

Women Today

Read stories in this special section that celebrate women today in Osceola County.

Page 11.



OSCEOLA NEWS-GAZETTE

Informing readers. Helping build a stronger community.

50 CENTS

WWW.AROUNDOSCEOLA.COM

Thursday, March 29, 2018

Serving Osceola County for 127 Years
TOP STORIES

THE GUIDE



LEGOLAND debuts first virtual reality roller coaster. **Page 7.**

SPORTS



Celebration 1 of state's best in boys volleyball. **Page 15.**

PHOTO GALLERY



Runaway County at OHP. **Page 24.**

WHERE TO FIND IT

- Viewpoint 4
- Daily Planner 10
- Classifieds 19
- Brainfood 23

COUPON SAVINGS INSIDE
See Page 8 for Hot Savings with cool coupons from the local businesses
SHOP LOCAL

LOG ON
Follow us at <https://www.facebook.com/osceolaneWSgazette>

FOLLOW
Follow us on Osceola News-Gazette@OsceolaNews

YouTube



Free Clinic of Florida opens 1st county site

By **Charlie Reed**
For the News-Gazette

Free Clinic of Florida will open its first center in Osceola County on Saturday.

The nonprofit will operate from the Marydia Community Center, 707 Sawdust Trail, Kissimmee, on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and serve uninsured and underinsured Osceola County residents. It hopes to serve between 15 and 20 patients each Saturday, whether they have an appointment or just walk in.

Founded by Polk County Dr. Wael Jamaledine, Free Clinic

of Florida provides preventive and acute care, chronic disease management and psychiatric and dental services to patients completely free of charge. Prescriptions will be free or cost no more than \$10 for a 90-day supply. A test panel – medical tests that aid in the diagnosis and treatment of disease – will cost no more than \$25.

The first clinic opened in Polk County several years ago and serves as a model for the Osceola clinic. The Osceola County Health Department and the Council on Aging also operate free health clinics.

See **Clinic**, Page 3.



PHOTO/OSCEOLA COUNTY

The Free Clinic of Florida will operate out of the Marydia Community Center.

AROUND TOWN

Happy 135th birthday Kissimmee!



NEWS-GAZETTE PHOTO/MARTIN MADDOCK

The city of Kissimmee celebrated its 135th birthday on Saturday bringing in a Monument of the States cake as part of the Kowtown celebration.

New obstacle course to open in St. Cloud

By **Rachel Christian**
Staff Writer

A new obstacle course aimed at keeping teens healthy and active is set to open in St. Cloud next week.

Known as the FitCore Extreme Outdoor Challenge, the recreational area is meant to serve as an alternative to traditional playgrounds.

"We wanted something that older kids, teenagers and even adults could enjoy," said St. Cloud Parks and Recreation Director Stephanie Holtkamp. "That 13-and-up demographic can be hard to reach because they're too old for traditional playgrounds, but we want to encourage them to remain physically active and get outside."

A ribbon cutting for the new obstacle course will be held at 5 p.m. Tuesday in Godwin Park, 317 Delaware Ave. in St. Cloud.

After it opens, the obstacle course will be available to the public from sunrise to sunset.

See **Course**, Page 5.



PHOTO/CITY OF ST. CLOUD

The FitCore Extreme Outdoor Challenge will open in St. Cloud Tuesday.

Family-owned U-pick blueberry farm opens in Osceola County



NEWS-GAZETTE PHOTO/MARTIN MADDOCK

Dozens of people came out to the Double C Bar ranch in Keanansville on Saturday morning to pick blueberries.

By **Rachel Christian**
Staff Writer

You have to drive about 15 miles from the nearest spotlight before you reach Double C Bar Ranch in southern Osceola County.

Denton Chapman, whose family owns the 20-acre farm in Keanansville, said he didn't know if people from Kissimmee would be willing to make the 40-minute ride to pick fruit.

"I didn't know if anyone would come see us," Chapman said in reference to the U-Pick blueberry field, which opened to the public three weeks ago, "But word seems to be getting around."

Growing the family business

The sky and land came together along a blue-green horizon line beyond the rows of fresh berries Saturday afternoon. Residents of all ages picked their way through the fields with white plastic buckets

that only grew fuller as the sun rose high overhead.

Denton, 36, and his younger brother, Clifton, 31, looked out at the scene proudly as they spoke about their family's farm and legacy in Osceola County.

"We've been doing this for quite a while," said Denton, who focuses on managing the blueberry farm. "It just keeps passing down from generation to generation. We try to improve it all along the way."

The Chapmans are best known for their cattle and ranches, which have been a part of the Osceola County agriculture community since 1935. But the family has also raised a variety of crops over the years. Most recently, they maintained citrus groves, but the destructive citrus greening disease killed the operation a few years ago.

Diversification has become a sticking point in the farming industry, where

See **Blueberries**, Page 5.

NEXT WEEKEND!

THE ORIGINAL KISSIMMEE THRILL RIDE!



APRIL 5-8, 2018
at Osceola Heritage Park
1875 Silver Spur Lane, Kissimmee, FL 34744



5 PERFORMANCES

**THURSDAY,
APRIL 5TH**
10:45 A.M.
RODEO
PREVIEW DAY

**FRIDAY,
APRIL 6TH**
7:30 P.M.
WRANGLER NATIONAL
PATRIOT NIGHT

**SATURDAY,
APRIL 7TH**
1:30 P.M.
FAMILY DAY

**SATURDAY,
APRIL 7TH**
7:30 P.M.
TOUGH ENOUGH TO
WEAR PINK NIGHT

**SUNDAY,
APRIL 8TH**
2:30 P.M.
SHOWDOWN
SUNDAY

Before and after the Rodeo, enjoy the
**TAILGATE
EXPERIENCE**



BIG MACHINE RECORDS RECORDING
ARTIST & AMERICAN IDOL WINNER
TRENT HARMON

LIVE ON SATURDAY NIGHT AT 9:30 P.M.!

THANKS TO **K92.3**
ORLANDO'S #1 FOR NEW COUNTRY

Visit **WWW.RNCFR.COM**
for a full schedule and hotel information.

Follow us!



SPONSORED BY:



RAM

EXPERIENCE
Kissimmee
FLORIDA

QUINN
COMMERCIAL

WILD
FLORIDA



FLORIDA
RESTAURANT &
LODGING
ASSOCIATION

BOOT BARN

PENDLETON
WHISKY



BR BELL
ROPER
LAW

CITY OF
KISSIMMEE
1883



LYNCH OIL

FLAMINGO
-WATERPARK RESORT-

KUA
KISSIMMEE
UTILITY
AUTHORITY

Tupperware
Brands

OSCEOLA
NEWS-GAZETTE

K92.3
ORLANDO'S #1 FOR NEW COUNTRY

UNIVISION
ORLANDO

VALENCIA
COLLEGE

SARATOGA
RESORT VILLAGES

OSCEOLA
REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

GLASSTONE

SATISFACTION
ORLANDO
RESORT

THE LAND SPECIALISTS
**CROSBY &
ASSOCIATES, INC.**
AGRICULTURAL & COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

library
systems
& services

P & B
POULOS & BENNETT



Wrangler
NETWORK

WFTV 9 abc

Spectrum

ST. CLOUD
PREPARATORY ACADEMY
ENTER TO LEARN - PREPARE TO LEAD

Tax collector seeking more space for Poinciana office

By Rachel Christian
Staff Writer

The Osceola County Tax Collector's Office is keeping busy this tax season – very busy.

Last month, 28,140 people visited the department's central office and three satellite branches. The number was even higher in January, with 31,610 visitors.

County Tax Collector Bruce Vickers said staff is working hard to keep wait times to a minimum, but needs a bigger facility in Poinciana to keep up with demand.

"The increase in our daily traffic since around the middle of last year has just been unbelievable," said Vickers, who has worked

with the Tax Collector's Office for 16 years. "We're hoping a larger facility in Poinciana will help offset the amount of people coming into the main office."

The Poinciana branch on Pleasant Hill Road is notoriously cramped, crowded and known for long lines that spill outside the building on hectic days. At about 2,300 square feet, it is Osceola County's smallest tax collector's office, yet it is intended to serve the largest geographic area in a rapidly growing part of the county.

It is also the most outdated facility. While the central office, Buenaventura Lakes branch and St. Cloud locations are equipped with new efficient

electronic queue systems, the Poinciana facility still operates on an old fashioned meat market style ticket system where residents must wait until an employee calls their number. Sometimes people take more than one ticket, or lose the one they have, Vickers said.

Residents in Osceola's west side communities, such as Celebration, Reunion and ChampionsGate, continue to visit the main office to avoid hassles at the Poinciana branch.

"It gets more complaints than any other office," Vickers said. "It's our smallest location, but

it is serving the biggest area. There's no way it can physically handle the amount of people it's supposed to."

From tag renewals to hunting and licenses to concealed carry permits, the Tax Collector's Office offers numerous services that keep its locations busy all year long. A growing population in Osceola County means a higher demand for all services, Vickers said.

"We have amazing, hard working staff and an all-hands-on-deck mentality when volumes are high," he said. "We're making it work, but it can be tough."

To read the entire story, go to www.aroundosceola.com.

CLINIC

Continued from Page 1

"We are here to serve our neighbors. We will be there for everybody," said Jamaledine, a family practice physician and the organization's medical director. "This is going to be the first of many clinics to open up."

For now, most of the doctors participating in Free Clinic of Florida are from the Association of Physicians of Pakistani Descent of North America, or APPNA, one of the largest medical associations in the U.S. Local physicians from APPNA have

been treating people from low-income communities in Osceola County and Central Florida for years.

Jamaledine said the goal is to get more doctors from Osceola to participate in the program.

"I would like to see every single doctor in Osceola County adopt one patient," he said.

Specialists also are coming on board and will see the patients both at the clinic and in their private offices.

"If a doctor sees 100 patients, hopefully, he will

agree to see 101," he said.

Jamaledine will soon meet with local hospital executives to ask if their facilities will take patients who require more than the clinic can provide.

"We want to keep it simple and inexpensive as possible. If more physicians and hospitals participate the burden on everyone will be reduced" he said.

Osceola County is providing the space at the community center for free, and officials hope to eventually get at least

one clinic in each district. The effort was led by Commissioner Cheryl Grieb.

"I'd like to see the hospitals get on board because it will free up the ER with people they know can't pay anyway," she said.

At a recent ribbon-cutting ceremony, U.S. Rep. Darren Soto, D-Kissimmee, praised the clinic and said it will help the "overwhelming need in Osceola County."

Soto offered his support should the clinic seek designation for federal funding.



Time to check your A/C!!

\$39⁹⁵ with ad

Summer will be here before you know it!

Prevent problems now! No cash value. Does not include Freon (if needed). Taxes extra. See Quick Lane® service advisor for details. Expires 4/30/18.



407-851-3800 **Fast Quick Lane® Service**
tropicalford.com
 9900 S. Orange Blossom Trail

Quick Lane® Hours:
 Mon-Fri: 7:00AM - 7:00PM
 Sat: 7:00AM - 5:00PM
 Closed Sundays

NEWS NOW
 Your Hometown news email update

OSCEOLA NEWS-GAZETTE
www.aroundosceola.com

Choose expert cancer care close to home.

Choose Orlando Health.

Expanded cancer care services are now available at the new Dr. Phillips Regional Care Center, an extension of Orlando Health UF Health Cancer Center. Located at 7472 Docs Grove Circle, the new cancer center is next to Orlando Health Dr. P. Phillips Hospital.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 407.241.1037.

Central Florida's Only Cancer Center of Excellence



7472 Docs Grove Circle, Orlando, Florida 32819

ORLANDO HEALTH | **UFHealth CANCER CENTER**

OrlandoHealthCancer.com

03/29/18, TNG

VIEWPOINT

OSCEOLA NEWS-GAZETTE

Year 127- No. 25

Editor

BRIAN McBRIDE

Sports Editor

KEN JACKSON

A & E Editor

JENNIFER DIDOMENICO

Production Manager

ANGELIQUE PRIORE

Circulation Manager

KATHY BECKHAM

Chief Photographer

MARTIN MADDOCK

(USPS Number 513540)

(ISSN 1060-1244) Published each Thursday and Saturday for \$52 per year by Sun Publications of Florida. All rights reserved. Periodicals postage paid at Kissimmee, FL

Postmaster: Send address changes to:
Osceola News-Gazette
108 Church St., Kissimmee, FL 34741

The Osceola News-Gazette is published by Sun Publications of Florida, a division of Lakeway Publishers of Florida, Inc. Phone 407-846-7600. Fax 407-846-8516. Email at news@osceolanewsgazette.com. The Osceola News-Gazette is available online at: www.aroundosceola.com.

Sun Publications of Florida cannot be held responsible for advertising claims. We reserve the right to refuse or discontinue any advertising, and to edit editorial content. All materials in these publications are copyrighted. Publisher will not be liable for any errors in advertising to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the error, and accepts responsibility only for an error in the first week's issue.



GUEST COLUMN

Tariffs will severely hurt newspapers

By Susan Rowell

There are two things you need to know about newspapers.

Newspapers are important to community life and democracy. Always have been. We at the National Newspaper Association think it is important for all sorts of newspapers to survive for the sake of a free society – the very large and the very small ones, the liberal ones, the conservative ones, the middle-of-the-road ones. The ones with no viewpoint but just important news, all of them. Some are our members. Many are not. We defend them anyway. America needs them like we need oxygen.

The second is that even if your newspaper seems to be “online,” the digital copy that you may count on probably couldn't exist if there weren't a printed newspaper behind it. The newspaper in print supports all of the other versions economically. So, if the printed version disappeared, you can't assume all would be well because it is online anyway. It won't be.

These facts are important because the paper your newspaper is printed on is under attack.

One small paper mill in Washington State is trying to use the federal trade and tariff laws to make this paper—newsprint, or uncoated groundwood paper, in paper parlance about 50 percent more

expensive. This mill has complained to the U.S. Department of Commerce and International Trade Commission about international competition. If it succeeds, the prices of newspaper printing will skyrocket. The resources available for everything else your local newspaper may need or want to do for you will be strangled.

Canadian paper producers have supplied the U.S. for many years. They have some natural advantages over U.S. papermakers because of hydroelectric power and shipping costs. More than a dozen U.S. mills have stopped making newsprint in the last decade because demand for paper has declined. Today, even if Canadian paper disappeared because of high tariffs being proposed to the federal government, the U.S. paper mills could not supply newspapers with the paper they need. Mills cost hundreds of millions of dollars to build and can take many years to be safely situated in compliance with environmental rules. With demand falling, no one is going to invest in a massive expansion of U.S. newsprint. Over the short term, tariffs could force the price of paper up and the New York investors who own the Washington State mill could gain.

But our country will lose. Fragile newspapers will vanish, dial longed newspapers will have to cut back. Even healthy newspapers are going to have to find ways to absorb a



daunting new cost. And who will pay? Everyone who relies on a newspaper to tell the local stories, cover elections, advertise sales, get pictures of the winning touchdown, and cheer the economic development people on in their work of creating new jobs.

That worries me. If it worries you, pay a visit www.stopnewsprinttariffs.org and be informed.

Susan Rowell is the president of the National Newspaper Association.

24/7 WWW.AROUNDOsceOLA.COM

TOLL DISCOUNTS ONLY WITH E-PASS

Get a **FREE E-PASS** and save an average of 23% on tolls. Plus, save even more with exclusive customer loyalty discounts and no monthly account fees. E-PASS works on all toll roads in FL, GA, and NC – even use it to pay for parking at the Orlando International Airport. Start saving today! Go to GetEpass.com or call (407) 823-7277.



Imagine what you could do with more time and money

Area teen arrested for threatening to kill student

By Brian McBride
Editor

A 13-year-old Kissimmee youth was arrested and charged with aggravated stalking after he threatened to kill another student, authorities said.

On Saturday, Polk County Sheriff's Office deputies took 13-year-old Cesar Lopez of Kissimmee into custody under the Baker Act. Deputies charged him with aggravated stalking after he threatened to kill another Polk County teen, who attends Westside K-8 School in Osceola County, according to a Polk Sheriff's Office report.

Lopez also made statements, such as "he wanted to die and see

God", "he wanted to shoot up Westside K-8 School because he wanted to be the next school shooter", and "he wanted to kill a lot of kids," according to the report.

He also stated that he wanted to kill different kids because they "snitched" on him and got him expelled from Westside K-8.

He had previously been expelled, taken into custody under the Baker Act, and charged with threatening a kid from Westside K-8 School because a kid "tried him," the report stated.

Deputies also said the teen buried a handgun in his neighbor's backyard because he didn't want his mother to know he had one, but no gun was found.

"This teen is clearly in trouble. He's had an affidavit filed in Osceola County for threatening to kill students, and he's been Baker Acted by both OSCO (Osceola County Sheriff's Office) and PCSO (Polk County Sheriff's Office), said Polk Sheriff Grady Judd. "We hope he receives the treatment he needs to deal with his desires to hurt himself and others, but we have also placed him under arrest for felony aggravated stalking. We cannot allow anyone of any age to get away with criminal threats to kill, especially when they are aimed towards schoolchildren."

The investigation began early on Saturday, when

Lopez was found passed out drunk on the sidewalk in Davenport, the report stated. Polk Fire Rescue transported him to Heart of Florida Hospital, and deputies responded there to interview him. He told deputies he drank an entire bottle of liquor from his parents' liquor cabinet and took a bunch of "happy pills."

During a search of Lopez's Playstation, detectives found images of the Parkland shooter and a picture of the Columbine High School shooting.

During the investigation and interviews with other teens, detectives learned Lopez threatened to bring a knife to school and kill a Polk County teen.

BLUEBERRIES

Continued from Page 1

crop diseases and shifting economic markets can have a devastating impact on families that produce a single product.

"It's tough to make it on just one crop alone. If you have a bad year, you make nothing, you lose money," Denton said. "You try to have a balance, like a stock portfolio."

Branching out to blueberries

The Chapmans chose to plant blueberries next, which can grow well in Central Florida's soil if it's supplemented with pine bark. The bushes were planted last year over a 20-acre piece of property at 2400 Old Canoe Creek Road, just south of the family's sod operations.

The farm is high-tech and equipped with a Wi-Fi hotspot near the well that sends current temperature and rainfall information directly to Denton's cellphone. The farmer can also control the fertilizer and irrigation levels through the same app.

Another unique feature of the farm is that it's powered almost entirely by solar energy.

"We are totally off the grid here," Denton said. "We use diesel fuel to operate the well pump, and other than that, everything

comes from solar panel energy."

The farm was purely commercial last year, with 35,000 pounds of berries harvested at the end of its debut season.

The farm suffered a slight delay to this year's crop thanks to a harsh freeze in early January. The crops are on track now, and Denton said he expects the picking season to extend into early May. He hopes to boost production to 100,000 pounds this season.

Central Florida blueberries are the first in the United States to ripen each season. It gives the farm an advantage in the domestic market for about a month, after which, competition from Northern Florida and Georgia drive prices down.

Opening the farm up to U-Pick on Saturdays helps supplement the farm during that time.

A "back to nature experience"

Denton and Clifton said they wanted to create a peaceful retreat for those who make the trek to the farm.

Fresh beef burgers from cattle raised on Chapman ranches are available for lunch. Parents can rest under the spacious pavilion nearby while keeping an eye

on kids in the outdoor play area. A small storefront on the property serves as the farm's gift shop and weigh station, where visitors can purchase freshly bottled blueberry jam and weigh out the fruits of their labor.

"We kind of wanted it to be an experience," Clifton said. "We have a kids area, picnic tables, drinks and everything. So it's not just pick and leave, you can hang out a while and get something to eat."

Amber Brown pushed her 1-year-old son, Luke, in his stroller along an earthen trail flanked by 4-foot tall blueberry bushes. Brown's mother, Greta Mitchell, walked beside her, a plastic bucket resting on her arm. The two women, both teachers from Orange County, chatted and laughed as they deftly picked ripe berries from the young plants.

"I plan on telling my students on Monday about this when we all discuss what we did over spring break," Brown said. "I think it's a great experience for kids to get outside and really see where their food is coming from."

The mother and daughter said the countryside solitude of Double C Bar Ranch's blueberry farm was



NEWS-GAZETTE PHOTO/MARTIN MADDOCK

Twelve year old Arabella Kook from St. Cloud plans to make pies with the blueberries she picked at the Double C Bar Ranch on Saturday morning with her family.

well worth the drive from Orlando. They learned about the U-Pick field from the blueberry farm's Facebook page.

Mitchell and Brown were just two of the dozens of visitors to the farm Saturday afternoon, a mild Florida spring day ripe for the picking.

"It's a great return-to-nature experience," Mitchell said. "You don't get anything like this in the city."

COURSE

Continued from Page 1

The popularity of TV shows like American Ninja Warrior and physical strength programs like Crossfit served as inspiration for the nine-unit obstacle course. Some highlights include a quadruple step challenge that includes four rotating platforms

set at 45-degree angles, an overhead peg ladder and a net climbing challenge.

The course is meant to be fun, but still physically demanding.

"It's tough for sure," Holtkamp said. "It's not meant to be easy."

The obstacle course

occupies a 118-by-38 foot section of Godwin Park. The City Council approved funding for it in August 2016, but the project was delayed after funding was diverted to pay for roof damage at the Civic Center.

Funds were re-appropriated last year. The

entire course was assembled in about two weeks earlier this month.

"Since it is just a few structures, it went up much more quickly than a more traditional playground where you have to contend with large pieces of equipment like slides," Holtkamp said.

Osceola Window & Door
Since 1988
Celebrating our 29th year in business

We offer hurricane protection made easy with storm panels and impact windows. We sell and install windows and doors for all your residential and commercial needs.

**Residential & Commercial Glass | Window Screens
Vinyl Window Repair | Table Tops | Mirrors
Window Repair & Balancer's | Shower Enclosures
Sliding Glass Doors & Door Repair**

1424 Hamlin Avenue, Unit C | St. Cloud, FL 34771
407-957-5959

FREE ESTIMATES!

Osceola 2010 BUSINESS Awards
of the year

Winner New Business of The Year

FREE Tire Rotation w/oil change purchase and this coupon
Coupon expires 3/31/18

407-201-3928

AUTOMOTIVE REPAIRS Complete Repair & Service
Foreign & Domestic Cars & Light Trucks

"Dealership Quality Repairs At A Budget Friendly Price"
M-F: 8am-5pm • Weekends by appt

2239 W. Clay St., Kissimmee, FL 34741
CandDautorepairs.com

Master Certified Technician ASE

TROPICAL FORD
has your New F-250!

Photos for Illustration Purposes Only

BUILT Ford TOUGH

New 2017 FORD F-250 SUPER DUTY DIESEL

\$51,497
STARTING AT

407-851-3800
tropicalford.com
9900 S. Orange Blossom Trail

Monday - Saturday 8:30am-9:00pm
Sunday 11:00am-6:00pm

Like us on facebook

VEHICLE MUST BE FINANCED WITH FORD MOTOR CREDIT TO QUALIFY FOR ALL INCENTIVES & REBATES. WITH APPROVED CREDIT. SEE DEALER FOR DETAILS. PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE TAX, TAG & DEALER FEE.

In Beautiful South Orlando!

PERSONAL INJURY · WRONGFUL DEATH

LYONS & LENOIR

OFFICES
KISSIMMEE & ORLANDO

844-LAW-LYON · LEGAL LYONS.COM

SIMPLE APPROVAL FAST & EASY

S.A.F.E.

Simple Approvals that are Fast and Easy
Frequently Asked Questions



- 1. What is the S.A.F.E. Program?**
Tropical Ford's Exclusive Credit Rebuilding Program that offers guaranteed Auto Approvals that are Fast and Easy
- 2. How does the S.A.F.E. Program work?**
Simple - Just fill out the S.A.F.E. Application and be ready to drive a vehicle home.
- 3. What about my Credit Score?**
The S.A.F.E. Program will work for everyone, regardless of your Credit Score.
- 4. Do I need a down payment?**
Yes, a down payment is required for the S.A.F.E. Program.
- 5. How long do I have to be on my present job?**
There is no minimum job time for the S.A.F.E. Program.
- 6. What type of income is required?**
Any type of Verifiable Income is acceptable for the S.A.F.E. Program and there is no minimum income requirement.
- 7. How long does the process take?**
S.A.F.E. approvals usually take less than 10- minutes and you can take your new car home in less than an hour.
- 8. What documents do I need to bring with me?**
 - 1) A Valid Driver's License
 - 2) Most recent Pay Stup, Award Letter, or 3 Consecutive Bank Statements - Self Employed is OK
 - 3) A copy of your Lease or Utility Bill
 - 4) Name, Address, and Phone of 5 Friends or Relatives

Come in and let us get you into a vehicle today!

2013 FORD FOCUS TITANIUM



\$14,497

STOCK#C8417
LEATHER/LOADED, 7,000 MILES

2016 KIA FORTE



\$10,497

STOCK #HT374A1
1 OWNER, 37,000 MILES

2016 HYUNDAI SONATA



\$14,497

STOCK#C8436
33,000 MILES

2015 FORD FUSION SE



\$8,497

STOCK #C8435
PRICED TO MOVE!

VISIT TROPICALFORD.COM FOR MORE VEHICLES OR CALL US AT 407-851-3800

**WHEN OTHERS SAY NO,
TROPICAL FORD SAYS YES!**

AS SEEN ON TV



COME IN AND ASK FOR JONATHAN OR JOSE

OSCEOLA COUNTY HISTORY

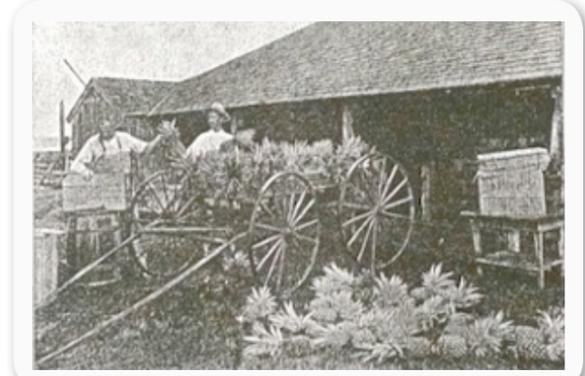
Thank you to our friends at the Osceola County Historical Society for providing the editorial content and photos to bring this section to you.

Narcoossee Shaker Colony

The Shakers, a short name taken by the United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing, trace their beliefs to the early traditions of the church and more particularly to a 17th century group of French Protestants known as Camisards or Prophets. They were driven from France to England and disappeared from view but did pass on their beliefs to a group of Quakers who were attracted by the similar faith.

In 1758, Ann Lee joined the group, sometimes referred to as the Shaking Quakers. After a period of persecution she decided to lead a group to America and develop a proper society. In 1774, she led a group of 8 persons who settled at present day Watervliet, New York. Mother Ann, as she was called, looked about and saw much trouble resulting from greed. The elimination of greed by communal ownership of all property of the group was her first principle. Sex seemed to her to be the mainspring of many evils; her second principle was to sublimate and overcome it by celibacy. The third was humility, the practice of which was to avoid the damaging consequences of personal pride. In spite of persecution, the group grew and in time had seventeen well organized communities in Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky, with eventually two communities being established in the deep South, one in White Oak, Georgia, the other near Ashton, Osceola Co., Florida.

In 1894, a small delegation came from the Watervliet Community and found temporary quarters near Narcoossee. In November of 1896 a tract of land was purchased from the Disston Land Company - 7,046 35/100 acres was bought for \$94,500 by Elder Isaac Anstaat.



Bringing in pineapples.



Banana grove.

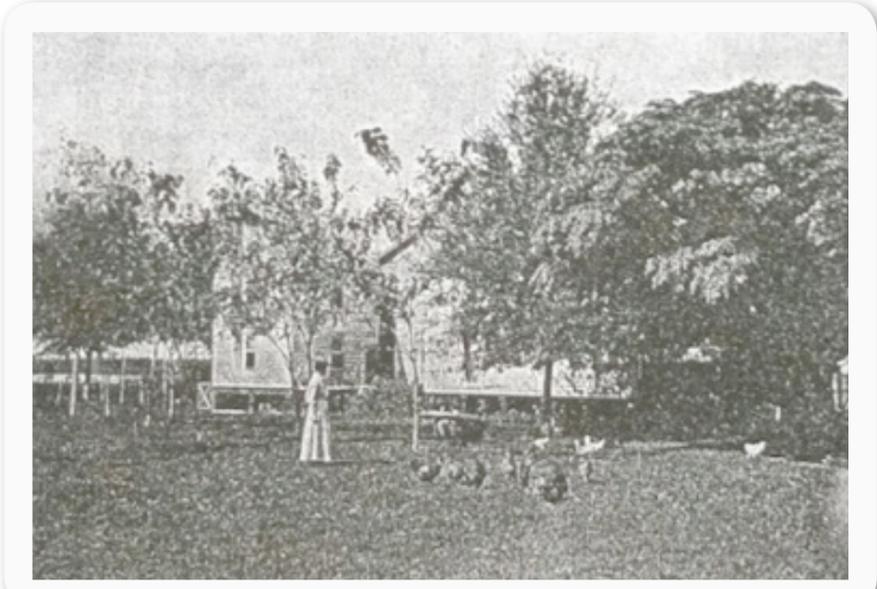
The property was twelve miles from Kissimmee and included a number of lakes. Two cottages were built, one for men, one for women on the south side of 192 just east of Ashton. Covered with heavy vegetation, extensive clearing was required. With only a small number of persons in the colony, only a small portion of the land was put into cultivation. The colony became known as the Olive Branch Colony and grew to over a dozen, one member being Elizabeth A. Sears.

Honest work was a traditional feature of the Shaker religion; emphasis was placed on fruit culture and some commercial fishing. They later turned to cattle and timber. The Olive Branch Colony was most famous for their pineapples, which were the first principal commercial crop. The pineapples were grown under sheds with slat roofs to cut down on the harsh sun and by 1901 they were sending plants to

Cuba. In August 1906, they were selling from 300 - 400 pineapples in Kissimmee each week.

They also began cultivating bananas but a freeze in the winters of 1909/1910 hindered production. Between 1915 and 1924, the bananas had recovered and were spread over twenty acres. Additional crops grown and sold locally were oranges, peaches, watermelons, strawberries, blackberries, mulberries, onions, potatoes, corn and numerous vegetables. The early St. Cloud Tribune newspapers were filled with articles on how to grow many unique fruits, such as cassava and figs along with the many vegetables that could be grown in this climate. They grew sugar cane and produced syrup; they also made butter and cheese and kept bees, producing orange blossom honey.

Sources: "Kissimmee Valley Gazette", "Florida Historical Quarterly"



A typical Florida home on the grounds of a typical Shaker colony.

THE GUIDE

CONTACT

JENNIFER DIDOMENICO
OSCEOLA NEWS-GAZETTE A&E EDITOR

EMAIL JDIDOMENICO@OSCEOLANEWSGAZETTE.COM

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT AROUND OSCEOLA COUNTY & CENTRAL FLORIDA

SPOTLIGHT WEEKLY PICKS

SATURDAY, APRIL 7



HOUDINI'S HIDDEN THEATER, welcomes guests for a unique magic experience. With only 35 seats, the audience will have a close-up encounter with classic and modern magic. The show is located in a secret room inside of the Mandolin's restaurant at The Grand Orlando Resort. Call 863-307-9400.



THRIFT SHOP PUB CRAWL, will take place in Downtown Orlando. Awards will be given to the best thrift shop outfits. Tickets are available on Eventbrite for \$30-\$35 and include entry to and one drink at four bars. Proceeds will benefit Orlando Firefighters Benevolent Fund.

THURSDAY, APRIL 12



THE REVIVALISTS, will take the stage at House of Blues Orlando. The show starts at 9 p.m., doors will open at 8 p.m. For tickets and more info, visit www.houseofblues.com/orlando.

TUESDAY, APRIL 24



OIL PAINTING DEMONSTRATION WITH STEVE ANDREWS, in the courtyard at the Orange County Administration building. Free to public, begins at 6 p.m.

ONLINE
Visit www.aroundosceola.com for the latest news.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LEGOLAND FLORIDA RESORT

Grab your race gear

LEGOLAND debuts first virtual reality roller coaster

By Jennifer DiDomenico
A&E Editor

Guests were finally able to put the pedal to the plastic last week, after months of anticipation of LEGOLAND Florida Resort's newest attraction: The Great LEGO Race.

