

# Golf: McIlroy's furious attempt to make cut falls short /B1

**SATURDAY**  
 TODAY & next morning  
**HIGH 92** Scattered afternoon thunderstorms.  
**LOW 74** PAGE A4

# CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

125

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## Citrus' jobless rate rises to 5.2%

Seasonal uptick no cause for alarm says employment expert

**MICHAEL D. BATES**  
*Staff writer*

Citrus County's June unemployment rate was 5.2%, up from 4.6% in May but down from 5.6% in June 2018. Citrus was tied with Sumter

County for the third-worst unemployment rate in the state, according to numbers released Friday by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (FDEO).

Citrus County's labor force in June grew by 62 to 48,666

people from a month earlier. The number of people employed dropped by 223 to 46,157 and the number of unemployed increased by 285 to 2,509 over the month.

The numbers look better compared to a year ago, when the

jobless rate was 5.6%. Compared to last year, the labor force grew by 308, the number of employed rose by 508 and the number of unemployed fell by 200.

Monroe County had the state's lowest unemployment rate at 2.4%, followed by St. Johns County and Okaloosa County (2.9% each), Walton County (3.0%) and Orange

County (3.1%).

Hendry County had the highest unemployment rate at 6.6%, followed by Hardee County (5.9%).

Florida's unemployment was 3.5% in June, up from 3.1% from the month before. The national rate was 3.8%, up from 3.4% in May.

See **JOBLESS/Page A5**

## Lecanto man shot during standoff



**MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle**

Members of the Hernando County SWAT Team stage along West High Acres Street Friday evening during a standoff near County Road 491 west of Lecanto. Both Citrus and Hernando County Sheriff's office personnel responded to the incident.

Dozens of law enforcement officers from Citrus and Hernando counties responded to the scene

**FRED HIERS**  
*Staff writer*

Citrus County Sheriff's deputies shot an armed Lecanto man who had barricaded himself in a home Friday evening with two hostages, authorities said.

The man, identified by his mother as

Salvador "Bo" Salazar, 35, was taken by ambulance to a waiting helicopter at the College of Central Florida parking lot. He was flown to an Ocala hospital where his condition was unknown Friday night, officials said.

No officers were injured, authorities said. Salazar released the hostages unharmed before the standoff

ended, they said.

A three-hour standoff began around 5 p.m. when a Citrus County Sheriff's deputy responded to a call to the 1200 block of West High Acres Street, just north of Cardinal Street and off of County Road 491, Sgt. Lee Carey said.

The call was about a barricaded,

suicidal man with hostages, Carey said.

Carey would not provide details of the gunfire and he would not identify the deputy involved. He said investigators have not determined if Salazar fired at officers.

Sheriff's office hostage negotiators were called in and Salazar

See **SHOT/Page A5**

## Blame it on the rain: Halls River bridge completion delayed again

Opening now pushed to mid-August

**MICHAEL D. BATES**  
*Staff writer*

You've seen this headline before: Substantial completion of the Halls River Bridge widening project has been pushed back again.

It was supposed to be done by

the end of July. But Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) spokeswoman Kris Carson said the date is now mid-August.

Carson blamed the delay on weather.

"We've been dealing with seasonal rains with 10-plus rain

days over the last month," she said.

On a more positive note, the bridge is now open to two-way traffic.

"It has opened up the roadway and bridge from the tight conditions which previously existed," Carson said.

Substantial completion means traffic will be placed in its final

configuration with all paving completed, leaving only minor items or repairs.

This bridge replacement project started in January 2017 and it was supposed to finish by spring 2018. There was to be minimal obstruction to the public, officials said at the time — six months of one-lane traffic.

Then came the delays. Reasons for them were many; most had to do with the ground.

Workers early on experienced hard layers of weathered limestone. Depressions formed. There were problems with bridge pilings and seawall. Reinforcements for concrete columns had to be installed. The

See **BRIDGE/Page A6**

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## Around the COMMUNITY

### July 20

#### Fort Cooper Junior Ranger Day

Come out to Fort Cooper State Park and become a Junior Ranger from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, July 20, at 3100 S. Old Floral City Road, Inverness.

