



TUESDAY
 TODAY & next morning
HIGH 70 Sunny.
LOW 49
 PAGE A4

CITRUS COUNTY
CHRONICLE
 www.chronicleonline.com

DECEMBER 25, 2018 Florida's Best Community Newspaper Serving Florida's Best Community 50¢ VOL. 124 ISSUE 138

NEWS BRIEFS

Christmas lights in your area

The following is a list of homes with seasonally adorned exteriors available for public viewing. While the homeowners offered their addresses for the public to drive by to admire, those doing so are asked to stay on the public right of way and be mindful of private property and neighbors.

- 4000 N. Hatchet Circle, Beverly Hills
- 2925 W. Beamwood Drive, Beverly Hills
- 8991 Golfview Street, Citrus Springs
- 7318 N. Waycross Way, Citrus Springs
- 5680 E. River Road, Hernando
- 6059 S. Morrow Point, Homosassa
- 8348 W. Trotter Lane, Homosassa
- 27 Foxgreen Court, Homosassa
- 2126 S. Melanie Street, Homosassa
- 3930 S. Swan Terrace, Homosassa
- 6601 W. Seagull Lane, Homosassa
- 3 Harrison Ave., Inglis
- 14180 West River Road, Inglis
- 586 Highway 40 West, Inglis
- 4624 S. Florida Avenue Lot 11, Inverness
- 4517 S. Old Floral City Road, Inverness
- 306 W. Harvard Street, Inverness
- 9807 E. Lake Tahoe Drive, Inverness
- 614 Park Lake Terrace, Inverness
- 1305 Stowe Street, Inverness
- 4450 S Halo Hills Terrace, Lecanto
- 269 S. Ponder Ave., Lecanto
- 5382 W. Tortuga Loop, Lecanto
- 780 N. Heathrow Drive, Lecanto

To view an interactive map of the homes, visit www.tinyurl.com/chroniclechristmaslights.

Michael could be reclassified

PANAMA CITY — Some officials in one Florida Panhandle county are pushing for Hurricane Michael to be labelled a Category 5 storm.

The News-Herald reports that some in Bay County — which was hit hard by the fierce October storm — want the Cat. 5 label both as leverage to try and win a higher reimbursement from FEMA, but also as validation and a badge of honor for a region feeling increasingly forgotten by the rest of the country.

According to the conventional Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale, the standard used by the National Hurricane Center based on sustained wind speeds, Hurricane Michael was a strong Category 4 with its measured 155 mph sustained winds upon landfall — 2 mph under Cat. 5 status.

— From staff/wire reports

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One dog's Christmas wish: To walk

Ruffles has had several surgeries with more to come

CARLY ZERVIS
Staff writer

For a little dog named Ruffles, Christmas doesn't mean a perfect life — but he's on the way.

Now residing at Joshua's House for Golden Retrievers Rescue, Ruffles first came to Dr. K.C. Nayfield's attention at Midway Animal Hospital several months ago, when he was brought in with a single broken leg.

"When he first came in he was a normal puppy, about 10 weeks old," Nayfield said Friday. "He came in with a fractured tibia. And then a month later, he came in with a fractured femur."

At a post-operative checkup after surgery to fix the broken femur, Nayfield noticed a curve in the leg he'd fixed first.

"I told the owner I'd try to straighten the leg out, so she brought him back in a couple of weeks later and we noticed it was a growth deformity," Nayfield said. "We also noticed he had a broken front leg. We took some more X-rays and saw some cracked ribs, and the red flags started going up."

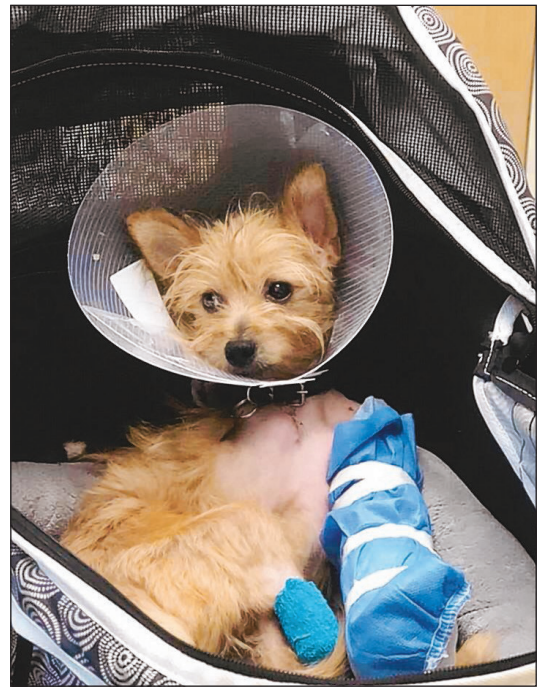
The break in the front leg was more complex, Nayfield said, and required a specialist's expertise to fix. He also suspected that the dog was being abused.

"I confronted the owner and she denied it up and down," he said. "I had to put a splint on the leg because I couldn't do the surgery — it needed a specialist."

After a visit to another veterinarian, the owner agreed to surrender the dog. Nayfield contacted Ellen Pavlik, who runs the Joshua's House rescue with her husband, John, and they took the dog in.

"I've been in practice for 38 and a half years and never, never had a case like this," See WISH/Page A7

Ruffles has had several surgeries, and according to veterinarians will need more to fix damage to his legs.
 Special to the Chronicle



The perfect gift



MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle

Moments after formally becoming a member of the Stanley family, 5-year-old Ryan can't contain his excitement Dec. 18 as his mother Carolyn sits by his side. Michael and Carolyn Stanley adopted two children last week. Ryan and his biological sister Shyla became part of their family.

Adoption brings joy to four families

NANCY KENNEDY
Staff writer

This year for Christmas, five children received the gift of a new last name and a forever family.

On Dec. 18 at the Citrus County Courthouse, Wyatt, 4, was adopted by his grandmother, Rebecca Morton; siblings 5-year-old Ryan and 8-year-old Shyla were adopted by Michael and Carolyn Stanley; Hannah, 3, in her pink princess dress, became the forever daughter of Steven and Rachael Orner, and 2-year-old Jaxson was welcomed into the LaSure family by mom Karen LaSure, along with her two biological children and Jaxson's five other adopted siblings.

Four of Jaxson's new brothers — Timothy, 11, and Connor, Aiden and Jacob, all 10 years old — came to the courthouse in matching red pants and black and white checked shirts.

In all, it was a morning filled with balloons and doughnuts, laughter and smiles and tears of joy.

"For us, it's a very happy ending to a very unhappy year," said Margaret Morton, Wyatt Morton's great-grandmother. "We lost two family members this year, my mom and brother-in-law, who died

within three months of each other. So, this is a cause of celebration and rejoicing."

It was also a treat for Judge Patricia Thomas, sitting in for the ailing Judge Mary Hatcher. Thomas is retiring at the end of this month.

"Doing adoptions is one of the most joyous things a judge can do, and it's an honor for me to be here today," she said, addressing everyone in the courtroom.

The Stanley family came wearing sports jerseys with the name Stanley on the back.

The day the children came to live with them nine months prior, they bonded immediately, Michael Stanley told Judge Thomas.

"On day one, this little guy held my hand," he said.

For the Orner family, Hannah is their third adopted child, including her older half-brother.

The Orners also have six biological children and an 8-month-old foster baby they hope to adopt, plus another 3-year-old they expect to adopt this month.

"There are so many kids out there that need homes," Steven Orner said.

As the LaSure clan waited their turn, Jaxson sat on a bench outside the courtroom next to a sign that read:

See GIFT/Page A5



Karen LaSure holds the newest member of her family Dec. 18 as adoption ceremonies take place in Inverness. Two-year-old Jaxson joined the LaSure family after 859 days in foster care. He will join four other adopted youngsters, all boys, in the family.

One of the Blessings of the Christmas Season is the chance to say "thank you" for your continued confidence in our care.



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From Left to Right: Margaret Collins, MD, Ashton Wester, ARNP, William Welton, MD, Ralph Massullo, MD, Michael Wartels, MD, Carla Bailey, PA, Brian Bonomo, PA, Kristy Chatham, PA

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Around the
STATE

Offices closed for the holidays

■ Citrus County government offices will be closed in observance of Christmas and New Years today and Tuesday, Jan. 1.
 ■ Citrus County Landfill will be closed Christmas Day and New Years Day.
 ■ Citrus County libraries will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.
 ■ Citrus County Transit will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.
 ■ Citrus County Animal Services will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.
 ■ Bicentennial Park pool will be closed Dec. 25, and Tuesday, Jan. 1.

Purple Heart ceremony Feb. 16

The combat-wounded Patriots of Aaron A. Weaver Chapter 776 Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) invite all veterans and the public, especially families and students, to attend the 14th Annual Purple Heart Ceremony at 11 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 16, at the Citrus County Auditorium, 3610 S. Florida Ave., Inverness.

The patriotic ceremony commemorates the proud legacy of the Purple Heart and pays tribute to Florida's fallen heroes of the Global War on Terror and America's wounded warriors. The ceremony, which will feature patriotic music by vocalists Paul and Jackie Stevio, will be dedicated to the memory of Vietnam War veteran and Chapter 776 Patriot Michael "Mike" Nemes.

Visit the Chapter 776 website at www.citruspurpleheart.org or call 352-382-3847 for information.

Black Caucus meeting Jan. 19

The Citrus County Democratic Black Caucus will meet Saturday, Jan. 19, at noon at Oysters Restaurant, 606 U.S. 19 Northeast, Crystal River.

The CCDBC is an organization which works with local and state Democratic leaders and encourages member participation in all aspects of voting and builds support for qualified candidates. All registered Democrats are welcome to attend. For more information call, 352-522-1859.

NCRC to host councilwoman

The Nature Coast Republican Club will meet at 9 a.m. Jan. 12 in the Hampton Inn, Crystal River. Hotel breakfast available for \$5 available at 8:30 a.m. The guest speaker will be Cindi Guy, newly elected Crystal River City Council member.

WCDC meeting Jan. 12 in CR

The West Coast Democratic Club will meet on Saturday, Jan. 12, at noon at the Riviera Cantina Restaurant, 1935 U.S. 19 Southeast, Crystal River.

The WCDC meets on the second Saturday of each month at the Riviera Cantina. A special menu for a self-pay lunch is served at noon; business meeting and speakers to follow.

All interested Democrats are invited to attend. For more info contact westcitrusdems@gmail.com.

Balcony collapses on car, injuring 4

MIAMI BEACH — Four people were sent to hospitals after a Miami Beach condominium balcony collapsed and fell on a car.

The Miami Herald reports the second story balcony collapsed Sunday and the fall was cushioned by a Chevrolet compact car.

Two men and two women were injured.

—From staff/wire reports

Give the gift of volunteering for the holidays

Johann Paul Richter (1763-1825) was an outstanding German writer of the German Romantic Movement. He was widely known under the name of Jean Paul.

A master of satire, he possessed a rich imagination and wrote delightful prose. Some of his most successful works are the romantic "The Invisible Lodge," "Hesperus" and "The Titan." Of joy, he wrote, "Joys are our wings."

Joy is a choice. An old English proverb states: "A joy shared is a joy made double."

Tarkom Saraydarian wrote: "You increase your joy by increasing the pure joy of others."

Along the volunteer path, there are many opportunities to find the treasures stored in our hearts simply by sharing joy with others. Recall the familiar saying, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Some of these priceless

treasures are the ones we freely give to others, like understanding, forgiveness, patience and kindness. Our life-giving thoughts affirming others, tender times with family and volunteer friends, we re-live over and over again in thought. They are everlasting joy, living out through us as we experience the choice to share the treasures with which we were given.

Each month, we share a list of volunteer opportunities for your kind consideration. Please call, today, and volunteer.

Citrus Abuse Shelter Association (CASA) is looking for volunteers to help keep its donation room organized (clothing, toiletries and household items). Call 352-344-8111.

Skillbank is looking for volunteers to assist the elderly in Beverly Hills with a ride to the doctor, pharmacy, hairdresser or barber, and with light home maintenance.



Ruth Levins
WITH A VOLUNTEER HEART

Call 352-746-5001.

Guardian ad Litem is in need of volunteers to serve as advocates for children who are in the court system due to abandonment, abuse or neglect. Call 352-812-6971.

Special volunteer needs

The Citrus County Sheriff's Office is looking for volunteers for its Sewing Unit with needed alterations and the application of patches, staffing for their STAIR program with home-bound individuals, the daily office assistance, the Citizens Academy, and the Volunteer Animal Control Officer (VACO). Call 352-527-3703.

Give blood — the gift of life. Call the Life South Blood Bank at 888-795-2707 to learn when the Bloodmobile will be in your area, and you can donate blood.

The Citrus County Family Resource Center is in need of donations to replace those stolen when their food trailer was stolen (peanut butter, cereal, mac and cheese, pasta and rice).

The Annie Johnson Senior

Center, at 20625 W. Pennsylvania Ave. in Dunnellon is seeking donations of socks and underwear.

The Citrus County Education Foundation (CCEF) has opened a free Teacher Supply Store at Withlacoochee Technical College (WTC) in Inverness where teachers can shop for classroom items donated by community members and partners.

To donate, call CCEF at 352-726-1931.

United Way funds many non-profit efforts for those in need. Send a donation of \$36 or less to Gerry Mulligan, Campaign Fund Chairman, The Chronicle, 1634 N. Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34429 (make checks payable to Citrus County United Way).

This column is for and about volunteers.

This column is for and about volunteers. If you or your organization are in need of volunteers and you'd like that need listed, call Ruth Levins at 352-795-3006, or write to her at P.O. Box 803, Crystal River, FL 34423-0803.

Just Drive Citrus



MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle

The Citrus County Sheriff's Office has placed eight crashed vehicles at high-visibility intersections across the county to warn drivers about the dangers of distracted driving and drunk driving as part of the sheriff's awareness campaign Just Drive Citrus. "We urge drivers to always use caution by avoiding cell phone use and if you consume alcohol, utilize a designated driver or alternate means of transportation," Sgt. Aidan Marshall said. "Increased traffic volume on our roads during the holidays is always a contributing factor for the rise in traffic crashes and it is our goal with this program to reduce crashes and promote safe driving."

Citrus County partnering with Finding Rover

Special to the Chronicle

Citrus County Animal Services joins the ranks of shelters in using facial recognition technology to identify lost dogs and cats. Citrus County Animal Shelter now offers an additional tool to help lost and adoptable dogs and cats find their forever home.

Now every dog and cat that enters the shelter system becomes registered on Finding Rover. Users of Finding Rover can search the shelter and surrounding areas right from their smartphone or computer in efforts to

find their missing pet, a neighbor's missing pet, the family of a found pet, or search for adoptable pets.

Every dog and cat that leaves, through a reunion or an adoption, can remain protected on Finding Rover when the pet parent registers on Finding Rover with the same email address that the shelter has on file. If that dog or cat ever gets lost, their record will already be in the system, and identifying that pet will be a snap.

Registration of your pet is free and as simple. Go to www.FindingRover.com and:

1. Upload your pet's photo
2. Enter a few details about your pet
3. Enter your name, email address, and ZIP code

Once your pets are registered, they are protected for life.

In addition to helping lost pets find home, Finding Rover also features dogs and cats that are available for adoption.

You can view Citrus County's found and adoptable pets with a click on the Finding Rover Facebook widget and on the website widget.

Emergency managers discuss disaster preparedness



Recently, the Withlacoochee Region Emergency Managers met for a working luncheon at the Olive Garden in Inverness. These professionals discussed past storms, lessons learned and future preparedness activities to better respond to the needs of our communities. Pictured are Citrus, Hernando, Levy and Marion counties Emergency Management directors and their staff. Front row from left are David Casto, Chris Kemp, Nick Gerth, Erin Miller, Nancy Jones and Cecelia Patella. Back row from left are Dan Santana, Robert Sullivan, Kevin Ford, Preston Bowlin, Erin Thomas, Rich Russell, Paul Siddall, John MacDonald, David DeCarlo and Chris Evan.

Special to the Chronicle

Today's HOROSCOPES

Birthdays — Make choices that will provide you with the tools you need to be the best that you can be.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — The more you do for others, the better you will feel about yourself.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Share your feelings and plans with loved ones and express your gratitude for what you have.

Pisces (Feb. 20-March 20) — Focus more on being gracious and looking your very best.

Aries (March 21-April 19) — Think before you react. Consider who is listening to you and think about the impression you make on people who care about you.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Take care of what needs to be done and make this day one to remember.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) — Home is where the heart is. Surround yourself with peace and joy, and express your love for the important people in your life. Open your heart and your home to friends and family.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) — Keep strong opinions to yourself. Call a truce with people who don't see things the way you do. Put differences aside and show others how likable you can be.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — You'll be inclined to overdo it. Before you head down an indulgent path, consider being good to your body and refraining from overeating, drinking and exaggerating. Put greater emphasis on love, not on treasures.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Say less and do more. What you offer in time and help will be valued more than what you have to say. Make your time count and your love show.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Gatherings should be joyous expressions of the good things in life. Don't be critical or take offense at the criticisms of others. Change begins within, and taking the high road will be your best bet.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Don't let emotions take the reins. Live in the moment and be grateful for what you have. Be the teacher, not the student, and set an example that will leave an impact.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Keep life simple and show moderation in all that you do. Offer genuine gestures that are humbling, not extrava

ENTERTAINMENT

Meghan Trainor weds actor Daryl Sabara on birthday

NEW YORK — Meghan Trainor has wed actor Daryl Sabara in nuptial exchanged at the couple's Los Angeles home.

A publicist for the Grammy-winning singer on Sunday confirmed the two married Saturday. People magazine first reported the wedding.

It says about 100 guests attended the private backyard ceremony. It was also Trainor's 25th birthday.

The "All About That Bass" singer and the 26-year-old "Spy Kids" actor became engaged last year.

Trainor's third album is due out in 2019.

Kevin Spacey faces charge in sexual assault of teenager

BOSTON — A Massachusetts prosecutor said Kevin Spacey is scheduled to be arraigned next month on a charge of indecent assault and battery on allegations he sexually assaulted the teenage son of a Boston television anchor in a Nantucket restaurant.

Cape and Islands District Attorney Michael O'Keefe told The Boston Globe that Spacey is due in Nantucket District Court on Jan. 7.

O'Keefe said a criminal complaint was issued by a clerk magistrate during a public show-cause hearing on Thursday.

Former news anchor Heather Unruh came forward in November 2017 and said the actor stuck his hand down her then-18-year-old son's pants and grabbed his genitals at the Club Car Restaurant in July 2016.



Associated Press

Meghan Trainor, right, and Daryl Sabara arrive at the world premiere of "I Feel Pretty" on April 17 at the Westwood Village Theater in Los Angeles. A publicist for the singer confirmed that Trainor wed actor Sabara in at the couple's Los Angeles home on Saturday.

Ex-Disney actor charged in underage sex case

SALT LAKE CITY — Former Disney Channel actor Stoney Westmoreland has been charged with six felony counts after authorities said he tried to have sex with a 13-year-old boy.

Prosecutors said the 48-year-old Westmoreland was on the dating app Grindr when he found a profile operated by a police detective in Salt Lake City, near the location of the show "Andi Mack."

A message left with Westmoreland's agent, Mitchell Stubbs, was not immediately returned.

Charging documents say Westmoreland was arrested Dec. 13 after he took a car to meet the boy so they could go back to his hotel room.

Charges filed Friday include attempted exploitation of a minor and enticing a minor.

Westmoreland has been dropped from his role as the grandfather of the teenage title

character in the Disney show.

James sorry for posting rapper's 'Jewish money' lyric

LeBron James is sorry for posting a lyric that referenced "Jewish money." The Los Angeles Lakers star says he simply got caught up in the music, thought the lyric was a "compliment" and offers "apologies, for sure."

The lyric comes from the song "ASMR" by rapper 21 Savage. James shared it over the weekend on his Instagram account, which has nearly 46 million followers.

The lyric says, "We been getting that Jewish money, Everything is Kosher."

James apologized on ESPN — "if I offended anyone." He says he regularly posts lyrics and listens to "great music" in his car. He adds: "That was the by-product of it. So I actually thought it was a compliment, and obviously it wasn't through the lens of a lot of people."

—From wire reports

Today in HISTORY

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 25, the 359th day of 2018. There are six days left in the year. This is Christmas Day.

Today's Highlight: On Dec. 25, 1991, Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev went on television to announce his resignation as the eighth and final leader of a communist superpower that had already gone out of existence.

On this date: In A.D. 336, the first known commemoration of Christmas on Dec. 25 took place in Rome.

In 1776, Gen. George Washington and his troops crossed the Delaware River for a surprise attack against Hessian forces at Trenton, New Jersey, during the American Revolutionary War.

In 1977, comedian Sir Charles Chaplin died in Switzerland at age 88.

In 1990, the World Wide Web, the system providing quick access to websites over the Internet, was born in Geneva, Switzerland, as computer scientists Tim Berners-Lee and Robert Cailliau created the world's first hyperlinked webpage.

