



PREP BASEBALL
Columbia advances to regional final
See Page 1B



PREP SOFTBALL
FWHS picks up first playoff win since '08
See Page 1B

FRIDAY EDITION

FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2022 | YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1874 | \$1.00

Lake City Reporter

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Teen arrested for October slaying

LCPD: Fluellen, 15, in custody on homicide warrant.

Staff report

A Lake City teenager was arrested Thursday in connection with an October shooting death at the Cedar Park Apartment complex.

Antarious R. Fluellen, Jr.,

15, was taken into custody Thursday afternoon, Greg Burnsed, a Lake City Police spokesman, said Thursday evening.

Fluellen is facing charges in connection with the shooting death of Cameron Devores Minter, 17, of Lake City.

According to the LCPD, on Oct. 26, 2021, officers were

dispatched to the Cedar Park Apartments at 9:54 p.m. to investigate the report of a person who had been shot.

Fluellen

Upon arrival, officers reportedly found the homicide victim, Minter, lying

on the grass with a gunshot wound to the head. Officers began rendering aid and life-saving measures

Minter

including CPR on the scene and Minter was taken by ambulance to a local hos-

pital, where he later succumbed to his injury.

Reports said authorities also found another gunshot wound victim while investigating the scene. The second victim, whose identity was not released, was struck by a bullet fired through an apartment window. That victim was treated and released from an

area hospital.

"We should have been able to do something that night, I wished," Burnsed said of the arrest in the six-month-old case. "Investigators on this case have worked hard, put a lot of time into it, interviewed a lot of people, followed a lot

SHOOTING continued on 7A

Fried's visit, rally pushed to July

'Not canceled,' North Florida Political Rally forced to reschedule.

By **JAMIE WACHTER**
jwachter@lakecityreporter.com

Campaign season will have to wait.

The North Florida Political Rally, which was scheduled for the Richardson Community Center on Saturday evening, has been pushed back to July 9.

Lawrence Davis, one of the organizers of the event, which is sponsored by the Justice and Equality Coalition and the Richardson Community Center Advisory Board, had to be moved when some of the expected candidates had a sudden shift in their schedules.

"It's not canceled, it's not been postponed, we just had to reschedule it," Davis said Thursday.

RALLY continued on 7A

Ready for a wild weekend

Busy slate includes Parade of Homes, 5K, Kids Day, tourneys

By **JAMIE WACHTER**
jwachter@lakecityreporter.com

There won't be a shortage of things to do in Lake City this weekend. There will be new homes to tour. There's also an event designed to let children release some pent-up energy while raising funds for a good cause, as well as a race to remember a beloved teenager lost too soon. And on top of all that, there are a pair of travel ball tournaments expected to bring more than 100 youth teams to Columbia County. A lazy weekend this is not.

GRACE'S RACE
The busy weekend begins early

WEEKEND continued on 7A

Gas prices hit new record high

State average \$4.40 Thursday; \$4.32 price at Columbia pumps.

News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — Florida continues to see unemployment claims roll in at a pre-pandemic pace as new data showed aspects of inflation possibly slowing.

But that trend has not been

reflected at gas pumps, where the average cost of a gallon of regular unleaded gas in Florida was \$4.40 on Thursday — a record high, according to the AAA auto club.

The average price Thursday was 22 cents higher than a week earlier and topped the previous high of \$4.38 a gallon on March 11, AAA said in information posted online. In Columbia County,

the average gallon was \$4.32 on Thursday, according to AAA, with gas costing \$4.27 on average in Hamilton County, \$4.37 in Lafayette County and \$4.38 in Suwannee County.

"Gasoline futures soared to a new record high last week," AAA spokesman Mark Jenkins said in a statement Monday. "The increase is attributed to a combination of factors, including

steady weekly declines in gasoline supplies and expectations that summer fuel demand will far outpace what we saw last year."

AAA is projecting a surge in summer demand for travel. Though that could affect gas prices, it might be a good sign for Florida's hospitality and leisure industry, which took a huge hit early in the

GAS continued on 7A

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Corrections

The **Lake City Reporter** corrects errors of fact in news items. If you have a concern, question, or suggestion, please call the editor. Thanks for reading.

Council interested in 'clean' up of Live Oak

Workshop scheduled on code enforcement process to rid city of 'eye sores.'

By **JAMIE WACHTER**
jwachter@lakecityreporter.com

LIVE OAK — The Live Oak City Council wants to "clean this town up." After a discussion at its regular meeting Tuesday night, the council agreed to set a workshop for May 24 to further discuss the code enforcement process and how it could be used to rid the city of blighted areas.



Allen

Council President Don Allen brought up the agenda after seeing an article in "Florida Trend" about success the City of St. Petersburg has had turning vacant lots into affordable housing. Allen wanted to know what needed to happen for Live Oak to start implementing a similar system.

"I think that's a wonderful thing if we could do it here in Live Oak," Allen said, adding the city had plenty of "eye sores."

City Attorney Fred Koberlein told Allen and the council that it already has all the tools necessary to force property owners to clean up their parcels or, possibly, lose the properties through a code enforcement lien foreclosure.

However, Koberlein advised it can be a costly endeavor, noting it usually is around \$3,000 per property to go through the process until the city could put the properties on the market for someone to develop. He suggested a workshop so the council could better educate themselves on the process as well as the budget impact it would take.

Councilor Lynda Owens had also asked about a workshop after noting she proposed a similar idea a year

ago, but received no support.

"What changed," Owens asked, also curious where exactly the city would be putting forth its cleanup efforts. She then also said the rest of the council should looking into the process more before "we take people's land."

Allen said he wasn't looking at taking any property specifically.

"We don't need a rat-infested, snake-infested piece of property," he said. "I'm just saying we need to clean this town up."

"The city needs to clean up what it owns," Owens replied. "We need to first start at home, with our own."

Councilman Mark Stewart said he agreed that overgrown vacant lots needed to be cleaned to benefit the city. However, Stewart said any efforts the city puts forth need to make sense economically for the city.

On that front, Koberlein advised it wouldn't happen quickly.

"It becomes profitable a year or two down the road when the neighborhoods see development," he said.

CITY RECEIVES CLEAN AUDIT

Ryan Tucker with Purvis, Gray & Company provided the city's audit report at Tuesday's meeting as well, thanking Finance Director Joanne Luther and her staff for helping the process run smoothly.

Tucker also commended the city on the strides it has made in recent years.

During his presentation, Tucker pointed out that in 2013 the city had just \$94,000 in its unassigned fund balance reserves, which he described as a "desperate situation."

This past year, that was up to \$3.3 million.

"Your overall financial position has improved significantly," he said.

LCPD: Woman threatened DV shelter with bomb

Staff report

A Lake City woman was arrested after police say she threatened to detonate



Davis

a bomb inside a domestic violence shelter. Janicia Lashelle Davis, 30, is being charged after threatening staff members with physical violence as well as telling them she intended to blow up the building on May 5, according to a Lake City Police Department report released Thursday.

The report stated that Davis accused staff members at Another Way, Inc. of stealing her belongings. One staff member told police that after leaving and coming back to the building, Davis threatened another staffer by saying "I will kick your a**," and "I will use the bomb I have in my backpack and everyone would be hurt," while she sat on a counter.

A different staff member gave the same recollection of the narrative, adding that they questioned Davis about the bomb, asking if it was real, to which Davis replied "Yes."

When officers arrived at the scene and walked up to the building, they were told that Davis had returned, according to the report. The officers then backed up and began calling for Davis to come out. She did so, obeying the officers' commands while raising her hands above her head as officers drew a bead on her with their firearms. Davis continued cooperating and was arrested without any further incident.

When officers questioned her at the scene, Davis said she didn't have a bomb, but instead had been given a light bulb, according to the report.

Davis is being charged with a second-degree felony for threatening to discharge a destructive device. She was also issued a trespass warning from Another Way.

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Happy Birthday
Come by and Celebrate Fran's 95th Birthday.
May 21st
11am until 1pm
Abundant Life Church
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Refreshments to be served

QUICK HITS

Scripture of the Day

"Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies."
— Proverbs 31:10, 27-28 (KJV)

Thought for Today

Tears of joy are like the summer rain drops pierced by sunbeams.
— Hosea Ballou, 1771-1852, American clergyman

Winning Lottery Numbers

Pick 3: (Wednesday p.m.) 1-0-3
Pick 4: (Wednesday p.m.) 4-5-2-9
Fantasy 5: (Wednesday) 7-8-18-19-33

Submissions

The Lake City Reporter accepts photographs and caption information to run at the discretion of the editor. If you would like to see your organization in the newspaper, send the picture and information to Editor Jamie Wachter at jwachter@lakecityreporter.com.

In Brief

Citrus forecast gets boost in down year
The troubled Florida citrus industry received a little sunshine Thursday, but the amount of fruit produced this growing season remains far below average and expectations.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture released updated estimates that showed growers are on pace to produce just over 5% more oranges than forecast a month ago. That was the first time the monthly estimate went up this season. Meanwhile, the estimate of grapefruit production was down 5.5% in the new forecast, and the outlook for specialty crops went unchanged.

Overall, the estimates are down more than 14% since the season's first forecast in October and would result in the lowest harvest in more than eight decades.

Shannon Shepp, executive director of the Florida Department of Citrus, called the increase in the new forecast "something to be proud of." Among other things, growers had to deal this year with a winter freeze.

"We are nowhere near where we once were, but it is clear there is a vast number of dedicated people working together to figure out what recovery looks like," Shepp said in a statement.

The industry has seen production drop for nearly two decades because of residential and commercial development, foreign imports, changes in beverage-consumption habits and, since 2005, an incurable bacterial disease known as citrus greening.

— News Service of Florida

THE WEATHER

13	Fri	14	Sat	15	Sun	16	Mon	17	Tue
	Chance Showers		Partly Cloudy		Partly Cloudy		Partly Cloudy		Partly Cloudy
HI 82 LO 62		HI 87 LO 64		HI 90 LO 65		HI 91 LO 67		HI 93 LO 66	

REGIONAL FORECAST MAP for Friday, May. 13
Friday's highs/Friday night's low

City	Saturday	Sunday
Cape Canaveral	82/71/s	83/70/s
Daytona Beach	83/69/pc	84/70/pc
Fort Myers	88/69/s	90/71/s
Ft. Lauderdale	85/73/t	86/72/pc
Gainesville	87/64/pc	90/65/pc
Jacksonville	86/67/pc	90/66/pc
Key West	85/75/s	84/74/s
Lake City	87/64/pc	90/65/pc
Miami	84/74/t	85/75/t
Naples	86/71/s	87/73/s
Ocala	88/66/pc	90/65/pc
Orlando	89/69/pc	90/70/pc
Panama City	85/69/pc	83/70/pc
Pensacola	83/69/pc	85/70/pc
Tallahassee	88/66/pc	89/67/pc
Tampa	89/70/s	90/71/s
Valdosta	89/65/sh	90/66/pc
W. Palm Beach	81/76/s	82/75/s

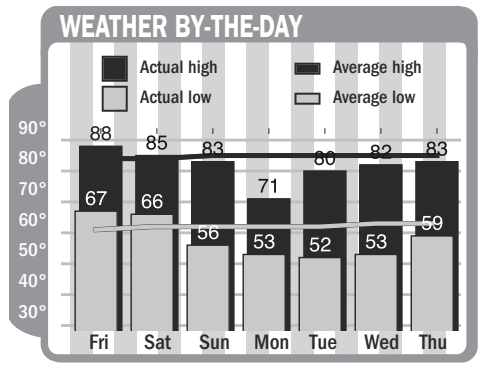
LAKE CITY ALMANAC

TEMPERATURES	SUN
High Thursday: 83	Sunrise today: 6:38 a.m.
Low Thursday: 59	Sunset today: 8:16 p.m.
Normal high: 85	Sunrise tom.: 6:37 a.m.
Normal low: 63	Sunset tom.: 8:16 p.m.
Record high: 97 in 1967	
Record low: 47 in 1981	

PRECIPITATION	MOON
Thursday: 0.00"	Moonrise today: 5:46 p.m.
Month total: 0.11"	Moonset today: 4:58 a.m.
Year total: 18.55"	Moonrise tom.: 6:52 p.m.
Normal month-to-date: 1.03"	Moonset tom.: 5:31 a.m.
Normal year-to-date: 13.39"	

May 16 Full May 22 Last May 30 New Jun 7 First

UV INDEX
9
Very High
30 min to burn
Today's ultra-violet radiation risk for the area on a scale from 0 to 10+.



WEATHER HISTORY
On May 13, 1930, a man was killed when caught in an open field during a hailstorm northwest of Lubbock, Texas. It was the first and perhaps the only authentic death by hail in United States weather records.

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SRWMD backs Lake City, Fort White springs projects

\$7.5M in funding would go to expand wastewater efforts.

Staff report

LIVE OAK — The Suwannee River Water Management District Governing Board recommended nine North Florida springs protection projects that will total approximately \$14.1 million, including a pair of Columbia County projects and one in Hamilton County.

SRWMD staff considered a total of 17 projects before recommending nine projects be sent to the Florida Department of

Environmental Protection for review and selection, which the board approved at its Tuesday meeting. Recommended projects include five local government projects, one dairy project, and three districtwide projects.

Among the recommended projects are a \$6.1 million recharge wetland expansion for the City of Lake City. The project proposes to expand the city's existing recharge wetland by adding a 53-acre treatment and recharge area to reduce nitrogen in treated wastewater.

That project would begin at the start of 2023 and is expected to last until the

end of 2028, according to district information.



Thomas

White High schools and the residential area. In Hamilton County, the Town of White Springs was recommended \$500,000 for a wastewater treatment facility effluent flow-through pond, which would improve water quality with reclaimed wastewater and water recharge. According to water management project information, the project would address a consent order issued by DEP for the town to reduce nitrogen levels.

