

Around Osceola

Battle at Narcoossee Mill marks 25 years.

The enactment will be held today and Sunday at Ralph V. Chisolm Park in St. Cloud.

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Metal detectors, security coming to City Hall

By Rachel Christian
Staff Writer

City officials are in the process of boosting security across Kissimmee. The city is seeking bid proposals for professional security services at City Hall, including metal detectors and trained personnel.

The security guards would be present at every public meeting held there. Meeting attendees would be required to pass through a metal detector and undergo a bag search before gaining entry to the rest of the building.

The county has a similar security system already in place at the courthouse and administrative building.

The safety measure is something that city public information officer Austin Blake said has been in the works for a while.

"The City Commission chose to make safety improvements a priority last year," Blake said. "This isn't anything new."

Blake added that the city meant to start the process when budgeted funds became available in October. But hurricane aftermath and other issues delayed process until now.

Blake said the increased security measures are not in response to any prior safety issues, or a reaction to the mass shooting that took place at a high school in Parkland, Florida last month.

"We want to be proactive instead of reactive," Blake said. "We've been fortunate because we haven't run into any issues so far."

Officials allocated \$10,000 in the budget for a private company to provide its own security personnel and equipment.

See **City Hall**, Page 2.



NEWS-GAZETTE PHOTO/MARTIN MADDOCK

The city of Kissimmee is seeking bid proposals for professional security services at City Hall, including metal detectors and trained personnel.

AROUND TOWN

That's a good dog



NEWS-GAZETTE PHOTO/CINDY JOINT

Osceola County Sheriff's Office Deputy Jim Scanlon talks with George Paul, 5, and Aurora Lee, 7, of St. Cloud, and answers questions about working with Tank the bloodhound during Community Appreciation Day March 10. The Sheriff's Office hosted the event along with several organizations around the county.

School District launches music program for island students affected by hurricane

By Melinn Lanier
For the News-Gazette

The Osceola County School District has launched the Music Helps Heal program in collaboration with Live Music Tutor Inc. to aid incoming students from hurricane-devastated Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands in their recovery process.

The program is designed to help displaced students recover emotionally and socially through musical therapy.

It seeks to provide students with supplies, such as instruments, music stands or art materials.

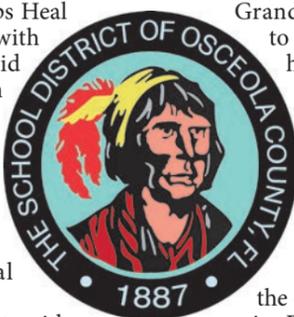
For Poinciana High School junior Dayanlee Rivera, this is just what she needs.

Five months ago, Rivera left Río Grande in Puerto Rico and came to Kissimmee alone to live with her father.

"With everything that has happened to me, I think this program can help me relieve some stress," Rivera said. "Perhaps it can get me to play more instruments other than the keyboard."

The program has also caught the eye of Poinciana High School senior Brian Torres, who came to the city of Kissimmee six months ago with his

See **Music**, Page 3.



Fire destroys Kissimmee apartment complex building



NEWS-GAZETTE PHOTO/MARTIN MADDOCK

Kissimmee Fire Department officials said a fire started on the second floor of the Valencian Apartments on Wednesday, making the complex uninhabitable.

By Rachel Christian
Staff Writer

Approximately 20 residents were displaced after a two-alarm structure fire destroyed eight units at a Kissimmee apartment complex Wednesday afternoon.

The Kissimmee Fire Department arrived at Valencian Apartments on West Donegan Avenue around 11:20 a.m. after receiving multiple calls from concerned residents.

Flames fanned by Wednesday's gusty winds jutted out of two second-floor apartment roods as Orange, Osceola and city of Kissimmee first responders

worked to extinguish the blaze.

All eight units in the building were destroyed by fire or water damage.

"No one is ever moving back into that building again," said Kissimmee Fire Department Public Information Officer Joan Robinson.

She said the fire clearly originated on the second floor of the building.

No one was in the units by the time firefighters arrived.

A nearby resident was treated for mild smoke inhalation at the scene. No other injuries were reported.

See **Fire**, Page 3.

Exotic Pet Amnesty Day set for Sunday in Poinciana



PHOTO/FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

People may surrender exotic pets Sunday at the Disney Wilderness Preserve in Poinciana.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and Swamp Girl Adventures are holding an Exotic

Pet Amnesty Day event on Sunday, March 25, in Poinciana.

People may surrender their exotic pets at the event,

whether they are being kept legally or illegally, without penalty or cost. The Exotic Pet Amnesty Program

See **Pet**, Page 5.

New energy efficient incentives available to Osceola homeowners

By Rachel Christian
Staff Writer

Osceola County commissioners approved a measure March 5 that will give homeowners an incentive to make energy-efficient upgrades to their property.

The program is called Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE).

The program, which was already in place for commercial properties in the county, allows participants to pay for eligible upgrades over time as an additional, voluntary line item on their property taxes.

This voluntary financing option is a public-private partnership between the Florida Development Finance Corporation (FDPC) and four private companies present at the County Commission meeting.

Eligible improvements include those that will prepare homes for future storms, such as wind-

resistant roof-to-wall connections and storm shutter. It also includes products that may lower energy bills, like rooftop solar and high-efficiency air conditioning systems.

Commissioner Viviana Janer said she was opposed to approving the residential PACE resolution, and asked for it to be postponed until a separate solar ordinance could come before the board in May.

Grieb challenged Janer's proposal, arguing that the two different measures accomplished two different things.

"People who are purchasing new homes or having to get new insurance, this actually helps. People who still haven't been able to replace their roofs, this is a financing instrument for them now," Grieb said. "While I understand that we're trying to coordinate, this is still separate from what we're doing with our [solar] ordinance."

Choudhry sided with Grieb on approving PACE.

"That's already hurting the people who want to do this, who want to start doing environmental things in their homes," Choudhry said. "So it doesn't really make sense to wait two, three months for something that could be implemented for people who are asking for it now."

PACE is already in place for the city of Kissimmee, Orlando and Winter Park.

The resolution allowed four certified private companies to participate in PACE, and the county attorney said additional companies could be added by resolution in the future.

Homeowners interested in applying for HERO financing or who wish to learn more should visit renovateamerica.com/financing/hero/communities. Contractors interested in offering HERO financing can register at renovateamerica.com.contractors.

CITY HALL

Continued from Page 1

The city may not use all that money, Blake said, but a financial cushion was included to account for any unscheduled public meetings.

An account manager appointed by the private

company would coordinate all issues relating to the contract, staffing and performance, and serve as a liaison between the vendor and the city.

The request for proposals

states that security personnel will not be allowed to carry firearms or other unauthorized equipment while on-duty.

Blake said officials are currently working on

other security measures across the city, including installing cameras at certain government-owned facilities.

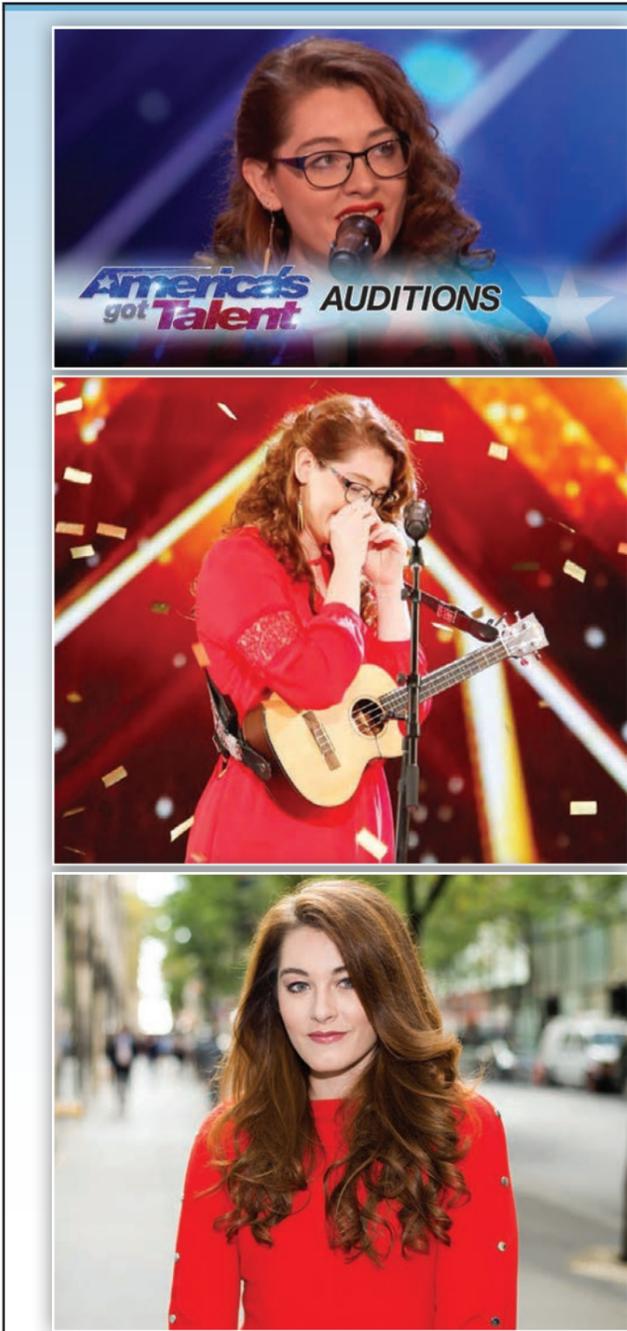
Due to security concerns though, Blake was unable to

disclose specific details on those additional measures.

Bid proposals for the City Hall project are due by April 5. After proposals are reviewed, a three-year contract will be awarded to

the chosen bidder, and the contract could be renewed for two additional years.

Blake said the city intends to move quickly to select a vendor and put the new security measures in place.



MANDY HARVEY IN CONCERT

Mandy Harvey recently made headlines during her audition on Season 12 of America's Got Talent. Mandy, who is deaf, won the hearts of the crowd and judges when she was Simon Cowell's Golden Buzzer winner after performing her own song "Try."

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REMEMBERING KISSIMMEE

1995 – the killing year



JOHN LEWIS
Former deputy police chief

It can be found on any TV news show and over most social media applications; “such and such” city is the murder capital of the world.

So, I believe that it is safe to say, as a city grows, crime will go up and that could lead to more murders and violent crime. Well, if we look back to 1995, Kissimmee was starting to change. The police department had moved into a new multi-million-dollar building in 1994, the uniforms had changed from light blue to dark navy blue and we had a new chief of police. Construction was continuing throughout the city and call volumes for the police began to increase. What none of us expected was the rapid increase in murders.

In 1995, there were eight detectives and a sergeant to investigate all felony crimes in the city. Detectives either investigated property crimes (grand theft, burglary, fraud) or persons crimes (rape, robbery and homicide). However, the detectives weren't specialized in any one crime. They were expected to work all crimes. All were good at their job and knew how to investigate and the sergeant had investigated murders throughout his career, but there was no need for specialization up until this point. You can go to larger agencies and you will find homicide detectives who work only cases involving dead bodies. If there was a murder, all members of the KPD unit would be called out to investigate. They would research the victim, the victim's family, and acquaintances or they'd handle the crime scene and collection of evidence. Finally, each detective may have been part of the interrogation team to interview potential suspects. The tasks change frequently. As the television show, “The First 48,” aptly depicts, the chances of solving a murder after 48-hours drastically decrease so it was an all hands on deck every time there was a murder.

Kissimmee was seeing an influx of new residents and tourists to the area. The transient nature of living in a community where the majority of your residents don't have lifelong ties with the community will definitely hinder investigations. Statistics show that most murders are committed by people who knew the victim. Therefore, when you consider the amount of people moving to Central Florida and Kissimmee specifically, who have no ties to the community, it will make it difficult at best to solve these heinous crimes because of the lack of familiarity between suspects, victims and the local area.

Investigations would reach a fevered pitch between August and November. Beginning the first week of August through Thanksgiving there were six reported murders. Now that may not seem like a lot, but at least four of them were complete “whodunits” where there were no discernible connections between the suspect and the victims. This greatly challenged the eight detectives working these cases.

So, it began. A female found deceased along the railroad tracks. A female found deceased next to the old Winn Dixie on Boggy Creek Road. A male shot to death in north Kissimmee, an infant shaken to death and several others. That would mean 18 to 20-hour days of chasing leads and trying to, in some cases, just identify the victims let alone the suspects. Yes, Kissimmee was changing and growing up. It was becoming a bigger city. It got so bad that every time the phone rang at the house and I was not the on-call detective, my wife would say, “I hope no one else is dead.” Only to find out that she wouldn't be seeing me much for the next few days to even a week. These cases were also historical for other reasons. Detectives arrested Scott Mansfield for the murder of Sara Robles and his conviction resulted in one of the first modern death penalty cases for Kissimmee. Other detectives were featured in television shows assisting with other homicides and still others dealt with suspects intimidating witnesses to hinder investigations.

Sure, Kissimmee has had some rough times recently but for the last few years we may have had four or so homicides to investigate with a much greater number of personnel to do the investigating. But the year of 1995 will long be remembered for Kissimmee changing and growing. Just ask any of those sleep-deprived eight detectives who cleared all but one of those cases.

More tragic events were about to happen and change Kissimmee in the years to come. The little city was well on its way to being a focal point of national news and would be forced to abandon its identity. No one knew about these coming changes, we were just trying to stop the violent crime wave of 1995.

MUSIC

Continued from Page 1

mother and grandmother from Vega Baja, Puerto Rico.

He has always had an interest in music, and is a part of his school's chorus program.

“This program sounds really interesting since it involves music,” Torres said. “The guitar is one of my favorite instruments.”

To receive instruments or other supplies, students can have their school's music department request them from the school district.

The program is sustained with financial and material donations.

“This is an amazing program,” said Pamela Haas, who oversees it and is one of the performing arts leaders in the Osceola School District. “It helps students

by using the benefits of music and everyone speaks music. It's the universal language.”

Virtual instruction is also offered by the online music organization Live Music Tutor where students can learn from bilingual teachers, giving them the opportunity to learn English, if they don't know it.

These virtual lessons can help further instruction that students receive in class if they are a part of a school music program.

“Music in general is reported to help further student learning as well as achievement,” Haas said.

Students involved in music have an 11 percent higher chance of graduating than students who are not,

according to the Center for Fine Arts Education.

Academic achievement is especially important to Rivera, who could have stayed in Puerto Rico but decided it was best for her as a student to leave.

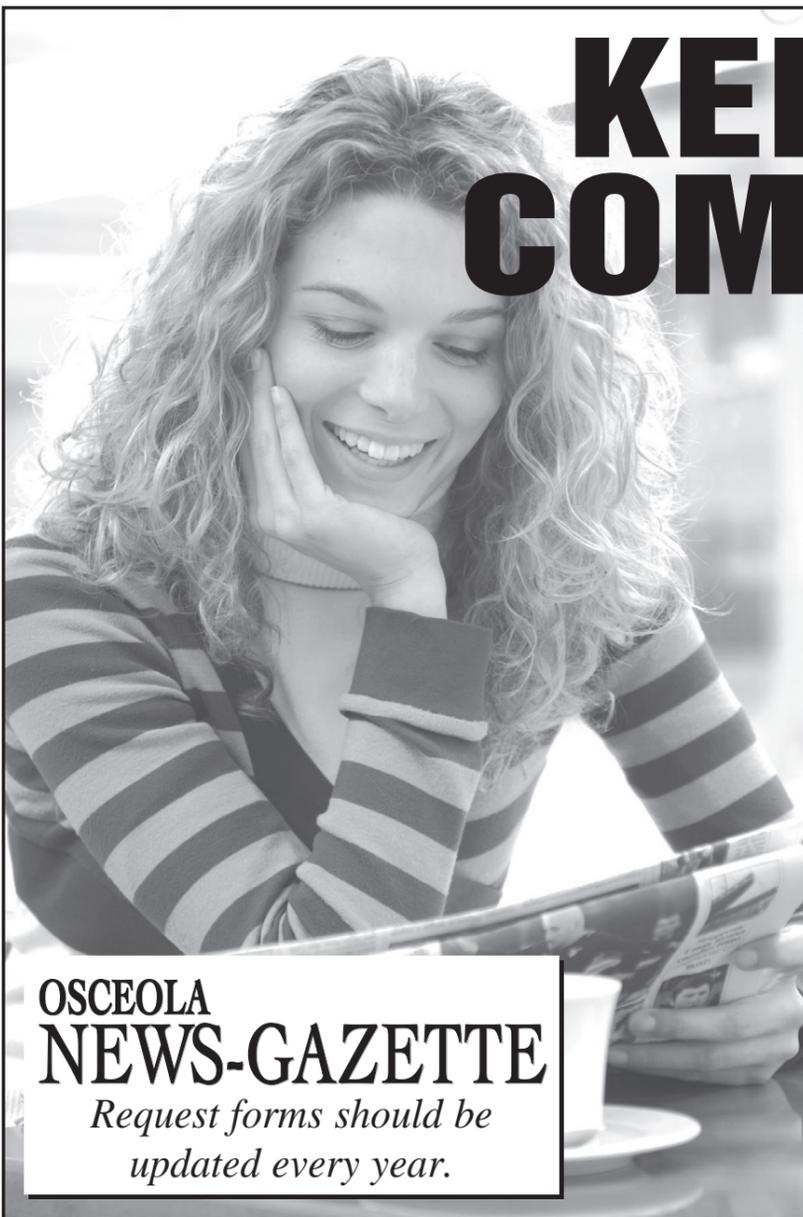
While Torres also could have stayed in Puerto Rico, it was best for him to live in Osceola.

“The transition has been hard, but I'll get through it with the help of music,” Torres said. “Music has always helped me in every situation I've been through.”

Financial donations can be made online on the Music Helps Heal website (www.musichelpsheal.org).

Physical donations, such as new or used instruments, can be dropped off at the school district office.

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FIRE

Continued from Page 1

Approximately 20 adults were displaced from their homes as a result of the fire, Robinson said.

Temporary shelter arrangements for the residents were being coordinated by apartment complex staff and the American Red Cross Wednesday afternoon.

A different fire destroyed units in an adjacent building

of the same apartment complex on Oct. 29.

Electrical issues in the building's roof were later determined to have caused the fire, Robinson said. She also noted that the Valencian complex is 45 years old.

Officials said the cause of Wednesday's blaze was unknown and an investigation by the state fire marshal is still ongoing.

VIEWPOINT

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GUEST EDITORIAL

Why China trade has been a bust

There's already a trade war, and it's being waged by Beijing.

China's ascension to the World Trade Organization nearly 20 years ago has failed in its strategic objectives. It hasn't created a liberalizing regime or a free-market economy in China; in fact, it hasn't even created a China ready and willing to abide by the norms of free trade.

The regime of Xi Jinping hasn't been pushed toward democratic reforms by a rising middle class. China still champions state-led, rather than market-led, capitalism. And it takes advantage of the WTO, using nontariff barriers and industrial policy, to push mercantilist policies.

President Donald Trump's prospective tariffs on steel and aluminum have put renewed focus on China trade, although the tariffs are a comically inept misfire if their true target is China. The rubric for the levies could be: "How to lose a trade war with China in one easy step."

The tariffs don't really affect China, from which we import only about 3 percent of our steel. Meanwhile, they send the message that the U.S. government is lurching toward protectionism, and alienate our allies. A better approach begins with acknowledging that China is a unique problem. For all of Trump's complaints, Mexico isn't pursuing a well-honed strategic agenda of exploiting the global trade system while it undertakes an aggressive neoimperialist foreign policy. Only China is doing that.

China isn't the first developing country to adopt a policy of maximizing exports. What makes it different is its sheer ambition and its size, which gives it leverage over foreign companies and considerable international influence.

"President Donald Trump's prospective tariffs on steel and aluminum have put renewed focus on China trade, although the tariffs are a comically inept misfire if their true target is China."

What's the harm to the U.S.? There is no doubt that China's practices have harmed U.S. manufacturing. Yes, technology accounts for a large share of job losses. Yes, lower-end manufacturing would have left our shores regardless. But Beijing works to block higher-value-added exports from the U.S. and is pursuing a comprehensive strategy to dominate in advanced industries.

By no means should we emulate China. We should continue to pursue free trade as a policy, not as a theology that prevents us from acknowledging that there is such a thing as unfair trade.

The ITIF report urges using the global free-trade regime against China. That means bringing more actions against China in the WTO and working to update the rules to

capture Chinese cheating. It means joining, and influencing, a multilateral agreement like the Trans-Pacific Partnership. It means forging bilateral agreements with up-to-date standards that reinforce principles that China undermines.

We obviously can't do this alone. We'd have to lead an alliance of international partners to pressure China on specific practices, with tailored consequences if we get nowhere.

Such a broad-based effort to crack China's mercantilism wouldn't be protectionist, but the opposite. There is obviously no chance of doing this, though, if we are engaged in an absurd cycle of tit-for-tat tariffs with the likes of the EU.

Trump can have emotionally satisfying tariffs to scratch his protectionist itch, or he can have a strategy to muster an alliance of truly free-trade partners to pressure China. He can't have both — and you can be sure China knows which option it prefers.

RICH LOWRY
Editor



Rich Lowry is editor of the *National Review*.



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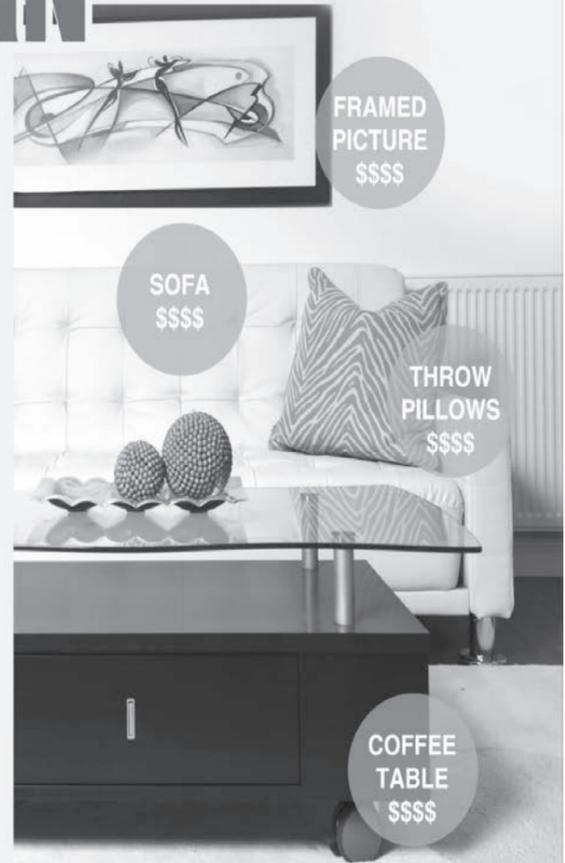
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Local winners, losers of Florida's 2018 legislative session

By Rachel Christian
Staff Writer

The Florida 2018 Legislative Session wrapped up recently with the passage of an \$88.7 billion budget and a historically low number of bills.

The waning weeks of Florida's 62-day session were marked by headline-grabbing gun, school safety and mental health reforms introduced in response to the mass shooting at a Parkland high school last month.

But one local group – the Osceola Legislative Effort, or OLE – also made its appeal to Tallahassee lawmakers this year.

OLE is an independent organization that lobbies for top priorities set forth by the county, school board, Kissimmee and St. Cloud government officials.

OLE drafted a short list of six priorities this year, which ranged from aquatic weed control to rapid growth funding to help Osceola schools.

John Newstreet, OLE's director and president of the Kissimmee/Osceola County Chamber of Commerce, said the county didn't walk away empty handed from the particularly tough 2018 session.

"Session is only two months long, and everyone from across the state wants

something," Newstreet said. "It's always a challenge."

Victories

The biggest winner of OLE's six priorities was Park Place Behavioral Health Care, the county's central receiving center for the Baker Act, substance abuse and mental health services.

The victory was particularly sweet for the facility, which had seen its state funding slashed by nearly \$1 million cut in July.

The funding cut had come exactly one year after Park Place signed a five-year, \$1.97 million contract with a managing state entity.

Not only has Park Place regained most of the money it lost in July, the remainder of its five year contract has been reinstated.

"I'm exceptionally pleased with how everything has turned around," said Park Place President Jim Shanks. "Things have turned out better for us than I could have ever imagined."

State Rep. Mike La Rosa, R-St. Cloud, secured an additional \$150,000 that Park Place is putting toward the salary of a new psychiatrist.

The psychiatrist, an evacuee from Hurricane Maria, already is in place at the facility's clinic. Shanks said he has been

a true asset in helping patients, especially Spanish-speaking clients.

The new state budget included \$53 million in funding to help combat the opioid crisis. Of that, \$8.3 will be allocated for treatment programs involving an opioid-blocking medication known as Vivatrol.

Shanks said he doesn't know how much of that \$8.3 million may trickle down to Park Place, but with one of the leading Vivatrol programs in the state, he is optimistic about the facility's slice of the pie.

"We would love to help implement a Vivatrol program at the jail, depending on how much of this funding we receive," Shanks said. "We're trying to help as many people in our community as we can."

Partial victories

OLE received \$1.5 of the \$10 million it requested for BRIDG, the county's high-tech industry-led partnership project. The group had requested reoccurring and non-reoccurring funds to expand the capability of the facility and to attract new partnerships.

Although the sum was a fraction of what was sought, Newstreet said any state money was beneficial.

"\$1.5 million is nothing

to blink at," he said. "We're glad we got what we did."

Defeats

Three of OLE's six funding priorities stalled in Tallahassee.

The Osceola County School District again failed to secure funding from a special rapid-growth grant program.

The district is one of the fastest growing in the country, and an influx of Hurricane Maria evacuees last year placed additional strain on resources, according to school officials.

The sought-after grant uses a funding formula that takes a district's percentage of growth into consideration, instead of only focusing on the overall number of students.

OLE was unable to lock down these funds, but Newstreet said the district is poised to receive federal dollars to assist with Hurricane Maria student evacuees.

He also pointed out that school security and mental health is set to benefit from state allocations. Gov. Rick Scott signed a bill last week appropriating \$400 million for school safety and mental health measures.

Two other OLE priorities – funding for transitional housing in the city of Kissimmee and money for St. Cloud's downtown renovation project – also died in session.

Corrections to recent School District stories

Mathematical errors were published in two recent Osceola News-Gazette articles regarding proposed health insurance increases for faculty and staff in the Osceola County School District.

Calculations to find yearly health insurance premium increases were too low.

Figures provided by the school district are based on a 20-week pay scale, not a 12-month calendar.

In the article "Teachers may get raises, but at a cost published March 15," the following corrections should be noted:

► Local plus family plans are still set to increase by 52 percent, but from \$670 to \$1018 a month, not \$402 to \$611 a month.

► This means an employee would take home \$4,180 less a year, not \$2,508 less.

► The district will contribute \$119.30 less per month, not \$71, to basic single employee with children plans, and \$223.80, not \$134.30, less per month to basic family health insurance plans.

In the story "School

employees stand to lose in proposed district 'raises'" on March 17, the Osceola News-Gazette acknowledges the following corrections:

► School district employees Heather and Steven Rish stand to pay \$2,380, not \$1,428, more a year in combined monthly premium increases.

► According to the School Board salary and benefits negotiation proposal, staff could pay \$2,560, not \$1,536, more per year for health insurance if they have a

spouse on their plan, and \$4,440, not \$2,664, more for the family plan under the wellness local plus, the district's most popular health insurance option.

► Those enrolled in the employee-only Wellness Local Plus plan would begin paying \$41.60, not \$25, a month, or \$500, not \$300 a year, for healthcare coverage.

► Employee-child yearly premiums are poised to rise \$1,880, not \$1,128, under the Wellness Local Plus plan.

PET

Continued from Page 2

offers a legal alternative to releasing exotic pets that owners can no longer keep and helps to reduce the number of nonnative species being introduced into the wild.

This free event is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Disney Wilderness Preserve, 2700 Scrub Jay Trail, Poinciana.

Live animals will be on display and experts from the FWC will be on-site with information about caring for exotic pets, responsible pet ownership and potential ecological impacts of invasive species in Florida. There will also be games and

activities for families.

Surrendered exotic pets will be accepted between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and given a health exam by a veterinarian before being made available for adoption that same day to pre-registered, experienced individuals who can care for them.

Animals that will be accepted for surrender include nonnative species of reptiles, amphibians, mammals, birds, fish and invertebrates.

Domestic animals, such as cats, dogs, guinea pigs and rabbits, will not be accepted.

Animals will be made available for adoption after 2 p.m. Exotic pet adopters need to be experienced and must have already applied and been approved by the FWC.

Potential adopters should bring their acceptance letters and any necessary permits with them. Becoming an adopter is free, but you are required to register a minimum of four days prior to the event to adopt an animal. Adopter applications may be found at MyFWC.com/Nonnatives by clicking on "How to become an FWC exotic pet adopter."

Exotic Pet Amnesty events are held around the state throughout the year. For additional information about Exotic Pet Amnesty Day, visit MyFWC.com/Nonnatives or call the FWC's Exotic Species Hotline at 888-Ive-Got1 (888-483-4681). Exotic pet owners who cannot attend this event may call this number year-round for assistance in finding a new home for their animal.

For more information about adopting exotic pets, visit MyFWC.com/Nonnatives and click on "Exotic Pet Amnesty Program."

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OSCEOLA BUSINESS



► Goodwill Industries of Central Florida president and CEO announces retirement

After 44 years of service to Goodwill and eight years as president and CEO of Goodwill Industries of Central Florida, Bill Oakley has announced his plans to retire, effective June 30.

The search for Oakley's replacement will commence immediately, led by executive search firm Korn Ferry.

Oakley joined the nonprofit in 1974, serving in leadership roles at Goodwill organizations in Savannah, Ga., and Greenville, S.C. In 2010 he took the helm of Goodwill Industries of Central Florida.

Since then, Oakley has driven the nonprofit's growth through new retail stores, donation centers and Job Connection Centers across Orange, Seminole, Osceola, Lake, Brevard and Volusia counties. Under his leadership, Goodwill has expanded its offerings to adapt to the community's changing needs, adding programs to assist military veterans, the homeless and other job seekers in need.

"Bill has dedicated his entire career to championing Goodwill's mission of removing barriers and providing new opportunities to connect with the world of work," said Michael Hsu, chairman of Goodwill's board of directors. "He leaves an extraordinary legacy of leadership and service and has positioned our Goodwill for future success. I will miss him dearly and wish him the best in his next chapter of life."

Goodwill Industries of Central Florida is the region's third largest nonprofit by revenue, according to the Orlando Business Journal. In 2017, Goodwill provided more than 47,500 people with resources and training to help them find meaningful work. These services are funded by the sales of donated goods in its network of 28 retail stores.

Parties interested in the CEO search may complete an online application with Korn Ferry at <http://bit.ly/2Htr98S>.

The progressive and intensive care units at Poinciana Medical Center were recently awarded with the Critical Care Unit of Distinction, which recognizes the top performing critical care departments within parent company Hospital Corporation of America's 177 hospitals. The recognition places these two units in the top 10 percent of 399 eligible units.



Bill Oakley

► St. Cloud wound healing & hyperbaric center earns national award for excellence

The Wound Healing & Hyperbaric Center of St. Cloud Regional Medical Center has been recognized with a national award for continued excellence in wound healing, making this the fifth consecutive year the center has been awarded this distinction.

Leaders, physicians and clinicians from The Wound Healing & Hyperbaric Center celebrate the Center's receipt of the Robert A. Warriner III Center of Excellence award. The Center of Excellence award is given to Wound Care Centers in the Healogics network that have met the highest level of quality standards.

The Wound Healing & Hyperbaric Center of St. Cloud Regional Medical Center has earned this honor by exceeding the outstanding clinical and operational results in 2017 which include achieved patient satisfaction rates, a high healing rate, and several other quality standards. The Center was awarded this prestigious honor by Healogics, the nation's leading and largest wound care management company. The award is named for Dr. Warriner, the former Chief Medical Officer for Healogics. Across the country, less than 300 centers earned the award this year.

"It's an honor to be able to recognize the hard work and dedication of the Wound Care staff," said Brent Burish, Chief Executive Officer of St. Cloud Regional Medical Center, "this marks the fifth year in a row the team has received national recognition for their quality outcomes and great service in making a difference in the lives of our patients."

The Wound Healing & Hyperbaric Center of St. Cloud Regional Medical Center offers highly specialized wound care to patients suffering from diabetic ulcers, pressure ulcers, infections and other chronic wounds which have not healed in a reasonable amount of time. Some of the leading-edge treatments offered at the Wound Care Center include negative pressure wound therapy, debridement, application of cellular-based tissue or skin substitutes to the wound, offloading or total contact casts and hyperbaric oxygen therapy.

For more information or to make an appointment with the Wound Healing & Hyperbaric Center of St. Cloud Regional Medical Center call 407-892-2388 or visit StCloudRegional.com.

► KUA linemen place third in Florida, lasso five trophies

Kissimmee Utility Authority linemen placed third statewide and brought home five trophies from the recent 18th annual Florida Lineman Competition in Kissimmee, hosted by KUA and the Florida Municipal Electric Association.

Twenty-one teams and 72 apprentices from utilities throughout Florida gathered at Osceola Heritage Park to demonstrate the safety, skill and endurance of electric linemen in five timed events.

There are two levels of competition in the rodeo: journeyman teams and apprentice. The journeyman teams consist of three members – two climbers and a ground worker. A qualified journeyman has more than four years of experience within the electric utility trade. An apprentice lineworker competes as an individual and has four or fewer years of experience in an apprentice program.

Trophies were awarded to KUA linemen in the following event categories:

Journeyman Team - Austin Franey, Shane Paras and Billy White, first place; Hurtman Rescue, third place; 4kV Four Bell Changeout, third place; 4kV Pole Transfer – Conductor, Transformer and Switch, third place – overall in Florida

Apprentice Lars Akkerman, first place – Double Dead-End Multiskirt Changeout

Seven of KUA's linemen will now travel to Raleigh, N.C. to represent the utility in the American Public Power Association's Public Power Lineworkers Rodeo April 28.

► LYNX to accept applications for 17th annual public service bus contest

The Central Florida Regional Transportation Authority's (LYNX) submission period has opened for qualified nonprofit organizations in Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties to register for a spot on the agency's public service bus.

Eight qualified agencies will be chosen in a random drawing to have their logo displayed for one year. The public service bus travels routes every day throughout the three-county area.

