


Local boxer expects big things after title /B1



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

SATURDAY
TODAY & next morning
HIGH 67
LOW 45
Cloudy to partly sunny and cool.
PAGE A4

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

www.chronicleonline.com

DECEMBER 30, 2017 Florida's Best Community Newspaper Serving Florida's Best Community 50¢ VOL. 123 ISSUE 145

Chill welcomes new year

Temps expected to plunge to the 40s

MICHAEL D. BATES
Staff writer

Before heading out to that New Year's Eve party, throw an extra jacket in the car, because it's going to get chilly come midnight.

Citrus County may not get the sub-zero temperatures of our northern neighbors, but it will see the mercury plunge to around 40 degrees on Monday and Tuesday.

And enjoy the sun today because you will see little of it the

next few days. Highs today should be around 66 with lots of sun. Overnight temperatures will be in the mid 40s. Sunday should be a repeat of today but with less sun.

On New Year's Day, Monday, temperatures in Citrus County will barely top out at around 60 and look for colder overnight

lows of around 40. There's also a 50 percent chance of showers Monday.

Tuesday will be mostly cloudy with highs around 56 and lows around 39.

Nicole Carlisle, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Ruskin, said the long-term forecast for next weekend shows even colder

temperatures where it could get below freezing in Citrus County.

Don't count on any snow, though.

"There's a strong cold front moving through the area coming from the north and dipping down," Carlisle said. "It's actually covering most of the

See CHILL/Page A5

NEWS BRIEF

Duke seeks to collect \$513M in storm costs

Duke Energy Florida has asked state regulators to approve a proposal to collect \$513 million from customers to cover the costs of Hurricane Irma and replenishing a storm reserve. Duke plans to recover the money over a three-year period, starting in March, according to a Thursday news release and a filing with the Florida Public Service Commission.

A residential customer who uses 1,000 kilowatt hours of electricity a month would see a monthly bill increase of \$5.20. Commercial and industrial customers would see increases of 2.5 percent to 6.6 percent, the utility said. Hurricane Irma made landfall Sept. 10 in Monroe and Collier counties and barreled up the state, temporarily knocking out electricity for millions of Floridians.

"This past hurricane season impacted Florida significantly, from damaging homes and infrastructure to affecting agriculture and tourism. Duke Energy Florida understands the impact this filing has on both our residential and business customers," Harry Sideris, Duke Energy Florida state president, said in a prepared statement Thursday. "We will continue making smart investments to significantly enhance service reliability throughout the year, including during storm season."

— From staff reports

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Those we lost in 2017



MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle file

Chet Cole died in 2017, a matter of months after his sister, Dorothy Jean Cole, shown with him, died in 2016. For most of his career, Cole led the Key Training Center, serving developmentally disabled adults.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Each year we as a community say goodbye to many of our citizens. This year we lost educators and county pioneers, business people, those who battled long illnesses and those who died suddenly. Some were well known and some simply quietly touched people's lives without fanfare. Each one, however, contributed to the fabric of our community, and each has made Citrus County richer and better because they lived among us.

Although we can't print the names and contribution of everyone who died in 2017, in today's and tomorrow's editions, many are noted. Here are some:

January

Bob Mercer, 78. Died Jan. 4
Crystal River champion, co-founder of Save Crystal River, 2016 Crystal River Citizen of the Year.

"Bob was a spark plug; he energized everyone around him," Crystal River Mayor Jim Farley said. "He was a key catalyst for getting a lot of good things accomplished."

Brad Swasey, 36. Died Jan. 8
Despite being born with cerebral palsy, despite not being able to speak, despite seizures and illnesses and having the mental capacity of a 2-year-old, Brad lived large and with exuberance and joy.

Arnold Virgilio, 70. Died Jan. 14
Inverness businessman, community volunteer and mentor, family man and fundraiser.

THE YEAR 2017 IN REVIEW

"He worked tirelessly for his family," said the Rev. Timothy Cummings, pastor at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Inverness, at Virgilio's memorial service Jan. 21. "He was a quiet man who spoke through his actions."

Tim Abrams, 52. Died Jan. 26

Volunteer firefighter, "teddy bear with a heart of gold," Tim Abrams lived for others. "He was put on this Earth to be friends with people, and he poured himself out for his family and friends," said the

See LOST/Page A6

Roll call of some who died nationally

Associated Press

They made music that inspired legions of fans.

Rock 'n' roll founding father Chuck Berry and Fats Domino, rockers Tom Petty and Gregg Allman, grunge icon Chris Cornell, country superstar Glen Campbell and jazz great Al Jarreau were among the notable figures who died in 2017, leaving a void in virtually every genre of music.

Comedians Jerry Lewis, Don Rickles and Dick Gregory left their own indelible mark with their iconic routines. And the story of the 1960s could not be told without Hugh Hefner and Charles Manson, who were synonymous with the decade in vastly different ways. Hefner founded Playboy

magazine and was credited with helping rev up the sexual revolution in the 1960s. The decade ended with Manson becoming the face of evil across America by orchestrating seven murders that marked the end of the era of peace and love.

Here is a roll call of some of the people who died in 2017.

January

William Peter Blatty, 89. A former Jesuit school valedictorian who conjured a tale of demonic possession and gave millions the fright of their lives with the best-selling novel and Oscar-winning movie "The Exorcist." Jan. 12.

Gene Cernan, 82. A former astronaut who was the last

See DEATHS/Page A6

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 '13 Nissan Rogue 113,022 Mi. 17T733A \$7,822	 '12 KIA Forte Hatchback 83,239 Mi. 18C046A \$8,456	 '14 KIA Soul 93,137 Mi. 17C813B \$8,992	 '15 Nissan Altima 81,133 Mi. 17C954A \$11,147	 '15 Volkswagen Golf 68,469 Mi. 17C429A \$11,619
 '12 Nissan Xterra X 91,779 Mi. 17C260A \$11,690	 '15 Nissan Altima 26,834 Mi. 15C0000 \$12,864	<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 Honda Civic LX 20,359 Mi. 17C906A \$12,997
 '11 Nissan Frontier SV 103,869 Mi. 18C013A \$13,860	 '11 Ford Edge SEL 42,679 Mi. 17C481A \$14,232	 '11 Cadillac SRX 72,145 Mi. 17C310B \$14,753	 2012 Dodge Durango 67,781 Mi. 17C696A \$17,285	 '16 Toyota RAV4 31,289 Mi. 17T955B \$18,493
 '14 Nissan Murano SV 53,131 Mi. 17T966A \$18,615	 '15 Nissan Rogue SL 29,796 Mi. 17C375C \$20,391	 '13 Nissan Titan SL 98,105 Mi. 17C877A \$20,679	 '17 Nissan 370Z 3,534 Mi. CP2995 \$25,236	 '17 Nissan Titan SV 2,384 Mi. CP2112 \$28,887

NEW 2017 MODEL YEAR-END SAVINGS GUARANTEE

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 A/C REFRESH For pre-owned vehicles, your entire ventilation system including evaporator, heater core, air ducts and passenger compartment has been treated for mold, mildew and bacteria which can cause offensive odors and allergic reactions.	 LOYALTY REWARDS APP Take Maus Care on the go with our exclusive mobile app which provides instant access to all your benefits. Plus, earn 5% cash back for every dollar you spend toward future purchases including your next vehicle.

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Judge halts marijuana license for black farmer

DARA KAM
The News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — A Tallahassee judge Thursday ordered health officials to stop the process of granting a marijuana license to a black farmer, one of 10 coveted new pot licenses approved by the Legislature this year.

The state Office of Medical Marijuana Use was supposed to

grant all of the licenses by Oct. 3, but has not begun accepting applications for some new licenses. Christian Bax, director of the office, blamed the delay on the lawsuit that challenges the constitutionality of the carve-out for a black farmer.

The challenge is focused on a portion of a new state law that was passed during a June special legislative session. The law was

intended to carry out a voter-approved constitutional amendment that broadly legalized medical marijuana in Florida.

Under the law, one of the 10 licenses must go to a grower who had been part of settled lawsuits, known as the “Pigford” cases, about discrimination against black farmers by the federal government.

The law also requires the black

farmer who receives a license to be a member of the Black Farmers and Agriculturalists Association-Florida Chapter.

Lawyers for Columbus Smith, a black farmer from Panama City, argued that, while he meets the qualification of being part of the Pigford litigation, he has not been allowed to join the black farmers association, preventing him from receiving a license.

The Florida Constitution bars “special” laws, in part, that relate to “grant of privilege to a private corporation.” The lawsuit alleges the medical-marijuana law violates that part of the Constitution.

On Thursday, Leon County Circuit Judge Charles Dodson granted Smith’s request for a temporary injunction “on the bases stated by plaintiffs in their motion.”

Schools see highs, lows in 2017

CARLY ZERVIS
Staff writer

Every year has ups and downs, and 2017 was no different for Citrus County schools. In a year marked by legislators taking potshots at public education, Citrus continued to avoid serious conflict with new laws while maintaining past years’ performance levels. Here are a few of the year’s significant education stories.

■ Citrus, like many districts state- and nationwide, continued to see a shortage of applicants for teaching positions. As of Friday, the district had 32 teaching positions advertised — 15 in elementary schools, six in middle schools, 10 in high schools, and one at the Citrus Resources for Exceptional Students in Transition, or CREST, facility. District staff looked far and wide for qualified candidates, including travel to four job fairs in other states, each including 15 to 20 universities, according to district Director of Human Resources Suzanne Swain.

“We didn’t just want to go to one college,” Swain said in March. “There has been a shortage with just graduates in general.” At that time, the district had 42 open instructional positions. According to a study by the education think tank the Learning Policy Institute released in September, schools were short 60,000 teachers in 2015 and that number is expected to climb to 100,000 in 2018.

■ One oft-cited cause of the teacher shortage: low pay. To that end, Citrus — after lengthy negotiations with the union bargaining unit, comprised of representatives from the Citrus County Education Association, which represents teachers and support staff, and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters — instituted three years’ worth of salary increases. The base teacher salary, currently \$35,000, will increase by \$1,000 during the current school year and by \$1,200 per year for each of the next two years.

“Our starting salary has been historically lower than our surrounding counties,” said Assistant Superintendent Jonny Bishop in early December after the raises were approved. “In an effort to become more competitive in the recruitment and retention of teachers, we felt strongly that we had to increase the salary scale. Our neighbors were outpacing us.”

■ Students got an astronomy lesson in August as the country witnessed the first total solar eclipse in almost a century. Although Citrus County wasn’t in the path of the total eclipse, the county experienced a roughly 80 percent eclipse during the school day. Seven Rivers Christian School gave



Floral City Elementary School kindergarten teacher Caroline Christiansen sits with, from left, Emalie Fowler, 5, Addyson Heim, 6, and Lily Lehman, 5, as the children page through books. The young teacher once was a kindergarten student in the same classroom at Floral City Elementary. “It’s pretty surreal,” she said.

each student a pair of special glasses to safely watch the event. Activities districtwide focused on the eclipse, and many classrooms watched safely via an online livestream from NASA.

The year also saw several longtime district employees subject to investigations, a few of which culminated in resignations. Notably:

■ Sandy Balfour, a former Crystal River High School teacher and school board member, was investigated in January for improperly disciplining a student during her tenure as the supervisor of the Academy of Environmental Science — a position she left her school board post to take. An initial investigation conducted by the district found that Balfour had not bullied students as alleged in a parent’s complaint, but that she had made “students and staff feel uncomfortable, harassed and embarrassed.” Balfour was temporarily removed as the AES supervisor after the investigation; a second complaint by a different parent prompted a second investigation, which the district hired an outside attorney to conduct. The AES board of directors voted to fire Balfour as supervisor in February. The second investigation concluded in April that she had inappropriately grabbed a student’s shoulder and yanked him from a classroom in 2016. In a letter of reprimand, Superintendent of Schools Sandra “Sam” Himmel said she stopped short of suspending or firing Balfour because the incident occurred more than a year ago and, since then, the academy board had removed her as supervisor. Balfour remains a teacher in the district.

■ An aide at Pleasant Grove Elementary was accused of forcefully slamming a disruptive pre-kindergarten boy into a chair. After an investigation, the district recommended that Laura “Kathy” Dunham



Theresa Ryan, a third-grade teacher at Citrus Springs Elementary School, was chosen Citrus County Teacher of the Year at a ceremony in January.

be terminated for that incident as well as for falsifying her 2013 job application by failing to disclose that the Department of Children and Families verified a 2004 complaint of child neglect. Dunham appealed the recommendation, which was upheld by the school board.

■ A Lecanto High School teacher resigned in lieu of being terminated as part of a settlement with the district. A district investigation found that Amanda Mathieu was negligent in monitoring her students when sexual activity between two students took place while the class was in Lecanto’s Curtis Peterson Auditorium. The report said Mathieu was not paying attention when a boy, who was not a student in the class, led a girl to a hallway off the stage and touched her inappropriately against her will. The girl reported the incident to the principal’s office and the boy was arrested on sexual assault charges. Mathieu told district officials she could see students who were on the stage. She said she should not be punished for something that happened in the stage hallway, a district administrative report said.

■ A Citrus High School teacher resigned amid an

THE YEAR 2017 IN REVIEW

investigation into inappropriate communication with a student. Paul Paleczny, who had been with the district 17 years, was accused in mid-September of texting inappropriately with a student by the student’s parents, who provided evidence of the texts. Administrators immediately contacted both the Department of Children and Families (DCF) — which declined to investigate — and the Citrus County Sheriff’s Office, which opened a case and referred it to the Major Crimes Unit. Paleczny resigned Sept. 28.

■ Longtime Crystal River High School teacher Marlon Felton resigned in December after a school district investigation into allegations that she attempted to have a student’s grades changed so he could play football. A complaint was filed during the first week of the 2017 school year by a CRHS administrator requesting a full investigation into reports that Felton had requested “grade changes be made for a student for classes not her own” and “grade changes be made for work that was not adequate or complete.” According to a letter delivered to Felton in September, the investigation found that she had asked other staff members to change grades in classes from the prior two school years and that she had been “dishonest” when questioned by investigators.

■ Another longtime CRHS teacher, Andreas Zybelle, remains on temporary reassignment to the district warehouse pending the outcome of an investigation into a parent’s allegations that he made inappropriate political comments in his classroom about President Trump and supporters. District policy states teachers cannot present controversial

material without presenting all sides and opinions, said Assistant Superintendent of Schools Mike Mullen shortly after the investigation began in October. Zybelle responded in a letter published in the Chronicle in November.

“I let 62 years of life and common sense and Christian upbringing guide me. I have chosen to challenge the president’s comments and label them for what I believe they are — bullying,” the letter said. “I want them rejected in my classroom.”

■ Citrus got some good news in June when the Florida Department of Education released the Spring 2017 Florida Standard Assessment (FSA) scores: local students continued to outpace state averages.

“In ELA, as a district, we did remain the same as last year — slightly above the state; however, in our math and science overall scores, we made gains,” said Amy Crowell, the district’s research and accountability director.

■ Overall, the district received a “B” score from the state for the second year in a row, and not a single school scored below a C. Overall, four of the district’s 11 elementary schools’ scores dropped one or more letter grades, six received the same scores as last year, and one school’s grade increased. All four Citrus County middle schools received the same score as the previous year. Two of the district’s three high schools’ scores remained the same, and one increased one letter grade.

“Our focus is on every student scoring higher the next year, making those learning gains,” said Superintendent of Schools Sandra “Sam” Himmel. “We know that we’ve got successes in many schools and there’s areas we need to focus on, but by no means am I disappointed.”

Around the COUNTY

Tire disposal day set Jan. 13

The Zika virus, a mosquito-borne infection linked to birth defects in Brazil, has made its way to Florida. Un-rimmed tires hold rain water and, as such, serve as a breeding ground for mosquitoes. In an effort to reduce mosquito breeding grounds, the Citrus County Solid Waste Management Division is providing a free tire disposal day, from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 13.

This event, co-sponsored by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, is a part of the Department of Health Zika Response Plan. Citrus County residents can dispose of tires, without rims, at the Citrus County Central Landfill, free of charge. Only passenger car and pickup truck-size tires will be accepted. This event does not include oversized or business tires.

Central Landfill is at 230 W. Gulf-to-Lake Highway (State Road 44) in Lecanto.

For information, call 352-527-7670 or email landfill-info@citrusbocc.com.

Candidate forum scheduled Jan. 13

The Nature Coast Republican Club will have a candidate forum at the Beverly Hills Lions Club on Saturday, Jan. 13. Coffee and networking, 8:30 a.m.; forum at 9 a.m.

Candidates for governor, attorney general and commissioner of agriculture are expected to be present.

For additional information, email NCRC2014@aol.com.

‘Munsters’ actor at car show today

Actor Butch Patrick, who as a child portrayed Eddie Munster on the 1960s television show “The Munsters,” will be at Sound Decisions and Performance’s truck, car and bike show from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. today. The venue is located at 1588 N. Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River.

Patrick will be on hand for autographs and photo opportunities. The Munster Coach and Dragula tribute cars will also be on display.

For more information on Butch Patrick, visit: www.munsters.com.

VA Clinic in need of volunteers

The Lecanto VA Clinic is in need of volunteers to do the van schedules and aid at the clinic.

If you can give four hours on any weekday, please consider volunteering.

The clinic also has a need for van drivers to make the western run, from Homosassa to Gainesville via U.S. 19/98 to State Road 24. Van is provided.

Contact Mark Acker at the clinic 352-746-8010 or Joe Stephens 352-489-5245 for an application, which can be mailed or picked up at the clinic, 2804 W. Marc Knighton Court, Lecanto.

Today's HOROSCOPES

Birthday — Let your imagination wander, and follow your heart. You will get more out of life if you take part in it. Forge into a new frontier.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Reject anyone using high-pressure tactics or persuasive means to meddle in your life or affairs.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Your quick wit and fun-loving attitude will draw attention. Avoid excessive behavior.

Pisces (Feb. 20-March 20) — Settle any dispute before it turns into a costly battle. Don't trust in what you are told. Ask questions and base your decisions only on facts.

Aries (March 21-April 19) — Keep a low profile and avoid emotional indulgence. A money matter will leave you uncertain regarding the best way to move forward.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Someone will mislead you if you show your vulnerability. Refuse to let anyone take advantage of you.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) — Say what's on your mind. It's better to be straightforward about your feelings and expectations.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) — Uncertainty regarding your professional future should be looked at with optimism. A change will do you good, but that doesn't mean you should quit and start over.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Take time to talk to someone who needs advice or is down and out. Your positive pep talk will help and will spark a good idea.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Emotions will be difficult to control. Don't make assumptions; if something seems suspicious, ask questions and get the low-down before you make a move.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Don't let temptation get the better of you. Spending money or investing in a deal that someone is pushing on you will lead to regret.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Focus on your relationship with others. Sharing your feelings and plans will spark all sorts of interesting options. Love and romance are in the stars.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — You'll be given false information. Don't be gullible. If something sounds too good to be true, take a pass. Use what you learn to your advantage if you want to find a better deal.

ENTERTAINMENT

DeGeneres gets her game on in new prime-time show

LOS ANGELES — Ellen DeGeneres, known for keeping her comedy on the nice side, lets her inner meanie out for "Ellen's Game of Games."

NBC's new prime-time game show, which begins its regular run at 8 p.m. Tuesday after a December sneak peek, subjects its contestants to heated and executive producer DeGeneres.

"It's hilarious to see the panic and fear on their faces if they get the answer wrong," she said, knowing the possible consequences include being drenched with something gooey or launched airborne or dropped through the stage floor.

"But no one can get hurt. It's only public humiliation," she said, drolly. "It builds character, and to win \$100,000 it's what we must go through."

That's the top prize for those who conquer a variety of games, including some played on DeGeneres' syndicated daytime talk show — "but on steroids, bigger, higher and more dangerous," she said — and newly devised ones.

Movie about concert attack shelved after complaints

PARIS — French television channel France 2 says it has ceased production on a television movie about the aftermath of the 2015 Paris concert hall attack in which 90 people were killed until victims' groups are consulted.

