



**VETERANS** Page A3  
Support for veterans’ causes  
is always needed, appreciated



**LOCAL** Page B1  
‘Two Good Soles’ shows  
‘Citrus County Cares’

# CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

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## Citrus County joins push to amend Senate Bill 180

Commissioners back Pasco County’s effort and plan to send their own letter urging clarification of storm recovery law

By **MICHAEL D. BATES**  
Chronicle Reporter

Citrus County commissioners have joined a growing number of local governments raising concerns over Senate Bill 180, a new state law critics say could weaken local authority to manage growth after hurricanes. In a unanimous 5-0 vote, the board last week agreed to send a

letter to the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) and the county’s legislative delegation, calling for clarification of the bill’s vague language. The board will also support a similar proposal from Pasco County, which seeks to limit SB 180’s preemption powers to only properties directly damaged by hurricanes – not all properties within a



**BAYS**

wide geographic area. “I think the more support that we have across the 67 counties, the better we’ll have some ‘glitch’ legislation to fix it,” Commission Chairwoman Rebecca Bays said. Commissioner Janet Barek agreed, and made a motion to draft the support letter. “We need to get out there and get ahead of it,” Barek said. Speaking at a recent Citrus County Chamber of Commerce luncheon, State Rep. J.J. Grow said he plans to work in Tallahassee to work on clarification and make sure everyone knows what the bill is meant to do and eliminate the



**BAREK**

parts that would negatively affect Citrus County. Grow stressed the importance of ensuring the bill does not delay the county’s update to its comprehensive plan. Which serves as a blueprint for future growth. Commissioners recently voted 3-2 to move forward with the \$500,000 revision.

### So what’s the issue with Senate Bill 180?

Here’s what the law – which

took effect July 1, 2025 – does, and why counties across Florida are raising concerns: ■ **What it does:** The bill pre-empts local governments from enforcing stricter building codes, permit requirements, moratoriums, or development restrictions in hurricane-affected areas. ■ **Concern:** Critics say this ties their hands when it comes to managing growth, protecting sensitive areas, and ensuring safe rebuilding practices. ■ **What it does:** The bill includes terms like “more restrictive

See **AMEND**, page A5

## Inverness Village IV residents plead with governor over crumbling roads



Matthew Beck / Chronicle photo editor

A deep wash out in the roadway creates hazardous driving conditions for those traversing the intersection of East Walker Street and North Cunningham Avenue in Inverness.

By **MIKE ARNOLD**  
Chronicle Reporter

Residents of Inverness Village IV are appealing directly to Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis over what they describe as a public safety crisis in their subdivision. In a letter sent Sunday, Jen and Allen (the Chronicle is withholding their last names at their request due to sensitive employment considerations) warned that more than 350 homes in the community are effectively cut off by unpaved, dangerously eroded roads, creating hazards for emergency responders, delivery drivers and residents alike. The pair accuse Citrus County of negligence for continuing to issue building permits despite repeated warnings and ongoing infrastructure failures. The letter was also copied to U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Florida Sens. Rick Scott and Ashley Moody, U.S. Rep Gus Bilirakis, State Rep J.J. Grow and Florida CFO Blaise Ingoglia. Jen offered these answers to a series of questions based on the content of the letter: **Q:** Can you describe what daily life is like trying to drive in and out of Inverness Village IV?

See **RESIDENTS**, page A2

## Van Der Valk’s bankruptcy plan faces creditor objections

By **MIKE ARNOLD**  
Chronicle Reporter

Matthieu Saejis and Christiaan Matser were friends for more than 30 years, but their relationship deteriorated in 2022 when Saejis sued Matser for breach of contract, alleging he was owed more than \$300,000 for services rendered. That case is still pending in Citrus County and has become intertwined with the Van Der Valk Construction LLC Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings. Matser and his wife Ingrid own and operate Van Der Valk. Saejis, who sold bricks in Holland prior to relocating to Hernando, owns



Van Der Valk Construction

An example of a home being built by Van Der Valk Construction posted to their website.

MDST, LLC, which performed work for the company and has formally objected to the re-organization plan.

Van Der Valk, a Citrus County homebuilder incorporated in 2009, primarily builds residential homes in Inverness Village Unit 4 and Citrus Springs. Its bankruptcy plan proposes monthly payments of \$3,500 over 36 months, potentially extendable to 60 months, with additional payments if lawsuits or settlements generate funds. Secured creditors, including Kubota Credit Corporation with a \$72,000 claim, would be repaid with interest over five years. Unsecured creditors would receive pro-rata distributions after administrative and secured claims.

See **BANKRUPTCY**, page A5



Special to the Chronicle

Water pipes have been exposed along Taper Street in Inverness Villages IV following the recent rains.

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**BIG FALL TO-DO**

Going On  
September 27 • 9 am - 1 pm  
Citrus County Auditorium - Inverness

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September 27 • 9 am - 1 pm

Air Conditioning • Landscape • Flooring  
Windows • Pest Control • Insurance  
Roofing and More



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