“With more than 450 springs in our region, it is critical that we work with local governments and our community partners to protect our springs through

projects like these,” Hugh Thomas, SRWMD executive director, said in a release. “These funds help us ensure the protection and preservation of our water resources for our local communities and we appreciate the Governor and Legislature for approving funding to protect the springs of our state.”

According to the district, the project development process is a collaborative effort with FDEP, water management districts, community leaders, and local stakeholders. Projects are selected based on benefits for improving water quality, increasing water flow, and

protecting Florida's iconic springs. Other recommended projects include \$2 million for agricultural springs protection across the district; \$300,000 for dispersed storage for recharge and alternative water supply across the district; \$2.5 million to convert a Fanning Springs dairy from grazing to freestall barns; \$800,000 for a lime rock mine acquisition in High Springs; \$250,000 in rebates for property owners to upgrade septic tank systems in Alachua County; and \$200,000 to evaluate silviculture practices across the district to increase groundwater recharge.



Photos by TONY BRITT/Lake City Reporter

Male Columbia students who received “baskets of love” Thursday morning pose for a photo with Lake City Correctional Facility Core Civic staff and Columbia High principal Trey Hosford.

CHS seniors showered with ‘Baskets of Love’

Core Civic donates items to help group start college.

By TONY BRITT
tbritt@lakecityreporter.com

A group of Columbia High School seniors received an early graduation present Thursday.

The 20 students, selected by school officials, were each given a “Basket of Love” to begin their college career in upcoming weeks.

Soncal Mitchell, Core Civic Lake City Correctional Facility classification supervisor, unintentionally started the program in 2018 while creating a basket for her son who was about to leave home for college.

Mitchell's son played high school baseball at Madison County where he was on a team with 13 seniors.

“I was trying to figure out a gift to give to all the seniors that were going off to college, and to help the parents I decided to do what I called ‘Baskets of Love,’” she said.

The baskets contained laundry detergent, paper towels, tissue, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes and a variety of other household accessories and personal hygiene items that the new college students can use in their first month of college.

“I felt like the items would give them a fresh start to get them started in college,” she said.

A group of Core Civic Lake City Correctional Facility employees donated similar “Baskets of Love” to the CHS seniors Thursday morning.

“This makes our fourth year,” Mitchell said of the contributions from Core Civic, noting that she felt like the concept was worth becoming an annual tradition for local high school seniors.

“I love giving,” she said. “I know that this helps the students and the parents and I just liked seeing the smiles on their faces when



Trent Linn (from left), Lake City Correctional Facility Core Civic business manager, Daniel Taylor, Columbia High School principal Trey Hosford and Soncal Mitchell, local “baskets of love” onto trailers Thursday morning at Columbia High School.

I did it.”

Mitchell became so enraptured with the baskets that one year she donated 150 baskets to students, purchasing the items with her own income.

She said when her employer, Core Civic, found out she was creating the baskets they told her they liked the idea and wanted her to bring it to Columbia County.

“When I started doing it in Columbia County, they

said, ‘we’re going to support our county, we’re going to give to our county — we got you,’” she said, noting the new administrator also helps her with the program in Madison County.

Kyndall Curry was one of the seniors who was given one of the baskets Thursday.

“I’m very appreciative,” the 18-year old said. “This is going to be very helpful the first month. That’s probably

when you’re just getting settled and trying to get used to everything. To not have to worry about the common commodities, as far as necessities, I’m real grateful that these people even thought to do this for us.”

Junior Brown was also impressed with the items packed in the “Baskets of Love” and noted that the items were not just for the first month.

“That first month is when you’re scrambling to get everything. If you’re already set with this, you can focus on the actual important stuff,” he said. “The best part is they didn’t go cheap on this. A lot of this stuff is actually nice stuff, as opposed to a lot of time people go, ‘We ran by the Dollar Tree.’ They actually put some time into this.”

the
PRESERVE
AT LAUREL LAKE

AARON SIMQUE HOMES

Contact Debi Bennefield
386.487.3950

RR282811879

Mrs. Alfreda T. Brown

On this Mother's Day, we would like to celebrate Mrs. Alfreda T. Brown, who is a wonderful woman of God and who is loved by so many. She comforts us with her kindness and grace. Her beautiful heart is filled with love and compassion for her family and her community, and she continues to give unselfishly. She means the world to us. Her love for her family burns brighter than an eternal flame, forever lighting the lives that she has touched. To us she is far more precious than jewels. The five generations of her family want to bestow flowers to her on this special day. We love you, Mom, Grandmom, Great-grandmom and Great-Great Grandmom.

TOWN OF FORT WHITE FIRST PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Town of Fort White is considering applying to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) for one or more Small Cities Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) for the FFY 2020-2021 (and/or 2022) CDBG program year. Each grant is expected to not exceed \$600,000. CDBG funds may be used for one of the following purposes: 1. To benefit low- and-moderate-income persons; 2. To aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight; or 3. To meet other community development needs of recent origin having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community and where other financial resources are not available to meet such needs. The categories of activities for which these funds may be used are in the areas of housing, neighborhood revitalization, commercial revitalization, or economic development and include such improvement activities as acquisition of real property, loans to private-for-profit business, purchase of machinery and equipment, construction of infrastructure, planning/design, rehabilitation of houses and commercial buildings, and energy conservation.

In developing an application for submission to DEO, the Town must plan to minimize displacement of persons as a result of CDBG activities. In addition, the Town is required to develop a plan to assist displaced persons. A public hearing to receive citizen views concerning the community's economic and community development needs will be held on **Monday, May 23, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.** or as soon thereafter as may be heard, at the Town of Fort White Town Hall located at 118 SW Wilson Springs Rd, Fort White, FL 32038. For more information concerning the public hearing contact Connie Brecheen, Town Clerk at 386-497-2321. Ms. Brecheen may also be contacted by email at clerk@fortwhitefl.com or by postal service P.O. Box 129, Fort White, Florida 32038.

The public hearing will be conducted in a handicapped accessible location. Any handicapped person requiring an interpreter for the hearing impaired or the visually impaired or requiring any other special accommodation should contact the Town at the phone number listed above at least five calendar days prior to the meeting so that arrangements can be made for an interpreter or other special accommodation. To access a Telecommunication Device for Deaf Persons (TDD) please call (1-800-877-8339). Any non-English speaking person wishing to attend the public hearing should contact the Town at the phone number listed above so that arrangements for a language interpreter can be made.

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MAY 14TH - 15TH

OUR OPINION

This parade is a can't miss event

New homes continue to pop up all across Columbia County.

This weekend, some of the best of that new construction will be on parade for everyone to see.

The 2022 Parade of Homes runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday. Seven homes are featured on this year's parade and tours are free for each. A map is printed in today's Lake City Reporter.

All seven houses were built by local builders. They live here and work here, in our community. They take pride every day in helping these houses take shape and become someone's dream home. One of these could be your dream home. Or your dream home may be next.

The Parade of Homes is a can't-miss event. It's easy to take part in and at no cost, to support the efforts of our local builders who churn money into the local economy.

The builders will be on hand to meet and greet visitors, answering questions and showing off the latest trends and amenities that make these homes sparkle.

Visitors attending the parade can also meet financial experts and receive guidance on the best building or renovation loans available today.

There's a wealth of information and benefit available from the parade.

Make sure you don't miss it.

TODAY IN HISTORY

On this date:

In 1607, English colonists arrived by ship at the site of what became the Jamestown settlement in Virginia (the colonists went ashore the next day).

In 1914, heavyweight boxing champion Joe Louis was born in Lafayette, Alabama.

In 1917, three shepherd children reported seeing a vision of the Virgin Mary near Fatima, Portugal; it was the first of six such apparitions that the children claimed to have witnessed.

In 1940, in his first speech as British prime minister, Winston Churchill told Parliament, "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat."

In 1972, 118 people died after fire broke out at the Sennichi Department Store in Osaka, Japan.

In 1973, in tennis' first so-called "Battle of the Sexes," Bobby Riggs defeated Margaret Court 6-2, 6-1 in Ramona, California. (Billie Jean King soundly defeated Riggs at the Houston Astrodome in September.)

In 1981, Pope John Paul II was shot and seriously wounded in St. Peter's Square by Turkish assailant Mehmet Ali Agca.

In 1985, a confrontation between Philadelphia authorities and the radical group MOVE ended as police dropped a bomb onto the group's row house, igniting a fire that killed 11 people and destroyed 61 homes.

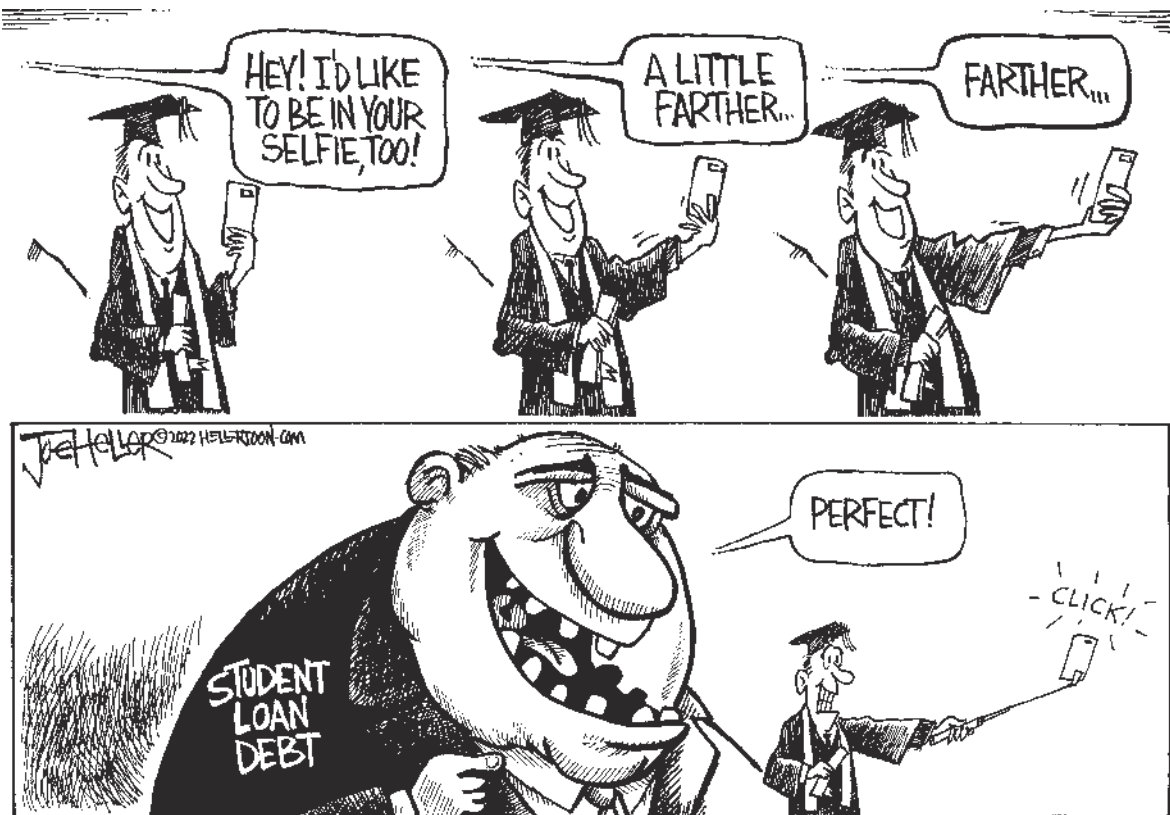
In 1994, President Bill Clinton nominated federal appeals Judge Stephen G. Breyer to the U.S. Supreme Court to replace retiring Justice Harry A. Blackmun; Breyer went on to win Senate confirmation.

In 2002, President George W. Bush announced that he and Russian President Vladimir Putin would sign a treaty to shrink their countries' nuclear arsenals by two-thirds.

In 2016, the Obama administration issued a directive requiring public schools to permit transgender students to use bathrooms and locker rooms consistent with their chosen gender identity.

In 2019, Doris Day, the sunny blond film star and singer who appeared in comedic roles opposite Rock Hudson and Cary Grant in the 1950s and 1960s, died at her California home at the age of 97.

■ Associated Press



Is Biden going to seek re-election?

2024 presidential election already strange

The Cook Report's Amy Walter points out that whether former President Donald Trump takes another run at the Oval Office or not, the 2024 presidential election will have at least one unusual feature. If President Joe Biden runs for re-election and wins the Democratic nomination, he'll extend his own record for oldest major-party nominee. If he doesn't run? Walter calculates that the last person who originally achieved the presidency through election and then chose not to run again was James Buchanan in 1860.

That's a bit tricky; before the two-term limitation kicked in in 1951, the presidents who opted against running for a third term would count, which would make choosing not to run a bit more common. But it's tricky for another reason, too.

Some of those who didn't run were interested in remaining in the White House — but their parties did not share that interest. And before 1968, it was even harder to judge who was really a candidate than it is now. There were presidential primaries starting in the 20th century, but before the electoral reforms of the 1960s they were optional opportunities for candidates to prove their popularity to party actors, and sitting presidents and other strong candidates didn't enter them. The real action happened at national party conventions and shortly before it, and candidates who flopped might never have much of a public record of their candidacies at all.

It's similar to how, nowadays, if a politician gives a few speeches in Iowa and New Hampshire but never advances beyond that stage, it's hard to know whether to classify that as lack of interest by the candidate or by the party. If retiring presidents such as Lyndon Johnson in 1968 and Woodrow Wilson in 1920 are better classified as having run and dropped out than not running at all, then Biden not running would be an even rarer event.

Unless, of course, Biden himself is in that boat — currently running without saying so, and leaving the option of a graceful retirement alive if things look bleak.