The plot for the movie, a love story titled "Ce Soir-La" ("That Night"), begins at the Eagles Of



Associated Press

Ellen Degeneres appears during a commercial break at a taping of "The Ellen Show" in Burbank. DeGeneres is known for keeping her comedy on the nice side. But she lets her inner meanie out for "Ellen's Game of Games." That's NBC's new prime-time game show, which begins its regular run Tuesday.

Death Metal show at the Bataclan concert hall on Nov. 13, 2015, the night extremists with suicide bombs and guns carried out the attack.

Some family members of victims expressed outrage over what they saw as the insensitivity of the movie's theme.

Singer demands apology from Corey Lewandowski

WASHINGTON — Singer Joy Villa said she wants an apology from Corey Lewandowski for hitting her twice on her buttocks during a Washington gathering last fall. And she's defending herself against a video that shows her slapping another man's buttocks at a separate event.

Villa is a Trump supporter and potential congressional candidate who wore a dress displaying Trump's "Make America Great Again" slogan to the Grammys. Lewandowski was

Trump's campaign manager until being fired in June 2016.

Villa told ABC's "Good Morning America" that she has apologized to the man who she hit: "When he said, 'Take it easy,' I stopped."

Experts try to keep O'Keeffe paintings from fading

SANTA FE, N.M. — Chemical reactions are threatening to discolor and deform the surface of Georgia O'Keeffe's famously vibrant paintings, and experts are hoping new digital imaging tools can help them slow the damage.

Art conservationists in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and the Chicago area on Thursday announced a federally funded project to develop new 3-D imaging tools to detect destructive buildup in paintings by O'Keeffe and potentially other artists in museum collections around the world.

—From wire reports

Today in HISTORY

Today is Saturday, Dec. 30, the 364th day of 2017. There is one day left in the year.

Today's Highlight: On Dec. 30, 1922, Vladimir Lenin proclaimed the establishment of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which lasted nearly seven decades before dissolving in December 1991.

On this date: In 1936, the United Auto Workers union staged its first "sit-down" strike at the General Motors Fisher Body Plant No. 1 in Flint, Michigan. (The strike lasted until Feb. 11, 1937.)

In 1999, former Beatle George Harrison fought off a knife-wielding intruder who'd broken into his mansion west of London and stabbed him in the chest. (The attacker was later acquitted of attempted murder by reason of insanity.)

Ten years ago: Three days after Benazir Bhutto was assassinated, her 19-year-old son, Bilawal Zardari, was named symbolic leader of her Pakistan Peoples Party, while her husband took effective control.

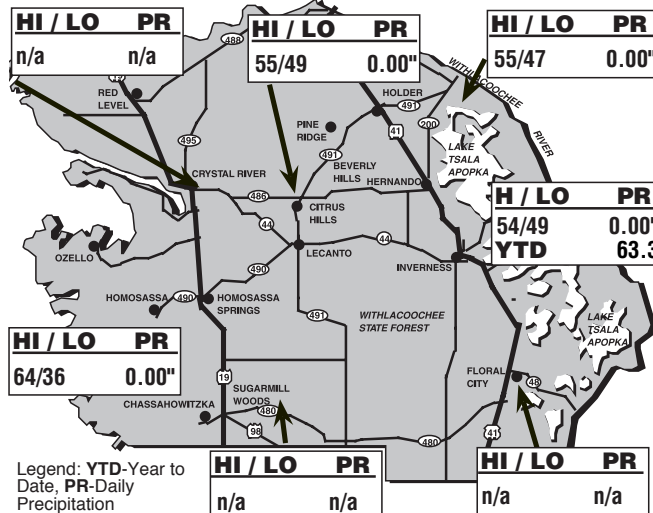
Five years ago: A tour bus crashed on an icy Oregon highway, killing nine passengers and injuring almost 40 on Interstate 84 east of Pendleton.

One year ago: Ronda Rousey was stopped 48 seconds into her comeback fight, losing to bantam-weight champion Amanda Nunes at UFC 207 in Las Vegas.

Today's Birthdays: Baseball Hall of Famer Sandy Koufax is 82. Folk singer Noel Paul Stookey is 80. Singer-musician Michael Nesmith is 75. Singer Patti Smith is 71. Rock singer-musician Jeff Lynne is 70. TV personality Meredith Vieira is 64.

Thought for Today: "Work is a dull thing; you cannot get away from that. The only agreeable existence is one of idleness, and that is not, unfortunately, always compatible with continuing to exist at all." — Rose Macaulay, English poet and essayist (1881-1958).

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER



THREE DAY OUTLOOK

Today & Tomorrow Morning: High: 67° Low: 45°. Cloudy to partly sunny and cool. Sunday & Monday Morning: High: 67° Low: 47°. Partly cloudy, continued cool. Monday & Tuesday Morning: High: 56° Low: 41°. Mostly cloudy and turning colder. A 50 percent chance of rain.

ALMANAC

TEMPERATURE: Friday 56/49, Record* 85/19, Normal 70/43, Mean temp. 53, Departure from mean -4. PRECIPITATION: Friday 0.00", Total for the month 1.48", Total for the year 42.52", Normal for the year 52.09". HUMIDITY: Friday at 3 p.m. 53%. POLLEN COUNT: Today's active pollen: Juniper, maple, oak. Today's count: 6.9/12. Sunday's count: 7.9. Monday's count: 6.3. AIR QUALITY: Friday observed: Good. Pollutant: Ozone.

SOLAR TABLES

Table with 4 columns: DATE, DAY, MINOR (MORNING), MAJOR (AFTERNOON). Rows for 12/30 SATURDAY and 12/31 SUNDAY.

CELESTIAL OUTLOOK

Table showing sunset, sunrise, and moonset times for Jan 1, 8, 16, and 24. Sunset tonight: 5:42 p.m. Sunrise tomorrow: 7:22 a.m. Moonrise today: 3:40 p.m. Moonset today: 4:25 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.

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.

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

Table with 4 columns: City, High, Low. Rows for Chassahowitzka, Crystal River, Withlacoochee, and Homosassa.

FLORIDA TEMPERATURES

Table with 3 columns: City, H, L, F'cast. Rows for Daytona Bch., Fort Lauderdale, Fort Myers, Gainesville, Homestead, Jacksonville, Key West, Lakeland, Melbourne, Miami, Ocala, Orlando, Pensacola, Sarasota, Tallahassee, Tampa, Vero Beach, and W. Palm Bch.

MARINE OUTLOOK

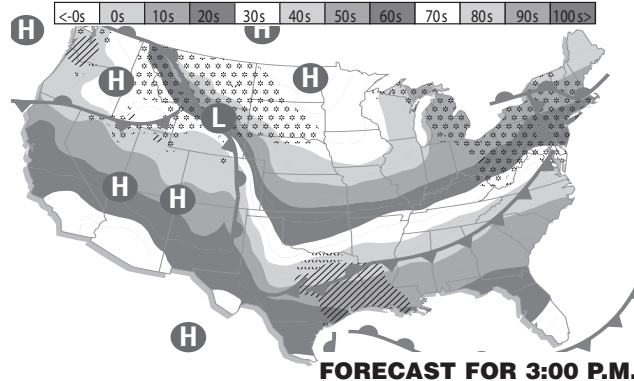
Today: Northwest winds around 10 knots. Seas 2 feet or less. Bay and inland waters a light chop. Tonight: North winds around 10 knots. Seas 2 feet. Bay and inland waters a light chop. Gulf water temperature 66° Taken at Aripaka.

LAKE LEVELS

Table with 4 columns: Location, FRI, THU, Full. Rows for Withlacoochee at Holder, Tsala Apopka-Hernando, Tsala Apopka-Inverness, and Tsala Apopka-Floral City.

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

THE NATION



FORECAST FOR 3:00 P.M. SATURDAY

Table with 6 columns: City, FRI, SAT, City, FRI, SAT. Rows for Albany, Albuquerque, Asheville, Atlanta, Atlantic City, Austin, Baltimore, Billings, Birmingham, Boise, Boston, Buffalo, Burlington, VT, Charleston, SC, Charleston, WV, Charlotte, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbia, SC, Concord, NH, Dallas, Denver, Des Moines, Detroit, El Paso, Evansville, IN, Hartford, Harrisburg, Houston, Indianapolis, Kansas City, Las Vegas, Little Rock, Los Angeles, Louisville, Memphis, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Mobile, Montgomery, Nashville, New Orleans, New York City, Norfolk, Oklahoma City, Omaha, Palm Springs, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Pittsburgh, Portland, ME, Portland, OR, Providence, RI, Raleigh, Rapid City, Reno, St. Louis, Rochester, NY, Sacramento, Salt Lake City, San Antonio, San Diego, San Francisco, Savannah, Seattle, Spokane, St. Louis, St. Ste. Marie, Syracuse, Topeka, Washington, and Washington, DC.

YESTERDAY'S NATIONAL HIGH & LOW

HIGH 86, San Bernardino, Calif. LOW -26, Fryeburg, Maine.

WORLD CITIES

Table with 4 columns: CITY, H/L/SKY, City, H/L/SKY. Rows for Acapulco, Amsterdam, Athens, Beijing, Berlin, Bermuda, Cairo, Calgary, Havana, Hong Kong, Jerusalem, Lisbon, London, Madrid, Mexico City, Moscow, Paris, Rio, Rome, Sydney, Tokyo, Toronto, and Warsaw.

LEGAL NOTICES in Today's Citrus County Chronicle Bid Notices D4

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Work begins on new businesses



JULIE GORHAM/Chronicle

It's a long time coming but ground-clearing for the new Wawa and Wendy's at the northwest corner of County Roads 491 and 486 has begun. Citrus County Land Development Director Joanna Coutu said earlier this month the county was just waiting for both chains to apply for their respective water and sewer service applications before the final construction permit was issued. Wawa and Wendy's will share space at that busy corner but have separate entrances. No word on when they will open.

For the RECORD

Florida Highway Patrol

DUI arrest

■ **Travis Neff**, 27, of West Timberlane Drive, Homosassa, at 3:15 a.m. Dec. 29 on misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence and DUI with property damage. According to his arrest affidavit, Neff was involved in an accident near Halls River Road. He was asked to complete field sobriety tasks and did poorly. Tests of his blood alcohol level registered 0.158 percent and

0.158 percent. The legal limit is 0.08 percent. His bond was set at \$2,000.

Citrus County Sheriff's Office

Arrests

■ **John Wilkes**, 49, of Inverness, at 10:14 p.m. Dec. 28 on a felony charge of possession of a controlled substance. His bond was set at \$4,000.

■ **Roseann Traut**, 49, of Inverness, at 3:26 p.m. Dec. 28 on a misdemeanor charge of

petit theft with a previous conviction of any theft. Her bond was set at \$1,000.

■ **James Austin Jr.**, 21, of Hernando, at 2:35 p.m. Dec. 28 on a misdemeanor charge of battery. His bond was set at \$1,000.

■ **Christopher Bissonette**, 28, of Homosassa, at 11:14 a.m. Dec. 28 on a felony charge of trafficking in stolen property and misdemeanor charges of retail petit theft and resisting an officer without violence. His bond was set at \$6,500.

Local BRIEF

Search uncovers ounces of marijuana

An Inverness man was arrested Thursday morning on a felony charge of intent to sell marijuana, authorities said.

Members of the Citrus County Sheriff's Office Tactical Impact Unit executed a search warrant at 6716 E. Blue Heron Lane, where



Brendan Brown

to the sheriff's office.

Brendan Cole Brown, 19, was detained at 11:15 a.m., after the search revealed

investigations led authorities to find items associated with the distribution of marijuana, according

4.5 ounces of marijuana along with baggies and a scale.

The arrest report stated Brown told detectives he was a college student visiting home for the holidays.

Brown was charged with one count of possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell, manufacture or deliver and one count of drug paraphernalia. His bond was set at \$6,000.

— Julie Gorham/Staff writer

CHILL

Continued from Page A1

central and eastern part of the country. It's below normal for us but not totally unusual to have temperatures get this cool in the wintertime here in Florida."

Unlike the northern climes, cold fronts here don't last for months.

"(The cool snap) is just not something we're going to hang to on for weeks and weeks," she said.

Meanwhile, the cooler weather Friday did not deter visitors wanting to go out and see the manatees. Mike Engiles, owner of Crystal River Watersports, said this is the busiest week of the year for tourists and, although the crowds are not as heavy as in past years, business has

been steady.

But with the cooler weather, folks are heading out to the manatees, taking quicker swims, and then requesting to head back to shore, Engiles said. Some sip some of the hot chocolate he offers on board.

"The tours end up being shorter," Engiles said. "The manatees are pretty active and friendly. The people want to get out and they want to get back."

Lawmakers look to boost scholarship programs

LLOYD DUNKELBERGER
The News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — For Florida residents, attending a state university or college is a bargain.

This academic year, in-state students at Florida's 12 universities will pay an average of \$6,091 in tuition and fees for 30 credit hours, which is nearly 40 percent below the national average of \$9,970 for four-year public schools, according to the College Board.

At Florida's 28 state colleges, full-time students will pay an average of \$3,205 in tuition and fees, which is 10 percent below the national average of \$3,570, according to the College Board.

And when the Florida Legislature convenes its 2018 session on Jan. 9, lawmakers are expected to further ease the financial burden by expanding merit- and need-based aid.

The scholarship expansions are part of Senate President Joe Negron's initiative to improve the quality and accessibility of Florida's higher-education system.

Lawmakers backed most of the higher-education package in the 2017 session, although some of the changes were lost when Gov. Rick Scott vetoed a bill after raising concerns about its impact on the state college system.

Legislation (SB 4) that will be on the Senate floor early in the 2018 session would make permanent an expansion in Bright Futures scholarships and would authorize programs that recognize high-performing graduate schools and efforts to hire top-level faculty and researchers at state universities. The bill would also hold universities to a four-year graduation standard in performance funding.

"I'm very encouraged and very optimistic we will get that done," Negron, R-Stuart, said in an interview with The News Service of Florida.

Sen. Bill Galvano, a Bradenton Republican who oversees higher-education spending in the Senate, said the initiative reflects "a real desire to make sure no one has an obstacle to obtaining a higher education."

"We're going to do two things at once," said Galvano, who is sponsoring the main Senate bill. "We're going to create much greater access, which in the end results in a more qualified workforce and more innovation in the economy. And the other thing is we are going to heighten the (quality) level of the institutions that we have in the state of Florida."

Several provisions in the bill affect the 94,000 students who have merit-based Bright Futures scholarships.

One measure would make permanent a decision to cover 100 percent of tuition and fees for the top-performing Bright Futures students, who are known as "academic scholars." The bill also includes \$300 for books for both the fall and spring semesters and would allow academic scholars to use the scholarships during the summer.

A new provision, which was not included in the 2017 legislation, would also boost Bright Futures scholarships for "medallion" scholars, who currently receive \$77 for each credit hour. Credit hours average more than \$200 across the system.

The bill would expand the scholarships to 75 percent of the tuition and fees, or \$159 for each credit hour.

The legislation, with the support of Senate Appropriations Chairman

Rob Bradley, R-Fleming Island, would also allow medallion scholars to use their scholarships during the summer.

The medallion scholarship expansion would cost some \$77 million, with an additional \$27.6 million for the summer semesters beginning in 2019, according to Senate analysts.

Lawmakers are also expected to build on a need-based aid expansion, which boosted the Florida Student Assistance Grant program by \$121 million and expanded coverage to some 234,824 students this year, an increase of more than 122,000 students receiving the aid.

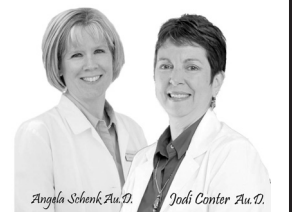
The grants, which average \$1,147 per student this year, are used on top of federally funded Pell grants, which are awarded based on family income levels.

The new legislation also would double the state's match for students in the "First Generation" grant program, which helps students with financial need who come from families where parents have not earned college degrees.

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John Selden, 1584-1654

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

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Founded by Albert M. Williamson

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

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

CODE VIOLATIONS

Cracking down on code violators

County commissioners are tired of hearing about code violators who appear to ignore every effort to get them into compliance, and they have vowed to do something about the issue.

While most folks — 94 percent of violators — will take steps to come into compliance when they receive a notice of violation, the remaining 6 percent ignore the notice and remain in violation, collecting fines that go unpaid.

This is how the county has accumulated \$9.5 million in uncollected fines for code violations.

While uncollected fines can result in a lien being placed against property, the lien is not collected until the property is sold, and even then the county will only collect after loans against the property are paid. Often, this means the county ultimately cannot collect — and some property owners know this and thus have no incentive to pay fines that are levied.

One possible method commissioners are considering to rectify this situation is creating a mechanism to place the cost of obtaining compliance on the property owner's tax bill. This has the dual benefit of putting the county higher in line to get paid when the property is sold, and also in extreme cases allowing the forced sale of the property to

collect the taxes.

Among other measures the commission is considering is shortening the time the county can require compliance to less than the current 30 days, allowing officers to

red tag and tow vehicles abandoned on county right of way and purchasing equipment to help find illegal dumpers.

All of these ideas were discussed in recent meetings and staff was instructed to come up with revisions to county code incorporating these measures.

But even as the county commission is looking at tougher measures to collect fines for non-compliance, commissioners are clear that the real objective is obtaining compliance, not collecting money.

While some of the measures being considered will be seen by some as extreme, we believe the county is on the right path by looking at ways to compel code compliance. Ignoring repeated code violations is not a reasonable option, and current methods are clearly not working.

If the county wants to obtain a higher level of compliance with county codes, there has to be an effective enforcement mechanism to deal with property owners who refuse to voluntarily comply. The current efforts appear to be a move in the right direction.

THE ISSUE:

County commission promises to get tough on code compliance.

OUR OPINION:

Extreme measures necessary for some violators.

DONATE TO UNITED WAY

I am asking all who can help to make a \$36 contribution to United Way of Citrus County during this Christmas season.

The local agency raises funds to address the top health, economic and education problems in our community.

Send your contributions to Gerry Mulligan, Citrus County Chronicle, 1624 N. Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34429 or drop it off at either of our Citrus County offices.

— Gerry Mulligan, publisher

A word about location names

This is in response to the Sound Off in Monday, Dec. 18's paper, "Allowing golf carts not being so smart." I agree about the golf carts not being so smart and having them on the highway, but "Cutler Spur," it says and "excuse me, Manatee Highway." Well, excuse me, too. It's not Manatee Highway; it's Three Sisters Springs. Get your facts together. Have a good day.

SOUND OFF
CALL 563-0579

Hot Corner: CIGARETTES

In today's Chronicle, Dec. 27, Wednesday, somebody put in a Sound Off about "You people and your nasty cigarettes."

1. It's the hardest habit in the world to break. 2. If you're smoking a cigarette, it doesn't automatically mean you're an idiot. And they say that they just moved into Crystal River, that they moved down.

Well, the road that brought them here can take them right back to where they came from.

This is in response to the Sound Off on Wednesday, Dec. 27, headed, "You people

SOUND OFF

The Chronicle compiles Hot Corners from recent, similar calls to Sound Off: 352-563-0579.

Read the guidelines at the bottom of this page.

and your nasty cigarettes." Well, smokers should have rights also and we don't have any rights. We can't smoke inside anywhere.

So if you can't stand the smoke outside, either walk away or else stay in the house or move, because it's all over.

We can't go anywhere inside and smoke. And we don't appreciate being called idiots.

There are some courteous smokers out; maybe you met one that wasn't. But concentrate on something else to gripe about other than just smelling some smoke outside.

This is to the person that was complaining about the cigarettes in Citrus County: If you don't like it, why don't you move back to where you come from? Don't come to our neighborhood and sit here and start complaining. Just go back to where you come from.

LETTERS to the Editor

Lesson learned about checking facts

Thank you, Mr. Lewis, for pointing out I re-posted fake news without fact checking. I apologize to readers. This sounded real — something the Congress would vote to give to themselves. Congress has given themselves pay raises in the past while being on the House floor for work less than a third of the year, while voting not to raise the national minimum wage.

