Court halts horse slaughter

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — A federal appeals court on Monday temporarily halted plans by companies in New Mexico and Missouri to begin slaughtering horses, continuing on-again, off-again efforts to resume domestic equine slaughter two years after Congress lifted a ban on the practice.

The 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver issued a temporary injunction barring the Department of Agriculture from inspecting the plants, which were gearing up to open in the coming days after a federal judge in Albuquerque on Friday dismissed a lawsuit by The Humane Society of the United States.

— From wire reports

Study: Galaxy teeming with planets

Researchers estimate Milky Way has 8.8 billion worlds similar to Earth

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Space is vast, but it may not be so lonely after all: A study finds the Milky Way is teeming with billions of planets that are about the size of Earth, orbit stars just like our sun, and exist in the Goldilocks zone — not too hot and not too cold for life.

Astronomers using NASA data have calculated for the first time that in our galaxy alone, there are at least 8.8 billion stars with Earth-size planets in the habitable temperature zone.

The study was published Monday in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Science.

For perspective, that's more Earth-like planets than there are people on Earth.

As for what it says about the odds that there is life somewhere out there, it means "just in our Milky Way galaxy alone, that's 8.8 billion throws of the biological dice," said study co-author Geoff Marcy, a longtime planet hunter from the University of California at Berkeley.

The next step, scientists say, is to look for atmospheres on these planets

with powerful space telescopes that have yet to be launched. That would yield further clues to whether any of these planets do, in fact, harbor life.

The findings also raise a blaring question, Marcy said: If we aren't alone, why is "there a deafening silence in our Milky Way galaxy from advanced civilizations?"

In the Milky Way, about 1 in 5 stars that are like our sun in size, color and age have planets that are roughly Earth's size and are in the habitable zone where life-crucial water can be liquid, according to intri-

cate calculations based on four years of observations from NASA's now-crippled Kepler telescope.

If people on Earth could only travel in deep space, "you'd probably see a lot of traffic jams," Bill Borucki, NASA's chief Kepler scientist, joked Monday.

The Kepler telescope peered at 42,000 stars, examining just a tiny slice of our galaxy to see how many planets like Earth are out there. Scientists then extrapolated that figure to the rest of the galaxy, which has hundreds of billions of stars.

For the first time, scien-

tists calculated — not estimated — what percent of stars that are just like our sun have planets similar to Earth: 22 percent, with a margin of error of plus or minus 8 percentage points.

Kepler scientist Natalie Batalha said there is still more data to pore over before this can be considered a final figure.

There are about 200 billion stars in our galaxy, with 40 billion of them like our sun, Marcy said. One of his co-authors put the number of sun-like stars closer to 50 billion, meaning there would be at least 11 billion planets like ours.

Obama hits slump



Associated Press

President Barack Obama speaks Monday at an Organizing for Action event in Washington.

Polls: President starts to struggle with favorability ratings

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — For years, President Barack Obama's personal favorability ratings served as a political firewall that sustained him through an economic recession, grueling fights with congressional Republicans, and the grind of a re-election campaign.

But after a rough start to Obama's second term, Americans increasingly view the president unfavorably. And perhaps most concerning for the White House: an Associated Press analysis of public polling shows it has become more difficult over time for Obama to fully rebound from dents in his favorability ratings.

"It's a slow cumulative effect," Republican pollster David Winston said, adding that personal favorability "is a much harder number to move if it starts to go south."

The public's increasingly negative view of Obama may be less of a concern for his future given that he is barred from running for re-election. But the president still needs a strong connection with the public in order to rally Americans around his policy proposals and, in turn, to show Congress he remains politically relevant at a time when lame duck status is lurking.

The president's advisers need only look at Obama's predecessor, George W. Bush, to see the impact of a crumbling relationship with the public. Positive impressions of the Republican trailed off in the beginning of 2005 amid public frustration with the Iraq war and the government's flawed response to Hurricane Katrina. Bush's favorability rating never recovered and he struggled to fulfill significant policy goals throughout the rest of his presidency.

A series of recent polls show Obama's personal favorability now leaning negative, including an NBC News/Wall Street Journal Poll released last week that found positive views of Obama at the lowest point of his presidency and down 6 points from earlier in October. The drop follows the 16-day government shutdown, the cascade of problems during his health care law's rollout, and an-

Supporters eye Hollywood to boost health care law

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The health care overhaul might get a Hollywood rewrite.

The California Endowment, a private foundation that is spending millions to promote President Barack Obama's signature law, recently provided a \$500,000 grant to ensure TV writers and producers have information about the Affordable Care Act that can be stitched into plot lines watched by millions.

The aim is to produce compelling prime-time narratives that encourage Americans to enroll, especially the young and healthy, Hispanics and other key demographic groups needed to make the overhaul a success.

"We know from research that when people watch entertainment television, even if they know it's fiction, they tend to believe that the factual stuff is actually factual," said Martin Kaplan of the University of Southern California's Norman Lear Center, which received the grant.

The public typically gets as much, if not more, information about current events from favorite TV programs as mainstream news outlets, Kaplan

said, so "people learn from these shows."

California Republican strategist Jonathan Wilcox, who has taught a course on politics and celebrity at USC, said the attempt to engage Hollywood was coming too late to influence views, and he doubted fictionalized TV would play into families' decisions about health care.

"This is an attempt to use entertainment pop culture to fix a political challenge," he said. "It will be received as a partisan political message, no matter how cleverly it's delivered."