To be eligible, for the 17th annual celebration, the nonprofit organization must be based in Orange, Osceola or Seminole County; operate on a budget of less than \$1.5 million and show proof of 501(c)(3) status or be a governmental agency.

Qualified agencies are required to:

- Fill out registration form online (www.golynx.com) with all fields completed.
- Attach copy of 501(c)(3) status or government agency designation. (Example: IRS form.)
- Attach copy of annual budget of less than \$1.5 million. (Example: annual budget document.)
- Attach electronic file of organization logo in Adobe Illustrator (.ai) format.

The deadline to enter is 5 p.m. March 23. Incomplete entries will not be accepted. Winners will be notified after the random drawing the week of March 26. Agencies on the 2017-18 Public Service Bus are not eligible until next year. The official unveiling of the 2018-19 Public Service Bus will be held at a to-be-determined location in late April.



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SPORTS



Padding on

St. Cloud students kayak with vets.

Page 9.

Local & National Sports • Sports Commentary

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 OSCEOLA NEWS-GAZETTE SPORTS EDITOR
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OHS, GHS winning on diamond

► Kowboys get 2nd walk-off victory; Panthers open at 7-3

By Ken Jackson
 Sports Editor

Osceola and Gateway are positioning themselves to be in the mix for a baseball playoff berth come May.

Well, duh. The District 9A-5 foes, who could meet like they have in the district tournament the last two years, are each playing .700 ball coming out of spring break and heading into a string of key district and Orange Belt Conference games.

The Kowboys (9-4) concluded a string of spring break home games with a thriller. Osceola came from behind twice Wednesday in a 8-7 eight-inning victory over Owasso High, a state-ranked team from Oklahoma.

Down 7-6 in the eighth, OHS got RBI singles from Andrew Fernandez and Diego Arroyo, the latter a walk-off job, to score Pedro Figueroa and Edgard Velazquez, whose two-out hit by pitch was key to keep the inning going.

That couldn't have come without a sixth-inning rally. Trailing 6-4, Osceola loaded the bases when Pedro Figueroa was hit by a pitch and Jorge Rivera and Brett Birchler followed with singles. Edgard Velazquez then lifted a no-out fly ball to center that scored Figueroa as well as courtesy runner William Kossol, who rounded third and came home on a heads up play when an infield throw went to second.

C.J. Olivarria pitched the last three innings in relief of starter Hamilton Martinez, and gave up one hit and struck out six.

Osceola Coach Scott Birchler said he never flinched when his team got down late on Wednesday.

"That was one of the best offensive teams we've seen in a while. They attacked and didn't get off-balance, made us play at the top of our game," he said. "But our kids have been in close ballgames all year, and this is our second walk-off win. We went to Tallahassee and played some great teams to start the year, so we prepare the kids for it when there's no pressure. It's the first time in a long time that eight or nine of them played on the same Little League team, so they've been together for a while."

The Kowboys, who are 2-1 in 9A-5 play after beating Haines City and Ridge and losing 2-1 to Gateway on March 2, will play at Celebration Tuesday in an OBC game.

Gateway, also playing at Osceola this week, dropped a 9-3 decision to Boone on Tuesday, but the Panthers are still 7-3 and making Coach Jim Moran happy.

"This is a group that comes to work every day and works hard. It's all I ask," he said. "If you told me after tryouts we'd win seven of our first 10, I might not have believed it."

Moran's getting senior leadership from center fielder Emil Perez, third



NEWS-GAZETTE PHOTOS/MARTIN MADDOCK

Above, the Osceola Kowboys tumble out of the dugout and mob Diego Arroyo (far right) after his eighth-inning RBI single that finished an 8-7 come-from-behind walk-off victory Wednesday over Owasso (Okla.) High. Below, Kowboys relief pitcher C.J. Olivarria, Wednesday's winning pitcher with three innings of one-hit ball, fires a pitch in to an Owasso batter.

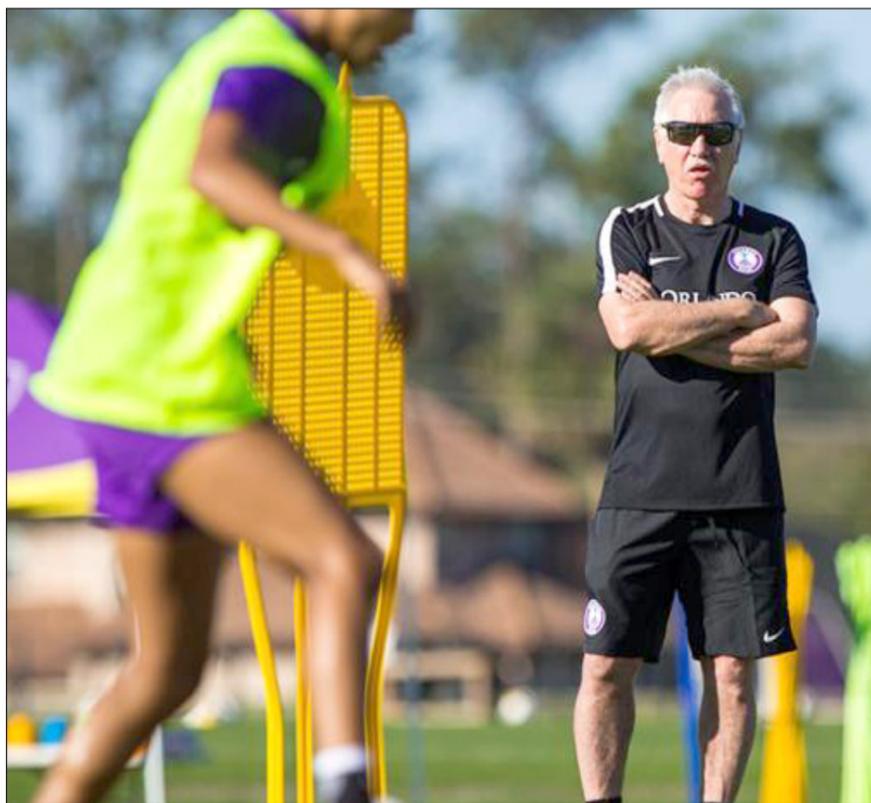
baseman C.J. Radcliff and first baseman Wyatt Pascal, who has also pitched in on the mound with lefties Melvin Cotto and Joseph Roque, an import from Puerto Rico who fled from Hurricane Maria.

"The end of our pitching staff is young and learning how to deal with tough spots, but our defense is solid and we're hitting the ball when we need to. Overall, we're playing well."

The Panthers have a busy return from spring break, as they travel to Celebration and Poinciana on Monday and Tuesday and host Harmony on Wednesday in OBC contests.



Orlando City starts season 0-2-1; Pride make debut tonight



PHOTO/ORLANDO PRIDE

Orlando Pride Manager Tom Sermanni oversees a recent training session ahead of the team's 2018 NWSL season opener tonight at 7:30 p.m. against the Utah Royals FC. It's the first of 12 regular-season Pride home games.

► NWLS team hopes to return to playoffs

By Ken Jackson
 Sports Editor

Orlando City has a bye this week in its MLS schedule, and it might be well-timed even though the Lions have played just three games.

The team plays New York Red Bulls at home next Saturday, and will look to snap a losing skid that reached two last week when Orlando lost to the other Empire City team, New York City FC, 2-0 at Yankee Stadium.

Despite new signees from last year, Sacha Kljestan, Lamine Sané and Josué Colmán making their Orlando City debuts, the Lions (0-2-1, 1 point) couldn't overcome a pair of New York goals in the 62nd and 74th minutes.

A closely contested match opened up when goalie Joe Bendik's bad clearance was corralled by

Ismael Tajouri and turned into a back-breaking goal that Orlando never recovered from. Maxi Moralez extended the lead 12 minutes later.

"I really felt like we were doing well up until we gave them the goal. Unfortunately for me I think that's three matches where I just feel like we're giving things away," Lions head coach Jason Kreis said. "We correct those small errors, I still think we're going to be okay."

In addition to Kljestan, a former MLS assists leader with the Red Bulls before a trade to Orlando for Carlos Rivas and Tommy Redding, getting his first minutes for the Lions, defender R.J. Allen got his first start, and Christian Higuita returned from an injury. Kljestan took the captain's armband

when Jonathan Spector left the match at halftime.

"Physically I felt pretty good, so that's important," Kljestan said. "Maybe I didn't make enough plays in the third to help the guys out, but we and chances when it was 0-0. It wasn't the debut for this team I wanted, but such is life. The longer the game stayed 0-0 our chances good have swung the game. But we put our goalkeeper under pressure two times and that was the difference."

"I don't want to panic, we haven't gotten Dom (Dwyer, lead striker) and our full team back. We have pressure on ourselves, we built this team to win now and we can't wait too long to kickstart things before we get into a hole."

See **Soccer**, Page 8.



SPORTS

THE REEL DEAL

Wednesday night fish tournaments return

The first Wednesday Night Shootout was held last week. It was great seeing everyone after taking a break for the winter. The series kickoff had 15 teams competing with a payout going to the top two teams. First place went to the team of Skip Stowers and his partner Mark. They had a five fish limit with 15.04 pounds. Second place went to the duo of Steve and Cory with another limit weighing in at 13.83 pounds that included the Denali Rods Big Fish of the night, an 8.28pound Trophy Catch Florida Entry. A total of 46 fish were caught totaling 102.5 pounds. This year the event is introducing the "smallest fish" of the season contest. Kicking off the competition was Mitch with an impressive 0.55 pounder.



CINDY JOINT
The Reel Deal

VanDam as the only anglers in history to win the Super Bowl of professional bass fishing two years in a row ...

The St. Cloud Rotary Club is hosting a Spring Fling Bass Tournament on East Lake Toho April 7. The launch for this tournament will be at the Chisholm Park boat ramp in St. Cloud. Weigh-in will begin at 2 p.m. at the St. Cloud Lake Front Marina. Entry fees are \$120 per boat and there is a guaranteed first place payout of \$2,000.

Anglers that are interested in signing up can contact Bruce at 407-908-5792 or John at 407-892-9141 ...

The Osceola Anglers High School Fishing Club is hosting the 14th Annual Scholarship Fundraising Tournament on May 12 out of Jo Overstreet Landing on Lake Kissimmee in Kenansville. Registration is \$125 per boat and includes entry fees, two dry fit fishing jerseys, and two steak dinners sponsored and served by the Cattlemen's Association.

Spectators are welcome to purchase a dinner for \$15 each. Sponsorships are available. For more information please contact osceolaanglers@gmail.com.

Enjoy the first weekend of Spring. Tight lines, friends!

Join them every Wednesday Night. Launch is at 5 p.m. sharp. Entry fees are \$30 per team ...

The 2018 BassMaster's Classic was held on Lake Hartwell in South Carolina last weekend. The winner, Jordan Lee from Guntersville, Ala., just won back-to-back BassMaster Classic Titles. Lee, who began Sunday's championship round in sixth place, caught five bass that weighed 16 pounds, 5 ounces and won the 2018 GEICO Bassmaster Classic.

Lee, who won last year's Classic on Lake Conroe, Texas, joins fishing legends Rick Clunn and Kevin

Solar Bears can clinch playoff spot Sunday

By Ken Jackson
Sports Editor

With just six games left in the regular season — and the next four at home — the Orlando Solar Bears are starting to ramp up for the ECHL playoffs.

That intensity was on display Wednesday as they and the South Carolina Stingrays — a potential playoff opponent — faced off Wednesday in something that looked like a playoff game.

And in front of an announced crowd of 4,392 at the Amway Center, the Stingrays took a 3-2 win in an overtime shootout.

Despite that, Orlando (31-27-8, 70 points) can clinch the fourth spot in the Southeast Division and a playoff spot Sunday with a win over South Carolina and a Jacksonville loss Friday against Greenville in regulation.

With six more points over the last six games, Orlando would lock up third place — and more than likely a first-round playoff matchup against the Stingrays, who locked in a battle themselves with the Florida Everblades for first place in the Southeast Division.

The Solar Bears finish the regular season with games Thursday at 7 against Jacksonville and next Saturday against Greenville before closing the regular season the following weekend in Atlanta.

Orlando Coach Drake Berehowsky said the team's

defensive performance Wednesday was "fine" — the Solar Bears gave up only 21 shots over 65 minutes of game time — but the offensive output wasn't.

"I was disappointed, we didn't play as well as we could have," he said. "I'm thankful for the one point tonight, but when we're playing at our best we're better than that and I don't think we generated enough and attacked their lines with speed."

He said players have enough off time during the season to not be worried about running out of gas sprinting to the end of the regular season.

You could worry about tanks running low but you want to be hitting your top gear right about now and run into the playoffs with it," Berehowsky said. "We see the finish line but we're still a ways away from it. We still have to produce. The faster we win games the faster (clinching) will happen."

Wednesday got off to a quick start for Orlando, as Joe Perry flipped a shot from just inside the blue past Stingrays goalie Parker Milner 54 seconds in on the game's very first shot.

That would be the only offensive firepower until 6:44 into the third period, when Solar Bears rookie J.J. Piccinich buried a pass from Nathan Valleau to make the lead 2-0, but soon after South Carolina went to plaid, tying the game in a span of 12 seconds.

Stingrays rookie Jake Kamrass would assist on



SOLAR BEARS PHOTO/FERNANDO MEDINA

Solar Bears forward Joe Perry (26) works his way around South Carolina Stingrays defenders in Wednesday's 3-2 overtime shootout loss at the Amway Center. The teams play again on Sunday at 1:30 p.m.

the first goal, and got his first professional tally on the next with 10:15 left in the game. Quality chances were limited the rest of the way in regulation and five minutes of 3-on-3 overtime before the shootout, which South Carolina won 2-1.

Afterwards, Perry called it "a weird game."

"There wasn't a ton of flow," he said. "We may have let off the gas a little scoring so early, thinking it would be easy. Giving up a two-goal lead in the third period was tough for us. We

better learn to hold that led pretty quick. I think we gave one away and we're not too thrilled just getting the one point (for the tie)."

"It's nice to know you see the light at the end of the tunnel of the playoffs coming, but we have to take care of business over the last six games. You get the sense the guys are getting more plugged in now."

The Solar Bears, since coming into the ECHL in 2012-13, have never won a playoff series in three attempts.

SOCCER

Continued from Page 7.

With his 70th start, Bendik passed Kaká for second-most games started in club history. Bendik has started 70 of City's last 71 MLS games.

Filling the void this week will be the Orlando Pride, who open their NWLS schedule today with the first of 12 home matches at Orlando City Stadium against Utah Royals FC at 7:30 p.m.

Coming off an NWLS playoff appearance in 2017, much of the Pride's top talent returns, including goalie Ashlyn Harris, defenders Ali Krieger and Toni Pressley, midfielders Kristen Edmonds and Australian national team member Alanna Kennedy, and forwards Alex Morgan, Choima Ubogagu and Marta.

Additionally, the team added U.S. National Team forward Sydney Leroux, wife of Dom Dwyer, to an already potent offense that found the back of the net 45 times last season, the most in NWLS.

The Pride added Leroux and six other faces to the mix this offseason: goalie Haley Kopmeyer, defenders Poliana, Carson Pickett and Shelina Zadorsky and midfielders Christine Nairn, Emily Van Egmond and Lotta Ökvist.

The roster includes three Federations players and six International players.

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SPORTS

Disabled veterans kayak across East Lake

By Land Or Lake is a non-profit run by St. Cloud High School business students that offers kayak and paddleboard rentals and other concessions out of a temporary facility at Chisholm Park on the weekends.

Instead of going off for spring break to some beach location or other vacation spot, its student entrepreneurs held a kayaking event last weekend for clinic for veterans. The By Land Or Lake students spent two days teaching the finer points of kayaking before taking the group on a two-mile crossing of East Lake Tohopekaliga to the St. Cloud Lakefront Marina on Monday.

They worked with Team River Runner, a group that offers weekly paddling sessions to wounded and disabled war veterans in locations across the country.

The kayaking group including six visually-impaired veterans, some of whom had never been on the water like that before.

For more information about Team River Runner, a nonprofit that provides therapy services to wounded veterans, visit their website at Teamriverrunner.org.

To find out more about By Land Or Lake, like their plans to build a permanent facility at Chisholm Park to run the facility out of, visit www.bylandorlake.org.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Members of Team River Runners, in conjunction with By Land Or Lake, a non-profit paddling concession run by St. Cloud High student out of Chisholm Park, trained visually-impaired veterans in kayaking last weekend, culminating with a two-mile trip across East Lake Toho to the St. Cloud Lakefront Marina.

SPORTS BRIEFS

▶ The First Tee comes to Kissimmee

The First Tee of Central Florida is pleased to announce the registration details for the youth development organization's Spring Life Skills Experience Clinic at Oaks National Golf Club series of clinics, which will meet once a week, beginning the week of March 26. Sessions for participants ages 7 - 9 years old will occur on Tuesdays from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Sessions for participants ages 10 - 12 years old will occur on Tuesdays from 6:15 - 7:45 p.m. Participants who would like to view the Spring schedule for registration should visit <http://www.thefirstteecl.org/programs/register/>. To participate, registrants will need to pay the \$25 annual membership fee for 2018 as well as the \$50 ten-week program session fee. The First Tee of Central Florida continues to maintain the policy that no child be turned away for an inability to pay; financial assistance is available. Anyone who would like to apply for financial assistance can do so while they are registering for classes. The First Tee of Central Florida provides educational programs that build character, instill life-enhancing values, and promote healthy habits through the game of golf.

▶ St. Cloud Soccer registration

Registration for the St. Cloud Soccer Club is now being accepted for the spring seasons in St. Cloud and Harmony. The league offers recreational (players ages 4-13 just entering the game) and Select (more competitive for ages 7-18) programs. Harmony (Lakeshore Park on Schoolhouse Road) has more open game play, registration is \$95 per player for Under-5 through

Under-12 teams. St. Cloud (Stephanie Rothstein Park) has more structured game play and teams due to larger membership, registration is \$150 (Under-5 & 6), \$165 (U7-8), \$170 (U9-10) and \$180 (U11-12). For more information visit www.stcloudsoccer.com or reach Mike Alfors at malfers1713@gmail.com or 503-548-3762.

▶ St. Cloud High Hall of Fame banquet

St. Cloud High School will hold its ninth annual athletic Hall of Fame dinner banquet and silent auction on May 4 at Royal St. Cloud's Royal Crest Room. Tickets are \$30 in advance, table sponsorships are \$350 which includes program recognition. To reserve seats or tables, email Steffanie Ansbaugh at c6923a@yahoo.com. The school is also seeking donated items for its silent auction. For information on donating items or cash, contact Chad Ansbaugh at Chad.Ansbaugh@osceolaschools.net.

▶ St. Cloud "We Dare To Care" golf tourney

The City of St. Cloud Public Services staff will hold its fourth annual charitable golf tournament on May 19 at 8 am. at Royal St. Cloud Golf Links. The event benefits the We Dare to Care Foundation, a 501(c)3 organization that supports and raises funds for local charities, police officers, firefighters and other city employees in need. Registration is \$70 per player or \$250 per four-person team; other sponsor packages are available. To register, or for sponsorship information, go to <http://stcloudcharitygolf.eventbrite.com>, email alvey@stcloud.org or call 407-957-7326.

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Weekly and Monthly Events

Grab your baskets and head over to the Orlando Fire Museum on Saturday, March 31, for a morning full of events. Kids can participate in an Easter egg hunt, collect prizes, learn about fire safety, view the fire trucks and much more. Photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny will also be available. The event runs 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; the egg hunt will begin at 10:15 a.m. Admission is free. Parking is available at the Orlando Garden Club as well as the general Loch Haven museum parking lot.

WHAT Easter Egg Hunt
WHEN Saturday, March 31, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
WHERE Orlando Fire Museum:
 814 East Rollins Street in Orlando
COST Admission is free



DAILY SATURDAY 03-24

BOY SCOUT MULCH FUNDRAISER

Boy Scout Troop 826 will again hold a mulch fundraiser. The home delivery dates for the mulch will be Saturday, April 7. The last day to place orders is Tuesday, April 3, for April 7 delivery. Cypress, pine bark or red mulch will be available in units of nine bags, which is equal to a cubic yard (27 cubic feet), at a cost of \$49 per unit (includes delivery), with a \$10 discount for additional units. One bag, which contains 3 cubic feet of mulch, will cover 12 square feet to a depth of 3 inches. Residents and businesses can order mulch either by the Internet at www.troop826hogs.com or by U.S. mail using an order form that will be distributed in select neighborhoods. If ordering by mail, payment must accompany the order form; make checks payable to BSA Troop 826 and send to Mulch Fundraiser, 3381 Buckingham Way, St. Cloud FL 34772-8747. Call 407-953-9195 for assistance in ordering. Mulch spreading at your home or business on a separate date will be available by request at a negotiated price. Free delivery will be in the Kissimmee and St. Cloud areas as well as in south Orange County.

ORLANDO INTERNATIONAL WINE FESTIVAL

Invites you to the first ever wine festival in downtown Orlando on Church Street, from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Event tickets, VIP tickets and drink tickets are available online or at the event. For more information, search 'Orlando International Wine Festival' on Eventbrite.

SPRING HEALTH FAIR

Poinciana Medical Center is hosting its Spring Health Fair from 9 a.m. to noon. This interactive health fair is free and open to the community and will take place in Poinciana Medical Center's main lobby. The event will feature community physician practices, information about health resources in the community, free health screenings, healthy meal demonstrations and an on-site Zumba class (10 am start time). Attendees will also have an opportunity to tour a variety of first responder vehicles, including a medical helicopter. For more information about Poinciana Medical Center, visit POINCIANAMEDICALCENTER.COM

THE FLORIDA WILDFLOWER & GARDEN FESTIVAL

Will run 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in downtown DeLand. Presentations by wildflower and gardening experts, inspiration for gardening enthusiasts, plant and garden vendors, and much more. Admission is free. For more information, visit FLORIDAWILDFLOWERFESTIVAL.COM

SOUP, SALAD, SUB SUPPER

Fundraiser at Grace Lutheran Church from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$3 for children. No charge for children under 5. 1123 Missouri Avenue, St. Cloud.

PINT N' PAWS

Craft beer and charity come together Saturday, March 24 in Sanford with the 7th annual Pints n' Paws Craft Beer Festival to benefit Dolly's Foundation and Pet Rescue by Judy. This pet-friendly event features 100-plus of the top craft brews, local food trucks and live entertainment. It begins at 2 p.m. (1 p.m. for VIP ticket holders). Advance tickets are \$30 and includes free samples of all craft beer. VIP Tickets are available for \$45 and include: early entry into the event, a commemorative 7th Annual Pints n' Paws t-shirt and koozie, discounted pint glasses and 20 percent off growlers at Celery City (day of the event day only). Tickets at the gate are \$40 for General Admission and \$55 for VIP (if available). Will-call tickets can be purchased online at pintsandpaws.com and picked up day of the event.

TAMPA BAY CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL

Will offer both savory and sweet chocolate vendors of all kinds: food trucks, trailers, tents and more. Partial proceeds will benefit Sickles High School athletics. Festival will take place at Sickles High School: 7950 Gunn Hwy. in Tampa, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

SUNDAY 03-25

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE

Will play at the Shakespeare Theatre (812 E. Rollins Street) at 2 p.m. Tickets range \$25-\$50. For more information, visit ORLANDOSHAKES.ORG

SCULPTURE EXHIBIT

The current exhibit at the Polasek Museum in Winter Park is Island Objects: Art and Adaptation in Micronesia, featuring local anthropologist Barbara Wavell's private collection. The exhibit is included with museum admission. It is through April 15.

CONNECTIONS PROJECT

Planning a road trip to South Florida? The Connections Project: A Mosaic to the Keys is a series of six exhibitions featuring nearly 400 individual canvases throughout the keys. There also are several events scheduled with the exhibit, on display now through May 8. For more information, go to KEYSARTS.COM

THURSDAY 03-29

LITERARY AGENT AND AUTHOR LUCIENNE DIVER

Will return to Hart Memorial Library at 6:30 p.m. to teach aspiring writers how to construct query and cover letters. For more information, call 407-742-8888.

SATURDAY 03-31

MANDY HARVEY

Old Town will host a spring concert by America's Got Talent Golden Buzzer Winner, Mandy Harvey. The concert will be in the South Entertainment Area of Old Town in Kissimmee. A limited amount of VIP Meet & Greet tickets are also available online and includes free parking. Guests can save up to 30% by purchasing general admission tickets online at MYOLDTOWNUSA.COM

FAMILY PICNIC AND EASTER EGG HUNT

First United Methodist Church in Winter Park will hold a Family Picnic and Easter Egg Hunt on the grounds of the Osceola Lodge. The event will include an egg hunt, face painting, pony rides, games, a bounce house and more. Families are encouraged to bring a picnic, chairs, blankets and Easter baskets.

OUR LAST NIGHT

The Social. The show starts at 6 p.m. For tickets, visit THESOCIAL.ORG

FRIDAY 04-06

PIE BAKERS

The AOC National Pie Championship, coming to the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, April 6-7, has announced a new chocolate category using Guittard chocolate. This category will replace the existing chocolate category. For pie baking guidelines and rules, email apc@piecouncil.org.

MOVIE IN THE PARK

KUA will host its final film of its Movie in the Park season. "The Greatest Showman" will play on the civic lawn of Kissimmee Lakefront Park at 7:45 p.m. Activities begin at 5:30 p.m.

SCHOOL RUMMAGE SALE

St. Luke & St. Peter Church is hosting a school rummage sale. Friday hours: 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday hours: 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Located at: 2745 Canoe Creek Road in St. Cloud.

THE FLORIDA FILM FESTIVAL

April 6-15. Back with more films and celebrity guests. All films will play at The Enzian: 1300 South Orlando Ave in Maitland. Visit FLORIDAFILMFESTIVAL.COM for the film lineup, schedule, tickets and more. Additionally, visit ENZIAN.ORG for more information.

RETIRED EDUCATORS GROUP (REAOC)

Holds meetings at 11:30 a.m., on the second Friday of the month, Sept-May. Meeting includes a luncheon, program and business meeting. \$10 per person. Barney Veal Senior Center: 700 Generation Point, Kissimmee, FL 34744. Email ginger40@earthlink.net or call 407-892-7428.

SATURDAY 04-07

KISSIMMEE WOMEN'S CLUB

Will host a fundraiser / sale 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 1616 W. Oak Street. There will be delicious homemade baked goods (cakes, pies, muffins, cookies, etc.), household items (small appliances, lamps, clothing, glassware, china, linens, bedding, art), plus a woman's boutique area (jewelry, pocketbooks, scarfs, etc.). After 2 p.m. remaining items will be at half price. Call Jewel Seton with questions: 407-864-4129.

FRIDAY 04-13

BINGO SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

Spring Card BINGO Scholarship Fundraiser by the Home & Community Education clubs of Osceola is at the Extension Building in Osceola Heritage Park. Luncheon at 11:30 a.m., followed by card BINGO and prizes. The \$9 charge is all inclusive. All profits benefit scholarship fund. Call 321-697-3000 for more information and reservations.

SATURDAY 04-14

FLORIDA SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Invites you to its Rhapsody in Blue Gala Concert. Dinner at 6 p.m. (VIP ticket only); performance at 8 p.m. Located at The Plaza Live in Orlando: 425 N Bumby Avenue. 1920s party attire is encouraged. To purchase tickets or for more information, visit FSYO.ORG

THURSDAY 04-19

PHYSICIAN LECTURE ON KNEE PAIN

Poinciana Medical Center is hosting a physician lecture on knee pain, by Dr. Nam Dinh. The informational session is in part of a lecture series, at the Poinciana Library: 101 N. Doverplum Avenue. The event is open to the public. RSVP at 1-888-253-8117. For more information, call 407-530-2013.

ONGOING

ST. CLOUD LINE DANCE CLUB

All levels of line dance are taught. St. Cloud Community Center, 101 17th St.; Mondays 2-5 p.m., Thursdays 5:30-9 p.m.; \$2 donation 407-957-7738 or 407-908-5976.

CRIBBAGE ON FRIDAYS

The Cribbage Group at Parks and Recreation on Palm Drive welcomes anyone who would like to play — or learn how to play — cribbage. The group meets every Friday from 9 a.m. to noon at the community center. The charge is \$.25 for every skunk. Winners can take the half or full pot.

TAI CHI FOR HEALTH ON SATURDAYS

Tai Chi for Health takes place on Saturdays at 10 a.m. Check the library calendar for classes. For more information, call Tracy at 407-900-9003.

FLORIDA OMBUDSMAN

Are you looking for an opportunity to make a difference in your community? The Florida Ombudsman Program currently has volunteer opportunities available statewide. Our volunteers visit with residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities to ensure they are treated with dignity and respect and receiving the care they deserve. To learn more about becoming an ombudsman volunteer, visit our website at ombudsman.myflorida.com, search for us on Facebook, or call toll-free at 1-888-831-0404.

CRAFTY LADIES

Meet at the St. Cloud Community/Senior Center Wednesdays from 1 to 4 p.m. The group knits and crochets lap rugs for veterans. Donations of clean, unused yarn are needed. Call 407-288-3069.

Editor's note: Due to space constraints, the News-Gazette cannot guarantee that all events submitted will be published in the Daily Planner in every Thursday and Saturday edition.



AROUND OSCEOLA

CONTACT
BRIAN MCBRIDE EDITOR
 EMAIL BMCBRIDE@OSCEOLANEWSGAZETTE.COM

TOOLS FOR BETTER LIVING

UF | IFAS Extension
 UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Starting a food business with cottage food

If you love to make and bake sweets and other items for family and friends, why not make a little money doing it? This is the opportunity that the Cottage Food Law provides to individuals. Enacted in 2011, the Cottage Food Law allows individuals to make and sell "non-potentially hazardous" food for human consumption in their home kitchen, without the need for licensing or permitting from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS).

GABRIELA MURZA
 UF/IFAS Extension



Non-potentially hazardous foods are items that are least likely to cause foodborne illness in individuals; the risk of getting sick from consuming these foods is low. What can and can't you make under cottage food? Some of the allowed items are most bakery products, candy, honey harvested from your own hive, fruit jams, jellies, preserves, and butters; dry herbs, homemade pasta, cereal and trail mix, popcorn and whole or ground coffee beans.

Some of the items that are not allowed are any bakery items that need refrigeration, vegetable products, pickled products, meat and seafood products, milk and dairy, raw seed sprouts, juice, jerky, bread with vegetables or cheese and pet treats.

Cottage foods can be sold at farmer's market, outdoor stands, events like weddings, and from home. It's important to remember that cottage food has to be sold directly to the consumer. Internet marketing and advertising is OK, but the product cannot be shipped or mailed; it has to be delivered to or picked up by the purchaser.

If you choose to cater, you must get a caterer's license, but it's not considered a cottage food business anymore. You also are not able to sell your product wholesale as a cottage food. In both of these situations, you would need to find a commissary kitchen or get a permitted facility in order to prepare and sell food this way.

Another important consideration is that the cottage food law does not require a food handlers' certification. However, some level of food safety education is strongly recommended, as it brings legitimacy to your business. UF/IFAS Extension in Osceola County offers various levels of food handlers' education, from ServSafe to a free general food handlers' class.

Osceola County Extension is providing a free introduction to cottage food classes to the public. The specifics of the law are covered along with business requirements and resources for starting a new business. Additionally, food preservation classes are provided, as well as all levels of food handlers' education (ServSafe, SafeStaff and general food handlers).

For a complete list of classes available, visit <http://ocfcs.eventbrite.com> or call 321-697-3005.

For more information on the Cottage Food Law, FDACS created the Cottage Food Guidance document updated July 2017, which can be accessed online. Whether you're interested in starting a cottage food business or going beyond, we can help answer questions and point you to the right resources to get started.

For more information, contact Gabriela Murza at 321-697-3000 or via email at gmurza@ufl.edu.

Battle at Narcoossee marks 25 years



FILE PHOTO

The Battle at Narcoossee Mill enactment will be at Ralph V. Chisolm Park in St. Cloud today and Sunday.

After 25 years, the battle still rages on.

Today and Sunday marks the 25th annual Battle at Narcoossee Mill Civil War battle enactment.

Everyone is invited to step back in time to 1864 to shop the wares of period merchants known as "sutlers," visit authentic military camps, listen to live performances of music authentic to the War Between the States era, watch living history portrayals and other activities before enjoying the superb grandstand view of the battle. New activities specifically designed for children are planned.

It's at Ralph V. Chisolm Park on the eastern shores of East Lake Tohopekaliga at 4700 Chisolm Park Trail, just off

Narcoossee Road (State Road 15) between U.S. Highway 192 and State Road 417.

The Battle at Narcoossee Mill is regarded by spectators and reenactors alike as one of the most enjoyable and spectator-friendly battle reenactments. While there, you will want to purchase some of Jacob Summerlin's famous pulled pork sandwiches that are smoked on site and other great fare. Proceeds from admission and barbecue sales help support the numerous civic and charitable activities of the Jacob Summerlin Camp some of which you will find listed in the battle program.

Returning this year will be the Florida Confederate Memorial Wall. Incorporating

beautiful graphics, the wall lists the names of several thousand men (soldiers, sailors, physicians, and chaplains) in service to the state of Florida, who died from wounds, diseases, illnesses, or accidents during or soon after the "Civil War." These individuals were pursuing what they believed to be honorable causes of maintaining the sovereignties of Florida and the Confederate States of America. They were of diverse races, creeds, and nationalities. For more information see www.TFCMW.org.

Parking is free. Admission is \$7 per adult, \$5 per child 5 to 11 years of age, under 5 is free. Credit and debit cards are accepted. The battle commences

around 2 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday, but come any time after 9:30 a.m. to see and enjoy all that this annual event has to offer. Be sure to bring your valid military identification for a discounted admission.

Through the support of the city of St. Cloud and Osceola County, the nonprofit Jacob Summerlin Camp, SCV 1516 has been bringing this annual event to Chisholm Park for all of the battle's 25 years, including the Friday Education Day events for school children.

For more information, go to www.BattleAtNarcoosseeMill.com or www.JacobSummerlin.org where some of the many civic and charitable activities of the camp are listed.

Amazon donates \$10k of STEM materials to school

On March 16, Amazon surprised Osceola Science Charter School students with \$10,000 worth of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) materials.

The donation included items such as 3D printers, rocket launchers, and robotics kits to help expand access to hands-on STEM activities for students.