The park's first-ever virtual reality roller coaster was developed under the supervision of Merlin Magic Making — the company's global creative and delivery division — to combine roller coaster thrills with virtual reality technology, bringing LEGO brand minifigures to life for an unforgettable experience.

"The Great LEGO Race was inspired by the way kids play with LEGO toys at home," said Candy Holland, senior creative director for Merlin Magic Making, which designs and develops attractions for Merlin Entertainment sites around the world. "It's a unique LEGO adventure that lets kids enter an epic imaginary world made entirely from LEGO bricks, featuring a host of different themes and fun LEGO characters, all mixed up together."

The adventure begins right at the front of the attraction. The ride's bold entry portal features giant versions of several minifigure racers and their custom LEGO vehicles. The waiting queue is filled with colorful graphics representing the five racing teams, getting riders excited as they anxiously await their turn. Video screens also demonstrate the virtual reality experience.

The LEGO competitors in this race are the pirate, wizard, surfer, trendsetter and pharaoh. Each digital competitor drives a brick-built vehicle, like a rocket-powered windsurfing rig, a stylish scooter fueled by espresso and an ornately canopied bed carried by mummy servants.

While the virtual reality headsets are optional, they are perfectly in sync with each twist and turn of the ride. The exterior of the headset features a set of LEGO eyes, turning riders into LEGO characters themselves.

Standing at the exit of the LEGO Technic area ride on opening day, you could hear kids exclaiming about their awesome experience. "That was the coolest ride ever!" said a nine-year-old rider. "It was crazy!"

But the 35-mile-per-hour coaster built for kids even had adults raving on opening day.

"It was great. It was unlike any ride I've ever been on," said Clark Spurlock, one of the first riders of The Great LEGO Race. "The virtual reality headset feels really comfortable. You actually do feel like you're in this LEGO world when you're on the ride. The whole time you're feeling the motions."

Guests will soon be able to exit the ride and take a walk over to the new Funnel Cake Factory, also located in the theme park's LEGO Technic area. The highly themed pit stop will offer freshly made-to-go order funnel cakes with toppings like fresh fruit, powdered sugar and soft-serve ice cream.

In other LEGOLAND Florida Resort news, LEGOLAND Water Park kicked off its longest season ever earlier this month. This

season is offering the park's biggest number of operating dates since its opening in 2012.

Adults and kids can make a splash racing down a pair of enclosed slides, floating through the Build-A-Raft River, under the 300-gallon water bucket or in the LEGO-themed pool made for all ages.

MORE FROM LEGOLAND.COM:

LEGOLAND Florida Resort features more than 50 rides, shows and attractions inspired by popular LEGO and DUPLO® brands, including awesome experiences based on "The LEGO Movie™," "LEGO NINJAGO™: Masters of Spinjitzu," LEGO NEXO KNIGHTS™, LEGO City, LEGO Technic and LEGO Friends, plus LEGOLAND Water Park and on-site accommodations at the 152-room LEGOLAND Hotel and the 166-room LEGOLAND Beach Retreat.

Throughout the year, guests can enjoy an incredible lineup of special events included with all forms of theme park admission. This year's lineup features LEGO® Star Wars™ Days (May 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20), Firefighter Friday (Oct. 5), Brick or Treat (select dates in October), KIDZ BOP Weekend (Nov. 10-12), Christmas Bricktacular (select dates in December) and Kids' New Year's Party (select dates in late December).

For more information about visiting LEGOLAND Florida Resort, including multi-day vacation packages, savings on advance purchase of admission tickets, "edu-taining" field trip programs, services for guests with disabilities, VIP experiences, military discounts and much more, visit www.LEGOLAND.com/florida.



On Stage
March 23 – 31

William Shakespeare's
OTHELLO

BUY TICKETS AT OSCEOLAARTS.ORG



osceola arts

2411 IRLO BRONSON MEMORIAL HWY
KISIMMEE, FL 34744
407-846-6257

03218.TMG

Hot Savings with Cool Coupons

from the local businesses

We make keys
Handyman Hardware and Supply
"We Make Hardware Easy"
Mon-Fri, 7:30-6:00
Sat, 8:00-5:30 • Sun, 10:00-5:00
407-892-7700
Shop Online at:
www.Handyman.doitBest.com
1410 TENTH ST., ST. CLOUD, FL
Drop off a non perishable food item
for: **A PLACE FOR GRACE MINISTRIES**
and receive a **FREE KEY**
valued up to \$1.99

Come join us for March Madness Beer Specials
Established Since 1978
407-847-3441
1205 W. Oak St. Kissimmee
(Corner of Oak & John Young)
www.pgswings.com

CATFISH DINNER
W/FRIES & COLE SLAW
2 for \$14.99
WITH PURCHASE OF 2 BEVERAGES
Coupon is required. Not to be combined with any other offers. One coupon per person per visit. Expires 3/31/18.

BUCKET OF BEER
4 for \$10
With This Coupon. Expires 3/31/18. Not valid w/any other offer.

6 Years in a Row
Wing Alley
2015 BEST OF OSCEOLA
Call now to order your party trays
407-348-9464
WING
2215 E. Irlo Bronson Mem. Hwy • Kissimmee

5 FREE WINGS WITH PURCHASE OF 10 WINGS OR MORE
Not valid with other offers. Expires 3/31/18

4 \$10.00 Domestic Long Neck Beer

ABUELO'S Try The Newest Creations FROM CHEF LUIS
THE FLAVOR OF MEXICO
KISSIMMEE
2431 W. OSCEOLA PKY.
407-870-0901
WWW.ABUELOS.COM 4 NEW REASONS TO LOVE ABUELO'S

Buy 1 Lunch Entrée, Get 2nd Entrée* FREE
Buy one Lunch Entrée and two beverages, get a second Lunch Entrée of equal or lesser value Free. *Dine in only. Redeem this coupon at Abuelo's Kissimmee location only. No cash value.
CODE: NP-1101
EXPIRES: 3/31/18

VENEFENCE
WE OFFER THE LOWEST PRICES ON FENCING.
Aluminum PVC Chain Link Wood

COUPON
FREE Gate w/purchase of 120' or more of vinyl fence w/coupon.
Coupon expires 3/31/18.

Check out our range of fences at www.venefence.com **WE FINANCE**

FREE ESTIMATES ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED
Residential & Commercial **863-990-7831 • 407-952-7750**
Se Habla Español
1004 American Way • Kissimmee, FL 34741

MAKE A SPLASH ON NEW 'RAY RUSH' RAFT SLIDE AT AQUATICA, COMING THIS SPRING



NEWS-GAZETTE PHOTO / JENNIFER DIDOMENICO

By Jennifer DiDomenico
A&E Editor

Construction is in full swing for Aquatica Orlando's newest attraction. While the park has not yet released an official opening date, the new Ray Rush raft slide is expected to open later this spring.

The raft seats a minimum of two riders and a maximum of four riders, and the ride itself has a height requirement of only 42 inches— an adventure suitable for the whole family.

"Aquatica has always been a very family-friendly park, and when we have an opportunity to add a family thrill ride like Ray Rush, it just makes sense," said Aquatica Vice President David Heaton. "I think our guests will really enjoy the dynamics and unique elements of this ride."

Climb up to the top of the 60-foot slide before experiencing the ride's three unique elements: the launch, the sphere and the open-air half pipe.

From the release: "Triple your fun with the three-in-one thrills of Ray Rush, new at Aquatica Orlando. Ray Rush is the fully-loaded water adventure with three ways to slide, splash and soar like never before. First, water jets launch your raft from zero to awesome in just seconds. Your adventure takes a twisting turn as you spin inside a colossal water sphere. Finally, dive into the giant manta wings, swooping up and down a different path each time."

Ray Rush is the first new attraction to come to the park since 2014.

"We think it's going to be a great addition to Aquatica, as Aquatica celebrates its 10th anniversary this year," said Heaton. "What better way to celebrate your birthday than with a new attraction."

In addition to the water ride, Aquatica will add another section of 200 lounge chairs to this area.

For more information on Ray Rush, tickets, park hours and more, visit www.aquatica.com/orlando.

RUNAWAY COUNTRY: THE POWER OF MUSIC

FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE FAN GETS SHOW-STOPPING SURPRISE

By Jennifer DiDomenico
A&E Editor

Nothing could've made this weekend's seventh annual Runaway Country Music Festival any better. There were incredible live performances, delicious food booths, awesome vendors, and, for some, unbelievable surprises.

Nineteen-year-old Lauren Bergquist and her family traveled from Maitland to stand front and center for Saturday night's Runaway Country headlining band, Florida Georgia Line. She sang along to every word of every song, and it didn't go unnoticed by frontmen Tyler Hubbard and Brian Kelley.

The two frontmen — who are nominated for Vocal Duo of the Year for the 53rd Academy of Country Music Awards, airing April 15 on CBS — unexpectedly stopped the show to recognize Bergquist as one of their most loyal fans, remembering her from previous shows and social media. They then took a guitar from their set, signed it, and gifted it to Bergquist.

"I can't believe they gave me a guitar," said Bergquist. "I can't stop smiling."

Living as a young adult with Down syndrome and type 1 diabetes, Bergquist finds the most joy in music. She is a big country music fan and loves attending festivals and concerts.

"This is the sixth or seventh time we've seen Florida Georgia Line. I was shocked when they said her name and remembered her," said Bergquist's mother, Leslie. "Music is such an outlet for Lauren. She comes home, listens to music, plays guitar and sings... It helps so much with her speech therapy and it's something she really enjoys. She will be playing that guitar every day!"

Proof that kindness counts.

Runaway Country Music Festival was a great success with crowds all three days and nights.

"This was our most successful Runaway Country to date," said Runaway Country Producer Gary McCann. "Word has spread and families have come to Kissimmee from across the country and, in fact, around the world to see this year's lineup."

"Planning is well underway for 2019," McCann continued. "We look forward to delivering the entertainment and value our guests



NEWS-GAZETTE PHOTO / JARRED PALUZZI

have come to expect."

Stay tuned for more information on next year's festival including dates and the full lineup; in the meantime, visit www.aroundsosceola.com for a gallery of photos from the big weekend.

THE COLOR RUN OFFERS DISCOUNT FOR NEWS-GAZETTE READERS

By Jennifer DiDomenico
A&E Editor

The largest 5K event series in the world is headed back to Kissimmee. The Color Run will return to Osceola Heritage Park on Saturday, April 14, as one of its expected 40 stops

in the United States.

This year's 'Hero Tour' race will celebrate everyone's inner hero, featuring brand new course elements like the SUPER Zones, plus a Finish Festival and Grub Garden.

"Our goal at The Color Run is to create an

exceptional experience that brings health and happiness to people of all ages. We want The Color Run Hero Tour to inspire all our Color Runners to celebrate their inner hero, because there's one in all of us," said The Color Run Event Director Carrie Meng.

Tickets for The Color Run Hero Tour are on sale now. Osceola News-Gazette readers can receive \$5 off their ticket purchase by using the code "OSCEOLANEWS" at the checkout. Visit www.thecolorrun.com/locations/orlando.

NOT GETTING THE OSCEOLA NEWS GAZETTE?

To stay on the delivery list for the Osceola News-Gazette, please fill out the following form mail to:

OSCEOLA NEWS-GAZETTE
108 Church Street
Kissimmee, FL 34741
FAX: 407-846-8516

or go online: www.aroundsosceola.com and click on Delivery Request Tab and fill out.

YES! Please keep me on the delivery list **FREE OF CHARGE** for the Osceola News-Gazette

Full Name: _____

Full Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Subdivision: _____ Gate Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Signature (Required) _____

Date _____

OSCEOLA NEWS-GAZETTE

Request forms should be updated every year.

Fastest Oil Change in Town!

\$34⁹⁵

with ad **The Works®**

We service all makes and models

- Brake Inspection
- Vehicle Check-up
- Fluid Top-Off
- Battery Test
- Filter Check
- Belts & Hoses Check
- Synthetic Blend Oil Change
- Tire Rotation and Pressure Check

Up to five quarts of Motorcraft® Synthetic Blend oil and Motorcraft® or Omnicraft™ oil filter. Taxes, diesel vehicles and disposal fees extra. Hybrid battery test excluded. No cash value. See dealer for details. Expires 4/30/18.

Like us on facebook

407-851-3800

tropicalford.com

9900 S. Orange Blossom Trail

Quick Lane®

TIRE & AUTO CENTER

at Tropical Ford

Fast Quick Lane® Service

Quick Lane® Hours:

Mon-Fri: 7:00AM - 7:00PM

Sat: 7:00AM - 5:00PM

Closed Sundays

DONNIE DANIELS

PLUMBING INC.

407-847-0339

4411 Tami Lane, Kissimmee, FL 34746

Established in 1978

CFC044170

DID YOU KNOW... A surviving spouse or child may receive a special lump-sum death payment of \$255 from social security if they meet certain requirements

Conrad & Thompson

funeral home
And Cremation Services

Preplanning | Cremation
Funeral Services | Veteran's Services

511 Emmett Street, Kissimmee, FL 34741
407-847-3188
www.conradandthompson.com

Honoring life with over 100 years combined experience that is dedicated to excellence in service with the highest integrity.

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.

THE DAILY PLANNER

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

Weekly and Monthly Events

Looking for last-minute Easter plans for the whole family? The Enzian is hosting a fun-filled Easter, this Sunday. Start the day with Easter brunch at 10:30 a.m., outside on the lawn. A petting zoo will also open at 10:30 a.m. The egg hunt will begin at 11 a.m. for ages 0-3 years, 11:10 a.m. for ages 4-7 years and 11:20 a.m. for ages 8-12 years. Then sit down for a special showing of The Muppets at noon. General admission tickets are all inclusive and run \$40 for adults, \$20 for kids ages 3-12. For more information, visit www.enzian.org.



WHAT Easter Brunch & Egg Hunt featuring the Muppets
WHERE The Enzian
WHEN Sunday, April 1
COST \$40 for adults, \$20 for kids ages 3-12
INFORMATION Visit www.enzian.org

DAILY 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.

PET ALLIANCE OF GREATER ORLANDO

Chipotle in Winter Park welcomes you to eat for a cause. Fifty percent of fundraiser sales between 10:45 a.m. and 10 p.m. will benefit Pet Alliance of Greater Orlando. 525 S. Orlando Avenue.

PET WALK AND CONCERT FUNDRAISER

Wild Things presents its Pet Walk and Concert Fundraiser from 5 to 9 p.m. Dog shows, food trucks, live music, pet games, vendors, groomers, petting zoo, vaccine clinic and more. WWW.WILDTHINGSPETWALK.COM

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. 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. Residents and businesses can order mulch by the Internet at www.troop826hogs.com. Call 407-953-9195 for assistance in ordering. Free delivery will be in the Kissimmee and St. Cloud areas as well as in south Orange County.

FRIDAY

03-30



BROKEN SOCIAL SCENE
House of Blues Orlando, 7 p.m. Tickets range \$26-\$48. Visit WWW.HOUSEOFBLUES.COM/ORLANDO.

MAKS, VAL AND PETA ON TOUR: CONFIDENTIAL.

Dance performances by Dancing With the Stars professionals. Walt Disney Theater, Dr. Phillips Center. Tickets start at \$39.50. WWW.DRPHILLIPS CENTER.ORG

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 THE SOCIAL.ORG

WEDNESDAY

04-04

FLEA MARKET

Sale will feature a large selection of new and vintage items, jewelry and more. Council on Aging, 8 a.m. to noon. For more information, call Carmen Carasquillo: 407-483-1473.

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.

SUNDAY

04-08

CONGREGATION BETH EMETH BIBLE STUDIES

Hampton Inn: 4971 Calypso Bay Way in Kissimmee. 10-11 a.m. Call 407-222-6393.

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.

SUNDAY

04-22

CARIBBEAN FUSION

Is back at Kissimmee Lakefront Park, noon to 8 p.m. Experience Caribbean culture through music, food, craft and dance.

FRIDAY

04-27

COCO

Lake Eola will host Coco as its free movie in the park. Event begins at 6 p.m., the movie will start at 8:15 p.m. Bring blankets, chairs and snacks. Food will be available for purchase. Lake Eola Park: 512 East Washington Street in Orlando.

SATURDAY

04-28

LUPUS FOUNDATION WALK

Lupus Foundation of America Florida Chapter is hosting a walk at Lake Ella Park: 512 E. Washington Street in Orlando. The walk will begin at 4 p.m. Advanced registration is available online at CHAPTERS.LUPUS.ORG. For more information, contact Devin Brown at 561-279-8606.

PAINT OUT

Save the date for the Winter Park Paint Out Garden Party. This year's event will be held at the Polasek Museum. For more information go to WINTERPARKPAINTOUT.ORG

SPRING BREAK CAMP

Registration is open for Camp LOL, a sketch comedy camp for kids at Osceola Arts is now open. Cost of the camp is \$125 for the week and will be held Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a final showcase on Friday at 3 p.m. Call 407-846-6257 for more information.

SHAKESPEARE THEATER

Orlando Shakespeare Theater in Partnership with UCF (Orlando Shakes) has announced that Lin-Manuel Miranda's and Quiara Alegria Hudes' Tony Award-winning musical, In the Heights will open their 30th Season. Tickets for In the Heights will go on sale June 2018. For more information call (407) 447-1700 ext. 1, or visit in person at the John and Rita Lowndes Shakespeare Center (812 E. Rollins St.).

ONGOING

ST. CLOUD SHUFFLEBOARD CLUB

The club, which has \$20 yearly dues, meets Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday afternoon for games and card games including bridge, mahjong, cribbage and more. Lessons for shuffleboard and card games also are available. Call 407-498-0603 for more information.

RETIRED RACING GREYHOUND ADOPTION

Meet retired racing Greyhounds and learn more about the adoption program. Every third Saturday. Pet Supermarket, 2924 13th Street, St. Cloud; 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; 407-498-0929; 407-578-7496; godsgreys.com

TAI CHI FOR ENERGY

Tai chi for energy. Saturdays at Hart Memorial Library, 211 E. Dakin Ave. Kissimmee; 10 a.m.; 407-900-9003

LIVE MUSIC, DANCE

All welcome. St. Cloud Community Center, 3101 17th St., St. Cloud; Saturdays 7 - 10 p.m.; 407-414-0655

COUNTRY DANCE

Saturday nights at the St. Cloud Community Center, 3101 17th St., St. Cloud, from 7 to 10 p.m. There is a \$5 donation asked. Refreshments and snacks are available. All ages. For more information, call Marie Coamey at 407-414-0655.

GRIEF SHARE

A non-denominational support group for people who have lost a loved one. Good Samaritan Village, 1441 Hoeger Circle, Kissimmee. Every Friday until March 31, 10 a.m.- noon; 407-572-8284.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Osceola Council on Aging is actively recruiting volunteers for Meals on Wheels, but has other volunteer opportunities available. For more information call Marie Blackford at 407-933-9532.

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.





March 2018
A Special Supplement to
**OSCEOLA
NEWS-GAZETTE**

Advice from successful women in Central Florida

By Jennifer DiDomenico
A&E Editor

There are a lot of successful women in today's world. For many of them, it was not an easy journey. So how did they get to where they are now? Achieving success can mean several things: following your dreams, setting goals, taking risks, and even losing some to gain some. Over time, we live and we learn.

There are certain traits that can help propel successful women to the top. Here's a look at five successful women, living right here in Central Florida. This is their advice.

"Be your own advocate. We can't expect anyone to know our minds, our hearts, our wants, our needs. It is up to each individual to know themselves, make their own decisions and then tell people what they want. Stand up for yourself, even if it's uncomfortable. It's a waste of time to be afraid." - Gloria Niec

A supporter for equality within the community, Niec serves as the Executive Director for the Celebration Foundation—a non-profit organization that serves greater Osceola County. Niec leads several programs and initiatives to help provide student scholarships, feed the homeless and serve the elderly.

"Don't let fear get in your way... Especially in a male-dominated business world. Take the leap to ask for the promotion, discuss the raise, and take calculated risks. Don't be afraid to make mistakes or fail, because those are some of the best and biggest opportunities to grow. We only



experience growth when we are outside of our comfort zone." - Alyssa Nichols

Nichols is a graduate of University of South Florida. Recently promoted to Internship Director for Northwestern Mutual Greater Tampa Bay, Nichols hopes to inspire young adult women to follow their career goals.

"Be yourself. When you try to 'fit in', you are doing yourself an injustice and you will not be happy nor successful. Be honest with yourself and stay true to your 'truth'." - Elaine Pouliot

Pouliot is an Image Consultant, Public Speaker, and Career & Life Coach working out of Orlando and New York City. She strives to inspire women of all ages to live up to their full potential.

"Make your own luck by being persistent and unwilling to settle for less than you are capable of... And if you aren't failing, you aren't trying anything new. You can't be stagnant and competitive at the same time." - Jana Renner

Business owner, wife, and mother of two children, Renner serves as Vice President of her children's school PTA and as an executive board member for the local non-profit in her community. She is a big believer in goal-setting to achieve her success.

"For me, success is knowing that I'm pursuing what I'm passionate about. If I wake up every day and I work towards making my dreams a reality, then I'm successful. So if you want to know what will make you successful in anything - life, or business - it's this: passion and patience. Passion will ignite the fire, patience will keep it burning. Combine those two indefinitely, and you're a force to be reckoned with," - Kahlea Arroyo, "Kahlea Nicole"

Arroyo is a social influencer and creative entrepreneur with more than 10,000 followers on social media. She uses her blog, kahleanicole.com, to share her life, but also to inspire and mentor women to create their own business plans.

Filion creating, preserving cultural identity of firm

Marketing requires a broad range of skills including branding, advertising, social media strategies, running special events like trade shows and team building. Real estate marketing managers, like Crossman & Company's Gena Filion, share one common thread: a passion for their work. The role requires a professional who is a self-starter and can think and execute projects strategically, efficiently and innovatively. But also understands inter-personal relationships are vital in commercial real estate success.

"It's necessary to take a hands-on approach with every project because every single item that leaves the marketing department helps to shape the perception of Crossman & Company," said Filion who joined the firm in 2016.

Crossman & Company is the Southeast's premier real estate firm focused on serving retail landlords exclusively throughout the Southeast – with offices in Atlanta, Boca Raton, Tampa, Miami and Orlando – representing more than 385 shopping centers and 28 million square feet in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North and South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia

As marketing manager, Filion is responsible for creating and preserving the cultural identity of the firm through messaging and campaigns that reflect Crossman & Company's leadership role in leasing, property management, and investment sales since 1990.

Offering expanded marketing services has become a major benefit for Crossman & Company clients. The initiative, led by Filion, develops and executes innovative and dynamic marketing strategies, programs and communications to help meet business objectives

Filion works with clients such as Metlife with The Loop Shopping Center in Kissimmee and Clarion Partners with Water Tower Shoppes in Celebration to create awareness around their brand and build a positive reputation through social media management, traditional advertising, public relations, and special event coordination.

From managing mega trade shows such as the International Council of Shopping Centers RECON every year in Las Vegas, to creating niche promotions and special events for clients, taking responsibility for brokerage marketing, means keeping many irons in the proverbial fire. Open communication channels at all levels is a must.

"What people might be surprised to know is that the smallest of details are considered — from colors, continuity, spacing, fonts, composition to copy — every detail is deliberate and geared to a targeted audience," Filion said.

Gena Filion
Marketing Manager



Did you know?

According to the United States Department of Defense, as of January 1, 2015, there were 201,400 women serving as active duty military. Nearly 69,000 of those women served in the U.S. Army, which had more women than any other branch of the U.S. military. The U.S. Air Force had the second most female members (58,500), while the Navy had the third most (57,300). The U.S. Marine Corps had the fewest female members, with just 14,100 women serving in the Marines. Canada, where the population is roughly the equivalent of 10 percent of the overall population of the United States, boasts 10,000 female service members according to the National Defense and the Canadian Armed Forces. Those figures include women serving in both the Regular and Reserve Forces and represent roughly 12 percent of Canada's military forces.



WOMEN TODAY

SAVANNAH COURT
Assisted Living Community



- Assisted Living
- Respite
- Day Service
- Restaurant Dining
- Fun Activities
- Personalized Assistance

Call us today to schedule your personal tour.

SAVANNAH COURT OF ST. CLOUD
3791 Old Canoe Creek Road, St. Cloud, FL 34769

Signature community of Senior Living Management Corp. **407.892.8502** Assisted Living Facility License No. 9917

www.SavannahCourtStCloud.com

Important women's health screenings



cancer over the course of her lifetime. The Canadian Cancer Society says breast cancer is the second leading cause of death from cancer in Canadian women. The earlier a woman finds breast cancer, the better her chance for survival. Cancers caught early are less likely to spread to the lymph nodes and vital organs than cancers caught at later stages. Recommendations on mammogram screening start time and frequency vary with age and risk factor, so women should discuss and develop an individualized plan with their doctors.

fragile, may initially be symptom-free. Osteoporosis is often discovered only after a fracture. The National Osteoporosis Foundation says that estrogen decreases during menopause can cause bone loss, which is why women have a higher risk of developing osteoporosis than men. In addition to healthy living habits, bone mineral density tests beginning at age 65 or earlier can help identify problems early on. Certain risk factors may require women to begin receiving bone density tests before age 65.

Skin cancer screening: A report from the National Cancer Institute appearing in the *Journal of Investigative Dermatology* revealed startling melanoma trends among young women. This deadly skin cancer is rising in incidence. Screening for changes in skin markings can help identify melanoma and other non-melanoma cancers early on. Skin should be checked by a dermatologist or a general health professional during regular physicals.

Guidelines recommended by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, a group of experts in disease prevention, also recommend these screenings for women: blood pressure, cholesterol, colorectal cancer, and diabetes. Proper care and early identification of illness risk factors can keep women on the road to good health.

Cervical cancer: Doctors advise that women should receive pelvic exams beginning at age 21, or earlier for women who are sexually active. Pap smears are screenings that help detect the presence of cancerous cells on and around the cervix that may be indicative of cervical cancer. Guidelines continually change regarding the frequency of Pap smear testing, but the general consensus is women age 30 and older may need screening every three years if they have not had any abnormal tests in the past, according to Everyday Health. Women should speak with their gynecologists regarding how frequently they should be tested for cervical cancer.

Bone density test: Osteoporosis, a weakening of bones that causes them to become more

Routine medical screenings for women may help uncover certain diseases before they threaten women's long-term health.

Routine medical screenings are an essential element of a healthy lifestyle. Many health screenings are recommended for both men and women, but women also should include some gender-specific testing in their health routines. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." That popular adage can be applied to personal health, particularly with respect to women's health screenings.

Breast cancer: Both men and women can get breast cancer, but women are at a far greater risk than men. According to Breastcancer.org, roughly one in eight women in the United States will develop invasive breast

TROPICAL FORD



Photos for Illustration Purposes Only

New 2017 FORD FOCUS
AS LOW AS \$15,995
AUTOMATIC & LOADED

Plus, your New Ford Focus comes with **2 Years of Free Oil Changes at Tropical Ford!**

TROPICAL FORD

Monday - Saturday 8:30am-9:00pm
Sunday 11:00am-6:00pm

407-851-3800
tropicalford.com
9900 S. Orange Blossom Trail

See dealer for details. Vehicle must be financed with Ford Motor Credit Company to qualify for all rebates and incentives. Price does not include tax, tag & dealer fee.

In Beautiful South Orlando!

Midwives could help reduce growing mortality rates among mother, newborns

By Charlie Reed
For the News-Gazette

New research suggests midwifery could significantly boost maternal and infant health.

The recently published study by researchers in Canada and the U.S. found that states that have done the most to integrate midwives into their health care systems have some of the best outcomes for mothers and babies. Conversely, states with some of the most restrictive midwife laws and practices — including Alabama, Ohio and Mississippi — tend to do significantly worse on key indicators of maternal and neonatal well-being, according to the 5-year study.

Never heard of a midwife? The term simply means someone, usually a woman, who assists in the birthing process. The profession is highly regulated and also includes nurse-midwives, who have even more training.

The practice waned in the U.S. in the early 20th Century when the medical field professionalized and doctors successfully pushed out their competition.

But midwifery has remained an integral part of delivering babies in other developed nations including the U.K., France, Norway and Sweden. Prince William and Kate Middleton's first two children were delivered by midwives as are half of all babies in the U.K. Midwives oversee most expectant and new mothers, enabling obstetricians to concentrate on high-risk births.

Those countries have much lower rates of maternal and infant mortality than the U.S.

Here, severe maternal complications have more than doubled in the past 20 years.

Based on the rate per 10,000 deliveries, serious complications more than doubled from 1993 to 2014, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. In 2014 alone, more than 4,000 women had emergency hysterectomies, rendering them permanently unable to carry a child. The rates of new mothers requiring breathing tubes and treatment for sepsis both increased by 75 percent. The rate of women needing to be resuscitated from heart failure rose by 175 percent, according to the CDC.

And shortages of maternity care have reached critical levels with the number of hospitals offering obstetric services falling 16 percent since 2004. Jennie Joseph is perhaps one of Central Florida's most well known midwives. She is not only a leading advocate for midwifery, but also runs one of the region's most popular nonprofit birthing centers. With clinics in west Orlando, Pine Hills and Winter Garden, Joseph said she's seen premature birth rates and infant mortality rates plummet.

Joseph also trains scores of midwives and doulas focusing on empowering expectant mothers through education — a model she says has a profound impact on reducing premature deliveries and infant mortality rates.

For more information about midwifery contact www.common sensechildbirth.org or call 407-656-6938.

**PERSONAL INJURY
WRONGFUL DEATH**

**LYONS
&
LENOIR**

OFFICES
KISSIMMEE
& ORLANDO

844-LAW-LYON
LEGAL LYONS.COM

032918WOMENS

Body dysmorphic disorder a reality for many women

People from all walks of life may have something about their appearances that upsets them. While many people learn to embrace their bodies, some develop body image problems that can lead to depression and anxiety.

Body dysmorphic disorder, or BDD, is a psychological condition that causes delusions about one's outward appearance. While people with BDD may have delusions about any part of their bodies, many people with BDD have problems with parts of their face, their ears or the shape of their head. Preoccupation with these features can be so intense that it's difficult for sufferers to see beyond their delusions.

According to the Anxiety and Depression Association of America, BDD may be triggered by a slight physical imperfection. But to those with the condition, the flaw is perceived to be prominent — causing

severe emotional distress and difficulties in daily functioning.

BDD is not exclusive to women, as it affects nearly as many men as women. Research conducted by Butler Hospital in Providence, RI, found that, among 188 subjects, BDD diagnosis was relatively equal among women and men (49 and 51 percent, respectively). Women with BDD were found to be more preoccupied with skin, weight and their hip size, while the men studied were concerned about thinning hair, body build and genital appearance.

BDD usually develops in adolescence, says the BDD Foundation. This is a time when people become more sensitive about their appearances. Recognizing the symptoms of BDD can help a person get help more quickly, which can potentially head off harmful behavior, including suicide attempts. The following are some of the more

common symptoms of BDD, according to ADAA:

- camouflaging (with body position, clothing, makeup, hair, hats, etc.)
- comparing body parts to others' appearance
- seeking surgery
- checking in a mirror
- avoiding mirrors
- skin picking
- grooming excessively
- exercising excessively
- changing clothes excessively

Those with BDD also may experience symptoms similar to those experienced by people with obsessive-compulsive disorder or social anxiety disorder. In many instances, people with BDD may suffer from a combination of mental health disorders.



There are some effective treatments for BDD. Such treatments include cognitive-behavioral therapy, or CBT, which teaches patients to recognize and change negative thinking patterns. Antidepressant medications may be prescribed as well.

People who suspect they or a loved one is suffering from BDD should first visit their general practitioners. Social workers, psychologists and psychiatrists may also help people with BDD.

How to avoid caregiver burnout

Caring for an aging or sick relative is not always so easy. In addition to the physical demands of caring for such loved ones, tending to sick people can take a mental toll, potentially contributing to a condition referred to as caregiver stress.

The Mayo Clinic notes that caring for a loved one can strain even the most resilient person. It can be quite difficult to be a person's sole caregiver and witness a loved one's health deteriorate due to a debilitating illness. As the population ages, nearly 80 percent of the long-term care that takes place in the United States is overseen by people who are not healthcare professionals, including daughters, granddaughters sisters, and aunts.

Caregiver stress can manifest itself in many different ways, including physical and emotional problems. The following are some ways to handle the stress of caring for a sick and/or elderly relative.