Hollywood can be a forceful shaper of style and public sentiment.

A survey conducted several years ago for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation found that among those who said their feelings toward gays and lesbians had become more favorable, many said a contributing factor was seeing more gay and lesbian characters on TV and in movies.

Vice President Joe Biden has credited the 1998-2006 TV sitcom "Will & Grace," which featured a gay character, with doing "more to educate the public than almost anything anybody's done so far."

other flood of revelations about U.S. government spying.

Throughout Obama's presidency, his job approval and personal favorability ratings have generally risen and fallen in tandem. But his favorability numbers, which often reflect the public's gut-level reaction to a politician, generally remained the more positive of the two measures.

That, the president's supporters argue, made the public more likely to give him a chance even when they disagreed with his policies or the direction the country was headed. His strong likability

was seen as a particular asset during his 2012 re-election campaign.

"For the president, it's meant that people have cared about what he had to say because they liked him," said Celinda Lake, a Democratic pollster.

The question for the White House now is whether the dynamic will hold if the public's personal opinions of the president continue to sour. An Associated Press-GfK poll from early October found that 52 percent of Americans didn't think Obama was very honest and were split on whether he was even likable.

World BRIEFS

Nepal



Associated Press

A masked dancer performs a traditional dance Monday in a parade to celebrate New Year of the ethnic Newaris in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Mayor says he is not a drug addict

TORONTO — Toronto Mayor Rob Ford dodged a direct question during a radio talk show appearance Monday about whether he has ever used crack cocaine a day after he apologized for "a lot of stupid things" and acknowledged the need to curb his drinking.

When asked by the host of The John Oakley Show if he has ever used crack, Ford responded by saying only that he was not a drug addict or an alcoholic.

The populist, conservative mayor was interviewed on The John Oakley Show addressing a media storm that broke after police revealed last week that they had obtained a copy of a video that appears to show the mayor puffing on a crack cocaine pipe.

Morsi defiant as trial begins

CAIRO — Ousted President Mohammed Morsi refused to wear a prison jumpsuit, entering the caged dock in a dark business suit as his co-defendants applauded. He defiantly questioned the legitimacy of the court and proclaimed himself still Egypt's leader. His fellow Muslim Brotherhood members chanted, "Down with military rule!"

Morsi's long-awaited trial got off to a chaotic start Monday, with outbursts and interruptions, and it was quickly adjourned until Jan. 8.

The dramatic first public appearance for Morsi since the July 3 military coup that removed him from power was meant to be a step toward due process. Instead, it highlighted the challenges facing Egypt's interim authorities as they attempt to close a chapter of his presidency, while his Islamist supporters seek to disrupt the effort.

Morsi and 14 co-defendants — seven of whom are still at large — are charged with inciting the killing of protesters who massed outside the presidential palace in December 2012 and demanded that he call off a referendum on a new Islamist-drafted constitution.

— From wire reports

■ Preseason All-America men's basketball team announced. /B2



■ College basketball/B2
 ■ Baseball/B2
 ■ NBA, NHL/B2
 ■ Scoreboard/B3
 ■ NFL/B3
 ■ Sports briefs/B3
 ■ Lottery, TV/B3
 ■ Football/B4

Investigation into Dolphins saga continues

AP sources: Incognito sent racist texts to teammate

Associated Press

DAVIE — Suspended Miami Dolphins guard Richie Incognito sent text messages to teammate Jonathan Martin that were racist and threatening, two people familiar with the situation said Monday. The people spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the Dolphins and NFL haven't disclosed the nature of the misconduct that led to Incognito's suspension. Martin, a tackle, remained absent from practice Monday one week after he suddenly left the team. Also missing was Incognito, suspended indefinitely late Sunday by Miami for his treatment of Martin. The team and NFL continued their investigation into allegations by Martin's representatives that he was bullied, and Dolphins coach Joe Philbin said it was Miami owner Stephen Ross who asked league commissioner Roger Goodell for assistance with that probe. The NFL Players Association also planned to look into the matter.

"Since April 10, 2012, when the players first came here and I was the head coach, every decision I've made, everything we've done in this facility has been done with one thing in mind," Philbin said Monday. "That's to help our players and our organization reach their full potential. Any type of conduct, behavior that detracts from that objective is not acceptable and is not tolerated."

The 319-pound Incognito, a ninth-year pro, is white. The 312-pound Martin, who is in his second NFL season, is black.

It's unclear whether Dolphins coaches and management had any inkling of harassment between players before Martin left the team, and Philbin declined to answer a question about the locker-room culture because of the ongoing investigation. Recent rumblings of locker-room dissension have also included complaints by young players that they're pressured to pay more than their share when team members socialize together.

Philbin also said he was unaware of hazing incidents that involved Incognito — such as hacking into a teammate's Facebook page — on the HBO series "Hard Knocks," which chronicled the Dolphins' training camp in 2012. Philbin said he never

See DOLPHINS/Page B3



Associated Press

Miami Dolphins guard Richie Incognito, left, and tackle Jonathan Martin stand on the field during practice July 24 in Davie. Two people familiar with the situation say suspended Dolphins guard Incognito sent text messages to teammate Jonathan Martin that were racist and threatening. Martin remained absent from practice Monday, one week after he suddenly left the team.