"At Amazon, technology and innovation fuel our business, and we recognize that the jobs of tomorrow require a stronger aptitude for STEM skills," said Mike Bauer, assistant general manager at Amazon. "That's why we're proud to support STEM education programs for the innovators of tomorrow."

Amazon is slated to open one of its newest robotics facilities in Lake Nona near Boggy Creek Road and Jeff Fuqua Boulevard before the 2018 holiday season.

"Osceola Science Charter School is proud to be part of the Osceola County Public School system and is grateful to Amazon for this generous



NEWS-GAZETTE PHOTO/MARTIN MADDOCK

Assistant Principal Leyssa Helgeson at Avant Garde Academy, introduces Amazon's Assistant General Manager, Mike Bauer (center), who made the announcement that Amazon was donating \$10,000.00 worth of STEM materials to the school which included a 3D printer, rocket launchers, mini-drones and robotic kits.

donation," said Murat Cetin, principal of Osceola Science Charter School. "This

investment will provide our students with the innovation needed to find continued

success in our rigorous STEM curriculum."

Five questions to ask before adopting a rabbit

By Cathy M. Rosenthal

The description on the website reads: “Alana and Andrina are a bonded pair. They must be adopted together. They are somewhat shy ... and are very sweet and playful. They are litter trained (excellent litter box habits) and neutered. Prefer experienced adopter. Indoor housing only.”

While this sounds like a description for two cats or kittens, this is actually an online description for two rabbits at the House Rabbit Society of Chicago, a rabbit rescue group.

This time of year, close to Easter, pet stores often have young rabbits for sale. Their cute, and therefore, difficult to resist, which is why there are rabbit rescue groups all over the country. As the third most popular pet in the nation, they are also the third most relinquished pet too.

While house rabbits make great pets, they aren't the right pet for

every family. Here are five questions to ask before getting a rabbit.

Do you have children? Children can be loud and rambunctious. Rabbits need quiet, low-stress homes to thrive.

Do you have other pets? As a prey species, rabbits are often scared of dogs and cats. Some cats and rabbits, however, can live peaceably together; some cats are scared of some rabbits.

Are you ready for the commitment? House rabbits can live 8 to 10 years, about the age of a very large breed dog. (They sexually mature at six months old and become aggressive if not sterilized.)

Do you have time to play with your rabbit? You don't have to walk them, but rabbits need lots of supervised playtime outside of their cages every day to maintain their mental and physical health.

Do you have time to train your bunny? You can “clicker train” your rabbit to



use the litter box, like a cat, sit and wait, like a dog, and touch a target like a bell, like a bird.

Rabbits are very smart animals, and love learning

with you. I believe if you train your pet, you will keep your pet.

Visit the House Rabbit Society at Rabbit.org or get the book “Getting Started:

Clicking with Your Rabbit,” by Joan Orr and Teresa Lewin to learn more.

If it sounds like your home is well-suited for a rabbit, then consider adopting from a rescue group. Great rabbits, like Alana and Andrina, are waiting for good homes.

Dear Cathy,

My husband and I will be going away for a month and have two cats. We will not be taking them with us.

Is it OK to leave them at the house for that time with someone coming in daily to feed, change water, and clean their litterbox? They do not have any special needs and mostly nap during the day. Last year, they went to my son's apartment and may do so again. I am hesitant to leave them for the month. Will they be OK? - Susan, Leighton, PA

Dear Susan,

Your cats will miss you, but they should be fine if someone checks on them daily.

Make sure your pet sitter replenishes water and food, sifts the litter box, and provides them with lots of attention daily. He or she should be very chatty with the cats and verify seeing both cats at each visit.

Let your pet sitter know where your cats like to hide, so he or she knows where to look for them if they don't come out. However, the cats will likely come out during every visit since they are hoping it will be you.

Ask the pet sitter to take pictures of the cats and text them to you during each visit. It lets you know the pet sitter has arrived and provides some peace of mind by seeing for yourself that the cats are alright.

You also might consider installing a video camera for the part of the house where the cats typically hang out, so you can check in on them while you're gone. (Be sure to let the pet sitter know if you do that.)

For their safety, give the pet sitter the name of the veterinary hospital you use and any pertinent information about their health. Set out their cat carriers in case he or she needs to take them to the vet.

When you return, your cats will either be delighted to see you, greeting you with long meows and body rubs, or irritated that you left them alone, making all sorts of short, but loud guttural sounds of their displeasure.

You will know the difference. Either way, they will forgive you and be thrilled to see you again.

▶ Cathy M. Rosenthal is a longtime animal advocate, author, columnist and pet expert who has more than 25 years in the animal welfare field. Send your pet questions, stories and tips to cathy@petpundit.com. Please include your name, city, and state.

MOMENTS IN TIME

▶ On March 30, 1775, King George III formally endorses the New England Restraining Act, requiring New England colonies to trade exclusively with Great Britain.

▶ Another rule banned colonists from fishing in the North Atlantic.

▶ On March 28, 1814, the funeral of Guillotin, the inventor and namesake of the infamous execution device, takes place in France.

The machine was intended to show the

intellectual and social progress of the Revolution: By killing aristocrats and journeymen the same way, equality in death was ensured.

▶ On March 31, 1836, the first monthly installment of “The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club,” by 24-year-old writer Charles Dickens, is published under the pseudonym

Boz. Only 400 copies were printed, but by the 15th episode, 40,000 copies were printed.

Promote Your Healthcare Services
 Osceola Health Guide & Directory is a special section dedicated to showcasing local doctors and specialists. To include your business in this widely read special section, contact the Osceola News-Gazette today! Call 407/846-7600.

Advertising Deadline: April 13
 This special section will publish April 26, 2018.

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* excludes garage sale ads

Cartilage repair, restoration becoming more common

Dear Mayo Clinic:

I recently heard about cartilage being used in knee joints. Last summer I was diagnosed with osteopenia, degenerative arthritis, moderate lateral compartment narrowing and knee joint effusion in my right knee. I can no longer straighten it and have some swelling. I've had two injections, which helped with the pain for a time, but I am wondering if cartilage would help in my situation.

Answer: Procedures to restore and repair cartilage are becoming more common. In situations like yours, however, where there is significant cartilage loss, these procedures typically are not successful. But there are other effective options for treating the symptoms associated with arthritis in your knee and the conditions accompanying it.

Your knee has two kinds of cartilage. The first is articular cartilage. It provides a smooth, lubricated surface within the joint. The second is the meniscus. It provides a cushion to the articular cartilage during weight-bearing activities.

The issues you're dealing with involve the articular cartilage. When problems arise in the articular cartilage, they are the result of a focal injury or defect, or they happen due to arthritis - a diffuse loss of cartilage.

Of these two problems, focal injuries and defects are much less common. They usually happen in younger people that have an athletic injury or that have other conditions, such as osteochondritis dissecans. Arthritis is much more common. Osteoarthritis typically happens as we age, wearing down the articular cartilage surfaces over time. There can also be cases of

inflammatory arthritis, such as rheumatoid arthritis.

Both focal cartilage defects and arthritis can have similar symptoms, such as loss of motion, pain and swelling. It's important to have a thorough evaluation to pinpoint the problem. That includes a detailed review of your medical history, a physical examination and imaging tests such X-rays and, when necessary, an MRI.

Cartilage repair or restoration procedures can be used to treat a focal articular cartilage defect or injury. They aren't effective for arthritis. To understand why, it can be helpful to think in terms of road repair. If you have a focal defect or injury in the articular cartilage, it's as if you have one or two potholes on a road. Those potholes can be repaired, and the road is sound. With arthritis, it's as if there are many potholes in the road. Fixing each individual hole won't restore the road overall, and more potholes form over time. A more comprehensive approach is needed to make the surface sound.

In your case, "degenerative arthritis with moderate lateral compartment narrowing" means that you have extensive loss of articular cartilage. Therefore, cartilage restoration or repair is not recommended. However, other treatments are available. Arthritis management often includes weight loss, activity modification, oral medications to reduce inflammation, and physical therapy to restore strength and motion.

Several injectable medications also can ease arthritis symptoms. Cortisone is the most common and is likely what you received in your injections. This medication works as an anti-inflammatory and can improve pain and swelling. Another common injection option is hyaluronic acid, or viscosupplementation.

More recent advances include injection of platelet-rich plasma or a bone marrow aspirate concentration that uses growth factors or your body's own repair cells to alleviate symptoms. Studies have shown some promising results, but further research is still needed. Currently most insurance companies classify these treatments as experimental and may not cover the cost of them.

Another option under investigation is injection of mesenchymal stem cells using a person's own fat cells in a two-stage procedure. A phase I clinical research trial of this treatment is currently under approval and will be enrolling patients soon.

In cases of severe arthritis with symptoms that have persisted despite comprehensive management, surgery such as knee arthroplasty or joint replacement may be reasonable.

Talk to your physician about additional treatment options for your situation. Although cartilage restoration probably won't work, there are alternatives that are likely to improve your symptoms and help you feel better.

- Dr. Aaron Krych, Orthopedic Surgery, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn.

▶ Mayo Clinic Q & A is an educational resource and doesn't replace regular medical care. E-mail a question to MayoClinicQ&A@mayo.edu. For more information, visit www.mayoclinic.org.

Tired of being tired? Here is what you need to know

(BPT) - It's no surprise that we all feel the need to get more sleep.

However, for some people who feel tired all the time, it may be a sign of a bigger problem. If the urge to sleep during the day is overwhelming and irresistible, it may be excessive daytime sleepiness (EDS).

Roughly 20 percent of Americans have EDS. It is one of the most common complaints people make to a sleep specialist and a symptom that can be seen in a variety of sleep disorders.

Being able to recognize the difference between normal sleepiness and EDS is important to your health, but more than 60 percent of Americans find it difficult to do, according to a new survey of 3,000 people conducted by Jazz Pharmaceuticals.

"Occasionally feeling tired is normal," says Dr. Raj Dasgupta, pulmonary and sleep specialist at the University of Southern California's Keck School of Medicine. "People with EDS have a hard time staying awake or alert during the day and may doze off during inappropriate times such as during meals, in the middle of a conversation or even when in a car stopped for a few minutes in traffic."

EDS is a hallmark symptom of narcolepsy. Not everyone who has EDS has narcolepsy, but everyone who has narcolepsy has EDS. Narcolepsy affects approximately 1 in 2,000 Americans. It is a chronic neurological disorder in which the brain can't control sleep-wake cycles normally. A narcolepsy diagnosis can be tricky because many disorders, such as depression, insomnia

and sleep apnea, have some of the same symptoms. This may be why it is estimated that half of those with narcolepsy are undiagnosed.

Narcolepsy has five major symptoms, but you don't need to experience them all to have it.

1. **Excessive Daytime Sleepiness:** This is when you have an uncontrollable urge to sleep during the day.

2. **Cataplexy:** The weakening of muscles when you feel strong emotions like embarrassment, laughter, surprise or anger. Cataplexy can cause your head to drop, your face to droop, your jaw to weaken or make your knees give way.

3. **Sleep disruption:** This is when you often fall asleep quickly but wake up frequently throughout the night.

See **Tired**, Page 15.



Mission Statement

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

Golden Eagle Dinner — an Osceola District fundraising tradition

BSA's Annual Golden Eagle Dinner is just days away!

The 2018 Osceola County Boy Scout Golden Eagle Dinner will be held March 27 at Osceola Heritage Park's events center. A reception will begin at 6 p.m. and dinner and the program begins at 7 p.m.

The Golden Eagle Dinner annually brings together Osceola County's top corporate and community leaders to honor an outstanding member of the community; this year's honoree is School Board district 5 member Ricky Booth. Guests are invited to enjoy a fun-filled presentation along with a wholesome meal and the positive feelings that comes with philanthropic compassion. All proceeds benefit the BSA Central Florida Council.

Corporate sponsorships begin at \$1,500, an amount which would support 10 Scouts for a year, up to \$15,000. For the support, donors receive VIP seating at the dinner for an appropriate number of guests, listing and corporate logo in event presentations, recognition at the event, and more. Everyone who attends will benefit from the positive community tie-in with the Boy Scouts of America.

For information on how to contribute to and participate in this year's Golden Eagle Dinner, contact Osceola District Executive Cory Dewell at cory.dewell@cflscouting.org or 407-624-2101.

The Scout Law.
A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

WHERE TO WORSHIP

SUBMIT YOUR CHURCH

BRIAN MCBRIDE EDITOR
 EMAIL BMCBRIDE@OSCEOLANEWSGAZETTE.COM
 THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR A SUBMISSION.

Due to space constraints, the News-Gazette cannot guarantee that all church listings submitted will be published in the Worship page every Saturday edition.

Destiny Church Of Foursquare

101 W. Cypress St.
 Suite H, Kissimmee
 407-870-1594

The Dwelling Place Church

4730 W. Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy
 Kissimmee; 407-917-2354
www.tdpchurchfl.com/

Eastern Avenue Baptist Church

1001 Eastern Ave.
 St. Cloud; 407-892-4644

El Tabor Church

5625 Orange Ave.
 Kissimmee; 407-343-9050

Emmanuel Baptist Church

2627 Lehigh Ave.
 Kissimmee; 407-846-8230
www.ebckissimmee.com

Faith Community Church

1990 Neptune Road
 Kissimmee; 407-846-0157

Faith Community Church of Holopaw.

5000 Holopaw Road
 Holopaw

Faith Harvest Ministries

1537 Mill Slough Road
 Kissimmee; www.faithharvestonline.org

First Apostolic Church

2317 Clay St.; Kissimmee
 407-348-6521

Faith International Baptist Church

7491 W. Irlo Bronson Memorial Highway
 Kissimmee; 706-405-8134
www.faiuthorlando.com/site/cs/index.asp

First Baptist Church

1717 13th St., St. Cloud
 407-892-7125
www.inallthingspray.com

First Missionary Baptist Church

760 S. Canoe Creek Rd.
 Kenansville; 407-436-1104

First Presbyterian Church

15 Church St., Kissimmee
 407-847-2807; preskiss.com

First United Church Jesus Christ

550 E. Jackson St.
 Kissimmee; 407-847-4009
www.firstunitedchurchojca.org

First United Methodist Church

101 W. Dakin Ave
 Kissimmee
 407-847-3700
www.kissimmeefumc.org

First United Methodist Church

1000 Ohio Ave.
 St. Cloud
 407-892-3128 www.firstchurchstcloud.org

Fortune Road Church of Christ

2431 Fortune Road
 Kissimmee
 407-348-0300
KissimmeeChurch.org

Freedom Life Church

1700 E. Irlo Bronson Memorial Highway
 Kissimmee
 407-944-1773
www.freedom-life.org

Free Methodist Church

1701 N. Thacker Ave.
 Kissimmee; 407-847-4528

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

1203 Orange Ave, St. Cloud
 407-892-7665

Gateway Baptist Church

2601 Partin Settlement Rd.
 Kissimmee; 407-846-8595

Grace Lutheran Church and Preschool

1123 Louisiana Ave.
 St. Cloud; 407-892-4653
gscfla.org

Iglesia Cristiana Casa de Vida

1215 Old Hickory Tree Road, St. Cloud
st.cloud@gmail.com
 407-241-9045

Iglesia de Cristo en Fortune Road

2431 Fortune Road
 Kissimmee; 813-473-9075

Iglesia de Dios de Kissimmee

2550 Flamboyant St.
 Kissimmee
 407-348-8788

Iglesia de los Hermanos: Nuevo Comienzo

301 Commerce Center Dr.
 St. Cloud; 84-319-1195

Impact Community Church

29 E. 13th St., St. Cloud
 407-593-1419
www.impactchurchfamily.org

Intercession City Church of God

5563 S. Orange Blossom Trail, Kissimmee
Intercessioncitycog.com

Living Waters Church of God

1001 W. Carroll St.
 Kissimmee; 407-847-6387

Journey Bible Fellowship

3220 Old Canoe Creek Road
 St. Cloud; 407-957-2057
journey3220@gmail.com

Kissimmee Christian Church

415 N. Main St.
 Kissimmee; 407-847-2543
www.fcckissimmee.org

Narcoossee Baptist Church

870 N. Narcoossee Road
 St. Cloud; 407-709-3481
www.nbaptistchurch.org/

Neptune Road Baptist Church

1620 Neptune Road
 Kissimmee; 407-847-8174

New Beginnings Baptist Church

2001 Bulldog Lane
 St. Cloud; 407-325-2915

New Life Free Will Baptist Church

1211 Ocean St., Kissimmee
 (behind Crazy Vern's Car Wash)
 863-640-4008 or
 407-460-6411

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OBITUARIES

For daily obituaries and services please visit www.aroundosceola.com

KOGER - Jerry Koger, 85, of Kissimmee, Florida, passed away peacefully to his heavenly home on Wednesday, March 21, 2018, joining his parents Lucille and Jack Koger, sister Nina Sue Fisher, and daughter-in-law Tracy Koger.



Jerry was born in Kissimmee on October 9, 1932 and graduated from Osceola High School in 1950. He played professional baseball with the St. Louis Browns in 1950 until he was drafted into the United States Army in 1952 for two years and in Army Reserve for 18 years. Jerry married Barbara Bass on August 1, 1953 and had two children, Debbie and Derrick. Jerry then became an officer with the Kissimmee Police Department for two years, followed by a 31-year career with Independent Life Insurance Company. He later worked maintenance at Good Samaritan and with his son Derrick's construction company until he fully retired in 2006.

Jerry enjoyed sports, hunting, telling jokes, and hand-crafting his widely recognized fly fishing popping bugs, Koger Bugs.

He also enjoyed mornings with good friends over breakfast at Joanie's Diner in downtown Kissimmee.

Jerry's pride and joy in life was his family. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Barbara Koger, daughter Debbie Hoenstine (Clarence Hoenstine), son Derrick Koger (Jody Koger), grandchildren Julie Findzhikov (Yanko), Chad Hoenstine, Nicholas Koger (Kim), and Tiffani Goodman (Dustin), and his great-grandchildren Breana Hoenstine, Ashley Hoenstine, Christian Mantuano, Maddie Mantuano, C.J. Hoenstine, Mariya Findzhikov, Keelyn Flynn, Kaden Koger, Jacob Goodman, and Joshua Goodman.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Monday, March 26, 2018 at 11:00 am at Bible Baptist Church, 1500 E. Irlo Bronson Hwy, Kissimmee, FL 34744, with the Reverend Joe Williams officiating. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service time (10A.M.-11A.M.) in the church.

Full Military Honors will be accorded by the Osceola County Veterans Council.

The Koger family is being cared for by Conrad & Thompson Funeral Home, 511 Emmett Street, Kissimmee, Florida 34741, (407)847-3188.

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SCHOOL ZONE

THIS WEEKS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

► Boggy Creek Elementary

• Boggy Creek Elementary students will have group pictures taken on March 28. Group pictures were originally scheduled for March 1, but needed to be rescheduled. The money for pictures must be sent the day pictures are taken. You may pay with cash, credit card, or check.

► Cypress Elementary

• Cypress Elementary will be celebrating "Falcon of the Month" on March 30 in the cafeteria at 2:30 p.m. hosted by Dr. Oliver.

► Highlands Elementary School

• Highlands Elementary would like to give a big thank you to WonderWorks for making it possible for astronaut Don Thomas to visit Highlands Elementary. The school was also thankful for Professor Wonder's visit to the parent car loop to greet students. It was a great learning experience for students to have viewed the presentation on space and to have met an astronaut in person.

► Kissimmee Elementary School

• Kissimmee Elementary would like to acknowledge the students and staff who participated in making the annual Talent Show a spectacular evening filled with laughter, family togetherness, and making lifelong memories.
• It is time once again for the Osceola School District's climate/culture surveys. Please ask your child for it, complete it, and return it to school. You can also complete it online by visiting the district's or school's website. This is an opportunity for the district to gather information from local families that shape school culture.

► Lakeview Elementary School

• Lakeview Elementary will be having an Orlando Magic Spirit Night at the Amway Center on Wednesday, March 28, at 7 p.m. The Lakeview Ensemble, led by Mr. Chris Burns, will be performing the National Anthem prior to the game.

► Thacker Avenue Elementary

• The ASD Team at Thacker Avenue Elementary School for International Studies is holding an Autism T-shirt fundraiser to assist with their yearly

field trip to Legoland. T-shirts are \$10 for youth size small to adult size XL and \$13 for adult 2XL to 5XL. For more information, please contact Kandy Golumbfskie at 407-935-3540.

► Celebration K-8 School

• Celebration K-8 would like to send a big thank you to all involved in helping the Fuel Up to Play 60 grant be a success! Mr. Anderson was able to purchase six tumbling mats and four octagonal tumbling shapes to offer active brain breaks of Capoeira Angola during music classes, as well as during after-school programs. Second graders also started a "Worm Factory", and learned that worms can produce nutrient-rich compost that helps plants grow, while diverting food waste from the landfill.

► Discovery Intermediate School

• Spring pictures will be taken on Tuesday, March 27, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. in the cafeteria for students and staff.
• Odyssey of the Mind at Discovery Intermediate meets every Thursday from 4 to 5 p.m. in room 4-112. Any students interested in participating should speak with Mr. Jones.
• Discovery Intermediate STEM science teacher Mr. Jones will meet with the STEM Club every Tuesday until the end of school year in Rm. 4-112 from 4 to 5 p.m.
• The Drama Club at Discovery Intermediate will be meeting every Tuesday in rooms 5-115 and 5-104 from 4:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Ambrose.
• The Discovery Intermediate Student Council meets every Thursday in room 4-203 from 4 to 4:30 p.m. If you have questions, please contact Ms. Becker at 407-343-7300.

► St. Cloud Middle School

• The next SAC meeting at St. Cloud Middle will be on March 27 from 5 to 6 p.m. in the media center.

► Westside K-8

• Spring Break is around the corner, and Westside K-8 is having another

iReady Challenge! For the week of Spring Break, students will be challenged to complete lessons on iReady Math. Participation in this "March Mathness" challenge will give students the chance to earn various prizes.

► Poinciana High School

• Poinciana High students can get help with reading and math after school at Poinciana 2:20 on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the media center. FSA, SAT, and ACT help are available via Khan Academy and Plato credit recovery and grade forgiveness are available as well. The program runs on most Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:20 to 4:20 p.m. No registration is required, and students may drop in on whatever day they need help. School bus transportation is available.

► Osceola Technical College

• Last year, Osceola Technical College Instructor Melissa Allers started a professional clothing closet at the Kissimmee campus with the idea that students who needed professional interview or work attire and couldn't afford it could come and "shop" for free and get a "new-to-them" outfit. They are in need of hangers (any kind is appreciated), hanging racks, shoe racks, professional clothing, shoes, and accessories. As spring break is quickly approaching, they ask that while doing your spring cleaning, you keep them in mind. Please make sure anything you donate is professional in nature (i.e. no stains, rips, or tears) as they will be given out to students starting a new career. At the moment, they also ask for volunteers to get the closet up and running. Any donation can be brought to the Kissimmee campus and contact Melissa Allers.

► Zenith Accelerated Learning Academy

• Zenith will be participating in a jacket collection. If you have a jacket that you are willing to donate to a child in need please let us know. Please contact Kimberly Quackenbush with any questions you may have.

Tips for students as graduation approaches

Graduation season can be an exciting time for college students. As their time on campus draws to a close, students may be anxious to put their education to use and enter the workforce.

In recent years, newly minted college graduates faced difficult job markets. But a 2017 survey from the online jobs and professional resources website CareerBuilder found that 74 percent of employers intended to hire recent college graduates that year, marking a 7 percent increase from the year prior.

Recent graduates and students on the cusp of donning their caps and gowns may be entering a healthier job market than the one that greeted grads as recently as a few years ago, but grads should still take steps to bolster their chances of finding work as graduation nears.

► Use the resources at your disposal. The final months and weeks of college are filled with distractions. In addition to final exams, students may be tempted to fill their final weeks with

social engagements and extracurricular activities as they try to squeeze every last ounce of fun out of their college experiences. But students also should book appointments with their schools' career services offices. Such offices can help students prepare their résumés. Career services offices also can help students as they search for jobs, internships or other opportunities. Career services staffs also may coach students on interview preparation.

► Gather references. Strong references can help students stand out in crowded job markets. Businesses typically request at least three references, none of which can be family members. Professors, current or past bosses or volunteer program supervisors who can speak to applicants' work ethics and attitudes can make for strong references.

It can take time to contact and gather information from prospective references, so students who start early won't experience any lag time when they begin looking for work.

► Get ready to dress the part. Graduates must dress the part when going on job interviews. Both men and women should purchase appropriate interview attire if they don't already have any. Do so in advance of graduation so you aren't caught off guard by opportunities to interview.

► Find a home. Soon-to-be-graduates can help themselves by studying up on which cities boast thriving job markets and which seem to have few opportunities. Cities may have especially strong job markets for certain majors. Students who research job markets and how geography factors into their job searching equation can then begin to develop a post-graduation housing plan. Some companies may prefer local candidates, so it might be to grads' advantage to move to certain cities even before they've been offered a job. Such students can rely on temporary, part-time or seasonal employment to pay their bills until they find full-time work in their chosen fields.

TIRED

Continued from Page 13

4. Sleep paralysis: Feeling unable to move or speak for a short time when falling asleep or waking up. You may also feel like you can't breathe deeply.

5. Vivid dreaming: Often frightening dreamlike experiences that seem real and happen when falling asleep or waking up. You may experience hearing sounds or words when drifting to sleep or have unwanted visions. Sleep

paralysis often accompanies these vivid dreams.

The survey also revealed that a majority of Americans don't feel they know enough about sleep disorders. Less than 50 percent report being familiar with narcolepsy and only 70 percent report being familiar with sleep apnea. Approximately 60 percent of Americans said that they find it difficult to know when they need to talk to a doctor about daytime sleepiness.

Dasgupta adds, "If you're having trouble staying awake during the day or experiencing other sleep-related problems, it may be time to talk to your doctor."

To learn more about narcolepsy, take the Narcolepsy Symptom Screener or to find a sleep specialist near you, visit MoreThanTired.com.

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Manufacturer Photo

FORD F-150

Working to Stay the Best Truck in the Biz



Manufacturer Photo

The 2018 F-150 arrives with bold new front and rear styling, advanced technologies and improved engines. The new engines include an all-new 3.0-liter Power Stroke V6 turbodiesel and enhanced V6 and V8 gas engines. A high-strength steel fully boxed ladder frame and high-strength, military-grade, aluminum alloy body save weight and add capability, helping F-150 tow heavier trailers than ever and deliver best-in-class payload ratings.

By Lyndon Conrad Bell
Motor Matters

Still amazing after all these years, Ford's venerable F-150 pickup remains America's best-selling automobile — bar none. In fact, Ford tells me that they sold 245,923 more F-150 pickups than its competitor Chevrolet sold of the Silverado for 2017.

Entire car lines accomplish fewer annual sales. One of the reasons for the model's perennial success is the F-150's product-planning team listens to its customer base and is in the habit of making improvements wherever they are warranted. Pricing on the 2018 F-150 starts at \$27,610.

For the 2018 model year, this means a trio of new or heavily revised engines. The normally aspirated 3.5-liter V-6 from 2017 has been dropped in favor of a 3.3-liter capable of developing more power and delivering better fuel economy than its predecessor. Meanwhile, the 2.7-liter V-6 and the 5.0-liter V-8 have been revised for more output and are paired with a 10-speed automatic transmission. Auto stop-start is applied across the engine range to help increase fuel economy ratings.

The 3.3-liter V-6 and the 2.7-liter twin turbocharged powerplants are considered all-new. Though based upon the 3.5-liter engine it supplants, new cylinder heads are incorporated for the 3.3-liter, enabling the application of both port and direct fuel injection. The 2.7-liter's turbochargers have been fitted with an electrically actuated wastegate to provide more accurate boost control and its camshafts have been lightened. The new fuel injection scheme has also been applied to this engine, as well as the 5.0-liter V8, which also gets a new bore lining process.

The result is 290 horsepower and 265 lb.-ft. of torque for the 3.3-liter, which is an increase of 8 horsepower and 12 lb.-ft. of torque over the 3.5-liter. The 2.7 delivers 325 horsepower and 400 lb.-ft. of torque, an increase of 25 more lb.-ft. The 5.0-liter V-8 claims a 10 horsepower gain to 395 and a 13 lb.-ft. increase in torque to 400.

With the power increases come revised tow ratings as well. Properly equipped, the F-150 can now tow up to 13,200 pounds. Ford's 375-horsepower and 450-horsepower EcoBoost 3.5-liter V-6 engines return for the 2018 model year, giving F-150 buyers a choice of five powertrains.

Exterior styling is also updated, with a selection of six new grilles in addition to six

new wheel choices. Providing a wealth of variety in this manner gives the F-150 the ability to be all things to pretty much all people. No fewer than seven trim packages are offered, from basic work truck to ultra-plush Limited and the fire-breathing Raptor desert running sport truck.

In addition to the engine changes, all F-150s (except Raptor) get enhanced interior treatments for 2018. These include leather-trimmed bucket seats on the basic Lariat, while an all-new Bang & Olufsen premium audio system is offered as an option for the upper-level models. New tech and safety features include Wi-Fi, integrated ramps, pre-collision alert with pedestrian detection, blind-spot indicators capable of working with a trailer attached, and adaptive cruise control with stop and go capability.

Speaking of trailering, Ford's outstanding Trailer Backup Assist returns as an option. Activated with a knob to the right of the steering wheel, the system uses a checkered sticker on the trailer neck to measure distance and angle. You'll simply watch the mirrors and rear camera, turning the dial in the desired direction, to get the trailer to go where you want. The speed of the truck is controlled with the brake, just as when using automated parking.

On the road, the newfound power reinvigorates the F-150 across the board. Long praised for its comfortable ride quality and easy handling, the 2018 models carry those traits forward effortlessly. Steering is bit on the light side, but this nicely disguises the weight of the full-size Ford pickup. It's also quite accurate and turns-in quickly. Handling is surprisingly agile for its size.

All in all, this truck's power, comfort, capabilities and good looks make for a compelling argument — much to the chagrin of the F-150s competitors.



Manufacturer Photo

SPECIFICATIONS 2018 CHEVROLET 2500 HIGH COUNTRY

VEHICLE TYPE
6-passenger AWD heavy-duty pickup

BASE PRICE
\$50,170 (as tested: \$51,365)

ENGINE TYPE
Duramax turbodiesel V-8

DISPLACEMENT 6.6-liter

HORSEPOWER (net)
445 at 2800 rpm

TORQUE (lb.-ft.) 910 at 1600 rpm

TRANSMISSION
6-speed automatic

OVERALL LENGTH
239.5 in.

TURNING CIRCLE (curb-to-curb)
51.1 ft.

CURB WEIGHT 6,242 lbs.

FUEL CAPACITY
36 gal.

EPA MILEAGE RATING
N/A

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Home flipping at an 11-year high, data shows

There was a 1 percent year-over-year increase in home flipping during 2017 according to the ATTOM Data Solutions' Q4 and Year-End 2017 U.S. Home Flipping Report. This puts the activity at an 11-year high.

"The surge in home flipping in the last three years is built on a more fundamentally sound foundation than the flipping frenzy that we witnessed a little more than a decade ago," says Daren Blomquist, senior vice president at ATTOM Data Solutions. "Flippers are behaving more rationally, as evidenced by average gross flipping returns of 50 percent over the last three years compared to average gross flipping returns of just 31 percent between 2004 and 2006 – the last time we saw more than 200,000 home flips in consecutive years." He added that financing was more accessible, but "65 percent of flippers still used cash to buy homes flipped in 2017, nearly the reverse of 2004 to 2006, when 63 percent of flippers were leveraging financing to buy."

Florida featured prominently in the report with Tampa ranking the third highest for total completed flips in 2017. Other Florida cities rounding out the top 10 were Orlando and Miami. With the flipping rate in Miami down 14 percent from 2016, it was one of 19 large metro areas of 52 to experience decreases over the last year. Other cities seeing decreases include Los Angeles, California; Boston, Massachusetts; San Francisco, California; San Bernardino, California; and Seattle, Washington. Increases were seen in Buffalo, New York; New York-Northern New Jersey; Dallas-Fort Worth; Louisville, Kentucky; and Birmingham, Alabama.

Financing was represented in 34.8 percent of home flips in 2017, marking a 31.6 percent gain from 2016, a nine-year high. Of the 52 metropolitan statistical areas in the report, the top 5 using financing were Denver, Colorado; Boston, Massachusetts; Providence, Rhode Island; San Diego, California; and Seattle, Washington. Alternately, highest flips for homes that were paid entirely in cash include Providence, Rhode Island; Birmingham, Alabama; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Orlando and San Antonio, Texas.

Profit margins are rising for homes, which flipped in 2017. These properties yielded an average gross profit of \$68,143, an increase of 5 percent year-over-year, and a new all-time high. At this price, it equates to a 49.8 percent return on investment, the second highest percentage that ROI has seen in the history of this report. The all-time high was the year prior when it came in at 51.9 percent.

Lastly, the report determined there was no change in the average time it took to flip a home in 2017 compared to 2016. At an average time of 182 days it is tied with last year for an 11-year high.

Hispanic homeownership grows for third straight year

Growth in the Hispanic population has spurred further growth in Hispanic homeownership rates, making this the third consecutive year of gains according to the National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals (NAHREP).

In their recent release of their State of Hispanic Homeownership Report, NAHREP notes that the population saw an increase of just over 1 million, accounting for 51 percent of population growth last year, and found that this increased the rate of homeownership to 46.2 from 46 percent. That's an increase of 167,000 new households. The report indicated that another 6 million households were expected to form by 2024.

"We see from the report's data the strong enthusiasm for homeownership within the Hispanic community," said NAHREP 2018 President, Daisy Lopez-Cid. "With a growing Hispanic population and the highest rate of workforce participation, Hispanics are expected to drive growth in the housing market for decades."

With a labor force participation rate at 66.1 percent, the report put Hispanic purchasing power at \$2.13 trillion, and homeownership is considered to be a sound long-term investment with 88 percent surveyed saying they believe they are more likely to own rather than rent in the future.



Some negatives were highlighted in the report, however. Uncertain immigration policy, recent natural disasters, and a lacking inventory of homes are putting pressure on this growth in homeownership, yet despite these hindrances, continued increases in population and a strong workforce has made this segment of our population able to withstand these headwinds and continue to increase household formation.