Bring the whole family for a morning of fun and activities and the chance to get your junior ranger badge, ID card and other fun prizes.

Park entrance fee is \$3 per vehicle, up to eight people. Suggested items to bring along are water, insect repellent, a hat or visor and

a camera.

For information, contact Penny Wilson at penny.wilson@floridadep.gov or 352-726-0315.

#### Aglow Lighthouse meets in CR

Crystal River Aglow Lighthouse will meet from 9:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, July 20, at the Crystal River Women's Club, 320 N. Citrus Ave., Crystal River.

The presentation will be by Arlene Liner, speaker and teacher.

For information, contact Linda at crystalriveraglow@yahoo.com or 352-436-3065.

#### Indoor Mermaids & Manatee Festival

Paint the Town Citrus and the Crystal River Mall are sponsoring the second annual Indoor Mermaids and Pirates Festival from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, July 20, at the mall at 1801 NW U.S. 19, Crystal River.

Pirates will be roaming the mall and taking pictures. Free entry, free bounce house with slide, free scavenger hunt with prizes and big spin wheel with free coupons and prizes from many of the local stores in the mall. Lots of unique artists and vendors will also be at

the mall for the day.

For information, contact Diana Marsh at paintthe towncitrus@gmail.com or 352-601-1344.

#### Orchid Society meets at VFW

The Nature Coast Orchid Society will meet at 1 p.m. Saturday, July 20, at the VFW Post 8681 on the corner of Drayton St. and County Line Road, Spring Hill.

Doors open at noon. The speaker will be Louis Del Favero from Del Favero Orchids in Tampa.

Also at the meeting will be

a raffle table, orchids for sale, a "member show off table" and refreshments.

Guests are welcome. For information, contact Mary Lou Mattana at lidosmom@gmail.com or 218-556-1855.

#### New Age Thinkers meet

The New Age Thinkers will meet at 2 p.m. Saturday, July 20, at Unity of Citrus, 2628 W. Woodview Lane, Lecanto.

For information, contact Donna Scarpello at dscarpello@tampabay.rr.com or 352-419-7337 or visit www.newagethinkers.org.

### Monday, July 22

#### Citrus/Marion Retired Nurses meet

The July planning meeting of the Citrus/Marion Retired Nurses will be at 11:30 a.m. Monday, July 22, at B&W Rexall Drug, 214 S. U.S. 41, Inverness.

Lunch will be available to purchase. All members are invited. We will be planning our meeting programs for 2019-20.

For information, contact Judy Herron at jlherron@aol.com or 352-860-0232.

#### Citrus County Sheriff's Office

##### DUI arrests

■ **Joseph Henry**, 60, of Michael Drive, Beverly Hills, at 10:26 p.m. July 12 on misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence and DUI with property damage. According to his arrest affidavit, Henry was involved in a car accident. He was asked to complete field sobriety tasks and did poorly. Breath-alcohol testing of his blood alcohol level registered 0.268 and 0.255. The legal limit is 0.08. His bond was set at \$2,000.

■ **Brenda Weiler**, 62, of

North Dewey Way, Hernando, at 1:24 a.m. July 12 on a misdemeanor charge of driving under the influence. According to her arrest affidavit, Weiler pulled over for erratic driving. She was asked to complete field sobriety tasks and did poorly. Breath-alcohol testing of her blood alcohol level registered 0.0 and 0.0. The legal limit is 0.08. Her bond was set at \$1,000.

##### Domestic battery arrest

■ **Heather Sorenson**, 43, of Inverness, at 4:51 a.m. July 12 on a misdemeanor charge of domestic battery.

##### Other arrests

■ **Timothy Delaney**, 69, of Hernando, at 11:08 a.m. July 12 on a felony charge of possession of a controlled substance. His bond was set at \$2,000.

■ **Desiree Udy**, 35, of Northeast 163rd Place, Citra, at noon July 12 on an active warrant for felony violation of probation stemming from an original charge of possession of methamphetamine. She was transported from the Marion County Jail to the Citrus County Detention Facility.

■ **James Marino**, 29, of Homosassa, at 1:04 p.m. July 12 on a felony charge of possession of a controlled substance

and misdemeanor charges of trespassing and possession of drug paraphernalia. His bond was set at \$4,000.