Bragging rights

Lecanto blanks county rival Citrus 3-0

JAMES BLEVINS
 Correspondent

INVERNESS — Lecanto sophomore Stephanie Bandstra opened the scoring early for the Panther girls' soccer team Monday evening at Hurricane Stadium with a goal in the first two minutes of play.

Bandstra would also add the final nail-in-the-coffin goal in the 60th minute to lead Lecanto past the Citrus Hurricanes 3-0. The game was the first meeting for the two intra-county rivals this season.

"Stephanie (scored) on two balls with some nice crosses," Lecanto head coach Roselle Lattin said. "She did a really great job and stepped it up."

Lecanto's first goal came off a Lexi Moore free kick which curved perfectly to Bandstra for the header to the far corner of the net.

Moore would get the assist on the first goal before scoring a goal of her own in the 36th minute off a penalty kick — putting Lecanto up 2-0 at the half.

Lecanto (1-2-1) maintained possession for the majority of the first 40 minutes of play. Citrus (0-1-2) struggled to connect in the offensive zone and left many dumped balls too close to Panther goalkeeper Meagan Houpt, who scooped them up.

Houpt (two saves) went untested in the first half as the 'Canes failed to produce a single shot on goal.

The Lady Panthers outshot Citrus 11-2 in the game.

The second 40 minutes saw improved movement by the Lady 'Canes, producing their first shots of the game.

Despite the amped up intensity, poor accuracy by Citrus on the pass and lack of constant pressure in the Panther zone saw Lecanto regain its composure in the final 20 minutes.

Lecanto freshman Emma Van Cleef set up the third Pan-



STEPHEN E. LASKO/For the Chronicle

Citrus' Lydia Dejesus, left, and Lecanto's Lexi Moore race for possession of the ball during Monday night's game at Citrus High School. The Panthers defeated their county rivals 3-0.

ther goal by keeping a ball in-bound at the left by-line, before feeding a pass to the waiting Bandstra in the box.

Bandstra fired immediately, but her first shot ricocheted off Citrus goalkeeper Elizabeth Rinaldi (seven saves), who jumped and fell to make the initial save. Fortunately for Bandstra, the rebound came back to her position and she easily pounded the ball past the sprawled Rinaldi for the goal.

"We're making some adjustments on the team," Lattin said. "The girls did a really good job of acclimating to new

positions and the veterans did a great job of working with the new players coming into the program. Most importantly, they played with a lot of heart. They hustled to everything and fought for every ball and they played an 80-minute game.

"I couldn't have asked for anything better," Lattin added. "If we continue with that attitude for the rest of the season, I don't see why we can't be successful."

First-year Citrus head coach Mark Cassidy saw many areas the 'Canes need to improve on, but is optimistic they will meet

the challenge as the season progresses.

"We had trouble maintaining possession," Cassidy said. "We had a little trouble with our heads being down on the dribble. I need to see the girls get their heads up a little bit, get a little bit better field vision. A little bit better on distribution (of the ball)."

"We're still waiting for that one player to step up and attack the net," Cassidy continued. "Lecanto played a great game. They're well coached. They have great team speed. My hat's off to them, they did a great job tonight."

Pirates edge Leopards

DAVID PIEKLIK
 Correspondent

CRYSTAL RIVER — Sophomore AJ Bass' first half goal proved to be the game winner Monday in Crystal River High School's 1-0 boys soccer season-opening win over Hernando.

Bass took a header from forward Gabe Charles off a Pirates throw-in and fired the ball top left past goalkeeper Willie Nietherhammer with 27:07 left. Crystal River keeper Kyle Kidd did the rest with strong play in goal, saving all seven shots he faced, including several heading to the top of the net.

"I'm happy with what we're seeing because we're a young team. This year, we might have our lumps and everything, but I think we'll get over it," Bass said of the win.

Starting a team that only had a few practices together because of other sports wrapping up, Crystal River shook off the rust quickly into the match. After a few minutes of unsure passes and ball control issues, the Pirates settled down and communication improved.

The Pirates couldn't generate much offense all game — putting just four shots on goal — but its midfielders and defense proved too much for the Leopards. Most of the five shots Hernando put on goal were from 20 or more yards away.

Kidd made a huge save at the end of first half stoppage time, punching the ball away just below the crossbar on a Habib Garcia shot. Kidd was later bailed out 10 minutes into the second half after coming out of goal to chase down a through pass.

Garcia made a move and got past Kidd and kicked a shot on goal. Just as the ball got to the goal line, forward Gunnar Consol made a sliding save to kick the ball away.

The Pirates held on for the

See PIRATES/Page B3

Florida man convicted in killing of Redskins' Taylor

Former Miami star was shot in 2007

Associated Press

MIAMI — A 23-year-old man was convicted of second-degree murder Monday in the 2007 slaying of Washington Redskins star Sean Taylor, who was shot outside his own bedroom after witnesses said he confronted young men who had broken into his home looking for money.

The jury deliberated about 16 hours over four days before returning the verdict in the trial of Eric Rivera Jr., who admitted in a videotaped confession to police days after Taylor's death that he fired the fatal shot after kicking in the

bedroom door. At the trial, he said on the witness stand that his confession was given only under police pressure and amid purported threats to his family.

Rivera was also convicted of armed burglary. Although Rivera did not get the maximum first-degree murder conviction, he still faces a potential life prison sentence. Miami-Dade Circuit Judge Dennis Murphy did not immediately set a sentencing date but will hold a related hearing on Dec. 10.