The Osceola County Association of Realtors is the largest trade association in Osceola County and represents over 3,400 Realtors in the area, bringing valuable training and support to its membership, and offering community services to the Osceola County area. The association is dedicated to members' success through personal development, advocacy, and community engagement.

Millennials lead all homebuyers

Home purchases by millennials ticked up over the past year, but inventory constraints and higher housing costs kept their overall activity subdued and prevented some from leaving the more affordable confines of their Gen X and baby boomer parents' homes.

This is according to the National Association of Realtors 2018 Home Buyer and Seller Generational Trends study, which evaluates the generational differences of recent home buyers and sellers. The survey additionally found that millennial buyers prioritize living close to friends and family over a home's location and proximity to schools, and an overwhelming majority used a real estate agent to buy or sell a home.

Slightly more than a third of all home purchases were made by millennials over the past year (36 percent; 34 percent in 2017), which kept them as the most active generation of buyers for the fifth consecutive year. Gen X buyers ranked second (26 percent; 28 percent in 2017),



followed by younger (18 percent) and older baby boomers (14 percent) and the Silent Generation, those born between 1925 and 1945 (6 percent; 8 percent in 2017).

According to Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist, this year's survey findings reveal both what it takes to be a successful millennial buyer in today's housing market, as well as why, even though sales to millennials reached an all-time survey high, stubbornly low inventory conditions pushed home prices out of reach for many. As a result, the overall share of millennial buyers remains at an underperforming level.

Revealing the greater purchasing power needed over the past year, the typical millennial buyer in the survey had a higher household income (\$88,200) than a year ago (\$82,000) and purchased the same-sized home (1,800-square-foot) at a more expensive price (\$220,000; \$205,000 in 2017). Millennials also had higher student debt balances than in last year's survey, and slightly more of them said saving for a down payment was the most difficult task in buying a home.

"Realtors throughout the country have noticed both the notable upturn in buyer interest

from young adults over the past year, as well as mounting frustration once they begin actively searching for a home to buy," said Yun. "Prices keep rising for the limited number of listings on the market they can afford, which is creating stark competition, speedy price growth and the need to save more in order to buy."

Added Yun, "These challenging market conditions have caused – and will continue to cause – many aspiring millennial buyers to continue renting unless more Gen Xers decide to sell, and entry-level home construction picks up significantly."

Create a sale-worthy showplace

The sentiment "don't judge a book by its cover" can be applied to many situations. When it comes to selling their homes, homeowners should remember this adage as they prepare their homes for prospective buyers.

Homeowners who want to make their properties stand out can take the following steps.

De-personalize the home.

Homeowners fill their spaces with family photos, heirlooms, personal interests, and other conversation pieces. Prospective buyers may not be able to see past personal belongings and may even be distracted by them.

Improve the exterior.

HGTV says that curb appeal is crucial to making a strong first impression. A messy or lackluster landscape can turn buyers away even before they reach the front door. Mow the lawn and make sure shrubbery has been

trimmed. Seasonal potted flowers and plants can help make the house look polished.

Put things in storage.

Rent a storage unit to house items that can make a home appear cluttered. Clean out closets and cabinets, so that when buyers "snoop" during appointments or open houses they see orderly storage areas.

Make it light and bright.

Open up all of the drapes and blinds, and turn on overhead lights so the house is well lit. Add table lamps or other fixtures to especially dim rooms.

Create a hotel experience.

Forbes suggests making bathrooms look like a spa. Stack a few pretty washcloths tied with ribbon, add some scented candles and faux plants and buy bathmats and towels in coordinating tones.



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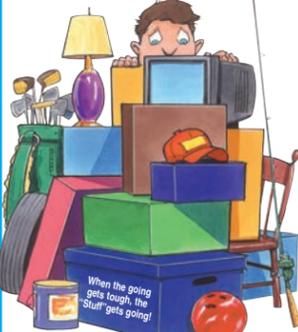
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Announcements

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Week of March 19, 2018

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CHECK OUT THESE LOCAL GARAGE SALES

Garage Sales Kissimmee

WINDMILL POINT - Unit 4 COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE
1794 Atwater Court (34746)
Saturday, March 24th
8:00am till 1:00pm

CANOE CREEK ESTATES COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE
2601 Whaley Canoe Drive (34772)
Saturday, March 24th
from 8:00am till 1:00pm

CRYSTAL COVE
4770 Blue Diamond St.
Kissimmee, 34746
Saturday, March 24th
8:00am till 1:00pm

EAGLE BAY HOMES COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE
2627 Eagle Bay Blvd. - 34743
Saturday, March 24th
8:00am till 1:00pm

HUGE GARAGE SALE
2723 W. Janet Street 34741
Saturday-3/24-9am-3pm
A Large variety of items!

GARAGE SALE
Sat-3/24-8am-3pm
2811 Berkshire Circle(34743)
Furniture, Dishes, Crystal Glass-ware, and More!

LIBERTY SQUARE Community Garage Sale
1158 Democracy Dr.
Haines City, FL 33844
Saturday, March 24th
8:00am till 1:00pm

LIBERTY VILLAGE COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE
4492 Philadelphia-34746
(Located off Poinciana Blvd,
South of 192)
Saturday, March 24th
8:00am-1:00pm

QUAIL RIDGE PHASE 3 COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE
2516 Quail Park Terrace (34743)
(Located off Osceola Parkway)
Saturday, March 24th
8:00am till 1:00pm

SILVER PARK VILLAS Community Yard Sale
115 Silver Park Circle (34743)
Saturday, March 24th
8:00am till 1:00pm

SOUTHERN PINES OF OSCEOLA COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE
4200 Preserve Boulevard
34772
Saturday, March 24th
8:00am till 1:00pm

SOUTHPORT BAY COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE
4600 Southport Bay Drive-34759
(Located off Pleasant Hill Rd)
Saturday, March 24th
from 8:00am till 1:00pm

Garage Sales Kissimmee

BLACKSTONE LANDING COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE
2000 Blackstone Landing Drive
34758
(Located off Poinciana Blvd)
Saturday, March 24th
8:00am till 1:00pm

WINDSONG COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE
920 Windway Circle (34744)
(Located Off Michigan Ave)
Saturday, March 24th
from 8:00am till 1:00pm

Garage Sales St. Cloud

GARAGE SALE, FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH
1203 Orange Avenue
Fri. 3/23 Sat. 3/24, 7am-Noon
"SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!"

MOVING SALE
Fri-3/23 thru Wed-3/28-8am
1705 Cypress Court (34769)
Pine Lake Estates
Furniture, Tools, Electronics,
and More!
Everything Must Go!

GARAGE SALE
Fri-3/23-Sat-3/24-8am-4pm
2055 Live Oak Blvd.(34771)
192/Narcoossee Road,
Behind 7-11
*Terry Redlin Flying Free(Signed,
Limited Edition), Electronics,
Fishing, Golf, much more!*

MULTI-FAMILY Yard Sale
3/22-3/23-3/24- 7:30am
121 Wyoming Ave. (34769)
Large Variety of Items

YARD SALE
3272 Canoe Creek Road 34722
St. Cloud in Plaza where
Winn Dixie is located.
Saturday, Mar. 24-8 a.m.
Apparel,Appliances,Some Tools,
and Much More.

HAINES RIDGE COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE
212 Barrington Dr.
Haines City (33844)
Saturday, March 24th
8:00am till 1:00pm

STONEWOOD CROSSING COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE
606 Stonehaven Dr. (33844)
(Located Off Bates Rd.
in Haines City)
Saturday, March 24th
8:00am-1:00pm

STRATFORD POINTE COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE
10360 Stratford Pointe Avenue
Orlando (32832)
Saturday, March 24th
8:00am till 1:00pm

Garage Sales Other Areas

Help Wanted General

HIRING MACHINE OPERATORS
Please apply within:
2780 N. John Young Parkway
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Sun Publications of Florida is a commercial web printing company located in Lakeland Florida. We produce newspapers, tabloids, coupon books and glossy stock magazines.

We are currently looking for the right person to lead our commercial print sales. This individual needs to be able to develop, expand and service our existing customer base. Sales would include direct contact with current customers, new and potential customers along with cold calling.

The right candidate should have the ability to multi-task with a professional and positive attitude, be a self-starter, and possess excellent customer service skills. Candidate would work together with Sun Publication's Print Coordinator and Plant Manager in scheduling and deliveries of printed publications. Knowledge of account management and print sales will be helpful.

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- WalMart and more



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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 9th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION

Case No.: 2017-CA-000930
HSBC BANK USA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AS TRUSTEE FOR MERRILL LYNCH MORTGAGE INVESTORS, INC., MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, MANA SERIES 2007-OAR5, Plaintiff,

vs.

BONNIE R. MADONNA; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF BONNIE R. MADONNA; MANDALAY AT BELLA TRAE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, INC.; UNKNOWN TENANT # 1; UNKNOWN TENANT # 2, Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated the 28th day of February, 2018, and entered in Case No. 2017-CA-000930, of the Circuit Court of the 9th Judicial Circuit in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein HSBC BANK USA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR MERRILL LYNCH MORTGAGE INVESTORS, INC., MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, MANA SERIES 2007-OAR5, is the Plaintiff, and BONNIE R. MADONNA; MANDALAY AT BELLA TRAE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, INC.; UNKNOWN TENANT # 1; UNKNOWN TENANT # 2, are Defendants. ARMANDO RAMIREZ, as the Clerk of the Circuit Court, shall sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the OSCEOLA COUNTY COURTHOUSE, SUITE 2600/ ROOM 2602, TWO COURTHOUSE SQUARE, KISSIMMEE, FL, 11:00 AM on the 17th day of APRIL, 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

UNIT 10122, BUILDING 22, PHASE 12, MANDALAY AT BELLA TRAE, A CONDOMINIUM, ACCORDING TO THE DECLARATION OF CONDOMINIUM THEREOF RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 3119, PAGE 2561, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA, TOGETHER WITH AN UNDIVIDED INTEREST OR SHARE IN THE COMMON ELEMENTS APPURTENANT THERETO AND ANY AMENDMENTS THERETO.

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.

If you are a person with a disability who needs accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Court Administration at 2 Courthouse Square, Suite 6300, Kissimmee, Florida 34741, Telephone: (407) 742-2417, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 1-(800) 955-8771.

DATED on this 14th day of March 2018.

By: /s/ Scott Weiss
SCOTT WEISS, Esq.
Bar Number: 0710910

Submitted by:
CHOICE LEGAL GROUP, P.A., P.O. Box 9908, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33310-0908
Telephone: (954) 453-0365
Facsimile: (954) 771-6052
Toll Free: 1-(800) 441-2438
DESIGNATED PRIMARY E-MAIL FOR SERVICE PURSUANT TO FLA.R.JUD.ADMIN 2.516
eservice@clegalgroup.com
17-00467
March 17, 24, 2018

NOTICE UNDER FICTITIOUS NAME LAW Pursuant to Section 865.09 FLORIDA STATUTES

To Whom It May Concern: NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of **HANDYMAN SERVICES** located at: 3404 Glenwick Court, in the County of Osceola, in the City of Saint Cloud, Florida 34772, intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida.

That the party interested in said business enterprise is as follows:

DENNIS EUGENE ROACH DATED at Saint Cloud, Osceola County, Florida on this 20th day of March, 2018.

March 24, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 9th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION

Case No.: 49-2017-CA-001048 MF
U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff,

vs.

TWAQUANA M. GIBSON, A/K/A TWAQUANA MARSHER GIBSON; ASHLEY PARK AT HARMONY CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, INC.; HARMONY RESIDENTIAL OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.; ORANGE COUNTY HOUSING FINANCE AUTHORITY; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF TWAQUANA M. GIBSON A/K/A TWAQUANA MARSHER GIBSON; UNKNOWN TENANT IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY, Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated the 28th day of February, 2018, and entered in Case No. 49-2017-CA-001048 MF, of the Circuit Court in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, is the Plaintiff, and TWAQUANA M. GIBSON, A/K/A TWAQUANA MARSHER GIBSON; ASHLEY PARK AT HARMONY CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, INC.; HARMONY RESIDENTIAL OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.; ORANGE COUNTY HOUSING FINANCE AUTHORITY; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF TWAQUANA M. GIBSON A/K/A TWAQUANA MARSHER GIBSON; and UNKNOWN TENANT (S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY, are Defendants. ARMANDO RAMIREZ, as the Clerk of the Circuit Court, shall sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the OSCEOLA COUNTY COURTHOUSE, SUITE 2600/ ROOM 2602, TWO COURTHOUSE SQUARE, KISSIMMEE, FL, 11:00 AM on the 17th day of APRIL, 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

UNIT 14A, BUILDING NO. 14, ASHLEY PARK AT HARMONY CONDOMINIUM, ACCORDING TO THE DECLARATION OF CONDOMINIUM THEREOF AS RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 3074, PAGE 2713, AMENDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 3098, PAGE 2590, OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 3177, PAGE 643, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.

If you are a person with a disability who needs accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Court Administration at 2 Courthouse Square, Suite 6300, Kissimmee, Florida 34741, Telephone: (407) 742-2417, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 1-(800) 955-8771.

DATED on this 14th day of March 2018.

By: /s/ Scott Weiss
SCOTT WEISS, Esq.
Bar Number: 0710910

Submitted by:
CHOICE LEGAL GROUP, P.A., P.O. Box 9908, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33310-0908
Telephone: (954) 453-0365
Facsimile: (954) 771-6052
Toll Free: 1-(800) 441-2438
DESIGNATED PRIMARY E-MAIL FOR SERVICE PURSUANT TO FLA.R.JUD.ADMIN 2.516
eservice@clegalgroup.com
17-00467
March 17, 24, 2018

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

On 04/07/2018 at 09:00 A.M., an auction will take place at 1720 ALEXANDER ST., KISSIMMEE, FL 34746. The vehicles which will be auctioned include:

- 1) 1999 TOYOTA
- VIN: 4T1BG22K8XU405682
- 2) 2003 JAGU
- VIN: SAJEA51D23XD49646

Please be advised, per F.S. 713.78 that a newspaper ad must be published for 1 day in a newspaper of general circulation (daily or weekly circulation) which has been in circulation for at least 1 year. The advertisement must be published at least 10 calendar days prior to the date of sale, in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the sale is to be held. The 10 calendar days do not include the date of the advertisement nor the date of the sale.

March 24, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION

Case No.: 2017-CA-1448
DITECH FINANCIAL LLC, F/K/A GREEN TREE SERVICING LLC, Plaintiff(s),

vs.

JOHN VILLAREAL, A/K/A JOHN VILLAREAL; ROSEMARY MCNEIL VILLAREAL, A/K/A ROSEMARY MCNEIL VILLAREAL; THE UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF JOHN VILLAREAL, A/K/A JOHN VILLAREAL; THE UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ROSEMARY MCNEIL VILLAREAL, A/K/A ROSEMARY MCNEIL VILLAREAL; IMAGES CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, INC., Defendant(s).

RE-NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE is hereby given that, pursuant to the Order Cancelling and Rescheduling Foreclosure Sale in this case, in the Circuit Court of Osceola County, Florida, I will sell the property situated in Osceola County, Florida described as:

LOT 237 OF PARADISE PALMS RESORT - PHASE 2, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 22, PAGE 9, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA. And which postal address is: 8921 Candy Palm Road, Kissimmee, FL 34747.

At Public Sale, to the highest bidder, for cash, at Suite 2600/ Room # 2602 of the Osceola County Courthouse, 2 Courthouse Square, Suite 2600/ Room 2602, Kissimmee, Florida 34741, in accordance with Chapter 45, Florida Statutes on the 19th day of APRIL, 2018 at 11:00 A.M., on the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment of Foreclosure or order, to wit:

UNIT NO. 203, BUILDING 5271, IMAGES, A CONDOMINIUM, ACCORDING TO THE DECLARATION OF CONDOMINIUM THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 2769, PAGE 2672, AND ALL AMENDMENTS THEREOF, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 5271 IMAGES CIRCLE, # 203, KISSIMMEE, FL 34746

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens, must file a claim within sixty (60) days after the sale.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. IF YOU ARE A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY WHO NEEDS ANY ACCOMMODATION IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN A COURT PROCEEDING OR EVENT, YOU ARE ENTITLED, AT NO COST TO YOU, TO THE PROVISION OF CERTAIN ASSISTANCE. PLEASE CONTACT: ADA COORDINATOR, COURT ADMINISTRATION, OSCEOLA COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 2 COURTHOUSE SQUARE, SUITE 6300, KISSIMMEE, FL 34741, (407) 742-2417, FAX 407-835-5079 AT LEAST 7 DAYS BEFORE YOUR SCHEDULED COURT APPEARANCE, OR IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIVING NOTIFICATION IF THE TIME BEFORE THE SCHEDULED COURT APPEARANCE IS LESS THAN 7 DAYS. IF YOU ARE HEARING OR VOICE IMPAIRED, CALL 711 TO REACH THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS RELAY SERVICE.

DATED on this 13th day of March 2018.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Harrison Smalbach
Harrison Smalbach, Esq.
Florida Bar #: 116225
6267 Old Water Oak Road
Suite 203
Tallahassee, FL 32312
(850) 422-2520 (telephone)
(850) 422-2567 (facsimile)
attorney@padgettflaw.net
Attorney for Plaintiff
File No. 14-000163-3
March 17, 24, 2018

NOTICE UNDER FICTITIOUS NAME LAW Pursuant to Section 865.09 FLORIDA STATUTES

To Whom It May Concern: NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of **NOI V. NGUYEN, D/B/A PRO TOP NAILS** located at: 1540 W. Vine Street, in the County of Osceola, Kissimmee, Florida 34741, intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida.

DATED at Kissimmee, Osceola County, Florida on this 19th day of March, 2018.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

The following vehicles will be sold at auction free of all prior liens for cash.

- 1) 1996 BUICK Regal
- 4 Door - White
- VIN: 2G4WB52K0T1462868
- 2) 2005 Honda Odyssey EX-L Van - Gold
- VIN: 5FNRL38675B407153

Sale Date: APRIL 5, 2018 AND

- 1) 2007 FORD Focus ZX4 SES 4 Door - Red
- VIN: 1FAFP34N87W168768
- 2) 2015 DODGE Dart SXT 4 Door - Red
- VIN: 1C3CDFB7FD435493

Sale Date: APRIL 6, 2018

Sale Time: 10:00 A.M.

Sale Location: Magic Tows, LLC. - 1201 Sawdust Trail - Kissimmee, Florida 34744
March 24, 2018

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

PRESTON'S TOWING gives Notice of Foreclosure of Lien and intent to sell these vehicles on APRIL 9, 2018, 9:00 a.m. at 605 E. Donegan Avenue, Kissimmee, FL 34744, pursuant to subsection 713.78 of the Florida Statutes.

PRESTON'S TOWING reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids.

- 1) 2000 DODGE
- VIN: 1B4HS28N7YF211274
- 2) 2003 FORD
- VIN: 3FAFP37343R181038

March 24, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION

Case No.: 2016-CA-1804 MF
COMPASS BANK, Plaintiff,

vs.

RENATA DE MARCHI DIAS; MARCELO RIOS DIAS, Wife and Husband; SPARK INVESTMENTS, LLC; PARADISE PALMS RESORT HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.; and UNKNOWN TENANT IN POSSESSION

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated December 13, 2017, and entered in 2016-CA-000279 MF of the Circuit Court of the NINTH Judicial Circuit, in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein JAMES B. NUTTER & COMPANY, is the Plaintiff, and JUDITH MAGALI ROJAS, A/K/A JUDITH M. ROJAS, et al., Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated February 07, 2018, and entered in Case No. 2017-CA-002232 MF of the Circuit Court of the NINTH Judicial Circuit in and for OSCEOLA COUNTY, Florida, wherein DITECH FINANCIAL LLC, is Plaintiff, and JAMES HOOK, A/K/A JAMES R. HOOK, AS PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE OF ROLAND COMERATTA, DECEASED, et al., Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated February 07, 2018, and entered in Case No. 2017-CA-002232 MF of the Circuit Court of the NINTH Judicial Circuit in and for OSCEOLA COUNTY, Florida, wherein DITECH FINANCIAL LLC, is Plaintiff, and JAMES HOOK, A/K/A JAMES R. HOOK, AS PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE OF ROLAND COMERATTA, DECEASED, et al., Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

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NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated February 07, 2018, and entered in Case No. 2017-CA-002232 MF of the Circuit Court of the NINTH Judicial Circuit in and for OSCEOLA COUNTY, Florida, wherein DITECH FINANCIAL LLC, is Plaintiff, and JAMES HOOK, A/K/A JAMES R. HOOK, AS PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE OF ROLAND COMERATTA, DECEASED, et al., Defendants.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

Public Notice is hereby given that ACE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM LLC, d/b/a RUSSELL'S TOWING, will hold a public auction at 8:00 A.M., on APRIL 13, 2018, at: 2720 13th Street, St. Cloud, FL 34769.

Pursuant to the laws of the state the following vehicles will be sold to the highest bidder:

- 1) 2000 HONDA
- VIN: 2HKRL1862YH544012

Terms of the sale are cash and no checks are accepted. Seller reserves the right to final bid. All sales are final. No refunds will be made. Sale auto will be sold "as is" with no guarantee.

March 24, 2018

NOTICE OF SALE

JOE'S AUTO SERVICE CENTER INC., 1123 13th STREET, ST CLOUD, FL 34769

Towed-03/01/2018

Year-1999

Make-TOYOTA

VIN: 1NXBR12E4XZ260879

Date of Sale-04/06/2018

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location of Sale: Joe's Auto Service Center INC., 1123 13th Street, St. Cloud, FL 34769

March 24, 2018

NOTICE OF SALE

JOE'S AUTO SERVICE CENTER INC., 1123 13th STREET, ST CLOUD, FL 34769

Towed-03/04/2018

Year-1996

Make-FORD

VIN: 1FTJW36F7TEB63929

Date of Sale-04/09/2018

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location of Sale: Joe's Auto Service Center INC., 1123 13th Street, St. Cloud, FL 34769

March 24, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION

Case #: 2015-CA-000279 MF
General Jurisdiction Division
JAMES B. NUTTER & COMPANY, Plaintiff,

vs.

JUDITH MAGALI ROJAS, A/K/A JUDITH M. ROJAS, et al., Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated December 13, 2017, and entered in 2016-CA-000279 MF of the Circuit Court of the NINTH Judicial Circuit, in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein JAMES B. NUTTER & COMPANY, is the Plaintiff, and JUDITH MAGALI ROJAS, A/K/A JUDITH M. ROJAS, et al., Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated February 07, 2018, and entered in Case No. 2017-CA-002232 MF of the Circuit Court of the NINTH Judicial Circuit in and for OSCEOLA COUNTY, Florida, wherein DITECH FINANCIAL LLC, is Plaintiff, and JAMES HOOK, A/K/A JAMES R. HOOK, AS PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE OF ROLAND COMERATTA, DECEASED, et al., Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated February 07, 2018, and entered in Case No. 2017-CA-002232 MF of the Circuit Court of the NINTH Judicial Circuit in and for OSCEOLA COUNTY, Florida, wherein DITECH FINANCIAL LLC, is Plaintiff, and JAMES HOOK, A/K/A JAMES R. HOOK, AS PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE OF ROLAND COMERATTA, DECEASED, et al., Defendants.

IMPORTANT AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact ADA Coordinator at ADA Coordinator, Court Administration, Osceola County Courthouse, 2 Courthouse Square, Suite 6300, Kissimmee, Florida 34741, Telephone: (407) 742-2417, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; (describe notice); if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711 to reach the Telecommunications Relay Service.

DATED on this 9th day of March 2018.

ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ & SCHNEID, P.L.
Attorney for Plaintiff
6409 Congress Avenue
Suite 100
Boca Raton, FL 33487
Telephone: 561-241-6901
Facsimile: 561-997-6909
Service Email: mail@rasflaw.com
By: /s/ Thomas Joseph
Thomas Joseph, Esquire
Florida Bar No. 123350
Communication Email: tjoseph@rasflaw.com
14-83189-MoP
March 17, 24, 2018

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

Public Notice is hereby given that ACE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM LLC, d/b/a RUSSELL'S TOWING, will hold a public auction at 8:00 A.M., on APRIL 13, 2018, at: 2720 13th Street, St. Cloud, FL 34769.

Pursuant to the laws of the state the following vehicles will be sold to the highest bidder:

- 1) 2000 HONDA
- VIN: 2HKRL1862YH544012

Terms of the sale are cash and no checks are accepted. Seller reserves the right to final bid. All sales are final. No refunds will be made. Sale auto will be sold "as is" with no guarantee.

March 24, 2018

NOTICE OF DESIGNATION

The Sheriff of Osceola County, Russell Gibson and the Osceola County Sheriff's Office, pursuant to F.S. 121.055 gives notice of its intent to designate the position of Information Management Director for inclusion in the Senior Management Service class of the Florida Retirement System effective upon publication of this notice and acceptance by the Florida Retirement System.

All persons wishing to comment on this notice may deliver such comments to the Osceola County Sheriff's Office, 2601 E Irls Bronson Memorial Hwy, Kissimmee, FL 34744

Chief Deputy Martha Gens 2601 E. Irls Bronson Memorial Hwy, Kissimmee, FL 34744
Telephone: 407-348-1130
March 17, 24, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION

Case #: 2017-CA-002232 MF
DITECH FINANCIAL LLC Plaintiff,

vs.

JAMES HOOK, A/K/A JAMES R. HOOK, AS PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE OF ROLAND COMERATTA, DECEASED, et al., Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated February 07, 2018, and entered in Case No. 2017-CA-002232 MF of the Circuit Court of the NINTH Judicial Circuit in and for OSCEOLA COUNTY, Florida, wherein DITECH FINANCIAL LLC, is Plaintiff, and JAMES HOOK, A/K/A JAMES R. HOOK, AS PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE OF ROLAND COMERATTA, DECEASED, et al., Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

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NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

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NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

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NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

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NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

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NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

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JR., deceased, whose date of death was January 18, 2018, and whose last four digits of the Social Security Number are 5129 is pending in the Circuit Court for Osceola County, FL, Probate Division, the address of which is 2 Courthouse Square, Kissimmee, Florida 34741. The names and addresses of the Personal Representative and the Personal Representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of the first publication of this notice is: March 17, 2018.

Personal Representative:
Barbara J. Pass
13143 93rd Avenue
Seminole, FL 33776
WIDERMAN MALEK, PL
Attorney for Personal Representative
Scott C. Dixon, Esquire
Florida Bar Number 0109797
1990 W. New Haven Avenue
Suite 201
Melbourne, FL 32904
321-255-2332
Email: sdixon@USLegal-Team.com
March 17, 24, 2018

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

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NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

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Current Mailing and Email address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed or emailed to the address(es) on record at the clerk's office.

Warning: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rule of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of Pleadings.

March 10, 17, 24, 31, 2018

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

Public Notice is hereby given that ACE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS LLC, d/b/a ACE WRECKER, will hold a public auction at 8:00 A.M., on APRIL 13, 2018, at: 6671 Osceola Polk Line Road, Davenport, FL 33896. Pursuant to the laws of the state the following vehicles will be sold to the highest bidder:

- 1) 1999 FORD
- VIN: 1FTYR14V2XPB458

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO. 2017-CP-000537 DIVISION: PROBATE IN RE: ESTATE OF ETHEL FRATTAROLI, Deceased.

NOTICE OF CREDITORS The administration of the estate of Ethel Frattaroli, deceased, whose date of death was August 15, 2016, is pending in the Circuit Court for Osceola County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 2 Courthouse Square, Kissimmee, FL 34741. The name and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED. The date of first publication of this notice is: March 17, 2018.

Personal Representative: /s/ Mirna Sanchez Mirna Sanchez Personal Rep.

Attorney for Personal Representative: By: /s/ Josue M. Merino Forest Lake Law P.A. Florida Bar No.: 97337 628 N. Bear Lake Road, Suite 102 Apopka, Florida 32703 Tel. (407) 796-2939 Fax (407) 930-9449 E-Mail: Eservice@forestlakelaw.com Attorney for Personal Representative March 17, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA Case #: 2016-CA-000462 MF PRIMARY RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE, INC., Plaintiff, vs. HANS ALEJANDRO LOOR, ET AL., Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated February 22, 2018, in the above action, the Osceola County Clerk of Court will sell to the highest bidder for cash at Osceola, Florida, on JUNE 26, 2018, at 11:00 A.M., at 2 Courthouse Square, Suite 2600, Kissimmee, FL 34741 for the following described property: Lot 485, ANTHEM PARK - PHASE 3B, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 20, Pages

NOTICE OF RULEMAKING FOR THE PURPOSE OF SETTING FEES FOR POSTING OF SIGNAGE OF THE COUNTRY GREENS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

A public hearing will be conducted by the Country Greens Community Development District ("District") on April 23, 2018, at 5:30 p.m. at 32441 CR 437, Sorrento, Florida 32776. The public hearing will be a rulemaking hearing and will provide an opportunity for the public to address the proposed fees for posting of signage on lands owned by the District. The purpose and effect of the rule setting such review fees is to provide sufficient revenue to meet expenses associated with providing such services related to maintaining the areas where signage is posted on District-owned lands. Prior notice of rule development for the rulemaking hearing was published in the Osceola News Gazette on March 22, 2018. The proposed fees are as follows:

Signage Posting Fee The Signage Posting Fee will be paid directly to Country Greens Community Development District. An annual Signage Posting Fee of \$685 will be charged for posting of signage on District-owned lands. This Signage Posting Fee includes the cost of maintaining the signage area and administrative processing. The Signage Posting Fee may be prorated to cover posting of signage for a portion on the year.

Specific legal authority for the rule includes Sections 190.006, 190.011(5), 120.54 and 120.81, Florida Statutes (2017). Any person who wishes to provide the District with a proposal for a lower cost regulatory alternative as provided by section 120.54(1), Florida Statutes, must do so in writing within twenty-one (21) days after publication of this notice.

A HEARING WILL BE HELD AT THE TIME, DATE, AND PLACE SHOWN BELOW:

TIME AND DATE: April 23, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. PLACE: 32441 CR 437 Sorrento, Florida 32776

The public hearing may be continued to a date, time, and place to be specified on the record at the hearing. If anyone chooses to appeal any decision of the Board with respect to any matter considered at the public hearing, such person will need a record of the proceedings and should accordingly ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made which includes the testimony and evidence upon which such appeal is to be based. At the hearing, one or more Supervisors may participate in the public hearing by telephone. Any person requiring special accommodations at the hearing because of a disability or physical impairment should contact the District Office at (954) 603-0033, extension 40532 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 711 or 1-800-955-8770, for aid in contacting the District Office. A copy of the proposed rule may be obtained by contacting the District Manager, Robert Koncar, at 313 Campus Street, Celebration, Florida 34747 or by calling (407) 566-4122.

Robert Koncar, Manager Publication date: March 24, 2018

90 through 93, inclusive, of the Public Records of Osceola County, Florida. Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within sixty (60) days after the sale. The Court, in its discretion, may enlarge the time of the sale. Notice of the changed time of sale shall be published as provided herein.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact ADA Coordinator Osceola County, Court Administration at (407) 742-2417, Fax #: 407-835-5079 or at ctadm2@ocnjcc.org, Osceola County Courthouse, 2 Courthouse Square, Suite 6300, Kissimmee, FL 34741 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

Dated: March 14, 2018. Tromberg Law Group, P.A. Attorney for Plaintiff 1515 South Federal Highway, Suite 100, Boca Raton, FL 33432 Telephone #: 561-338-4101 Fax #: 561-338-4077 Email: eservice@tromberglawgroup.com By: /s/ Marie Fox Marie Fox, Esq. FBN 43909 Our File #: 16-001043 March 17, 24, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION File No. 2018-CP-000002 PR Division: _____ IN RE: ESTATE OF MATTHEW J. MITCHELL, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS The administration of the estate of Matthew J. Mitchell, deceased, whose date of death was November 19, 2017, is pending in the Circuit Court for Osceola County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 2 Courthouse Square #2000, Kissimmee, Florida 34741. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED. The date of first publication of this notice is: March 24, 2018.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated February 22, 2018, in the above action, the Osceola County Clerk of Court will sell to the highest bidder for cash at Osceola, Florida, on JUNE 26, 2018, at 11:00 A.M., at 2 Courthouse Square, Suite 2600, Kissimmee, FL 34741 for the following described property: Lot 485, ANTHEM PARK - PHASE 3B, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 20, Pages

NOTICE OF RULEMAKING FOR THE PURPOSE OF SETTING FEES FOR POSTING OF SIGNAGE OF THE COUNTRY GREENS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

A public hearing will be conducted by the Country Greens Community Development District ("District") on April 23, 2018, at 5:30 p.m. at 32441 CR 437, Sorrento, Florida 32776. The public hearing will be a rulemaking hearing and will provide an opportunity for the public to address the proposed fees for posting of signage on lands owned by the District. The purpose and effect of the rule setting such review fees is to provide sufficient revenue to meet expenses associated with providing such services related to maintaining the areas where signage is posted on District-owned lands. Prior notice of rule development for the rulemaking hearing was published in the Osceola News Gazette on March 22, 2018. The proposed fees are as follows:

Signage Posting Fee The Signage Posting Fee will be paid directly to Country Greens Community Development District. An annual Signage Posting Fee of \$685 will be charged for posting of signage on District-owned lands. This Signage Posting Fee includes the cost of maintaining the signage area and administrative processing. The Signage Posting Fee may be prorated to cover posting of signage for a portion on the year.

Specific legal authority for the rule includes Sections 190.006, 190.011(5), 120.54 and 120.81, Florida Statutes (2017). Any person who wishes to provide the District with a proposal for a lower cost regulatory alternative as provided by section 120.54(1), Florida Statutes, must do so in writing within twenty-one (21) days after publication of this notice.

A HEARING WILL BE HELD AT THE TIME, DATE, AND PLACE SHOWN BELOW:

TIME AND DATE: April 23, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. PLACE: 32441 CR 437 Sorrento, Florida 32776

The public hearing may be continued to a date, time, and place to be specified on the record at the hearing. If anyone chooses to appeal any decision of the Board with respect to any matter considered at the public hearing, such person will need a record of the proceedings and should accordingly ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made which includes the testimony and evidence upon which such appeal is to be based. At the hearing, one or more Supervisors may participate in the public hearing by telephone. Any person requiring special accommodations at the hearing because of a disability or physical impairment should contact the District Office at (954) 603-0033, extension 40532 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 711 or 1-800-955-8770, for aid in contacting the District Office. A copy of the proposed rule may be obtained by contacting the District Manager, Robert Koncar, at 313 Campus Street, Celebration, Florida 34747 or by calling (407) 566-4122.