So in this day and age of fake news from the president on down, you need to fact check every piece of news that comes out, no matter where the source.

Richard Maged
Citrus Springs

What happened to DACA?

A while back, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) was front page in the news. When was the last time you heard anything about it?

DACA was created by an executive order from President Obama — although the president has no authority over immigration as an issue, which is up to Congress, so it was illegal. As a result, numerous federal court cases arose against the order. If President Trump didn't cancel the order and courts followed the law, they would have ruled DACA residents were here illegally and were subject to deportation. President Trump prevented that and told Congress to fix it.

So why haven't the Democrats jumped on it? They have done nothing to reform immigration and protect DACA. The answer is simple: Many would consider any bill passed by Congress a Republican bill. As a result, some DACA residents may start thinking they were saved by Republicans, not Democrats and might even vote for them.

Although these individuals are not allowed to vote in federal elections, some states and municipalities, including Chicago and San Francisco, allow Green Card holders to vote. So the most frightening thing to Democrats is losing a large number of their voters. This brings us to voter fraud reform that the Democrats fear. Investigations have already shown numbers of DACA residents illegally registering and voting — for Democrats, of course.

So why haven't Democrats pushed for immigration reform? Well, we already answered that question. It's all about holding on to power through the vote. The Democrats are about maintaining power, not helping the American people.

On a side note, I find it amazing not one Democrat voted for the tax bill — not one. Do you mean to tell me the bill is so bad not one Democrat could see any good in it? Of course not — it's simply them playing party politics. No concern for this country or its people; it's all about the party and power. However, this is a huge mistake on their part. In time, when Americans see the benefits from this tax bill, they have to question the intentions of the Democrats.

Their goal isn't to make America great again; it's to

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.

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

make the Democratic Party great again. Please think about that the next time you vote.

Frank D. Lovell
Inverness

Trump's real motive for candidacy

Has it occurred to anyone but me that Donald Trump may have wanted to become president so that he could engineer changes in the law that would enrich himself? Enjoy your few dollars while Donald enjoys his \$15 million. But remember, yours is temporary, while his goes on forever.

William Collins
Inverness

Many problems, but solutions elusive

In this morning's (Dec. 22) Chronicle there are at least three references of thought as to how we have arrived where we are, and each writer expresses his/her viewpoint as to why.

One writer indicated the millennial generation is going to hell in a handbasket due to today's professors and teachers, who are forcing the liberal doctrine on our kids. Another writes that no matter how John Q. Public feels about where the parkway extension will terminate, our state legislative officials don't seem to listen or care about our opinions.

Even the Chronicle's Opinion page praises the school board for giving teachers and support staff a much-deserved pay increase. I ask, why has it taken so long? Citrus has consistently been placed within the top 10 educational districts in the state, yet we have been among the lowest paid for years. Bottom line is, because the money flows to the top. If you haven't stepped into an educational board's meeting room, do so sometime. The best of decor, highly polished mahogany head table, plush carpeting, large, comfortable chairs for each board member. They're enjoying it; we're paying for it. Meanwhile, most teachers are on their feet all day trying to control your children.

You can write, call or visit your Congressman or Senator in Washington, and praise his name for all he does, but he doesn't care about little you. He or she is getting a \$174,000 to \$183,000 annual salary, respectively, and he won't even remember your name. He will vote whichever way is most expedient for his political career. These people don't want to lose the big money that has made them all millionaires.

Term limits? Great idea, but your Congress people will not put that into a bill, because they won't cut their greedy salaries. The more years they can add on, the better the greed looks. We, the public, could generate

such a "term limits" bill to have placed on a national ballot, but evidently, it seems to be too much effort. So we will just continue at status quo.

State legislators are living high off the hog, too. Complaints from the public sector for years, but we still vote the same people back into office every election cycle. It's great that our local educators have received a 1.25 percent pay increase, but how much of their own money has been spent on their students and classrooms over their teaching careers, when our legislators have cut the state's educational budget to give tax incentives to big business? Funny, this year Gov. Scott is proposing to substantially raise educational funds in the state budget as he leaves office. Ho hum.

Dogs in stores where food is openly displayed? Another subject altogether. If we solidify to challenge the store managers as well as the health department — well, we'll see where that goes.

Richard Rose
Inverness

No 'war' except in their imaginations

I am awestruck by people who believe they are superior to others because of their religion, nationality, or race. They honestly think they and their ilk should be the only ones to exist on this planet. The funny thing is they also believe they are pious, unlike everyone else.

Every year since Bill O'Reilly (that pillar of society) told his people there was a war on Christmas, the war began. Fortunately, not by the majority. No, these are special warriors projecting this imaginary war on their religion.

They are a sanctimonious bunch. They became soldiers on the front line who would fight to the bitter end thinking what they believe in is the only belief allowed. During this season, I have heard the angry people in restaurants, in supermarkets and stores. I'm always taken aback by the anger I see and hear. A person would say "Happy Holidays" and they become enraged.

Other religions happen to have holidays to celebrate at the same time of year. To say a more generic "Happy Holidays" is to respect that there are differences. This is a season that should simply be joyous to all who celebrate, whatever their holiday means to them. We are not all the same, nor are we meant to be. What we should want to have in common is acceptance and compassion for others. That is who Jesus was: A wise, caring and forgiving man, King of the Jews.

Those who subscribe to war over semantics are not getting the needed picture. The war is not us against them. The war is them against everyone else. I wonder, WWJD?

Merry Christmas to all who celebrated the day, especially the ones who understand the meaning and desire for peace on Earth and goodwill towards men and women. I hope it was a day of family, friends, memories and joy. Peace out, from me to you.

Sheila Jacobs
Lecanto

Something sounds familiar here

With the new year coming, I have a few suggestions: Let's stop attracting tourists. We'd have less traffic and no waiting at restaurants. We don't need all the dollars they spend after all, huh? Let's make the scallops citizens of the county and close the boat ramps to all but locals. We don't need the revenue the out-of-towners are spending, huh? Let's have a moratorium on people moving here. We won't need more stores and we won't need more jobs. Maybe we could build a wall, but don't raise my taxes. Let's take a road — a heavily trafficked road, that is — and make it four lanes on both ends and two lanes in the middle. Then let's spend a half a million dollars on a feasibility study to see if we should make it four lanes all the way. Oh, forget that. That would be too dumb to consider. Let's asphalt all county roads every three years, except those in Sugarmill Woods — they should be paved in gold. Let's put them speeders down. I was going 62 mph in a 50 zone and was getting passed. More officers are needed to get them speeders, but don't increase the sheriff's budget. Let's quit picking on litterbugs. Let's just leave it where it lands. After all, most of it will biodegrade in the next 50 to 75 years. And let's open grocery stores and restaurants to all dogs. Who cares if they lick products on the shelves, mess on the floor and shed on food in open cases? The owners have rights. Let's dig deep and find more county board members who blame things on previous boards even though they've been around for awhile, and write long, disjointed editorials in the paper that don't say anything — much, you know, like this call-in.

Dogs probably better than people

This is to all the people that keep responding to the dogs not coming to the store. And, yes, I must be the mental giant that you are talking about, about the Dobermans not being aggressive animals. It depends on the person that has it. And, yes, Chihuahuas and little dogs can be just as aggressive. No, they're not going to, they don't have the strength behind them. But you know what? Like I said, if you don't like it, stay home. A dog gives more love. I think you need to read up on dogs. Maybe you should own a dog and you would find out that dogs are probably better than people. Don't call me a mental giant. Get your facts straight or get a life.

They told me it's a manpower issues

In today's (Dec. 21) Chronicle, in the letters to the editor, Mr. Glenn Perkins wrote about the "Water charges are unfair." Sir, I've also battled with the county over this issue because they did the same thing to me. And the only thing that I can find out, I can't get any answer from them except that they had a manpower failure. They don't have enough people even though they were warned two years ago that this was the time, the date was coming. The only other thing I can think of — the next step, I guess — is to send a letter to Pam Bondi's office. They did it again. They did it last year, in (2016) and now they did it again this year. So hopefully that will be the county getting a little notice from the state soon. Have a good day.

County needs a business plan

Business plans do work. It was wonderful to see the city manager of Inverness reporting his accomplishments of his business plan in the newspaper. We

see this year after year, the major progress being made. Yet our county commissioners to the county can never establish a business plan with measurable and deliverables and we see the results. The results are nothing, just more talk about things that can't be measured and they're never completed. Ron Kitchen says the business plan this year is a shortfall. Well, he was the head of the county commission the time before last and did exactly the same thing. We have nothing to look forward to.

Marine proud of his service dog

I'm a retired Marine and have a service dog. I was at the Hen House and a couple of people there thanked me and my dog for (our) service and picked up my check. Thanks from Smokey and I and have a merry Christmas.

Commissioners are out of control

The county commissioners are out of control with what they're making the people pay for water, especially Ron Kitchen. Two old people living in Sugarmill Woods take a shower, wash their dishes, maybe wash their clothes. This month's water bill was \$97.05. They have no water leaks. This is ridiculous. I would never vote for any of them except (Brian) Coleman, maybe. Have a good day.

Citizens at war with litter

Canterbury Lakes is lucky to have their own Energizer Bunny. She picks up litter from (U.S.) 41 to Croft, both sides of (County Road) 486. Now if we could get the county to do the same from Railroad Street West. There's litter, leaves, pine needles, grass growing in the gutters. Maybe in 2018.

Radio station has vanished

I just wanted to know what happened to the FM station 89.5 because we used to listen to it all the time and we can't get it now.

Socialism can't save Citrus County

Saturday's (Dec. 23 editorial), "Redevelopment," in the Opinion page, "Port Paradise redevelopment proposal gains council support." Well, let me tell you something, Gerry Mulligan: You're a socialist and Margaret Thatcher said it best, "Socialism works just fine until you run out of other people's money." Well, that's what I'm talking about. You want to use the taxpayers' money to revamp the Port Paradise so that you bring tourism in here, so you can tax the place and get the money. ... I'm sure there's plenty of other places that could use that money — fixing the roads or what-have-you. If the doctor wants to redo that, he can fix it out of his own pocket. Don't use my money.

Need to get to work

So, get off of me. Unemployment rate again, third highest in the state (Dec. 23, Page A3). Seems like Ron Kitchen, our leader, has not got that up. Watch it.

Why wait another five years?

Mr. Mulligan: I always have confidence in you and I know you love animals. You've printed a few of my requests to be in Sound Off. This is in reference to Shelter Me Citrus. They're looking in five years to raise \$2 million. We have donated my family and I — my sister and her husband, my husband and I — to the shelter. However, why do they want to wait five years to build something? To me, there's a lot of empty buildings

where they could help out. Maybe they'll be a little small, but what are they doing with the money to help our animals now? We try and do what we can for the Citrus County shelter in Inverness near the airport. We brought towels and sheets, we brought food and we intend to adopt another dog since we lost our little one. I know this is a long Sound Off, but find something. Do something with the money that has been collected instead of waiting five years. In five years there could be hundreds upon hundreds of animals that are neglected, put down and everything. It's a sad situation. What are they looking for in a building? There's plenty that can be done here. Again, please put this in. Let the directors or whatever it is in Shelter Me Citrus see that we want to help the animals, but not in five years. Do something now. It is an important thing and a good thing for our animal lovers, including my family and myself. Mr. Mulligan, you always been wonderful and I appreciate you printing many of my Sound Offs. God bless you and have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year and please put this in the paper.

Marijuana is not the answer

On Dec. 17, there was an article about the wonderful drug called marijuana. I admit it does cut into drug cartels' profits, which is a good thing and lessens criminal offenses by legalizing this crap, but that's where it ends. It is no wonder drug. If you want to smoke it, that's your problem. I'm fine with it. The real truth is and always has been, it's a stepping stone to harder drugs like heroin, opium, LSD and other drugs. Check with anybody who has ended up with a severe drug problem; it started with pot or alcohol. End of story.

Deep state is against marijuana

Sunday morning's Commentary bottom of the front page (Dec. 24), it shows all of the uses with marijuana and hemp — all of the uses, especially fuel. And you wonder why the deep state and all of their buddies will come out and try to vilify marijuana. I despise this article that says that the new law will come out that our

governor will have a new law that comes out in 2018 that will govern the rules on this marijuana project.

Dog scammers committing a federal crime

The subject is federal crime. In a recent article (it stated) there's a national epidemic of people pretending that they're disabled and it goes on to state it's a federal crime to use a state service animal to take advantage of privileges reserved for those genuinely in need of assistance of such animals. So for those folks that are pretending your dog's a service animal, taking them in the grocery stores and restaurants, you are committing a federal crime. Something you might want to

keep in mind. So hopefully it will be enforced in the near future.

Wish there were more Dobermans

Well, here we go again about the Dobermans in the store. How many times have you seen Dobermans walking around the store? The one man had a Doberman in the store, I guess as a service dog. All the times that I've been shopping, I've never seen a Doberman in a store, because I love Dobermans and I wish I could see one. I see pit bulls, I see little teeny dogs, but I've never seen a Doberman. So, yeah, if you don't want to see a Doberman, stay out of the store and go to another one or go to the other side of the store. The dog is not going to attack you, believe me. And if it's in the store, it's probably well behaved. So get off the subject of Dobermans.

Building owners not the villains

Wake up and smell the roses. The blight of all the empty buildings and strip malls is not the fault of the owners of the strip malls. It's the result of the high unemployment of the county and the county commissioners not addressing our unemployment issues. Let's not penalize owners of property for unemployment. The empty buildings, the empty strip malls and the blight caused by them is not the fault of the owners of the buildings. They invested to make money and they're not making money with empty buildings. The

cause is the high unemployment in the county — the third highest in the state of Florida. If the unemployment problem was corrected, there would not be empty buildings and strip malls. Don't let the commissioners fool you. It's their fault.

Medical corridor the solution?

I have a comment on the medical corridor. I can't understand why the commission would oppose a medical corridor every time I see that we are one of the highest, have the highest rate of unemployment — we're third in the state. The medical corridor would bring construction jobs and it would bring professional jobs for other professionals to spend their money in the county, period. It makes absolutely no sense to oppose a medical corridor on a road where there are already many existing health care facilities. The commissioners really missed it on this one and it's going to have a long-term negative impact of not having this corridor and not having these jobs.

Thank you from the Salvation Army

This is one of the Salvation Army bell ringers and I wish to thank everybody who donated to the Red Kettle and all those who said, "Merry Christmas and thank you." And we thank them all for donating for one of the best organizations there is — the Salvation Army — and doing the most good. Thank you.

The spirit of Christmas missing

I just read in today's paper (Dec. 25) somebody complaining about not getting a thank you for giving the mail carrier a gift. First of all, she got a Merry Christmas card first before she sent the gift and now she wants to have a thank you for her thank you? This is ridiculous. You give a gift not necessarily expecting a thank you for it. You give it out of your heart. If that's the least that you've got to complain about, too bad. Don't be a Scrooge.

Have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

You know, it's not about you

For the person who wrote about they're not going to leave their mail carrier any more Christmas presents because he or she didn't get a thank-you note: You're not expected, when you give something to somebody, you don't expect anything in return. It's what you feel in your heart and you should feel happy doing it. And if it helps someone, it's great, but don't ever expect a thank you. That shouldn't be your meaning for giving your carrier a Christmas gift. It's better to give than receive and if you expect a thank you for everything you do for somebody, that's not the way the Bible sees it. Your reward is how you feel in what's in your heart.

New frontiers in auto technology

I want to say I've lived in Citrus County for almost three years now and I'd like to tell many of the drivers that there's a new invention that they put on the vehicle — it's called a turn indicator. It goes down for left and up for right. Maybe you call it a blinker. But I do believe you guys need to use your turn indicator.

It's more than just a gas station!

This is in reference to the Saturday (Dec. 23) opinion in Sound Off that we "don't need a gas station there," on (U.S.) 19 in Crystal River. Wawa is much, much, much more than a gas station. It's a convenience store with everything in it that you would ever want. When we're in New Jersey, we go to Wawa every single day. Their food is amazing and their coffee. They have specialty teas and things that we can't get anywhere else in Citrus County. We need a Wawa. We want a Wawa. This person needs to go back and live in New Port Richey, if that's what they want to do, but stop bringing down our Wawa.



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The Nature Coast Volunteer Center
is hosting a
Healthy Food Drive
in honor of
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Donations will be collected **Dec. 26, 2017 through Jan. 15, 2018**

Our local food pantries often find their stock of non-perishable food items depleted after the holidays. The Nature Coast Volunteer Center and Retired & Senior Volunteer Program is holding a food drive in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr., who once asked "What are you doing for others?" Our goal is to help our local food pantries serve the citizens of Citrus County by providing nutritional food for their families.

All donations should be in cans, boxes, plastic containers or sealed packages.

Suggested donations include:

- ✓ Peanut Butter
- ✓ Whole Grain Pasta
- ✓ Pasta Sauces
- ✓ Whole Grain Oats and Cereal
- ✓ Brown Rice
- ✓ Canned Tuna & Chicken in water
- ✓ Canned Fruits in natural juices
- ✓ Canned Vegetables in water
- ✓ Canned Soup (low sodium preferred)

The public is welcome to join us from 10:00 am – Noon on Tuesday, January 16th at the Central Ridge Community Center to sort, count and pack the non-perishables that will go out to our local pantries. There will be light refreshments at the event, and you are encouraged to register ahead of time. Organizers of this special Day of Service are Nature Coast Volunteer Center, Retired & Senior Volunteer Program, and the Board of County Commissioners. For more information or to register for the event, please contact the Nature Coast Volunteer Center at (352)527-5959 or via e-mail at ncvcc@citrusbocc.com.

CITRUS COUNTY **NATURE COAST VOLUNTEER CENTER** **CHRONICLE**

CRYSTAL RIVER

- Citrus County Chronicle, 1624 N. Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River
- Citrus County Tax Collectors Office, 1540 Meadowcrest Blvd, CR
- Coastal Region Library, 8619 W. Crystal Street, Crystal River
- Homosassa Library, 4100 S. Grandmarch Avenue, Homosassa
- West Citrus Community Center, 8940 W. Veterans Dr., Homosassa

INVERNESS

- Citrus County Courthouse, 110 N. Apopka Avenue, Inverness
- Citrus County Tax Collectors Office, 210 N. Apopka, Inverness
- East Citrus Community Center, 9907 E. Gulf to Lake Hwy, Inverness
- Floral City Library, 8360 E. Orange Avenue, Floral City
- Inverness Community Center, 1082 N. Paul Drive, Inverness
- Lakes Region Library, 1511 Druid Road, Inverness

LECANTO

- Central Ridge Community Center, 77 Civic Circle, Beverly Hills
- Central Ridge Library, 425 W. Roosevelt Blvd, Beverly Hills
- Citrus Springs Community Center, 1570 W. Citrus Springs Blvd, CS
- Citrus County Extension Services, 3650 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto
- Citrus County Resource Center, 2804 W. Marc Knighton Ct., Lecanto
- Lecanto Government Building, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto

Deadly blaze in NYC

*Commissioner:
 Child playing
 with stove lit fire*

**JENNIFER PELTZ
 DAVID JEANS**
Associated Press



Associated Press

Nilda Guerrero, a friend of the superintendent of an apartment building where more than 10 people died in a fire a day earlier in the Bronx borough of New York, cries Friday after trying to visit the building. New York City's deadliest residential fire in decades was accidentally lit by a boy playing with the burners on his mother's stove, officials said Friday.

NEW YORK — A preschooler toying with the burners on his mother's stove accidentally sparked New York City's deadliest fire in decades, an inferno that quickly overtook an apartment building and blocked the main escape route, the fire commissioner said Friday.

A dozen people died, and four others were fighting for their lives a day after the flames broke out in the century-old building near the Bronx Zoo.

The 3 1/2-year-old boy, his mother and another child were able to flee their first-floor apartment. But they left the door open behind them, and it acted like a chimney that drew smoke and flames into a stairwell. From there, the fire spread throughout the five-story building, authorities said.

At least 20 people scrambled out via fire escapes on a bitterly cold night, but others could not.

