

TODAY & next morning
HIGH 79
LOW 56



CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

www.chronicleonline.com

MAUS NISSAN
OF CRYSTAL RIVER
WHOLESALE TO THE PUBLIC
See Page A2

NEWS BRIEFS

Want to show off your lights?

This holiday season, the Chronicle will be publishing a list of locations offering particularly spectacular displays.

If your home is adorned with lights and decorations you'd like to show off, submit your name, address and telephone number to carly.zervis@chronicleonline.com.

Only addresses will be published; names and phone numbers will be used to verify identities. Those providing their addresses should do so with knowledge that the listing may result in increased vehicular and foot traffic from holiday enthusiasts.

C.R. parade marshals named

This year's Crystal River Christmas Parade, produced by the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce, takes place today at 6 p.m. It will begin at Citrus Avenue and proceed south on U.S. 19, ending at Paradise Point Road.

Local businessman Kennedy Smith will serve as honorary grand marshal and Josh Langston-White will serve as grand marshal. Langston-White heads up the United Way of Citrus County's Mission United program, which helps veterans in need. Langston-White was serving as a corporal in the U.S. Marines in Afghanistan in 2012 when he was severely injured by an explosive device.

Also Saturday is the Christmas in the Hills Parade in Beverly Hills. With the theme "A Storybook Christmas" the parade will begin at 10 a.m. at the intersection of Beverly Hills Boulevard and Melbourne Street and proceed to Civic Circle.

Springs open house today

From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. today visitors may explore the Three Sisters Springs property for free. Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge volunteers will offer guided interpretive tours of the boardwalk and wetlands. The Friends of the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge Complex will offer free bus transportation from Kings Bay Plaza to the site. Handicap-accessible parking is available and walk-ins are welcome.

The open house will include fun for the entire family. See manatees from the boardwalk, create a manatee mask, shop in the Nature Store, and stay for lunch. The Jarrito Burrito Taco Truck will donate proceeds from lunch sales to the Friends group to support refuge programs, including environmental education, outreach, and wildlife monitoring and research.

— From staff reports

Flynn pleads guilty

Former national security advisor says he lied to FBI about contacts with Russia

**ERIC TUCKER
CHAD DAY**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Michael Flynn, President Donald Trump's former national security adviser, pleaded guilty Friday to lying to the FBI about his contacts with Russia, becoming the first Trump White House official to face criminal charges and

admit guilt so far in the wide-ranging election investigation by special counsel Robert Mueller.

Flynn also agreed to cooperate with Mueller's probe, which focuses on Russian meddling in the 2016 election and possible coordination between Russia and Trump's team in the campaign that sent the Republican businessman to the

White House.

Flynn spent just 25 days in the White House, but his actions — and the Russia investigations broadly — have shadowed Trump throughout the year, angering the president and repeatedly distracting from his agenda. Flynn's plea came hours before Republican senators hoped to pass a far-reaching tax bill, which would be a

significant victory for Trump.

Court papers make clear that Flynn knows the identities of at least two members of Trump's transition team who were intimately aware of his outreach to Russian government officials in the weeks before the inauguration. Mueller's prosecutors did not reveal the names of



Michael Flynn agreed to cooperate in Russian probe. See FLYNN/Page A5

Floral City celebrates its heritage



STEVE LASKO/For the Chronicle

Event goers enjoy a fish fry dinner Friday night at the Floral City Heritage Days festival. Since 1993, Floral City Heritage Council volunteers have dressed in 1890s period costume to act as guides to the various historic homes and the museum and country store. The festival continues today from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tavares man aims for Congress

Sam Allen says Americans need affordable health care

MIKE WRIGHT
Staff writer



Sam Allen

When Sam Allen was 18 years old, he was trying to find direction in life.

It was 2004, he had just graduated from high school and his father had recently died.

So he ran for town council in Howey-in-the-Hills.

"I decided I wanted to try to make a difference the community," Allen, now 31, said. "I didn't really know what direction my life was going to take me."

He lost that race — last in a field of four — but the political drive stayed with him.

"It was good experience for an 18-year-old kid out of high school," he said.

Now he's running another campaign, this time as a Democrat for the 11th Congressional District. As of now there are two other

Democrats, and all three are hoping to unseat U.S. Republican Rep. Daniel Webster, R-Mineola.

Allen, who resides in Tavares and has lived in that area for 21 years, is a salesman for Sprint.

Allen was a Republican until after the 2016 election and now he sees Republicans pushing health care reform in a way that gives him concern.

"When I saw what it was going to do with millions of Americans, I became so disenfranchised with what they wanted to pass I decided to run," he said.

Allen's idea is to expand the Medicaid system. Poor families would pay nothing for medical care, while costs would increase

based on income.

He said families of four with a working parent are now paying \$500 a month for health insurance premiums.

"When you're making \$35,000 a year, that cuts a lot out of your paycheck," he said.

Allen believes that lowering the costs will create competition among insurance companies.

"The Affordable Care Act is a step in the right direction to allow for more people have to have health care at a lower cost," he said.

Allen has admittedly vague answers when asked how to pay for expanding Medicaid. He said the government needs to negotiate better contracts with insurance companies and reduce unnecessary spending in areas such as defense.

But he could not name a single area that should be cut.

See ALLEN/Page A8

Drought regains grip on region

MICHAEL D. BATES
Staff writer

Don't look now but the drought is back.

The Florida Forest Service (FFS) released a forecast Friday that shows parts of northern Florida are facing moderate drought conditions and that includes the northern tip of Citrus County.

"It's definitely a cause for concern but we're still monitoring it," FFS meteorologist Bryan Williams said.

Last spring and summer, the region faced a severe drought and forest fires occurred throughout the region. This year, with the La Nina climate pattern in effect, the chances for drier, hotter air is heightened and the effects are even now beginning to show.

"All of the Panhandle and Big Bend areas are now classified as abnormally dry as of the latest release of the drought monitor," Williams said. "The abnormally dry area reaches as far south as Citrus County, and as far east as Baker County. Parts of the eastern Panhandle and western Big Bend are now in a moderate drought, the first

See DROUGHT/Page A8

Unclad couple jailed after backyard attack

JULIE GORHAM
Staff writer

A naked man and a partially clothed woman are facing multiple charges after allegedly attacking another couple on Thursday, according to the Citrus County Sheriff's Office.

Shortly before 10 p.m., David

Fowler and Brittany Malsnee, both 27 and both of 26 S. Wadsworth Ave., were reportedly shining a laser pointer through a fence at a couple visiting friends at a house behind their residence, at 25 S. Washington St.

After being asked to stop shining the laser, Fowler and Malsnee both

See UNCLAD/Page A7

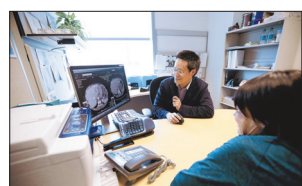


David Fowler



Brittany Malsnee

NATION



Cancer testing

The Food and Drug Administration has approved a test for cancer gene profiling. /A6

NATION



Comforting

Comfort dogs help after church shootings in Texas. /A8

NATION & WORLD



Tillerson, Trump

President Donald Trump is denying he wants to oust Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, calling reports to that effect "fake news." /A12



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|---|---|---|--|--|
| '07 Dodge Caravan 158,638 Mi. CP1902A \$3,997 | '05 Mercury Grand Marquis 142,787 Mi. 17C598B \$4,485 | '08 Nissan Versa SL 85,587 Mi. 17C945A \$4,998 | '04 Nissan Frontier XE 136,342 Mi. CP1487A \$6,156 | '06 Toyota Avalon XLS 102,353 Mi. 17C280B \$6,310 |
| '05 Toyota Camry 98,727 Mi. 17T610B \$6,499 | '07 Nissan Frontier SE 203,588 Mi. 17C824A \$7,483 | '05 Nissan Frontier XE 82,257 Mi. 17C706A \$8,235 | '13 Nissan Rogue 113,022 Mi. 17T733A \$8,379 | '14 KIA Soul 93,137 Mi. 17C813B \$9,492 |
| '07 INFINITI M35X 95,012 Mi. 17T934A \$9,887 | '12 Toyota Camry 86,081 Mi. 17C849A \$10,995 | <p>We have over 40 lenders ready to help with any type of credit situation!</p> <p>Let's make them work hard for you on your new vehicle!</p> | | '15 Chevrolet Sonic LT 17,932 Mi. 17C950A \$11,339 |
| '15 Volkswagen Golf 68,469 Mi. 17C429A \$12,999 | '12 Nissan Xterra X 91,779 Mi. 17C260A \$13,307 | '17 Nissan Sentra S 2,229 Mi. CP2156 \$13,378 | '11 Ford F-150 XL 57,596 Mi. 17C604A \$16,170 | 2012 Dodge Durango 67,781 Mi. 17C696A \$16,994 |
| '15 Nissan Rogue SL 29,796 Mi. 17C375C \$20,995 | '15 Toyota Tundra 22,175 Mi. 17C249A \$25,738 | '17 Nissan Murano SL 6,841 Mi. CP2581 \$29,196 | '17 Nissan Titan SV 2,384 Mi. CP2112 \$29,994 | '17 GMC Sierra 1500 SLT 3,317 Mi. 17C914A \$42,520 |

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Deposit Protection helps to cover your initial deposit for your vehicle by offering you \$2,500 due to total vehicle loss. Even if you did not put any money down, you are still eligible. 90 day coverage included.

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Around the
COUNTY

Lane closures on US 19 expected

The Florida Department of Transportation advises that periodic lane closures may take place in each direction of U.S. 19 from W. Green Acres Street to S. Jump Court between 8 p.m. and 7 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 3, through Thursday, Dec. 7.

Motorists are advised to use caution in the area and to be alert to possible lane shifts.

MPO meeting planned Dec. 13

The Hernando/Citrus Metropolitan Planning Organization will have a public meeting Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017, beginning at 1 p.m., at the Lecanto Government Building, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Room 166, Lecanto.

Multiple items are scheduled for the agenda that day.

The public is encouraged to attend. Any questions should be directed to Dennis Dix, MPO executive director, 1661 Blaise Ave. Brooksville, FL 34601; telephone 352-754-4082 Ext. 28014; or email mpo@hermandocitrusmpo.us.

Need advisory board applicants

The Citrus County Board of County Commissioners is seeking applications for the Citrus Springs Advisory Board. This board is seeking three qualified regular members for a two-year term each that will begin on Feb. 1, 2018. The term will expire on Jan. 31, 2020.

Eligible applicants must reside full time and own property within the boundaries of the Citrus Springs Municipal Service Benefit Unit.

The board meets the first Wednesday of every month at 9 a.m. at the Citrus Springs Community Building, 1570 W. Citrus Springs Blvd., Citrus Springs.

The purpose of this board is to provide facilities, street lighting, beautification and other essential facilities and municipal services for the Citrus Springs area.

Applications are due by Jan. 5, 2018 and can be accessed at: <https://tinyurl.com/j75xg44>.

Completed applications should be sent to Citrus County Administration, 3600 W. Sovereign Path Suite 267, Lecanto, FL 34461.

Service members sought for gifts

Operation Welcome Home wants to bring some holiday joy to local men and women currently serving in the military overseas.

Those who know of Citrus Countians serving in the armed forces far away from home are asked to contact Barbara Mills at 352-422-6236 so she can get names and mailing information for the purpose of sending them Christmas packages.

—From staff reports

Correction

Due to editor error, the Light Up Inverness event was misdated in a note on Page D4 of Thursday's edition in the Hometown Happenings calendar. The free event will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, on Courthouse Square.

The Chronicle regrets the error.

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

Holiday wreath-laying to honor veterans

Special to the Chronicle

On Saturday, Dec. 16, Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell will host Wreaths Across America, a holiday wreath-laying ceremony to honor and remember our nation's veterans. The U.S. Military Vets Motorcycle Club is hosting the event to honor veterans of each branch of the military, the Merchant Marines, as

well as prisoners of war and those still missing in action (POW/MIA).

The event is organized and sponsored by the U.S. Military Vets M/C and hosted by the Florida National Cemetery. It is open to the public and everyone is invited to participate in the wreath laying.

Wreath laying at gravesites will be between 10 and 11 a.m.

Following the wreath laying, everyone will gather at the flag assembly area for the ceremony that will begin promptly at 11:45 a.m. culminating with the ceremonial wreath presentation at noon.

Those unable to attend can participate by taking a moment of silence at the noon hour to reflect on the sacrifices made by the men and women of

our armed forces.

Florida National Cemetery is located at 6502 SW 102nd Ave., Bushnell.

For more information, contact Roderick "Tony" Thomas, cemetery executive director, at 352-793-7740; or, go to www.wreathscrossamericabushnell.com.

Background: The Worcester Wreath Company, through a campaign called Wreaths Across

America, began donating holiday wreaths in tribute to veterans laid to rest at VA's national cemeteries and state veterans cemeteries in 2006. Since 1992, the company has donated wreaths for gravesites at Arlington National Cemetery.

The Civil Air Patrol is coordinating wreath ceremonies around the country as a part of Wreaths Across America.

Christmas Tree of Hope lighting ceremony in Lecanto



STEVE LASKO/For the Chronicle

A good-sized crowd joins with Santa Claus as they congregate near the Christmas tree at the Key Training Center in Lecanto Thursday evening for the annual lighting of the Christmas Tree of Hope. The Christmas Tree of Hope was decorated with more than 300 ornaments and hundreds of colored lights contributing to an impressive display of Christmas sparkle. The tree was dedicated to the men and women who turn to the Key Training Center in search of hope.

Clerk of Court receives perfect passport score

Special to the Chronicle

The Citrus County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller's Office has announced that it received a perfect score on the Acceptance Facility Oversight Assessment by the Department of State-Miami Passport Agency.

"With nearly 300 facilities in the Miami Passport Agency's region having undergone the same

rigorous assessment, it is no small feat to be recognized as one of the best" stated Ryan Dooley, director of the Miami Passport Agency.

The Citrus County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller's Office, led by Angela Vick, is part of a small group of Passport Application

Acceptance Facilities throughout the State of Florida, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands to attain this perfect rating on the Acceptance Facility Oversight Program Report.

"Through your facility's hard work and vigilance, the U.S. Department of State

is able to accomplish our mission to issue secure travel documents to U.S. citizens while providing the highest level of customer service, professionalism, and integrity..." stated Dooley in a news release. "We thank you for your continued commitment to the Passport Application Acceptance Program and congratulate you on this outstanding achievement."

For this audit review period, the clerk's office processed 3,784 passport applications from Jan. 27, 2015, through May 9, 2017.

For complete information regarding the required documents for passports, citizens may contact the office at 352-341-6424 or visit the website at www.citrusclerk.org/passports.



Angela Vick

Medicaid plan required to return \$1.8 million to the state of Florida

CHRISTINE SEXTON
The News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — Simply Healthcare Plans made too much money from Florida's health care program that treats the poor, elderly and disabled and was required to return nearly \$1.8 million to the state.

It is the first time that a managed-care plan participating in Florida's statewide Medicaid managed-care program had to return money to the state, according to testimony provided to the Florida Legislature early this year by Beth Kidder, a deputy secretary at the Agency for Health Care Administration.

Simply Healthcare spokesman James Freeman told the News Service of Florida on Friday that the managed-care plan had already made the payment to the state. Agency for Health Care Administration spokeswoman Mallory McManus said the agency

hadn't received the payment but was expecting it early next week.

The Legislature in 2011 passed a law that requires most Medicaid patients — from the cradle to the grave — to enroll in HMOs or other managed-care plans. The state pays monthly premiums to managed-care plans to provide care to patients, and the plans are required to provide access to all covered services, regardless of whether the cost of those services exceeds the paid premiums.

To ensure that the plans don't make too much of a windfall, the Legislature included in the law a so-called "achieved savings rebate," which is established by determining pre-tax income as a percentage of revenues.

Under the achieved savings rebate, plans are required to return money to the state if their pre-tax incomes exceed certain thresholds. Simply Healthcare had to return \$1.8 million

based on the amount of money it brought in.

When asked whether the company's excessive income hurt patients, Freeman replied, "Simply Healthcare is committed to providing access to quality, affordable services and we continually support efforts that are in the best interest of the health and well-being of our members and the entire community."

Simply Healthcare has participated in the statewide Medicaid managed-care program since the program's inception. The state is in the process of contracting again with managed-care plans. Simply Healthcare is one of 10 plans that have indicated interest in providing Medicaid services statewide.

The Agency for Health Care Administration notified Simply Healthcare on Nov. 2 that it needed to return the \$1.8 million, according to agency spokeswoman Shelisha Coleman.

State BRIEFS

Keys residents burn hurricane flags

KEY WEST — Florida Keys residents have doused hurricane flags in rum and burned them to mark the end of the tumultuous 2017 Atlantic hurricane season.

The Thursday evening ceremony came after three major hurricanes — Harvey, Irma and Maria — pummeled parts of the U.S. and Puerto Rico. Irma's impact varied in the Keys. Most Key Largo and Key West residents and businesses were either little affected or have recovered. In other parts of the island chain, especially the Big Pine Key region, recovery has been much slower. The flag-burning ceremony attracted about 400 people and included a speech by the Keys emergency management director praising the resilience and spirit of the area's citizens.

Missing Florida teen found in New York

LAKE CITY — Authorities said a missing Florida teenage girl and a 27-year-old soccer coach has been found in New York.

The Gainesville Sun reported that the 17-year-old and Rian Rodriguez were stopped by a New York State Police officer Friday afternoon in Syracuse. The Columbia County Sheriff's Office in Florida said the girl, who had been missing since Saturday, was detained, and Rodriguez was taken into custody. Officials at Fort White High School have suspended Rodriguez, who coached the boys soccer team at the north Florida school. It wasn't immediately clear what criminal charges he would face.

Schools evacuated after bomb threat

TARPON SPRINGS — Authorities said two Florida schools were evacuated and another was placed on lockdown following a bomb threat. The Tampa Bay Times reports that East Lake High and East Lake Middle School, which share the same campus, were evacuated for about two and a half hours on Friday, while Tarpon Springs High School was put on a lockdown for about one hour.

Police said someone called 911 about a suspicious backpack, first saying he was at Tarpon Springs High and then saying he was at East Lake High. Officials say nothing suspicious was found, and no arrests were immediately made.

—From wire reports

Today's HOROSCOPES

Birthdays — Consider how you earn your living and what you can do to boost your income. A conservative lifestyle will help you save more.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Bring about personal change. Set your game plan in motion, whether it be personal or professional in nature.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Take time to relax and enjoy life. Make plans with someone you love and take in an activity or event that will broaden your horizons.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Keep the peace and offer positive alternatives and solutions to avoid hurt feelings and emotional distress. A little love or romance will alleviate anxiety and uncertainty.

Pisces (Feb. 20-March 20) — Choose whom you wish to help and how. If someone puts demands on you, walk away.

Aries (March 21-April 19) — Change the way you handle your money, and save for something special.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Share your feelings. If you don't let others know how you feel, you will lose out.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) — Emotional situations will be magnified. Do your best to offer honesty, love and compassion to whomever you are dealing with today.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) — Don't let emotions stop you from seeing situations honestly.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Personal improvements will make you feel and look good. Love and romance are highlighted, and dealing with youngsters and loved ones will enrich your life. A financial gain is within reach.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Handle relationships with care. Look at situations honestly and discuss your concerns openly.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Look for an opportunity to capitalize on something that interests you. Educational pursuits or the development of one of your talents could lead to a prosperous investment.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Pay more attention to home, family and loved ones. A romantic gesture will go a long way when trying to appease someone you have neglected. Live within your means.

ENTERTAINMENT

CBS evening news getting a new anchor and extra airtime

NEW YORK — The "CBS Evening News" gets a new face and an additional run time starting Monday. Jeff Glor takes over as the broadcast's anchor replacing Scott Pelley, who was shown the door — or, rather, sent back across the street to "60 Minutes" — after six years this past spring. The network also announced Friday that the evening news will be replayed each night at 10 p.m. on the CBSN streaming service, an additional viewing opportunity for people who aren't around a television set at dinnertime.

The shift to a 42-year-old anchor and effort to make the evening news more accessible to more screens represents a generational change.

"I hope that it can be valuable to watch it anytime between 6:30 and midnight," Glor said.



Associated Press

The "CBS Evening News" gets a new face and an additional run time starting Monday. Jeff Glor, pictured above, takes over as the broadcast's anchor replacing Scott Pelley and his sub for the past several months, Anthony Mason.

Swift's 'reputation' is now on all streaming platforms

NEW YORK — Taylor Swift's "reputation" is finally available on Spotify, Apple Music and other streaming platforms.

Swift released her sixth album three weeks ago, but didn't put the album on streaming sites. "Reputation" sold more than 1 million copies in its first week.

The album is also now available on Google Play, Tidal, Pandora and Amazon Music. It features the hits "Ready for It?" and "Look What You Made Me Do."

"Reputation" will qualify for nominations at the 2019 Grammys.

Playwright Horowitz faces allegations of harassment

NEW YORK — Award-winning playwright-screenwriter Israel Horowitz, who faces multiple allegations of sexual harassment, has departed from the Gloucester Stage Company.

The Massachusetts-based theater announced Thursday that Horowitz had left after officials there confronted him about a New York Times story detailing on-the-record allegations ranging from forcible kissing to rape.

Horowitz was Gloucester's founding artistic director and an ex-officio member of the board of directors. In 1993, the Boston Phoenix reported similar

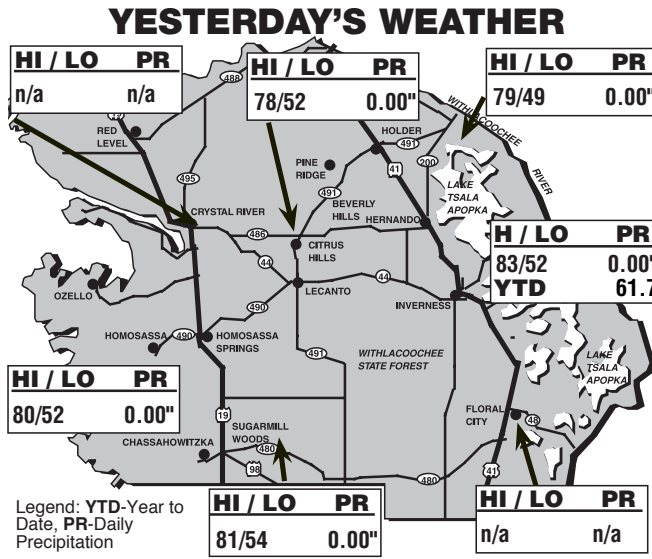
allegations. But the theater at the time defended him.

The playwright's agent did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment on Thursday.

Horowitz said in a statement to the Times that while he has "a different memory of some of these events, I apologize with all my heart to any woman who has ever felt compromised by my actions, and to my family and friends who have put their trust in me."

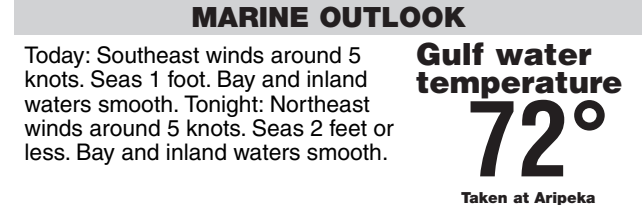
His son, Adam, who is known as Ad-Rock of the Beastie Boys, issued his own statement to the newspaper: "I believe the allegations against my father are true, and I stand behind the women that made them."

—From wire reports



FLORIDA TEMPERATURES

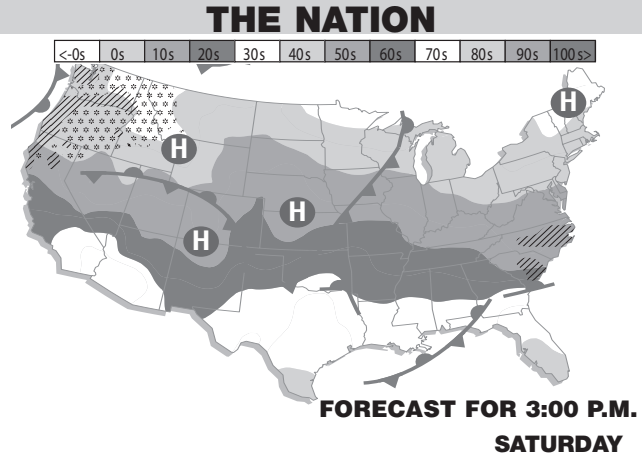
| City | H | L | F'cast | City | H | L | F'cast |
|-----------------|----|----|--------|--------------|----|----|--------|
| Daytona Bch. | 79 | 59 | f | Miami | 81 | 68 | pc |
| Fort Lauderdale | 81 | 68 | pc | Ocala | 80 | 54 | pc |
| Fort Myers | 83 | 63 | f | Orlando | 82 | 60 | f |
| Gainesville | 79 | 53 | pc | Pensacola | 71 | 53 | f |
| Homestead | 81 | 68 | pc | Sarasota | 80 | 61 | f |
| Jacksonville | 77 | 55 | pc | Tallahassee | 75 | 53 | pc |
| Key West | 80 | 71 | pc | Tampa | 81 | 62 | f |
| Lakeland | 81 | 59 | f | Vero Beach | 79 | 63 | pc |
| Melbourne | 79 | 62 | pc | W. Palm Bch. | 80 | 67 | pc |



LAKE LEVELS

| Location | FRI | THU | Full |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Withalacoochee at Holder | 30.50 | 30.62 | 34.64 |
| Tsala Apopka-Hernando | 37.38 | 37.39 | 38.66 |
| Tsala Apopka-Inverness | 38.81 | 38.81 | 39.73 |
| Tsala Apopka-Floral City | 40.52 | 40.53 | 41.37 |

Levels reported in feet above sea level. Flood stage for lakes are based on 2.33-year flood, the mean-annual flood which has a 43-percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any one year. This data is obtained from the Southwest Florida Water Management District and is subject to revision. In no event will the District or the United States Geological Survey be liable for any damages arising out of the use of this data. If you have any questions you should contact the Hydrological Data Section at (352) 796-7211.



| City | FRI | L | Pcp. | SAT | H | L | Fest | City | FRI | L | Pcp. | SAT | H | L | Fest |
|----------------|-----|----|------|-----|----|----|------|----------------|-----|----|------|-----|----|----|------|
| Albany | 45 | 37 | .13 | 40 | 29 | pc | | New Orleans | 73 | 57 | | 72 | 54 | f | |
| Albuquerque | 58 | 41 | | 63 | 40 | pc | | New York City | 52 | 44 | .03 | 46 | 39 | pc | |
| Asheville | 66 | 47 | | 58 | 38 | pc | | Norfolk | 57 | 46 | | 55 | 41 | pc | |
| Atlanta | 66 | 55 | | 66 | 52 | pc | | Oklahoma City | 67 | 39 | | 70 | 53 | pc | |
| Atlantic City | 55 | 42 | .01 | 52 | 27 | pc | | Omaha | 58 | 29 | | 54 | 35 | pc | |
| Austin | 77 | 53 | | 77 | 58 | pc | | Palm Springs | 81 | 53 | | 81 | 58 | pc | |
| Baltimore | 55 | 39 | .02 | 50 | 34 | pc | | Philadelphia | 54 | 43 | .02 | 51 | 36 | pc | |
| Billings | 50 | 32 | | 49 | 32 | pc | | Phoenix | 78 | 61 | | 79 | 57 | pc | |
| Birmingham | 64 | 57 | | 68 | 42 | f | | Pittsburgh | 48 | 30 | .14 | 46 | 30 | pc | |
| Boise | 42 | 28 | | 46 | 37 | sh | | Portland, ME | 47 | 39 | .08 | 41 | 29 | pc | |
| Boston | 51 | 43 | .09 | 43 | 32 | cd | | Portland, OR | 50 | 45 | .07 | 47 | 40 | r | |
| Buffalo | 47 | 40 | .05 | 45 | 34 | pc | | Providence, RI | 54 | 43 | .04 | 46 | 32 | pc | |
| Burlington, VT | 43 | 40 | .12 | 41 | 30 | cd | | Raleigh | 63 | 41 | | 53 | 40 | r | |
| Charleston, SC | 75 | 53 | | 68 | 50 | sh | | Rapid City | 54 | 21 | | 53 | 30 | pc | |
| Charleston, WV | 53 | 35 | .06 | 54 | 34 | f | | Reno | 57 | 28 | | 57 | 33 | pc | |
| Charlotte | 71 | 41 | | 55 | 39 | r | | Rochester, NY | 47 | 41 | .06 | 46 | 33 | pc | |
| Chicago | 53 | 28 | | 52 | 33 | pc | | Sacramento | 62 | 36 | | 60 | 44 | f | |
| Cincinnati | 54 | 26 | | 53 | 33 | pc | | Salt Lake City | 51 | 37 | | 55 | 39 | pc | |
| Cleveland | 48 | 29 | | 52 | 31 | pc | | San Antonio | 78 | 54 | | 77 | 60 | pc | |
| Columbia, SC | 57 | 26 | | 60 | 41 | pc | | San Diego | 71 | 55 | | 68 | 55 | f | |
| Columbus, OH | 51 | 29 | | 50 | 31 | pc | | San Francisco | 60 | 46 | | 62 | 49 | pc | |
| Concord, NH | 47 | 35 | .05 | 43 | 25 | pc | | Savannah | 78 | 56 | | 72 | 53 | pc | |
| Dallas | 74 | 46 | | 77 | 56 | pc | | Seattle | 48 | 39 | .10 | 45 | 38 | sh | |
| Denver | 62 | 32 | | 62 | 35 | pc | | Spokane | 41 | 33 | .01 | 39 | 31 | sn | |
| Des Moines | 56 | 30 | | 55 | 35 | pc | | St. Louis | 56 | 31 | | 61 | 41 | pc | |
| Detroit | 49 | 31 | | 48 | 33 | pc | | St. St. Marie | 44 | 30 | .01 | 42 | 33 | fl | |
| El Paso | 67 | 47 | | 71 | 46 | pc | | Syracuse | 42 | 37 | .10 | 43 | 32 | cd | |
| Evansville, IN | 55 | 28 | | 57 | 35 | pc | | Topeka | 61 | 24 | | 60 | 42 | pc | |
| Harrisburg | 53 | 36 | | 48 | 30 | pc | | Washington | 57 | 45 | .01 | 52 | 37 | pc | |
| Hartford | 50 | 37 | .05 | 45 | 29 | pc | | | | | | | | | |
| Houston | 76 | 47 | | 77 | 61 | s | | | | | | | | | |
| Indianapolis | 54 | 29 | | 53 | 34 | pc | | | | | | | | | |
| Kansas City | 59 | 26 | | 60 | 43 | pc | | | | | | | | | |
| Las Vegas | 68 | 46 | | 70 | 51 | pc | | | | | | | | | |
| Little Rock | 60 | 39 | | 66 | 45 | pc | | | | | | | | | |
| Los Angeles | 74 | 52 | | 72 | 53 | f | | | | | | | | | |
| Louisville | 57 | 33 | | 57 | 34 | pc | | | | | | | | | |
| Memphis | 63 | 40 | | 65 | 44 | pc | | | | | | | | | |
| Minneapolis | 52 | 28 | | 50 | 33 | pc | | | | | | | | | |
| Milwaukee | 51 | 28 | | 47 | 33 | pc | | | | | | | | | |
| Mobile | 70 | 60 | | 72 | 57 | pc | | | | | | | | | |
| Montgomery | 65 | 56 | | 71 | 47 | f | | | | | | | | | |
| Nashville | 61 | 39 | | 62 | 37 | pc | | | | | | | | | |

THREE DAY OUTLOOK

Exclusive daily forecast by: **9**

TODAY & TOMORROW MORNING
High: 79° Low: 56°
Mostly sunny. Light wind.

SUNDAY & MONDAY MORNING
High: 77° Low: 58°
Mostly sunny. Light wind.

MONDAY & TUESDAY MORNING
High: 79° Low: 58°
Partly cloudy. Light wind.

