

Heartbreak: CR softball falls in regional final /B1

SATURDAY
 TODAY & next morning
HIGH 89
LOW 64
 Increasing clouds, warm and more humid.
PAGE A4

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

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

MAY 12, 2018 Florida's Best Community Newspaper Serving Florida's Best Community 50¢ VOL. 123 ISSUE 277

Legal bite taken out of rescue group

Out of the Box fined for harboring dog that needed to be monitored for rabies after biting a child

BUSTER THOMPSON
 Staff writer



Robert Schweickert Jr.
 president of Out of the Box Animal Rescue.

A Citrus County judge held an Inverness animal-rescue group responsible for not giving up a dog that had bitten a child and needed to be monitored for rabies.

During a Friday infraction hearing, Judge Mark Yerman ruled that Out of the Box Animal Rescue Inc. was guilty of all 10 animal violations

documented in several citations against the nonprofit group and its president, Robert Schweickert Jr.

Yerman also handed Out of

the Box a \$1,000 fine — \$100 per violation.

Yerman's rulings and orders followed Out of the Box attorney Eric Evilsizer's decision not to contest the seven subsequent citations from Citrus County Sheriff's Office Animal Control.

Animal Control Supervisor Lora Peckham and Officer Beau Gallant cited Schweickert's Out of the Box for seven counts of not complying with rabies quarantine procedures

and three counts of interfering with animal control officers.

According to Peckham and court records, Dusty, a three-and-a-half-year-old pit mix in the care of Out of the Box — which fosters dogs with aggression and behavioral issues — had bitten an 11-year-old child on March 9.

But neither Out of the Box nor Schweickert handed Dusty over to authorities or Florida Department of Health officials

until March 19 for them to quarantine Dusty for rabies, Peckham said.

Peckham informed Yerman that since health officials weren't able to evaluate Dusty, his bite victim still had to undergo 14 preventative rabies injections, which weren't needed in the end.

"It was important he be found guilty on all charges," Peckham said after the hearing.
 See RESCUE/Page A5

Irv Emerson: Hero and 'amazing person'

Postscript

NANCY KENNEDY
 Staff writer

On Nov. 6, 1944, Irving Emerson piloted his B-17 toward Vienna, Austria, his seventh mission with the 97th Bomb Group, 340th Squadron.

The weather too bad to continue, the Army Air Corps crew changed plans and headed for their alternate target, a railroad yard at Maribor, Yugoslavia.

As they approached and dropped their bombs, their plane was hit by enemy fire.

"We were up 27,000 feet," Emerson told the Chronicle in 2003. "We got hit; the co-pilot got killed; we lost a couple of engines and the electrical system — no gauges.

"We tagged along behind a group and got to the coast. Not knowing how much gas I had, I had to decide if I would go across the Adriatic Sea or go to the emergency airfield on Vis."

Emerson chose to go to Vis, an island off the coast of Croatia. On the way, the left wheel cranked down, but the right wheel wouldn't descend. Then, as they approached the runway, everything stopped.

"When you have no engine, a B-17 drops like a rock," Emerson said.

So, he yelled to the engineer, "We're going to ditch!" and made a smooth landing on the water. Next, the nose of the plane went down and water rushed in. Crew members escaped, but they were unable to get the co-pilot's body out before the plane sank.

That's something Irving "Irv" Goodwin Emerson, an American war hero, never forgot. He died April 29 at age 100.

Born and raised in Connecticut, Emerson dreamed of flying. With a



MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle file

During World War II, Irving Emerson flew 35 combat missions as a B-17 pilot. On his seventh mission, his plane went down in the Adriatic Sea off the coast of Croatia. Emerson died April 29 at age 100.

world at war, at 25 he enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1942.

As first pilot, he flew missions all across Europe, 35 in all.

Before his waylaid mission to Yugoslavia, Emerson's commander told the crew, "I don't want to see any holes in (the plane) when you get back."

Emerson told the Chronicle that he obeyed orders: The commander didn't see any holes — the plane was on the bottom of the Adriatic Sea.

After Emerson had ditched the plane, the navigator swam to shore and the surviving crew members got into a rubber boat. A 16-year-old boy in a fishing boat rowed by and towed them the rest of the way to shore.

Irving Emerson was awarded the Silver Star for his heroics.

After he left the service, Emerson returned to civilian life and worked as a machinist. He retired to Florida in 1980.

His wife of 66 years, Ruth, died

in 2009.

In 2003, Emerson returned to Vis as a guest of Croatian Television, taking part in a documentary, "The Tragedy of the Boeing B-17," about the ditching of his plane.

The plane was discovered by a Croatian diver and underwater photographer in the late 1990s-early 2000s. He searched and found Emerson and the plane's waist gunner, Merle Sieling, and invited them to Croatia.

See EMERSON/Page A2

Dinner benefits Boys & Girls Clubs



Special to the Chronicle

Members of the Kiwanis Club of Inverness cook up the steaks for the 17th Annual Steak & Steak Dinner benefitting the Boys & Girls Clubs of Citrus County, Thursday at M&B Dairy in Lecanto. From left are: Gene Davis, Dave Monier, Rocky Hensley and Leroy Meahl.

Massullo: Society needs to get to the root of the school violence problem

MIKE BATES
 Staff writer



Dr. Ralph Massullo
 state representative.

Given the cultural climate following the February shootings at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, a school resource officer would have to follow students around from the time they leave for school in the morning until they get off the bus in the afternoon to ensure their safety, State Rep. Ralph Massullo told members of the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce at their Friday luncheon.

There can be SROs in every school, but what happens when the student leaves school and gets on the bus, he asked the crowd. What about students who participate in fundraisers?

Massullo said various reasons have been attributed to the school violence problem: mental health, the breakdown of the family, increased social media and

technology expansion.

Unless society gets to the root of the problem, "what we're doing is just working around the edges," he said.

Massullo, R-Lecanto, gave chamber members an update on the recently completed 2018 legislative session. He cited a new drug monitoring program which, among other things, establishes limits on prescriptions for those in acute pain. The opioid crisis, he said, affects one out of 10 people in the nation.

Contact Chronicle reporter Michael D. Bates at 352-563-5660 or mbates@chronicleonline.com.

NATION



Upgraded rocket

SpaceX lifted Bangladesh's first satellite into orbit Friday using an upgraded rocket designed for dozens of repeat flights./A6

NATION & WORLD



Iranian threat

An Iranian cleric on Friday threatened two Israeli cities with destruction if the Jewish state "acts foolishly" and attacks its interests again./A10

RELIGION



Planter, pastor

The Shepherd's Way Cowboy Church minister moves on to other pastures./C1

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		<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>

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CR woman's bond set at \$55K

BUSTER THOMPSON
Staff writer

Police arrested a Crystal River woman early Thursday morning after uncovering a stash of numerous and various drugs inside her home. Narcotics detectives with

the Citrus County Sheriff's Tactical Impact Unit, equipped with a search warrant, raided the house at 1104 SE First St. and detained the homeowner, 48-year-old Debra Wells, according to the sheriff's office.

Inside, authorities found

methamphetamine, LSD (acid), alprazolam (Xanax), suboxone strips, methadone, oxycodone, a firearm and drug paraphernalia.

The sheriff's forensic unit also assisted to investigate for hazardous material, after learning a small trace of

Fentanyl was also found inside the home.

Deputies arrested and charged Wells with five counts of possessing a controlled substance with intent to sell, possessing a controlled substance, operating a drug dwelling, possessing a

firearm in the commission of a felony and possessing drug paraphernalia.

Wells' bond was set at \$65,000.

Contact Chronicle reporter Buster Thompson at 352-564-2916 or bthompson@chronicleonline.com.



Debra Wells

Around the COUNTY

Key Center auctioning convertible

The Key Training Center is holding a drawing for a silver 2008 Chrysler Sebring with a push-button convertible top as part of the Run for the Money fundraising efforts.

Tickets can be found at Key Thrift Store locations in Homosassa, Lecanto, and Inverness; Labels in Inverness; the Key Training Center Inverness Campus on County Road 581, and Key Center Foundation on State Road 44 in Lecanto. Each single ticket costs a \$20 donation, but you can also get three for a \$50 donation or six for a \$100 donation.

The Key Training Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that offers social, educational, vocational, and residential services to adults with developmental disabilities in Citrus County. The proceeds from the annual Run for the Money are utilized to provide a broad scope of life-enhancing services including daily living and social skills, job training, life-sustaining care, and residential services to over 300 developmentally disabled adults, of whom over 80 individuals receive no state funding.

To learn more about the Run for the Money activities and how you can help, call 352-795-5541, ext. 312.

Beach deck, pier open during work

Citrus County Grounds Maintenance will complete the re-decking of the sundeck at Fort Island Gulf Beach fishing pier beginning Monday, May 21, with anticipated completion on Thursday, May 24.

The sundeck, fishing pier and parking lot will remain open during this repair.

For more information, call Parks & Recreation at: 352-527-7540.

CR issues reminder to golf cart users

Crystal River officials want to remind golf cart users they must pay for a parking sticker when stopping at metered areas in the city.

Unless their golf cart has a valid handicapped sticker, travelers must enter their meter number as follows: GCR000.

Chassahowitzka River Keepers to host speaker

The Chassahowitzka River Keepers will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 15. Kym Rouse Holzwart, a senior environmental scientist with the Southwest Florida Water Management District who is leading the Chassahowitzka River minimum flow re-evaluation effort, will speak about the new and completed Chassahowitzka River submerged aquatic vegetation surveys conducted in 2017 and 2018.

The meeting is at the Community Center/old fire station, 10300 S. Riviera Drive, Homosassa. For additional information, please call 352-422-1122.

— From staff reports

NAMI yard sale this weekend



MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle

National Alliance on Mental Illness board of directors member Rachel Meeks organizes a lemonade stand in Inverness on Friday during a yard sale she and other members of NAMI set up. The sale, which continues today and Sunday, weather permitting, opens at 8 a.m. and continues to the later afternoon hours. The month of May is recognized nationally as Mental Health Awareness Month. The address for the sale is 2412 S. Carnegie Drive, which is off of Eden Drive in Inverness. Clothes, household items, toys and furniture were just a few of the items available Friday at the yard sale. Proceeds from the yard sale directly benefit the local NAMI chapter.

Around the STATE

Hospital discharges baby saved by deputy

OCALA — A 3-month-old Florida boy whose life was saved when a quick-acting sheriff's deputy rushed him to a hospital has been discharged and sent home.

The Marion County Sheriff's Office said baby Kingston was discharged from the hospital Thursday.

A day earlier, Kingston's mother flagged down K9 Deputy Jeremie Nix at an Ocala intersection.

She told the deputy that Kingston was unresponsive and that she needed help.

Nix tried to revive Kingston but then decided to put Kingston in his patrol car and rush him to a hospital rather than wait for an ambulance. The sheriff's office posted dashcam video of the episode on Facebook.

The video shows the deputy making a U-turn and pulling up behind a car. A woman holding a limp baby rushes out of the passenger side and hands the baby to the deputy who kneels down and attempts to resuscitate the boy. The mother appears to be on the phone with 911.

After more than a minute, the deputy stands up, talks to the mother and the car's driver and heads to his squad car with Kingston in his arms. A security guard who had joined the group also heads to the deputy's car and the mother and driver get in their car.

"I'm not waiting on medics. I'm a half-mile from ORMC," Nix radios dispatchers, referring to the Ocala hospital. "I'm headed to the emergency room with their baby."

The video then shows Nix driving his patrol car with flashing lights. The video shows the squad car pulling into the hospital's parking lot less than a minute later.

Mom sees teen son in video, turns him in

CLEARWATER — A Florida mother made her son turn himself in to police after she recognized him on a surveillance video that authorities shared on social media in connection with a burglary.

Clearwater police arrested 18-year-old Kevin King on Thursday. He's accused of burglary and grand theft.

Police said the April 25 incident was captured by a doorbell camera.

Sandra Green told Fox 13 she was heartbroken when she saw her son's face on the video because she didn't raise him that way. She said she told him to shower and eat before she turned him in.

She told a judge she'll bond her son out soon, but she wanted to use this as a teaching moment to get him on the right track.

Woman won't be prosecuted over slap

DAYTONA BEACH — A Florida police department is changing its policy on domestic violence arrests after a 95-year-old woman was arrested when she called 911 for help with her defiant granddaughter.

When Daytona Beach police arrived at Hattie Reynolds' home last weekend, she told them she'd slapped 46-year-old Janeed Williams with a slipper during an argument over the younger woman soaking up the air conditioning and refusing to leave the house. Officers arrested Reynolds on a domestic violence charge.

The Daytona Beach News-Journal reported an on-duty supervisor will respond to any similar future calls to better assess the situation. The state attorney said she won't be prosecuted.

On Tuesday, Chief Craig Capri acknowledged Reynolds probably wasn't a threat, but said the law requires an arrest in response to domestic violence calls.

Student deported over strange behavior

ORLANDO — A Florida university student who police said exhibited strange behavior and had purchased high-powered rifles has been deported.

The Orlando Sentinel reported 26-year-old Wenliang Sun was in federal custody for about three months before he was deported to China on Tuesday.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement spokeswoman Tammy Spicer said Sun is prohibited from returning to the United States for at least 10 years.

University of Central Florida police began investigating Sun after he made "unusual statements" to a counselor last year.

Police discovered he had legally purchased two high-powered rifles. He told them he didn't intend to harm himself or anyone else and there were no specific threats.

A judge revoked his visa in February when officials learned he wasn't attending class, which is a requirement of the visa.

Deputies: Mom arrested after leaving kids in car

CALLAWAY — A Florida mother is accused of leaving her two young children locked in a hot car, just months after a similar incident was reported.

The News Herald reported 32-year-old Jennifer Lynn Stone was arrested Wednesday after sheriff's deputies responded to a report of children left in a car at a Walmart store near Panama City. The temperature was 80 degrees.

An arrest report said someone saw the children in the parking lot around 6:30 p.m. and took a picture to document the time. Employees at the store paged the driver and Stone arrived at the car at 7 p.m.

She is charged with child neglect. A lawyer isn't listed for her.

Bay County Sheriff's officials said the Department of Children and Families is investigating a similar report from Feb. 28.

Suspect's death in cold case thwarts detectives

BARTOW — Detectives in central Florida believed they had solved a 32-year-old murder case but the suspect died before they could present their case to prosecutors.

The Polk County Sheriff's Office on Friday said detectives had solved the 1986 murder of John Blakely outside Bartow, Florida.

Witnesses told detectives that

Blakely was last seen with a man named James Mason, but Mason blamed the death on his cousin, Milton McIntyre.

McIntyre was never located and the case went cold until it was re-examined three years ago.

Detectives discovered that Mason had died but a witness said McIntyre told him he had killed Blakely.

Detectives were ready to present their evidence about McIntyre to prosecutors. But they were notified McIntyre died in prison last month.

Naked man causes airport evacuation

DAYTONA BEACH — A naked man who was taken into custody for trying to get onto a tarmac through the baggage carousel at a central Florida airport claimed a bomb was planted in a restroom, forcing the airport's evacuation on Friday.

No explosives were found at Daytona Beach International Airport, said Volusia County Sheriff Michael Chitwood at a news conference after passengers were allowed to go back inside the airport.

Instead, deputies found the man's clothes in a backpack hidden in some drywall in a restroom under construction.

"This is one of those things where truth is stranger than fiction, to say the least," Chitwood said at a news conference, several hours after the airport was evacuated.

The man, 25, was taken to a hospital for a mental evaluation. The sheriff said he had taken drugs the night before and would likely face several federal charges. He wasn't a passenger on any of the planes' manifests, Chitwood said.

A couple hundred people were at the airport at the time of the evacuation. Bomb-sniffing dogs searched the airport before passengers were allowed back into the terminal.

No flights were canceled, just rescheduled, and passengers had to wait outside the airport for about an hour and half, said Jay Cassens, an airport spokesman.

— From wire reports

Today's HOROSCOPES

Birthday — Don't draw attention to what you are doing until you feel comfortable. When you're ready, surprise everyone with your presentation. Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Finish what you start. Refuse to let emotional matters get in your way. Avoid gossip and don't make a fuss. Gemini (May 21-June 20) — Get first-hand information before you make a commitment. Knowing what you are up against will help you decide whether you want to participate. Cancer (June 21-July 22) — Do your own thing. If someone asks for help, offer suggestions but nothing more. Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Believe in your ability to bring about change, and stay within your budget. A romantic gesture will make your day. Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — You should take part in events that will provide insight into different lifestyles or beliefs. Travel is encouraged. Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Evaluate and adjust your current living arrangements. It's time to address relationships that are one-sided or lack equality. Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — When in doubt, listen to an expert. Getting together with friends or relatives will be informative, giving you a unique perspective on how to best live your life. Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Put your heart on the line. Discuss your feelings and plans. Not everyone will like your decisions, but the response will help you decide what's best for you. Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Don't let anyone taunt you into a debate. Socialize without bringing up matters that will fuel the fire. Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Past mistakes will help you make a better choice. Do your best to eliminate bad influences from your life and replace them with people who have positive and healthy attitudes. Pisces (Feb. 20-March 20) — Be open about what you want, even if you know someone will oppose you. Facing sensitive matters head-on will help clear the air and give you the opportunity to move forward. Aries (March 21-April 19) — Know what you want and don't hesitate to share your plans. Change may not be welcome by everyone, but if it's what's best for you, get on with it.

ENTERTAINMENT

Grace Kelly's childhood home fully restored

PHILADELPHIA — The Philadelphia home where Grace Kelly grew up has been restored to its original glory.

Toby Boshak, executive director of the Princess Grace Foundation-USA, told NBC's "Today" that the six-bedroom, 2.5-story Colonial home will be used occasionally by Kelly's son Prince Albert II and his family.

It will also house offices for the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and host events for the Princess Grace Foundation-USA, which provides scholarships to emerging talent in theater, dance and film.

Kelly, an Oscar-winning actress, became Princess of Monaco after marrying Prince Rainier III in 1956. The couple announced their engagement at the house.

Prince Albert II bought the home in 2016 and renovated it to look like it did when his mother lived there.

The house was in rough condition when he bought it, but the former owners did leave intact a linen closet door that is marked with the heights of all the Kelly children over the years, Prince Albert II told "Today."

An initial idea was to open the home as a museum, but in the end the family decided against that.

The home was built in 1935 by Grace Kelly's father, John B. Kelly. He was a three-time Olympic gold medal-winning rower in the 1920s and later a prominent businessman active in Philadelphia politics.

Grace Kelly left Philadelphia at age 20 for Hollywood but remained adored by



Associated Press

Prince Albert II of Monaco bought and restored the Philadelphia home where his mother, Oscar-winning actress Grace Kelly, grew up.

Philadelphians through the years. The city mourned after she died in 1982 from injuries she suffered in a car crash in France that involved her teenage daughter. She was 52.

Boyhood home of Lynyrd Skynyrd brothers historic site

JACKSONVILLE — The house where rockers Ronnie, Donnie and Johnny Van Zant grew up is officially one of Florida's historic sites.

A marker noting the home as a Florida heritage site will be unveiled during a ceremony in Jacksonville on Saturday. The plaque notes Ronnie Van Zant's role in forming Lynyrd Skynyrd, Johnny Van Zant's role as singer in the reborn Skynyrd group and Donnie Van Zant's role as a founding member of .38 Special. It recognizes their "prodigious contribution to the world of rock music."

Jacksonville entrepreneur Todd Smith bought the house while looking for homes in the

area. He learned of its history and worked with state officials to get the designation.

The Florida Times-Union reports Smith is restoring the house to look like a 1970s time capsule.

Fox says guest who criticized McCain won't be back

NEW YORK — Fox News says a retired Air Force general who called Sen. John McCain "songbird John" for allegedly providing information to the North Vietnamese while he was a prisoner of war will not be invited back.

The idea that McCain gave up information during the war was judged false years ago by Politifact. But Fox Business Network guest Tom McInerney spread the story as a guest on Thursday. Fox host Charles Payne later apologized for not correcting him on the air.

A Fox spokeswoman said Friday that McInerney will no longer be allowed on the network.

—From wire reports

Today in HISTORY

Today is Saturday, May 12, the 132nd day of 2018. There are 233 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights:

On May 12, 1943, during World War II, Axis forces in North Africa surrendered. The two-week Trident Conference, headed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, opened in Washington.

On this date:

In 1780, during the Revolutionary War, the besieged city of Charleston, South Carolina, surrendered to British forces.

In 1932, the body of Charles Lindbergh Jr., the 20-month-old kidnapped son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh, was found in a wooded area near Hopewell, New Jersey.

In 1967, "Are You Experienced," the debut album of the Jimi Hendrix Experience, was released in Britain by Track Records. Procol Harum's debut single "A Whiter Shade of Pale" was released in the United Kingdom on the Deram label.

Ten years ago: NBC announced that Jimmy Fallon would succeed Conan O'Brien as host of "Late Night."