We don't and can't know at this



Jonathan Bernstein
www.bloomberg.com

point. Whatever Biden is thinking, it's made sense up to this point for the success of his presidency for him to act as if he's running for re-election. Otherwise, he'd be a

Whatever Biden is thinking, it's made sense up to this point for the success of his presidency for him to act as if he's running for re-election. Otherwise, he'd be a lame duck, and that would cost him influence.

lame duck, and that would cost him influence.

At some point — probably somewhere between the midterms this November and, say, early 2023 — Biden will have to declare one way or the other, because his party will need an answer. Up to that point, everyone is just going to have to wait.

Walter also raises the possibility of a nomination challenge. I've speculated in the past that the magic number in presidential approval rating necessary to spark a serious nomination challenge to a president seeking re-election is around 40% (Biden is now at about 42%).

It's not so much that any president doing better than that is probably popular enough within the party to defeat a challenge. It's that as long as the president is perceived within the party as having a decent chance of being re-elected, the risks of internal squabbling — and the risks of taking on a president and losing — are just too large. As long as almost all party actors follow that logic, it's unlikely that a challenge will build momentum. My strong guess would be that a serious nomination battle involving Biden that would stretch into the primaries is

unlikely. If he's unpopular enough that his hold on the nomination is in trouble, he'll surely just announce that he won't seek a second term.

If Biden does remain unpopular, however, the conditions would be close to what has previously set the stage for a serious third-party or independent campaign. Those have usually happened when a sitting president is eligible to run but has weak electoral prospects.

That situation was present for the comparatively strong runs of Ross Perot in 1992, John Anderson in 1980, George Wallace in 1968, Strom Thurmond and Henry Wallace in 1948 and former president Teddy Roosevelt in 1912. (Perot's second campaign, in 1996, was far less successful than his 1992 run; had he run for the first time that year, when a popular Bill Clinton was on the ballot, it's unlikely he would have gone anywhere at all.)

The logic is simple: There are available voters who supported the president four years earlier but have moved away from the incumbent, while out-parties often seem disorganized and un-presidential, especially early in their own nominating process. There's no guarantee that a third-party or independent candidacy would launch in those circumstances; a contender would need a lot of money, fame and political skills to produce a real campaign. But if Biden is a bit more unpopular and is still running next year, the conditions would be right for it.

Early presidential retirements, serious nomination challenges and significant third-party or independent campaigns are all usually the consequence of presidential weakness, not the cause of it. Perhaps things could be different this time — certainly, Biden could choose not to run in 2024 for health or age reasons even if he's far more popular than he is now. But otherwise, the logic of the situation probably hasn't changed.

■ Jonathan Bernstein is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering politics and policy. He taught political science at the University of Texas at San Antonio and DePauw University and wrote A Plain Blog About Politics.

Lake City Reporter

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Think again on disinformation board

How on earth does one spark controversy from that blandest of government creations, the internal working group?

One way is to give it a scary, Orwellian name like the Disinformation Governance Board. That is the dystopian moniker the Department of Homeland Security chose to bestow upon a group that it now insists has no operational authority.

It was in late April that Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas publicly touted creation of the board as critical in combating propaganda, or false information intended to deceive or manipulate the public. "We've just established a mis- and disinformation governance board," he testified to a House subcommittee. The board, he said, would "more effectively combat this threat not only to election security but to our homeland security."

Now, there is little question that propaganda, or disinformation, is an insidious player in American politics and has been for years. Through social media its effects have become pervasive.

The Aspen Institute laid out the problem in a report late last year, noting that "False narratives can sow division, hamper public health initiatives, undermine elections, or deliver fresh marks to grifters and profiteers, and they capitalize on deep-rooted problems within American society. Disinformation pours lighter fluid on the sparks of discord that exist in every community."

Those are serious problems indeed, affecting a multitude of issues.

But there is a disturbing and unacceptable lack of clarity both in the stated mission of the newly created board and its authority that cannot be allowed to stand.

It's not necessary to pass a bill

disbanding the board, though that effort is fast gathering steam.

But that's what happens when a rollout is as badly bungled as this one has been.

Too late, Mayorkas has conceded that his department "could have done a better job of communicating what it is and isn't." The board, he said, is intended to "gather together best practices in addressing the threat of disinformation from foreign state adversaries, from cartels and disseminate those best practices to the operators that have been executing in addressing this threat for years."

That sounds like more of a low-key information clearinghouse than a governance board.

There is nothing wrong with a strong, multiagency effort to counter lies and propaganda with facts. It is, in fact, needed. But it cannot — must not — stray into censorship.

■ Star Tribune

New Testament is hidden in the old

It is in Luke's Gospel that we find the famous "Road to Emmaus" story. Jesus walks with two disciples who do not recognize him. He acts oblivious of recent events, and they tell him the news...the news about himself...about Jesus the Nazarene.

Then Jesus chastises them for not recognizing these events as the fulfillment of all Scripture (what would have been the Old Testament for a first century Jew). We can only imagine to which passages Jesus would have pointed, but it apparently took the better part of that seven-mile walk. There are so many possibilities. Some scholars took the time to try to find at least several hundred passages that predict the coming Messiah or tell something about him. Here are just a few:

To the devil in Genesis 3:15 — "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; They will strike at your head,



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while you strike at their heel." Abraham's near sacrifice of Isaac showed what God would do with his only Son.

The Son of Man coming with the clouds of heaven in Daniel 7.

Nathan's prophecy to David in 2 Samuel 7 — "I will raise up your offspring after you, sprung from your loins, and I will establish his kingdom. He it is who shall build a house for my name, and I will establish his royal throne forever."

The Palm Sunday entrance prophesied by Zechariah.

The Suffering Servant in

So often, passages in the Old Testament prefigure what is going to happen in the Gospels. They are hints of what is to come.

Isaiah.

And so on...and so on.

The Catholic Church's Vatican II document on Sacred Scripture, Dei Verbum, quotes Saint Augustine, "God, the inspirer and author of both Testaments, wisely arranged that the New Testament be hidden in the Old and the Old be made manifest in the New."

So often, passages in the Old Testament prefigure what is going to happen in the Gospels. They are hints of what is to come.

It might be the way that David's dancing before the Ark of the Covenant prefigures John the Baptist's dancing in Elizabeth's womb before the Ark of the New Covenant...before Mary who carried Jesus within her.

Or it might be how Melchizedek's offering of bread and wine in Genesis prefigures the institution of the Eucharist at the Last

Supper.

All these examples are not mere coincidences. They are part of a larger plan. They are part of salvation history.

Jesus is the culmination of God's saving plan for us. Are we willing to see that? Are we willing to appreciate that? Do we have an appreciation for God's word in both the Old Testament and the New Testament? Do we read the Old Testament with Christ in mind? Do we look for how it is fulfilled by him? While Catholics know that Jesus is especially present at every Mass in the Eucharist, are we also open to how he is present in the word of God? Do we pray with Sacred Scripture?

The Bible is the greatest story ever told. It is the story of God's saving plan. It is our story.

■ Fr. Bob Hoffman is the pastor of Epiphany Catholic Church in Lake City.

The magnitude of the mind of God

Job, in talking with his friends, makes a statement about the mind of God. He says that if a person were to have a dispute with God they would not be able to answer Him (Job 9:3).

Job relates how God has created many things and the ability to do many things with the earth. Job believes God can "remove the mountains," "command the sun not to shine" and "He sets a seal upon the stars." Job even comments about God stretching out the heavens, trampling "down the waves of the sea." Maybe the most impressive

is how God has organized the stars in heaven to form three constellations we call the "Bear, Orion, and the Pleiades."

It is no wonder Job concluded that mankind could not win a dispute with God. The mind of God is so superior to the human being that mankind should realize he is in no position to successfully correct God.

LIVING GOD'S WAY



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human being that mankind should realize he is in no position to successfully correct God. Job even says mankind "could not answer (God) once in a thousand years" (Job 9:3).

What also is so remarkable about the mind of God is all the things we now know that were unknown to

Job and his friends. Such common things which we use every day like electricity, aviation, motor powered transportation and even our home air conditioners. All of the elements for these things were in existence when Job was alive even though they were only "discovered" a few years ago.

We humans will never be able to outthink God. If we were in a court of law, God would make us look very foolish for challenging anything He says or does.

Maybe the greatest part of the mind of God is His ability to communicate with mankind, even as far back as the days of Job, Noah, and even Adam. Without this great mind revealing how He expects mankind to live, there would be no way any human being would be able to be living God's way.

■ Carlton G. McPeak is an evangelist working in the Florida Gateway region. Scriptural quotations from the NASB.

Jesus' midnight trial

We often read about lynch mobs and the results that have happened, even in this country's history.

It's not pretty because "the human heart is more deceitful, 'wicked' than anything else, and incurable — who can understand it" (Jeremiah 17:9).

Please read Mark 14:53-65 and keep in mind that Jesus told his disciples three times that he was going to be rejected by the elders, chief priest and scribes and killed, and rise after three days (Mark 8:31; 9:30-32; 10:32-34).

As Jesus faced the Sanhedrin during a nighttime trial, Peter will undergo his own trial that evening as well. Jesus stood before the high priest, chief priest, elders and scribes and listened to many false witnesses that evening and his response was one of silence. The chief priest fol-



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lows the Law's requirement of having two valid witnesses as given in Numbers 35:30 and in Deuteronomy 17:6 and 19:15. These passages teach us that no one is to be put to death on the testimony of one witness. The testimony of both witnesses must agree so that the person can be charged with the crime. The chief priest and the Sanhedrin have a problem because they cannot get two testimonies to agree concerning Jesus.

The high priest asked

If the Lord seems silent in your life, be still and start examining your heart and ask the Lord Jesus to search your heart as well.

Jesus two questions. "Don't you have an answer to what these men are testifying against you?" Jesus remained silent. The next question the high priest asked Jesus, he must answer. The high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?" "I am," said Jesus, "and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming with the clouds of heaven" (Mark 14:60-62). The high priest didn't believe Jesus and charged him with blasphemy and the mob mentality took over.

There are a couple of observations that I want to share with you. First, the silence of Jesus doesn't mean the absence of God in your life's situation. You may be asking the Lord

the wrong question, the wrong prayer request. If the Lord seems silent in your life, be still and start examining your heart and ask the Lord Jesus to search your heart as well. You could have sin in your heart and that will cause you not to hear what the Lord is saying.

Secondly, we must remember that Jesus is prayed up as he faces this trial. There is no reason for him to panic. He knows that his Father is in control and he knows that he will rise again. He surrendered to the Father's plan for his life. He doesn't fight it. Have you surrendered to the Lord's plan for your life or are you still doing your own thing?

■ Robert Bass is pastor of First Baptist Church of Lake City.

is how God has organized the stars in heaven to form three constellations we call the "Bear, Orion, and the Pleiades."

While mankind has developed many complex things, have any of them been as complex as putting the stars in order so that they are always visible to mankind? The God who was able to make these constellations even made them to appear hundreds and thousands of light-years away. Their names may have been different in Job's day, however they were nonetheless already in existence.

Can we comprehend all the details necessary to put these stars in the heavens and arrange them in such a way that they have never changed throughout history? Job does not mention one constellation, but three. This means that God had to "think through and create" this same phenomena three times.

It is no wonder Job concluded that mankind could not win a dispute with God. The mind of God is so superior to the

Arrested Hong Kong cardinal a critic of Beijing

Associated Press

HONG KONG — Cardinal Joseph Zen, the 90-year-old Catholic cleric arrested by Hong Kong police on national security charges, has long been a fiery critic of Beijing's control of religion and political monopoly, along with efforts by the Vatican to reach a working arrangement with the ruling Communist Party.

Zen left a police station on bail Wednesday night following his arrest alongside other former trustees of the 612 Humanitarian Support Fund, which provides assistance to people arrested during 2019 anti-government protests. The former Hong Kong archbishop has not yet commented on his arrest.

A police statement said the former trustees were suspected of endangering national security by making requests of foreign countries or overseas agencies and calling for sanctions against Hong Kong.

Widely condemned abroad, the arrests further a campaign to quash all forms of dissent in the city under a

sweeping national security law passed in 2020, a year after authorities subdued pro-democracy protests that challenged China's rule over Hong Kong.

The crackdown is increasingly penetrating into the city's long-respected economic, religious and educational institutions, along with non-governmental organizations, many of which have closed down their Hong Kong operations. The city was promised that it could keep freedoms of speech, assembly and judicial independence when it was handed over from Britain to China in 1997, but critics say Beijing has reneged on its guarantees.

China's Foreign Ministry fired back at the criticism, with spokesperson Zhao Lijian saying, "We are firmly opposed to any act that denigrates the rule of law in Hong Kong and interferes in Hong Kong affairs."

"Hong Kong is a law-based society, where no organization or individual is above the law, and all illegal acts will be punished by law," Zhao told reporters at a daily briefing.

Caring for God's sheep

Kathleen was a lonely woman. After her husband died, her sons insisted she move to Athens, Georgia, where they lived. The move took Kathleen away from long-time friends, her church, and the routine of life to which she was accustomed. She didn't know anyone in her new neighborhood.

In 2020, Brenda and her husband moved into the subdivision where Kathleen lived. One of Brenda's neighbors told her about Kathleen and that she was lonely and could use a friend. 2020 was not a good year for socializing and getting acquainted. Covid. Social distancing. Avoiding people for fear of getting the virus. When Brenda walked to the cluster box unit to get her mail, she would sometimes see Kathleen and wave and speak to her from a distance. Most of the time, Kathleen would not reciprocate.