ALMANAC

Data from Crystal River Airport

| TEMPERATURE | DEW POINT |
|---|--|
| Friday 85/51 | Friday at 3 p.m. 60° |
| Record* 86/32 | |
| Normal 75/49 | |
| Mean temp. 68 | Friday at 3 p.m. 52% |
| Departure from mean 6 | |
| PRECIPITATION | HUMIDITY |
| Friday 0.00" | Friday at 3 p.m. 52% |
| Total for the month 0.00" | |
| Total for the year 41.04" | |
| Normal for the year 49.81" | |
| *Official record values from Tampa International | |
| UV INDEX: | POLLEN COUNT** |
| 6 | Today's active pollen: Ragweed, grasses, composites |
| 0-2 minimal, 3-4 low, 5-6 moderate, 7-9 high, 10+ very high | Today's count: 4.4/12 |
| BAROMETRIC PRESSURE | Sunday's count: 4.6 |
| 30.07 | Monday's count: 4.6 |
| AIR QUALITY | Friday observed: Moderate |
| Pollutant: Ozone | |

SOLAR TABLES

Provided by ezisn.com

| DATE | DAY | MINOR (MORNING) | MAJOR (MORNING) | MINOR (AFTERNOON) | MAJOR (AFTERNOON) |
|-------|----------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 12/02 | SATURDAY | 5:45 | 11:20 | 5:00 | 11:55 |
| 12/03 | SUNDAY | 6:50 | 12:25 | 5:55 | n.a. |

CELESTIAL OUTLOOK

SUNSET TONIGHT 5:31 p.m.
SUNRISE TOMORROW 7:07 a.m.
MOONRISE TODAY 5:04 p.m.
MOONSET TODAY 5:43 a.m.

BURN CONDITIONS

Today's Fire Danger Index is: **Moderate. There is no burn ban.**

For more information call Florida Division of Forestry at (352) 797-4140. For more information on wildfire conditions, please visit the Division of Forestry's Web site: www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Florida-Forest-Service/Wildland-Fire

WATERING RULES

Lawn watering is limited to twice-per-week unless your city or county has a different schedule or stricter hours.

Under the Southwest Florida Water Management District's year-round measures, even addresses may water on Thursday and/or Sunday before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m. and odd addresses may water on Wednesday and/or Saturday before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m. Hand watering or micro-irrigation of non-grass areas, such as vegetable gardens, flowers and shrubs, can take place any day at any time.

Questions, concerns or reporting violations, please call: City of Inverness at 352-726-2321; City of Crystal River at 352-795-4216, Ext. 313; unincorporated Citrus County at 352-527-7669.

TIDES

*From mouths of rivers **At King's Bay ***At Mason's Creek

| City | High | Low |
|------------------|---|-----|
| Chassahowitzka* | 4:33 a.m. 0.7 ft. 5:25 p.m. 0.3 ft. 12:25 p.m. 0.0 ft. 10:32 p.m. 0.2 ft. | |
| Crystal River** | 2:41 a.m. 2.4 ft. 3:49 p.m. 1.8 ft. 9:52 a.m. -0.2 ft. 9:41 p.m. 0.7 ft. | |
| Withalacoochee** | 1:09 p.m. 3.4 ft. 7:22 a.m. -0.7 ft. 7:19 p.m. 1.0 ft. | |
| Homosassa*** | 3:13 a.m. 1.4 ft. 4:51 p.m. 0.8 ft. 12:02 p.m. -0.1 ft. 9:58 p.m. 0.3 ft. | |

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

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Today in HISTORY

Today is Saturday, Dec. 2, the 336th day of 2017. There are 29 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight:
On Dec. 2, 1942, an artificially created, self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction was demonstrated for the first time at the University of Chicago.

On this date:
In 1804, Napoleon crowned himself Emperor of the French.
In 1927, Ford Motor Co. unveiled its Model A automobile that replaced its Model T.
In 1970, the newly created Environmental Protection Agency opened its doors under its first director, William D. Ruckelshaus.
In 2015, a couple loyal to Islamic State opened fire at a holiday banquet for public employees in San Bernardino, California, killing 14 people and wounding 21 others before dying in a shootout with police.

Ten years ago: Venezuela President Hugo Chavez suffered defeat as voters rejected sweeping constitutional reforms by 51 to 49 percent.

Five years ago: Hundreds of concrete slabs, each weighing more than a ton, fell from the roof of a highway tunnel west of Tokyo, crushing vehicles below and killing nine people.

One year ago: Thirty-six people died when fire erupted in an illegally converted warehouse in Oakland, California, during a dance party (two men have pleaded not guilty to charges of involuntary manslaughter).

Today's Birthdays: Former Attorney General Edwin Meese III is 86. Former Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., is 78. Actress Cathy Lee Crosby is 73. Broadcast journalist Stone Phillips is 63. Pop singer Britney Spears is 36. NFL quarterback Aaron Rodgers is 34. Pop singer-songwriter Charlie Puth is 26.

Thought for Today: "Misery loves company, but company does not reciprocate." — Addison Mizner, American architect (1872-1933).

ALERT CITRUS SIGNUP

■ To register for the Citrus County Sheriff's Office's Alert Citrus weather program, visit www.sheriffcitrus.org and click on the links to register.

■ Create a profile, list how you want to be contacted in case of a weather emergency (text, mobile phone, home phone, email), then include the address(es) you want alerts for. You can choose what types of emergencies you want to hear about, and set a quiet period for no contact.

■ Those without computer access may call Summer Wyllie at 352-249-2705.

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Newsroom:

Scott looks to replenish 'job growth' fund

JIM TURNER
The News Service
of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — Gov. Rick Scott has yet to dip into the \$85 million lawmakers set aside this year to attract new businesses to Florida, but he's already seeking to replenish the pool of money.

Scott told the Enterprise Florida Board of Directors, meeting this week in Jacksonville, of the need to ensure lawmakers maintain the new "Florida Job Growth Grant Fund," which has attracted 209 applications from governments and other groups across the state since opening in July.

However, Scott and his office haven't indicated when money could be

awarded to the first regional or workforce project.

"I have no interest in doing any deals unless we get a very good return on investment," Scott said. "When I was in business, I had a fiduciary to my employees, to the shareholders. In this, I have an absolute fiduciary to the taxpayers of the state to make sure all those dollars we get a very good return on investment."

Scott's request to replenish the fund with another \$85 million is part of his \$87.4 billion budget proposal for the 2018 legislative session.

The various applicants this year have collectively requested \$713.4 million to help with projects with an estimated cost of



Gov. Rick Scott
"I have no interest in doing any deals unless we get a very good return on investment."

\$1.5 billion. Most offer local matches.

The proposals range from \$2,580 sought on Oct. 4 by Film Florida — for an industry training event that occurred Oct 21 — to \$25 million requested by Pasco County for a \$62.1 million Interstate 75 and Overpass Road interchange project.

The fund was created during a June special legislative session as a compromise between Scott and House leaders.

After the fund was created, several Democrats

derided the money as a "slush fund" that needed more oversight. Enterprise Florida and the state Department of Economic Opportunity are reviewing the proposals.

House leaders were heavily focused on ending programs that awarded economic incentives to single companies in return for relocating to Florida or expanding in the state. House Speaker Richard Corcoran, R-Land O' Lakes, repeatedly called such incentives "corporate welfare."

Money in the new fund is prohibited from going to projects that provide exclusive benefits to single businesses.

In 2016 and earlier this year, Scott was unable to get lawmakers to approve his requests to continue funding economic incentives through Enterprise Florida.

That cut off money Scott had offered in prior years to attract, maintain or help expand companies, such as Hertz, United Technologies and Harris Corp.

On Wednesday, Mike Grissom, Enterprise Florida executive vice president, said Scott — who has only a year left in the governor's office — has been adamant that any money awarded is guaranteed to have a positive return

on investment.

Among the largest requests:

■ Hillsborough County, Apollo Beach Boulevard extension. A \$33.6 million project along the "I-75 Job Corridor" linking U.S. 41 and U.S. 301 over the interstate. Request: \$23 million.

■ State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota STEM campus. The proposal seeks money to help secure land and make other improvements needed to support a campus. Request: \$22.44 million.

■ Marion County, Crossroads Commerce Park. The \$272 million project, encompassing more than 900 acres, is envisioned as having distribution, warehouse and manufacturing facilities. Request: \$22.24 million.

FLYNN

Continued from Page A1

the officials, but indicated they were senior and within Trump's inner circle.

Those officials discussed the details of what Flynn was supposed to communicate to the Russians about U.S. sanctions imposed by Obama administration. One of the officials, described as a "very senior member" of the presidential transition, also directed Flynn to contact foreign government officials, including Russia's, about a U.N. Security Council resolution regarding Israeli settlements.

On Friday, Trump ignored reporters' shouted questions as he welcomed the Libyan prime minister to the White House, and aides canceled media access to a later meeting between the two. Flynn visited his son's house in Virginia shortly after he entered his guilty plea.

Flynn was an early and vocal Trump supporter on the campaign trail and

was present for consequential moments in the campaign, the following transition period and the early days of Trump's presidency, making him a valuable potential tool for prosecutors and agents. His business dealings and foreign interactions have made him a central focus of Mueller's investigation.

Trump's former national security adviser admitted to lying about his conversations with Russia's ambassador to the United States during the transition period before Trump's inauguration.

In a statement, Flynn, a 58-year-old retired Army lieutenant general, said he accepted responsibility for his actions and added: "My guilty plea and agreement to cooperate with the Special Counsel's Office reflect a decision I made in the best interests of my family and of our country."

Flynn is the fourth former Trump associate to face charges in the investigation, the first who actually served in Trump's White House. He has been under investigation for a

wide range of allegations, including lobbying work on behalf of Turkey, but the fact that he was charged only with a single count of false statements suggests he is cooperating with Mueller in exchange for leniency.

White House lawyer Ty Cobb sought to distance the plea from Trump himself, saying, "Nothing about the guilty plea or the charge implicates anyone other than Mr. Flynn."

Early on in his administration, Trump had taken a particular interest in the status of the Flynn investigation. Former FBI Director James Comey, whose firing in May precipitated the appointment of Mueller as special counsel, has said Trump had asked him in a private Oval Office meeting to consider ending the investigation into Flynn. Comey has said the encounter unnerved him so much that he prepared an internal memo about it. The White House has denied that assertion.

Comey tweeted a Bible passage Friday morning: "But justice roll down like waters and righteousness

like an ever-flowing stream."

Flynn, who was interviewed by the FBI just days after Trump's inauguration, was forced to resign in February after White House officials said he had misled them about whether he had discussed sanctions with the Russian ambassador, Sergey Kislyak. Administration officials said Flynn had not discussed sanctions that had been imposed on Russia in part over election meddling. In charging Flynn, prosecutors made clear they believe that claim to be false.

Days after Flynn's interview with the FBI, then-acting attorney general, Sally Yates alerted White House counsel Don McGahn that Flynn was potentially compromised and vulnerable to blackmail because of discrepancies between public assertions — including by Vice President Mike Pence — that Flynn and Kislyak had not discussed sanctions and the reality of what occurred.

Mueller's team announced charges in

October against three other Trump campaign officials, former chairman Paul Manafort and his business associate Rick Gates, and a former campaign foreign policy adviser, George Papadopoulos. Papadopoulos pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about his own foreign contacts.

Signs of Flynn cooperating with Mueller's team surfaced in the past week, as his lawyers told the legal team they could no longer discuss information about the case with them. Scheduled grand jury testimony regarding Flynn was also postponed by prosecutors.

The two-page charging document makes reference to two separate conversations with Kislyak, and to separate false statements prosecutors say he made regarding that communication.

Besides a Dec. 29 conversation about sanctions, prosecutors also cite an earlier December meeting, in which Flynn asked Kislyak to delay or defeat a U.N. Security Council resolution. That appears to refer to the body's vote a

day later to condemn Israeli settlements in the West Bank.

In a striking rupture with past practice, the Obama administration refrained from vetoing the condemnation, opting instead to abstain. The rest of the 15-nation council, including Russia, voted unanimously against Israel.

At the time, Israel was lobbying furiously against the resolution and President-elect Trump's team spoke up on behalf of the Jewish state. Trump personally called Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi to press the case against the condemnation, and Egypt surprisingly postponed the scheduled showdown on Dec. 22 — the same day Flynn met Kislyak.

After more procedural wrangling, the vote occurred a day later.

Trump almost immediately condemned the U.N. result via Twitter.

"As to the U.N., things will be different after Jan. 20th," Trump said, referencing his upcoming inauguration.

Big Slice Showdown

And the Winners are...

Motor City Pasta Co
Downtown Inverness

Margherita - Fresh plum tomatoes, fresh mozzarella, fresh garlic & fresh basil. Drizzled with olive oil cooked in our very own wood fire pizza oven.

JUDGES CHOICE

Schiano's Pizza
Crystal River Mall

Ultimate Chicken Pizza - This is a true New York style pizza experience. Starting off with our fresh dough, made daily. This pizza is hand tossed and baked directly on a stone oven. Our Ultimate Chicken Pizza has it all; fresh shredded mozzarella, green peppers, onions, mushrooms and chicken breast, all on top of our signature white pizza sauce. Is your mouth watering yet?

READERS CHOICE

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE
www.chronicleonline.com

Thank you to all the restaurants who participated and to our judges.
Go to tiny.cc/bigslice to view the results.

14 TVS FOR ALL SPORTS

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|---|---------------|
| 1 Trip Salad Bar w/Purchase of Drink | \$4.99 |
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| TUES. 2 Taco Tuesday, 1 Side | \$6.99 |
| WED. 🍷 Western Burger, 1 Side | \$7.99 |
| THURS. 🍷 Meatloaf, Mashed Pot. or 1 Side | \$8.99 |
| FRI. 🍷 Country Fried Steak, Mashed Pot. or 1 Side | \$8.99 |
| SAT. 🍷 8 Oz. Chopped Steak w/Onions, 1 Side | \$7.99 |
| SUN. 🍷 Oysters, Shrimp & Clam Strip Basket, 1 Side .. | \$8.99 |

APPETIZER SPECIALTIES

Stuffed Mushrooms • Crab Poppers • Fresh Fish Dips and Many Others

NIGHTLY FEATURES 4PM-9PM

| | |
|---|--|
| MON. 🍷 10 Oz. Sirloin, 1/2 lb. Snow Crab, 2 Sides, 1 Trip Salad Bar | \$22.99 |
| EVERY NIGHT - SEAFOOD COMBO | |
| Fried Catfish, Shrimp, Oysters, Frog Legs or Scallops with 2 Sides and 1 Trip Salad Bar | |
| PICK 2 | \$18.99 |
| PICK 3 | \$21.99 |
| TUES. 🍷 10 Oz. NY Steak, 6 oz. Warm Water Lobster Tail, 2 Sides, 1 Trip Salad Bar | \$27.99 |
| WED. 🍷 AUCE SNOW CRAB! 2 Sides and AUCE SALAD BAR | \$44.99 |
| THURS. 🍷 12 Oz. T-Bone, 2 Sides, 1 Trip Salad Bar | \$14.99 |
| FRI. 🍷 AUCE CATFISH, 2 Sides, 1 Trip Salad Bar | \$12.99 |
| PRIME RIB, 2 Sides, 1 Trip Salad Bar | Queen \$18.99 King \$19.99 |
| SAT. 🍷 10 Oz. Ribeye, 1 lb. Snow Crab, 2 Sides, 1 Trip Salad Bar | \$29.99 |
| Prime Rib, 2 Sides, 1 Trip Salad Bar | Queen \$18.99 King \$19.99 |
| SUN. 🍷 16 Oz. Ribeye, 2 Sides, 1 Trip Salad Bar | \$19.99 |
| Grilled Pork Chop, Banging Shrimp, 2 Sides .. | \$18.99 |

CERTIFIED ANGUS BEEF

CERTIFIED ANGUS BEEF

Irene Stewart, 95

RIVER GROVE, ILLINOIS

Irene A. Stewart, 95, of Inverness, Florida, went to be with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on November 30, 2017, at the Hospice House in Lecanto. Irene was born in Branden, Minnesota on September 13, 1922 to Leopold and Hilda Susanna Alapeteri, the youngest of their 16 children.

Irene married Robert E. Stewart in Phoenix, Arizona on November 26, 1941. The couple, married for 51 years, resided in River Grove, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. They are survived by their four children, Judith C. Thomson (Steve Kasco) of Inverness, FL, Ronald E. Stewart (Elba) of Palatine, IL, Janine C. Stewart, of St. Petersburg, FL and Christine A. Stewart, teaching in Hangzhou, China; six grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren. She was loved and will be missed by all.

Among her many gifts, she will be remembered as a loving mother and "Ammi" to her family, provider of a wonderful and welcoming home. Irene was a good cook, a talented artist, created beautiful ceramics, gardened, and could sew just about anything. She was a generous and caring friend to many, volunteered for civic tasks and was active in her church. Her skill set included singing, dancing, and the ability to hit a baseball. During WWII she worked at Douglas Aircraft as a "Rosie the Riveter". In later years, she was employed for a time at Wilson Sporting Goods as a secretary. She loved bingo, bowling, golfing, walking in the woods, and garage sales.

No memorial is scheduled. A private celebration of life for the family will be held at a later date. Fero Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Memorial contributions may be directed to the Hospice of Citrus and the Nature Coast, PO Box 641270, Beverly Hills, FL 34461.

Sign the guest book at www.chronicleonline.com.

Margaret Harris, 98

INVERNESS

Margaret T. Harris, 98, of Inverness, FL, died on Thursday, November 30, 2017 at her home under the loving care of God, her daughter, dear friends, and Hospice of Citrus and the Nature Coast.

Margaret was born on September 7, 1919 in South Amboy, NJ, daughter of Stephen and Mary Denarski. She had seven brothers, Zigmund Denarski, Anthony Denarski, Michael Denarski, Raymond Denarski, Benjamin Denarski, Leon Denarski, and John Brim. Margaret was employed as a waitress for over forty years in the Perth Amboy area. She also worked at Pathmark, A&S, and Super Foodtown. Margaret enjoyed her work, meeting new people and taking care of her own home and family. She was a member of the Sacred Heart Lady's Rosary Society. Margaret moved to Inverness in 1978 from

South Amboy, NJ. She was a member of Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Inverness.

Margaret was preceded in death by her first husband, Charles Ruszczyk and her second husband, Nathan J. Harris; son, Raymond Ruszczyk. Left to cherish her many, many memories are her daughter, Barbara Zielinski of Inverness, FL, dear friends, nieces and nephews.

A Mass for Mrs. Harris will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, December 4, 2017 at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church. The family will receive friends at the church from 12:30 p.m. until the hour of service. Interment will be at Sacred Heart Cemetery in South Amboy, NJ. Heinz Funeral Home & Cremation, Inverness, FL. heinzfh.com

Gerald McGuire, 78

INVERNESS

Gerald S. McGuire, Jr., age 78, of Inverness, FL, passed away November 28, 2017 at Hospice of Citrus and the Nature



Gerald McGuire

Coast, Lecanto, FL. Gerald was born on February 7, 1939 in Webster, N.Y. to the late Gerald and Gladys (Little) McGuire. He worked as a salesman throughout his life including real estate sales. Gerald had been a resident of Citrus County Florida for over 20 years after relocating from New York. He was a proud member of Alcoholics Anonymous for over 42 years.

Those left to mourn Gerald's passing include his daughters: Kelly Hayes and her husband Eric of Fairview, PA, Kristin Aquino and her husband Carlos of N. Palm Beach, FL, Molly Koprulu and her husband Berk of Grosse Pointe, MI; his sister, Gail McGuire of Avon, N.Y.; and 5 grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations made be made in memory of Gerald to the American Heart Association, 1101 Northchase Parkway, Suite 1, Marietta, GA 30067 or Hospice of Citrus County, P.O. Box 641270, Beverly Hills, FL 34464. Private cremation care is under the direction of the Chas E. Davis Funeral Home with Crematory, Inverness, FL.

Sign the guest book at www.chronicleonline.com.

Odell Brooks, 70

CRYSTAL RIVER

Odell Brooks, Sr. 70 of Crystal River, Florida passed away November 20, 2017. He was born November 1, 1947 in Homosassa, Florida to the late Clarence and Alberta Brooks. He was a retired Mason in the Construction Industry. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his son Odell Brooks, Jr. He is survived by his wife of 51 years Sarah Brooks, three children, Gregory Brooks, Melvin Brooks, and Ericka Brooks, four sisters, Gerri DeVaughn, Betty Munford, Fredia

Chas. E. Davis Funeral Home With Crematory

ROSENDA GUERRERO
Mass: Mon. 11:00 AM
Our Lady of Fatima
Burial: Fero Memorial Gardens

ALBERT COLASANTI
Service Sat. 9:00 AM
Burial: The Fountains

ALFRED MASON
Private Arrangements

JUDITH BOURQUE
Private Arrangements

KENNETH HORNBERGER
Private Arrangements

GERALD MCGUIRE, JR.
Private Arrangements

726-8323

Mae Brooks, and Rose Brooks, eleven grandchildren, and one great grandchild. A Celebration of his Life will take place Saturday December 2nd 10:00am at Strickland Funeral Home in Crystal River.

Sign the guest book at www.chronicleonline.com.

Frank Smith, 70

BEVERLY HILLS

Frank D. Smith, 70 of Beverly Hills, FL died on September 18, 2017 at his home. Private arrangements are under the direction of Strickland Funeral Home and Crematory.

OBITUARIES

- Obituaries must be verified with the funeral home or society in charge of arrangements.
- The Chronicle does not edit obituaries for content.
- Death notices are \$25, and may include: full name of deceased; age; hometown/state; date of death; place of death; date, time and place of visitation and funeral services and, for members of the military, the branch of the armed services in which they served.
- Paid obituaries are \$175, and include placement in the newspaper and online, a standard-size headshot and a keepsake plaque. Text exceeding 210 lines will be subject to an additional fee of \$80.
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- A flag will be included for free for those who served in the U.S. military. (Please note the branch of service when submitting an obituary.)
- Additional days of publication or reprints due to errors in submitted material are charged at the same rates.
- Deadline is 3 p.m. for obituaries to appear in the next day's edition.
- Obituaries are at www.chronicleonline.com.
- Email obits@chronicleonline.com or call 352-563-5660 for more information.
- The national database Legacy.com maintains the Chronicle's obituaries and guest books. Per Legacy policy, all guest book comments are screened by its staff for appropriate content before being placed online. Allow 24 hours for review of guest book entries. A printed guest book may be purchased from Legacy in a hardcover or paperback format.

FDA approves test for cancer gene profiling



Associated Press

Patient Alison Cairnes, foreground, looks at images with her doctor Shumei Kato at the University of California San Diego in San Diego. Tumor profiling that sequenced Cairnes' cancer genes helped identify a treatment that proved effective for her gastric cancer. On Thursday, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved one such test by Foundation Medicine.

MARILYNN MARCHIONE
Associated Press

U.S. regulators have approved a first-of-a-kind test that looks for mutations in hundreds of cancer genes at once, giving a more complete picture of what's driving a patient's tumor and aiding efforts to match treatments to those flaws.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved Foundation Medicine's test for patients with advanced or widely spread cancers, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services proposed covering it.

The dual decisions, announced late Thursday, will make tumor-gene profiling available to far more cancer patients than the few who get it now, and lead more insurers to cover it.

"It's essentially individualized, precision medicine," said Dr. Kate Goodrich, chief medical officer for the Medicare oversight agency.

Currently, patients may get tested for individual genes if a drug is available to target those mutations. It's a hit-and-miss approach that sometimes means multiple biopsies and wasted time. In lung cancer alone, for example, about half a dozen genes can be checked with individual tests to see if a particular drug is a good match.

The new Foundation-One CDx test can be used for any solid tumor such as prostate, breast or colon cancer, and surveys 324 genes plus other features that can help predict success with treatments that enlist the immune system.

"Instead of one or two, you have many" tests at once from a single tissue sample, said the FDA's Dr. Jeffrey Shuren. The tests give better and more information to guide treatment and can help more patients find and enroll in studies of novel therapies, he said.

"This will be a sea change" for patients, said Dr. Richard Schilsky, chief medical officer

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of the American Society of Clinical Oncology, the association of doctors who treat the disease.

"On balance I think this is good," but there is a risk that spotting a mutation will lead doctors and patients to try treatments that haven't been proven to work in that situation and promote more off-label use of expensive drugs, he said.

A better outcome in those situations is to guide people into studies testing drugs that target those genes, Schilsky said.

Foundation Medicine, based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and others have sold tumor profiling tests for several years under more lax rules governing lab-developed tests. But insurers have balked at paying for the tests, which cost around \$6,000.

Now, the FDA's approval gives assurance of quality, Shuren said, and the government's proposed coverage for Medicare and other public insurance programs will more likely follow.

Public comments on the coverage proposal will be taken for 30 days. A final decision is expected early next year followed by setting a price for reimbursement.

Coverage is proposed for patients with recurrent, widely spread or advanced cancers, in people who have decided with their doctors to seek further treatment and who have not previously had a gene sequencing test.

"A lot of these folks have run out of treatment options," but the tests may point to something new that might help, Goodrich said.

The impact is expected to be greatest on lung cancer, since so many of those tumors are found at an advanced stage and multiple gene-targeting drugs are available to treat it.

Evidence isn't strong enough to warrant using these gene profiling tests for earlier stages of cancer. Patients get standard, guideline-based care in those cases.

In mid-November, the FDA also approved a gene-profiling test developed by Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, but it's used almost exclusively on patients at that cancer center and is not envisioned to be a widely available commercial test.

The federal decisions will make gene sequencing a more routine component of cancer care, "just like we normally look with a microscope" to classify the stage of a patient's disease, said Dr. David Klimstra, pathology chief at the cancer center.

Another leader in this field, Caris Life Sciences, says it also intends to pursue FDA approval for its widely used tumor profiling test, sold now through lab certifications. It's also working on a newer tool to profile tumor genes from a blood sample. Many companies already sell these so-called liquid biopsy tests, though none are FDA-approved yet.

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Weekly roundup: Big issues amid a Capitol storm

A recap and analysis of the week in state government

DARA KAM
The News Service
of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — With Thanksgiving already a speck in the rear-view mirror, Capitol insiders are slowly plodding toward the advent of the 2018 legislative session next month.

The legislative agenda was bare this week, but the Florida Supreme Court and the Constitution Revision Commission made up for the quiet in the halls of the House and Senate.

Legislators will be in town next week to begin going through Gov. Rick Scott's proposed \$87.4 billion budget, along with a variety of other issues ranging from the salvage of pleasure boats to a Florida slavery memorial, and, of course, ubiquitous gun bills.

But, like much of the past month, the chatter around the Capitol remained concentrated this week on sexual harassment allegations lodged against Sen. Jack Latvala, a veteran politician who is defending himself, in part, against charges that he repeatedly groped Senate aide Rachel Perrin Rogers.

Scott this week stopped short of calling for the resignation of Latvala, a Clearwater Republican who is running for governor.

But on Thursday, Scott called Latvala, who is the subject of two Senate investigations about sexual harassment allegations, a "distraction" in the upper chamber and again called

in the current climate.

Recusal rejection

Scott's attempt to have Supreme Court Justice Barbara Pariente removed from a case that could have a lasting impact on the makeup of the high court failed this week, after Pariente refused to recuse herself.

Scott's lawyers had accused Pariente of being biased against the governor in the case, which centers on whether Scott or his successor has the power to appoint three new justices before he leaves office in January 2019.

Attorneys for Scott, who contends he has the appointment power, argued that Pariente should be disqualified because of comments she made that were caught on a "hot mic" after oral arguments in the case. The Scott administration alleges the comments indicated a bias against the governor.

But, accusing Scott of trying to "fan the flames of false controversy," lawyers for the League of Women Voters and Common Cause filed a 12-page response Tuesday saying the motion to disqualify Pariente should be rejected. The two groups filed the underlying case about the appointment power in June.

According to legal precedent, Pariente alone — and not the full court — has the authority to decide whether she should step aside from the case. The court on Wednesday issued a one-line rejection of Scott's motion to disqualify Pariente, leading Scott spokesman John Tupps to blast the decision.

"Governor Scott expects all judges to be fair and impartial. It is disappointing that today's decision was made without providing

any plausible justification or explanation for Justice Pariente's comments. Given the gravity of this case, Floridians deserve better," Tupps said in a prepared statement.

In filing the case in June, the voting-rights groups argued that Scott's successor should have to the authority to appoint replacements for Pariente and justices R. Fred Lewis and Peggy Quince, who will be forced to leave the bench in January 2019 because of a mandatory retirement age.

Whether Scott or his successor will have the authority could have a far-reaching impact on actions by the governor's office and the Republican-dominated Legislature.

Pariente, Lewis and Quince are widely considered part of a four-member liberal majority on the seven-member court. If Scott makes the appointments, he could reshape the court in a more conservative mode for years, if not decades.

Dogs, religion and vaping

The Constitution Revision Commission is moving forward with a variety of proposals in its once-every-two-decades process of proposing changes to the state Constitution.

Items that receive the 37-member commission's approval will be placed on the ballot in November and will require 60 percent approval from voters to pass.

Altering the governing document might seem like a dry process, but committees of the commission pushed ahead this week with several initiatives, including one that would

ban vaping in the workplace.

Commissioner Lisa Carlton, a former state senator, backed the proposal, which received unanimous support from a committee.

Like cigarette smoke, second-hand exposure to vaping can lead to breathing in toxins, according to Carlton.

"No one should be forced to endure a cloud of harmful vapor in their cubicle as they work to support their families. No parent should have to worry about the health of their child because someone is vaping at the adjoining restaurant table, movie-theater seat, grocery store or next to them inside the mall," she said.

Another Constitution Revision Commission proposal that's repeatedly been floated in the Legislature but has failed to gain traction would shut down greyhound racing.

Supporters of the proposal pointed Thursday to issues such as greyhound injuries and deaths in arguing to shut down dog racing — a staple of Florida's gambling industry for decades.

"This is, for me, a matter of conscience," said commission member and state Sen. Tom Lee, a Thonotosassa Republican who is sponsoring the proposed ban.

Lee said society has changed and people have evolved since the heydays of greyhound racing.

"And that's a good thing. And as we've evolved, we've banned all sorts of activities that have been considered cruel to animals — bullfighting and cockfighting and all kinds of things. To me, this is just the next step on that plane of becoming more

sensitive to this kind of inhumanity," he said.

Meanwhile, a committee advanced what will surely be one of the more controversial ballot items, if the measure receives approval from the full commission: doing away with a ban on state support for religious groups.

The commission's Declaration of Rights Committee endorsed a measure that would eliminate the Constitution's so-called "no-aid" provision, which prohibits public funding "directly or indirectly" for any church, religious group or "sectarian institution."

The no-aid provision, which dates to Florida's 1885 Constitution, has been invoked in recent years in legal fights over using publicly funded vouchers to send students to private schools. A state appellate court in 2004 cited the provision in striking down a voucher program, though the Florida Supreme Court later found the program unconstitutional on other grounds.

Story of the week

Gov. Rick Scott lost out in an attempt to remove Florida Supreme Court Justice Barbara Pariente from a case that could have far-reaching implications on the makeup of the state's highest court.

Quote of the week

"It is obvious that Senator Latvala remaining in the Senate is a distraction. It seems that everyone in Tallahassee is talking about this and not how to make Florida better." — Gov. Rick Scott, on Sen. Jack Latvala, a Clearwater Republican who is under investigation for alleged sexual harassment.

State BRIEFS

Trump to rally supporters in Pensacola

President Donald Trump will hold a rally in the conservative stronghold of Pensacola next week, according to an announcement Friday by his political committee. The Dec. 8 event will take place at 7 p.m. at the Pensacola Bay Center, and it will be the

Trump's fourth appearance in Pensacola since he began running for president in 2015.

The timing of the rally "could not be better," Michael Glassner, executive director of Donald Trump for President, said in a news release.

"Nothing inspires President Trump as much as connecting with hard working Americans at campaign rallies across the country. He especially enjoys

meeting with our courageous veterans and their families at these patriotic events," Glassner said.

The Panhandle event will be held just four days before a critical election across the border in Alabama. Roy Moore, a conservative firebrand twice forced off the Alabama Supreme Court, is the Republican nominee in a U.S. Senate race. Moore has been

accused of sexually inappropriate behavior with several women, including one as young as 14.

Endangered tiger cubs born at Florida zoo

JACKSONVILLE — Two healthy cubs belonging to a critically endangered tiger subspecies have been born at a Florida zoo.

The Florida Times-Union reported that the male Sumatran tiger cubs were born Nov. 20 at the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens. The cubs are the second litter for 6-year-old mother Dorcas and 16-year-old father Berani, part of a worldwide Sumatran tiger species management program dedicating to maintaining a healthy population.