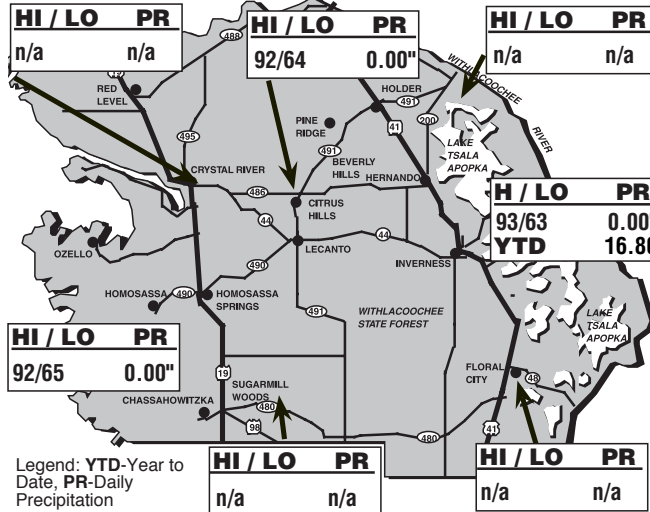
Five years ago: Nineteen people were wounded in a gang-related shooting during a Mother's Day parade in New Orleans.

One year ago: Dozens of countries were hit with a huge cyberextortion attack that locked up computers and held users' files for ransom at a multitude of hospitals, companies and government agencies.

Today's Birthdays: Composer Burt Bacharach is 90. Singer-musician Steve Winwood is 70. Actor Gabriel Byrne is 68. Actor Bruce Boxleitner is 68. Singer Billy Squier is 68. Actor Ving Rhames is 59. Actor Emilio Estevez is 56. Actress April Grace is 56. Actress Vanessa A. Williams is 55.

Thought for Today: "Dissent is not sacred; the right of dissent is." — Thurman Arnold, American lawyer (1891-1969).

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER



THREE DAY OUTLOOK

Today & Tomorrow Morning: High: 89° Low: 64°. Increasing clouds, warm and more humid. Sunday & Monday Morning: High: 85° Low: 67°. Mostly cloudy, 60 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms by afternoon. Monday & Tuesday Morning: High: 82° Low: 67°. Cloudy, 70 percent chance of rain and thunderstorms.

ALMANAC table with columns for Temperature, Dew Point, Humidity, Pollen Count, Air Quality, and Barometric Pressure.

SOLAR TABLES table with columns for Date, Day, Minor, Major (Morning), Minor, Major (Afternoon).

CELESTIAL OUTLOOK table with columns for Sunset Tonight, Sunrise Tomorrow, Moonrise Today, Moonset Today.

BURN CONDITIONS: Today's Fire Danger Index is: HIGH. 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 columns for City, High, Low.

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

FLORIDA TEMPERATURES

Table of Florida temperatures with columns for City, High, Low, Forecast.

MARINE OUTLOOK

Today: Southeast then west winds 5 to 10 knots. Seas 1 Foot. Bay and inland waters smooth. Tonight: West winds around 5 knots. Seas 2 feet or less. Bay and inland waters a light chop.

Gulf water temperature 77° Taken at Aripeka

LAKE LEVELS

Table of Lake Levels with columns for Location, Fri, Thu, Full.

THE NATION

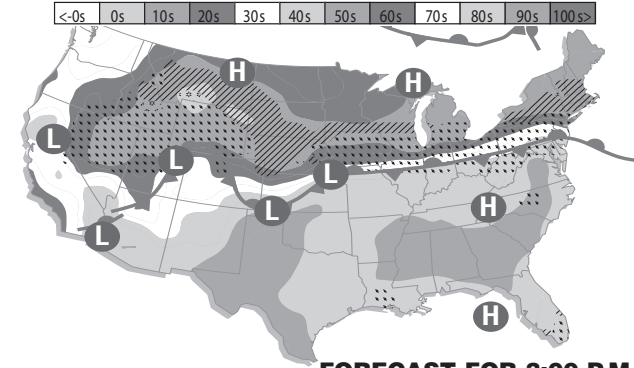


Table of National High/Low with columns for City, High, Low, Forecast.

Table of World Cities with columns for City, High/Low, Forecast.

LEGAL NOTICES in Today's Citrus County Chronicle. Fictitious Name Notices D4.

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Weekly roundup: Friends and foes

A recap and analysis of the week in state government

DARA KAM
The News Service
of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — Former foes Adam Putnam and Richard Corcoran began a public bromance this week, with Corcoran clearing the deck for the agriculture commissioner in what will now largely be a two-man Republican primary for governor.

But in contrast to the lovey-dovey development in GOP-land, the situation took a decidedly nasty turn on the other side of the aisle in the race to succeed outgoing Gov. Rick Scott.

Former U.S. Rep. Gwen Graham and her supporters launched a two-day offensive against one of her primary opponents, Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum, in response to an attack ad released by The Collective Super PAC, a group that backs black candidates, including Gillum.

The Collective is spending upwards of \$700,000 on the ad, which is running on West Palm Beach television stations and South Florida cable networks and is clearly targeted toward Democratic base voters.

The 30-second spot slams Graham's voting record during her short stint in Congress, where she "voted against President Obama 52 percent of the time," backed the Keystone Pipeline, sided "with the big banks" and "trashed" Obamacare.

"Gwen Graham is not the progressive she claims to be," the voiceover warns.

Graham's campaign shop went into overdrive in response to what appears to be the first negative ad in the Democratic primary, going ballistic on social media and issuing numerous press releases expressing outrage from a slew of surrogates who joined the former congresswoman's demand that Gillum order the ad be taken down.

"I am disgusted that Andrew Gillum would allow a secret-money group to run a false attack against a fellow Democrat," Graham said in one of more than a dozen email responses to the ad.

Instead of backing down, Gillum's camp doubled down, accusing Graham of relying on super-PAC sustenance during her congressional bid four years ago.

"It's hypocritical for the Graham campaign to denounce outside spending and now call it 'dark money' when it doesn't benefit her like it did in 2014. Her 'very conservative' record is on full display, and this campaign should be about her record against the mayor's record," Gillum spokesman Geoff Burgan said in a statement.

I love you, man

The Collective has pledged to spend over \$1.5 million to help Gillum become Florida's first black governor, which means the throwdown over the "52 percent" ad is likely just a taste of what's to come this summer.

While it's certain that the Dems won't be the only



Richard Corcoran, left, Adam Putnam

ones slinging slime before the August primary election, Putnam now has one less mud-thrower to duck after winning the support of Corcoran, the House speaker who had toyed with the idea of entering the GOP gubernatorial primary before walking away this week.

Proving once again it's all about the Benjamins, Corcoran blamed his exit from the race he never officially joined on a lack of greenbacks.

"Florida is an expensive state. It costs a lot of money to run," Corcoran, R-Land O' Lakes, said during an appearance Wednesday with Putnam in Tallahassee.

Through the end of March, Corcoran's Watchdog PAC political committee had raised \$6.86 million and spent \$4.6 million, with \$3.7 million spent in the first three months of this year. Despite the spending, which included a controversial television ad on so-called "sanctuary cities," Corcoran never gained much traction in the GOP race with Putnam and U.S. Rep. Ron DeSantis of Palm Coast.

Corcoran said he would

adhere to his pledge to either run for governor "or go home," ruling out a move to another statewide race, such as the contest for attorney general. He also said he would not serve as Putnam's lieutenant governor if asked to join the ticket.

"I've passionately said for the last year that I was going to run for governor or go home. And I'm proud to say that that decision is clearly that we're going home," Corcoran said.

Corcoran said he decided to endorse Putnam because he believes the two-term state Cabinet member will continue and extend the conservative legacy of the Scott administration, including on tax cuts and educational reforms.

"Adam is sincere. He is authentic. He is principled. He is passionate. He loves this state," Corcoran said.

Putnam welcomed Corcoran's backing.

"To have the endorsement, to have the support of someone who knows Florida so well and is so passionate about Florida's future and is such a principled conservative means everything in the world to

me," Putnam said.

But signaling a contentious Aug. 28 primary, the DeSantis campaign characterized the endorsement as an "insider" deal between two long-time members of the Tallahassee establishment, noting Corcoran and Putnam have disagreed on issues, including immigration.

"Career politician, Adam Putnam, will now get the two-man race he's been fearing for a year," DeSantis spokesman David Vasquez said in a statement. "A conservative Iraq veteran (DeSantis) endorsed by Donald Trump versus a 'Never Trump' career politician who supported amnesty for illegal aliens. We like our odds."

War on drugs ... treatment

Some lawmakers were stunned to learn that Department of Corrections Secretary Julie Jones is slicing substance-abuse programs for prisoners in the midst of an opioid crisis gripping Florida and the nation.

But the raised eyebrows won't translate into action, at least not right now.

House and Senate leaders said this week they don't have any plans to plug a \$28 million budget gap at the corrections agency that sparked Jones's decision.

Jones announced last week she is slashing contracts with nearly three dozen substance-abuse and re-entry providers — programs considered integral to reducing recidivism and helping inmates transition back into society — by at least 40 percent because the money is needed to cover the cost of a contract for prison

health services.

"What I would encourage our partners who are facing these cuts to do is to double-down on their efforts to find efficiencies and understand that, when we return in November, this is going to be something that many of us are eager to address," Senate budget chief Rob Bradley, R-Fleming Island, said in an interview Thursday.

After the November elections, lawmakers will begin working to prepare next year's budget.

Jones said the cuts, which are already being implemented in time for the July 1 start of the new fiscal year, were necessary because lawmakers did not fully fund the corrections agency, which is running about \$80 million in the red.

The reductions sparked an outcry from providers, who could be forced to lay off 600 employees, according to Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association Executive Director Mark Fontaine.

"The contracted substance-abuse funding is only 1.5 percent of the department's \$2.4 billion budget. Hard to believe there aren't other options available," Fontaine said.

Story of the week

Throwing his support behind Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam, House Speaker Richard Corcoran, R-Land O' Lakes, announced he will not run for governor.

Quote of the week

"I don't think we had the resources to move forward." — House Speaker Richard Corcoran, R-Land O' Lakes, announcing he is staying out of the governor's race.



EMERSON

Continued from Page A1

where they toured the island of Vis — and met the 16-year-old boy, then in his 70s, who had towed them to shore.

"We threw a wreath on the water at the crash site to commemorate the co-pilot's death," Emerson had said in 2003. "The wreath sank, and a diver took it down to the bottom and put it on the airplane. After we ditched and got back to the base, we went home and tried not to think about it ... but it's still pretty vivid in my mind."

In 2011, Emerson took another flight of a lifetime, this time an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., to visit the nation's capital and its war memorials and monuments.

Last June, on his 100th birthday, Emerson was celebrated by his local

In 2012, Irvin Emerson displays a case that houses a variety of items from his years as a World War II B-17 bomber pilot. Emerson flew 35 combat missions on the B-17 throughout southern Europe.

MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle file

friends and family members who came from as far away as Boston, Seattle and Maine.

"Irv was a very caring gentleman — and walking history," said neighbor Cindy Sylvia. "My husband and I would talk with him for hours on how things have changed in the past 100 years."

Before Emerson moved out of his Inverness Highlands home last fall and into New Horizons assisted living, he was worried about his cats, Sylvia said.

"I told him no worries, I will take care of them. He was thinking of them before himself, which he always did," she said. "So whenever I feed them or see them now they make me smile and remember Irv ... He was an amazing person. We thank him for his service in World War II and for being blessed to have him in our life."

"I truly miss our daily visits and weekly lunches. ... He was a great friend — I would tell everyone he was my Florida dad."

One of Emerson's favorite places to go was the Highland Family Restaurant in Inverness. Three — or more — times a day he would walk in, always wearing his World War II veteran hat, and

take a seat at the counter.

"He ordered decaf — black," said server Monica O'Reilly, adding that he would tell stories while he ate his meals, sometimes sing to the servers, love songs from the 1930s and '40s.

"We all loved him," O'Reilly said. "People used to give him gift certificates from here because he was here every day. We're going to miss him."

Another favorite place of Emerson's was his church, First Church of God in Inverness.

"He was driving his car until a few months ago," said Harvey Helm, Irv's friend from church. "The pastor had reported that people were driving too fast in the church parking lot, and it was Irv he was talking about," Helm said. "He was a remarkable man who was never outward about what he has done. You had to pull it out of him."

On his 100th birthday last June 25, Emerson said he got a birthday card from someone at his church.

"It had \$13 in it," he said. "That was nice."

Contact Chronicle reporter Nancy Kennedy at 352-564-2927 or nkennedy@chronicleonline.com.

RESCUE

Continued from Page A1

"It was countless hours of investigation, of footwork to try and find that dog for that sole purpose of trying to prevent that little boy from trying to endure that."

Schweickert, who was in the courthouse but did not appear beside Evilsizer at Friday's hearing, could not

be reached for comment.

Peckham said she and Gallant weren't able to start their investigations until March 12, when they got a bite report from the health department.

However, Schweickert denied Dusty was ever in Out of the Box's care — a claim Peckham discredited after finding photos of Dusty on Out of the Box's Facebook page.

"From the very inception, the focus was we just

need to find this dog and make sure it's under quarantine to make sure this little boy doesn't get shots," Peckham said.

From March 13 to until Schweickert produced Dusty, Peckham and Gallant continued to ask Schweickert about Dusty's whereabouts, and cited him each day he refused to cooperate.

"It was a needless series of events," Peckham said.

At one point during the

investigation, Peckham added, Schweickert had even offered for Out of the Box to quarantine Dusty — a sign he knew where the dog was at the time.

"We all knew he knew where the dog was, he was telling us lies," Peckham said, adding Out of the Box and its volunteer staff were not equipped to handle a proper quarantine.

Peckham said in court she's worried Schweickert's Out of the Box could

create this whole ordeal again.

"I'm concerned about the future and the fact Mr. Schweickert wasted the county's time," she told Yerman, who asked Evilsizer to warn his client.

"You might want to counsel him with regard to his business operation," Yerman said. "He's got a lot of exposure he's opening himself up to."

Contact Chronicle reporter Buster Thompson at

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SpaceX's upgraded rocket soars with satellite for Bangladesh

Rockets are designed for repeat flights

MARCIA DUNN
AP aerospace writer

CAPE CANAVERAL — SpaceX lifted Bangladesh's first satellite into orbit Friday using an upgraded rocket designed for dozens of repeat flights including back-to-back, same-day launches.

SpaceX chief executive Elon Musk said launching the same rocket twice within 24 hours will be "crazy hard," but he hopes to pull off the feat as early as next year.

This latest and final version of the company's Falcon 9 rocket — capable of more than 10 reflights, possibly even 100 — made its debut Friday. It soared from NASA's Kennedy Space Center into a hazy afternoon sky, carrying a communication satellite named Bangabandhu-1 after the founding father of Bangladesh. A last-minute abort halted Thursday's try.

This newest booster landed on an ocean platform following liftoff as planned. "What a great sight!" the launch commentator announced as cheers and applause filled SpaceX Mission Control in Hawthorne, California. The booster will be taken apart for analysis before flying again in a few months. Musk's goal is to eventually have little if any prep work between launches.

The whole point of reusability — multiple flights with swift turnarounds,



This image made available by SpaceX shows the company's Falcon 9 rocket booster after it landed on a drone ship in the Atlantic Ocean on Friday. Bangladesh's first satellite was lifted into orbit in the mission

airplane-style — is to shave launch costs.

"This is a ridiculously hard thing," Musk told reporters before Thursday's postponement. "It has taken us ... 16 years of extreme effort and many, many iterations and thousands of small but important development changes to get to where we think this is even possible. Crazy hard. We still need to demonstrate it. It's not like we've done it. But it can be done."

The Falcon 9 is SpaceX's workhorse, regularly hauling satellites into orbit and supplies to the International Space Station. This new and

improved model will be used to launch astronauts for NASA in the coming year.

So far, the first-stage boosters have been recycled once, for a total of two flights apiece. There has been a fair amount of maintenance between uses.

For this new model, SpaceX enhanced engine performance, strengthened various parts of the rocket and improved the landing gear system. In the most visible change, the segment between the first and upper stages went from white to black with the addition of new thermal insulation.

Musk wants to

ultimately recover the entire rocket, not just the first stage, which accounts for 60 percent of the cost. He expects more customers to start gravitating toward "flight-proven" rockets as he calls them.

"Would you rather fly in an aircraft that has never had a test flight before or would you rather fly in an aircraft that has flown many times successfully?" he said.

Musk plans to launch about 30 of these upgraded Falcon 9s before switching to a massive rocket still in development known as the BFR, or Big Falcon Rocket. Capable of launching spacecraft to Mars

— Musk's ultimate ambition is to colonize the red planet — the BFR will replace not only the Falcon 9, but the brawny Falcon Heavy. The Heavy debuted in February, launching Musk's Tesla electric sports car toward the orbit of Mars.

Bangladesh, meanwhile, was thrilled to have its own satellite to spread internet throughout the land and provide emergency services in case of natural disasters.

Mohammad Ziauddin, Bangladesh's ambassador to the U.S., called it a historic occasion and a matter of great pride for his country's citizens.

Appeals court opts to reinstate challenge to Seattle rideshare law

Uber, Lyft drivers could unionize

GENE JOHNSON
Associated Press

SEATTLE — A federal appeals court on Friday reinstated a challenge to Seattle's first-in-the-nation law allowing drivers of ride-hailing companies such as Uber and Lyft to unionize.

The city's 2015 measure requires companies that hire or contract with drivers of taxis, for-hire transportation companies and app-based services to bargain with them on issues such as pay and working conditions if a majority show they want to be represented.

A three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals unanimously said the measure is subject to challenge under federal antitrust law, and it sent the case back to U.S. District Judge Robert Lasnik in Seattle to determine whether the measure is, in fact, impermissible.

The law, which is blocked pending legal challenges, has been seen as a test case for regulating the app-based 21st century workforce, where companies often hire short-term contractors for flexible, temporary jobs lacking the benefits traditionally associated with union work.

The city said letting drivers bargain over their working conditions would protect workers and make the industry safer, but critics said permitting them to do so would have dire

consequences for the popular services in Seattle, raising prices for consumers and stifling competition.

Two lawsuits — one by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce on behalf of the companies, and one by the National Right to Work Foundation on behalf of 11 drivers — challenged the law. Friday's ruling came in the Chamber of Commerce case.

Caleb Weaver, an Uber spokesman, called it "a win for rideshare drivers, riders, and the entire Seattle community," while labor groups lamented it.

In a statement emailed by the Teamsters Union, which had been selected to represent the drivers under the law, Uber and Lyft driver Don Creery said he and others were disappointed.

"Anti-trust laws were put in place to protect the little guy from monopolistic practices from large corporations, not to shield a company like Uber — valued at over \$70 billion — from negotiating with its workers over fair pay and working conditions," Creery said.

The Seattle City Attorney's Office was reviewing the decision and had no immediate comment, said spokesman Dan Nolte.

"We are relieved that this ruling means that independent drivers who pick up rides through ride-sharing apps are no longer under imminent threat of being forced under a union monopoly and compelled to pay union fees just to pick up passengers within Seattle city limits," Mark Mix, president of the National Right to Work Foundation, said in a written statement.

Under the federal



A Lyft ride-hailing service logo is displayed on a vehicle March 31, 2016, at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport in Seattle. A federal appeals court has reinstated a challenge to Seattle's first-in-the-nation law allowing drivers of ride-hailing companies such as Uber and Lyft to unionize.

Sherman Antitrust Act — the 1890 law designed to prevent business monopolies from artificially inflating prices or undermining competitors — collusion between independent actors to set prices is illegal.

But the Supreme Court has held that states can still act to regulate their own economies, and even private businesses or lesser government entities can act in anticompetitive ways if doing so supports clear state policy and is supervised by the state.

Lasnik ruled that Seattle should benefit from that exemption. The

appeals court judges — Milan Smith, Mary Murguia and Eduardo Robreno — disagreed. Last September, they blocked the law from taking effect, and Friday they found Washington state had articulated no such policy and is not regulating the rideshare economy.

"Digital platforms like Uber and Lyft have become highly interconnected with modern economic and social life, and present novel challenges and contexts for regulation," they wrote. "Nevertheless, it is not our

role to make policy judgments properly left to the Washington state legislature."

The appeals court judges affirmed another part of Lasnik's decision, saying Seattle's measure did not violate federal labor law.

With the appeals court deciding that Seattle is not immune from the antitrust law, the case returns to U.S. District Court, where the sides are expected to fight over another point: whether the law is impermissible under the Sherman Act.

Obituaries



Donald Vokey, 85
HERNANDO

Donald J. Vokey, Hernando, FL, died May 4, 2018. Born January 15, 1933 in Everett, MA to the late Walter and Lydia (Neil) Vokey, he lived in Massachusetts until moving from Wilmington in 1997. Don was a U.S. Air Force veteran during the Korean Conflict. He was a member of the Hernando United Methodist Church. He was a monotype keyboard operator, Pres., VG Composition Co. Boston, and later type design manager, Photon, Inc., Wilmington MA. He retired from Raytheon in 1997.

Survivors include his sons, Wayne (Mary) of Loudon N.H., Craig (Theresa) of Hernando, FL, and a brother, George of Wakefield, N.H. five grandchildren Daniel, Matthew, Kevin, Candice, Colleen; nine great-grandchildren, Akaila, Devin, Alanna, K-Lynn, Jacob, Ava, Alexa, Jack, and Brendon. Donald was preceded in death by his brother, Charles and his wife, Beverly.