In 1995, singer Dean Martin died at his Beverly Hills home at age 78.

Ten years ago: Singer, dancer and actress Eartha Kitt died in Weston, Conn. at age 81.

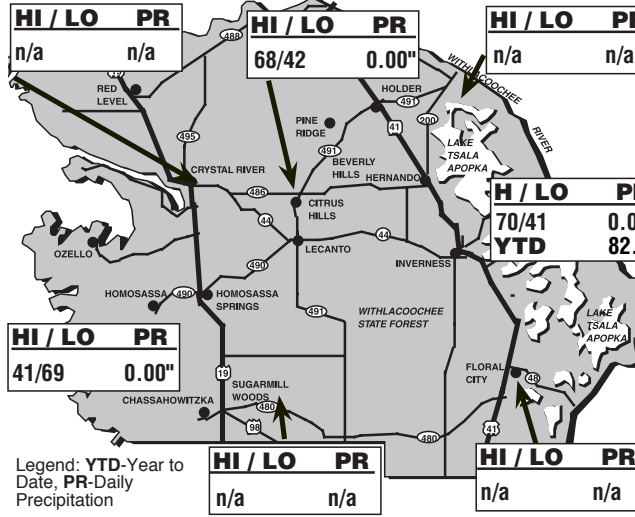
Five years ago: Pope Francis offered Christmas wishes for a better world, praying for protection for Christians under attack, battered women and trafficked children, peace in the Middle East and Africa, and dignity for refugees fleeing misery and conflict around the globe.

One year ago: Harsh winter weather gripped much of the country on Christmas, with bitter cold in the Midwest and a blizzard moving into New England.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Jimmy Buffett is 72. Former White House adviser Karl Rove is 68.

Thought for Today: "He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree." — Roy L. Smith, American clergyman (1887-1963).

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER



THREE DAY OUTLOOK

TODAY & TOMORROW MORNING
High: 70° **Low:** 49°
 Sunny. Northeast wind 5-10 mph.

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY MORNING
High: 74° **Low:** 61°
 Partly cloudy. Northeast wind 5-10 mph.

THURSDAY & FRIDAY MORNING
High: 79° **Low:** 65°
 Slight chance of rain showers. Mostly cloudy. Southeast wind 15 mph.

ALMANAC

TEMPERATURE	DEW POINT
Monday 68/46	Monday at 3 p.m. °
Record* 85/24	
Normal 70/44	HUMIDITY
Mean temp. 57	Monday at 3 p.m. %
Departure from mean 0	POLLEN COUNT**
PRECIPITATION	Today's active pollen:
Monday 0.00"	Juniper, Composites
Total for the month 8.41"	Today's count: 7.0/12
Total for the year 46.88"	Wednesday's count: 7.6
Normal for the year 51.66"	Thursday's count: 8.2
*Official record values from Tampa International	AIR QUALITY
UV INDEX: 6	Monday observed: Moderate
0-2 minimal, 3-4 low, 5-6 moderate, 7-9 high, 10+ very high	Pollutant: PM 2.5
BAROMETRIC PRESSURE	

SOLAR TABLES

DATE	DAY	MINOR (MORNING)	MAJOR (MORNING)	MINOR (AFTERNOON)	MAJOR (AFTERNOON)
12/25	TUESDAY	9:05	2:00	8:00	2:35
12/26	WEDNESDAY	10:00	3:00	9:10	3:35

CELESTIAL OUTLOOK

SUNSET TONIGHT	5:39 p.m.
SUNRISE TOMORROW	7:20 a.m.
MOONRISE TODAY	9:08 p.m.
MOONSET TODAY	10:00 a.m.

BURN CONDITIONS

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

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

WATERING RULES

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

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

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

For more details, visit WaterMatters.org/Restrictions

TIDES

City	High	Low
Chassahowitzka*	7:48 a.m. 0.8 ft. 8:27 p.m. 0.2 ft. 4:05 p.m. 0.0 ft.	
Crystal River**	5:45 a.m. 2.6 ft. 6:55 p.m. 1.7 ft.	1:08 p.m. -0.3 ft.
Withlacoochee*	2:23 a.m. 3.6 ft. 4:12 p.m. 2.9 ft. 10:24 a.m. -0.9 ft. 10:16 p.m. 0.9 ft.	
Homosassa***	6:12 a.m. 1.7 ft. 7:48 p.m. 0.7 ft. 12:13 a.m. 0.3 ft. 3:16 p.m. -0.1 ft.	

FLORIDA TEMPERATURES

City	H	L	F'cast	City	H	L	F'cast
Daytona Bch.	72	55	f	Miami	75	68	pc
Fort Lauderdale	77	68	pc	Ocala	71	48	pc
Fort Myers	75	61	pc	Orlando	75	55	f
Gainesville	70	46	pc	Pensacola	65	52	pc
Homestead	76	68	pc	Sarasota	71	57	pc
Jacksonville	68	47	pc	Tallahassee	65	44	pc
Key West	77	71	pc	Tampa	72	56	pc
Lakeland	72	55	pc	Vero Beach	75	61	pc
Melbourne	75	58	pc	W. Palm Bch.	76	67	pc

MARINE OUTLOOK

Today: North winds around 10 knots. Seas 2 feet. Bay and inland waters a light chop. Tonight: Northeast winds around 10 knots. Seas 2 feet. Bay and inland waters a light chop.

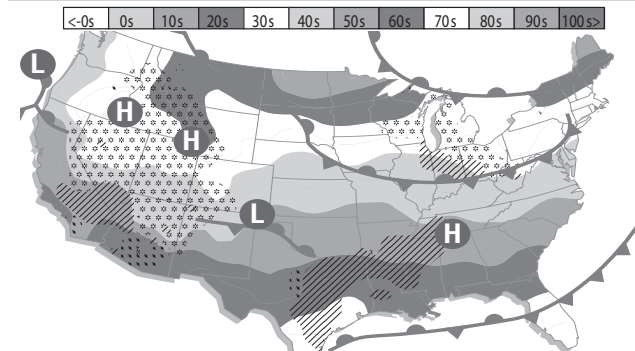
Gulf water temperature **65°**
 Taken at Aripeka

LAKE LEVELS

Location	MON	SUN	Full
Withlacoochee at Holder	31.92	31.88	34.64
Tsala Apopka-Hernando	38.23	38.24	38.66
Tsala Apopka-Inverness	39.38	39.38	39.73
Tsala Apopka-Floral City	40.69	40.69	41.37

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

THE NATION



FORECAST FOR 3:00 P.M. TUESDAY

City	MON H	L	Pcp.	TUE H	L	Fest	City	MON H	L	Pcp.	TUE H	L	Fest	
Albany	37	30	.03	32	25	pc	New Orleans	60	50		66	58	pc	
Albuquerque	48	30		54	33	pc	New York City	43	37	.12	41	30	pc	
Asheville	43	34		48	32	pc	Norfolk	51	43		46	35	pc	
Atlanta	52	35		56	40	pc	Oklahoma City	51	30		54	50	f	
Atlantic City	46	37	.01	41	28	pc	Omaha	39	25		40	31	f	
Austin	47	38		69	60	pc	Palm Springs	70	50		61	49	sh	
Baltimore	44	36		41	30	cd	Philadelphia	45	39	.02	41	28	pc	
Billings	35	30		32	20	pc	Phoenix	66	48		65	44	pc	
Birmingham	50	28		58	44	pc	Pittsburgh	33	32	.01	35	28	cd	
Boise	37	35	.17	39	23	r	Portland, ME	36	21		32	17	f	
Boston	39	33		35	25	s	Portland, OR	45	43	.08	44	37	f	
Buffalo	34	32	.09	34	27	cd	Providence, RI	34	28	.02	38	24	s	
Burlington, VT	27	21		.03	26	19	pc	Raleigh	-	39		51	30	pc
Charleston, SC	61	43		61	42	pc	Rapid City	42	18		34	21	pc	
Charleston, WV	43	32	.01	43	29	pc	Reno	46	34		41	26	fl	
Charlotte	53	37		52	34	pc	Rochester, NY	37	33	.04	34	28	pc	
Chicago	30	23		40	31	pc	Sacramento	51	48	.01	58	38	pc	
Cincinnati	43	26		42	30	sn	Salt Lake City	37	30	.04	40	27	sn	
Cleveland	35	32		37	31	cd	San Antonio	47	43		70	62	pc	
Columbia, SC	48	28		49	36	r	San Diego	62	54		60	50	ts	
Columbus, OH	37	30		38	28	sn	San Francisco	54	51	.01	58	46	pc	
Concord, NH	37	19		32	16	s	Savannah	61	41		63	44	pc	
Dallas	57	36		64	57	pc	Seattle	48	43		43	38	pc	
Denver	36	21		42	23	pc	Spokane	34	32	.12	32	23	f	
Des Moines	33	21		41	31	cd	St. Louis	48	30		49	37	r	
Detroit	34	32		36	29	pc	St. Ste. Marie	28	21		03	30	18	
El Paso	59	33		70	45	pc	Syracuse	36	28	.04	32	25	pc	
Evansville, IN	46	28		44	34	pc	Topeka	46	25		49	39	pc	
Harrisburg	42	37	.07	39	27	s	Washington	48	41		42	32	cd	
Hartford	36	28		31	23	pc								
Houston	62	48		73	62	f								
Indianapolis	39	24		43	29	fl								
Kansas City	46	27		48	37	pc								
Las Vegas	55	42		56	42	sh								
Little Rock	51	30		55	46	sh								
Los Angeles	60	53		67	48	sh								
Louisville	48	30		47	32	pc								
Memphis	51	30		52	46	sh								
Milwaukee	32	24		37	31	sn								
Minneapolis	23	15		31	22	sn</								

GIFT

Continued from Page A1

"Jaxson Leve LaSure. I was in foster care for 859 days, but today I was adopted. December 18, 2018."

Karen LaSure began fostering 30 years ago in Pennsylvania, specializing in fostering children with medical needs.

At the time, she was a teacher at a school for special-needs students, and a 13-year-old girl needed a home, so LaSure took her in.

The girl died six years later, and LaSure moved to Florida and continued being a foster parent — 38 children so far.

"You can't adopt them all," she said. "But you just know. When a child comes into your home — you just know the ones who are meant to be yours."

Ashley Blake, LaSure's biological daughter, said she was 10 and her brother, John, was 9 when their mother started fostering, so they grew up with it.

"It's always love at first sight," Ashley said. "It never gets old and it just gets better. You never know how much love you have"

Although Jaxson didn't know what all the fuss was about, older brother Connor did.

"The best thing about being adopted," he said, "we get to have a house, and we have a mom."

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

Elks award essay contestants



Inverness Elks Lodge 2522 recently awarded students participating in a Drug Awareness Essay Contest on the subject "Drugs Take Away." Pictured from left are first place winner Cassidy Struble, third place winner Ava Rueck and School Resource Deputy Joseph Gentle. Not pictured: second place winner Christian Halle. Special to the Chronicle

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Did 2018 usher in a creeping tech dystopia?

From Facebook data harvesting to harmful YouTube algorithms

MATT O'BRIEN
Associated Press

We may remember 2018 as the year when technology's dystopian potential became clear, from Facebook's role enabling the harvesting of our personal data for election interference to a seemingly unending series of revelations about the dark side of Silicon Valley's connect-everything ethos.

The list is long: High-tech tools for immigration crackdowns. Fears of smartphone addiction. YouTube algorithms that steer youths into extremism. An experiment in gene-edited babies.

Doorbells and concert venues that can pinpoint individual faces and alert police. Repurposing genealogy websites to hunt for crime suspects based on a relative's DNA. Automated systems that keep tabs of workers' movements and habits. Electric cars in Shanghai transmitting their every movement to the government.

It's been enough to exhaust even the most imaginative sci-fi visionaries.

"It doesn't so much feel like we're living in the future now, as that we're living in a retro-future," novelist William Gibson wrote this month on Twitter: "A dark, goofy '90s retro-future."

More awaits us in 2019, as surveillance and data-collection efforts ramp up and artificial intelligence systems start sounding more human, reading facial expressions and generating fake video images so realistic that it will be harder to detect malicious distortions of the truth.

But there are also countermeasures afoot in Congress and state government — and even among tech-firm employees who are more active about ensuring their work is put to positive ends.

"Something that was heartening this year was that accompanying this parade of scandals was a growing public awareness that there's an accountability crisis in tech," said Meredith Whittaker, a co-founder of New York University's AI Now Institute for studying the social implications of artificial intelligence.

The group has compiled a long list of what made 2018 so ominous, though many are examples of the public simply becoming newly aware of problems that have built up for years.

Among the most troubling cases was the revelation in March that political data-mining firm Cambridge Analytica swept up personal information of millions of Facebook users for the purpose of manipulating national elections.

"It really helped wake up people to the fact that these systems are actually touching the core of our lives and shaping our social institutions," Whittaker said.

That was on top of other Facebook disasters, including its role in fomenting violence in Myanmar, major data breaches and ongoing concerns about its hosting of fake accounts for Russian propaganda.

It wasn't just Facebook. Google attracted concern about its continuous surveillance of users after The Associated Press reported that it was tracking people's movements whether they like it or not.

It also faced internal dissent over its



Associated Press

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg arrives April 10, to testify before a joint hearing of the Commerce and Judiciary Committees on Capitol Hill in Washington, about the use of Facebook data to target American voters in the 2016 election. We may remember 2018 as the year in which technology's dystopian potential became clear, from Facebook's role enabling the harvesting of our personal data for election interference to a seemingly unending series of revelations about the dark side of Silicon Valley's connect-everything ethos.

collaboration with the U.S. military to create drones with "computer vision" to help find battlefield targets and a secret proposal to launch a censored search engine in China. And it unveiled a remarkably human-like voice assistant that sounds so real that people on the other end of the phone didn't know they were talking to a computer.

Those and other concerns bubbled up in December as lawmakers grilled Google CEO Sundar Pichai at a congressional hearing — a sequel to similar public reckonings this year with Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg and other tech executives.

"It was necessary to convene this hearing because of the widening gap of distrust between technology companies and the American people," Republican House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy said.

Internet pioneer Vint Cerf said he and other engineers never imagined their vision of a worldwide network of connected computers would morph 45 years later into a surveillance system that collects personal information or a propaganda machine that could sway elections.

"We were just trying to get it to work," recalled Cerf, who is now Google's chief internet evangelist. "But now that it's in the hands of the general public, there are people who ... want it to work in a way that obviously does harm, or benefits themselves, or disrupts the political system. So we are going to have to deal with that."

Contrary to futuristic fears of "super-intelligent" robots taking control, the real dangers of our tech era have crept in more prosaically — often in the form of tech innovations we welcomed for making life more convenient.

Part of experts' concern about the leap into connecting every home device to the internet and letting computers do our work is that the technology is still buggy and influenced by human errors and prejudices. Uber and Tesla were investigated for fatal self-driving car crashes in March, IBM came under scrutiny for working with New York City police to build a facial recognition system that can detect ethnicity, and Amazon took heat for supplying its own flawed facial recognition service to law enforcement agencies.

technology have been sounding alarms. Prominent engineers and designers have increasingly spoken out about shielding children from the habit-forming tech products they helped create.

And then there's Microsoft President Brad Smith, who in December called for regulating facial recognition technology so that the "year 2024 doesn't look like a page" from George Orwell's "1984."

In a blog post and a Washington speech, Smith painted a bleak vision of all-seeing government surveillance systems forcing dissidents to hide in darkened rooms "to tap in code with hand signals on each other's arms."

To avoid such an Orwellian scenario, Smith advocates regulating technology so that anyone about to subject themselves to surveillance is properly notified. But privacy advocates argue that's not enough.

Such debates are already happening in states like Illinois, where a strict facial recognition law has faced tech industry challenges, and California, which in 2018 passed the nation's most far-reaching law to give consumers more control over their personal data. It takes effect in 2020.

The issue could find new attention in Congress next year as more Republicans warm up to the idea of basic online privacy regulations and the incoming Democratic House majority takes a more skeptical approach to tech firms that many liberal politicians once viewed as allies — and prolific campaign donors.

The "leave them alone" approach of the early internet era won't work anymore, said Rep. David Cicilline, a Rhode Island Democrat poised to take the helm of the House's antitrust subcommittee.

"We're seeing now some of the consequences of the abuses that can occur in these platforms if they remain unregulated without meaningful oversight or enforcement," Cicilline said.

In some cases, opposition to the tech industry's rush to apply its newest innovations to questionable commercial uses has come from its own employees. Google workers helped scuttle the company's Pentagon drone contract, and workers at Amazon, Microsoft and Salesforce sought to cancel their companies' contracts to supply tech services to immigration authorities.

"It became obvious to a lot of people that the rhetoric of doing good and benefiting society and 'Don't be evil' was not what these companies were actually living up to," said Whittaker, who is also a research scientist at Google who founded its Open Research group.

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WISH

Continued from Page A1

Nayfield said. "You pick him up and he'll lick your face. He was trying to walk around his kennel with two broken legs. Broken legs are terribly painful. The amount of suffering ... this little puppy just felt like this was normal. He never gave up on people."

Pavlik took Ruffles to the University of Florida, where orthopedic specialist veterinarian Dr. Dan Lewis performed a surgery in mid-December to stabilize the complicated break in the dog's front leg, which was at the wrist joint.

"He's getting amazing, excellent care. Apparently they've really bonded with him at the university, the students and technicians," Nayfield said. "He's getting prime care. He won't have entirely normal function in that front leg, but he'll be able to walk around."

"We're just hoping and

praying for this little guy. He's such a trooper," Nayfield continued. "He's been through a lot."

"Little Ruffles had his second surgery yesterday to fuse his wrist. They hope this will give him two legs to stand on. The surgery took a lot longer than expected," a Dec. 15 post on the Joshua's House rescue's Facebook page read. "They put two plates wires and a cast to straighten it out and hold everything together. He still has two knees to go, but these two must heal first."

"He's doing really well, everybody loves him," Pavlik said Saturday. "He still needs two surgeries, a CT scan — a lot of medical care yet — so I'm caring for him and doing the fundraising. Right now we're not really looking at homes, we're trying to get him well and get his medical needs taken care of and give him lots of love. He was so terrified when he came to us."

Pavlik said Ruffles will



Special to the Chronicle

A post-operation X-ray shows a repair to one of Ruffles' legs that was done at the University of Florida's small animal hospital.

need at least six months of medical care and rehabilitation.

"Due to no fault of his own, he's in this shape," she said, "so we feel that we owe it to him to fix him and make him happy and healthy."

Joshua's House is collecting donations toward the cost of Ruffles' medi-



Ruffles rests with John Pavlik, who runs Joshua's House Golden Retriever Rescue with his wife Ellen.

cal care. For more information about Ruffles or to donate visit the rescue's Facebook page at facebook.com/Joshuas

houseforgoldenretriever rescue, or its GoFundMe at bit.ly/2RaEVp5.

Donations can also be mailed to Joshua's House Golden Retriever Rescue at P.O. Box 513, Lecanto, FL 34460. Contact Chronicle reporter Carly Zervis at 352-564-2925 or carly.zervis@chronicleonline.com.



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Sound OFF

You guys don't know high taxes

I'm reading the Dec. 11 issue of Sound Off and there's a Sound Off in there by the title of "Maybe they'll quit taxing us." I come from Buffalo, New York. I came down here 14 years ago because taxes were pretty high up there. My taxes down here are one-tenth of what they used to be up there. I don't know what he's talking about, about taxes.

There's hardly any taxes in this county. I have \$100,000 house; I pay \$183 a year in taxes. What are you talking about? We have a dime more tax than any others in the tri-county area on our fuel. They just lowered the taxes on our licenses.

I don't know what you're talking about. If you don't like it here, sell your house and go to a place where you get lower taxes, which, by the way, will be taxing because there's not many states that are as low as Florida.

You should adapt to our ways

In answer to the officious snowbird who goes to the grocery only to find people holding up the line and inconveniencing him or her: Let's tell about the nature of people in Florida. We are friendly, we are personable, we take time to care about one another and we may seem to hold up the line. I assume you are retired.

What's your big hurry? You sound rude, imperious and insufferable. If you don't like the grocery lines here, I advise you to go back home. We don't want or need rude people in this community. We don't need to get with your program; you need to get with ours.

Looking forward to parkway

Jingle bells. Looks like the "road to nowhere" Suncoast Parkway that we have had difficulty accessing for many years is moving to the heart of Citrus County. Additionally, with an extension to County

Road 486, the FDOT is getting closer to a decision to move the parkway northward through the county, as originally planned.

Upon completion, the Suncoast Parkway will be a primary hurricane evacuation route for the Tampa Bay area, with four lanes of one-way traffic northward. Maybe there really is a Santa Claus.

Don't change my garbage, or else

In the Dec. 13 issue of the Chronicle, I'm reading that the board is considering universal garbage collection (page A3). Here's my message to the board: I like my garbage collection company. Their prices are reasonable. Their service is good. I want the board to leave it alone.