Robert Koncar, Manager Publication date: March 24, 2018

2018. Personal Representative: Shary L. Weis 11923 13th Way North St. Petersburg, Florida 33716 Attorney for Personal Representative: David P. Folkenflik, Esq. Attorney for Personal Representative Florida Bar No.: 0981753 DAVID P. FOLKENFLIK, P.A. 5742 54th Avenue N. KENNETH CITY, FL 33709 Telephone: (727) 548-4529 Fax: (727) 545-0073 E-Mail: David@DavidFolkenflikLaw.com March 24, 31, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA Case #: 2016-CA-003111-MF ENCANTADA PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION, INC., a Florida non-profit corporation, Plaintiff, vs. MARK LEES, et al., Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Summary Final Judgment of Foreclosure and Award of Attorneys Fees and Costs, dated March 20, 2018, and entered in Case Number: 2016-CA-003111 MF, of the Circuit Court in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein ENCANTADA PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION, INC., is the Plaintiff, and MARK LEES, is the Defendant, the Osceola County Clerk of the Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, at the Osceola County Courthouse, 2 Courthouse Square, Suite 2600 Room # 2602, Kissimmee, Florida 34741, beginning at 11:00 o'clock A.M. on the 8th day of May, 2018 the following described property as set forth in said Summary Final Judgment of Foreclosure and Award of Attorneys Fees and Costs, to-wit: Property Address: 8582 Bay Lilly Loop, Kissimmee, Florida 34747 Property Description: Lot 230, ENCANTADA PHASE 1, according to the Plat thereof, as recorded in Plat Book 17, Pages 186 through 190, Public Records of Osceola County,

Plaintiff, vs. SAIMA S. KHAN, ET. AL., Defendant(s). RE-NOTICE OF SALE Pursuant to CHAPTER 45 NOTICE OF SALE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the order of Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated February 01, 2010, and entered in Case No. 09-CA-889-MF of the Circuit Court of the 9th Judicial Circuit in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON, AS SUCCESSOR INDENTURED TRUSTEE UNDER NOVASTAR MORTGAGE FUNDING TRUST 2005-2, Plaintiff, vs. SAIMA S. KHAN, ET. AL., Defendant(s).

Florida. If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact: Court Administrator at 2 Courthouse Square, Kissimmee, Florida 34741. Telephone (407) 742-3500 within two (2) working days of your receipt of this document; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call (800) 955-8771. DATED on this 20th day of March 2018. /s/ Jennifer L. Davis John L. Di Masi Florida Bar No. 0915602 Patrick J. Burton Florida Bar No.: 0098460 Jennifer L. Davis Florida Bar No.: 0879681 Toby Snively Florida Bar No.: 0125998 LAW OFFICES OF JOHN L. DI MASI, P.A. 801 N. Orange Avenue, Suite 500, Orlando, Florida 32801 Ph (407) 839-3383 Fx (407) 839-3384 Primary E-Mail: jdavis@orlando-law.com Attorneys for Plaintiff File #: 1688-011 March 24, 31, 2018

NOTICE OF UNSAFE STRUCTURE AND ORDER TO ABATE UNSAFE CONDITIONS BUILDING DIVISION

TO: Mei Tan Ming Sheng Tan Ming Zhuang Tan Ming Block 112 Lorong 1 TOA PAYOH #07-382 Singapore, 310112 Republic of Singapore

SUMMARY OF NOTICE

- 1. YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE CITY OF KISSIMMEE BUILDING OFFICIAL HAS DETERMINED AND HEREBY DECLARES THAT THE STRUCTURE LOCATED ON THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED BELOW IS UNSAFE. 2. YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED TO ABATE AND CORRECT THE UNSAFE CONDITIONS AS SHOWN BELOW. 3. IF YOU DO NOT WANT THIS ORDER TO BECOME FINAL AND BINDING UPON YOU, YOU MUST FILE AN APPEAL NOTICE AND REQUEST FOR HEARING AS SHOWN BELOW, WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS OF SERVICE OF THIS NOTICE AND ORDER. A TELEPHONE CALL WILL NOT PROTECT YOU. YOU MUST FILE A WRITTEN NOTICE OF APPEAL. 4. THE CITY OF KISSIMMEE BUILDING OFFICIAL IS PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU UNDER THE RULES SET OUT IN THE STANDARD UNSAFE BUILDING ABATEMENT CODE (SUBAC) AND CITY OF KISSIMMEE CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 13-4. IF YOU DO NOT OBEY THIS ORDER, OR APPEAL IT, AS SET FORTH MORE SPECIFICALLY BELOW, THE PROCEEDING MAY RESULT IN ANY ONE OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING: A. CITY OF KISSIMMEE MAY REPAIR OR DEMOLISH THE STRUCTURE AT YOUR EXPENSE. B. CITY OF KISSIMMEE MAY FILE A LIEN IN THE PUBLIC RECORD AGAINST YOUR PROPERTY TO SECURE THE EXPENSE OF SUCH REPAIR AND DEMOLITION. C. YOU MAY ALSO BE SUBJECT TO A CIVIL ACTION AND SUBJECT TO INJUNCTIVE RELIEF, CIVIL PENALTIES AND/OR AN ORDER FOR REPAIR OR DEMOLITION. D. ANY VIOLATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF CITY CODE CHAPTER 13-4 MAY RESULT IN CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND/OR FINES.

DETAILED SPECIFICATIONS REGARDING THE STRUCTURE, PROPERTY LOCATION, VIOLATIONS AND UNSAFE CONDITIONS

Table with 2 columns: OWNER OF BUILDING/STRUCTURE, NAME AND/OR DESCRIPTION OF BUILDING/STRUCTURE, STREET ADDRESS OF BUILDING/STRUCTURE, LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF BUILDING/STRUCTURE, OWNER'S ADDRESS.

You are hereby notified that the above-described building has been inspected by the Building Official of the City of Kissimmee Building Division and found to be an illegal "unsafe building" as defined by Section 202 of the Standard Unsafe Building Abatement Code, 1985 Edition, as amended. Therefore, the building is in violation of the Standard Unsafe Building Abatement Code.

YOU MUST CORRECT THE UNSAFE CONDITIONS BY REPAIR OR DEMOLITION. If you decide to repair the conditions, you are further notified that you must secure all necessary permits to correct the conditions described below and commence repairs no later than the date specified below. You must complete the repairs in accordance with all applicable codes by no later than the repair completion date specified below.

Defendants, the Office of Armando Ramirez, Osceola County Clerk of the Court, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the Osceola County Courthouse, 2 Courthouse Square, Room 2602, Kissimmee, Florida at 11:00 A.M. on the 24th day of APRIL 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit: LOT 162, OF ESTANCIA, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 15, PAGES 184 AND 185, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA, and all fixtures and personal property located therein or thereon, which are included as security in Plaintiff's mortgage.

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus funds from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale. If you are a person with a disability who needs accommodation in order to participate in this proceedings, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact: Court Administrator at 2 Courthouse Square, Suite 6300, Kissimmee, Florida 34741. Telephone: (407) 742-2417, within two (2) working days of your receipt of this described notice; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 1-(800) 955-8771. Dated this 14th day of March 2018. McCabe, Weisberg & Conway, LLC By: /s/ Jonathan I. Jacobson Jonathan I. Jacobson, Esq. FL Bar #: 37088 McCabe, Weisberg & Conway, LLC Attorney for Plaintiff 500 S. Australian Avenue, Suite 1000 West Palm Beach, FL 33401 Telephone: (561) 713-1400 Email: FLpleadings@MWC-Law.com Reference #: 13-400351 March 17, 24, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 9th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA Case No.: 09-CA-889-MF THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON, AS SUCCESSOR INDENTURED TRUSTEE UNDER NOVASTAR MORTGAGE FUNDING TRUST 2005-2, Plaintiff, vs. SAIMA S. KHAN, ET. AL., Defendant(s).

Florida. If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact: Court Administrator at 2 Courthouse Square, Suite 6300, Kissimmee, Florida 34741. Telephone: (407) 742-2417, within two (2) working days of your receipt of this described notice; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 1-(800) 955-8771. Dated this 14th day of March 2018. McCabe, Weisberg & Conway, LLC By: /s/ Jonathan I. Jacobson Jonathan I. Jacobson, Esq. FL Bar #: 37088 McCabe, Weisberg & Conway, LLC Attorney for Plaintiff 500 S. Australian Avenue, Suite 1000 West Palm Beach, FL 33401 Telephone: (561) 713-1400 Email: FLpleadings@MWC-Law.com Reference #: 13-400351 March 17, 24, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION Case #: 2018-CP-000133 PR

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated February 22, 2018, in the above action, the Osceola County Clerk of Court will sell to the highest bidder for cash at Osceola, Florida, on JUNE 26, 2018, at 11:00 A.M., at 2 Courthouse Square, Suite 2600, Kissimmee, FL 34741 for the following described property: Lot 485, ANTHEM PARK - PHASE 3B, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 20, Pages

NOTICE OF RULEMAKING FOR THE PURPOSE OF SETTING FEES FOR POSTING OF SIGNAGE OF THE COUNTRY GREENS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

A public hearing will be conducted by the Country Greens Community Development District ("District") on April 23, 2018, at 5:30 p.m. at 32441 CR 437, Sorrento, Florida 32776. The public hearing will be a rulemaking hearing and will provide an opportunity for the public to address the proposed fees for posting of signage on lands owned by the District. The purpose and effect of the rule setting such review fees is to provide sufficient revenue to meet expenses associated with providing such services related to maintaining the areas where signage is posted on District-owned lands. Prior notice of rule development for the rulemaking hearing was published in the Osceola News Gazette on March 22, 2018. The proposed fees are as follows:

Signage Posting Fee The Signage Posting Fee will be paid directly to Country Greens Community Development District. An annual Signage Posting Fee of \$685 will be charged for posting of signage on District-owned lands. This Signage Posting Fee includes the cost of maintaining the signage area and administrative processing. The Signage Posting Fee may be prorated to cover posting of signage for a portion on the year.

Specific legal authority for the rule includes Sections 190.006, 190.011(5), 120.54 and 120.81, Florida Statutes (2017). Any person who wishes to provide the District with a proposal for a lower cost regulatory alternative as provided by section 120.54(1), Florida Statutes, must do so in writing within twenty-one (21) days after publication of this notice.

A HEARING WILL BE HELD AT THE TIME, DATE, AND PLACE SHOWN BELOW:

TIME AND DATE: April 23, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. PLACE: 32441 CR 437 Sorrento, Florida 32776

The public hearing may be continued to a date, time, and place to be specified on the record at the hearing. If anyone chooses to appeal any decision of the Board with respect to any matter considered at the public hearing, such person will need a record of the proceedings and should accordingly ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made which includes the testimony and evidence upon which such appeal is to be based. At the hearing, one or more Supervisors may participate in the public hearing by telephone. Any person requiring special accommodations at the hearing because of a disability or physical impairment should contact the District Office at (954) 603-0033, extension 40532 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 711 or 1-800-955-8770, for aid in contacting the District Office. A copy of the proposed rule may be obtained by contacting the District Manager, Robert Koncar, at 313 Campus Street, Celebration, Florida 34747 or by calling (407) 566-4122.

Robert Koncar, Manager Publication date: March 24, 2018

IN RE: ESTATE OF PERAM BASKARA, Deceased. NOTICE TO CREDITORS The administration of the estate of Peram Baskara, deceased, whose date of death was December 19, 2017, is pending in the Circuit Court for OSCEOLA County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 2 Courthouse Square, Kissimmee, Florida 34741. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM. All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED, NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED. The date of first publication of this notice is: March 24, 2018.

Personal Representative: Uma Baskara 24 Malvern Road Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7JQ United Kingdom Attorney for Personal Representative: Ellen S. Morris, Esq. Florida Bar Number: 850306 ELDER LAW ASSOCIATES PA 7284 W. Palmistto Park Road, Suite 101 Boca Raton, FL 33433 Telephone: (561) 750-3850 Fax: (561) 750-4069 E-Mail: emorris@elderlawassociates.com Secondary E-Mail:

McCabe, Weisberg & Conway, LLC By: /s/ Jonathan I. Jacobson Jonathan I. Jacobson, Esq. FL Bar #: 37088 McCabe, Weisberg & Conway, LLC Attorney for Plaintiff 500 S. Australian Avenue, Suite 1000 West Palm Beach, FL 33401 Telephone: (561) 713-1400 Email: FLpleadings@MWC-Law.com Reference #: 13-400351 March 17, 24, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION Case #: 2018-CP-000133 PR

You may, as an alternative, determine that it is preferable to demolish the building. If you choose that option, you must obtain the proper permits for that also, by no later than the date specified below, and have the work completed by the date specified below.

IF YOU FAIL TO COMMENCE WORK TO CORRECT THIS CONDITION ON THE DATE REQUIRED AND TO CORRECT THE CONDITIONS DESCRIBED BELOW IN ACCORDANCE WITH ALL APPLICABLE CODES BY THE DATES SPECIFIED BELOW, THE BUILDING MAY BE ORDERED VACATED AND POSTED TO PREVENT FURTHER OCCUPANCY UNTIL THE REPAIRS OR DEMOLITION ARE COMPLETED, AND THE BUILDING DIVISION MAY CAUSE THE REPAIRS OR DEMOLITION TO BE DONE AND ALL COSTS IMPOSED AGAINST THE PROPERTY OF THE OWNER OF RECORD AND LIENED.

- 1. IF YOU DETERMINE TO REPAIR THE BUILDING OR STRUCTURE, YOU MUST SECURE THE NECESSARY PERMITS WITHIN 30 DAYS FROM THE DATE YOU WERE SERVED WITH THIS NOTICE. YOU MUST COMMENCE REPAIRS WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE DATE YOU WERE SERVED WITH THIS NOTICE AND CONTINUE UNTIL YOU COMPLETE THE REPAIR. THE FINAL DATE FOR COMPLETION OF THE REPAIR SHALL BE NOT LATER THAN 6 MONTHS FROM DATE OF PERMIT ISSUANCE. SUCH REPAIRS SHALL CONFORM TO THE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 13 OF THE CITY OF KISSIMMEE CODE. 2. IF YOU PREFER TO DEMOLISH THE UNSAFE STRUCTURE, YOU MUST VACATE THE PREMISES OR SEE THAT IT IS VACATED WITHIN 30 DAYS OF SERVICE OF THIS NOTICE INSTRUCTED BY THE BUILDING OFFICIAL, UNLESS OTHERWISE YOU MUST SECURE ALL PERMITS FOR AND COMPLETE THE DEMOLITION WITHIN 30 DAYS FROM DATE OF ISSUANCE OF PERMIT. 3. INSTRUCTIONS AS TO VACATING THE BUILDING (IF ANY), ARE ATTACHED.

CONDITIONS FOUND WHICH RENDER STRUCTURE UNSAFE

The following is a list of conditions which cause the structure to be unsafe and in violation of the following Code sections: CONDITION: 1. The building located on the property is in a general dilapidated condition so severe as to be unfit and unsafe for human occupation, and constitutes a nuisance. It is unsafe and unsanitary and, generally, violates the following code provisions: Standard Unsafe Building Abatement Code - Section 101.6, Maintenance.

All buildings or structures, both existing and new, and all parts thereof, shall be maintained in a safe and sanitary condition. All devices or safeguards which are required by the Standard Building Code in a building when erected, altered or repaired, shall be maintained in good working order. The owner, or his designated agent, shall be responsible for the maintenance of buildings and structures. The structure located on this property has not been maintained in accordance with the above-referenced requirements. It must be maintained or demolished. 2. The building is unsafe also because it meets certain of the criteria shown under the definition for "unsafe building" given by Section 202 of the Standard Unsafe Building Abatement Code, which states as follows: Unsafe Building Abatement Code - Section 202, Definitions Unsafe Building - Any building or structure that has any of the following conditions, such that the life, health, property or safety of its occupants or of the general public are endangered: 1. Any means of egress or portion thereof is not adequate size or is not arranged to provide a safe path of travel in case of fire or panic. 2. Any means of egress or portion thereof such as but not limited to fire doors, closing devices and fire resistive ratings, in disrepair or in a dilapidated or nonworking condition such as that the means of egress could be rendered unsafe in case of fire or panic. 3. The stress in any material, member or portion thereof, due to all improved loads including dead loads exceeds the stresses allowed in the Standard Building Code for new buildings. 4. The building, structure or portion thereof has been damaged by fire, flood, earthquake, wind or other cause to the extent that the structural integrity of the building or

structure is less than the minimum requirement established by the Standard Building Code for new buildings. 5. Any exterior appendage or portion of the building or structure is not securely fastened, attached or anchored such that it is capable of resisting wind, seismic, or similar loads as required by the Standard Building Code for new buildings. 6. If for any reason the building, structure or portion thereof is manifestly unsafe or unsanitary for the purpose for which it is being used. 7. The building, structure or portion thereof as a result of decay, deterioration of dilapidation is likely to fully or partially collapse. 8. The building, structure or portion thereof has been constructed or maintained in violation of a specific requirement of the Standard Codes of a city, county, or state law. 9. Any building, structure or portion thereof that is in such a condition as to constitute a public nuisance. 10. Any building, structure or portion thereof that is unsafe, unsanitary or not provided with adequate egress, or which constitutes a fire hazard, or is otherwise dangerous to human life, or which in relation to existing use, constitutes a hazard to safety or health by reason of inadequate maintenance, dilapidation, obsolescence or abandonment.

The Building Official has found that certain of the conditions listed above, specifically those listed under condition(s) exist(s) on the ro e. The attached inspection notices describes those conditions. RIGHT OF APPEAL YOU MUST FILE AN APPEAL OF THE PROCEEDING DESCRIBED ABOVE OR THIS ORDER WILL GO INTO EFFECT WITHOUT FURTHER HEARINGS, AND CITY OF KISSIMMEE WILL BE AUTHORIZED BY LAW TO REPAIR OR DEMOLISH YOUR BUILDING OR STRUCTURE AND CHARGE THE COST TO YOU.

Any person having a legal interest in the described building may appeal this Notice to the City of Kissimmee City Commission. The appeal shall be filed in writing with the City of Kissimmee City Manager and the City Building Official at the address given above under "Additional Information" within thirty (30) days of service of this notice. An application may be obtained from the Building Department. The appeal shall contain the following: 1. Identify the street address or legal description of the building. 2. Identify the legal interest of the Appellant in the building. 3. Identify the section of the Notice and Order being appealed. 4. Include a statement detailing the issues on which the Appellant desires to be heard. 5. Include the signature of the Appellant and the Appellant's official mailing address.

FAILURE TO FILE AN APPEAL WITHIN THE TIME PERIOD SPECIFIED ABOVE SHALL CONSTITUTE A WAIVER OF ALL RIGHTS TO AN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE

If you wish to obtain additional information, you may visit the Building Division on the first floor of the City of Kissimmee Administration Center at 101 Church Street, Kissimmee, Florida, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays, or you may telephone the Building Division during those hours and days at (407) 518-2379.

DATE ISSUED: 12/15/2017 BUILDING OFFICIAL: Scott A. Hernandez, Jr. SIGNATURE: [Signature]

STATE OF FLORIDA COUNTY OF OSCEOLA SWORN to and subscribed freely and voluntarily for the purposes therein expressed before me by [Signature] Building Official, City of Kissimmee Building Division, known to me to be the person described in and who executed the foregoing, this [Signature] day of [Signature] 2018. He is personally known to me. WITNESS my hand and official seal in the County and State last aforesaid this [Signature] day of [Signature] 2018. CRYSTAL MUNIZ Notary Public (Print Name) My commission expires [Signature]

March 24, 31, 2018 April 7, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 9th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA. General Jurisdiction Division Case #: 2014-CA-002683 MF DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS INDENTURED TRUSTEE UNDER THE INDENTURE RELATING TO IMH ASSETS CORP., COLLATERALIZED ASSET-BACKED BONDS, SERIES 2004-5, Plaintiff, vs. DAVID N. BARRON; CHARLENE G. BARRON; BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.; UNKNOWN TENANT #1; UNKNOWN TENANT #2, Defendants.

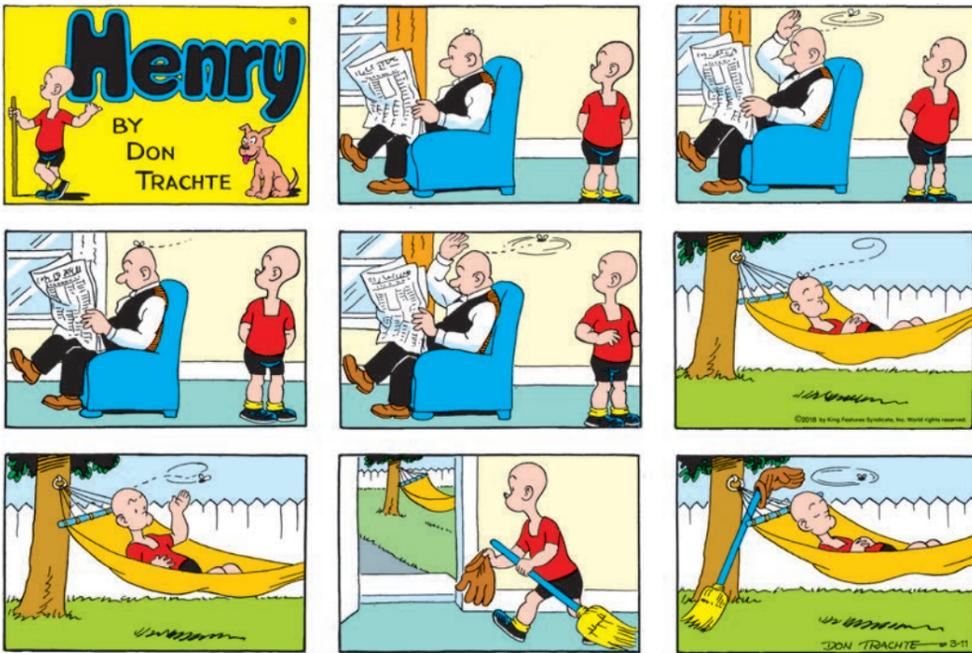
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order Granting Plaintiff's Motion to Reschedule the Foreclosure Sale Date entered in Civil Case No. 2014-CA-002683 MF of the Circuit Court of the 9TH Judicial Circuit in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS INDENTURED TRUSTEE UNDER THE INDENTURE RELATING TO IMH ASSETS CORP., COLLATERALIZED ASSET-BACKED BONDS, SERIES 2004-5, is the Plaintiff, and DAVID N. BARRON and CHARLENE G. BARRON, et al, are Defendants. The Clerk, ARMANDO RAMIREZ, shall sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at Osceola County Courthouse, 2 Courthouse Square, Suite 2600 / Room # 2602, Kissimmee, Florida 34741, at 11:00 A.M., on MAY 1, 2018, in accordance with Chapter 45, Florida Statutes, the following described property located in OSCEOLA County, Florida, as set forth in said Final Judgment of Mortgage Foreclosure, to-wit: THE WEST 100 FEET OF THE NORTH 150.0 FEET OF THE SOUTH 183.0 FEET OF LOT 44, THE SEMINOLE LAND AND INVESTMENT COMPANY S (INC) SUBDIVISION OF SECTION 21, TOWNSHIP 26 SOUTH, RANGE 31 EAST ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL PLAT THEREOF AS RE-

CORDED IN PLAT BOOK B, PAGE 50, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA LESS ROAD RIGHT OF WAY. Property Address: 5445 Alligator Lake Road Saint Cloud, FL 34772-9331 Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from

BRAIN FOOD

CONTACT

BRIAN MCBRIDE EDITOR
 EMAIL BMCBRIDE@OSCEOLANEWSGAZETTE.COM



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

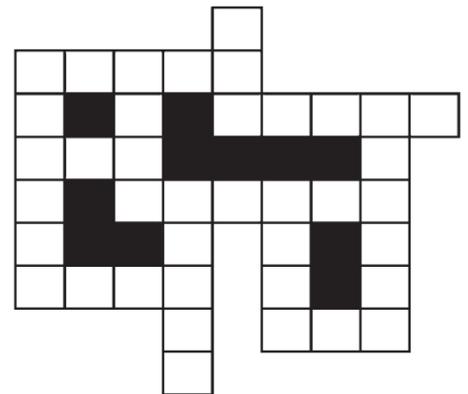
- | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|
| 1. Day at the movies | ___ I ___ | College digs | ___ M ___ |
| 2. Dogsled driver | ___ H ___ | Gather courage | ___ T ___ |
| 3. Southpaw | ___ E ___ | Tall | ___ O ___ |
| 4. "Feed me" sound | ___ L ___ | Mature | ___ N ___ |
| 5. Hypnotic state | T ___ | Frolic | P ___ |
| 6. Park employee | ___ A ___ | Horseshoes score | ___ I ___ |
| 7. After dark | N ___ | Come to blows | F ___ |
| 8. Art gear | ___ A ___ | Ford's failure | ___ D ___ |
| 9. Work of fiction | ___ V ___ | Peace prize giver | ___ B ___ |
| 10. Paper border | ___ G ___ | Hemingway's fish | ___ L ___ |

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FEAR KNOT

By: rj johnson
 DOUBT? ... OR DARE!

- RYT
- SEYTI
- GEYNI
- ♥ ETSN
- ♥ RAGSON
- GFO
- GOIY
- ♥ NIRFE
- ♥ IST
- ♥ RATSEE
- TEYSA
- ♥ RFSU



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Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. HAGNEC becomes CHANGE). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥ RATHE becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

NEW! 30 Fear Knot puzzles \$3.50 • Six Volumes • Order at rbmamall.com

MAGIC MAZE • CHOCOHOLIC DELIGHTS

F H D A X U R P B M J G D A X
 V S Q M N E K I R F D A X V T
 Q O M J A H U F O C A Y W U R
 P N L J H E F D W D S B Z X V
 T E C U A S R R N E C L A I R
 Q O S M E K A C I O K I H F D
 P B Z S Y W A K E L F F U R T
 V U S T U N O R S C Q U O N L
 K I R I D O H F G N I D D U P
 K D C Y C A M Z G X W G V U S
 R Q O N S R A B E M K E J I H

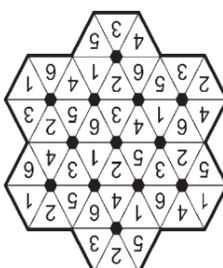
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally

- | | | | |
|----------|---------|-----------|---------|
| Bars | Cookies | Ice cream | Sauce |
| Brownies | Eggs | Kisses | Syrup |
| Cake | Fondue | Mousse | Truffle |
| Candy | Fudge | Pudding | |

- Answers:
 1. Dots, Dorns
 2. Musher, Muster
 3. Lefty, Lolly
 4. Growl, Grown
 5. Trance, France
 6. Ranger, Ringer
 7. Night, Fight
 8. Easel, Edsel
 9. Novel, Nobel
 10. Margin, Marlin

Even Exchange

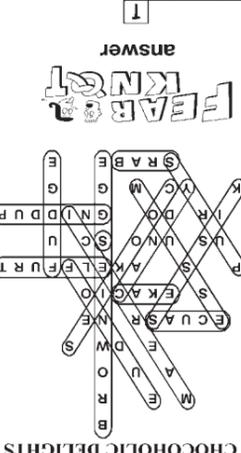
Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



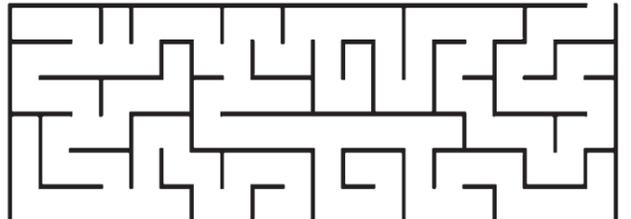
Snowflakes



Kids' Maze Solution



Kids' Maze

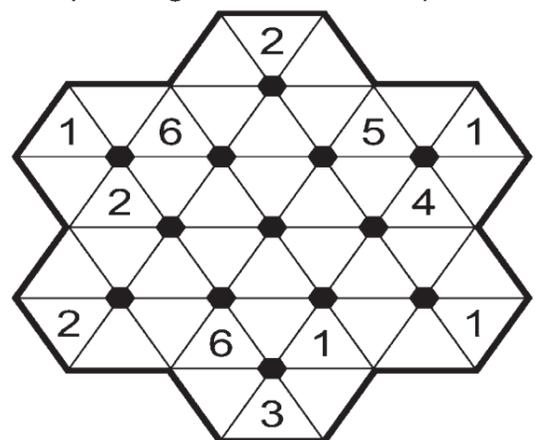


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SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

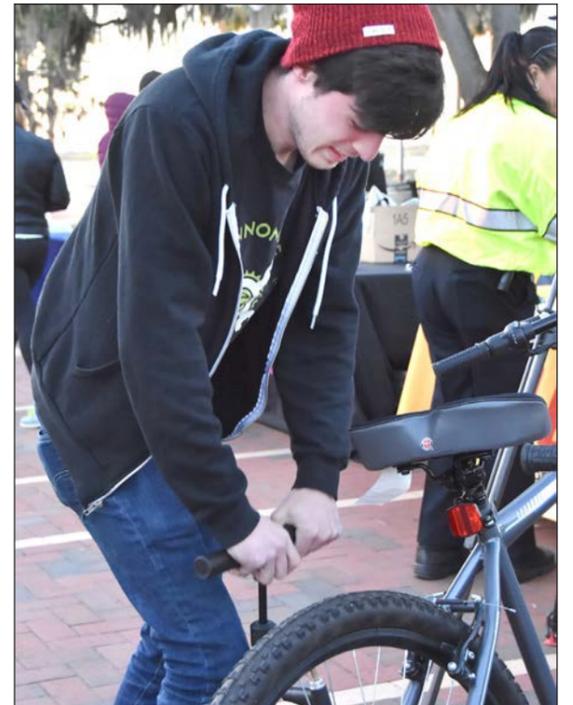
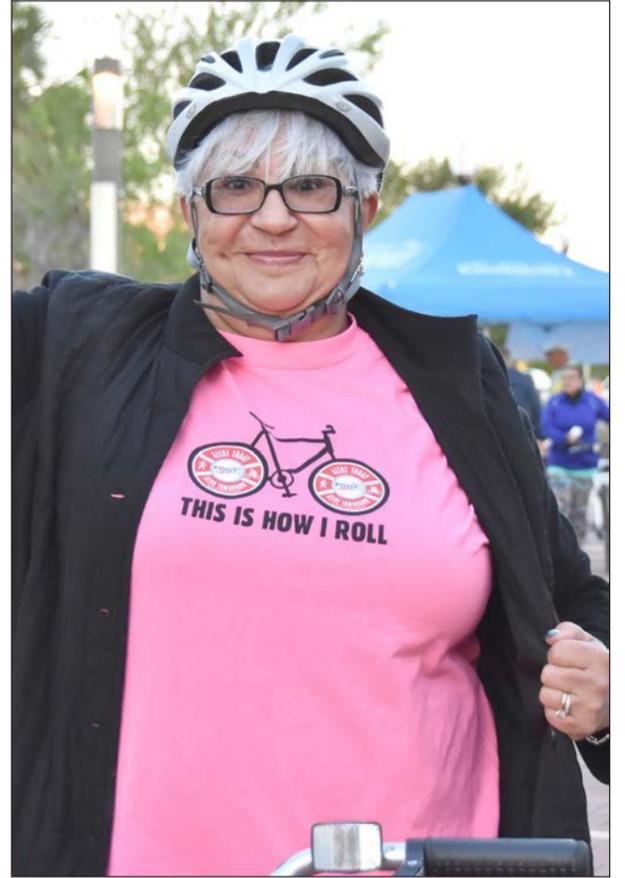
There are 13 black hexagons in the puzzle. Place the numbers 1 - 6 around each of them. No number can be repeated in any partial hexagon shape along the border of the puzzle.



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆
 ◆ Easy ◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆ Difficult

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BIKE BONANZA 2.0



The second Bike Bonanza, sponsored by Florida Department of Transportation's Rethink Your Commute and Kissimmee Main Street, got off to a chilly start on Thursday morning with 108 riders and teams from Kissimmee Police Department, Osceola County and the city of Kissimmee. The event promotes the use of bicycles to get to and from work for those who are able to do so. Riders started out at Ruby Plaza at Kissimmee's Lakefront Park and made a circuit through the town. Top Row: Osceola County's team is bundled up and ready to go. Kissimmee City Commissioner Olga Gonzales shows off her T-shirt from last years' event. Second row: Kissimmee Police Department's team rode along side of participants and helped with traffic control. Thomas Strater with Evolve Bicycles pumped up tires and made adjustments to brakes. Third row: Florida Hospital provided a light breakfast for all participating. Riders started out at the park, made their way past the courthouse and later, continued down Dakin Avenue on their way back to the finish.

News-Gazette Photos by Martin Maddock

OSCEOLA NEWS-GAZETTE Triple E

Section E

March 23, 2018

Facebook's privacy pain

Another day, another privacy debacle for Facebook.

This time the issue is reports that the company let the Trump-affiliated data mining firm Cambridge Analytica abscond with information from tens of millions of users. It marks the third time in roughly a year the company appears to have been outfoxed by crafty outsiders in this way.

Facebook only seriously grappled with fake news and Russian influence after sustained criticism. In the case of Cambridge, Facebook says the main problem involved the transfer of data to a third

party — not its collection in the first place. Still, its stock dropped amid the revelations.

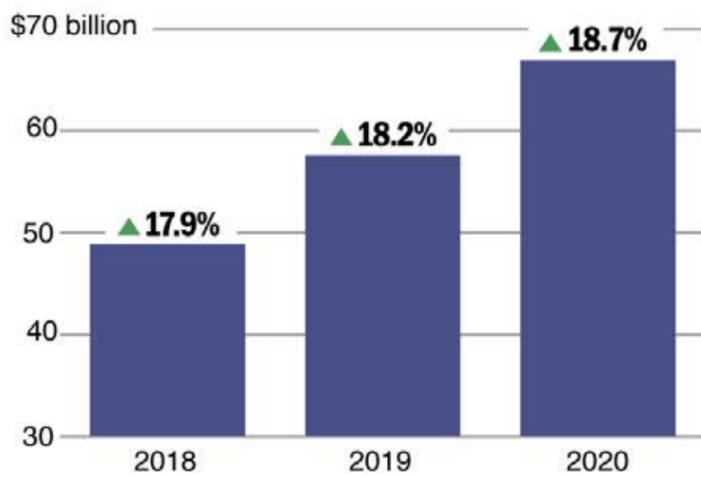
But analysts say the company is likely to brush off the latest debacle over the long term. After all, its well-established playbook — apologize after each mishap, make a few minor changes and then get back to the business of targeting ads at its users — has worked so far.