The Family request that in lieu of flowers, gifts can be made to Hernando UMC or St. Jude's Children's research P.O. Box 50, Memphis, TN. 38101. There will be a Celebration of Life service for Donald Vokey at the Hernando United Methodist Church 2125 East Norvell Bryant Hwy, Hernando, FL 34442 on June 2, 2018 at 11:00 A.M.

Sign the guest book at www.chronicleonline.com.

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- Submissions must be verified with the funeral home or society in charge of arrangements.
- The Chronicle does not edit obituaries for content.
- Death notices are \$25, and may include: full name of deceased; age; hometown/state; date of death; place of death; date, time and place of visitation and funeral services and, for members of the military, the branch of the armed services in which they served.
- If websites, phone numbers, photos, survivors, memorial contributions or other information are included in submissions, the obituary will cost regular price of \$175.
- Full obituaries are \$175, and include placement in the newspaper and online, a standard-size headshot and a keepsake plaque. Text exceeding 850 words will be subject to an additional fee of \$80.
- For consecutive days of publication, the cost of an obituary is \$87.50 for the second day and \$43.75 for the third day.
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► "It is alright to hold a conversation but you should let go of it now and then."

Richard Armour

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

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CLEARING THE WAY

Positive news on fight against blight in county

Strike a blow for the fight against blight in Citrus County.

Work began recently to tear down the building on the corner of State Road 44 and County Road 486 near Crystal River. The building, which was once a movie theater before the mall came to town, has long been the poster child for the local effort by citizen and government to do something about dilapidated buildings cluttering the area.

The plan is to build hotel or fast-food restaurant on the piece of property.

While the building's removal sputtered at first — personal papers were scattered across the parking lot despite there being a Dumpster near by — we are happy to see the owner taking action.

Additionally, we applaud county spokeswoman Cynthia Oswald and Economic Development Director Bruce Register for acting immediately to go to

the site and clean up the mess.

The building wasn't always empty and has value, which is what angers many who've watched it fall into disrepair.

The owner bought the 1.7-acre property in 1989 for \$350,000, according to property appraiser records. He turned it into a Texaco gas station and convenience store, and then someone leased it for a BP gas station. It closed in 2014 and has sat empty since then, except for seasonal tented fireworks sales or someone selling

rugs and flags in the parking area.

The owner plans to finalize a development plan by the end of the year.

We are glad to see progress in this area, but the job of ridding the county of failing, empty structures has only just begun. We encourage county leaders to keep the pressure on and follow through on the vacant building registry.

THE ISSUE:

Eyesore near Crystal River to be torn down.

OUR OPINION:

Good beginning.

No mobility fees for us, thank you

In regards to "Help government take charge of new developments" ("Be a part of the discussion to guide community growth," May 4, page C1) — impact fees support a lot more things than just roads. When Citrus County learns how to use their current impact fees correctly, we may entertain the thought of changing them or adding more. We do not need mobility fees. Mobility fees are usually tied to an increase in sales tax. We certainly don't need that!

Mobility fees are for high-density development, in order to put a lot into a small space. We don't have or need that here in Citrus County. We are still a rural country neighborhood, not a big city.

Mobility fees would affect the gas stations and fast food restaurants the most because they have the most in and out traffic. And that's all the new business we get here in this county. So do the commissioners want to keep even that from happening? Do all the commissioners agree on this mobility fees idea, or just Jimmie Smith?

The commissioners need to listen more to what we citizens need in this county and not just take it upon themselves to add additional fees and taxes. Government does not need to take charge of new development.

Sally Van Osdell
Inverness

Commissioners mess it up again

Once again, three of the county commissioners have shown their complete ineptness or total loyalty to their backers. Carnahan, Smith and Kinnard have decided to not reactivate the law enforcement impact fee. What makes it strange is that Carnahan is worried it might be used to help pay for additional SROs (School Resource Officers) for increased safety of our community kids as dictated by law.

Their actions are completely irresponsible and ignore the welfare of our schoolchildren to play to their special interest friends. Carnahan and Kinnard want the schools to hire discount rent-a-cops instead of using professional law enforcement. It is rare that a state mandate comes down with any type of funding assistance. In this case, there is a substantial amount being provided by the state, with some additional funds needed. The impact fee would be the perfect funding source for these additional needs, unless you are Carnahan and believe school security should be done on the cheap.

An additional need for the law enforcement impact fee is funding the countywide radio system. This is not the sheriff's system alone. It includes fire, EMS, county and city communications. The current system will be outdated and either have to be replaced or at least updated. Where are the funds going to come from, Commissioner Kinnard — the sky? Part of being an elected official is pre-planning for future needs; this clearly is something the three geniuses have shown a complete lack of.

My last comment on this pathetic mess of commission decisions is the lack of funding for bulletproof vests for our law enforcement. The three puppets once again attempt to deflect responsibility. They claim the sheriff is given the money and it is up to him how to spend it. When you cut a half-million dollars out of a budget, something is not going to get funded. The sheriff does not submit a line-item budget, but the county does not ask for one, either. That is because after all these years they have not instituted zero-based budgeting, which not only identifies purchasing needs but gives justification.

OPINIONS INVITED

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This is another area that our current county commission just kicked down the road.

And then there is Smith, who believes just because the vests are past replacement date they could still be good. I wonder, does Jimmie buy out-of-date food products or use outdated medications?

Roger B. Krieger
Beverly Hills

Strict discipline is the answer

You took an editorial position Sunday ("Board ducks school-safety responsibility," May 6, page C2) that simply fails the common-sense test. It would be much cheaper (and effective) if teachers also could be armed, but that too deals with the symptoms rather than the root causes. Armed defenders may be effective, but we could make the same argument to protect targets such as church congregations, nightclubs, jazz festivals and movie theaters.

The root cause of students wanting to kill other students is our wimpy PC culture. A countervailing culture of discipline must be deliberately created and enforced in a way that identifies and disciplines those who do not want to follow the rules.

The old time culture that is pooh-poohed included things like separating boys and girls into separate schools; a requirement to wear simple, modest but uniform clothing; and strict discipline, including the threat of corporal punishment (which I addressed in a previous letter to the editor). Any of these three options would likely be more effective than SROs, as well as much less expensive. Corporal punishment is seldom needed, but the threat of it gives pause even to the worst actors. It needs to start in elementary school if it is to work toward minimizing itself.

I note that while all the students at the military academies have high-powered rifles in their dorm rooms (all four years) and also have a highly stressful environment, they treat each other with respect and do not shoot each other. For every 20 applicants for that "free" education, only one gets selected. Their parents are usually quite proud that their sons and daughters get to experience and benefit from the ultimate in disciplinary environments. I was once disciplined while a Naval Academy midshipman for having a comb in my shirt pocket.

Do you want a common sense, non-tax suggestion? The county commission and School Board should require parents/guardians of students to pay an extra \$100 per year for each student who is not to be subject to strict discipline, including corporal punishment when appropriate. The money, if any, should go into teacher salaries/bonuses to compensate them for dealing with such "special" kids, or be used to fund scholarships to trade schools or colleges for good kids. It might even be used to fund SROs. It would be appropriate even if SROs also have to be funded using tax dollars.

Charles R. Jones
Hernando

At a certain age, retest all drivers

The other day, I was driving southbound on U.S. 41. At the Holder intersection, I was the

fourth car behind the leader of the pack.

As the pack of cars drove through the intersection, I noticed the speed limit — 35 mph, and it quickly rose to 55 mph as we drove out of town. Yet the car four cars in front of me stayed consistently at 30 mph all the way to Inverness!

If you are familiar with U.S. 41, you know the speed limit bounces from 35 mph to 55 mph as you drive between towns. You may also know that, for the most part, it is a one-lane road, and not easy to pass due to a semi-consistent flow of traffic in each direction.

When the car in front of the line finally turned into a store on the north side of Inverness, I got a glimpse of the driver. It was a little old lady with blue hair who could barely see over the steering wheel.

Yay! She was finally got out of the way.

But my point is this: 25 mph under the speed limit is not safe! It is arguably more or equally as dangerous as driving 20 mph over the speed limit. If someone came up behind her doing 5 mph over the speed limit, she would look like she was sitting still, and could get rear-ended hard.

This happens often around here. And the culprits are usually the elderly, driving dangerously below the speed limit. And, I suspect, probably because their reflexes are slowing down and they want to be safe.

But what to do about this? I personally think we should have mandatory retesting when people get to a certain age (age point is debatable). Let's be honest with ourselves here. When you get to certain age, your reflexes get worse, you eyes get worse, and your cognitive state generally deteriorates. After a certain point, it is just not safe to be driving on the road.

But if I'm honest with myself, that won't happen either, because the demographic I'm talking about is a major voting bloc in this state. I guess I'll just have to keep paying for their Social Security checks and their Medicare, and wait until it's my turn to clog up traffic.

Until then, please — if you can't handle the car, stay off the road!

Dan Lanske
Citrus Springs

Chronicle should stand up for citizens

I've read the op-ed in the May 10th edition of the Chronicle ("Extension routes revealed," page A8). Thank you for at least making more people aware of the Coastal Connector corridor study and pathways.

I am shocked, however, at your very thinly veiled support of these roadways, and you've used many of the same very superficial rationales spouted by members of our BOCC — none of which speak to specific benefits to Citrus County citizens. No version of this roadway is good and future travel and evacuations could be helped more effectively and far sooner by expanding and improving existing roadways.

You suggest the timelines are far, far off, when that is not the case in reality. This road could be funded as early as next year, if the state government decided to do that. Expressing resistance now is crucial. And finally, you've punted all feedback to the FDOT/FTE, further letting our county commission members, Ron Kitchen especially, off the hook for advocating for the interests of the citizens of Citrus County. Stop being a mouthpiece for monied interests and speak up for the citizens of the county. Have some journalistic integrity!

Jennifer Carpenter
Beverly Hills

Inverness has other issues

Well, our Inverness city manager is on a roll. I wish he, the city council, commissioners, or someone in authority would get behind the people responsible for the shopping plaza behind the newly renovated McDonald's and clean it up and the parking lot. Some trees would be nice. Also, (a store) on South (U.S.) 41 is missing door on their dumpster enclosure and



garbage all over the ground. The building is a mess with garbage and cigarette butts everywhere.

Mandates, laws are different

A mandate is not a law. State, federal, city, county — no matter — a mandate is not a law.

Weird helicopters at night

When a helicopter flies over your house at midnight, does that mean they're looking for somebody and crime?

Walking robot maker prepares to unleash its dog-like machine

Associated Press

BERKELEY, Calif. — A robotics company known for its widely shared videos of nimble, legged robots opening doors or walking through rough terrain is preparing to sell some after more than a quarter century of research.

Boston Dynamics CEO Marc Raibert said Friday that his company plans to begin selling the dog-like SpotMini robot next year, likely to businesses for use as a camera-equipped security guard.

But he thinks other applications for the four-legged contraption will be likely developed by other companies, because the robot has a flat platform to allow other equipment with its own computer programming to be easily mounted on top of it.

SpotMini gets around with the help of cameras on its front, sides and one mounted on its rear — a position that Raibert calls the “butt-cam.”

Boston Dynamics already has made 10 SpotMinis with plans to manufacture about 100 more for additional testing this year before going into mass production by the middle of next year, Raibert said. No price has been set for the robot yet, though Raibert said making the latest prototype costs about one-tenth the price of earlier versions.

Raibert unveiled the

SpotMini plans at the University of California, Berkeley, during a TechCrunch conference focused on the rise of robotics and its potential to perform a wide range of tasks and jobs now handled by humans.

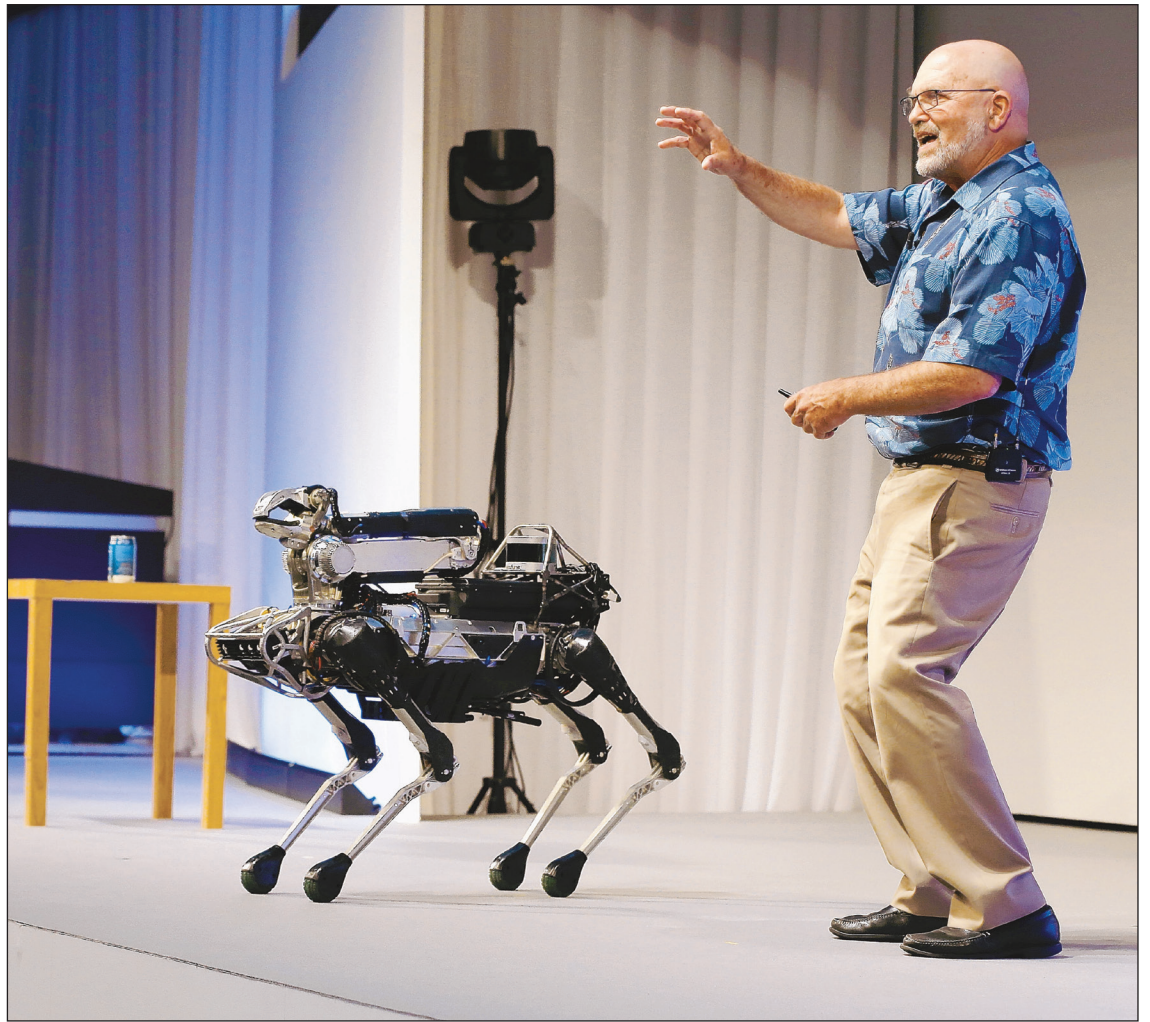
Founded in 1992, Boston Dynamics rarely reveals its plans except by posting YouTube videos that have impressed and terrified people. Most of Boston Dynamics' robotics research had been applied in the military until Google bought the Waltham, Massachusetts, company in 2013. Japanese tech giant SoftBank bought Boston Dynamics from Google last year.

Although Boston Dynamics never released a commercial robot under Google, Raibert credited his company's former owner for helping it to start thinking of ways to bring its technology to a broader market.

Toward that end, he also showed the conference a video of Atlas, a two-legged robot that has learned how to sort and pick up packages, jump up and off blocks, jog and perform back flips. He said Boston Dynamics still hasn't figured out how to make money from Atlas yet.

“This machine is really trying to push the boundary of the future,” Raibert said.

He also mentioned the possibility of building robots to help with construction projects, though he didn't provide any further details about that ambition on Friday.



Associated Press

Boston Dynamics Chief Executive Marc Raibert speaks last year about his four-legged robot SpotMini during a SoftBank World presentation at a hotel in Tokyo. The robotics company known for its widely shared YouTube videos of nimble, legged robots opening doors or walking through rough terrain is finally preparing to sell some of them after years of research. Raibert said Friday his company will begin selling the dog-like SpotMini robot next year, likely to businesses for use as a camera-equipped security guard. He made the announcement at a TechCrunch robotics conference at the University of California, Berkeley.

Around the NATION

Oklahoma governor vetoes gun carry bill in defeat for NRA

OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahoma's Republican Gov. Mary Fallin vetoed a bill late Friday that would have authorized adults to carry firearms without a permit or training, dealing a rare defeat to the National Rifle Association in a conservative state.



Gov. Mary Fallin

The veto comes after opposition from the business community and law enforcement authorities, including top officials with the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation who have said it could erode public safety.

The NRA had supported the bill's passage and had urged Fallin to sign it.

In a statement announcing her veto, Fallin stressed her support for the Second Amendment and the right to bear arms and noted she had signed concealed and open carry measures in the past.

“I believe the firearms laws we

currently have in place are effective, appropriate and minimal,” she said. But she added that the bill would have eliminated the requirement for a training course and reduced the level of background checks to carry a gun.

The bill is similar to so-called “constitutional carry” legislation adopted in a dozen other states. It would have authorized people 21 and older and military personnel who are at least 18 to legally carry a handgun, either openly or concealed, without a state-issued license or permit.

The state currently requires a license to carry a handgun openly or concealed.

Protesters: Black people should hold R. Kelly accountable

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — R. Kelly insisted on performing in North Carolina Friday night, rejecting efforts to silence him over longstanding allegations of sexual misconduct.

The Greensboro concert was among the R&B singer's first performances since the #MuteRKelly movement accelerated boycott

efforts in recent weeks, with help from the Time's Up campaign against sexual harassment and assault.

Kelly also was recently dropped from a May 5 concert in Chicago, and the music streaming service



R. Kelly

Spotify removed him from playlists curated by the platform.

Protesters gathered outside the Greensboro Coliseum ahead of his performance and criticized arena officials for declining to meet with them.

“It's also about money for them. Money seems be more important than people who have experienced sexual violence,” said Omisade Burney-Scott, with the Sistersong, a reproductive rights group.

“It's important for the black community to stand up and hold him accountable for his actions,” she added. “We do not want to support him economically, to put money in his pocket, to allow him to continue to insulate himself from being held accountable.”

A coalition of women's groups

connected to #MuteRKelly released a signed letter this week citing what it calls Kelly's “long term history of sexual misconduct.”

“The coliseum has neglected to consider the Black women and girls that largely make up the community that relies on them for engagement and entertainment,” the letter said.

R. Kelly is one of pop music's best-selling artists, with hits including “Ignition,” “I Believe I Can Fly,” “Step in the Name of Love,” “Same Girl” and “Bump N' Grind.” He's also written hits for Celene Dion, Michael Jackson and Lady Gaga.

NRA sues Gov. Cuomo over what it calls blacklisting campaign

NEW YORK — The National Rifle Association filed a lawsuit Friday against New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and the state's financial regulatory agency for what it says is a blacklisting campaign aimed at preventing firms from doing business with the gun owners' group.

The lawsuit filed in federal court for the northern district of New York names the Democratic governor along with the state Department of

Financial Services and its superintendent, Maria Vullo, as defendants.

It accuses Cuomo of directing a campaign of “selective prosecution, backroom exhortations, and public threats” aimed at depriving the NRA and its members of their First



Gov. Andrew Cuomo

Amendment rights “to speak freely about gun-related issues.”

The lawsuit comes after New York state fined insurance broker Lockton Cos. LLC \$7 million for underwriting an NRA-branded insurance program called Carry Guard.

In a May 2 news release about the enforcement action, the state financial services department said Carry Guard unlawfully and improperly provided insurance coverage for criminal defense for gun owners charged with a crime involving a firearm.

Vullo called the firm's marketing of the Carry Guard policies “an egregious violation of public policy designed to protect all citizens.”

— From wire reports

For the RECORD

Citrus County Sheriff's Office

Domestic battery arrests

■ **Mark Bridges**, 60, of Homosassa, at 11:55 p.m. May 10 on a misdemeanor charge of domestic battery.

■ **Lewis Randolph**, 30, of Floral City, at 9:11 p.m. May 10 on a misdemeanor charge of domestic battery.

■ **Joseph Coester**, 41, of Lecanto, at 2:41 p.m. May 10 on a misdemeanor charge of domestic battery.

Other arrests

■ **Jarred Gard**, 21, of Inverness, at 9:42 a.m. May 10 on felony charges of burglary and grand theft. His bond

was set at \$12,000.

■ **William Wood**, 37, of West Horace Allen Street, Lecanto, at 9:54 p.m. May 10 on an active warrant for felony violation of probation stemming from an original charge of driving with a suspended license. He was also charged with violating a condition of pre-trial release on a domestic violence charge.

■ **Adam Hark**, 25, of West Flanders Lane, Crystal River, at 5:14 p.m. May 10 on a felony charge of possession of a controlled substance and a misdemeanor charge of drug paraphernalia. According to his arrest affidavit, Hark was pulled over for passing a semi-truck in the grass. He reportedly agreed to a search of his vehicle and four buprenorphine (narcotic opioid for pain) pills, two glass

pipes, and a digital scale were found in his possession. His bond was set at \$3,000.