Last year things changed. Kathleen started to return Brenda's acts of friendship, waving, and speaking. Then one day, she asked Brenda to visit with her and thus began what Brenda calls, "porch time." Over the past few months, the two women have gotten to know about each another and devel-



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oped a friendship. The "porch time" conversations are varied in content. Kathleen still grieves the loss of her husband and sometimes feels depressed and lonely. At other times, Brenda feels she is in a confessional booth listening to Kathleen confess wrongs she has committed or perceived to have committed or thought about committing. And sometimes, Kathleen just needs someone to listen as she talks. Brenda describes Kathleen as "one of God's sheep" that He brought into her life, so she makes time for her lonely neighbor.

The sheep analogy for people is used several times in the Bible to describe the relationship between God and his people. Jesus said that he was the good shepherd, caring for his sheep and dying for his sheep. The analogy

Jesus said that he was the good shepherd, caring for his sheep and dying for his sheep. The analogy is appropriate because sheep need someone to care for them.

is appropriate because sheep need someone to care for them. Sheep are defenseless against predators and need someone to protect them. Sheep have a flock instinct and need the company of other sheep. Sheep need the guidance of a shepherd to lead them to adequate water and grazing. Matthew 9:36 was referring to these sheep traits. "But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd." I can sum up the needs and traits of sheep by saying that the shepherd does for the sheep what the sheep cannot do for itself.

All "sheep" or people are important and precious to God as illustrated by the parable of the lost sheep in the fifteenth chapter of Luke. There are times when God brings one of his "sheep" into our lives because of that person's need. It could be someone who is grieving and lonely like Kathleen. Or someone who has been diagnosed with a serious disease. Perhaps it is that family from another country who

have relocated to America and needs someone to show them friendship. People have many needs as a result of losing a loved one, or relocating to a new place, or divorce, or having a child leave home to pursue an education or a career.

There are times when being a friend and giving someone time and attention can be exhausting, inconvenient, and even exasperating. Just like the role of a shepherd. Some days, Brenda has other things to do than sit on Kathleen's porch and visit but she does it because she believes she is doing a ministry that God has enabled her to do. The easy response to a needy person would be to ignore them and not to respond. Consider this. When God brings that person — that needy sheep — into our life, obviously he thinks we are the one who can help that person. He has chosen us to help that person! Caring for God's sheep is an awesome opportunity.

■ Jimmy Deas is a retired preacher and author whose books are available from Amazon, Barnes and Noble and Books-A-Million.

Christmas comes early for CCS employees



TONY BRITT/Lake City Reporter

Columbia County School District employees peruse the 500 items in the district auditorium as part of the Employee Appreciation Extravaganza.

Employee Appreciation Extravaganza set up in district auditorium.

TONY BRITT
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The Columbia School Board Administrative Auditorium looked like a Christmas storage warehouse Thursday afternoon.

There were bicycles, television sets, kayaks, outdoor furniture and a variety of several hundred other items adorning the auditorium. Among the roughly 500 items were district employees ranging from lunchroom workers to

assistant principals to educators and others looking for the items they would like to have.

The items are part of the Columbia School District's 2022 Employee Appreciation Extravaganza, where each employee was given 10 tickets to use on the items they liked the most.

"It's the end of the year and it's the time we really get to appreciate all of our staff," said Dianna Swisher, school district volunteer marketing coordinator. "We have 1,300 people on our staff and every single person gives 100% every day to make sure we are bettering the lives of our students and

our community."

The school district auditorium was open from 1-4:30 p.m. allowing the employees to place their tickets for items and will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. today as the last day to be able to enter to win the prizes.

At 4:30 p.m., the winning tickets will be drawn on the Columbia School District Youtube page.

The items on the auditorium stage will have a live drawing and master list will be sent to all staff where winners will be able to collect their prizes from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturday.

SHOOTING

Continued From 1A

of leads and they finally got enough evidence to secure a warrant. We still need more cooperation from the public on these other unsolved homicides."

Authorities did not release any details regarding where Fluellen was taken into custody, where he is being incarcerated or who the arresting agency was.

"Nobody's talked to him yet," Burnsed said, when asked if authorities have been able to determine what led to the October shooting. "We just have him in custody."

Burnsed did not specify what information led to the break in the case that allowed authorities to seek

the arrest warrant.

"I know they asked for the warrants weeks ago and it was signed, but I'm not sure what the probable cause was in it," he said.

Shortly after the shooting occurred in October, authorities noted there was a person of interest that had been identified as the investigation continued to unfold. Burnsed said he had no idea how long Fluellen was a suspect in the case.

"I've heard his name was hinted around just about from Day 1, but I don't know when they got solid evidence on him," he said.

The Third Judicial Circuit's State Attorney's Office will make the decision on whether Fluellen will be charged as an adult in the case.

GAS

Continued From 1A

covid-19 pandemic.

"We're hearing from travelers who are eager to return to a sense of normalcy, and it appears that time is finally here," AAA Vice President of Travel Debbie Haas said in a prepared statement.

Gov. Ron DeSantis and other Republicans have seized on inflation and high gas prices to criticize President Joe Biden's economic policies.

"There's not really an end in sight the way it's going, and I'm very concerned about the energy this summer because the gas I've not seen it under \$4 in Florida for unleaded in a long time," DeSantis said Wednesday while in Mayo.

"I am concerned about what would happen this summer as more people are driving, because that's just what happens every summer," DeSantis later added.

DeSantis signed a bill last week that will suspend the state's roughly 25-cent-a-gallon gas tax in October, one of two months historically with the lowest tourism counts. The Legislature approved the one-month break after agreeing to use \$200 million in federal stimulus money to make up for lost gas-tax revenue, which goes toward transportation projects.

Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried, a Democratic candidate for

governor, issued an emergency rule Wednesday that allows the additional sale of gasoline containing 15% denatured anhydrous ethanol, or what is known as E15. The rule follows a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency temporary waiver approved this month related to E15, which is typically available in winter months.

While projected to cut the price on gas with E15 by about 10 cents a gallon, such fuel is offered at fewer than 200 of the more than 9,000 gas stations in Florida.

The U.S. Department of Labor released a report this week that said the consumer-price index was up 8.3% for the year, down from 8.5% in March. The downturn was the first in nine months, but the level remains near a 40-year high.

A separate report Thursday from the Labor Department estimated that 4,202 first-time jobless claims were filed last week in Florida.

That was down from a revised count of 5,221 claims for the week ending April 30 and put the average over the past four weeks to 5,083 claims. The numbers are similar to the rates of unemployment claims before covid-19 caused massive job losses in 2020.

The Labor Department last week reported non-farm jobs nationally increased by 428,000 in April, with the national unemployment rate holding at 3.6%.

WEEKEND

Continued From 1A

Saturday when HiTone Fitness hosts the Grace's Race 5K for the second



Duncan

straight year. The race is in memory of Grace Duncan, the 18-year-old Columbia High School graduate and Florida Gateway College student killed in October 2020.

All proceeds from the event go to the Lora Grace Duncan Scholarship Fund at FGC.

Registration for the race is \$25 with pre-registration starting at 7:30 a.m. at HiTone, located at 4556 SW Heritage Oaks Circle, with the race set to begin at 9 a.m. This year's event will also feature a motorcycle run with the bikers following the runners out of the Heritage Oaks Shopping Plaza to begin their 28-mile ride.

"Grace's dream is fitness," said HiTone Fitness Club Manager Lisa Powers, who is organizing Saturday's race. "Health and wellness is what Grace thrived on. She was always in the gym every single day. There wasn't a day that went by that she was not working out."

"If she wasn't in the gym, she was at home running, working out. That was Grace. She loved fitness."

PARADE OF HOMES

North Florida's premier new home showcase returns for a fifth year Saturday and Sunday with seven new homes open for public tours.

The event will be held from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on



FILE

Children play on a sand pile at last year's Kiwanis Kids Day. This year's event is Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Saturday, and from noon-4 p.m. on Sunday. The free event is co-produced by the Columbia County Builders' Association and the Lake City Reporter. The event features Drummond Community Bank as Platinum Sponsor.

The event features newly constructed homes of various styles and price ranges that are located throughout the county. The new homes are open for the public to tour with the builders on site to answer any questions and showcase their talents.

"The Parade of Homes always provides a look at some of the most beautifully constructed homes in North Florida," said Lake City Reporter Publisher Todd Wilson. "We have some incredibly talented home builders in our area who will have their work on display."

"This is a can't-miss event. We thank all of our builders who support this show and thanks to all of our sponsors for making this event possible. We are honored to help bring this

annual event to our community."

KIDS DAY

The seventh annual Kiwanis Kids Day will take place from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday, May 14, at the Florida Gateway Fairgrounds Rodeo Arena. Admittance fees are \$5 for children 16 years old and under. There is no charge for adults.

Proceeds from the event will be used to benefit the Columbia School District's Food For Kids Backpack Program, the Early Learning Coalition of Florida's Gateway Pre-K Backpack Project and Catholic Charities.

"Kiwanis Kids Day is our annual biggest fundraiser that we use to feed the needy in Columbia County," said Norbie Ronsonet, Kiwanis Club of Lake City board member and Kiwanis Club Kids Day Committee member. "We basically were raising money to build parks and during the recession we found there was more need for feeding children, so we've upped

our game and felt it was more important to feed the needy children."

This year's Kiwanis Kids Day will feature a variety of activities for children in several different age groups, which will include bounce houses, water slides, touch-a-truck exhibits, a kid's workshop, games, prizes, a petting zoo, food vendors, an archery contest, a Nerf gun war zone and a rolling video games trailer for youngsters who like video games.

TRAVEL TOURNAMENTS

The Columbia County Sports Commission is hosting two events at the Southside Sports Complex in Lake City and the South Columbia Sports Park in Fort White on Saturday and Sunday, drawing more than 100 youth baseball and softball teams to the county.

According to Alden Rosner, the sports marketing director for the Columbia County Tourist Development Council, games are expected on all available fields at both facilities.

RALLY

Continued From 1A

After the Supreme Court's draft opinion on Roe v. Wade was leaked, Davis said some of the candidates scheduled to come to Columbia County instead decided they needed to be in Washington D.C. That led to a request to move the rally to earlier in the day Saturday.

Instead of trying to rearrange the day on short notice — with other community events already scheduled — organizers decided to try again in July.

Among the national, state and local candidates that had confirmed to originally attend included:

■ Nikki Fried, current Agriculture Commissioner of Florida who is running for governor;

■ Ken Russell, running for the U.S. Senate;

■ Nancy Pierson, a candidate for State Representative for District 23;

■ Danielle Hawk, a candidate for U.S. Representative for District 3;

■ Brandon Peters, a candidate for State Representative for District 22;

■ Zack Paulk, seeking election as a Columbia County School Board member;

■ Joel Foreman, seeking re-election as the Columbia County Attorney;

■ Narragansett Smith, seeking re-election as a Columbia County School Board member.

In July, Davis said the event will include a cornhole tournament and some other activities in the afternoon as well as voter registration drive with the Columbia County Supervisor of Elections office, prior to the candidates appearing in the evening.

"We'll change the format a little bit," he said. "We'll have some other things going on leading up to the candidates' stump speeches."

OBITUARIES

Robert H. Curtis

Robert H. Curtis, 81 of Lake City, passed away on Thursday, April 28, 2022 at the Lake City Medical Center. Mr. Curtis was born in Elyria, Ohio to the late David and Mildred Paulin Landfried Curtis. He had made his home in Lake City for many years and worked in the banking business



for over 40 years. Mr. Curtis served as the treasurer for many organizations in Lake City for many years. He enjoyed golfing, fishing and spending time with his family.

Survivors include his wife, Brenda Suzie Holt Curtis, Lake City; his son and daughter in law, Tony and Carolyn Curtis, Lake City; and his grandson, Chace Curtis, Lake City.

Private graveside services for Mr. Curtis were conducted at Forest Lawn Memorial Gardens

Cemetery. Arrangements are under the direction of **GATEWAY-FOREST LAWN FUNERAL HOME**, 3596 S US Hwy 441, Lake City, FL 32025. Please leave words of comfort for the family at www.gatewayforestlawn.com.

Ms. Sabrina Marie Rivers

Ms. Sabrina Marie Rivers, 43, of Lake City passed away on Sunday, May 8, 2022 at her residence.

Born in Jacksonville, Florida, she was the daughter of Jim Rivers, and

the late Ava Dale Bowman Rivers and had lived most of her life in Lake City. She enjoyed many things. She was wildly passionate about everything that interested her. She loved animals and they loved her in return. She worked with animals at Gatorland for a time. When she was younger she was a voracious reader and



loved stories in all art forms. She had great taste in music from the 60s era Jim Morrison to the 90s hip hop. A lover of movies and TV shows - Charmed, Lord of the Rings, Harry Potter, Nightmare on Elm Street. She had a love for anything spooky - Halloween, Scary Movies, and Music Festivals; and She loved her sons, her father, her brother, and her family very much.

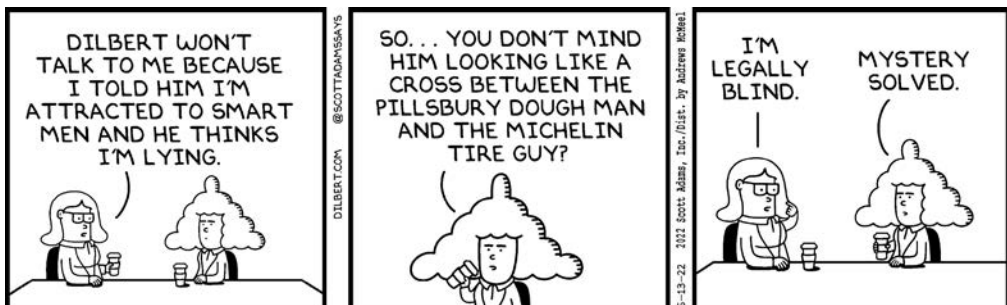
Sabrina is survived by her sons, Sebastian Rivers, James and Luke Lynch; father, Jim Rivers; and

brother, J.R. Rivers (Jessica Nolan).