There are around 400

Sumatran tigers in the wild. Veterinarian Yousuf Jafarey determined Tuesday that the cubs each weighed 4.5 pounds and had no congenital health problems. The cubs will not be on public exhibit for several months, but a live video feed of their nest box is available in the tiger viewing building. — From wire reports

UNCLAD

Continued from Page A1

reportedly began exchanging profanities with the other couple. Fowler or Malsnee then allegedly threw a metal rod over the fence, striking the woman's leg, according to the police report.

Fowler and Malsnee reportedly jumped over the fence and Fowler tackled the man, punching and scratching his face and

body.

While they were fighting on the ground, Malsnee allegedly grabbed the metal pipe and stood over the man as if to strike him, but was stopped by the woman. Malsnee then grabbed the woman by her hair and yanked her to the ground.

Fowler and Malsnee reportedly went back over to the fence after the altercation. Deputies reported finding Fowler naked and sitting on the floor. Malsnee was said to be wearing a sweater but no pants.

Both appeared to be under the influence of an unknown narcotic, according to authorities.

While the deputies were talking to Fowler, he stood up, pounded his chest, pushed and tried to strike a deputy, but was thwarted. Fowler then shoved the deputy again.

Deputies used a Taser on Fowler but he continued to be combative, the report states. He ultimately complied with commands and was taken to the county jail.

Malsnee was arrested without any further incident.

Fowler is being charged with one count of aggravated battery with a deadly weapon, one count of battery, one count of battery on a law enforcement officer and resisting

an officer with violence. His bond is \$21,000.

Malsnee is being charged with one count of battery and violation of felony probation. Her bond is \$1,000 for the battery, but no bond was allowed for the probation violation.



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Comfort dogs help after church shootings

ELINE DE BRUIJN
The Dallas Morning News



Janice Marut, church comfort dog coordinator, left, and Shannon Reynolds, a counselor at McCall Elementary School in Willow Park, Texas, reads with Pax, a Comfort Dog, to kindergarten students. Pax is a trained LCC K-9 Comfort Dog at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Fort Worth and The Summit in Aledo, Texas. He interacts with people at schools, nursing homes, hospitals and in disaster response situations.

Associated Press

ALEDO, Texas — He's got to be the most popular guy at school. It's his hair, his eyes, the way he walks down the hallway.

The Dallas Morning News reports the students at McCall Elementary clamor just to be near him.

Pax, a fuzzy 3-year-old golden retriever, visits the school at least once a month to do what he does best: offer comfort.

"They just love him," counselor Shannon Reynolds said. "We like to make Pax a really fun part of the school."

Pax and Phoebe, another golden retriever, are part of the Lutheran Church Charities' comfort dog program, which includes Fort Worth's St. Paul Lutheran Church. The program sends out 100 dogs from 24 states for free visits.

Pax and Phoebe spend six to seven hours a day visiting hospitals, nursing homes and anywhere else that calls for their help in North Texas.

Pax in November traveled to Sutherland Springs to bring comfort to the small South Texas town after more than two dozen people were killed in the church shootings there.

Pax was walking with Janice Marut, St. Paul Lutheran's comfort dog coordinator, when they met a fire chief who told them a struggling firefighter could use a boost.

Pax and five other dogs visited the restaurant

where the volunteer firefighter worked. She spent time with the dogs and their handlers, who prayed with her, Marut said.

Later, the firefighter's mother told the charity's president the visit with the dogs was the first time the firefighter had smiled since the shooting.

"That's what we do; that's what we do with a

dog," Marut said. "And it's really not about the dog. The dog just gets us there and allows us to do the ministry."

Pax, whose name means "peace" in Latin, also traveled to Orlando, Florida, after the Pulse nightclub massacre that killed 49 people in 2016 and provided comfort in Dallas after the police ambush downtown.

Before he went on his first comfort mission, Pax learned how to behave as part of a program in Chicago, where he completed more than 2,000 hours of training.

When his leash is on, Pax knows to obey his handler, who can be anyone from a pool of 45 trained volunteers from the church. He can respond to

40 commands.

On his recent visit to McCall Elementary, Pax helped Reynolds, the school counselor, as she read "Marley: A Thanksgiving to Remember," a story of a mischievous golden retriever.

The relaxed, 74-pound pooch splayed across the colorful carpet as kindergartners surrounded him,

touching his whiskers, smoothing his fur and playing with his paws.

After the story, Reynolds had each student tell Pax what they were thankful for.

"I'm thankful for my swimming pool and Pax," Caden Laughley said.

"I'm thankful for Pax and Jesus," Samantha Reeder said.

"I'm thankful for Pax and bunnies," Ella Lee said.

Reynolds calls the church when she knows a student or staff member needs support. She has reached out when a student has lost a loved one or has a relative dealing with an illness.

The dog's presence in Reynolds' office can help students talk about how they're feeling or just make them feel better if they're too young to put their feelings into words, she said.

"He just brings so many smiles and lots of love and comfort to our building, and we're just really, really blessed," Reynolds said. "He's helped us in so many different situations, from kindness to sadness to celebrations."

When Pax can't be there, the counselor has a stand-in stuffed toy replica, Pax Jr., that children carry around for comfort. Similar toys were handed out to the children in Sutherland Springs.

Pax gets plenty of toys, too. When he's not working, he loves to roll in the mud and play, handlers said. And he gets a massage every day.

For the RECORD


Citrus County Sheriff's Office
Domestic battery arrests
■ **Chaye Brown**, 25, of Beverly Hills, at 4:25 p.m. Nov. 30 on a misdemeanor charge of domestic battery.
■ **Christopher Barclay**, 27, of Lecanto, at 1:59 a.m. Dec. 1 on a misdemeanor charge of

domestic battery.
Other arrests
■ **Andraius McKinnon**, 17, of Poplar Street, Inverness, at 1:25 p.m. Nov. 30 on an active warrant for attempted robbery and conspiracy to commit an offense prohibited by law. His bond was set at \$4,000.
■ **Dawson Phillips**, 18, of Crystal River, at 1:59 a.m. Dec. 1 on a misdemeanor

charge of drug paraphernalia.
■ **Brittany Malsnee**, 27, of South Wadsworth Avenue, Beverly Hills, at 2:24 a.m. Dec. 1 for felony violation of probation stemming from an original charge of burglary.
■ **Charles Mercer**, 55, Southeast 173rd Place, Inglis, at 6:02 a.m. Dec. 1 on a felony charge of possession of a controlled substance and a

misdemeanor charges of drug paraphernalia. According to his arrest affidavit, Mercer was pulled over for failing to maintain a single lane of traffic. He reportedly agreed to a search of his vehicle and approximately 2.3 grams of methamphetamine and a glass meth pipe were found in his possession. His bond was set at \$3,000.

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ALLEN
Continued from Page A1
"I am still searching," he said. "I'm looking at 20 years worth of legislation. I am still searching how it's been spent. I'm putting a plan together." As for Webster, Allen said

he can be beat, even in a congressional district that leans heavily Republican. "I've had a few Republicans reach out to me," he said. "They're tired of Webster not holding town halls. He holds 'listening sessions.' The main thing is availability. I want to hear from everybody." Allen, who says he makes

a little under \$40,000 a year, acknowledged an uphill battle in fundraising. "So far there's been some donations but it's pretty much self-funded," he said. "I'm getting out in the community. I want to be accessible. I understand what constituents are going through right now. I'm finishing up two

bachelor degrees and running a campaign." Allen said he hasn't campaigned in Citrus County yet. He said: "I plan to go there after the first of the year." Contact Chronicle reporter Mike Wright at 352-563-3228 or mwright@chronicleonline.com.

DROUGHT
Continued from Page A1
new areas of drought since this past spring." Despite the dry conditions, the threat of wildfires in Citrus County is low. Only Bay, Martin and Washington counties had a moderate fire danger as of Friday, according to FFS.

Williams said even with a weak front passing through northern Florida this weekend, temperatures will continue to be above average for this time of year. Rain prospects, though, remain scant. The Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) on Friday released its November water resource update

and it shows Citrus County and the entirety of its northern counties — including Hernando, Lake, Levy, Marion and Sumter — received 3.30 inches of rain in November. That is not bad for November, considering it is one of the driest months of the year. The normal range for November is anywhere between 0.74 to 2.82 inches for the month. Most of that

rain, however, came Thanksgiving Day and the rest of November was dry as a bone, according to Granville Kinsman, SWFWMD's manager of hydrologic data. "We are very fortunate we got that," Kinsman said. Contact Chronicle reporter Michael D. Bates at 352-563-5660 or mbates@chronicleonline.com.

2017 Christmas Parades

DEC. 2

CRYSTAL RIVER

6:00 PM

DEC. 9

INVERNESS

NOON

DEC. 2

BEVERLY HILLS

10:00 AM

DEC. 17

CITRUS SPRINGS

2:00 PM

DEC. 2

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5:30 PM

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CRYSTAL RIVER and HOMOSASSA BOAT PARADES
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 — David S. Arthurs publisher emeritus

The opinions expressed in Chronicle editorials are the opinions of the newspaper's editorial board.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Work together to develop new uses for mall

The Crystal River Mall is a privately owned, but of great public concern.

The mall lost all of its original major tenants from the glory days of the early 1990s.

The causes are many. Pick the one you like.

The mall's location is in a less populated part of the community.

Consumers did not support Belk, J.C. Penney and Sears when they were located here.

Retail sales have changed dramatically since the adoption of the internet as a shopping source.

The reality today is that the Crystal River Mall is at about 50 percent occupancy and it's a struggle for the current owner to attract new business. Suggestions that Dillard's or Macy's would be interested are not helpful. Retail is shrinking and Citrus County's per capita income is way too low to be of interest to those types of businesses.

Millie Bresnahan, the manager of the mall, struggles mightily to get new smaller businesses interested in leasing space. The sale of the old Sears store to Rural King was a major home run.

Just like other enclosed retail centers around the nation, the Crystal River Mall is going to struggle as it attempts to reinvent itself. The current Mesa, Arizona owners of the center appear to be more willing to invest dollars toward maintaining the facility and trying to attract new tenants. But the challenges are many.

The recent dust-up with the city of Crystal River over permits for making improvements at the old J.C. Penney site was unfortunate. The mall operators were trying to clean up the J.C. Penney

property and failed to secure the proper city permits. The city had the right to double the fees because they were after-the-fact permits, but chose not to.

Some sharp words were exchanged between the mall management and the city, but that only demonstrates the level of frustration involved in finding a healthy future for the county's largest retail center.

That's important to everyone because the private businesses pays taxes and the 29 leasing stores still employ a lot of people. And let's not forget that this community already has a huge problem with surplus retail space and dilapidated commercial buildings. Does anyone think an abandoned mall would help that scenario?

While none of us have a financial interest in the mall, we are all stakeholders in its future use. It would be better for everyone if government and business leaders could work together to find new ideas for making the mall a viable business.

Future uses could include youth indoor sports, adult living facilities, apartments for young people or professional services. Some have suggested that government could lease some of the space (city hall) and others have proposed a nonprofit aquarium.

There is potential, but it won't be an easy journey. Things could be smoother if city officials and business leaders could work with the mall ownership team to explore options. At the same time, the mall ownership team needs to follow the rules and be transparent with local city and business leaders.

We all have a stake in the mall's future.

THE ISSUE:

The future of the mall.

OUR OPINION:

Make future use a community priority.

Shelter needs to be fixed

I have worked in many shelters that have gone no kill.

Seems our obstacles are from the sitting commission and county administrator; it then trickles down.

When Dr. Julie was here, the shelter was great; the advocates or so-called "troublemakers" want what we had before she left, and more. We want a no kill shelter.

When she was vet/director, we had a high-functioning shelter, proving the less people making decisions there, the easier the job.

I have three dogs they wanted to kill. All in quarantine, for 33 days, 20, and 17, respectfully. All great dogs with little quirks that needed homes.

This issue was fixed by the "troublemakers." The dogs are out of the quarantine in 10 days now. However, access to take pics/post outside q's is denied, so unless you "ask" to see q's you will think your animal is not there.

The "troublemakers" got one dog home by Facebook pics, hours before death or rescue. His name is King.

Out of the Box Rescue was created because there was a need. It should not have been needed, but it is. Why? They murder nice animals at the shelter. Some need to be put down, but not the healthy animals.

I took the time to go to a commission meeting and say all this; they all agreed better communication was needed. The shelter killed a dog named Winston the next week. It was the wrong dog.

Sonny the pup was in quarantine for 20 days of his first three months for "nipping" — really? A puppy nipping? Sonny has issues, major hyperactivity, 20 days listening to nonstop barking, confined with minimal human contact, plus water hosing the kennel. Imagine living that.

The bite policy cannot be all encompassing. It needs levels; Randy Oliver is the top cog in this wheel of

OPINIONS INVITED

■ **Viewpoints** depicted in political cartoons, columns or letters do not necessarily represent the opinion of the editorial board.

■ **Groups or individuals** are invited to express their opinions in a letter to the editor.

■ **Persons** wishing to address the editorial board, which meets weekly, should call **Mike Arnold** at 352-563-5660.

■ **All letters** must be signed and include a phone number and hometown, including letters sent via email. Names and hometowns will be printed; phone numbers will not be published or given out.

■ **We reserve** the right to edit letters for length, libel, fairness and good taste.

■ **Letters** must be no longer than 600 words, and writers will be limited to four letters per month.

■ **SEND LETTERS TO: The Editor**, 1624 N. Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34429; fax to 352-563-3280; or email to letters@chronicleonline.com.

misfortune and is resisting this. He has been called out on the policy many times, but the commission thinks he walks on water.

Why is he even in a position that should go to a citizen of Citrus County? No resident cares about our county who is unemployed and seeking work? Really?

Volunteers pay for assessments to stop the killing; if it is good, the dog can be pulled by a rescue.

There should be a trainer on staff. This should not be a volunteer cost.

If not for posting and cross-posting we do for these dogs, the save rate would plunge. The people who are being attacked for being "troublemakers" are doing the online adoptions. Why doesn't the shelter have a Facebook or social media presence? Anything you see is strictly volunteers.

Why are they resisting positive change?

Why isn't there a tax for shelter funds?

Why do we still not have a permanent vet?

We need fosters and volunteers, but that wasn't mentioned at the press conference

Morgan Woodward held, or the upcoming events — the agenda was clear: muzzle the troublemakers.

I am sick and tired of hitting a brick wall for positive changes. I do my part, but this is a countywide issue. Step up people!

We have an issue that needs resolving. How we treat animals says a lot about how we treat each other.

We are their voices, the stewards, and we are really mucking this up.

You can help. Adopt, foster, sponsor, donate to rescues, volunteer, share posts on social media. I want answers to my questions and so do others.

In closing, CenturyLink needs to fix the phone system at the shelter. It has been screwy since the hurricane.

Maryanne Lane
 Hernando

Exposing the bias of journalism

The Associated Press (AP) reported that President Trump thanked the troops on Thanksgiving. For the exact same story, our two newspapers printed the identical words, except The Chronicle printed the AP lines "Using the occasion to pat himself on the back," while the Tampa Bay Times wrote "Using the occasion to talk up his own leadership."

The AP and electronic news media are confused about news facts versus their opinion; or, if not confused, intentionally believe the public is gullible or too dumbed-down to recognize what they're doing. Seems like the AP wants to fan the flames of hatred.

If you donate your vacation stoppage to Newspapers in Education (NIE), just imagine what is being done to the young minds that get indoctrinated to this dribble, unless teachers have a course that covers media bias and integrity in journalism.

Hank Robinson
 Homosassa

Hot Corner: AUDITS

■ This is Wednesday, Nov. 29. I'm looking at the paper, "Board blasts sheriff over fire audit." Does anybody realize that this is not under our new sheriff's regime? This is the old sheriff during that period of time, which was Jeff Dawsy. What kind of commissioners do we have?

■ Are you kidding me? Are you kidding me? The sheriff tells the county commissioners that he's not going to give them an audit? Are you kidding me? And we've got to put up with it. These commissioners don't have the power. They're nothing but good ol' boys. They'll wind up going his way after all. I don't know where (Ron) Kitchen's been for the past I can't say how many years, but he's been in another world. They're not going to get any cooperation out of the sheriff's department because it's "very argumentative." Lord have mercy, very argumentative? It's more than argumentative. The citizens right here in Inverness are going to pay, as they've always paid, for the incompetence of the commissioners. And then they come out with the statement, "We don't think there's anything we can do." Grab (Sheriff Prendergast) and have the county board of commissioners have an open public meeting on a day that the public, everybody, can show up at evening time, like a 7 o'clock meeting. Bring him in front of everybody. The sheriff's department in this county is ridiculous. They get away with so much. Well, I'll tell you (Jeff) Dawsy got away with it for how many years?

■ You know there's something wrong when

auditors that were hired by the Citrus County Clerk of the Court were denied access to reports that would have verified the cost of things. Now I think this has been going on for way, way too many years and so do a lot of other people. The sheriff needs to come clean about the costs and his funds and the financial status. And also another thing: How come if the sheriff's office is over animal control, poor animal control never sees a dime of it and we've got helicopters and all kinds of big things?

■ Citrus County commissioners are all upset about the overrun or the cost of the hoist for the helicopter in the sheriff's department and criticizing the sheriff's department. All the years that Dawsy was in office, they never criticized him for nothing. He bought high-speed boats and helicopters and cars and so forth and he was never criticized. But did the Citrus County commissioners ever look into the many, many calls that people have called in about the maintenance and the gasoline, the overruns in the private cars in the Citrus County Sheriff's (Office) and employees that take home county cars? And as far as the fire department is concerned, if you ever need a fire truck on the weekend, just go over to Crystal River over by Beef 'O' Brady's on (State Road) 44 and you'll always see a fire truck. This misuse of county vehicles has been going on for years and nothing's ever done about it — nothing. It goes in the paper and it goes in one ear and goes out the other. So it's about time they wise up and do something.

Changes need to be made

Some of the Sound Offs have gotten too long. I don't read them. And I agree with the person that "Sally Forth" must be eliminated from the Comics section, and, while you're at it, also "Betty."

Stat Cop's qualifications

This is to the (Nov. 24 Sound Off) "Stat Cop lists qualifications": I'm still not satisfied with that. If you're so qualified and everything to give us all information out

here, then why don't you just come forward with your name and state who you are and why don't you just work with the Chronicle and get a nice little news column that you could give your name and who you are and give us information properly like the Crime Watch people do from time to time? I'm still not satisfied with that.

Editor's note: Sound Off calls are intentionally kept anonymous.

Officials should serve the people

I'd like to make a simple comment regarding almost every politician and I'm talking from the top to the bottom. They're elected by the people to serve the people. Problem is, almost every one of them live by the same thought and that is, very simply: "Don't confuse me with the facts, I have my mind made up," which is another

way of saying "my way or the highway." Come on, guys and gals, you were elected to serve the people and help the people. Let's do what we were put in office to take care of, and that certainly includes our local commissioners.

So what about overloaded trucks?

I was driving from Home Depot through Crystal Oaks subdivision, Crystal Oaks Drive. In front of me was a big 18-wheeler As I drove through Crystal Oaks, there was a sign that said, "No vehicles over 10 tons." I drove

through Crystal Oaks and there was a sheriff's deputy parked — there checking for speeders, I imagine. My question is: Does he have the authority — and if so, why didn't he? — to pull that truck over? There's the signs at both ends of Crystal Oaks subdivision, "No vehicles over 10 tons."

This happens often and I'm just wondering why they don't ticket them, pull them over or give them a warning. If he's going to pull speeders over, why didn't he pull them over, because they also violated the traffic rules?

We'll pass along the suggestion

OK, I think I have a very good idea for a wonderful commissioner: How about they contact Costco and make them an offer they can't refuse? With all the land that was cleared on the corner of County Road 491 and State Road 44, a Costco would be perfect. It would also bring halfway-decent-paying jobs for the area and would also increase the retail business in Citrus County — something that has been hurting for years.

Letters to THE EDITOR

Pointing out the true 'deplorables'

A year ago, when "Crooked Hillary" insulted millions of hard-working, patriotic Americans by labeling them "a basket of deplorables," she virtually handed Trump the presidency. Even a Democratic National Committee official admitted to that. She, however, should have directed those remarks to her own supporters and Obama's.

What is truly deplorable is the barrage of vile, offensive, vitriolic remarks and actions leveled against not only Trump, but also his family. Saturday Night Live thought it comical and entertaining to mock and deride the president's 11-year-old son. Rosie O'Donnell added that Baron Trump seemed to be autistic or retarded. That was beyond deplorable. And yet, the mainstream media showed no outrage. Deplorable!

It's deplorable for Madonna to state, arrogantly and proudly, that she has often "thought about blowing up the White House." That goes beyond the exercise of freedom of speech. Our complaint to Senator Bill Nelson, asking him to condemn such incendiary remarks, was responded to with scorn and indifference. That can only mean that he condoned that heinous act.

It's deplorable for a legislator, Missouri state Sen. Maria Chapelle-Nadal, to state publicly that she hoped that "Trump is assassinated." It's deplorable for a University of Tampa professor, Kenneth Story, to declare that he was glad that Hurricane Harvey devastated Texas because the state voted Republican. It's deplorable for Kathy Griffin to be

holding a bloody, severed head of Trump or for a theatrical, shameful production of Julius Caesar showing Caesar, who has a likeness of Trump, being brutally assassinated. It's deplorable for a CBS executive (Hayley Gelfman) to state that the victims of the horrendous Las Vegas massacre deserved "no sympathy because they were Republican gun toters."

It's deplorable for rapper Snoop Dogg to be on an album cover with a corpse that has a tag on his toe with the name Trump. It's deplorable for Maxine Waters, the most ethics-challenged representative in Congress, to call all Trump appointees "scumbags." And so on, and so on — too many other instances to list.

What is most deplorable, however, is that the mainstream media, including our own Chronicle, chooses not to comment on or condemn any of these un-American acts. Cortney Stewart's silence on all these issues is deafening after her article praising the Obama administration's "civility."

Gino Calderone
Beverly Hills

Audit raises serious questions

The recent audit of the sheriff/fire budget raises some questions. One glaring point was the sheriff's office statement that they could not give the auditors access to some financial records because of the security issues with National Crime Information Center (NCIC). They are correct that access to NCIC is restricted. That being said, as I remember, there is a training course and a test that has to be successfully completed by staff specifically authorized by the sheriff to

have access. That access is password controlled, so I fail to see how this would be a problem. I also would question why criminal history information would be mingled with budget. The two systems should be completely separate from each other; thus, there should be no issue. If someone not trained or certified could be working on budget data and access NCIC, then there is a serious problem.

I have gone through many governmental audits, and they can be stressful, but I always found that being open and helpful makes things go much easier. From the Chronicle article, it appears the auditors felt like they were being impeded in their review. True or not, staff should have been aware of the frustration and offered all assistance possible. From the comments, it does not appear to have been the case.

I am not surprised at the findings. I was against the merger from the beginning because of the lack of public accountability the sheriff's office has offered in the past and the constitutional leeway they are granted. One quick item is the lack of statutory mandates for competitive bidding by the sheriff.

Considering the past sheriff's attitude of "I want, thus I should have" and the lack of accountability of those expenditures, I would have hoped the new sheriff would have welcomed the audit. The current board has no responsibility for the sheriff's

past actions, since most were not on the board at the time the decision was made to combine the agencies. This audit was an opportunity to learn and move on for the board and the new sheriff. Unfortunately, now that does not appear to be the case.

This also brings me to my 20-year call for performance-based budgets for all departments and offices in the county receiving county tax dollars. The current sheriff should be well aware of the process, since he worked for the state and it has been in effect in the state for nearly 20 years. Our current county administrator, when hired, touted his background in it. So why are we still in the dark ages of budgeting?

Had it been in place in the sheriff's office when the merger occurred, I would venture to say there would not have been any negative findings, since there would be no confusion why tax dollars were spent. It appears elected officials are reluctant to do anything that creates accountability for their actions. I will continue to call for performance-based budgeting as long as I can write because it is the right thing for government to do and the right thing for the taxpayers who foot the bills.

Roger B. Krieger
Beverly Hills

How you can help NAMI Citrus

I just received a wonderful surprise from a National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI)

booster and wanted to share this idea with John Q. Public. Perhaps this is news to you, as it was to me.

It's that time when one must withdraw a certain amount of money from one's IRA, then, of course, pay taxes on this withdrawal.

To avoid paying taxes on any portion of your withdrawal, authorize your financial person to send a portion of these funds to a nonprofit organization such as NAMI Citrus. You'll feel good about your gift and will not have to pay taxes on the amount you send. In order to do this, you must have the tax ID for your charity and it must be drawn directly from your account, payable to the charity only and sent to them for deposit. What a win-win! What a delight to receive such a thoughtful gift.

Your contribution may be sent to NAMI Citrus in care of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 439 E. Norvell Bryant Highway, Hernando, or call me at 352-637-4904. Make a Christmas blessing!

Marilyn Booth
president, NAMI Citrus

Solar power is the solution

I have to ask if Al Mason did any factual research on the proposed solar co-op in Citrus County before he wrote his Nov. 26 letter to the editor. It doesn't look like it from all the misinformation that the letter contained. On the other hand, I attended a presentation a few weeks ago.

First, the co-op in not an electric company. It is an association of like-minded people who will use the co-op to get the best deal on solar

installation. Over the state where there are solar co-ops, they save the consumer between 10 to 20 percent of the cost of purchase and installation over doing something individually.

Second, there is a current 30 percent federal tax incentive which is paid back to the buyer of a system during the first year tax return.

Taxes will not go up on the property owner who installs solar electric by law. A new owner of an existing solar home will pay taxes based upon the purchase price with the solar in place.

Roof or ground mount are options. A home in Oak Village South in Sugarmill Woods has solar panels on three sides of the roof without structural reworking. The roof trusses are adequate as-is.

Batteries are an option, from none to a Tesla battery wall. Each homeowner who installs will make that decision as part of his/her package.

Running a solar system goes from taking care of part of your daytime needs to going completely off grid. Usually there will be a tie-in to the grid so as to have backup power for solar.

Full payback and break-even is usually in five to eight years. That ROI is better than most investments. If you are planning to live at least 10 more years, this is probably a good investment to make. But don't spend that money on a new car unless you want to see your investment start to go down right away.

I hope this has helped to ease Al's concerns. If you are looking for a good investment, go solar.

Lynn Dostal
Homosassa

■ About the questions about what are these bangs we're hearing (Nov. 29's front-page News Brief, "What's rumbling in Citrus?"). They sound like they're right out in my backyard. I suggest somebody call the United States

Navy because they have training planes on the Gulf and usually that's who's causing the trouble. Otherwise try the U.S. Air Force because they're over there also off the gulf and they're practicing and they practice a lot of times

trying to target the nuclear power plant. So go ahead and ask them who's making the boom-boom-booms.

■ I know exactly what the loud booms and rumbles are that the county is feeling. It's dynamiting at

the mine north of Citrus County. I know that because the dirt trucks are traveling west on Marquette Lane, which is a no-go road for them because it's a small road. They act like they're trying to sneak through to

(County Road) 495 and they come back on Marquette Lane and go east with a load of rocks. So, not for nothing, but sounds like they've been at the mine getting a load and dumping it somewhere.

■ All the booming noises that we keep hearing are out in the Gulf just offshore, it's aliens coming in and leaving just before dark. They're hanging out in this area a lot. I think they're fixing to buy the Crystal River Mall.

Hot Corner: THANKS

■ A million thanks is not enough for the people who came running to my aid Nov. 27. I fell on Citrus Avenue and it couldn't have been more than 30 seconds before they came running. Other than bruises and scrapes, I'm all right — no broken bones. God bless them all.

■ I had breakfast this morning at the Family Style Restaurant in Beverly Hills and a sweet little waitress come over and informed me that my check was taken care of. I want

to thank whoever took care of that check. You started my day off right. Thank you and God bless you. Thank you.

■ I've been an avid reader of the Chronicle for 12 years. There's no writer that I look forward to reading more than Joanie Welch. The compassion with which she speaks of animals is just beautiful. Who can forget her pleas made on behalf of Gloria, the homeless mutt who wandered onto her property, asking all of us to

spay or neuter our pets? And mix that with her common sense, asking owners to leave their pets at home when they go shopping, where the pets are safe and comfortable. If we would all show the mercy that she does towards animals, we would truly have something to celebrate this holiday season. Let me say thank you to Joanie Welch for those people's eyes whom she may have opened towards the feelings of animals. Thank you.

Sound OFF

Thanks for a great Thanksgiving

Just want to send a shout-out to First Baptist Church of Crystal River and what a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner they presented to the people.

Thanksgiving feast was outstanding

On Thanksgiving Day, we ate a delicious holiday dinner at the Eagles club on Grover Cleveland avenue. There was turkey, ham and all the fixings and music later on. Thanks to all the volunteers who cooked, served and cleaned up afterwards. It was a tremendous amount of work on their part and we all appreciate their efforts.

Mall would be best place for city hall

While traveling around in our motorhome for five years around the country,

we found many counties and cities had taken over malls for their offices. The Crystal River Mall — or at least part of it — would be a good place for Crystal River city hall, not that small lot in downtown Crystal River. Lots of parking and it would bring people to the mall.

Maybe we don't need a new city hall

In my 55 years in Crystal River, we have had one bad tide of 1 1/2 to 2 feet over the city hall floor line. You can easily browse the internet to see the extensive resources and equipment which could easily protect city hall against a repeat of such a tide. It also should have been easily available to protect against Hermine. A few years ago, the city spent over \$200,000 to remove a few power poles from South Citrus Avenue. Surely we can spare a little

change to check into the possibility of protecting the building and saving a few million dollars for us taxpayers, who have not been asked whether we wanted to build a new city hall.

Don't neglect billboards, too

I was happy to see that the powers-that-be are trying to strengthen their hand to deal with dilapidated buildings. I hope that they will also include among those requests obsolete and dilapidated billboards. So I have seen a slight improvement, but thank you.

I'll take your aluminum cans

I'm calling about the gentleman that had the cans that can't find an organization that will take them. My phone number is 352-613-3049. Just ask for Joe.



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GOP nears Senate OK of tax bill

Flurry of final deals take place

ALAN FRAM, MARCY GORDON, STEPHEN OHLEMACHER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republicans used a burst of eleventh-hour horse-trading Friday to edge a \$1.4 trillion tax bill to the brink of Senate passage, as a party starved all year for a major legislative triumph took a giant step toward

giving President Donald Trump one of his top priorities by Christmas.

"We have the votes," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., declared after leaders swayed holdout senators by agreeing to fatten tax breaks for millions of businesses and let people deduct local property taxes.

Party leaders hoped for Senate approval later

Friday on a measure that focuses the bulk of its tax reductions on businesses and higher-earning individuals, gives more modest breaks to others and would be the boldest rewrite of the nation's tax system since 1986. Debate stretched into the evening as lawmakers waited for Republicans to unveil the final version of their measure.

Republicans touted the package as one that would benefit people of all incomes and ignite the economy.

Taxes and tweets: Dems mock bill

WASHINGTON — As the Senate neared a momentous vote on the sweeping Republican tax bill, Senate Democrats mocked the nearly 500-page printed text of the legislation — complaining it was given to them at the last minute before the vote.

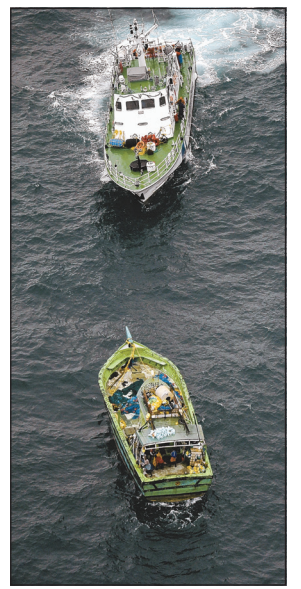
And it had illegible, hand-written notes in the margins, they protested.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts tweeted, "No, I haven't had time to read the 500-page #GOPTaxScam bill that we're voting on tonight," with a photo of her reading aloud from pages at her desk. "Couldn't read it if I tried — and I did."

— From wire reports

Nation & World BRIEFS

Rescued



Associated Press

An Indian Coast Guard vessel, top, rescues fishermen Friday in a fishing boat, bottom, that was stranded in the Arabian Sea off the coast of Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala state, India. Dozens of fishermen were rescued from the sea which is very rough under the influence of Cyclone Ockhi.

Protests grow as vote count in Honduras drags on



Associated Press

A man carries a boy Friday as they cross a burning barricade erected by supporters of presidential candidate Salvador Nasralla protesting the officials results that have trickled out giving incumbent President Juan Orlando Hernandez a growing lead, in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. The opposition candidate, who saw his five point lead evaporate, said he will not recognize an official vote count by the country's electoral court and is alleging manipulation of Sunday's election.