■ **Debra Wells**, 48, of Crystal River, at 1:02 p.m. May 10 on felony charges of five counts of possessing a controlled substance with intent to sell, possessing a controlled substance, operating a drug dwelling, possessing a firearm in the commission of a felony and a misdemeanor charge of drug paraphernalia. Her bond was set at \$65,000.

Burglaries

■ A residential burglary was reported at 8:21 a.m. Thursday, May 10, in the 6500 block of S. Pleasant Ave., Homosassa.

■ A vehicle burglary was reported at 9:58 a.m. May 10 in the 1900 block

of NW 19th St., Crystal River.

■ A vehicle burglary was reported at 11:31 a.m. May 10 in the 500 block of Independence Highway, Inverness.

■ A residential burglary was reported at 1:38 p.m. May 10 in the 1600 block of E. Ray St., Hernando.

■ A commercial burglary was reported at 4:06 p.m. May 10 in the 3100 block of S. Suncoast Blvd., Homosassa.

■ A residential burglary was reported at 7:56 a.m. Friday, May 11, in the 100 block of N. Chickadee Point, Inverness.

Thefts

■ A grand theft was reported at 10:35 a.m. Thursday, May 10, in the 5900 block of W. Gulf-to-Lake Highway,

ON THE NET

■ For the Record reports are also archived at www.chronicleonline.com.

Crystal River.

■ A misdemeanor retail theft was reported at 3:41 p.m. May 10 in the 2400 block of E. Gulf-to-Lake Highway, Inverness.

■ A grand theft was reported at 10:12 p.m. May 10 in the 3200 block of E. Buffalo Lane, Hernando.

Vandalism

■ A felony vandalism was reported at 11:07 p.m. Thursday, May 10, in the 800 block of Birch Ave., Inverness.

Pell grant students trail in graduation rates

LLOYD DUNKELBERGER
The News Service
of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — Florida's public universities graduated 57 percent of low-income students receiving federal Pell grants in six years, but that trailed the graduation rate of non-Pell students, a new study shows.

The analysis by Third Way, a Washington, D.C.-based think tank, used newly reported federal data to track a 2010 cohort of first-time, full-time Pell students in 1,566 four-year institutions across the country, including public and private schools.

“As colleges continue to bill themselves as mobility machines for students, this new data lets us (home) in on how well institutions are serving Pell students, who need the economic security

of a college degree the most,” the report stated.

The Third Way analysts found a majority of the four-year public and private schools nationally do not serve Pell students well and that the six-year graduation rate for Pell students is 18 percent lower than for non-Pell students at those institutions.

“We already know we have a completion crisis in higher education — and this new data shows us that this problem is even more acute for low- and moderate-income students,” the report said.

Florida universities performed better than the national average. The 57 percent graduation rate for the 2010 group of Pell students in Florida schools was well above a national average of 49 percent for public institutions, although three schools were below the average: Florida

A&M University, 39 percent; Florida Gulf Coast University, 41 percent; and the University of West Florida, 47 percent.

An average gap of 5 percentage points between Pell and non-Pell graduation rates in Florida was significantly below the national average of 16 percentage points for public schools, according to the report.

The largest gaps were at New College of Florida, 14 percentage points; Florida A&M, 8 percentage points; the University of Florida, 7 percentage points; Florida State University, 7 percentage points; and Florida Gulf Coast, 7 percentage points.

On the positive side, the University of South Florida and Florida Atlantic University had higher graduation rates for their Pell students compared to non-Pell students.



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Few teeth in drug price plan

Trump seeks to reduce costs

MATTHEW PERRONE AND JILL COLVIN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's long-promised plan to bring down drug prices, unveiled Friday, would mostly spare the pharmaceutical industry he previously accused of "getting away with murder." Instead he focuses on private competition and more openness to reduce America's prescription pain.

In Rose Garden remarks at the White House, Trump called his plan the "most sweeping action in history to lower the price of prescription drugs for the American people." But it does not include his campaign pledge to use the massive buying power of the government's Medicare program to directly negotiate lower prices for seniors.

That idea has long been supported by Democrats



President Donald Trump speaks during an event on Friday about prescription drug prices with Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar, left, in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington.

but is a non-starter for drugmakers and most Republicans in Congress. Democratic Rep. Lloyd Doggett of Texas dismissed Trump's plan as "a sugar-coated nothing pill."

The administration will pursue a raft of old and new measures intended to

improve competition and transparency in the notoriously complex drug pricing system. But most of the measures could take months or years to implement, and none would stop drugmakers from setting sky-high initial prices.

"There are some things

in this set of proposals that can move us in the direction of lower prices for some people," said David Mitchell, founder of Patients for Affordable Drugs. "At the same time it, is not clear at all how they are going to lower list prices."

Drugmakers generally

can charge as much as the market will bear because the U.S. government doesn't regulate medicine prices, unlike most other developed countries.

Trump's list of 50 proposals, dubbed American Patients First, includes:

■ A potential requirement for drugmakers to disclose the cost of their medicines in television advertisements.

■ Banning a pharmacist "gag rule," which prevents druggists from telling customers when they can save money by paying cash instead of using their insurance.

■ Speeding up the approval process for over-the-counter medications so people can buy more drugs without prescriptions.

■ Reconsidering how Medicare pays for some high-priced drugs administered at doctors' offices.

Those ideas avoid a direct confrontation with the powerful pharmaceutical lobby, but they may also underwhelm Americans seeking relief from escalating prescription costs.

Nation & World BRIEFS Ceremony



Associated Press

Participants take part in "Bread Procession of the Saint" the ceremony in honor of Saint Domingo de La Calzada, who helped poor people on a pilgrimage, on Friday in Santo Domingo de La Calzada, northern Spain, Friday.

Student shot in arm in California, teen suspect held

PALMDALE, Calif. — A 14-year-old used a rifle to shoot a classmate in the arm Friday at their high school in California and dumped the gun in the desert before he was caught in a shopping center, authorities said.

The shooting at Highland High School in Palmdale was sparked by a dispute between the two students, officials said.

Investigators were still trying to determine a specific motive.

The victim, 15, was taken to the hospital and is expected to make a full recovery, said Nicole Nishida, a Los Angeles County sheriff's spokeswoman. She said the suspect was found in the shopping center.

Garret Root, a teacher at the school, told KNBC-TV that he was walking up to the school when he saw a group of students running away and asked them what was happening.

"They said there was a shooter," Root said. "At first I didn't believe them, but then I heard a gunshot."

He said he saw what looked like a boy, about 100 yards away, carrying a long gun.

The lockdown at the school was lifted several hours after the shooting and school officials said they would begin reuniting students with their parents.

The FBI and agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives also responded to the scene.

Sheriff's deputies also received a call reporting shots fired in the vicinity of Manzanita Elementary School about 7 miles away from Highland High School.

Officials said deputies searched the elementary school and found no evidence of a shooting.

Mexico faces potential failure in NAFTA talks

MEXICO CITY — The top trade representatives of the United States, Mexico and Canada ended the latest round of talks on renegotiating the North American Free Trade without a deal Friday.

Mexico's Economy Secretary said technical working groups from the three countries would meet again starting Monday. But Thursday probably marks the last day under procedural deadlines to get a vote under the current U.S. legislature.

President Donald Trump launched fresh criticism of NAFTA on Friday.

"NAFTA has been a terrible deal, we're renegotiating it now, let's see what happens," Trump said.

"NAFTA has been a horrible, horrible disaster for this country, and we'll see if we can make it reasonable."

—From wire reports

Iran threatens Israel

Thousands protest Trump's withdrawal

AMIR VAHDAT
Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — A prominent Iranian cleric on Friday threatened two Israeli cities with destruction if the Jewish state "acts foolishly" and attacks its interests again, while thousands of protesters demonstrated against President Donald Trump's withdrawal from the Iranian nuclear deal with world powers.

The comments by Ayatollah Ahmad Khatami followed a week of escalating tensions that threaten to spill over into a wider conflict between the two bitter enemies, who have long fought each other through proxies in Syria and Lebanon.

Israeli airstrikes struck Iranian military installations inside Syria on Thursday — its biggest coordinated assault on Syria since the 1973 Mideast war — in retaliation for an Iranian rocket barrage on Israeli positions in the occupied Golan Heights. It was the



Associated Press

Iranian protesters burn a representation of a U.S. flag during a gathering after their Friday prayer in Tehran, Iran. Thousands of Iranians took to the streets in cities across the country to protest U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to pull out of the nuclear deal with world powers.

most serious military confrontation between the two rivals to date.

Khatami, who has echoed sentiments of Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei who says Israel will not exist in 25 years, said the Jewish state could face destruction if it continues to challenge Iran.

"The holy system of the Islamic Republic will step up its missile capabilities day by day

so that Israel, this occupying regime, will become sleepless and the nightmare will constantly haunt it that if it does anything foolish, we will raze Tel Aviv and Haifa to the ground," he said, according to state television.

His remarks drew chants of "Death to America!" from those gathered for Friday prayers in Tehran.

Thousands later demonstrated across the country to protest Trump's withdrawal from the nuclear deal. The protests resembled other aggressive but orderly gatherings typical under President Hassan Rouhani, who has portrayed himself as seeking rapprochement with the West and is simultaneously trying to save the nuclear deal with world powers while

attempting to appease hard-liners seeking revenge for Israeli attacks.

In a lengthy government statement on Friday, the Iranian government warned that it would take "whatever reciprocal measures it deems expedient" if it is not fully compensated for the U.S. withdrawal from the nuclear agreement as provided for in the accord.

As lava oozes, Hawaii officials say rest of island open

AUDREY MCAVOY AND JAE C. HONG
Associated Press

VOLCANO, Hawaii — Warnings that Hawaii's Kilauea volcano could shoot boulders and ash out of its summit crater are prompting people to rethink their plans to visit the Big Island.

But most of the rest of the island is free of volcanic hazards, and local tourism officials are hoping travelers will recognize the Big Island is ready to welcome them.

Rachel Smigelski-Theiss is among those who have shifted gears. She had intended to visit Kilauea's summit with her husband

and 5-year-old daughter and stay in Volcano, a town a few miles from the crater. Now they've canceled their trip. She's worried potential flight disruptions would strand them on the island.

"My equivalent of this — and I'm from South Florida where we have hurricanes — is driving quite literally into a hurricane," she said.

Hawaii officials have had a busy month pleading with travelers to keep their plans even as dramatic images of natural disasters afflicting the islands have bombarded televisions and social media feeds.

In April, floods on Kauai

Island made travelers nervous. Then last week, it was Kilauea volcano sending 2,200 degree lava bursting through cracks into people's backyards in the Leilani Estates neighborhood. Then as Kilauea's magma shifted underground, a magnitude-6.9 earthquake rocked the Big Island.

Since the quake, there have been frequent aftershocks. More than a dozen fissures oozing lava have opened in the ground. Adding to the distress, of the 36 structures destroyed, 26 were homes.

And now, scientists are warning that an explosive eruption may occur at the summit crater within weeks.

Tina Neal, the scientist in charge of the U.S. Geological Survey's Hawaiian Volcanoes Observatory, said geologists don't expect the summit eruption to be life-threatening so long as people stay out of the national park. Volcano and other nearby communities may be showered with pea-sized fragments or dusted with nontoxic ash but they aren't expected to get hit by large boulders, she said.

Hawaii Volcanoes National Park's decision to close Friday due to the risk of an explosive eruption will discourage travelers, said Janet Coney, the office manager at Kilauea Lodge, an inn in Volcano.

The lodge, which has 12 rooms and 4 cottages, has had a handful of cancellations. Coney is anticipating more depending on what happens.

There are also further potential risks where lava has been erupting 25 miles east of the crater in Leilani Estates. Scientists said the molten rock there could start moving faster if fresher, hotter magma emerges from the ground.

George Szigeti, CEO of the Hawaii Tourism Authority, the agency that markets Hawaii to the world, said Kilauea is being monitored around the clock to provide the public with the best information.

THE NUMBER:

4

Goals allowed on 25 shots by Tampa Bay goaltender Andrei Vasilevskiy during Friday night's 4-2 home loss to Washington.

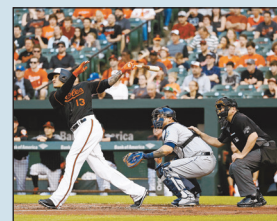


Andrei Vasilevskiy

SPORTS

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

Section B - SATURDAY, MAY 12, 2018



Machado's two homers leads Orioles past Rays, 9-4./B2

- Baseball/B2
- Scoreboard/B3
- Sports briefs/B3
- Lottery, TV/B3
- Auto racing/B4
- Golf/B4

Class 6A-Region 2 softball CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

A bitter pill for Pirates



MATT PFIFFNER/Chronicle

Crystal River center fielder Lexi Laxton, left, and right fielder Alyssa Cecere react after a call in the fifth inning allowed a run to score for Land O' Lakes in the Class 2A-Region 2 championship game at Crystal River High School. The Gators tacked on two more runs in the inning and went on to a 3-0 victory over the Pirates.

Controversial call leads to 3-run inning for Land O' Lakes in 3-0 win over CR

C.J. RISAK
Correspondent



Savannah Edwards of Crystal River makes solid contact at the plate during Friday night's Class 6A-Region 2 title game at home against Land O' Lakes.

CRYSTAL RIVER — Two teams nearing the conclusion of their two superb seasons, only to have the pivotal decision between them made by a third party.

Which is just what happened when Crystal River hosted Land O' Lakes in a 6A Elite Eight softball playoff game Friday. The game was dead even until the fifth inning, when a judgement call opened the floodgates for the Gators. They put three runs up on the board and made it stick for a 3-0 triumph.

For the Pirates, the outcome means their season is over; they finish at 20-4 overall, with the ending spot the 6A Elite Eight. Land O' Lakes, now 24-6, advances to next week's Final Four in Vero Beach looking to defend the state title it won last spring.

Through the first four innings of Friday's game, each team's offensive line read no runs, two hits and one walk. But with two out in the fifth Land O' Lakes came alive, starting with a double by Ashley Duran and followed by a walk to Shelby Westbrook.

That brought Callie Turner to the plate. She sliced her two-out grounder between first and second, and the ball hit the baserunner, Westbrook, as she ran to second.

See BITTER/Page B3

Caps take home ice from Bolts

Ovechkin has goal and assist, Washington wins Game 1, 4-2

FRED GOODALL
AP sports writer

TAMPA — Alex Ovechkin had a power-play goal and an assist in his Eastern Conference finals debut, leading the Washington Capitals to a 4-2 victory over the Tampa Bay Lightning on Friday night.

Braden Holtby stopped 19 shots and Michal Kempny, Jay Beagle and Lars Eller also scored for the Caps, who are alive beyond the second round of the playoffs for the first time in Ovechkin's brilliant 13-year career.

Steven Stamkos and Ondrej Palat scored for Tampa Bay, which trailed 4-0 heading into the third period. Game 2 is Sunday night at Amalie Arena, where

Tampa Bay also lost Game 1 in the second round against Boston.

The Capitals dominated in improving to 6-1 on the road this postseason, with Kempny giving them an early 1-0 lead.

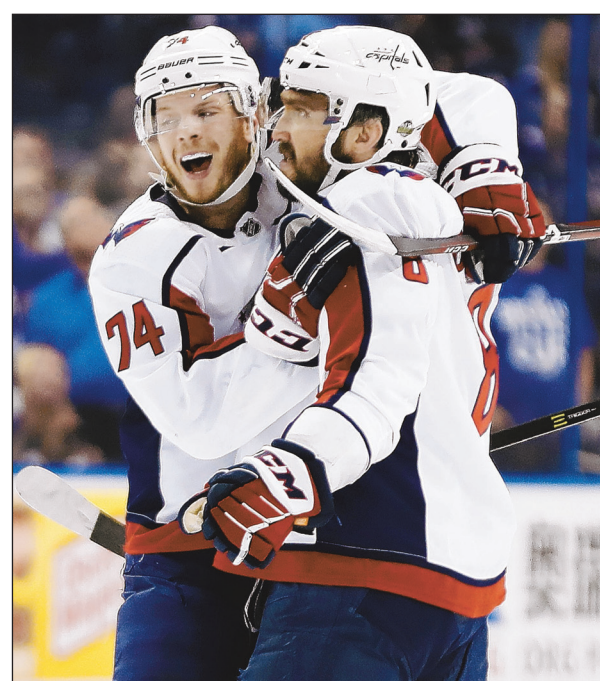
Ovechkin made it 2-0 a mere 5 seconds after the Lightning thought they had tied it in the closing seconds of the opening period. But Nikita Kucherov's would-be breakaway goal was waved off because Tampa Bay had too many men on the ice.

T.J. Oshie won the ensuing faceoff in the Lightning zone, getting the puck to Evgeny Kuznetsov, who fed Ovechkin for the Washington superstar's ninth goal this

See ICE/Page B3

Washington left wing Alex Ovechkin, right, celebrates his goal Friday against the Tampa Bay Lightning with defenseman John Carlson during the first period of Game 1 of the NHL Eastern Conference final in Tampa.

Associated Press



AMERICAN LEAGUE

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB, WC, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows: Boston, New York, Toronto, Tampa Bay, Baltimore.

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB, WC, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows: Cleveland, Minnesota, Detroit, Kansas City, Chicago.

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB, WC, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows: Los Angeles, Houston, Seattle, Oakland, Texas.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB, WC, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows: Atlanta, Philadelphia, Washington, New York, Miami.

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB, WC, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows: St. Louis, Milwaukee, Pittsburgh, Chicago, Cincinnati.

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB, WC, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows: Arizona, Colorado, San Fran., Los Angeles, San Diego.

NL

Marlins 6, Braves 3

Box score for Marlins vs Braves, including batting and pitching stats.

Realuto (2), Bour (3). DP—Atlanta 4. LOB—Atlanta 7, Miami 7. 2B—Markakis (10), Realuto (3), Maybin (8). HR—Albies (12), Realuto (5), S.Castro (2). SB—Albies (5), Bri. Anderson (2).

IP H R ER BB SO for Marlins vs Braves game.

T—2:42. A—9,149 (36,742).

Mets 3, Phillies 1

Box score for Mets vs Phillies, including batting and pitching stats.

New York 2, Philadelphia 1. LOB—New York 6, Philadelphia 9. 2B—A.Cabrera (11), HR—Conforto (3), Mesoraco (2), O.Herrera (6). SB—C.Hernandez (7).

IP H R ER BB SO for Mets vs Phillies game.

Pirates 11, Giants 2

Box score for Pirates vs Giants, including batting and pitching stats.

J.Bell (2), Cervelli (2). DP—Pittsburgh 1. LOB—San Francisco 12, Pittsburgh 5. 2B—McCutchen (6), Posey (8), Polanco (10), S.Rodriguez (1), Moran (8), 3B—Mercer (1), HR—Moroff (2), S.Marte (6), J.Bell (3), J.Osuna (2), SB—Hanson (3), CS—Cervelli (1), S—Tallion (1).

IP H R ER BB SO for Pirates vs Giants game.

Interleague

Cubs 11, Wh. Sox 2

Box score for Cubs vs White Sox, including batting and pitching stats.

E—L.Garcia (2), Davidson (1). DP—Chicago (N) 1. LOB—Chicago (A) 7, Chicago (N) 13. 2B—Palka (3), Zobrist (4), Contreras 2 (12), Zagunis (1). HR—Bryant (7), Contreras 2 (3). SF—J.Baez (1).

IP H R ER BB SO for Cubs vs White Sox game.

Royals 10, Indians 9

Box score for Royals vs Indians, including batting and pitching stats.

T—3:45. A—39,585 (41,649).



Baltimore's Manny Machado, left, watches his two-run home run Friday in front of Tampa Bay Rays catcher Wilson Ramos, center, and home plate umpire Brian Knight in the first inning in Baltimore.

Machado, O's slam Rays 9-4

A's hit 4 HRs, rough up Gray, Yankees 10-5

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Manny Machado hit two home runs, including his eighth career grand slam, and the Baltimore Orioles beat the Tampa Bay Rays 9-4 on Friday night for their season-high third straight victory.

Machado ripped a two-run shot in the first inning and made it 8-1 in the seventh with a drive off Ryne Stanek. Machado has three home runs in his last two games, 12 for the season and 150 over his seven-year career.

Mark Trumbo and rookie Chance Sisco also homered for the Orioles.

Carlos Gomez had two hits and two RBIs for the Rays, who have lost four straight and six of eight.

Jake Faria (3-2) allowed seven runs in six-plus innings. He was pulled with the bases loaded in the seventh, and all three runners subsequently scored ahead of Machado.

Outscored 54-14 in the first inning through 37 games, the Orioles reversed the trend when Machado homered following a single by Adam Jones for a 2-0 lead.

Trumbo hit his first home run of the season to spark Baltimore's five-run seventh, and Sisco connected in the eighth after Tampa Bay closed to 8-4.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Athletics 10, Yankees 5

NEW YORK — Khris Davis, Matt Chapman, Jed Lowrie and Matt Joyce all homered and the Oakland Athletics beat the Yankees 10-5, leaving New York with back-to-back losses for the first time in more than a month.

The A's had lost three in a row before roughing Sonny Gray, their former ace. Oakland has won five straight overall against the Yankees.