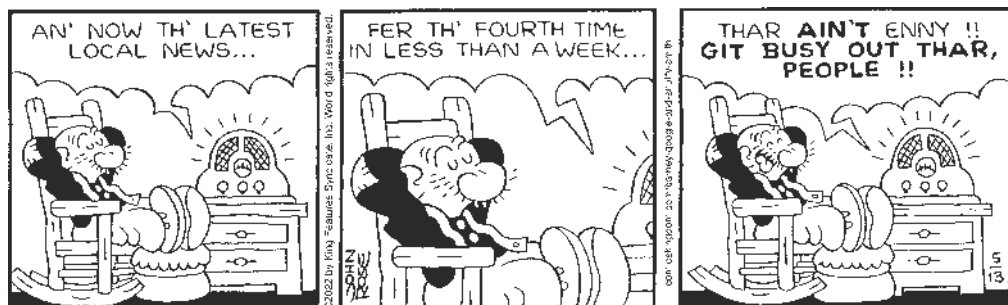
The family will have a private funeral service at a later date. Arrangements are under the direction of **GATEWAY-FOREST LAWN FUNERAL HOME**, Lake City. Please leave words of comfort on the online guest book at www.gatewayforestlawn.com.

Obituaries are paid advertisements. For details, call the Lake City Reporter's classified department at 752-1293.

DILBERT



SNUFFY SMITH



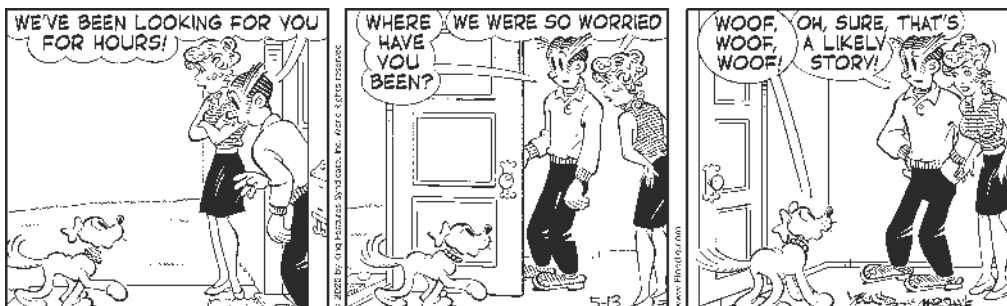
BABY BLUES



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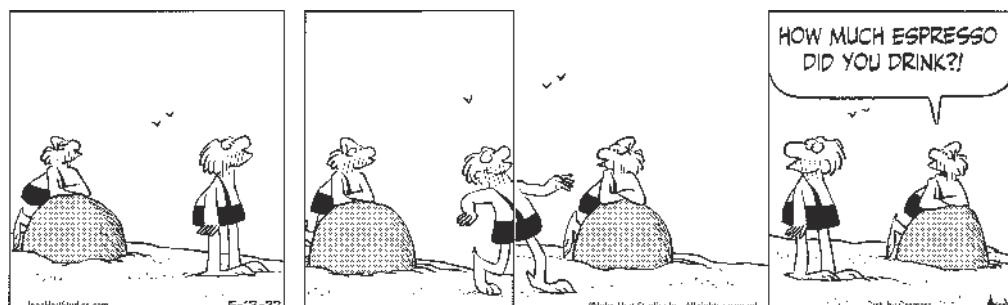
GARFIELD



BETLE BAILEY



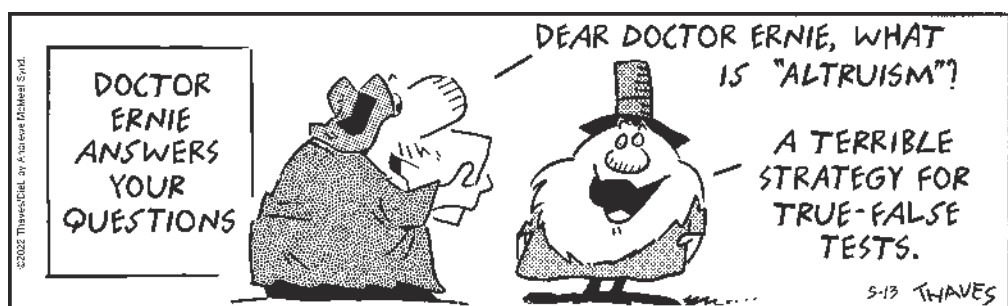
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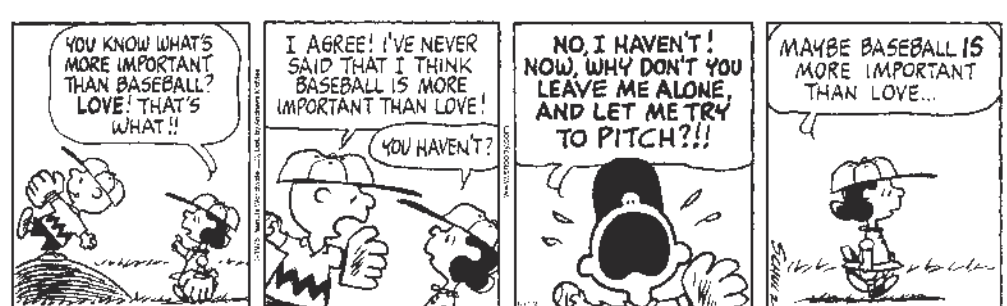
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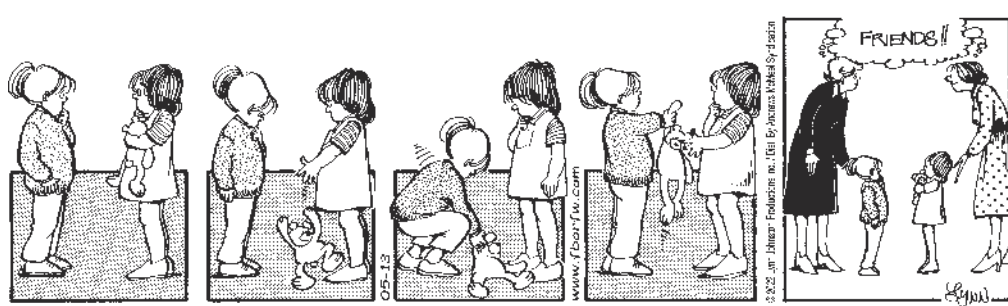
FRANK & ERNEST



CLASSIC PEANUTS



FOR BETTER OR WORSE



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.

" T A F X B S R K C C G X H Y G I Y N Z K H , W J G S K X F T Y X F . W U Y X ' I T K X I I Y C W U F K C Y G X U W X K D G W I I F C . " — H I F M A F X R Y O J F C I

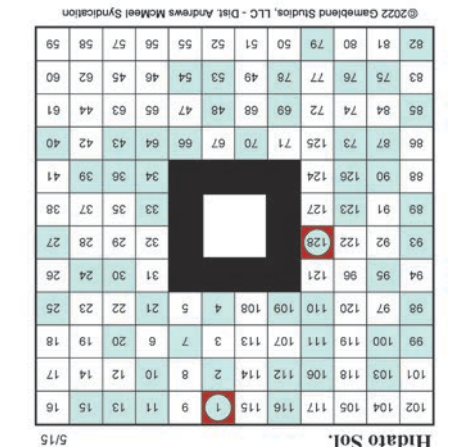
Previous Solution: "Love is the most important thing in the world, but baseball is pretty good, too." — Yogi Berra

TODAY'S CLUE: G equals Z

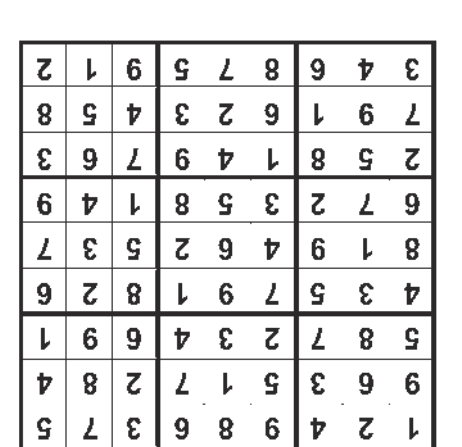
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PUZZLE ANSWERS

HIDATO FIND THE PATH - SOLVE THE PUZZLE



UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle



PLAY4 logo

WORD★Roundup™ grid with words SEND, GRAM, DOLE, ETCH

WORD★Roundup™ logo

Answers to Friday's puzzle: TRIANGLE OCTAGON CIRCLE OVAL / GEORGE RINGO JOHN PAUL / ELECTRON NEUTRON PROTON / GOLD SILVER BRONZE / PALM

- ACROSS 1 Write on glass 5 Teensy 8 Milky gem 12 Big laugh (hyph.) 13 1040 org. 14 Show violent anger 15 Washer cycle 16 "- Kapital" 17 Flood the market 18 Flaggpole topper 20 Lower in esteem 22 Novelist - Rand 23 Craving 24 Coast 27 Dough raisers 30 Summer mo. 31 Like some socks 32 Have 34 1865 yielder 35 Danson or Kennedy 37 Water, in Montreal 38 Venus' sister 40 Houston tune " - We Almost Have It All" 42 Anthem contraction 43 Enthusiasm 44 Sudeikis character Ted - 46 Stun 49 Lull 50 FedEx units 52 Ruby and topaz 54 Feed the kitty 55 Truth's opposite 56 Columnist - Bombeck 57 Bad - day 58 Plea at sea 59 Ivory or Dove

- DOWN 1 Codgers' queries 2 Masking - 3 "Wool" on clay sheep

Crossword grid with answers: SERF, YEARN, MADEIT, LARVAE, AKIMBO, APRONS, YETI, MOD, WIT, TUCKSIN, EPA, SAS, FURS, BASKET, FLIRT, BLAND, PILOTS, INIT, ROE, TAP, TOTTERS, HUG, WET, PUMA, ALONSO, ROOTED, SNOOPS, YOKELS, PANDA, PEST

- Answer to Previous Puzzle (Answer to today's puzzle next page) 4 Pilot's garage 5 Improve the highway 6 Baseball stat 7 Attempted 8 Gills and lungs 9 Chums 10 Feverish chill 11 Give the go-ahead 19 Strong alkali 21 Small sphere 24 Pitcher - Maglie 25 Tones 26 Type of arch 27 "Star Wars" guru 28 Three- sloth 29 Majestic swimmer 33 Pistachio 35 Tie-dyed garments 36 Matriculates 39 List of names 40 Murky 41 Reflections 43 Florists' supply 44 "Stormy Weather" singer 45 Italian wine city 47 Goose egg, in sports 48 Madame Bovary 49 Cheer from the bleachers 51 Publicity info 53 Tree juice

DEAR ABBY

Woman's long-held opinion of brother-in-law comes out



Abigail Van Buren
www.dearabby.com

DEAR ABBY: My sister and I have always been close. She's married to a man I have always thought is domineering and arrogant. I also suspect that he's emotionally abusive from things she has confided over the years. These include days of the silent treatment, refusing to celebrate her birthday because he doesn't believe in it and discouraging her from taking a job she was interested in. He refuses to go to counseling and says whatever problems there are between them are her fault. I hold my tongue and try to tolerate him because she has chosen to stay with him.

He recently participated in a marathon and was connected to us and many others through social media so we could follow the entire two-day event from start to finish. After a day of constant "dinging" on my phone, I

found his need for attention over the top and stopped following. My sister was very upset about it. She said she was embarrassed and hurt. When she asked why I stopped, I told her the truth.

Now our relationship is damaged. I apologized and tried to smooth things over, but she's now fully aware of my true feelings about him after seeing and hearing how he has treated her over the years. Should I have "kept the peace," as my dear departed mother always said, and continued to keep my mouth shut, or should I have been honest about my feelings? --
PROTECTIVE OF SIS

DEAR PROTECTIVE: Because you say you and your

sister are close, I am surprised you held your tongue about her husband's behavior for so long. You did nothing wrong by tuning out of the marathon updates. You should not have been expected to be held hostage for two days because your brother-in-law's ego needed bolstering. You were honest with your sister and, in my opinion, did nothing that requires an apology.

DEAR ABBY: My partner and I have been in a long-distance relationship for about a year. After I did some casual social media stalking, I learned he still lives with his ex-boyfriend, in spite of the fact that he continually complains to me about his "roommate," whom he never refers to by name.

On top of that, we made a commitment over the last year to phone each other at least once a day. For the past three

weeks, there are times I haven't heard from him at all, despite seeing him active on social media (especially on weekends). It's to a point where I stay awake until all hours, hoping to hear from him. Should I approach him about this, or is this just the end to the "honeymoon phase"? --

WAITING BY THE PHONE IN CANADA

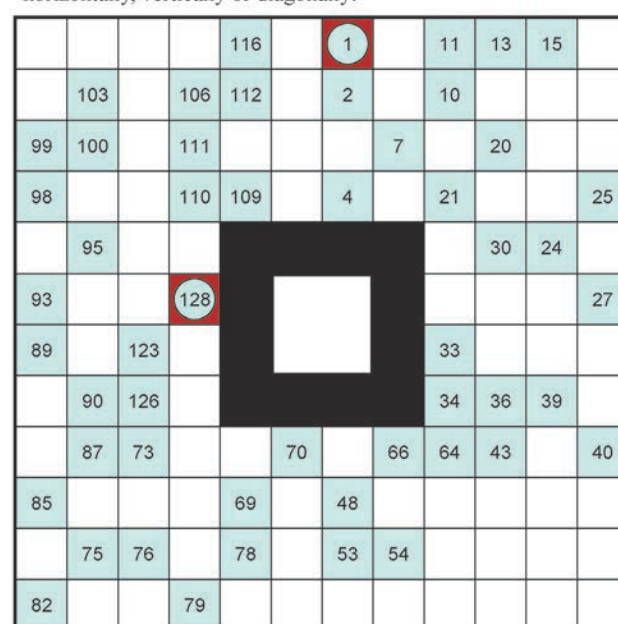
DEAR WAITING: Not only is it the end of the "honeymoon phase," but it may also be the beginning of the end of this romance because it appears your "partner" isn't as eager to contact you as you are to hear from him. Long-distance relationships can be challenging, and you may be happier if you couple up with somebody local.

Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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FIND THE PATH - SOLVE THE PUZZLE

Complete the grid so that numbers 1 - 128 connect horizontally, vertically or diagonally:



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Dif. ★★★★★

WORD★Roundup™

by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

Find and Circle...

- Four shapes
- The Beatles (first names)
- Three parts of an atom
- Top three medals
- Type of tropical tree

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Puzzle Solutions on the next page.



HOROSCOPES | THE LAST WORD BY EUGENIA LAST

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Follow through by acting on your words. Share your thoughts and intentions with someone you love, and it will lead you to sort out the best way to turn your goal into something tangible. Shared ideas, expenses and space look promising. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Jealousy will set your emotions on fire. Separate yourself from whatever is happening, and try to be rational. Nothing is as you imagine or assume. Acting on assumptions will put you in a precarious position that can affect your reputation. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't wait until the last minute to make plans. An organized outing will allow you to enjoy your day and the people you include in your circle. Information shared among friends, colleagues or family will be valuable. Romance is encouraged. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Stop worrying about what others do or say, and put your energy into something that intrigues you. Explore venues and courses, and gain experience that will encourage you to expand your qualifications to include something you think you might enjoy. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Stick close to home and what

and who are familiar to you. Keep an eye on someone who is inconsistent or making unpredictable changes that can influence your earning potential or financial security. Speak up for your rights. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't spend to impress someone. Choose to use charm and kind gestures, and the response you get will pay off. Mix business with pleasure, and you'll make headway in a relaxed environment geared toward cooperation. A partnership looks promising. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll be right on target regarding ideas and putting your plans in motion. Time spent with people who share your beliefs and goals will help you broaden your vision. Try to work exclusively with someone who can help cut costs using shared expenses. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll get a good look at what's possible if you attend a seminar, industry event or community project. Pitch in and help a cause, and you'll make valuable connections. Push your ideas and stand behind your word. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Trust your instincts, not what someone

wants you to believe. Push yourself to be more resourceful and to put time aside to take care of your needs. Enjoy a spa day, or just kick back and relax with someone you love. ★★★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Emotions will spin out of control if you get into a debate. Be kind and keep the peace without giving up too much. Look for a budget-friendly incentive, and it will bring you closer to loved ones. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Assess your expenses and revisit your lifestyle and what causes the most stress. Look for ways to keep yourself in tiptop shape and save for something you want. Don't let anyone deter you from pursuing your dream. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Evaluate your relationships, consider who you have the most in common with and plan to spend more time together. Sticking to a routine will help ground you and encourage you to make time for something fun or creative you want to pursue. ★★★★★

CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS

May 13: Candice King, 35; Lena Dunham, 36; Stephen Colbert, 58; Stevie Wonder, 72.

JUMBLE

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

LPXEE
RYNVE
DIAHOR
DUNOFE

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

For starters, I stopped throwing those back. Then I started going to the gym every day. Tell us more.

TO EXPLAIN IN DETAIL EXACTLY HOW HE LOST SO MUCH WEIGHT, HE ---

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

Print your answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

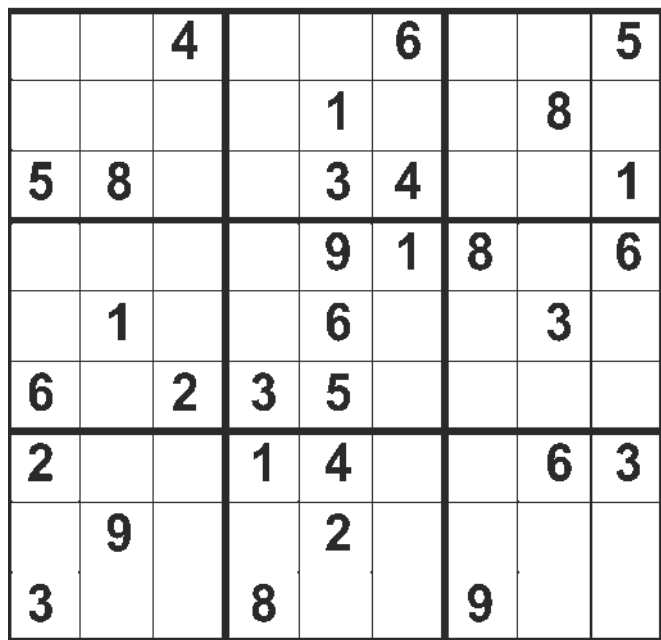
Yesterday's Jumbles: WHINE LIMIT SUGARY FATHER
Answer: When she saw that the stallion was going to eat all the hay himself, it was the — FINAL STRAW

Answer to today's puzzle.

S	O	S	S	R	H
A	E	L	E	A	N
S	G	E	M	S	R
Z	A	M	A	S	L
M	V	I	M	R	O
N	D	I	D	A	S
U	E	A	V	E	D
N	O	W	O	D	O
S	S	T	S	E	S
N	E	N	A	V	E
S	E	B	A	S	E
T	G	L	S	D	A
E	R	A	S	I	R
A	L	P	E	W	E

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★



5/13

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Engrave

Fruit and veggie company

Metric weight

Conclusions

Boundary

Ripped up

Clothed

Borders

Thursday's Solution

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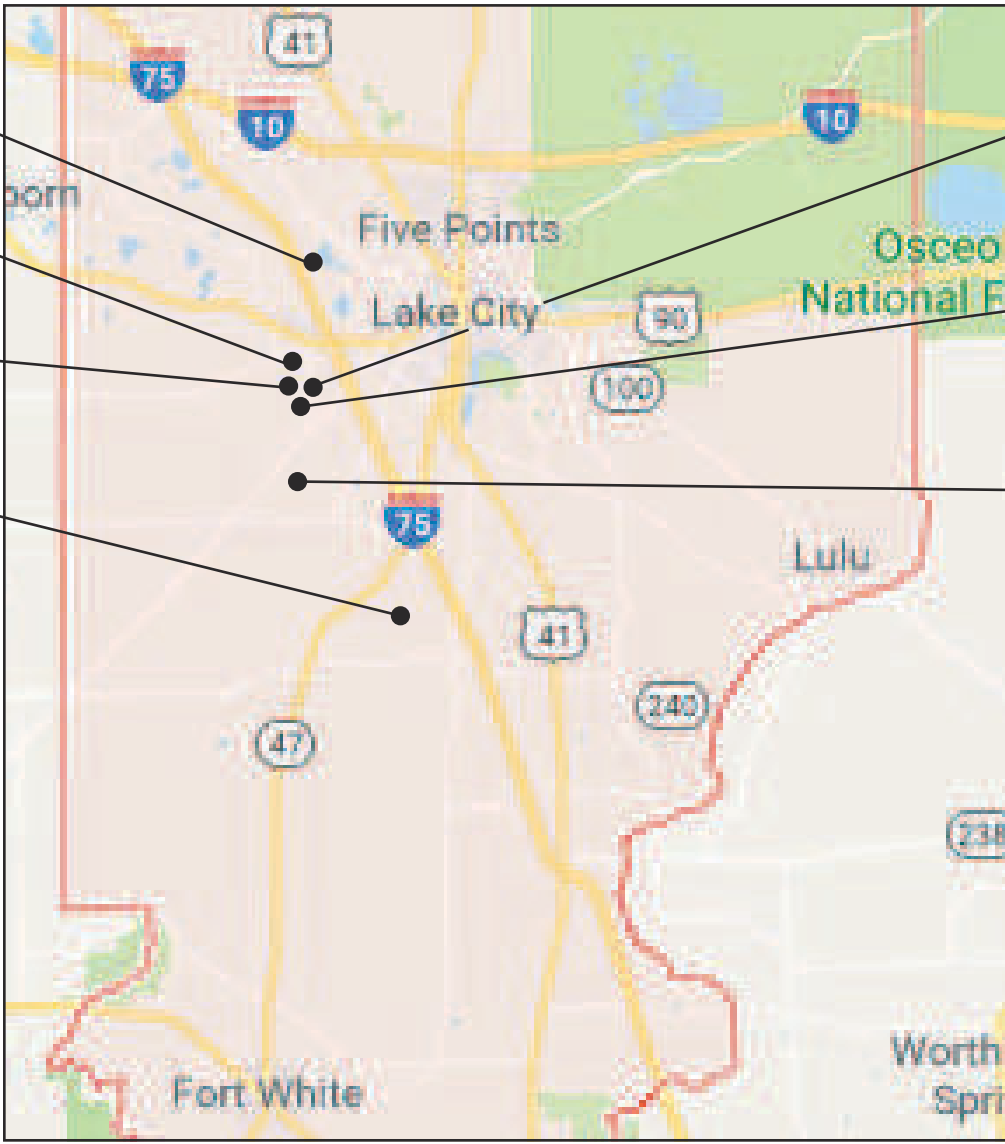
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Gibraltar Contracting
 1146 SW Mandiba Drive

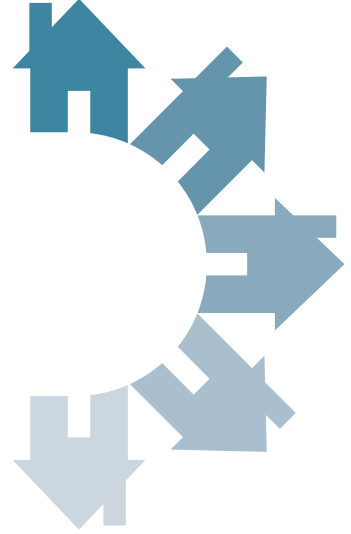
The Preserve
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The Preserve
 114 SW Silver Palm Drive

Sparks Construction
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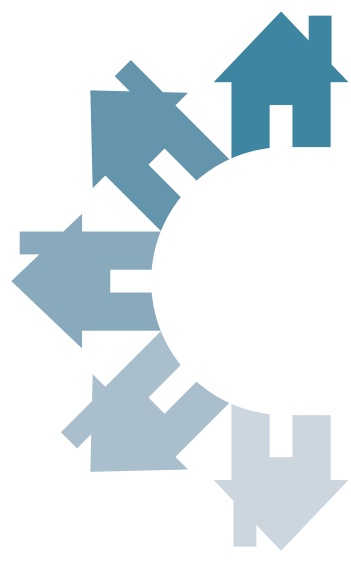
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Story ideas?

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Jordan Kroeger
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jkroeger@lakecityreporter.com



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Friday, May 13, 2022

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PREP BASEBALL

NOT PHIN-ISHED

Tigers top Dolphins 5-2 to advance to Region 1-5A finals



BRENT KUYKENDALL/Lake City Reporter

Columbia's Truitt Todd celebrates on second base after hitting a two-RBI double against Mosley in the Region 1-5A semifinals on Thursday night.

By **JORDAN KROEGER**
jkroeger@lakecityreporter.com

Ten years later, Columbia is back in the regional finals. And one win away from its first berth in the state Final Four. The Tigers defeated the defending state champs to get there. Grant Bowers threw solid five innings and struck out seven while Truitt Todd had three RBIs to lead top-seeded Columbia past No. 5 seed Mosley 5-2 at home in the Region 1-5A semifinals on Thursday night.

Next up is a rematch against No. 2 seed Lincoln, which edged Pine Forest 4-3 in the region's other semifinal. "This is awesome," said Todd, who finished 1 for 3 with a walk. "We knew it was going to be a really hard game coming in with them being last year's champs. We played really good. We played hard, swung it pretty well, got people in when we needed to and made the routine plays. It was just overall a really good game. This is a really big win." Bowers competed all night, working himself out of a couple of jams as well. The sophomore right-hander escaped

runners on first and second with one out in the first inning, and he later hit two batters to load the bases in the third. The second time prompted pitching coach Joey Edge to walk to the mound to calm Bowers down. He took a breath, then struck out Trent Nelson before letting out a huge roar as he walked back to the dugout. "He has ice in his veins," Columbia coach Chris Howard said. "He threw a great changeup and got a strikeout. That was huge."

TIGERS continued on 6B

PREP SOFTBALL

Indians make history

Atkins, Compton lead FWHS past Lafayette for first playoff win since '08.

By **MORGAN MCMULLEN**
mcmullen@lakecityreporter.com

FORT WHITE — If the third time's the charm, the Indians' fourth time is history. Fort White rode the bat of N'Coreyia Atkins and the arm of Kadence Compton on its way to a 3-1 win against Lafayette in the Region 3-1A semifinals. It's the team's third win in four tries against the Hornets, with the previous win coming in a 5-1, eight-inning thriller in the district semifinals. It also marks the first playoff win for Fort White since 2008. "That's what we told the girls, 'You've gotta make history tonight,'" co-head coach Chad Padgett said. Atkins made a near immediate impact on the high-stakes game. After a walk and a single from Ciara Byrd and Kaitlyn Suggs, respectively, to open the second inning, Atkins laced a ball into the left-field gap

INDIANS continued on 5B



MORGAN MCMULLEN/Lake City Reporter

Fort White's N'Coreyia Atkins celebrates after an RBI double against Lafayette during the Region 3-1A semifinals on Thursday night.

PREP TRACK & FIELD

Beach nabs 3 medals to lead Suwannee at 2A state meet

Derico fourth in long jump for SHS boys; Martin medals for girls.