Investigate available resources. Explore all of the opportunities in your area that may relieve some of the burden of caring for your loved one. These may include in-home visiting care services, meal delivery, adult activity programs, and more.

Ask for help. Find out if responsibilities can be split among other family members, giving each person a chance to rest and recuperate.

Get physical. Physical activity in any form can help reduce stress and improve feelings of well-being, offers the Alzheimer's Association. Go for a walk, take an exercise class or ride a bicycle. Expect to feel more relaxed and less stressed after physical activity.

Speak with a therapist. Discuss your feelings with someone not directly related to your family or circle of friends. Caregivers may have feelings of anger,

depression and anxiety, and may even be in denial about how much care this person really needs. Talking about your feelings with a professional can put them into perspective.

Focus on things you can control. You may not be able to cure the illness or disability, but there are things in your control. Rather than dwelling on things beyond your control, try to improve the things you can control.

Try to have fun. It's easy to make caregiving the only part of your life. However, you have to leave room for letting off steam. Don't feel guilty about going out with friends or a spouse. Make time for yourself. Caregiver stress is a very real thing that negatively affects the health and well-being of caregivers. Some simple coping methods can relieve some of that stress.



Women in STEM

Despite the widely held notion that men exceed the number of women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math fields, data indicates that there isn't actually much disparity among the sexes. According to the National Science Foundation, women equal men in terms of bachelor's degrees awarded in most of the fields of STEM, including biosciences, social sciences, mathematics, and physical sciences. The only STEM fields in which men still outnumber women are computer science and engineering. Women are just as capable as men to meet the demands of STEM careers. In terms of mathematics prowess, girls score a mere 3 percent lower than their male counterparts on the math portion of the Scholastic Aptitude Test, according to the College Board.

TROPICAL FORD
JUST ARRIVED!!

Photos for Illustration Purposes Only

New 2018 FORD ECOSPORT
Come in & test drive a new EcoSport today!

TROPICAL FORD
Monday - Saturday 8:30am-9:00pm
Sunday 11:00am-6:00pm

407-851-3800
tropicalford.com
9900 S. Orange Blossom Trail

Like us on facebook

In Beautiful South Orlando!

EXPERIENCE

the **LOOP**
3208 NORTH JOHN YOUNG PARKWAY
KISSIMMEE, FL 34741
EXPERIENCETHLOOP.COM

@EXPERIENCETHLOOP @SHOPTHELOOP @EXPERIENCETHLOOP

WOMEN TODAY



Tips for traveling solo

By Jennifer DiDomenico
A&E Editor

There's a lot to do in and around Central Florida. If you live here, you know it's a great place to live and easily escape for a weekend getaway. But whether you're heading to the beach on your own or meeting up with friends, safety should be your top priority.

Here are some things to keep in mind while planning your next trip.

Do your homework.

Before booking your next getaway, do your homework. Take a closer look at the area you'll be traveling to. Review maps, consider location, read reviews, etc. Reading up on a location can give you an idea of the area's crime and security conditions, plus other information that can help you navigate as a tourist.

Stay in touch.

Maybe you aren't vacationing solo, but you're traveling solo to meet up with some friends. Create a group chat where you can all stay in touch, checking in on each other and sharing updates of your travel.

Maintain awareness of your surroundings.

You've done your homework and you've arrived at your destination. Now what? Stay safe by avoiding abandoned areas at night; steer clear of dimly lit areas; don't take the road less traveled; be aware of

those around you.

Don't overshare.

It's fun to travel alone and meet new friends, but oversharing information about yourself and your itinerary with strangers can increase your vulnerability and be dangerous. Keep private information private. Don't be afraid to repel any unwanted attentions, and don't answer questions that make you uncomfortable.

Traveling abroad? Read this, too.

Keep in mind that many countries have their own laws pertaining to women. It's important to respect a country's culture, even if you disagree with it. Additionally, it is a good idea to keep the address of the nearest embassy on you at all times. American women can visit www.usembassy.gov to learn where the embassy in a given country is located.



You can read more stories online at our website www.aroundosceola.com.

OSCEOLA NEWS-GAZETTE



Need a New Battery?

From **\$59⁹⁵**

With exchange. Taxes and installation extra. Certain models excluded. See Quick Lane® service advisor for details. Expires: 4/30/18.

TROPICAL FORD

407-851-3800
tropicalford.com
9900 S. Orange Blossom Trail

Fast Quick Lane® Service

Quick Lane® Hours:
Mon-Fri: 7:00AM - 7:00PM
Sat: 7:00AM - 5:00PM
Closed Sundays

Like us on facebook

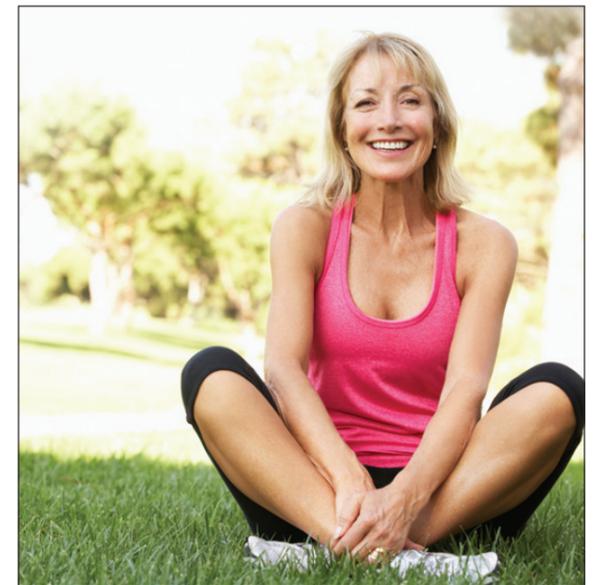
Myths associated with menopause

At some point in a woman's life she will enter into a period called menopause. Unlike what the name might suggest, menstruation does not "pause" upon entering menopause. Rather, it ceases to occur from this point on, ending the fertile, reproductive time for females.

The North American Menopause Society says menopause typically begins around age 51. It also may be induced through medical intervention at an earlier age.

Women are encouraged to discuss menopause with their healthcare providers so they can better understand their bodies. That's especially important since certain myths about menopause still prevail.

Myth #1: Menopause is a disease. Menopause is an inevitable part of aging and a process that occurs naturally and spontaneously. Menopause affects each woman differently. While some women struggle with any number of symptoms, others may feel as if their lives have not changed much



at all since entering menopause.

Myth #2: Menopause happens suddenly. Women do not wake up one day and discover they have entered menopause. Doctors at the Menopause Center at Texas Children's Hospital's Pavilion for Women say that menopause is characterized by a subtle fluctuation of hormones that will gradually lead to menopause. Unless menopause results from a hysterectomy procedure or another medical intervention, it

should happen slowly over the course of a few years. The period leading up to a last menstrual period is called perimenopause.

Myth #3: Perimenopause eliminates pregnancy risk. A woman is not totally protected from an unplanned pregnancy until a year has passed since her most recent menstrual cycle. Even if periods are infrequent or unreliable, the NAMS advises that women choose another effective method of birth control if they do not want another pregnancy.

MOHAWK SmartCushion

Decorate for the Cure. **susan g. komen.**

NOW MORE THAN EVER, CHOOSING THE PERFECT CUSHION MATTERS.

During National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, you can cushion the fight against breast cancer. Mohawk is proud to donate a portion of every SmartCushion purchase to Susan G. Komen through Decorate for the Cure to help fund breast cancer research. In addition to providing the ultimate in comfort, performance and protection for your carpet, SmartCushion supports the vision of a breast cancer-free world.

#CUSHIONTHEFIGHT

MORE THAN PINK

© 2018 Susan G. Komen®. For Donating: Susan G. Komen is a registered trademark of Susan G. Komen.

Visit (dealer name) today to partner with Mohawk in the fight against breast cancer.

Free upgrade to Smartcushion with any Smartstrand Silk purchase of 315 s.f. or more.

The Carpet & Tile Center, Inc.
2309 Clay St., Kissimmee, FL 34741
407-846-3939
<http://carpetandtilecenterinc.com/>
Since 1979

MOHAWK COLORCENTER
Flooring made simple

SPORTS



Pride soccer

NWSL team starts year with 1-1 draw.

Page 16.

Local & National Sports • Sports Commentary



CONTACT

KEN JACKSON

OSCEOLA NEWS-GAZETTE SPORTS EDITOR

EMAIL KJACKSON@OSCEOLANEWSGAZETTE.COM

THE SPORTS COLUMN

Winter season was hot, now I'm sweaty for spring

► Local pro sports hopes carried by Orlando Pride

Random ramblings from the comfy tan recliner because, hey, it's been a busy week already, with a birthday on Monday and a string of events on Wednesday ...

As ready as I may say I am for the spring sports season, which is nearing the halfway mark, I'm still recovering from the winter. Celebration boys soccer advanced to the state semifinals, prompting four trips out to venerable CHS. I love all my Storm fans out there, but could they put that school any farther back there in the woods?

Osceola's wrestlers made their annual run to the state finals, which was much easier to get to at Silver Spurs Arena, and this year they brought a couple of Harmony's best guys on the mat along for the ride. Congrats to OHS' Malyke Hines for defending his state title, to his younger brother, Jaekus, a state runner-up at the smallest weight class (106 pounds) who proved as a freshman he'll be a force for three years, and to Harmony senior Carter Harris, who fought mightily to go out a state champion in the biggest weight class (285) but came up a couple points short. They all ended the year district a regional champions.

Then, in girls basketball, City of Life Christian made it worth while to travel down to Lakeland — twice — as it rolled to its first

KEN JACKSON
Sports Editor



state championship in any sport. There's a special buzz whenever you walk into the RP Funding Center (it'll always be The Lakeland Center to me, but I don't write — or cash — corporate sponsorship checks), and if you're there to write 700 or so words about a team, it sure helps the cause if they win their last game and have really positive things to say.

As you can sense, I'm having the time of my life, and there's still a couple months left in the school sports season. In the spring, everything is going on at the same time, so I'm doing my best to rotate around to baseball, softball, tennis, track, boys weightlifting, girls flag football, water polo, lacrosse and boys volleyball. (That's all? You sure we can't sneak a little synchronized diving or field hockey in there?)

I guess what I'm trying to say is ... I'll get around to everybody. Eventually ...

... Thank goodness for those winners from the winter. Because the pro sports scene around here needs a jolt, and it might have gotten it on Saturday.

Certainly not from the Orlando Magic, who have been in an express lane race

See **Column**, Page 17.

Storm setting & spiking

► Celebration among state's best in boys volleyball; 'Dogs, 'Horns in District 3

By **Ken Jackson**
Sports Editor

Only four of the county's seven public schools offer and play boys volleyball, but one of them will be a contender for the state title.

Celebration, members of District 3 with St. Cloud and Harmony (Poinciana plays as an independent this year), is 11-1 and headed into the second half of their season, which will culminate with the District 3 tournament April 24 and 26, which the Storm will host.

The Storm, led by Coach Pedro Davila, have players in the U.S. and Puerto Rican national team programs, such as senior outside hitter Johansen Negron, who came from Puerto Rico to flee from Hurricane Maria.

Junior hitters Carlos Adrian Mercado and Alejandro Hernandez are in the U.S. national program.

"We've been very lucky, our talent puts us in a good position," he said. "These kids play volleyball all year round and are part of national and international programs."

Davila, who is also affiliated with the United States' national developmental program, said the state of Florida is a hotbed of that level of talent.

"I'd say that of the 36 high school kids in the country involved with the national team, off the top of my head I think 11 are in Florida," he said.

Other team leaders include junior setter Christopher Rivera and middle blockers Eduard Montilla, Martin Alarcon and Carlos Gabriel Mercado.

High school sports website MaxPreps, in its analytic rankings that take into account strength of schedules and margin of victories, has the Storm ranked fourth in the state and 38th nationally. Celebration's lone loss came to Miami Killian, ranked third in the state. The Storm have only lost sets to Killian and to Central Florida power Winter Springs in a 3-1 victory prior to spring break.

The Storm defeated St. Cloud (4-3), 3-0 on March 13. The Bulldogs, led by Coach Ettie Singleton, now roll into the meat of their district schedule, including a home match today at 6 against Universal Academy.

Singleton's team graduated nearly its entire starting lineup last year and has just one senior (Matthew Glass) in this year's rebuilding season.

"I expect him to lead the team along with Luke Miller this year," the coach said. "The boys are working hard together. We're looking forward to a good season and hopefully qualify for the district tournament."

Freshmen Spencer O'Neill, Jacob Post and Anthony Gonzalez are on the varsity lineup, joined by juniors Jan Torres, Edi Ramirez and Xavier Elisa and sophomores Jacob Sanchez, Tyler Souza and Cash Udstad.

Harmony (3-1), coached by Travis Foster, plays at Tampa HEAT tonight and hosts Brooks-DeBartolo on Tuesday. The Longhorns host Celebration next Thursday and travel to St. Cloud on April 12.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Celebration boys volleyball outside hitter Johansen Negron, a member of the Puerto Rican national program, arrived with the Storm after fleeing Hurricane Maria. He's part of a potent offense that's led the team to an 11-1 record and the No. 4 ranking in the MaxPreps standings.

The top four in the regular-season standings in District 3, which also includes Tampa area schools Berkeley Prep, Brooks-DeBartolo, Foundation Christian, Tampa Bay HEAT and Universal Academy, will qualify for the district tournament.

The state features just one class, unlike other multi-class sports — girls volleyball teams compete from Class A to 9A — as teams in districts are only

found in Central Florida, the Tampa area and east coast from Jupiter down to Miami. Dade County schools alone make up five of the 16 districts.

District champions will play in round of play-in matches on May 1, and the state tournament will be held May 4-5 and Ransom Everglades High May 4-5.

"We're hoping to go to state and bring the county its first volleyball state title," Davila said.

Florida Fire Frogs name 2018 field staff

By **Ken Jackson**
Sports Editor

While the Opening Day roster for the Florida Fire Frogs' 2018 edition is still falling into place, as the Atlanta Braves' minor-leaguers continue to train at ESPN's Wide World of Sports, the coaching staff — a group with extensive Major League experience — has been announced.

Luis Salazar, a long-time minor league coach and manager, has been tabbed as the manager for second-year franchise. The native of Venezuela has compiled a career record of 769-836 (.479) over 20-plus years as a minor league coach, including 15 as a manager. He replaces Ralph "Rocket" Wheeler, who managed the club in the second half of 2017 after Paul Runge started the season.

Salazar, 61, spent the 2016-17 seasons as the Class AA Mississippi Braves manager, guiding the team to a Southern League Championship Series appearance during his first season in 2016. His 2012 Carolina Mudcats also won the 2012 Mill Cup

Championship in the Carolina League.

Salazar spent part of 12 seasons (1980-92) in the major leagues with six different clubs, including the 1984 San Diego Padres and 1989 Chicago Cubs, who played in the postseason.

Pitching coach and Central Florida native Mike Maroth returns home after spending the last two seasons as the Atlanta Braves pitching rehabilitation coordinator. He was previously a pitching coach for the Florida State League's Lakeland Flying Tigers.

Prior to a six-year Major League pitching career (2002-07) for Detroit and St. Louis, Maroth, 40, attended Boone High School in Orlando and played for the University of Central Florida.

Tomas Perez and hitting coach Rene Tosoni also join Salazar's staff.

Perez coached with the Fire Frogs last year and spent 12 years (1995-2008) in the major leagues.

Tosoni joins the staff in his first season as a professional coach. The 31-year-old made his major league debut in 2011 as a member of the Minnesota Twins, and played

for seven seasons (2007-13) with the Twins and Milwaukee Brewers.

The Fire Frogs begin the season in Daytona on Thursday, and their 2018 Osceola County Stadium debut will be on April 7 (4 p.m.) and 8 (11 a.m.).

The Fire Frogs have also announced themed jersey nights for the 2018 season, including celebrating the Hispanic community and transform into "Los Coquis" on April 19. They'll travel to a distant galaxy for Star Wars Night on May 4, have a fiesta on Cinco de Mayo, celebrate the nation's independence on the Fourth of July, and get their fans prepared for storm season with a hurricane prep party on July 28.

Florida will also flood the stadium with superheroes on April 21, have Yellow Submarine night on July 14 and turn back the clock with retro Kissimmee Cobras gear during the season.

On Saturday the team will host an Easter-themed helicopter egg drop. The helicopter will drop its eggs at 9:30 a.m. for kids 12 and under. The event is free to attend, and it is encouraged that guests arrive by 9 a.m.



UPCOMING GAMES

BASEBALL

Friday

Harmony at Viera, 6 p.m.

Thursday

Windermere at St. Cloud, 6pm

Tuesday

Liberty at Gateway, 6 p.m.

Wednesday

Liberty at Osceola, 6 p.m.

East River at St. Cloud, 6 p.m.

SOFTBALL

Friday

St. Cloud at Bartow, 6 & 9 pm

Wednesday

Windermere at St. Cloud, 7pm

Harmony at Osceola, 7 p.m.

Thursday

Kissimmee Classic at Osceola

Co. Softball Complex, all day

LOOKING FOR A FIESTA ST? TROPICAL FORD HAS IT!



Photos for Illustration Purposes Only

New 2017 FORD FIESTA ST

STARTING AT \$18,690

PLUS, GET 2 YEARS OF FREE OIL CHANGES!!



Monday - Saturday 8:30am-9:00pm
Sunday 11:00am-6:00pm

407-851-3800
tropicalford.com

9900 S. Orange Blossom Trail
Orlando

See dealer for details. Price does not include tax, tag & dealer fee.

In Beautiful South Orlando!

Don't miss an issue...

Renew your FREE Osceola News-Gazette Subscription Today!

OSCEOLA NEWS-GAZETTE Call 321-402-0401

Informing readers. Helping build a stronger community.

Pride ties Utah in NWSL season opener

By Ken Jackson
Sports Editor

The Orlando Pride started their third season on Saturday different than their previous two in two ways.

First, the opening match was at home. Second, the Pride managed a point from the opener.

Marta's penalty kick midway through the first half equalized an early goal from Utah Royals FC as the teams played to a 1-1 draw in front of 9,017 fans, the highest attendance total of all the NWSL openers, at Orlando City Stadium.

"It was the game we expected. We knew they would come out and be well organized and start to really press us and work really hard to get a result here," Orlando Coach Tom Sermanni said. "Didn't have the brightest of starts to the game but I thought overall if we had scored early in the second half when we had a couple of good chances, we would have gone on and won the game comfortably."

"I just think we're — which is to be expected — just a little bit rusty, not quite lacking the cohesion that we had at the end of last season. When you consider we had five new starters on the field tonight, when you consider we virtually, like most teams, had no preseason. I'm satisfied that we've come out and kept our run in the league going from last year and not losing the

game. We're one point better off than we've been at the start of the first two seasons in the league."

Utah got the match off to a fast start with a goal on the counter in the third minute when Diana Matheson found Iceland national team member Gunnhilder Jonsdottir in behind the back line.

The Pride continued pressing and earned a penalty kick in the 19th minute and Marta stepped up and calmly finished into the side netting. The goal was her 14th with Orlando, which passed Alex Morgan for the most goals in Pride history.

Morgan left the match just before the halftime whistle after a hard collision with Utah goalkeeper Abby Smith just outside the box. Morgan immediately entered the league's concussion protocol.

The lack of second-half scoring meant Orlando got a point in the standings without scoring in the normal flow of the game, something Sermanni said will improve as the season goes on.

"It is going to hopefully improve as players get used to each other," he said. "We're also not a what I call real match fitness level yet, so there's a bit of fatigue that sets in therefore the decisions aren't quite as good, the passing isn't quite as good. We lacked that little cohesion."

Five players made their



PHOTO/ORLANDO PRIDE

Orlando Pride defender Shelina Zadorsky advances the ball in Saturday's 1-1 draw against Utah Royals FC.

Orlando Pride debuts in the starting lineup: defenders Carson Pickett, Shelina Zadorsky and Poliana, midfielder Christine Nairn and forward Sydney Leroux.

"It was definitely exciting," Zadorsky said. "I think just playing for this city and that crowd tonight, what was it 9,000, I think? It just shows how supportive everyone is and you know we fell short of the three points but I think it's a good stepping stone for us now and we build from that."

The Pride visit the Washington Spirit on Saturday. Kickoff is set for 3:30 p.m. and will be nationally televised on Lifetime. They return to Orlando City Stadium on

April 22 to host the Houston Dash.

The Pride look to build off an impressive second year in the NWSL that saw them go undefeated in the final two months, compiling a 6-0-3 record, to clinch the Club's first playoff berth. The Pride led the league with 45 goals and return Morgan and Marta, two of the league's top five goal scorers.

"When you look at the team we have, we've got a considerable number of match-winners on our team," Sermanni said. "Even last year, we had a significant number of players that scored goals for us. We've added to that firepower even more so this year."

Our patients first!



"I'm committed to guide parents on how to maintain good health care for their children"

Dr. Marisara Cintron
Pediatrician

Now accepting
Medicaid

IMA - Buenaventura Lakes
1044 Plaza Drive,
Kissimmee, FL 34743
855-694-6432
www.IMAMedicalGroup.com



City of Kissimmee
Program Year 2018 Community Development Block Grant Program Funds
Request for Applications

The City of Kissimmee will receive approximately \$576,285 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for Program Year 2018 from October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019. The purpose of the CDBG Program is the development of viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities principally for persons of low/moderate income. Eligible activities include public services, public facilities and improvements, housing, code enforcement, clearance and demolition, economic development, acquisition and disposition. At least 70% of all CDBG funds must be expended on program activities that benefit low/moderate income persons. Up to fifteen percent (15%) or approximately \$86,442 may be utilized for public service activities. **Priority will be given to applications from agencies that serve precariously housed and homeless individuals and families with housing and non-housing related assistance.** Preference will be given to agencies that have proven experience with CDBG funding, especially with meeting the income verification requirements as outlined by HUD, to apply for funds.

Applications for eligible projects and activities will be available for non-profit or government agencies anytime during regular business hours after March 29, 2018. All applications can be picked up at the City of Kissimmee, Development Services Department office at 101 Church Street, Kissimmee, Florida, 34741. All proposals are due no later than 5:00 p.m., April 26, 2018.

All CDBG project applicants are required to attend a **mandatory** technical assistance workshop regarding the application process. **Please note that applications will not be accepted from agencies that have not attended the technical assistance workshop.** The workshop will be held on **Thursday, April 12, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Kissimmee City Hall Commission Chambers, 101 Church Street, 1st floor, Kissimmee, Florida 34741-5054.

For more information regarding the CDBG application process, please call (407) 518-2156 or fdejesus@kissimmee.org.

Persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations to participate should call the Development Services Department office at (407) 518-2156 within forty-eight (48) weekday hours of the meeting. Where a significant number of non-English speaking residents can be reasonably expected to participate, an interpreter will be provided upon written request to the Development Services Department office (101 Church Street, Kissimmee, FL, 34741) no later than 5PM, Tuesday, April 10, 2018.

SPORTS BRIEFS

▶ **Chamber golf**

The 38th annual St. Cloud Chamber of Commerce golf tournament will be April 14 at Royal St. Cloud Golf Links. This year's event features raffle prizes, a "Best Dressed" contest, food, drinks, goodie bags, hole-in-one contest, longest drive prizes, and more. Registration begins at 7 a.m. and is \$75 per player or \$300 per team and includes breakfast and lunch. Assorted corporate sponsorships are also available.

For information or to register go to bit.ly/chambergolf2018 or contact the Chamber at 407-892-3671.

▶ **Harmony HS physicals**

Harmony High School will hold a physical night April 12 from 6:30-8 p.m. incoming and returning athletes. Physicals are \$10 and all forms will be provide on site. For information email Longhorns Head Athletic Trainer Craig Carnell at craig.carnell@osceolaschools.net.

▶ **The First Tee comes to Kissimmee**

The First Tee of Central Florida is pleased to announce the registration 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 be on Tuesdays from 5-6 p.m. and sessions for participants 10-12 years old will be 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/>. 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 .

COLUMN

Continued from Page 15.

to the bottom for years, in the name of getting to draft a top teenage talent. Sadly, for the NBA, about seven other teams are also in that colossal pillow fight to have the worst record as well ("Play like dung to draft Trae Young!"). You're either fit to win the title or tanking the season to win the Draft. By the way, the Association can fix this mess by giving the even-numbered spots in the Draft Lottery to the non-playoff teams with the best records after the All-Star Game.

Speaking of messes to fix, I'm not sure the Orlando City Lions have tweaked their lack of victory problems either, with their 0-2-1 start to the year. The community really embraced pro soccer in this town, but it wants a winner, and the team has yet to prove it is one in its fourth season.

That leaves the Orlando Pride, who opened the National Women's Soccer League season Saturday with a 1-1 draw. The Pride have three players — Alex Morgan, Sydney Leroux and Brazil's Marta — who can send *pelotas* into the back of the net. The problem is that these world-class ladies

aren't household names. Will that change? Well, their game on Saturday at Washington is on national television, but you have to remember where the Lifetime network is on your cable lineup.

And, of course, if all else fails, there's our own Florida Fire Frogs, who open their Florida State League baseball season next

weekend, chock-full of the Atlanta Braves' best minor-league talent, and a soon-to-be-named indoor soccer team that will call the Silver Spurs Arena home.

There's gotta be a winner out there somewhere ... speaking of which, the Eagles really did win the Super Bowl, right? Trust me, I'm not the only fan still confirming we

didn't dream it ...

... I get a vision of a story I wouldn't mind happening this time of year. Scott Birchler, Bo O'Dell, Jim Moran, Chris Arago and yours truly walk into a bar. We order a round, talk baseball for about 10 minutes, then spend the rest of the evening toasting and talking about how much we miss Mike Fields.

Don't Miss the Deadline! Books Close April 3

All residents of District 39 who would like to vote in the upcoming Special Election, need to be registered to vote by the time books close.

The last day to register to vote in the **May 1, 2018 Special Election** is April 3.

For more information, call the Elections Office at 407.742.6000 or visit our website at www.voteosceola.com



Mary Jane Arrington
Supervisor of Elections
Osceola County
2509 E. Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy.
Kissimmee, FL 34744

032918.TNG

ATA DENTAL

Dr. Ireni Mikhail | Dr. Joe Ata | Dr. Jill Ata | Dr. Omar Ata

FAMILY OWNED DENTISTRY

WE ACCEPT MOST INSURANCE • SE HABLA ESPAÑOL
FLEXIBLE PAYMENT PLANS AVAILABLE

KISSIMMEE - 407.870.5151
3192 S. John Young Pkwy., Ste. B, Kissimmee, FL 34746
ATADENTAL.COM

30 YEARS

QUICK FAST!! 4 TIRES

We'll beat your best price Guaranteed!

Low price tire guarantee valid on dealer-installed purchases only. Requires presentation of competitor's current price ad/offer on exact tire sold by the dealership within 30 days after purchase. See dealer for details through 4/30/18.

TROPICAL FORD

407-851-3800
tropicalford.com
9900 S. Orange Blossom Trail

Fast Quick Lane® Service

Quick Lane® Hours:
Mon-Fri: 7:00AM - 7:00PM
Sat: 7:00AM - 5:00PM
Closed Sundays

www.aroundosceola.com

OUR CELEBRATION LOCATION OPENS FEB. 28, 2018
1530 Celebration Blvd., Suite 408, Celebration, FL 34747



Daystar
let your light shine!
Skin & Cancer Center

Our expansion is without compromise to our core values and commitment to our patients. As always we believe all patients and their skin concerns deserve to be treated by qualified physicians. At Daystar every patient is always seen by a physician. We have built our clinics on quality and expertise. **4 locations to serve you!**

Visit DaystarSkin.com



Dr. Scott Schlauder, M.D.

Daystar Skin & Cancer Center is dedicated to help our community achieve their healthiest skin possible. Our center is conveniently located to serve Poinciana, Kissimmee and Haines City.

Whether you are facing skin cancer, struggling with a chronic skin condition or seeking a new fresh approach to your skin care needs, we are here to serve you! We see both children and adults and accept all major insurances. If you have any questions about our services, please feel free to contact us.



Dr. Neil Sandhu, M.D., Board-Certified Dermatologist (ABD).

Dr. Sandhu served as Chief Resident at UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School. His training puts him at the cutting-edge in cosmetic dermatology and skin cancer surgery. Dr. Sandhu is also trained in cosmetic procedures including BOTOX and filler injections, chemical peels, and photorejuvenation. Dr. Sandhu attended the University of Wisconsin, where he graduated Summa Cum Laude before going on to attend the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine & Public Health, where he again graduated at the top of his class. Dr. Sandhu has authored multiple scientific articles, including one focusing on the use of laser procedures in dermatology. He is a member of the American Society for Dermatologic Surgery, American Academy of Dermatology, and the American Society of Mohs Surgery.

Se habla Español

Mohs surgeon & dermatopathologist onsite • General & cosmetic dermatology services • We accept all major insurances • Non-surgical method for treating skin cancer SRT

4 locations to serve you • Call 407-483-4950 to make your appointment today!

CELEBRATION
1530 Celebration Blvd., Suite 408
Near to Celebration Health
Celebration, FL 34747

DAVENPORT
106 Park Place, Suite B
Next to Heart of Florida Hospital
Davenport, FL 33837

KISSIMMEE
1157 Miranda Lane
Conveniently located at the Loop
Kissimmee, FL 34741

POINCIANA
512 Cypress Parkway
Next to the car wash and Family Dollar
Kissimmee, FL 34759

030118.TNG

BUSINESS SERVICES

CONTACT
JODY GILLESPIE ADVERTISING SALES
EMAIL JGILLESPIE@OSCEOLANEWSGAZETTE.COM
PHONE 321-402-0423

A ACTING/MODELING
Actors and models needed for Movies, TV & Magazines!
Earn \$200-\$500 Daily ~ Free Training

| | |
|--|--|
|  Sexy Hair Show \$250 a day ABBY SINCLAIR |  Circle K Promotion Film & Focus Magazine \$2,750 a day BOB KNOWLES |
|--|--|

All Ages & Types Needed
No Experience Necessary
BE A JESS ANDERSON MODEL!
Call Now 863-683-8883
 Established for 36 years Lic#1290000013

| | |
|---|--|
|  Tires Plus National TV Commercial LANDEN JOINER |  Publix Training Film & Print Ad \$375 a day ORTIZ ESPIRITUSANTO |
|---|--|

A AIR CONDITIONING
ALL TEMP AIR CONDITIONING & REFRIGERATION LLC



FREE Estimates!
 License #CAC 1814398

Ask about our: PHONES ARE ANSWERED 24/7!! CALL NOW!

• 100% Financing Available (poor credit okay)
 • 10 yr Parts Warranty

\$25 OFF SERVICE CALL (Reg. \$98) Now \$73
 Coupon valid Monday-Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm

www.alltempairconditioning.com
Experience the All Temp Advantage
407-857-7800

A AIR CONDITIONING
407-873-7462
ALL COUNTY AIR CONDITIONING, INC.
LOW FLAT RATES!
www.osceolacountyair.com
ON THE SPOT REPAIRS
 State Certified, Licensed, And Insured CAC1813534

G GARAGE DOORS
SAME DAY GARAGE DOOR SERVICE INC.
\$10 OFF ANY SERVICE & FREE DOOR MAINTENANCE WITH ANY SERVICE COUPON
 24 Hr. Emergency Service Available
407.780.1691

H HOME IMPROVEMENT
Inspire
 Handyman & Professional Services:

| | |
|--------------|----------------------|
| Sprinklers | Interior Design |
| Plumbing | Kitchen Renovations |
| Electrical | Bathroom Renovations |
| Painting | Pool Filters & Pumps |
| Tile & Stone | Pressure Washing |

Call: (407) 866-8685
 Se habla español
 Free Estimates!
 Licensed & Insured



VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER, AMERICAN EXPRESS

A AUTO PAINTING & BODY WORKS
Mike's Auto Painting & Body Works
 A Name Osceola County Has Trusted Since 1986!
 307 Broadway, Kissimmee, FL 34741
407-847-0993
 Specializing in Collision Repair • All Insurances Accepted



H HOME IMPROVEMENT
Professional Improvements



Handyman Service at an Affordable Price.
 Call the Pro's at Home Maintenance & Repairs.
 Free Estimates

Sprinklers Repair, Gutters, Wash, Plumbing Repairs, Fencing- Repair & Install, Paint

Call: (407)731-3089
 Hablamos Español
 Licenced, Bonded & Insured, Lic#159219

H HANDYMAN
Need A Handyman? Call Dan!