Marcus Semien drove in four runs for the A's, three on a double in the ninth inning.

Davis led off the second inning with his 10th home run, driving a fastball into the right-field bleachers. After Matt Olson singled, Chapman hit an 0-2 pitch 429 feet into the loading dock in center for a 3-0 lead.

Gray (2-3) was acquired from Oakland just before last year's trade deadline for outfielder Dustin Fowler and two minor leaguers. Drafted 18th overall in 2011, Gray was 44-36 with a 3.42 ERA over parts of five seasons with the A's.

Gray allowed five runs on nine hits over five innings, walking three.

Aaron Judge hit his 10th homer and rookie Gleyber Torres hit his third for the Yankees.

Royals 10, Indians 9

CLEVELAND — Andrew Miller, activated from the disabled list before the

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Friday's Games: Chicago Cubs 11, Chicago White Sox 2; Baltimore 9, Tampa Bay 4; Oakland 10, N.Y. Yankees 5; Kansas City 10, Cleveland 9; Boston at Toronto, late; Texas at Houston, late; Minnesota at L.A. Angels, late; Seattle at Detroit, p.p.d.

Today's Games: Oakland (Triggs 3-1) at N.Y. Yankees (German 0-1), 1:05 p.m.; Chicago White Sox (Shields 1-3) at Chicago Cubs (Lester 2-1), 2:20 p.m.; Tampa Bay (TBD) at Baltimore (Cobb 0-4), 3:05 p.m., 1st game; Boston (Price 2-4) at Toronto (Estrada 2-2), 4:07 p.m.; Kansas City (Junis 4-2) at Cleveland (Clevinger 2-0), 4:10 p.m.; Seattle (Hernandez 4-3) at Detroit (Fulmer 1-2), 4:10 p.m.; Tampa Bay (Archer 2-2) at Baltimore (TBD), 7:05 p.m., 2nd game; Texas (Fister 1-3) at Houston (Morton 4-0), 7:10 p.m.; Minnesota (Gibson 1-1) at L.A. Angels (Tropeano 1-2), 9:07 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Friday's Games: Chicago Cubs 11, Chicago White Sox 2; N.Y. Mets 3, Philadelphia 1; Pittsburgh 11, San Francisco 2; Miami 6, Atlanta 3; Milwaukee at Colorado, late; Washington at Arizona, late; Cincinnati at L.A. Dodgers, late; St. Louis at San Diego, late

Today's Games: Chicago White Sox (Shields 1-3) at Chicago Cubs (Lester 2-1), 2:20 p.m.; Washington (Strasburg 4-3) at Arizona (TBD), 4:05 p.m.; N.Y. Mets (Syndergaard 2-1) at Philadelphia (Eflin 1-0), 7:05 p.m.; San Francisco (Samardzija 1-2) at Pittsburgh (Kuhl 4-2), 7:05 p.m.; Atlanta (Soroka 1-1) at Miami (Garcia 1-1), 7:10 p.m.; Milwaukee (Anderson 3-3) at Colorado (Freeland 2-4), 8:10 p.m.; St. Louis (Wacha 4-1) at San Diego (Ross 2-3), 8:40 p.m.; Cincinnati (Bailey 0-5) at L.A. Dodgers (Stripling 0-1), 9:10 p.m.

Rojas had three of Miami's 14 hits.

Dan Straily (1-0), making his third start after beginning the season on the disabled list, allowed two earned runs in five innings.

Ozzie Albies hit his 12th homer for the Braves, who had a three-game winning streak snapped.

Mets 3, Phillies 1

PHILADELPHIA — Michael Conforto hit a two-run homer in the ninth inning off Phillies closer Hector Neris and the New York Mets rallied to beat Philadelphia 3-1.

Phillies starter Jake Arrieta allowed five hits over 7 1/3 scoreless innings and they led 1-0 until Neris allowed a one-out single, Conforto's third homer and a homer to Devin Mesoraco on the next pitch. It was the second blown save for Neris (1-3) in six days, both costing Arrieta a victory.

Odubel Herrera extended his on-base streak to 40 games with a first-inning home run for the Phillies, who had won four straight.

Jeurys Familia (2-1) worked a perfect ninth for the Mets, who had scored two or fewer runs in seven of their previous nine games.

Pirates 11, Giants 2

PITTSBURGH — Starling Marte, Josh Bell and Jose Osuna all hit two-run homers, Max Moroff added a three-run blast and Pittsburgh Pirates beat the San Francisco Giants 11-2 in Andrew McCutchen's return to PNC Park.

McCutchen, a five-time All-Star who played his first nine seasons in Pittsburgh before being traded to the Giants in January, received an extended ovation from the largest crowd to watch a Pirates home game this season when he came to bat in the second inning. The right fielder went 1 for 5 with a double and threw out Pittsburgh's Colin Moran at home plate to end the sixth.

Steven Brault (3-1) picked up the win in relief after Pittsburgh starter Jameson Taillon left after three innings with a laceration on his right hand. Jordy Mercer went 3 for 3 and scored twice for the Pirates, who have won five of six.

San Francisco rookie Andrew Suarez (1-2) lasted just four innings in his fourth career start, giving up five runs on seven hits, including home runs to Marte in the first and Osuna in the fourth.

INTERLEAGUE

Cubs 11, White Sox 2

CHICAGO — Willson Contreras had two homers, two doubles and drove in a career-high seven runs on his bobblehead day, and the Chicago Cubs pounded the crosstown White Sox 11-2.

Contreras capped a five-run first against Carason Fulmer with his second career grand slam. He doubled in the fourth, hit a solo homer in the sixth and added a two-run double in the seventh.

With their sixth straight loss, the White Sox matched the 1948 team for the worst 35-game start in franchise history at 9-26.

AL Orioles 9, Rays 4

Box score for Orioles vs Rays, including batting and pitching stats.

Tampa Bay 001 000 030 —4; Baltimore 200 001 51x —9; E—Gentry (1), DP—Tampa Bay 1, Baltimore 2. LOB—Tampa Bay 10, Baltimore 2. 2B—Span (5), Hechavarria (2), Schoop (6). 3B—Gomez (1). HR—M.Machado 2 (12), Trumbo (1), Sisco (2).

IP H R ER BB SO for Orioles vs Rays game.

Faria pitched to 4 batters in the 7th; HBP—by Faria (Santander). WP—Gausman. Umpires—Home, Brian Knight; First, Gerry Davis; Second, Pat Hoberg; Third, Mark Carlson.

T—2:36. A—28,170 (45,971).

Athletics 10, Yankees 5

Box score for Athletics vs Yankees, including batting and pitching stats.

Oakland 031 101 013 —10; New York 001 030 100 —5; E—Semien (8), DP—Oakland 1, LOB—Oakland 11, New York 6. 2B—Semien (10), M.Olson (7), Canha (5). HR—Joyce (3), Lowrie (9), K. Davis (10), M.Chapman (7), Judge (10), G.Torres (3). S—Lucroy (1), G.Torres (1).

IP H R ER BB SO for Athletics vs Yankees game.

Trivino pitched to 2 batters in the 7th; HBP—by Hale (Lucroy). Umpires—Home, Marvin Hudson; First, James Hoyer; Second, Quinn Wolcott; Third, Jeff Kellogg.

T—3:02. A—43,093 (54,251).

Royals 10, Indians 9

Box score for Royals vs Indians, including batting and pitching stats.

Kansas City 031 013 200 —10; Cleveland 300 600 000 —9; E—Lindor (8), G.Allen (1). DP—Kansas City 1, Cleveland 1. LOB—Kansas City 10, Cleveland 5. 2B—Jay (3), Moustakas (9), Duda (3), Merrifield (10), Naquin (3). HR—S.Perez (5), Brantley (4), Jose Ramirez (1), Alonso (9).

IP H R ER BB SO for Royals vs Indians game.

Umpires—Home, Eric Cooper; First, Gary Cederstrom; Second, Cory Blaser; Third, Stu Scheuwater.

T—3:34. A—24,408 (35,225).

Rays schedule

Schedule for Tampa Bay Rays from May 12 to May 31.

Schedule for Tampa Bay Rays from June 1 to June 30.

Simpson ties course record

Takes 5-shot lead into weekend at Players

DOUG FERGUSON
AP golf writer

PONTE VEDRA BEACH — No one ever played a better round at the TPC Sawgrass than Webb Simpson.

For 16 holes, anyway.

With his sixth straight birdie on the back nine, Simpson became the first player to reach 11-under par for a single round at The Players Championship. The course record? Simpson couldn't resist thinking about a 59. All he had to do was navigate the shortest and scariest hole Friday afternoon on the Stadium Course.

He hardly missed anything all day except the island green on No. 17.

Splash!

"Just the wrong club," he said.

The consolation was enormous. Even with that double bogey, Simpson tied the Stadium Course record with a 9-under 63 and had a five-shot lead after 36 holes, the largest in the 45 years of this tournament.

"Everything is going in," he said. "You feel like no matter what, you're going to make it, and I grew up on an easy golf course so it reminded me of being back home, shooting low numbers. But at the same time, you're at the TPC Sawgrass, so you know that trouble is everywhere, as you guys saw with me on 17."

The sand wedge in the water on the 17th ruined his round, but not his day. Simpson couldn't miss putts he wasn't even trying to make, whether it was a 35-foot eagle putt on his second hole or a 30-foot birdie putt up the slope and into the cup on the 15th.

At that point, all he could do was laugh.

And then he reached the 17th, playing 147 yards to a back pin, the light wind playing tricks with him. He kept backing off, consulting with his caddie as he tried to decide between sand wedge and pitching wedge.

"The wind seemed to be changing," he said, "and people were yelling at me to hit it."

The ball hit the wooden frame on the front of the green, caromed high in the air and landed on the back of the green with so much momentum that it rolled through the light collar of rough and disappeared into the water.

Simpson was the seventh player to shoot 63 on the Stadium Course — five since 2013 — and his 15-under 129 tied the 36-hole record set two years ago by Jason Day.

Charl Schwartzel (66), Patrick Cantlay (68) and Danny Lee (66) were five shots behind.

Tiger Woods at least gets to return on the weekend. He made the cut on the number (1-under 143) after a 71 in the



Associated Press

Webb Simpson watches his shot from the seventh tee Friday during the second round of The Players Championship in Ponte Vedra Beach. Simpson tied the course record with a 9-under 63 and leads by five shots entering today's play.

easier morning conditions. Woods was outside the cut line until Jordan Spieth and Justin Thomas each made bogey on the 18th. Spieth three-putted from 35 feet, though he shot 68 and ended three straight years missing the cut. Rory McIlroy wasn't so fortunate. He was inside the cut line until hitting into the water on the 17th and making double bogey.

Conditions were ideal for scoring for the second straight day. Simpson took that to another level.

He ended the front nine with a 15-foot birdie putt on the par-5 ninth for a one-shot lead, and then he took off. Starting with an up-and-down at the par-5 11th, Simpson ran off six straight birdies — three straight from the 20-foot range, the

most unlikely birdie with the one from behind the 15th green, and another up-and-down from left of the green on the par-5 16th.

Spieth was 5 under on his round through 11 holes and wondered if he had the low round of the day. And then he saw a leaderboard.

"It was just amazing," said Spieth, who played with McIlroy and Thomas. "We were talking about it throughout the round, all three of us. We were like, 'Man, I hope he shoots 59.' And at the same time, we're saying if he shoots 59, can you imagine how hard the setup is going to be tomorrow?"

The real challenge will be catching Simpson.

Only three other players have led by as many as three shots through 36 holes at The Players — Lanny Wadkins (3) in 1979, Greg Norman (3) in 1994 and Day (4) in 2016. All of them went on to win.

"If you're off a little bit, you make bogeys or double bogeys as easy as you can make birdies," Simpson said. "I don't think any lead is safe."

Schwartzel never came close to a bogey, only missing two greens, and just barely. Cantlay only had one bad swing and one bad break, both on the par-5 ninth, that led to bogey. Lee shot a 31 on the back nine with a double bogey on the 11th hole.

Simpson left them all in his wake. "The most entertaining golf in our group was watching Webb's score," said Justin Rose, who played behind Simpson and shot 72. "It's a miracle round. To be 11-under par, it's a shame he doesn't finish it off. But 17 is a hard hole to get through. I'm sure he was nervous playing that hole. We're all nervous playing that hole, but an 11-under par round, that green I'm sure looks even smaller."

Woods had wedges in his hand on his opening three holes and never got it close for birdie, and it was like that all day. He was in the feature pairing with Phil Mickelson and Rickie Fowler, and Woods was the only one to make the cut.

Mickelson went 79-73 and missed the cut for the fifth time in the last six years. Fowler was in good shape until losing a ball in a tree on the sixth hole for the first of consecutive double bogeys. He shot 71 and missed by two shots.

Guerrier, Bjerregaard share lead at Sicilian Open

AGRIGENTO, Sicily — Julien Guerrier of France and Lucas Bjerregaard of Denmark shared a one-stroke lead at the halfway stage of the Sicilian Open.

Guerrier is the only player in the field yet to drop a shot after adding a 65 to his opening 68 to be 9-under-par, a total later matched by joint overnight leader Bjerregaard, who returned with a 68 in windy conditions.

Ryan Evans, who was the other overnight leader, had four bogeys in a round of 69 to slip a shot behind the top two.

For Mike Bell, racing is all about the people

Races tonight in PRT Super Late Model 50 at CCS

KIMBERLY KELLY
For the Chronicle

Some people say to be successful in racing you have to be a good driver. Some say it's about the setup of the race car and what powers it around the track.

For Mike Bell, it's about the people who surround him.

"It's definitely a team effort," Bell said. "I'm surrounded by a lot of motivated great people. We are strong-willed as a team."

Bell will compete in the PRT Super Late Model 50 tonight at Citrus County Speedway.

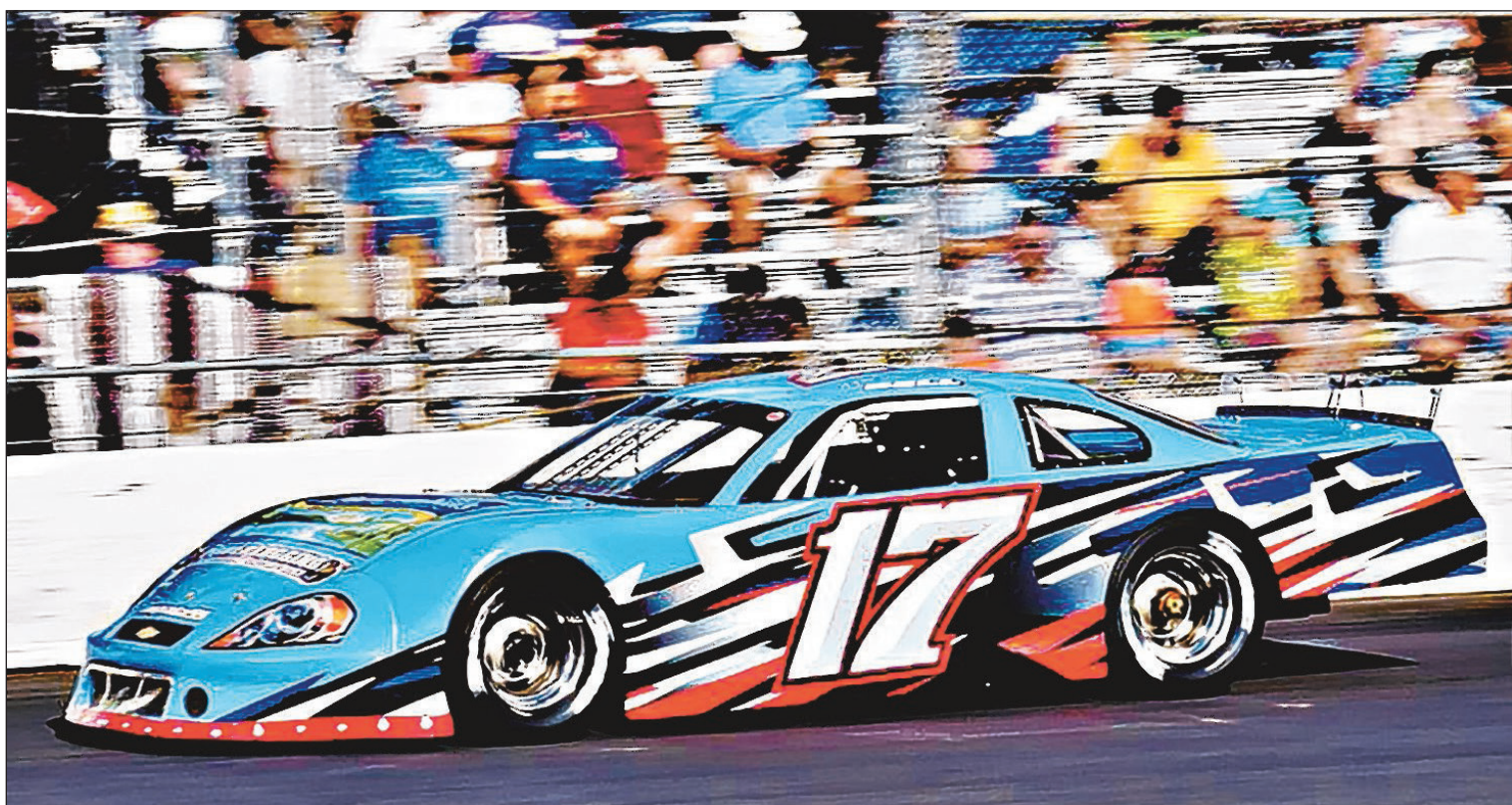
"It's very competitive," he said of the field that draws nearly all of the top competitors in the state of Florida. "Instead of racing locals, you are racing against the state of Florida and many of them have a lot more experience than we do. Fortunately, we've got a lot of people around us and more resources. Very fortunate and excited about that."

Those people include his mom and dad (Charlie and Deanna Bell), Steve, Dottie, Steven Wyatt, Burt Stevens, Heather McNany, Rick Cramer, David Mothershed, Pete Burken, Kenny Hahn and Dave Pletcher.

"Sometimes I think we've stepped into something out of our league," he said. "But I'm not a quitter. It's a team effort and we have to stay on top of our game, be at the right place at the right time. Be patient, but be aggressively patient. The car is competitive. We just need that last step to win."

Tonight, Bell is hoping to take his No. 17 Super Late Model to a top-five finish in the PRT Super Late Model 50 and not have a whole lot of damage at the end of the night. His last win in the division was in 2005.

"We just have to be on top of



TYLER SONTAG/Special to the Chronicle

Mike Bell is hoping to take his No. 17 Super Late Model to a top-five finish in the PRT Super Late Model 50 race tonight at Citrus County Speedway.

things, have our sponsors (Florida Coast Shrimp, Rookies Sports Bar and Grill, Gulf Stream Custom Homes, Bobby Meadows Printing and We Buy Homes for Cash) there to support us, have the fans there and make sure the car is tuned in as best as we can get it and have a little bit of luck on our side," he said.

Bell is no stranger to competing at Citrus County Speedway.

He began racing in 2000 in the Hobby Stock division, raced one event in Mini Stock and quickly rose to the top of the Street Stock division and to the championship two years later. In 2003 he earned the Limited Sportsman championship.

The 2005 season found Bell sporting both an Open Wheel Modified and a Late Model race car and finished in the top 10 year-end standings in both. He finished second in the Sportsman division in 2012 and earned the championship title in 2013.

He moved back up to the Super

Late Model division and posted a third-place overall standing in both the 2014 and 2016 seasons.

He was also named the Chronicle Driver of the Year in 2002 and 2003.

This season he is listed 15th overall of 27 competitors in the Super Late Model division.

"What motivates me most is the fans. It's rewarding to see the fans out there," he said. "We want the kids in the stands to say 'that's my favorite.'"

Bell's race car is easily identifiable on the track, blue with the No. 17 on both sides.

"We have always wanted it to stand out against the other cars," Bell said. "We want the fans to recognize the car. A nice car shows you put a lot of effort on the car. The number 17 has been our number since we started and I've got a lot of fan base that knows 17 is generally related to me. It's been my favorite number through the years."

It's also the number he sports in the Renegade Open Wheel

Modified division this season as well.

That car is owned by Rick Cramer and driven by Bell and sports All Lives Matter theme as a tribute not only to those in law enforcement but to everyone.

"All Lives Matter is everybody, just not law enforcement," Bell said. "I had a close friend killed in the line of duty. We welcome anybody that wants to put their in remembrance stickers on the car."

Bell's 2018 season includes the Renegade Open Wheel Modified division.

"They're a different kind of car," he said. "It's a lot of motor on a small tire so you have to restrict the car down as far as the motor goes to catch up with the chassis. And, it's as competitive as the late models, the sportsman. You are racing against experienced drivers who have been doing it for years. This is a brand new car to us. We've only raced twice. We continue to try to get the car where it needs to

be which is challenging. Dave Pletcher has agreed to help us out and that is a blessing as well."

Bell is currently sixth overall out of 26 competitors and just 18 points out of the lead. He will compete in the Renegade Open Wheel Modified event when they return next week (May 19).

"We're not where we need to be yet, we just have to continue to work on the car and make it better each race," he said.