I don't want to go into a universal garbage collection. You know, to me that's like a socialized government. Don't force me into changing my company. If you force me into universal collection and you get me stuck with another lousy county service, when my garbage does not get collected, I will find out who the county commissioners are and I will promise to dump my garbage on their front lawn. So leave it alone.

Sheriff not helping us at all

We, too, here in Citrus Springs have problems with the four-wheelers. Christmas around the corner, I'm sure more young people will be getting more and more of them. Anyways, we have a Crime Watch here. They happened to come across six individuals riding alongside the road. They approached them and explained to them it was illegal and everything went fine. The Crime Watch person wished them a good day and said they couldn't do anything about it, but just wanted to inform them.

Anyway, he received a phone call by the sheriff's department that told him, "Cease and desist, you

have no authority and no reason to be stopping these people." So here in Citrus Springs, we will just have to accept the fact that we have four-wheelers and the problem continues to grow.

Bad choice by the school district

This is regarding the appointment of Buddy Grant to be the police chief of the Citrus County School District. How could anyone expect things to be better between the sheriff's office and the school district when the school district appoints somebody who, at very best, resigned under pressure as the undersheriff of Citrus County? Just bad choice, bad politics, as I see it.

Recycle those plastic bags

Please save your plastic bags from the supermarket and newspapers and give them to charity-operated thrift shops. They use the newspapers to wrap glassware and china for customers, and the bags to package purchases.

Plastic bags and newspapers being used again saves a lot on landfill trash.

Please keep your pets indoors

I'm calling to talk about the person who complained about the cat being killed on the road and somebody left it, possibly because it was dark. They ran over it. I just want to say, first of all, condolences to the family or the people that lost the cat. I have deep sympathies for you on that. I'm an animal lover.

Secondly, and foremost important, why leave the cat out? If you are a responsible cat owner or animal owner, please don't leave your animals (to) roam. That includes cats, that includes dogs, ferrets, whatever. You don't let them roam, so they won't get hit. It's as simple as that. Keep them inside or on a leash. Then you wouldn't have the heartache. Think about it.

SOUND OFF

- Call the anonymous Sound Off line at 352-563-0579.
- Be prepared to leave a brief message — write it out before calling to make sure you remember everything you want to say.
- The Chronicle reserves the right to edit Sound Off messages for length, libel, personal attacks and good taste.

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Tim Schwartz Executive Director

Theodore Holmes recognized with Humanitarian Award

Awarded for service efforts in the community

Special to the Chronicle



Afro-American Club of Citrus County President Purvis Hunt recently presented the the inaugural Humanitarian Award to Theodore Holmes. This award is presented to a member who has demonstrated an exceptionally high level of commitment to humanitarian efforts within and outside the community.

Holmes is a served as Deputy Chief, City Fire Marshal, and Chief of the Washington D.C. Fire and EMS Department. He served as Public Information Officer for the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department.

Holmes has been instrumental with several organizations, including the African-American Council of Christian Clergy (AACCC) providing \$35,000 in school supplies, clothing and other needed items, which were distributed to an adopted school in New Orleans.

He was instrumental in assisting with the construction of the George Washington Carver Community Center in Crystal River. For many years, he has been actively involved in Citrus County holiday food distribution, and he has worked with many and varied organizations with regard to humanitarian efforts, including the New Church Without Walls food distribution program, as well as relief to Haiti, Puerto Rico and St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

Currently, he is an officer of Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Crystal River.

Purvis Hunt (left), president of the Afro-American Club of Citrus County, presents the Humanitarian Award to Theodore Holmes.

Special to the Chronicle

Around the COMMUNITY

Tuesday, December 25

Free Christmas dinner offered

Steak Out Subs will serve a free Christmas dinner to anyone in need from noon to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 25, at 374 N. U.S. 19, Crystal River.

They will serve a traditional Christmas dinner including turkey, ham, sweet potato casserole, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans, stuffing, cranberry sauce and a variety of desserts. All will be served while quantities last, feeding 120 to 140 plates.

For information, call 352-228-8036.

Monday, December 31

Celebrate New Years at the library

The Citrus County Library System would like to invite families to ring in the new year on Monday, Dec. 31.

Since children often miss out on the fun of counting down to midnight, Citrus Libraries will celebrate the New Year at noon instead. This event will feature crafts and games for the whole family. Ring in 2019 with noisemakers, confetti and an apple juice toast. The event will begin at 10:30 a.m. at all five branches of the Citrus County Library System.

Elks to host NYE party

End 2018 at the Inverness Elks Lodge 2522 New Year Eve's Party Monday, Dec. 31, at the lodge at 3575 E. Lake Place in Hernando.

Hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar will be available from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner including apple pecan stuffed pork loin, roast beef, salad, red potatoes, green beans, rolls, dessert, coffee and tea. Gourmet cakes will be provided for dessert, and a champagne toast at midnight.

Billy Lindsey will provide live music for dancing.

Door prizes, party favors, and party games will round out the fun.

Tickets must be purchased in advance at \$60 per person. Tables of 8 or 10 may be reserved.

For tickets and information, call 352-726-2027.

Wednesday, January 2

Fragrant Garden seminars set

Take time to stop and smell the roses. The topic for this month's free UF/IFAS Citrus County Extension Service Master Gardener Plant Seminars is "The Fragrant Garden."

Aroma can be added to the garden by planting the trees, shrubs, and annuals that will be discussed. These plants add an aromatic dimension to gardening. The schedule for the January seminars is:

■ At 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 2, at the Floral City Library.

■ At 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 9, at the Central Ridge Library in Beverly Hills.

■ At 1:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 14, at the Coastal Region Library in Crystal River.

■ At 1 p.m. Tuesday,

Jan. 15, at the Lakes Region Library in Inverness.

■ At 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16, at the Citrus Springs Library.

■ At 2 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22 at the Homosassa Library.

Master Gardener volunteers will be available to discuss this topic, answer questions, identify plant problems and offer solutions to your gardening experience. For information, call 352-527-5700.

Friday, January 4

BH Irish American Club meets

The Beverly Hills Irish American Club will meet at 1 p.m. Friday, Jan. 4, at the Central Ridge Community Center, 77 Civic Circle Beverly Hills.

Guest speaker will be Terri Jones, Director of Parrot Educational & Resource Center & Habitat (PERCH). PERCH is a local 501(c)(3) that rescues exotic birds. Terri will bring some rescued birds.

There will be light refreshments of donuts, coffee or tea.

We will go over the January schedule of events. Those interested in attending the play on Feb. 17 should bring \$19 for a ticket.

Meetings are open to anyone who is of Irish descent or is interested in learning of Irish culture.

For information, contact Janet Berek at 616-648-1242 or janet.berek@yahoo.com.

Saturday, January 5

Join the Colonial Dames

The Colonial Dames of 17th Century is a society dedicated to the preservation of records and historic sites, fostering aid in colonial research and aiding in the education of youth by providing scholarships.

Members are able to prove lineal descent of an ancestor who lived and served prior to 1701 in one of the original colonies of the United States of America.

The Dames meet quarterly for a business meeting and luncheon at 11 a.m. at the Stonecrest Country Club in Summerfield.

Meeting dates include Saturday, Jan. 5, March 2 and May 4.

For information, call President Beverly Gentry at 352-212-2363.

Stay updated on 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 include:
■ An AARP Driver Safety Class will be held from 10:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 5, at the Homosassa Library at 4100 S. Grandmarch Ave. Call instructor Phillip Mulrain at 352-628-7633 to register for the class.

■ An AARP Driver Safety Class will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8, at Brown Funeral Home, 5430 W. Gulf-to-Lake Highway, Lecanto. Call Pat Hubbell at 352-586-2731 to register for the class. Bring a bag lunch.

■ An AARP Driver Safety Class will be held from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 10, at the Central Ridge Library at 425 W. Roosevelt Blvd., Beverly Hills. Call 352-513-5566 to register for the class.

■ An AARP Driver Safety Class will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 15, and Wednesday, Jan. 16, at the Senior Circle Center, 11537 W. Emerald Oaks Dr., Crystal River. Call Kevin Spiddle at 352-795-2102 to register for the class.

Sunday, January 6

Play trivia at auditorium

Test your knowledge while enjoying socializing with friends at trivia Tuesday, Jan. 8, in Kellner Auditorium, 92 Civic Circle, Beverly Hills (behind Beth Shalom Synagogue Building).

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Game begins at 7 p.m.

Cost is \$10 per person. There will be light snacks, water and iced tea provided. BYOB.

Prizes to first and second place teams will be a percentage of money taken in. There will also be a 50/50 raffle.

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For reservations (by Jan. 6) or information, contact Sherry Wilson at 352-270-3339, or email sherrywilson088@gmail.com.

Monday, January 7

Learn to use Twitter for business

Social media has become an important factor in the success of small businesses. Effective use of social media platforms allows entrepreneurs to reach audiences that would otherwise be inaccessible through traditional marketing methods.

The Citrus County Library System wants to help growing businesses in the county by offering a class to inform the public about the most effective uses of Twitter.

Attendees will learn how to create a Twitter account for their business, schedule posts, understand analytics and find relevant hashtags for their industry.

This free class will be at

9:15 a.m. Monday, Jan. 7, at the Central Ridge Library in Beverly Hills. Register in advance by visiting citruslibraries.org or calling 352-746-6622.

Meet with NJ & Friends

Start the New Year with friends, both old and new, at the next meeting of the New Jersey & Friends Club. The meeting will be at 1 p.m. Monday, Jan. 7, at the VFW Post 4252 on State Road 200 in Hernando.

CASA, the Citrus County Abuse Shelter Association, will present an overview of their mission to help victims and survivors of domestic abuse.

For information on club activities, call Stella at 352-270-8427. For membership information, call Tony at 352-746-9455.

Watch Holiday Inn' at VITAS

Friends of Citrus and the Nature Coast's Monthly Movie Matinee feature is "Holiday Inn," starring Bing Crosby, Fred Astaire and Marjorie

Reynolds. It will be presented at 2 p.m., Monday, Jan. 7, at VITAS in Citrus at 3280 W. Audubon Park Path in Lecanto. Discussion follows the movie.

Monthly Movie Matinees are open to the public. For reservations, contact Jonathan Beard at 352-249-1470.

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The Big Hunt Photo Contest is for everyone who enjoys hunting and the great outdoors. We accept photo entries from anywhere around the world! To get in the hunt, you've got to participate. We hope you're encouraged to enter today and also to spread the word about our contests! The photo with the most votes wins a prize from our sponsors.

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Dr. Seuss

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

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

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Editorial board shares holiday wishes

Let's work together this Christmas season to bring cheer to those who need it and good will to the community at large. With cheer and goodwill, most any problem can be resolved. Merry Christmas.

— Gerry Mulligan

THE ISSUE:
Christmas.

OUR OPINION:
May your day be joyous.

Save room in your heart for others during the holidays and have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

— Mike Arnold

My Christmas wish for everyone last year was to make happy memories with family and friends, and to work toward a more civil, optimistic world. That's still a good wish. This year I'll add another: let's be mindful of those experiencing distress, anxiety or loss; and comfort and support them. It is the sweet, simple moments that matter most.

— Rebecca Martin

The Christmas season is a special time of the year because of its spirit of giving that's rooted in our Creator's gift to the world of his only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Whether or not one is a Christian, the spirit of giving has transcended time and locale because of the joy it brings to the hearts of those who receive, as well as the hearts of those who generously give.

We are truly blessed to live in a country and especially a community where the spirit of giving resides in the hearts of so many.

It is this heartfelt kindness and the cheer it imparts that makes each Christmas season a special time of the year.

Cheerful wishes for a Merry and Blessed Christmas.

— Curt Ebitz

My holiday wish is for the peace of the season to transcend the hustle, and for each of us to pause and remember there is much good in the world and there are many people

who dedicate themselves to making our community a better place. As we enter a new year, my hope is that each of us will take the time to be more thoughtful of others and to be more thankful for our many blessings.

— Mac Harris

To all readers, columnists, colleagues, friends and family:

I wish you a Merry Christmas and happiest of holidays. May this be a joyous time that overflows with love, generosity and kindness.

Enjoy each moment as we ring in 2019.

— Gwen Bittner

From those who pitch a hard-earned buck or two into a Salvation Army kettle, to those who spend weeks on end gathering, sorting and distributing gifts to bring joy to others on the holidays, the spirit of Christmas is alive and well.

These people hold a faith that good deeds reap rewards, in both practical and spiritual senses.

These people know the magic of Christmas. Year after year, their actions perpetuate the spirit of love.

These people serve a higher purpose — and that's a gift to the world.

Merry Christmas to all.

— Charlie Brennan

the hand has to be trimmed and prepped for the surgery and cleaned. Think about it. You wouldn't want somebody working on your hand that doesn't know what they're doing, would you?

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Regarding "Different groups, common cause" (Dec. 10's editorial): The Chronicle got it wrong. The county should be providing a decent animal shelter. Citizens don't have the money but do the best that they can. It should not

be their job. Ocala has a beautiful animal rescue building, as well as other counties, and they're well staffed. Citrus is just a backwards, selfish, inhumane county.

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LETTERS to the Editor



Just say no to tax increase

I was interested to see what exactly would come out of the Board of County Commissioners' 2019 goal-setting meeting and as I suspected, the words "tax increase" were mentioned together. In fact, it was a "tax increase" in order to pave the county roads. May I make a couple of suggestions?

I suggest that we first consider the number of folks in Citrus County who live on fixed incomes, who struggle to pay their bills and taxes as things sit right now before we throw around words like "tax increase."

I also suggest that it is time to review the Citrus County budget and really scrutinize the expenditure lines to cut the fat where it needs to be cut. After all, the commissioners feel they need to examine their own spending habits, so let's put the expenditure lines of the entire county under intense scrutiny. I suggest that we do this before we throw around words like "tax increase."

Chances are, the overall consensus among the taxpaying Citrus County residents would be for the fat to be cut in the expenditure lines of the current budget and for the money accumulated from those expense cuts be used to pave the roads.

We have to start putting the taxpayer first at some point and it might as well start now!

Leland Shipp
Floral City

Don't let DeSantis block them

Nov. 6, Florida voters passed Amendment 4 to the state constitution that automatically restores the right to vote to approximately 1.5 million former non-violent felons who have completed all of the terms of their convictions. Amendment 4 passed with cross-partisan 64 percent support — a welcome sign that Florida had finally moved into the 21st century.

For these reasons, it was shocking to recently learn that our newly elected governor, Ron DeSantis, is constructing roadblocks to returning citizens who will be eligible to register on Jan. 8.

Ron DeSantis is trying to delay the process so the legislature can add "implementing legislation" in order to slow down or block the process. He falsely claims Amendment 4 is unclear, but Amendment 4 is very clearly written with no ambiguities: This amendment restores the voting rights of Floridians with felony convictions after they complete all terms of their sentence, including parole or probation. The amendment would not apply to those convicted of murder or sexual offenses, who would continue to be permanently barred from voting unless the governor and cabinet vote to restore their

OPINIONS INVITED

- **Viewpoints** depicted in political cartoons, columns or letters do not necessarily represent the opinion of the editorial board.
- **Groups or individuals** are invited to express their opinions in a letter to the editor.
- **Persons** wishing to address the editorial board, which meets weekly, should call **Mike Arnold** at 352-563-5660.
- **All letters** must be signed and include a phone number and hometown, including letters sent via email. Names and hometowns will be printed; phone numbers will not be published or given out.
- **We reserve** the right to edit letters for length, libel, fairness and good taste.
- **SEND LETTERS TO: The Editor**, 1624 N. Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34429; fax to 352-563-3280; or email to letters@chronicleonline.com.

voting rights on a case-by-case basis.

These types of tricks are nothing new. Florida has a long history of voter disenfranchisement, with the most restrictive rights restoration record in the country, being one of only three states that have barred former felons for life — Iowa and Kentucky being the other two. In all three states, ex-felons can apply for rights restoration, with both Kentucky and Iowa granting clemency for large percentages of requests. Kentucky grants clemency in 80 percent and Iowa in 90 percent of cases, while Florida grants clemency for less than 10 percent of cases. Florida's restrictions are rooted in its racist past.

When the state constitution was drafted 150 years ago, Florida implemented laws to prevent newly freed slaves from voting, even expanding laws to entrap black citizens. Known as "black codes," these racist laws were to blame for up to 95 percent of Florida convicts being black by the 1880s, and thus denied the right to vote for life. Until Nov. 6, this immoral law was part of Florida's constitution.

It is beyond grotesque and appalling when someone who is elected to public office, instead of upholding the constitution, betrays the overwhelming will of the people. Floridians should put on their yellow vests and take this fight to Tallahassee Jan. 8.

Harriet Heywood
Homosassa

Holiday message to legislators

An open holiday letter to our legislators:

Dear U.S. Senator Rubio, Senator-elect Scott, U.S. Rep. Webster, state Senator Simpson, and state Rep. Massullo: Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your families!

The greatest holiday gift you can give the people of Florida is legislation to stop unvetted people from buying guns. Please take the lead on supporting comprehensive

background checks on all gun sales. Close all loopholes. Review existing laws and strengthen them.

The slaughter of innocent people is not an acceptable price of any interpretation of the Second Amendment.

Thank you!

Your constituent,

Richard Nilles
Inverness

We all share blame for girl's death

Recently a seven-year-old girl died while in the custody of the U.S. government. The child had traveled with her father from a rural indigenous community in Guatemala's impoverished Alta Verapaz region.

As a nation, we have concerns about those entering that may want to attack us. That being said, are we to live in fear of every person that is not a U.S.-born citizen? What about the U.S. citizens responsible for some of the worst attacks in this country outside the World Trade Center disaster? Should we cower every time we see an American?

People have been seeking freedom in this country before we existed as a nation. We were founded by people seeking freedom from tyranny and religious persecution. If those who are so afraid of immigrants did a DNA test, they might find that their own history is not that stellar. We are all from immigrants. People, like so many at the Mexican border, are just seeking a safe haven to live their lives as our ancestors did.

We do not need to build a wall or to send in U.S. military forces. What we do need to do is recognize the challenge of the immigrants, determine what needs are not being met and refine the immigration laws while providing the necessary funding to address those needs.

With proper medical screening and adequate living conditions for immigrants, this girl might still be alive. The agencies most likely did their best.

The White House expressed their regret for the girl's death but was quick to say it was not the administration's (Trump's) fault. A man of integrity would have accepted the blame and moved forward to ensure it does not happen again. Sadly, our president lacks the ethical and moral character to accept responsibility for anything. As President Truman's plaque on his desk said, "the buck stops here."

Actually, the loss of this child is all of our fault for not electing people with the moral character to take on the immigration challenge while recognizing the importance of the immigrants to the American society.

Roger B. Krieger
Beverly Hills

United Way support needed this Christmas

- The Chronicle is asking readers who are in the Christmas spirit to consider a contribution of \$36 to the United Way. Or you can make a contribution of any size you think appropriate. The agency funds many nonprofit efforts in our community and needs your support.
- Please send your contributions to Gerry Mulligan c/o The Chronicle, 1624 N. Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34429 or drop them off at either of our offices.

You need the right person for the job

Someone in the paper wondered why it was necessary to send a man with a gunshot wound to the hand by helicopter to Ocala. Citrus Memorial Hospital is not a trauma hospital. There has to be surgery to the hand, which might include missing fingers. It has to be done by a particular surgeon; one that can do teeny-weeny little capillaries and ligaments, etc. The pieces of the hand have to be collected, put on ice, and all of this has to be done usually within an hour. The pieces have to go to the surgeon to be prepped for the surgery. Then

the hand has to be trimmed and prepped for the surgery and cleaned. Think about it. You wouldn't want somebody working on your hand that doesn't know what they're doing, would you?

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Regarding "Different groups, common cause" (Dec. 10's editorial): The Chronicle got it wrong. The county should be providing a decent animal shelter. Citizens don't have the money but do the best that they can. It should not



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There's people shooting here

It's been in the paper lately about the poor woman that got shot in her own front yard. How disgusting. Out here in Heatherwood where it's completely residential, there's a war going on out here. Several times a week, there's people using guns — probably AK-47s, from the

sound of it. It sounds like elephant guns. But it will take somebody out here to get shot and then pretty soon somebody will take a smart pill and make a law that you're not allowed to shoot amongst residential houses and that can't happen too soon.

Maybe you guys should handle this in person

To those of you who continually argue with each other through letters to the editor over facts and politics: Please, for the love of God and all humanity — or just those of us who you bore incessantly and take up good ink space — meet for a cup of coffee

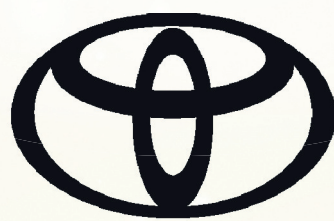
with your fact-checking devices and have at it all day long. Remember, the definition of politics is "poly" meaning "many," "tics," meaning "bloodsucking parasites." Fact check that and enjoy your coffee. Good day.