Rivera sat quietly at the defense table with his lawyers after the verdict was an-

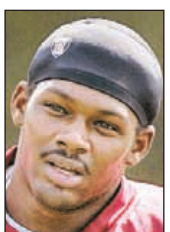
nounced, showing no reaction or emotion. The courtroom was packed with Taylor and Rivera family members — and about two dozen security personnel — but there were no outbursts.

Neither prosecutors, Taylor's family nor the family of the football player's girlfriend would comment after the hearing. Rivera's parents, sisters, lawyers and friends also left without comment, as did the 12 jurors.

See TAYLOR/Page B3

Eric Rivera Jr., left, listens to the reading of the verdict Monday as he is found guilty of second-degree murder in the 2007 slaying of Washington Redskins star Sean Taylor in Miami. Attorneys Janese Caruthers and Chris Brown are at far right.

Associated Press



Sean Taylor killed in his home in 2007.



BASKETBALL

AP Preseason All-America Team

The Associated Press' 2013-14 preseason All-America team, with school, height, year and votes from a 65-member national media panel (key 2012-13 statistics in parentheses):

NBA standings

Table with columns for Eastern Conference, Western Conference, and Monday's Games, listing teams, wins, losses, and percentages.

For the record

Florida LOTTERY

Florida Lottery advertisement featuring a logo with a bird and text: 'Here are the winning numbers selected Monday in the Florida Lottery: CASH 3 (early) 2-6-7...'

On the AIRWAVES

Table of Today's Sports including Auto Racing, Baseball, NBA Basketball, College Football, NHL Hockey, UEFA Champions League Soccer, and Tennis.

Prep CALENDAR

Table of Today's Prep Sports including Girls Soccer and Girls Basketball.

Baseball Free agents qualifying offers. NEW YORK — The 13 free agents given \$14.1 million qualifying offers Monday by their former teams.

Transactions. BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Declined to exercise a contract option on 2b Alexi Casilla.

Transactions. BOSTON RED SOX — Reinstated OF Ryan Kalish, RHPs Alex Wilson and Andrew Bailey.

Transactions. BOSTON RED SOX — Reinstated OF Ryan Kalish, RHPs Alex Wilson and Andrew Bailey.

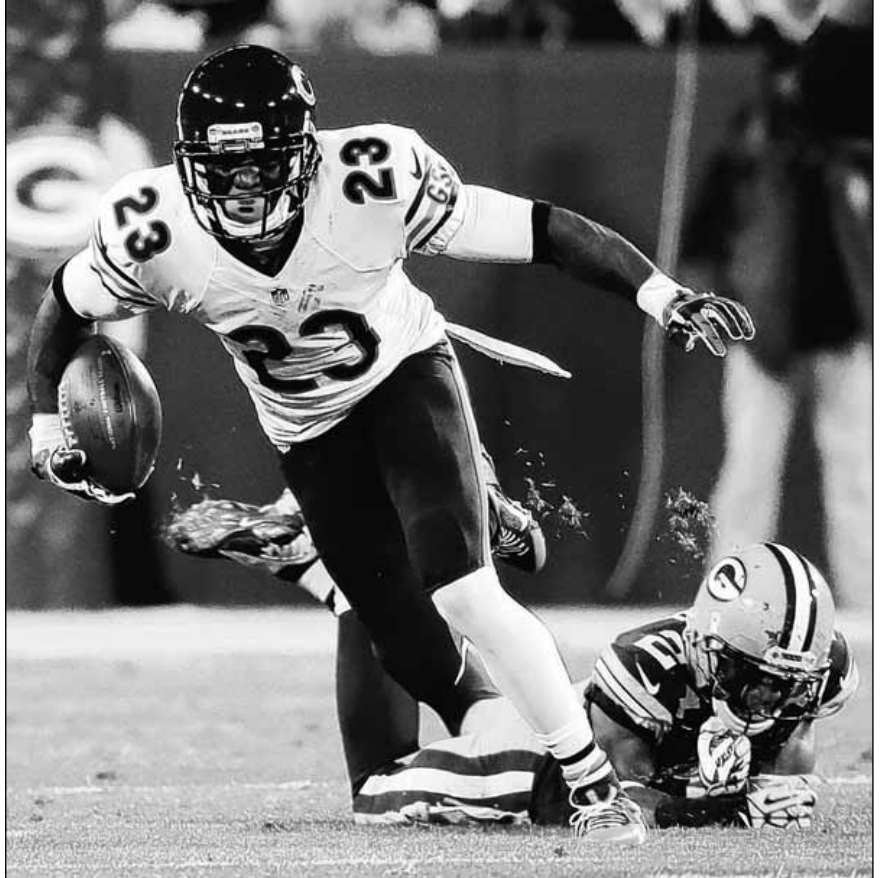
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Bears top Packers on MNF



Chicago's Devin Hester tries to get past Green Bay's Jarrett Bush on a punt return during the second half Monday night in Green Bay, Wis. Packer quarterback Aaron Rodgers was injured early in the game and the Bears took advantage in a 27-20 NFC North victory.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Torre, La Russa, Cox on Hall of Fame ballot. COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. — Retired managers Joe Torre, Tony La Russa and Bobby Cox will join holdovers George Steinbrenner and Marvin Miller on the Hall of Fame expansion era committee ballot next month.

win despite losing Charles to a lower leg injury when he collided with Nighthammer trying to chase down a lob pass. The team also went down a man at the 17:20 mark when forward Kyle Dove was double yellow carded for unsporting behavior.