Tonight's race card includes the PRT Super Late Model 50, Don's Plumbing Pure Stock 25, Liberty Tax Street Stock 25, Modified Mini 25, Southeast Elevator Thunder Stock 25, Mini Stock Figure 8 and Fan Participation Race.

Gates open at 5:30 p.m., race action begins at 6:30 p.m. General admission is \$10, students 18 and under are \$5. Children six and under are free.

Citrus County Speedway is located just south of Inverness on U.S. 41 (S. Florida Ave.).



Nancy Kennedy
**GRACE
 NOTES**

Blessed, necessary pain

My pastor tells the story about his son needing spine surgery when he was just a young boy.

He tells about bringing his son to the hospital and the agony of letting go of his boy, handing him over to the surgeons. It was a terrible surgery, he says, and they were so relieved when it was over.

However, shortly after they had come home from the hospital, the doctor called — they missed something and had to redo the surgery.

My pastor says he hung up the phone, went into the bathroom and raged at God, cursed at him, screamed and cried, accusing God of being unfeeling.

God, why couldn't you have allowed the first surgery to work? Are you that cruel?

He says God let him rage until he got it all out of his system and then walked with him and his wife and his son through the second surgery.

He still recalls, some 30 years later, how terrified his son was, how he cried and how he had to hold him down on the gurney, his father-heart breaking, whispering in his son's ear that he was right there with him and he'd be there when the surgery was over.

My pastor says he would've gladly traded places with his son, but he couldn't.

He also couldn't let his son not have the surgery, no matter how painful it he knew it would be because his son needed it. He needed it.

God allows pain because somehow he knows we need it.

That's hard to swallow when you're a parent watching your child go through painful situations. As a parent, you try everything you know to keep your child from pain, even pain caused by their own foolishness and bad choices.

If you're like me, you run interference, you smooth things over, you make phone calls, you plead and intercede. You pay their bills and bail them out of jail. You use your connections to get them jobs. You do everything — with the best of intentions — to not let your children suffer, even suffer the consequences of their own actions.

Even if you know they need to hit rock bottom, you try to cushion the blow, try to make the descent a little more smooth, the blow a little less painful.

You think it's the loving thing to do, and you're stunned when you realize it's not, that your "love" is hurtful and not helpful.

A few months ago I met a woman who is a recovering alcoholic. She told me emphatically that she NEEDED every hangover, every DUI, every job lost, every broken relationship her drinking caused.

She needed every single one to bring her to the place where she had no one and no place to turn except to God.

See **GRACE/Page C4**

Planter, pastor



Special to the Chronicle

Dave Shirkey has no plans to rest as he retires from Shepherd's Way Cowboy Church. He will become interim minister at Bar None Cowboy Church in Oxford, replacing that congregation's pastor who recently passed away.

Shepherd's Way Cowboy Church minister moves on to other pastures

SHARON ANDERSON
 For the Chronicle

On May 1, the pastoral torch at Shepherd's Way Cowboy Church in Lecanto was passed and, with his congregation's approval, Pastor Dave Shirkey turned the pulpit he'd delivered many a sermon from over to a new pastor.

Shirkey was quick to clarify that he's retiring only from the pastorate — not the ministry.

"The scriptures say, 'The gifts and callings of God are irrevocable,'" Shirkey said, adding, "I will continue to serve the Lord in ministry, as He leads."

So far, Shirkey's 44-year ministry has taken the 80-year-old Davenport, Florida, native and his wife of 58 years, Jennie, from Texas to New York, Virginia, South Carolina and ultimately to Inverness in 1999, where they pastored the Vineyard Christian Fellowship for a time. Along the way the couple raised two children.

"In January of 2015 we planted the VineLife Cowboy Church in Inverness, which met at American Legion Post 77," Shirkey said, noting that at the time he also served as Post 77 chaplain for three years.

In September 2016, VineLife Cowboy Church merged with Shepherd's Way Baptist Church to create Shepherd's Way Cowboy Church and Shirkey was installed as its pastor. Since then, he said, Shepherd's Way has grown in every respect.

"They have been good years," Shirkey said, adding that the most enjoyable times of all for he and Jennie have been while serving as Shepherd's Way Cowboy Church's senior pastor.

"The state of Shepherd's Way is excellent," said Shirkey. He considers his wife more of a co-pastor than an assistant

and often refers to the pastor as "we." For example, he said, "Shepherd's Way has grown in every respect since we were installed as pastor effective Sept. 1, 2016, doubling and quadrupling in most areas."

Shirkey said he believes sharing the facts and financial figures pertaining to the church openly with its congregation is of the utmost importance. And a positive — or faithful — attitude to Shirkey is a must.

Before he stepped down, Shirkey said, "I warned our people not to listen to or get involved in negative, critical discussions with anyone, because the enemy is not happy with the church's progress." In Acts 20:29, the Apostle Paul put it this way, Shirkey said: "'When I leave, ravenous wolves dressed in sheep's clothing will try to attack the flock.' This could happen at Shepherd's Way," he said, admonishing his flock to, "Beware!"

Taking the reins as the new pastor at Shepherd's Way will be Joe Khupchick, who the congregation recently approved for the position.

"My wife Jennie and I have been friends with Joe and his wife, Kathi, for about 15 years," Shirkey said.

Khupchick said, "We have been in full-time ministry for 21 years," adding that he and Kathi are natives of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The couple has also lived and ministered in south Florida and Alabama and have been in Citrus County since 2003, he said.

"We knew Dave and Jennie since we arrived in Citrus County, and ministered with Dave in a gospel group," he said.

Despite his retirement, Shirkey said he has no plans to disappear. In fact, he said he has agreed to become the interim pastor of the Bar None Cowboy Church in Oxford, which he planted in 2015, and whose pastor recently passed away.

Even so, he said, "Shepherd's Way will remain our home church. We are retiring from full-time pastoring, but not from the ministry."

He said he and Jennie also plan, at least for a while, to continue to host the weekly Country and Gospel Music Jam at 1 p.m. Tuesdays at Shepherd's Way.

“The scriptures say, ‘The gifts and callings of God are irrevocable.’ I will continue to serve the Lord in ministry, as He leads.”
 Pastor Dave Shirkey

RELIGION NOTES

SUMMER PROGRAMS AND VBS

■ A Kids' Summer Program at First Baptist Church of Floral City will begin on Wednesday, May 30, with hot dogs and popcorn. Each Wednesday activity begins at 5 p.m. with a light supper. Activities end at 7 p.m. All children from the Floral City community are welcome to attend these free activities each Wednesday night throughout the summer leading up to Vacation Bible School on July 22-27. Children will have a great time and learn about God in the "Jesus Saves" Bible study. Call the church office for more information at 352-726-4296.

■ A Vacation Bible School will be conducted jointly by Hope

Evangelical Lutheran and Good Shepherd Lutheran churches from 9 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday, June 4-8 at Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church, 9425 N. Citrus Springs Blvd., Citrus Springs. Titled "God's Good Creation," the VBS program celebrates the gifts that God has created — gifts that can help build a world where all are fed. For information, call 352-489-5511 or 352-746-7161.

■ St. Anne's Episcopal Church, at 9870 W. Fort Island Trail in Crystal River, will host intergenerational Vacation Bible School from 8:30 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday, June 18-22. This year's theme is "Group's Shipwrecked — Rescued by Jesus." This ecumenical outreach offers an

outstanding program for ages 3 through adults. Invite your family and friends. There is no fee. To register, call St. Anne's Episcopal Church at 352-795-2176 or St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church at 352-795-5325.

■ Enjoy Vacation Bible School exploring the "Fruits of the Spirit" from 9 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday, July 9-13, at Faith Lutheran Church. Bible stories, songs, crafts, games and a picnic will all be provided free. Children age 3 to fifth grade and youths ages 12 and older are welcome to register. Go to faithlecanto.com and press VBS for a downloadable form to mail or bring to Faith Lutheran Church, 935 S. Crystal Glen Drive, Lecanto, FL 34461. For

more information, call Jean at 352-527-4388.

■ A summer event for kids from 4 years old to entering the sixth grade, called "Shipwrecked Vacation Bible School," will be hosted from 9 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday, July 16-20, at Nature Coast Church, 5113 S. Suncoast Blvd., Homosassa. At "Shipwrecked VBS," kids discover that Jesus rescues them. Kids participate in memorable Bible learning activities, games and crafts. Snacks are provided. This event is free of charge. Learn more at naturecoastchurch.com. For more information, contact Amy Rise at 352-697-1001 or amyrise13@gmail.com.

See **NOTES/Page C2**

NOTES

Continued from Page C1

ON THE CALENDAR

■ May is a special month of devotions to Mary in the Catholic Church. During the entire month, the Rosary will be said at 6 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Grotto of Mary at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, 6 Roosevelt Blvd., Beverly Hills. This is an outdoor grotto. Those who prefer to be seated should bring a chair. For more information, call the church office at 352-746-2144.

■ If you missed the "Savvy Aging Resources" seminar in central and south Citrus County, it will be offered in the most northern part of the county. Join us for this extremely informative workshop sponsored by the YMCA and United Way from 10:30 a.m. to noon Tuesdays, May 15 and 22, at Hope Lutheran Church, 9425 N. Citrus Springs Blvd., Citrus Springs. Topics range from healthy living, fall prevention and aging in your own home to how to get the most out of your doctor's visit and organizing your financial life. The workshop is free and provides participants with a wealth of handouts to take home. For information, call 352-489-5511 or visit hopelutheranelca.com.

■ Attend the continuing Pentecost Novena sponsored by the Our Lady

of Grace Catholic Church Charismatic Community, at 7 p.m. nightly through Saturday, May 19. Different speakers talk about topics based on "Christian Hope." Light refreshments are served each night. Admission is free. A "Grand Fellowship and Celebration" will take place at the Parish Life Center after the Pentecost Sunday Mass at 10:30 a.m. May 20. The church is at 6 Roosevelt Blvd., Beverly Hills. For more information, call 352-746-2144.

■ The Catholic family of Citrus County would like to honor its graduating seniors and their achievement at a Baccalaureate Mass. This celebration is an opportunity for the Catholic community to send graduating seniors into their future with prayers and blessings. All Catholic seniors and their families are invited to this special event on Saturday, May 19. There will be a Mass at 10 a.m. at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, 6 Roosevelt Blvd., Beverly Hills. This will be followed by a reception in the Parish Life Center located immediately behind the church building. For more information, call Mylene Taylor at 352-422-3491.

■ The members of the First Baptist Church of Lecanto will celebrate the church's 125th anniversary during the 11 a.m. worship service Sunday, May 20. Former pastors and members will be recognized. River Jordan, a southern gospel quartet, will be in concert during the

morning service only. Photo albums and scrapbooks will be available for those interested in the history of the church. Memory booklets will also be available. The celebration will continue after the morning service with dinner on the grounds. Members and guests are asked to bring a covered dish. All current members, former members and friends of the church are invited to attend. The church is at 1020 S. Lecanto Highway (County Road 491), one-half mile south of the intersection of State Road 44 and C.R. 491 in Lecanto. Call the church at 352-746-3492 for more information.

■ Join Crystal River Aglow Light-house in welcoming guest speaker Pastor Debbie Watts from Grand View Church in Dunnellon and celebrate Jesus in praise and worship with Vanessa Mass at the next Aglow meeting from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 26, at the Crystal River Women's Club, 320 N. Citrus Ave., Crystal River. Enjoy a free continental breakfast at 9:30 a.m. and stay for fellowship, worship and to hear the guest speaker. Pastor Watts is a Bible teacher and author of "The Healed," which documents her experience in gaining victory over cancer through faith in Christ and the leading of the Holy Spirit throughout her journey. Bring spare change to fill baby bottles for the Citrus Pregnancy Center. All are welcome to regular Aglow events from 10 a.m. to noon the fourth Saturday

monthly with a free continental breakfast at 9:30 a.m. For more information, call Linda at 352-436-3065, Cassandra at 352-220-2956; crystalriveraglow@yahoo.com.

■ A summer series featuring hymn singing, movies, and sermons from some of the greatest preachers of all time through video, will begin May 30 at North Oak Baptist Church, 9324 N. Elkcam Blvd., Citrus Springs. The series sessions will be at 7 p.m. Wednesdays, scheduled as follows:

● May 30 — Billy Graham: "Reaping What You Sow," 1957 Crusade in Fargo, North Dakota

● June 6 — "The Curse of Liberalism," W.A. Criswell, First Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas

● June 13 — "Counterfeit Christianity," Adrian Rogers, Bellevue Baptist, Memphis, Tennessee

● June 20 — "My Life Testimony," Vance Havner, evangelist/revivalist

● June 27 — "If the Foundations Be Destroyed," E.V. Hill, Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Los Angeles, California

● July 4 — "God's Not Dead 3," the movie

● July 11 — "Rescued From Habitable Sin," Erwin Lutzer, Moody Church, Chicago, Illinois

● July 18 — "The Lordship of Jesus Christ," S.M. Lockridge, Calvary Baptist Church, San Diego, California

● July 25 — "Discipline of a Godly Man," Ravi Zacharis, Christian

apologist

● Aug. 1 — "Samson," the movie

● Aug. 8 — "Standing Firm in a Pagan World," Adrian Rogers

● Aug. 15 — "How to Live the Christian Life-Full," Billy Graham, 1957

● Aug. 22 — "Being Christian in an Unchristian Culture," Dr. John Sullivan, former executive director, Florida Baptist Convention

● Aug. 29 — "I Can Only Imagine," the movie.

The public is invited. Call 352-489-1688 for more information.

■ A prayer group affiliated with Contemplative Outreach region of Tampa Bay meets weekly at Our Lady of Grace Church, 6 Roosevelt Blvd., Beverly Hills. There are two different meetings: one on Wednesdays and one on Thursdays, with both from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Members are from various churches and Christian faith traditions. All members are united in their search for a deeper relationship with God. Visit www.contemplativeoutreach.org or www.centeringprayeratampabay.com.

FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

■ There is a free men's breakfast at 9 a.m. and a ladies brunch at 11 a.m. today at Calvary Chapel, 960 S. U.S. 41, Inverness. The ladies have brunch in their own new tea house. For more information, call 352-726-1480 or go online to www.calvaryinv.com.

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

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Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 6:00 p.m.
Michael Shingledecker, Minister



Shepherd's Way Cowboy Church
965 N. Lecanto Hwy.
Lecanto, FL
352-422-7634
WORSHIP SERVICES
"Cowboy Church"
Sat. Evening 5:30 p.m.
Sunday Morning - 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study/
Fellowship - 6 p.m.
Third Saturday monthly
"Gospel Jam" - 5:30 p.m.
Dave Shirkey - Pastor
www.facebook.com/pastordave37

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Faith.
Freedom.
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Warmly Welcomes You To Worship
Sunday 10:00 AM
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Citrus Springs, FL
352-489-1260
www.citruspringcongregational.org

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

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 Pihero, Pastor
1370 N. Croft Ave. • Inverness, FL 34451
Teléfono: (352) 341-1711

WELCOME HOME
CRYSTAL RIVER A SQUARE CHURCH
WORSHIP SERVICES
Sundays....10:30 A.M.
Wednesdays...6:30 P.M.
1160 N. Dunkenfield Ave.
Crystal River
795-6720
Pastor John Hager

V. David Lucas Jr. - Lead Pastor
INVERNESS CHURCH OF GOD
Sunday Services:
Worship Services 9:00 AM & 10:45 AM
Bible Study.....9:00 AM
Wednesday Night:
Classes For All Ages at 7:00 PM
Located at 416 Hwy. 41 South in Inverness Just Past Burger King Church Office 726-4524
Also on Site "Little Friends Daycare and Learning Center"

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
All Are Welcome At Our Communion Table
352-489-5511
hopelutheranelca.com

The New Church Without Walls
"An Exciting & Growing Multi-Cultural Non-Denominational Congregation Ministering to the Heart of Citrus County"
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Senior Pastors & Founders

Real Hope Church
God Loves You No Matter What!
New Location!
Join Us
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The corner of Norvell Bryant & Donovan Ave
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Everyone is Welcome

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Corner of Croft and Hayes
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WE STILL... use the old King James Bible
WE STILL... Preach the unsearchable Riches of Christ
WE STILL... Have old-fashioned worship services

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church ELCA
Come Worship With Us!

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

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

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

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- Bible Based
- Communion
- All Ages
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- Life Groups
- Come as you are

Complimentary Continental Breakfast 9:30
RHC
RealHopeCitrus.com
352-897-0352

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!

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

NOTES

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■ Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church in Citrus Springs invites the public to its third "Blueberry/Bluegrass Social" from 2 to 4:15 p.m. today. Come sample the delicious treats the church's ladies put together, be entertained by the inspiring sounds of Annie and Tim's Bluegrass Band and share Christian fellowship. This is a free event. A warm welcome is extended to stay for the casual 4:30 p.m. Saturday service. The church is at 9425 N. Citrus Springs Blvd., Citrus Springs. For information, call 352-489-5511 or visit hopelutheranelca.com.

■ Everyone is invited to a spaghetti dinner from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Saturday, May 19, at Peace Lutheran Church, the "Church on the Hill," at 7201 U.S. 41 South in Dunnellon. Menu includes spaghetti with meatballs or sausage, salad with choice of dressings, Italian bread, a variety of desserts, and coffee, iced tea or milk. Cost is \$8 for adults, \$3 for children ages 5-12. Kids ages 4 and younger eat free. For more information, call 352-489-5881.

■ Living Water Ministries sponsors free dinner and a movie every Friday evening. Dinner is at 5:30 p.m. followed by an inspirational movie at 6:30 p.m. Bring your family and friends to Living Water

Ministries, next to the pizza store in Beverly Plaza, Beverly Hills. For more information, call 352-513-2648.

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

■ First Presbyterian Church of Crystal River invites the public to its new nonprofit community volunteer outreach project, LifeTree Coffee, at 1615 U.S. 19 in Crystal River (in the Winn-Dixie shopping plaza). LifeTree Coffee serves fresh-ground coffee, lattes, fruit smoothies, hot cocoa, gourmet tea, frappes, fresh baked goods and more, from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Funds raised support local charities such as (but not limited to) a local veterans' homeless shelter, the Citrus County Youth Wind Ensemble and the church's food pantry. To become involved in this community outreach, see Volunteer Coordinator Sarah McClure or call 352-795-2259.

■ Enjoy free coffee and pastry from 9 to 9:45 a.m. Sundays at Holy

Grounds Café on site with Calvary Chapel in Inverness, 960 S. U.S. 41. For information, call 352-726-1480 or visit www.calvaryinv.com.

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

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

■ Suncoast Baptist Church's food pantry is open for bread distribution from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Wednesdays, and the second Wednesday monthly is distribution of bagged canned goods, dry goods and meat from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. The church is at 5310 S. Suncoast Blvd., Homosassa Springs. The food pantry is open to Homosassa residents only.

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

■ The Beverly Hills Community Church spaghetti suppers are from 4 to 6 p.m. the third Friday monthly in the Jack Steele Hall, 82 Civic Circle, Beverly Hills. Donation is \$8 per person, two for \$15, and \$4 for children younger than 12. The meal

includes a salad, spaghetti with meat sauce, Italian bread, coffee or tea, and dessert. Come and enjoy a delicious meal. Tickets are available at the door.

■ 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.

MUSIC & MORE

■ The Heirborne Drama Team will present "Last Chance," the final program of their regular season, at the 10:45 a.m. service Sunday, May 20, at North Oak Baptist Church, 9324 N. Elckam Blvd., Citrus Springs. This group of young people ages 13-21 combine mime and interpretive sign language set to contemporary Christian music to tell the story of a young girl abandoned by family and peers. This challenging message is important for young and old alike. For 16 years, Heirborne has brought a dramatic message to many churches, youth groups and other audiences in several states and the Ukraine. Heirborne will go to Springfield, Missouri, in July sponsored by the Messiah Project and Credo Dance Academy. They will offer workshops, as well as this season's

program. Call 352-489-1688 for more information.

■ 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 Kountry 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.

LIVE & LEARN

■ A five-week book class on "Creating Peacemaking Skills," based on the book, "I of The Storm," will be conducted from 3 to 5 p.m. Mondays, May 21, June 4, 11, 18, and 25, at Unity of Citrus County, 2628 Woodview Lane, Lecanto. This book is a great tool for learning new skills in how to deal with any conflict and stay in the eye (I) of any storm. The class will explore and discover the principles of peacemaking while integrating the "Five Principles of Unity." For more information, call 352-746-1270.

■ Congregation Kol Emet offers a new course, "Why the Jews? The Reason for Anti-Semitism," from

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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!!!



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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF INVERNESS
 We welcome you and invite you to worship with our family.
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 10:15 A.M. Worship Service
Wednesday:
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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.
 Summer Schedule (June - August) 9:00 and 11:00 A.M.
726-1670

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

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

MOUNT OLIVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

 "The Church in the Heart of the Community with a Heart for the Community"
SUNDAY SERVICES
 ☞ Sunday School 9:30 A.M.
 ☞ Morning Service 11:00 A.M.
 ☞ Wed. Prayer Mtg. & Bible Study - 6:30 P.M.
 2105 N. Georgia Rd., PO Box 327 Crystal River, FL 34423
 Church Phone (352)563-1577

"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

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
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

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

TREE OF LIFE Lutheran Church
 Missouri Synod
 Whispering Pines Recreational Building
 1700 Forest Dr., Inverness, FL
 352-566-7592
 Sunday Bible Study...9:00 am
 Sunday Worship.....10:00 am
 Tuesdays at 7:00 am
 Bible Study at Papa J's Diner Inverness
 Visit Our Website
www.treeoflifelc.org

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. 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.