By **JAMIE WACHTER**
jwachter@lakecityreporter.com

GAINESVILLE — Suwannee boys track coach Mark Beach saw a change in his son Garrison at the regional meet last week. Looking relaxed, Garrison Beach unleashed a personal best throw of 52.93m in the javelin to qualify for state. The relaxed vibes carried over Thursday to the Class 2A state competition at the Percy Beard Track at the University of Florida's James G. Pressly Stadium. Opening the day in the

javelin, Garrison Beach unleashed a 51.92m throw on his third attempt to take silver, finishing behind Santa Fe's Connor Wetherington's best of 61m. "The goal at the beginning was to come in and medal top three," Mark Beach said before Garrison Beach decided to also join the weightlifting team where he also brought home a pair of medals. That move meant less time dedicated to track practice and additional weight. It also changed expectations to just trying to medal, period. "He ended up relaxing a little bit last week and popped that 50, so we knew he had an opportunity to place top-5. He had

SHS continued on 5B



COURTESY

Suwannee's Garrison Beach medaled three times Thursday in the Class 2A state track meet in Gainesville.

NFL

Jaguars agree to deal with top pick Walker

Contract is worth \$37.4M with a team option for fifth year.

By **MARK LONG**
Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE — No. 1 overall draft pick Tramon Walker signed a four-year, \$37.4 million rookie contract with the Jacksonville Jaguars on Thursday, a deal that includes a \$24.4 million signing bonus. Walker's contract is fully guaranteed and includes a team option for a fifth year, both standard for NFL first-round picks. He signed it one day before the Jaguars begin a rookie minicamp. Fellow first-rounder Devin Lloyd, the 27th overall selection, also signed his rookie deal. He gets a

four-year contract worth \$12.9 million and a \$6.6 million signing bonus. Jacksonville signed five of its seven draft picks in all, including running back Snoop Conner (fifth round), cornerback Gregory Walker (seventh) and cornerback Montaric Brown (seventh). Center Luke Fortner and linebacker Chad Muma, both third-round choices, remained unsigned. Walker and Lloyd are among a dozen first-rounders from the 2022 draft under contract, including four of the first six selections. **WALKER** continued on 5B



Walker

SCOREBOARD

MLB Scoreboard table with columns for team, W, L, Pct, GB. Includes American League and National League divisions.

NHL PLAYOFFS

Bruins force Game 7

By JIMMY GOLEN Associated Press

BOSTON — Brad Marchand scored one goal and assisted on another, and Jeremy Swayman stopped 23 shots to lead the Boston Bruins past the Carolina Hurricanes 5-2 on Thursday night and send their first-round playoff series to a decisive seventh game.

The home team has won all six games in the series so far — an edge for Carolina, which will host Game 7 on Saturday. The winner will play either the Penguins or Rangers in the Eastern Conference semifinals; Pittsburgh leads that series 3-2 heading into Game 6 on Friday night.

Andrei Svechnikov scored twice and Antti Raanta made 29 saves for the Hurricanes, who have won three games by a combined score of 15-4 and lost three by a total of 14-6.

Charlie Coyle also scored for Boston, and Erik Haula and Derek Forbort added third-period goals before Curtis Lazar backhanded the puck into the empty net with 4:17 to play.

Seattle (Gonzales 1-4) at N.Y. Mets (Scherzer 4-1), 7:10 p.m. Toronto (Gausman 3-1) at Tampa Bay (Rasmussen 3-1), 7:10 p.m. San Diego (Darvish 3-1) at Atlanta (Fried 4-2), 7:20 p.m. Boston (Pivetta 0-4) at Texas (Dunning 1-1), 8:05 p.m. Cleveland (Civale 1-2) at Minnesota (Gray 0-1), 8:10 p.m. N.Y. Yankees (Cole 2-0) at Chicago White Sox (Velasquez 2-2), 8:10 p.m. San Francisco (Webb 4-1) at St. Louis (Hicks 1-2), 8:15 p.m. Kansas City (Greinke 0-2) at Colorado (Freeland 1-3), 8:40 p.m. L.A. Angels (Siletsh 0-0) at Oakland (Jefferies 1-5), 9:40 p.m. Chicago Cubs (Smyly 1-3) at Arizona (Davis 1-1), 9:40 p.m. Philadelphia (Gibson 3-1) at L.A. Dodgers (Kershaw 4-0), 10:10 p.m.

NBA PLAYOFFS

EASTERN CONFERENCE CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS (Best-of-7) Wednesday's Games Game 5: Milwaukee 110, Boston 107 Bucks lead series 3-2 Thursday's Games Game 6: Miami 99, Philadelphia 96 Heat win series 4-2 Friday's Games Game 6: Boston at Milwaukee, 7:30 p.m. WESTERN CONFERENCE CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS (Best-of-7) Wednesday's Games Game 5: Calgary 3, Dallas 1 Flames lead series 3-2 Thursday's Games Game 6: Minnesota at St. Louis, 9:30 p.m. Blues lead series 3-2 Game 6: Edmonton at Los Angeles, 10 p.m. Kings lead series 3-2 Friday's Games Game 6: Calgary at Dallas, 9:30 p.m.

NBA PLAYOFFS

Heat beat 76ers in Game 6 to advance to East finals



MATT SLOCUM/Associated Press

Miami Heat's Jimmy Butler (22) waves by to the fans during Game 6 against the Philadelphia 76ers on Thursday in Philadelphia.

By DAN GELSTON Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Jimmy Butler scored 32 points and waved “bye bye” to the Philly crowd as he sent the Miami Heat into the Eastern Conference finals with a 99-90 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers on Thursday night in Game 6.

The Heat will play the winner of the Milwaukee-Boston series. The defending champion Bucks lead that series 3-2, with Game 6 on Friday

night in Milwaukee.

The Heat reached the conference finals for the second time in three seasons, again with Butler leading the charge. Philly fans — and many inside the 76ers organization — still can't believe the franchise let Butler get away after the 2019 season. He did not mess around and scored 14 points on 6-of-9 shooting in the third quarter when the Heat used a 16-2 run to take control.

Joel Embiid, the NBA scoring champion, scored 20 points for Philadelphia

Game 5: Golden State 134, Memphis 95 Warriors lead series 3-2 Thursday's Games Game 6: Phoenix at Dallas, 9:30 p.m. Suns lead series 3-2 Friday's Games Game 6: Golden State at Memphis, 10 p.m.

NHL PLAYOFFS

EASTERN CONFERENCE FIRST ROUND (Best-of-7) Wednesday's Games Game 5: N.Y. Rangers 5, Pittsburgh 3 Penguins lead series 3-2 Game 5: Florida 5, Washington 3 Panthers lead series 3-2 Thursday's Games Game 6: Boston 5, Carolina 2 Series is tied 3-3 Game 6: Toronto at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m. Maple Leafs lead series 3-2 Friday's Games Game 6: N.Y. Rangers at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m. Game 6: Florida at Washington, 7:30 p.m.

WESTERN CONFERENCE FIRST ROUND (Best-of-7) Wednesday's Games Game 5: Calgary 3, Dallas 1 Flames lead series 3-2 Thursday's Games Game 6: Minnesota at St. Louis, 9:30 p.m. Blues lead series 3-2 Game 6: Edmonton at Los Angeles, 10 p.m. Kings lead series 3-2 Friday's Games Game 6: Calgary at Dallas, 9:30 p.m.

SPORTS ON TV

Friday, May 13 AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL 12 a.m. (Saturday) FS2 — AFL Premiership: Port Adelaide at North Melbourne 5:30 a.m. (Saturday) FS1 — AFL Premiership: Essendon at Sydney COLLEGE BASEBALL 4 p.m. ESPNU — Indiana St. at S. Illinois 5:30 p.m. SECN — Georgia at Tennessee 6 p.m. ACCN — Wake Forest at North Carolina 7 p.m. ESPNU — Nebraska at Illinois FS1 — Xavier at UConn 8:30 p.m. ESPN2 — Mississippi at LSU SECN — Alabama at Auburn COLLEGE SOFTBALL 12 p.m. FS2 — Big East Tournament: TBD, Semifinal, Rosemont, Ill. 1 p.m. ACCN — Atlantic Coast Tournament: TBD, Semifinal, Pittsburgh 2 p.m. BTN — Big Ten Tournament: TBD, Semifinal, East Lansing, Mich. ESPNU — Big 12 Tournament: TBD vs. Oklahoma, Semifinal, Oklahoma City 3 p.m. ESPN2 — Southeastern Tournament: TBD, Semifinal, Gainesville FS2 — Big East Tournament: TBD, Semifinal, Rosemont, Ill. 3:30 p.m. ACCN — Atlantic Coast Tournament: TBD, Semifinal, Pittsburgh 5 p.m. BTN — Big Ten Tournament: TBD, Semifinal, East Lansing, Mich. 5:30 p.m. ESPN2 — Southeastern Tournament: TBD, Semifinal, Gainesville COLLEGE TRACK AND FIELD 7:30 p.m. PAC-12N — Pac-12 Championships: Women's Hammer Throw, Eugene, Ore. 10:30 p.m. PAC-12N — Pac-12 Championships: Women's 10K, Eugene, Ore. 11:15 p.m. PAC-12N — Pac-12 Championships: Men's 10K, Eugene, Ore. GOLF 7 a.m. GOLF — DP World Tour: The Soudal Open, Second Round, Rinkven International Golf & Country Club, Antwerp, Belgium 10:30 a.m. GOLF — LPGA Tour: The Cognizant Founders Cup, Second Round, Upper Montclair Country Club, Clifton, N.J. 1:30 p.m. GOLF — PGA Tour Champions: The Regions Tradition, Second Round, Greystone Founders Course, Birmingham, Ala. 4 p.m. GOLF — PGA Tour: The AT&T Byron Nelson, Second Round, TPC Craig Ranch, McKinney, Texas HORSE RACING 2 p.m. FS2 — NYRA: America's Day at the Races 5 p.m. FS2 — NYRA: America's Day at the Races IIHF HOCKEY (MEN'S) 9 a.m. NHLN — World Championship Group Stage: U.S. vs. Latvia, Group B, Tampere, Finland 1 p.m. NHLN — World Championship Group Stage: Germany vs. Canada, Group A, Helsinki 5 a.m. (Saturday) NHLN — World Championship Group Stage: Sweden vs. Austria, Group B, Tampere, Finland LACROSSE (MEN'S) 10 p.m. ESPNU — NLL Western Conference Final: Colorado at San Diego, Game 1 MIXED MARTIAL ARTS 4 p.m. SHO — Bellator 281 Main Card: Michael Page vs. Logan Storley (Welterweights), London NBA BASKETBALL 7:40 p.m. ESPN — Eastern Conference Semifinal: Boston at Milwaukee, Game 6 10 p.m. ESPN — Western Conference Semifinal: Memphis at Golden State, Game 6 NHL HOCKEY 7 p.m. TNT — Eastern Conference First Round: NY Rangers at Pittsburgh, Game 6 7:30 p.m. TBS — Eastern Conference First Round: Florida at Washington, Game 6 9:30 p.m. TNT — Western Conference First Round: Calgary at Dallas, Game 6 RODEO 8 p.m. CBSN — PBR: World Finals, Round 1, Fort Worth, Texas SOCCER (WOMEN'S) 10:30 p.m. CBSN — NWSL: OL Reign at Portland FC TENNIS 6 a.m. (Saturday) TENNIS — Rome-WTA/ATP Singles and Doubles Semifinals USFL FOOTBALL 8 p.m. USA — Michigan vs. Tampa Bay, Birmingham, Ala.

IN BRIEF

Derby winner Rich Strike not running in Preakness

Rich Strike will not run in the Preakness after his major upset to win the Kentucky Derby, keeping horse racing from having a Triple Crown winner for a fourth consecutive year.

Owner Rich Dawson made the stunning announcement Thursday, 10 days before the race in Maryland.

Dawson said he and trainer Eric Reed agreed to stick with the initial plan for Rich Strike and rest him for five weeks. Rich Strike, at 80-1, was the biggest long shot to win the Derby in more than a century. Only Donerail in 1913 paid more to win.

The plan now is to have Rich Strike ready to run in the Belmont Stakes in New York on June 11.

DENVER

Broncos' Jeudy arrested in domestic-violence case

Broncos wide receiver Jerry Jeudy was arrested Thursday on a domestic violence-related charge in suburban Denver and was being held at the Arapahoe County Jail, which is next to the team's training complex.

Jeudy, the Broncos' first-round draft pick out of Alabama in 2020, was taken into custody on suspicion of second-degree criminal tampering with a domestic violence enhancer, a misdemeanor, the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office said.

MEMPHIS, Tenn.

Grizzlies' Zach Kleiman named NBA executive of year

Memphis Grizzlies general manager Zach Kleiman has been named the NBA basketball executive of the year, the youngest ever to win the award.

The Grizzlies GM received 16 of 29 first-place votes and earned 85 total points. Cleveland president Koby Altman and Chicago executive vice president of basketball operations Arturas Karnisovas tied for second. Phoenix general manager James Jones and Miami president Pat Riley tied for fourth.

— Associated Press

FRIDAY EVENING MAY 13, 2022. Table with columns for time slot (6 PM, 6:30, 7 PM, 7:30, 8 PM, 8:30, 9 PM, 9:30, 10 PM, 10:30, 11 PM, 11:30) and rows for various TV channels and programs.