DOLPHINS

watched the show. "If the review shows that this is not a safe atmosphere, I will take whatever measures are necessary to ensure that it is," Philbin said. "I have that obligation to the players that I coach on a daily basis and I will do that."

Incognito has long had a reputation as one of the NFL's dirtiest players. During his first four years, he led the league in penalties for unnecessary roughness, and the St. Louis Rams got fed up with his undisciplined play and released him during the 2009 season.

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TAYLOR

In the confession, Rivera said the group of five young men, all from the Fort Myers area, had driven to Taylor's house planning to steal large amounts of cash he kept inside. They thought Taylor, 24, would be out of town at a game against Tampa Bay, but didn't realize until it was too late that he was home with a knee injury.

Four other men were also charged in the case and three will be tried later. Venjah Hunte, 25, pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and burglary charges in a deal that calls for a 29-year prison sentence.

Testifying in his own defense, Rivera claimed it was Hunte who brought the 9mm handgun and who shot Taylor. Rivera insisted that he was not told about the burglary plot until the group was driving toward Miami, and that he stayed in the car outside Taylor's house



stop diabetes

According to the American Diabetic Association, nearly 26 million children and adults in the United States have diabetes. Another 79 million Americans have pre-diabetes and are at risk for developing type 2 diabetes. In 2010, 10 percent of adults in Citrus County had been diagnosed with diabetes.

Two thirds of people with diabetes die from heart disease or stroke. Diabetes is the leading cause of kidney failure and the leading cause of new cases of blindness among adults.

About 60percent to 70 percent of people with diabetes suffer mild to severe forms of nerve damage causing pain in the feet or hands, as well as other nerve problems.

The American Diabetes Association estimates that the total national cost of diagnosed diabetes in the United States is \$245 billion.

Of the types of diabetes, type 1, in which the body does not produce insulin that is needed to convert sugar, starches and other food into energy, is not preventable; only 5 percent of people with diabetes have type 1.

The more common type 2 diabetes, in which your body stops using insulin properly, is generally caused by lifestyle factors that can be controlled.

Sometimes this form of diabetes can be reversed with diet and exercise.

November is National Diabetes Awareness Month. Here are 10 things you need to know about how to reduce your risks:

- 1. Maintain a healthy weight.** Obesity is the number one contributing factor to developing type 2 diabetes. In 2010, 61 percent of adults in Citrus County were reported to be overweight or obese. If you need to lose weight, seek a nutritionally well-balanced weight loss program and stick to it.
- 2. Stay active.** Exercise helps the body use glucose more efficiently. It also helps keep weight low and some exercises build muscle mass.
- 3. Watch what you eat.** Eating foods high in sugars, fats and cholesterol contribute to raised blood glucose levels, which stimulate the need for insulin production. Eat more vegetables, fruits, whole grains, dietary fiber and lean meats. Reduce or avoid empty-calorie snacks and alcohol, which converts to sugar in the body.
- 4. Manage your glucose levels.** Avoid loading up on a lot of sugar-laden foods — don't eat an entire chocolate layer cake! Also, avoid going long periods of time without eating followed by binge eating.
- 5. Manage your cholesterol.** You want your HDL ("healthy") cholesterol number higher than your LDL ("lousy") and your triglycerides number lower than 150. Cholesterol and triglycerides are fats in the blood. Cholesterol can clog arteries and lead to heart disease. High cholesterol is a contributing factor to diabetes.
- 6. Don't smoke.** Smoking causes all kinds of

health problems. As a diabetes risk factor, it raises LDL cholesterol and blood pressure, among other things.

7. Lower your blood pressure. According to the American Diabetes Association, nearly a third of all American adults have high blood pressure and two-thirds people with diabetes either having high blood pressure or take medications to lower it. When blood pressure is high, the heart has to work harder and the risk for heart disease, stroke and other problems increases.

8. Know your genetic risks. There are some diabetes risks you can't change or control, but you can be aware and be vigilant in other risk-reducing areas: age (risk increases as you get older), race (African Americans, Mexican Americans, American Indians, Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders and Asian Americans are at a higher risk), family history and gender (men have a higher rate of developing diabetes and heart disease).

9. Gestational diabetes in pregnancy. Women who have had gestational diabetes are more than seven times as likely to develop type 2 diabetes as women who have not.

10. Learn all you can about prevention and get tested. Get regular medical checkups, including blood tests. For more information, visit the American Diabetes Association online at diabetes.org or the American Heart Association at heart.org.

— Information compiled by Nancy Kennedy



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COMMUNITY

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

NEWS NOTES

EMS announces Citizens Academy

Nature Coast EMS announces the next Citizens Academy beginning today.

The academy is a hands-on opportunity for community members to see and learn what Nature Coast EMS paramedics and EMTs do every day.

Graduates learn skills they can use in actual emergencies because the academy is focused on hands-on training, showing and teaching the skills that an EMS crew may use.

Participants will get to practice starting IVs, intubations (placing a breathing tube), defibrillations, reading heart rhythms, and doing a full "code" on a mannequin. In the final session, participants will take care of a simulated patient in a mock patient care scenario and have the opportunity to ride along with paramedics and EMTs and go on actual emergencies.

The academy is free and meets every Tuesday for eight weeks from 6 to 9 p.m.