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

Hernando 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

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

First Assembly of God
 4201 So. Pleasant Grove Rd.
 (Hwy. 581 So.) Inverness, FL 34452

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"Where everyone is special!"
 "Jesus Christ - central theme of our worship"
Sunday School
 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship
 10:30 a.m & 6:00 p.m.
Sunday Youth
 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Worship
 7:00 p.m.
 "Ministries for all ages"
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Crossroad Baptist Church
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 1/2 Miles North Of K-mart Off 41 North
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Sunday School
 10:00 AM
Sunday
 10:45 AM & 6:00 PM
Wednesday 6:00 PM
 Independent Fundamental
 Pastor
Terry Roberts
 Ph: 726-0201

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.
 Fellowship after Sunday Worship
 Calendar of events Audio of sermons available at
www.faithleccanto.com
 A Heart From God...
 A Heart For Others.

Grace Bible Fellowship
 "Rightly dividing the word of truth" II Timothy 2:15
 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

GRACE

Continued from Page C1

"If I hadn't, if someone had interfered and not let it happen, I wouldn't be where I am today, alive and whole and sober; thank you, Jesus," she said. She added that, looking back on all the pain, she now knows that God never left her side, even through her darkest days. "I almost died," she said.

She needed to almost die, and she is better for it, she believes. She is grateful for it. In the story of the prodigal son in Luke's gospel, when the son was away squandering the inheritance money he had demanded from his father, when he ended up taking care of a farmer's pigs and being so hungry he would've gladly eaten what the pigs were eating, Luke writes: "But no one gave him a thing" (Luke 15:16). Verse 17 says, "Finally, he came to his senses" and began his journey back

home to his father — who was waiting for him with outstretched arms. The son needed to have no one help him for him to come to his senses. Dear friends, especially you moms with tender hearts, God knows exactly what your child needs to suffer, and exactly how much you need to suffer as well. He promises that all things he will eventually work together for good, "for those who love him and are called according to his purpose," whether it's pain as a result of foolish choices or

pain that doesn't seem to have a cause, like disease or a disability. Not only that, he gives us his strength, even if we might not feel strong, grace that's sufficient to endure all things and joy, even in sorrow. And hope, always hope. It's what I cling to. 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.

NOTES

Continued from Page C3

6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays through June 26, at 2628 W. Woodview Lane, Lecanto (Unity of Citrus). The class is open to all and is taught by Hazzan Mordecai Kamlot, Cantor/Founding Spiritual Leader of Congregation Kol Emet. Using the book by Dennis Prager and Joseph Telushkin (with the same title as the course), the class attempts to uncover and understand the roots of anti-Semitism — from the ancient world to the Holocaust to the current crisis in the Middle East — and to prove to authors' thesis: that there is only one reason throughout history for anti-Semitism and that reason is Judaism itself. The course also proposes ideas that can be implemented to eradicate, diminish or avoid anti-Semitism. Course fee is \$40 for entire course plus textbook or \$5 per week plus textbook. For more information, call 352-643-0995 or email mkamlot2@gmail.com. Unity of Citrus County continues a class in prosperity with Edwene Gains and "The 4 Spiritual Laws of Prosperity" from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays, May 16 and 23, and June 6. The class is facilitated by the Rev. Marciah McCartney and Denise Flanagan. Prosperity comes in all forms; money, relationships and health.

Come explore all the ways to can expand. Unity of Citrus County is at 2628 Woodview Lane, Lecanto. For more information, call 352-746-1270 or go online to www.unityofcitrus.org. 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; Thursdays — Miniature Group at 11:30 a.m.; Fridays — 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 free-will-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. 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. 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 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 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.

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

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



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Your New Friends Are Here
Come Home
Pastor Gene Reuman
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ST. THOMAS CATHOLIC CHURCH
Serving Southwest Citrus County
MASSES:
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Sunday.....8:00 A.M.
.....10:30 A.M.
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628-7000

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
6670 N. Lecanto Hwy,
Beverly Hills
Pastor Eddie Padgett
352-527-8612

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.

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

Hope Baptist Church
Real People; Real Faith; Real Hope.
1487 West Pine Ridge Blvd.
Beverly Hills, FL 34465
352-746-7879
Website: hopebaptistonline.org
Pastor: Pete Kelly
Services:
Sunday School.....9:15am
Sunday Worship.....10:15am
Prayer Meeting (Wed.)...6:00pm

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

Crystal River United Methodist Church
4801 N. Citrus Ave.
(2 Miles N. of US 19)
795-3148
WWW.CRUMC.COM
Rev. David Rawls
Sunday Worship
9:00 AM Traditional
10:30 AM Contemporary
Current Sermon Series
I Want to Believe, But

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

INVERNESS First United Methodist Church
Rev. Dr. Don Pratt
Contemporary Worship 9 AM
Traditional Worship 10:30 AM
Catch the Spirit Now worshipping at
130 Heights Ave.
Inverness, FL 34452
(Next to Angelotti's Pizza)
(352) 726-2522
www.invernessfirstumc.org

St. Scholastica Catholic Church
SUNDAY MASSES
9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.
SATURDAY VIGIL MASSES
4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.
WEEKDAY MASS
8:30 a.m. Mon. - Fri.
SATURDAY CONFESSION
2:45 - 3:30 p.m.
4301 W. Homosassa Trail
Lecanto, FL 34461
(352) 746-9422
www.stscholastica.org

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

HERNANDO United Methodist Church
Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors
"A Safe Sanctuary for Children and Families"
2125 E. Norvell Bryant Hwy. (486)
(1 1/2 miles from Hwy. 41)
For information call (352) 726-7245
www.hernandoumcfl.org
Reverend David D. Spaulding
Sunday School Adults & Older Children 8:45 AM - 9:30 AM
Coffee & Conversation 9:39 AM - 10:00 AM
Pre-Service Praise 9:50 AM
Worship Service & Children's Sunday School 10:00 AM
Nursery is Provided. Individual Hearing Devices Ministries and Activities for all Ages.

Bright Beginnings Learning Academy
Now registering for Kindergarten & First Grade
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CELEBRATE RECOVERY
Friday nights @ 6 PM

ST. ANNE'S CHURCH
A Parish in the Anglican Communion
Rector: Fr. Richard Chandler
To be one in Christ in our service, as His servants, by proclaiming His love.
Sunday Masses:
8:00 a.m.
10:15 a.m.
9870 West Fort Island Trail
Crystal River 1 mile west of Plantation Inn
352-795-2176
www.stannescr.org

St. Timothy Lutheran Church ELCA
Saturday Informal Worship w/Communion - 5:00 PM
Sunday Service w/Communion - 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM
Sunday School All Ages - 9:30 AM
Special services are announced. Nursery provided.
1070 N. Suncoast Blvd., Crystal River
For more information call **795-5325**
www.sttimothythelutheranchurch.com
Rev. Joan E. Holden

First United Methodist Church OF HOMOSSASSA
Join Pastor Kip Younger and the congregation for Sunday worship
8:00 am & 10:00 am
Sunday School - 9:00 am
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Homosassa, FL
352-628-4083
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CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH
Non Denominational
Sunday
Contemporary Service 10:00 am
Wednesday
Bible Study 6:30 pm
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Nursery provided for all services.
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Homosassa, FL
www.christian-center.church
352-628-5076

HERNANDO United Methodist Church
Nursery is Provided. Individual Hearing Devices Ministries and Activities for all Ages.

EVENTS

Saturday, May 12

Yard sale to benefit NAMI Citrus

NAMI Citrus, the locally chartered group of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, will host a yard sale on Saturday, May 12, at 2412 S. Carnegie Drive, just off Eden Drive.

Proceeds benefit all activities involved with NAMI Citrus core work, educating volunteers to be certified to lead classes and support groups and any other needs that we can address under our charter in the realm of behavioral health.

Donations are welcome and can be brought to the location on May 10.

For information, call 844-687-6264.

Help homeless veterans

The Citrus County Veterans Coalition will host their last monthly veterans yard sale of the season from 7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, May 12, at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church grounds, on U.S. 41 South in Inverness. We will reopen the second Saturday of September.

Anyone wishing to help feed the homeless and hungry veterans of Citrus County can drop off non-perishable foodstuffs, and especially paper goods and cleaning goods, at our booth near the entrance to the market.

For information, call Richard Floyd at 352-400-8952.

Talk poetry with Sunshine Poets

Join the Sunshine Poets' monthly meeting/poetry reading at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 12, at the Coastal Region Library, 8619 W. Crystal St., Crystal River.

Bring your poems to share, or just listen. The optional homework assignment is to write a Monotetra, Cinco de Mayo, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, humor or spring poem. If you'd like the members to critique, bring several copies on which we can write suggestions.

For information, call 352-795-3716.

Sunday, May 13

Have breakfast with mom

The public is invited to a Mother's Day Breakfast hosted by the American Legion Riders of Crystal River Chapter 155, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Sunday, May 13, at 6585 E. Gulf-to-Lake Highway, Crystal River.

All mothers attending will receive a floral token of appreciation. Menu choices include eggs, bacon, sausage, gravy, pancakes, grits, potatoes, toast or biscuit, coffee and juice.

Price is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children under 12 and free if under six. Proceeds support community veteran's programs. For information, call 352-503-7323.

Adopt a cat or kitten

Hardin Haven of Citrus County will be adopting out cats and kittens every Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Pet Supermarket, 2649 E. Gulf-to-Lake Highway, Inverness.

For information, call Donna at 352-422-5525.

Try the sunset drum circle

There will be a drum circle at the Fort Island Trail Beach at 6 p.m. Sunday, May 13, at the last picnic shelter.

Bring drums, percussion toys, shakers, flutes and more. Bring chairs, bug spray and beverages.

For information, call Charlotte at 352-344-8009 or visit Citrus County Drummers on Facebook.

Promoting smart monetary strategies

Money — a common part of all of our everyday lives which we need and sometimes take for granted.

I have heard the comment many times as to why we must learn certain subjects in high school we will never practically use in life, but we are not taught basic elements of something so important like money. It can steer our lives to more prosperity or utter devastation.

The other day I struggled because someone asked me for my wife's telephone number, and I had to look it up because I call her many times during the week but I use the speed dial button. I don't remember it.

Today, some are using online banking and I can't help but wonder if we really know the balance or take the time to make sure the balance is right, or do we just assume the computer is correct? I still use carbon copy checkbooks,

and it helps tremendously with a paper trail and auditing.

I think I can do my bills just as fast as online people because I am caught in the world where I have to do both.

Some companies will not allow me to use an old fashioned check book. This is just part of our lives with everyday finances to pay bills.

What about complicated stuff like credit cards, loans, housing loans or car financing? Do we learn everything the hard way by making mistakes?

I'm sure all of us know some of these mistakes are very expensive.

Here at The Path, we know we cannot assume anything especially when it comes to finances.

It is a common comment from our clients — it is the first time they have ever had any money in a savings account while staying with us. We have a mandatory

savings program, and each client gets a small allowance every week to save up money as quickly as possible to give them the opportunity to leave the shelter as soon as they are financially able.

This is a tricky situation because the last thing we want is for the client to go broke quickly after leaving.

Our advice from the staff to the client from grocery shopping to paying large bills is taught on an almost daily basis. The difference between a want and a genuine need can be dramatic and will occasionally turn into a heated discussion.

There are over 2,000 scriptures in the Bible with a reference to money. I take it as important to God on how I manage the resources given to me, and I think it is important to the people who come to us and stay at The Path also.

DuWayne Sipper is the executive director of The Path of Citrus County, a faith-based homeless shelter. Contact him at 352-527-6500 or sipperd@pathofcitrus.org.



DuWayne Sipper
THE PATH HOME

GFWC hosts youth ranch speaker



Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranch Public Relations Officer Arvid Cowell was the guest speaker at a luncheon meeting of the GFWC Crystal River Woman's Club. Pictured from left are President Madeline Markowitz, Arvid Cowell and GFWC Program Director Libby Wentzell.

Lose weight, maintain with TOPS and KOPS

TOPS 692

TOPS chapter 692 met May 4 with 10 members weighing in. They recorded a net loss of 8.2 lbs. Bill and Butch were tied for best loser. They meet each Friday morning at Grace Bible church in Homosassa. 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 387

TOPS 387 met on May 7th with 14 members weighing in. There were 11 TOPS and 3 KOPS with a loss of 13 lbs. There were 3 best losers. Agnes, Terry and Volena. Eileen was runner up. Grace was the best KOPS. They 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 341

Upon reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and TOPS and KOPS creeds the TOPS 341 meeting was opened by Maggie, our leader. Members attending had a loss of 14 pounds. TOPS of the

week was Charlotte G., who also won a "High Five" pin for losing five or more pounds. Maintaining were Betty D. and Lou. Quarter Pound winners were Arlene, Charlotte G. and Kathleen.

Arlene had the program, which was "20 Delicious High-Protein Foods to Eat." Some foods included were eggs, almonds and broccoli, but the most nutritious was milk. Welcome to our newest member, Richard.

There will be NO meeting on Memorial Day, May 28.

TOPS 341 meets every Monday at the First Christian Church, 2018 Colonade St., Inverness (behind Race-Trac). Weigh-in is from 9:15- 9:45 a.m. The meeting starts at 10 a.m. For more information, contact Ethel at 352-748-7941 or Lou at 352-726-0348.

TOPS 743

On May 9, TOPS 743 chapter leader Sylvia Lovelace called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m., followed by the pledge to the American flag.

Weight recorders Jerry and Nancy Smart weighed-in members with a total loss of 6 pounds. Normagene Libby was TOPS of the week. Vera Evens was KOPS of the week. Teresa Libby was Turtle of the week.

The chapter meets every Wednesday at the DAV building at 1039 N.

Paul Drive, Inverness. Weigh-in time begins at 7:45 a.m., with the meeting to follow. For information, call Teresa Libby at 207-838-1823.

TOPS 401

TOPS 401 met May 9 with 11 members weighing in. Gene was the best TOPS loser of the week. Nancy G. presented the program on Carb-Benefit Analysis.

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. Call Nancy at 352-637-7196, if you have any questions or would like more information.

TOPS 9365

TOPS 9365 met May 9 to discuss "Carbohydrate foods, fitting them into your menu so that you are eating healthy and still be able to enjoy your favorite foods." Best Loser was Shirley.

Meetings are held at First Christian Church on Grover Cleveland Boulevard, Homosassa. Weigh-ins are from 10 to 10:50 a.m., with the meeting following from 11 a.m. to noon. For more information, call Alice 352-533-2607 or Annie at 352-628-3143.

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

EVENTS

Monday, May 14

Get crafty with the Sewing Sew-Ciety

The Florida Sewing Sew-Ciety will meet at 9 a.m. Monday, May 14, at the YMCA.

The project for the meeting will be a beautiful and versatile table runner. All sewing enthusiasts are invited to attend.

For information, call Dee at 352-527-8229. Leave a message.

Meet with Citrus Retired Educators

All retired educators and school personnel are invited to attend the next Citrus County Retired Educators' luncheon at 12:30 p.m. Monday, May 14, at Mama's Kountry Kafe in at 1787 W. Main St. in Inverness.

Call President Terry Rooks at 382-4352 for more information.

Stay updated on your driving education

Florida is a mandated state and any insurance company doing business in Florida must give a discount to those completing an AARP Smart Driver Course, open to all age 50 and older. Contact your agent for discount amounts.

Update yourself to earn a discount and get newly enacted motor vehicle and traffic laws. Course fee is \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for all others.

Upcoming classes are:

■ May 14-15, from 1 to 4 p.m. (this is a two day class) at Senior Circle Center in the Seven Rivers Regional Medical Center annex, 11537 W. Emerald Oaks Drive, Crystal River. Register with instructor Kevin Spiddle at 352-795-2102.

Pine Ridge Civic Association to meet

The Pine Ridge Civic Association would like to invite residents and friends to our next monthly meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, May 14, at the Pine Ridge Community Center.

Speaker will be Diane Toto of the We Care Food Pantry in Citrus County. We encourage you to bring a non-perishable food donation.

In the month of June, our featured speaker will be Amy Meek of the United Way.

Anglers to host STAR tournament director

Captain Leiza Fitzgerald, Coastal Conservation Association Florida STAR Tournament Director will speak at the 7 p.m. Monday, May 14 meeting of the Nature Coast Anglers (NCA), at the Moose Lodge, 1855 S. Suncoast Blvd., Homosassa.

In 2017 STAR offered participants an opportunity to win their share of over \$500,000 in prizes and scholarships and was the largest family friendly saltwater fishing competition in Florida. There were 157 tagged redfish released in Florida coastal waters and nearly 6,000 registered anglers participated. A few tagged fish were caught locally. Captain Fitzgerald will explain program details and more at the meeting.

Check out www.naturecoastanglers.com or Nature Coast Angler's facebook page to see how to become a member.

German American Club to meet

The German American Club will meet at 7 p.m. Monday, May 14, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 2389 W. Norvell Bryant Highway, Lecanto.

After a brief business meeting, there will be a social hour with refreshments, music and games.

For information, call 352-746-7058 or 352-637-2042.

■ 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.

EVENTS

Tuesday, May 15

Citrus Area Stamp Club to meet

The Citrus Area Stamp Club meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month at the VFW post 4252, 3190 State Road 200, Hernando.

Doors open at 11 a.m. with meeting starting at 1 p.m.

For information, contact Sheldon Rogg at 727-364-6897 or h.rogg@verizon.net.

American Irish Club to meet

The American Irish Club will meet at noon on Tuesday, May 15, at 4342 Homosassa Trail. A light lunch will follow the meeting.

The club will be awarding four scholarships to graduating seniors from Citrus County. The monies earned for these scholarships come from club activities and private donations from members.

Although this will be the last meeting of the season, there will still be activities going on during the summer.

For information, call the club house on Wednesday mornings at 352-527-4890 or Joyce at 352-860-1292.

Attend lecture series on orchids

The Friends of the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge will have its last monthly nature lecture series presentation of the season (until the fall) at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 15, at the Coastal Region Library on Crystal Street in Crystal River.

The lecture is open to the public. The subject will be "Florida's Native Orchids and Their Air Plant Friends." Presenter Jeff Rundell is a retired Biology teacher originally from the northern New York, president of the Orchid Lovers Club of Spring Hill, and is a volunteer at the Homosassa Wildlife Park and teacher for the Friends of the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge.

K of C Assembly meeting set May 15

The Knights of Columbus Father James Hoge Assembly 1547 meets the third Tuesday monthly at the Knights of Columbus Council 6168 Hall, at 2389 W. Norvell Bryant Highway in Lecanto. The next meeting is May 15.

A rosary begins at 6:30 p.m. and the general meeting starts at 7 p.m. All Fourth Degree Knights in Citrus County and the region covering Councils 6168, 6391, 14485, 15154, 15225 and 15624 are invited to attend the meetings to learn how Knights are supporting local parishes and local initiatives. Come join fellow Sir Knights who have chosen to extend their charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism beyond their own lives and families.

Adopt A RESCUED PET BUDDY



This is Buddy. He is a Min Pin mix with a beautiful reddish color. He is about 4 years old. He is friendly, listens well, is house trained and gets along well with other dogs. Call Adopt a Rescued Pet at 352-795-9550 and leave your name, number, and pet's name and we will return your call. Check www.adoptarescuedpet.com for our other pets and the adoption calendar with locations, dates and times.

VFW donates funds to buy special needs swings



The VFW Auxiliary Post 8189 donation made it possible for the Rock Crusher Elementary (RCE) School to purchase two special needs swings. The initiative was spearheaded by the Auxiliaries Scholarship and Youth Chairman Joel Steele. Pictured are RCE staff, students, auxiliary and post members.

Special to the Chronicle

Bake sale, lunch raises \$2,072 for needy animals



Pictured from left are Kathy Miller, Jan Winters, Terri Lemke, Rose Gordon, Kathy Williams, Chuck Lemke, Barbara Trip, Esther Brunet, Linda Fernandes, Nurul Bashar, Lois Goodwill and Deidre Boyer.

Special to the Chronicle

Special to the Chronicle

The Walden Woods LTD held their 5th annual Animal Shelter Fundraiser bake sale and lunch event to benefit the homeless and needy animals in Citrus County.

Once again, a variety of goodies were available for attendees.

Funds raised totaled \$2,072 with the proceeds donated to the Citrus County Animal Shelter, Snippet and Precious Paws Rescue. Pet food and supplies were also collected and donated to the rescue groups.

Precious Paws Rescue volunteers thank the Walden Woods

community for their continued support. It is only with the continued support of the Citrus County community that Precious Paws Rescue can provide that extra veterinary care that many of our rescued pets require before they are able to move into their adoptive homes.

National mental health month

Who will glance at this headline, then shift their attention to something more interesting: the latest sporting news, the latest celebrity scandal, the latest debacle out of Washington? Some will read further; believing statistics from the surgeon general's office, declaring that one out of every five persons in the United States will have some type of mental illness.

There is a prettied up name for this — behavioral health — however it is the same awful, frightening problem, affecting sufferers, families and all the members of the public who must deal with finances, treatment, housing and more.