Trump denies Tillerson ousting

Speculation deemed 'laughable'

MATTHEW LEE
AP diplomatic writer

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Friday denied he wants to oust Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, calling reports to that effect "fake news," as his top diplomat brushed off speculation that he has lost the confidence of the White House.

As Tillerson went about his normal schedule of diplomatic activities, including two meetings with Trump, the president said his secretary of state is "not leaving."

"The media has been speculating that I fired Rex Tillerson or that he would be leaving soon - FAKE NEWS!" Trump tweeted. "He's not leaving and while we disagree on certain subjects, (I call the final shots) we work well together and America is

highly respected again!"

The tweet was Trump's strongest endorsement of his top diplomat since senior White House officials on Thursday began telling reporters that a plan had been devised to push Tillerson out and replace him with CIA chief Mike Pompeo. Immediately after reports of the plan emerged, Trump offered only tepid support for Tillerson, noting only that he was at the White House for a previously scheduled meeting.

The halfhearted backing amid the swirl of speculation over Tillerson's imminent demise had threatened to impair his effectiveness, particularly as he prepares for an official trip to Europe next week.

On Friday, Tillerson attended two meetings at the White House with Trump — one with Libya's visiting prime minister and then a lunch with the president and Defense Secretary James Mattis. Before those meetings, Tillerson told reporters at the State Department that speculation he was on his



Associated Press

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson turns to leave Friday after a media opportunity with Libyan Prime Minister Fayez al-Sarraj at the State Department in Washington. Tillerson is dismissing as "laughable" reports that the White House is trying to get rid of him. Tillerson was asked about the reports during a photo-op with the visiting Libyan prime minister. Multiple officials say the White House is considering a plan to replace him with CIA Director Mike Pompeo.

way out was "laughable."

Tillerson aides had said the secretary was sanguine and remained comfortable in his role despite the turmoil in Trump's national security team centering on him. Aides said Tillerson

would continue to serve until the president asked him not to and stressed that such a request had not been made.

Although Tillerson looks safe for now, he will be losing a senior aide and

conduit to the public in coming weeks.

R.C. Hammond, who has run State Department strategic communications since Tillerson took office, will leave his post in mid-December, officials said.

Haley's North Korea statement 'bloodthirsty'

MOSCOW — Russia's foreign minister has accused the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations of a "bloodthirsty" stance on North Korea that could significantly worsen tensions.

Sergey Lavrov's statement at a Rome news conference with his Italian counterpart on Friday came two days after Ambassador Nikki Haley said that if war breaks out over North Korea's missile tests, the country would be "utterly destroyed."

Russian news agencies quoted Lavrov as saying: "If somebody is very eager to use force to wipe out North Korea, as the United States' U.N. envoy said, it was a very bloodthirsty tirade."

Haley's remarks followed Pyongyang's latest ballistic missile test.

— From wire reports

Mattis signals military shift in Syria to reflect IS defeat

LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

ABOARD A U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT — The U.S. military is shifting its stance in Syria, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said Friday, as the program to arm the Kurdish opposition comes to a close and is replaced by increased support to local police and security forces.

Mattis said the Pentagon is "changing the composition of our forces" in Syria to reflect the collapse of the Islamic State group there and a renewed emphasis on finding a diplomatic path to peace.

Speaking to reporters on his plane at the start of a five-day trip to the Middle East, Mattis said the shift in American forces will support the

diplomatic process.

His comments came on the heels of the announcement last week that the U.S. would stop actively providing arms to Syrian Kurds, known as the YPG. Officials have acknowledged that the U.S. will likely begin taking back large military vehicles and heavy weapons from the Kurds, now that major combat operations to

retake Raqqa from the Islamic State group are over.

It's not clear, however, whether the move to provide arms has completely stopped already, or is in the process of ending.

As part of the changing U.S. military role, an artillery unit of about 400 Marines is leaving Syria this week, taking their howitzers with them.

Their exodus still leaves

well more than 1,000 U.S. troops in the country. Although the Pentagon will only publicly acknowledge about 500 U.S. forces in Syria, there were at least 1,700 there throughout much of the year as the battle for Raqqa raged on.

"The YPG is armed and as the coalition stops operations, then obviously you don't need that, you need security forces, you need

police forces," said Mattis. "That's local forces, that's people who make certain that ISIS doesn't come back."

The U.S. program to arm the Kurds has been a divisive issue with Turkey, which views them as terrorists because of their affiliation to outlawed Kurdish rebels who have waged a three decade-long insurgency in Turkey.

THE NUMBER:**46**

Assists for Golden State in a 133-112 victory in Orlando on Friday. It's the highest number by an NBA team this season.



SPORTS

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

Section B - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2017



■ Crystal River picks up big early district win over rival Citrus./B4

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Source: Yanks hire Boone

RONALD BLUM
AP baseball writer

NEW YORK — The Yankees have picked ESPN broadcaster Aaron Boone to succeed Joe Girardi as manager, a person familiar with New York's decision told The Associated Press.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity Friday night because the decision had not been announced by the team.

Now 44, Boone has



Aaron Boone

never been a manager or even a coach at any level since retiring as a

player after the 2009 season. His 11th-inning home run off Boston's Tim Wakefield won Game 7 of the AL Championship Series for the Yankees against Boston.

Boone was a big league third baseman from 1997-2009 and an All-Star in 2003, when New York acquired him from the Reds at the trade deadline.

Boone was among six people interviewed for the job and won out over Yankees bench coach Rob Thomson, former Cleveland and Seattle manager Eric Wedge, San Francisco bench coach Hensley Meulens, Los Angeles Dodgers third base coach Chris Woodward and former Yankees outfielder Carlos Beltran, who retired as a player after winning his first World Series this year with Houston.

New York's choice of Boone was first reported by former New York Daily News columnist Bill Madden.

After missing out on the Yankees' job, Thomson told the Phillies he is accepting an offer to become their bench coach, a person familiar with that decision said. That person also spoke on condition of anonymity because the decision was not announced.

Boone was the fourth of the candidates to interview with the Yankees, going through about six hours of conversations at Yankee Stadium on Nov. 17.

"I would say in a way I've been preparing for this job for the last 44 years," he said then.

Jimbo is gonzo



Associated Press

Florida State coach Jimbo Fisher shouts instructions during the team's game Oct. 29 against Clemson in Tallahassee. Fisher resigned Friday to take the same job at Texas A&M.

Fisher resigns at Florida State to take same job at Texas A&M

JOE REEDY
Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — Jimbo Fisher is leaving Florida State for Texas A&M, four years after leading the Seminoles to their third national title.

Fisher told university President John Thrasher on Friday that he was resigning to accept Texas A&M's offer.

"I believe Texas A&M is getting one of the best coaches in college football. We appreciate all he has done for our program and wish him and his family great success moving forward," Thrasher said in a statement that closed days of speculation about Fisher's future.

Fisher leaves Florida State after going 83-23 in eight seasons. Besides the national championship, he also led the Seminoles to three Atlantic Coast Conference titles and four ACC Atlantic Division crowns. He will replace Kevin Sumlin, who was fired last weekend after going

51-26 in six seasons at Texas A&M. The Houston Chronicle reported that Fisher is expected to earn between \$7 million and \$7.5 million over at least five years.

Fisher's buyout from Florida State is the sum remaining on the contracts of his assistants who are not retained, which would be in the range of \$7 million.

Fisher goes to a program that has lofty hopes amid a drought: Texas A&M last won a conference championship in 1998, when it was in the Big 12. The school's only national title came in 1939. Texas A&M Chancellor John Sharp said after Thursday's Board of Regents meeting that expectations were "nothing serious. We just want him to win a national championship."

Fisher is just the fourth head coach to leave a school where he has won an AP national championship and go directly to another college job. The last to do it was Johnny Majors, who went from Pittsburgh to Tennessee in 1977.

Florida State (5-6) faces Louisiana-Monroe today and needs a win to be bowl eligible for a 36th consecutive season. Defensive line coach Odell Haggins will be the interim coach.

"President Thrasher and I have worked together through this challenging period while coach Fisher was making a decision, and I appreciate the cooperation, support and leadership he has provided," athletic director Stan Wilcox said. "We are extremely pleased by the quality of individuals who have already expressed interest in being the head coach at Florida State University. I am confident we will fill the position very soon."

The Seminoles were ranked third in the preseason Top 25 but lost quarterback Deondre Francois in the opening loss against Alabama and were 3-6 at one point before winning their last two. Florida State is trying to avoid its first losing season since 1976.

See JIMBO/Page B3

Similar paths to ACC title game for QBs



Miami faces Clemson tonight for league crown

PETE IACOBELLI
AP sports writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The voids to fill were huge and the pressure enormous for both Clemson's Kelly Bryant and Miami's Malik Rosier. How would the backups fare when they were promoted to starters?

Quite well. Quite well, indeed.

Bryant leads the top-ranked Tigers (11-1, CFP

Miami quarterback Malik Rosier stands back to pass Nov. 11 against Notre Dame in Miami Gardens. Clemson's Kelly Bryant and Miami's Rosier are longtime backups blossoming as starters. One of them will celebrate an ACC championship tonight.

MATT PFIFFNER/Chronicle

No. 1) against Rosier's Hurricanes (10-1, CFP No. 7) in the Atlantic Coast Conference championship tonight, a game likely to determine a spot in the College Football Playoff. Each quarterback is looking to cap a remarkable debut season as starter with a league trophy and the chance to chase a national title.

The Tigers are seeking their third straight ACC title and fourth in seven seasons. Miami, expected to grab plenty of titles when it joined the ACC in 2004, is in its first championship game.

The path both took to the starting job is remarkably similar. Bryant followed national championship winner and three-year starter Deshaun Watson as Tigers' leader. Rosier succeeded three-year starter Brad Kaaya for Miami.

"There (were) a lot of questions for me, but I don't feel like I tried to put any pressure on myself," said Bryant, who broke the Clemson mark for wins (10) for a first-year starter. "I just tried to go out there and just tried to create my own game."

See ACC/Page B3

Auburn's 'different journey' to title game

Face Georgia for SEC crown

PAUL NEWBERRY
AP sports writer

ATLANTA — When Gus Malzahn guided Auburn to the national championship game in his first season as head coach, it was all such a whirlwind.

If not for two stunningly fluky wins, it never would've happened.

This season, it feels like Malzahn and the Tigers really earned it.

With two huge victories in November, No. 4 Auburn (10-2) claimed a spot in today's Southeastern Conference title game against No. 6 Georgia, with a berth in the College Football Playoff surely going to the winner.

"This is a different journey," Malzahn said before putting his team through a walkthrough at Mercedes-Benz Stadium, the new \$1.5 billion facility that is hosting the SEC championship for the first time.

In 2013, Malzahn's first Auburn team pulled off an improbable win against Georgia when, on fourth-and-18, Nick Marshall threw a 73-yard touchdown pass with 25 seconds remaining. The ball was actually overthrown, but a Georgia defender tipped it right into Ricardo Louis' hands to complete the "Prayer at Jordan-Hare."

Of course, that wasn't even the Tigers' most memorable play of the season. In the Iron Bowl, Alabama came up short on a potential game-winning field goal and Chris Davis returned it for a touchdown from the very back of the end zone — a 109-yard play that will forever be



Auburn head coach Gus Malzahn listens to a question Friday during a news conference for the SEC championship game against Georgia in Atlanta.

known as "Kick Six."

"Our 2013 team was outstanding," Malzahn said.

And now?

"We're just in a lot more stable position," he said. "We're in a position that I think we can sustain this type of level for a period of time."

It didn't look that way early on, when the Tigers endured an ugly 14-6 loss at Clemson, giving up 11 sacks and managing just 117 yards. And all hope of reaching the playoff seemed lost after Auburn squandered a 20-point lead at LSU.

"That was some tough times," Malzahn said. "Are we going to

fold our tent, or are we going to roll up our sleeves?"

Auburn got back into the mix with a 40-17 rout of Georgia, which was No. 1 in the CFP standings at the time. Last weekend, the Tigers knocked off another top-ranked team, wearing down Alabama for a 26-14 victory that clinched the SEC West title.

"I really like the way we got here," Malzahn said. "The last couple of weeks, we've been peaking."

Georgia, of course, is eager for a rematch against its oldest rival after that dismal performance at Auburn. Adding to the intrigue:

the teams played just three weeks ago.

"Not many people get that second opportunity," coach Kirby Smart said Friday. "We're going to find out a lot about our team."

A year ago, after Auburn went 8-5 for the third season in a row, there were questions about Malzahn's long-term future as the Tigers coach. Now, the only questions are how much it might take to keep him from bolting for another job.

Georgia also struggled to an 8-5 finish in Smart's first season, making some folks wonder why the Bulldogs fired longtime coach Mark Richt.

My, how things have changed.

"We learned a lot of lessons our first season, a lot about our players, and I think they learned a lot about us," Smart said. "I don't think we're playing in this game if we don't learn the lessons we learned last year."

Some things to watch for when Auburn faces Georgia for the SEC title:

JOHNSON'S STATUS

Auburn running back Kerryon Johnson is nursing an injured shoulder and will be a game-time decision, according to Malzahn. If Johnson can't go, the Tigers will be deprived of a key weapon who rushed for 1,276 yards and 17 touchdowns. A committee of backs — Kam Martin, Malik Miller, Devan Barrett — is ready to step in, but they would be hard-pressed to match Johnson's production.

GEORGIA'S DYNAMIC DUO

Nick Chubb and Sony Michel are especially eager to get another shot at Auburn. Both running backs had their worst showing of the season in the first meeting, with Chubb limited to 27 yards and Michel 21.

STIDHAM VS. FROMM

Auburn quarterback Jarrett Stidham has been on a roll since a dismal 9-of-26 performance against LSU, completing 72 percent of his passes for 1,172 yards, with eight touchdowns and two interceptions.

Georgia's freshman signal-caller, Jake Fromm, has done a good job of managing the offense and limiting mistakes, relying largely on the SEC's top running game. If the Bulldogs struggle again on the ground, he may be forced to do a lot more through the air.

UCF, Memphis vie for AAC

Ranked teams also looking for respect

JOE REEDY
Associated Press

ORLANDO — The American Athletic Conference championship game boasts the best winning percentage of this weekend's 10 Football Bowl Subdivision conference title game matchups. It also represents the best hope for 12th-ranked UCF and No. 16 Memphis to show skeptics why they should belong in the conversation as one of the nation's best teams.

The Knights are one of two remaining unbeaten teams in the Football Bowl Subdivision while the Tigers' lone loss was a 40-13 drubbing to UCF on Sept. 30. The two teams meet again today with a likely spot in a New Year's Six Bowl up for grabs.

"I think this conference deserves more attention than what it is getting and more credit than what it is getting right now," UCF coach Scott Frost said. "I'm not just saying that about our team. I think there's a lot of football teams in this league that could beat a bunch of teams in those big leagues."

Both teams have wins over Power 5 teams. UCF beat Maryland by 28 points three weeks after the Terrapins surprised Houston. Memphis had a 38-35 victory over UCLA.

It is the second straight week that UCF is in the national spotlight. It won the AAC's East Division title with a 49-42 victory over South Florida last Friday in what was one of the more highly viewed games of the weekend.

The game could be another shootout since it matches the top two scoring offenses in the nation. The Knights (11-0, 8-0 AAC, No. 15 CFP), have scored 30 or more points in all 11 games and are averaging 48.3 points per game. The Tigers (10-1, 7-1 AAC, No. 20 CFP) are averaging 47 points but are at 53.7 during their seven-game winning streak.

"It's going to be a good game," Frost said. "They are playing as well as they've played all year and we are playing at our best. Both teams have been dominant for the most part."

Memphis coach Mike Norvell has tried to play up the revenge factor and atoning for the loss earlier in the season.

"We know that last time we were here. We didn't play up to the ability that we believe we can. Once again those are just words, we have to go prove it on the field," he said.

Here are some other things to watch:

FROST'S FAREWELL?

Many anticipate that this is Frost's final home game at UCF as he is the leading candidate at



Central Florida head coach Scott Frost watches Nov. 11 against Connecticut in Orlando. Frost leads the Knights into the AAC Championship game today against Memphis, looking to remain undefeated.

Nebraska. Frost said the speculation hasn't been a distraction to him or his team as he has tried to keep the attention on the game plan and trying to maintain an unbeaten season.

MIGHTLY MILTON

UCF sophomore quarterback McKenzie Milton has been one of the more unsung signal callers. The sophomore is second in the nation in passing efficiency (182.9) and has six 300-yard games this season. He threw for 253 yards and three touchdowns in the first matchup against Memphis. Milton though is also dangerous due to his legs. He has 429 rushing yards and six touchdowns.

DEFENSE OVERLOOKED

Despite the gaudy offensive numbers, the two teams are among the national leaders in turnover margin. UCF leads the nation at 1.55 while Memphis is sixth (1.09).

SECOND CHANCE

Memphis quarterback Riley Ferguson had his worst game against

the Knights in September. He threw for 321 yards but was intercepted three times and sacked twice. Since then, the senior has been intercepted only three times combined. He also threw seven TD passes the week after that loss as the Tigers routed UConn.

DANGEROUS RETURNERS

This game features two of the nation's most dangerous returners. Mike Hughes is a big reason why UCF ranks in the top 10 both for kickoff returns and punt returns. He scored the final points in last week's win over USF with a 95-yard kickoff return.

Tony Pollard of Memphis leads the nation returning four kickoffs for touchdowns after taking one 100 yards for a TD last week against East Carolina, and he has six for his career. The sophomore is averaging 44.2 yards per return. He is one TD shy of the season record of five set by Ashlan Davis of Tulsa in 2004, and one off the career mark of seven currently held by three players.

Barrett likely to play vs Badgers

MICHAEL MAROT
AP sports writer

INDIANAPOLIS — J.T. Barrett has seen enough Big Ten championship games from the sideline.

So just six days after undergoing surgery on his injured right knee, the Ohio State quarterback is preparing to start today against No. 3 Wisconsin.

Buckeyes coach Urban Meyer said Friday that Barrett, the three-time conference quarterback of the year, has been cleared to play after undergoing 15 hours of treatment per day since having a procedure he did not specify.

"Certain people probably couldn't do it, but J.T.'s a little different," Meyer said after confirming Barrett had surgery following last week's win at Michigan. "He's just one of the toughest human beings I've ever come across in my career. He's just a very unique individual."

Most players, Meyer noted, require at least two or three weeks to recover from minor knee surgery. Barrett, however, was throwing at practice Wednesday and took his regular regimen of snaps Thursday. If his recovery continues into today, Barrett will start.

"It takes a rare individual to do that because there is a pain threshold," Meyer said. "That's not normal."

The eighth-ranked Buckeyes (10-2, 8-1 Big Ten, No. 8 CFP) must figure out how effective he will be.

Meyer acknowledged Ohio State needs Barrett to be close to full mobility against one of the nation's stingiest defenses. And if Barrett isn't himself, Meyer will go with redshirt freshman Dwayne Haskins, who led the Buckeyes to 17 straight points to rally for the win over the Wolverines.

Barrett has been here before — and so have the Badgers (12-0, 9-0, No. 4 CFP).

Three years ago, Barrett fractured his ankle against Michigan then cheered on backup Cardale Jones during a 59-0 rout of Wisconsin in the title game. Jones and the Buckeyes went on to defeat Alabama and Oregon to finish a national

championship run.

Back then, Wisconsin didn't know much about Jones.

This time, with another potential playoff ticket at stake, the Badgers have a better sense of what they'll face — with or without Barrett.

"Certainly you want to get an idea of what you may see," Badgers coach Paul Chryst said of having film of both Ohio State quarterbacks. "But it's just one piece of it and we've got to make sure that our group focuses on the whole picture. It's a really good team and it's a really good offense and you've got to defend the whole team."

A win for the unbeaten Badgers would almost certainly assure them of a spot in the playoff.

If the Buckeyes win, though, Meyer might begin lobbying to become the first two-loss team in the field. They'd probably need some help, like No. 10 TCU upsetting No. 2 Oklahoma in the Big 12 title game. Auburn, ranked No. 2 in the CFP with two losses, faces Georgia for the SEC title. The argument for Ohio State making it would be wins over three top-15 teams — then-No. 2 Penn State, then-No. 12 Michigan State and the Badgers — along with a road win at Michigan and a loss to then-No. 5 Oklahoma.

The argument against: The Buckeyes were blown out at unranked Iowa and that loss to the Sooners came at home.

Wisconsin running back Jonathan Taylor won the Big Ten rushing title and earned first-team all-conference honors. Ohio State running back J.K. Dobbins made the second team. But in addition to winning the Big Ten trophy and possibly a playoff ticket, the two sensational freshmen have other achievements in sight, too. Taylor needs 120 yards to break Adrian Peterson's FBS freshman record (1,925), set in 2004, and needs 194 yards to reach the 2,000-yard mark. Dobbins, who ran for a freshman school record 181 yards in his last trip to Indiana, needs 48 yards to break Maurice Claret's single-season freshman record (1,237 yards, 2002).

GOLF

Hero World Challenge

Friday at Albany Golf Club Nassau, Bahamas
Purse: \$3.5 million
Yardage: 7,309; Par: 72
Second Round

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------|------|-----|
| Charley Hoffman | 69-63 | -132 | -12 |
| Jordan Spieth | 68-67 | -135 | -9 |
| Tommy Fleetwood | 66-69 | -135 | -9 |
| Justin Rose | 68-68 | -136 | -8 |
| Hideki Matsuyama | 71-66 | -137 | -7 |
| Tiger Woods | 69-68 | -137 | -7 |
| Francesco Molinari | 69-68 | -137 | -7 |
| Matt Kuchar | 67-70 | -137 | -7 |
| Rickie Fowler | 67-70 | -137 | -7 |
| Patrick Reed | 72-66 | -138 | -6 |
| Kevin Chappell | 68-70 | -138 | -6 |
| Justin Thomas | 69-70 | -139 | -5 |
| Dustin Johnson | 68-72 | -140 | -4 |
| Henrik Stenson | 70-71 | -141 | -3 |
| Alex Noren | 73-69 | -142 | -2 |
| Kevin Kisner | 70-72 | -142 | -2 |
| Daniel Berger | 75-73 | -148 | +4 |
| Brooks Koepka | 71-78 | -149 | +5 |

BASKETBALL

NBA standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|--------------|----|----|------|----|
| Boston | 19 | 4 | .826 | — |
| Toronto | 14 | 7 | .667 | 4 |
| Philadelphia | 12 | 9 | .571 | 6 |
| New York | 11 | 10 | .524 | 7 |
| Brooklyn | 8 | 13 | .381 | 10 |

Southeast Division

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|------------|----|----|------|----|
| Washington | 12 | 10 | .545 | — |
| Miami | 11 | 11 | .500 | 1 |
| Orlando | 9 | 14 | .391 | 3½ |
| Charlotte | 8 | 13 | .381 | 3½ |
| Atlanta | 4 | 17 | .190 | 7½ |

Central Division

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|-----------|----|----|------|-----|
| Cleveland | 15 | 7 | .682 | — |
| Detroit | 14 | 7 | .667 | ½ |
| Milwaukee | 11 | 9 | .550 | 3 |
| Indiana | 12 | 11 | .522 | 3½ |
| Chicago | 3 | 18 | .143 | 11½ |

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|-------------|----|----|------|-----|
| Houston | 17 | 4 | .810 | — |
| San Antonio | 15 | 7 | .682 | 2½ |
| New Orleans | 11 | 10 | .524 | 6 |
| Memphis | 7 | 14 | .333 | 10 |
| Dallas | 5 | 17 | .227 | 12½ |

Northwest Division

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---------------|----|----|------|----|
| Portland | 13 | 9 | .591 | — |
| Denver | 12 | 9 | .571 | ½ |
| Minnesota | 13 | 10 | .565 | ½ |
| Utah | 11 | 11 | .500 | 2 |
| Oklahoma City | 9 | 12 | .429 | 3½ |

Pacific Division

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---------------|----|----|------|----|
| Golden State | 17 | 6 | .739 | — |
| L.A. Clippers | 8 | 12 | .400 | 7½ |
| L.A. Lakers | 8 | 13 | .381 | 8 |
| Phoenix | 8 | 15 | .348 | 9 |
| Sacramento | 7 | 15 | .318 | 9½ |

Friday's Games

Golden State 133, Orlando 112
Washington 109, Detroit 91
Toronto 120, Indiana 115
Miami 105, Charlotte 100
Oklahoma City 111, Minnesota 107
Sacramento 107, Chicago 106
San Antonio 95, Memphis 79
New Orleans at Utah, late

FOOTBALL

NFL scoreboard

Thursday's Game

Dallas 38, Washington 14

Sunday's Games

Tampa Bay at Green Bay, 1 p.m.
Minnesota at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
San Francisco at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Detroit at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
Denver at Miami, 1 p.m.
Indianapolis at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Houston at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Kansas City at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
New England at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at L.A. Chargers, 4:05 p.m.
Carolina at New Orleans, 4:25 p.m.
L.A. Rams at Arizona, 4:25 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Oakland, 4:25 p.m.
Philadelphia at Seattle, 8:30 p.m.

Monday's Game

Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, 8:30 p.m.

Late Thursday Cowboys 38, Redskins 14

| | | | | | | |
|------------|---|----|---|----|---|----|
| Washington | 0 | 7 | 0 | 7 | — | 14 |
| Dallas | 0 | 17 | 0 | 21 | — | 38 |

Second Quarter

Dal—Witten 8 pass from Prescott (Bailey kick), 10:43.
Dal—FG Bailey 24, 5:29.
Dal—Switzer 83 punt return (Bailey kick), 3:46.
Was—Grant 20 pass from Cousins (Rose kick), 5:59.

Fourth Quarter

Dal—Bryant 13 pass from Prescott (Bailey kick), 14:53.
Was—Doctson 14 pass from Cousins (Rose kick), 11:28.
Dal—Morris 1 run (Bailey kick), 4:55.
Dal—R.Smith 1 run (Bailey kick), 2:37.
A—91,712.

| | | |
|--------------------|---------|---------|
| First downs | 15 | 21 |
| Total Net Yards | 280 | 275 |
| Rushes-yards | 19-56 | 42-182 |
| Passing | 224 | 93 |
| Punt Returns | 1-4 | 2-88 |
| Kickoff Returns | 3-54 | 0-0 |
| Interceptions Ret. | 0-0 | 2-30 |
| Comp-Att-Int | 26-37-2 | 11-22-0 |
| Sacked-Yards Lost | 4-27 | 1-9 |
| Punts | 5-42.6 | 5-42.2 |
| Fumbles-Lost | 3-2 | 0-0 |
| Penalties-Yards | 7-43 | 3-25 |
| Time of Possession | 27:32 | 32:28 |

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Washington, Perine 12-38, Marshall 4-12, Cousins 3-6, Dallas, Morris 27-127, Prescott 5-28, R.Smith 10-27.
PASSING—Washington, Cousins 26-37-2-25.1, Dallas, Prescott 11-22-0-102.
RECEIVING—Washington, Grant 5-76, Crowder 5-67, Marshall 5-24, Perine 3-31, Doctson 3-26, Paul 3-12, Davis 2-15, Dallas, Bryant 5-61, Te.Williams 2-21, Beasley 2-14, Witten 1-8, N.Brown 1-(minus 2).
MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

HOCKEY

NHL standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|
| Tampa Bay | 25 | 17 | 6 | 2 | 36 | 90 | 65 |
| Toronto | 27 | 17 | 9 | 1 | 35 | 98 | 82 |
| Montreal | 27 | 12 | 12 | 3 | 27 | 68 | 85 |
| Boston | 23 | 11 | 8 | 4 | 26 | 63 | 80 |
| Detroit | 26 | 10 | 11 | 5 | 25 | 74 | 80 |
| Ottawa | 24 | 9 | 9 | 6 | 24 | 74 | 81 |
| Florida | 25 | 10 | 13 | 2 | 22 | 73 | 85 |
| Buffalo | 26 | 6 | 16 | 4 | 16 | 55 | 89 |

Metropolitan Division

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|----------|----|----|---|----|-----|----|----|
| Columbus | 26 | 17 | 8 | 1 | 35 | 76 | 62 |

Florida LOTTERY

Here are the winning numbers selected Friday in the Florida Lottery:

| | | | |
|--|-----------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| PICK 2 (early) | 0 - 5 | PICK 4 (late) | 8 - 2 - 2 - 2 |
| PICK 2 (late) | 0 - 7 | PICK 5 (early) | 0 - 1 - 2 - 7 - 1 |
| PICK 3 (early) | 3 - 1 - 7 | PICK 5 (late) | 6 - 4 - 9 - 9 - 3 |
| PICK 3 (late) | 7 - 8 - 8 | FANTASY 5 | 12 - 28 - 32 - 35 - 36 |
| PICK 4 (early) | 4 - 8 - 7 - 9 | LUCKY MONEY | 28 - 34 - 40 - 43 |
| Thursday's winning numbers and payouts: | | LUCKY BALL | 3 |
| Fantasy 5: 5 - 6 - 13 - 17 - 24 | | MEGA MILLIONS | 16 - 22 - 40 - 41 - 59 |
| 5-of-5 | 2 winners \$95,454.58 | MEGA BALL | 8 |
| 4-of-5 | 283 \$108.50 | Players should verify winning numbers by calling 850-487-7777 or at www.flalottery.com. | |
| 3-of-5 | 8,950 \$9.50 | | |
| Cash 4 Life: 2 - 5 - 18 - 23 - 59 | | | |
| Cash Ball: 1 | | | |
| 5-of-5 CB | No winner | | |
| 5-of-5 | No winner | | |

On the AIRWAVES

TODAY'S SPORTS AUTO RACING

8 a.m. (FS1) FIA World Endurance Championship Checkered Flag: Bahrain (Taped)

2 a.m. (FS1) FIA Formula E Championship: Hong Kong 2

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

12 p.m. (FS1) Cincinnati at Xavier
12 p.m. (SUN) South Carolina State at North Carolina State
12:30 p.m. (CBS) Indiana at Michigan
2 p.m. (ESPNU) Wichita State at Baylor
2 p.m. (FS1) St. Louis at Butler
2 p.m. (FSNFL) Youngstown State at DePaul
3:30 p.m. (ESPN) Harvard at Kentucky
3:30 p.m. (ESPN2) South Dakota at Duke
4 p.m. (SUN) Richmond at Wake Forest
4:30 p.m. (FS1) Sacred Heart at St. John's
5 p.m. (FOX) Ohio State at Wisconsin
5:30 p.m. (ESPN) Kansas vs Syracuse
5:30 p.m. (ESPN2) Villanova at Saint Joseph's
8 p.m. (ESPNU) Princeton vs Miami
10 p.m. (ESPNU) USC at Southern Methodist

BOXING

10 p.m. (HBO) Miguel Cotto vs. Sadam Ali

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

12 p.m. (ABC) AAC Championship: Memphis vs Central Florida
12 p.m. (ESPN) MAC Championship: Akron vs Toledo
12 p.m. (ESPN2) Conference USA Championship: North Texas at Florida Atlantic
12:30 p.m. (FOX) Big 12 Championship: TCU vs Oklahoma
4 p.m. (CBS) SEC Championship: Georgia vs Auburn
4:30 p.m. (ESPNU) SWAC Championship: Alcorn State vs Grambling State
7:30 p.m. (ESPN2) Troy at Arkansas State
7:45 p.m. (ESPN) Mountain West Championship: Fresno State at Boise State
8 p.m. (FOX) Big Ten Championship: Ohio State vs Wisconsin
8:07 p.m. (ABC) ACC Championship: Miami vs Clemson
12 a.m. (ESPNU) AAC Championship: Memphis vs Central Florida (Taped)

GOLF

12 p.m. (GOLF) PGA Tour Hero World Challenge, Third Round
2:30 p.m. (NBC) PGA Tour Hero World Challenge, Third Round
8 p.m. (GOLF) European PGA Tour Australian Championship, Final Round
3:30 a.m. (GOLF) European PGA Tour AfrAsia Bank Mauritius Open, Final Round

NHL

7 p.m. (FSNFL) Florida Panthers at Carolina Hurricanes
7 p.m. (NHL) Buffalo Sabres at Pittsburgh Penguins
7 p.m. (SUN) San Jose Sharks at Tampa Bay Lightning

SOCCER

7:25 a.m. (NBCSPT) Premier League: Chelsea FC vs Newcastle United FC
9:30 a.m. (FS1) Bundesliga: FC Bayern Munich vs Hannover 96
9:55 a.m. (NBCSPT) Premier League: Brighton & Hove Albion FC vs Liverpool FC
10 a.m. (CNBC) Premier League: Watford FC vs Tottenham Hotspur FC
12:30 p.m. (NBC) Premier League: Arsenal FC vs Manchester United FC
5 p.m. (FSNFL) Bundesliga: FC Bayern Munich vs Hannover 96 (Same-day Tape)

TENNIS

9 a.m. (TENNIS) Australian Open Asia Pacific Wildcard Play-off: Men's Semifinals, Women's Semifinal, Women's Doubles Final (Taped)

WINTER SPORTS

2:30 p.m. (NBCSPT) FIS Alpine Skiing Men's Super G
5 p.m. (NBC) FIS Alpine Skiing World Cup: Birds of Prey, Downhill (Same-day Tape)

Prep CALENDAR

TODAY'S PREP SPORTS BOYS SOCCER

TBD Seven Rivers at Cambridge Christian Town.