"People had very little time to react," Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro said. Firefighters arrived in just over three minutes and saved some people, but "this loss is unprecedented."

Fernando Batiz said his 56-year-old sister, Maria Batiz, and her 8-month-old granddaughter also died, though the baby's mother survived.

"The smoke, I guess, overcame her. Everything happened so

quick," Batiz said. He described his sister, a home care attendant, as a selfless person who helped him when he was homeless.

"I don't know what to think. I'm still in shock," he said.

One family lost four members: Karen Stewart-Francis, her daughters, 2-year-old Kiley Francis and 7-year-old Kelly Francis, and their cousin, 19-year-old Shawntay Young, relatives said.

Stewart-Francis' husband, Holt Francis, was hospitalized, the family said.

"I don't know what to do, and I don't know how to feel," Stewart-Francis' mother, Ambrosia Stewart, told The New York Times. "Four at one time — what do I do?"

Excluding 9/11, it was the deadliest blaze in the city since 87 people were killed at a social club in

the same Bronx neighborhood in 1990. A fire in a home in another part of the Bronx killed 10 people, including nine children, in 2007.

The building had roughly 20 apartments, which were home to people from the U.S. and immigrants from the Dominican Republic and Guinea.

About 170 firefighters worked in 15-degree weather to rescue dozens of people.

Parts of the US are dealing with a deep freeze



PETER PEREORA/Standard Times

The cold snap continues Friday as a man walks on the pier alongside a frozen section of the harbor at Fort Taber Park in the south end of New Bedford, Mass. Already winter-weary parts of the Midwest and East Coast are dealing with a mounting number of weather-related headaches, from highway pileups to frozen pipes and a rash of car thefts. And there's more to come.

Gunman opens fire on Cairo church

*Shootout kills
 at least 9*

MENNA ZAKI
Associated Press



Associated Press

A policeman stands guard Friday in front of Mar Mina church, in Helwan, Cairo, Egypt, where several people were killed in a shootout outside the church.

CAIRO — A gunman on a motorcycle opened fire Friday outside a church in a Cairo suburb and at a nearby store, sparking a shootout that killed at least nine people, including eight Coptic Christians, authorities said. It was the latest attack targeting Egypt's embattled Christian minority.

The gunman was also killed, along with at least one police officer, officials said.

The local affiliate of the extremist Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack late Friday, saying it was carried out by a "security detail" and that one of its men was "martyred" in the strike. The claim was

carried by the group's Aamaq news agency.

The attack began when the gunman tried to break through the security cordon outside the Coptic Church of Mar Mina. It was not clear how many assailants were involved.

Egypt's Interior Ministry referred to only one, but the Coptic Orthodox church mentioned "gunmen."

Five people were wounded, including another police officer, Health Ministry spokesman

Khaled Megahed said.

The attack came amid tightened security around churches and Christian facilities ahead of the Coptic Orthodox Christian celebrations of Christmas on Jan. 7. Police have been stationed outside churches

and in nearby streets across Cairo. President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi has personally chaired meetings with his top security chiefs in recent days to discuss security during New Year's Eve and the Orthodox Christmas.

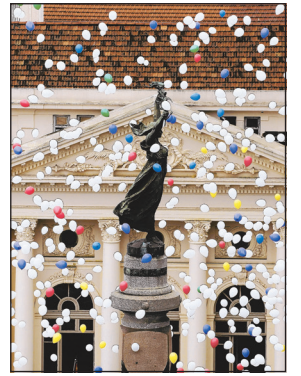
A video circulating on social media after Friday's attack apparently showed the gunman lying on the ground with his face covered in blood. Authorities closed off the area around the church.

The Interior Ministry identified the assailant as Ibrahim Ismail Mostafa, who, the agency said, was involved in several previous militant attacks. The Interior Ministry said he was wounded and arrested but made no mention of his death, which was reported by the Health Ministry.

The assailant had earlier opened fire at the nearby store owned by a Christian, the Interior Ministry said.

Nation & World BRIEFS

New Year



Associated Press

Members of Sao Paulo's Commerce Association release 50,000 balloons Friday to celebrate the New Year in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Administration aims to trim rules on offshore drilling

DALLAS — The Trump administration is proposing to rewrite or kill rules on offshore oil and gas drilling that were imposed after the deadly 2010 rig explosion and oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

The administration said the rules are an unnecessary burden on industry and rolling them back will encourage more energy production.

An offshore-drilling group is welcoming the rollback, while environmentalists say President Donald Trump is raising the risk of more deadly oil spills.

Police investigate if video game prank led to shooting death

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Police and the FBI are investigating whether an argument over an online game prompted a prank call that led to a house where an officer shot and killed a Kansas man who apparently wasn't involved in the dispute.

Police and industry officials said the death Thursday in Wichita, Kansas, may have been the result of a practice called "swatting," in which a person makes up a false report to get a SWAT team to descend on an address.

Wichita Deputy Police Chief Troy Livingston said an officer responded to a report that a father had been shot in the head and that a shooter was holding his mother, brother and sister hostage. The Wichita Eagle reported.

When police arrived at the house, a 28-year-old man who came to the front door was shot and died, Livingston said. The man hasn't been identified by police, but Lisa Finch told the newspaper that the victim was her son, Andrew Finch. She said he was unarmed and was not a gamer.

Ex-soccer star Weah elected Liberia president by wide margin

MONROVIA, Liberia — Former FIFA World Player of the Year George Weah has been elected Liberia's new president by a wide margin as the West African nation faces its first democratic transfer of power in more than 70 years.

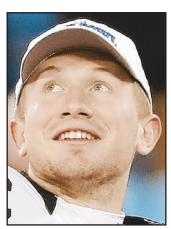
Vice President Joseph Boakai conceded on Friday, congratulating the ex-soccer star. With more than 98 percent of votes counted, Weah received 61.5 percent of the ballots while Boakai received 38.5 percent.

Africa's first female president, Nobel Peace Prize winner Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, is stepping aside after two terms at the head of the nation founded by freed American slaves.

—From wire reports

**THE NUMBER:
400**

Yards passing for Wake Forest quarterback John Wolford in Friday's 55-52 Belk Bowl victory over Texas A&M.

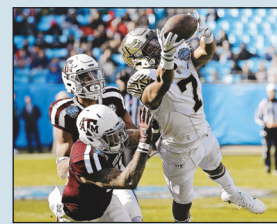


John Wolford

SPORTS

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

Section B - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2017



Wake Forest edges Texas A&M in wild Belk Bowl, 55-52./B4

- College hoops/B2
- NBA/B2
- NHL/B2
- Scoreboard/B3
- Sports briefs/B3
- Lottery, TV/B3
- College football/B4

Wisconsin, Miami find way to Orange Bowl

Both teams impacted in different ways by Irma

TIM REYNOLDS
AP sports writer

MIAMI GARDENS — The only common opponent for Wisconsin and Miami this season has no home stadium, made no bowl game and most assuredly has no fan base.

It wasn't even a football team. Hurricane Irma hit Miami, not Madison, though the devastating storm left a lasting impact on both programs. Miami was forced from its campus for more than a week because of the storm — as was Florida Atlantic, which played at Wisconsin on Sept. 8 and became the Badgers' guests for several days afterward until it was safe for the Owls to return to their storm-struck home.

So maybe it's fitting that No. 6 Wisconsin

(12-1) and No. 10 Miami (10-2) were paired for the Orange Bowl, which will be played on the Hurricanes' home field tonight.

"I think any time you're around other people and you get a chance to learn, you're appreciative of what you've got," said Wisconsin coach Paul Chryst, whose team will vie for a school-record 13th win on the season. "It was just college kids being good to other college kids. It was pretty cool."

Most of Miami's coaches and players ended up riding out Irma in Orlando, since that was the nearest spot where the Hurricanes could both escape the storm's wrath and find enough hotel space to have everyone together.

The time made Miami get closer as a team,

See **ORANGE**/Page B3

Miami head coach Mark Richt, right, speaks to the team Wednesday at practice in Davie. The Hurricanes play in the Orange Bowl tonight against Wisconsin.

Associated Press



Powerful pugilist



Special to the Chronicle

Drake Banks, right, lands a punch to the midsection of his opponent during action at the USA Boxing Elite and Youth National Championships in Salt Lake City. Banks, of Homosassa, won the title in the Youth Male 201+ pounds division.

Local boxer Drake Banks aims to make it big after national title

CHRIS BERNHARDT JR.
Staff writer

Drake Banks didn't have to wait for Santa Claus to come to town. He had himself a Merry Christmas of his own doing.

On Dec. 5-9, the 17-year-old from Homosassa was in Salt Lake City competing in the USA Boxing Elite and Youth National Championships.

On the final day, Banks won the championship bout for the Youth Male 201+ pounds division. That pushed him to the number one national ranking within the weight class.

"It was definitely satisfying in a good way to cap off the year, especially right before Christmas," Banks said. "It's almost like a Christmas gift in a way."

This was no ordinary victory for the young pugilist. As tournament champion, he garnered an invite to work at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs and a spot on the national team, meaning he'll get to compete internationally next year.

"He's basically on track to be a United States Olympian," said his father, Don Banks, owner of Citrus County Boxing Academy. "All this really is just leading up to the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. That's the goals, first of all, and then probably pro after that."

Boxing has become a Banks family affair: Don Banks used to compete in martial arts, then his eldest son, Gauge, decided to take up boxing. His daughter, Angelina, followed that lead and became a national champion back in 2010.

All the while, Drake was learning the sweet science and waiting his turn.

"He's been in the gym since he was 8 years old. So he's just grown up with it," Don Banks said. "He's gotten more experience, bigger, faster, longer than everybody else. He's kind of leading the pack at this point."

"Lot of sacrifice and a lot of hard work," Drake Banks said. "Like football and basketball or any of those high school sports, they're all seasonal.

Boxing isn't a seasonal sport. It goes all year, always. You can't take hardly any time off."

Having won the Florida State Junior Olympic Golden Gloves Championships back in 2015, the 6-foot-4, 220-pound Banks has been building toward his most recent victory.

However, the process went a bit slower than necessary. His father told him he could take a break following that Golden Gloves victory, but eventually Banks decided he'd like to take a shot at the 2016 nationals.

"We trained three months for that tournament and got up there, and there was a problem with the registration paperwork and he couldn't compete," Don Banks said. "We had raised funds for it and everything. So it was kind of heart-breaking. But we turned it into a positive."

Don Banks got in touch with John Brown, a veteran trainer who sits on the

USA Boxing board of directors and worked with former heavyweight champ and Rocky V star Tommy Morrison.

Brown met with the younger Banks, saw video and eventually paid a visit to Citrus County to make a firsthand evaluation. He saw enough to make Banks one of his protégés, flying him up to Shawnee, Kansas, for training and scheduling his tournaments.

"I've kind of passed the torch over to him as far as handling Drake," Don Banks said. "He had so many years of experience, I knew he would know by looking at my son whether the possibilities for greatness were there or not, and he said (Drake) definitely has what it takes. And we've solidified that this year with the competitions that he's won and the level of competition that he's been up against."

See **PUGILIST**/Page B3



Drake Banks of Homosassa recently won the USA Boxing Elite and Youth National Championships title in the Youth Male 201+ pounds division in Salt Lake City. Pictured after the win, from left, Angelina Banks (sister), Don Banks (father), Drake Banks, Mat Mayes (Kansas Mit and conditioning coach), John Brown (coach) and Marcus Davidson (coach and teammate).

UCF, Frost in transition

CHARLES ODUM
AP sports writer

ATLANTA — Central Florida coach Scott Frost and nine of his assistants will be full-time Nebraska employees immediately after Monday's Peach Bowl game against Auburn.

Until then, they've worked almost nonstop to make sure the Central Florida players feel no disruption in their normal routines.

Knights quarterback McKenzie Milton knows that hasn't been easy.

"I give our coaching staff a lot of credit," Milton said Friday. "They would be out till the wee hours of the night recruiting for Nebraska and then still coming to practice at 7 or 8 a.m. to help us game-plan and get ready for this bowl game."

Frost, The Associated Press coach of the year, and his assistants will finish out the season as No. 10 Central Florida (12-0) tries to complete an undefeated season against No. 7 Auburn.

Frost was hired by Nebraska, his alma mater, on Dec. 2, about two hours after the Knights beat Memphis 62-55 in two overtimes in the American Athletic Conference championship game. Frost agreed to a seven-year, \$35 million contract, and he's bringing most of his Central Florida staff to Nebraska.

Offensive coordinator Troy Walters was named interim bowl coach, giving him fill-in head coach responsibilities when Frost was needed at Nebraska this month. But Walters said Frost and the staff wanted players to feel no disruption to their normal practice routine.

"The first few days when they made the announcement, he had to fly to Nebraska, so I was around for the first three or four days right after the announcement," Walters said, adding that otherwise the staff "had not skipped a beat."

"It's really been the same as the regular season," he said. "That's what we wanted. As a staff, we wanted to coach these guys. We wanted to finish. Coach Frost wanted to finish, and we wanted to be as routine as it could be. We want familiarity. What we've done all year, that's what we're doing leading up to this game, and that gives us the best chance to win."

Former Missouri offensive coordinator Josh Heupel was announced as the Knights' new coach only three days after Frost was hired by Nebraska. Heupel will watch his new team from a private box seat at Mercedes-Benz Stadium but has not been involved in preparations for the game.

The Central Florida assistants who join Frost at Nebraska include: offensive line coach Greg Austin, tight ends coach Sean Beckton, defensive coordinator Erik Chinander, defensive line coach Mike Dawson, outside linebackers-special teams coach Jovan Dewitt,

See **TRANSITION**/Page B3

Flyers skate past Lightning

Hurricanes beat Penguins 2-1 for 4th straight win

Associated Press

TAMPA — Claude Giroux had three assists, Sean Couturier scored the go-ahead goal late in the second period and the Philadelphia Flyers beat the Tampa Bay Lightning 5-3 on Friday night.

Philadelphia also got goals from Wayne Simmonds, Shayne Gostisbehere, Brandon Manning and Valteri Filppula. Brian Elliott, making his 13th consecutive start, stopped 24 shots.

Steven Stamkos, Brayden Point and Tyler Johnson scored, and backup Peter Budaj made 29 saves over 50 minutes for the NHL-leading Lightning. They had an eight-game home winning streak end.

Budaj left midway through the third with what appeared to be a left leg injury after a collision near the net. Andrei Vasilevskiy replaced Budaj and turned aside four shots.

Hurricanes 2, Penguins 1

RALEIGH, N.C. — Sebastian Aho scored the go-ahead goal with 1:55 left in the second period and the Carolina Hurricanes earned their season-best fourth straight win by beating the Pittsburgh Penguins 2-1.

Derek Ryan had a goal earlier in



Tampa Bay center Steven Stamkos (91) celebrates his goal Friday against the Philadelphia Flyers with the bench during the first period in Tampa.

the second for Carolina, which improved to 7-0-1 in its last eight games.

Brian Dumoulin scored for the short-handed Penguins, who were down a season-high five injured players — including top goalie Matt Murray and defenseman Kris Letang.

Sabres 4, Devils 3, OT

NEWARK, N.J. — Rasmus Ristolainen scored 2:37 into overtime to give the Buffalo Sabres a 4-3 victory over New Jersey, snapping the Devils' winning streak at five games.

Ristolainen bulled his way out of the corner in the New Jersey zone to

beat Cory Schneider for his first goal of the season.

Jack Eichel scored twice, former Devil Jacob Josefson added a goal, and Robin Lehner stopped 35. Last in the Eastern Conference, the Sabres improved to 2-3-2 in their last seven games. They will head out-doors to face the New York Rangers

on Monday at Citi Field, the home of baseball's New York Mets, in the Winter Classic.

Miles Wood, Marcus Johansson and John Moore scored for New Jersey, and Schneider made 25 saves

Senators 5, Blue Jackets 4

OTTAWA, Ontario — Mark Stone and Bobby Ryan scored in the third period and the Ottawa Senators held off the Columbus Blue Jackets 5-4.

Derick Brassard, Nick Paul and Matt Duchene also scored for the Senators, and Mike Condon made 21 saves to help Ottawa snap a four-game losing streak.

Stone scored at 7:41 and Ryan at 9:21 for a two-goal advantage as the Sens broke a 3-3 tie.

Zach Werenski scored on the power play with 32 seconds left for the Blue Jackets. Sonny Milano struck twice, and Josh Anderson also scored.

Red Wings 3, Rangers 2, SO

DETROIT — Frans Nielsen scored the only goal in the shootout to lift the Detroit Red Wings over the New York Rangers 3-2.

Nielsen beat Henrik Lundqvist through the pads for his 47th career shootout goal and 21st winner, both NHL records.

Detroit goalie Jimmy Howard stopped Brady Skjei on a penalty shot in overtime and then foiled all three Rangers shooters.

Henrik Zetterberg and Andreas Athanasiou scored for the Wings, and David Desharnais and Vinni Lettieri scored for New York.

Kentucky blows out Louisville

West Va rallies for 12th straight win

Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Shai Gilgeous-Alexander came off the bench to score a career-high 24 points, PJ Washington added 16 and No. 16 Kentucky used several runs to blow out rival Louisville 90-61 on Friday in the annual showdown for Bluegrass supremacy.

Seeking to regroup after last week's 83-75 loss to unranked UCLA, the Wildcats (10-2) used a 20-6 run to close the first half. Their 24-11 surge over 8:41 built a 67-38 lead that eventually reached 32, a gap helped by 57 percent second-half shooting.

Gilgeous-Alexander finished 9 of 16 from the field to top his previous best of 15 points against Monmouth this month. Washington helped with 10 points down the stretch in the first half for a 41-27 lead that expanded as Kentucky earned its biggest series win since a 76-46 rout in the 1999-2000 season.

Playing its first rivalry game in 16 seasons without coach Rick Pitino, who was fired in October amid a federal bribery investigation of college basketball, Louisville (10-3) couldn't keep up after the early minutes. The Cardinals shot just 35 percent and had their six-game winning streak stopped. Deng Adel had 13 points.

No. 2 Michigan State 111, Cleveland State 61

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Nick Ward had 22 points and 14 rebounds, and No. 2 Michigan State rolled to a 111-61 victory over Cleveland State, the third straight game for the Spartans with over 100 points.

The Spartans led 63-25 at halftime after shooting 74 percent from the field in the opening 20 minutes — including 9 of 13 from 3-point range. Michigan State (13-1) is making short work of the weaker opponents on its schedule. The Spartans scored 107 points against Houston Baptist and 102 against Long Beach State.

Joshua Langford scored 23 points for Michigan State, and Miles Bridges added 18 with eight rebounds and seven assists.

Bobby Word scored 26 points for Cleveland State (3-10) and made seven 3-pointers.

No. 7 West Virginia 85, Oklahoma State 79

STILLWATER, Okla. — Teddy Allen scored 15 points, leading six West Virginia players in double figures as the seventh-ranked Mountaineers rallied to an 85-79 victory over Oklahoma State in the Big 12 opener for both teams.

West Virginia (12-1, 1-0 Big 12), trailed by seven early in the second half, but rode Allen, who scored 13 of his team-high points over the final 20 minutes. The Mountaineers, who won their 12th straight, got 13 points from Sagaba Konate, 12 each from Javon Carter and



Kentucky's Hamidou Diallo, left, goes up for a dunk Friday as Louisville's V.J. King looks on during the second half in Lexington, Ky. Kentucky won 90-61.

Daxter Miles Jr., 11 from Lamont West and 10 from James Bolden in a balanced scoring night.

The Cowboys (10-3, 0-1), the nation's No. 2 free throw shooting team entering the game, went just 11 of 19 from the line in the second half.

Jeffrey Carroll and Tavarius Shine scored 17 points each to lead the Cowboys.

No. 22 Texas Tech 77, No. 18 Baylor 53

LUBBOCK, Texas — Keenan Evans

scored 18 points, freshman Zhaire Smith added 15 in his Big 12 debut and No. 22 Texas Tech rolled past 18th-ranked Baylor 77-53 in the conference opener for both teams.