You're wiping out the Nature Coast

This is for our community leaders: Don't you realize that every time you clear-cut property and destroy trees, kill and scatter wildlife, that you're destroying the very thing that people come here to enjoy? You are ruining our Nature Coast. (U.S.) 19 is going to look like Hudson before we know it.

MERRY *Christmas!*

From our family to yours.



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WH: Trump would accept less money for border wall

DARLENE SUPERVILLE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is meeting with the Homeland Security secretary on Monday as the partial government shutdown over his U.S.-Mexico border entered Christmas without a clear resolution in sight.

While both sides are trading offers to end the stalemate, they remain far apart, and a top White House official warned the shutdown could stretch into January.

Acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney, who is also the budget director, said he was waiting to hear from Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York about a counteroffer the White House presented Schumer over the weekend.

Mulvaney would only say the offer was between Trump's \$5.7 billion request and \$1.3 billion Democrats have offered.

"We moved off of the five and we hope they move up from their 1.3," Mulvaney said less than a day after a senior administration official insisted that Congress would have to cave into Trump's demand for the shutdown to end, highlighting Trump's unpredictable negotiating style.

A Democratic aide granted anonymity to discuss the private talks confirmed the offer from the White House on Saturday was \$2.5 billion — an initial \$2.1 billion plus \$400 million Democrats called a "slush fund" for the president's other immigration priorities.

Senate negotiators are continuing talks behind the scenes with Democrats and Republicans. The House and Senate gavelled into session for a few minutes on Christmas Eve before quickly closing again with no further action.

Trump blamed the Democrats for the stalemate on Monday, tweeting, "Virtually every Democrat we are dealing with today strongly supported a Border Wall or Fence. It was only when I made it an important part of my campaign, because people and drugs were pouring into our Country unchecked, that they turned against it. Desperately needed!"

Parts of the government have been closed since Saturday after funding for numerous departments and agencies expired. The closure affects hundreds of thousands of federal workers across the country and was expected to last at least through Thursday, when the House and Senate meet again.

Christmas Eve and Christmas, respectively, are federal holidays, meaning the government would have been closed anyway. That means Wednesday is the first day the public could begin to feel the effects of lost government services, Mulvaney said.

Mulvaney predicted the shutdown could go into January, when Democrats assume control of the House.

"It's very possible that this shutdown will go beyond the 28th and into the new Congress," he said.

Stocks slump



Associated Press

A picture of President Donald Trump is displayed on a computer on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Monday in New York.

Market's worst week in more than seven years

ALEX VEIGA
Associated Press

U.S. stocks fell sharply Monday, sending the Dow Jones Industrial Average down more than 400 points and extending the market's losses after its worst week in more than seven years.

Health care, technology and industrial stocks took some of the heaviest losses in the broad sell-off, which followed news that the U.S. Treasury Secretary called CEOs of six major banks Sunday in an apparent attempt to stabilize jittery markets.

Trading was choppy and volume was light during a shortened trading session ahead of the Christmas holiday Tuesday.

"It's already been a roller coaster today," said Craig Birk, chief investment officer at Personal Capital. There's some repositioning going on, but it's a light day and probably a lot of people are staying out of it."

The S&P 500 index fell 43 points, or 1.8 percent, to 2,373 as of 11:51 a.m. Eastern Time. The Dow lost 436 points, or 2 percent, to 22,008. The Nasdaq skidded 72 points, or 1.1 percent, to 6,260. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks gave up 5 points, or 0.4 percent, to 1,286.

The major indexes are down 16 to 26 percent from their autumn highs. Barring huge gains during the upcoming holiday period, this will be the worst December for stocks since 1931.

The market briefly bounced back from its steep opening slide, then veered lower again around midmorning after President Donald Trump tweeted another volley of criticism at the Federal Reserve.

The president tweeted that Fed officials "don't have a feel for the Market, they don't understand necessary Trade Wars or Strong Dollars or even Democrat Shutdowns over Borders."

He added: "The Fed is like a powerful golfer who can't score because he has no touch - he can't putt!"

Trump has argued that the Fed is hindering the economy through its rate increases, which are intended to prevent inflation from rising too high.

Investors have grown jittery in recent weeks amid concern that U.S. economic growth will slow and hurt corporate profits. The rise in interest rates has helped stoke those worries.

Traders have also fretted over the U.S.-China trade dispute and signs that economies in Europe and China are slowing.

Coming off a turbulent week of trading on Wall Street, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin on Sunday disclosed calls with the heads of Bank of America, Citigroup, Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan Chase, Morgan Stanley and Wells Fargo.

Mnuchin said the CEOs all assured him they have ample money to finance their normal operations, even though there haven't been any serious liquidity concerns rattling the market. But the calls added to the underlying worries that have gripped markets of late.

Bank stocks declined Monday. Wells Fargo slid 1.9 percent to \$44.26.

Health care and technology stocks accounted for a big share of the selling. Microsoft fell 2.2 percent to \$96.05. Johnson & Johnson lost 4 percent to \$122.99.

Oil prices, which have sunk on concerns about the state of the global economy and also oversupply in the market, continued to slide. Benchmark U.S. crude fell 3.1 percent to \$44.18 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, used to price international oils, declined 2.6 percent to \$52.43 a barrel in London.

The decline in oil prices weighed on energy stocks. Hess slumped 8.1 percent to \$38.11.

Bond prices rose. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.77 percent from 2.79 percent late Friday.

In Christmas holiday-thinned half-day trading in Europe, France's CAC 40 fell 1.5 percent, while the FTSE 100 index of leading British shares slid 0.5 percent. Germany's DAX was closed.

Indonesia searches for tsunami victims

Death toll climbs

NINIEK KARMINI
Associated Press

TANJUNG LESUNG, Indonesia — Efforts to collect hundreds of bodies and save the injured were stepped up in Indonesia on Monday following the country's latest tsunami, as scientists collected evidence on how a volcanic eruption triggered the weekend tragedy.

Casualty figures from Saturday night's disaster continued to rise, with at least 373 people confirmed dead and more than 1,400 injured. The death toll was certain to rise further, with 128 people still missing from the affected areas along the coastlines of western Java and southern Sumatra islands, where hundreds of military personnel and volunteers were conducting their grim search along debris-strewn beaches.

Where victims were found, yellow, orange and black body bags were laid out, and weeping relatives identified the dead.

The waves that swept locals and tourists into the sea along the Sunda Strait followed an eruption and apparent landslide on Anak Krakatau, or "Child of Krakatoa," one of the world's most infamous volcanic islands.

Hotels and hundreds of homes were heavily damaged by the waves. Broken chunks of concrete and splintered sticks of wood littered hard-hit coastal areas, turning popular beach areas into near ghost towns. Debris from thatch-bamboo shacks was strewn along the coast.

The Indonesian Medical



Associated Press

A man stands on the debris following a tsunami Monday in Carita beach, Indonesia. Doctors worked to save injured victims while hundreds of military and volunteers scoured debris-strewn beaches in search of survivors Monday after a deadly tsunami gushed ashore without warning on Indonesian islands on a busy holiday weekend.

Association of the worst-affected Banten region said that it sent doctors, medical supplies and equipment, and that many of the injured were in need of orthopedic and neurological surgery. It said most victims are domestic tourists who were visiting beaches during the long weekend ahead of Christmas.

It was the second deadly tsunami to hit seismically active Indonesia this year. A powerful earthquake triggered a tsunami that hit Sulawesi island in September, giving residents a brief warning before the waves struck.

On Saturday night, however, the ground did not shake to alert people

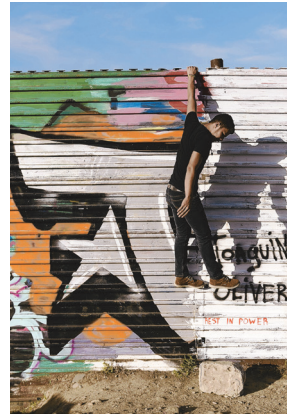
before the waves ripped buildings from their foundations and swept terrified concertgoers celebrating on a resort beach into the sea.

"I heard people shouting to run away and I saw the water had gone up to the mainland and the hotel had been flooded by water," said witness Feri Ardian. "About 200 people were dragged away by the waves."

Indonesian President Joko Widodo, who faces what promises to be a tough re-election campaign next year, responded Monday to the lack of any warning of the disaster with a vow to have all equipment used for detection of tsunamis replaced or repaired.

Nation & World
BRIEFS

Migrants



Associated Press

A Honduran migrant hangs from the top of the U.S. border fence Sunday after looking inside the United States to San Diego, from Tijuana, Mexico.

Court says Justice Ginsburg up and working after surgery

WASHINGTON — Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is up and working as she recuperates from cancer surgery.

A spokeswoman for the court, Kathy Arberg, also says that Ginsburg remained in New York at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center on Sunday. No information has been released on when Ginsburg might return home.

Ginsburg underwent surgery Friday to remove two malignant growths in her left lung. Doctors say there is no evidence of any remaining disease.

Now 85, the justice has been treated for cancer two other times. Last month she cracked three ribs in a fall at the court.

The court next meets on Jan. 7. Despite her health problems, Ginsburg has never missed arguments.

UK bans pet shops from selling puppies and kittens

LONDON — Britain has banned third-party sales of puppies and kittens to protect the animals from exploitation.

The government says the new law will help crack down on "puppy farms" and make it harder for unscrupulous dealers who have little regard for animal welfare.

Animal Welfare Minister David Rutley said the ban "is part of our commitment to make sure the nation's much-loved pets get the right start in life."

The decision follows a public consultation that found overwhelming support for banning third-party sales.

Under the new measure, people wishing to adopt a puppy or kitten would have to deal directly with a breeder or a re-homing center, rather than pet shops or other commercial dealers.

Animal welfare groups praised the government measure as an important step forward. Marc Abraham, a veterinarian who appears on television and is the founder of Pup Aid, called it "a real victory for grassroots campaigners as well as the U.K.'s dogs and cats."

He said the law would make breeders more accountable and make it more difficult to sell illegally smuggled puppies and kittens. The change was also endorsed by one of Britain's best-known animal shelters, the Battersea Cat and Dogs Home.

It comes as the RSPCA is asking the British public for information about the identity of a passenger and driver caught on closed circuit TV abandoning a dog despite its pleas to be allowed back into the car.

—From wire reports

■ Due to early deadlines, late athletic events, the TV schedule and lottery numbers are not in this edition of the Chronicle. They will return to their normal spot in the sports section tomorrow.

SPORTS

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

Section B - TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2018



- Plays of the Year/B2
- Scoreboard/B3
- Bowling/B3
- NFL/B4

■ Taking a look back at the top sports plays of the year./B2

2018 All-Chronicle FOOTBALL



Jay Frazier, Jr., wide receiver, Dunnellon



DeAndre Parker, Sr., running back, Crystal River



Trent Townsend, Fr., quarterback, Dunnellon

At the top of their game under the lights

CHRIS BERNHARDT JR.
Staff writer

All-Chronicle Football Team

OFFENSE

Quarterback

Trent Townsend, freshman, Dunnellon

Running Back

Emmanuel Caballero, junior, Dunnellon

DeAndre Parker, senior, Crystal River

Jaden Williams, senior, Crystal River

Wide Receiver

Jay Frazier, junior, Dunnellon

C.J. Phillips, sophomore, Seven Rivers

Tight End

Miles Hampton, senior, Crystal River

Offensive Line

Joseph Bartoli, junior, Citrus

Tyler Godfrey, senior, Crystal River

Brian Henderson, senior, Crystal River

Christian Solomon, senior, Citrus

Mikey White, senior, Crystal River

Kicker

Kevin Bacon, junior, Citrus

DEFENSE

Defensive Line

Logan Fulford, senior, Citrus

Hunter Pitts, senior, Lecanto

Julian Tucci, senior, Dunnellon

Linebacker

Geoff Banning, junior, Citrus

Noah Bresson, junior, Crystal River

Maurice Jefferies, senior, Dunnellon

Brendan Rooks, senior, Citrus

Tyler Sandak, senior, Crystal River

Defensive Back

Jacob Freier, junior, Citrus

A.J. Hamilton, sophomore, Dunnellon

Derrius Orr, junior, Crystal River

Tony Shamblyn, senior, Citrus

Utility/Athlete

Javon Lee, junior, Dunnellon

Offensive Player of Year finalists

Jay Frazier, Jr., wide receiver, Dunnellon

A verbal commit to the University of Florida, Frazier hauled in 48 passes for 778 yards to go along with eight touchdown catches while playing a pivotal leadership role for the Tigers in their run to the state semifinals. Additionally he returned two interceptions for a score.

DeAndre Parker, Sr., running back, Crystal River

After two seasons as the starting quarterback, Parker switched to running back and produced a breakthrough campaign. He rushed for 1,462 yards and 16 touchdowns over 10 games, leading the Pirates to a playoff berth. He averaged 8.3 yards per carry, and surpassed 100 yards and scored at least one touchdown in each of his first nine games before his final contest was cut short by injury. He also had a combined 252 yards returning kickoffs and punts.

Trent Townsend, Fr., quarterback, Dunnellon

Despite not taking over as the starting quarterback until the seventh game of the season, Townsend threw for 1,465 yards with nine touchdown passes against four interceptions. He completed 62 of 117 passes, connecting on 53 percent of his tosses while helping the Tigers reach the Final Four for the first time since 2003.

Defensive Player of Year finalists

Geoff Banning, Jr., linebacker, Citrus

In his first year with the Hurricanes after transferring from Seven Rivers, Banning proved he could produce at a higher classification by totaling 119 tackles, with 18 of them for a loss. He added 2 1/2 sacks, caused two fumbles, and had one interception and one fumble recovery.

Maurice Jefferies, Sr., linebacker, Dunnellon

The linebacker tallied an eye-popping 161 tackles, including 14 for a loss, while also causing three fumbles and returning his lone interception for a touchdown. Last season he had 91 1/2 tackles prior to the final playoff game at Starke and posted 95 1/2 as a sophomore.

Brendan Rooks, Sr., linebacker, Citrus

Last season's Offensive Player of the Year transferred from Seven Rivers and made his greatest impact on the defensive side of the ball. He compiled 105 tackles and two sacks, to go with an interception and two caused fumbles. Five times he recorded double figures in tackles for a game.

Note: The athlete of the year finalists and winners in each sport will be honored this spring at the annual Student Athletic Recognitions banquet.



Geoff Banning, Jr., linebacker, Citrus



Maurice Jefferies, Sr., linebacker, Dunnellon



Brendan Rooks, Sr., linebacker, Citrus

Last of the 2019 USTA schedule is revealed

So far, we have covered the 2019 USTA league schedule through May. That leaves us with six more leagues to cover for the rest of the 2019 season.

The Adult 18+ runs from May through July. They will play on Friday/Saturday/Sunday (day and/or evening). Divisions offered are 2.5 through 4.5 with a team commitment deadline of April 20, 2019.

Mixed 18+ will play July through September on Saturday/Sunday/Monday (day and/or evening). Divisions available 6.0 through 9.0 (plus 2.5) team commitment deadline June 1, 2019.

Combo 18+ plays September through November on Friday/Saturday/Sunday/Monday (day and/or evening). Divisions 5.5 through 8.5 team commitment

deadline Aug. 1, 2019.

Combo 50+ plays August through October on Saturday/Sunday. Divisions offered 6.5 through 8.5 deadline for team commitment is July 1, 2019.

Flexible Format 18+ will play from October through December, any day (day and/or evening). Divisions 2.5/3.0 - 3.5/4.0 (plus an open division) team commitment deadline for this one is Sept. 5, 2019.

Finally, to close out the 2019 season, the Tri-Level 18+ running from October through December on Friday/Saturday/Sunday/Monday (day and/or evening). Divisions 2.5/3.0/3.5 - 3.5/4.0/4.5, with a team commitment deadline on Sept. 1, 2019.

Nature Coast 3.0 Ladies League

Results for Dec. 17:

Skyview Wonders def. Sugarmill Rockets, 4-0. Maribel Mena/Kathy Lockhart won, 6-2, default; Nancy Wallace/Shelley Ennett won, 7-6, 7-6.

The league is for players 55 and over with a

rating of up to 3.0. Every match will consist of two sets, in case of a tie the match will be decided by a 10-point Coman tie-break. Each set won means a point for the team. There is a universal sublist which means that players on this list can sub for any given team. If you are interested in playing or subbing in this league, contact Antoinette van den Hoogen at antoinettevdh13@gmail.com or call 352-382-3138.

Citrus Area Senior Ladies 3.0-3.5 Tuesday League

Results for Dec. 18:

Tennis Alley Gators def. Meadowcrest Racquettes, 3-2. Candace Charles/Bridget Brothers (MCR) won, 7-5, 4-6, 12-10; Maureen Caruso/Kelly Reynolds (TAG) won, 6-1, 6-1.

Pine Ridge Poachers vs Sugarmill Match Makers, 2-2. Dyane Koskela/Leslie Sherry (SMMM) won, 6-1, 6-3; Shirley Tenity/Mary King (PRP) won, 7-6, 6-3.

Sugarmill Sweet Spots def. Riverhaven Ospreys, 4-0. Marian Wood/Laura Rustin won, 6-4, 6-3; Lisa Dickinson/Janet Powe won, 6-1, 6-0.

To play in this league, a player must be at

least 50 years of age or better, with a 3.0 to 3.5 rating. The league is always looking for players to sub for teams. The 2018-2019 season is going to be chaired by the Riverhaven Ospreys, chairperson Patty Hardy, reachable by phone 850-570-6873 or email phardyc@yahoo.com. The scorekeeper duties are the responsibility of Nancy Bruins.

Thursday Morning Citrus Area Doubles League

Results for Dec. 20:

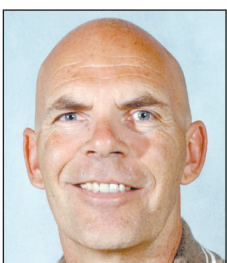
No matches scheduled.

Players must be at least 25 years old and have a 3.0-4.0 rating to play in this league. Chairperson is Carole Keatts who can be contacted at ckeatts@aol.com or 352-382-5280.

USTA Leagues

Don't forget to sign-up for your team, Merry Christmas.

If you have any questions or for information in our District 4 (south), call or email Leigh Chak at 352-572-7157 or vacocala@gmail.com or www.ustaflorida.com/Leighchak.



Eric van den Hoogen
ON TENNIS

Dives, buzzer-beaters and kicks

Associated Press Plays of the Year

TIM REYNOLDS
AP sports writer

This was a year of moments.

Justify won the Triple Crown. The U.S. beat Canada in a shootout for gold in women's hockey at the Pyeongchang Olympics, and John Shuster pulled off a curling shot of all-time to win another gold for the red, white and blue. Stefon Diggs engineered a miracle in Minneapolis to win a playoff game for the Vikings. Roger Federer won a point at the U.S. Open without getting the ball over the net. Tiger Woods walked down the 18th fairway as a winner again. Loyola Chicago became the darlings of college basketball during the NCAA Tournament, fueled by a penchant for dramatics at the buzzer.

All of them spectacular.

Still, none of them made the list of the Plays of the Year.

These come from some of the biggest events of the year — the Stanley Cup Final, the World Cup, the Super Bowl, the AL Championship Series and the women's Final Four. One was from a volleyball player using her feet, another was a quarterback who made a winning throw but didn't touch a football. And they all stood out a bit more than most.

Here are the best plays in sports for 2018:

10. Holtby saves the Caps

Washington goalie Braden Holtby might have turned the Stanley Cup Final around with one save. Alex Tuch had a chance to tie Game 2 of the series with about two minutes left in regulation. Alone in the slot, he took a pass and had tons of open net to shoot at from right on the doorstep — only to be denied by Holtby, who stabbed his stick at the air and just managed to find the puck. "Thank God he's our goalie," Caps star Alex Ovechkin said. The Capitals went on to win the series.

9. Harden breaks ankles

Poor Wesley Johnson. Poor, poor Wesley Johnson. All he was trying to do was guard Houston star James Harden, and he ended up on the ground as an unwitting participant in a highlight for the ages. Harden crossed Johnson over and caused him to stumble to the floor — it's called "breaking ankles" in basketball vernacular — and it only got worse from there for the Los Angeles Clippers guard. Harden stared at him, held the ball for nearly three seconds, then made a 3-pointer.

8. Messi, in a flash

Argentina's Lionel Messi, even in a full sprint, simply does things that hardly anyone else in the soccer-playing world can pull off. He took a long pass in a World Cup game against Nigeria, controlled it with his left thigh, then tapped it forward with his left foot — the ball hadn't hit the ground yet — then stutter-stepped his way to the ball and delivered a right-footed strike into the far side of the net.

7. Bump, kick, spike

The pass from Kailey Elrod wasn't perfect, and all Talia Watson could do was get her foot on the ball and flick it skyward. By the way, this wasn't soccer. This was volleyball. The Cedar Crest College Falcons of Allentown, Pennsylvania, had match point against the College of Staten Island on Sept. 6, and Elrod's bump from the baseline was low. Watson got her foot on the ball — yes, it's legal — to extend the point, and eventually she had a more



CHRISTOPHER EVANS/The Boston Herald

Boston's Andrew Benintendi makes a diving catch with the bases loaded for the final out in the ninth inning Oct. 17 against the Houston Astros in Game 4 of the American League Championship Series in Houston. The Red Sox defeated the Astros 8-6 to take a 3-1 lead in the series.

conventional set to set up a kill that capped Cedar Crest's 3-0 victory.