For information call 352-249-4700 or visit www.naturecoastems.org. Just click on "community."

Come do crafts in Floral City

Are you interested in learning or teaching new crafts or working on old ones? Need an outlet to socialize or a need to feel like you belong to the community?

Come join Floral City Crafters from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. every Tuesday in the Floral City Community Hall beside the library and across from The Shamrock Inn on Orange Avenue.

For more information, call Christine at 352-560-7668.

Native plant club to gather in BH

The Citrus Native Plant Society will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 5, at the Beverly Hills Lions Club, 72 Civic Circle, Beverly Hills.

The guest speaker will be Colleen Werner, a biologist with the Withlacoochee State Forest, who will discuss herbaceous sandhill plants in the Withlacoochee State Forest.

For information, email citrusNPS@gmail.com.

Precious Paws ADOPTABLE

Fedora



Special to the Chronicle

Fedora is a teenager and ready to play — hide and seek is a favorite. His acrobatic skills will amaze and he is just waiting for those hugs and cuddles. He is fine with dogs and cats. Kittens and cats are available for adoption at the Pet Supermarket on State Road 44 in Inverness during regular store hours. The Crystal River Mall adoption center is open noon to 4 p.m. Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The Floral City Adoption Center at Greta's Touch on U.S. 41 is open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Both sites will be closed for Thanksgiving, Nov. 28 through Dec. 1. For more information, call 352-726-4700 or visit www.preciouspawsflorida.com.

Haunted Tram success

Winners help make Halloween at Homosassa wildlife park a bit spookier

SUSAN STRAWBRIDGE
Special to the Chronicle

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park and the Friends of Homosassa Springs Wildlife Park thank everyone who participated in making this year's Haunted Tram Rides event one of the most successful ever.

This year's Spooky Spot winners were Nature's Sod and Landscaping in first place; Publix and Nature World Wildlife Rescue tied for second place; and the Academy of Environmental Science seniors were awarded an Honorable Mention.

Halloween Costume Contest winners for

Friday night included (in the age 7 and younger category) Zoey Itnyre (Cutest costume); Issac Burton (Scariest costume) and Alexander Itnyre (Most Creative costume). Friday night's winners in the age 8 and older group were Kelcey Bishop (Cutest costume); Lance Buhler (Scariest costume); and Sue Eddleman (Most Creative costume).

Saturday evening's costume contest winners in the age 7 and younger category included Avery Smith (Cutest costume); Savannah Navarro (Scariest costume); and Makayla Keppen (Most Creative costume). Winners in Saturday's age 8 and older group were Megan Jarvis and Victoria Fields, who tied for Cutest costume; Ashton Williams (Scariest costume); and Nathan

Tennille (Most Creative costume).

Special thanks to all those who created wonderfully spooky spots along the Pepper Creek Trail including JR Harris Trikes, Cape Leisure, Mike's Shoe Repair, Academy of Environmental Science students, Publix, Nature's Sod and Landscaping, Head Start and Early Head Start, Lecanto Relay for Life, Walgreens, Crystal River High School NHS, Nature World Wildlife Rescue and two Wildlife Park staff spots. We also appreciate all those who took part in two evenings of costume contests.

Susan Strawbridge is park services specialist for Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park.

American-Canadian Snowbirds flock back



Special to the Chronicle

The American-Canadian Snowbirds Club has begun its new season with weekly nine-hole golf scrambles, euchre, shuffleboard and bridge. Members also enjoy a dinner/gift exchange for Christmas and a Valentine's Day dinner/dance, annual meeting and a spring picnic. Whether new to the Citrus County area, a snowbird or year-round resident, all are welcome to join the club for a good time and to make new friends. Call Tony at 352-341-4407 or Jerry at 352-465-3384 for details.

Learn to keep gardens pretty year-round

Extension's master gardeners offer free clinics around county in November

Special to the Chronicle

We have all heard about having a "green" thumb, but the interim director for the UF-IFAS Citrus County Extension Service contends that the real secret to successful gardening is to get close to the earth.

The free Master Gardener Plant Clinics for November will

discuss what to do to have beautiful, colorful yards 12 months of the year. This is also the time to plant "cool-season" vegetables and herbs. The clinic will explain which flowers, bulbs, vegetables, herbs and fruiting plants to add during winter.

The schedule for is:
■ Wednesday — 2 p.m. at Floral City Library.

■ Friday — 1:30 p.m. at Coastal Region Library, Crystal River.

■ Tuesday, Nov. 12 — 1 p.m. at Lakes Region Library, Inverness.

■ Wednesday, Nov. 13 — 1:30 p.m. at Central Ridge Library, Beverly Hills.

■ Wednesday, Nov. 20 —

1 p.m. at Citrus Springs Library.

■ Tuesday, Nov. 26 — 2 p.m. at Homosassa Library.

These will be the final Master Gardener Plant Clinics for 2013. They will return in January 2014. Contact Citrus County master gardeners via email at masterg1@bocc.citrus.fl.us.

The Extension Service may be called at 352-527-5700.

There's lots to do November in Citrus County

November will be a busy month in Citrus County. Here is a spotlight of just some of the many events, meetings and fundraisers for the public to enjoy:

■ The Nereids Military Card Party is at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Crystal River Power Squadron, 845 N.E. Third Ave., Crystal River. For reservations, call Jenny at 352-382-0808.