Advertisers aren't likely to care about the revelations, says eMarketer analyst Debra Aho Williamson. Although if Facebook is forced to limit its data collection or hobble its ad products "advertisers may become less enamored with it," she said.



Business as usual
Facebook ad revenue estimates have not changed despite the data mining debacle.

Facebook estimated revenue



Source: eMarketer

Barbara Ortutay; Alex Nieves • AP

Company Spotlight A unappetizing result

Investors sent shares in General Mills to a five-year low after the maker of Cheerios cereal and Yoplait yogurt served up mixed quarterly results and lowered its adjusted earnings outlook for the year.

General Mills' latest adjusted quarterly earnings exceeded Wall Street's expectations as the company benefited from the recent tax overhaul. But its revenue fell short.

The Minneapolis-based company said it has been grappling with sharp

increases in freight, commodity and operational costs. To help deal with rising freight costs, General Mills plans to boost the number of qualified carriers it has and will use different modes of transportation.

General Mills slumped 9 percent Wednesday. The stock is down 23 percent this year.

The slide in General Mills' shares also weighed on other packaged foods stocks, including Kellogg, Campbell Soup, Hershey, Mondelez International and Conagra Brands.



General Mills (GIS)

Wednesday's close: **\$45.51**

Total return 1-yr 3-yr* 5-yr*

52-WEEK RANGE

Price-earnings ratio: **17**
(Based on past 12-month results)

GIS -21.1% -2.1 2.2

\$45 \$61

Div. yield: 4.3% **Dividend:** \$1.96

AP

*annualized

Source: FactSet

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Company Spotlight **Walmart's helping hands**

Walmart wants to give more customers the option to get the electronics or furniture they buy at the retail giant professionally installed.

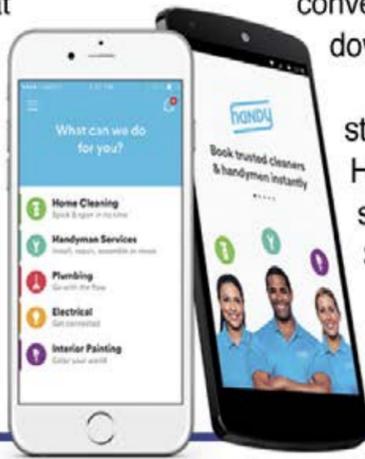
The company is expanding a deal with on-demand online services platform Handy.com that allows shoppers to hire helpers at 2,000 of its stores nationwide to mount a TV on their wall or assemble a bookcase.

Other retailers, including Amazon.com and Ikea, have offered

similar services as they seek to make shopping more convenient to get customers to buy more and cut down on returns.

Walmart, which first tested Handy in 25 stores in Atlanta, said shoppers can hire a Handy professional when they check out at a store or on its website. Mounting a TV starts at \$79, while putting together furniture starts at \$69, Handy said.

Walmart shares fell 1.9 percent Monday. The stock is down 11.4 percent this year.



Walmart (WMT)

Monday's close: **\$87.45**

Total return 1-yr 3-yr* 5-yr*

52-WEEK RANGE

Price-earnings ratio: **27**
(Based on past 12-month results)

WMT 28.2% 5.2 6.6

\$69 \$110

Div. yield: 2.4% **Dividend:** \$2.08

AP *annualized Source: FactSet

China's ticking trade bomb

China's trade surplus is shrinking, but while its global total fell, the politically explosive gap with the United States has widened, fueling President Donald Trump's demands for import controls.

The Chinese trade surplus with the world narrowed for a second year in 2017, falling 13 percent to a still-vast \$422.5 billion. At the same time, the average monthly surplus with the United States swelled to \$23 billion from 2016's \$13 billion.

Americans help to keep Beijing's trade balance in positive territory by purchasing \$3 of goods for every \$1 they sell to

China. Without them, China's \$21.9 billion global surplus in January would have been a \$1.9 billion deficit.

The \$275.8 billion surplus with the United States

reported by Beijing last year was two-thirds of its worldwide total. Washington reports different figures that show the gap even wider at a record \$375.2 billion.

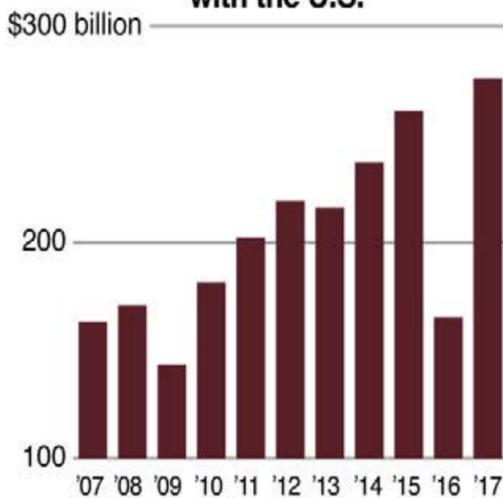
To narrow that, Trump has hiked tariffs on Chinese steel, washing machines and other goods. He is looking at more sweeping steps despite warnings by business groups that might hurt U.S. companies and consumers.



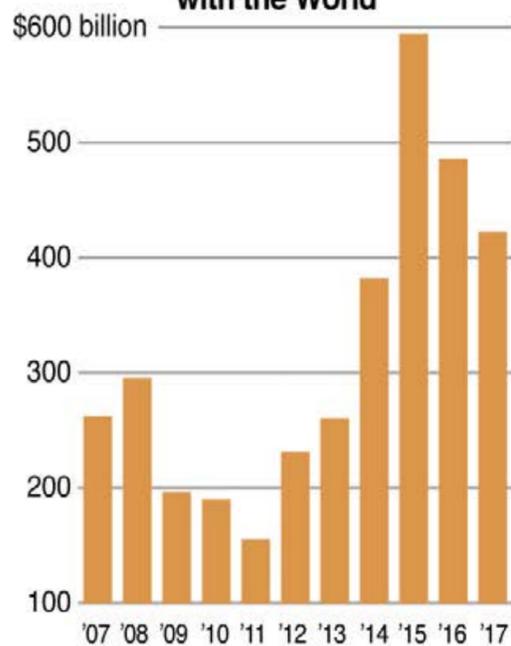
Trade imbalance

China's global trade surplus has shrunk, but its politically explosive gap with the United States swelled.

Chinese trade surplus with the U.S.



Chinese trade surplus with the World



Sources: General Administration of Customs of China, U.S. Commerce Department Joe McDonald; Alex Nieves • AP

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Trump orders huge tariffs on China, raises trade war worries

WASHINGTON (AP) — Primed for economic combat, President Donald Trump set in motion tariffs on as much as \$60 billion in Chinese imports to the U.S. on Thursday and accused the Chinese of high-tech thievery, picking a fight that could push the global heavyweights into a trade war.

China threatened retaliation, and Wall Street cringed, recording one of the biggest drops of Trump's presidency. But he declared the U.S. would emerge "much stronger, much richer."

It was the boldest example to date of Trump's "America first" agenda, the culmination of his longstanding view that weak U.S. trade policies and enforcement have hollowed out the nation's workforce and ballooned the federal deficit. Two weeks ago, with fanfare, he announced major penalty tariffs on steel and aluminum imports that he said threatened national security.

However, even as Trump was talking tough at the White House, his administration moved to soften the sting of the metal tariffs, telling Congress on Thursday that the European Union, Australia, South Korea and other nations would join Canada and Mexico in gaining an initial exemption. And that raised questions about whether his actions will match his rhetoric.

China responded early Friday by announcing a list of U.S. goods, including pork, apples and steel pipe, it said may be hit with higher import duties.

The Commerce Ministry said the higher U.S. tariffs "seriously undermine" the global trading system. The ministry urged the U.S. "to resolve the concerns of the Chinese side as soon as possible," and appealed for dialogue "to avoid damage to overall Chinese-U.S. cooperation."

At home, investors on Wall Street showed their rising concern about retaliation and business-stifling cost increases for companies and consumers. The Dow Jones industrials plunged 724 points.

Trump himself, joined by supportive business executives, complained bitterly about the nation's trade deficit and accused China of stealing America's prized technology.

"Any way you look at it, it is the largest deficit of any country in the history of our world. It's out of control,"

Trump said of the U.S.-China imbalance. The U.S. reported a \$375 billion deficit with China last year, which Trump has blamed for the loss of American jobs and closing of plants.

The president said the tariffs could cover "about \$60 billion" in trade with China, but senior White House officials said the U.S. Trade Representative had identified 1,300 product lines worth about \$50 billion as potential targets.

That list will include aerospace, information and communication technology, and machinery, according to a USTR fact sheet. But further details were scant.

The order signed by Trump directed the trade representative to publish a list of proposed tariffs for public comment within 15 days. Trump also asked Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin to come up with a list of restrictions on Chinese investment and said the administration was preparing a case before the World Trade Organization.

Despite Trump's confident words, business groups and Republican lawmakers are worried his tariffs could undercut actions they have welcomed in his first year.

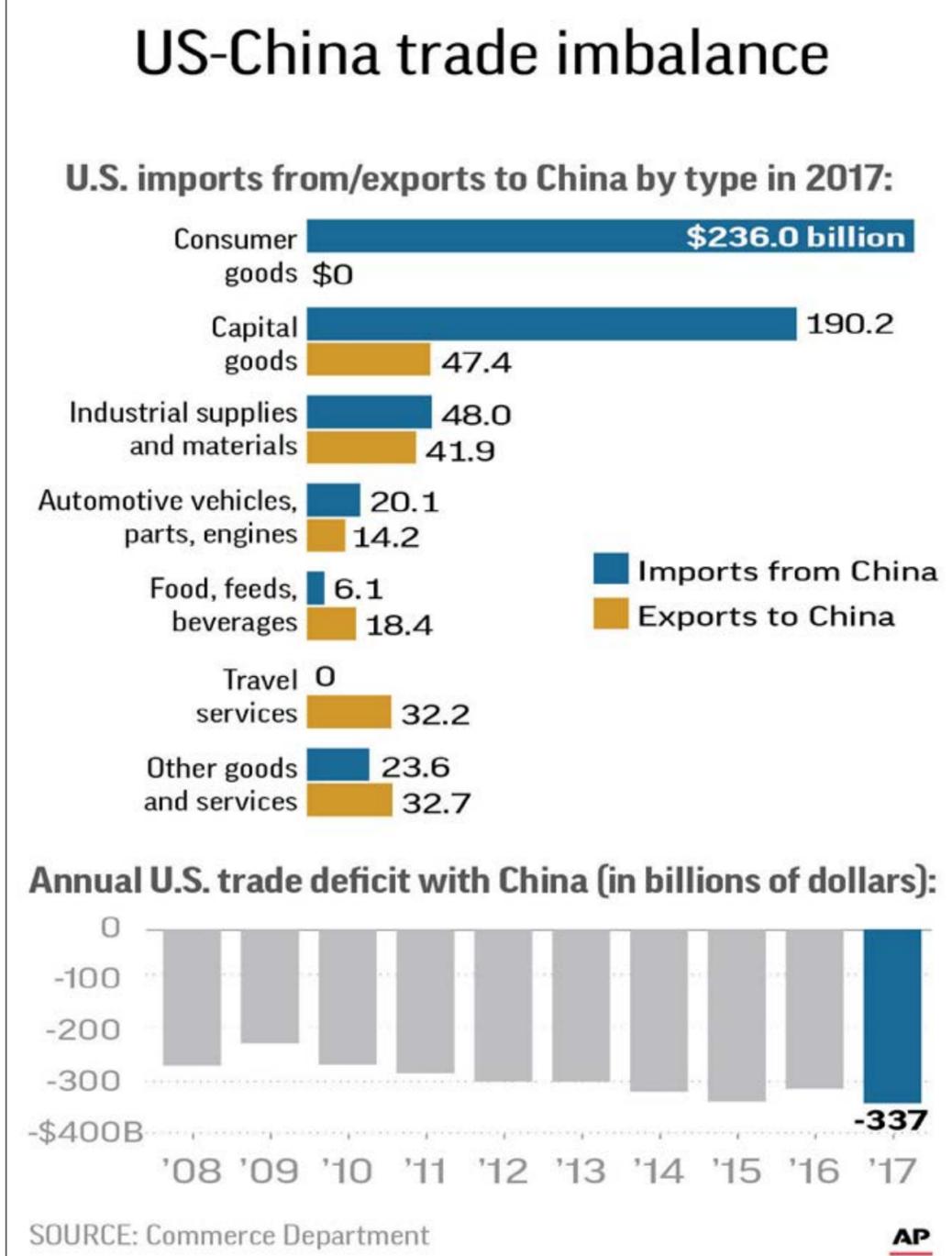
"The vast majority of our members are very concerned that these trade actions will at a minimum undermine the strong business confidence that has been created by the tax and regulatory process," said Josh Bolten, president and CEO of the Business Roundtable. "And if it's taken to an extreme, it will reverse that progress."

Dozens of industry groups sent a letter last weekend to Trump warning that "the imposition of sweeping tariffs would trigger a chain reaction of negative consequences for the U.S. economy, provoking retaliation, stifling U.S. agriculture, goods, and services exports, and raising costs for businesses and consumers."

Kansas Sen. Pat Roberts, Republican chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, suggested lawmakers may need to consider what he called a "Trump Tariff Payment" to compensate farmers if their crops face retaliation.

But some labor unions and Democrats said Trump was justified in delivering a swift blow to China after years of a lax response from the U.S.

"Chinese cheating has cost American jobs and I applaud the administration for standing firm in its commitment to crack down on China's con-



tinued violations," said Sen. Sherrod Brown of Ohio.

Thursday's announcement marked the end of a seven-month investigation into the hardball tactics China has used to challenge U.S. supremacy in technology, including the U.S. says, dispatching hackers to steal commercial secrets and demanding that U.S. companies hand over trade secrets in exchange for access to the Chinese market.

Business groups mostly agree that something needs to be done about China's aggressive push in technology, but they worry that China will retaliate by targeting U.S. exports of aircraft, soybeans and other products and start a tit-for-tat trade war of

escalating sanctions between the world's two biggest economies.

"China has been trying to cool things down for weeks. They have offered concessions," said Mary Lovely, a Syracuse University economist and senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics. "I fear they will take a hard line now that their efforts have been rebuffed. ... China cannot appear subservient to the U.S."

The move against China comes just as the United States prepares to impose tariffs of 25 percent on imported steel and 10 percent on aluminum — sanctions that are meant to hit China for flooding the world with cheap steel and aluminum.

Trump campaigned on promises to bring down America's massive trade deficit — \$566 billion last year — by rewriting trade agreements and cracking down on what he called abusive practices by U.S. trading partners. The president said Thursday, "It's probably one of the reasons I was elected, maybe one of the main reasons."

But he has been slow to turn rhetoric to action. In January, he did impose tariffs on imported solar panels and washing machines. Then he unveiled the steel and aluminum tariffs, saying reliance on imported metals jeopardizes U.S. national security.

To target China, Trump dusted off a Cold War weapon for trade disputes: Sec-

tion 301 of the U.S. Trade Act of 1974, which lets the president unilaterally impose tariffs. It was meant for a world in which large swaths of global commerce were not covered by trade agreements. With the arrival in 1995 of the World Trade Organization, Section 301 fell largely into disuse.

Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping enjoyed an amiable summit nearly a year ago at Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida. But America's longstanding complaints continued to simmer.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang this week urged Washington to act "rationally" and promised to open China up to more foreign products and investment.

Trump pauses looming metal tariffs for close US allies

WASHINGTON (AP) — The European Union, Australia, Argentina, Brazil, South Korea, Canada and Mexico will get initial exemptions from looming steel and aluminum tariffs from the Trump administration. President Donald Trump authorized the exemptions late Thursday night.

Trump is planning to impose tariffs of 25 percent on imported steel and 10 percent on aluminum — trade penalties aimed at China for flooding the world with cheap steel and aluminum.

U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer told the Senate Finance Com-

mittee that the exempted countries are involved in various stages of trade talks with the U.S., and that Trump decided "to pause" the tariffs for them.

The U.S. is in consultations with Canada and Mexico in an effort to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Trump moved on a separate trade front earlier Thursday, paving the way for tariffs on China as punishment for what he said is the theft of American technology. He told reporters that the threat of the steel and aluminum tariffs was already having an impact.

"Many countries are calling to negotiate better

trade deals because they don't want to have to pay the steel and aluminum tariffs," Trump said.

Lighthizer identified the countries initially exempted from the steel and aluminum tariffs in response to a question from Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., who said lawmakers wanted more consultation from the administration on trade.

"There are countries with whom we're negotiating, and then the question becomes the obvious one that you think, as a matter of business, how does this work?" Lighthizer said. "So what he has decided to do is to pause the imposition of the tariffs with re-

spect to those countries."

Before Lighthizer's congressional testimony, Germany's economy minister, Peter Altmaier, said he had found officials in Washington "open to our arguments" during a recent visit with the EU trade commissioner, Cecilia Malmstrom. Altmaier told Germany's parliament "it is a question of fundamental significance: whether we all stand for open and fair world markets in the future."

Trump campaigned on promises to bring down America's trade deficit, which stood at \$566 billion last year, by rewriting trade agreements and cracking down on what he called

abusive commercial practices by U.S. trading partners. But Trump was slow to turn rhetoric to action. In January, he imposed tariffs on imported solar panels and washing machines. Then he announced the steel and aluminum tariffs, saying reliance on imported metals jeopardizes U.S. national security.

Lighthizer said the nation's trade deficit indicates that the global rules on trade sometimes make it hard for U.S. companies to export.

The administration "is seeking to build a better, fairer system of global markets that will lead to higher living standards for

all Americans," Lighthizer said.

GOP Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah, the committee chairman, said he was "deeply disappointed in the decision to impose global tariffs to address a problem caused by China."

Meanwhile, Democratic Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, said he was troubled to hear that South Korea would be initially exempted from the steel and aluminum tariffs.

"I was not expecting that," Brown said. "Korea has unfairly dumped steel and other products in our country."

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Maryland school shooting victim has died

A teenage girl who was shot when a classmate opened fire inside their Maryland high school has died, authorities said Friday.

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office said Jaelynn Willey died at 11:34 p.m. Thursday. Earlier that night, her family said she would be taken off life support at the University of Maryland Prince George's Hospital Center. Melissa Willey told news reporters Thursday night that her daughter was brain dead and had "no life left in her."

The mother, holding a young baby, said, "On Tuesday ... our lives changed completely and totally forever. My daughter was hurt by a boy who shot her in the head and took everything from our lives."

The teen was shot Tuesday by 17-year-old Austin Rollins at Great Mills High School in St. Mary's County.

Rollins died after shooting Willey. A school resource officer got there within a minute and fired a shot at Rollins, but it's not yet clear whether Rollins was killed by the officer's bullet or took his own life.

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office said Wednesday that Rollins

and the girl had been in a relationship that recently ended.

"All indications suggest the shooting was not a random act of violence," police said in a statement.

Willey had been in critical condition at the hospital. A fundraising page to help her family has raised more than \$77,000.

Jaelynn was one of nine siblings, her mother said, and a member of the swim team.

The shooting broke out just before classes were to begin Tuesday, according to the sheriff's office.

A 14-year-old boy who was shot in the thigh during the encounter was released Wednesday from a hospital.

In an email Thursday to The Associated Press, his mother, Kimberly Dennis, said her family is "eternally grateful" that her son, Desmond Barnes, is "alive, doing well and in good spirits."

She expressed sympathy for Willey and her family and added, "We are also praying for the entire Great Mills High School family and young people around this country. As a community and nation, we must continue to work and fight for a world that is safe for our children."

Great Mills High School



This undated photo provided by the Willey family shows Jaelynn Willey. A teenager armed with a handgun shot and critically wounded Willey inside a Maryland school on Tuesday, March 20, 2018, and the shooter was killed when a school resource officer confronted him moments after the gunfire erupted. A third student was in good condition after he was shot.

has about 1,600 students and is near the Patuxent River Naval Air Station, about 65 miles (104 kilometers) southeast of Washington.

Sheriff Tim Cameron

credited Deputy First Class Blaine Gaskill with preventing any more loss of life.

Cameron said Gaskill, a six-year veteran with SWAT team training, re-

sponded within a minute and fired his weapon simultaneously with a final shot fired by Rollins. The officer was unharmed.

On Wednesday, authorities said the Glock hand-

gun used in the shooting was legally owned by Rollins' father. In Maryland it is illegal for anyone under age 21 to possess a handgun unless it is required for their employment.

Before big break in case, Austin bombs frustrated police

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — After the first package exploded on an Austin doorstep, police assured the public that there was no wider threat, no signs of terrorism. The idea of a serial bomber striking random strangers never came up.

The March 2 blast killed Anthony Stephan House, a 39-year-old man with a background in finance and an 8-year-old daughter. Investigators didn't rule out that House may have mishandled homemade explosives.

Hours later, in an interrogation room, detectives told one of House's neighbors their main theory: The deadly package was retaliation, maybe from a drug cartel, for a raid days earlier that seized more than \$300,000 and 30 pounds of pot. The cartel just got the address wrong.

"They're saying, 'Who's trying to blow you up?' They're trying to do the whole thing. Help us help you, because they're not going to miss again," said Mark McCrimmon, an Austin attorney who represents the neighbor.

It wouldn't be the last wrong lead in the three-week search that eventually led to Mark Anthony Condit, an unemployed community college dropout who blew himself up Wednesday as officers closed in.

The manhunt intensified after more explosions in the weeks that followed House's death. By the time the suspect too was dead, his bombs had killed two people, badly wound four others and unnerved the Texas capital.

On Thursday, authorities gave no indication they were any closer to understanding

why Condit did it. Austin Police Chief Brian Manley said the bomber left behind a 25-minute cellphone recording that amounted to a confession but revealed no clear motive.

It's one last mystery in a case that police struggled to crack. More than 500 federal agents swarmed Austin in what Rep. Michael McCaul, chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, called the nation's largest bombing manhunt since the 2013 Boston Marathon attacks.

The trail to Condit included many dead ends among more than 500 phoned-in tips. There were theories that didn't pan out and surveillance cameras that failed to record a glimpse of the suspect.

"They got a lot of calls," McCaul said of investigators, "but not a lot of credible leads."

Early miscalculations stoked frustration in the neighborhoods where the second and third bombings went off on March 12.

Because police initially believed House's death was an isolated attack, they did not warn Austin residents about suspicious deliveries before another package killed 17-year-old Draylen Mason and wounded his mother. Mason and House were both black and related to prominent Austin families, which led police to consider whether they were dealing with a hate crime.

"They didn't consider all the alternatives, and it came back to bite us," said Nelson Linder, president of the Austin chapter of the NAACP.

When the third bomb wounded a 75-year-old Hispanic woman, investi-



Officials investigate near a vehicle, center, where a suspect in the deadly bombings that terrorized Austin blew himself up as authorities closed in on him, in Round Rock, Texas, Wednesday, March 21, 2018.

gators wondered whether it was actually intended for a neighbor, Erica Mason, who has the same last name as the slain teenager.

Erica Mason, who is white, said she told police she had no connection to Draylen Mason's family. Police now think the shared name was just a coincidence.

Even after three bombings, investigators were still unsure whether they were dealing with a single attacker. "We're not calling it a serial bomber," Manley told reporters on March 12.

A week later, they were. By then, police had urged residents to report any strange packages. The warning flooded 911 operators with more than 1,000

calls. Six days after Mason's death, authorities increased the pot of reward money to \$115,000 and tried a new tactic to draw the bomber out: a news conference that included a direct appeal for him to get in touch. Hours later, another explosion seemed to be his answer.

The fourth blast, triggered by a tripwire attached to a "children at play" sign that Condit purchased at Home Depot, was the first on the city's more affluent west side. The new location dampened earlier theories about who the bomber was targeting.

After a fifth explosion Monday at a FedEx processing center outside San Antonio, authorities finally got their big break.

Condit had been careful to avoid cameras before entering a FedEx store in southwest Austin disguised in a blond wig and gloves, said McCaul, who called it the bomber's "fatal mistake."

Surveillance at the store also captured a license plate linked to Condit, which in turn gave authorities a cellphone number they could track.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said police were able to monitor Condit and his movements for about 24 hours before his death. The cellphone number tied Condit to bombing sites around Austin, but McCaul said Condit had eluded authorities by powering off the phone for long stretches.

By Tuesday night, police began closing in on Condit's home in suburban Pflugerville. They finally found him early Wednesday at a hotel north of Austin, and officers prepared to move in for an arrest. When the suspect's sport utility vehicle began to drive away, they followed.

Condit drove into a ditch on the side of the road, and SWAT officers approached, banging on his window. That's when he ended his life by setting off one of his own devices inside the vehicle.

Police found him because he turned his phone back on, McCaul said.

"He turned it on. It pinged, and then the chase ensued," he said.

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Spain charges 13 Catalan leaders with rebellion

MADRID (AP) — A Spanish Supreme Court judge on Friday charged 13 Catalan separatist politicians, including fugitive former regional president Carles Puigdemont, with rebellion for their attempt to declare independence from Spain.

Judge Pablo Llarena's indictment wrapped up the investigation into the events that six months ago plunged Spain into its deepest political crisis in decades.

Rebellion charges are punishable with up to 30 years in prison under Spanish law.

In a court ruling issued Friday, Llarena said that 25 Catalan separatists in total will be tried for rebellion, embezzlement or disobedience.

Others charged with rebellion were former Catalan Vice President Oriol Junqueras, who is already in pre-trial detention; seven other members of the ousted Catalan government; former Catalan parliament speaker Carme Forcadell; jailed separatist activists Jordi Sanchez and Jordi Cuixart; and the leader of the left-republican ERC party, Marta Rovira, who defied the judge's summons and announced Friday that she was fleeing Spain.

Puigdemont indicated his resolve wasn't shaken by the charges. "Let's see what happens tomorrow, what happens today. Every day things change," Puigdemont said in Helsinki, where he was on a visit.

He also aimed criticism at the judge's decision, suggesting Llarena was influenced by the political climate. "It is not right for a judge to do politics," Puigdemont said.

In a letter addressed to her party followers and posted on ERC's website, Rovira didn't say whether she had left Spain already or where she might go.

"I'm sad, but it's been



AP
Deposed leader of Catalonia's pro-independence party Carles Puigdemont ahead of his lecture at the University of Helsinki, Finland, Friday March 23, 2018.

more saddening to lead a silenced life," Rovira wrote, announcing that she had chosen to take "the path to exile."

Five other Catalan politicians, including Puigdemont, fled to Brussels following the failed secession attempt in late October. An anti-establishment party's former lawmaker, Anna Gabriel, fled to Switzerland earlier this year.

The unity of Spain is enshrined in the Constitution, which says the country is "indivisible," and courts have blocked Catalonia's independence efforts at ev-

ery turn. Secession is not allowed without a reform of the top law.

Twelve of the former regional ministers are also charged with misuse of public funds. And seven other lawmakers are charged with disobedience.

The judge also required the 14 ex-members of the Catalan Cabinet to pay 2.1 million euros (\$2.6 million) as a collective deposit before the trial establishes whether they need to pay back misused public funds.

That figure includes 1.6 million euros that, according to the judicial investiga-

tion, were used to pay for the Oct. 1 referendum that set the turbulent events in motion.

Llarena described the case as "an attack on the constitutional State that, through the desire to impose a change in the form of government for Catalonia and the rest of the country, is of unusual gravity and persistence."

His ruling also warned that the strategy to secede Catalonia is "dormant and awaiting resumption" once separatists regain control of the regional Catalan government.

Six of the politicians, including Rovira, had been summoned to court on Friday — an indication that the judge may later in the day order them jailed pending trial.

They include Jordi Turull, a former minister of the ousted regional Cabinet, who on Thursday failed in his initial bid to be elected as the region's new president.

He has a second chance to be voted in by simple majority on Saturday, but that would be thwarted if Turull ends up being preventively jailed on Friday.

That would leave in limbo the immediate future of a government in the northeastern region, possibly heading to a new election later this year.

The semiautonomous region has been without a leader for nearly five months after central authorities took control following October's illegal independence declaration.

Polls show Catalans are equally divided on the secession issue, although a vast majority supports solving the issue through a legal referendum agreed with central authorities.

Return to the Future

Lillehammer explores another Olympics

TOKYO (AP) — The Norwegian ski resort of Lillehammer, site of the popular 1994 Winter Olympics, could be in the running to host again.

Gerhard Heiberg, who headed the 1994 Lillehammer Games, told The Associated Press the resort would like to bid for the 2026 Winter Olympics but said 2030 seems more likely.

Lillehammer would be a strong favorite if it enters any race.

"We are talking about whether we should be in the race for 2026 or 2030. This will be decided in some days," Heiberg said.

Bid cities have until March 31 to let the International Olympic Committee know of their interest. In October, the IOC will trim the field to serious contenders, and then pick the host next year.

In addition to Lillehammer, at least four others

appear to be considering 2026: Calgary, Canada; Stockholm, Sweden; Sapporo, Japan; and Sion, Switzerland. Bids could also come from Italy, Austria, and Turkey.

The United States has expressed interest primarily in 2030 with Salt Lake City, Denver and Reno, Nevada, being mentioned.

Last year, the IOC named back-to-back Summer Olympic hosts — Paris and Los Angeles — in one bidding process. The Switzerland-based body has faced a dwindling pool of candidate cities, many put off by rising costs and pressure to build new venues that quickly become white elephants.

Juan Antonio Samaranch, the IOC vice president, told the AP on Friday that a double award is unlikely for the 2026 and 2030 Winter Games.

"There is no thought, no project of a double award

for the Winter Games," Samaranch said. "We don't see any need for that. We are not planning to change the system of awarding the Olympic Games every four years. This was just a one-off."

He then hedged, slightly. He said "extraordinary" circumstances could change that.

"But as of today we are planning to award 2026 alone," he added.

Heiberg is well connected. He is a former IOC executive board member, and former chairman of the IOC marketing commission. He also remains an IOC honorary member.

"I understand that IOC members would like to go back to Lillehammer," Heiberg said. "But maybe it's too early for 2026."

Heiberg said his preference was 2026, but he said politicians and the Norwegian Olympic Committee hadn't had enough time to

study the costs and benefits.

The Russian city of Sochi famously spent \$51 billion to prepare the 2014 Winter Olympics, a price that has scared off future bidders — particularly in Europe and North America. In addition, the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro were mired in corruption and a left a trail of white elephant venues, and unpaid bills.

"We are a very democratic country and have to follow certain procedures here," Heiberg said.

Six European cities pulled out of official or possible bids when the IOC sought candidates for the 2022 Winter Olympics. Bidders balked at costs, political unrest, or a lack of public support expressed in failed referendums.

It was left with two proposals, both from authoritarian governments: Almaty, Kazakhstan, and

Beijing, China. Beijing won in a close vote.

Heiberg said many venues remain from 1994, and some were upgraded for the 2016 Winter Youth Olympics.

"There will not be very much investment here, that's the attractive part for Norway if we organize Lillehammer," Heiberg said.

Skeptics point out that games in the last 50 years have regularly gone over budget, and that precise costs in many have been difficult to track.

Without Lillehammer in the mix, Calgary and Stockholm are probably viewed as the two best bets for 2026. Calgary held the 1988 Winter Olympics, and Stockholm held the Summer Games in 1912.

Calgary or Stockholm would allow the IOC to return the games to traditional winter sports countries after games in Sochi,

Russia, and Pyeongchang, South Korea. Beijing in 2022 is another non-traditional winter sports venue.

However, if Stockholm was picked for 2026 it could diminish the odds for Lillehammer in 2030.

"That's another discussion we have to go through," Heiberg said.

Sapporo should also be attractive after hosting the successful 1972 Winter Olympics. However, going to Sapporo would put another Olympics in Asia following games in Pyeongchang, Tokyo and Beijing.

Christophe Dubi, executive director of the Olympic Games, said the IOC is listening to all comers.

"Yes, we're talking mainly 2026," Dubi said, "but anyone that wants to speak to us and work with us on any future bid or future games — we're happily doing so."



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The lines are clear

Court sides with Marvin Gaye family in 'Blurred Lines' fight

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A federal appeals court on Wednesday upheld a copyright infringement verdict against Robin Thicke and Pharrell Williams over the 2013 hit song "Blurred Lines," agreeing with lower courts that it illegally copied from Marvin Gaye's "Got to Give It Up."

In a split decision from a three-judge panel, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the family of the late soul singer is entitled to the \$5.3 million it was awarded in a case that has been closely watched in the music industry for its potential effects on copy-

right and creativity.

Two judges rejected the defense's request to overturn a jury verdict or order a new trial, saying that Gaye's copyright on the song is entitled to broad protection. They accepted a trial court judge's instructions to jurors to decide the case based only on the sheet music to the two songs, and not the recordings.

Judge Jacqueline Nguyen offered a harsh dissent, saying that the two R&B tunes resemble each other only in style not substance and that the decision was detrimental to the future of artists and creativity.

"The majority allows the Gayes to accomplish what no one has before: copyright a musical style," Nguyen wrote. "'Blurred Lines' and 'Got to Give It Up' are not objectively similar. They differ in melody, harmony, and rhythm. Yet by refusing to compare the two works, the majority establishes a dangerous precedent that strikes a devastating blow to future musicians and composers everywhere."

Howard King, an attorney for Williams and Thicke, seized on Nguyen's comments.

"We stand by the fact

that these are two entirely different songs," King said in an email to The Associated Press. "The thorough and well-reasoned dissenting judge's opinion is compelling and enhances the prospects for success in a further review by the Court of Appeals."

The Gaye family's attorney Richard S. Busch praised the ruling. "Despite the protests of the Williams' camp that the decision somehow stifles creativity, the opposite is true," he said in a statement. He said the verdict and Wednesday's ruling "encourages today's writ-

ers to create original work that does not take advantage of the success of others while pawning it off as their own."