6. Sling and a prayer

Julian McGarvey is a quarterback at Marist College, and his best throw of 2018 had nothing to do with football. Down by two with time running out in New York state's Section 1 Class A boys basketball championship game, McGarvey intercepted a long pass, stumbled, gathered himself — some angles show that he didn't travel, either — and heaved a 70-foot desperation try that dropped to give Ardsley a 52-51 win over Tappan Zee. Ardsley went on to make the state championship game, before eventually falling.

5. LeBron saves the day

Jimmy Butler tried a layup with about three seconds left in overtime, only to have it swatted away by LeBron James who tracked the play perfectly and rejected Butler's shot with ease. And moments later, James outdid himself — again. After a timeout, James delivered Cleveland a win over Minnesota when he took an inbounds pass, turned and swished a fadeaway over Butler to help the Cavs top the Timberwolves 140-138.

4. Tua for the win

This has to be the best second-and-26 play in football history. Down by 3 in overtime, in the national championship game, one play after taking a very bad sack for a 16-yard loss, Alabama's Tua Tagovailoa connected with DeVonta Smith on a 41-yard toss on what became the final play of the Crimson Tide's 26-23 win over Georgia. Tagovailoa took over for Jalen Hurts at the half and threw for three TDs as Alabama finished off its fifth national championship in the last 10 seasons.

3. Patriots posterized — twice

The two most memorable plays of 2018 in the NFL have much in common — they were touchdowns against the New England Patriots, went viral immediately and got cool names to boot. The Philly Special was Nick Foles catching a touchdown pass from Trey Burton late in the first half of the Philadelphia Eagles' win in the Super Bowl over the Pats, and the Miami Miracle was the Dolphins connecting on a pass and two laterals before Kenyan Drake darted into the end zone to cap a 69-yard touchdown that beat New England 34-33 on the final play.

2. Arike's two miracles

Saying Notre Dame's Arike Ogunbowale had a flair for the dramatic at the women's Final Four doesn't even come close to doing what she did justice. She broke ties, and broke the hearts of Connecticut and Mississippi State. Against UConn, Ogunbowale's jumper with 1 second left put Notre Dame ahead to stay in the national semifinals — and two nights later, in the national-title game, she went to the right and let fly with a wild, high-arching 3 that dropped at the buzzer for the win.

1. A dive into Red Sox lore

Andrew Benintendi may never make a better catch. The left fielder for the Boston Red Sox made a diving grab to end Game 4 of the AL Championship Series, a huge play on his team's run to the World Series title. Boston led 8-6 in Game 4, up 2-1 in the series, but the bases were loaded in Houston and the crowd at Minute Maid Park was roaring. Alex Bregman hit a liner that was sinking fast, and if it had gotten past Benintendi the Astros would have likely scored three runs to win. But Benintendi dove perfectly, snared the ball just above the grass and the rest is now Red Sox lore — as well as the play of the year.



Associated Press

Alabama wide receiver DeVonta Smith (6) makes a touchdown catch Jan. 8 against Georgia during overtime of the NCAA college football playoff championship game in Atlanta.

BASEBALL

Free Agent Signings

NEW YORK — The 37 free agents who have signed, with name, position, former club if different, and contract. The contract information was obtained by The Associated Press from player and management sources. For players with minor league contracts, letter agreements for major league contracts are in parentheses: **AMERICAN LEAGUE**
BOSTON (2) — Re-signed Steve Pearce, 1b-of, to a \$6.25 million, one-year contract; re-signed Nathan Eovaldi, rhp, to a \$68 million, four-year contract.
DETROIT (3) — Signed Matt Moore, lhp, Texas, to a \$2.5 million, one-year contract; signed Tyson Ross, rhp, St. Louis, to a \$5.75 million, one-year contract; signed Jordy Mercer, ss, Pittsburgh, to a \$5.25 million, one-year contract.

HOUSTON (2) — Signed Robinson Chirinos, c, Texas, to a \$5.75 million, one-year contract; signed Michael Brantley, of, Houston, to a \$32 million, two-year contract.
LOS ANGELES (2) — Signed Trevor Cahill, rhp, Oakland, to a \$9 million, one-year contract; signed Matt Harvey, rhp, Cincinnati, to an \$11 million, one-year contract.

NEW YORK (3) — Re-signed Brett Gardner, of, to a \$7.5 million, one-year contract; re-signed CC Sabathia, lhp, to an \$8 million, one-year contract; re-signed J.A. Happ, lhp, to a \$34 million, two-year contract.

OAKLAND (1) — Signed Joakim Soria, rhp, Milwaukee, to a \$15 million, two-year contract.
TEXAS (3) — Signed Jeff Mathis, c, Arizona, to a \$6.25 million, two-year contract; signed Jesse Chavez, rhp, Chicago Cubs, to an \$8 million, two-year contract; signed Lance Lynn, rhp, New York Yankees, to a \$30 million, three-year contract.

NATIONAL LEAGUE
ATLANTA (2) — Signed Brian McCann, c, Houston, to a \$2 million, one-year contract; signed Josh Donaldson, 3b, Cleveland, to a \$23 million, one-year contract.
CHICAGO (1) — Signed Daniel Descalso, if, Arizona, to a \$5 million, two-year contract.
COLORADO (1) — Signed Daniel Murphy, 2b-1b, Chicago Cubs, to a \$24 million, three-year contract.

LOS ANGELES (4) — Re-signed David Freese, 1b-3b, to a \$4.5 million, one-year contract; re-signed Clayton Kershaw, lhp, to a \$93 million, three-year contract; announced Hyun-Jin Ryu, lhp, accepted \$17.9 million qualifying offer; signed Joe Kelly, rhp, Boston, to a \$25 million, three-year contract.

NEW YORK (3) — Signed Jeury's Familia, rhp, Oakland, to a \$30 million, three-year contract; signed Wilson Ramos, c, Philadelphia, to a \$19 million, two-year contract; signed Rajai Davis, of, Cleveland, to a minor league contract.

ST. LOUIS (2) — Re-signed Adam Wainwright, rhp, to a \$2 million, one-year contract; signed Andrew Miller, rhp, Cleveland, to a \$25 million, two-year contract.

SAN DIEGO (1) — Signed Ian Kinsler, 2b, Boston, to an \$8 million, two-year contract.
PHILADELPHIA (1) — Signed Andrew McCutchen, of, New York Yankees, to a \$50 million, three-year contract.

PITTSBURGH (3) — Re-signed Jung Ho Kang, inf, to a \$3 million, one-year contract; signed Lonnie Chisenhall, of, Cleveland, to a \$2.75 million, one-year contract; signed Jordan Lyles, rhp, Milwaukee, to a \$2.05 million, one-year contract.

SAN DIEGO (1) — Signed Garrett Richards, rhp, Los Angeles Angels, to a \$15.5 million, two-year contract.
WASHINGTON (2) — Signed Kurt Suzuki, c, Atlanta, to a \$10 million, two-year contract; signed Patrick Corbin, lhp, Arizona, to a \$140 million, six-year contract.

Remaining Free Agents

NEW YORK — The 127 remaining free agents (q-rejected \$17.9 million qualifying offer):<
AMERICAN LEAGUE
BALTIMORE (2) — Adam Jones, of; Colby Rasmus, of.
BOSTON (3) — q-Craig Kimbrel, rhp; Brandon Phillips, 2b; Drew Pomeranz, lhp.
CHICAGO (4) — Jeanmar Gomez, rhp; Miguel Gonzalez, rhp; Hector Santiago, lhp; James Shields, rhp.
CLEVELAND (6) — Cody Allen, rhp; Melky Cabrera, of; Brandon Guyer, of; Oliver Perez, lhp; Adam Rosales, inf; Josh Tomlin, rhp.
DETROIT (4) — Jose Iglesias, ss; Francisco Hechavarria, ss; David Robertson, rhp; Neil Walker, inf.
OAKLAND (6) — Brett Anderson, lhp; Edwin Jackson, rhp; Matt Joyce, of; Shawn Kelley, rhp; Jed Lowrie, 2b; Jonathan Lucroy, c.
SEATTLE (8) — Gordon Beckham, 2b; Nelson Cruz, dh; Zach Duke, lhp; Cameron Maybin, of; David Phelps, rhp; Andrew Romine, inf-of; Denard Span, of; Adam Warren, rhp.
TAMPA BAY (2) — Carlos Gomez, of; Sergio Romo, rhp.
TEXAS (6) — Tony Barnett, rhp; Adrian Beltre, 3b; Bartolo Colon, rhp; Doug Fister, rhp; Yovani Gallardo, rhp; c; Martin Perez, lhp.
TORONTO (2) — Tyler Clippard, rhp; Marco Estrada, rhp.

NATIONAL LEAGUE
ARIZONA (7) — Clay Buchholz, rhp; Randall Delgado, rhp; Jake Diekmann, lhp; Jon Jay, of; q-A.J. Pollock, of; Chris Stewart, c; Brad Ziegler, rhp.
ATLANTA (8) — Brad Brach, rhp; Lucas Duda, 1b; Ryan Flaherty, inf; Nick Markakis, of; Brandon McCarthy, rhp; Peter Moynlan, rhp; Rene Rivera, c; Anibal Sanchez, rhp.
CHICAGO (4) — Jorge De La Rosa, lhp; Jaime Garcia, lhp; Bobby Wilson, c; Justin Wilson, lhp; **COLORADO** (6) — Drew Butera, c; Carlos Gonzalez, of; Matt Holliday, of; DJ LeMahieu, 2b; Adam Ottavino, rhp; Gerardo Parra, of.
LOS ANGELES (6) — John Axford, rhp; Brian Dozier, 2b; q-Yasmani Grandal, c; Daniel Hudson, rhp; Manny Machado, ss; Ryan Madson, rhp.
MILWAUKEE (4) — Gio Gonzalez, lhp; Curtis Granderson, of; Wade Miley, lhp; Mike Moustakas, 3b.
NEW YORK (6) — Jerry Blevins, lhp; Austin Jackson, of; Jose Lobaton, c; Devin Mesoraco, c; A.J. Ramos, rhp; Jose Reyes, inf.
PHILADELPHIA (3) — Jose Bautista, of; Asdrubal Cabrera, 2b; Aaron Loup, lhp.
PITTSBURGH (1) — Josh Harrison, 2b.
ST. LOUIS (2) — Matt Adams, 1b; Bud Norris, rhp.
SAN DIEGO (2) — A.J. Ellis, c; Freddy Galvis, ss.
SAN FRANCISCO (4) — Gregor Blanco, of; Derek Holland, lhp; Nick Hundley, c; Hunter Pence, of.
WASHINGTON (8) — Joaquin Benoit, rhp; Tim Collins, lhp; q-Bryce Harper, of; Jeremy Hellickson, rhp; Kelvin Herrera, rhp; Greg Holland, rhp; Mark Reynolds, 1b; Matt Wieters, c.

FOOTBALL

College Bowl schedule

Saturday, Dec. 15
Celebration Bowl

At Atlanta
 N.C. A&T 24, Alcorn State 22
Cure Bowl
Orlando, Fla.
 Tulane 41, Louisiana-Lafayette 24
New Mexico Bowl
Albuquerque
 Utah State 52, North Texas 13
Las Vegas Bowl
 Fresno State 31, Arizona State 20
Camellia Bowl
Montgomery, Ala.
 Georgia Southern 23, Eastern Michigan 21
New Orleans Bowl
 Appalachian State 45, Middle Tennessee 13
Tuesday, Dec. 18
Boca Raton (Fla.) Bowl
 UAB 37, Northern Illinois 13
Wednesday, Dec. 19
Frisco (Texas) Bowl
 Ohio 27, San Diego State 0
Thursday, Dec. 20
Gasparilla Bowl
At St. Petersburg, Fla.
 Marshall 38, South Florida 20
Friday, Dec. 21
Bahamas Bowl
Nassau
 FIU 35, Toledo 32
Famous Idaho Potato Bowl
Boise
 BYU 49, Western Michigan 18

Saturday, Dec. 22
Birmingham (Ala.) Bowl
 Wake Forest 37, Memphis 34
Armed Forces Bowl
Fort Worth, Texas
 Army 70, Houston 14
Dollar General Bowl
Mobile, Ala.
 Troy 42, Buffalo 32
Hawaii Bowl
Honolulu
 Louisiana Tech 31, Hawaii 14
Wednesday, Dec. 26
SERVPRO First Responder Bowl
Dallas
 Boston College (7-5) vs. Boise State (10-3), 1:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Quick Lane Bowl
Detroit
 Minnesota (6-6) vs. Georgia Tech (7-5), 5:15 p.m. (ESPN)
Cheez-It Bowl
Phoenix
 California (7-5) vs. TCU (6-6), 9 p.m. (ESPN)
Thursday, Dec. 27
Independence Bowl
Shreveport, La.
 Temple (8-4) vs. Duke (7-5), 1:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Pinstripes Bowl
Bronx, N.Y.
 Miami (7-5) vs. Wisconsin (7-5), 5:15 p.m. (ESPN)
Texas Bowl
Houston
 Baylor (6-6) vs. Vanderbilt (6-6), 9 p.m. (ESPN)
Friday, Dec. 28
Music City Bowl
Nashville, Tenn.
 Purdue (6-6) vs. Auburn (7-5), 1:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Camping World Bowl
Orlando, Fla.
 West Virginia (8-3) vs. Syracuse (9-3), 5:15 p.m. (ESPN)
Alamo Bowl
San Antonio
 Iowa State (8-4) vs. Washington State (10-2), 9 p.m. (ESPN)
Saturday, Dec. 29
Peach Bowl
Atlanta
 Florida (9-3) vs. Michigan (10-2), Noon (ESPN)
Belk Bowl
Charlotte, N.C.
 South Carolina (7-5) vs. Virginia (7-5), Noon (ABC)
Arizona Bowl
Tucson, Ariz.
 Arkansas State (8-4) vs. Nevada (7-5), 1:15 p.m. (CBSSN)
Cotton Bowl Classic
Arlington, Texas
 CFP Semifinal, Notre Dame (12-0) vs. Clemson (13-0), 4 p.m. (ESPN)
Orange Bowl
Miami Gardens, Fla.
 CFP Semifinal, Oklahoma (12-1) vs. Alabama (13-0), 8 p.m. (ESPN)
Monday, Dec. 31
Military Bowl
Annapolis, Md.
 Cincinnati (10-2) vs. Virginia Tech (6-6), Noon (ESPN)
Sun Bowl
El Paso, Texas
 Stanford (8-4) vs. Pittsburgh (7-6), 2 p.m. (CBS)
Redbox Bowl
Santa Clara, Calif.
 Michigan State (7-5) vs. Oregon (8-4), 3 p.m. (FOX)
Liberty Bowl
Memphis, Tenn.
 Missouri (8-4) vs. Oklahoma State (6-6), 3:45 p.m. (ESPN)
Holiday Bowl
San Diego
 Northwestern (8-5) vs. Utah (9-4), 7 p.m. (FS1)
Gator Bowl
Jacksonville, Fla.
 NC State (9-3) vs. Texas A&M (8-4), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Tuesday, Jan. 1
Outback Bowl
Tampa, Fla.
 Mississippi State (8-4) vs. Iowa (8-4), Noon (ESPN2)
Citrus Bowl
Orlando, Fla.
 Kentucky (9-3) vs. Penn State (9-3), 1 p.m. (ABC)
Fiesta Bowl
Glendale, Ariz.
 LSU (9-3) vs. UCF (12-0), 1 p.m. (ESPN)
Rose Bowl
Pasadena, Calif.
 Washington (10-3) vs. Ohio State (12-1), 5 p.m. (ESPN)
Sugar Bowl
New Orleans
 Texas (9-4) vs. Georgia (11-2), 8:45 p.m. (ESPN)
Monday, Jan. 7
College Football Championship
Santa Clara, Calif.
 Cotton Bowl winner vs. Orange Bowl winner, 8 p.m. (ESPN)
Saturday, Jan. 19
East-West Shrine Classic
At St. Petersburg, Fla.
 East vs. West, 3 p.m. (NFLN)
NFLPA Collegiate Bowl
At Pasadena, Calif.
 American vs. National, TBA (NFLN)
Saturday, Jan. 26
Senior Bowl
At Mobile, Ala.
 North vs. South, 2:30 p.m. (NFLN)

NFL standings

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East						
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
y-New England	10	5	0	.667	398	322
Miami	7	8	0	.467	302	391
Buffalo	5	10	0	.333	227	357
N.Y. Jets	4	11	0	.267	330	403

South

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
x-Houston	10	5	0	.667	382	313
Indianapolis	9	6	0	.600	400	327
Tennessee	9	6	0	.600	293	270
Jacksonville	5	10	0	.333	242	296

North

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Baltimore	9	6	0	.600	363	263
Pittsburgh	8	6	1	.567	412	347
Cleveland	7	7	1	.500	335	366
Cincinnati	6	9	0	.400	355	439

West

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
y-Dallas	9	6	0	.600	303	289
Philadelphia	8	7	0	.533	343	348
Washington	7	8	0	.467	281	335
N.Y. Giants	5	10	0	.333	334	376

South

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
y-New Orleans	13	2	0	.867	490	320
Atlanta	6	9	0	.400	380	391
Carolina	6	9	0	.400	343	368
Tampa Bay	5	10	0	.333	364	430

North

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
y-Chicago	11	4	0	.733	397	273
Minnesota	8	6	1	.567	350	317
Green Bay	6	8	1	.433	376	369
Detroit	5	10	0	.333	293	360

West

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
y-L.A. Rams	12	3	0	.800	479	352
Seattle	8	6	0	.571	363	292
San Francisco	4	11	0	.267	310	387
Arizona	3	12	0	.200	201	398

x-clinched playoff spot
 y-clinched division

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
x-Kansas City	11	3	0	.786	499	380
x-L.A. Chargers	11	4	0	.733	405	320
Denver	6	8	0	.429	306	299
Oakland	3	11	0	.214	260	418

East

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
y-Dallas	9	6	0	.600	303	289
Philadelphia	8	7	0	.533	343	348
Washington	7	8	0	.467	281	335
N.Y. Giants	5	10	0	.333	334	376

South

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
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Detroit	5	10	0	.333	293	360

West

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
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Seattle	8	6	0	.571	363	292
San Francisco	4	11	0	.267	310	387
Arizona	3	12	0	.200	201	398

x-clinched playoff spot
 y-clinched division

Sunday, Dec. 30

Jacksonville at Houston, 1 p.m.
 Oakland at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
 Dallas at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
 Detroit at Green Bay, 1 p.m.
 N.Y. Jets at New England, 1 p.m.
 Carolina at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
 Miami at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
 Atlanta at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
 Arizona at Seattle, 4:25 p.m.
 L.A. Chargers at Denver, 4:25 p.m.
 San Francisco at L.A. Rams, 4:25 p.m.
 Philadelphia at Washington, 4:25 p.m.
 Chicago at Minnesota, 4:25 p.m.
 Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, 4:25 p.m.
 Cleveland at Baltimore, 4:25 p.m.
 Indianapolis at Tennessee, 8:20 p.m.

HOCKEY

NHL standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division											
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA					
Tampa Bay	37	28	7	2	58	154	106				
Toronto	37	25	10	2	52	140	103				
Buffalo	37	21	11	5	47	111	105				
Boston	37	20	13	4	44	105	96				
Montreal	37	19	13	5	43	115	117				
Florida	35	15	14	6	36	115	125				
Detroit	38	15	17	6	36	109	126				
Ottawa	37	15	18	4	34	118	144				

Metropolitan Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Washington	35	22	10	3	47	129	103
Columbus	36	21	12	3	45	117	109
Pittsburgh	36	18	12	6	42	119	110
N.Y. Islanders	35	18	13	4	40	101	98
N.Y. Rangers	35	15	14	6	36	102	115
Carolina	35	15	15	5	35	90	103
Philadelphia	35	16	14	3	34	104	125
New Jersey	35	12	16	7	31	102	125

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division											
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA					
Winnipeg	36	24	10	2	50	128	101				
Nashville	37	22	13	2	46	111	95				
Colorado	37	19	12	6	44	129	115				
Dallas	37	18	16	3	39	99	102				
Minnesota	35	17	15	3	37	103	99				
St. Louis	34	14	16	4	32	96	114				
Chicago	39	13	20	6	32	111	145				

Bell, Gruden lead list of NFL letdowns

Looking at 2018's biggest disappointments

DAVE CAMPBELL
AP pro football writer

The hype trains touting NFL offseason activity typically start leaving their stations each January, when new head coaches are hired and fan bases are fired up about the fresh start that sends hope soaring high like the football in the air on the opening kickoff of a game.