GIRLS SOCCER

12 p.m. Lecanto at Pasco

WRESTLING

9 a.m. CR, Lecanto at Weeki Wachee Dual Tournament
9:30 a.m. Citrus at Mulberry Duals

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|
| New Jersey | 24 | 14 | 6 | 4 | 32 | 78 | 74 |
| N.Y. Islanders | 25 | 15 | 8 | 2 | 32 | 94 | 82 |
| Pittsburgh | 27 | 14 | 10 | 3 | 31 | 78 | 90 |
| N.Y. Rangers | 26 | 14 | 10 | 2 | 30 | 87 | 78 |
| Washington | 26 | 14 | 11 | 1 | 29 | 76 | 80 |
| Carolina | 24 | 10 | 9 | 5 | 25 | 69 | 75 |
| Philadelphia | 25 | 8 | 10 | 7 | 23 | 70 | 78 |

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|
| Winnipeg | 26 | 16 | 6 | 4 | 36 | 89 | 71 |
| St. Louis | 26 | 17 | 8 | 1 | 35 | 87 | 70 |
| Nashville | 25 | 15 | 7 | 3 | 33 | 79 | 73 |
| Dallas | 25 | 14 | 10 | 1 | 29 | 74 | 72 |
| Chicago | 25 | 12 | 9 | 4 | 28 | 79 | 67 |
| Minnesota | 25 | 12 | 10 | 3 | 27 | 76 | 76 |
| Colorado | 23 | 12 | 9 | 2 | 26 | 76 | 73 |

Pacific Division

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|-----|----|-----|
| Los Angeles | 27 | 16 | 8 | 3 | 35 | 82 | 60 |
| Vegas | 25 | 15 | 9 | 1 | 31 | 87 | 80 |
| San Jose | 24 | 14 | 8 | 2 | 30 | 63 | 52 |
| Calgary | 25 | 14 | 10 | 1 | 29 | 73 | 76 |
| Vancouver | 26 | 12 | 10 | 4 | 28 | 73 | 76 |
| Anaheim | 26 | 11 | 11 | 4 | 26 | 70 | 79 |
| Edmonton | 26 | 10 | 14 | 2 | 22 | 71 | 87 |
| Arizona | 28 | 6 | 18 | 4 | 16 | 66 | 101 |

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Friday's Games

N.Y. Rangers 5, Carolina 1
Columbus 4, Anaheim 2
Pittsburgh 4, Buffalo 0
Ottawa 6, N.Y. Islanders 5
San Jose 2, Florida 1
Winnipeg 7, Vegas 4
Los Angeles 4, St. Louis 1
New Jersey at Colorado, late

Today's Games

Boston at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
St. Louis at Minnesota, 6 p.m.
Buffalo at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Montreal, 7 p.m.
Columbus at Washington, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Vancouver, 7 p.m.
San Jose at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.
Florida at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Anaheim at Nashville, 8 p.m.
New Jersey at Arizona, 8 p.m.
Chicago at Dallas, 9 p.m.
Edmonton at Calgary, 10 p.m.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Lecanto boys soccer team blanks Rattlers

Andy Carr, Zac Quirk and Luke Rayner scored goals and Thomas Keefer made eight saves in goal as the Lecanto boys soccer team defeated Belleview on Friday at home, 3-0.

The Panthers (2-3) open district play Tuesday at Belleview. Friday's match was a non-district contest.

Seven Rivers edges Zephyrhills Christian

The Seven Rivers girls basketball team squeaked out a 37-35 victory over Zephyrhills Christian on Friday night.

Katelyn Kelso led the host Warriors (2-1) with 12 points, eight rebounds and three steals. Jane Jeffes added eight points, six assists and two steals, while Emily Jekabsons had eight points, 11 boards and three steals.

Zephyrhills Christian takes down 7R boys

Zephyrhills Christian defeated the Seven Rivers Christian boys basketball team 57-30 Friday night in Lecanto.

Geoff Banning had nine points and seven rebounds for the Warriors.

Seven Rivers (0-3) travels to St. John Lutheran on Tuesday.

Tennessee names Fulmer AD, places Currie on leave

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Tennessee has named Phillip Fulmer athletic director and placed former AD John Currie on paid leave amid what has been a tumultuous and embarrassing football coaching search.

Chancellor Beverly Davenport announced the move Friday. She said Fulmer will immediately take over the coaching search.

Tennessee fired football Butch Jones last month and was close to hiring Ohio State defensive coordinator Greg Schiano on Sunday. That deal fell through amid a public backlash. Currie met Thursday with Washington State coach Mike Leach.

— From staff and wire reports

JIMBO

Continued from Page B1

Fisher, who had dodged questions about his interest in Texas A&M for the last two weeks, said as recently as Thursday that he intended to coach on Saturday. However, growing frustration with the program from fans, alumni and parents of players made that unlikely. Junior linebacker Josh Sweat said earlier in the week that players had discussed the rumors but that they were trying to maintain the focus on this week's game.

"We still have to play regardless of what happens. Stay or leave it's about the next game," Sweat said. "We are still practicing and having fun."

Some players took to Twitter after Fisher's resignation and had mixed opinions. Francois tweeted "No call, no text, you could of said something." Wide receiver Auden Tate was more subdued saying "we bumped heads at times, but that will never negate what he has done for me."

Since winning 33 of 34 games between 2013 and '15, the Seminoles have struggled. They are 19-12 in their last 31 games, including 10-10 in the ACC. It marks the first time since 2011 that the Seminoles have not won 10 or more games or qualified for a New Year's Six bowl game.

Last December, Fisher signed a contract extension through 2024 that made him among the highest-paid coaches in the country. He was making \$5.7 million this season, sixth-highest.

Yet it was the third straight year that Fisher's name was linked with a Southeastern Conference program. He was mentioned the last two years as a candidate at LSU, where he spent seven seasons as the offensive coordinator (2000-06). While at LSU he also

Reports linked Oklahoma State's Mike Gundy and Purdue's Jeff Brohm to Tennessee's vacancy, but both stayed put. North Carolina State's Dave Doeren agreed to a new contract Thursday after speaking with Tennessee.

Fulmer, a former Volunteers and Hall of Fame coach, led Tennessee to the 1998 national title.

Ole Miss gets 2-year bowl ban, other penalties

Mississippi's football program has been handed a two-year postseason ban and other penalties by the NCAA.

The Committee on Infractions came down hard on Ole Miss, which went 6-6 but had self-imposed a bowl ban this year and hoped to avoid it next season over its long-running rules violation case that included a charge of lack of institutional control.

Ole Miss had also self-imposed other punishments in anticipation of the ruling, including scholarship reductions and recruiting restrictions. The NCAA on Friday banned the Rebels from the postseason for the 2018 season as well.

The complicated case consisted of 21 alleged violations, including 15 that were Level I, which the NCAA considers the most serious.

Berry, Maye carry No. 13 UNC past pesky Davidson

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Joel Berry II had 27 points, Luke Maye had 24 points and a career-high 17 rebounds and No. 13 North Carolina defeated Davidson 85-75 on Friday night.

Kenny Williams added 12 points for the Tar Heels (7-1), who shot 47 percent from the field and outrebounded Davidson 54-23.

Davidson (3-3) was led by 22 points and seven rebounds from Peyton Aldridge.

The Tar Heels blew open a four-point game midway through the second half with an 11-1 run led by Sterling Manley and Theo Pinson.

worked with Scott Woodward, now the athletic director at Texas A&M. The Aggies' are expected to approve Fisher's hiring

CR clips 'Canes



MATT PFIFFNER/Chronicle

Crystal River's Cayden Gunter (21) drives by Citrus defender Clayton Looper for a basket during the first half of Friday night's district game in Crystal River. The Pirates won 73-69.

Pirates stave off late Citrus comeback for 73-69 district victory

CHRIS BERNHARDT JR.
Staff writer

CRYSTAL RIVER — DeAndre Parker was having a quiet night for three quarters on Friday. But when his team needed him most, the Crystal River point guard stepped up.

The junior scored seven points in the fourth quarter — and four in the last 33 seconds — to seal a 73-69 victory over county and District 6A-7 rival Citrus.

"Take over; just put my team in a good place to win. Give them a good chance to win," Parker said. "We're starting a streak. We've got to get it going. We're 1-1 in the district and we want to get going on a roll."

For most of the game, it felt like the host Pirates (1-2 overall, 1-1 6A-7) were ahead comfortably, though that was never truly the case.

Cayden Gunter, a Citrus (1-2 overall, 1-1 6A-7) transfer, keyed an early surge. The junior scored 10 points in the first quarter, drilling back-to-back 3-pointers that established a 24-9 edge with just over a minute left in the period.

But Gunter and center Zach O'Callaghan soon were derailed by foul trouble, and Crystal River spent most of the rest of the way nursing a 10-point advantage.

"It's tough when you're in foul trouble," Crystal River head coach Jim Ervin said.

"You can't play the style of defense you want. Kids play passive on both ends of the court and it showed. When we built the lead we were aggressive on both ends of the court. When we got in foul trouble, we had to go to a zone just to preserve a lead."

Citrus started to make it interesting down the stretch, when a layup by Clayton Looper made it 65-61 with just over two minutes to play.

Looper's 3-pointer, off a pass from Tony Shamblin after he rebounded his own missed free throw, cut the deficit to 67-65 at the 1:17 mark.

Parker was intentionally fouled and stepped to the line for a 1-and-1 with 33 seconds to go, sinking both free throws. Looper responded with a pair from the charity stripe to close to 69-67 as 21 seconds remained.

As the 'Canes scrambled to commit a foul, Parker broke free long enough to hit a layup while drawing a whistle. Tyrek Scriven rebounded and put back Parker's missed free throw with nine seconds left, providing the Pirates with enough cushion.

"We just had to keep our composure and play as a team, and finish them off," said Parker, who had scored two points coming into the fourth. "This was a big game for one of our teammates (Gunter) and we wanted to make sure we got the win for him."

Gunter finished with a double-double against his former club, with 14 points and 10 rebounds. Xavier Francois-McCullough tallied 19 points and nine boards.

"We haven't played very well yet. We didn't play very well tonight again. We have several new kids playing this year," Ervin said. "It's a lot of kids playing on the court that haven't played together much. So I think it just comes down to team chemistry and we just didn't perform very well tonight."

"Getting a win there in my eyes is good for the win column, but we're not where we need to be this early in the season still."

Looper ended up with 31 points plus five rebounds and three steals, and Rodney Mike chipped in 16 points and six rebounds for the 'Canes.

"It seemed like until the very end, every time we'd make a little run, Ian (Rose) would hit a 3, somebody would hit a 3, and all of sudden we'd got it to seven and now it's 10 again," Citrus head coach Tom Densmore said. "I wish we could have got over that hump a little bit earlier. But they hit some key shots. They're good, a very good team."

"They're (the 'Canes) working hard. We're trying to overcome our lack of height and they're kind of doing it by just working hard, trying to outdo bigger people."

NBA BRIEFS

Warriors 133, Magic 112

ORLANDO — Klay Thompson scored 27 points, Kevin Durant had 25 and Steph Curry 23 to help the Golden State Warriors rout the Orlando Magic 133-112 on Friday night.

Jordan Bell added 16 points, Draymond Green 12 and Omri Casspi 11 for Golden State.

Aaron Gordon led Orlando with 29 points, Evan Fournier had 22, and Jonathan Simmons 18. The Magic have lost 10 of their last 11.

The Warriors had 46 assists, the highest number by an NBA team this season.

Heat 105, Hornets 100

MIAMI — Josh Richardson scored a career-high 27 points, Dion Waiters added 19 and the Miami Heat shook off a horrendous start to beat the Charlotte Hornets 105-100.

Marvin Williams scored 16 points for Charlotte.

Raptors 120, Pacers 115

TORONTO — DeMar DeRozan scored 26 points, Jakob Poeltl made all eight of his field goal attempts and had a career-high 18 points and the Toronto Raptors beat the Indiana Pacers 120-115 for their sixth straight home victory.

Victor Oladipo scored a season-high 36 points for Indiana.

Spurs 95, Grizzlies 78

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — LaMarcus Aldridge had 22 points, Rudy Gay added 18 off the San Antonio bench and the

Pirates start fast, coast to win at Citrus

C.J. RISAK
Correspondent

INVERNESS — The outcome of this game was decided before the first quarter was over.

Visiting Crystal River took it to slow-starting Citrus in the first 12 minutes of Friday's girls basketball game, jumping in front 21-3 after one period and building its advantage to 30-3 midway through the second quarter, coasting to a 51-30 triumph.

The win keeps the Pirates unbeaten at 2-0 overall and in 6A-7. Citrus remains winless at 0-3 overall, 0-2 in district play.

Oddly, even though it was Crystal River that took command at the start and never did trail, it was Citrus coach July Castro who was pleased with her team's play.

"The first quarter was definitely rough," she admitted. "The first three minutes into the quarter, it felt like we were moving in slow motion. "I took a minute and talked to the girls, and I thought at the end of the second quarter was when the girls started chipping away, that's when they started really bringing it. At halftime, we had a nice chat, talked about what it is we need to do."

It did seem to make a difference in the second half, with the Hurricanes nearly playing Crystal River evenly, the Pirates holding a 21-20 advantage.

"I let my girls have it at the end of the game because, even though we pulled off the full-court pressure (in the second half), doesn't mean not to play the half-court pressure," said Pirates coach Charlie Bryant. "We got very, very sloppy. We got sloppy in the half-court offense, and we stopped being aggressive."

It didn't seem like there was much Crystal River could do wrong in the first 16 minutes. Behind 10 points from Zahria Jenkins, the Pirates did build a lead that proved to be insurmountable. The Hurricanes never got closer than 16 in the second half.

Jenkins would finish with a game-high 18 points. Olivia Diop netted nine and Alyssa Jenkins scored eight.

Citrus was paced by Zarrie Washington with 15 points. Hayleigh Reeves added nine.

"They outplayed us," Bryant said. "They played better than us in the second half."

"We've got to learn how to slow the game down. When you get those teams that break your press every single time, and they're going to pressure you, you have to learn how to slow it down and play a half-court style of game."

For Crystal River, that learning process better happen fast. It hosts one of the district favorites in Weeki Wachee on Tuesday.

Woods takes lead briefly

DOUG FERGUSON
AP golf writer

NASSAU, Bahamas — One of the biggest cheers at the Hero World Challenge came from seeing the name Tiger Woods moved to the top of the leaderboard.

It just wasn't there for long.

In another impressive showing in his latest comeback from back surgeries, Woods built on a solid start with a 31 on the front nine at Albany Golf Club that briefly gave him the lead Friday. He stalled on the back nine with a pair of bogeys and not enough birdie chances, and he settled for a 4-under 68.

"Successful," Woods said, when asked to describe his round in one word.

When the second round ended, Woods was five shots behind Charley Hoffman, who had a 63 that might have sent fans into a frenzy if they had been watching.

Hoffman made 12 birdies, closing with five in a row. He was at 12-under 132 and had a three-shot lead over Jordan Spieth (67) and Tommy Fleetwood (69). Hoffman made only one par over his final 12 holes to go along with eight birdies and three bogeys.

But this week, a holiday exhibition with an 18-man

field and no cut, is all about Woods. That much was obvious after the round.

Hoffman spoke to no more than five reporters about his round, while a dozen others were about 30 feet away surrounding Joe LaCava, Woods' caddie, looking for any additional morsel about his round.

Woods delivered plenty on his own. He opened with three birdies in four holes. He made three good pars, one of them having to chip up the slope from a thin lie on No. 8, and then really raised hopes with his eagle on the par-5 ninth, set up by a 3-wood into the wind from 265 yards.

"Hit up in the air and took something off of it and cut it back into the wind," he said.

He made the 20-foot putt to reach 8 under. Behind him, Hoffman made bogey on the par-3 eighth. Woods was alone in the lead, and the workers at the white scoreboard to the left of the green quickly moved his name to the top as some 100 people — that constitutes a large gallery this week — began cheering. There was a smattering of "He's back!" and even a few mentions about the Masters.

Woods missed it. He was

on his way to the 10th tee. By the time he saw a leaderboard, it was getting crowded at the top with Hoffman making his run, Spieth chipping in for birdie and setting up another with a tough chip, and Fleetwood overcoming a double bogey-bogey start to his back nine with three straight birdies.

"I saw somewhere on his back nine, I think there was like five guys at 8 under or something like that, something weird like that," Woods said.

"I felt like today I could have easily gotten to double digits under par," he said. "That would have put me probably one or two back, but I think I'm still in it. We've got two more days, and I think it's supposed to blow a little harder tomorrow. If that's the case, I think a good, solid round should get me up there."

That depends on Hoffman.

"I said at the beginning of the week, I hope he wins," Hoffman said. "It's great for the game of golf. Hopefully, I can stop him from winning this week. But anytime he's in contention, or even playing the golf tournaments, it brings a buzz to golf that we all need."



Michelle Smith
CONGO DIARIES

Great beauty in great pain

It is said where there is great pain, there is also great beauty. If this is true, then I know why Goma is such a beautiful place.

Most of the people who live here have suffered great pain — the death of family members and neighbors to conflict, the loss of property and belongings, being stripped of dignity in the face of war, rape and displacement. And yet, the beauty in each face and smile radiates out to the person nearest them. There is laughter on the streets, joking and jest are a part of daily life. To laugh at adversity is strength and shines through as beauty.

I recently read about some artists in Syria. They are taking to the streets and doing huge murals on the sides of blasted-out buildings. The scenes are of peace and prosperity, challenging the landscape around them. There is a beauty in these paintings that would not be felt if the same painting were to be done in a different city, under different circumstances. It is the broken contrast that makes the viewer feel such overwhelming sense of hope when you see them.

I believe to truly experience beauty, you have to leave your comfort zone. It is necessary to leave the road you have always walked and the people you always see; you must leave your neighborhood. The daily schedules of life dull the senses. People spend months at a time looking forward to a vacation, while ignoring the small beautiful things all around them. The vacation destination promises views that will mesmerize and entice relaxation. People know that to be impacted by great beauty, you must look upon things you do not regularly see.

Our city has suffered through civil wars, volcanic eruptions and rebel occupations. Refugees have flocked to this area with only the things they can carry on their heads and back. There is definitely a lack of infrastructure and organized services. We just recently began getting paved roads. Despite all of this, I watch as people sweep the streets and plant flowers around their homes. They see the beauty and want to cultivate it and encourage it. There is an overwhelming sense of hope when I see these things.

The tenacity to keep rebuilding — physically and emotionally — is seen all around Goma. Every week, I look around our community and see improvements and the changes to the city are immense. People may be displaced, but they haven't been defeated.

See **CONGO**/Page C5

Here are 'Tips for a Horrible Holiday'

This time of year, my email inbox gets flooded with holiday tips.

Unless they involve tips to get free cookies or pie, I generally delete them without even opening them.

However, I got one the other day from strategy consultant Lisa McLeod that caught my attention. She writes a weekly column, usually about success in business, but sometimes she writes about more general topics, like her most recent one: "Tips for a Horrible Holiday."

She began by saying that this



Nancy Kennedy
GRACE NOTES

time of year she hears a lot of complaints from people about their families and how horrible holidays are, how they're dreading Christmas, etc.

She writes, "If you have horrible family members, you have a choice: You can be a beacon of grace, or you can stay miserable."

"I hope you choose grace," she writes. "But if you choose misery, by all means, go all in with it."

Then she offers her strategic tips for having the Most Horrible Holiday Ever.

For example, she advises misery lovers to compare everything in their life to what is on TV. That means from your mish-mash, unprofessional decorating and worn-out furniture — and/or spouse — to your lack of invitations to gatherings on metropolitan city rooftops with trendy people dressed in trendy clothing, drinking champagne and eating the latest culinary craze.

For maximum misery, I would add that you should also compare yourself to others on Facebook, where everyone else's life is better than yours.

Next, McLeod says to ruminate about past hurts.

"Forget grace and forgiveness — it's the holidays," she writes.

"Just because it happened a long time ago, or was entirely unintentional, that's no reason for you to let it go."

She also suggests rehashing old arguments, being sure to keep a list of grievances handy in case you forget any, and always insist on having everything your way. After all, it IS all about you.

When it comes to maximizing misery, I have a few suggestions of my own:

Be offended every chance you get. When store clerks wish you a "Happy Holiday," instead of smiling and saying thank you, get all huffy that they didn't say "Merry Christmas."

See **GRACE**/Page C5



'Surviving the holidays'

Gulf to Lake Baptist church hosted a special seminar at the YMCA on grief titled "Surviving the Holidays." Four other churches assisted in the event: Cornerstone Baptist, North Oak Baptist, Lighthouse Baptist and First Baptist of Inverness. Chuck Hoffman from Gulf to Lake church was emcee for the seminar, which was well attended and well received by the participants. The event was sponsored by Brown Funeral Home in Crystal River and Wilder Funeral Home in Homosassa. The "Surviving the Holidays" seminar for people grieving a loved one's death will be presented again from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 7, in room 5 of the Ministry Complex at Gulf to Lake Baptist Church at 1454 N. Gulf Ave. in Crystal River (off State Road 44, one-half mile east of Publix). Learn how to deal with the many emotions you might face during the holidays, what to do about traditions and any changes, helpful tips for coping with social events and how to discover hope for the holiday season. To reserve a seat, call Chuck Hoffman at 352-563-6410 or email woodchuck@tampabay.rr.com.

Photos courtesy of Thinkstock.com

'GRIEF RECOVERY'

A "Grief Recovery" program will be presented by Cathy Heaps, a licensed mental health counselor and certified grief specialist, at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 439 E. Norvell Bryant Highway, Hernando. A 12-week class will begin Jan. 8, 2018. Class times are 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Those experiencing the death of a loved one, divorce, loss of sight or limb, changes in health, empty nest, retirement and other losses or life changes are invited to attend and learn more about the recovery process. Call the church office at 352-746-7161 for more information, or to register for classes. Friends and neighbors are

Menorah to light Dec. 12

The annual, official Community Chanukah Candle Lighting Ceremony and program sponsored by Congregation Beth Shalom, Beverly Hills Jewish Center, will be held on Courthouse Square in downtown Inverness at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12. Congregation Beth Shalom, the original synagogue in Citrus County celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2018, has been hosting the event for several years. The Chanukah program will feature the lighting of the large menorah, which is a nine-stemmed candelabra. There will be food and music. For more information, call ritual co-chairman Harvey Hamerling at 352-513-5169. More information about the synagogue can be found on the congregation's website at bethsholomcitrus.org, or the Congregation Beth Shalom of Citrus County Facebook page.

Special to the Chronicle



Church re-organizes with new name, new hope

NANCY KENNEDY
 Staff writer

When a pastor leaves a church, it's always a challenge. However, the people at Real Hope Church, which meets Sunday mornings at Crystal River Primary School, have hope that God has a plan and he will meet their needs.

Formerly called Bayside Church, its founding pastor, Taylor Robertson, left the church this past summer after being called as a youth pastor at a large church outside of Houston, Texas.

With his leaving, besides losing their pastor, the church also

lost one of its worship musicians — Robertson also played guitar and sang.

Since his departure, the church has been using videos of sermons from another church and having guest preachers when they can while they look for a new, part-time pastor, said church member Shirlee Yoder.

They're also looking for musicians and singers for Sunday morning worship.

Meanwhile, the people of Real Hope are continuing to serve the community as they've done from their beginning in 2015.

"We're small, but we've always been big on outreach,"

Yoder said.

On Dec. 18, Real Hope Church is having a community event, "Bowling for Tash," a night of free bowling for families at Manatee Lanes to benefit 2-year-old Tash Sullivan, who has leukemia.

The fundraising event, in conjunction with the Crystal River Primary School Cancer Crusaders, is from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 18, at Manatee Lanes in Crystal River, and includes crafts for kids, chances on a bicycle and a TV, door prizes and a visit with Santa Claus.

A donation jar will be available to help with Tash's medical expenses.

"Because we meet at the school, we wanted to partner with them on this," Yoder said.

Tash is the grandson of Beth Sullivan, a now-retired long-time school employee.

"We're also having Kelly Spencer Cain come and speak to us Sunday, Dec. 10," Yoder said. "She has a wonderful story about her overcoming a tragic accident, a real story of hope."

Real Hope Church meets at 10 a.m. every Sunday, with coffee and doughnuts at 9:30. They meet at Crystal River Primary School, 8624 W. Crystal St., Crystal River.

For information, call Shirlee Yoder at 706-755-6931.

RELIGION NOTES

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

■ The Crystal River United Methodist Women will host a "Cookie Walk" today at Crystal River United Methodist Church, 4801 N. Citrus Ave., Crystal River. The public can select from their homemade Christmas cookies to fill a 9- by 9-inch box for \$10. Come get your supply of homemade cookies for Christmas gatherings and visit the UMW's craft table where their "Recipes to Remember" will be available for purchase. For more information, call Jane at 352-527-6934. Come early for the best selection for this popular event. Doors open at 9 a.m. Sales usually run until 11 a.m. or until cookies are gone. The church is at 4801 N. Citrus Ave., Crystal River.

■ Come have an amazing dinner and watch a comedy about Christmas today and Sunday in Holy Grounds Cafe at Calvary Chapel 960 S U.S. 41, Inverness. This year, the Cricket County and City Folk share a Christmas of sharing. The event is free, but reservations must be made at 352-726-1480.

■ As part of its Winter Music Series, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will present the Citrus Community Concert Choir in a concert titled "Messiah and Carols" at 7:30 p.m. Friday. The church's Children's Christmas Program will take place at the 8:30 a.m. service Sunday,

Dec. 10. The Chancel Choir's Christmas Offering will be during the 11 a.m. service Sunday, Dec. 17. The church is at 439 E. Norvell Bryant Highway, Hernando.

■ Want to get in the spirit of an old-fashioned Christmas sing-along? Come hear the Dunnellon Community Chorale members, who are hosting a Christmas party at 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at the Dunnellon Presbyterian Church, 20641 Chestnut St. After a concert of traditional Christmas music, the members will join with the audience in singing traditional Christmas favorites, followed by cookies and punch in the church's fellowship hall. This is the chorale's free gift to the City of Dunnellon, so come greet your neighbors and enjoy a seasonal tradition.

■ Inverness Church of God will host "Christmas Celebration Sunday" at 9 and 10:45 a.m. Dec. 10. Services will feature Christmas music and a drama presented by adults, the Children's Ministry, and the Middle and High School Ministry. A Christmas message will be brought by Pastor David Lucas. Pastor Lucas extends an invitation to the community to join the congregation as it celebrates the birth of Jesus. The church is at 416 U.S. 41 South, Inverness. For more information, call the church office at 352-726-4524.

■ Faith Lutheran Church, at 935 Crystal Glen Drive in Lecanto,

invites the public to attend the 5 p.m. service Wednesday, Dec. 13, where "Joseph's story of the Christ Child's birth," will be preformed by a professional actor in costume, accompanied by music. There will be a freewill offering. For more information, call the church at 352-527-3325.

■ Calvary Chapel will host a "Free Family Movie and Popcorn Night" on Friday, Dec. 15. The movie, "The Christmas Choir," based on a true story, will be shown at 6 p.m. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Everyone is invited. Calvary Chapel is at 960 S. U.S. 41, Inverness. For more information, call 352-726-1480.

■ A 25-voice choir that includes singers from North Oak Baptist Church and Lighthouse Baptist Church in Citrus Springs, and First Baptist Church in Rutland, will join together to present the Christmas musical, "One King," taking the audience from the birth of the Christ child all the way through to His glorious resurrection. Christmas carol medleys are joined with dynamic worship music and end in a pageantry of banners. Everyone is welcome to attend. There is no charge. "One King" will be presented at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 15, and 10:45 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 17, at North Oak Baptist Church, 9324 N. Elckam Blvd., Citrus Springs; and 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, at First Baptist Church in

Rutland on State Road 44, five miles east of Gospel Island Road. Call 352-489-1688 for more information. Childcare will be provided for children younger than 4.

■ Children ages 3 to 12 are invited to a "Christmas Celebration" from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, at Parsons Memorial Church at 5850 Riverside Drive in Yankeetown (next to the Coast Guard Station). The children will decorate a tree, cookies, make a craft, sing carols and more. For more information, call 352-388-8031.

■ Bring a favorite teacup and saucer (or mug) and come join Crystal River Aglow in celebrating the real meaning of Christmas from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 16. Hands of Praise will be the special musical guests at this free "Christmas Tea" event. There will be a variety of tea and refreshments, plus some special things planned to make for a memorable morning of fun and fellowship. RSVP to 352-436-3065 by Dec. 1. Aglow spans the globe as a not-for-profit, international, interdenominational Christian organization. All are welcome to join. For more information, call Linda at 352-436-3065, or Cassandra at 352-220-2956 or email crystalriveraglow@yahoo.com.

■ Inverness Church of God will host "Joseph's Journey" at 9 and 10:45 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 17. This is

a one-man presentation of a touching, heartfelt description of the Nativity through the eyes of Joseph. It is presented by Living Gospel Ministry, Matthew and Tina Zawisza. Pastor Lucas extends an invitation to the community to join the congregation for this presentation. The church is at 416 U.S. 41 South, Inverness. For more information, call the church office at 352-726-4524.

■ Christmas Eve will be celebrated at 10:45 a.m. and 4 p.m. at North Oak Baptist Church, 9324 N. Elckam Blvd., Citrus Springs. Beautiful music will accompany an inspiring message by Pastor Stan Stewart. All are invited to come and join in the celebration. For more information, call 352-489-1688. Child care is provided.

SALE AWAY

■ Floral City United Methodist Church's "Craft Fair and Yard Sale" is from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. today during Heritage Days weekend. The church is at 8478 E. Marvin St. in Floral City.

■ The Nature Coast Ministries Thrift Shop is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Saturday at 796 U.S. 19. Nature Coast Ministries assists veterans, low-income adults, homeless and seniors in Citrus

See NOTES/Page C3

Places of worship that offer love, peace and harmony to all.

Come on over to "His" house, your spirits will be lifted!!!



Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church ELCA
David Bradford, Interim Pastor
9425 N. Citrus Springs Blvd.
Citrus Springs
Saturday 4:30 p.m. Casual Service
Sunday Services
Spoken Holy communion
Worship 8:00 a.m.
Christian Education 9:00 a.m.
Sung Holy Communion
Worship 10:00am
Information: 489-5511
Go To Our Web Page
hopelutheranelca.com

COMMUNITY CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Faith.
Freedom.
Fellowship.
Warmly Welcomes You To Worship
Sunday 10:00 AM
Rev. Dr. Shawn P. Stapleton
9220 N. Citrus Springs Blvd.
Citrus Springs, FL
352-489-1260
www.citruspringcongregational.org

First Baptist Church Of Hernando
Reaching and restoring lives through Jesus Christ
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Service 10:45 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting/Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
Rev. Keith Dendy
3790 E. Parson's Point Rd.
Hernando, FL 34442
352-726-6734
Visit us on the Web at www.fbc hernando.com

First Presbyterian Church
Crystal River
Jesus-Loves-Us.com
Children & Adult LifeGroups
Sunday Casual Service 9 AM
Traditional Service 10:30 AM
Love God
Love People
Love Serving Others
Reaching the Next Generation for Christ
1501 SE Highway 19, Suncoast Blvd.
352-795-2259
Jesus-Loves-Us.com

CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH
Non Denominational
Sunday Contemporary Service 10:00 am
Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 pm
Adult / Youth / Children
Nursery provided for all services.
7961 W. Green Acres St. US 19
Homasassa, FL
www.christian-center.church
352-628-5076

Crystal River Church of God
Church Phone **795-3079**
Sunday Morning Adult & Children's Worship 8:30 & 11:00 AM
Sunday School 9:45 AM
Evening Service 6:00 PM
Wednesday Life Application Service
Jam Session Youth Ministries & Teen Kid (ages 4-11) 7:00 PM
2180 N.W. Old Tallahassee Rd. (12th Ave.)
Nursery Provided

TREE OF LIFE
Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod
Whispering Pines Recreational Building
1700 Forrest Dr., Inverness, FL
352-566-7592
Bible Study.....9:00 am
Sunday Worship...10:00 am
Pastor Karl Koch
"See website for weekly sermon"
www.treeoflifelc.org

NORTH CITRUS CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Phone: (352) 527-0021
JOIN US IN WORSHIP AT
6442 N. Elckam Blvd.
Citrus Springs
Sunday Services: 10:30am
Bible Study: Wednesday 6:30pm
Minister George Plantz
Children Welcome
Nursery Available

HERNANDO SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
1880 N. Trucks Ave.
Hernando, FL 34442
(352) 344-2008
Come, Fellowship & Grow With Us In Jesus
Sabbath - Saturday Services
Sabbath School 9:30 am
Worship 11:00 am
Wednesday Mid-Week Meeting 7:00 pm
Pastor William Bremner
www.hernandoadventist.com

St. Raphael Orthodox Church in America
Divine Liturgy Sun. 10 am
Great Vespers Sat. 4 pm
Fr. Sergious Gerken
(352) 201-1320
www.straphaelchurch.org
1277 N. Paul Dr.
INVERNESS
Right off Hwy. 41 N.

First United Methodist Church OF HOMASSASSA
Join Pastor Kip Younger and the congregation for
Sunday worship 8:00 am, 9:30 am & 11:00 am
Sunday School - 9:30 am
8831 W. Bradshaw St.
Homasassa, FL
352-628-4083
Learn More at 1umc.org

Church of Christ
8599 E. Marvin St., Floral City, FL
726-2965
A warm welcome always awaits you where we teach the true New Testament Bible.
Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 6:00 p.m.
Michael Shingledecker, Minister

Inverness Church of Christ
Teaching the Truth from God's Word
Sunday Bible Study 10:00am
Worship Service 11:00am
Sunday Evening Study 5:00pm
Wednesday Bible Study 7:00pm
What We Believe
You may have heard we are the only ones going to Heaven. We are confident of our salvation, but only Christ can pass judgment on another man's soul.
(2 Cor 5:10)
Evangelist: Leon Jennings
Non-Denominational
5148 E. Live Oak Ln.
Inverness, FL
(863) 937-7788

Crystal River UMC
4801 N. Citrus Ave.
(2 Miles N. of US 19)
795-3148
Rev. David Rawls
Sunday Worship 9:00 am Traditional
10:30 am Contemporary
Christmas Eve Worship 9:30 am Blended in the Sanctuary
4 pm Traditional in the Bethel Chapel
6 pm Family Service in the Sanctuary
Beginning Dec. 3rd
Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph
What if?
A Christmas Musical
December 3rd
Bethlehem Walk
Dec. 8th, 9th & 10th
Visit us @ crumc.com
Divinely Unique Thrift Store
Weds Thru Friday 9AM - 4 PM
Sat. 9 AM - 1 PM
CELEBRATE RECOVERY
Friday nights @ 6 p.m.

Indian Hill Baptist
is a country gospel church that believes families who worship, play, and pray together make up the very fabric of our nation.
Serving Sumter County since 1892, our historic chapel takes you back in time where the simple gospel is preached and fellowship is sweet.
Come join us as we journey through this life the old-fashioned way.
Sunday School 9:45 am
Main Service 11:00 am
7819 CR 633, Bushnell
(West 476 between 476B & 575)
"Go where the gospel is preached and go often." (Charles Spurgeon)

Hernando Church of The Nazarene
A Place to Belong
2101 N. Florida Ave.
Hernando FL
726-6144
Sunday School 9:45 A.M.
Worship 10:40 A.M.
Praise Service 6:00 P.M.
Prayer & Word (Wed.) 7:00 P.M.
Nursery Provided
Sermons Online
HerNaz.org
Randy T. Hodges, Pastor

Shepherd of the Hills EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Our mission is to be a beacon of faith known for engaging all persons in the love and truth of Jesus Christ.
Services:
Saturday 5:00 pm
Sunday 8:00 & 10:30 am
Nursery 10:30 am
Healing Service
Wednesday 10:00 am
2540 W. Norvell Bryant Hwy. (CR 486)
Lecanto, Florida (4/10 mile east of CR 491)
352-527-0052
www.SOTHEC.org

Victory in Jesus
At **Victory Baptist Church**
Come join us.
Sunday School 9:45 AM
Worship 10:45 AM
Sunday Evening 6:00 PM
Wednesday 6:00 PM
FREE Unconditional Love
Quality Child Care
Pastor Gary Beehler
352-465-8866
5040 N Shady Acres Dr.
726-9719
Highway 41 North, turn at Sportsman Pt.
Email: gbeehler@tampabayrr.com
www.victorybaptistinverness.com

NOTES

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County. Volunteers are needed. Call Gary at 352-464-5325.

■ **Helping Hands Thrift Store**, a ministry of Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church, is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Saturday, at 604 U.S. 41 S. Proceeds fund the food pantry. The store accepts donations of household items, clothing and small appliances. Call 352-726-1707.

■ **Jesus Is! Ministries Thrift Store** is at 121 State Road 40 E., Inglis. The store is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. Jesus Is! Ministries Inc., is a charitable organization serving the community since 1979. Donations are tax deductible. For more information, call 352-447-2731.

FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

■ **The Sisterhood of Temple Beth David**, at 13158 Antelope St. in Spring Hill, will have a Hanukkah luncheon at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12. Bruce Hadburg, President of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay, will be the speaker. He will address the topic, "Explore Your Roots." There will be Hanukkah

appetizers, salads, kugel, latkes and dessert. Cost is \$7 for Sisterhood members or \$12 for nonmembers. Make reservations by Friday, Dec. 8, by calling 352-592-4930 or 352-686-5754.

■ **Living Water Ministries** sponsors free dinner and a movie every Friday evening. Bring your family and your friends to dinner at 5:30 p.m. followed by an inspirational movie at 6:30 p.m. at Living Water Ministries, next to the pizza store in Beverly Plaza, Beverly Hills. For more information, call 352-513-2648.

■ **First United Methodist Church** of Homosassa offers a "Stack of Pancakes" from 8 to 10 a.m. the second Saturday monthly at 8831 W. Bradshaw St. for a donation of \$4 per person. Sponsored by Serendipity Men's Bible Study, feast on flapjacks and sausages, with beverages of coffee, tea, juice and milk. All proceeds help support the hungry and homeless in Citrus County through the Nature Coast Ministry and The Sanctuary & Grace House. For information, call 352-628-4083.

■ **First Presbyterian Church** of Crystal River invites the public to its new nonprofit community volunteer outreach project, LifeTree Coffee, at 1615 U.S. 19 in Crystal River (in the Winn-Dixie shopping plaza).

LifeTree Coffee serves fresh-ground coffee, lattes, fruit smoothies, hot cocoa, gourmet tea, frappes, fresh baked goods and more, from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Funds raised support local charities such as (but not limited to) a local veterans' homeless shelter, the Citrus County Youth Wind Ensemble and the church's food pantry. To become involved in this community outreach, see Volunteer Coordinator Sarah McClure or call 352-795-2259.

■ **Enjoy free coffee and pastry** from 9 to 9:45 a.m. Sundays at Holy Grounds Café on site with Calvary Chapel in Inverness, 960 S. U.S. 41. For information, call 352-726-1480 or visit www.calvaryinv.com.

■ **Complimentary coffee and snacks** are served from 10 to 10:30 a.m. Sundays at Real Life Fellowship, 1817 U.S. 41 N. (across from Inverness Middle School). For information, call 352-400-9533.

■ **Homeless weekly dinners** are distributed for carryout only from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Mondays at The New Church Without Walls Fellowship Hall, 2577 N. Florida Ave., in Hernando.

■ **Suncoast Baptist Church's** food pantry is open for bread distribution from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Wednesdays, and the second Wednesday monthly

is distribution of bagged canned goods, dry goods and meat from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. The church is at 5310 S. Suncoast Blvd., Homosassa Springs. The food pantry is open to Homosassa residents only.

■ **Christ Christian Bible Ministry** distributes food at 1 p.m. Wednesdays at 619 NE Second St., Crystal River. Preparations are being made to provide a hot meal once a week. For more information, call 352-513-8065.

■ **The Beverly Hills Community Church** spaghetti suppers are from 4 to 6 p.m. the third Friday monthly in the Jack Steele Hall, 82 Civic Circle, Beverly Hills. Donation is \$8 per person, two for \$15, and \$4 for children younger than 12. The meal includes a salad, spaghetti with meat sauce, Italian bread, coffee or tea, and dessert. Come and enjoy a delicious meal. Tickets are available at the door.

■ **For the past 10 or so years**, the We Care Food Pantry believes that "No one should go hungry in our hometown." Nearly one in every six residents in Citrus County lives in poverty, facing hunger on a daily basis. That's 22,000 of our neighbors and friends, one-quarter of whom are children. To combat this, the pantry distributes food to approximately 2,600 pre-qualified

individuals each month. The pantry's mission is to help solve the problem of hunger by giving to families, children and the homeless a hand-up, not a handout. To serve the community better, the pantry needs some volunteers to act as packers, sorters and truck drivers, especially with CDL experience. Call the pantry, Tuesday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 352-228-4921.

■ **Nature Coast Ministries Food Pantry** distributes food to residents of Citrus County on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the thrift store is open 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Nature Coast Ministries is at 798 S. U.S. 19 in Crystal River. The phone number for the food pantry and the thrift shop is 352-228-4907.

■ **"Our Father's Table"** is a shared ministry with St. Anne's Anglican Church, the hosting church, St. Timothy Lutheran, Crystal River United Methodist and St. Thomas Catholic Church, who are all dedicated to serving a hot, nutritious meal. The meals are prepared at St. Anne's Church in Crystal River and served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturdays. St. Timothy serves the second Saturday monthly. For more information, call St. Anne's Anglican Church

See NOTES/Page C4

WELCOME HOME

CRYSTAL RIVER
A FOURSQUARE CHURCH

WORSHIP SERVICES
Sundays...10:30 A.M.
Wednesdays...6:30 P.M.

1160 N. Dunkenfield Ave.
Crystal River
795-6720
Pastor John Hager

Places of worship that offer love, peace and harmony to all.

Come on over to "His" house, your spirits will be lifted!!!

St Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church

Sunday Masses:
8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Saturday Vigil Mass:
4:00 p.m.
Weekday Mass:
8:30 a.m. Mon., Tue., Wed. and Friday
Saturday Confession:
3:00 - 3:30 p.m.

1401 W. Country Club Blvd.
Citrus Springs, FL 34434
(352) 489-4889
www.stelizabethcs.org

Homosassa Springs SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Come, Fellowship & Grow With Us In Jesus
5863 W. Cardinal St.
Homosassa Springs, FL 34446
Telephone: (352) 628-7950
Pastor William Bremmer

Wednesday
Mid-Week Meeting 6:00 pm
Sabbath-Saturday Services
Sabbath School 9:30 am
Worship 10:45 am
www.homosassaadventist.com

First Baptist Church of Floral City
Lifting Up Jesus

8545 Magnolia
726-4296

Pastor David Throckmorton

Sunday Schedule
8:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service
9:45 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Traditional Worship
6:00 PM Worship
Wednesday
6:15 PM
Music, Youth, Fellowship
A warm, friendly Church
Nursery Available
www.fbcfloralcity.org

St. Benedict Catholic Church
U.S. 19 at Ozello Rd.

MASSES
Vigil: 5:00pm
Sun.: 8:30 & 10:30am

DAILY MASSES
Mon. - Fri.: 8:00am

HOLY DAYS
As Announced

CONFESSION
Sat.: 3:30 - 4:30pm
795-4479

Crossgate Church of God

Pastor Junior & Karen Branson

10117 E. Gulf to Lake Hwy.
Inverness, FL 34450
(352) 637-3110

Sunday Worship & Sunday School
10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening 6:30 P.M.
Thursday 7:00 P.M.

East Hwy. 44 just past Gospel Island Rd.

Our Lady of Fatima CATHOLIC CHURCH

550 U.S. Hwy. 41 South,
Inverness, Florida

Weekday Mass: 8 A.M.
Saturday Vigil Mass: 4 P.M.
Saturday Confessions:
2:30 - 3:30 P.M.
Sunday Masses: Winter Schedule
7:30, 9:00 & 11:00 A.M.
Sunday Masses: Summer Schedule (June - August)
9:00 and 11:00 A.M.
726-1670

FCCI
"First For Christ"...John 1:41

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF INVERNESS

We welcome you and invite you to worship with our family.

Dr. Ray Kelley
Minister

Sunday:
9:00 A.M. Sunday School
10:15 A.M. Worship Service
Wednesday:
6:00 P.M. Bible Study

2018 Colonnade St., Inverness
344-1908
www.fccinv.com

ST. ANNE'S CHURCH
A Parish in the Anglican Communion
Rector: Fr. Richard Chandler

To be one in Christ in our service, as His servants, by proclaiming His love.

Sunday Masses:
8:00 a.m.
10:15 a.m.

9870 West Fort Island Trail
Crystal River 1 mile west of Plantation Inn
352-795-2176
www.stannescr.org

St. Timothy Lutheran Church ELCA

Saturday Informal Worship w/Communion - 5:00 PM

Sunday Service w/Communion - 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Sunday School All Ages - 9:30 AM

Special services are announced. Nursery provided.

1070 N. Suncoast Blvd., Crystal River
For more information call **795-5325**
www.sttimothythelutheranchurchcrystalriver.com
Rev. Joan E. Holden

INVERNESS CHURCH OF GOD
V. David Lucas Jr. - Lead Pastor

INVERNESS CHURCH OF GOD

Sunday Services:
Worship Services...9:00 AM & 10:45 AM
Bible Study.....9:00 AM

Wednesday Night:
Classes For All Ages at 7:00 PM

Located at 416 Hwy. 41 South in Inverness Just Past Burger King Church Office 726-4524
Also on Site "Little Friends Daycare and Learning Center"

INVERNESS First United Methodist Church
Contemporary Worship 9 AM
Traditional Worship 10:30 AM

Catch the Spirit Now worshipping at **130 Heights Ave. Inverness, FL 34452**
(Next to Angelotti's Pizza)
(352) 726-2522
www.invernessfirstumc.org

St. Scholastica Catholic Church

SUNDAY MASSES
9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.
SATURDAY VIGIL MASSES
4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.
WEEKDAY MASS
8:30 a.m. Mon. - Fri.
SATURDAY CONFESSION
2:45 - 3:30 p.m.

4301 W. Homosassa Trail
Lecanto, FL 34461
(352) 746-9422
www.stscholastica.org

Crossroad Baptist Church

5335 E. Jasmine Lane,
Inverness
1 1/2 Miles North Of K-mart
Off 41 North

You're Invited To Our Services

Sunday School
10:00 AM
Sunday
10:45 AM & 6:00 PM
Wednesday 6:00 PM

Independent Fundamental

Pastor Terry Roberts
Ph: 726-0201

First Assembly of God

4201 So. Pleasant Grove Rd.
(Hwy. 581 So.) Inverness, FL 34452

Pastor, Dairoid & Bettye Rushing

"Where everyone is special!"
"Jesus Christ - central theme of our worship"

Sunday School
9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship
10:30 a.m & 6:00 p.m.
Sunday Youth
6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Worship
7:00 p.m.
"Ministries for all ages"
Nursery Available

OFFICE: (352) 726-1107

First Lutheran Church
Opening "Community" Doors to Christ
Reverend Thomas R. Beaverson

WORSHIP & COMMUNION
Come As You Are All Are Welcomed Here

SUNDAYS
7:45 AM & 10:00 AM
Bible Study
9:00 AM - 9:45 AM

YOUTH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Kids Central)
WED: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

WOMEN'S LISTENING & LEARNING JESUS
THURSDAY
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

726-1637
www.1stlutheran.church
1900 Hwy 44
Inverness Florida

Partners in Ministry & Making a Difference - LCMS -

Welcome Our New Pastor David McCane

INVERNESS FIRST CHURCH OF GOD NON-DENOMINATIONAL
Sharing God's Love Thru Grace
5510 E. Jasmine Ln., Inverness (352) 726-8986

Sunday: 10:30 AM & 6:00 PM
BIBLE STUDY Wed: 6:00 PM

In our 10:30am service
PHYLLIS MORGAN
Accomplished Pianist in Concert
Played with Billy Graham Crusades & Laurence Welk

Home of the Saturday Nite Gospel Jubilee
Tonight at 6:00pm
Great Music, Good Fellowship
Good Food, & Never A Charge

Church like it use to be!
Singing the Old hymns,
Preaching GODS' Word
Welcome! You are sure to enjoy!

NORTHRIDGE CHURCH

Rooted in Scripture, Relevant for Today

SUNDAY
10:00 AM
Family Worship
Nursery provided

WEDNESDAY
6:30 PM
Home Fellowship
Call for information

Non-Denominational Church
1880 N Trucks Ave., Hernando
Currently meeting at the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Pastor Kennie Berger
352-302-5813
www.northridge-church.org

HERNANDO United Methodist Church

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

"A Safe Sanctuary for Children and Families"
2125 E. Norvell Bryant Hwy. (486)
(1 1/2 miles from Hwy. 41)
For information call
(352) 726-7245
www.hernandoumcfl.org
Reverend David D. Spaulding

Sunday School Adults & Older Children
8:45 AM - 9:30 AM
Coffee & Conversation
9:39 AM - 10:00 AM
Pre-Service Praise
9:50 AM
Worship Service & Children's Sunday School
10:00 AM
Nursery is Provided.
Individual Hearing Devices
Ministries and Activities for all Ages.

NOTES

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at 352-795-2176. St. Timothy Lutheran Church is at 1070 N. Suncoast Blvd., Crystal River. For more information, visit www.sttimothy-lutherancrystalriver.com or call 352-795-5325.

MUSIC & MORE

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church announces its Winter Music Series 2017-18 schedule, sponsored by the Citrus County Chronicle:

● Friday, Dec. 8, at 7:30 p.m. — Citrus Community Concert Choir "Messiah and Carols."

● Friday, Jan. 26, at 6 p.m. — The Churchmen, Gospel Bluegrass Band.

● Sunday, Feb. 11, at 3 p.m. — Johny Carlsson presents The Florida Dixie Kings in "A Swingin' Mardi Gras."

The church is at 439 E. Norvell Bryant Highway, Hernando.

■ Save these dates for the 2018 Winter Gospel Concert Series at College Road Baptist Church in Ocala:

● Friday, Jan. 5 — "Trust in Him," "River Jordan" and "The Heaven-

bound Singers."

● Friday, Jan. 12 — "Triumphant Quartet."

● Friday, Jan. 26 — "The Inspirations."

● Thursday, Feb. 22 — "The McKameys."

All concerts begin at 7 p.m. with the doors opening at 6:30 p.m. There is a \$10 donation accepted at the door and no reserved seating. College Road Baptist Church is at 5010 SW College Road in Ocala, 1.7 miles west of I-75. All are welcome.

■ St. Timothy Lutheran Church invites the public to its informal worship service at 4 p.m. Saturdays, with a Bluegrass service the third Saturday monthly. The church is at 1070 N. Suncoast Blvd., Crystal River. For more information visit www.sttimothy-lutherancrystalriver.com or call the church office at 352-795-5325.

■ Shepherd's Way Cowboy Church sponsors a "Country and Gospel Music Jam" at 1 p.m. Tuesdays at the church building, 965 N. Lecanto Highway, Lecanto. Admission is free; however, a love offering is received at each gathering. The "CC Wranglers" house band does an excellent job of accompanying the "Jammers" in Country and

Gospel music. Food and drinks are available. Come and enjoy some wholesome entertainment and fellowship.

■ The community, churches and singers are invited out for an evening of fellowship and fun featuring gospel karaoke music provided by Allan O'Neal from 6 to 9 p.m. the third Thursday monthly at Mama's Kuntry Kafe, 1787 W. Main St., Inverness. All singers and listeners are welcome. O'Neal does karaoke every Friday and Sunday evening at Mama's and singers may sing gospel songs on any of those nights, but the third Thursday is gospel only. For more information, call the restaurant at 352-341-6262.

FUN & GAMES

■ The St. Benedict Community of Catholic Women will have their next military card party on Tuesday, Jan. 23, in Hilgert Hall at St. Benedict Catholic Church, on the corner of Suncoast Boulevard and Ozello Trail, in Crystal River. A \$12 donation includes the game, door prizes and lunch. There will also be raffles and share the wealth drawings. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. For tickets, call Lynda Samm after 4 p.m. at 352-628-5229.

■ The Men's Club of St. John the

Baptist Catholic Church on U.S. 41 in Dunnellon plays horseshoes at 9 a.m. Saturdays. Horseshoes are provided to anyone needing them along with instructions in pitching, scoring and court maintenance. Women, children and persons who have never pitched horseshoes before are invited to attend and share in the fun and fellowship. For more information, call 352-489-5954.

■ Bridge is played at 1 p.m. the second and fourth Mondays monthly at Cornerstone Baptist Church, 1100 W. Highland Blvd., Inverness. Anyone who enjoys playing bridge is welcome to join the group. For more information, call Barbara Hackett at 352-341-0149 or Judy Coburn at 352-419-4382.

■ St. John the Baptist Catholic Church offers bingo at 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays and 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays featuring regular, double and special bingos, together with a jack-pot and "pickle" game. Doors open at 10 a.m. Tuesday and 4 p.m. Wednesday. The kitchen features "homemade" soups and sandwiches. The church is on U.S. 41, three miles north of Dunnellon.

ON THE CALENDAR

■ St. Margaret's Episcopal Church will celebrate the first

Sunday of Advent tomorrow as it begins a new ecclesiastical year. Gospel lessons will be from Mark, looking at the promise of The Second Coming of The Son of Man, with Pastor Reuman's message this week: "But about that day or hour, no one knows...only the Father." The church is at 114 N. Osceola Ave., Inverness. For more information, call 352-726-3153.

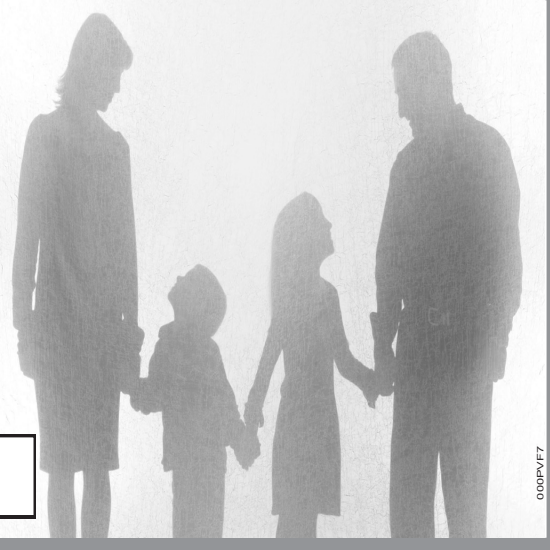
■ The new church year begins on Advent Sunday, tomorrow, at Joy Lutheran Church, 7045 SW 83rd Place at State Road 200, Ocala. During Advent, there will be the usual Sunday worship services of 8:15 and 11 a.m. The service and sermons will have the message within the theme of "Moving Toward the Manager." On Wednesdays, there will be a brief service at 2 p.m. without communion and a casual service at 6:45 p.m. with communion. All are welcome to attend Advent services. For more information, call 352-854-4509, ext. 2.

■ The Altar & Rosary Society of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, in Dunnellon, is collecting new and used clothing for children ages 6-18 for its upcoming "Clothe the Children" drive which will take place

See NOTES/Page C5

Places of worship that offer love, peace and harmony to all.

Come on over to "His" house, your spirits will be lifted!!!



PRIMERA IGLESIA HISPANA DE CITRUS COUNTY
Asambleas de Dios
Inverness, Florida

ORDEN DE SERVICIOS:
DOMINGOS:
9:30 AM - Escuela Biblica Dominical
10:30 AM - Adoración y Prédica
MARTES:
7:00 PM - Culto de Oración
JUEVES:
7:00 PM - Estudios Bíblicos
Les Esperamos!
David Piñero, Pastor

1370 N. Croft Ave. • Inverness, FL 34451
Teléfono: (352) 341-1711

MOUNT OLIVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

"The Church in the Heart of the Community with a Heart for the Community"

Pastor Ronald & 1st Lady Carolise Sutton

SUNDAY SERVICES
☞ Sunday School 9:30 A.M.
☞ Morning Service 11:00 A.M.
☞ Wed. Prayer Mtg. & Bible Study~ 6:30 P.M.

2105 N. Georgia Rd.,
PO Box 327 Crystal River, FL 34423
Church Phone (352)583-1577

ST. THOMAS CATHOLIC CHURCH
Serving Southwest Citrus County

MASSES:
Saturday.....4:30 P.M.
Sunday.....8:00 A.M.
.....10:30 A.M.

U.S. 19 1/2 mile South of West Cardinal St., Homosassa
628-7000

NATURE COAST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

Reason, Diversity, Compassion

Sunday Service 10:30 am

7633 N. Florida Ave.
Citrus Springs (Hwy 41)
1/4 mile north of Holder
WWW.NCUU.ORG

Redemption Christian Church

SUNDAY
Bible School.....9:00
Worship.....10:15
WEDNESDAY
Bible School.....6:30

Currently meeting at
East Citrus Community Center
9907 East Gulf-to-Lake Highway

For more information call
352-422-6535

Pastor
Todd Langdon

"Our Lady of Grace" Catholic Church

SATURDAY MASS:
4:00 P.M. & 6:00 P.M.

SUNDAY MASSES:
8:00 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.

SPANISH MASS: 12:30 P.M.

CONFESSIONS:
2:30 P.M. to 3:15 P.M. Sat.

WEEKDAY MASSES: 8:00 A.M.

6 Roosevelt Blvd., Beverly Hills
746-2144
(1 Block East of S.R. 491)
www.ourladyofgracefl.org

You're Invited To
ST. MARGARET'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

"Reaching out to the world with love in Christ's Name"
Since 1893

114 N. Osceola Ave.
Inverness, FL 34450
726-3153
www.stmaggie.org

Services:
Sun. Worship 8 & 10:30 A.M.
Wednesday 12:30 P.M.
Morning Prayer
9:00 A.M. Mon- Thurs
Pastor Gene Reuman

THE SALVATION ARMY CITRUS COUNTY CORPS.

SUNDAY
Sunday School
9:45 A.M.
Morning Worship Hour
11:00 A.M.

TUESDAY:
Home League
11:30 A.M.

Major Phillip Irish
Major Lynn Irish

712 S. School Ave. Lecanto 513-4960

Floral City United Methodist Church

Rev. Mary Gestrich
Senior Pastor
8478 East Marvin St.
Floral City, FL 34436
344-1771

God is at work in our lives and the energy is contagious!

Sunday Worship
8:00 A.M. 1884 Church
10:30 A.M. Sanctuary

Sunday School
9:05 A.M.

Bible Study
Tuesday 10:00 A.M.
Wednesday 6:00 P.M.

WEB SITE: floralcityumc.org

Joy & Praise Fellowship

A light to Citrus County

Sunday
Worship Service & Children's Church.....10:30 am

Wednesday
Worship Service & Children's Church.....6:45 pm

Nursery Available
Service Now Signed For Hearing Impaired

6670 N. Lecanto Hwy,
Beverly Hills
Pastor Eddie Padgett
352-527-8612

The New Church Without Walls

"An Exciting & Growing Multi-Cultural Non-Denominational Congregation Ministering to the Heart of Citrus County"

Temporary Location
2577 N. Florida Ave.
Hernando, FL

Senior Pastors & Founders

Dr. Douglas Alexander Sr. & Lady "T" Alexander

Service Times:
Sunday
Sunday School - 9:30 am
Service 11:00 am

Wednesday
Bible Study 7:00 pm

HOMELESS FEEDING
Mondays - 4:00 pm

Ph: 352-344-2425
newwow@embarqmail.com

"The perfect church for people who aren't"

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
ELCA

Come Worship With Us!

Worship
8:30 am
11:00 am

- Fellowship After Worship
- Weekly Communion
- Hearing Loop Available

Sunday School 9:45 am
• Nursery Provided

Interim Pastor
Rev. Felice Johnson

439 E. Norvell Bryant Hwy.
Hernando, Florida

Building is Barrier-Free
gshernando.org

352-746-7161

Trinity Independent Baptist Church

2840 E. Hayes Street,
Inverness
Corner of
Croft and Hayes
(352) 726-0100

"We don't just say something... we have something to say."

WE STILL... use the old King James Bible

WE STILL... Preach the unsearchable Riches of Christ

WE STILL... Have old-fashioned worship services

Sunday School
10 am
(Children, Teens, Adults)

Jr. Church
11 Am
(Ages 4 To 12 Years)

Morning Service
11 am

Evening Service
6 pm

Wednesday Bible Study
7 pm

Please join us for any or all services.
We welcome you!

First Presbyterian
Stephen Ministry Congregation

Hwy. 44 E @ Washington Ave., Inverness

Sunday Services
Traditional
8:00 AM
11:00 AM

Contemporary Service
9:30 AM

Sunday School for all ages
9:30 AM
Nursery Provided

Fellowship & Youth Group
Sunday Evening

Web Site: www.fpcinv.org

Church Office 637-0770

Pastor Ron Pfeifer

"Rightly dividing the word of truth" II Timothy 2:15

Grace Bible Fellowship

4979 East Arbor St., Inverness, FL
352-726-9972

Pastor Ken Lawson

Recommended by Les Feldick

Sunday
Bible Study.....9:15 AM
Worship Service...10:15 AM

Wednesday
Bible Study.....7:00 PM

Watch Pastor Ken Live!
What does the Bible say?

WYKE TV Channel 16
www.livestream.com/wyke
Saturdays....6:30 PM
Sundays.....6:00 PM
www.gracebfcinverness.com
Hearing impaired & nursery

Rev. Stephen Lane

Faith Lutheran Church (L.C.M.S.)

935 S. Crystal Glen Dr., Lecanto
Crystal Glen Subdivision
Hwy. 44 just E. of 490
527-3325

COME WORSHIP WITH US

Saturday Service 6:00 P.M.

Sunday Service 9:30 A.M.

Sunday Bible Study & Children's Sunday School 11 A.M.

Weekly Communion
Fellowship after Sunday Worship

Calendar of events Audio of sermons available at www.faithleccanto.com

A Heart From God...
A Heart For Others.

Dr. Douglas Alexander Sr. & Lady "T" Alexander

Service Times:
Sunday
Sunday School - 9:30 am
Service 11:00 am

Wednesday
Bible Study 7:00 pm

HOMELESS FEEDING
Mondays - 4:00 pm

Ph: 352-344-2425
newwow@embarqmail.com

"The perfect church for people who aren't"

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7 pm

Please join us for any or all services.
We welcome you!



GRACE

Continued from Page C1

Be sure to mutter something about Christ being taken out of Christmas, but don't be gracious and loving toward people who are just trying to do their jobs and honestly don't know what to say to people anymore.

As you're out shopping, complain loudly about crass commercialism. Oh, and remember to overspend.

Be militant about "the reason for the season," and angry that

the Prince of Peace has been usurped by Santa Claus.

A sure-fire way to have the Most Horrible Holiday Ever — raise your expectations so high that no one and nothing can ever meet them.

I've heard it said that an expectation is a "premeditated resentment." So, if you want to be utterly miserable, expect others to meet all your emotional needs, to read your mind about what you want and to act, say and even think the way you think they should.

When they don't, make sure to feed your resentment so it will

grow strong and remain strong — and hold on to those grudges tightly!

And if you must forgive, never, ever forget. (It's the same as not forgiving in the first place.)

Don't rest. When you're tired, keep going and doing, especially when it comes to things that are meaningless, such as traditions that no one is interested in anymore.

Work yourself into a snit. While you're at it, practice being a martyr until you've perfected it. Do this by letting everyone know how hard you've worked — all by yourself. Sigh a LOT.

Also, don't ask for help and don't accept offers of help.