■ Inverness Primary School will present a Veterans Program at 2 p.m. Thursday in the school cafeteria. Call Mary at 352-726-2632.

■ Women of Sugarmill Woods' annual Fashion Show is Friday at the Palace Grand in Spring Hill. The "Follow That Dream" show will feature "Elvis" and will include a luncheon and silent auction. For reservations, call Eleanor at 352-503-2712.

■ The Amazing Steel Drum Ensemble will be in concert at 6 p.m. Friday at the First Presbyterian Church in Crystal River to benefit the Good Spirit Foundation Camp in Citrus. Call 352-795-2259.

■ Floral City's annual Luminary Art Walk is from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday. Floral City Library will be open providing music by Jim Davis and Mariah Dixon. Books and Bling Sale also on tap. Call Thelma at 352-726-2431.

■ The Spot Family Center's "Night of Hope" silent auction is from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday at the Realtors Association building, 714 S. Scarboro Ave., Lecanto. Free admission. Hors d'oeuvres served. Call 352-794-3870.

■ Citrus County Veterans Coalition's yard sale is from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Inverness. Call Dan at 352-400-8952.

■ The annual Crystal River Kings Bay Lions yard sale is at 8 a.m. Saturday in front



Ruth Levins

AROUND THE COMMUNITY

of the Crystal River Burger King on U.S. 19 to benefit eyesight projects. Call President Lion Audrey at 352-795-4467.

■ The Citrus County Right To Life Bike/Walk is Saturday at the Inverness trailhead of the Withlacoochee State Trail at 286 N. Apopka Ave., Inverness. Call Kathy at 352-563-7017.

■ The annual Homosassa Arts, Crafts and Seafood Festival is Saturday and Sunday in Old Homosassa.

■ Citrus County Retired Educators Craft Day Luncheon is at 12:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 11, at Mama's Kuntry Kitchen in Inverness. Call Ethel Winn at 352-795-2533.

■ Crystal River Christian Women's annual Cookie Walk and Next To New Sale Luncheon is at noon Tuesday, Nov. 12, at the Chet Cole Life Enrichment Center on the Key Training Center Campus. Luncheon provided by Oysters Catering service. Carolyn McCort will bring the inspirational message. For luncheon reservations, call Ginny at 352-746-7616.

■ Aspire, of the River Project Relationship Center's "Engage Our Community Gala" is at 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 14, at Black Diamond Ranch in Lecanto. For dinner reservations, call 352-356-8058.

■ Suncoast Business Masters' annual din-

ner auction extravaganza is at 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 15, at Tuscany on the Meadows at the Quality Inn on County Road 486. For dinner reservations, call Sue at 352-400-1721.

■ The West Citrus Elks Ladies' yard sale is from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 16, at the lodge on Grover Cleveland Blvd. in Homosassa. Reserve a space by calling Bonnie at 352-382-0211.

■ Gulf To Lakes Pilot Club of Citrus County will present the "O Christmas Tree" Parade of Trees from 2 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 21, followed by the buffet dinner gala at 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 22, at the Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church in Lecanto. For dinner reservations, visit GulfToLakesPilot@yahoo.com.

■ Citrus Stampede Rodeo is at 5:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Nov. 22 and 23, at the Citrus County Fairgrounds in Inverness.

■ The Yankeetown Arts, Crafts and Seafood Festival is Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 23 and 24, in Yankeetown.

■ Friends of the Withlacoochee Gulf Preserve's annual Rubber Duck Race is Nov. 23 and 24, in Yankeetown. To sponsor a duck, visit friendswgp@gmail.com.

■ The annual Arts and Crafts Festival at Ozello, sponsored by the Ozello Civic Association, is Saturday, Nov. 30. For an application to participate, call Jane at 352-634-0563.

The deadline for the December listing is Nov. 15 by calling me at 352-795-3006 or writing to P.O. Box 803, Crystal River, FL 34423-0803.

Ruth Levins participates in a variety of projects around the community. Let her know about your group's upcoming activities by writing to P.O. Box 803, Crystal River, FL 34423.

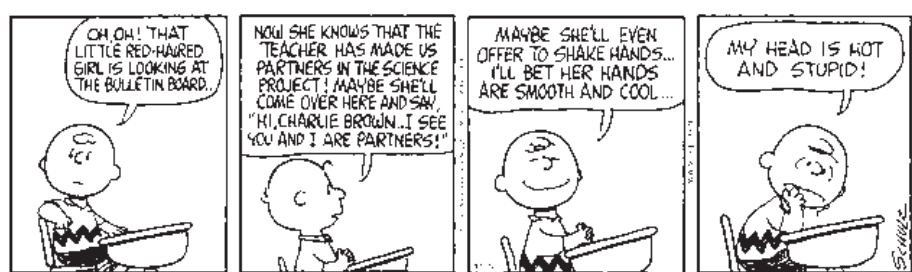
■ Submit information at least two weeks before the event.

■ Multiple publications cannot be guaranteed.

■ Submit material at Chronicle offices in Inverness or Crystal River; by fax at 352-563-3280; or email to community@chronicleonline.com.

■ Notes tend to run one week prior to the date of an event. Publication on a special day can't be guaranteed.