CLEAN, DEPENDABLE, HONEST & AFFORDABLE
 INTERIOR PAINTING SPECIALS

- Clean/Quality Painting
- Pressure Washing
- Kitchen & Bathroom Renovations
- Doors & Windows
- All Your Home Maintenance & Repair Needs
- Licensed/Insured

CALL DANIEL (407) 279-2109
www.kissimmehandyman.net

H HOME IMPROVEMENT
10% OFF HomeCreations.ws
 Glass Sun Rooms, Storm Shutters, Screened Rooms, Kitchens & Baths

- Vinyl Fences • Vinyl Windows • Glass Windows
- Room Addition • Garage Screen Door

25 Years Experience Licensed & Insured
1-800-329-3317

Douglas E. Csont
 #2001-0084570 #CRC #038072

Garage Screen Doors \$850

The Classifieds:
 Your Ticket to Local Finds



Call or go online to **browse, buy or sell!**

OSCEOLA NEWS-GAZETTE
 Call Jody at 321-402-0423 to advertise today!

P PODIATRY
TOENAIL FUNGUS REMOVAL
 Pain Free Laser Treatment



CALL TODAY!
 (407) 423-1234
 ORLANDO-LASER.COM

ORLANDO FOOT & ANKLE CLINIC
 Personalized foot pain solutions for active adults

Kissimmee 819 E. Oak St. Ste B Kissimmee, FL
 St. Cloud 3104 17th St. St. Cloud, FL
 Poinciana 339 Cypress Pkwy. #240, Poinciana, FL

\$100 OFF
 When you mention this ad.
 17 LOCATIONS | CALL FOR LASER

H HOME REPAIR
TSK EXTERIORS

Roofing & Siding
 Insurance Claims Specialist



MEMBER ST. CLOUD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Storm or Hurricane Damage?



ONE CALL DOES IT ALL
Call Today! 407-498-3900

Is the STUFF at your house piling UP?
 Sell it in the Classified section today!*

Sell it for FREE when your stuff is priced lower than \$100.
 Call Jody for low prices on stuff valued over \$100.
321-402-0423

FOR AUTOS, BOATS CAMPERS, ETC
 Call Jody TODAY for more details!
321-402-0423

*The asking price of your items must be in your ad to receive tiered pricing. Flat rates, no discount for early cancellations.

BUSINESS SERVICES

CONTACT
JODY GILLESPIE ADVERTISING SALES
EMAIL JGILLESPIE@OSCEOLANNEWS-GAZETTE.COM
PHONE 321-402-0423

H HOME REPAIR
 EMERGENCY ROOF TARPING AND STRUCTURAL DRYING SERVICES

PROBLEMS WITH
**ROOF LEAKS,
 PLUMBING LEAKS,
 MOLD, FIRE OR
 SMOKE DAMAGE**
 IN YOUR HOME?

We work with your insurance company to resolve and eliminate these problems at **NO COST to YOU!**

Call Today for a **FREE INSPECTION** **407-232-4588**
 cvpconstruction.com
 State Contractor CBC1257395

WE BILL YOUR INSURANCE CARRIER DIRECTLY — NO OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSE!

CVP MITIGATION

L LANDSCAPING
 Licensed Insured
AAA Perfection Lawn Care
 Landscaping, Sprinklers

Lawn Care from \$25

CALL NOW **407-908-1371**
 www.orlandolawnservice.com

P PAINTING & PRESSURE WASHING
Reliable Painting & Pressure Washing
 Specializing in interior and exterior painting.
 Registered & insured
 Free estimates

Competitive pricing and **FREE** pressure wash w/ exterior Paint Job

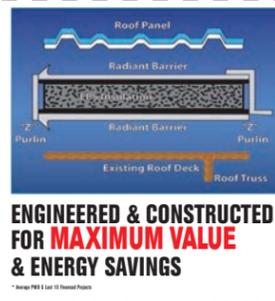
English **407-255-5782**
 Espanol **407-668-2131**

R ROOFING
THE LAST ROOF YOU'LL EVER BUY
INSULATED LIFETIME METAL ROOFING

Metal Re-Roof Sale

\$1,000 OFF
\$136 PER MONTH

MONTHLY PAYMENTS FROM



SERVING ALL OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

- ✓ **STRONG** - Withstands Winds up to 155 MPH
- ✓ **DURABLE** - Written Lifetime Warranty
- ✓ **INSULATES** - Cuts A/C & Heating Costs by up to 40%
- ✓ **BEAUTIFUL** - Choose from 16 Designer Colors
- ✓ **AFFORDABLE** - Average Monthly Payments of \$136/mo. up to \$1,000 back within First 12 mos.

ENGINEERED & CONSTRUCTED FOR MAXIMUM VALUE & ENERGY SAVINGS

PRESTIGE METAL ROOFING
407-290-6203
 Licensed & Insured CCC033709 & CGC058169
 OFFER NOT VALID FOR PATIOS, SHINGLES, COMMERCIAL OR NEW CONSTRUCTION

Looking for the right people to get the job done just got easier • www.aroundosceola.com

CLASSIFIEDS

CONTACT
JODY GILLESPIE ADVERTISING SALES
EMAIL JGILLESPIE@OSCEOLANNEWS-GAZETTE.COM
PHONE 321-402-0423

Place your classified online 24 hours a day
www.aroundosceola.com

Announcements

ACADEMY OF SELF DEFENSE
 Accepting applications for all ages, to learn practical self-defense (Aikido and Savate) Students/Seniors pay what you can Call-407-870-8477

CARIBBEAN FUSION
 is back April 22nd at Kissimmee Lakefront! 12:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. **Vendors Wanted!** Showcasing the Best of Caribbean Culture with it's Foods, Music & Arts. Free Admission Free Health Fair 11am-3pm Fun for all ages! 201 Lakeview Dr. Kissimmee-34741 Call-407-856-4612

DIVORCE ☆ WILLS EVICTIONS ☆ CORPORATIONS
STARTING AT \$65
 1-Signature Divorce
 Missing Spouse Divorce
 ☆ We Come To You! ☆
 Covering all Florida Counties
1-888-847-1997
 (Since 1992)

CALL TO ADVERTISE in Osceola News-Gazette at 407-846-7600 today. Ask for Jody.

Personals

SENIOR MALE looking for Female Live-in Companion Call: (407)957-3758

Services

CAR CEILING Falling? You should be calling Z's Headliners Mobile Service. 407-701-5564

AC/Heating

ALL COUNTY AIR CONDITIONING, Inc.
407-873-7462
 Check us out on the Central Florida Better Business Bureau. CAC1813534

CHECK OUT THESE LOCAL GARAGE SALES
 To place an ad, call Jody 321-402-0423

Garage Sales St. Cloud

GARAGE SALE
 5250 Hammock Circle St. Cloud 34771
 March 31st - 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 A Little Bit of Everything!

STATE WIDE CLASSIFIEDS

Reach 8 Million Readers throughout Florida with the Florida Community Papers Advertising Network, Call

AUTOMOBILES
CARS/TRUCKS WANTED!!! Sell Your Used or Damaged 2002-2018 Vehicle Fast! Running or Not. Nationwide Free Towing. Same Day Pick-Up and Pay Available. Call 800-761-9396

DONATE YOUR CAR FOR BREAST CANCER! Help United Breast Foundation education, prevention, & support programs. FAST FREE PICKUP - 24 HR RESPONSE - TAX DEDUCTION 1-844-513-9098 (m)

DONATE YOUR CAR, TRUCK OR BOAT TO HERITAGE FOR THE BLIND. Free 3 Day Vacation, Tax Deductible, Free Towing, All Paperwork Taken Care Of. CALL 1-800-902-7815 (m)

Got an older car, boat or RV? Do the humane thing. Donate it to the Humane Society. Call 1-800-831-6309 (m)

FINANCIAL
Are you in Debt? Get help now with a 30 minute Phone debt analysis. Mon-Fri 9:00 am to 8:00 pm, Sat: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. All Eastern time. 1-855-630-5331 (t)

Have 10K in Debt? National Debt Relief is rated A-Plus with the BBB. You could be debt free in 24-48 months. Call 1-866-465-4307 now for a free debt evaluation. (m)

IRS TAX DEBTS? \$10K+? Tired of the calls? We can Help! \$500 free consultation! We can STOP the garnishments! FREE Consultation. Call Today 1-855-810-0839 (t)

Unable to work due to injury or illness? Call Bill Gordon & Assoc., Social Security Disability Attorneys! FREE Evaluation. 1-855-399-1237! Mail: 2420 N St NW, Washington DC. Office: Broward Co. FL., Mbr. TX/NM Bar. Local Attorneys Nationwide. (m)

HEALTH & MEDICAL
Do you have chronic knee or back pain? If you have insurance, you may qualify for the perfect brace at little to no cost. Get yours today! 1-800-862-8392 (t)

FDA-Registered Hearing Aids. 100% Risk-Free! 45-Day Home Trial. Comfort Fit. Crisp Clear Sound. If you decide to keep it, PAY ONLY \$299 per aid. FREE Shipping. Call Hearing Help Express 1-877-442-6921 (m)

Medical-Grade HEARING AIDS for LESS THAN \$200! FDA-Registered. Crisp, clear sound, state-of-the-art features & no audiologist needed. Try it RISK FREE for 45 Days! CALL 1-855-504-5893 (m)

Lung Cancer? 60 or Older? If So, You and Your Family may Be Entitled To A Significant Cash Award. Call 855-839-6761 To Learn More. No Risk, No Money Out of Pocket (m)

MALE ENLARGEMENT PUMP Get Stronger & Harder Erections Immediately. Gain 1-3 Inches Permanently & Safely. Guaranteed Results. FDA Licensed. Free Brochure. 1-800-354-3944 www.DrJoelKaplan.com

OXYGEN - Anytime. Anywhere. No tanks to refill. No deliveries. Only 2.8 pounds! FAA approved! FREE info kit. Call 1-888-572-4944 (t)

Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 855-397-7056 (m)

SAVE on Medicare Supplement Insurance! Get a FAST and FREE Rate Quote from Medicare.com. No Cost! No Obligation! Compare Quotes from Major Insurance Cos. Operators Standing By. CALL 1-844-857-4389 (m)

Stop OVERPAYING for your prescriptions! SAVE! Call our licensed Canadian and International pharmacy, compare prices and get \$25.00 OFF your first prescription! CALL 1-844-359-3209 Promo Code CDC201725 (m)

Suffering from Knee, Back or Joint Pain? A Pain Relieving Orthotic Brace Can Help! Fast/Easy Medicare Approvals with Qualifying Prescription. We Handle the Paperwork. Call Now! 1-844-245-6904 (m)

VIAGRA & CIALIS! 60 pills for \$99. 100 pills for \$150. FREE shipping. Money back guaranteed! 1-800-726-2194 (t)

Medicare doesn't cover all of your medical expenses. A Medicare Supplemental Plan can help cover costs that Medicare does not. Get a free quote today by calling now. "Hours: 24/7. 1-800-866-3027

HELP WANTED
\$\$\$HELP WANTED\$\$\$ Earn Extra income assembling CD cases from Home. CALL OUR LIVE OPERATORS NOW! 1-800-405-7619 Ext 320 www.easywork-greatpay.com

MISCELLANEOUS
Always Protect Your Family! Final Expense/Burial Insurance. \$30,000 Coverage Only \$1 per day! No Med Exam! Free Consult. Call Today 1-855-385-4423 (t)

ALL ANTIQUES WANTED Jewelry, Artwork, Porcelain, Art Glass, Silver, Chinese Antiques, Designer, Mid-Century Furniture, Handbags. Elite Auctioneers. www.eliteauction.com Palm Beach 561-301-9421

Call Empire Today to schedule a FREE in-home estimate on Carpeting & Flooring. Call Today! 1-800-214-0166 (t)

AT&T High Speed Internet Starting at \$40/month. Up to 45 Mbps! Over 99% Reliability! Bundle AT&T Digital TV or Phone Services & Internet Price Starts at \$30/month. Call 1-888-274-1454 (m)

Become a published author! Publications sold at all major secular & specialty Christian bookstores. CALL Christian Faith Publishing for your FREE author submission kit. 1-844-506-6434 (m)

Cross Country Moving, Long distance Moving Company, out of state move. \$799 Long Distance Movers. Get Free quote on your Long distance move 1-800-214-4604 (t)

DIRECTV SELECT PACKAGE! Over 150 Channels, ONLY \$35/month (for 12 mos.) Order Now! Get a \$200 AT&T Visa Rewards Gift Card (some restrictions apply) CALL 1-877-808-9508 (m)

DISH TV \$59.99 For 190 Channels + \$14.95 High Speed Internet. Free Installation, Smart HD DVR Included, Free Voice Remote. Some restrictions apply 1-800-496-2603 (t)

DISH Network. 190+ channels. FREE Install. FREE Hopper HD-DVR. \$49.99/month (24 mos). Add High Speed Internet - \$14.95 (where avail.) CALL Today & SAVE 25%! 1-855-895-7245 (m)

Earthlink High Speed Internet. As Low As \$14.95/month (for the first 3 months.) Reliable High Speed Fiber Optic Technology. Stream Videos, Music and More! Call Earthlink Today 1-877-929-1176 (m)

ENJOY 100% guaranteed, delivered to-the-door Omaha Steaks! SAVE 75% PLUS get 4 more Burgers & 4 more Kielbasa FREE! Order The Family Gourmet Buffet - ONLY \$49.99. Call 1-844-275-9596 mention code 51689ADS or visit www.omahasteaks.com/meal22 (m)

FAST Internet! HughesNet Satellite Internet. High-Speed. Avail Anywhere. Speeds to 15 mbps. Starting at \$59.99/mo. Call for Limited Time Price 1-800-958-6917 (m)

Get an iPhone 8 or Samsung Galaxy8 for \$34/month. Call AT&T Wireless today to learn how to get a new phone. Call while supplies last. 1-855-892-2388 (m)

Get your medical marijuana cards, any Debilitating Condition. Fast easy service Statewide. 1-855-234-8420

HughesNet Satellite Internet - 25mbps starting at \$49.99/mo! FAST download speeds. WiFi built in! FREE Standard Installation for lease customers! Limited Time, Call 877-417-5828 (t)

INVENTORS - FREE INFORMATION PACKAGE. Have your product idea developed affordably by the Research & Development pros and presented to manufacturers. Call 1-844-349-8351 for a Free Idea Starter Guide. Submit your idea for a free consultation. (m)

Make a Connection. Real People, Flirty Chat. Meet Singles right now! Call LiveLinks. Try it FREE. Call NOW: 855-334-7726

Spectrum Triple Play TV, Internet & Voice for \$29.99 ea. 60 MB per second speed. No contract or commitment. More Channels. Faster Internet. Unlimited Voice. 1-877-279-4652 (m)

SUPPORT our service members, veterans and their families in their time of need. For more information, visit the Fisher House website at www.fisherhouse.org.

Water Damage. Dealing with water damage requires immediate action. Local professionals that respond immediately. Nationwide and 24/7. No mold calls. Call today! 1-800-730-6976 (Place Under Home Services) (t)

SERVICES/Miscellaneous
A PLACE FOR MOM. The nation's largest senior living referral service. Contact our trusted, local experts today! Our service is FREE/no obligation. CALL 1-855-836-8564 (m)

SPANISH SECTION
Canada Drug Center es tu mejor opcion para ordenar medicamentos seguros y economicos. Nuestros servicios de farmacia con licencia Canadiense e Internacional te proveeran con ahorros de hasta el 75 en todas las medicinas que necesitas. Llama ahora al 1-855-836-0410 y obten \$10 de descuento con tu primer orden ademas de envio gratuito. (m)

OPEN FOR DAILY SALES!

SOLD!

5 POINTS Furniture & Auction, LLC

We buy all types of Quality Furniture!
We buy Estates!

NEXT AUCTION
FRI. MAR. 30TH
SAT. MAR. 31ST
7PM

BID ON OUR ONLINE AUCTIONS
 Download our app from your app store today.

NOW ACCEPTING QUALITY CONSIGNMENTS
 1125 New York Ave, St. Cloud, FL
 407-891-9882
www.5pointsauction.com • AU3170 / AB2480

24/7 WWW.AROUNDOSCEOLA.COM

CLASSIFIEDS

Place your classified online 24 hours a day
www.aroundosceola.com

CONTACT
JODY GILLESPIE ADVERTISING SALES
EMAIL JGILLESPIE@OSCEOLANEWS-GAZETTE.COM
PHONE 321-402-0423

AC/Heating

PIPERS AIR Conditioning & Heating Inc.
24 Hour Emergency Service
Licensed(#CAC1814148)/Insured
www.pipersairandheat.com
Call Now-407-952-7266
or Email:
David@pipersairandheat.com

Roofing Contractor

PRESTIGE METAL ROOFING
The Last Roof You'll Ever Buy
Insulated Lifetime Metal Roofing
Licensed/Insured
Call Now for a Free Estimate
407-290-6203

For Sale General

LAZYBOY LEATHER Double Reclining Sofa - Like NEW - Call for more information (407) 847-3989

MURRAY 40" Lawn Tractor Select - \$400
Dream Maker
4-person Spa - \$400
All in Great Condition!
Call-407-932-0750

Help Wanted General

ACTORS- MODELS
EARN \$200-\$500 Daily.
NEEDED FOR TV
COMMERCIALS, MOVIES,
CATALOG ADS &
PROMO WORK.
NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY
ALL AGES & TYPES
Established for 35 Years
JESS ANDERSON TALENT &
MODEL AGENCY
CALL NOW 863-683-8883
Contact@andersonmodeling.com
Lic# 1290000013

PLUMBER WANTED!
Familiar with New Construction and Service
Donnie Daniels Plumbing
4411 Tami Lane, 34746
(407)847-0339
or
(407)933-1448

Help Wanted General

HIRING MACHINE OPERATORS
Please apply within:
2780 N. John Young Parkway
Kissimmee, Fl. 34741

FEMALE CNA NEEDED
for 65 year old couple.
Must use Hoyer lift &
drive handicapped van for Shopping, etc.
Must be Non-Smoker,
Non-allergic (3 cats)
Call-321-402-6760

SKID STEER OPERATORS
Experienced & must know how to do a final grade
Garys Grading Inc.
Call Today-407-892-3690

Immediate Openings!

CARPENTERS & EXPERIENCED HELPERS
Steady, Long-term Work
Get Paid Every Friday!
Call Today! 407-947-4419
Espanol-407-630-2719

DUMP TRUCK DRIVER,
must have class A or B CDL,
Skid Steer Operators
and Laborers
Good Driving Record a Plus
Gary's Grading Inc
25 E 13th Street
(In Folsom Services Bldg)
or Call - 407-892-3690

FL TREE

FLORIDA TREE CARE CO.
TREE WORKERS NEEDED
Experienced and non-experienced positions available.
(Disney/Osceola Pkwy area)
Email us at
Fltreejobs@gmail.com or
Call 407-494-3582

CANCEL OR change classified ads by calling the Osceola News-Gazette at 407-846-7600.

Help Wanted General

LOOKING FOR people who want to make a change.
Come to Tropical Ford:
Need Salespeople,
telemarketing and detailers.
Apply at:
www.tropicalford.com
Tropical Ford
9900 S. Orange Blossom Trail
Orlando, FL 32837

Medical

***NURSES - 7-3 PT and 11-7 FT**
***CNA** - Every other weekend
All Shifts
***CNA** - Unit Clerk
***Dietary** - Cook and Aides
PT and FT
***Floor Tech** - FT
Apply at:
The Terrace of St. Cloud
3855 Old Canoe Creek Road
St. Cloud, FL 34769

Mobile Homes For Rent

FOR RENT
1, 2 & 3 Bedroom Mobile Homes
Park Models & RV's
Fully Furnished,
Utilities Included
\$150-\$270 Weekly
\$200 Deposit & 1 Weeks Rent
Moves You In!
Kissimmee/Disney Area
407-397-9110

Cemetery Plots

2-SIDE-by-Side Burial Plots
Osceola Memorial Gardens
(Christus Garden)
Prime location near
Little Mausoleum
Present value-\$4190.00
Selling Both for-\$3000.00
Contact-850-478-3677

Trucks

1993 NISSAN Pick-up
1 Owner, Everything Works!
A/C-125K Miles \$2995
Call-407-747-9945

We're Looking for EXECUTIVE MATERIAL!

COMMERCIAL PRINT ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE/SALES

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.

Benefits include health, dental insurance, and 401K, paid time off.

Pay includes base plus commission.

Interested applicants should send resumes to taylor@sunpubfla.com

Sun Publications of Florida
a Division of Lakeway Publishers of Florida, Inc.

Community Newspapers, Shopping Guides, Commercial Printing

For as little as \$32 for 2 days

You can reach over 75,000 readers!
Advertise your garage sale today.

OSCEOLA NEWS-GAZETTE Call Jody 321-402-0423 or visit aroundosceola.com

SELL IT FAST!

PUBLIC NOTICES

View all Public Notices online
www.aroundosceola.com and



CONTACT: GARY LUGO EMAIL LEGALADS@OSCEOLANEWSGAZETTE.COM PHONE 407-846-7600

NOTICE OF SALE
JOE'S AUTO SERVICE CENTER INC., 1123 13th STREET, ST CLOUD, FL 34769
Towed-03/06/2018
Year-2006
Make-JAGU
VIN: SAJWA01B46HN55519
Date of Sale-04/11/2018
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location of Sale: Joe's Auto Service Center INC., 1123 13th Street, St. Cloud, FL. 34769
March 29, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 9th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION
Case #: 2016-CA-003118 MF FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION ("FANNIE MAE"), A CORPORATION ORGANIZED AND EXISTING UNDER THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Plaintiff,
vs.
MATTHEW HAYNES, A/K/A MATTHEW THEODORE ANDERSON HAYNES; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF MATTHEW HAYNES, A/K/A MATTHEW THEODORE ANDERSON HAYNES; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY;
Defendants,
RE-NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order Rescheduling Foreclosure Sale entered February 20, 2018, and filed in Case No. 2016-CA-003118 MF, of the Circuit Court of the 9th Judicial Circuit in and for OSCEOLA County, Florida, wherein FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION ("FANNIE MAE"), A CORPORATION ORGANIZED AND EXISTING UNDER THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, is the Plaintiff, and MATTHEW HAYNES, A/K/A MATTHEW THEODORE ANDERSON HAYNES;

UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF MATTHEW HAYNES, A/K/A MATTHEW THEODORE ANDERSON HAYNES; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY, are Defendants. ARMANDO RAMIREZ, the Clerk of the Circuit Court, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash IN SUITE 2600/ ROOM 2602 OF THE OSCEOLA COUNTY COURTHOUSE, at 2 COURTHOUSE SQUARE, KISSIMMEE IN OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA 34741, 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 23, LAUREL RUN AT CRESCENT LAKES, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 9, PAGE(S) 12-13, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.
A 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.

In accordance with the 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 the ADA Coordinator, Court Administration, Osceola County Courthouse, 2 Courthouse Square, Suite 6300, Kissimmee, Florida 34741, (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 711.
DATED this 23rd day of March 2018.
By: /s/ Eric Knopp
Stephanie Simmonds, Esq.
Bar. No.: 85404
Submitted by:
Kahane & Associates, P.A.

8201 Peters Road, Suite.3000
Plantation, FL 33324
Telephone: (954) 382-3486
Telefacsimile:(954) 382-5380
Designated service email: notice@kahaneandassociates.com
File No. 16-03838 SET
March 29, 2018
April 5, 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 20, 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) 2005 ACURA
VIN: 19UUA66275A031016
2) 2000 PONTIAC
VIN: 1G2JB1241Y7168824
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 29, 2018

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION
Pursuant to Ch 713.585(6) F.S. United American Lien & Recovery as agent w/ power of attorney will sell the following vehicle(s) to the highest bidder; net proceeds deposited with the clerk of court; owner/lienholder has right to hearing and post bond; owner may redeem vehicle for cash sum of lien; all auctions held in reserve
Inspect 1 week prior @ lienor facility; cash or cashier check; 18% buyer premium; any person interested phone (954) 563-1999
Sale date: April 20, 2018 @ 10:00 a.m., 3411 NW 9th Ave., Fort Lauderdale FL 33309
1) 31810 2006 Honda
VIN#: 2HGFG21536H700578
Lienor: Jo Tech Performance, 613 E. Donegan Ave.,

Kissimmee, FL 407-846-4884
Lien Amt: \$7849.08
2) 31811 2008 BMW
VIN: WBABW73578P040158
Lienor: Jo Tech Performance, 613 E. Donegan Ave., Kissimmee, FL 407-846-4884
Lien Amt: \$13019.63
Sale Date: April 27, 2018 @ 10:00 a.m., 3411 NW 9th Avenue, # 707, Fort Lauderdale FL 33309
1) 31828 2011 BMW
VIN:WBAPH7G55BNM55818
Lienor: Xtreme Motor Works Inc., 1610 N Main St., Kissimmee, FL 407-943-7486
Lien Amt: \$8573.70
2) 31829 1996 Toyota
VIN#: 4T1BG12KX1U825187
Lienor: Puerto Rico Auto Svc & Body Works, 1060 E. Carroll St., Kissimmee, FL
Telephone: 407-343-8199
Lien Amt: \$4924.00
Licensed Auctioneers
FLAB422 FLAU 765 & 1911
March 29, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
General Jurisdiction Division
Case #: 2010-CA-005696 MF WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, D/B/A CHRISTIANA TRUST, NOT INDIVIDUALLY BUT AS TRUSTEE FOR PRETIUM MORTGAGE ACQUISITION TRUST,
Plaintiff,
vs.
MATOS, NOEL AND BRUNILDA, et al.,
Defendant(s).
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated August 24, 2016, and entered in 2010-CA-005696 MF of the Circuit Court of the NINTH Judicial Circuit, in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, D/B/A CHRISTIANA TRUST, NOT INDIVIDUALLY BUT AS TRUSTEE FOR PRETIUM MORTGAGE ACQUISITION TRUST, is the Plaintiff, and

NOEL MATOS; BRUNILDA MATOS; MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS NOMINEE FOR SOMERST INVESTORS CORP.; THE BUENAVENTURA LAKES COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.; JANE DOE, N/K/A SUKANTY OLIVA; JOHN DOE, N/K/A PEDRO OLIVA are the Defendant(s).
Armando Ramirez, as the Clerk of the Circuit Court, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at Suite 2600/Room # 2602, 2 Courthouse Square, Kissimmee, FL 34741, at 11:00 A.M., on APRIL 17, 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:
LOT 8, BLOCK 152, BUENAVENTURA LAKES SUBDIVISION, UNIT 6, SECOND ADDITION, AS PER PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGE 9, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.
Property Address:
829 BIRCHWOOD CIR, KISSIMMEE, FL 34743
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.

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 Court Administration at Two 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 21st day of March 2018.
ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ & SCHNEID, P.L.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
12-14561-MoP
March 29, 2018
April 5, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
General Jurisdiction Division
Case #: 2015-CA-002820 MF U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for Citigroup Mortgage Loan Trust 2007-WFHE3, Asset-Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2007-WFHE3,
Plaintiff,
vs.
Maleia Moore; et al.,
Defendants.
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order dated February 16, 2018, entered in Case No. 2015-CA-002820 MF of the Circuit Court of the Ninth Judicial Circuit, in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for Citigroup Mortgage Loan Trust 2007-WFHE3, Asset-Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2007-WFHE3, is the Plaintiff, and Maleia Moore; Theodore Moore; Any and All Unknown Parties Claiming by, Through, Under and Against the Herein Named Individual Defendant(s) who are not Known to be Dead or Alive, Whether said Unknown Parties may Claim an Interest as Spouses, Heirs, Deviseses, Grantees, or other Claimants; Association of

Poinciana Villages, Inc.; Poinciana Village One Association, Inc.; Tenant # 1; Tenant # 2; Tenant # 3; Tenant # 4, are the Defendants, that Armando R. Ramirez, Osceola County Clerk of Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at, Suite 2600/ Room 2602, 2 Courthouse Square, Kissimmee, FL 34741, beginning at 11:00 A.M. on the 17th day of APRIL, 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:
LOT 19, BLOCK 1416, POINCIANA, NEIGHBORHOOD 1 SOUTH, VILLAGE 1, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGES 9 THROUGH 16, 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 60 days after the sale.

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 the ADA Coordinator, Court Administration, Osceola County Courthouse, 2 Courthouse Square, Suite 6300, Kissimmee, Florida 34741, (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 711.
DATED on this 22nd day of March 2018.
BROCK & SCOTT, PLLC
Attorney for Plaintiff
1501 N.W. 49th Street,
Suite 200,
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309
Phone: (954) 618-6955
ext. 6177
Fax: (954) 618-6954
FLCourtDocs@brockand-scott.com

By: /s/ Jimmy Edwards
Jimmy Edwards, Esquire
Florida Bar No. 81855
File No. 15-F08697
March 29, 2018
April 5, 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: **HAVEHN DESIGN** located at: 609 E. Central Avenue, in the County of Osceola, in the City of ORLANDO, Florida 32819, 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:
MELISSA AMBER FEHER ANATO
DATED at Kissimmee, Osceola County, Florida on this 23rd day of March, 2018.
March 29, 2018

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
On 04/12/2018 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) 2003 CHRYSLER
VIN: 3CBFY78G13T637269
2) 2015 JEEP
VIN: ZACCJABTFFB67715
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 29, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
 General Jurisdiction Division
 Case #: 2017-CA-002240 MF
 U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE UNDER THE POOLING AND SERVICING AGREEMENT DATED AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 2017, GSAMP TRUST 2007-NC1, MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-NC1, Plaintiff,
 vs.
 MICHELE GIOVINAZZO, A/K/A MICHELLE GIOVINAZZO, A/K/A GIOVINAZZO MICHELLE, A/K/A MICHELLE GIAVINAZZO, AND GRACE A. GIOVINAZZO, et al., Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION - CONSTRUCTIVE SERVICE TO: MICHELE GIOVINAZZO, A/K/A MICHELLE GIOVINAZZO, A/K/A GIOVINAZZO MICHELLE, A/K/A MICHELLE GIAVINAZZO, AND GRACE A. GIOVINAZZO, whose residence is unknown, and all parties having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property described in the mortgage being foreclosed herein.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property:
LOTS 5 AND 6, AND THE NORTH 5.0 FEET OF LOT 7, BLOCK 198, SEMINOLE LAND AND INVESTMENT COMPANY'S (INC.) MAP OF TOWN OF ST. CLOUD, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK B, PAGES 33 & 34, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on counsel for Plaintiff, whose address is: 6409 Congress Avenue, Suite 100, Boca Raton, Florida 33487 on or before MAY 2, 2018 (30 days from Date of First Publication of this Notice) and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition filed herein.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in these proceedings, 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, within two (2) working days of your receipt of this described notice; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 1-(800) 955-8771.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court at Osceola County, Florida, this 12th day of March 2018.

ARMANDO RAMIREZ
 CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
 By: /s/ S.N. As Deputy Clerk
 ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, & SCHNEID, PL
 6409 Congress Avenue
 Suite 100
 Boca Raton, FL 33487
 PRIMARY EMAIL:
 mail@rasflaw.com
 17-043621-AdB
 March 29, 2018
 April 5, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
 Case No.: 2017-CP-267
 IN RE: THE ESTATE OF DIEGO RIVERA DAVILA, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND INTERESTED PARTIES
 The administration of the estate of DIEGO RIVERA DAVILA, deceased, File Number 2017-CP-267, is pending in the Circuit Court of Osceola County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 2 Courthouse Square, Suite 2000, Kissimmee, FL 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, including unmatred, contingent or unliquidated claims, on whom a copy of this notice is 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, including unmatred, contingent or unliquidated claims, must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

The date of first publication of this Notice is March 22, 2018.
Personal Representative:
 Ivette M. Rivera
 3215 Timberline Road
 Winter Haven, FL 33880
Attorney for Personal Representative:
 Tyler S. Van Voorhees, Esq., Florida Bar No.: 64502
 Post Office Box 120280
 Clermont, FL 34712-0280
 Phone: (352) 394-1178
 Fax: (352) 242-3886
 March 22, 29, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
 Case #: 2018-CP-000199 PR
 IN RE: ESTATE OF HELEN OSUNA CHARLEMAN a/k/a, HELEN CHARLEMAN a/k/a, HELEN O. CHARLEMAN, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 The administration of the Estate of HELEN OSUNA CHARLEMAN, Deceased, who died testate, whose date of death was February 7, 2018, File Number 2018-CP-000199 PR, 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 a person designated as personal representative in the Decedent's will or Petitioner and a person designated as personal representative in the Decedent's will or Petitioner'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 THREE 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 the decedent's estate must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THREE 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 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 29, 2018.