Jarrett Culver finished with 13 points and Niem Stevenson had 11 points and a game-high five assists for the Red Raiders (12-1, 1-0 Big 12) in the first meeting out of 135 with both of these longtime conference rivals ranked.

Mark Vital scored 12 points for the Bears (10-3, 0-1), who were missing Big 12 rebounding leader Jo Lual-Acuil because of a left foot sprain.

Nets embarrass Heat, 111-87

Associated Press

MIAMI — Joe Harris scored a career-high 21 points, Rondae Hollis-Jefferson added 18 and the Brooklyn Nets simply embarrassed the Miami Heat 111-87 on Friday night.

Caris LeVert and Jarrett Allen each had 12 for the Nets, who were actually down 18-8 early — then out-scored Miami 85-37 over the next 28 minutes. LeVert added a career-best 11 assists.

Josh Richardson scored 19 points and Hassan Whiteside added 17 for Miami.

Wizards 121, Rockets 103

WASHINGTON — Otto Porter Jr. scored 26 points, Bradley Beal and Kelly Oubre Jr. had 21 each, and the Washington Wizards beat Houston 121-103 for the high-scoring Rockets' fifth straight loss.

NBA scoring leader James Harden matched his season low with 20 points for the Rockets.

Raptors 111, Hawks 98

TORONTO — DeMar DeRozan scored 25 points, Jonas Valanciunas had 13 points and 11 rebounds, and the Toronto Raptors beat the Atlanta Hawks 111-98 for their 11th straight home win.

Taurean Prince had a career-high 30 points and 10 rebounds, but Atlanta's two-game winning streak ended.

Bulls 119, Pacers 107

CHICAGO — Rookie Lauri Markkanen scored a career-high 32 points, Nikola Mirotic added 28 and the surging Chicago Bulls beat the Indiana Pacers 119-107 for their third consecutive win.

Darren Collison scored 30 points for Indiana (19-17).

Bucks 97, Thunder 95

OKLAHOMA CITY — Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 23 points, including the questionable game-winning basket with 1.3 seconds left, and the Milwaukee Bucks ended Oklahoma City's six-game winning streak, beating the Thunder 97-95.

Replays clearly showed Antetokounmpo stepped out of bounds on his drive, but officials Derek Stafford, Ben Taylor and Leon Wood refused to review the play.

Russell Westbrook led Oklahoma City with 40 points, 14 rebounds and nine assists.

Mavericks 128, Pelicans 120

NEW ORLEANS — Dennis Smith Jr. had his first career triple-double and the Dallas Mavericks made a franchise-record 22 3-pointers in a 128-120 victory over the New Orleans Pelicans.



Miami's Kelly Olynyk (9) drives to the basket Friday as Brooklyn's DeMarre Carroll defends during the first half in Miami. The Nets routed the Heat 111-87.

BASKETBALL

NBA standings

Table with columns for Eastern Conference (Atlantic, Southeast, Central) and Western Conference (Southwest, Northwest, Pacific) divisions, listing teams, wins, losses, and percentages.

Florida LOTTERY

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

Table showing winning numbers for PICK 2, PICK 3, PICK 4, PICK 5, FANTASY 5, LUCKY MONEY, LUCKY BALL, MEGA MILLIONS, and MEGA BALL.

Thursday's winning numbers and payouts: Fantasy 5: 3 - 6 - 7 - 27 - 33

Table showing Fantasy 5 results with columns for winning numbers, number of winners, and prize amounts.

On the AIRWAVES

TODAY'S SPORTS

Table listing today's sports events including College Basketball (7 a.m. to 10 p.m.) and NBA (7 p.m. to 10 p.m.) games.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Table listing college football games including TaxSlayer Bowl, AutoZone Liberty Bowl, and others.

PREMIER LEAGUE SOCCER

Table listing Premier League soccer games such as Liverpool FC vs Leicester City FC.

TENNIS

Table listing tennis matches including ATP and WTA events.

Note: Times and channels are subject to change at the discretion of the network. If you are unable to locate a game on the listed channel, please contact your cable provider.

Prep CALENDAR

TODAY'S PREP SPORTS

Table listing today's prep sports including boys and girls basketball tournaments.

Table listing prep sports events for Thursday, Dec. 28, including Orange Bowl, Peach Bowl, Citrus Bowl, and others.

HOCKEY

NHL standings

Table showing NHL standings for Eastern Conference (Atlantic, Metropolitan) and Western Conference (Central, Pacific) divisions.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Dolphins' Tunsil doubtful with ankle injury

DAVIE — Miami Dolphins left tackle Laremy Tunsil is doubtful for Sunday's game against Buffalo because of an ankle injury.

Reliever Davis, Rockies agree to 3-year deal

DENVER — The Colorado Rockies added a significant piece to what's becoming a formidable and high-priced bullpen by agreeing to a three-year, \$52 million contract with All-Star reliever Wade Davis.

Bielema buyout document says he gets \$15.4M

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — The buyout for fired Arkansas football coach Bret Bielema's contract has been set at \$15.4 million.

PUGILIST

Continued from Page B1

"We're looking to produce a heavy-weight icon for American, not just a heavyweight champion. Somebody that the people can get behind, somebody that can work with kids, somebody that people can look up to."

ORANGE

Continued from Page B1

Thomas Brown was on Chryst's staff at Wisconsin — briefly. Chryst was hired in December 2014 and initially retained Brown, who ended up leaving in February 2015 to join Richt at Georgia.

TRANSITION

Continued from Page B1

defensive backs coach Travis Fisher, running backs coach Ryan Held, quarterbacks coach Mario Verduzco and Walters, the offensive coordinator.

RARE TRIP

Wisconsin is the fifth Big Ten school to appear in the Orange Bowl. Teams from that conference are 4-4 in eight previous appearances, the last win being Iowa's 24-14 victory over Georgia Tech in 2009.

SEEKING 13

Granted, teams for decades didn't play as many games as teams do now — but Wisconsin still has a shot at a Big Ten rarity. The Badgers could become the fifth team in conference history to win at least 13 games, joining Ohio State (14 in 2014), Michigan State (13 in 2013), Ohio State (14 in 2002) and Minnesota (13 in 1904).

TIES THAT BIND

Miami offensive coordinator

BACK IN ORANGE

Miami is in the Orange Bowl for the 10th time, going 6-3 in its previous appearances. The last came to end the 2003 season, when the Hurricanes topped Florida State 16-14.

PLAYOFF IN 2018

Wisconsin and Miami would be well-served to strive for a return appearance in the Orange Bowl next season, since it'll again be one of the two College Football Playoff semifinal games.

TRANSITION

Continued from Page B1

decision to stay with the Knights through the bowl game was no surprise. "I know Scott and the kind of person that he is so it doesn't surprise me that he wanted to finish what he started, and not for himself but for the guys on the team," Steele said.

Wake Forest tops Texas A&M in Belk, 55-52

*NC State whips
Ariz. St. in Sun Bowl*

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — John Wolford threw for 400 yards and four touchdowns, and Matt Colburn ran for 150 yards and the go-ahead score in Wake Forest's 55-52 victory over Texas A&M on Friday in the Belk Bowl.

The teams combined for 1,260 yards and 107 points, making it one of the highest-scoring games in bowl history.

Wolford, a four-year starter and the game's Most Valuable Player, threw all four TD passes in the first half for Wake Forest (8-5). Colburn had a 1-yard touchdown with 2:18 left in the game to give the Demon Deacons the lead.

Wake Forest stopped the Aggies on downs on their final drive to seal the win, which was no easy task given Texas A&M's potent offense. Texas A&M's Nick Starkel threw for a Belk Bowl-record 499 yards and four touchdowns — three of those to wide receiver Christian Kirk, who caught 13 passes for 189 yards.

Scotty Washington had nine catches for 138 yards and a touchdown for the Demon Deacons, while tight end Cam Serigne had nine catches for 112 yards and a score. Tabari Hines had eight receptions for 58 yards and two touchdowns.

Wake Forest spotted Texas A&M (7-6) a 14-point first quarter lead following a pair of special teams miscues, but rattled off 31 straight points in a span of 11 minutes, 16 seconds to take a 31-14 lead.

But Texas A&M battled back to take the lead late in the third quarter.

The Aggies turned two blocked punts in the game's first five minutes into a 14-0 lead.

DeShawn Capers-Smith smothered Wake Forest's first punt attempt and Charles Oliver recovered in the end zone for a touchdown. On Wake Forest's next possession, Roshaud Paul partially blocked a punt that advanced just 19 yards. Starkel then completed a 42-yard strike to Kirk to set up a 2-yard touchdown run by Trayveon Williams.

But Wake Forest bounced right back as Wolford completed TD passes of 50 yards to an open Washington along the left

sideline and 7-yarder to Harris on a slant route to tie the game midway through the first quarter. The second score came after Texas A&M ran into the kicker on a missed field goal attempt, giving the Demon Deacons an automatic first down.

North Carolina State 52, Arizona State 31

EL PASO, Texas — Nyheim Hines had three 5-yard touchdown runs to help North Carolina State beat Arizona State 52-31 in the Sun Bowl.

Hines finished with 72 yards on 16 carries for North Carolina State (9-4). The Wolfpack played in their fourth consecutive bowl game and sixth in seven years under coach David Doeren.

Reggie Gallaspy added 79 yards and two touchdowns on 12 carries for the Wolfpack, Ryan Finley completed 24 of 29 passes for 318 yards and a score, and Stephen Louis had three catches for 115 yards.

Arizona State (7-6) played its final game under fired coach Todd Graham, with former NFL coach Herm Edwards taking over the program.

Manny Wilkins was 25 of 40 for 352 yards and three touchdowns for the Sun Devils. He also threw three interceptions. Arizona State won its previous three Sun Bowl appearances — in 1997, 2004 and 2014.

New Mexico State 26, Utah State 20, OT

TUCSON, Ariz. — Larry Rose III scored on a 21-yard run in overtime and New Mexico State won in its first bowl game in 57 years, beating Utah State 26-20 in the Arizona Bowl.

Utah State (6-7) had the ball first in overtime and Dominik Eberle hit the right upright on a 29-yard field goal, sending a groan through the Utah State crowd. Eberle made 16 for 18 field goals during the regular season, but missed three in the Arizona Bowl.

New Mexico State (7-6) ran two plays in overtime, with Jones bursting through a hole on the left side of the line to send the Aggies and their fans rushing onto the Arizona Stadium field. Jones finished with 142 yards on 16 carries.

Utah State's Savon Scarver returned a kickoff 96 yards for a touchdown in the first quarter, then New Mexico State's Jason Huntley took the ensuing kickoff 100 yards for a score.



Wake Forest's Scotty Washington (7) catches a pass Friday as Texas A&M's Larry Pryor (11) and Myles Jones (10) defend during the first half of the Belk Bowl in Charlotte, N.C. Wake Forest won a wild 55-52 contest.

Buckeyes dominate first half of Cotton Bowl



Ohio State defensive lineman Tyquan Lewis (59) closes in Friday night on Southern California quarterback Sam Darnold (14) during the first half of the Cotton Bowl in Arlington, Texas. The Buckeyes led 24-7 at halftime.

Northwestern edges Kentucky in Music City Bowl

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Justin Jackson ran for 157 yards and two touchdowns, and No. 20 Northwestern held off Kentucky 24-23 on Friday in a Music City Bowl that might be remembered more for injuries, ejections and a wild finish.

Both starting quarterbacks left in the first half with injuries, though Kentucky's Stephen Johnson returned early in the third quarter. Kentucky lost running back Benny Snell Jr. to an ejection for contact with an official early in the second quarter, and Northwestern lost leading tackler and linebacker Paddy Fisher before halftime when he was ejected for targeting.

Northwestern (10-4) still finished off back-to-back bowl wins in consecutive years for the first time in program history, and the Wildcats notched their second 10-win season in three years under coach Pat Fitzgerald.

Kentucky (7-6) had a chance to win after Northwestern coach Pat Fitzgerald tried to convert his fifth fourth down of the game only to turn it over for the fourth time on downs — this time at his own 39 with 2:31 left. Johnson ran for his second touchdown of the second half with 37 seconds left. Kentucky coach Mark Stoops went for the 2-point conversion rather than play for overtime, but Johnson couldn't connect with Tavin Richardson on the pass.

Late Thursday

Michigan St. 42, Washington St. 17

SAN DIEGO — Brian Lewerke threw for 213 yards and three touchdowns, and LJ Scott ran for 110 yards and two scores for No. 18 Michigan State, which took advantage of Luke Falk's absence to rout No. 21 Washington State 42-17 in the Holiday Bowl on Thursday night.

Lewerke also rushed for 73 yards for Michigan State (10-3), which rebounded from a dismal 3-9 record last year to reach double digits in wins for the eighth time in program history.



Northwestern running back Jeremy Larkin runs the ball Friday against Kentucky in the first half of the Music City Bowl in Nashville, Tenn.



Nancy Kennedy
GRACE NOTES

'All prayer... becomes praise'

Editor's note: This column is adapted from Nancy Kennedy's book, "Praying With Women of the Bible," which is no longer in print.

A number of years ago, amid the mice and filth of a Taliban prison in Afghanistan, two ordinary American young women wrote and sang praise songs to the Lord.

Missionaries Dayna Curry and Heather Mercer didn't know their fate at the hands of their captors. Even so, in the midst of their uncertain future, they found reason to pray rejoicing. They took comfort in recalling the biblical accounts of King David and of Job, both of whom wrestled with God because of their difficult circumstances, yet ultimately surrendered with praise to the Almighty.

"Even if we'd died in prison, even if the Taliban had killed us, God would still be good," said Heather. "God would still be who he says he is."

In "Prayers of the Heart," author Eugene Peterson writes, "All prayer finally, in one way or another, becomes praise. No matter how much we suffer, no matter our doubts everything finds its way into praise, the final consummating prayer."

He adds, "Not to say that other prayers are inferior to praise, only that prayer, pursued far enough, becomes praise." It's human nature for our prayers to begin with cries for mercy, comfort, help. We pray in our pain and our need. We pray in the midst of our sin. We plead for wisdom and strength and beg for peace in our confusion.

It's easy to praise the Lord when all is well. When you're in love, when you're healthy and strong. When you enjoy your work, when the baby sleeps through the night and your 8-year-old finally puts his toys away and makes his bed without being told.

When you pray that the sun will shine for your planned picnic and it does you praise the Lord. When you find a \$100 error in your checkbook in your favor you praise the Lord.

We praise the Lord for all sorts of good things, as we should, but what about the gray days and the black nights? What about the spot on your liver and the termites in your attic? What about when you're out of food and out of money, out of breath and out of control? When the checks bounce and the sheriff leads your husband away in handcuffs, when your unmarried teenage daughter says she's pregnant, what prompts your praise then?

When your world falls apart, is it even possible to praise the Lord?

Paradise by proxy



Helen Radkey works at her home Monday, Nov. 6, in Holladay, Utah. Mormons are posthumously baptizing Holocaust victims, as well as grandparents of public figures like Donald Trump, Hillary Clinton and Steven Spielberg, despite church rules intended to restrict the ceremonies to a member's ancestors, according to Radkey, who has spent two decades monitoring the church's massive genealogical database.

Associated Press

Mormon baptisms of Holocaust victims draw ire

BRADY MCCOMBS
 Associated Press

Mormons are posthumously baptizing Holocaust victims as well as grandparents of public figures like Donald Trump, Hillary Clinton and Steven Spielberg, despite church rules intended to restrict the ceremonies to a member's ancestors, according to a researcher who has spent two decades monitoring the church's massive genealogical database.

The discoveries made by former Mormon Helen Radkey and shared with The Associated Press likely will bring new scrutiny to a deeply misunderstood practice that has become a sensitive issue for the church. The church, in a statement, acknowledged the ceremonies violated its policy and said they would be invalidated, while also noting its created safeguards in recent years to improve compliance.

Proxy baptisms are tied to a core church teaching that families spend eternity together, but the baptisms do not automatically convert dead people to Mormonism. Under church teachings, the rituals provide the deceased a choice in the afterlife to accept or reject the offer of baptism.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the only major religion that baptizes the dead, and the ritual has contributed to struggles by the faith to combat the mischaracterization of its beliefs.

The church's stance on family and the afterlife is behind a massive collection of genealogical records the Utah-based church compiles from around the world and makes available to the public through its website www.familysearch.org. Proxy baptisms are recorded in a password-protected part of the database accessible only to church members.

The ceremonies first drew public attention in the 1990s when it was discovered they were performed on a few hundred thousand Holocaust victims, which Jewish leaders condemned as grossly insensitive.

The posthumous baptizing of Holocaust victims reopens Jewish wounds from being forced in the past to convert to Christianity or face death or deportation, Jewish genealogist Gary Mokotoff said.

"The more she digs, the more she uncovers," Mokotoff said. "It's not like a chance circumstance."

After discussions with Mokotoff and other Jewish leaders, the LDS church in 1995 established a rule barring baptisms of Holocaust victims except in rare cases where they are direct ancestors. It also bars proxy baptisms on celebrities.

But periodic controversies erupted when new proxy baptisms were found listed in the church's genealogical database, including Radkey's 2012 discovery of one performed

on Anne Frank. The church apologized then, sent a letter to members reiterating its guidelines and announced the creation of a firewall aimed at preventing the inappropriate use of proxy baptisms.

"The church cares deeply about ensuring these standards are maintained," spokesman Eric Hawkins said in the latest statement.

In recent years, it has implemented additional safeguards, including adding four full-time staffers who watch the database and block baptisms on restricted names, he said. That includes a list of Holocaust victims sent each month by a Jewish human rights organization in Los Angeles.

Ryan Cragun, an associate professor of sociology who studies Mormonism at the University of Tampa, said Mormons are striving to baptize everyone who has ever lived to help get non-Mormons out of "spirit prison" in the afterlife and receive exaltation.

One reason for performing the ritual on

At a conference this year, top LDS leaders stressed the importance of proxy baptisms — saying God wants all his children "home again, in families and in glory" — and encouraged young members to get involved. The church has nearly 16 million members worldwide.



Temple Square at Salt Lake Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Holocaust victims is that their names are easy to find in government records, which creates an efficient way to quickly baptize more people, said Cragun, who was raised Mormon but no longer belongs to the church.

The baptisms of public figures are likely based on two factors, he added. First, people naturally think about celebrities more often because they see them on TV and in movies or hear them on the radio. Secondly, Mormons are similar to other social groups in that they like to claim famous people as their own.

Radkey, who left the LDS church in the mid-1970s and was later excommunicated after publicly criticizing it, was blocked

from the part of the database that shows the baptisms until recently getting a login from a Mormon friend. The suburban Salt Lake City woman has dedicated countless hours to researching proxy baptisms because she believes people's religious preferences should be respected even after they're dead.

Printouts and screenshots of Radkey's latest research show that in the past five years, proxy baptisms were performed on at least 20 Holocaust victims.

They also were performed on Humphrey Bogart and Marilyn Monroe; the mother of Queen Elizabeth II; and grandparents of Kim Kardashian and Carrie Fisher and U.S. politicians Joe Biden, John McCain and Mike Pence.

Radkey said she found no evidence of ancestral ties to Mormons.

Mokotoff said Radkey's findings show the church isn't doing enough to police the practice.

But Rabbi Gary Greenebaum, the former national director of interreligious affairs at the American Jewish Committee, said he's seen firsthand that the church takes seriously preventing Holocaust baptisms and said leaders are acting in good faith to honor the agreement.

Greenebaum was brought on by the church to help remedy the issue about seven years ago and receives monthly reports from the database team about potential Holocaust baptism attempts. He estimates they stop five to 12 attempts each month. That fact that only 20 slipped through in a five-year period is a testament to how much money, time and effort the church has devoted to upgrading its computing systems to detect and block unauthorized baptisms.

"I'd like to own the baseball team that batted that well," Greenebaum said. "They're seriously doing their work."

There also was a new attempt to baptize the L.A. Jewish organization's namesake, Holocaust survivor and "Nazi hunter" Simon Wiesenthal, which LDS officials flagged as needing permission.

That type of flagging means a baptism is blocked until the person seeking to perform it can prove a direct familial relationship, Hawkins said. It shows the safeguards are working, he said.