Peanuts



Garfield



Pickles



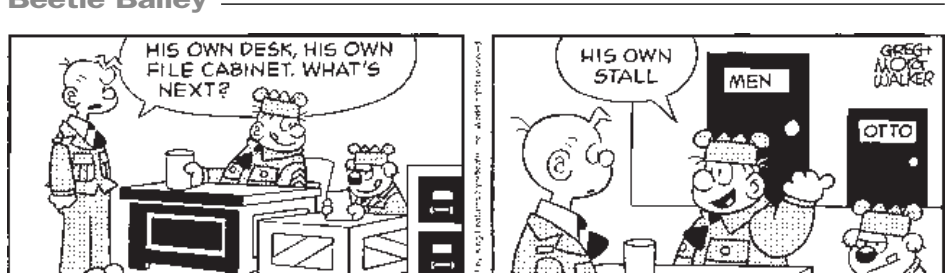
For Better or For Worse



Sally Forth



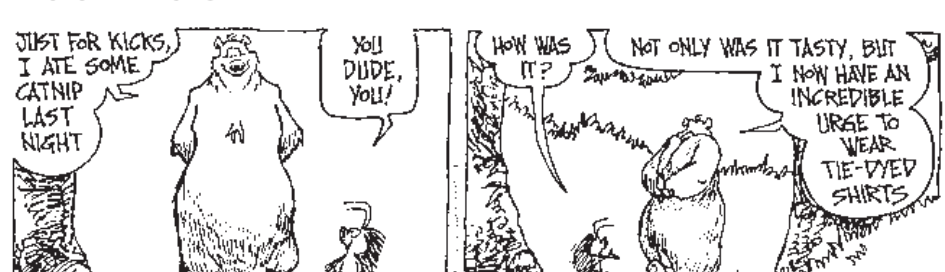
Beetle Bailey



Dilbert



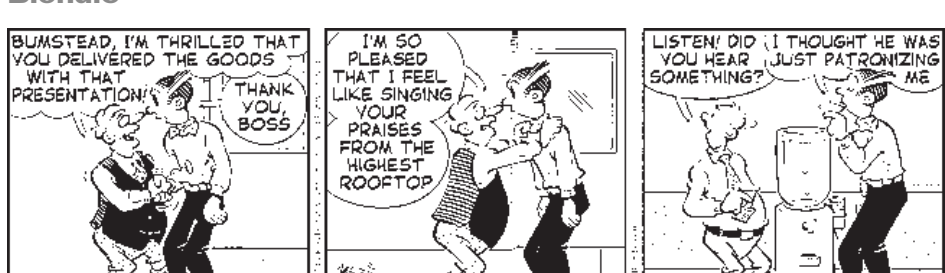
The Grizzells



The Born Loser



Blondie



Kit 'N' Carlyle



Rubes



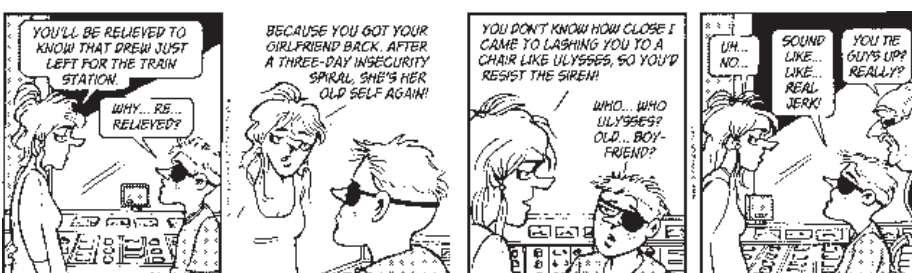
Dennis the Menace



The Family Circus



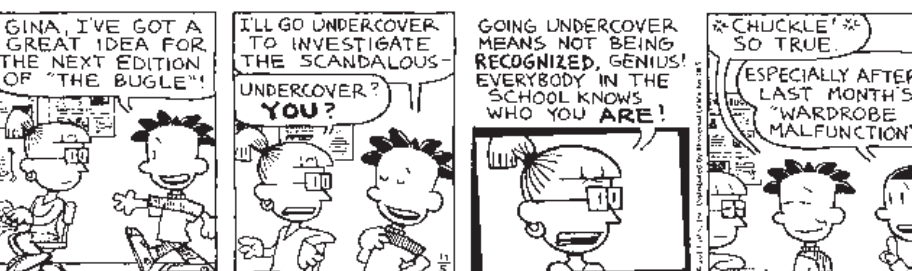
Doonesbury Flashback



Betty



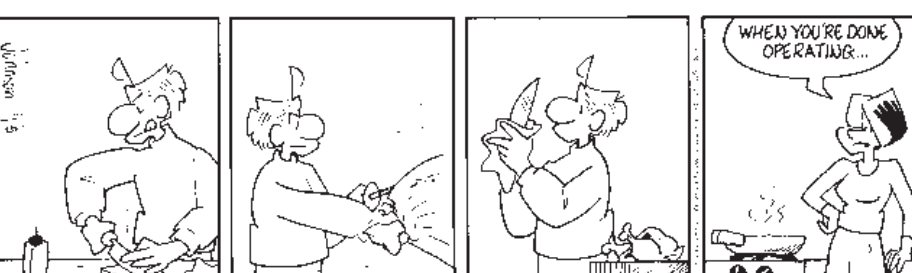
Big Nate



Frank & Ernest



Arlo and Janis



Today's MOVIES

Movie listings for Crystal River Mall 9, Citrus Cinemas 6, and other theaters.

CELEBRITY CIPHER by Luis Campos with cryptograms and solutions.