Sandra Escalera
 Goldenberg, Petitioner
 2212 Wandering
 Oak Terrace
 Kissimmee, Florida 34746

/s/ Patricia L. Daugherty
 PATRICIA L. DAUGHERTY, ESQ.,
 Florida Bar No. 364029
 11 N. Vernon Avenue
 Kissimmee, FL 34741
 Facsimile: 407.518.7674
 Telephone: 407.932.4387
 Attorney for Petitioner(s)
 Email designation pursuant to Fla. R. Ju Admin. 2.516 - pld@daughertyatlaw.com
 March 29, 2018
 April 5, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
 General Jurisdiction Division
 Case #: 2017-CA-002504 MF
 SANTANDER BANK, N.A., Plaintiff,
 vs.
 JULIO SAVINI, Jr. a/k/a JULIO J. SAVINI, Jr., et al, Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION - CONSTRUCTIVE SERVICE TO: CountrySide Homeowners Association of Osceola, Inc.

Last Known Address: c/o Wayne Schoofield, Director, 1400 Grandview Blvd # 3, Kissimmee, FL 34744
 YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in Osceola County, Florida:
LOT 36, COUNTRYSIDE, ACCORDING TO MAP OR PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGE 18 THROUGH 20, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

TOGETHER WITH A CERTAIN 1988 BARRINGTON MOBILE HOME LOCATED THEREON AS A FIXTURE AND APPURTENANCE THERETO: VIN # FLFLH33A10981BA AND FLFLH33B10981BA.
 has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on: **William Cobb, Esquire, Brock & Scott, PLLC.,** the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 1501 N.W. 49th Street, Suite 200, Fort Lauderdale, FL. 33309, within thirty (30) days of the first date of publication on or before the 24th day of APRIL 2018, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on the Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in these proceedings, 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, within two (2) working days of your receipt of this described notice; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 1-(800) 955-8771.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court at Osceola County, Florida, this 12th day of March 2018.

ARMANDO RAMIREZ
 AS CLERK OF THE COURT
 By: /s/ S.N. As Deputy Clerk
 File No. 17-F03056
 March 22, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
 General Jurisdiction Division
 Case #: 2015-CA-001291 MF
 PNC BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff,
 vs.
 FRANCISCO FERNANDEZ, et al., Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF ACTION - CONSTRUCTIVE SERVICE TO: FRANCISCO FERNANDEZ and LYDIA ROSADO-FERNANDEZ, A/K/A LYDIA B. FERNANDEZ, whose residence is unknown and all parties having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property described in the mortgage being foreclosed herein.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property:
LOT 3, BLOCK 541, POINCIANA VILLAGE 2 NEIGHBORHOOD 1, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGES 69 THROUGH 87, INCLUSIVE, AND CORRECTED BY OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 781, PAGE 1493, PUBLIC RECORDS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on counsel for Plaintiff, whose address is: 6409 Congress Avenue, Suite 100, Boca Raton, Florida 33487, on or before APRIL 24, 2018 (30 days from Date of First Publication of this Notice) and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition filed herein.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in these proceedings, 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, within two (2) working days of your receipt of this described notice; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 1-(800) 955-8771.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court at Osceola County, Florida, this 7th day of March 2018.

ARMANDO RAMIREZ
 CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
 By: /s/ S.N. As Deputy Clerk
 ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, & SCHNEID, PL
 6409 Congress Avenue
 Suite 100
 Boca Raton, FL 33487
 PRIMARY EMAIL:
 mail@rasflaw.com
 15-069931-CoN
 March 22, 29, 2018

CLAIM OF LIEN NOTICE
 Claim of Lien and Sale of Motor Vehicles Lien Law F.S. 713.78, WILDER WRECKER Inc., 2021 N. Main Street, Kissimmee, FL 34744, (407) 846-1010, will sell for cash at above address the following vehicles:
 1) 2005 SUZUKI MOTORCYCLE
VIN: JS1GT76A752100245
 Pursuant to Florida Statute 713.78, these vehicles will be sold at the public auction on APRIL 11, 2018, at 9:00 A.M. Vehicles sold as is, seller reserves the right to bid and guarantees no titles.
 March 29, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
 Case No.: 2012-CA-005741
 U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE, SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST TO BANK OF AMERICA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR CERTIFICATEHOLDERS OF BEAR STEARNS ASSET BACKED SECURITIES I, LLC, ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-HE9, Plaintiff,
 vs.
 FRANCISCO J. MILIAN RODRIGUEZ, A/K/A FRANCISCO MILIAN RODRIGUEZ, A/K/A MILIAN RODRIGUEZ FRANCISCO, ET AL., Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER F.S. CHAPTER 45
 NOTICE IS GIVEN that, in accordance with the Agreed Order on Defendant's Verified Motion For Relief From Final Summary Judgment and Motion for Rehearing dated February 12, 2015, and Order on Plaintiff's Motion to Reschedule Sale, dated February 20, 2018, in the above-styled cause, the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Armando Ramirez, shall sell the subject property at public sale on the 24th day of APRIL, 2018, at 11:00 a.m., to the highest and best bidder for cash, at the Osceola County Courthouse, located at 2 Courthouse Square, Suite 2600/Room # 2602, Kissimmee, Florida 34741, for the following described property:
LOT 12, BLOCK 2165, POINCIANA, NEIGHBORHOOD 1, VILLAGE 5, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, AT PAGE 144-158, PUBLIC RECORDS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.
Property Address: 905 SOUTH RENNES COURT, KISSIMMEE, FLORIDA 34759.
 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 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 Administration at Two Courthouse Square, Suite 6300, Kissimmee, Florida 34741, Telephone: (407) 742-2417 within two (2) working days of your receipt of this (Notice of Action); If you are hearing or voice impaired, call 1-800-955-8771. Dated: March 21, 2018.
 PEARSON BITMAN LLP /s/ Meghan P. Keane
 Meghan P. Keane, Esquire
 Florida Bar No.: 0103343
 mkeane@pearsonbitman.com
 485 N. Keller Road,
 Suite 401
 Maitland, Florida 32751
 Telephone: (407) 647-0090
 Facsimile: (407) 647-0092
 Attorney for Plaintiff
 March 29, 2018
 April 5, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
 General Jurisdiction Division
 Case #: 2017-CA-003192 MF
 CITIMORTGAGE, INC., Plaintiff,
 vs.
 EVA APOSTOLOU, et al, Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF ACTION - CONSTRUCTIVE SERVICE TO: EVA APOSTOLOU and UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF EVA APOSTOLOU
Whose Residence Is: 3200 N. OCEAN BLVD. # 807, FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33308, and who is evading service of process and all parties claiming an interest by, through, under or against the Defendant(s), who are not known to be dead or alive, and all parties having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property described in the mortgage being foreclosed herein.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property:
CONDOMINIUM UNIT 161, PHASE 21, OAKWATER, A CONDOMINIUM, ACCORDING TO THE DECLARATION OF CONDOMINIUM THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 3390, PAGE(S) 617 THROUGH 891, AND ANY AMENDMENTS AND/ OR SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARATIONS THERETO, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA, TOGETHER WITH AN UNDIVIDED INTEREST IN AND TO THE COMMON ELEMENTS APPURTENANT THERETO AS SPECIFIED IN SAID DECLARATION.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on counsel for Plaintiff, whose address is 6409 Congress Avenue, Suite 100, Boca Raton, Florida 33487 on or before MAY 2, 2018 (30 days from Date of First Publication of this Notice) and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition filed herein.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in these proceedings, 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, within two (2) working days of your receipt of this described notice; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 1-(800) 955-8771.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court at Osceola County, Florida, this 9th day of March 2018.

ARMANDO RAMIREZ
 CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
 By: /s/ S.N. As Deputy Clerk
 ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, & SCHNEID, PL
 6409 Congress Avenue
 Suite 100
 Boca Raton, FL 33487
 PRIMARY EMAIL:
 mail@rasflaw.com
 March 29, 2018
 April 5, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
 General Jurisdiction Division
 Case #: 2016-CA-001384 MF
 PNC BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff,
 vs.
 ROBERT E. PASSNO, JR. AND JAMIE M. PASSNO, et al., Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated October 05, 2017, and entered in 2016-CA-001384 MF of the Circuit Court of the Ninth Judicial Circuit in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein PNC BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, is the Plaintiff, and ROBERT PASSNO, JR.; JAMIE M. PASSNO, are the Defendant(s). Armando Ramirez, as the Clerk of the Circuit Court, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at Suite 2600/Room # 2602, 2 Courthouse Square, Kissim-

me, FL 34741, at 11:00 A.M., on APRIL 24, 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:
LOT 16, OF LORRAINE ES-TATES UNIT 2, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGE 264, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.
Property Address: 1720 EAST CLINTON DRIVE, SAINT CLOUD, FL 34769

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.
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 Court Administration at Two 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 22nd 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
 16-016077-MoP
 March 29, 2018
 April 5, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
 General Jurisdiction Division
 Case #: 2017-CA-003192 MF
 CITIMORTGAGE, INC., Plaintiff,
 vs.
 EVA APOSTOLOU, et al, Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF ACTION - CONSTRUCTIVE SERVICE TO: EVA APOSTOLOU and UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF EVA APOSTOLOU
Whose Residence Is: 3200 N. OCEAN BLVD. # 807, FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33308, and who is evading service of process and all parties claiming an interest by, through, under or against the Defendant(s), who are not known to be dead or alive, and all parties having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property described in the mortgage being foreclosed herein.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property:
CONDOMINIUM UNIT 161, PHASE 21, OAKWATER, A CONDOMINIUM, ACCORDING TO THE DECLARATION OF CONDOMINIUM THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 3390, PAGE(S) 617 THROUGH 891, AND ANY AMENDMENTS AND/ OR SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARATIONS THERETO, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA, TOGETHER WITH AN UNDIVIDED INTEREST IN AND TO THE COMMON ELEMENTS APPURTENANT THERETO AS SPECIFIED IN SAID DECLARATION.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on counsel for Plaintiff, whose address is 6409 Congress Avenue, Suite 100, Boca Raton, Florida 33487 on or before MAY 2, 2018 (30 days from Date of First Publication of this Notice) and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition filed herein.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in these proceedings, 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, within two (2) working days of your receipt of this described notice; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 1-(800) 955-8771.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court at Osceola County, Florida, this 9th day of March 2018.

ARMANDO RAMIREZ
 CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
 By: /s/ S.N. As Deputy Clerk
 ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, & SCHNEID, PL
 6409 Congress Avenue
 Suite 100
 Boca Raton, FL 33487
 PRIMARY EMAIL:
 mail@rasflaw.com
 15-069931-CoN
 March 22, 29, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
 General Jurisdiction Division
 Case #: 2017-CA-002916 OC
 PEACHTREE CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY, Petitioner,
 vs.
 YANETH HERNANDEZ, JESSICA GUTIERREZ, JOEL AYALA, JASON AYALA, IWONA THOMAS, KEITH LAYNE, B.L., a minor, and JANET ODOM, Respondents.

NOTICE OF ACTION TO: JASON L. AYALA; JOEL AYALA
 YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action seeking non-monetary declaratory relief to determine insurance coverage has been filed against you in the Circuit Court of the Ninth Judicial Circuit, Osceola County, Florida. You are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to the action on **Stephen A. Spaid, Esq.,** the petitioner's attorney, whose address is 100 S. Ashley Dr., Suite 1100, Tampa, Florida 33602, on or before MAY 2, 2018, and file the original with the Osceola County Clerk of Court either before service on the petitioner's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.

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 Administration at 2 Courthouse Square, Suite 6300, Kissimmee, Florida 34741, Telephone: (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 March 9, 2018,
 ARMANDO R. RAMIREZ
 As Clerk of the Court
 By: /s/ SM As Deputy Clerk
 March 29, 2018
 April 5, 12, 19, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
 Case #: 2017-CA-001199 MF
 U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR RESIDENTIAL FUNDING MORTGAGE SECURITIES I, INC., MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-S3, Plaintiff,
 vs.
 LAUNCELOT A. GUMBS, A/K/A LANCELOT GUMBS, ET AL., Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION TO the following Defendant(s): UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF LAUNCELOT A. GUMBS, A/K/A LANCELOT GUMBS (CURRENT RESIDENCE UNKNOWN)
Last Known Address:

1 S. MONTAUK HWY., SOUTHAMPTON, NY 11968
 YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action for Foreclosure of Mortgage on the following described property:
LOT 95, EMERALD ISLAND RESORT, PHASE 4, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 15, PAGES 29, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.
A/K/A 8562 LA ISLA DRIVE, KISSIMMEE, FL 34747
 has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to J. Anthony Van Ness, Esq., at **VAN NESS LAW FIRM, P.L.C.** Attorney for the Plaintiff, whose address is 1239 E. NEWPORT CENTER DRIVE, SUITE # 110, DEERFIELD BEACH, FL 33442, on or before APRIL 24, 2018, a date of which is within thirty (30) days after the first date of publication of this Notice in the Osceola News-Gazette, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. This notice is provided to Administrative Order No. 2065.

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 Osceola County: 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 22nd 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
 16-016077-MoP
 March 29, 2018
 April 5, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
 Case #: 2016-CA-002902-MF
 GOLD COAST TOWNHOMES HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION, INC., a Florida non-profit corporation, Plaintiff,
 vs.
 THE ESTATE OF LAKHRAM JUGMOHAN, AND ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY THROUGH, UNDER AND AGAINST THE ESTATE OF LAKHRAM JUGMOHAN WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANT, Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Default Final Judgment of Foreclosure and Award of Attorneys Fees and Costs, dated May 17, 2017, and entered in Case Number: 2016-CA-002902 MF, of the Circuit Court in and for Osceola County, Florida, and Order in Plaintiff's Motion to Reschedule Foreclosure Sale, entered on February 22, 2018, wherein GOLD COAST TOWNHOMES HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION, INC., is the Plaintiff, and THE ESTATE OF LAKHRAM JUGMOHAN, WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANT, are the Defendants, who are not known to be dead or alive, and all parties having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property described in the mortgage being foreclosed herein.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property:
UNIT 201-A, Buenavista Lakes Unit 201-A, Tract "E" described as follows:
A portion of Tract "E", Buenavista Lakes Unit 1, according to the map or plat thereof, as recorded in Plat Book 2, Page(s) 110 through 113, inclusive, of the Public Records of Osceola County, Florida, described as follows: Commencing at the Northeast corner of Tract "E" run thence South 00 degrees 05 minutes 41 seconds West along the East boundary of Tract "E" a distance of 235.24 feet, thence run North 89 degrees 55 minutes 00 seconds West, 105.75 feet to the Point of Beginning, run thence South 00 degrees 05 minutes 00 seconds West, 51.00 feet, thence run North 89 degrees 55 minutes 00 seconds West, 18.33 feet, thence run North 00 degrees 05 minutes 00 seconds East, 51.00 feet, thence run South 89 degrees 55 minutes 00 seconds East, 18.33 feet to the Point of Beginning.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in these proceedings, 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, within two (2) working days of your receipt of this described notice; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 1-(800) 955-8771.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court at Osceola County, Florida, this 12th day of March 2018.

ARMANDO RAMIREZ
 CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
 By: /s/ S.N. As Deputy Clerk
 ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, & SCHNEID, PL
 6409 Congress Avenue
 Suite 100
 Boca Raton, FL 33487
 PRIMARY EMAIL:
 mail@rasflaw.com
 15-013880-CoN
 March 29, 2018
 April 5, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL IRCUIT OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION CASE No.: 2013-CA-002565 MF

NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC,
Plaintiff,

vs.
RONALD M. CRAY, A/K/A
RONALD MALCOLM CRAY, ET AL.,
Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Summary Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered March 5, 2015 in Civil Case No. 2013-CA-002565 MF of the Circuit Court of the NINTH Judicial Circuit in and for Osceola County, Kissimmee, Florida, wherein NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC, is Plaintiff, and RONALD M. CRAY, A/K/A RONALD MALCOLM CRAY, ET AL., are Defendants, the Clerk of Court Armando Ramirez will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at Osceola County Courthouse, 2 Courthouse Square, Suite 2600/ Room 2602, Kissimmee, FL 34741 in accordance with Chapter 45, Florida Statutes on the 1st day of MAY, 2018 at 11:00 A.M., on the following described property as set forth in said Summary Final Judgment, to-wit:

THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED LOT, PIECE, OR PARCEL OF LAND, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE COUNTY OF OSCEOLA, STATE OF FLORIDA, TO WIT:

Commence at the Northwest corner of Lot 1, Block 29, Mc-Cool's Addition to Kissimmee Park, as recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 78, of the Public Records of Osceola County, Florida, run thence S 2° 45' W along the East side of Cherokee Road 1324.50'; thence in an Easterly direction 408.95', to the Point of Beginning, thence continue in an Easterly direction a distance of 360.55' to a point on the Easterly line of a parcel of land described in Official Records Book 511, Page 659, Public Records of Osceola County, Florida, thence in a Northerly direction 1324.50' to the North line of said Lot 1, thence run West along said North line, 240.55'; thence run S 1° 35' 05" W, a distance of 159.59'; run thence S 90° 00' 00" W a distance of 120.00'; run thence S 1° 40' 01" E, a distance of 1165.58' to the Point of Beginning. (Less road right of way).
SAID PARCEL CONTAINS 10.64 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

Being that parcel of land conveyed to Ronald M. Cray from Deborah A. Cray by that deed dated 10/26/1995 and recorded 10/26/1995 in Official Records Book 1287, at Page 2399 of the OSCEOLA County, FL Public Registry.

Tax Map Reference: R252629-410000290014

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 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 Administration at Two Courthouse Square, Suite 6300, Kissimmee, Florida 34741, Telephone: (407) 742-2417 within two (2) working days of your receipt of this (describe notice); if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 1-800-955-8771. DATED on this 22nd day of March 2018.

By: /s/ Lisa Woodburn
LISA WOODBURN, Esq.
McCalla Raymer Pierce, LLC
Attorney for Plaintiff
225 E. Robinson Street, Suite 155
Orlando, FL 32801
Phone: (407) 674-1850
Fax: (321) 248-0420
Email: MRService@mccallaraymer.com
Fla. Bar No.: 11003
File #: 13-01645-6
March 29, 2018
April 5, 2018

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of County Commissioners of Osceola County, Florida will at 1:30 P.M. on Monday, April 9, 2018, in the Commission Chambers at 1 Courthouse Square, Suite 4100, Kissimmee, Florida, consider and act on the following proposed County Ordinance:

Ordinance 2018-25

An Ordinance of Osceola County Board of County Commissioners, Amending Chapter 4 "Animals" at Section 4-3 "Definitions", Section 4-6 "Animal Shelter", Section 4-8 "Holding periods for Impounded Animals", Section 4-9 "Disposition of Impounded Animals", Section 4-29 "Rabies Vaccination and County Licenses", and Amending Chapter 4 Section 4-30 "Animal Ownership Limitations"; Providing for Severability; Providing for Conflict; Providing for Inclusion into the Code of Ordinances; Providing for Filing with Department of State; Providing for and Effective Date.

Persons interested may appear and be heard at said time and place concerning said Ordinance.

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at such meeting, a record of the proceeding will be needed, and for such purposes, it may be needed to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Copies of the proposed Ordinance may be obtained from the Recording Secretary to the Board of County Commissioners, located at 1 Courthouse Square, Suite 4400, Kissimmee, Florida.

Any person requiring special accommodations at the public meeting because of a disability or physical impairment should contact the Office of the Clerk of the Board (407) 742-2100, at 1 Courthouse Square, Kissimmee, Florida 34741, prior to the meeting.
(SEAL)

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
By: /s/ _____,
Chair/Vice Chair

March 29, 2018

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of County Commissioners of Osceola County, Florida will at 1:30 P.M. on Monday, April 9, 2018, in the Commission Chambers at 1 Courthouse Square, Suite 4100, Kissimmee, Florida, consider and act on the following proposed County Ordinance:

ORDINANCE 2018-27

An ordinance of Osceola County Board of County Commissioners, creating Article X "Opioid Cost Recovery and Public Nuisance" of Chapter 14 "Miscellaneous Provisions and Offenses"; Providing for severability; Providing for conflict; Providing for inclusion into the code; Providing for filing with Department of State; Providing for an effective date.

Persons interested may appear and be heard at said time and place concerning said Ordinance.
If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at such meeting, a record of the proceeding will be needed, and for such purposes, it may be needed to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Copies of the proposed Ordinance may be obtained from the Recording Secretary to the Board of County Commissioners, located at 1 Courthouse Square, Suite 4400, Kissimmee, Florida.

Any person requiring special accommodations at the public meeting because of a disability or physical impairment should contact the Office of the Clerk of the Board (407)742-2100, at 1 Courthouse Square, Kissimmee, Florida 34741, prior to the meeting.
(SEAL)

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
By: /s/ _____,
Chair/Vice Chair

March 29, 2018

PUBLIC NOTICE WATER COOPERATIVE OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

The Water Cooperative of Central Florida will hold a regular meeting on Wednesday, April 4, 2018. The meeting will begin at 2:00 PM and will be held at the Bruce R. Van Meter Board Room located at 951 Martin Luther King Boulevard, Kissimmee, FL 34741.

Purpose of this meeting is to act upon and approve proposed regional water supply projects.

Anyone interested in obtaining more information about these meetings may contact Mr. Brian L. Wheeler at 407-944-5131.

Any person requiring special accommodations at the meetings because of a disability or physical impairment should contact the Tohopekaliga Water Authority at 407-944-5000.
March 29, 2018

NOTICE OF INTENDED AGENCY ACTION

Notice is hereby provided that the South Florida Water Management District intends to issue the following permits:

Environmental Resource permit with conditions Permit Number 49-02666-P, Application Number 170925-3 to Tavistock East Services, LLC for construction and operation of a stormwater management system serving 164.89 acres of mass grading for a project known as Sunbridge NED Pond BD and Stockpile areas in Osceola County east of Cyrils Drive within Section 11 and 12 TWP 25 S RGE 31E and Section 01 and 02 TWP 25S RGE 31E.

Environmental Resource permit with conditions Permit Number 49-02681-P, Application Number 170814-2 to Tavistock East Services, LLC for construction and operation of a stormwater management system serving 23.65 acres of roadway development for a project known as Sunbridge NED Cyrils Drive Phase 1 located in Osceola County within Sections 02, 19 and 11 TWP 25 S RGE 31E.

Consumptive Water Use permit with conditions Permit Number 49-02641-W, Application Number 171010-12 to Tavistock East Services, LLC for Dewatering of the water table aquifer required for installation of three stormwater management ponds for Sunbridge Neighborhood C – Cyrils Drive Phase 1 with a permit expiration of February 27, 2020 located in Osceola County Sections 2 and 11 TWP 25S RG 31E.

Consumptive Water Use permit with conditions Permit Number 49-02647-W, Application Number 171027-5 to Tavistock East Services, LLC for Dewatering of the water table aquifer required for construction of a borrow pit for Sunbridge Neighborhood C – Big Dig Pond BD with a permit expiration of January 3, 2020 located in Osceola County Sections 11 and 12, TWP 25S RG 31E.

The Staff Report setting forth the staff recommendation regarding the permits, including proposed limiting conditions, can be obtained by contacting the Regulatory Records Management Section, during normal business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays, at 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406, Regulation Division, by telephone at 561-682-6911, by e-mail at permits@sfwmd.gov, or by accessing the Staff Report directly from the District's website (www.sfwmd.gov) using the Application/Permit Search on the ePermitting page.

The District's proposed agency action as set forth in the Staff Report shall become final unless a timely petition for an administrative hearing is filed under Sections 120.569 and 120.57 of the Florida Statutes before the deadline for filing a petition.

As required by Sections 120.569 and 120.60(3), Fla. Stat., the following is notice of the opportunities which may be available for administrative hearing or judicial review when the substantial interests of a party are determined by an agency. Please note that this Notice of Rights is not intended to provide legal advice. Not all of the legal proceedings detailed below may be an applicable or appropriate remedy. You may wish to consult an attorney regarding your legal rights.

RIGHT TO REQUEST ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING

A person whose substantial interests are or may be affected by the South Florida Water Management District's (SFWMD or District) action has the right to request an administrative hearing on that action pursuant to Sections 120.569 and 120.57, Fla. Stat. Persons seeking a hearing on a SFWMD decision which affects or may affect their substantial interests shall file a petition for hearing with the Office of the District Clerk of the SFWMD, in accordance with the filing instructions set forth herein, within 21 days of receipt of written notice of the decision, unless one of the following shorter time periods apply: (1) within 14 days of the notice of consolidated intent to grant or deny concurrently reviewed applications for environmental resource permits and use of sovereign submerged lands pursuant to Section 373.427, Fla. Stat.; or (2) within 14 days of service of an Administrative Order pursuant to Section 373.119(1), Fla. Stat. "Receipt of written notice of agency decision" means receipt of written notice through mail, electronic mail, or posting that the SFWMD has or intends to take final agency action, or publication of notice that the SFWMD has or intends to take final agency action. Any person who receives written notice of a SFWMD decision and fails to file a written request for hearing within the timeframe described above waives the right to request a hearing on that decision.

If the District takes final agency action which materially differs from the noticed intended agency decision, persons who may be substantially affected shall, unless otherwise provided by law, have an additional Rule 28-106.111, Fla. Admin. Code, point of entry.

Any person to whom an emergency order is directed pursuant to Section 373.119(2), Fla. Stat., shall comply therewith immediately, but on petition to the board shall be afforded a hearing as soon as possible.

A person may file a request for an extension of time for filing a petition. The SFWMD may, for good cause, grant the request. Requests for extension of time must be filed with the SFWMD prior to the deadline for filing a petition for hearing. Such requests for extension shall contain a certificate that the moving party has consulted with all other parties concerning the extension and that the SFWMD and any other parties agree to or oppose the extension. A timely request for an extension of time shall toll the running of the time period for filing a petition until the request is acted upon.

FILING INSTRUCTIONS

A petition for administrative hearing must be filed with the Office of the District Clerk of the SFWMD. Filings with the Office of the District Clerk may be made by mail, hand-delivery, or e-mail. Filings by facsimile will not be accepted. A petition for administrative hearing or other document is deemed filed upon receipt during normal business hours by the Office of the District Clerk at SFWMD headquarters in West Palm Beach, Florida. The District's normal business hours are 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., excluding weekends and District holidays. Any document received by the Office of the District Clerk after 5:00 p.m. shall be deemed filed as of 8:00 a.m. on the next regular business day. Additional filing instructions are as follows:

- Filings by mail must be addressed to the Office of the District Clerk, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, Florida 33406.
- Filings by hand-delivery must be delivered to the Office of the District Clerk. Delivery of a petition to the SFWMD's security desk does not constitute filing. It will be necessary to request that the SFWMD's security officer contact the Office of the District Clerk. An employee of the SFWMD's Clerk's office will receive and file the petition.
- Filings by e-mail must be transmitted to the Office of the District Clerk at clerk@sfwmd.gov. The filing date for a document transmitted by electronic mail shall be the date the Office of the District Clerk receives the complete document. A party who files a document by e-mail shall (1) represent that the original physically signed document will be retained by that party for the duration of the proceeding and of any subsequent appeal or subsequent proceeding in that cause and that the party shall produce it upon the request of other parties; and (2) be responsible for any delay, disruption, or interruption of the electronic signals and accepts the full risk that the document may not be properly filed.

INITIATION OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING

Pursuant to Sections 120.54(5)(b)4. and 120.569(2)(c), Fla. Stat., and Rules 28-106.201 and 28-106.301, Fla. Admin. Code, initiation of an administrative hearing shall be made by written petition to the SFWMD in legible form and on 8 1/2 by 11 inch white paper. All petitions shall contain:

1. Identification of the action being contested, including the permit number, application number, SFWMD file number or any other SFWMD identification number, if known.
2. The name, address, any email address, any facsimile number, and telephone number of the petitioner and petitioner's representative, if any.
3. An explanation of how the petitioner's substantial interests will be affected by the agency determination.
4. A statement of when and how the petitioner received notice of the SFWMD's decision.
5. A statement of all disputed issues of material fact. If there are none, the petition must so indicate.

6. A concise statement of the ultimate facts alleged, including the specific facts the petitioner contends warrant reversal or modification of the SFWMD's proposed action.
7. A statement of the specific rules or statutes the petitioner contends require reversal or modification of the SFWMD's proposed action.
8. If disputed issues of material fact exist, the statement must also include an explanation of how the alleged facts relate to the specific rules or statutes.
9. A statement of the relief sought by the petitioner, stating precisely the action the petitioner wishes the SFWMD to take with respect to the SFWMD's proposed action.

MEDIATION

The procedures for pursuing mediation are set forth in Section 120.573, Fla. Stat., and Rules 28-106.111 and 28-106.401-405, Fla. Admin. Code. The SFWMD is not proposing mediation for this agency action under Section 120.573, Fla. Stat., at this time.

RIGHT TO SEEK JUDICIAL REVIEW

Pursuant to Section 120.68, Fla. Stat., and in accordance with Florida Rule of Appellate Procedure 9.110, a party who is adversely affected by final SFWMD action may seek judicial review of the SFWMD's final decision by filing a notice of appeal with the Office of the District Clerk of the SFWMD in accordance with the filing instructions set forth herein within 30 days of rendition of the order to be reviewed, and by filing a copy of the notice with the clerk of the appropriate district court of appeal.
March 29, 2018

NOTICE OF PERMIT ISSUANCE

The Department of Environmental Protection gives notice of issuance of an Individual Permit No. 0361197-001-EI to Tavistock East II, LLC to construct stockpile areas and associated stormwater management system consisting of 3 dry swales and 1 wet detention area located east of Narcoossee Road (15), north of Nova Road (532) in Sections 1, 2, and 12, Twp. 25 South, Range 31 East, St. Cloud, Osceola County. The Parcel Identification numbers are 02-25-31-0000-0010-0000, 01-25-31-0000-0010-0000 and 12-25-31-0000-0010-0000.

The application is available for public inspection during normal business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays, at Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Central District, 3319 Maguire Boulevard, Suite 232, Orlando, Florida 32803-3767.

This action is final and effective on the date filed with the Clerk of the Department unless a timely petition for an administrative proceeding is filed pursuant to the provisions of Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S. On the filing of a timely and sufficient petition, this action will not be final and effective until further order of the Department. Because the administrative hearing process is designed to formulate final agency action, the hearing process may result in a modification of the agency action or even denial of the application.

A person whose substantial interests are affected by the Department's action may petition for an administrative proceeding (hearing) under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S. Pursuant to Rule 28-106.201, F.A.C., a petition for an administrative hearing must contain the following information:

- (a) The name and address of each agency affected and each agency's file or identification number, if known;
- (b) The name, address, any email address, any facsimile number, and telephone number of the petitioner; the name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner's representative, if any, which shall be the address for service purposes during the course of the proceeding; and an explanation of how the petitioner's substantial interests are or will be affected by the agency determination;
- (c) A statement of when and how the petitioner received notice of the agency decision;
- (d) A statement of all disputed issues of material fact. If there are none, the petition must so indicate;
- (e) A concise statement of the ultimate facts alleged, including the specific facts that the petitioner contends warrant reversal or modification of the agency's proposed action;
- (f) A statement of the specific rules or statutes that the petitioner contends require reversal or modification of the agency's proposed action, including an explanation of how the alleged facts relate to the specific rules or statutes; and
- (g) A statement of the relief sought by the petitioner, stating precisely the action that the petitioner wishes the agency to take with respect to the agency's proposed action.

The petition must be filed (received by the Clerk) in the Office of General Counsel of the Department at 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 35, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000. Also, a copy of the petition shall be mailed to the applicant at the address indicated above at the time of filing.