Find fault wherever you can. Put yourself first always.

Love conditionally, with as many strings attached as possible.

As Lisa McLeod writes, "Being miserable takes work. But if you put your mind to it and follow these tips, you too can have a horrible holiday."

As for me, I've chosen misery before, and while it has its moments of sick pleasure, it's doesn't honor God and makes me a pain to be around.

This year, I hope you'll join me

and choose gratitude instead, choose service, choose others.

I hope you choose contentment and finding pleasure in the simple and ordinary things.

I hope you choose to remember Jesus, that he came because of you.

I hope you choose laughter. I hope you choose grace.

Nancy Kennedy is the author of "Move Over, Victoria — I Know the Real Secret," "Girl on a Swing" and "Lipstick Grace." She can be reached at 352-564-2927, or via email at nkennedy@chronicleonline.com.

CONGO

Continued from Page C1

There is a tendency to always look at the negatives, to report on these things. And they are a reality where I live.

Conflict is not too far off, the threat from the volcano is ever present, but past the rubble and houses made of tarps, there lies the true beauty. There is a promise of hope when people from around the world come together to build a city of refugees — everyone is out of their comfort zone and trying to make the world a

little more beautiful.

Michelle Smith is a missionary in Democratic Republic of Congo, working for Rally International. She is a graduate of Citrus High School and has a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and political science, with a Bible minor from Lee

University, as well as an Associate of Arts in paralegal studies from the College of Central Florida. She runs into areas of the world that others are running out of, in order to build strong communities in the midst of conflict. For more information on her or Rally International, visit www.RallyIntl.org.

NOTES

Continued from Page C1

from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday in the church hall. Clothing will be distributed free to families in need that day. For more information, call 352-489-5954.

■ The next blood drive for Our Lady of Grace, Knights of Columbus Council 6168 blood ministries is from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, at Our Lady of Grace Parish Life Center, 6 Roosevelt Drive, Beverly Hills. This Christmas drive is the last drive of the year. There is no greater gift for the season than the gift of life, the gift of blood, for family, friends and neighbors. One in seven patients entering a hospital will need blood. Many cancer patients may need blood during treatment. This precious gift is easy to give by participating in the holiday drive. Donated blood is used exclusively by local hospitals. Join fellow donors for camaraderie and enjoy the complimentary continental breakfast and tokens of appreciation offered by LifeSouth. For more information, call LifeSouth at 352-527-3061.

■ Father Jojo Tejada, Parochial Vicar at St. Scholastica Catholic Church in Lecanto, is celebrating his 25th Jubilee with a Holy Land pilgrimage April 11-20, 2018. This 10-day celebratory trip will visit Mount Tabor, Nazareth, Cana, Mount of Beatitudes, Jordan River, Bethlehem, Jerusalem and much more. Cost of \$3,929 per person, double occupancy from Tampa, includes roundtrip air, airline taxes and fuel charges (subject to

change), all tips, breakfasts and dinners. Call Rita Goody at 352-628-7835 for more information.

■ Joy and Praise Fellowship offers sign language for the hearing impaired at 7 p.m. Wednesdays and 10:30 a.m. Sundays at 6670 N. Lecanto Highway. For more information, call 352-527-8612 or email getjoy@joyandpraise.com.

■ Volunteers are needed to fill three- to four-hours shifts at a table outside local Walmart stores in the community to help raise funds for Affordable Housing For All, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit serving Citrus County for the construction and repair of homes for disabled veterans in the county. Expense money will be provided for travel. For information or to volunteer, call Ken at 352-249-8036. Donations are also accepted on the group's website: HousingVets.com.

LIVE & LEARN

■ At Congregation Kol Emet, the following fall-winter semester of "Lifelong Learning" classes continues on Tuesdays:

● "Judaism 101: Jewish Living" from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. — The elements of living a Jewish life through an in-depth look at the Jewish home and sacred time, the calendar, Sabbath, holidays, dietary laws, m'zuzah and a Jewish home library. By examining the historical background, the classical texts and a practical "how-to" guide, students will gain an understanding of Jewish observances today (14 sessions). The fee is \$60 for the entire semester or \$5 per session.

● "Hebrew Alphabet: Beginning Hebrew Reading" from 7:45 to 8:45 p.m. — Learn the Hebrew alphabet in this intensive semester-long class. At the completion of this course, students will be able to follow the reading (phonetically) from the bible in the original Hebrew and from a standard prayer book. The cursive (script) alphabet will also be taught (14 sessions). The fee is \$60 for the entire semester or \$5 per session plus textbook.

Registration/enrollment is on a rolling basis. Students may attend any session. To plan for the appropriate space, advance registration is requested. Call 352-643-0995 or email mkamlot2@gmail.com. For more information, contact Hazzan Mordecai Kamlot at above phone number.

■ St. Timothy Lutheran Church invites the public to attend the following weekly classes: Tuesdays — Arthritis exercise at 11 a.m., and the women's prayer group at 11:30 a.m.; Wednesdays — Spiritual Formation Class, The Old Testament at 10 a.m. followed by a book study of "The Screwtape Letters"; Thursdays — Miniature Group at 11:30 a.m.; Friday — Spiritual Formation Class "Luther's Legacy for Laity," at 1 p.m. Devotions with Pastor Joanie are at 8 a.m. Tuesdays at Mama Sally's Restaurant in Crystal River. For more information, call the church office at 352-795-5325.

■ Enjoy free pastries and coffee from 6 to 7 p.m. Wednesdays at Calvary Chapel's Holy Grounds Café in Inverness. Then, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., attend Bible study in the book of Mark, followed by worship time with Tammie and Willie Ortiz, and a message from Pastor Paul Giglio.

■ Tri-County Bible Institute is a ministry of Riverland Baptist Church at 19455 SW 61st St., Dunnellon. This three-year college-level program provides in-depth training for men and women. The focus is on theology, biblical analysis of the entire Bible and many other Bible-related courses. A sample of the courses offered are: "Doctrine of the Last Things," "Learning to Wait on God in Prayer," "Bible Analysis of the Entire Bible," and "Christian Ethics and Personal Evangelism." Classes are from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Mondays at the church facility. Classes are tuition-free and operate on a freewill-offering basis. For information or to register, call the church office at 352-489-6171 or Administrator Gary Fish at 352-322-5730.

■ Cornerstone Baptist Church offers a Sunday night Bible study in a modified life-group form. Pastor Kell leads this group. Each week, the Bible study overviews the timeline and looks at the weekly scripture, going through the Bible chronologically. The session also includes some relationship

building and fellowship time. The church is at 1100 W. Highland Blvd., Inverness.

■ Crystal River Christian Women's Club offers a bi-monthly "Friendship Bible Coffee" from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays. In conjunction with Stonecroft Ministries, the club is exploring the Book of Luke. It's a great time to get back to your Christian roots and learn about how the Bible still relates to day-to-day life. Enjoy a morning of prayer and fellowship. For more information, call Rhonda at 352-795-6282 or Carol at 352-601-4816.

■ Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church in Citrus Springs offers a weekly book study series at 10 a.m. Wednesdays in the parlor. The book being studied is "Me an Evangelist? Every Christian's Guide to Caring Evangelism," by William McKay. Book and class material are provided free of charge. The study is facilitated by Steve Northsea. The church is at 9425 N. Citrus Springs Blvd. For more information, call the church at 352-489-5511 or go to hopelutheranelca.com.

■ Citrus Ridge Bible Church of Beverly Hills broadcasts a weekly TV Bible Study at 11 a.m. Sundays and 4 p.m. Wednesdays on local

WYKE TV. This 30-minute program offers biblical answers to some of the greatest questions in the Bible and of life, and examines what the Scriptures teach concerning some of the hot controversial topics of today such as capital punishment, abortion and homosexuality to include same-sex marriage.

■ The ladies of Lecanto Church of Christ meet for Bible study at 10 a.m. the second Tuesday monthly. Bible study is followed by a luncheon. Studies have included such subjects as prayer, love and patience. All ladies are invited.

■ Community Christian Karate Club (CCKC) offers a Citrus County group for learning karate skills, working on cardio, and meeting new friends. Three different classes for three different age groups are offered: the 4- to 7-year-old class, 8- to 12-year-old class, and the teen/adult class. Classes take place Tuesday evenings at New Hope Baptist Church, 8635 W. Goodman Lane, Homosassa. Cost is \$25 a month with discounts for families. For more information, contact 5th-degree black belt instructor Greg Gunn at 352-428-6348 or email ggunn14@gmail.com or visit www.topgunnkarate.com.

JOIN US FOR
LAST MINUTE HOLIDAY SHOPPING AT THE SHOPS AT WIREGRASS
Saturday, December 9, 2017



COST PER PERSON - \$37
Enjoy a day of shopping at the Wiregrass Outlet Mall and The Shops at Wiregrass in Wesley Chapel.
Motorcoach includes gratuity.
LUNCH ON YOUR OWN.

Bus pick-up : 8:30 am at the Citrus Co. Resource Center
Returning around 5:30 pm.
Tickets available at the Citrus County Resource Center or by calling 352-527-5952
Seating is limited. Tickets must be purchased by November 27th.

Proceeds benefiting the Friends of Nature Coast Volunteer Center

CHRONICLE

Winter Music Series 2017-2018

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
439 E Norvell Bryant Hwy., Hernando

December 8, Friday 7:30pm
Citrus Community Concert Choir "Messiah and Carols"

December 10, Sunday 8:30am Service
Good Shepherd Children's Christmas Program

December 17, Sunday 11am Service
Good Shepherd Chancel Choir Christmas Offering

January 26, Friday 6pm
The Churchmen, Gospel Blue Grass Band

February 11, Sunday 3pm
Johny Carlsson presents The Florida Dixie Kings in "A Swingin' Mardis Gras"

Donations Accepted
For Information contact:
Angela Busler 860-906-8723
AMBusler@gmail.com

Sponsors: Quality Inn Hernando, Holiday Inn Express Lecanto, Citrus County Chronicle, Tom and Barbara Laing and Tom and Cara Stickler.

INVERNESS 1ST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Presents
HAND BELL RING & SING
Sunday, Dec. 3, 2017
at 2:00 p.m.

The Celebration Ringers will be ringing and you will be singing your favorite traditional Christmas Carols. In addition, you will find out about the Carols; who wrote them, when they were written, why they were written, and other very interesting information about them. We look forward to seeing you there!

130 Heights Ave. Inverness, FL
We share a building with Angelotti's Pizzeria

FLORAL CITY HERITAGE DAYS 2017

CANDLES, CAROLS, LIONS CLUB FISH FRY & HORSE-DRAWN WAGON RIDES
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1ST - 5:30-9:00 PM

FOLKLIFE & LIVING HISTORY DAY
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2ND
10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

FREE EVENTS:

- PARKING
- SHUTTLE HAY WAGON RIDE
- FLORIDA FOLE MUSIC
- EARLY FLORIDA DAILY LIVING INTERPRETATIONS
- HERITAGE MUSEUM & COUNTRY STORE

FOR A CHARGE:

- 26TH ANNUAL HISTORIC HOME TOUR
- FOLK FOODS: CHICKEN, PORK, BEANS & MORE
- FLORAL CITY SOUVENIRS/MEMORABILIA

SPONSORED BY THE FLORAL CITY HERITAGE COUNCIL OF THE CITRUS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.
WWW.FLORALCITYHC.COM

PROCEEDS FROM THE EVENT ARE USED FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION.

CHRONICLE

Adopt A Tree

Citrus County Parks & Recreation and the Friends of Parks and Recreation in conjunction with Lowe's Home Improvement, Citrus County Chronicle, Winn-Dixie - Beverly Hills, Beverly Hills Craftsman Guild, Dunkin' Donuts, Walmart and Pepsi will be sponsoring an exciting Holiday Event!

December 8, 2017
Central Ridge Community Park in Beverly Hills
Tree Decorating 2:00 - 5:00 PM
Decorated Tree Judging at 5:15PM

Bring your lights and decorations! Your adopted tree will be waiting for you to decorate. Tree Lighting at dark for everyone to enjoy! Trees will remain on display for 3 days and then be delivered to families in need.

Please do not decorate the trees with glass ornaments.

Purchase Dealine: Dec. 4, 2017

For more information contact:
Sandy Plumadore: cpagram@yahoo.com or Jan Squires at 352-746-5380

\$20 Live tree decorated by you or
\$45 Live tree decorated by Santa's Elves

Walmart
Lecanto, FL

DUNKIN' DONUTS **CHRONICLE** **LOWE'S** **Winn-Dixie** **pepsi**

The Citrus Community Concert Choir is Proud to Present
Messiah & Carols
Directed by Jacki Scott
Sally Smith-Adams on the Piano

Sunday, December 3, 2017 at 3:00 PM
St. Timothy Lutheran Church
1070 N. Suncoast Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34429

Friday, December 8, 2017 at 7:30 PM
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
439 E. Norvell Bryant Hwy., Hernando, FL 34442

Sunday, December 10, 2017 at 3:00 PM
Faith Lutheran Church
935 S. Crystal Glen Dr., Lecanto, FL 34461

Admission at the door is \$10 for adults; children 12 and under will be admitted free.
for more information call 352-212-1746 or visit www.citruschoir.com

CCCCC, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. With the community's continued support, we are able to offer a scholarship to a deserving Citrus County student studying music at the college level.

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE WITHIN THE STATE AT 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) or www.FloridaConsumer.com. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. REGISTRATION #001616

CHRONICLE

NEWS NOTES

Blind Americans to host yard sale

The Blind Americans Wishing Well Center will host their annual yard sale Saturday, Dec. 9, at 6055 N. Carl G. Rose Highway (State Road 200), Hernando.

For information, call 352-637-1739.

Bargain hunting helps veterans

The Citrus County Veterans Coalition flea market is 7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. the second Saturday monthly, September through April, on the grounds of Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church on South U.S. 41, Inverness.

Herry's Market Day offered monthly

Starting at 8 a.m. the second Saturday monthly, vendors and shoppers gather at Herry's Market Day, on the grounds of the Hospice Thrift & Gift Shoppes, 8471 W. Periwinkle Lane, Homosassa, and 1581 W. Gulf-to-Lake Highway, Lecanto.

Reserve a free space at either location by calling 352-527-2020 or 866-642-0962, or just stop by to shop. Entry and parking are free to all.

Lions yard sale, health screenings

The Homosassa Lions Club will host an indoor yard sale and provide free diabetic screenings from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at the Lions clubhouse, 3705 S. Indians Terrace, Homosassa.

For information, call Lion Bob at 352-382-3679.

Sunshine Poets meet monthly

The Sunshine Poets' will host their monthly meeting and poetry reading at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at the Coastal Region Library in Crystal River.

Bring poems to share, or just listen. Optional homework is to write Christmas or other holiday poems. If you'd like members to critique, bring several copies on which we can write suggestions. The group's Christmas get-together will be lunch afterward at a local restaurant. For information, email sunshinepoets@gmail.com or find the Sunshine Poets on Facebook.

Gifts sought for Key's Angel Tree project

Not all clients get to go home and spend the holidays with their families. The Angel Tree project is the Key Training Center's way of making sure every client gets to feel a part of the holiday season.

To participate, visit the Key Training Center Foundation Office to select your angel. Once you have your angel, select a gift within a \$25 limit and bring it, unwrapped, to the Foundation Office on or before Dec. 13. The gifts will be wrapped and special delivered to the clients for Christmas Day.

Shop for handmade goods at CR Mall

The Crystal River Mall Indoor Arts & Crafts Market plans a special Holiday Market from Dec. 15 through Dec. 17 in the old Kmart store, open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For information on the market or to participate as a vendor, call Linda at 352-302-1084 or visit Crystal River Mall on Facebook.

Hardin HAVEN

ANDREW



Andrew is a sweet brown tabby, about 14 weeks old. He is the last of a litter of three, playful and gentle. He is a purr box and fits right in with other cats. Andrew is neutered, up to date on his vaccinations, dewormed, treated for fleas, microchipped, and feline aids and leukemia negative. If interested in adopting Andrew or any of the felines at the Hardin Haven, call Donna at 352-422-5525.



Pictured from left, Family Resource Center Administrator Ginger West, Ladies Auxiliary President Pearl Sheehan and Knights of Columbus Council 6168 Grand Knight Jerry Orbino show some of the coats donated Nov. 8 to the Family Resource Center in Hernando. The coats will go to area children in need.

Special to the Chronicle

Knights of Columbus bring warmth to children in need

Special to the Chronicle

The Knights of Columbus Council 6168 and its Ladies Auxiliary recently donated 36 brand new boys and girls winter coats to the Family Resources Center in Hernando.

The coats from the Knights and Ladies were purchased through the Knights of Columbus nationally

sponsored "Coats for Kids" program. In addition, a new 37th coat was donated anonymously.

Ginger West, Family Resource Center administrator, was grateful on behalf of area children who will receive the coats. She said that there is a strong demand at the center in winter for blankets and coats, even in Florida.

Since 2009, nearly 400,000 coats like these have been distributed to children in need throughout the United States and Canada.

This is the eighth time that Knights of Columbus Council 6168, which is associated with Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in Beverly Hills, has donated coats to the Family Resource Center.

Arts/crafts show a success



The Ladies of the Elks, Homosassa, welcomed vendors and the community to its Arts and Crafts Show/Sale on Nov. 18.

Special to the Chronicle

Lose weight, maintain with TOPS and KOPS

TOPS 387

Members of TOPS 387 met Monday, Nov. 27 with 11 members weighing in a loss of 6.5 pounds. Susan was the best TOPS loser and Jackie was the best KOPS loser. Volena did the program on getting through the holidays.

TOPS 387 meets every Monday, except holidays, in room 114 of the Central Citrus Community center, 2804 W. Marc Knighton Court, Lecanto.

Weigh-in is from 2:30 to 3:20 p.m., and the meeting is from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

For information, call Susan at 352-270-0032 or Jackie at 352-527-8405.

TOPS 341

Members of TOPS 341 met Monday, Nov. 27, and recorded a loss of 5.5 pounds. Sharyn was the TOPS of the week. The winner for the month of November was Kathleen.

Our Christmas party will be at 6 p.m. Dec. 14,

at Harbor Lights. Guests and ex-members are invited; dutch treat. RSVP no later than Dec. 7 by contacting Ethel at 352-748-7941 or Lou at 352-726-0348.

TOPS 341 meets every Monday at the First Christian Church, 2018 Colonade St., Inverness (behind RaceTrac Gas Station). Weigh-in is from 9:15 to 9:45 a.m. Meetings start at 10 a.m.

TOPS 743

TOPS 743 met Nov. 29. Weight recorders Jerry and Nancy Smart weighed in members, with a total loss of 2 pounds.

TOPS of the week were Ethel Lacasse, Sheila Finch, Elaine Harrington. KOPS of the week was Glenn Rhinesmith. Turtle of the week was Lorraine Blennau.

The chapter meets every Wednesday at the DAV building at 1039 N. Paul Drive, Inverness. Weigh-in is from 7:45 to 8:30 a.m., with the meeting starting at 9. For information, call

TOPS, Take Off Pounds Sensibly, is a nonprofit organization.

Teresa Libby at 207-838-1823.

TOPS 401

Members of TOPS 401 met Nov. 29 with 11 members weighing in. Kathy R. was the best TOPS loser of the week and Ebba was the best KOPS loser.

Nancy G. discussed tips concerning how to make new habits stick and how to manage eating at social events.

TOPS 401 meets Wednesdays at the Fellowship Hall of the First Baptist Church of Hernando (across from the Hernando Post Office). Weigh-ins begin at 7:45 a.m. and the meetings begin at 8:45 a.m. Everyone is welcome.

TOPS 692

TOPS chapter 692 meets at 9:30 a.m. Fridays at Grace Bible Church in Homosassa, until about 11 a.m. For information, call Patti at 352-628-2024.

HOMETOWN HAPPENINGS

■ **DEADLINE** to submit information is two weeks prior to an event — the earlier it is received, the better the chances it will appear more than once. Email community@chronicleonline.com.

■ **PUBLICATION** on a specific date or in a specific section cannot be guaranteed.

■ **OTHER SUBMISSIONS:** This calendar is for upcoming events open to the public. Solicitations for members or reports of past events may appear on community pages throughout the week.

■ **INFORMATION RELATING TO:** support groups and health seminars appears in Tuesday's Health & Life section; classes and schools appears in Wednesday's

Education section; theatrical events, concerts, recitals, festivals and other special events appears in Friday's Scene section; religious groups appears in Saturday's Religion section; veterans news and groups appears in Sunday's Veterans section.

■ **TO DICTATE WHEN A NOTE RUNS:** Call Lori Driver at 352-564-2931 to purchase an advertisement.

Saturday, Dec. 2

CPECA sets adopt-a-street cleanup

The Crystal Paradise Estates Civic Association plans a volunteer adopt a street cleanup from 8 to 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 2. Everyone is welcome. The focus is the street frontage of lots with no houses and the frontage of houses currently vacant. This is our annual development-wide cleanup and covers Pompeo, McGowan, Venturi, North Golf Course, West Golf Club, Milwe, Avocado, Pinebrook, Jim, Walt, Francis and Seven Rivers Drive.

Bring water, gloves and bug spray. For information, call Dick Laxton at 352-634-2488.

R/C club to host 19th annual Santa Fly-In

The Tri-County R/C Club, sanctioned by the Academy of Model Aeronautics (Sanction #17/310), will host their 19th annual Radio Control Airplane Santa Fly-In collecting toys for needy children in the community Saturday, Dec. 2, at the Rainbow R/C Park, 12175 S. Bridges Road, Dunnellon.

Pilot registration opens at 8:30 a.m.; pilot meeting at 9 a.m. Spectators welcome. The Rainbow Cafe will be open, serving hot dogs, hamburgers, and drinks.

Pilot landing fee is one new unwrapped toy, with a value of at least \$10. Cash is also acceptable.

For information, contact Bruce Richardson at 352-425-9976 or brucerpda@earthlink.net.

Shop for treasures at Heritage days

The Floral City United Methodist Church will have a "Craft Fair and Yard Sale" from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, during Heritage Days weekend. Sellers and shoppers are welcome. To reserve a table for \$10, call Judy at 352-341-5263. The church is at 8478 E. Marvin St. in Floral City.

Flea Market set at Our Lady of Grace

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church will host its monthly outdoor flea market from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, at 6 Roosevelt Blvd., Beverly Hills.

Shoppers welcome. Coffee, sodas, doughnuts and hot dogs will be available.

For information, contact Rose Mary at 352-527-6459 or send an email to wjeselso@tampabay.rr.com.

Rainbow River Conservation sets meeting

The public is invited to the RRC annual meeting at 9 a.m. Dec. 2 at the Rainbow Rivers Club. Find directions on RainbowRiverConservation.com. Drive to the west end of Turkey Creek Drive, Dunnellon.

Invited speakers will include Jim Couillard, Marion County Parks director, who will describe the county parks plan; and Gordon Hart, nature photographer, who will present "Flora and Fauna on the Rainbow and Lower Withlacoochee Rivers." President Burt Eno will present an overview of 2017 RRC activities.

UMW to host 'Cookie Walk' sale

The Crystal River United Methodist Women will host a "Cookie Walk" and craft table at 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, at Crystal River United Methodist Church, 4801 N. Citrus Ave., Crystal River.

For information, call Jane at 352-527-6934.

Nature Coast Carving Club to host sale

The Nature Coast Carving Club will host their 19th annual Woodcarving Show and Sale from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, at the Citrus County Auditorium, 3610 S. Florida Ave., Inverness.

The show will feature various hand-carved items and tools available for purchase. Over 200 carved door prizes will be given away, and numerous items will be up for raffle. Admission is \$3 per person. For information, call 352-419-5792.

Join in Christmas in the Hills Parade

The Christmas in the Hills Parade 2017 kicks off at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, in Beverly Hills. Theme for this year is "A Story Book Christmas," with trophies for best business, religious, horse, youth, and club/organization entries, plus a prize of \$1,000 for the Best Float. Sign up today.

For parade information, contact Ann Panasik at 352-220-0126 or apanasik352@gmail.com or Tom Mize at 352-228-0450 or tjmize@outlook.com.

Visit www.citruscountyparks.com. Donate an unopened new toy for tots and receive a free hot dog and drink.

Buy tickets for tour of homes

Tickets for the Dec. 2 Blue Banner Tour of Historic Homes in Floral City are now on sale. Seven homes to include the Duval House, newly painted but still in the restoration mode. Also on tour without need for a ticket is Amanda's Garden.

Tickets may be purchased at the Floral City Heritage Museum, open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Friday and Saturday at 8394 E. Orange Ave., Floral City. Museum admission is free.

For information, call the museum store manager at 352-726-7740 and visit www.floralcityhc.com, or our Floral City Heritage Days Facebook page and Twitter.

Celebrate for a good cause

The Citrus American & Italian Social Club at 4325 S. Little Al Point, Inverness, will raise funds for local groups through their dinner dances, featuring music by Fred Campbell.

■ Dec. 2 — Christmas Dinner Dance. Doors open at 4 p.m., appetizers at 4:30, dinner at 5:30. Meal consists of ravioli, meatball/sausage, salad and dessert. \$17 per person, proceeds will benefit Citrus County Foster Children.

■ Dec. 30 — Pre New Year's Dinner Dance. \$20 per person, proceeds will benefit scholarships for Citrus High School seniors.

Tickets must be paid in advance, no tickets will be sold at the door. Call Joanne 352-637-7184 for tickets.

Sunday, Dec. 3

Eat out to help homeless veterans

Join the Mission In Citrus Veterans Shelter from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 3 at the Breakfast Station in Crystal River for a good cause to help the homeless veterans get into homes.

TOYS FOR TOTS DICE RUN

■ Confederation of American Patriots presents a Marine Corps League Toys for Tots Dice Run, hosted by Knuckleheads on Saturday, Dec. 2.

■ Entry fee is an unwrapped toy, plus \$10 per bike — no stuffed toys, please. All proceeds will benefit the Toys for Tots program.

■ Registration is from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. at Knuckleheads, 3782 W. Gulf-to-Lake Highway, Lecanto.

● Stop 1: Crocks, Pennsylvania Avenue, Dunnellon.

● Stop 2: Am-Vets post on State Road 40.

● Stop 3: Willards on County Road 337, Morriston.

● Stop 4: Castaways on U.S. 19, Crystal River.

● Finish: Knuckleheads on State Road 44; last bike in by 5 p.m.

■ Food will be provided, plus giveaways and 50/50 drawings. For information, call Grumpy at 352-219-8508.

The address is 1676 SE U.S. 19. For information about Mission In Citrus, visit www.missionincitrus.com.

Ride for charity during Stanko Memorial Run

The IR-RU Family Social Club will host their annual Johnny Stanko Memorial Children's Christmas Run Sunday, Dec. 3. All proceeds will benefit various Citrus County charitable organizations for Christmas. All wheels are welcome.

The run will leave at 11 a.m. from the IR-RU clubhouse, at 922 U.S. 41 S., Inverness. Registration will start at 10 a.m. Participants are asked to bring a new, unwrapped toy. The riders will stop at:

■ American Legion Post 237, 6720 Lecanto Highway, Beverly Hills.

■ Crystal Rivers Eagles Aerie 4272, 5340 W. Grover Cleveland Blvd., Homosassa.

■ Grumpy Gators, 4828 S. Suncoast Blvd., Homosassa.

■ Norton's Riverside Sports Bar, 18 NE Fifth St., Crystal River.

■ Return to IR-RU clubhouse.

A free dinner will be provided for participants. Entertainment will be provided by Cheap Date, playing from 4 to 8 p.m. For information, call the club at 352-637-5118.

Monday, Dec. 4

New Jersey Club to meet, then lunch

The next meeting of the New Jersey & Friends Club will begin at 1 p.m. Dec. 4 at VFW Post 4252 on State Road 200 in Hernando. Our monthly luncheon will be at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 6, at Twisted Oaks Golf Course, Forest Ridge Blvd., Beverly Hills. For information on club activities, call Stella at 352-270-8427. For membership information, call Tony at 352-746-9455.

Acoustic music meets twice monthly

Everyone is invited to take part in the Acoustic Meet-up from 2 to 4:30 p.m. first and third Mondays monthly at Coastal Region Library, 8619 W. Crystal St., Crystal River in the Community Room.

Bring acoustic instruments and/or singing voices. For information, call Paula at 260-316-4099.

USCG Auxiliary invites public to meetings

USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 15-1 of Crystal River invites anyone interested in learning more about the USCG Auxiliary to attend the group's meetings at 6:30 p.m. the first Monday monthly at the Army National Guard Armory, 8551 W. Venable St., Crystal River. For membership information, call Vince at 917-597-6961.

Get creative with the Art Center Camera Club

The Art Center Camera Club will have its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 4, at 2644 N. Annapolis Ave., Hernando.

Nature Photographer Pete Gumaskas and Cinematographer Ben Butin will give a presentation on the Dynamics of Macro Photography. Pete Gumaskas is an award-winning photographer in the macro photography field. Ben Butin is an accomplished cinematographer known for the beauty and power of his motion-control time-lapse images.

For information, visit www.artcenterofcitruscounty.org. or call 352-400-4466.

Tuesday, Dec. 5

Meet adventure author Jean Rising

Meet author Jean Rising for a book signing from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5, at the Central Ridge Public Library.

Rising is the author of "Sailing Draft Horse Adventure," a true story of sailing down the Mississippi River from St. Paul, Minnesota to the Bahamas aboard a 25-foot sailboat. Books will be available for sale. For information, call the library at 352-746-6622.

Florida-friendly gardening workshop offered

The Citrus County Utilities Florida-Friendly Landscaping Program is offering a free beneficial and pollinator wildlife gardening workshop from 2 to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5, at the Citrus County Extension Service building, 3650 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto.

An important component of pest management strategies is identifying damaging insects. Identifying the beneficial and pollinator visitors must be considered when applying harmful products minimizing potential damage to non-targeted pests. To RSVP, contact Steven Davis at 352-527-5708 or visit <https://ccufflprogram.eventbrite.com>.

Eat pizza in CR, help cancer aid

The Crystal River Primary Cancer Crusaders and the Nature Coast Cancer Crusaders will team up for their third annual Pizza Hut Night to benefit the Citrus Aid Cancer Foundation, from 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5, at Crystal River Pizza Hut.

The event is to raise money for local cancer patients. All tips will go to the Citrus Aid Cancer Foundation and will be used

locally to help offset expenses for cancer patients. Teachers will serve the pizza.

Veterans invited to Mission United

The United Way Mission United Veterans Helping Veterans Support Group invites veterans and their family members to its next meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5, at 1582 N. Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River.

The support group meets to provide support in the form of shared experience, conversation and camaraderie. Hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks are provided.

For information, call Josh Langston White or Tiffani King at 352-795-5483.

Meet with model railroad club

The Citrus Model Railroad Club will host its monthly meeting at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5, in the Horticulture Building of the Citrus County Fairgrounds.

The program for the month will be a showing of the video on Northlandz, a very special model railroad. All are welcome.

USCG auxiliary meets monthly

Homosassa Flotilla 15-04, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, will meet at 7 p.m. the first Tuesday monthly at the West Citrus Community Center, 8940 W. Veterans Drive in Homosassa. The public is invited to attend.

For information, contact David "Rusty" Hays at 352-598-4369 or rhays1ffa@aol.com.

RSVP today with Women Voters

The League of Women Voters of Citrus County will host a holiday celebration featuring world travel at 10:15 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12, at the Coastal Region Library, 8619 W. Crystal St., Crystal River.

Jane Weber will give a presentation on her travel adventures all over the globe. Refreshments will be served. Cost is \$5.

For information, or to RSVP by Dec. 5, call 352-382-0032 or email lwcc2013@gmail.com.

Wednesday, Dec. 6

Meet with Senior Friends for Life

The Senior Friends for Life will meet on Wednesday, Dec. 6, to celebrate Christmas with a lunch at the Inverness Golf and Country Club, 3150 Country Club Road.

The speaker will be Carolina Dowd with information on the continuing need of Jessie's Place.

Senior Friends for Life will be making Jessie's Place their Christmas Project for 2017. Members may bring a generic toy for children of school age or a cash donation placed in a Christmas card.

For information, call Ellen Jones at 352-389-9408, Sybil Main at 352-344-8256 or Jim Loomis at 352-201-9716.

Following the talk, there will be a Christmas gift exchange for all attending. Bring something new or a regift, wrapped and marked "male or female."

Brighten someone's day at fundraiser

Santas for Seniors will host a fundraiser and teddy bear party from 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 6, at 10082 W. Halls River Road, Homosassa.