■ **Melissa Joubert**, 24, of Homosassa, at 8:23 p.m. July 12 on misdemeanor charges of resisting an officer without violence and possession of drug paraphernalia. She was also charged with felony failure to appear. According to her arrest affidavit, Joubert is accused of attempting to run away from officers attempting to arrest her on an active warrant. A syringe with methamphetamine residue was reportedly found in her possession. Her bond was set at \$2,000.

■ **John Young**, 56, of West Kuhns Lane, Lecanto, at 8:34 p.m. July 12 on a misdemeanor charge of retail petit theft. He was also charged with misdemeanor failure to appear. According to his arrest affidavit, Young is accused of shoplifting merchandise valued \$147.75 from the Lecanto Walmart. His combined bond was set at \$3,000.

■ **Kelly Costello**, 41, of Homosassa, at 7:35 p.m. July 13 on felony charges of possession of a controlled substance and trafficking in stolen property and misdemeanor charges of petit theft and drug paraphernalia. Her bond was set

at \$12,500.

■ **Daniel Maxwell**, 35, of Crystal River, at 3:41 a.m. July 13 on a felony charge of possession of a controlled substance and misdemeanor charges of possession of cannabis and drug paraphernalia. His bond was set at \$10,000.

■ **Kerry Mitarittonno**, 32, of Beverly Hills, at 3:15 a.m. July 13 on misdemeanor charges of possession of cannabis and drug paraphernalia. Her bond was set at \$2,000.

■ **David Mock**, 40, of Hernando, at 3:15 a.m. July 13 on a misdemeanor charge of possession of drug paraphernalia. His bond was set at \$1,000.



BUSTER THOMPSON/Chronicle

Emergency responders load a man into a helicopter to be transported to a hospital after he was injured Friday evening in a shooting with deputies in Lecanto.

## SHOT

Continued from Page A1

surrendered, Carey said.

Carey would not identify the hostages or their relationship with Salazar.

More than two dozen law enforcement vehicles from Citrus and Hernando counties responded to the scene.

Salazar's mother, Lisa

Bush, who lives on the same street as her son, said law enforcement gave her few details about what happened.

"He just had a breakdown, PTSD," she said, sitting on the bed of a pickup truck behind the yellow police tape. "He felt like no one cared. No one's talking to us. They fired multiple times."

Neighbors reported hearing close to a dozen

gunshots, and deputies ordering them back into their homes.

Rick Papineau said he witnessed a deputy yelling at someone.

"You could hear him screaming, 'put down the gun!'" Papineau said. "I ran out front and they yelled at me to get back into the house."

SWAT team members were prepared with battering rams to force

themselves into the house if necessary.

Marco Porro, who lives across the street, said he could hear the standoff as it came to an end.

"I was in the living room and I heard about 10 gunshots, very close," he said. "I rushed out the door and I could hear screaming and yelling, 'get down on your knees! Get down on your knees!'"

Carey said the sheriff's

office would release more details in the coming days.

West High Acres Street was blocked at C.R. 491 for several hours and a portion of the road was closed Friday night where the shooting occurred.

Staff writers Buster

Thompson and Mike Wright contributed to this report.

## JOBLESS

Continued from Page A1

Kathleen Woodring, CareerSource CLM's executive vice president, said the seasonal uptick in unemployment is no cause for alarm.

"This is something we typically see at this time of

year, and we're not alone," Woodring said. "With virtually no exceptions, every county, every metro area, every workforce region saw unemployment begin to rise in June."

Sixty-six counties experienced a rate increase over the month, while one county — Miami-Dade — was unchanged.

Historically,

unemployment rates rise during the summer due to seasonal factors such as release of school support personnel for the summer as well as college students returning to the area looking for temporary work until they head back to school, Woodring said.

"Based on what we've seen happen year after year, we can probably

expect to see rates for our region and state spike in July, which we'll get in next month's report," Woodring said. "For our area, we see rates drop back to 'pre-spike' numbers or below by September of October."

Contact Chronicle reporter Mike Wright at 352-563-3228 or mwright@chronicleonline.com.

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