The court also upheld a jury's verdict that hip-hop artist T.I., who raps in the middle of the song, and Interscope Records, are not liable for damages in the case.

While artists normally fall firmly on the side of greater copyright protections, many lined up behind Thicke and Williams in this appeal.

R. Kelley, composer Hans Zimmer and members of The Go-Go's and The

Black Crowes were among more than 200 musicians who jointly filed a brief in favor of the defendants, saying the ruling could have an "adverse impact on their own creativity, on the creativity of future artists, and on the music industry in general."

The trial over "Blurred Lines," the biggest hit of 2013, ended in March 2015 with jurors awarding Gaye's family more than \$7 million. The verdict was later trimmed to \$5.3 million. The Gaye family also received 50 percent interest in ongoing royalties from the song.

'N Sync to reunite to receive star on Hollywood Walk of Fame

NEW YORK (AP) — 'N Sync is finally reuniting — but not for new music or a tour.

The boy band will earn a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on April 30. Justin Timberlake, JC Chasez, Lance Bass, Joey Fatone and Chris Kirkpatrick will attend the event.

'N Sync released its self-titled debut album in the United States in 1998. The group's hits include "Bye, Bye, Bye," "It's Gonna Be Me" and "Pop."

The fivesome famously reunited at the 2013 MTV Video Music Awards, where Timberlake received the Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award.

Anyone can nominate a celebrity for Walk of Fame star consideration. Selections are made by a Hollywood Chamber of Commerce committee.

Walk of Fame honorees or their sponsors must pay \$40,000 for each star granted.



In this June 3, 2000 file photo, members of NSync, from left, Lance Bass, Joey Fatone, Justin Timberlake, JC Chasez and Chris Kirkpatrick perform at the 9th annual MTV Movie Awards in Culver City, Calif.

Judd Apatow memorializes mentor, the late Garry Shandling

NEW YORK (AP) — After Garry Shandling died two years ago, his longtime friend Judd Apatow went through emails he and the comedian had recently shared. Then he started bawling.

"I realized that every single time I asked him for anything or wanted him to come to some event or to read something for me, he said 'yes' every single time," said Apatow. "It really made me cry."

Shandling, a groundbreaking comedian not far from the neurotic characters he played, had dedicated his last years to consciously encourage and mentor his friends and fellow comedians but Apatow hadn't realized the full extent of his generosity.

"He had a lot of conflicts with people but he was also trying very hard to figure it all out so he

could do better," he said. "He was a complete, complex human being with all the flaws and all the greatness as anybody else in the world."

Apatow decided to memorialize his friend in an appropriate way. Shandling, who masterminded a brand of phony docudrama with "The Larry Sanders Show," is now the subject of Apatow's four-hour HBO documentary called "The Zen Diaries of Garry Shandling."

The film includes interviews with James L. Brooks, Linda Doucett, David Duchovny, Sacha Baron Cohen, Jay Leno, Kevin Nealon, Conan O'Brien, Bob Saget, Sarah Silverman and Jeffrey Tambor. The documentary airs in two parts on March 26 and March 27.

While four hours sounds like a lot, Apatow goes

deep, drawing on 30 years of Shandling's intimate diaries and notes, childhood movies, stand-up performances and raw footage. Michael Cera reads the diary entries, which show a man trying to quiet his demons. "You are scared of awakening. Let go of that," one entry reads.

"It was very difficult to sit down and read his diaries," said Apatow. "It was like living in Garry's head for a while. It was very emotional. I felt all his pain and his joy."

"The Larry Sanders Show" was the forerunner to a new kind of painfully awkward, authentic comedy that would inspire "The Office," "Curb Your Enthusiasm," "Arrested Development" and a generation of comics.

In the series, Shandling played an insecure and spineless late-night

TV talk-show host with a regular habit of watching his show in bed at night. Shandling had already made a name for himself with the comedy series "It's Garry Shandling's Show," in which the actors routinely broke the fourth wall to comment on what they were up to.

Apatow had a long history with Shandling, interviewing the comic when he was a 16-year-old high-school student doing a radio show on Long Island. He went on to write for Shandling, direct episodes of "The Larry Sanders Show" and considered his "Freaks and Geeks" a version of "The Larry Sanders Show," only set in high school.

"The Zen Diaries of Garry Shandling" explores the development of both hit TV shows and delves into Shandling's childhood,

his tortured romance with Doucett, his messy break with former manager Brad Grey and the time he became a target of private eye Anthony Pellicano.

Nealon praises the documentary, calling Apatow "a skilled surgeon when it comes to putting the right things in there. He could have made it an eight-hour documentary and we still would have been riveted to it."

The film reveals that the death of Shandling's older brother from cystic fibrosis when Shandling was 10 became a pivotal event, reverberating in his relationship with his suddenly clingy mother, his future love affairs and his quest for honesty.

"When his brother died, his family didn't talk about it ever. That's how they dealt with it — by not talking about it. And

I think Garry became obsessed with presence and truth because he didn't get that as this important moment," said Apatow.

"This moment changed him. He was very happy as a little kid. He had a dream relationship with his brother. I can't say he ever seemed as much at peace in footage as he does in the footage when he's a little kid rising around with his brother."

Shandling died of a heart attack at age 66 in 2016. Apatow channeled much of his grief into the documentary, which grew out of short films he made for the memorial service.

"Now that's over I'm very sad because it's like letting go of my relationship with Garry," he said. "I already miss him because the project is over."



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Huge budget bill clears hurdle, nears final House vote

WASHINGTON (AP) — A sweeping \$1.3 trillion budget bill that substantially boosts military and domestic spending but leaves behind young immigrant "Dreamers" cleared an important procedural hurdle Thursday as lawmakers struggled to meet a Friday deadline to fund the government or face a shutdown.

The bill negotiated by congressional leaders, who hope for a final House vote later in the day, would deprive President Donald Trump of some of his border wall money and take only incremental steps to address gun violence. It also would substantially increase the federal deficit.

House members voted narrowly, 211-207, to begin debate and move toward a vote that would then send the bill to the Senate.

Although some conservative Republicans balked at the size of the spending increases and the rush to pass the bill, the White House said the president backed the legislation.

Trump himself sounded less than enthused, tweeting late Wednesday: "Had to waste money on Dem giveaways in order to take care of military pay increase and new equipment."

Talks had stretched into Wednesday night before the 2,232-page text was finally made public.

"No bill of this size is perfect," said House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis. "But this legislation addresses important priorities and makes us stronger at home and abroad."

Rep. Steny Hoyer of Maryland, the No. 2 Democrat in the House, complained that the late-night release left lawmakers with too little time to examine the massive bill before voting on it.

"This is an abomination of the legislative process," Hoyer thundered, holding up a bulky print-out as debate on the measure began. He invited any lawmaker who had read the entire bill to join him in the well of the House. No one did. Hoyer then admitted he hadn't read the bill either.

Despite those complaints, congressional leaders were hoping to approve the bill in the House later Thursday and send it to the Senate for a final vote. A stopgap measure may be needed to ensure federal offices aren't hit with a partial shutdown at midnight Friday when funding for the government expires.



The Capitol is seen at dawn Wednesday after a night of negotiating on the government spending bill, in Washington, March 21, 2018. Talks over a \$1.3 trillion omnibus bill are almost complete as the White House and Capitol Hill Democrats ironed out deals on a first round of funding for President Donald Trump's U.S.-Mexico border wall.

Negotiators have been working for days — and nights — on details of the bill, which is widely viewed as the last major piece of legislation likely to move through Congress in this election year. Lawmakers in both parties sought to attach their top priorities.

Two of the biggest remaining issues had been border wall funds and a legislative response to gun violence after the clamor for action following recent school shootings, including the one in Parkland, Florida.

On guns, leaders agreed to tuck in bipartisan provisions to bolster school safety funds and improve compliance with the criminal background check system for firearm purchases. The bill states that the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention can do research on gun violence, though not advocacy, an idea Democrats pushed.

But there was no resolution for Dreamers, the young immigrants who have been living in the United States illegally since childhood but

whose deportation protections are being challenged in court after Trump tried to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA.

Democrats temporarily shut down the government earlier this year as they fought for that protection. But the issue only rose to a discussion item when Trump made a late-hour push for a deal in exchange for \$25 billion in border wall funds.

Instead, Trump is now poised to win \$1.6 billion for barriers along the border, but none of it for the new prototypes he recently visited in California. Less than half the nearly 95 miles of border construction, including levees along the Rio Grande in Texas, would be for new barriers, with the rest for repair of existing segments.

In one win for immigrant advocates, negotiators rejected Trump's plans to hire hundreds of new Border Patrol and immigration enforcement agents.

"We are disappointed that we did not reach agreement

on Dreamer protections that were worthy of these patriotic young people," said House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi.

The emerging plan removes a much-debated earmark protecting money for a rail tunnel under the Hudson River. The item was a top priority of Trump's most powerful Democratic rival, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York, but Trump vowed to veto the bill over the earmark. Under the legislation, the project would remain eligible for funding, however, and a Schumer aide said it was likely to win well more than half of the \$900 million sought for the project this year.

The core purpose of the bill is to increase spending for military and domestic programs that have been sharply squeezed under a 2011 agreement that was supposed to cap spending. It gives Trump a huge budget increase for the military, while Democrats scored wins on infrastructure and other domestic programs that they

failed to get under President Barack Obama.

That largesse has drawn opposition from some fiscal conservatives and could make passage a potentially tricky process.

Last month, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul triggered a brief government shutdown over his objections to the deficit spending. On Wednesday, he tweeted his opposition to the emerging legislation, known as an "omnibus."

"It's a good thing we have Republican control of Congress or the Democrats might bust the budget caps, fund planned parenthood and Obamacare, and sneak gun control without due process into an Omni ... wait, what?" Paul tweeted.

Most essential was support from Trump, who has been known to threaten to veto legislation even when his team is involved in the negotiations. Word of Trump's discontent on Wednesday sent Ryan to the White House with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell on the phone. White House aides said the

president's support was never in doubt.

Both parties touted \$4.6 billion in total funding to fight the nation's opioid addiction epidemic, a \$3 billion increase. More than \$2 billion would go to strengthen school safety through grants for training, security measures and treatment for the mentally ill. Medical research at the National Institutes of Health, a longstanding bipartisan priority, would receive a record \$3 billion increase to \$37 billion. Funding was also included for election security ahead of the 2018 midterms.

Child care and development block grants would receive a huge \$2.4 billion increase to \$5.2 billion. And an Obama-era transportation grant program known as TIGER would see its budget tripled to \$1.5 billion. Head Start for preschoolers would get a \$610 million boost, while an additional \$2.4 billion would go for child care grants.

Trump to punish China on trade as US companies fear backlash

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump was ready to hit China with billions of dollars in trade sanctions Thursday for stealing American technology and pressuring U.S. companies to hand it over. Farmers, electronics retailers and other U.S. businesses braced for a backlash as the Chinese government vowed to take "all necessary measures" to defend itself in an emerging economic showdown.

The expected penalties include restrictions on Chinese investment and tariffs on as much as \$60 billion worth of Chinese products. Financial markets edged downward ahead of the announcement.

Dozens of industry groups sent a letter last weekend to Trump warning that "the imposition of sweeping tariffs would trigger a chain reaction of negative consequences for the U.S. economy, provoking

retaliation; stifling U.S. agriculture, goods, and services exports; and raising costs for businesses and consumers."

The announcement will mark the end of a seven-month U.S. investigation into the hardball tactics China has used to challenge U.S. supremacy in technology, including dispatching hackers to steal commercial secrets and demanding that U.S. companies hand over trade secrets in exchange for access to the Chinese market. The administration argues that years of negotiations with China have failed to produce results.

"It could be a watershed moment," said Stephen Ezell, vice president of global innovation policy at the Information Technology & Innovation Foundation, a think tank. "The Trump administration's decision to go down this path is illustrative that previous

strategies have not borne the hoped-for fruit."

Business groups mostly agree that something needs to be done about China's aggressive push in technology — but they worry that China will retaliate by targeting U.S. exports of aircraft, soybeans and other products and start a tit-for-tat trade war of escalating sanctions between the world's two biggest economies.

"The sanctions are a very big deal," says Mary Lovely, a Syracuse University economist and senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics. "The Chinese see them as a major threat and do not want a costly trade war."

Chinese officials warned of potential retaliation and expressed hopes that the U.S. would avoid taking actions that would hurt both countries.

"China will not sit idly to see its legitimate rights damaged and must take all necessary measures to resolutely defend its legitimate rights," the Commerce Ministry in Beijing said in a statement on its website.

The move against China comes just as the United States prepares to impose tariffs of 25 percent on imported steel and 10 percent on aluminum — sanctions that are meant to hit China for flooding the world with cheap steel and aluminum but will likely fall hardest on U.S. allies like South Korea and Brazil because they ship more of the metals to the United States.

Trump campaigned on promises to bring down America's massive trade deficit — \$566 billion last year — by rewriting trade agreements and cracking down on what he called abusive commercial practices by U.S.

trading partners. But he was slow to turn rhetoric to action. In January, he imposed tariffs on imported solar panels and washing machines. Then he unveiled the steel and aluminum tariffs, saying reliance on imported metals jeopardizes U.S. national security.

To target China, Trump has dusted off a Cold War weapon for trade disputes: Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Act of 1974, which lets the president unilaterally impose tariffs. It was meant for a world in which large swaths of global commerce were not covered by trade agreements. With the arrival in 1995 of the World Trade Organization, which polices global trade, Section 301 fell largely into disuse.

At first it looked like Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping were going to get along fine. They enjoyed

an amiable summit nearly a year ago at Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida. But America's longstanding complaints about Chinese economic practices continued to simmer, and it became more and more apparent that the U.S. investigation into China technology policies was going to end in trade sanctions.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang this week urged Washington to act "rationally" and promised to open China up to more foreign products and investment. "China has been trying to cool things down for weeks. They have offered concessions," Lovely says. "Nothing seems to cool the fire. I fear they will take a hard line now that their efforts have been rebuffed. ... China cannot appear subservient to the U.S."

Hurricane Harvey's toxic impact deeper than public told

HOUSTON (AP) — More than a half-year after Hurricane Harvey flooded America's largest corridor of energy and petrochemical plants, records show the storm's environmental assault was more widespread and severe than authorities publicly acknowledged.

Piecing together county, state and federal records, The Associated Press and Houston Chronicle catalogued more than 100 Harvey-related toxic releases — on land, in water and air — in metropolitan Houston, America's fourth-largest city.

Most were never publicized. Only a few were investigated by federal regulators. State officials say they have investigated 89 incidents but have announced no enforcement actions.

Some 500 chemical plants, 10 refineries and more than 6,670 miles of intertwined oil, gas and chemical pipelines line the corridor. Nearly half a billion gallons of industrial wastewater mixed with storm water surged out of just one of these chemical plants.

The dozens of tons of chemicals unleashed — all self-reported by industry — include such proven carcinogens as benzene and vinyl chloride. Many affected plants are repeat environmental offenders.

Soil and water testing for contaminants by state and federal regulators was largely limited to Superfund toxic waste sites. Air sampling was more extensive, including flyovers, but officials released few details and repeatedly assured the public that post-Harvey air pollution posed no health threat.

The career civil servant who headed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's regional office during Harvey, Samuel Coleman, now says those general assessments did not reflect local "hotspots" with poten-

tial risk to people.

The priority in the hurricane's immediate aftermath was "addressing any environmental harms as quickly as possible, as opposed to making announcements about what the problem was," Coleman said.

In hindsight, he said, it might not have been a bad idea to inform the public about the worst of "dozens of spills."

Local officials say the state and federal government's response to Harvey has weakened efforts by the city of Houston and surrounding Harris County to build cases against the companies and force them to follow through on cleanups. "The public will probably never know the extent of what happened to the environment after Harvey. But the individual companies of course know," said Rock Owens, supervising environmental attorney for Harris County, home to 4.7 million residents.

Regulators alerted the public to dangers from just two, well-publicized toxic disasters: the Arkema chemical plant northeast of Houston that exploded and burned for days, and a nearby dioxin-laden federal Superfund site whose protective cap was damaged by the raging San Jacinto River.

The chairman of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Bryan Shaw, told a January legislative hearing he could not discuss those spills or possible sanctions while an after-action review is pending. The state says it has "a number of open investigations" but would not elaborate.

The limited extent of post-Harvey environmental testing by state and federal authorities was "unconscionable," said environmental sociologist Scott Frickel of Brown University, especially compared to two previous major Gulf Coast hurricanes.



In this Jan. 24, 2018 photo, Galena Park is hemmed in by heavy industry just east of downtown Houston along the ship channel.

After Hurricane Ike hit Texas in 2008, state regulators collected 85 soil samples. More than a dozen violations were identified and cleanups carried out, according to a state review.

And after Hurricane Katrina's floodwaters ravaged New Orleans in 2005, the EPA and Louisiana officials examined about 1,800 soil samples over 10 months, EPA records showed.

Reporters covered some Harvey-environmental crises as they happened, such as AP's exclusive on the flooding of toxic waste sites and the Chronicle's Arkema warnings before fires broke out. But the sheer quantity of spills was impossible to document in real time — and information about some releases was delayed.

Academics have tried to fill in the gaps in environmental monitoring but say the paucity of data leaves local residents in a state of limbo — not knowing what

they may have been exposed to — and could hurt efforts to prepare for future violent weather events that climatologists predict.

Testing by academics — in waterways and on land — has shown evidence of likely Harvey-related contamination, they say. But scientists also believe the deluge — five feet of rain in some spots — had a scouring effect on top soil, meaning contaminants likely migrated.

"That soil ended up somewhere," said Hanadi Rifai, who heads the University of Houston's environmental engineering program and has been studying pollution in the 50-mile-long Houston Ship Channel — the petrochemical industry's main artery — for more than two decades. "The net result on Galveston Bay is going to be nothing short of catastrophic."

Only one of nine soil samples collected in Sep-

tember by Rice University researchers in a neighborhood east of downtown Houston showed the presence of benzo(a)pyrene, a known carcinogen, at levels just above what the EPA deems a cancer risk, according to an independent chemical analysis funded by the AP-Chronicle collaboration.

Samples taken in October at a popular Houston park upstream of the ship channel showed elevated levels of dioxins, PCBs and hazardous chemicals typically created in the burning of oil, coal and gas, said Jennifer Horney, a Texas A&M epidemiology professor who conducted testing for the city. But the levels were below EPA cleanup standards.

Harris County officials have referred at least three post-Harvey releases to the Texas Attorney General's Office for possible punitive action.

One was a half-million-

gallon gasoline spill from a storage tank owned by Magellan Midstream Partners in Galena Park, where plant workers were evacuated amid explosion fears.

"Nobody told us anything," said Claudia Mendez, a 42-year-old community activist who lives a mile away with her husband and three sons. It wasn't until the next week that she learned from news reports of the Magellan spill.

Mendez did notice some foam at the time in a pond beside the road fronting Magellan's terminal.

"We found out later it was the foam the firefighters used to put down the fumes."

Magellan spokesman Bruce Heine said the company notified state and federal authorities as soon as it was aware of the spill.

Uber SUV's autonomous system should have seen woman

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP) — Two experts say video of a deadly crash involving a self-driving Uber vehicle shows the sport utility vehicle's laser and radar sensors should have spotted a pedestrian, and computers should have braked to avoid the crash.

Authorities investigating the crash in a Phoenix suburb released the video of Uber's Volvo striking a woman as she walked from a darkened area onto a street.

Experts who viewed the video told The Associated Press that the SUV's sensors should have seen the woman pushing a bicycle and braked before the impact.

Also, Uber's human backup driver appears on the video to be looking down before crash and appears startled about the time of the impact.

"The victim did not come out of nowhere. She's moving on a dark road, but it's an open road, so Lidar (laser) and radar should have detected and classified her" as a human, said Bryant

Walker Smith, a University of South Carolina law professor who studies autonomous vehicles.

Sam Abuelsmaid, an analyst for Navigant Research who also follows autonomous vehicles, said laser and radar systems can see in the dark much better than humans or cameras and that the pedestrian was well within the system's range. "It absolutely should have been able to pick her up," he said. "From what I see in the video it sure looks like the car is at fault, not the pedestrian."

The video could have a broad impact on autonomous vehicle research, which has been billed as the answer to cutting the 40,000 traffic deaths that occur annually in the U.S. in human-driven vehicles.

Proponents say that human error is responsible for 94 percent of crashes, and that self-driving vehicles would be better because they see more and don't get drunk, distracted or drowsy.

But the experts said it appears from the video that

there was some sort of flaw in Uber's self-driving system.

The video, Smith said, may not show the complete picture, but "this is strongly suggestive of multiple failures of Uber and its system, its automated system, and its safety driver."

Tempe police, as well as the National Transportation Safety Board and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration are investigating the Sunday night crash, which occurred outside of a crosswalk on a darkened boulevard.

The crash was the first death involving a fully autonomous test vehicle. The Volvo was in self-driving mode traveling about 40 mph (64 kph) with a human backup driver at the wheel when it struck 49-year-old Elaine Herzberg, police said.

The lights on the SUV did not illuminate Herzberg until a second or two before impact, raising questions about whether the vehicle could have stopped in time.

Tempe Police Chief Syl-

via Moir told the San Francisco Chronicle earlier this week that the SUV likely would not be found at fault.

But Smith said that from what he observed on the video, the Uber driver appears to be relying too much on the self-driving system by not looking up at the road.

"The safety driver is clearly relying on the fact that the car is driving itself. It's the old adage that if everyone is responsible no one is responsible," Smith said. "This is everything gone wrong that these systems, if responsibly implemented, are supposed to prevent."

The experts were unsure if the test vehicle was equipped with a video monitor that the backup driver may have been viewing.

Uber immediately suspended all road-testing of such autos in the Phoenix area, Pittsburgh, San Francisco and Toronto.

An Uber spokeswoman, reached Wednesday night by email, did not answer specific questions about the video or the expert observa-

tions.

"The video is disturbing and heartbreaking to watch, and our thoughts continue to be with Elaine's loved ones. Our cars remain grounded, and we're assisting local, state and federal authorities in any way we can," the company said in a statement.

Tempe police have identified the driver as 44-year-old Rafael Vasquez. Court records show someone with the same name and birthdate as Vasquez spent more than four years in prison for two felony convictions — for making false statements when obtaining unemployment benefits and attempted armed robbery — before starting work as an Uber driver.

Tempe police and the NTSB declined to say whether the Vasquez who was involved in the fatal crash is the same Vasquez with two criminal convictions.

Attempts by the AP to contact Vasquez through phone numbers and social media on Wednesday after-

noon were not successful.

Local media have identified the driver as Rafael Vasquez. Authorities declined to explain the discrepancy in the driver's first name.

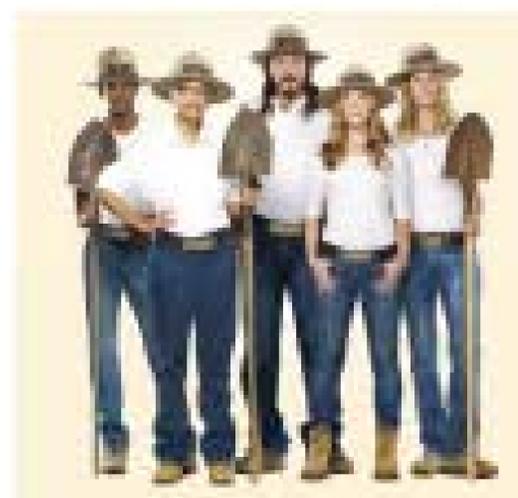
The fatality has raised questions about whether Uber does enough to screen its drivers.

Uber said Vasquez met the company's vetting requirements.

The company bans drivers convicted of violent crimes or any felony within the past seven years. Records show Vasquez' offenses happened before the seven-year period, in 1999 and 2000.

The company's website lists its pre-screening policies for drivers that spell out what drivers can and cannot have on their record to work for Uber.

Their driving history cannot have any DUI or drug-related driving offenses within the past seven years, for instance. They also are prevented from having more than three non-fatal accidents or moving violations within the past three years.



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UK's May urges EU unity against Russia as Kremlin slams UK

BRUSSELS (AP) — British Prime Minister Theresa May urged European Union leaders on Thursday to unite and condemn Russia for not respecting international rules or borders, while Moscow slammed the U.K. as untrustworthy in its investigation of the poisoning of a former spy.

Amid heated words and frosty relations between London and Moscow, May accused Russia of staging "a brazen and reckless attack against the United Kingdom" by attacking Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia with a nerve agent March 4 in the English city of Salisbury.

She said "it is clear that the Russian threat doesn't respect borders, and indeed the incident in Salisbury was part of a pattern of Russian aggression against Europe and its near neighbors, from the western Balkans to the Middle East."

Britain blames Moscow for the attack with a military-grade nerve agent and has called Russia a growing threat to Western democracies. Russia has fiercely denied the accusations.

Both nations have expelled 23 of each other's diplomats in a feud that shows no signs of cooling.

Russia's ambassador to the U.K., Alexander Yakovenko, hit back Thursday, saying his country "can't take British words for granted," and accusing the U.K. of having a "bad record of violating international law and misleading the international community."

"History shows that British statements must be verified," he told reporters in

London, demanding "full transparency of the investigation and full cooperation with Russia" and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

Britain says it is complying with the international chemical-weapons watchdog over the March 4 attack on Skripal — a former Russian intelligence officer convicted of spying for the U.K. — and his daughter.

Experts from the OPCW have come to Britain to take samples of the nerve agent that has left the Skripals in critical condition.

May wants nations at the EU summit in Brussels to make a strong statement against Russian President Vladimir Putin. EU foreign ministers have already expressed their "unqualified solidarity" with Britain, but May will try to swing the 27 other EU leaders behind a more strongly worded statement that explicitly condemns Russia.

European politicians and leaders vary in how far they are willing to go in blaming Putin's Kremlin.

Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaitė, whose former Soviet state shares a border with Russia's Kaliningrad exclave, offered her full backing to Britain and said she was weighing whether to expel Russian diplomats from her country over the Salisbury attack.

German politician Manfred Weber, leader of the biggest group in the European Parliament, said Putin "wants to destabilize the European idea, European cooperation, and that's why we don't have to be naive, we have to be strong."



In this image taken from video Britain's Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson gives evidence to the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee in Portcullis House, London Wednesday March 21, 2018. Johnson said Russia carried out a nerve-agent attack on British soil because the U.K. has "time and again called out Russia over its abuses" of human rights and democratic values.

Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsiprias was more cautious. He said "we have to express our solidarity to the U.K., to the British people, but at the same time we need to investigate."

Luxembourg Prime Minister Xavier Bettel, a former criminal lawyer, said he wanted to hear what May had to say.

"I have the principle that first I listen, and then I take a decision," he said.

EU Council President Donald Tusk is seen by the

U.K. as supportive, saying this week that Europe must "reinforce our preparedness for future attacks."

But British officials are irked that another EU chief, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, congratulated Putin on his victory in Sunday's presidential election in Russia. Election monitors say the Russian vote did not take place on a level playing field since state media gave so much coverage to Putin.

The Salisbury attack has sent relations between London and Moscow to Cold War-style lows.

On Wednesday, British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said it was "emetic" — vomit-inducing — that Putin is rejoicing over hosting the World Cup soccer tournament this summer. Russia responded that Johnson was "poisoned with venom of malice and hate."

Johnson also said Russia's hosting of the June 14-

July 15 tournament could be compared to the 1936 Olympics, which was used as propaganda exercise by Nazi Germany.

Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov called the comparison an "utterly disgusting statement which is unworthy of a foreign minister of any country."

Yakovenko, the ambassador, said "nobody has the right to insult the Russian people, who defeated Nazism."

Chinese state media now with more Communist Party propaganda

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese state media will be getting more propaganda now that the Communist Party has announced it will be in direct control of broadcasters and the regulators of everything from movies and TV to books and radio programs.

The move is part of a push by President Xi Jinping — emboldened by the removal of term limits on his time in office — to tighten party supervision over broad swaths of Chinese public life as he pushes for what he calls "unity in thought" among officials and citizens.

Analysts say having direct oversight of the media will help the party hammer home its message domestically and also work to improve its image internationally.

"It's one vast effort to get everybody thinking together," said David Zweig, director of the Center on China's Transnational Relations at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

Under the plan announced Wednesday, China Radio International, China National Radio and China Central Television, along with its international broadcast arm, China Global Television Network, will be merged into a new body with a name that translates to "Voice of China."

The government's regulator of the press and print publications, radio, film and television will cease to exist and its responsibilities and resources will be transferred to the party's Central Propaganda Department, along

with control over the film industry, including the import and export of movies.

The new body's chief responsibilities include "implementing the party's propaganda guidelines and policies," the official Xinhua News Agency said.

The Communist Party newspaper Global Times quoted government expert Feng Yue of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences as saying the move will "concentrate the resources and authority to improve China's influence overseas and promote China's international image."

While Chinese media consumers have grown increasingly apolitical with an ever-expanding range of options, from foreign television shows to video games and online shopping, Xi has been steadily increasing the role of the party in the lives of many through new or newly invigorated branch committees in schools, offices and factories.

That could leave ordinary Chinese with "little choice" but to become active consumers of propaganda, Zweig said.

Writing on the website of the China Media Project at the University of Hong Kong, editor David Bandurski said the change gave the Propaganda Department — which formerly provided broad overall guidance of the media message — direct control over output.

"And that is largely the point that comes through here — the tighter, more centralized control of media and



In this Saturday, March 17, 2018, photo, Chinese journalists film Chinese President Xi Jinping casts his ballot during a plenary session of China's National People's Congress at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

ideology," Bandurski said.

As its name suggests, the new media monolith appears modeled on outlets such as the U.S.'s Voice of America or Russia's Russia Today, now known simply as RT.

Xi has repeatedly stressed the role of state media as the party's "throat and tongue" — the equivalent of "mouthpiece" — especially since a 2016 visit to Xinhua and other major outlets during which he further reinforced the message by saying such outlets must "take the 'party' as their surname."

At the same time, China

has faced opposition to its moves to consolidate territorial claims in the South China Sea and rapid economic expansion overseas, as embodied by Xi's signature trillion-dollar Belt and Road infrastructure initiative to tie China to Southeast Asia, Europe and Africa through roads, railways, ports and power plants.

China has spent vast sums to boost its overseas media presence in recent years, with CCTV opening broadcast centers in Washington and Nairobi, Kenya, and the English-language China Dai-

ly newspaper paying to have itself included as an insert in esteemed American papers such as the Washington Post.

Yet those efforts face an uphill battle in competing with well-established global media outlets such as CNN and the BBC, while much of the reporting on China smacks of party propaganda in contrast to reports about the country by foreign media outlets.

Cao Peixin, a professor at the Television School under Beijing's Communication University of China that has long trained much of the

country's on-air talent, said the reorganization fits the trend toward greater efficiency and media convergence, but would also help present a more unified political message.

Integrating the various departments may not be easy, however, Cao said.

"If the system cannot be established in a modern, efficient and very flexible way, it will be very difficult for many organizations to work in step," he said.

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NOT A BROCCOLI FAN?



This March 2, 2018 photo shows broccoli with a dusting of parmesan cheese and roasted garlic in Amagansett, N.Y.

AP

Try this: add cheese and garlic

BY ELIZABETH KARMELE
Associated Press

My sister, Mary Pat, is a great cook and an even better baker. Sweets are her thing but as the mother of three active boys, dinner always comes first chronologically speaking!

One recent night, I had dinner at her house. When I asked if there was anything that I could do to help, she replied that it was all done. When I arrived, the house smelled divine as the Chicken Marbella was already in the oven.

We enjoyed a glass of wine as she cleaned and trimmed some broccoli, apologizing for making it because it is well known in my family that I am not a fan of broccoli, but every-

one else loves it. I answered that it was OK, it would give me even more room for her raspberry-topped Tres Leche Cake that was resting in the refrigerator. When I think about eating a well-balanced meal, I have long wanted to like broccoli, but spinach always trumped broccoli at least up until now.

As we sat down, Mary Pat brought the steaming broccoli dish to the table. It actually looked promising. Bright green florets with a dusting of Parmesan cheese and the rich smell of roasted garlic. I had to try it. It was really good. I ate every piece and had a second helping. And, the next morning, I was still thinking about the broccoli.

My sister adapted the recipe from a popular pasta that

her Italian friend Roberto Broglia, owner of the legendary but now closed restaurant Pasta Mia in Washington D.C., made.

Mary Pat remembered that he blanched the broccoli florets, tossed them with a generous amount of garlic olive oil and caramelized garlic cloves. He added the garlicky vegetable to al dente pasta and finished it with lots of real Parmesan cheese and a sprinkling of red-pepper flakes.

As my sister started cooking for her family, she looked for new ways to make broccoli that was both healthy and delicious. She remembered the broccoli pasta and started making it sans pasta, and the rest is history. Now, I have broccoli on my home rotation. Will wonders never

cease?

MY SISTER'S BROCCOLI

Servings: 4-6
Start to finish: 20 minutes

1 head of broccoli
1/2 cup peeled garlic cloves
1/2-1 cup extra-virgin olive oil
1 teaspoon Kosher salt
1/2 cup grated Parmesan-Reggiano cheese
Pinch of red-pepper flakes, optional

Trim the broccoli and cut off the florets. I like to cut them in the natural clumps that you can see, but you can also slice the florets down the middle of the "trunk" and cut the florets in half or

in quarters if they are really large. Place these in a bowl and run cold water to wash over them to wash away any dirt. Set aside.

Meanwhile, place the raw garlic cloves and the oil in a small saucepan with a lid and simmer on low heat until the garlic is caramelized and brown and the oil is fragrant, about 15 minutes. If the garlic isn't golden enough, increase the heat and tilt the pan until all the garlic is submerged in the oil. Season the oil with a pinch of salt. Set aside, but keep warm. If you make the oil and garlic in advance, warm on the stovetop or in the microwave before using to season the hot blanched broccoli.

Bring a large pot of water to a rapid boil. Add a teaspoon of salt and stir. Add

the broccoli florets and cook until crisp-tender, 1 to 1 1/2 minutes. Remove the florets to a clean serving bowl. Do not plunge them in ice water because you want them warm to absorb the garlic and cheese.

Pour the oil and garlic cloves over the broccoli. Toss the broccoli and dust liberally with the grated parmesan cheese. If you like things a little spicy, add a pinch of red pepper flakes. Serve immediately. It is best eaten warm or at room temperature.