In accordance with Rule 62-110.106(3), F.A.C., petitions for an administrative hearing by the applicant must be filed within 21 days of receipt of this written notice. Petitions filed by any persons other than the applicant, and other than those entitled to written notice under Section 120.60(3), F.S., must be filed within 21 days of publication of the notice or within 21 days of receipt of the written notice, whichever occurs first. Under Section 120.60(3), F.S., however, any person who has asked the Department for notice of agency action may file a petition within 21 days of receipt of such notice, regardless of the date of publication. The failure to file a petition within the appropriate time period shall constitute a waiver of that person's right to request an administrative determination (hearing) under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S., or to intervene in this proceeding and participate as a party to it. Any subsequent intervention (in a proceeding initiated by another party) will be only at the discretion of the presiding officer upon the filing of a motion in compliance with Rule 28-106.205, F.A.C.

Under Rule 62-110.106(4), F.A.C., a person whose substantial interests are affected by the Department's action may also request an extension of time to file a petition for an administrative hearing. The Department may, for good cause shown, grant the request for an extension of time. Requests for extension of time must be filed with the Office of General Counsel of the Department at 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 35, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000, before the applicable deadline for filing a petition for an administrative hearing. A timely request for extension of time shall toll the running of the time period for filing a petition until the request is acted upon.

Mediation is not available in this proceeding.

The applicant, or any party within the meaning of Section 373.114(1)(a) or 373.4275, F.S., may also seek appellate review of this order before the Land and Water Adjudicatory Commission under Section 373.114(1) or 373.4275, F.S. Requests for review before the Land and Water Adjudicatory Commission must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission and served on the Department within 20 days from the date when this order is filed with the Clerk of the Department.
March 29, 2018

NOTICE OF SALE

To satisfy owners lien for rent due in accordance with Florida Statutes, "The Self-Storage Facility Act" (Sections 83.801-83.809), contents of the leased storage units as well as leased outside storage spaces (individuals identified below), including all personal property consisting of miscellaneous household items, furniture, clothing, boxes, motor vehicles, boats, trailers and other items, will be sold at Public Auction to the highest bidder (or otherwise disposed of) at the following location and time:

**A+ Safe & Secure Storage
2055 E. Irlc Bronson Memorial Hwy. (Hwy. 192)
Kissimmee, Florida 34744
Phone: (407) 846-1720
Auction Date: April 12, 2018. Time: 2:30 P.M.**

All units are sold "as is" and must be paid for in CASH immediately following the auction. All units advertised may not be available at the time of auction in the event of settlement between owner and obligated party.
Manuel Ostolaza (D195) Tools
Lorraine Savage (D163) Household Goods
Monserrate Rivera (D305) boxes/toolbox
Raul Gomez (A030) Household items/furniture
Carlos Ramos Rosario (D225) Household items
Yallip Investments (F033) Mustang body/parts
March 22, 2018

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING SUNBRIDGE STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

The Board of Supervisors of the Sunbridge Stewardship District ("District") will hold its regular meeting on Thursday, April 5, 2018, at 3:30 p.m. at the **Narcoossee Community Center, 5354 Rambling Road, St. Cloud, FL 34771**. A copy of the agenda for the meeting can be obtained from the District Office at Fishkind & Associates, 12051 Corporate Blvd., Orlando, FL 32817 or by phone at (407) 382-3256. Additionally, a copy of the agenda, along with any meeting materials available in an electronic format, may be obtained at www.sunbridgestewardshipdistrict.com.

The meeting is open to the public and will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Florida law. There may be occasions when one or more Board Supervisors or staff members will participate by telephone. The meeting may be continued in progress without additional notice to a time, date, and location stated on the record. Meetings may be cancelled from time to time without advertised notice.

Any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this meeting is asked to advise the District Office at (407) 382-3256, at least 48 hours before the meetings. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service by dialing 7-1-1, or 1-800-955-8771 (TTY) / 1-800-955-8770 (Voice), for aid in contacting the District Office.

Any person who decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the meeting is advised that the person will need a record of the proceedings and that accordingly, the person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based.

Christi Blyseth
Assistant District Manager
March 29, 2018

WARNING

Notice of Application for Tax Deed

Notice is hereby given that DEAN TRAUDT, the holder of tax certificate No. 3769, issued on June-01-2012, has filed said certificate in this office and has made application for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The tax certificate information is as follows: Apparent Titleholder(s): HIDDEN CREEK HOA INC, HIDDEN CREEK HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

Assessed to:
Legal Description: HIDDEN CREEK PB 21 PG 189 TRACT D COMMON AREA Parcel No.: 19 25 29 1458 0001 000D
All of said property being in the County of Osceola, State of Florida.

Unless said certificate be redeemed according to law, the property described therein will be sold to the highest bidder on line at www.osceola.realtaxdeed.com on the 10th day of April, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. Property is sold subject to any additional outstanding taxes.

Dated this day, February 21, 2018, publication of this notice is requested. Notice to be published in the OSCEOLA NEWS-GAZETTE.

ARMANDO RAMIREZ
Clerk of the Circuit Court, Osceola County, Florida
By: SEL DEPUTY CLERK
March 8, 15, 22, 29, 2018

WARNING

Notice of Application for Tax Deed

Notice is hereby given that DEAN TRAUDT, the holder of tax certificate No. 7124, issued on June-01-2011, has filed said certificate in this office and has made application for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The tax certificate information is as follows: Apparent Titleholder(s): JUICY LUCYS INC Assessed to:
Legal Description: ST CLOUD PB B PG 34 BLK 219 BEG AT SE COR LOT 12, W 10 FT, N 45 DEG E 14.14 FT, S 10 FT TO POB Parcel No.: 01 26 30 0001 0219 0125
All of said property being in the County of Osceola, State of Florida.

Unless said certificate be redeemed according to law, the property described therein will be sold to the highest bidder on line at www.osceola.realtaxdeed.com on the 10th day of April, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. Property is sold subject to any additional outstanding taxes.

Dated this day, February 21, 2018, publication of this notice is requested. Notice to be published in the OSCEOLA NEWS-GAZETTE.

ARMANDO RAMIREZ
Clerk of the Circuit Court, Osceola County, Florida
By: SEL DEPUTY CLERK
March 8, 15, 22, 29, 2018

WARNING

Notice of Application for Tax Deed

Notice is hereby given that WAGNER SOARES, the holder of tax certificate No. 6781, issued on June-01-2014, has filed said certificate in this office and has made application for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The tax certificate information is as follows: Apparent Titleholder(s): JAY E DOUGLAS Assessed to:
Legal Description: S 1/2 OF NW 1/4 OF NE 1/4 OF SW 1/4 OF SW 1/4 Parcel No.: 12 27 31 0000 3312 0020
All of said property being in the County of Osceola, State of Florida.

Unless said certificate be redeemed according to law, the property described therein will be sold to the highest bidder on line at www.osceola.realtaxdeed.com on the 10th day of April, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. Property is sold subject to any additional outstanding taxes.

Dated this day, February 21, 2018, publication of this notice is requested. Notice to be published in the OSCEOLA NEWS-GAZETTE.

ARMANDO RAMIREZ
Clerk of the Circuit Court, Osceola County, Florida
By: SEL DEPUTY CLERK
March 8, 15, 22, 29, 2018

**LEGAL AD
DEADLINES:**

*Thursday
News-Gazette*

**Friday
at 1:00 PM**

*Saturday
News-Gazette*

**Tuesday
at 5:00 PM**

RUNAWAY COUNTRY



The Runaway Country Music festival was back in Kissimmee from March 23 -25 at Osceola Heritage Park. It featured Brantley Gilbert, Darius Rucker, Florida Georgia Line, Cassadee Pope, Kane Brown and many more. Top three photos: Darius Rucker struts onto stage at the beginning of his set. Cassadee Pope reacts to her fans' cheers. Kane Brown belts one out. Bottom four photos: Natalie Stovall plays a tune on electric fiddle. Kane Brown's bass guitar player, Zach Hall, gets a little funky. Florida Georgia Line's backing vocalist gets the crowd going. William Michael Morgan has his photo taken with a fan.

News-Gazette Photos by Mark Horan and Rob Herbert

Oven Baked Jerk Spareribs are tender and succulent

BY SARA MOULTON
Associated Press

Why wait for summer to enjoy pork ribs cooked slow and low on the grill? If you cook them in the oven, you can enjoy them right now. They won't boast the trademark smokiness produced by grilling, but otherwise they'll be as tender, succulent and finger-licking good as ever.

The key to making great baked ribs is to follow the same prep as for grilled ribs. Season them with a rub, paste or marinade containing salt, then bake them at a low temperature for many hours or until they become tender. The salted mixture acts as a brine, which helps keep the pork juicy and infuses it with flavor. Cooking slow and low makes the meat tender.

The marinade used here is a jerk paste, a spicy Jamaican flavoring that Jamaicans typically apply to pork and chicken, but which can be found glorifying everything from beef and lamb to fish and seafood to vegetables and tofu. Jerk is based on three key ingredients: Scotch Bonnet chiles, allspice (a dried berry native to Jamaica) and thyme.

Scotch Bonnets are some of the hottest chiles in the world. They're in the same family as habaneros, so feel free to swap in the latter if you can't find the former. The rub will be hotter or less hot depending on the number of chiles in it, your choice. And no matter the number of chiles, you'll want to tame their heat with at least a little bit of sugar. I happen to love Scotch bonnets not only for their heat, but also for their fruitiness. They've always struck me as a kind of cross between a mango and very hot chile.

The labor-intensive part of this recipe is gathering all the ingredients and making the marinade, but



This Saturday March 17, 2018 photo shows oven-baked jerk spareribs in New York.

then it's easygoing.

Here I've finished them with a sweet/sour/spicy glaze. It's not traditional, but I think it adds the perfect last touch.

Oven Baked Jerk Spareribs

Start to finish: 20 hours, 40 minutes (30 minutes hands-on)
Servings: 8

- 1/2 cup coarsely chopped onion
- 1 cup coarsely chopped scallions (white and green part)
- 1 to 3 Scotch bonnet chiles, or to taste
- 6 cloves garlic, smashed
- 1/4 cup fresh lime juice, divided

- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 1/4 cup soy sauce (low-sodium if you prefer)
- 2 tablespoons fresh thyme leaves
- 3 tablespoons packed dark brown sugar, divided
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 2 teaspoons ground allspice
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 5 to 6 pounds pork spareribs (preferably St Louis style)

In a blender combine the onion, scallions, chiles, garlic, 2 1/2 tablespoons of the lime juice, oil, soy sauce, thyme, 1 tablespoon of the brown sugar, salt, allspice, nutmeg and cinnamon and puree until

smooth. Set aside 1/4 cup for the glaze.

Pull off and discard the silver skin from the bone side of the ribs and cut them into 6- to 8-rib lengths. Coat both sides of the ribs with the pureed marinade and put them in a shallow container. Cover and chill 16 hours, turning occasionally.

Preheat the oven to 275 degrees F. Remove the ribs from the marinade allowing the excess to drip off. Discard the excess marinade. Arrange the ribs, meat side up, on two racks set into each of two baking pans. Put the pans on the middle shelves of the oven and bake, switching the pans midway through the cooking time, until

the meat is very tender when stuck with a fork, 4 to 4 1/2 hours.

While the ribs are baking, in a small bowl combine the reserved jerk paste with the remaining 1 1/2 tablespoons lime juice and the remaining 2 tablespoons brown sugar. Remove the ribs from the oven when they are tender and brush the tops evenly with the glaze. Return the ribs to the oven and bake for an additional 10 minutes.

Nutrition information per serving: 1,105 calories; 838 calories from fat; 93 g fat (27 g saturated; 1 g trans fats); 272 mg cholesterol; 1,047 mg sodium; 10 g carbohydrates; 1 g fiber; 6 g sugar; 54 g protein.

McConnell looks to complete hemp's comeback as crop

BY BRUCE SCHREINER
Associated Press

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) — Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell wants a full pardon for hemp.

The Kentucky Republican on Monday previewed legislation seeking to free the plant from its ties to marijuana and let it take root as a legitimate crop.

Hemp — marijuana's non-intoxicating cousin — would be removed from the controlled substances list under the bill he's offering, McConnell said. The result would legalize hemp as an agricultural commodity.

"We're going to give it everything we've got to pull it off," the Senate's top leader told hemp advocates in his home state.

The crop has been grown on an experimental basis in a number of states in recent years, and Kentucky has been at the forefront of hemp's comeback. Kentucky agriculture officials have approved more than 12,000 acres (4,800 hectares) to be grown in the state this year, and 57 Kentucky processors are helping turn the raw product into a multitude of products.

Growing hemp without a federal permit has long been banned owing to its classification as a controlled substance related to marijuana.

Hemp and marijuana are the same species, but hemp has a negligible amount of THC, the psychoactive compound that gives marijuana users a high.

Hemp got a limited reprieve with the 2014 federal Farm Bill. McConnell helped push for the provision that allows state agriculture departments to designate hemp projects for research and development.

Since then, 34 states have authorized hemp research, while actual production occurred in 19 states last year, said Eric Steenstra, president of the advocacy group Vote Hemp. Hemp production totaled about 25,500 acres (10,300 hectares) in 2017, more than double the 2016 output, he said.

Supporters said the bill would bring more certainty for farmers, agribusinesses and investors looking at the crop.

"The goal of this new bill, should it become law, is to simply remove the roadblocks altogether," McConnell said. "It would encourage innovation and development and support to domestic production of hemp."

The crop, which once thrived in Kentucky, was historically used for rope, clothing and mulch from the fiber, hemp milk and cooking oil from the seeds, and soap and

lotions. Other uses include building materials, animal bedding and biofuels.

Hemp advocates, who have fought for years to restore the crop's legitimacy, praised McConnell for putting his political clout behind the effort.

"This is a huge development for the hemp industry," Steenstra said. "Sen. McConnell's support is critical to helping us move hemp from research and pilot programs to full commercial production."

Brian Furnish, an eighth-generation tobacco farmer in Kentucky, has taken the plunge into hemp production. His family will grow about 300 acres (120 hectares) of hemp this year in Harrison County. He's also part owner of a company that turns hemp into food, fiber and dietary supplements.

Furnish said hemp has the potential to rival or surpass what tobacco production once meant to Kentucky.

"All we've got to do is the government get out of the way and let us grow," he told reporters.

McConnell acknowledged there was "some queasiness" about hemp in 2014 when federal lawmakers cleared the way for states to regulate it for research and pilot programs. There's much broader understanding now that hemp is a "totally different"



In this March 6, 2018, file photo, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., talks during a news conference at the Capitol in Washington.

plant than its cousin, he said.

"I think we've worked our way through the education process of making sure everybody understands this is really a different plant," the Republican leader said.

McConnell said he plans to emphasize the differences between the plants to Attorney General Jeff Sessions. The Trump administration has taken a tougher stance on marijuana.

The Department of Justice's press office declined comment Monday on McCo-

nnell's pending legislation.

McConnell said his bill would attract a bipartisan group of co-sponsors. He said the measure would allow states to have primary regulatory oversight of hemp production if they submit plans to federal officials outlining how they would monitor production.

In Kentucky, current or extobacco farmers could easily make the conversion to hemp production, Furnish said. Tobacco production dropped sharply in Kentucky as the

health hazards of smoking became clear and tobacco use declined.

Furnish said his family has reaped profits of about \$2,000 per acre for hemp grown for dietary supplements, better than what they've made from tobacco, he said.

Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles said he hopes for hemp's legalization, saying it can "open the floodgates and we can see the true potential of this crop."

START YOUR CAREER WITH A JOB THAT IS RIGHT FOR YOU!

Post Your Resumé Online At:

WWW.CFLJOBNET.COM



Cooking on a Deadline



This photo shows brisket and barley soup in New York. AP

Put that leftover brisket to use in a barley soup

BY KATIE WORKMAN
Associated Press

If you are hosting Passover, you may well be making a brisket. And if you are making brisket, you may well have leftovers.

(And if you don't end up with leftovers, make a note next year to buy a bigger brisket.)

You can, of course, just heat up those leftover slices and have yourself another small, lovely brisket dinner, or perhaps make a thick and probably messy sandwich. Good choices, both. But if you want to stretch those

tender pieces of meat into a different dish to serve a bigger group, then soup is the way to go.

This is a flexible recipe, so feel free to play around with the proportions and ingredients. This assumes you're starting with a fairly traditional brisket recipe, saucy and punctuated with some braised vegetables, like carrots and onions. But the basic template will work with all kinds of brisket.

If you want to add some chopped celery or peppers when you are sauteing the carrots and onions, go right ahead. The amount of bar-

ley may seem small, but it expands as it cooks into a large amount of toasty, chewy grain, and bulks up the soup nicely. Other grains like spelt or farro would also be very good.

If you don't have enough sauce from the brisket, add up to 2 cups of extra beef broth — or maybe add a cup of tomato sauce, and even a splash of red wine if you've got a bottle open (I almost always have a bottle open).

And then, voila! Two cups of leftover brisket have magically transformed themselves into a soup that will feed 4 or more.

Leftover Brisket Barley Soup

Servings: 4 to 6
Start to finish: 1 hour

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 cup chopped carrots
- 1/2 cup pearl barley
- 2 cups beef broth
- 2 cups chopped leftover brisket, plus any chopped cooked vegetables from the brisket
- 2 cups sauce from cooking the brisket (or 1 cup sauce and 1 extra cup beef broth)
- Chopped fresh parsley, for garnish (optional)

Heat the olive oil over medium-high heat in a large saucepan, and saute the onion and carrots for 3 minutes, until slightly softened. Add the barley and saute for 2 more minutes until the barley is nicely coated with the oil and toasty looking.

Add 2 cups beef broth, 2 cups of the brisket sauce (or 1 cup sauce and 1 additional cup beef broth) and two cups of water. Partially cover and bring to a simmer, then reduce the heat to medium low and simmer for 30 to 35 minutes, until the barley is pretty tender.

Turn the heat to high, add

the chopped brisket and any chopped cooked carrots or other vegetables that were swimming around in the sauce, and bring to a simmer, uncovered. Return the heat to medium low and let it bubble gently away for 10 more minutes. If you want, add some fresh chopped parsley. Now you have soup.

Nutrition information per serving: 297 calories; 139 calories from fat; 15 g fat (4 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 52 mg cholesterol; 167 mg sodium; 19 g carbohydrate; 4 g fiber; 2 g sugar; 21 g protein.

Judge: US illegally quarantined some Idaho potato fields

BY KEITH RIDLER
Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — A federal judge ruled that the U.S. government illegally quarantined some Idaho potato fields infested with a microscopic pest that could threaten the state's \$1.2 billion potato industry, but he left the restrictions in place.

U.S. District Judge Edward Lodge said last week that lifting the rules could lead to quarantines across a state that produces a third of the nation's potatoes and is a major global supplier. It would likely "have significant immediate and long-term consequences to both the state of Idaho as well as the United States as a whole," he wrote.

The judge decided that the federal government rolled out the quarantine and other restrictions without sufficient public input. Lodge's order, which came in a 2015 lawsuit from farmers, makes the rules temporary until U.S. officials redo the process.

"I'm looking for an im-



In this 2007 file photo, Candy Pannel sorts through potatoes near American Falls, Idaho. A federal judge has ruled that the U.S. government illegally quarantined some Idaho potato fields infested with a microscopic pest that could threaten the state's \$1.2 billion potato industry. AP

proved result," said Bill Myers, an attorney representing the farmers. He declined to say whether that meant removing the quarantines.

"I think first we need to find out what the proper procedures are and what is the science they are going to use

to support future decisions," Myers said.

The U.S. Justice Department, which represents federal agencies in lawsuits, declined to comment Tuesday.

The discovery of the pale cyst nematode in 2006 was the pest's first appearance

in the United States. Federal officials responded with quarantines and treatment of infected fields as well as special regulations for some associated fields. Nematodes feed on potato roots and can reduce crop production by 80 percent.

When the pests were discovered, Canada, Mexico and Korea would not accept Idaho potatoes, and Japan banned all U.S. potatoes. The countries ultimately lifted their bans, the latest coming late last year when Japan opened its market again.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture said in an email Tuesday that about 8,200 acres of fields are being regulated because of the pest in southeastern Idaho. In 2017, the state had about 310,000 acres growing potatoes that produced about 13 billion pounds (6 billion kilograms).

Lodge wrote that it was bad to violate laws on public input to get the quarantines in place, but "the court finds the seriousness of those procedural interests are outweighed by the disruptive consequences that will flow" from ending the restrictions.

It's not clear how long it will take to go through the public process that could revamp rules on infected fields. Myers, attorney for the farmers, said he was anticipating it could be years.

"Until they go through the process and do it right, we won't know how things are going to change," he said.

Meanwhile, the federal government is battling the pest, announcing last week that Idaho will receive \$800,000 for eradication efforts.

News Now

your local e-mail update

OSCEOLA NEWS-GAZETTE
AroundOsceola.com

Get Up-To-Date news sent directly to you!

Sign Up Today!

AroundOsceola.com

Trump suggests paying for US border wall with Pentagon funds

WASHINGTON (AP) — Still angry about the budget deal he signed last week, President Donald Trump has floated the idea of using the Pentagon budget to pay for his long-promised border wall with Mexico, despite the fact that such spending would likely require approval from Congress.

Trump raised the funding plan with House Speaker Paul Ryan at a meeting at the White House last Wednesday, according to a person familiar with the discussion who wasn't authorized to speak publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

And he has tweeted that building "a great Border Wall" is "all about National Defense" and has called to "Build WALL through M!" — the military.

Departments, however, have limited authority to reprogram funds without congressional approval. Pentagon spokesman Chris Sherwood referred all questions on the wall to the White House, where spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders deflected them, saying she was "not going to get into the specifics of that."

Trump threw Washington into a tizzy on Friday when he threatened to veto the omnibus spending bill, in part because it didn't include the \$25 billion he'd tried to secure for the wall in a last-minute bargaining spree.

The \$1.3 trillion funding package did include \$1.6 billion in border wall spending. But much of that money can only be used to repair existing segments, not build new sections. Congress also put restrictions on the types of barriers that can be built.



In this March 13, 2018 file photo, President Donald Trump talks with reporters as he reviews border wall prototypes in San Diego. Trump is floating the idea of using the military's budget to pay for his long-promised border wall with Mexico. Trump raised the idea to House Speaker Paul Ryan at a meeting last week, according to a person familiar with the discussion who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Trump has tried to justify signing the deal by pointing to the boost in funding it provides for the military. But he nonetheless remains frustrated, according to people familiar with his thinking who weren't authorized to discuss private conversations and who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Trump first publicly floated the idea of having the Pentagon pay for the rest of construction in an obscure tweet that left many con-

fused. "Building a great Border Wall, with drugs (poison) and enemy combatants pouring into our Country, is all about National Defense," he wrote Sunday. "Build WALL through M!"

He retweeted his message again Monday night. Some people close to the president have also suggested creating a GoFundMe campaign that Trump could use to raise money from the public to fund construc-

tion. The White House did not immediately respond to questions about the idea, and it's unclear whether it has gained any serious traction.

Congress, under the Constitution, has the power to determine federal appropriations, and the administration has little authority to shift funding without congressional approval. The Senate Appropriations Committee was not aware of any authority that would

allow the Defense Department to fund the wall without congressional approval, said a GOP aide.

Sanders said Tuesday that Trump would work with the White House counsel to make sure any action taken was within his executive authority. And she insisted the "continuation of building the wall is ongoing and we're going to continue moving forward in that process."

Building the wall was one

of Trump's top campaign promises, and the idea that drew the loudest cheers from supporters at his rallies. Trump also insisted he'd make Mexico pay for the construction. But Mexico has made clear it has no intention of doing so.

Trump has also proposed making Mexico pay for the wall indirectly through measures such as increasing visa fees, imposing new tariffs and targeting remittances.

Dems fear immigrants will skip census with citizenship query

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration's decision to ask people about their citizenship in the 2020 census set off worries among Democrats that immigrants will dodge the survey altogether, diluting political representation for states that tend to vote Democratic and robbing many communities of federal dollars.

Not since 1950 has the census collected citizenship data from the whole population, rather than just a population sample, says the Congressional Research Service. The decision to restore the question after decades prompted an immediate lawsuit from California — already tangling with Washington over immigration — and moves by other states with large immigrant populations to engage in a legal fight.

The population count, a massive effort taken every 10 years, is far more than an academic exercise. It's required by the Constitution and used to determine the number of seats each state has in the House as well as how federal money is distributed to local communities. Communities and businesses depend on it in deciding where to build

schools, hospitals, grocery stores and more.

The political stakes of undercounting segments of the population are high.

Several states that have slowing population growth or high numbers of immigrants such as California, New York, Illinois, Massachusetts and Ohio are typically at risk of losing U.S. House seats when their congressional districts are redrawn every 10 years — depending on how fully their residents are counted.

California struck quickly, with Attorney General Xavier Becerra filing a federal lawsuit Tuesday that seeks to block Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross' decision to add a citizenship question in 2020. Officials from New York and New Jersey, also Democratic-led states, were also planning on leading or participating in lawsuits. Massachusetts signaled interest, too.

"The census constitutes the backbone for planning how and where our communities will invest taxpayer dollars," Becerra said. "California simply has too much to lose to allow the Trump Administration to botch this important decennial obligation."

The Justice Depart-

ment said in a statement it "looks forward to defending the reinstatement of the citizenship question, which will allow the department to protect the right to vote and ensure free and fair elections for all Americans." The Commerce Department said the benefits of obtaining citizenship information "outweighed the limited potential adverse impacts."

Their argument in essence: Enforcing voting rights requires more data on the voting-age population of citizens than current surveys are providing.

Democratic lawmakers had been bracing for the decision. A bill sponsored by Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y. would block the addition of a citizenship question, or any major design change, unless it has undergone a certain level of research and testing, but it faces dim prospects with no Republicans signing on.

House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi said Tuesday that adding such a question "will inject fear and distrust into vulnerable communities and cause traditionally undercounted communities to be even further underrepresented, financially excluded and left behind."

Some Republican lawmakers hailed the decision on Tuesday. GOP Sens. Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma, Tom Cotton of Arkansas and Ted Cruz of Texas had sent a letter to the Commerce Department asking Ross to add the question.

"It is imperative that the data gathered in the census is reliable, given the wide ranging impacts it will have on U.S. policy," Cruz said in a press release issued by the three lawmakers. "A question on citizenship is a reasonable, commonsense addition to the census."

The Census Bureau separately conducts an ongoing survey called the American Community Survey that provides citizenship data on a yearly basis. But it only samples a small portion of the population.

Before that, citizenship or related questions were asked of about 1 in 6 households on the census "long form," which has since been retired. The Congressional Research Service said it has been 1950 since all households were asked about citizenship.

Alabama Attorney General Steven Marshall said the American Community Survey is so small, with a correspondingly large mar-

gin of error, that it is an ineffective tool for understanding lightly populated rural areas of the country.

"It just makes sense that government has a more accurate record for the census and reinstates the practice of including a citizenship question in the next census," Marshall said.

A joint fundraising committee for Trump's reelection campaign and the Republican National Committee highlighted the addition of a citizenship question in a fundraising pitch last week. The pitch said Trump wants the 2020 Census to ask people whether or not they are citizens, and that in another era, this would be common sense.

"The President wants to know if you're on his side," the solicitation asks.

Census counts are taken by mail and by workers walking neighborhoods. The Census Bureau says the 2010 census drew a massive response, with about 74 percent of the households mailing in forms and remaining households counted by workers in neighborhoods.

Information is only released publicly in the aggregate, although the government has the details. In

2010, the Obama administration offered assurances that the census data would not be used for immigration enforcement.

The Census Bureau states on its website that personal information obtained through its surveys cannot be used against respondents by any government agency or court. And the disclosure by an employee of any information that would personally identify a respondent or family can lead to up to five years in prison or a fine of \$250,000, or both.

Critics of the decision seemed far more focused Tuesday on the potential for intimidation and an inaccurate count than the prospect that the information could be used to target participants for deportation.

"I can only see one purpose for why this question is being added," said Arturo Vargas, executive director of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Educational Fund, an organization that seeks to advance Latino political engagement. It's to "scare Latinos and others from participating in the 2020 Census."

Looking For An Attorney... or Dog Groomer?

Check out the

THE GUIDE

For all your services needs

Inside every Thursday and Saturday Osceola News-Gazette.

Want to place an ad? Call 407-846-7600

OSCEOLA NEWS-GAZETTE
AroundOsceola.com

SUVs to steal the New York International Auto Show

Yes, there will be a few cars, but SUVs will capture most of the headlines at this year's New York International Auto Show.

Automakers will be shoring up gaps in their SUV lineups and revamping models that already are popular in the hottest-selling part of the U.S. market.

Leading the way is Toyota with an all-new RAV4 compact SUV, which last year was the most popular vehicle in the U.S. that isn't a truck. There are also new SUVs coming from Subaru, Volkswagen, Acura, Cadillac and Lincoln.

There won't be many cars. Nissan will show a redesigned Altima mid-size sedan, while Toyota will roll out a new Corolla hatchback. Kia will unveil a new K900 big luxury sedan, among others. Volkswagen put a toe into the Detroit-dominated pickup truck market with concept built on extended Atlas SUV underpinnings.

But SUVs, which hit a record 43 percent of U.S. sales last year at just over 7.3 million, according to Kelley Blue Book, will steal the show. Here are some wheels to watch:

TOYOTA RAV4

Toyota sold almost 408,000 RAV4 compact SUVs last year, making it the new American family car and the top-selling vehicle in the nation aside from Detroit's popular big pickups. In an effort to stay on top, Toyota is revamping the RAV for the 2019 model year. The fifth-generation comes on all-new underpinnings that the company says will give it better handling and a smoother ride. It's also slightly wider and a little lower. New looks are more chiseled and athletic, and the distance between the wheels grows by 1.2 inches for more passenger and cargo space. It comes standard with Toyota's safety system that includes auto-



Volkswagen's five-passenger SUV concept is shown at the New York Auto Show, Tuesday, March 27, 2018. The vehicle will be designed and engineered for the American market and Volkswagen will construct it at its plant in Chattanooga, Tenn.

matic emergency braking. It's powered by a 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine and an eight-speed transmission, or a 2.5-liter gas-electric hybrid system with a continuously variable transmission. Horsepower, gas mileage and price weren't released. The new RAV hits showrooms in the fall.

CADILLAC XT4

The compact SUV is now the largest part of the U.S. market, and Cadillac hasn't had a product to offer — until now. The General Motors luxury brand rolled out the new

XT4 SUV at a pre-show event in New York Tuesday night. It's built on underpinnings specifically designed for the Cadillac brand and comes with sculpted looks and an interior that Cadillac says is luxurious and spacious. The company says it will have segment-leading back-seat legroom. It's powered by a 237-horsepower 2-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engine with a nine-speed automatic transmission that will get an estimated 30 miles per gallon on the highway. The XT4 is available in the

fall and starts at \$35,790 including shipping.

VOLKSWAGEN ATLAS CROSS SPORT CONCEPT

Volkswagen broadens its growing SUV lineup with a five-seat version of the three-row Atlas. The company calls the Atlas Cross Sport a concept, but it's almost ready to be built at the automaker's U.S. factory in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The new version is 7.5 inches shorter than the seven-seat Atlas. The concept is powered by a 355-horsepower plug-in hybrid system with a

V6 gasoline engine and a battery that can take it 26 miles on electric power. The hybrid concept can go from zero to 60 mph in 5.4 seconds, VW says. There's also a "mild hybrid" with 310-horsepower from a V6 and a smaller hybrid battery. The SUV is due in showrooms sometime next year. Mileage and price were not announced.

LINCOLN AVIATOR

Ford's luxury brand finally gets an Explorer-like midsize SUV with three rows of seats to compete in the hot luxury SUV market. The company

was to unveil the Aviator Wednesday. Few details were given, except that it will have a twin-turbo engine of undisclosed size as well as a plug-in hybrid option. Ford says it will have tapered lines and a roomy interior. It also gets standard safety features such as automatic emergency braking and can be opened and started with a smart phone. The Aviator goes on sale sometime next year. The price wasn't disclosed.

American Samoans sue for birthright citizenship

HONOLULU (AP) — John Fitsemanu, who works for a lab company in Utah, has paid U.S. taxes and been subject to American laws his whole life. But the 53-year-old father and husband isn't considered a U.S. citizen by the federal government because he was born in American Samoa, a U.S. territory and the only place in the country without automatic claim to citizenship. Now, he's suing to be recognized as an American.

Fitsemanu is the lead plaintiff on a lawsuit filed Tuesday on behalf of American Samoans in Utah to be treated as U.S. citizens under the 14th Amendment of the Constitution. The Associated Press obtained the documents before the case was filed.