Hawkins added that while some suggest certain names should be deleted from the database, church officials need them there so they can monitor for unauthorized baptisms.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center previously asked that Wiesenthal, who died in 2005, be removed from the database, said Rabbi Marvin Hier, its founder and dean. Hier said he plans to send a letter to Mormon officials asking that his name be removed again.

RELIGION NOTES

SALE AWAY

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in Beverly Hills will have its monthly outdoor flea market from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 6, on the church property at 6 Roosevelt Blvd. Shoppers are welcome. Commercial vendors and private individuals are welcome to bring and sell goods. Spaces are available for \$10 and should be reserved in advance. Coffee, sodas, doughnuts and hot dogs are available for breakfast and lunch. For more information or to reserve a space, call Rose Mary at 352-527-6459 or email wjeselso@tampabay.rr.com.

First Presbyterian Church of Inverness will host its annual "Trash and Treasure Sale" from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, Jan. 12, and 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 13. Find bargains on hundreds of items, including furniture, electronics, sporting goods, small kitchen appliances, dishes, glassware, decorations and more. All proceeds from the sale, and any unsold items, will be donated to charitable organizations. The church is at 206 Washington Ave., Inverness.

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 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. For more information, call 352-447-2731.

FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

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 at 352-795-2176. St. Timothy Lutheran Church is at 1070 N. Suncoast Blvd., Crystal River. For more information, visit www.sttimothyhutheranriver.com or call 352-795-5325.

MUSIC & MORE

On Sunday, Jan. 14, at 3 p.m., the Dunnellon Presbyterian Concert Series welcomes Christine Jones, who will present her program, "Schumann to Summertime," accompanied by GayLyn Capitano. Jones, a mezzo soprano, will sing selections from traditional German Lieder, Verdi's "Aida," Puccini's "Turandot," Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess," and more from the American musical theater. Jones spends much of her year singing throughout Europe.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church continues its Winter Music Series schedule:

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. Concerts are sponsored by the Citrus County Chronicle.

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.sttimothyhutheranriver.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.

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!!!



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 Homosassa, 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.

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.

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: 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)563-1577.

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.

First United Methodist Church OF HOMOSASSA. 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. Homosassa, FL 352-628-4083. Learn More at 1umc.org.

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.

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 5:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study 5:00 p.m. Michael Shingledecker, Minister.

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.

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 1/4 mile South of West Cardinal St., Homosassa 628-7000.

Apostolic Family Life Center. "Loving God, Loving People". WORSHIP SERVICES Sunday 10:00am & 6:00pm. BIBLE STUDY Wednesday 7:00pm. 3 W. Lemon St., Beverly Hills (352) 400-4916. Minister: Rev. Darrel K. Zehm. www.ApostolicFamilyLifeCenter.org.

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.

First Presbyterian Church (USA). Pastor Ron Pfeifer.

NOTES

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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.

■ The Ladies Auxiliary Knights of Columbus Council 6168 will hold a "Bunco Bonanza" on Tuesday, Feb. 13, at the K of C Hall, 2389 W. Norvell Bryant Highway (County Road 486), Lecanto. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. Two levels of play will be featured: a competitive level for seasoned players, and a social level for beginners, as well as persons with physical challenges. The \$12 ticket includes a light lunch. Door, raffle and cash prizes will be awarded. Reservations must be made in advance by calling Pearl at 352-637-5395, or Char at 352-749-9490. Funds raised will benefit the Auxiliary Scholarship Fund and charitable organizations in the community. Make checks payable to K of C Ladies Auxiliary.

■ 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 jackpot 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

■ The Inverness Seventh-Day Adventist Church is having a free "Bible End-Time Hope Prophecy Seminar" with free admission, free nightly giveaways, a free nursery for ages 0-3, and a free Bible school children's program for age 4-12. The church is at 638 S. Eden Gardens Ave., Inverness. The opening meeting is at 6:30 p.m. Friday. Seminar sessions will continue at 6:30 p.m. Saturday through Tuesday, Jan. 6-9, and then throughout the month. Call the church at 352-726-9311 for the complete schedule. Everybody is welcome.

■ The United Church of Christ at The Villages, 12514 County Road 101 in Oxford, will host an ABC of Dementia workshop from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 19. The event will be free and open to the public. The workshop, to be conducted by Debbie Selsavage, president of Coping with Dementia LLC, will define Alzheimer's and dementia, explain how dementia affects individuals, discuss ways to interpret dementia behaviors for better communication and results, and show how compassion and the proper use voice, approach, and appropriate touch can result in more effective and less stressful caregiving. Registration is requested so the host will be prepared with adequate space and educational handouts. To RSVP, call 352-422-3663 or email deb@coping.today, or leave a message at 352-748-9199.

■ The Community of Catholic Women of Our Lady of Grace Church will host the annual "Tricky Tray" fundraiser on Saturday,

Jan. 20, in the Parish Life Center at 6 Roosevelt Blvd., Beverly Hills. Doors open at 10 a.m. to browse and enter tickets; drawings begin at 11:30 a.m. This popular and fun event is in its second decade and features beautiful baskets with contents of retail value greater than \$25; raffles and money trees. The variety always delights with dining coupons, golf packages, personal gifts, art objects, event tickets, gift cards and practical household items. Purchase sheets of 25 tickets for \$5 and deposit a numbered ticket near items for a chance to win. Ticket tenders are available at no charge for those unable to stay for the drawing but who wish to participate. For information or to make a donation, call Tina Wojciechowski at 352-249-7127. The CCW provides members an opportunity for spiritual growth, friendship and service to the church and community. New-member information will be available at the event.

■ 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-hour 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 winter semester of "Life-long 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 bimonthly "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. Christian women of all ages and denominations are encouraged to participate. For more information, call Rhonda at 352-795-6282 or Carol at 352-601-4816.

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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

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. 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.

St. Timothy Lutheran Church ELCA

Saturday Informal Worship w/Communion - 4:00 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.sttimothy.lutheran.crystalriver.com
Rev. Joan E. Holden

INVERNESS CHURCH OF GOD

V. David Lucas Jr. - Lead Pastor

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

"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.gracebcinverness.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.

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 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
Children's Special Time With God
9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

YOUTH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Kids Central)
WED: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

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

Home of the Saturday Nite Gospel Jubilee
No Jubilee in December
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

NOTES

Continued from Page C3

■ 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 to attend and enjoy Christian fellowship.

■ 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.

■ Dr. Steve Northsea facilitates a Bible study discussing the Letters of Paul in conjunction with Martin Luther's interpretation at 9 a.m. Sundays at Hope Lutheran Church, 9425 N. Citrus Springs Blvd., Citrus Springs. Visitors are welcome. For more information, call the church at 352-489-5511 Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. or go to hopelutheranelca.com.

■ An adult Bible study and Christian information class is offered at 6 p.m. Thursdays at Peace Lutheran Church, 7201 U.S. 41 S., four miles north of Dunnellon. This class, led by the Rev. Terry L. McKee, is designed to impart knowledge of God's Word in a congenial setting of Christian fellowship. Whether you are a new Christian or have been a believer for many years, you are invited to attend. Your level of participation is up to you. This is a place to learn about the basics of Christianity with no obligation and no class fee. Register at the church.

■ Teen GIFT (Gathering In Faith Together) at First Baptist Church of Hernando is a youth Bible study committed to help teens further their knowledge and passion for Christ. Join us for fellowship and to learn God's word. Meetings are from 6 to 7:30 p.m. the second and fourth Fridays monthly in the fellowship hall at the church, 3790 E. Parsons Point Road, Hernando (across the street from the post office). For more information, call 352-860-2861.

■ Unlike other synagogues, the Temple Beth David YAD Program offers families that are remote from a synagogue, the opportunity to participate fully in its offerings. The Temple Beth David YAD Program connects remote Jewish individuals and families with its synagogue. With the application of the unique video conference program, participants can view services live and participate. Other opportunities are available to connect with other members of the congregation. For those interested in the YAD program, and more details as to how and what

Jewish services will be provided, contact Reb Tuviah at the Temple office at 352-686-7034.

SUPPORT GROUPS

■ A "Grief Recovery" program will be presented by Cathy Heaps, a licensed mental health counselor and certified grief specialist 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 welcome to participate.

■ Celebrate Recovery is for people with hurts, hang-ups or habits. Celebrate Recovery is changed lives/changing lives. All are welcome. Babysitting is provided. There is also Celebration Station for young children and The Landings for teenagers. Join us at 6 p.m. Thursdays for dinner (\$3), worship and lessons at 7 p.m. and small share groups at 8 p.m. and dessert and fellowship at 9 p.m. at Seven Rivers Presbyterian Church, 4221 W. Gulf-to-Lake Highway, Lecanto. Call Paul Manuel at 786-352-1552 or Ron Press at 727-501-6109.

■ Crystal River First Presbyterian Church offers Celebrate Recovery groups at 6 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. The church is at 1501 SE U.S. 19. For more information, call 352-795-2259.

■ Riverland Baptist Church offers a faith-based recovery program at 7 p.m. Fridays. Reformers Unanimous (RU) is one of the fastest-growing, Christ-centered programs designed to rescue, recover and restore those in addictive behaviors. RU programs offer a multiple system of individual and family support led by well-trained local leadership staff.

There is no charge to attend the meetings. The church is north of State Road 40 on U.S. 41 across the railroad tracks. For more information, call the church office at 352-489-6171.

■ The message of Narcotics Anonymous is that any addict can stop using, lose the desire to use and find a new way of life. In fellowship, we give one another hope and the promise of freedom. Sumter County has a NA group called Genesis. Genesis meets from 7 to 8 p.m. Saturdays at Wahoo Baptist Church, 4517 County Road 319, just off C.R. 48 in the big Wahoo curve in Bushnell (just a short distance from Floral City). For more information, call Bo or Nicole at 352-446-0803.

■ "Walking The 12 Steps With Jesus Christ" meetings are at 7 p.m. Mondays at Living Water Ministries, 4 Beverly Hills Blvd., Beverly Hills. Meetings are for all addictions and compulsions (alcohol, anger, gambling, abuse, nicotine, overeating, drug, Internet, Facebook, codependency, etc.) The facilitator is Frank McMillan. Call 352-270-8886 for more information and registration.

■ Griefshare is a support group for those who have suffered a loss in their lives. The grieving process can be difficult for many and having a group to share with is important and helpful. Griefshare meets from 10 a.m. to noon Tuesdays at North Oak Baptist Church, 9324 N. Elkcam Blvd., Citrus Springs. Everyone is welcome. Call 352-489-1688 for more information.

■ A GriefShare grief workshop and support group meets from 1 to 3 p.m. Tuesdays at Gulf to Lake Baptist Church at 1454 N. Gulf Ave. in Crystal River (off State Road 44, 1/2 mile east of Publix). The group is open to anyone who has lost a loved one. GriefShare is Bible based and features videos of nationally recognized experts on grief topics. For more information, call Chuck or Annie Hoffman at 352-563-6410 or visit www.gulftolake.com/griefshare.

■ The "Beyond Grief" support

group meets from 2 to 3 p.m. Wednesdays at Unity of Citrus, 2628 W. Woodview Lane, Lecanto. The group provides a safe, supportive, spiritual environment for anyone wishing to understand, find solace and hope while meeting the challenges of loss. The ultimate goal is to help those experiencing grief find life's purpose and happiness again. For more information, call Jim at 352-201-2656 or email dajish0826@gmail.com or jmcd826@wahoo.com.

■ All widows in the community are invited to join the Widows Ministry Group from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays at Cornerstone Baptist Church, 1100 W. Highland Blvd., Inverness. For information, call Darla at 352-270-8115.

■ Celebrate Recovery meets at 6 p.m. Fridays at Crystal River United Methodist Church, 4801 Citrus Ave., Crystal River. For more information, call 352-795-3148.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ FFRA (Family and Friends Reaching for the Abilities), a support group for the developmentally disabled, has monthly meetings and arts and crafts classes at the New Horizon Village at 1275 N. Rainbow Loop in Lecanto. FFRA meets in the Learning Center/Cafeteria on the third Friday monthly (except July). At most meetings, there is a guest speaker who addresses topics and issues pertaining to clients, caregivers and friends of families that have a cognitive issue. Monthly meetings consist of up-to-date information regarding government rulings and benefits relevant to clients' local benefits and service information, various local support groups in the area, and health, welfare, safety and many other issues. For more information regarding FFRA, call Dave Deso, President at 352-634-2528, or go online to www.fractitus.org.

■ The Divine Mercy Prayer Group, Inc., has a devotional chapel at 938 N. Suncoast Blvd., South

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!!!



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

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

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

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

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 Predica
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

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

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

HERNANDO United Methodist Church
Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors
"A Safe Sanctuary for Children and Families"
2125 E. Norvell Bryant Hwy. (486) (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.

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 (410 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
Dr. Jon Groves, Pastor 352-465-8866
5040 N Shady Acres Dr. 726-9719
Highway 41 North, turn at Sportsman Pt.
Email: victorybaptistinverness@gmail.com
www.victorybaptistinverness.com

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 PM Contemporary
Current Sermon Series
Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph
New Year's Eve Worship
One Service @ 10:30 AM
Divinely Unique Thrift Store
Weds Thru Friday 9AM - 4 PM
Sat. 9 AM - 1 PM
CELEBRATE RECOVERY
Friday nights @ 6 PM

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

NOTES

Continued from Page C4

Square, Crystal River (across from Airport Plaza) under the name Roman Catholics for Tradition and Chapel of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary. Schedule: A Tridentine Latin Mass with Confession, Rosary, and Chapel of Mercy is at 2 p.m. the first Friday monthly with a Latin Mass offered by BP/Fr. Louis Montelongo at 4 p.m. Devotional prayers for the chapel are at 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday (with lunch break from noon to 1 p.m.) and 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays. For more information, call Reyna at 352-277-9632 or the chapel at 352-564-1415.

■ ACCESS is a Florida state government program that manages distribution of public assistance of food, temporary cash, medical aid and refugee services for eligible families and individuals. St. John the Baptist

Catholic Church, at 7525 U.S. 41 in Dunnellon, now has volunteers who can assist those interested in applying for this program. Assistance is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. For more information, call 352-489-3166.

■ St. Timothy Lutheran Church distributes food the second and fourth Tuesdays monthly at First Presbyterian Church in Crystal River. This is a joint venture with First Presbyterian Church. For more information call 352-795-2259. St. Timothy Lutheran Church and the Healthy Start Program helps new mothers and their babies in Citrus County. The church has been supporting this program since 1994, donating kits filled with baby care products and is the only church in the county providing this level of ongoing support to the Healthy Start Program. If you are interested in donating or know someone who is in need of a kit, call the church office at 352-795-5325. The church is at 1070 N. Suncoast Blvd., Crystal River.

■ There is a Bible club for kids K3 through fifth grade from 4 to 6 p.m. Sundays at North Oak Baptist Church, 9324 N. Elkcam Blvd., Citrus Springs.

■ Missing the good-old days of singing from the hymnbook, great piano and organ music and expository preaching? North Oak Baptist Church offers a "Retro" service at 6 p.m. Sundays. Everyone is welcome, even if you attend a different church on Sunday mornings. The church is at the intersection of North Elkcam Boulevard and North Citrus Springs Boulevard in Citrus Springs. Call 352-489-1688 for more information.

INVITATIONS ISSUED

■ "Coffee with Christ" is a worship service Crystal River First Presbyterian Church offers in the casual setting of its fellowship hall at 9 a.m. Sundays featuring a live band, contemporary, upbeat music and refreshments and a Bible-based, meaningful message. Bring your

coffee, bring your friends and join us. The church is at 1501 SE U.S. 19, Crystal River. For more information, call 352-795-2259.

■ Beverly Hills Bible Church, 86 Civic Circle in Beverly Hills, has Sunday Bible study at 9:30 a.m. and worship services at 10:30 a.m. The Wednesday Bible study and prayer service is at 5 p.m. The church is nondenominational and welcomes anyone who desires to worship God in a comfortable setting and among a diverse congregation. Dr. Joe Ponds is the church's Pastor/Teacher. Dr. Ponds is a graduate of Capital Bible Seminary, International Seminary, and Christian Bible College and Seminary. He has pastored churches in Maryland and Florida for more than 30 years. He has also been a Chaplain for law enforcement agencies such as the Largo Police Department (nearly 10 years) and the Citrus County Sheriff's Office since 2000. Additionally, Dr. Ponds was a chapel speaker for Major League Baseball teams to include the New York Yankees,

Baltimore Orioles, St. Louis Cardinals, and New York Mets.

■ Beverly Hills Jewish Center, Congregation Beth Shalom, which is the original synagogue in Citrus County, will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its congregation in 2018. Shabbat services are at 6 p.m. Fridays followed by refreshments, and at 9:30 a.m. Saturdays followed by a Kiddush/luncheon, and observing all holidays. Congregation Beth Shalom will continue having interim guest spiritual leaders, such as Cantor David Presler and Rabbi Richard Polirer, until the search for a permanent spiritual leader is finalized. Everyone is invited to attend all services at 102 Civic Circle in Beverly Hills. For more information, call 847-913-6545.

■ Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church in Citrus Springs offers an opportunity for weekly worship. Attend Saturday evenings for an informal service at 4:30 p.m. The service has a slightly different format from week to week. Visit hopelutheran.elca.com.

PROXY

Continued from Page C1

"They may mean well, but it's insulting to Jews, and it would be insulting to Mr. Wiesenthal," Hier said. "He lived a life of

good deeds, and he doesn't need any assistance in getting to heaven."

Radkey also uncovered attempts to baptize people still alive or recently dead such as O.J. Simpson, Charles Manson and mass shooters Stephen Paddock

and Devin Patrick Kelley. Those requests were blocked and flagged as "not ready" or in need of more information.

Posthumous baptisms are performed at the church's 159 temples around the globe, mostly by young people.

Members are escorted to a decorative baptismal font resting on statutes of 12 oxen. An adult or older teen male reads a short prayer, and the member — representing the dead relative — is immersed in water.

Each baptism is re-

corded in the database.

At a conference this year, top LDS leaders stressed the importance of proxy baptisms — saying God wants all his children "home again, in families and in glory" — and encouraged young members to get involved. The

church has nearly 16 million members worldwide.

"Temple work is an act of love," said Hawkins, adding, "It is a selfless work that builds deep connections to our forebears and a love for God and his children."

GRACE

Continued from Page C1

Throughout the Bible, the word "praise" appears more than 200 times and the phrase "praise the Lord" appearing most often as a command. People of God, give praise to the One who has redeemed you. Although some commands to offer praise are prompted by awe and wonder at God's majesty, such as when the psalmist writes of shining stars and

crashing waves, many are the result of a wrestling in prayer.

I especially love when King David starts a psalm with his feelings of confusion or fear, or even a plea for God to decimate his enemies on the spot, and then ends his psalm with praise. He starts: "O LORD, how many are my foes!" (Psalm 3:1) or "How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?" (Psalm 13:1)

Next, he pours out his anguish and his complaint. He lists his grievances and his sorrows. He does what we do when we come to the Father's throne.

But his prayers don't stand laments. Sometimes right away, sometimes after many bitter words, David uses the word "but," and at that point his prayer becomes praise: "But you are a shield around me, O LORD" (Psalm 3:3) and "But you, O God, do see trouble and grief" (Psalm 10:14).

In the hymn "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds," John Newton writes, "Weak is the effort of my heart, and cold my warmest thought; but when I see Thee as Thou art, I'll praise Thee as I ought." The how-to of

turning prayer to praise is in beholding God as he is.

Who is he? He is the Maker and Sustainer of every molecule of the universe, the kindest Father, the fairest Judge. He sees every struggle, feels every sorrow. He is All-powerful. He is Mercy. He is Seeker of the lost and Finder of the forgotten. He is Sharer of Wisdom, Lover of those who desperately long to be loved.

Our enemies become his enemies, and when he pursues them, he always wins.

He is a Home Builder, a Fixer

of broken people, Grace and Strength, Laughter and Hope.