There's another round of departures in March, when the biggest-buck free agent contracts are signed to put some of the highest-profile players in the league on new teams snatching up missing pieces to their Super Bowl puzzles. Then, the first-round draft picks clamber aboard at the end of April.

By December, well, the derailments are inevitable.

From Le'Veon Bell to Jon Gruden to Leonard Fournette, here's a pick-six of the biggest disappointments in the NFL this year:

NO-SHOW

The millions of fantasy football players who snagged Bell for a seeming bargain in their auctions and drafts would wholeheartedly agree, though the Pittsburgh Steelers survived the absence of the two-time All-Pro running back due to the emergence of James Conner and, most recently, Jaylen Samuels.

Bell bet on himself, steadfastly refusing to sign his franchise tender without the promise of a contract extension one of the sport's most dangerous positions and ultimately accepting his ineligibility for the season. The Steelers didn't blink, either, and Bell will presumably restart his career with another team in 2019.

CHALLENGE FOR CHUCKY

The Oakland Raiders, eyeing an eventual move to Las Vegas, gave Jon Gruden a 10-year contract worth about \$100 million to return to the franchise he got his start with as a head coach.

The Raiders are in this for the long haul, after burning through nine head coaches in the 16 seasons that passed after Gruden shed his silver and black. Their 3-11 record two years after a 12-4 finish, however, is a shaker of salt in the wound for the Bay Area loyalists on the verge of losing their team. Watching traded stars Khalil Mack and



Jacksonville running back Leonard Fournette (27) is tackled Nov. 25 by Buffalo Bills defenders during the first half in Orchard Park, N.Y. Fournette hasn't been healthy, and neither has his performance, along with the rest of the Jaguars.

Amari Cooper thrive elsewhere has only made this season hurt worse. No team has been easier to score on this year than the Raiders, with an average of nearly 30 points allowed per game.

SOPHOMORE SLUMP

Part a strong crop of rookie running backs last season, Leonard Fournette finished fifth in the league in yards rushing per game as the Jacksonville Jaguars came so close to beating the New England Patriots in the AFC championship game. The Jaguars as a team would qualify as the league's biggest letdown, so Fournette is hardly alone. But even with a mulligan for missing six games because of a hamstring injury, Fournette has taken a clear step back.

The fourth overall pick in the 2017 draft has averaged only 3.4 yards per attempt (46th in

the NFL) and 56.6 rushing yards per game (24th in the NFL). Last week in a three-point loss to Washington, Fournette spent most of the second half on the sideline while undrafted rookie Dave Williams ate into his playing time.

TOUGH TIMES FOR TOP-10 QBs

Drafting a quarterback in the first round is a decision made with as much long-term view as any in the league, and success for rookies at this high-pressure position can be awfully difficult without strong supporting casts.

Still, more and more quarterbacks in their early 20s are coming to the NFL with the skills to be an instant success, and given the impatient nature of a results-driven culture there's been no shortage of complaints about Sam Darnold (third overall pick), Josh Allen (seventh

overall pick) and Josh Rosen (10th overall pick), particularly when judging them against first overall pick Baker Mayfield's late-season surge with the Cleveland Browns. With a combined 30 touchdown passes against 38 interceptions, Darnold, Allen and Rosen have displayed a need for more experience and more help. The New York Jets, Buffalo Bills and Arizona Cardinals have a collective record of 12-20.

KICKING IT AWAY

Sure, Chicago and Green Bay play on grass in cold climates, but Minnesota and Detroit have indoor stadiums. NFC North teams have enjoyed a long line of successful kickers. This year, though, has been a struggle, with 12-year veteran Matt Prater of the Lions the only specialist whose season has become a story. The Vikings cut rookie

Daniel Carlson after two games and three missed field goals that cost them a victory against the rival Packers, who had their own issues with Mason Crosby. Cody Parkey ranks 28th in field goal percentage for the Bears, one spot behind Crosby.

SO MUCH FOR DRAMA

That last-second 2-point conversion the Los Angeles Chargers used to win at Kansas City and tie the Chiefs for the AFC West lead turned that division race into a December thriller: That's the exception, though, with the Bears, New Orleans Saints and Los Angeles Rams already in possession of top-four seeds in the NFC. That three-team race in the NFC East has been muted by all that mediocrity. The Baltimore Ravens, at least, have made the AFC North a legitimate competition with the Steelers.

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Dr. Sunil Gandhi
**CANCER &
 BLOOD DISEASE**

New leukemia treatment paradigm

CLL is the commonest leukemia in senior citizens.

Chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) is a cancer of the lymphocytes.

Lymphocytes are a type of white blood cell involved in the body's immune system. In some people with CLL, the disease grows and progresses slowly. This means it may take years for symptoms to appear or for treatment to be needed. In fact, some patients may never need treatment for their CLL. In other patients, the disease grows more quickly and needs treatment sooner.

I have many patients who never need treatment, but some elderly patients need therapy for sure. CLL is more common among senior citizens. Treatment is highly effective in most cases. At the same time, we need to focus on quality of life and toxicity of the treatment.

Targeted therapy is a treatment that targets the leukemia's specific genes, proteins, or the tissue environment that contributes to its growth and survival. This type of treatment blocks the growth and spread of leukemia cells while limiting damage to healthy cells. Certain targeted therapy like Rituximab is given either alone or in combination with other chemotherapy.

There was a large international conference earlier this month. Almost 25,000 blood specialists from more than 100 countries attended this meeting. There was an excellent study presented here and also simultaneously published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

In patients 65 and older with untreated chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), a new study has shown that Ibrutinib provides superior progression-free survival (PFS) compared with the standard of care combination of Bendamustine and Rituximab. Ibrutinib is a pill the patient takes at home and is definitely more attractive than intravenous chemotherapy that you need to take at our office. The disadvantage is Bendamustine and Rituximab is given for three days in a month for four to six months. While Ibrutinib must be taken daily for a long time, as long as patient can tolerate it, and that can be many years. Of course, this makes treatment a lot more expensive, too.

Ibrutinib costs approximately \$12,000 a month. This amounts to a lot over a period of years. Ibrutinib is relatively contraindicated in patients who have uncontrolled blood pressure or those who are on anticoagulants (blood thinners) like Coumadin. Ibrutinib toxicity usually

See **GANDHI/Page C3**

5 wishes



Document your decisions with legal living will

SHARON ANDERSON
 For the Chronicle

Grief — it's a terrible place to be. And the older we grow, the more we find ourselves contemplating subjects we never gave a thought to before, like growing even older — which can be a cause of grief.

But what if there is a way to grow older while maintaining one's dignity and therefore with less grief?

There is, said Jonathan Beard, Community Education manager of Friends of Citrus and the Nature Coast (FCNC). And the way begins by answering five basic questions that also make known one's deepest wishes:

- 1. Who do I want to make care decisions for me if and when I can't make them myself?
- 2. What kind of medical treatment do I want — or not want?
- 3. How comfortable do I want to be?
- 4. How do I want people to treat me?
- 5. What do I want my loved ones to know?

Exploring all the options and expressing one's wishes via answering these five questions forms the crux of the Five Wishes Living Will, developed by the charity organization Aging with Dignity.

Five Wishes is "a legal document that guides you through planning before a health crisis," states the organization's website, agingwithdignity.org.

"Caring for people with a serious illness involves more than providing the best medical care. It means helping them to maintain their human dignity."

The Five Wishes document has been referred to as "the living will with a heart and soul" because it includes the things that matter the most, the website states. Simply written in 28 languages, the Five Wishes document "helps start and structure important conversations about care in times of serious illness."

Though the document and instructions for filling it out can be downloaded directly from the website for a small fee, locally, Five Wishes workshops are offered free as a community service by FCNC.

FCNC is a not-for-profit organization that serves as a grief resource for county residents of all ages and stages of life, Beard explained.

While grief is a natural experience, he said, the Five Wishes workshops are provided in an effort to prevent unnecessary grief.

"Five Wishes is America's most popular living will with more than 30 million copies in circulation," Beard said. "It's an easy-to-use legal advance directive document written in everyday language and it helps all adults, regardless of age or health, to consider and document how they want to be cared for at the end of life."

The Five Wishes document was written with the help of the American Bar Association's Commission on Law and Aging with input from the nation's leading experts in end-of-life care, Beard said.

"It is an easy-to-complete form that lets you say exactly how you or your loved one wish to be treated if either of you becomes seriously ill," Beard said.

"All you have to do is check a box, circle a direction, or write a few sentences. By detailing your medical wishes plus your personal, emotional and spiritual needs, it allows your voice to be heard."

And that puts the person completing the Five Wishes Living Will in the driver's — rather than the passenger's — seat.

See **WISHES/Page C3**



Dr. Frank Vascimini
SOUND BITES

Season for family

Merry Christmas to all my Chronicle readers.

As most of you already know, Mom passed away this year only a few months after Dad. This was no surprise to us, as we knew they were ill, but most of all we knew their love for each other and their inability to exist without one another (even though there were times this could be questioned).

Though it is going to be a hard time of the year for us (both my family and my brother's family), Mom and Dad did an amazing job of bringing us up as a tight-knit family. We've extended this same way of life to our friends through the years. For me, I've done this with my staff as well (Mike has no staff other than his son).

It is because of the remarkable people around us, and the kind of people Mom and Dad were, that has given us the ability to transition to life without them. We miss them, of course, but we know that they are still with us in so many ways. The fact that they are out of pain and together again brings us solace.

I have so many things to be thankful for in life; my family is obvious, friends can never be taken for granted, my staff has been with me so long they honestly feel like family, my patients have been incredible — I've always said we treat patients like family and it obviously shows — so many of you have gone above and beyond what one would expect from a patient.

Mom and Dad, thank you so much for all you did for us, all you taught us and for the people you made us. Without all of this we could not have done what we did for our children who, we know, you loved so much.

Merry Christmas in heaven, Mom and Dad. We love you and miss you!

Dr. Frank Vascimini is a dentist practicing in Homosassa. Send your questions to 4805 S. Suncoast Blvd., Homosassa, FL 34446 or email them to him at questions@MasterpieceDentalStudio.com.

When to seek emergency medical help for flu

The flu virus continues to spread across the U.S., with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) closely tracking the number of confirmed cases and urging stringent precautions to minimize its impact. Bayfront Health Seven Rivers continues to see flu-symptomatic patients in the emergency room and numerous patients have been admitted for treatment of flu-related



Alexandria Hampton
POSITIVELY HEALTHFUL

such as asthma, chronic bronchitis, emphysema and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

While most people will be able to endure the flu's effects on their bodies and recover, others are at high risk for suffering complications and needing emergency intervention. Individuals at a higher risk include babies and children, the elderly, those with compromised immune systems, and individuals with lung disease —

such as asthma, chronic bronchitis, emphysema and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

Beyond feeling miserable, flu can develop into something much more serious, particularly for individuals who are at higher risk. It's important for these individuals to be monitored closely so they receive timely medical help if needed.

Unlike a cold, the flu typically comes on suddenly. The most common symptoms are fever or feeling feverish/chills, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches, fatigue and vomiting and diarrhea.

If you suspect you have the flu

virus, the CDC recommends seeking care from your doctor or an urgent care clinic, where you can be tested and receive a prescription for antiviral medication to minimize the intensity and duration of your symptoms. These medications work best when taken within 48 hours of becoming ill, but can still be beneficial when given later in the course of illness.

When you or someone for whom you're caring experiences any of the following symptoms — the CDC recommends seeking help from the closest emergency department:

See **HEALTHFUL/Page C3**

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Crystal River Mall
1801 NW U.S. 19, Crystal River, FL 34428
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COMFORT KEEPERS
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Inverness, FL 34452
(352) 726-4547

MEDERI CARETENDERS
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The Villages, FL 32162
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8405 SW 80th Ave., Ocala, FL 34481
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HOSPITAL

CITRUS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
502 W. Highland Blvd.,
Inverness, FL 34452
(352) 344-6569 Text ER to 32222
for current wait time average

HOSPICE CARE

HPH HOSPICE
2939 W. Gulf to Lake Hwy., Lecanto
352-527-4600

INDEPENDENT LIVING

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Inverness, FL 34450
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LEGAL SERVICES

ABSOLUTE LAW GROUP
547 W. Fort Island Trail, Ste. H,
Crystal River, FL 34429
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SUNCOAST EYE CENTER
221 NE HWY. 19,
Crystal River FL 34429
(352) 795-2526

ORTHOPAEDIC/SPORT MEDICINE

THE CENTER FOR BONE AND JOINT DISEASE
8281 S. Suncoast Blvd.
Homosassa, FL 34446
(352) 597-2664

NATURE COAST ORTHOPAEDICS
2155 W. Mustang Blvd.
Beverly Hills, FL
(352) 746-5707

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Inverness, FL
344-BONE (2663)

ORTHOPEDIC ASSOCIATES OF CITRUS
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Inverness, FL 34452
(352) 560-6270

PODIATRY

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Inverness, FL 34452
(352) 726-3668

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B&W REXALL DRUGS
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Lecanto, FL 34461
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Hernando, FL 34442
(352) 419-8949

5691 S. Suncoast Blvd.
Homosassa, FL 34446
(352) 628-0096

PHYSICIAN

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Inverness, FL 34452
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10334 N. Citrus Springs Blvd.,
Citrus Springs, FL 34434
(352) 527-0707

7945 S. Suncoast Blvd.,
Homosassa, FL 34446
(352) 382-5000

7646 S. Florida Ave,
Floral City, FL 34436
(352) 726-3700

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Fernandez, Marc MD FACS
Jacoby, Michael MD
Otto, James MD
Patel, Parth MD

403 W. Highland Blvd.,
Inverness, FL 34452
(352) 726-3646

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Shammas, Lilia MD
Bois, Louis MD
Tormanovski, Todor MD

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Lecanto, FL 34461
(352) 341-2588

REHABILITATION

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Lecanto, FL 34461
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Patel, Rushi S. DDS PhD
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Crystal River 34429
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HOMOSSASSA OPEN MRI
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Homosassa, FL 34448
(352) 628-4800

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Lecanto, FL 34461
(352)795-5541 EXT. 201

MERIDIEN RESEARCH
16176 Cortez Blvd.
Brooksville, FL
(352) 597-8839

SLEEP CLINIC OF AMERICA
1980 N. Prospect Ave.,
Lecanto, FL 34461
(352) 527-6673

Look, feel great this happy holiday season

Greetings! Can you believe it's this time again?

Decorations, lights, traffic, crowds, a hustle and bustle that sometimes puts a damper on the whole reason for the season.

This month's topic is holiday hospitality, which I feel is greatly needed. If we all focus on the beautiful reason for this season and force our schedules to cooperate, there will be a tremendous peace in the air. Here are some helpful tips to keep us in check.

Hosting a party?

All the fun, but a lot of work. Choose recipes that are simple

and have similar ingredients. Create a theme for your food

and drinks. Allow the party to tell a memorable story! Food, music, drinks and hospitality that are all wrapped up with love will create lasting memories for your guests.

Don't forget to plan your schedule backwards. Prep, the day before. Set up the day of, giving yourself at least an hour to get ready and collect your thoughts. Early planning will help you avoid stress. And, if things go a little sideways, who cares!

Improvise: Nobody knows what was supposed to be. So, don't allow the little details to

stress and rob you of your joy. As the saying goes in Jamaica, "Everything going to be irie (alright)!" What a beautiful life philosophy!

What to wear?

Keep it simple. Bling yourself out and remember your comfy shoes. Mix and match basic pieces with black velvet or silk, which are always a hit as a skirt or pants combined with a little sparkly tank or sweater.

Keep in mind to coordinate your accessories too. Style your hair with simple twists and decorative hair pins.

This is a season that we can actually take advantage of and try new things we would not normally wear. With the unpredictable weather in Florida, wear cooler tops and warmer layers.

Choose mineral makeup that is rich pigment and extended color. Brighter colors are delightful for this season, especially for evening parties. Add a pop of color on two areas of the face: Rock red lips if it fits your skin tone or on your cheeks and eyes to complement a softer lip color. Mature skin should avoid shimmer; go with matte, except on the lips.

Spread holiday cheer

Slow down and smile. Allow the car beside you to go ahead of you and simply wave, grant the person in a rush at the store to go ahead of you, say thank you and happy holidays, buy your boss lunch, give a special handwritten thank-you card to special people like your mail carrier, sanitation collector, pastor, doctor, teacher, boss,

nanny, parents, grandparents, spouse or anyone who has helped you in the past year.

Adopt a family, surprise a stranger and pay it forward, deliver indulgent items to your local nursing home. Bring a gift to the hostess of any party that you attend.

Let the spirit of peace surround you and treasure your many blessings. Take a moment to give thanks!

May you have many blessings this holiday season and bring smiles to all of those around you.

Lillian Yai Yai Knipp, of Yai Yai Style Lounge in Crystal River, has been in the fashion industry since 1990 and has been in Citrus County since 1996. She can be reached at me@yaiyai-stylelounge.com or 352-795-7625.



Yai Yai
**LIFE 'N'
STYLE**

HEALTH NOTES

Elements of Health seminar

With over 20 years experience, Elements of Health will present Certified Natural Health Professional Kristina Edstrom, who will conduct a free seminar titled "Nature's Antibiotics — Boost Your Immune System," at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 5. Learn how to boost your immune system naturally.

Elements of Health is at 3930 S. Suncoast Blvd., Homosassa, in the Publix shopping center on Halls River Road. To RSVP, call 352-628-7036. For information, go online to doctorvitaminstore.com or on Facebook at Elements of Health.

Fitness In Citrus 2019 starts soon

Are you determined to improve your health in 2019? Get a jump start by joining this year's Fitness In Citrus — Community-Wide Fitness Challenge. It begins on Monday, Feb. 4 and runs through Sunday, March 17.

This will be the 15th annual Fitness In Citrus — Community-Wide Fitness Challenge.

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

How to get involved this time? Email

fitnesschallenge2019@gmail.com and ask for details and registration information.

Form a team — that means you and at least one other person. Small teams typically do better because members develop accountability relationships. Your team needs to choose either the "steps" challenge or the "minutes of activity" challenge. Also, choose your team's fitness level by picking a category: "just starting," "getting there" or "jocks."

In the "steps" challenge you earn points for each 500 steps you take (you need to wear a step-tracker). In the "minutes" challenge you earn points for each 10 minutes of exercise (from a specified list of activities).

Registration closes Jan. 22. Email fitnesschallenge2019@gmail.com to get details and registration forms (in pdf file format).

Cancer institute sets kids' program

The Robert Boissoneault Oncology Institute will have the special children's program, CLIMB — Children's Lives Include Moments of Bravery, specifically for children ages 6 to 11.

This unique program was developed so that every child whose parent or loved one diagnosed with cancer, has the early tools and emotional support to cope. The special program was developed by the Children's Treehouse Foundation, a nonprofit foundation dedicated to the emotional support of children

who have parents or grandparents with cancer.

The program is facilitated by RBOI Licensed Clinical Social Worker Wendy Hall being held for the second time in Citrus County. The aim is to build upon the child's strength and enhance his/her ability to cope with stress associated with a loved one's illness.

The program includes six structured sessions, an hour each which will be held at RBOI, 522 N. Lecanto Highway. Anyone who is interested in more information should call Wendy Hall at 352-527-0106.

ACS center staffed weekly

The ACS Resource Center now has volunteers available from 9-11:30 a.m. Tuesdays and from 9-11 a.m. Thursdays.

Information on cancer resources is offered and there are free wigs, turbans, scarves and hats available.

We also offer services by appointment. For information, call 352-726-0026.

Get active with Walking Club

Residents are invited to join the free, educational and engaging Kings Bay Walking Club that takes place from 7:30-8:30 a.m. Saturdays. The group meets at the public parking lot at the intersection of NE Fifth St. and

NE First Ave. (across from Vintage on 5th).

The Kings Bay Walking Club is lead by Crystal River resident and certified medical exercise specialist and master personal trainer Bill Coyle. He encourages walkers of all abilities to come out and socialize while they exercise.

Weekly wellness tips are offered during the walk. Slower walkers will be given shortcuts. Heavy rain or storms cancel the walk. Light to moderate rain requires a hat.

For information, call Bill at 201-281-4444.

Nonsurgical weight loss education

Advanced Gastroenterology will offer weekly presentations about endoscopic nonsurgical weight loss at the office at 6152 W. Corporate Oaks Drive, Crystal River, at 10 a.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 8 and Jan. 15.

The regular weekly seminars share helpful information and experiences. The presentations give a general overview of obesity and weight loss options, including the process to become a candidate for nonsurgical weight loss. Patients with a BMI of 30-35 are not appropriate for surgical therapy, but may wish to have medically supervised nonsurgical and endoscopic intervention.

Obesity is the excess accumulation of body fat, to the extent that it may have an adverse effect on your health. For more information and to RSVP, call 352-564-3900.

WISHES

Continued from Page C1

"Each workshop participant receives a copy of Five Wishes to fill out as they desire," Beard said. "Time will be allotted for a question and answer session along with any needed discussion."