American Samoa, a U.S. territory since 1900, is a cluster of islands 2,600 miles (4,184 kilometers) southwest of Hawaii perpetually stuck in a legal loophole. People born in the territory are labeled U.S. nationals. Under that status, they cannot vote,

run for office, sponsor family members for immigration to the U.S., apply for certain government jobs, or serve on a jury -- despite paying taxes to Uncle Sam. They're even issued special U.S. passports that say: "This bearer is a United States national and not a United States citizen."

With colleagues, "it's kind of like an office joke -- 'Hey! John is not a citizen, he's an alien!' I know they're joking, but it still hurts," Fitsemanu told the AP. "It feels like a slap in your face, that you're born on U.S. soil, but you're not recognized as a U.S. citizen."

He's been rejected for jobs that list U.S. citizenship as a requirement. Prospective employers "need me to show them proof that I am a U.S. citizen, which I am not." Around elections, "I sit quietly at my cubicle, and don't say a word, because I know I can't vote," he said. "It's kind of embarrassing."

Rosavita Tuli, another plaintiff in the case, has had to obtain special permits

and pay fees that wouldn't apply to U.S. citizens when visiting her aging parents outside American Samoa, according to court documents.

Although American Samoans can pursue naturalized citizenship, the lawsuit says it is a "lengthy, costly, and burdensome" process. The cost to apply is \$725, and legal fees pile up if applicants hire an attorney to help navigate the process. For Fitsemanu, a previous divorce and other financial burdens have prevented him from going that route.

Also, "there's no guarantee of success," said Neil Weare, the attorney leading the suit, and president of non-profit Equally American. "If someone has a birth certificate showing they were born on U.S. soil, they shouldn't have to jump through any more hoops to be recognized as a U.S. citizen."

Those born in the territory, however, can claim citizenship at birth if one of their parents is a U.S. citizen. The same generally

holds true for children born abroad to Americans.

This is Weare's second attempt on the issue. A previous case he led stalled in 2016 when the Supreme Court declined to reconsider a ruling from a lower court in D.C., which found the constitutional guarantee of birthright citizenship didn't apply to American Samoa, and referred back to controversial colonial era decisions from the early 20th century after the U.S. acquired a spate of territories in the Spanish American War.

Known as the "Insular Cases," the Supreme Court distinguished between "incorporated" and "unincorporated" territories. The former, such as Arizona and New Mexico, mostly settled by white people, were thought destined to be a permanent part of the U.S. The latter, such as American Samoa, weren't considered candidates for statehood, whose inhabitants were described as "alien races" and "uncivilized," and thus weren't granted full constitutional

rights.

Over the years, Congress has decided on a per territory basis to allow those born in Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Northern Mariana Islands to claim citizenship by birth. American Samoa's population of about 55,000, however, has continued to fall to the way-side.

"This is the holding pattern we've been in now for over a century," said Sam Erman, an expert in constitutional law and a professor at the University of Southern California. Still, Erman and many legal scholars agree that "American Samoans are clearly citizens under the 14th Amendment."

This lawsuit places a question mark over whether the millions that lived in the Philippines while the country was a U.S. territory for five decades until 1946 would also be able to seek U.S. citizenship, said Erman, who plans to file a legal brief on the current lawsuit.

The local American Sa-

moan government has before taken a nuanced view over the issue, given concern about how aspects of Samoan life and culture "would be jeopardized if subjected to scrutiny under the 14th Amendment," according to court documents filed in 2014 by lawyers representing the government. American Samoa Governor Lolo Moliga didn't respond to a request for comment.

The U.S. State Department, named as the defendants on the lawsuit, didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Utah has a major Samoan population. If the case there is decided favorably, that would create a "circuit split" -- a conflicting ruling to what was previously decided in another court, which could add pressure to the Supreme Court to review.

Until then, Fitsemanu is standing firm: "People will say what they want to say, and I'm going to believe in what I want to believe, and I believe that I should be a U.S. citizen."



THE CIVIL WAR COURIER



For the history buff or the reenactment hobbyist

Only **\$3.00**

New issue the first of every month.

Now available at the lobby of the Osceola News-Gazette. **407-846-7600**

108 Church Street, Kissimmee FL 34771

Why can't we be friends

Kim, Xi portray strong ties after NKorea leader's China trip

BEIJING (AP) — With smiles and firm handshakes, North Korea and China used a surprise summit this week to show that despite recent tensions, Pyongyang still has a powerful backer and Beijing will not be sidelined in discussions about the fate of its unpredictable neighbor.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's secretive talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing — which were not confirmed until after his return home — appear aimed at improving both countries' positions ahead of Kim's anticipated meetings with South Korean President Moon Jae-in and U.S. President Donald Trump in the coming weeks.

A key objective for Beijing is to reassert its relevance to the talks, from which it has been excluded. China has appeared increasingly shut out as its relations with the North deteriorated and Pyongyang reached out to Seoul and Washington.

"Kim Jong Un's visit shows that China is not marginalized, but playing a leading role. This saves China a lot of face," said Pang Zhongying, a North Korea expert at Renmin University in Beijing.

"North Korea once again is taking advantage of China," Pang said. "It plays the China card, showing South Korea and the U.S.: China is still my ally."

Official reports from both countries on Wednesday depicted in effusive terms warm ties between the leaders in an effort to downplay recent tensions over Kim's development of nuclear weapons and long-range missiles.

In the reports, "Kim reaffirms the traditional friendship between the two countries as if nothing had ever happened, when the relationship had plummeted to unprecedented lows," said Bonnie Glaser, an Asia expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Ties in recent months have frayed as China supported tougher U.N. sanctions on North Korea and suspended coal and iron ore imports. Pyongyang last year seemingly sought to humiliate Beijing by timing some of its missile tests for major global summits in China.

Kim made the visit to China at Xi's invitation, China's official Xinhua News Agency said, in his first trip to a foreign country since he took power in 2011. Xinhua said the trip ran from Sunday to Wednesday but appeared to include travel time from Pyongyang on the special armored train that Kim traveled on, which secretly arrived in Beijing on Monday and left Tuesday afternoon.

Rumors of Kim's presence began circulating on Monday night, with



In this photo provided Wednesday, March 28, 2018, by China's Xinhua News Agency, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, left, and Chinese President Xi Jinping shake hands in Beijing, China. The Chinese government confirmed Wednesday that North Korea's reclusive leader Kim went to Beijing and met with Chinese President Xi in his first known trip to a foreign country since he took power in 2011. The official Xinhua News Agency said Kim made an unofficial visit to China from Sunday to Wednesday.

the spotting of his special train, Chinese security teams and official delegations at the border city of Dandong and various points in Beijing.

Although China sought to keep Kim's visit secret, and described it Wednesday as "unofficial," it accorded him full honors due to a head of state, including a formal welcoming ceremony and troop review at the Great Hall of the People in central Beijing.

Xi and his wife, Peng Liyuan, also hosted a banquet for Kim and his wife, Ri Sol Ju, and they watched an art performance together, Xinhua said.

"We speak highly of this visit," Xi told Kim, according to Xinhua.

For China, the visit also projects to its public that Xi is firmly in charge of steering Beijing's relations with North Korea in a way that favors China's interests.

"Here is Xi Jinping saying, 'Don't worry, everything is going to be great,'" Glaser said.

Trump tweeted Wednesday that he had received a message from Xi saying that his meeting with Kim "went very well" and that Kim "looks forward to his meeting with me."

"For years and through many administrations, everyone said that peace and

the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula was not even a small possibility," he tweeted. "Now there is a good chance that Kim Jong Un will do what is right for his people and for humanity. Look forward to our meeting!"

Ahead of the planned meeting, however, satellite images of North Korea's main nuclear site indicated it has begun preliminary testing of an experimental light water reactor and possibly brought another reactor online. Both could be used to produce the fissile materials needed for nuclear bombs.

According to Jane's Intelligence Review, the experimental reactor could become operational with "little warning later in 2018 or in 2019."

In a separate report on 38 North, a website that specializes in North Korea news and analysis, experts said images of the other reactor suggest it was brought into operation very recently. That would mean "North Korea has resumed production of plutonium presumably for its nuclear weapons program," it said.

Analysts say Kim would have felt a need to consult with China ahead of summits with Moon and Trump. His famously reclusive father, Kim Jong Il, made his first visit to China as North Korean

leader in May 2000, reportedly to consult with the Chinese leadership ahead of his summit with South Korea's then-leader, Kim Dae-jung.

China would not want Kim Jong Un's first foreign meeting to be with someone other than Xi.

"This is China asserting its regional hegemony and influence, saying, 'Hey, you talk to me first,'" said Michael Kovrig, senior adviser for Northeast Asia at the International Crisis Group.

In video aired by China's state broadcaster China Central Television, Kim appeared reserved and collected as he sat at a long table across from Xi. Kim wore horn-rimmed glasses and was shown jotting down notes and speaking in a calm manner. In contrast, while meeting with South Korean envoys earlier this month, Kim was shown by his state media frequently smiling, bursting into laughter, proposing toasts and waving at departing limousines.

Kim was described by Xinhua as saying that his country wants "reconciliation and cooperation" with South Korea, with which it is technically still at war. He also said North Korea is willing to hold a summit with the United States, according to Xinhua.

North Korean state media, however, didn't carry

Kim's comment about his plans to talk with the United States. The North has yet to officially confirm its interest in a summit between Kim and Trump.

North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency published Kim's personal letter to Xi, dated Wednesday, in which he said he was satisfied that the leaders confirmed their "unified opinions" on mutual issues.

Kim also called for more meetings with Xi and other Chinese officials and asked Xi to visit North Korea at a time convenient for him, to which Xi "gladly accepted," KCNA said.

"For the North Koreans, it is in their best interests to enter any meetings with Moon or Trump having shored up and repaired to a certain extent their relations with Beijing," said Paul Haenle, director of the Carnegie-Tsinghua Center for Global Policy in Beijing.

The North's diplomatic outreach this year follows a tense 2017 when it conducted its most powerful nuclear test to date and tested three intercontinental ballistic missiles designed to target the U.S. mainland.

The developments are being interpreted as the North being desperate to break out of isolation and improve its economy after

being squeezed by heavy sanctions. Analysts think Kim may have been seeking promises from Beijing that it wouldn't hit the North too hard with sanctions if the talks with Washington and Seoul fall apart and the North starts testing nuclear weapons and missiles again.

"At least one of the things that Kim would want out of these meetings is a way forward to begin to ease those sanctions and support from China in that effort," said Glaser, the Asia expert.

China remains North Korea's only major ally and chief provider of energy, aid and trade that keep the country's broken economy afloat.

In addition to the trip being his first abroad as leader, Kim's talk with Xi was his first meeting with a foreign head of state. Kim's father had visited China several times during his rule, lastly in May 2011, months before his death that December.

"It's most proper that my first overseas trip would be the capital of the People's Republic of China," Kim Jong Un said, according to the North's KCNA. "It's also one of my noble duties to value the North Korea-China friendship as I do my own life."



**YOUR LAMP
CAN BRING OTHERS
A BRIGHT FUTURE.**

YOUR DONATIONS TO GOODWILL® HELP
FUND JOB PLACEMENT AND TRAINING
FOR PEOPLE IN YOUR COMMUNITY



**DONATE STUFF.
CREATE JOBS.**



TO FIND YOUR NEAREST DONATION CENTER GO TO GOODWILL.ORG

Medical bankruptcies may not be as common as thought

Medical bills can push patients over the financial cliff, but a new study says this may not happen as often as previous research suggests.

Hospitalizations cause only about 4 percent of personal bankruptcies among non-elderly U.S. adults, according to an analysis published Wednesday in the New England Journal of Medicine.

This contrasts with previous research by former Harvard professor and current U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren and others that pointed to medical reasons as the trigger for more than 60 percent of U.S. bankruptcies.

In the new study, researchers tracked the credit reports of more than a half million adults under 65 in California who had a hospitalization between 2003 and 2007 that wasn't tied to childbirth. They found that hospitalizations clearly forced some patients into bankruptcy in the years following their stay, said study co-author Matthew Notowidigdo, a Northwestern University economist.

It just may not happen as frequently as the other research indicates.

"What causes bankruptcies is still somewhat unknown, but it appears that medical expenses are responsible for a much smaller share of them than previously thought," said co-author Raymond Kluender of the Massachusetts



In this Nov. 28, 2016, file photo, a screen displays a patient's vital signs during open heart surgery at the University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore. Hospitalizations cause only about 4 percent of personal bankruptcies among non-elderly U.S. adults, according to an analysis published Wednesday, March 21, 2018, by the New England Journal of Medicine.

Institute of Technology. Researchers also estimated that hospitalizations were responsible for only about 6 percent of bankruptcies among uninsured patients. They noted that hospitalization rates are lower in that patient group compared to the overall

non-elderly population. The new analysis included a broader range of people than earlier research, which focused on those who already had filed for bankruptcy protection. Such a narrow focus makes it "impossible to

infer the role of medical expenses in causing bankruptcy" without information on those who had big medical bills and didn't sink financially, the authors of Wednesday's report noted. Their study also had limitations: It focused

only on adult patients from one state who were hospitalized. Kluender said hospital stays often are the first event that triggers a "chain of struggles with medical expenses and medical debt." The research looked at

hospitalizations that occurred several years before the federal Affordable Care Act expanded insurance coverage to millions of Americans.

Inching closer to a world without polio

(THE CONVERSATION) At its height in the 1940s and '50s, polio paralyzed more than 35,000 Americans every year. But thanks to vaccines as well as good hygiene and sanitation practices, polio has largely been forgotten in the developed world.

Now, even in less-developed regions, it's close to being wiped out entirely. But there are still challenges to overcome before polio can join smallpox as a virus that has been eradicated worldwide.

With the support of the World Health Organization, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (a strategic partner of The Conversation US that provides funding for The Conversation internationally), Rotary International and others, public health workers and volunteers work tirelessly and in dangerous conditions to vaccinate every one of the world's children. The number of polio cases globally dropped from 350,000 in 1988 to just 37 in 2016. Thirty years ago, polio was regularly found in 125 of the world's 190 or so countries. Today, only three countries continue to see regular cases: Pakistan, Nigeria and Afghanistan.

Of these, Pakistan is closest to becoming polio-free thanks to its persistent, innovative vaccination campaign programs. But its poor security, weak health system and lack of proper sanitation work against this effort.

The lessons infectious disease preparedness and

response researchers like us are learning in Pakistan, during what's hopefully a final push against polio, will also apply elsewhere, as public health experts work to wipe out other infectious diseases around the world.

Polio in people and in the environment

Wild poliovirus is not particularly hardy and can't survive for long in the environment. If the virus cannot find an unvaccinated person to serve as its host, it will die. This fact means vaccination efforts can fully exterminate the virus by denying it a place to live in human hosts.

The world's polio eradication campaign has already done away with two of the three naturally occurring wild polioviruses. Wild poliovirus type 2 was last seen in 1999, and there has not been a case of wild poliovirus type 3 since 2012.

Polio spreads primarily through water contaminated with the feces of an infected person. Where sources of drinking water come into contact with sewage waste — often the case in developing countries like Pakistan — the virus spreads easily.

To complicate matters, nearly 3 out of 4 people infected with the poliovirus never have any symptoms at all. So most carriers of polio never know they harbor the virus, or that they're spreading it to others.

In addition, those who do have symptoms usu-

ally seem to have the flu, with fever, headaches, body aches and vomiting. In only around 1 percent of cases do symptoms include temporary or permanent paralysis.

This means that it is possible for the virus to exist and spread in a community even when there are no diagnosed cases of polio. For that reason, public health workers use two different measures to gauge the success of a vaccination effort: the number of people diagnosed with polio, and how much of the virus is found in the environment.

Cultural challenges

In Pakistan, these two measures paint somewhat different pictures of disease eradication. The not-so-good news is that 16 percent of the water sources tested in 2017 contain the polio virus, a slight increase from 2016 levels.

The better news is that from 2014 to 2017, the number of new polio cases dropped a whopping 97 percent, from 306 cases to just eight. The country's government, with the support of the international community, has vaccinated most Pakistanis, which no doubt accounts for the impressive drop in diagnosed cases. However, because vaccination is not universal, the virus persists in some regions of Pakistan and poses a threat to those who are not vaccinated or who have not received vaccination boosters as scheduled.

There are several cultural

barriers to wiping out polio in Pakistan. Vaccinations are usually given at health clinics and transit points, where public health workers can make contact with a large share of the population. Mobile vaccination units reach people in other locations, but cannot safely get to children in high-conflict areas.

In many of these areas, armed militants refuse to let public health officials vaccinate children, claiming that the polio vaccine is part of a Western plot to sterilize Muslims. In 2012, the Taliban, which remain in control in some mountainous areas, imposed a ban on vaccinations, which slowed the polio eradication effort. Furthermore, polio vaccine campaign workers have been targets of violence, as seen most recently in the killing of a mother-daughter vaccination team in January and an ambush this past week in a remote tribal area that killed two medical workers and wounded two others.

In order to overcome some of the challenges, members of the eradication campaign have coordinated vaccination efforts with military operations. When a large military offensive in 2015 pushed the Taliban out of the northern provinces of Pakistan, it cleared the way for hundreds of thousands of children to receive vaccination.

High illiteracy rates, extreme poverty and religious beliefs also can cause parents to refuse vaccines — in Pakistan and elsewhere —

for their children. In these instances, education and outreach are vitally important. Helping parents understand the dangers of disease may help overcome misinformation about the vaccine and increase positive association with vaccination, as it has in the United States.

Pharmaceutical challenges

Public health officials have two types of polio vaccine in their medical supply kit: an oral vaccine and an inactivated vaccine. Both are necessary to eradicate polio. The oral vaccine is made from live weakened virus. The inactivated version is made with dead virus.

The oral vaccination works significantly better against naturally occurring poliovirus, known as wild poliovirus. Additionally, the administration method — being given by mouth — is thought to increase vaccine uptake because it does not require an injection.

The body builds immunity from this live vaccine, and then can withstand the virus if exposed to it in the future. Countries where polio is present must use the oral vaccine in order to eliminate wild poliovirus because the inactivated vaccine does not stop its transmission since it produces lower levels of mucosal immunity.

Though necessary, using the live oral vaccine comes with some challenges. For example, it can cause vaccine-derived cases of polio, which include cases

of paralysis. In this unfortunate and extremely rare scenario, the vaccine meant to prevent a terrible illness directly transmits it. Of the 10 billion doses of oral polio vaccine administered since 2000, there have only been 760 cases of vaccine-derived polio.

Though the oral vaccine is vital to the eradication of wild poliovirus, its use must be discontinued as soon as the wild virus is wiped out. Otherwise, it runs the risk of hindering complete eradication by perpetuating existence of poliovirus in the environment through human excrement and continuing to introduce new vaccine-derived cases of the disease.

Once Pakistan is declared free of wild poliovirus, the eradication campaign must switch to using the inactivated vaccine.

Because the inactivated vaccine provokes a weaker immune response, it doesn't effectively disrupt transmission of wild poliovirus. But it does protect against the weaker vaccine-derived poliovirus, and it doesn't contribute to vaccine-derived cases. Once the only remaining strains are vaccine-derived, inactivated vaccines can be used to completely wipe out the disease.

It is likely that a world without polio may not be too far off in the future — and then infectious disease researchers can make use of the lessons learned in Pakistan as they move the fight to other diseases elsewhere around the world.

if you only
had the time, right? Now you do.
3-12 MONTH assignments now available.

Peace Corps now offers short-term volunteer assignments overseas for 3 months to 1 year for especially skilled professionals with at least 30 years experience.

PEACE CORPS RESPONSE

peacecorps.gov/response

Spies posing as diplomats have a long history

WASHINGTON (AP) — In ordering the largest mass expulsion of Russian diplomats ever, the U.S. and its allies have upped the ante in an East-West spy game that dates to the Cold War and cast light on an unspoken but widespread practice in the cloak-and-dagger world: sending operatives abroad under diplomatic cover.

The tallies offered Monday by senior U.S. officials were striking: Far more than 100 Russian spies are on American soil masquerading as diplomats. The U.S. said it was kicking out 60, so even after they're gone, at least 40 will ostensibly remain, free to roam Washington and other major U.S. cities under the official imprimatur of their nation's foreign ministry.

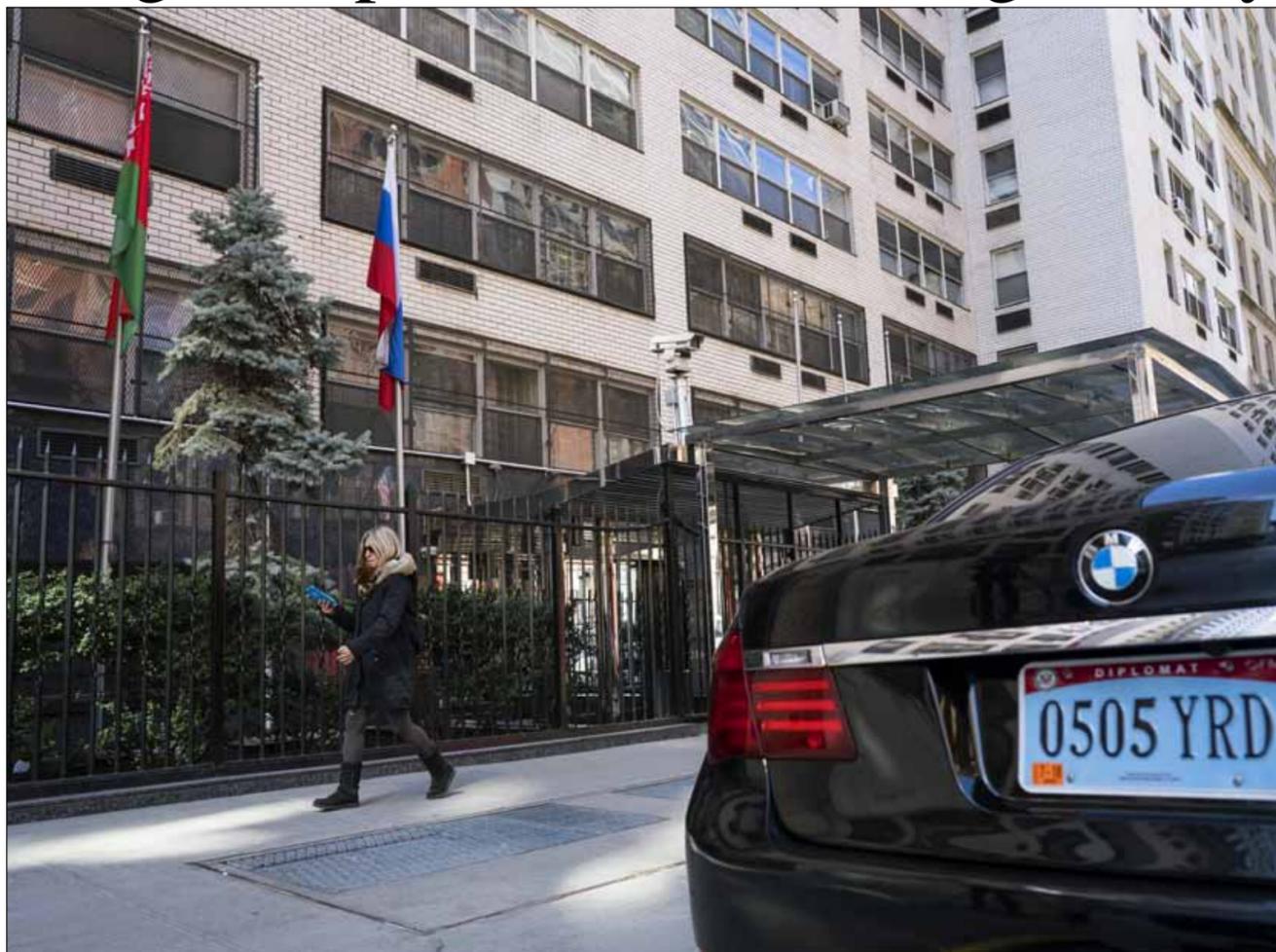
So if they're truly spies and the United States knows it, why not expel them all?

The answer, experts say, is that espionage, while murky, potentially distasteful and often illegal, is an accepted international practice. All countries spy and most if not all send spies overseas disguised as diplomats — including the U.S.

"Embassies and diplomatic mission for hundreds and hundreds of years have been used to spy in adversaries' lands," said retired Army Col. Christopher Costa, executive director of the International Spy Museum in Washington. He said even when spies are discovered, it's often more fruitful to follow them discreetly than to expel them. "The cat-and-mouse game of counterespionage is about understanding who that officer is in touch with."

There's another reason for the U.S. not to go overboard in kicking out known Russian intelligence operatives posted to diplomatic missions: America is in the game, too.

When one country expels another country's representatives, it's both expected and accepted that the country being punished takes reciprocal steps. In 2016, when the Obama administration expelled 35 Russian diplomats, Moscow quickly booted 35 Americans. A



A woman walks past the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation in New York Monday, March 26, 2018. The United States and more than a dozen European nations kicked out Russian diplomats on Monday and the Trump administration ordered Russia's consulate in Seattle to close, as the West sought joint punishment for Moscow's alleged role in poisoning an ex-spy in Britain.

similar tit-for-tat played out this month after Britain ousted 23 Russians and the Kremlin ordered out 23 Brits.

That means that the more Russian spies the U.S. kicks out, the more of its own spies are likely to be forced out of Russia, Costa said.

When one country posts spies to its embassy in a friendly nation, it usually "declares" them — telling the host country who they are. Those spies, while publicly still claiming to be diplomats, then act as liaisons to the host country's intelligence services, creating a useful backchannel.

With countries that have hostile relations, like the U.S. and Russia, the governments don't tell each other who the spies are. So a high-stakes game of spy-hunting inevitably takes place.

Every new Russian diplomat assigned to a mission in the United States, like the embassy in Washington, or the Seattle consulate that the U.S. has ordered closed, is assessed by the FBI and other U.S. counterintelligence officials, said John Schindler, a former counterintelligence official and National Security Agency analyst.

Some can be quickly identified based on where they've worked previously and in what positions — historical information that's far easier to track in the modern age of Google, LinkedIn and LexisNexis. Certain positions in embassies are notorious for being filled by spies, such as security officials, political officers and communications specialists, who often are secretly

engaged in technical collection of what's known as signals intelligence: intercepting phone calls or electronic communications.

"If you still can't tell, you wait until they get to this country, and you watch what they do," Schindler said. "Are they having clandestine meetings with people? Are they using techniques to avoid surveillance?"

The U.S. has long claimed that as a rule, it does not use certain jobs as cover for intelligence operatives, such as U.S. Agency for International Development workers and Peace Corps volunteers. The theory is that any perception that those staffers might be spies would create serious safety risks for actual humanitarian workers.

Said Schindler: "There

are gentleman's rules about this, and there have been for a long time."

During the Cold War, capitals around the globe developed reputations for being awash in thousands of agents working for rival intelligence agencies under diplomatic cover. From Asia to the Middle East and throughout Europe, the East-West tug-of-war played out between spies in cities such as Athens, Bangkok, Beirut, Belgrade, Berlin, Cairo, Tehran and Vienna, often in open sight before unsuspecting passers-by.

After the fall of the Soviet Union, such activity subsided, but it never altogether disappeared. Now it's back with a vengeance.

"The rates of espionage are now as high if not higher than they were in the Cold

War," said Angela Stent, a professor at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and a former Russia expert on the government's National Intelligence Council. "There is a huge degree of mutual suspicion between the intelligence services that never went away."

In fact, it was only last year that Russia complained bitterly to the United States about American diplomats posted to Moscow and other cities that Russia claimed were really there to spy.

"There are too many employees of the CIA and the Pentagon's espionage unit working under the roof of the American diplomatic mission whose activity does not correspond at all with their status," said Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova.

At odds with Bolton on North Korea, Mattis appears isolated

WASHINGTON (AP) — Of the issues that divide Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and President Donald Trump's incoming national security adviser, John Bolton, one stands out: North Korea.

Bolton, who will replace Army Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster on April 9, has publicly advocated for overthrowing the North Korean government. Mattis, a retired Marine general who knows intimately the costs of war, favors diplomacy to rid the North of its nuclear weapons and has said war on the Korean peninsula would be "catastrophic." On Iran, too, Mattis would seem at odds with Bolton, who has argued for abandoning the Obama-era nuclear deal.

These and other matters of war and peace will test Mattis' influence with Trump as his national security team is overhauled.

Mattis was sometimes at odds with McMaster, but the arrival of the hawkish Bolton,

combined with the firing of Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and the uncertain status of John Kelly as White House chief of staff, appears to leave Mattis more isolated than at any time since he took over the Pentagon 15 months ago. Often described as a steady-ing or moderating influence on the impulsive Trump, Mattis has little previous relationship with Bolton.

The North Korea issue is front-and-center: Trump has agreed to meet with North Korean President Kim Jong Un by May to discuss the North's nuclear disarmament. The unprecedented summit could be a turning point in a decades-old U.S.-North Korean standoff that Trump himself has said could end in "fire and fury" — an American nuclear attack — to stop the North from gaining the ability to strike the U.S. with a nuclear missile.

"This is buckle-up time," retired Navy Adm. James Stavridis, dean of the Fletch-

er School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, said last week on MSNBC. "For the military I have three words: Sharpen your swords. He (Bolton) is someone who is going to reach for the military instrument."

The changes in the White House and at the State Department, while significant for Mattis, are hardly heart-stopping. People close to him sense no change in his commitment to the job; some suggest that Trump's decision to move former Republican congressman and current CIA director Mike Pompeo to State, replacing Tillerson, could benefit Mattis in the sense that he'll have a partner at State who is better aligned with Trump.

Publicly, Mattis has said little about the shakeup. He was in Afghanistan when Tillerson got the ax. When reporters asked his reaction a couple of days later, Mattis said he preferred not to comment on the details, although

he went on to suggest that its importance was being exaggerated. He said that in all of his discussions abroad with foreign government officials and American troops, the matter was not discussed.

"I understand why you're asking, but I'm just pointing out that in most parts of the world this is a Washington, D.C. story," he said.

Another Washington story is Mattis and his ability to forge a workable relationship with Trump despite differences on some issues like the Iran nuclear deal, which Mattis says is flawed but worth honoring as long as the Iranians do. Mattis also has differed with the president over Trump's wish to bar all transgender people from serving in the military, and he helped sway Trump from his inclination last year to end U.S. military involvement in Afghanistan.

The Mattis formula seems to be simple. Out of the spotlight, out of trouble. The less

he says publicly, the less he risks losing influence with Trump.

"Part of his success ... is absolutely the fact that you don't see him in the limelight terribly much," says Loren DeJonge Schulman, a defense analyst at the Center for a New American Security who served in key national security positions in the White House and Pentagon under President Barack Obama. "That may be keeping him out of trouble with the White House but I think it's setting an incredibly bad precedent in terms of Pentagon transparency."

If Mattis, who spent more than 40 years in uniform and is the first career military officer to lead the Pentagon since George C. Marshall in the early 1950s, isn't the most experienced politician to run the military's vast bureaucracy, he has shown a knack for staying out of trouble with his thin-skinned boss.

Mattis has even broken

Trump of his habit of calling the retired general "Mad Dog," which Mattis insists was a media invention to begin with.

Trump frequently has lunch and dinners with the defense secretary and speaks glowingly of him to outside advisers. White House officials have said that Trump sometimes repeats military historical anecdotes he heard from Mattis.

Even Mattis' few known stumbles have not dogged him. In August, for example, Mattis told sailors at a submarine base in his home state of Washington that the Navy would give them the worst and the best days of their lives, and then added, "That means you're not some (expletive) sitting on the sidelines," he said. "You know what I mean, kind of sitting there saying, 'Well, I should have done something with my life.'"

His language was quickly forgotten.

North Dakota tries to establish Theodore Roosevelt library

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — When Theodore Roosevelt came to Dakota Territory in 1883 to hunt bison, locals saw him as an Eastern tenderfoot with no clue on handling the hardships of frontier life. He turned adversity into adventure, later writing: "It was here that the romance of my life began."

"I have always said I would not have been president had it not been for my experience in North Dakota," wrote Roosevelt.

Now, enthusiasts of the 26th president are working to establish a Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library in the North Dakota Badlands. They acknowledge it will be a challenge, but they're working to raise millions, digitizing Roosevelt papers by the tens of thousands and promoting the majestic surroundings that Roosevelt so loved.