**LEGALS
SUWANNEE COUNTY**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP 2022-01
BROKER SERVICES FOR
EMPLOYEE INSURANCE
COVERAGES**

Sealed proposals will be accepted by the City of Live Oak, Florida (City), until Wednesday, June 1, 2022 at 3:00 P.M., local time, in the City Clerk's Office located at 101 White Ave SE, Live Oak, FL 32064. Any proposals received after the above listed date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances. Any uncertainty regarding the time a proposal is received will be resolved against the Respondent. Neither electronic nor faxed proposals will be accepted. Proposal opening will be promptly at 3:30 P.M. June 1, 2022 in the City Council Chambers located at City Hall, at which time only the names of the Respondents will be announced. Proposals must be addressed to the following:

City Clerk's Office
Attn: John Gill, City Clerk
101 White Ave SE
Live Oak, FL 32064

All proposals which are submitted through delivery services such as Federal Express, UPS, or United States Postal Service Express Mail, must be marked on the OUTSIDE of the delivery package with the Respondent's name, address, phone number, request for proposals number (RFP 2022-01), proposal title BROKER SERVICES FOR EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE, and the date and time (June 1, 2022 3:00 PM). The proposal must be in a sealed envelope INSIDE the delivery package labeled with the same information as listed above. All proposals which are hand delivered or delivered through regular mail by the United States Postal Service must have all the same information as listed above on the OUTSIDE of the sealed envelope. Failure to comply may result in the submitted proposal being rejected. Proposals must be completed in the English language, signed with ink in the spaces provided on the enclosed forms and submitted in duplicate or the bid will be subject to rejection. The City is exempt from State Use Tax, State Retail Tax, and Federal Excise Tax. All proposed pricing must be net, exclusive of taxes. Proposals must be dated, signed by an authorized representative, titled, include any firm name, address, and telephone number. The City reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and re-advertise a solicitation for proposals if such is deemed to be in the best interest of the City. The City reserves the right to select the proposal that the City deems to provide the best value to the City. The City reserves the right to award all or part of any contract that the City deems to be in the best interest of the City. The City reserves the right to waive all proposal informalities when deemed in the City's best interest.

Any Respondent seeking clarification of the proposal specifications must do so in writing prior to the deadline for questions. All questions must be sent via e-mail to John Gill, City Clerk, at jgill@cityofliveoak.org. All questions must be received no later than 2:00 P.M. local time on Friday, May 26, 2022. It will be the sole responsibility of the Respondent to contact the City Clerk prior to submitting a response to determine if any addenda have been issued, to obtain such addenda, and to acknowledge the addenda within their proposal.

**LEGALS
SUWANNEE COUNTY**

Any Respondent desirous of protesting a bid for any reason must file a written notice of protest with the City Manager's office within three (3) working days following any award. All protests will be in writing stating the proposal being protested and the specific reasoning for the protest. All protests will be signed by the Protestor and include all details for a complete and thorough review. The decision of the City Manager, after consultation with the City Attorney will be issued within five (5) working days of the receipt of the protest, unless additional time is agreed upon by all parties involved should circumstance warrant such a delay.

By submission of a proposal, the Respondent certifies that: A. The final proposal has been prepared independently and submitted by the Respondent without any collusion of any vendors, supplies, or equipment described in this Request for Proposals. B. The contents of the proposal have not been communicated by the Respondent, their employees or agents, to their best knowledge and belief, to any person not an employee or agent of the Respondent or their surety in any bond furnished herewith and will not be communicated to any such person prior to the official opening of the proposals. C. The Respondent understands that by submitting a proposal they agree to, and fully understand the terms of the RFP and that any misunderstanding will not relieve the Respondent from performance.

Proposals may not be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days after the scheduled closing time for receipt of proposals. CITY OF LIVE OAK, FLORIDA
BY: John Gill, City Clerk

704544
May 13, 2022

245-MISCELLANEOUS

Wanted to lease pasture for cattle. 352-339-3018

305-GENERAL

Administrative Assistant wanted for local title company.

Interested parties should send resume to:
Susie@LakeCityTitle.com

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315-MEDICAL

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE
All Yard Sale Ads Must be Pre-Paid.

555-VEHICLES WANTED TO BUY

Cash for Junk Vehicles: We pick up. Jessie 386-984-8256.

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE
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705-HOMES FOR RENT

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805-HOMES FOR SALE

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the fair housing act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status or national origin; or any intention to make such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under the age of 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll free at 1-800-669-9777, the toll free telephone number to the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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Fort White pitcher Kadence Compton celebrates after the Indians defeated Lafayette in the Region 3-1A semifinals on Thursday night for the program's first playoff win since 2008.



Fort White's Ciara Byrd scores in the second inning to give the Indians an early lead against Lafayette in the Region 3-1A semifinals on Thursday night.

Photos by MORGAN MCMULLEN/Lake City Reporter



Fort White's Gracie Clemons rounds third base before being held up during the Indian's Region 3-1A semifinal win against Lafayette on Thursday night.

INDIANS

Continued from 1B

to chase Byrd home for the game's opening run. However, three consecutive outs from Lafayette starting pitcher Emma Swann got the Hornets out of the jam with a pair of runners in scoring position.

After working an uneventful top of the third inning, Fort White (14-7) went right back to work in the bottom half. Gracie Clemons, Compton and Maddy Keen each hit singles to the outfield to load the bases with nobody out. A sacrifice fly from Byrd doubled the Indians' lead on the next at-bat. However, a fielder's choice nailed courtesy runner Dallas McDaniel at the plate.

But Atkins was just getting started. The sophomore third baseman ripped a double into deep center field to chase home Keen before catcher Kaitlyn Suggs was thrown out at home, preventing an even bigger night from Atkins. She finished 3 for 3 from the plate with a pair of

RBIs. Atkins said she'd never had a perfect game at the plate before, following in the footsteps of senior Kaitlyn Suggs, who also had her first perfect game during the district semifinals.

"I wasn't on," Atkins said of her performance against the Hornets in district play. "Then at the last second, I hit a line drive and got some people home. But today I thought I was hot. I had to do it for my team."

While Compton cruised by in the first four innings, the workload apparently took its toll a bit on the freshman. She received treatment on her left leg in between a pair of innings due to some soreness. But she persevered, throwing a complete game while allowing just one earned run on three hits and three walks while striking out nine.

"Kadence pitched a heck of a game," Padgett said. "I mean, we played ball. I'm proud of them."

Compton began running into trouble in the later stages of the game. After getting the leadoff hitter out in the top of the fifth, she allowed a pair of consecutive groundball singles, prompt-

ing a mound visit while the defense regrouped. Compton followed that up by inducing a fly out to center and striking out the last batter.

The Hornets (13-7) made it a bit interesting in the top of the sixth inning. A one-out walk from Haley Rosenbaum was followed with a long single from McKenzie Winburn to chase Rosenbaum, who was running on the pitch, all the way home to cut into the deficit.

But Compton proved why she and her team should be the ones to advance. She struck out the next batter before an infield hit led to courtesy runner Corra Clark getting thrown out at the plate to preserve the lead. A 1-2-3 seventh inning preserved the win for the finals-bound Indians. They'll face off against Union County (18-5) on Tuesday at Fort White in the regional finals. The Indians split the season series with the Tigers 1-1, winning their most recent matchup 4-1 on April 1 at home.

"We're gonna try to make history again Tuesday night," Padgett said.



Fort White shortstop Ciara Byrd tags out Lafayette's Jaley Moseley on a fielder's choice Thursday night in a Region 3-1A semifinals.



Fort White pitcher Kadence Compton delivers a pitch Thursday against Lafayette in the Region 3-1A semifinals on Thursday night.

WALKER

Continued from 1B

tions. Walker will count \$6.8 million against the team's salary cap this fall.

The Georgia pass rusher rose up draft boards following an impressive combine and landed in Jacksonville to play opposite 2018 Pro Bowl alternate Josh Allen.

The Jaguars chose the 6-foot-5, 272-pound Georgia native over Michigan star Aidan Hutchinson, who set a school record with 14 sacks in 2021 and finished second in Heisman Trophy voting. The team later added Lloyd and Muma in hopes of improving a defense that ranked 20th in the league in yards allowed in 2021 and gave up nearly 27 points a game.

Picking Walker, though, wasn't nearly the slam dunk that drafting quarterback Trevor Lawrence at No. 1 was a year ago. Critics argued that Hutchinson was the more polished product and

pointed to Walker's limited college numbers. He had 9½ sacks in three years in Athens, including six during last season's national championship run.

But Jaguars general manager Trent Baalke and coach Doug Pederson see a more versatile player in Walker, who logged snaps at defensive end, defensive tackle and outside linebacker in Georgia's vaunted defense last fall. His highlights include more than sacks; he stops the run, tackles speedy receivers in the open field and tips passes that lead to interceptions.

He bided his time as a backup for two years with the Bulldogs and started to blossom as a junior. He started all 15 games in 2021, finishing with 37 tackles, including 7½ for a loss, and two pass break-ups.

The Jaguars plan to take it slow with Walker, letting him learn the outside linebacker position before shuffling him to other spots along the defensive front.

SHS

Continued from 1B

great placement, was nice and relaxed."

That good start continued for Beach and the Bulldogs, who placed ninth as a team with 22 points. Beach also brought home medals in both the 110- and 300-meter hurdles, duplicating his three-medal feat from a year ago, completing his high school career with a pair of personal bests.

"It was a great day," Mark Beach said.

In the 110 hurdles, Beach posted a 15.01 to come in fourth, a little more than one-tenth of a second behind Pompano Beach's Avondre Walters and Bolles' Jeffrey Ashby.

Later, in the 300 hurdles, Beach actually led the race most of the way before clipping the eighth hurdle, settling for fifth in 39.48, six-hundredths of a second out of a runner-up



COURTESY

Suwannee's TJ Derico placed fourth in the long jump Thursday at the Class 2A state meet.

finish. Second through eighth place all finished within three-tenths of a second of each other.

"He ended up doing his best at the right time," Mark Beach said of the pair of PRs from Garrison, as well as the near personal best in the javelin.

He wasn't the lone Bulldog finishing the year strong.

TJ Derico, who Mark

Beach said came out of nowhere near the end of the season to qualify for state, made sure he did more than that Thursday.

Jumping in the first flight in the long jump, Derico topped the group when he sailed 6.86m on his first jump. That was good enough to place fourth on a day with a national record set by Montverde Academy's

Micah Larry, who jumped 7.91m, the best in the country this year and the 11th best high school jump in history.

"It was unbelievable," Mark Beach said. "With that type of competition out there, TJ finished fourth, which was a great job."

Derico also placed 13th in the triple jump with a jump of 12.64m.

Will Wainwright, the third Suwannee boy to qualify for state, finished 13th in the javelin with a long of 46.21m and 15th in the discus with a top throw of 39.84m.

Dariniya Martin, the lone Suwannee girl to advance to state, also didn't leave empty-handed.

After placing 16th in the triple jump with a best leap of 10.72m, Martin overcame a couple of misses early in the high jump to finish eighth and reach the medal stand.

After missing twice on 1.47m, Martin made her final attempt there before also clearing 1.52m to get into medal position.



BRENT KUYKENDALL/Lake City Reporter

Columbia pitcher Grant Bowers celebrates with a roar as he heads back to the dugout after a strikeout against Mosley during the Region 1-5A semifinals on Thursday.

TIGERS

Continued from 1B

Bowers finished the night with two runs allowed — none earned — on two hits, two walks and two hit batters in five innings before being pulled due to tightness in his shoulder.

“Grant pitched his butt off. He does that all the time. That’s Grant,” Howard said. “We knew he could throw the changeup and curveball, and that’s what we had to do to beat these guys.”

Howard and Edge made the decision to start Bowers after he pitched 4 1/3 scoreless innings last Thursday to deliver the Tigers (21-8) a district championship. He didn’t allow an earned run that night, and he didn’t plan to against Mosley either.

The kid had no fear facing the defending state champs.

“I was excited,” Bowers said. “The last game I threw, I threw well so I just knew I was going to come in and do my job and do what I do.”

The Dolphins (16-12) started Jordan Martinez on the mound, who suffered the loss after allowing two earned runs on three hits and four walks with four strikeouts in three innings. Matt Dumas started the first inning with an infield single and Gustavson then walked to set up Todd’s 2-RBI double.

Mosley cut the deficit to 2-1 in the fourth when Nate Maret walked and stole second before an error by Columbia third baseman Ty Jackson brought him home for the team’s first run. But Columbia added three runs in the fifth off of reliever Tyler Wave to provide more than enough cushion on the scoreboard.

Gustavson opened the Tigers’ half of the fifth with a double and Todd

delivered a sac fly RBI two batters later to make it 3-1. Brayden Thomas and Jackson then hit back-to-back singles to bring up Kade Jackson, who popped a perfect bunt over the head of Nelson at third base to score Thomas.

Ty Jackson was thrown out on a fielder’s choice, but Kade Jackson later scored on a wild pitch to push the advantage to 5-1. Wave pitched the final three innings for the Dolphins, allowing three earned runs on seven hits and a pair of walks.

“Those runs played a big role in our confidence going into the later innings of the game,” Todd said. “It was a really big inning.”

Howard was forced to go to Dumas when Bowers’ shoulder tightened, and Dumas made things interesting. He loaded the bases the start the sixth, which included a leadoff error to Nelson, who then scored on Chris Emilsen’s RBI fielder’s choice.

Dumas loaded the bases again with his second walk of the inning but escaped any further damage with back-to-back strikeouts.

Then came the seventh inning, where Dumas opened with a strikeout before issuing two straight walks only to strike out the next two batters to finish off the Dolphins.

“He was unbelievable,” Howard said of Dumas. “He’s a player. I hate to take him out of center field because he catches everything, but daggum he’s got to pitch too.”

Now the Tigers have to beat Lincoln, which rallied to win the teams’ only meeting in Tallahassee on April 28. The Trojans rallied for a 4-3 win, scoring all four runs in the seventh inning.

“We just have to come out swinging,” Todd said. “We know they’re a good team and they’re going to play hard. It’s the regional championship. We just have to play like we have before.”

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