Please know, this one out of every five could be your postman, your neighbor or even your plumber.

This is an equal opportunity disaster, having nothing to do with status, education or occupation, and everything to do with human frailty and vulnerability.

Citrus County and surrounding counties are crisis areas in mental health care. State and national events have shown a

glaring spotlight on problems so horrendous, they can no longer be ignored.

Like waiting for a bud to flourish on a stalk, we are now awaiting a flowering of progress and funding at all levels of government, with assistance and awakening by the public. It cannot come too soon!

When I say "we," I refer to a locally chartered group of a national nonprofit organization, NAMI.

We call ourselves NAMI Citrus, and have been toiling in this area for over 18 years. As president of NAMI Citrus, I would like to

answer the often asked question, "What does NAMI do?"

Experts at our national office have created many instruction instruments enabling volunteers to become certified as teachers and to lead support groups. These volunteers are sent for intensive training in the areas they wish to be involved in, with no costs to them. Then after being certified as leaders/teachers, they lead groups for students who find the program which fills their needs, also with never a cost to students.

We are always asking for new

NAMI members. Volunteers must be NAMI members in order to be certified to learn and teach support groups and classes. This is an interesting, compelling, vital commitment to make by those wanting to make a difference in society.

Membership fees, donations and bequests are our life blood, as are our volunteers. We bridge the gap from those needing professional care and meds, to those like many of us, often just needing a better understanding of our "human-ness," with support and camaraderie offered through membership and education.

This is place where we offer help, friendship and understanding. We are just human beings, committed to better days ahead.

We have a general membership meeting for 10 months of the year, well publicized thanks to our great friends at the Chronicle. The public is invited to hear speakers on topics of assistance and interest, often times with persons from the helping profession in attendance, with time for socializing and information-gathering.

For information, call 844-687-6264.

Marilyn Booth is president of the board of directors of NAMI Citrus, of the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

EVENTS

Wednesday, May 16

Beverly Hills Fish Club to meet

The Beverly Hills Fish Club will meet at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 16, at the Beverly Hill Lions Club. Guest speaker will be Ed Martin of the Arts Center. This will be last scheduled meeting until Sept. 19. Club members are reminded to bring food items to be donated to Beverly Hills Food Pantry. Also, President Pat Brace was voted in as the Beverly Hills Citizen of the Year by the Beverly Hills Civic Association.

Thursday, May 17

Learn about irrigation at workshop

Citrus County Utilities is offering a free Irrigation 101 workshop from 1 to 4 p.m. Thursday, May 17, at the Citrus County Extension Service building, 3650 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto.

The training offers the basics of operating an irrigation system in a Florida landscape. Determine how to operate the irrigation controller and how long to run each zone. Find out how much water to apply during summer months vs. winter. Discover simple maintenance tips to keep the system in check.

Register at tinyurl.com/irrigation101.

For information, call 352-527-7684 or email Debra. Burden@citrusbocc.com.

Friday, May 18

Independent Living speaker

The Family & Friends Reaching for Abilities (FFRA) will host Andrea Melvin, MHS, CRC, CVE, from the Center for Independent Living of North Central Florida at 9:30 a.m. Friday, May 18, at New Horizon Learning Center, 1275 N. Rainbow Loop, Lecanto.

FFRA is a 501(c)(3), non-profit organization supporting the developmentally disabled in Citrus County.

The public is welcome to attend to learn more about support for those interested in independent living and FFRA.

For information, contact Maryellen Richmond at 352-637-0692 or visit www.ffracitrus.org.

Play Military Cards with WSW

The Women of Sugarmill Woods (WSW) sponsors monthly Military Card events held at Sugarmill Woods Country Club. The final game of the season will be held Monday, May 21.

Doors open at noon with a potluck beginning at 12:30 p.m. and the game commences at 1 p.m.

Cost to play is \$12 per player. Bring a snack to share with the group.

If you have a foursome you want to play with, please note on your registration. If you don't have a table, we will team you with other players. Military Cards is an easy game and can be learned quickly; we will teach you.

Registration is due no later than Friday, May 18. Payment and registration may be dropped in the WSW Mailbox No. 4, now located at the U.S. 19 entrance to Sugarmill Woods.

For more details, contact Catherine Yox at catherineyox@gmail.com or 727-599-7396 or Maegan Love at 352-586-1751.

Eat dinner, support American Legion

Join American Legion Auxiliary Unit 155 for their monthly fish dinner from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Friday, May 18, at the post home, 6585 W. Gulf-to-Lake Highway, Crystal River.

All members and the public are welcome to enjoy a dinner of fried fish for a donation of \$8.

For information, call the post home at 352-795-6526

SATURDAY EVENING MAY 12, 2018

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

Table with 14 columns representing time slots (6:00-11:30) and rows for various TV channels (WESH, WEDU, etc.) listing their programming.

Annie offers advice

Dear Annie: My husband of nearly 50 years recently retired from a long and successful career as a litigator...



DEAR ANNIE

When I try to talk to him about it, he gives me a winning argument as to why he is right and everyone else is wrong...

Dear RDNDABG: Some people find work to be relaxing, and it sounds as though your husband is one of those people...

Dear Annie: I just read the letter from "My Sad Story." I agree that therapy might be very beneficial to her...

Bridge

PHILLIP ALDER Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

Louis Armstrong said, "I do believe that my whole success goes back to that time I was arrested as a wayward boy at the age of 13..."

Today, South must not be wayward in winning 13 tricks. How did he play to make seven spades after West led the heart jack?

Card game hand diagram showing North and West hands with suits and card values.

What better lead did West have? In the auction, North's two-heart response promised at least a five-card suit and eight high-card points...

JUMBLE

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

Jumble puzzle grid with words TUYHO, SBNIO, KARYEB, and TUTWIO.

Answer here: [Grid] (Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GIDDY TULIP DECEIT ABSORB Answer: He blamed another sea lion, but the sea lion said it was the -- OTTER -- GUY

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knuerek



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

MORE PUZZLES

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

LOCAL SUPPORT

- The Centers: 352-628-5020. The Lighthouse: 352-344-2158. NAMI-Citrus hotline: 844-687-6264 (toll free)

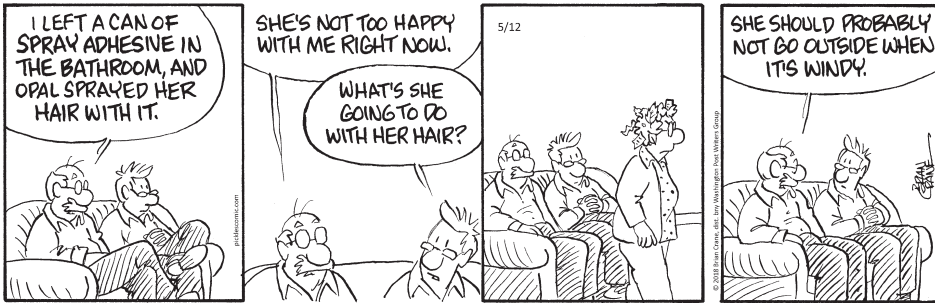
Peanuts



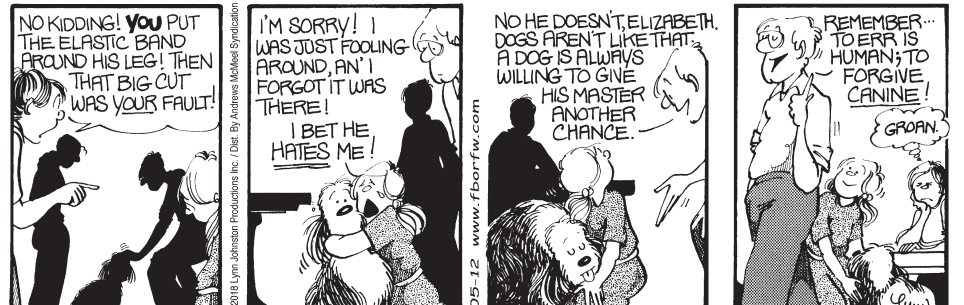
Garfield



Pickles



For Better or For Worse



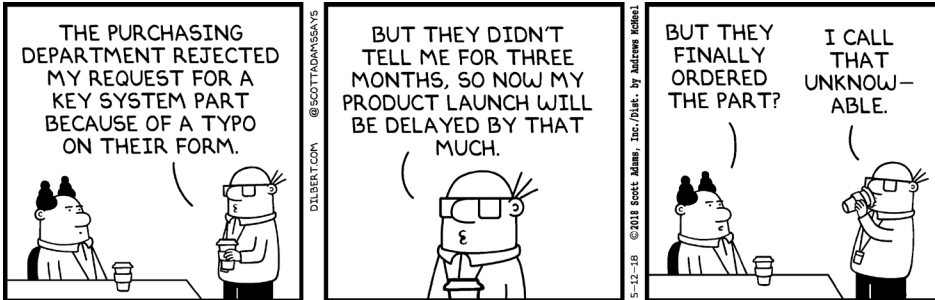
Sally Forth



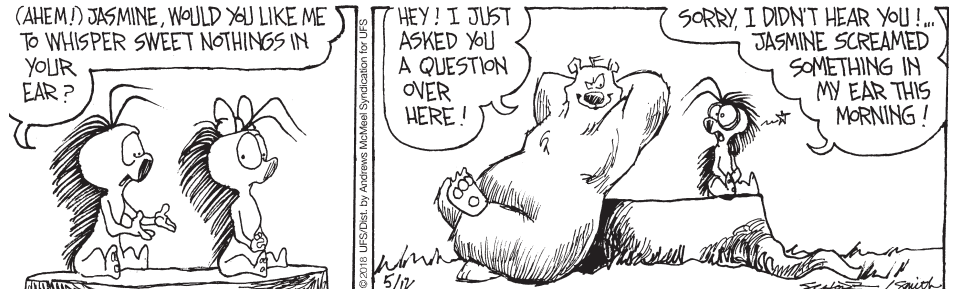
Beetle Bailey



Dilbert



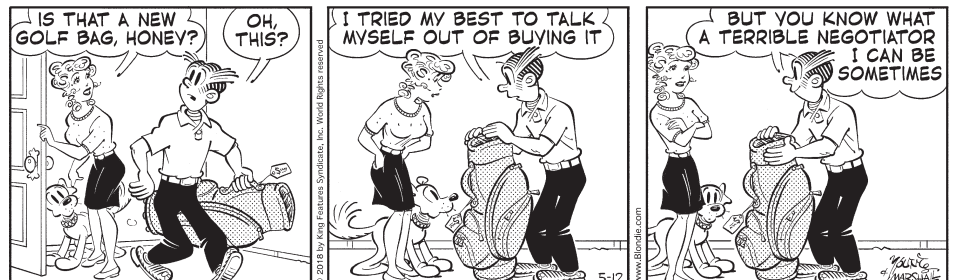
The Grizzwells



The Born Loser



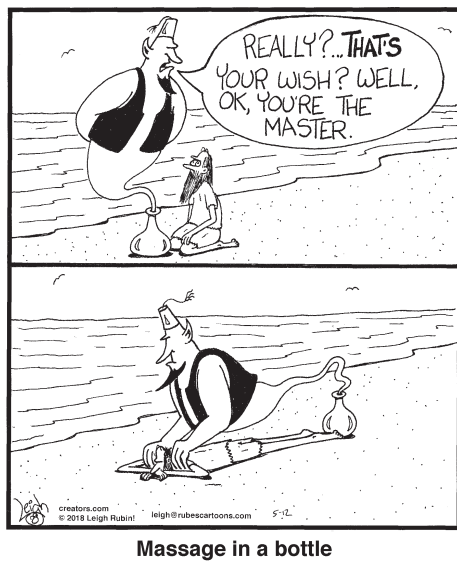
Blondie



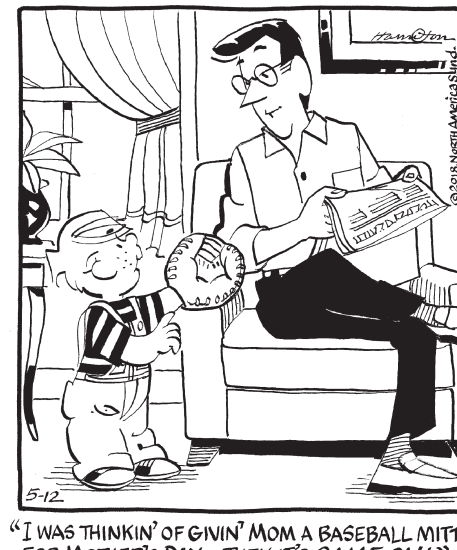
Moderately Confused



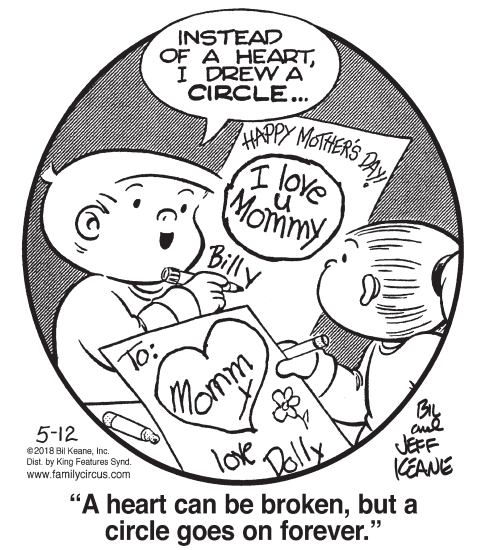
Rubes



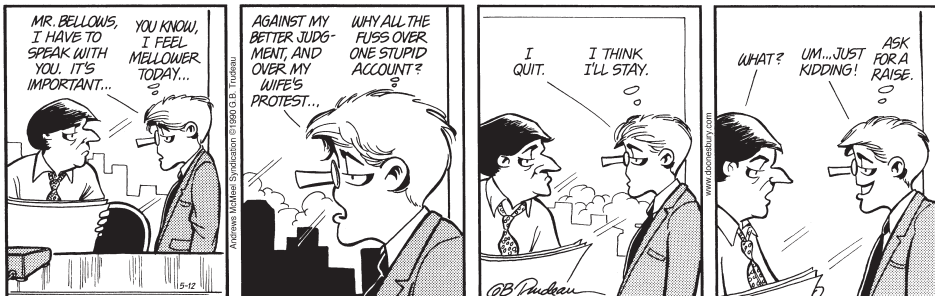
Dennis the Menace



The Family Circus



Doonesbury Flashbacks



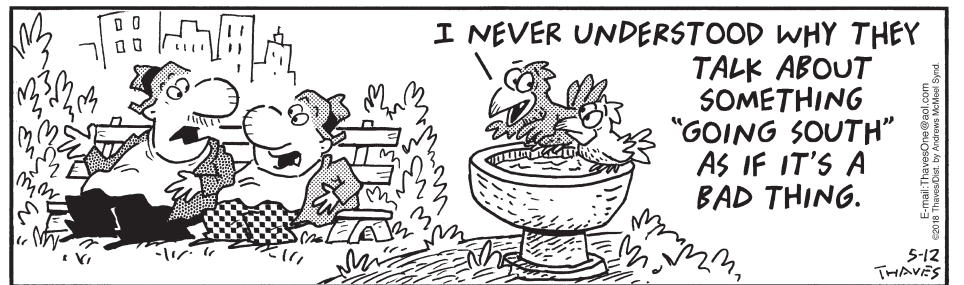
Betty



Big Nate



Frank & Ernest



Arlo and Janis



- Local RADIO stations: WJUF-FM 90.1, WHGN-FM 91.9, WXCX-FM 95.3, WXOF-FM 96.7, WEKJ-FM 96.3, 103.9, WYKE-FM 104.3, WDUV 105.5 FM, WJQB-FM 106.3, WFJV-FM 107.5, WRZN-AM 720.

Today's MOVIES

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

- Crystal River Mall 9; 564-6864: Breaking In (2018), Life of the Party, Avengers: Infinity War 3D, Avengers: Infinity War, Super Troopers 2, Blumhouse's Truth or Dare (2018), Rampage (2018), A Quiet Place, Ready Player One. Citrus Cinemas 6 Inverness; 844-462-7342 Code 187: Breaking In (2018), Life of the Party, Avengers: Infinity War 3D, Avengers: Infinity War, I Feel Pretty, Rampage (2018), A Quiet Place. Valerie Theatre, Inverness; 352-341-7850; 3 p.m. Sundays; 7:30 p.m. second Friday, \$6 May 13 - Terms of Endearment (PG)

CELEBRITY CIPHER by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

Today's clue: F equals V

GP BGOOUK NDTXXU WPO HAPGXZ
TGYT, G OGOP'R TWFK W UXR XV
VZGKPON. SAR BM BXB JWN WUJWMN
BM VZGKPO. WUJWMN." - RWMUXZ
NJGVR

Previous Solution: "God not only plays dice, He throws them in the corner where you can't see them." - Stephen Hawking

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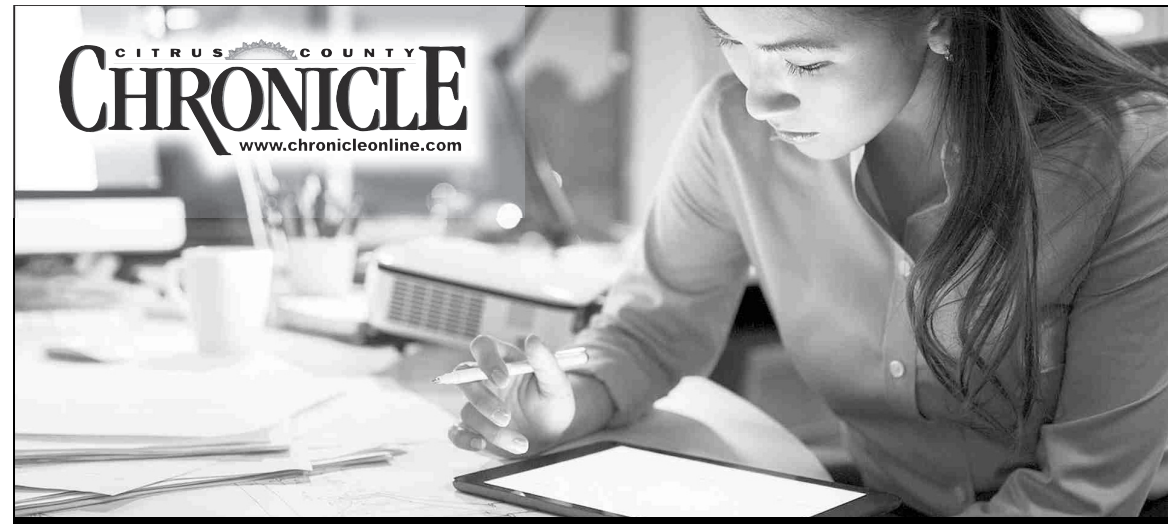
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Chronicle

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BENTLEY
 Chubbs is about 4 years old, neutered, very playful, energetic, up to date on shots, including the canine flu shot. He is a pocket Pittie, weighing about 40 pounds. No cats please. Best as only pet. Good on a leash, fenced yard preferred for him, but he is a wanna-be-lapdog. Call Joanne @ 352-795-1288, email Reg-jo@tampabay.ir.com, or Dreama @ 813-244-73624, email lacybele@aol.com.

CHUBBS
 Chubbs is about 4 years old, neutered, very playful, energetic, up to date on shots, including the canine flu shot. He is a pocket Pittie, weighing about 40 pounds. No cats please. Best as only pet. Good on a leash, fenced yard preferred for him, but he is a wanna-be-lapdog. Call Joanne @ 352-795-1288, email Reg-jo@tampabay.ir.com, or Dreama @ 813-244-73624, email lacybele@aol.com.

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2431 S. SUNCOAST BLVD. US HWY 19, HOMOSASSA, FL
Hours: Monday-Saturday 8:30am-7pm • SUNDAY 11am-4pm

*All offers with approved credit. Offers cannot be combined. For well-qualified lessees with approved credit through Southeast Toyota. Lease for \$99/mo for 36 months with \$4999 down. Not all lessees will qualify. 2018 Tundra SR \$5,218 due at signing includes \$4999 down and first months payment. \$26,913 Adjusted capitalized cost is based on down payment. 2018 Rav4 XLE \$5,158 due at signing includes \$4999 down and first months payment. \$22,604 Adjusted capitalized cost is based on down payment. 2018 Corolla LE \$5,098 due at signing includes \$4999 down and first months payment. \$14,998 Adjusted capitalized cost is based on down payment. 2018 Camry LE \$5,128 due at signing includes \$4999 down and first months payment. \$19,253 Adjusted capitalized cost is based on down payment. 2018 Tacoma SR \$5,098 due at signing includes \$4999 down and first months payment. \$21,494 Adjusted capitalized cost is based on down payment. No Security Deposit required 36 month/12,000 mile lease. Pricing excludes tax, tag, registration, title and \$699 dealer fee. 1) Dealer Exchange program. Customer electing to exchange their vehicle cannot have accrued 100 miles from the delivery date and may not have any damage to the vehicle. Normal wear and tear is acceptable. If vehicle has been in any kind of accident it is not eligible to exchange. Photos and artwork are for illustration purposes only, not responsible for typographical errors. Cannot be combined with other offers. See dealer for details. All offers expire 5/31/18.