Once completed and signed, the document is valid under the laws of 42 states and the District of Columbia, including the state of Florida, Beard said. In the

other eight states a completed Five Wishes document can be attached to the state's required form, states the Aging with Dignity website.

The next FCNC Five Wishes Workshop will be held at the Friends of Citrus Education Center, 8471 W. Periwinkle Lane in Homosassa, on Thursday, Jan. 10. An overview of Five Wishes will be provided from 2-3:30 p.m., Beard said. Then, the following week, on Thursday, Jan. 17, from 2-3:30 p.m., the document will be completed during a signing party, he said.

"All of the programs and services offered by Friends of Citrus and the Nature Coast are totally dependent on donations and fundraising," Beard said. Those services include providing grief support resources for all ages and circumstances.

Other educational and support programs and services FCNC administers include:

■ The LIFT program (Living Independently For Today) sponsored in Citrus County by Dignity Memorial, which provides social support for widows and

widowers.

■ Herry's Kids Children's Services and grief camps.

■ Various memorial opportunities such as the annual Tree of Remembrance, Renewal Memorial Services and Tree of Loving Memory Leaves.

For more information about various FCNC services, to register for a Five Wishes workshop, or to make a donation, call Beard at 352-249-1470 or 386-454-0844. Visit online at www.friendsfcnc.org or Friends of Citrus on Facebook.

HEALTHFUL

Continued from Page C1

Infants

- Trouble breathing
- No tears when crying
- Significantly fewer wet diapers than normal

Children

- Fast breathing or trouble breathing
- Bluish skin color
- Not drinking enough fluids
- Not waking up or not

interacting

- Being so irritable that the child does not want to be held
- Symptoms improve, but then return with fever and worse cough
- Fever with a rash

Adults

- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen
- Sudden dizziness
- Confusion
- Severe or persistent vomiting
- Flu-like symptoms that improve but then return with fever

and worse cough

Flu can become deadly, so it's important to act promptly if these symptoms appear. And it's still not too late to get a flu shot this year, which can lessen your chances of getting sick.

To find a primary care doctor visit the "Find a Doctor" link on BayfrontSevenRivers.com or call 352-795-1234.

Alexandria Hampton is public relations and communications coordinator for Bayfront Health Seven Rivers in Crystal River.

■ To submit information about upcoming seminars, health-related events open to the public or support group meetings, email community@chronicleonline.com attn: Health Notes; fax 352-563-3280.

GANDHI

Continued from Page C1

reduced over time, but about 1 in 7 patients stopped Ibrutinib due to toxicity.

In short, this is a great new advance. This has the potential to change the paradigm of therapy in CLL. There are many other options of therapy and we should individualize therapy depending on each case.

Dr. Sunil Gandhi is a hematologist and oncologist. He is the volunteer medical adviser of the Citrus Unit of American Cancer Society. Write to 521 N. Lecanto Highway, Lecanto, FL 34461, email sgandhi@tampabay.rr.com or call 352-746-0707.

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New Year's Eve Dinner & Dance

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2018 – \$60.00 pp

Hors D'oeuvres 5:30 – 6:30pm • Dinner 6:30–7:30pm

MENU	DESSERT
Apple Pecan Stuffed Pork Loin	Chocolate Cake w/Raspberry Filling
Roast Beef Carving Stations	White Cake w/Strawberry Filling
Rosemary Roasted Red Potatoes	
Green Bean Almondine • Salad Rolls	

Entertainment & Dance Music by Billie Lindsey
Champagne at Midnight – Cash Bar

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TUESDAY EVENING DECEMBER 25, 2018											C: Comcast, Citrus S: Spectrum D/I: Comcast, Dunnellon & Inglis F: Oak Forest H: Holiday Heights										
	C	S	D/I	F	H	6:00	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30				
2 (WESH) NBC	19	19				News	News	ET	Access	Grinch	** "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" (2000)	PG	News	J. Fallon							
3 (WEDU) PBS	3	3		14	6	World News	Nightly Business	PBS NewsHour (N) (In Stereo)	News	We'll Meet Again (N) (In Stereo)	Call the Midwife "Holiday Special"	Sister Mildred arrives. '14	Bing Crosby Rediscovered: American Masters '14								
5 (WUFT) PBS	5	5				DW News	Business	PBS NewsHour (N)	News	We'll Meet Again (N)	Call the Midwife (N) '14	News	Christmas With the Business								
8 (WFLA) NBC	8	8	8	8	8	News	Nightly News	NewsChannel 8	Extra (N) 'PG'	The Grinch	** "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" (2000)	Children's	NewsChannel 8	Tonight Show							
9 (WFTV) ABC	20	7	20			NBA Basketball Philadelphia 76ers at Boston Celtics. From TD Garden in Boston. (N)				NBA Basketball Los Angeles Lakers at Golden State Warriors. From Oracle Arena in Oakland, Calif. (N)		blackish 'PG'	Eyewit. News	Jimmy Kimmel							
10 (WTSP) CBS	10	10	10	10	10	10 News	Evening News	Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy! (N) 'G'	NCIS "Date With Destiny" '14	God Friended Me (In Stereo) 'PG'	FBI "Family Man" (In Stereo) '14	10 News	Late-C Colbert							
13 (WTVT) FOX	13	13		13	13	News	FOX 13 Special	Access (N) 'PG'	TMZ (N) 'PG'	Lethal Weapon "Leo Getz Justice" '14	The Gifted "out-Matched" '14	FOX13 10:00 News (N) (In Stereo)	FOX13 11:00 News (N) (In Stereo)								
20 (WCJB) ABC			11			NBA Basketball: 76ers at Celtics				NBA Basketball: Lakers at Warriors		blackish 'PG'	News	J. Kimmel							
22 (WCLF) IND	2	2	2	22	22	Christian Fitness	Joyce Meyer	Kenneth Hagin	The Great Awakenings	Word Excellence	Contending, A. Wommack	Perry Stone 'G'	Watch Therefore	Purpose for Life	The Great Awake						
23 (WFTS) ABC	11	11		11	11	NBA Basketball Philadelphia 76ers at Boston Celtics. From TD Garden in Boston. (N)				NBA Basketball Los Angeles Lakers at Golden State Warriors. From Oracle Arena in Oakland, Calif. (N)		blackish 'PG'	News	Jimmy Kimmel							
32 (WMOR) IND	12	12		5		The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Mom '14'	Mom '14'	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Chicago P.D. "Some Friend" '14	Big Bang Theory	Family Guy '14					
33 (WTTA) MNT	6	6	6	9	9	Extra 'PG'	ET	FamFeud	FamFeud	NewsChannel 8	Chicago P.D. '14	Chicago P.D. '14	Chicago P.D. '14	Seinfeld	Seinfeld						
40 (WACX) TBN	21		21			Paid Prg.	The 700 Club	Babers	Paid Prg.	P. Stone	Bill Win	Gimenez	700 Club	S.Channel	Faith	Prince					
43 (WTOG) CW	4	4	4	12	12	blackish 'PG'	blackish 'PG'	Friends '14	2 Broke Girls '14	iHeartRadio Jingle Ball 2018 (In Stereo) 'PG, D.L.	Whose Line Is It?	Two and Half Men	Two and Half Men	2 Broke Girls '14	Friends '14						
47 (WYKE) FAM	16	16	16		15	America Trends	INN News	Citrus Today	Sully's Biz Brew	Positively Paula 'G'	The Chef's	America Trends	Citrus Court	Citrus Today							
60 (WVEA) UNI	15	15	15	15	14	Noticias	Noticiero	Rosa de Guadalupe	Jesús	Mi marido		Amar a muerte '14	Noticias	Noticiero							
61 (WOGX) FOX			13	7	7	Fox 51	Fox 51	Big Bang	Big Bang	Lethal Weapon '14	The Gifted '14	FOX 51 News	Dateline 'PG'								
63 (WXPX) ION			17			"Rent-an-Elf" (2018)	"Country Christmas Album" (2018)	"NR"	"A Royal Christmas Ball" (2017)	Tara Reid.	"A Christmas Kiss"										
(A&E)	54	48	54	25	27	** "Armageddon" (1998, Science Fiction) Bruce Willis. (In Stereo) 'PG-13'	** "The Shawshank Redemption" (1994) Tim Robbins. An innocent man goes to a Maine penitentiary for life in 1947. 'R'	** "The Scorpion King" (2002) 'PG-13'													
(AMC)	55	64	55			** "Elf" (2003, Children's) Will Ferrell. 'PG'	** "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" (1989) Chevy Chase. 'PG-13'	** "The Polar Express" (2004, Children's) Voices of Tom Hanks. 'G'	** "Santa Claus"												
(ANI)	52	35	52	19	31	The Zoo "Slow Loris Romance" 'PG'	The Zoo "An Elephant's Trust" 'PG'	The Zoo "Training Dragons" 'PG'	The Zoo "The Eagle Has Landed" 'PG'	The Zoo "The Tiger's Dance" 'PG'	The Zoo "A Gorilla With Heart" 'PG'										
(BET)	96	71	96			** "Meet the Browns" (2008) Tyler Perry. A woman meets her late father's uproarious family for the first time. 'PG-13'	** "Madea's Witness Protection" (2012) Tyler Perry. Madea uses tough love on a Wall Street banker and his family. 'PG-13'														
(BRAVO)	254	51	254			Below Deck '14'	Below Deck '14'	Below Deck '14'	Below Deck '14'	Unanchored (N) '14'	"Billy Madison" '88										
(CC)	27	61	27		33	Jeff Dunham Christmas Special	Jeff Dunham Christmas Special	Jeff Dunham Christmas Special	Jeff Dunham Christmas Special	** "Trading Places" (1983, Comedy) Dan Aykroyd, Eddie Murphy. 'R'											
(CMT)	98	45	98	28	37	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	** "Santa Claus: The Movie" (1985, Children's) Dudley Moore, David Huddleston. 'PG'	** "Santa Claus: The Movie" (1985, Children's) Dudley Moore. 'PG'											
(CNN)	40	29	40	41	46	Finding Jesus	Finding Jesus	Finding Jesus	Finding Jesus	Finding Jesus	Finding Jesus										
(ESPN)	33	27	33	21	17	SportsCenter (N)	SportsCenter (N)	NBA Basketball: Lakers at Warriors	NBA Basketball												
(ESPN2)	37	28	34	43	49	30 for 30	30 for 30	College Basketball													
(FBN)	106	149	106	99	41	OBJECTified	Destiny and Power	Charles Krauth.	Bush Family	Strange	Strange	Strange									
(FLIX)		118	170			** "Anger Management" (2003, Comedy) Adam Sandler. (In Stereo) 'PG-13'	** "Romy and Michele's High School Reunion" (1997) 'R'	** "Bowfinger" (1999, Comedy) Steve Martin. 'PG-13'	** "Jackass: The Movie" (2002) 'R'												
(FNC)	44	37	44		32	Special Report	Charles Krauth.	Tucker Carlson	Hannity (N)	The Ingraham Angle	Special Report										
(FOOD)	26	56	26			Chopped 'G'	Chopped 'G'	Chopped 'G'	Chopped (N) 'G'	Chopped 'G'	Chopped 'G'										
(FREEFORM)	29	52	29	20	28	** "The Santa Clause" (1994) 'PG'	** "The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause" (2006) Tim Allen. 'G'	** "The Lion King" (1994) Voices of Matthew Broderick. (In Stereo) 'G'	The 700 Club (In Stereo)												
(FS1)	732	112	732			NASCAR Racing From Feb. 18, 2018.	Beyond Wheel	Beyond the Wheel	Crashed Ice	Crashed Ice											
(FS2)		806				Snowboarding	Snowboarding	Snowboarding	Snow	Rail Days											
(FSNFL)	35	39	35			World Poker	World Poker	Tennis	UFC Countdown '14'	Formula E											
(FX)	30	60	30		51	** "Minions" (2015) 'PG'	** "The Secret Life of Pets" (2016) Voices of Louis C.K.. (In Stereo) 'PG'	** "The Secret Life of Pets" (2016) Voices of Louis C.K.. (In Stereo) 'PG'	** "Minions" (2015) 'PG'												
(GOLF)	727	67	727			World of Golf	World of Golf	Feherty '14'	A Very Feherty	A Very Feherty											
(HALL)	59	68	39	45	54	"Pride, Prejudice"	"Christmas at Graceland" (2018) Kellie Pickler. 'NR'	When Calls the Heart "The Greatest Christmas Blessing" 'G'	"Christmas at the Palace" (2018, Romance) Merritt Patterson, Andrew Cooper. 'NR'	"Christmas"											
(HBO)	302	201	302	2	2	** "The Mountain Between Us" (2017) Kate Winslet. (In Stereo) 'PG-13'	** "Four Christmases" (2008) Vince Vaughn. 'PG-13'	** "Love, Simon" (2018) Nick Robinson, Josh Duhamel. (In Stereo) 'PG-13'	"Mr. Mom"												
(HBO2)	303	202	303			** "Knight and Day" (2010, Action) Tom Cruise. (In Stereo) 'PG-13'	** "American Made" (2017, Comedy-Drama) Tom Cruise. (In Stereo) 'R'	** "The Mummy" (2017, Action) Tom Cruise. (In Stereo) 'PG-13'													
(HGTV)	23	57	23	42	52	Fixer Upper 'G'	Fixer Upper 'G'	Fixer Upper 'G'	Fixer Upper 'G'	Fixer Upper "Rock Star Renovation" 'G'	Fixer Upper 'G'										
(HIST)	51	54	51	32	42	The Curse of Oak Island (In Stereo) 'PG'	The Curse of Oak Island (In Stereo) 'PG'	The Curse of Oak Island: Digging Deeper "A Legacy Revealed: Extended" Rick is faced with a tragic loss. (N) 'PG'	The Curse of Oak Island (In Stereo) 'PG'												
(LIFE)	24	38	24		21	"Dear Santa" (2011) Amy Acker. A party girl has to change her ways or get cut off. 'NR'	"Every Day Is Christmas" (2018, Drama) Toni Braxton, Guy Christie. 'NR'	"Jingle Belle" (2018, Romance) Tatyana Ali, Obba Babatundé. 'NR'													
(LIFEMOV)	119	50	119			"Stalked by My Ex" (2017, Suspense) Yves Bright, Tamara Braun. 'NR'	"My Husband's Secret Life" (2017, Suspense) Kara Killmer. 'NR'	"Boyfriend's Deceit" (2018, Suspense) Emily Rose, Brad Johnson. 'NR'													
(MSNBC)	42	41	42			The Beat With	Hardball Matthews	All In With Chris	Rachel Maddow	The Last Word	The 11th Hour										
(NBCSN)	448	26	730			Mecum Auto Auctions "Indianapolis"	Mecum Auto Auctions "Denver"	Classic car auction from Denver, Colo.													
(NGEO)	109	65	109			Life Below Zero 'PG'	Life Below Zero 'PG'	Life Below Zero "Winter's Grip" 'PG'	Life Below Zero 'PG'	Life Below Zero "False Start" 'PG'	Life Below Zero "Winter's Grip" 'PG'										
(NICK)	28	36	28	35	25	The Loud House 'Y7'	"Santa Hunters" (2014) 'NR'	Sponge.	Sponge.	Sponge.	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends							
(OWN)	125	24	103			Black Love '14'	Black Love '14'	Michelle Obama	Becoming M. Obama	Oprah at Home w/G.	All Star	All Star									
(OXY)	123	44	123			Dateline: Secrets Uncovered 'PG'	Dateline: Secrets Uncovered 'PG'	Dateline: Secrets Uncovered 'PG'													
(PARMT)	37	43	37	27	36	** "Forrest Gump" (1994, Comedy-Drama) Tom Hanks. (In Stereo) 'PG-13'	** "The Goonies" (1985) Sean Astin, Young misfits find a 17th-century pirate's treasure map. 'PG'	** "Dirty Dancing" (1987) Jennifer Grey. 'PG-13'													
(SEC)	745	72				SEC Storied 'G'	SEC Storied 'G'	SEC Storied 'G'	SEC Storied 'G'	SEC Storied 'G'											
(SHOW)	340	241	340			** "Home Again" (2017) 'PG-13'	** "Office Christmas Party" (2016, Comedy) Jason Bateman. (In Stereo) 'R'	Inside the NFL (N) (In Stereo) 'PG'	** "A Bad Moms Christmas" (2017) Mila Kunis. 'R'	Inside the NFL 'PG'											
(STARZ)	370	271	370			"Home Alone 2"	Outlander "Wilmington" 'MA'	** "The Other Guys" (2010, Comedy) Will Ferrell. (In Stereo) 'PG-13'	Outlander "Wilmington" 'MA'	** "Joe Dirt" (2001) David Spade. (In Stereo) 'PG-13'											
(SUN)	36	31	36			Sportsman	Florida Sport	Fishing the Flats	Addictive Fishing	Sport Fishing	Silver Kings 'G'	College Basketball Arkansas State at Syracuse.	College Basketball								
(SYFY)	31	59	31	26	29	Futurama '14'	Futurama 'PG'	Futurama 'PG'	Futurama 'PG'	Futurama 'PG'	Futurama 'PG'	Futurama 'PG'	Futurama 'PG'								
(TBS)	49	23	49	16	19	** "A Christmas Story" (1983) 'PG'	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Conan '14'							
(TCM)	169	53	169	30	35	** "It Happened on 5th Avenue" (1947, Comedy) Don DeFore. 'NR'	** "Some Like It Hot" (1959, Comedy) Tony Curtis, Jack Lemmon. 'NR'	** "Monkey Business" (1952, Comedy) Cary Grant, Ginger Rogers. 'NR'													
(TDC)	53	34	53	24	26	Expedition Unknown (In Stereo) 'PG'	Expedition Unknown (In Stereo) 'PG'	Expedition Unknown (In Stereo) 'PG'	Expedition Unknown (In Stereo) 'PG'	Expedition Unknown (In Stereo) 'PG'	Expedition Unknown (In Stereo) 'PG'										
(TLC)	50	46	50	29	30	Untold Stories of ER	Untold Stories of ER	Worst Day Ev.	Un-Party Fails	Untold Stories of ER	Celebration Stoppers										
(TMC)	350	261	350			** "The Hurt Locker" (2008) 'R'	** "Braveheart" (1995) Mel Gibson. A Scottish rebel rallies his countrymen against England. (In Stereo) 'R'	** "Love Actually" (2003, Romance-Comedy) Hugh Grant. Various people deal with relationships in London. 'R' (DVS)	** "The Bourne Ultimatum" (2007, Action) Matt Damon. (In Stereo) 'PG-13'												
(TNT)	48	33	48	31	34	** "A Christmas Story" (1983)	** "A Christmas Story" (1983, Children's) Peter Billingsley. 'PG' (DVS)	** "Love Actually" (2003, Romance-Comedy) Hugh Grant. Various people deal with relationships in London. 'R' (DVS)													
(TOON)	38	58	38	33		Gumball	Gumball	Gumball	Gumball	American	American	Burgers	Burgers	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy						
(TRAV)	9	106	9	44		Mysteries- Cas.	Mysteries- Cas.	Mysteries- Cas.	Mysteries- Cas.	Mysteries- Cas.	Mysteries- Cas.	Monster Encounters									
(truTV)	25	55	25	98	55	Jokers	Jokers	Jokers	Holidays	Jokers	Jokers	Jokers	Jokers								
(TVL)	32	49	32	34	24	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Two Men	Two Men	King					
(USA)	47	32	47	17	18	** "A Madea Christmas" (2013, Comedy) Tyler Perry, Kathy Najimy. 'PG-13'	WWE SmackDown! (N) (In Stereo Live) 'PG, D,L,V'	** "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" (2001) Daniel Radcliffe. 'PG'													
(WE)	117	69	117			Criminal Minds "In Birth and Death" '14	Criminal Minds (In Stereo) 'PG'	Criminal Minds (In Stereo) '14	Criminal Minds (In Stereo) 'PG'	Criminal Minds "About Face" '14	Criminal Minds Serial killer's partner. '14'										
(WGN-A)	18	18	18	18	20	Cops '14'	Cops '14'	Cops '14'	Cops '14'	Cops '14'	** "Bad Santa" (2003) 'R'	Married	Married								

Annie offers advice

Dear Annie: I'm a bit unclear on etiquette when it comes to asking for time off from work. This became an especially sticky situation recently, when I was requesting time off for the holidays. It seems my co-workers hog the vacation time, and I have trouble asserting my right to a more-or-less equal amount of time off. How do I confidently claim what I'm owed without causing conflict?

— **Vying for Vacation**
Dear Vying for Vacation: Having a job means having to work around the holidays. When it comes to deciding who in the department gets to take vacation during high-vacation-demand windows such as Christmas week, the factors are generally seniority and who worked that holiday last year and the year before. So if you worked Christmas Eve last year, for example, you might mention this to your boss. When you do end up having to work on holidays, keep your chin up and count your blessings. Being employed during the holidays is much better than being unemployed during the holidays.