Whatever we face, whether good times or bad, nothing is impossible with our God.

So, as we move into another year, let everything that has breath — that includes you and me — praise the Lord.

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.

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

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



COMMUNITY CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Faith. Freedom. Fellowship.

Warmly Welcomes You To Worship
 Sunday 10:00 AM
 Rev. Dr. Shaun P. Stapleton
 9220 N. Citrus Springs Blvd.
 Citrus Springs, FL
 352-489-1260

www.citruspringcongregational.org

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.

NORTH CITRUS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Phone: (352) 527-0021

JOIN US IN WORSHIP AT
 6442 N. Elkcam Blvd.
 Citrus Springs

Sunday Services: 10:30am
 Bible Study: Wednesday 6:30pm
 Minister George Plantz
 Children Welcome
 Nursery Available

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!

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
Hispanic / Bilingual Services
 Friday at 7:00 pm

Pastors
 Elvis & Pricila Crosthwaite
 Ph: 352-344-2425
newcwow@embarqmail.com

"The perfect church for people who aren't!"

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.fchernando.com

TREE OF LIFE Lutheran Church
 Missouri Synod

Whispering Pines Recreational Building
 1700 Forest 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.treeoflifec.org

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
 Sabbath School 11:00 am
 Worship

Wednesday
 Mid-Week Meeting 7:00 pm
 Pastor William Bremner
www.hernoadventist.com

Special Event or Weekly Services

Please Call **David McCane**
564-2901

For Information On Your Religious Advertising And Deadlines.

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

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"We don't just say something... we have something to say."

WE STILL... use the old King James Bible

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Sunday School 10 am
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 Friday at 7:00 pm

Pastors
 Elvis & Pricila Crosthwaite
 Ph: 352-344-2425
newcwow@embarqmail.com

"The perfect church for people who aren't!"

Helping foster kids at Christmas



Special to the Chronicle

For the third year, Inverness Elks Lodge No. 2522 and West Citrus Elks Lodge No. 2693 have partnered to serve dinner and throw a Christmas party for the Citrus County Foster Parents Association. Along with music, coloring area, face painting and a balloon artist, Santa, Mrs. Claus and all their elves made an appearance and give each child gifts from their very own wish list. From left are volunteers Herb Yates, Jim and Nan Smardon, Arlene Lombardo, Pat Guthrie, Marge Rozens, Frank Baranco, Pat Anson, Tammy Rouch and Jenny Smith, Santa Richard Grosnick and Mrs. Santa Jan Belland.

Quilters donate to seniors



Special to the Chronicle

Citrus County Cracker Quilters Community Outreach Chairs Carole Antis and Sue Wasserman presented to Mae Natteal, activities director of Cypress Cove, over 115 items for a Christmas surprise. Delivered on Dec. 22 were quilts, neck pillow, walker bags, adult protection and pillow cases to be given as Christmas gifts to the clients. Cracker Quilters make periodic delivery to Cypress Cove and Hospice. They also make the Veterans quilts for HPH Hospice veterans' pinnings. Members meet the first Wednesday of the month; call President Julia Clapp for more information at 650-619-6720 or Pat Kuszik, membership chair, at 352-419-7756.

'Shop with a Moose'



Special to the Chronicle

On Dec. 9, The men and women of the Moose Lodge No. 2013 were able to spread a little Christmas cheer early for 10 lucky children of Crystal River Elementary who were each given a \$100 shopping spree. Walmart let the group shop in the store, and gave its own donation to the effort.

Crown Court enjoys holiday party



Special to the Chronicle

Residents at the Crown Court ALF enjoyed their holiday party hosted on Friday, Dec. 22. The party had special guests including Billy "Elvis" Lindsey, who even did a finale for a veteran guest from the FFW Homosassa post. Mrs. and Mr. Jensen, owners of Crown Court, did a great job hosting the outstanding party. They managed to give the residents a party they will never forget - they even showered all 40 residents with personal presents and handwritten Christmas cards.



Special to the Chronicle

From left, Ginger West, director of the Family Resource Center in Hernando, accepts a trove of toys from Knights of Columbus Council 6168 Treasurer Jim Louque and Grand Knight Jerry Orbino.

Knights help Santa with toys

Special to the Chronicle

Council 6168 of the Knights of Columbus pitched in Dec. 14 to help Santa's elves by delivering a trove of toys to the Family Resource Center in Hernando.

The center wraps and provides these and other toys to children who might otherwise go without a visit from Santa Claus at Christmas.

The Knights' mountain of toys was a result of a campaign led by Council 6168 Treasurer Jim Louque that received toys and money donated by Knights, the

Ladies Auxiliary and bingo players.

In a room near this mound of toys, a dozen volunteers were busy wrapping. West was confident at the time that the Family Resource Center would be Santa for "every child" on her list - about 2,100 Citrus County children this year. "God takes care of them," she said, noting her 30 years of experience.

Knights of Columbus members are practicing Catholic men, 18 and older. Council 6168 meets monthly in Lecanto and is associated with Our Lady of Grace Church in Beverly Hills.



Ozello community gathers toys

The community of Ozello collected donations for this year's Toys for Tots campaign. The group does this on an annual basis, as well as collecting canned goods for the community and further afield.

Special to the Chronicle



ABOVE LEFT: Cook Courtney Ramonas serves food with Jennifer Varnado, a Crown Court office assistant. ABOVE RIGHT: Cook John Stathos serves appetizers to guests at the Crown Court ALF Christmas party.



Mr. and Mrs. Claus were played by two residents at Crown Court. Roy Johnson was Mr. Claus and Susan Radcliff played Mrs. Claus.

Citrus County Camp Meeting - 2018

HOSTED BY

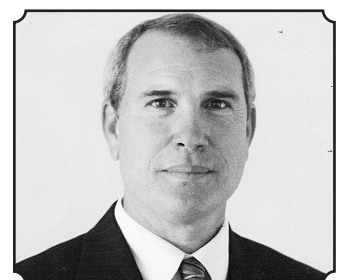
Trinity Independent Baptist Church

LOCATED ON CROFT AVE. & HAYES STREET

JANUARY 7-12, 2018
SUNDAY, 11AM & 6PM
MONDAY THRU FRIDAY - 7PM

SPECIAL MUSIC BY THE ROCHESTERS

FOR INFORMATION CALL (352) 726-0100



James Knox, Deland, FL



Dale Vance, Beckley, WV

NEW YEAR'S EVE

■ **Citrus County Parks and Recreation** will host a New Year's Eve party featuring live music with "Nostalgia" on Sunday, Dec. 31, at the Citrus Springs Community Center, 1570 W. Citrus Springs Blvd. For dinner, the doors open at 6 p.m. For general seating, doors open at 7 p.m. The show starts at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 (no dinner) or \$35 (includes dinner). Tickets are available at the Parks and Recreation Administration Office at 2804 W. Marc Knighton Court in Lecanto. Call 352-527-7540.

■ **American Legion Post 77** of Inverness invites the public to its New Year's Eve party. Cost is \$20 per person or \$35 per couple. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., dinner starts at 6, a toast at midnight. Menu is prime rib and all the fixings. Great music for dancing will be provided by Three's Country. Tickets are available now at the post, 4375 S. Little Al Point, Inverness. Call Maynard Stratton at 352-726-0444.

■ **The Spanish American Club** of Citrus County will host a New Year's Eve Dance from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 31, at the Knights of Columbus Hall 6168 at 2389 W. Norvell Bryant Highway, Hernando.

The celebration will feature 12-piece Latin Grammy-nominated Salsa band Orchestra Fuego. Admission is \$40 and includes soda, water, ice, coffee, dessert, party hats and noisemakers. At door, admission is \$50. BYOB and table snacks. Call SAC President Benny Cruz at 352-746-3599 or email benpris312@aol.com.

■ **Eugene Quinn VFW Post 4337 and Auxiliary** will ring in the new year beginning at 7 p.m. There is no charge — members, show your valid membership card. Dance and listen to the music and songs of Martin George. A breakfast will be served at 11 p.m. Champagne toasts will be available at midnight. The post is at 906 State Road 44 E., Inverness. For information, call 352-344-3495.

■ **The Women of the Moose No. 1434** will host a New Year's Eve Gala on Sunday, Dec. 31, at Crystal River Moose Lodge No. 2013. Enjoy a five-course dinner at 5:30 p.m., music by Johnny DeRose from 9 p.m. to midnight and party favors and a champagne toast at midnight for \$85 per couple, \$45 single. This event is open to members and qualified guests. Pick up tickets at Lodge No. 2013, 1855 S. Suncoast Blvd., Homosassa, 352-795-2795.

■ **The IR-RU Family Social Club** will host a New Years Eve Party with Cheap Date performing from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Priority seating tickets are available at the clubhouse, 922 U.S. 41 S., Inverness, for \$25 per person for members and guests. This includes party favors, champagne at midnight and an open bar from 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Call the club at 352-637-5118.

■ **Free Doo-woppin' New Year's Eve** from 6 to 9 p.m. at **Calvary Chapel Inverness**, 960 B S. U.S. 41. Bring your favorite finger food and hear "Santos" perform his great DooWop music. Coffee, tea and pastries provided free of charge. A great way to see the old year end. Call 352-726-1480 or visit www.calvaryinv.com.

■ **Leroy Rooks Jr. VFW Post 4252** and Auxiliary, 3190 N. Carl G. Rose Highway, State Road 200, Hernando, will celebrate New Year's Eve from 1 to 3 p.m. Post closes at 5 p.m. today. Call 352-726-3339.

Hardin **HAVEN**

MS. GRAY



Ms. Gray is a pretty, solid gray girl with green eyes. She is about 2.5 years old, was spayed as a feral and has an ear-lob. She was dumped into the wild and is scared of strangers, but very sweet once she knows you. Ms. Gray is spayed, up-to-date on vaccinations, dewormed, treated for fleas, microchipped, and feline AIDS and leukemia negative. If you are interested in adopting Ms. Gray, or any of our other felines at the Hardin Haven, call Donna at 352-422-5525.

Gearing up

Sign up now to join the Community-Wide Fitness Challenge

Special to the Chronicle

Are you determined to improve your health in 2018? Get a jump start by joining this year's Fitness in Citrus — Community-Wide Fitness Challenge. It begins Monday, Feb. 5, and runs through Sunday, March 18.

This will be the 14th annual Fitness in Citrus — Community-Wide Fitness Challenge.

Hundreds of Citrus County residents look forward to participating every year. Most say they do it for their health or to lose weight. However, they end up declaring that the best part is the fun and camaraderie — though most also say they feel a lot better about themselves, plus many lose weight, and some even quit smoking.

To get involved, email fitnesschallenge@tampabay.rr.com and ask for details and registration information.

Form a team — that means you and at least one other person. Small teams typically do better, because



Thinkstock.com

Your Fitness in Citrus team needs to choose either the "steps" challenge or the "minutes of activity" challenge. Also, choose your team's fitness level by picking a category: "just starting," "getting there" or "jocks."

members develop accountability relationships.

Your team needs to choose either the "steps" challenge or the "minutes of activity" challenge. Also, choose your team's fitness level by picking a category:

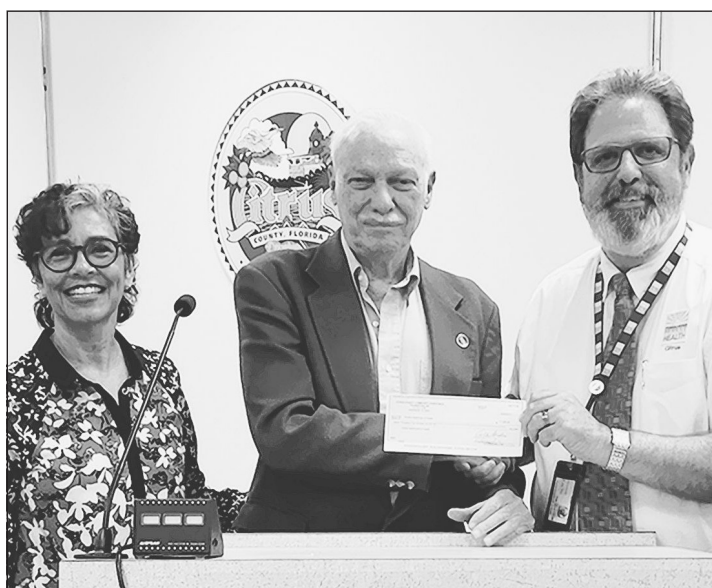
"just starting," "getting there" or "jocks."

In the "steps" challenge, you earn points for each 500 steps you take (you need to wear a step-tracker). In the "minutes" challenge, you earn points for each

10 minutes of exercise (from a specified list of activities).

Act now — registration closes Jan. 24. Email fitnesschallenge@tampabay.rr.com to get details and registration forms in PDF file format.

Charitable foundation awards grant



Special to the Chronicle

The Citrus County Community Charitable Foundation recently awarded a grant to Ernesto Rubio, the Florida Department of Health Administrator for Citrus County. From left are CCCC members Sophia Diaz-Fonseca and Mike Gudis with Rubio.

Citrus County Community Charitable Foundation: www.ccccf.us

Royal Oaks donates to Family Resource Center



Special to the Chronicle

The residential community of Royal Oaks in Inverness recently donated a check for \$650 plus many toys, games and a bicycle to the Family Resource Center for their Christmas program. Pictured are Catherine Ruby, Ginger West from the Family Resource Center, and Eunice Payne. "It's something we do every year," said Payne, a Royal Oaks resident. "But this year our residents were particularly generous. It's so heartening to see everyone come in with their toys and gifts."

Lose weight, maintain with TOPS and KOPS

TOPS 692

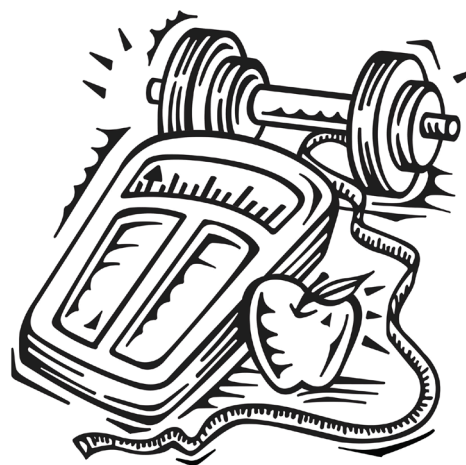
TOPS chapter 692 met Friday, Dec. 22, with 11 members attending. We recorded a net loss of 4.4 pounds. Joyce was our best TOPS loser again. Eileen gave a presentation about the use of various herbs and spices to enhance the flavor of low-cal cooking.

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.

TOPS 826

TOPS 826 met Dec. 26; 15 members weighed in and 13 members stayed for our meeting and program. We all enjoyed the holiday, as we ended up with an overall net gain. A certificate and small gift was presented to Millie M. for being our 2017 Best Loser for our chapter. A certificate was also given Pat D. for 2017 Best Traveler Loser.

Glenda presented a short program on "10 Reasons TOPS can work for you." Meetings are from 8:10 to 10 a.m. Tuesday mornings at First Lutheran Church, Inverness. Weigh-in is from



8:10 to 8:45 a.m.; and meeting begins at 9. For information, call Glenda Snook at 352-419-5180.

TOPS 341

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., meeting at 10. For

TOPS, Take Off Pounds Sensibly, is a nonprofit organization.

information, call Ethel at 352-748-7941 or Lou at 352-726-0348.

TOPS 401

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 meeting begins at 8:45 a.m. Everyone is welcome.

TOPS 387

We meet every Monday except holidays at the Central Citrus Community Center at 2804 W. Marc Knighton Court, room 114, in Lecanto. Weigh-in is from 2:30 to 3:20 p.m. and the meeting is from 3:30 to 4:30.

For information, call Susan at 352-270-0032 or Jackie at 352-527-8405.

TOPS 743

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 Teresa Libby at 207-838-1823.

■ Send information at least two weeks before the event.
 ■ Early submission of timely material is appreciated, but multiple publications cannot be guaranteed.

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

■ Notes tend to run one week prior to an event. Publication on a specific day can't be guaranteed.
 ■ Expect notes to run no more than once.

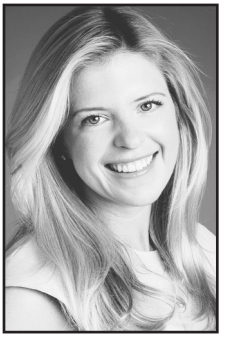
SATURDAY EVENING DECEMBER 30, 2017

C: Comcast, Citrus S: Spectrum Df: Comcast, Dunnington & Inglis F: Oak Forest H: Holiday Heights

Table with columns for channel, time, and program details. Includes channels like WESH, WEDU, WUFT, WFLA, WFTV, WTSP, WTVT, WCJB, WCFL, WFTS, WMOR, WTTA, WACX, WTOG, WYKE, WOGX, WVEA, WXPX, A&E, AMC, ANI, BET, BRAVO, CC, CMT, CNBC, CNN, DISN, ESPN, ESPN2, FBN, FLIX, FNC, FOOD, FREEFORM, FST, FSNFL, FX, GOLF, HALL, HBO, HBO2, HGTV, HIST, LIFE, LIFEMOV, MSNBC, NBCSN, NGE0, NICK, OWN, OXY, SHOW, SPIKE, STARZ, SUN, SYFY, TBS, TCM, TDC, TLC, TMC, TNT, TOON, TRAV, truTV, TVL, USA, WE, WGN-A.

Annie offers advice

Dear Annie: Please settle an argument that has been raging in my household — more specifically, my kitchen — for years. My husband, "Steve," will use the same sponge to clean dishes, wipe counters, scrub floors and even wash the car. Who knows how many times axle grease residue has been left on my plates? Daily, I microwave our sponges or run them through the dishwasher, just in case Steve's been "cleaning" again.



DEAR ANNIE

On the flip side, I use paper towels for most of my kitchen cleaning because of the "ick" factor. However, Steve thinks I'm being wasteful, economically and environmentally. I would like to reduce the number of paper towels we use as a household, but I don't know the best alternative. So, Annie, what's the best way to clean the kitchen? Paper towels? Sponges? Something else entirely? — Ick in Indiana

Dear Ick: You're both right. Sponges are breeding grounds for germs, and using them across surfaces without properly cleaning them first does more harm than good. And paper towels do a number on the environment — to the tune of 18 million trees cut down annually for U.S. households.

The best solution here, as with any other conflict in marriage, lies in compromise. Cut up old T-shirts to use as rags, which you'll find you can often use when you would have used paper towels. Use paper towels when necessary, e.g., wiping down the toilet or soaking up grease (which would be damaging if it drained into your pipes). With sponges, designate different colors for different purposes.

Dear Annie: I felt compelled to respond to the letter from "Bah, Humberg." She hosts the family dinners, which are never reciprocated, and her in-laws leave with all the food at the end.

This is similar to my situation. Your options for her were good ones. May I suggest a few more I've learned from experience?

1) Have gatherings at times other than the actual holiday. Keep the actual day for plans with your immediate family.

2) Assign specific types of dishes family members are requested to bring, and announce what you will provide.

3) Cook smaller portions for dinner and/or separate out your own "leftovers" in different pans, or cook ahead of time and keep yours in the fridge or freezer. (I learned to do this a long time ago. Works great.)

4) Structure the time of the event. Say: "Plan on being at our house at noon. We will eat at 1 and finish by 4."

5) Plan to go to a movie, see holiday lights or do something that gets everyone out the door. No one else has to go, but make clear that everyone has to leave your home when you do.

6) Keep in mind that this will feel uncomfortable the first time. It will get easier and become expected after a couple of times. You will be teaching your children how to manage these situations throughout their own lives. And you will meet your own needs and have freedom of choice about your own holidays. It will change your expectations of the extended family members and make them responsible for whatever relationship they choose to continue with one another, and you will be happier in the end.

Obviously, I feel strongly about this. I went through about 20 years of these dinners falling in my lap and feeling taken advantage of. As I started taking steps to structure these events, things improved greatly. Happy holidays! — The Main Host

Dear Main Host: You're clearly a pro. Though this season's holidays are nearly done, I'm sure there are some hosts already dreading next year's. Your plan of attack might offer hope.