Bring a teddy bear to donate to a senior at a nursing home. Monetary donations will be accepted in lieu of a teddy bear. Items will be raffled off. Bring a covered dish and BYOB.

Santas for Seniors will visit local nursing homes to pass out teddy bears Saturday, Dec. 9. Meet at Seagrass restaurant at 8:30 a.m. Volunteers welcome.

For information, call Paula Hibbard at 352-422-5199.

Thursday, Dec. 7

Last day for 'Silver Bells' tour tickets

The "Silver Bells" Tour of Homes hosted by the GFWC Crystal River Woman's Club will be extra special this year, as most of the homeowners have been decorating for over a month.

The event runs from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10.

Reserve tickets now (\$10 each, cash or a check made out to CRWC) by calling Lois at 352-382-0777. No tickets will be sold after Dec. 7.

Learn how to survive holidays

A free "Surviving the Holidays" seminar for people grieving a loved one's death will be given from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 7, in room 5 of the Ministry Complex at Gulf to Lake Baptist Church at 1454 N. Gulf Ave. in Crystal River (off State Road 44, one-half mile east of Publix).

Learn how to deal with the many emotions you might face during the holidays, what to do about traditions and any changes, helpful tips for coping with social events and how to discover hope for the holiday season.

To reserve a seat, call Chuck at 352-563-6410 or email woodchuck@tampabay.rr.com.

Friday, Dec. 8

Shop for handmade goods at CR Mall

The Crystal River Mall Indoor Arts & Crafts Market will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, and Saturday, Dec. 9, and from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10.

Vendors at the regular monthly markets pay an additional fee each month that goes to the Citrus Blessings program for kids and to the Citrus Mission for homeless and needy veterans.

For information on the market or to participate as a vendor, call Linda at 352-302-1084 or visit Crystal River Mall on Facebook.

Light up Inverness at free event

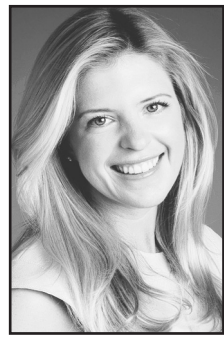
The lights of Inverness will shine bright this holiday season at "Light Up Inverness: Old Fashioned Christmas" from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, on Courthouse Square. Free train rides for children, invocation, and a show by the Citrus High Chorus.

The annual free event, hosted by Citrus County Historical Society, the city of Inverness and the Valerie Theatre, is open to the public.

SATURDAY EVENING DECEMBER 2, 2017. Table listing TV channels, times, and program titles.

Annie offers advice

Dear Annie: The other day, I was out for lunch with a woman I recently became friends with. At the end of the meal, we asked the server to split the check 50-50. He brought us our receipts. I was waiting for my friend to finish using the pen, and I wasn't trying to peek, but I noticed she'd left the tip line blank. She noticed my noticing and, only a little sheepishly, said, "I'm just not making that much money right now" — as if that were an acceptable reason to stiff our (very kind) server. I was mortified but said nothing, took the pen and began writing in an extra-big tip to try to make up for her. She saw what I was doing and told me I shouldn't worry about it — that I was overreacting. I think she was being rude. What do you think? — Tipped Off



DEAR ANNIE

Dear Tipped Off: Anyone who can't afford to leave a tip shouldn't be eating out in the first place. The next time this friend wants to get together, suggest something free — though, if you're the type of person who regards tipping as a sign of character (I do), you might not want to get together again at all.

Dear Annie: You're going to get a lot of mail about the letter from "Alive and Well," but I'd like to chime in. The 30-something daughter who admired a piece of furniture and asked for it in her parents' will was perhaps just being direct, not rude. If they haven't had any conversations about their end-of-life planning, she may just be doing the sensible thing by mentioning her desire while they are younger and still healthy.

My husband and I have handled the estates of our parents in recent years and can tell you that this is a multistage process that can quickly escalate if there isn't a plan. After the legal details and during the grief process, the family will be left with "stuff." Most of it has little value other than sentiment, but having in writing who gets what may keep the remaining family intact. Family heirlooms should be given to those who plan to keep, not sell, them.

Additionally, as you approach retirement, it's wise to stop collecting "stuff" and to start downsizing before you are forced into it. Surveys show that the younger generation values experiences over things, so ask your kids now, "What do you want?" I think this is exactly what the daughter was trying to say; she probably still sees her parents as very capable and meant to be practical, not predatory. — Jacksonville Reader

Dear Jacksonville Reader: Thanks for your letter. Indeed, I've heard from several others echoing the same sentiment. In hindsight, I was too quick to validate "Alive and Well's" feelings of offense. I wish I'd advocated for end-of-life planning and talking to adult children about last wishes — perhaps an uncomfortable subject for some, but an important one.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com. To find out more about Annie Lane and read features by other Creators Syndicate columnists and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.

LOCAL SUPPORT

- The Centers: 352-628-5020. The Lighthouse: 352-344-2158. NAMI-Citrus hotline: 844-687-6264 (toll free)

Bridge

PHILLIP ALDER

Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

A new book from Danny Roth has an accurate title: "You Never Stop Learning at Bridge" (Great Game Products).

Roth, an Englishman, scours magazines, daily bulletins and books looking for analytical errors. This is his third book of those deals.

Ironically, he has a bad misprint in the bidding of the first deal and a debatable recommendation or

Bridge hand diagram with cards for North, West, East, and South.

Dealer: South. Vulnerable: Both. Opening lead: ♣ J.

two. But there is a lot of good instruction. In this deal, for example, how should South play in six diamonds after West leads the club jack, and East drops the king under dummy's ace?

North was certainly brave in raising to six with his void; although, holding three aces, he knew his partner had to have extremely strong trumps.

South crossed to his hand in hearts and tried to draw trumps. When East discarded a club on the second round, declarer threw in the towel, conceding down one.

South grumbled he was unlucky, but a columnist explained that declarer had to assume West had led a singleton. He said that South should have cashed the spade king, then continued diamonds, giving West his trick. West would have had to lead a major, and declarer could have discarded his club losers on dummy's aces. Do you agree?

The writer was also wrong. West could have sacrificed his diamond jack under South's queen to avoid the endplay. Declarer should cash his third high diamond immediately. If West keeps his jack, South unblocks the spade king and endplays West. But if West throws the diamond jack, declarer draws the last trump, overtakes the spade king with dummy's ace and discards one club on the heart ace.

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

Jumble puzzle grid with words LHYYS, OTBUD, ALENDH, GLEHIS and the answer AS.

Yesterday's Jumbles: DITTO FRESH ABOUND BEMOAN. Answer: When Velcro was invented, people were — "FASTEN-ATED"

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Cartoon illustration for the word game with text: "This was all formed during the Ice Age. I love the ancient ruins. Have you ever seen the Loch Ness monster?"

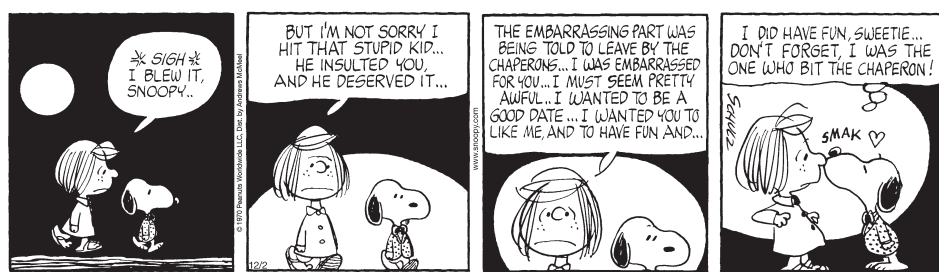
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers Monday)

MORE PUZZLES

Find the daily crossword puzzle inside the Chronicle's classified pages, along with Sudoku, Wordy Gurdy and a word puzzle.

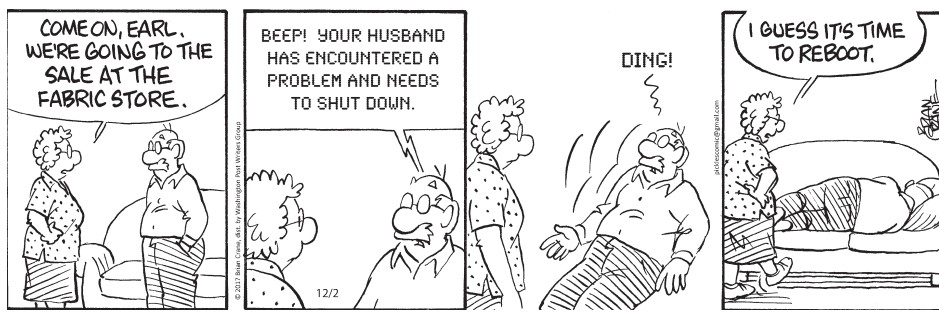
Peanuts



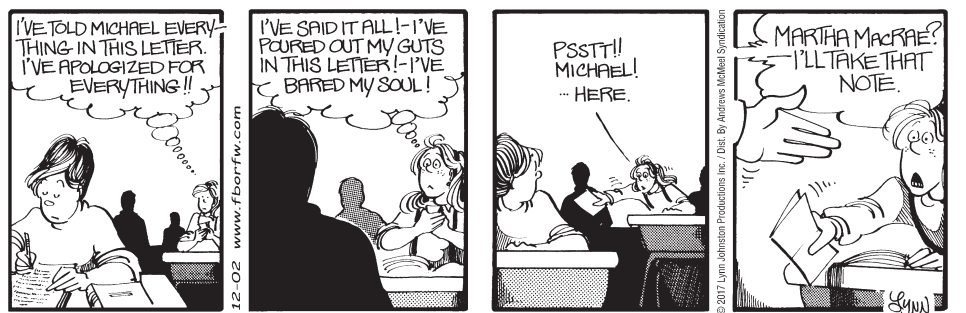
Garfield



Pickles



For Better or For Worse



Sally Forth



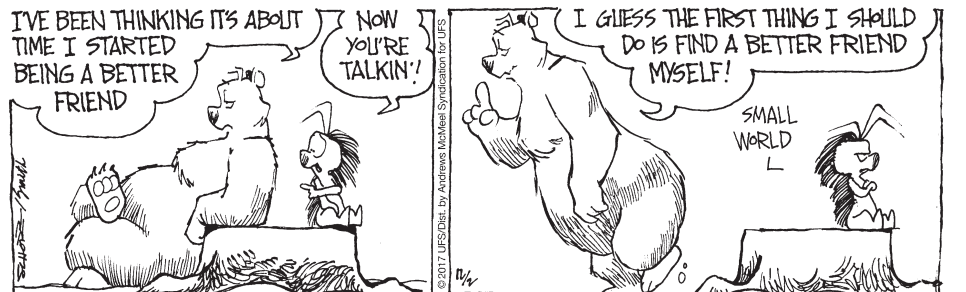
Beetle Bailey



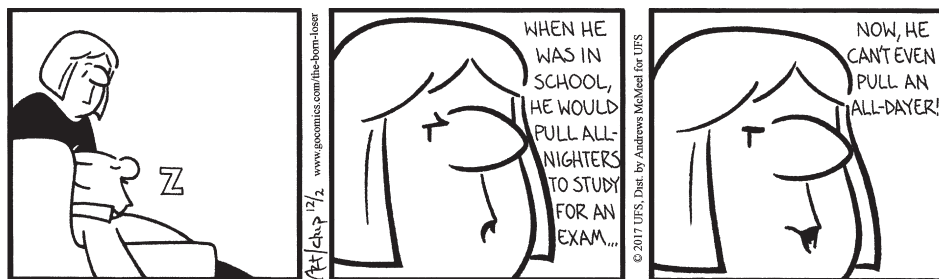
Dilbert



The Grizzwells



The Born Loser



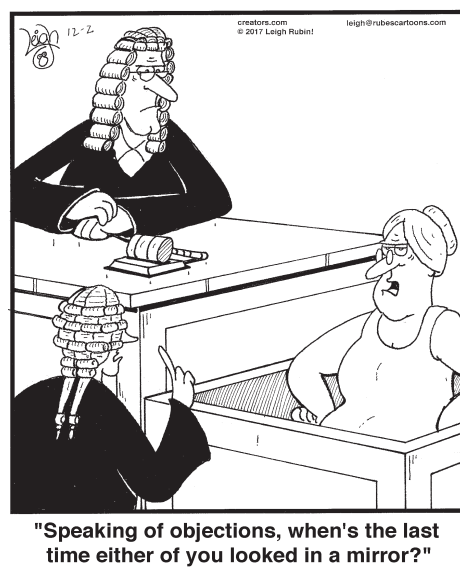
Blondie



Moderately Confused



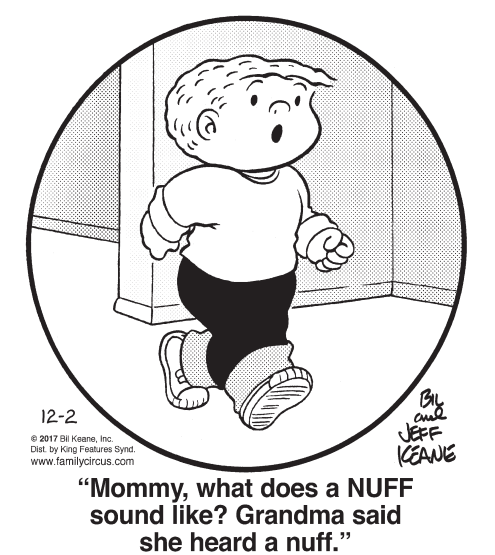
Rubes



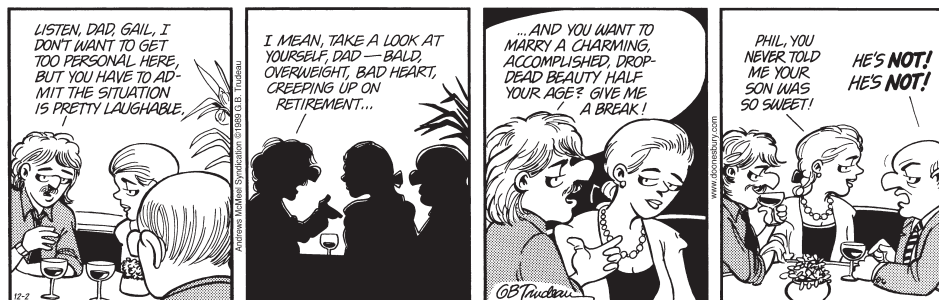
Dennis the Menace



The Family Circus



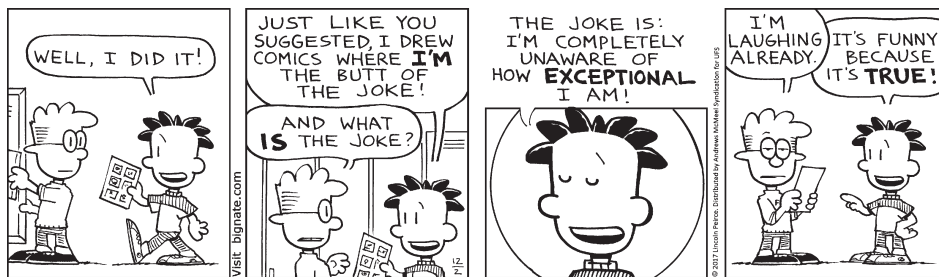
Doonesbury Flashbacks



Betty



Big Nate



Frank & Ernest



Arlo and Janis



- Local RADIO stations: WJUF-FM 90.1, WHGN-FM 91.9, WXCW-FM 95.3, WFO-FM 96.7, WEKJ-FM 96.3, 103.9, WYKE-FM 104.3, WDUV-FM 105.5, WJQB-FM 106.3, WFJV-FM 103.3, WRZN-AM 720, WSKY 97.3 FM, WXJB 99.9 FM, WRGO-FM 102.7

Today's MOVIES

- Crystal River Mall 9: 564-6864: Coco 3D, Coco (2017), Justice League 3D, Justice League (2017), The Star (2017), Wonder, Daddy's Home 2, Murder on the Orient Express (2017), Thor: Ragnarok (2017), A Bad Moms Christmas, Marshall. Citrus Cinemas 6 Inverness: 844-462-7342 Code 187: Coco 3D, Coco (2017), Justice League 3D, Justice League (2017), Wonder, Daddy's Home 2, Murder on the Orient Express (2017), Thor: Ragnarok 3D (2017), Thor: Ragnarok (2017), Valerie Theatre, Inverness: 352-341-7850: 3 p.m. Sundays; 7:30 p.m. second Friday, \$6 Dec. 3: Forrest Gump

CELEBRITY CIPHER by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

Today's clue: P equals V

"RYF NSDGU ERMXI, RYF NSDGU

VYGTRFX MN KFERFXD ZGD, S

AFUSFPF, USFE SD UME GDWFUFE." —

TYSU MVYE

Previous Solution: "Sometimes I feel like my only friend is the city I live in, the city of angels ..." — Red Hot Chili Peppers



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Joe Reth
General Manager

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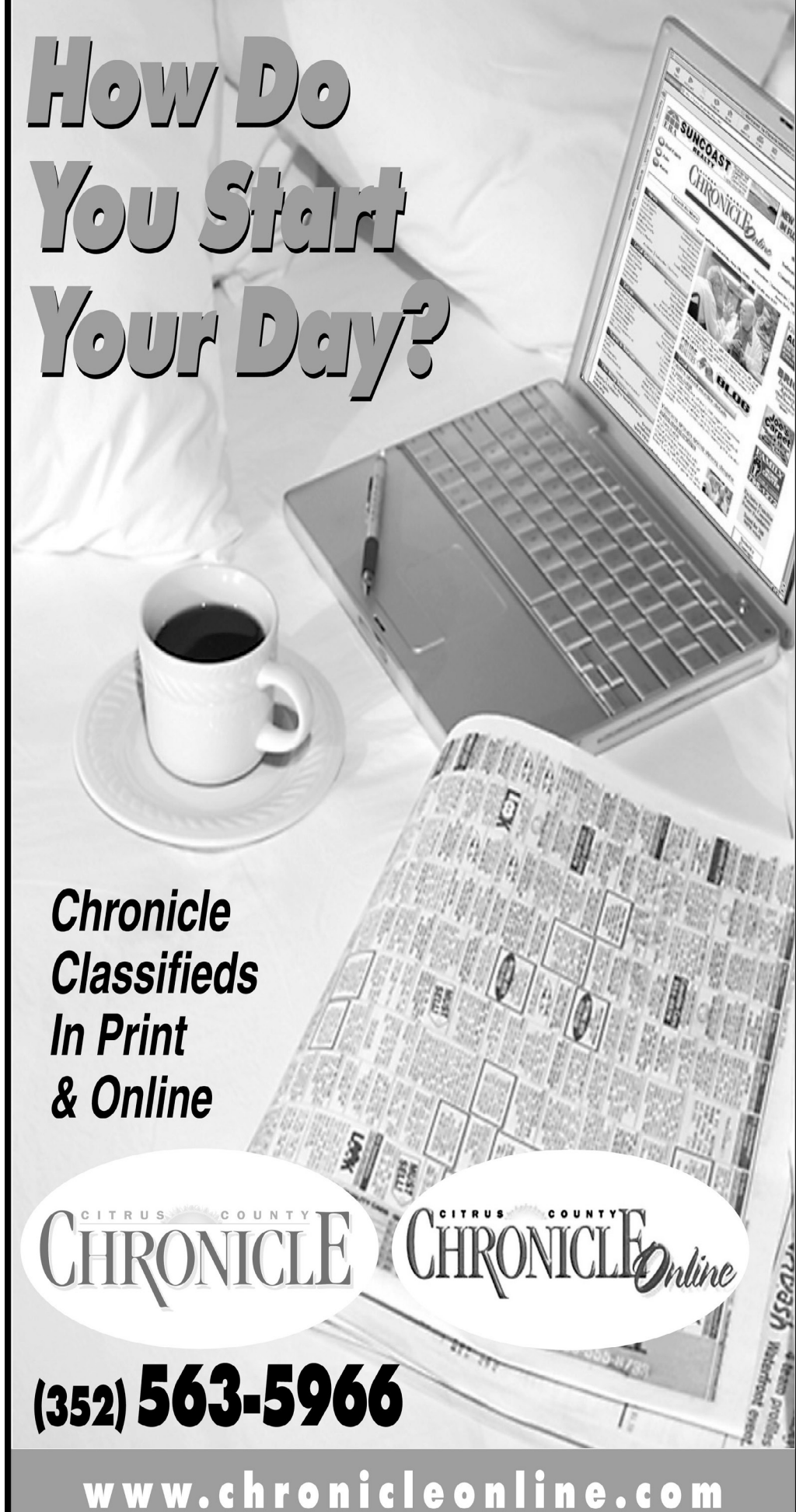
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Tools CLEAN SEAL TEST PLUG For testing 2" PVC -Used once \$15 795-8800

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Tools VIDEO 29 1080 dpi \$50 352-201-0876

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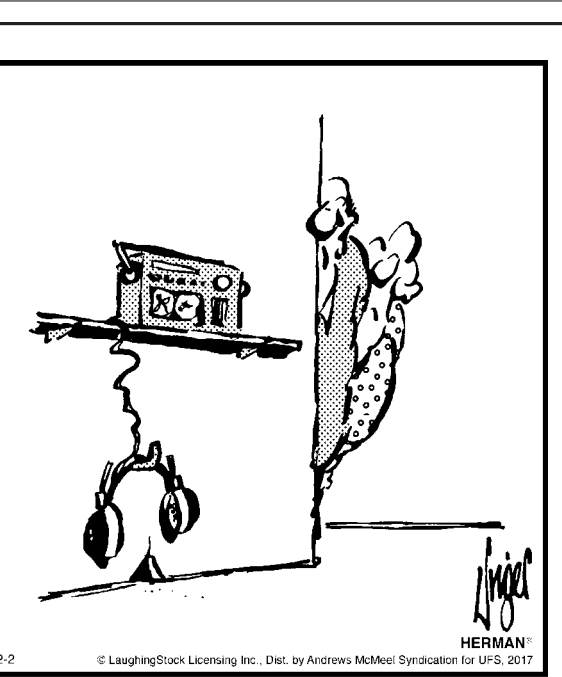
Tools Couch, white leather, Cindy Crauford. Like New. \$350. Castro convertible sofa bed. Light color fabric. \$250. Call (352) 746-4620

Tools Dining room table & 6 upholstered chairs. 6'x 3.6' glass table. Exc cond \$450. Amoire beige rather. \$200 (352) 302-9129

Tools COMPUTER Amoire, oak on casters. 2 dbl folding doors, slide out for printer 56" H, \$200; 4 wood swivel stools, blk leather seats, 24" H \$120 for all 352-860-0124 352-422-6091

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BEVERLY HILLS Pine Ridge Estate 2743 W Apricot Dr. Fri. & Sat., 8a-2p Tools, furniture, & many items!

CITRUS SPRINGS Fri & Sat 8a-3p HUGE SALE 10105 N. Deltona Blvd.

CRYSTAL RIVER Fri & Sat 8:30-1:00 Coffee & end tables, quilt rack, paper crafts, Xmas, home decor, books. Lots of good stuff. 523 N. Golf Course Dr. off Venable

CRYSTAL RIVER Moving Sale! 849 SW Kings Bay Dr. Saturday, 8a-2p Tools, toys, decor, Harley, fishing, & hunting items

CRYSTAL RIVER TODAY! Hail! Hail! This is going to be the big sale! Stuff from 4 houses! Free Iced Tea. 5847 W. Pine Circle off Rockcrusher Rd.

HERNANDO 4941 E Rugby Trail Fri. - Sun., 10a-4p

HERNANDO Sat & Sun 9a-3p Furniture, Glassware & much much more! 4435 E Harvard Dr

HOMOSASSA 11936 W Waterway Drive (Riverhaven) Saturday 12/2, 8am-3pm. Paintings, prints, misc. household items, collectibles and much more!

HOMOSASSA 6 Ibers Ct. Sat. & Sun., 10:30-3:30 Variety of household goods, from furniture to kitchenware, from small tools, decorative items, & more!

HOMOSASSA Fri & Sat 8am - ? HUGE SALE! 4765 S. Orchard Ter.

INVERNESS 319 Edison St. Saturday, 8a-3p Misc. camping items & other garage sale items.

INVERNESS 3290 E Murray St 8-2 Saturday only, tools, xmas, baby stuff

INVERNESS 610 Pineale St. Fri. & Sat., 7a-3p Moving Sale! Everything must go!

INVERNESS 8621 E Gospel Island Rd., Fri. & Sat., 8a-5p Some Harley gear

INVERNESS Fri & Sat 8a-4p Lots of Christmas stuff furn., & MUCH MORE! 2904 S. Eagle Terrace

Garage/Yard Sales

INVERNESS OMG! IT'S HUGE!! Thurs. Fri. Sat. 8a-3p Lots of everything Clothes, children thru adult 2X, jewelry, housewares, furniture, fishing, much more 9617 E. Southgate Dr. Just off Gospel Island

INVERNESS Sale Starts at 8:30am-Fri & Sat Dec 1 & 2 Antiques, collectibles, & lots of junk!! 8400 E. Sweetwater Dr.

LECANTO 2065 W Deer Trail Ln. Sat., 8a to 2p MOVING SALE Toys, Furn., & baby items

LECANTO 483 E Lancaster St GARAGE SALE Saturday, 8am Come Christmas shop

LECANTO El Dorado Estates, Esmeralda Terr. off of Cardinal. Fri. & Sat., 8a-2p Furn., quilting/sewing fabric items

LECANTO Fri & Sat 8a-2p All Household Items 1739 N Future Terrace

LECANTO Fri & Sat, 9a-2p MOVING Everything goes! Furn, knick-knacks, small appliances, *Something Special for Everyone!* 1965 W. Chelsea Ann Way, Brentwood

LECANTO Fri & Sat, 9am-3pm 2457 N. Brentwood Cr. L. dog bed, dishes, glassware, dolls, books, Christmas tree.

LECANTO THE NEW CHURCH WITHOUT WALLS *YARD SALE* Saturday, 8am-2pm *MANY ITEMS* 300 S. Kensington Ave

PINE RIDGE 4361 N Elk Corn Blvd Fri. & Sat., 9a-3p Moving Sale! Everything Must Go! Furn. & power tools

PINE RIDGE CORBETT'S MAMMOTH MOVING SALE Dec 2, & 3 8am-12pm 4319 N Pony Dr

Estate Sales

HOMOSASSA 4 Muirfield Ct. W. Oak Leaf Villas Sugarmill Woods Fri. & Sat., 8a-4p

HOMOSASSA 8 Thiox Ct. E. Oak Village Sugarmill Woods Sat., Dec. 2nd, 8a-4p Antiques, pool etagere/desk, antique bow & picture set, washstand, rocker, table, high chair, showcases, living, kitchen, & bedroom furn., lots of glassware, victorian settee, victorian marble top dresser, old kitchen wood cupboard from 1930, kerosene oil lamp, orig. hanging oil lamp with prisms, handmade quilts, dollies, linens, kitchen aprons, pink & green depression glass, hand painted plates, GWTP lamps, lots of glassware, Fostoria American pattern (over 200 pieces), Homer Laughlin dishes 100+ pieces, aristocrat pattern, pfpalgraff heirloom pattern (100+ pieces), cast iron picture frames, clothes, lots of misc., whole house full plus garage, priced to sell.

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SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: **1** 2 3 4

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

SOLUTION TO FRIDAY'S PUZZLE 12/2/17

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

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

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- ACROSS**
- 1 Dusting cloth
 - 4 Sine — non
 - 7 Unisex garment
 - 11 Ms. Hagen
 - 12 Sleeve end
 - 13 "Monday Night Football" ailer
 - 14 Got started (2 wds.)
 - 16 Coup d'—
 - 17 Braid
 - 18 Grain husk
 - 19 I-90
 - 20 Garden-pond fish
 - 21 Reddish powder
 - 24 Seemed bored
 - 27 Wimple wearer
 - 28 Discuss lightly
 - 30 Flu bug
 - 32 Site of a tie
 - 34 Black-and-white snack
 - 36 RV haven
- DOWN**
- 1 Groove
 - 2 On the summit
 - 3 Liverpool poky
 - 4 Cost estimate
 - 5 Roswell crasher
 - 6 Rudder's place

Answer to Previous Puzzle

| | | | | | |
|-------|--|-------|--|--|-------|
| PEP | | COD | | | FEZ |
| ISO | | DRIP | | | JUDE |
| LAP | | REAR | | | EGGS |
| LIE | | DOGG | | | SUET |
| | | UMA | | | MUTED |
| VEIN | | NOONE | | | |
| CPR | | ROO | | | IRATE |
| RASPY | | HEX | | | VEE |
| | | SALSA | | | MEAL |
| AMANA | | GAL | | | |
| VIOL | | SHER | | | BETS |
| ADAM | | TARO | | | BUT |
| SETS | | STEM | | | ANA |
| TDS | | SRA | | | YEN |

- 7 Off course
- 8 Is, to Pedro
- 9 Bridge
- 10 Explosive letters
- 12 Movie reviewer
- 15 Not-so-funny Marx
- 18 Arrow launcher
- 20 Klondike —
- 21 Blitzer's channel
- 22 Shades
- 23 Ancient empire
- 24 Tall tale
- 25 Cartoon shrieks
- 26 Bead
- 29 Nocturnal sound
- 31 Might
- 33 Nephrologist's concerns
- 35 Overly solemn
- 38 Club stint
- 40 Troubles, to Hamlet
- 42 Watchdog breed
- 43 Foal's dad
- 44 Mendicant's cry
- 46 Canceled
- 47 Trickle
- 48 Get tangled
- 49 Louis XIV, e.g.
- 50 Teacup handle
- 51 Racket

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | | 4 | 5 | 6 | | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | | | | 12 | | | | | | 13 | |
| 14 | | | 15 | | | | | | | 16 | |
| | 17 | | | | | | | 18 | | | |
| | | | 19 | | | | 20 | | | | |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | | | 24 | | | | 25 | 26 | |
| 27 | | | | 28 | 29 | | | 30 | | | 31 |
| 32 | | | 33 | | 34 | | | 35 | | 36 | |
| | 37 | | | 38 | | | | 39 | 40 | | |
| | | | | 41 | | | | 42 | | | |
| | 43 | 44 | | | | | | 45 | | 46 | 47 |
| 48 | | | | | 49 | 50 | | | | | 51 |
| 52 | | | | | 53 | | | | 54 | | |
| 55 | | | | | 56 | | | | | 57 | |

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Saturday, December 2, 2017

KATHLEEN SAXE

WORD GAME

TODAY'S WORD -- PERMEATE

(PERMEATE: PER-mee-ate: To spread or diffuse through.)

Average mark 39 words
Time limit 40 minutes

Can you find 49 or more words in PERMEATE?
The list will be published Monday.

- YESTERDAY'S WORD -- COPIERS
- | | | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|
| cero | corps | poise | epic | score |
| cire | corpse | pore | epos | scrip |
| coir | cosier | pose | rice | sire |
| cope | cries | poser | ripe | sore |
| coper | crisp | precis | rise | spice |
| copies | crop | price | rope | spier |
| copse | peso | pries | rose | spire |
| core | pier | prose | scope | spore |

To purchase the Word Game book, visit WordGameBooks.com.
Order it now for just \$5 while supplies last!

RULES OF THE GAME: 1. Words must be of four or more letters. 2. Words that acquire four letters by the addition of "s," such as "bats" or "dies," are not allowed. 3. Additional words made by adding a "d" or an "s" may not be used. 4. Proper nouns, slang words, or vulgar or sexually explicit words are not allowed. To contact Word Game creator Kathleen Saxe, write to Word Game, Kathleen Saxe, Andrews McMeel Syndication, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106, or kzsaxe@gmail.com.

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WORDY GURDY®

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word.

1. Knock into a gas dispenser (1)
2. Donate a kitchen gadget with mesh (1)
3. Hair salon foam function (1)
4. Non-network-TV ID tag (2)
5. San Diego team's Spanish mothers (2)
6. Farm vehicle variable (2)
7. Golf course area flight of steps (2)

ANSWERS
1. BUMP PUMP 2. GIVE SIEVE 3. MOUSE USE 4. CABLE LABEL
5. PADRES MADRES 6. TRACTOR FACTOR 7. FAIRWAY STAIRWAY

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2007, 4 door, Dk Blue, 318 engine, 125k mi, Florida truck \$9500 (603) 493-8748

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