DEAR ANNIE

Dear Annie: My significant other's family has invited me to go on a cruise with them over Christmas next year. I love traveling, and I really want to go. But I feel guilty ditching my family, especially my sister, on Christmas. I'd love for them to come with us on the trip, and my significant other's family would, as well. But my family simply couldn't afford it. I think I'm going to go on the cruise and celebrate Christmas with my family on another day. Does that make me a terrible person? — **Ditching in December**

Dear Ditching in December: Whether because of work or financial hardship or because we're spending the holiday with a spouse or significant other, there will come a day when we won't get to spend Christmas with our parents and siblings. It's nearly inevitable. So no, missing one Christmas with your family doesn't make you a terrible person. Do something special to celebrate Christmas with your family on another day, as the holiday isn't so much about the date on a calendar as it is about reaching out to loved ones and remembering the reason for the season. Merry Christmas.

Dear Annie: Bravo for your answer about setting aside one's personal anguish to be at a friend's bedside when he or she is near death. Some years ago, I was one of a small group of women who helped care for an elderly widower in our church. While he was bedridden at home, some of his male friends would bathe him and change his bed linens often. We women would bring food and try to coax him to take a few bites. He was well-loved and well-cared-for. It was my turn to be there the night he took his last breath. I was quietly giving him a gentle back rub, not saying anything, and his little cat was curled up on his bed when he left us. I like to think that maybe he knew he could let go because he knew I could handle it. He had many friends whom he loved and who loved him, but I will always feel honored to have been the one with him at the end. — **Peaceful in New York**

Dear Peaceful: Your letter touched my heart. Thank you for the kindness you give to the world.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com. To find out more about Annie Lane and read features by other Creators Syndicate columnists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.

LOCAL SUPPORT
 ■ The Centers: 352-628-5020.
 ■ NAMI-Citrus hot line: 844-687-6264 (toll free)

Bridge

PHILLIP ALDER
 Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

I hope all of my readers have a great time over the holidays. Now for this year's competition.

- How should South play in six diamonds after West leads the club king? Do not be influenced by the given East-West hands, which will change when the answer is given on Feb. 1.
- Give an auction assuming that South opens one diamond, and East-West pass throughout.

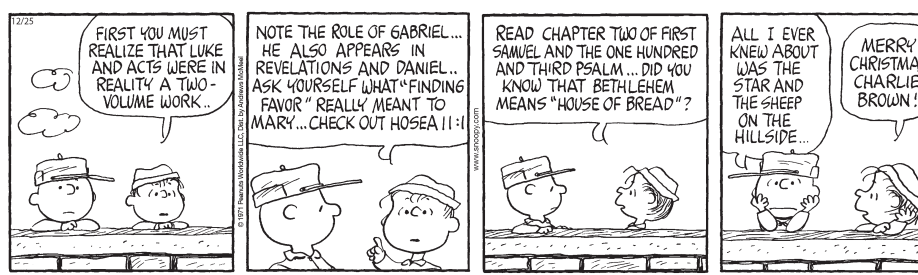
North	12-25-18		
♠ A Q 7 2			
♥ A K Q 3			
♦ K J 9 3			
♣ 6			
West	East		
♠ 5 3	♠ 10 9 8 4		
♥ 10 8 7 6 4	♥ 5		
♦ 10 2	♦ Q 7 6		
♣ K Q J 9	♣ 10 8 5 3 2		
South			
♠ K J 6			
♥ J 9 2			
♦ A 8 5 4			
♣ A 7 4			
Dealer: South			
Vulnerable: Both			
South	West	North	East
1♦	Pass	6♦	All Pass
Opening lead: ♣ K			

- Suggest an auction if North is the dealer, and East-West do not bid.
 - Look only at the West hand. a. South opens one no-trump, and North raises to three no-trump. What should West lead? b. East opens one spade, West responds one no-trump, and East rebids two diamonds. What should West do? c. East opens one spade, West responds one no-trump, and East rebids two hearts. What should West do?
 - Look only at the South hand. East opens one heart. What should South do?
 - Look only at the North hand. East opens three diamonds, and there are two passes. What should North do?
 - Look only at the East hand. What should he do if West opens a. one heart or b. one spade, and North passes?
- Mail your entry to:
 Phillip Alder, c/o Andrews McMeel Syndication, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106 to arrive by Jan. 19, 2019.
- Or email it to phillip@bridgeforeveryone.com.
- The answers to questions 3 through 7 will be given on Feb. 2. Please take as read all of the usual disclaimers, and remember that this is primarily for fun.

JUMBLE

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

Peanuts



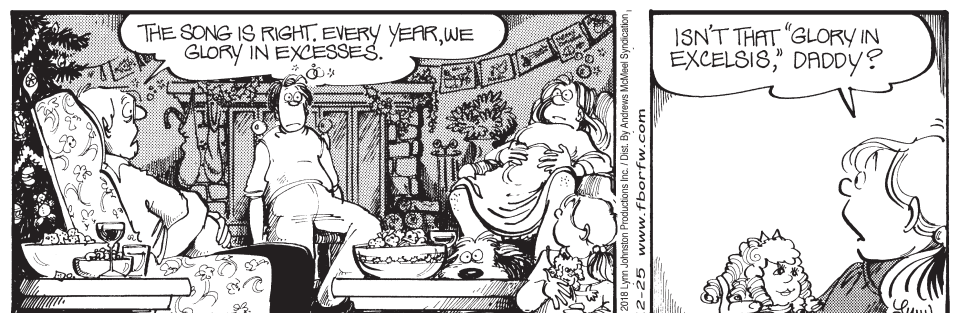
Garfield



Pickles



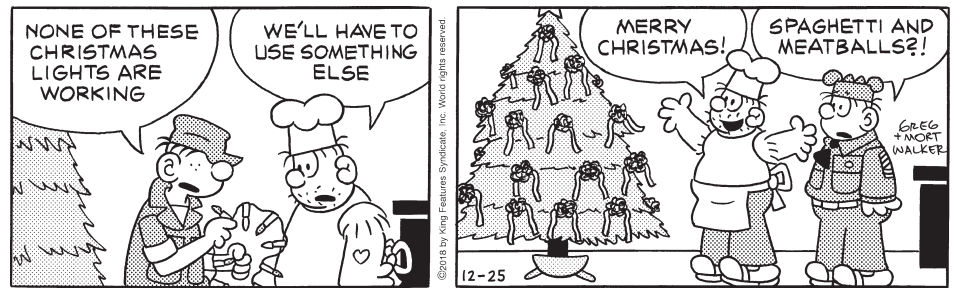
For Better or For Worse



Sally Forth



Beetle Bailey



Dilbert



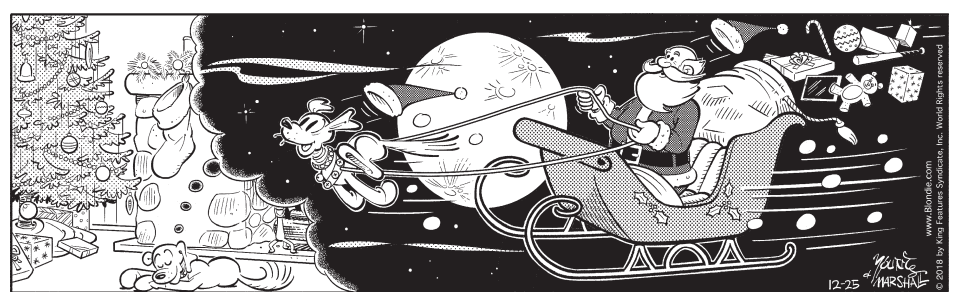
The Grizzwells



The Born Loser



Blondie



Moderately Confused



Rubes



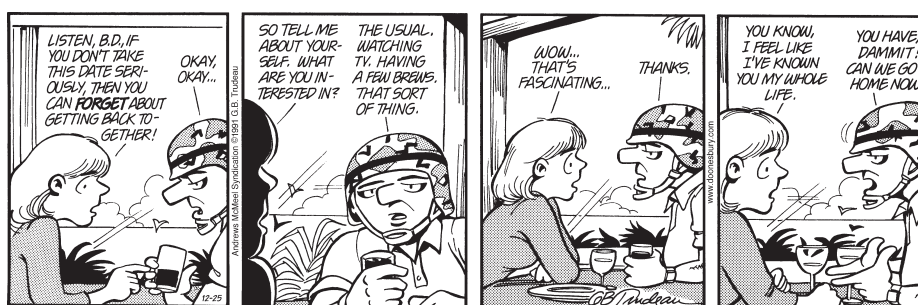
Dennis the Menace



The Family Circus



Doonesbury Flashbacks



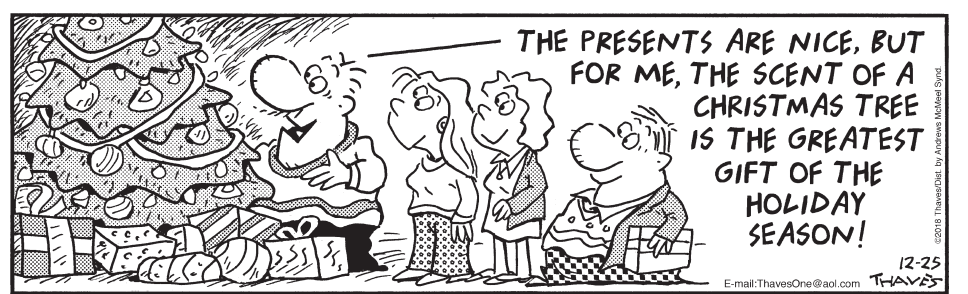
Betty



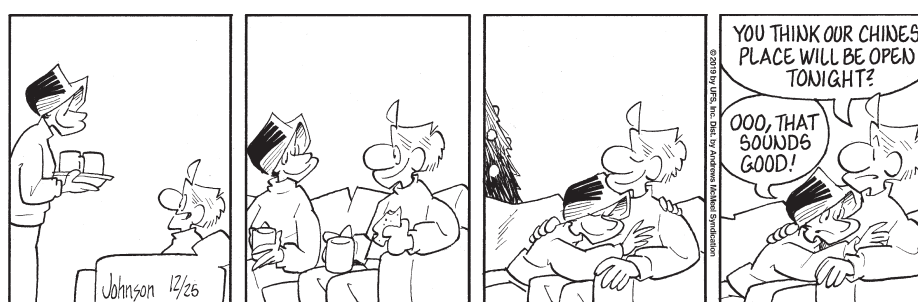
Big Nate



Frank & Ernest



Arlo and Janis



- WJUF-FM 90.1 National Public
- WHGN-FM 91.9 Religious
- WXCW-FM 95.3 Adult Mix.
- WXOF-FM 96.7 Classic Hits
- WEKJ-FM 96.3, 103.9 Religious

Local RADIO

- WSKY 97.3 FM News Talk
- WXJB 99.9 FM News Talk
- WXCZ 103.3 Country

- WYKE-FM 104.3 Country
- WDWV 105.5 FM Hudson
- WJQB-FM 106.3 Oldies
- WFJV-FM 107.5 Classic Rock
- WRZN-AM 720 Adult Mix

Today's MOVIES

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

Crystal River Mall 9; 352-564-6864

"Holmes & Watson" (PG-13) 1:30, 4:40, 7:25, 10:30 p.m.

"Aquaman 3D" (PG-13) 3:50 p.m.

"Aquaman" (PG-13) 12:30, 7:10, 9:50 p.m.

"Bumblebee 3D" (PG-13) 4 p.m.

"Bumblebee" (PG-13) 1, 7, 10:25 p.m.

"Second Act" (PG-13) 1:25, 4:20, 7:40, 10:20 p.m.

"Vice (2018)" (R) 12:50, 4:10, 7:15, 9:45 p.m.

"Mary Poppins Returns (2018)" (PG) 12:40, 3:45, 6:50, 10:05 p.m.

"Mortal Engines" (PG-13) 1:15, 7:30 p.m.

"Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse" (PG) 12:45, 3:35, 6:45, 10 p.m.

"Ralph Breaks the Internet" (PG) 4:20, 10:30 p.m.

"Dr. Seuss' The Grinch (2018)" (PG) 1:40, 4:15, 6:40, 9:20 p.m.

Citrus Cinemas 6 Inverness; 844-462-7342 Code 187

"Aquaman 3D" (PG-13) 3:15 p.m.

"Aquaman" (PG-13) Noon, 6:30, 9:30 p.m.

"Bumblebee 3D" (PG-13) 3:50 p.m.

"Bumblebee" (PG-13) 12:45, 7:10, 10 p.m.

"Mary Poppins Returns (2018)" (PG) 12:15, 3:30, 6:40, 9:45 p.m.

"Mortal Engines" (PG-13) 12:30, 3:40, 7, 9:55 p.m.

"Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse 3D" (PG) 4 p.m.

"Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse" (PG) 1:10, 7:20, 9:50 p.m.

"The Mule (2018)" (R) 1, 4:10, 6:50, 10 p.m.

Valerie Theatre, Inverness; 352-341-7850;
3 p.m. Sundays; 7:30 p.m. second Friday, \$6
Dec. 30 — "Another Thin Man" (NR)

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: A equals P

"IO WSO POCCOS CXSTZMXTZC CXO
 LOWS KTS XWNGJM, GJ DAGSGC,
 POBTFO W BXGRU WMWGJ WC
 BXSGDCFWDCGFO." — RWZSW
 GJMWRD IGRUOS

Previous Solution: "To me, life is a gift... each person should learn what a gift it is to be alive, no matter how tough things get." — Tony Bennett



To place an ad, call (352) 563-5966



Pets



Real Estate



Cars



Help Wanted

Email: Classifieds@chronicleonline.com - Website: www.chronicleonline.com

Happy Notes

Happy Notes advertisement featuring balloons and a call to action for classified ads.

Today's New Ads

Today's New Ads listing ABCA BORDER COLLIES and Bruce Onoday & Son.

Free Offers

Free Offers listing FIREWOOD, FREE...FREE...FREE..., and POT BELLY PIGS & TURKEY.

Good Things to Eat

Good Things to Eat listing BELLAMY GROVE.

Lost

KITTEN 8 mo. old, Black & white Named "Lobo"...

Announcements

Snippet Citrus Spay/Neuter Innocent Pets advertisement.

Patriot Lending Services, Inc.

Patriot Lending Services, Inc. advertisement for reverse mortgages.

Personals

White Jaguar Crystal River ABC Wine & Spirits...

Professional

DENTAL/SURGICAL RECEPTIONIST advertisement.

Professional

BOYS TOWN Family - Teaching Partners/ Houseparents advertisement.

Sales Associates & Processing Associates

We care about the people we serve, and we care about the people we employ...

Processing Associates

responsible for greeting donors, accepting donations, preparing donated and new goods for sale...

Need a JOB?

CHRONICLE Classifieds advertisement.

Professional

Refreshing Crystal River! Merchandisers Needed! advertisement.

Sales Help

CHRONICLE Looking for a New Career? advertisement.

General Help

FLOORING INSTALLERS NEEDED! \$\$\$ TOP PAY \$\$\$ Experienced only, must have license & workers comp.

HELP WANTED

SEEKING CARRIERS EARN BETWEEN \$200 - \$400 per week. Paid Training.

The Citrus County Chronicle has immediate openings for newspaper delivery drivers.

Career Opportunities

AVIATION Grads work with JetBlue, United, Delta and Others Start here with hands on training for FAA certification.

Appliances

DRYER Maytag Neptune Series. Dries like new. Reversible door.

Tools

CONDUIT BENDER For 1/2" conduit \$10. (352) 795-8800

Financial

ALL CLASSIFIED ADS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE

Antiques

IRONING BOARD VINTAGE WOOD With artist painting of snowman.

SCHOOL DESK School house type w/desk and attached seat at front \$75

WINDOW SASHES 4 Old wood windows w/small panes of glass all for \$100.

Collectibles

2 SNOWMEN CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD NIB \$20.

CERAMIC SANTA DUNCAN ROYALE Musical Coca-Cola \$50.

ENCYCLOPEDIAS Complete set, BRITANNICA Mint. cond. \$50.

JACKIE DOLL White gown, cert. of auth., GREAT Christmas gift.

PORCELAIN DOLLS Various collection, must see at \$10 each.

VANITY STOOL VINTAGE Excellent Condition.

Appliances

DRYER Maytag Neptune Series. Dries like new.

ELECTRIC RANGE Kenmore Elite, model 95052.

REFRIGERATOR GE Profile 24.6 CU ft. White, top of the line.

Tools

CONDUIT BENDER For 1/2" conduit \$10. (352) 795-8800

TVs/Stereos

TELEVISION 73" MITSUBISHI 3D DLP TV Great cond., new lamp 2017

Building Supplies

16 x 20 - \$8,000 20 x 20 - \$8,800 24 x 30 - \$13,800

WOOD'S CUSTOM BUILDINGS, LLC

15' Cable NEW HOSA USB-215AB

CAMCORDER Canon, 2R 960 digital vid.w/Case-Cables-Xtr

THE PRINT SHOP 23.1 Pro Publisher Deluxe

WIDE ANGLE LENS Telephoto Lens & Filters for Camcorders

Farm Equipment

CATTLE GATE 12' galvanized steel @ \$60.

Furniture

COUCH & LOVESEAT Creme w/ pastel blue & pink flowers \$300

BEDROOM SET Dresser, Mirror, Chest & 2 night stands \$400

DRESSER Round mirror, 6 drawers, 32H. 16W.

NIGHT STAND 3 drawer, Bassett. 26Wx15Dx22H. \$15.

Oak coffee table /end tables. \$100. Round oak Dining table with extension.

QUEEN SIZE BED Black, drawers underneath, mattress & box springs. \$75. OBO.

Garden/Lawn Supplies

Bob's DISCARDED Lawn Mower Service FREE PICK-UP

Clothing

BATHROBE MENS NEW LARGE "NAUTICA" \$10.

BOYS NEW COAT was 45.00 selling 10.00 call for email picture Linda

LADIES BOOTS Etainne Aigner Leather 7 1/2 \$20

LADIES CHRISTMAS OUTFIT. Reversible skirt & matching top. \$20.

LADIES SHIRTS 9 Shirts / A-1 Condition \$8 for All 9 Shirts

MENS SHIRTS 20+ Shirts "L" & "XL" Excellent Condition

Wagon Little, Red. \$10. (352) 341-3673

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COMPUTER KEYBOARD ICONCEPTS Brand New Condition, still in packet. \$5.

GENERAL MERCHANDISE SPECIALS!!!

- 6 LINES - 10 DAYS up to 2 ITEMS

\$101 - \$200. \$11.50

\$201 - \$400. \$16.50

\$401 - \$800. \$21.50

\$801 - \$1500. \$26.50

CALL 352-563-5966

Household

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COMFORTER SET CHAPS Brand new, never opened Queen size w/ 2 shams \$60.

DISHES Desert Rose Francisco Large platter- \$50, Tea Pot \$25, Tea Kettle \$25, Covered pie dish \$35, Casserole \$30

Kitchen Garbage Can Chrome, self opening, battery operated. Out of box, never used spotless

VACUUM ORECK XL EXTENDED LIFE Works Great \$50. Call or Text: 352-287-9068

GOLF CART 2001 EZ GO electric golf cart includes side curtains and brand new charger. Nice clean condition. Can text or e-mail pics.

MEN'S GOLF CLUBS Tour Select RH 3-PW.3 wds GR Pfr.Bag & cart \$45. 727-514-4112

MEN'S GOLF CLUBS Wilson Ultra Sys 45 3-SW, 4 wds GR, Pfr RH Lg Bag & cart \$60. 727-514-4112

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Airport Transport 352-746-7595 Carol Kolberg, Lic./Ins

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I LOVE TO FIX BLINDS! All styles. Great prices, respond within 24 Hrs.

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CARPENTRY & MOBILE HOME REPAIR 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE! HOURLY RATES

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A-1 Hauling, Clean-ups, Garage Clean Outs, Trash, Furn&Misc. Mark (352) 287-0767

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NEW LISTINGS COMPUTER REPAIR HOUSE CALLS Fast & Affordable

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BIANCHI CONCRETE INC.COM Lic./Ins#2579 Reputable for 16 yrs.

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Seasoned Oak Fire Wood WINTER SPECIAL \$100. 4x8 stack. Will deliver (352) 344-2696

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A PLUS ELECTRIC TECH TV Installs, Alarms, All Sound Systems, Security Cameras

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Get your mind out of the gutter! Cleaning \$25-\$40 & Handyman Mark: 352-445-4724

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! This, That, The Other! Handyman/lawncare Pressure washing, ETC

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A & A GRADING Land clearing, Tractor work, Concrete removal, Site clean up

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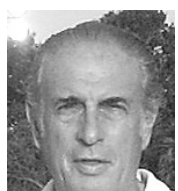
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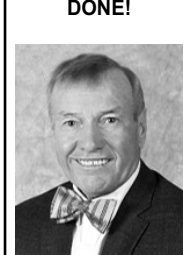
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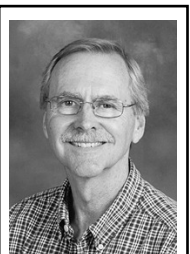
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