Bridge

PHILLIP ALDER Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

To end the week and year, here is the most amazing long two-suiter deal I have seen recently. South's bidding would not have been duplicated by anyone else, but boy did it work here!

South's three-club rebid showed a six-card suit and game-invitational values. Then North made a four-heart splinter jump, showing at least four-card club support, a singleton or void in hearts and

game-going values or more. South used Roman Key Card Blackwood to learn (by partnership agreement) that North had two key cards and a heart void. South bravely jumped to seven clubs.

West led a spade, presumably hoping partner could ruff -- but East had not made a Lightner double. How should South have planned the play? Declarer could see 13 potential tricks: two spades, one diamond, six clubs in hand (including one spade and two diamond ruffs) and four heart ruffs on the board. He could also work for three spades, one diamond, six clubs and three heart ruffs.

Bridge hand diagram showing North, South, West, and East cards and suits.

Dealer: South Vulnerable: North-South South West North East Pass! Pass 1 Pass 3 Pass 4 Pass 4NT Pass 5NT Pass 7 Pass Pass Pass Opening lead: ♠ 5

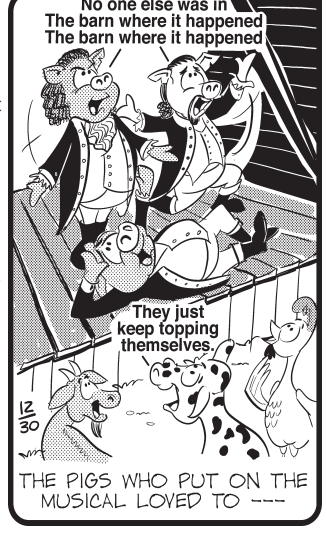
JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

Jumble puzzle grid with words TICPH, ROURB, GIHYMT, FITANN and a 3x3 grid for the answer.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



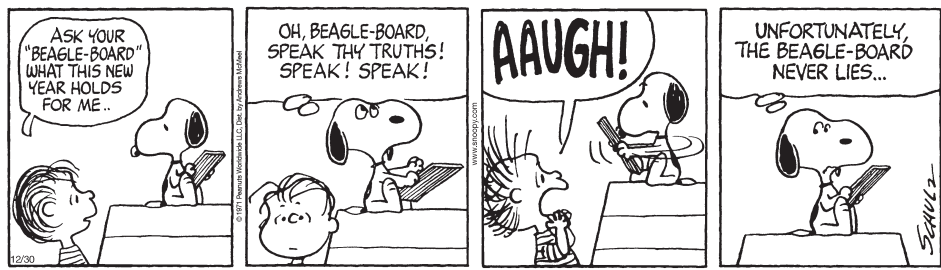
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print your answer here: [Grid] (Answers Monday) Yesterday's Jumbles: PIXEL COCOA STIGMA BUTANE Answer: When one of the barnyard animals got out, the other animals blamed the — "ESCAPE" GOAT

MORE PUZZLES

Find the daily crossword puzzle inside the Chronicle's classified pages, along with Sudoku, Wordy Gurdy and a word puzzle.

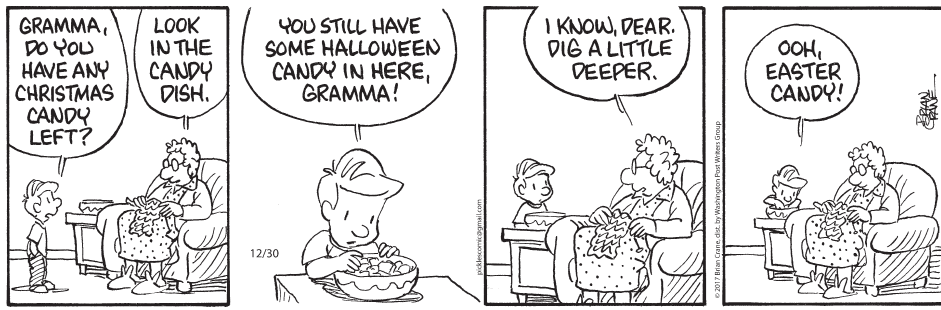
Peanuts



Garfield



Pickles



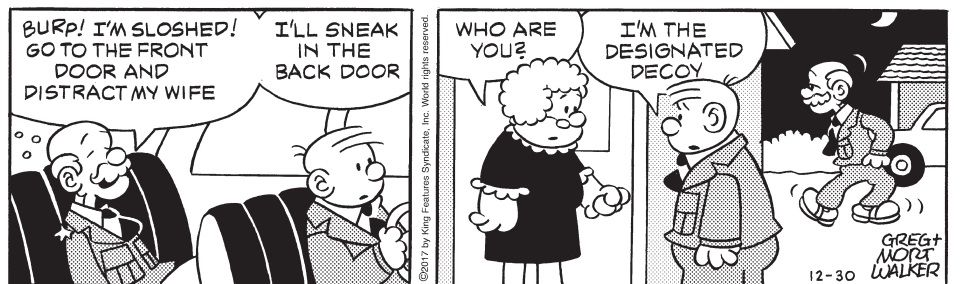
For Better or For Worse



Sally Forth



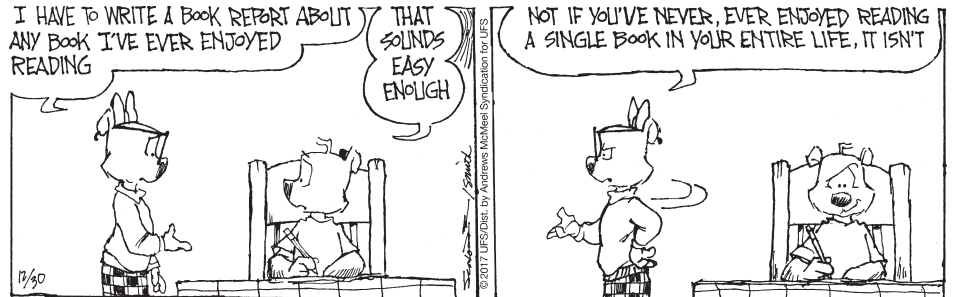
Beetle Bailey



Dilbert



The Grizzwells



The Born Loser



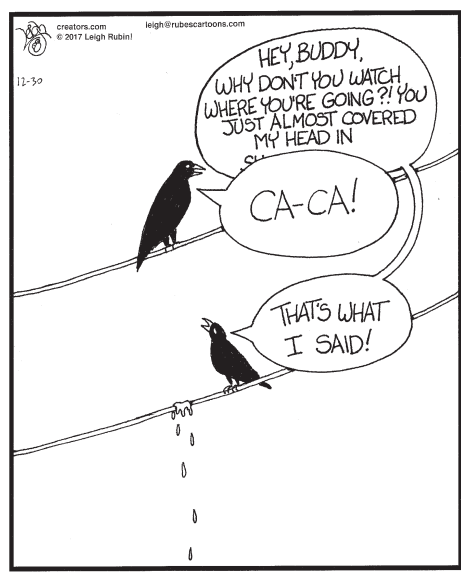
Blondie



Moderately Confused



Rubes



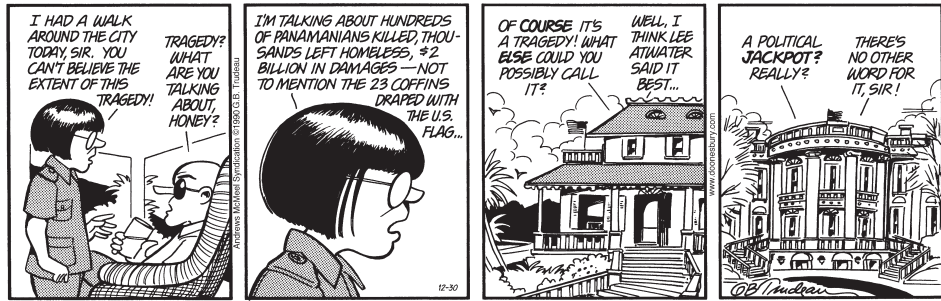
Dennis the Menace



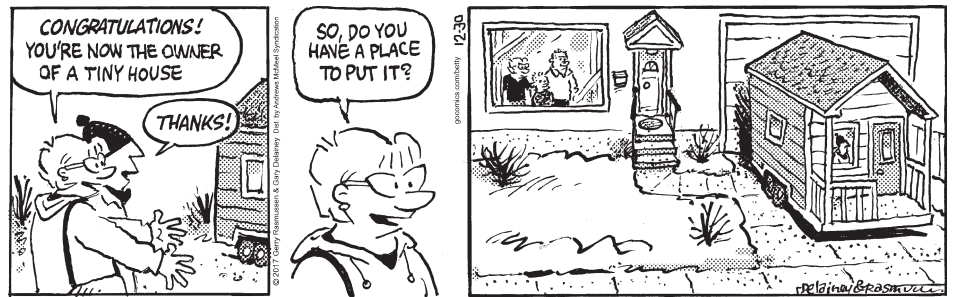
The Family Circus



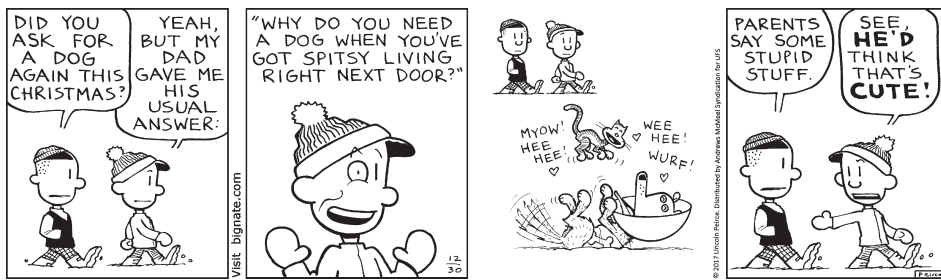
Doonesbury Flashbacks



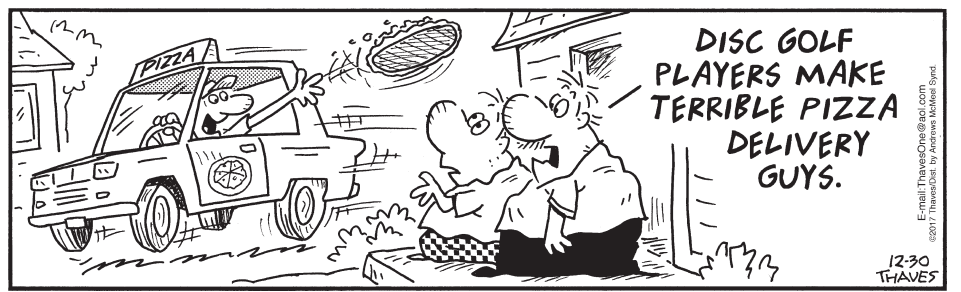
Betty



Big Nate



Frank & Ernest



Arlo and Janis



Today's MOVIES

Times provided by Regal Cinemas and are subject to change; call ahead.

Crystal River Mall 9; 564-6864
Citrus Cinemas 6 Inverness; 844-462-7342 Code 187
'All the Money in the World' (R) 12:10, 3:30, 6:45, 9:50 p.m.
'Downsizing' (R) noon, 3:20, 6:50, 10:05 p.m.
'Father Figures' 12:55, 4:15, 10:30 p.m.
'Pitch Perfect 3' (PG-13) 1, 4:20, 7, 10:50 p.m.
'Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle 3D' (PG-13) 10:10 p.m.
'Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle' (PG-13) 12:30, 3:50, 7:15 p.m.
'The Greatest Showman' (PG) 12:45, 4:10, 7:40, 10:30 p.m.
'Ferdinand' (PG) 12:50, 4, 7:20, 10 p.m.
'Star Wars: The Last Jedi 3D (2017)' 11:50 a.m., 3:15, 3:45, 7:10, 10 p.m.
'Star Wars: The Last Jedi (2017)' 12:20, 6:40, 7:30, 9:30 p.m.
Valerie Theatre, Inverness; 352-341-7850
Dec. 31: 'Blazing Saddles' (R - 1974) 3 p.m.

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WHGN-FM 91.9 Religious
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WXOF-FM 96.7 Classic Hits
WEKJ FM 96.3, 103.9 Religious
WSKY 97.3 FM News Talk
WXJB 99.9 FM News Talk
WRGO-FM 102.7 Oldies
WYKE-FM 104.3 Sports Talk
WDUV 105.5 FM Hudson
WJQB-FM 106.3 Oldies
WFJV-FM 103.3 Classic Rock
WRZN-AM 720 Adult Mix

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: V equals M

'P'WK YKZE NMK XZAN LZSK UR NMK
IPIXK. PN'A ZXX SUPCS NU NTYC UTN
ZXX YPSMN.' - IPXXG SYZMZV

Previous Solution: 'If the world comes to an end, I want to be in Cincinnati. Everything comes there ten years later.' - Mark Twain

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Saturday 30th, 9AM LOTS OF FURNITURE, Too many items to mention!
THE PATH, 1729 W. Gulf to Lake Hwy.

GARAGE SALE! LECANTO
Saturday 30th, 9AM LOTS OF FURNITURE, Too many items to mention!
THE PATH, 1729 W. Gulf to Lake Hwy.

Today's New Ads

Inverness 3567 E. Jaclynn Ln Unit 9 lots 86, 87, 88, 89 block 158 best offer (718)447-6936

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Announcements

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Coordinator - Criminal Justice
Bachelor's degree in criminal justice, management, or related field required. Certified or certifiable as an instructor by Florida Criminal Justice Standards & Training Commission. 3 years of experience in criminal justice required. Position Close date is January 3, 2018.

Part-Time Visitor Services Specialist
High school diploma or equivalent required. 1 year of direct experience in field preferred. Experience in a field related to business, customer service, retail sales or food service preferred. Position is open until filled.

Part-Time Public Safety Officer
Must possess a Florida Class D Security Officer License or obtain a Class D license within the first 6 months of employment. High school diploma or equivalent preferred. CPR & First Aid Certification preferred. 2 years or more in full-time security or police-type work preferred. Position is open until filled.

How to Apply
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SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephams Group

Level: **1 2 3 4**

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

SOLUTION TO FRIDAY'S PUZZLE 12/30/17

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

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
- African nation
 - Poker card
 - Gyro pocket
 - Kitty sound
 - Wernher — Braun
 - At the apex
 - Largest continent
 - Bad puns
 - SeaWorld star
 - Gist
 - Caviar
 - Said to be
 - Philosopher — tzu
 - Ark builder
 - Aardvark diet
 - Crochet project
 - Midwest airport
 - Paddock occupants
 - More active
 - Zone
 - Hide
 - Caustic
 - Ducks or geese
 - "Ben- —"
 - "I Want My —"
 - Excited
 - Kind of guitar
 - Ring around the moon
 - Flood the market
 - Historic time
 - They give a hoot
 - Overfeed
 - Squeal on
 - Fine

Answer to Previous Puzzle

QUE	WELD	HAD
RUFF	OBIE	EVE
POOF	RAPT	URES
MISER	LY	ABACK
COD	RIO	
ABETS	BYLAWS	
AID	SHEA	TEAL
ANDY	URNS	AWE
DYEING	CARNE	
MGT	VOL	
PREEN	DATASET	
HANNIBAL	RETE	
DRY	TUNE	METE
SEA	EYES	SPA

- ### DOWN
- IRS experts
 - Be quiet!
 - Pavarotti piece
 - Bard's forte
 - Batting stat
 - Iris covering
 - Plenty
 - Skillet
 - Roman road
 - Pamplona runner
 - Cathedral part
 - Mr. Vigoda
 - Humerus neighbors
 - "Wolf Man" Chaney
 - Dit partners
 - Buddhist monk
 - Miles away
 - Shrek, for one
 - Claw or talon
 - Deuce successor
 - Parched
 - Pile
 - Beyond the fringe
 - Diner sandwich
 - Tinker
 - Oak Ridge Boys hit
 - Mantra chants
 - Google rival
 - "Macbeth" trio
 - NCAA's Bruins
 - Easy win
 - Stare stupidly
 - Jazzy Fitzgerald
 - Optimistic
 - Sporty truck
 - Popular pet

12-30

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Saturday, December 30, 2017

KATHLEEN SAXE

WORD GAME

TODAY'S WORD -- BEDRIDDEN

(BEDRIDDEN: BED-rid-en: Confined to bed, as by illness.)

Average mark 32 words
Time limit 40 minutes

Can you find 46 or more words in BEDRIDDEN? The list will be published Monday.

- ### YESTERDAY'S WORD -- VALUABLES
- | | | | |
|-------|--------|---------|--------|
| vale | lava | beau | seal |
| value | lave | bell | sell |
| vase | lues | blase | slab |
| veal | usable | blue | slave |
| abase | uvea | bull | slub |
| able | bale | sable | slue |
| abuse | ball | salable | suable |
| alas | balsa | sale | suave |
| label | basal | salve | |
| lase | base | save | |

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. Contact Word Game creator Kathleen Saxe at 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.

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- A couple expected in any minute now (1)
- Clean prints off Popeye's tooter (1)
- Tardier goat-man of myth (2)
- Netherlander rabbit cage (1)
- Snow particles' pauses in falling (1)
- "Blue Bloods" star Tom's antiques (2)
- Illegal conspiracy indirect reference (3)

ANSWERS: 1. TWO DUE 2. WIPE PIPE 3. LATER SATYR 4. DUTCH HUTCH 5. FLAKES BREAKS 6. SELLECKS RELICS 7. COLTISON ALTUSION

12-30-17

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7021-1230 SACRN INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids for furnishing of all labor and materials and performing all work necessary and incidental to Reroofing Portions of Inverness Primary, Buildings 1A, 3 & 5, Bid

Bid Notices

No. 2018-20 will be received by the Citrus County School Board prior to 2:00 p.m. local time February 6, 2018, in the Purchasing Department, Citrus County School Board, Building 200, 1007 West Main Street, Inverness, Florida, 34450-4625. Immediately following all bids received will be opened and read aloud in Building 200, Purchasing Department.

Each bid must be accompanied by a certified check or bid bond in the amount of not less than five percent (5%) of the maximum amount of the Bid as a guarantee that the Bidder, if awarded the Contract, will within ten (10) calendar days after written notice being given of bid acceptance, enter into a written Contract with the Citrus County School Board, in accordance with the accepted Bid, and give a surety bond satisfactory to the Citrus County School Board equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the Contract amount.

No Bidder may withdraw his/her Bid for a period of thirty (30) days after the date set for the opening of the Bids.

All prime contractors must hold a Citrus County School Board Certificate of Pre-qualification to bid on Citrus County School Board construction projects. Prime contractors must be pre-qualified by the Citrus County School Board prior to submitting a bid. Prime contractor's bids must be within the bid limits specified on their pre-qualification certificate. For contractor pre-qualification information call the Citrus County School Board Facilities and Construction Department at 352/726-1931, ext. 2208.

Pre-bid Conference:

A. A mandatory pre-bid conference for Prime Contractors, and optional for sub-contractors, will be held in the Cafeteria at **Inverness Primary School, 206 South Line Ave., Inverness, FL 34450.**

B. Conference will occur **January 9, 2018 at 9:30 a.m.**

Bidders may obtain, at no cost, an Adobe pdf file set of Contract Documents via Email from Rogers & Sark Consulting, Inc., 2021 Palm Lane, Orlando, FL 32803 - Email billratich@aol.com or Contact No. 407-797-4953.

Bidders may also obtain one (1) copy of the Contract Documents on compact disc for fifteen dollars and no cents (\$15.00) made payable to Rogers & Sark Consulting, Inc., 2021 Palm Lane, Orlando, FL 32803 - Email billratich@aol.com or Contact No. 407-797-4953.

The Citrus County School Board reserves the absolute right to award the Bid to the lowest, responsive Bidder, to waive any informality or irregularity in any Bid, or to reject any and all Bids received based solely on the Board's determination of the best interests of the School District.

CITRUS COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
INVERNESS, FLORIDA

BY: Sandra Himmel
Superintendent of Schools

Published December 16, 23 & 30, 2017

2018-20



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