Nutrition information per serving: 156 calories; 112 calories from fat; 12 g fat (3 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 10 mg cholesterol; 411 mg sodium; 5 g carbohydrate; 1 g fiber; 1 g sugar; 5 g protein.

On the menu for McDonald's: Cut greenhouse gas emissions

BY JOSEPH PISANI
AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The company behind the golden arches wants to get greener.

McDonald's said Tuesday it's taking steps to cut the greenhouse gases it emits, including tweaking the way the beef in its Big Macs and Quarter Pounders is produced.

The world's largest burger chain said it expects the changes to prevent 150 million metric tons (165 million tons) of greenhouse gas emissions from being released into the atmosphere by 2030, equal to taking 32 million cars off the road for a year.

Several food and beverage companies have announced changes recently to appeal to customers con-

cerned about the environment. Dunkin' Donuts has said it will stop using foam coffee cups by 2020. And soda maker Coca-Cola announced plans to recycle a bottle or can for every beverage it sells by 2030.

"We're taking action we care about and customers really appreciate," said McDonald's Corp. CEO Steve Easterbrook.

The company said three areas — beef production, energy use at its restaurants and packaging — account for more than 60 percent of its emissions, and it will make changes there first.

To reduce emissions at cattle farms, suppliers are testing a new way to feed cattle: moving animals from pen to pen, so the soil the cows stand on as they eat grass has a chance to recov-

er. Healthier soil can better absorb carbon, the company said, meaning less of it will end up in the air.

At its 40,000 restaurants around the world, McDonald's said it is working with franchisees to replace light bulbs and kitchen appliances with more energy-efficient ones. It is also in the process of using more environmentally friendly materials for its soda cups, Happy Meal boxes and burger wrappers, a shift it announced last month.

Because of the company's size, changes made by McDonald's could have a ripple effect across the industry, said Sheila Bonini, a senior vice president at the World Wildlife Fund, which worked with McDonald's to make its changes. McDonald's beef suppliers, for



AP

In this April 24, 2017, file photo, corporate signage hangs at a McDonald's restaurant in downtown Pittsburgh.

example, likely sell beef to other restaurant chains.

Altogether, McDonald's expects to cut its green-

house gas emissions by nearly 40 percent by 2030 from 2015 levels.

The Oak Brook, Illinois-

based company declined to say how much it will spend to make the changes.

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Spending talks nearly done, \$1.3T bill soon to be unveiled

BY ANDREW TAYLOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Negotiators on a \$1.3 trillion government spending bill officially dropped protections for so-called Dreamer immigrants and gave President Donald Trump only a partial victory on funding for his U.S.-Mexico border wall as talks entered the final stage on Wednesday.

GOP aides said that Trump would win \$1.6 billion for a border wall and physical barriers along the border, which would construct older wall designs and repair existing segments. But Trump would be denied a more recent, far larger \$25 billion request for multi-year funding for the wall project. Democrats said just \$641 million would go to new segments of fencing and walls that double as levees.

Negotiators planned to officially unveil the massive government-wide spending bill later in the day in hopes of passing it before a Friday midnight deadline to avoid

a government shutdown. A temporary funding bill to keep operations going this weekend might be required.

The top four leaders of both House and Senate met Wednesday and emerged saying they basically had a deal.

“We’re finalizing,” said House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., told reporters, saying the bill would shortly be made public. “We’re in a good place.”

The bill would give Trump a huge budget increase for the military, while Democrats would cement wins on infrastructure and other domestic programs that they failed to get under President Barack Obama. It funds a 2.4 percent pay raise for military personnel touted by Republicans.

The aides required anonymity because the agreement is not yet public.

Battles over budget priorities in the huge bill were all settled, while a handful of non-budget issues remained, including a GOP effort to fix a poorly drafted section of the recent tax cut law that is harming Mid-

western grain companies.

As expected, the measure won’t renew protections for young Dreamer immigrants facing possible deportation. It also won’t provide subsidies to insurers who cut costs for low-earning customers. And it won’t have federal payments to carriers to help them afford to cover their costliest clients.

Another fight would remove an earmark protecting money for a rail tunnel under the Hudson River that’s a top priority of Trump’s most powerful Democratic rival, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y. The project would remain eligible for funding, however, and a Schumer aide said the project was likely to win well more than half of the \$900 million sought for Gateway this year under rules governing various Department of Transportation accounts.

The measure on the table would provide major funding increases for the Pentagon — \$80 billion over current limits — bringing the military budget to \$700 billion and giving GOP de-

fense hawks a long-sought victory.

“We made a promise to the country that we would rebuild our military. Aging equipment, personnel shortages, training lapses, maintenance lapses — all of this has cost us,” said House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis. “With this week’s critical funding bill we will begin to reverse that damage.”

Domestic accounts would get a generous 10 percent increase on average as well, awarding Democrats the sort of spending increases they sought but never secured during the Obama administration.

Both parties touted \$4.6 billion in total funding to fight the nation’s opioid addiction epidemic, a \$3 billion increase. More than \$2 billion would go to strengthen school safety through grants for training, security measures and treatment for the mentally ill. Medical research at the National Institutes of Health, a longstanding bipartisan priority, would receive a record \$3 billion increase to \$37 billion.

Community development block grants, which are flexible funds that are enormously popular with mayors and other local officials, would receive a huge \$2.4 billion increase to \$5.2 billion despite being marked for elimination in Trump’s budget plan. And an Obama-era transportation grant program known as TIGER would see its budget tripled to \$1.5 billion. Head Start for preschoolers would get a \$610 boost, while an additional \$2.4 billion would go for child care grants.

“We have worked to restore and in many cases increase investments in education, health care, opioids, NIH, child care, college affordability and other domestic and military priorities,” said Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., a key negotiator of the measure.

Agencies historically unpopular with Republicans, such as the IRS, appear likely to get increases too, in part to prepare for implementation of the Republicans’ recently passed tax measure. The Environ-

mental Protection Agency, always a GOP target, would have its budget frozen at \$8 billion.

Lawmakers agreed on the broad outlines of the budget plan last month. The legislation implementing that deal is viewed as possibly one of few bills moving through Congress this year, making it a target for lawmakers and lobbyists seeking to attach their top priorities.

And while Democrats yielded on \$1.6 billion in wall funding, none of that money would go for the new prototypes that Trump recently visited in San Diego. Negotiators rejected Trump’s plans to hire hundreds of new Border Patrol and immigration enforcement agents, congressional aides said.

Republican conservatives are dismayed by the free-spending measure, which means Democratic votes are required to pass it. That gave Democrats leverage to force GOP negotiators to drop numerous policy riders that Democrats considered poison pills.

Nielsens illustrate the popularity of political shows

BY DAVID BAUDER
AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — After Shepard Smith set off some internal Fox News Channel bickering over his description of “entertaining” opinion programming, a glance at the cable television rankings reveals the extent to which political talk has become a pastime for millions of Americans.

The Nielsen company said 26 of the 40 most-watched programs on cable television last week were political shows on Fox News or MSNBC, including each week-night telecast by Rachel Maddow, Sean Hannity and Lawrence O’Donnell.

Seven were telecasts of games from opening week of the NCAA men’s college basketball tournament and four were professional wrestling. Only three scripted programs — AMC’s “The Walking Dead,” an HGTV episode of “Fixer Upper” and a Hallmark movie — made the list.

Smith, the afternoon news anchor who signed a contract extension last week, had one show on the list. He said in an interview with Time magazine that some of Fox’s opinion programming “is there strictly to be entertaining. “I get that,” he said. “I don’t work there. I wouldn’t work there. I don’t want to sit around and yell at each other and talk about your philosophy and my philosophy. That sounds horrible to me.”

Smith also said that Fox’s opinion shows don’t really have rules. “They can say whatever they want — if it’s their opinion,” he said.

That comment drew rebukes from Hannity and fellow Fox prime-time host Laura Ingraham, who said both of their shows make news.

Maddow’s Tuesday evening telecast on MSNBC, with 3.42 million viewers, was the most-watched news program on cable last week, Nielsen said. Hannity was in second and third place. Sixteen of the 26 political programs were on Fox, with the other 10 on MSNBC. Fox, which averaged 2.31 million viewers in prime time last week, was the most-watched cable network while MSNBC was second with 1.98 million, Nielsen said.

CNN, which averaged 1.11 million viewers in prime time last week, has been losing ground to its rivals recently as viewers settle into political camps. That may be behind its decision last week to shuffle its lineup, adding a prime-time show with Chris Cuomo as host.

CBS was the most-watched broadcast network last week, averaging 7 million viewers. NBC had 5.6 million, ABC had 4.7 million, Fox had 2.6 million, Univision had 1.6 million, ION Television had 1.5 million, Telemundo had 1.1 million and the CW had 1 million.

Following Fox News and MSNBC, the remaining three networks in cable’s top five were boosted by the NCAA men’s basketball tournament. TBS averaged 1.78 million, TNT had 1.77 million and TruTV had 1.55 million.

ABC’s “World News Tonight” topped the evening newscasts with an average of 8.8 million. NBC’s “Nightly News” had 7.9 million and the “CBS Evening News” had 6.7 million.

For the week of March 12-18, the top 10 shows, their networks and viewerships: “NCIS,” CBS, 13.27 million; “The Voice” (Monday), NBC, 11.88 million; “The Voice” (Tuesday), NBC, 11.18 million; “This is Us,” NBC, 10.94 million; “Bull,” CBS, 10.64 million; “60 Minutes,” CBS, 10.08 million; “The Good Doctor,” ABC, 9.89 million; “NCIS: New Orleans,” CBS, 9.25 million; “Instinct,” CBS, 9.05 million; “American Idol” (Monday), ABC, 8.41 million.

Senators press Trump officials on safeguarding 2018 ballots

WASHINGTON (AP) — With the 2018 elections already underway, senators chided the current and former secretaries of Homeland Security on Wednesday for not more strongly warning the American public about past Russian intrusions in state election systems and for a lack of urgency to protect balloting this year.

Kirstjen Nielsen, President Donald Trump’s secretary of Homeland Security, testified alongside Jeh Johnson, secretary under former President Barack Obama, as the Senate intelligence committee launched an effort to protect the country’s election security after Russian agents targeted election systems in 21 states ahead of the 2016 general election. There’s no evidence that any hack in the November 2016 election affected election results, but the attempts rattled state election officials and prompted the federal government and states to examine the way votes are counted.

Senators on the panel have criticized both administrations for not moving quickly enough to stem the Russian threat, and continued to do so at the hearing. Maine Sen. Susan Collins, a Republican, critiqued Nielsen’s opening statement, which described a series of efforts the department had already announced.

“I hear no sense of urgency to really get on top of this issue,” Collins said, noting that “we are already in an election year.”

Collins noted that many state election officials have remained without security clearances, making it harder for the department to share information with them.

To speed up communications and intelligence sharing, the department has been working to grant security clearances to up to three election officials in each state. Nielsen said Wednesday that just 20 of those officials have been granted full clearances.

“We are doing our best to speed up the process,” Nielsen said.

Communication and intelligence sharing by the federal government has been a key concern among state and local election officials. Those officials complained that it took the federal government nearly a year to inform them whether their states had been targeted by Russian hackers.

Collins, who has introduced legislation with other members of the committee to improve election cybersecurity, also pressed Johnson, asking if he should have issued stronger warnings in 2016 as it became clear that Russians were trying to intrude into the systems.



Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C., center, previews some of the panel’s recommendations for improving the nation’s elections.

Johnson defended the way he alerted state and local election officials, noting that in the late summer and fall of 2016 he was repeatedly issuing public warnings for those officials to get cybersecurity assistance from the department.

“We were beating the drum pretty hard,” Johnson said.

California Sen. Dianne Feinstein, a Democrat, also lambasted the Obama administration’s response, saying it was not sufficient to warn the public “in any way, shape or form.”

The hearing follows a Tuesday news conference in which committee members from both parties said government efforts to protect state and local elections from Russian cyberattacks haven’t gone far enough. Federal warnings last time did not provide enough information to state election officials or in some cases go to the right people, the senators said, though they reiterated that there was no evidence votes were changed.

Top U.S. intelligence officials have said they’ve seen indications Russian agents are preparing a new round of election interference this year.

The committee is recommending that states make sure voting machines have paper audit trails and aren’t capable of being connected to the internet. Senators also are pushing for better communication among the various U.S. intelligence agencies and federal, state and local governments about cyber threats and vulnerabilities in computer systems.

The committee’s recommendations preview an election security report expected to be released in full in the coming weeks. It is the first of four reports planned as part of the panel’s wide-ranging investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 election.

Committee Chairman Richard Burr,

R-N.C., and Virginia Sen. Mark Warner, the top Democrat on the panel, released the recommendations ahead of Wednesday’s hearing. They come as Congress is eyeing \$380 billion in state grants for election security in a wide-ranging spending bill expected to be unveiled as soon as Wednesday. The bill also contains \$307 million for the FBI to go after Russian cyberattacks.

Senators are also urging state and local election officials to take advantage of resources provided by the Homeland Security Department, such as comprehensive risk assessments and remote cyberscanning of their networks to spot vulnerabilities. Overall, experts say far too little has been done to shore up those vulnerabilities in 10,000 U.S. voting jurisdictions that mostly run on obsolete and imperfectly secured technology.

As of last month, just 14 states had requested risk assessments and 30 had asked for remote cyberscans of their networks, according to Homeland Security officials. But even that was straining resources, since many of those risk assessments have not been completed.

Warner has said he thinks the process to prevent any compromise of election systems needs to be more robust, especially since President Donald Trump has not addressed the matter as an urgent problem.

“Every one of Mr. Trump’s appointees in law enforcement and national security acknowledge what an ongoing threat Russia is,” Warner said Tuesday. “It’s pretty amazing to me we’ve had the director of the FBI, the director of national intelligence and the head of the NSA say in public testimony within the last month that they’ve received no direction from the White House to make election security a priority.”

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A woman approaches the Hoboken Terminal of the PATH train system as light snow falls Wednesday, March 21, 2018, in Hoboken, N.J.

Northeast braces for spring nor'easter's heavy snow, winds

BY KRISTEN DE GROOT AND
BRUCE SHIPKOWSKI
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The fourth nor'easter in three weeks pushed its way up the East Coast on Wednesday, the first full day of spring, with high winds and the potential for a foot or more of snow from West Virginia to New England. Airlines canceled thousands of flights, and school districts throughout the Northeast canceled classes ahead of the storm that's expected to intensify in the afternoon, with heavy, wet snow likely to knock out power across the region. Shore towns were warned that coastal flooding is possible. Snow started falling Tuesday night in West Virginia and Kentucky and continued through Wednesday morning, while mid-Atlantic states saw a wintry mix before the precipitation

was to change over to all snow. The National Weather Service said the storm was expected to kick into gear in the mid-Atlantic by late Wednesday morning, then head north to New York and New England. But forecasters noted the storm had sharp gradients that could cause several inches to fall in some spots, while nearby areas could see far less accumulation. Residents still frazzled from the last three recent storms said they were ready for this one, though many hoped it would be the last and give way to spring-like weather. "I didn't think I'd still need to keep storm stuff in my car in late March, but what are you going to do?" Wilson Collins said as he prepared to leave his Toms River, New Jersey, home on Wednesday morning, checking his trunk to make sure he had a shovel, a blanket and other emergency items. "I'm hoping most of the snow will accumulate just on

the grass, but the roads will be a mess no matter what. I just hope this is finally it." National Weather Service meteorologist Dan Peterson said the latest storm is tough to call. "It's definitely a tricky forecast," Petersen said. "We're still expecting heavy snows throughout the region, but there could be lower numbers in some coastal areas where warmer temperatures are causing rain or more of a wintry mix." Residents were urged to stay home and off the roads, if possible, so crews can try to keep streets clear. The flight-tracking site FlightAware reported more than 3,800 canceled flights across the U.S., most in the Northeast. On the ground, Amtrak scaled back service on the Northeast corridor between Washington and Boston, and some states banned certain types of trucks from major highways.

Tennis umpire accused of killing aims to clear name

BY BRIAN MELLEY
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Lois Goodman was walking out of a hotel on her way to judge a U.S. Open tennis match in New York in 2012 when police swept in to handcuff and arrest her in front of news cameras. The charge was murder and the victim was her husband of a half-century, Alan Goodman, who had been found dead in their Los Angeles home four months earlier. It would be another four months before Los Angeles prosecutors acknowledged that they didn't have a case and dropped the charges. Six years later, Lois Goodman is still fighting to reclaim the reputation that was tarnished by the legal ordeal. Goodman goes to federal court Wednesday for trial in her lawsuit claiming a doctor at the Los Angeles coroner's office deprived her civil rights by falsifying the autopsy report. She says Deputy Medical Examiner Yulai Wang didn't follow procedure when he changed the cause of death on Alan Goodman's death certificate from an accident to a homicide without explanation. Wang has denied the allegations. He still works for the county coroner, but spokesman Ed Winter declined to com-

ment on the lawsuit. Attorneys in the case are under a court order not to comment until a jury is seated. Wang's attorneys didn't return messages seeking comment. The change in cause of death led to a murder charge and the sensational arrest that included footage of Goodman being driven away in a New York City police squad car. Police said Goodman bludgeoned her husband with a coffee mug. Her lawyers said the 80-year-old, who was legally blind, tripped and fell down stairs at home while she was officiating a college tennis match and getting a manicure on April 17, 2012. She returned home that evening to find him dead in bed. A shattered coffee mug was found at the bottom of the stairs. The charges were dropped in December 2012 after Goodman passed a lie detector test and two other experts retained by prosecutors reviewed the autopsy report and concluded the death was an accident. Dr. Frank Sheridan, San Bernardino County chief medical examiner, said parts of Wang's autopsy report were extremely "below standard," according to court records. There were no blood spatters that would have been consistent with a beating, none of Lois Goodman's DNA

was on the mug and none of her husband's blood was found on the clothing she wore that day. Goodman wants to have the coroner change the cause of death on the death certificate to an accident. She also wants \$100,000 that she spent on lawyers, bail and other expenses as well as unspecified damages for the emotional toll of the arrest. Goodman, 76, originally sued the Los Angeles Police Department and the detectives who investigated the case, along with the coroner's office and Wang. A federal judge threw out that lawsuit, but the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reinstated the case against Wang. The appeals court ruled 2-1 to dismiss the case against the police because they relied on the conclusion of the coroner. A dissenting judge said the LAPD should have still faced the lawsuit. Goodman, who knew she was being investigated by police, had offered to surrender if they planned to charge her. She alleged that detectives misled a judge who signed her arrest warrant so they could detain her in New York in front of news cameras. Before a court order not to discuss the case, attorney Robert Sheahen said Goodman had been "railroaded."

US stocks inch up as investors wait for Fed news on rates

BY MARLEY JAY
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stocks are mostly higher Wednesday as investors wait for news on interest rates from the Federal Reserve. The Fed is widely expected to raise rates, and investors will be watching closely for clues about how many more increases the central bank may make this year and also for the Fed's assessment of how the economy is doing.

Energy companies are rising along with the price of oil and smaller, more U.S.-focused companies are climbing. Homebuilders are up following a report that sales increased in February. Cereal maker General Mills is sinking after it reported rising expenses and cut its profit forecast.

KEEPING SCORE: The S&P 500 index rose 6 points, or 0.3 percent, to 2,723 as of 11:44 a.m. Eastern time. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 55 points, or 0.2 percent, to 24,782. The Nasdaq composite added 12 points, or 0.2 percent, to 7,377. The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies gained 12 points, or 0.8 percent, to 1,583.

FED WATCH: Federal Reserve policymakers have begun a two-day policy meeting that is expected to result in the first of three interest rate hikes expected this year. One of the key debates on Wall Street is whether the Fed will wind up increasing rates four times instead of three. Investors will be watching for Powell's comments at a press conference Wednesday afternoon.

Bond prices were stable. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note was unchanged after it jumped to 2.90 percent Tuesday.

COMMODITIES: Benchmark U.S. crude rose \$1.28, or 2 percent, to \$64.82 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, used to price international oils, added \$1.58, or 2.3 percent, to \$69 a barrel in London.

Metals prices also increased. Gold rose 0.7 percent, to \$1,321.70 an ounce and silver jumped 23 cents, or 1.4 percent, to \$16.42 an ounce.

SWEET HOMES: Homebuilders rose after the National Association of Realtors said sales of already-built homes jumped in February. That came after declines in December and January, and shows many Americans are still looking to buy despite rising prices and a shrinking number of homes on the market.

TRI Pointe Group climbed 50 cents, or 3.1 percent, to \$16.88 and D.R. Horton added \$1.25, or 2.9 percent, to \$44.43.

SPILED MILK: General Mills, the maker of Cheerios cereal, Yoplait yogurt and other packaged foods, plunged after its third-quarter results were hurt by rising freight and commodity costs. The company also cut its annual profit outlook. The stock dropped \$4.65, or 9.3 percent, to \$45.28.

Other packaged food companies also fell hard. Kellogg sank \$2.45, or 3.7 percent, to \$63.87 and J.M. Smucker lost \$5.14, or 4.1 percent, to \$120.29.

RE-FRIENDED: After early losses, Facebook rose \$1.97, or 1.2 percent, to \$170.12. The stock fell a total of 9 percent Monday and Tuesday following reports a data mining firm working for President Donald Trump's campaign took data from the accounts of 50 million Facebook users without their permission. That led authorities in Britain and the U.S. to launch investigations into Facebook's handling of user data.

The stock is down 12 percent from the all-time high it set Feb. 1.

Other social media companies also regained a portion of their recent losses. Twitter rose \$1.62, or 5.2 percent, to \$32.97 and Snap gained 76 cents, or 4.8 percent, to \$16.76. Twitter fell 11 percent in the last two days. Snap dropped 10 percent in a four-day losing streak that began last week, when pop star Rihanna called on her fans to delete the Snapchat app after an ad for game that made jokes about her assault in 2009 by her then-boyfriend Chris Brown. Snap apologized for the ad.

DEAL OR NO DEAL? Customer-management software developer Salesforce agreed to buy software company MuleSoft for \$44.89 a share, or \$5.9 billion. MuleSoft had jumped 27 percent Tuesday on reports it was close to a deal and gained another \$2.32, or 5.5 percent, to \$44.32 Wednesday. Salesforce.com lost \$5.14, or 4.1 percent, to \$120.29.

Department store operator Nordstrom slipped \$1.09, or 2.2 percent, to \$48.26 after the company said it ended buyout talks with top executives and family members of the company's founder, saying it couldn't get the group to raise its price. Earlier this month it rejected an offer of \$50 a share.

Qualcomm slipped 45 cents to \$57.81 and NXP Semiconductors lost 68 cents to \$122.42 after Bloomberg News reported that regulators in China aren't willing to approve Qualcomm's purchase of NXP until Qualcomm agrees to more protections for local companies.

GROUNDING: Airlines skidded after Southwest said its revenue is suffering as it cuts fares to compete with other companies. Southwest also said the retirement of some Boeing 737-300 planes and the timing of spring break holidays is affecting its business.

Southwest dropped \$3.24, or 5.3 percent, to \$57.45 and American Airlines fell \$1.53, or 2.8 percent, to \$53.79. Delta slid 95 cents to \$55.55.

CURRENCIES: The dollar fell to 106.22 yen from 106.46 yen. The euro rose to \$1.2289 from \$1.2253.

OVERSEAS: Germany's DAX lost 0.3 percent and the CAC 40 in France declined 0.5 percent. Britain's FTSE 100 fell 0.5 percent.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index erased earlier gains to fall 0.4 percent and South Korea's Kospi finished little changed. Markets in Japan were closed for a holiday.



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Iraq holding more than 19,000 because of IS, militant ties

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq has detained or imprisoned at least 19,000 people accused of connections to the Islamic State group or other terror-related offenses, and sentenced more than 3,000 of them to death, according to an analysis by The Associated Press.

The mass incarceration and speed of guilty verdicts raise concerns over potential miscarriages of justice — and worries that jailed militants are recruiting within the general prison population to build new extremist networks.

The AP count is based partially on an analysis of a spreadsheet listing all 27,849 people imprisoned in Iraq as of late January, provided by an official who requested anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media. Thousands more also are believed to be held in detention by other bodies, including the Federal Police, military intelligence and Kurdish forces. Those exact figures could not be immediately obtained.

The AP determined that 8,861 of the prisoners listed in the spreadsheet were convicted of terrorism-related charges since the beginning of 2013 — arrests overwhelmingly likely to be linked to the Islamic State group, according to an intelligence figure in Baghdad.

In addition, another 11,000 people currently are being detained by the intelligence branch of the Interior Ministry, undergoing interrogation or awaiting trial, a second intelligence official said. Both intelligence officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief the press.

“There’s been great overcrowding ... Iraq needs a large number of investigators and judges to resolve this issue,” Fadhel al-Gharwari, a member of Iraq’s parliament-appointed human rights commission, told the AP.

Al-Gharwari said many legal proceedings have been delayed because the country lacks the resources to respond to the spike in incarcerations.

Large numbers of Iraqis were detained during the 2000s, when the U.S. and Iraqi governments were battling Sunni militants, including



In this Oct. 3, 2017 file photo, displaced men from Hawija stand facing a wall in order not to see security officers, who will try to determine if they were associated with the Islamic State group.

al-Qaida, and Shiite militias. In 2007, at the height of the fighting, the U.S. military held 25,000 detainees. The spreadsheet obtained by the AP showed that about 6,000 people arrested on terror charges before 2013 still are serving those sentences.

But the current wave of detentions has hit the Iraqi justice system much harder because past arrests were spread out over a much longer period and the largest numbers of detainees were held by the American military, with only a portion sent to Iraqi courts and the rest released.

Human Rights Watch warned in November that the broad use of terrorism laws meant those with minimal connections to the Islamic State group are caught up in prosecutions alongside those behind the worst abuses. The group estimated a similar number of detainees and prisoners — about 20,000 in all.

“Based on all my meetings with senior government officials, I get the sense that no one — perhaps not even the prime minister himself — knows the full number of detainees,” said Belkis Wille, the organization’s senior Iraq researcher.

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, who is running to retain his position in national elections slated for May, has repeatedly called for accelerated death sentences for those charged with terrorism.

The spreadsheet analyzed by the AP showed that 3,130 prisoners have been sentenced to death on terrorism charges since 2013.

Since 2014, about 250 executions of convicted IS members have been carried out, according to the Baghdad-based intelligence official. About 100 of those took place last year, a sign of the accelerating pace of hangings.

The United Nations has warned that fast-tracking executions puts innocent people at greater risk of being convicted and executed, “resulting in gross, irreversible miscarriages of justice.”

The rising number of those detained and imprisoned reflects the more than four-year fight against the Islamic State group, which first formed in 2013 and conquered nearly a third of Iraq and neighboring Syria the next year.

Iraqi and Kurdish forces, backed by a U.S.-led coalition, eventually rolled the group back on both sides of the border, regaining nearly all of the territory by the end of last year.

Throughout the fighting, Iraq has pushed thousands of IS suspects through trials in counterterrorism courts. Trials witnessed by the AP and human rights groups often took no longer than 30 minutes.

The vast majority were convicted under Iraq’s Terrorism Law, which has been criticized as overly broad.

Asked about the process, Saad al-

Hadithi, a government spokesman, said, “The government is intent that every criminal and terrorist receive just punishment.”

The largest concentration of those with IS-related convictions is in Nasiriyah Central Prison, about 200 miles (320 kilometers) southeast of Baghdad, a sprawling maximum-security complex housing more than 6,000 people accused of terrorism-related offenses.

Cells designed to hold two prisoners now hold six, according to a prison official who spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations. The official said overcrowding makes it difficult to segregate prisoners charged with terrorism and that an inadequate number of guards means IS members are openly promoting their ideology inside the prison.

Though prisoners at Nasiriyah were banned last year from giving sermons and recruiting fellow inmates, the official said he still witnesses prisoners circulating extremist religious teachings.

In wards holding mostly terror-related convicts, high-ranking IS members have banned prisoners from watching television. Many refuse to eat meat from the cafeteria, believing it hasn’t been prepared according to religious guidelines, the prison official said.

The relative free rein for extremists is reminiscent of Bucca Prison,

a now-closed facility that the U.S. military ran in southern Iraq in the 2000s.

The facility proved a petri dish where militant detainees mingled — including the man who now leads the Islamic State group, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, who spent nearly five years there, joining with other militants who became prominent in the group.

Iraqi officials say they have taken steps to prevent a repeat of the Bucca phenomenon.

“We will never allow Bucca to happen again,” said an Interior Ministry officer overseeing the detention of IS suspects in the Mosul area, also speaking on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

“The Americans freed their captives; under Iraq, they will all receive the death penalty,” he said.

Cellphone signal jammers are installed at prisons holding IS suspects. But in Nasiriyah, the prison official said inmates appear to remain in contact with the outside.

He recounted how just days after a guard disciplined a senior IS member in the prison, the man threatened the guard’s family, listing the names and ages of his children.

The imprisonments hit hard among Iraq’s Sunni Arab minority, threatening to worsen tensions with the Shiite-dominated government. The community was both the pool that IS drew recruits from and the population most brutally victimized by its rule.

Mass incarcerations under former Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki led to widespread resentment among Sunnis, helping fuel the growth of IS.

The head of the International Red Cross, an organization that regularly visits prison and detention facilities in Iraq, warned that mass detentions often incite future cycles of violence.

“It’s the tortures, the ill treatments, the continuous long-term bad conditions in detentions which have radicalized a lot of actors which we find again as armed actors on the battlefield,” ICRC President Peter Maurer said during a recent visit to Iraq.

Boko Haram returns Nigeria girls, warns not to put in school

BY HARUNA UMAR AND KRISTA LARSON
Associated Press

MAIDUGURI, Nigeria (AP) — Boko Haram Islamic extremists brought back nearly all of the 110 girls they had kidnapped from a boarding school last month, dropping them off in the middle of the night Wednesday with a warning: “Don’t ever put your daughters in school again.”

Several of the girls interviewed by The Associated Press said they had been traveling for days before the convoy of vehicles arrived in the center of the town of Dapchi around 2 a.m. Residents who had fled upon hearing that Boko Haram was headed their way watched from hiding as dozens of girls descended from the vehicles apparently unharmed.

“We were freed because we are Muslim girls and they didn’t want us to suffer. That is why they released us,” said Khadija Grema, one of the freed girls who said a Christian classmate remained captive.

The extraordinary development brought elation to most of the families, but more heartache for the relatives of the nine girls still unaccounted for. The sister of one of the girls still being held captive fainted Wednesday upon hearing news that she was not among those freed.

One 14-year-old released by the fighters told reporters that five girls had died. She did not provide other details and it was not immediately

possible to independently verify her claim.

The abductions in Dapchi have evoked painful memories of the tragedy in Chibok, where 276 girls were kidnapped from their boarding school. Nearly four years later, about 100 of them have never returned home. Many had been forced to marry their captors and had children fathered by them.

The Nigerian government denied that it had paid a ransom in exchange for the girls’ freedom. The girls were released “through back-channel efforts and with the help of some friends of the country, and it was unconditional,” Information Minister Lai Mohammed told journalists in the capital of Abuja.

“No money changed hands. They only had one condition — that they will return them to where they took them. So in the early hours of today, they did return the girls and most of them went to their parents,” he said.

The girls were meeting with counselors at a nearby hospital, and “will be quarantined and be counseled before they go back to their schools,” he added.

The fighters had rolled into Dapchi in nine vehicles and the girls were left in the center of town. As terrified residents emerged from their homes, the extremists issued an ominous warning, resident Ba’ana Musa told the AP.

“We did it out of pity. And don’t ever put your daughters in school again,” the residents said the extremists told them. Boko Haram means “Western education is for-

bidden” in the Hausa language.

Nigeria’s government said 101 of the 110 schoolgirls had been confirmed freed and that the number “would be updated after the remaining ones have been documented.”

The latest mass abduction is thought to have been carried out by a Boko Haram splinter group aligned with the Islamic State group that has criticized the leader of the main Boko Haram organization for targeting civilians and has focused instead on military and Western targets.

The release came a day after an Amnesty International report accused the Nigerian military of failing to heed several warnings of an imminent attack on Feb. 19 during which the girls were seized. The military has called the report an “outright falsehood.”

Wednesday’s miraculous development also brought renewed focus to the 100 Chibok girls still missing since April 2014. Coincidentally some of the Chibok families had already made plans to travel to Dapchi that day to lend their moral support before it was known that most of the girls had been released.

Some of the Chibok families instead joined in rejoicing with the Dapchi parents, said Lawan Zannah, secretary of the Chibok parents’ association.

“This development gives us light that ... we can take a message to our other colleagues at home that yes, what we have seen will give us hope that our own (girls) too will be released,” Zannah said.

China, Philippines discuss joint South China Sea projects

BY YANAN WANG
Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Philippine Foreign Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano hailed a “golden period” in ties with China on Wednesday despite differences over the South China Sea as the countries discussed how they might conduct joint development projects in the disputed waters.

Cayetano made the remarks in Beijing after meeting with his counterpart Wang Yi, who said the two countries will advance discussions on “offshore oil and gas exploration.”

“This way, the South China Sea disputes will no longer block the development of bilateral ties, but rather the South China Sea will be turned into a source of friendship and cooperation between our two countries,” Wang said.

China and the Philippines have long tussled over islands and reefs in the South China Sea and since taking office in 2013, Xi has taken a hard line on issues of Chinese sovereignty.

Kicking off his second five-year term on Tuesday, Xi declared in a fervently nationalistic address to the ceremonial legislature that China would never cede “one inch” of its territory.

China rejected an international tribunal’s 2016 ruling invalidating much of its claim to virtually the entire South China Sea in a case brought by the Philippines.

But Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has pushed for closer relations with Beijing, downplaying the dispute over territory claimed by both sides and courting Chinese aid and investment. For its part, China has eased pressure on Philippine fishermen and is working with the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to reach a code of conduct to avoid frictions while operating in the area where an estimated \$5 trillion in international trade passes annually.

Cayetano said Duterte will be attending the Boao regional economic forum on China’s Hainan island next month, adding that the Philippines looks forward to welcoming Xi for a state visit.

“Our relationship is in a golden period, and with very positive momentum, we are now ready to face more challenges together,” Cayetano said. He expressed confidence that China and the Philippines will find “a suitable legal framework” for their different viewpoints on the South China Sea.

Along with rich but diminishing fishing stocks, the South China Sea is believed to hold deposits of oil, gas and other resources.




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