"The reason we put this library where we did, in western North Dakota, that's the landscape that shaped and formed him into the Roosevelt we know," said Clay Jenkinson, a leading Roosevelt scholar and re-enactor who is working as a consultant for the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library Foundation.

Roosevelt was a native of New York, where his birthplace and primary adult residence are national historic sites. But an effort a decade ago to establish a library there fizzled, and North Dakotans — who are eager to capitalize on ties to state natives such as baseball great Roger Maris, Western author Louis L'Amour and bandleader Lawrence Welk — saw an opportunity.

Roosevelt's four years on a ranch in the North Dakota Badlands, when he was in his 20s, deepened his love for nature and made him a champion of wildlife conservation. He came to the area to recuperate from the deaths of his wife and mother on the same day. After his return to New York, he went on



This June 18, 2017, file photo shows the scenic landscape near the Theodore Roosevelt National Park in western North Dakota. Roosevelt hunted and ranched in the area in the 1880s. Roosevelt credited his time hunting and ranching in North Dakota with shaping him into the man who would become the nation's 26th president. Now, enthusiasts are working to establish a Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library in the North Dakota Badlands where he spent nearly four years in the late 1800s.

to serve as the state's governor and the U.S. vice president before becoming president when William McKinley was assassinated in 1901.

Roosevelt's old turf in North Dakota is now a national park in his name — a rugged area of hills, ridges, buttes and bluffs where millions of years of erosion have exposed colorful sedimentary rock layers. The park is home to a wide variety of wildlife, from prairie dogs to wild horses and bison. It is North Dakota's top tourist attraction, drawing more

than 700,000 visitors annually.

The library is planned in Dickinson, with the museum about a half-hour drive away in Medora, a tourist town on the park's doorstep.

The project has \$15 million in hand from the state of North Dakota and city of Dickinson, which would like to capitalize on one of the most popular presidents who doesn't already have a library. Organizers hope to raise another \$85 million in private donations — a formidable challenge.

The Theodore Roosevelt Association, formed by Congress in 1920 to perpetuate Roosevelt's legacy, is monitoring the fundraising effort.

"This is a very ambitious project and we want to make sure they have adequate funding, so we're not backing something that turns out to be a half-done project," said association CEO Tweed Roosevelt, Theodore's great-grandson.

Presidential libraries are something of a modern phenomenon. The National Archives administers

14, starting with Herbert Hoover. By law, libraries for presidents before that have to be built without federal support.

Unlike the major libraries, a Roosevelt library wouldn't have a trove of original documents because most already are in established collections. The Theodore Roosevelt Center at Dickinson State University has digitized nearly 60,000 records, photographs, film clips and audio recordings.

The project would also include virtual exhibits and a full-scale re-

creation of Roosevelt's Elkhorn Ranch cabin, an 1,800-square foot cottonwood log structure hand-built by Roosevelt and his ranch hands.

"My biggest wish is to show the many sides of TR — the adventurer, the reformer, the naturalist, the soldier, the scholar, the family man, the list goes on and on," said great-great grandson Kermit Roosevelt III, a University of Pennsylvania law professor.

How Facebook was able to siphon off phone call and text logs

The news that Facebook's Android app has been collecting call and text histories is yet another black eye for the social media giant. But just why was Facebook able to siphon off records of who its users were contacting — and when — in the first place?

The short answer: Because Google let it. The longer answer: Well, it's complicated.

The social network acknowledged on Sunday that it began uploading call and text logs from phones running Google's Android system in 2015 — first via its Messenger app and later through an option in Facebook Lite, a stripped-down version of its main app. Facebook added that only users who gave appropriate permission were affected, that it didn't collect the contents of messages or calls, and that users can opt out of the data collection and have the stored logs deleted by changing their app settings.

Facebook did not respond to multiple requests for

more specifics. The kerfuffle over this data collection, first reported by the website Ars Technica, follows a week of turmoil for the social network involving charges that it allowed political consultants to steal the data of 50 million users in order to influence elections.

There's a reason Facebook's actions were restricted to Android phones. Apple locks down app permissions tightly, which offers more privacy protection to iPhone users. "Apple's fundamental approach is to collect the minimum amount of information to keep the service running, and keep customers in control of the information," said Rich Mogull, CEO of the security firm Securosis.

But Android has long been more indulgent.

Until recently, in fact, Google let app developers gain access to a phone's call and text logs. All they needed was an app that required access to user contacts. Once users agreed,

Android would then also grant access to those communication histories.

Starting in 2012 with its "Jelly Bean" release, Android would notify people installing such apps that they were also giving apps access to their call and text logs, but still required them to agree to all those permissions at once. Rejecting the request meant the apps wouldn't work.

It wasn't until 2015 when Google released Android 6.0, dubbed "Marshmallow," that Android phones finally split up those permissions. That meant users could agree to share contacts, but reject access to their messaging and phone histories.

That's the same year Facebook says its apps started collecting this information. But many Android users aren't using the latest version of the software. In fact, they often can't get it even if they want it.

Apple owns both the software and hardware for iPhones, which allows it to

push out new versions of its iOS operating software at will. Google, by contrast, is largely at the mercy of both mobile carriers and hardware makers when it comes to distributing new Android versions.

There are nearly 20,000 Android phone models now in service, and carriers like to tweak the software for each to ensure that it will work as smoothly as possible on their networks. As a result, new Android versions reach users very slowly.

As of January, about 65 percent of iPhone users were using the latest iOS software, introduced in 2017. Less than 1 percent of Android devices currently use the latest version of Android, known as "Oreo." (Many of them are owners of Google's new Pixel phones, which get software updates directly from Google.)

Just over half of all Android users are using the two previous versions, which allow them to spe-

cifically reject the sharing of communication logs. Last October, Google began forcing all apps to follow the new rules when they issue updates, even on phones running older versions of Android.

All that leaves two big questions unanswered. Why did Google set up Android permissions this way? And how many other apps have taken advantages of the same setup?

Experts and privacy advocates say the answer to the first question is probably related to Google's advertising-based business model, which — like Facebook — depends on collecting detailed information about users in order to target them with tailored ads. Apple, meanwhile, derives its profits from the sale of devices and services like Apple Music.

Another possible factor: Android was playing catch-up with Apple for many years, and was eager to attract app developers in order to attain parity with

Apple's App Store. Some app developers may have found greater access to user data on Android attractive — as Facebook did.

Experts say it's not clear if other apps are going as far as Facebook in terms of tracking call history and texts, but it's very possible.

"In a lot of ways, Facebook is the tip of the iceberg," said Bob O'Donnell, chief analyst at Technalysis Research. "There are plenty of other people doing this kind of data collection."

It is unclear how many apps gained access to call logs so far or how many users' call logs had been sent to app developers. A Google spokesperson declined to comment.

One major Android phone maker expressed uncertainty over its role in protecting user privacy. "At this time the nature of the data breach is unclear so it is difficult to comment on the cause or the solution," LG Electronics Inc. said Tuesday in a statement.

Hong Kong's skyline farms harvest more happiness than food

HONG KONG (AP) — High above downtown Hong Kong's bustling, traffic-clogged streets, a group of office workers was toiling away not on a corporate acquisition or a public share offering but on harvesting a bumper crop of lettuce atop one of the skyscrapers studying the city's skyline.

Its rooftop farming taken to the extreme, and more about reaping happiness than providing food.

The volunteers were picking butter lettuce, Indian lettuce and Chinese mustard leaf in rows of low black plastic planters on a decommissioned helipad on the 146-meter (480-foot)-high roof of the 38-story Bank of America tower, the scenery: a vertiginous panorama of glass office towers framed by lush mountain peaks and Victoria Harbor.

"It's pretty dirty but still I really enjoy it," said Catherine Ng, one of five volunteers who work for the property company managing the tower.

The farm is run by Rooftop Republic, a three-year-old startup whose founders are tapping growing interest in organic food and taking advantage of unused roof space in the cramped, high-rent Chinese city.

Hong Kong, with its skinny office blocks and apartment towers and busy, affluent residents, might seem an unlikely place for rooftop farming to catch on. The finance and trading hub has rural suburbs, but farming only takes up 700 hectares (1,730 acres) of its land and agriculture accounts for 0.1 percent of its economic output. Rooftop Republic's founders say the appetite for their services is growing among Hong Kongers who are seeking a more sustainable lifestyle and concerned about where their food comes from.

"We have been getting more and more interest from people who want to grow their own food," said Michelle Hong, one of the founders. "A lot of it is triggered by concerns about food safety and the realization that a lot of the food they consume might be laden with pesticides. I



In this Nov. 14, 2017, photo, volunteers pick lettuce growing in rows of low black plastic planters on a decommissioned helipad on the roof of the 38-story Bank of America tower, in Hong Kong. High above downtown Hong Kong's bustling, traffic-clogged streets, a group of office workers toil away. They're working not on a corporate acquisition or a public share offering but on harvesting a bumper crop of lettuce atop one of the skyscrapers studying the city's skyline.

think people want to have more control and also more trust."

Hong Kong imports almost all of its food, much of it from mainland China. Public awareness about food safety in the former British colony has risen after countless food contamination scandals on the mainland.

Rooftop Republic has set up on average one farm a month since its founding and now manages 36 covering more than 30,000 square feet (about 2,800 square meters), including one in mainland China, Hong said. It also provides workshops for companies,

building owners, schools, and community groups.

The Bank of America farm was a milestone because it was the first in the city's financial district. The company has since set up two more in the area and is looking at a few more sites, Hong said. Vegetables from the tower are donated to a food bank for uses in lunch boxes distributed to the needy. Some of its other farms are at hotels or restaurants, which use the herbs, eggplants and melons for dishes on their menus.

Plenty of other groups or individuals have started cultivating their own rooftop vegetable gardens, said

Matthew Pryor, a Hong Kong University architecture professor who has counted at least 60 and thinks there are a lot more he doesn't know about.

Pryor's research found approximately 1,500 rooftop farmers in the city, cultivating a total area of about 1 1/2 hectares. He thinks there's potential for that to easily grow to 50,000 people working on a suitable rooftop area of 600 hectares.

He helped set up a farm on top of a university building where volunteers, mainly staff, grow tomatoes, potatoes, strawberries, lettuce, dragonfruit, papaya, beans,

peas and squash.

Pryor said he discovered through his research that their main product isn't edible.

"The rooftop farms here produce virtually nothing" compared to Hong Kong's overall consumption, Pryor said. "What they do produce, however, is happiness, and this social capital that they generate is enormous."

The farms can help stressed-out, overworked and socially isolated Hong Kongers be happier and improve their well-being by letting them hang out with their friends and commune with nature.

Those benefits were on display at another Rooftop Republic farm at airline Cathay Pacific's headquarters near the city's airport on rural Lantau Island.

Airline staff planted crops that thrive in Hong Kong's cool, dry winter growing season, like kale, cabbage, radishes and carrots, which they can take home.

"We're right by the sea, we have great views of the harbor, at the same time have got great views of the airport. We see planes every two minutes," said volunteer Prian Chan. "So it's awesome to be here."

Mysterious train sparks speculation of Kim visit to Beijing

BEIJING (AP) — A mysterious armored train traveled from North Korea to Beijing and then headed back without revealing its key secret: Was Kim Jong Un on board?

Speculation about a visit to Beijing by North Korea's reclusive leader or another high-level Pyongyang official ran high Tuesday amid talk of preparations for a future meeting between Kim and U.S. President Donald Trump.

The visit by the special train to Beijing and unusually heavy security at a guesthouse where prominent North Koreans have stayed seemed to point to the possibility that Kim was making his first visit to China as the North's leader.

Such a trip would be seen as a potential precursor to Kim's planned summit with South Korean President Moon Jae-in in late April and his anticipated meeting with Trump by May. Analysts, however, questioned whether Kim would make the visit to Beijing himself

rather than send an envoy.

Whoever was on the train, their visit to Beijing appeared to be short. On Tuesday afternoon, a vehicle convoy led by a motorcycle escort headed in the direction of Beijing's main railway station. The train was seen leaving shortly afterward, less than a day after it arrived.

While there has been no word of a meeting with Chinese leaders, China has been one of North Korea's most important allies even though relations have chilled recently because of Kim's development of nuclear weapons and long-range missiles.

On Monday, heavy security was reported at the Friendship Bridge on the Yalu River marking the border between China and North Korea before a train passed through the Chinese city of Dandong. There were reports of it transiting several stations on the way from North Korea to Beijing.

Japanese broadcaster NTV reported that the green and yellow train appeared

very similar to the one that Kim's father and predecessor as North Korea's leader, Kim Jong Il, took to Beijing in 2011.

Video that aired on NTV also showed a motorcade of black limousines waiting at the train station and rows of Chinese soldiers marching on what appeared to be a train platform. The video did not show anyone getting off the train.

At around 2:45 p.m. Tuesday, a convoy of about a dozen cars, including a large black limousine, was seen heading in the direction of the railway station.

The limousine was seen about 10 minutes later entering the station under a heavy security presence. The station itself was closed to the public in an unusual security measure.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying, asked whether Kim or another North Korean official was visiting Beijing, said, "I know you're all very curious but I have no information on that."

Past visits by Kim Jong Il to China were surrounded in secrecy, with Beijing only confirming his presence after he had crossed the border by train back into North Korea.

North Korea's state-run media had no immediate reports of a delegation traveling to China.

The speculation had been fueled further on Monday evening when a vehicle convoy entered the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing and a military honor guard and heavy security were seen later. The guesthouse had been the favored residence of Kim Jong Il during his visits to Beijing.

On Tuesday, a convoy of official Chinese cars was seen leaving the guesthouse's east gate.

City police and the paramilitary People's Armed Police stood guard in the area and unidentified men in plainclothes attempted to prevent photographers from taking pictures.

Cars in the convoy were identified by yellow stickers

but carried no diplomatic license plates.

South Korea's presidential office said it could not confirm reports that the train carried Kim nor a separate report that Kim's sister was onboard.

South Korean analysts were doubtful the visitor is Kim. Since succeeding his father as leader in 2011, Kim has touted an image of his country as diplomatic equal to China and it's unlikely he would sneak into Beijing for his first face-to-face meetings with the Chinese leadership, the analysts said.

They said it's more likely that Kim sent a special envoy, possibly his younger sister, Kim Yo Jong, to appease a traditional ally ahead of his planned meetings with the presidents of South Korea and the United States. The envoy could potentially seek Chinese commitment for future support should North Korea's talks with rivals fall through, said Du Hyeogn Cha, a visiting scholar at Seoul's Asan Institute for Policy Studies.

"North Korea doesn't want to send a message that China has been pushed to the back as it makes diplomatic approaches to the United States and South Korea," said Cha, adding that the visit could be part of the North's effort to gain leverage in the talks with South Korea and the United States.

"If the talks with South Korea and the United States fall through, North Korea will surely try to demonstrate its nuclear weapons and missile capabilities again. The special envoy could discuss this possibility with Chinese officials, asking China not to press too hard with sanctions if that happens," Cha said.

White House spokesman Raj Shah said Monday that the U.S. could not confirm reports that Kim was visiting China.

Shah reiterated Trump's plans to meet with Kim, saying the U.S.-led international pressure campaign against Pyongyang "has paid dividends and has brought the North Koreans to the table."

Senior Citizens Center

841 LINCOLN AVENUE • MORRISTOWN, TN

"Your Home Away From Home"

MONDAY - FRIDAY 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM • PHONE: (423) 581-5166



Duke's Grayson Allen walks off the court after Sunday's NCAA regional final game against Kansas in Omaha, Neb.

Villanova needed defense, not offense to down Texas Tech

BOSTON (AP) — Villanova leveled opponents with a barrage of offense in notching its first three NCAA Tournament wins.

But it turned out the Wildcats would need their defense to show up to earn their second trip to the Final Four in three seasons.

On a night in which the Wildcats shot its lowest field goal percentage of the season, they turned one of their best defensive efforts in their 71-59 Elite Eight win over Texas Tech on Sunday.

Villanova came into the matchup averaging 87 points per game on 50 percent shooting from the field. With 44 3-pointers, it also entered the afternoon just 11 3s shy of setting a new Division I, single-season record.

But Sunday the Wildcats shot just 19 of 57 from the field against the Red Raiders, while making only four shots from beyond the arc. The field goal percentage was Villanova's lowest since 2015.

It was clear they were going to have to find another way to win. They found it on the defensive side of the ball.

"We played a really tough basketball team that had us scouted extremely well, took away our 3s, really tested our ability to play tough and ugly," Villanova coach Jay Wright said.

After falling into early 9-1 hole Villanova held Texas Tech to just 23 points in the opening 20 minutes — a season-low for a half for the Red Raiders.

"We were struggling from the outside. We grinded on the defensive end and that's what helped us pull this one out," Villanova guard Jalen Brunson said. "It was just grinding on the defensive end and not really worrying about our shots falling or not. ... Just really trying to stick together."

The Wildcats also notched six steals and outrebounded Texas Tech 51-33, including a 31-22 defensive rebounding edge. It limited the Red Raiders' second-chance opportunities and left them playing catch-up throughout the second half.

Villanova forward Eric Paschall, who finished with 12 points and a career-high 14 rebounds, said he and his teammates took pride in winning such a physical game.

"It means a lot to us. Just to know that we could tough a game out like that," he said. "They're a very talented team. Their defense is great. They have some talented offensive players. Just to be able to do that with my brothers out there is, again, a blessing. ... We worked hard all year. We did a great job of it, and we just kept getting better. So it shows that we can fight through a lot. We keep playing for each other."

Wright said the seeds of Sunday's defensive effort might have its roots in the Wildcats' first loss of the season — a 101-93 setback at Butler at the end of December.

The coaching staff knew after that game it was clear that offense alone would not be enough to carry this team to where it wanted to be by season's end.

"That kind of was a slap in the face to us," Wright said. "We said at that time, we're not going to just change this — it's going to take time. It's going to go back to basics. It's going to take a lot of time. ... And it's starting to pay off now at the right time."



Villanova's Donte DiVincenzo, rear, and Jalen Brunson celebrate their win over Texas Tech in Sunday's NCAA regional final in Boston.

Grayson's Goodbye

Shot that wouldn't fall leads to end of Allen's crazy career

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Grayson Allen curled to the left side of the lane, jumped and kicked out his left leg a bit as he let fly the shot that would send Duke to the Final Four over two Kansas defenders.

With the clock showing less than a second left in regulation, the ball teasingly bounced off the backboard, hit the front of the rim, bounced off the backboard and rim once more — and swirled out to the right.

"I thought it was in," star big man Marvin Bagley III said.

So did Allen, who watched as the ball fell away. Sunday's game stayed tied 72-72 and was headed for overtime. Kansas' Malik Newman, the Midwest Region Most Outstanding player, took over from there, and the Jayhawks won 85-81.

Season over for Duke. Career over for Allen.

"Yeah, that thing rolled around the rim about four times," Allen said. "I thought it was going in. It's not a good feeling."

Allen never found his rhythm in Omaha. He was 7 for 28 in games against Syracuse and Kansas, 5 for 23 on 3-pointers. He made clutch free throws late in regulation to keep the Blue Devils tied or in the lead against Kansas. His only field goal since the first half, though, was a meaningless 3-pointer four seconds before Kansas started celebrating its victory.

Allen's four seasons at Duke were over, and off the court walked — depending on your perspective — one of the most reviled or celebrated college basketball players in America.

"It's like a shock to your body because you don't plan for a loss," Allen said. "You expect to keep going and going. Then it's so abrupt when it hits you. It's over. I can't really wrap my head around it yet."

It was at the 2015 Final Four that Allen burst onto the scene. He was the fourth and often overlooked member of Duke's heralded freshman class that year. He ended up scoring 16 points in the national championship game in a win over Wisconsin that gave the Blue Devils their fifth title.

He put off entering the NBA draft after his sophomore and junior years because he loved Duke, loved college basketball and wanted a chance to play for another Final Four and championship.

"He's a 2,000-point scorer. He's a national champion. He's been our leader this year," coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "He's one of the outstanding players to have ever played in our program."

For all he did statistically as a playmaker and 14.1-point career scorer, Krzyzewski remembers him this season for his leadership and ability to mesh with four outstanding freshmen in the lineup, especially

after the switch to a zone defense in mid-February.

"And you're a shot away, a roll away from being in the Final Four," Krzyzewski said.

Had that last shot in regulation fallen, it still wouldn't have undone the things Allen will long be remembered for at Duke. On Saturday, Allen said he had accepted and embraced his reputation among all those Duke haters.

The Atlantic Coast Conference reprimanded him for appearing to deliberately trip two players in 2016. Last year he tripped an opponent and was suspended for one game by Coach K and had his team captain's title removed.

Allen mostly stayed out of trouble this season, except for when he put a hip check on North Carolina's Garrison Brooks in the ACC Tournament.

"Obviously I went through a lot of ups and downs, a lot of rough moments, a rough patch last year," he said.

His hope, of course, was to extend his senior season one more week in San Antonio.

"All my plans for playing in the Final Four aren't going to happen," he said. "That's why it's hard to grasp. So many emotions come forward at once. I feel I could smile and cry all at once."

START YOUR CAREER WITH A JOB THAT IS RIGHT FOR YOU!

Post Your Resumé Online At:

WWW.CFLJOBNET.COM



Witness in Mueller probe aided UAE agenda in Congress

WASHINGTON (AP) — A top fundraiser for President Donald Trump received millions of dollars from a political adviser to the United Arab Emirates last April, just weeks before he began handing out a series of large political donations to U.S. lawmakers considering legislation targeting Qatar, the UAE's chief rival in the Persian Gulf, an Associated Press investigation has found.

George Nader, an adviser to the UAE who is now a witness in the U.S. special counsel investigation into foreign meddling in American politics, wired \$2.5 million to the Trump fundraiser, Elliott Broidy, through a company in Canada, according to two people who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak about the matter on the record. They said Nader paid the money to Broidy to bankroll an effort to persuade the U.S. to take a hard line against Qatar, a long-time American ally but now a bitter adversary of the UAE.

A month after he received the money, Broidy sponsored a conference on Qatar's alleged ties to Islamic extremism. During the event, Republican Congressman Ed Royce of California, the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, announced he was introducing legislation that would brand Qatar as a terrorist-supporting state.

In July 2017, two months after Royce introduced the bill, Broidy gave the California congressman \$5,400 in campaign gifts — the maximum allowed by law. The donations were part of just under \$600,000 that Broidy has given to GOP members of Congress and Republican political committees since he began the push for the legislation fining Qatar, according to an AP analysis of campaign finance disclosure records.

Broidy said in a statement to AP that he has been outspoken for years about militant groups, including Hamas.

"I've both raised money for, and contributed my own money to, efforts by think tanks to bring the facts into the open, since Qatar is spreading millions of dollars around Washington to whitewash its image as a terror-sponsoring state," he said. "I've also spoken to like-minded members of Congress, like Royce, about how to make sure Qatar's lobbying money does not blind lawmakers to the facts about its record in supporting terrorist groups."

While Washington is awash with political donations from all manner of interest groups and individuals, there are strict restrictions on foreign donations for political activity. Agents of foreign governments are also required to register before lobbying so that there is a public record of foreign influence.

Cory Fritz, a spokesman for Royce, said that his boss had long criticized the "destabilizing role of extremist elements in Qatar." He pointed to comments to that effect going back to 2014. "Any attempts to influence these longstanding views would have been

unsuccessful," he said.

In October, Broidy also raised the issue of Qatar at the White House in meetings with Trump and senior aides.

The details of Broidy's advocacy on U.S. legislation have not been previously reported. The AP found no evidence that Broidy used Nader's funds for the campaign donations or broke any laws. At the time of the advocacy work, his company, Circinus, did not have business with the UAE, but was awarded a more than \$200 million contract in January.

The sanctions bill was approved by Royce's committee in late 2017. It remains alive in the House of Representatives, awaiting a review by the House Financial Services Committee.

MEETINGS PROBED
The backstory of the legislative push is emerging amid continuing concerns about efforts by foreign governments or their proxies to influence American politics. While reports about possible Russian links to Trump's campaign and his presidential administration have been making headlines since 2016, questions are now arising about efforts during the Trump era to influence U.S. policy in the Middle East.

The U.S. has long been friendly with Saudi Arabia and the UAE as well as Qatar, which is home to a massive American air base that the U.S. has used in its fight against the Islamic State. But as political rifts in the Gulf have widened, the Saudis and Emiratis have sought to undercut American ties with Qatar.

Qatar and UAE have also exchanged allegations of politically motivated hacks. Scores of Broidy's emails and documents have leaked to news organizations, drawing attention to his relationship with Nader. Broidy has alleged that the hack was done by Qatari agents and has reported the breach to the FBI.

"It's no surprise that Qatar would see me as an obstacle and come after me in the way it has," he said in a statement.

A spokesman for the Qatari embassy, Jassim Mansour Jabr Al Thani, denied the charges, calling them "diversionary tactics." Representatives of the UAE did not respond to requests for comment.

The timeline of the influx of cash wired by Nader, an adviser to Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al-Nahyan, the de facto leader of the UAE, may provide grist for U.S. special counsel Robert Mueller's legal team as it probes the activities of Trump and his associates during the 2016 campaign and beyond. However, it is not clear that Mueller has expanded his investigation in that direction.

Mueller's investigators are looking into two meetings close to Trump's inauguration attended by Nader and bin Zayed. The pair joined a meeting at New York's Trump Tower in December 2016 that included presidential son-in-law Jared Kushner and Steve Bannon, who was Trump's chief strategist at the time. A month later, Nader and bin Zayed were a world



This 1998 frame from video provided by C-SPAN shows George Nader, president and editor of Middle East Insight. Nader, an adviser to the United Arab Emirates who is now a witness in the U.S. special counsel investigation into foreign meddling in American politics, wired \$2.5 million to Donald Trump's fundraiser, Elliott Broidy, through a company in Canada, according to two people who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter.

away on the Seychelles island chain in the Indian Ocean, meeting with Erik Prince, the founder of the security company Blackwater, and the Kremlin-connected head of a large Russian sovereign wealth fund, Kirill Dmitriev.

Nader, a Lebanese-American businessman, agreed to cooperate with Mueller's team after investigators stopped him at Dulles International Airport, according to a person familiar with his case.

That person and others who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity said they could not be identified because they were not authorized to discuss issues surrounding the Mueller investigation on the record.

A lawyer for Nader declined to comment for this story.

POLICY PUSH
Broidy and Nader first met at Trump's presidential inauguration on Jan. 20, 2017, according to a person with knowledge of the matter.

Both men have checkered legal histories. Nader was convicted in a Czech Republic court in 2003 of multiple counts of sexually abusing minors. Broidy, a businessman and prolific Republican fundraiser, was sidelined for a few years after he pleaded guilty to bribery in a case stemming from an investment scheme involving New York state's employee pension fund.

Broidy later re-emerged as a player in GOP politics. During the 2016 Republican presidential primary, he raised money for U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, Sen. Marco Rubio and Sen. Ted Cruz. After Cruz bowed out of the race, Broidy signed on to help Trump during the 2016 election and beyond, co-hosting fundraisers across the country.

The meeting between Broidy and Nader at the dawn of Trump's presidency soon led the two to work together in an effort to shift U.S. policies on the Middle East.

On April 2, 2017, Nader

asked Broidy to invoice his Dubai-based company for \$2.5 million, according to someone familiar with the transaction who spoke on condition of anonymity.

On the same day, Broidy attached an invoice for that amount from Xiemen Investments Limited, a Canadian company directed by a friend. The money was forwarded to his own account in Los Angeles from the Canadian account, the person said. It was marked for consulting, marketing and advisory services, but was actually intended to fund Broidy's Washington advocacy regarding Qatar, two people familiar with the transaction said. The financial transaction and the White House meetings were first reported by The New York Times.

It was on May 23, 2017, when Royce, a 13-term Congressman, appeared at a conference on Qatar's ties to the Muslim Brotherhood and announced that he was introducing the sanctions bill that would name Qatar a state sponsor of terrorism.

The Foundation for the Defense of Democracies, a think tank that hosted the conference, said Broidy had approached it about organizing the event. Broidy bankrolled that conference and contributed to the financing of a second conference hosted on a similar theme in October by another think tank, the Hudson Institute.

Both organizations said Broidy said that no money from foreign governments was involved. FDD says it does not accept money from foreign governments and Hudson only accepts money from Democratic countries allied with the U.S.

"As is our funding policy, we asked if his funding was connected to any foreign governments or if he had business contracts in the Gulf. He assured us that he did not," FDD said in a statement.

Broidy donated millions of his own money to efforts

to fight Qatar, in addition to the \$2.5 million from Nader, according to someone close to him, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss Broidy's private finances.

Broidy's behind-the-scenes efforts unfolded as animosity was growing between the UAE and Qatar. These tensions came to a head when the UAE and Saudi Arabia launched an embargo with travel and trade restrictions against Qatar less than two weeks after Royce introduced the sanctions legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Weeks later, Trump himself waded into the fracas, accusing Qatar of funding extremism in tweets on June 6.

Royce and a staff member met with Broidy at Washington's Capitol Hill Club to discuss the bill, according to someone who was at the meeting. An associate, who Broidy paid for some of the work, also had frequent contact with congressional staff.

STRONG LANGUAGE

Broidy's effort to cultivate allies in Congress extended beyond Royce.

Broidy has personally given hundreds of thousands of dollars to Republicans over the past decade or more. But he gave nothing during the 2012 and 2014 election cycles and just \$13,500 during the 2016 cycle. Things changed after Trump's election as Broidy ramped up his advocacy on Middle East policy. Broidy has given nearly \$600,000 to GOP candidates and causes since the beginning of last year when he began his advocacy push—more than in the previous 14 years combined.

Campaign finance records going back two decades show Broidy had not given any money to Royce — until he gave the lawmaker a pair of \$2,700 donations on July 31, 2017.

By then, the sanctions bill was on a fast track.

The original draft considered by the Foreign Affairs Committee contained language singling out Qatar as a supporter of Hamas, a Palestinian organization that has been designated as a terrorist group by the U.S. State Department.

"Hamas has received significant financial and military support from Qatar," the draft bill states.

Soon Qatar was lobbying hard to have that language excised. Nikki Haley, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, declared in a statement to the committee that Qatar does not fund Hamas.

According to two people familiar with the committee deliberations, both Republican and Democratic staff members reached a consensus that because of the tensions in the Gulf, the language would look like the lawmakers were taking sides. They agreed to take it out of the bill.

Qatari officials and lobbyists thought the matter had been settled, according to one lobbyist and a committee staffer. But just before the bill was to be put up for debate ahead of the committee's vote, Royce ordered the language on Qatar not only reinstated, but strengthened, they say. The bill was approved by the committee in November with the stronger language on Qatar intact.

A Royce aide, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to comment, denied that Royce had ever considered removing the Qatar language.

In January, Royce announced that he would not seek re-election, saying that he wanted to focus on his committee in the last year of his chairmanship rather than a political campaign.

In the same month, Broidy's company signed the hefty contract with the UAE government for gathering intelligence, according to someone familiar with the work.

Looking For An Attorney... or Dog Groomer?

Check out the

THE GUIDE

For all your services needs

Inside every Thursday and Saturday Osceola News-Gazette.

Want to place an ad? Call 407-846-7600

OSCEOLA NEWS-GAZETTE
AroundOsceola.com

Frontier gun maker Remington seeks bankruptcy protection

Remington, a company that began making flintlock rifles when there were only 19 United States, has filed for bankruptcy protection.

Mounting debts at the arms manufacturer have snowballed, ironically, since the election of Donald Trump, who has called himself a "true friend" to the gun industry.

Remington, which has roots dating to 1816, has lined up \$100 million with lenders to continue operations. It remains unclear what will happen to its 3,500 or so employees as it reorganizes.

Panic sales that drove revenue for gun makers ever higher evaporated with Trump's arrival in the White House. Fading sales and Remington's production of one of the most well-known weapons in the world, the Bushmaster AR-15, have overwhelmed the Madison, North Carolina, company.

Late Sunday, according to records from the bankruptcy court of the district of Delaware, Remington Outdoor Co. agreed to a prepackaged deal that would give holders of the company's \$550 million term loan an 82.5 percent stake, according to a release.

Third-lien noteholders will take 17.5 percent of Remington and four-year warrants get a 15 percent stake.

The Bushmaster AR-15 rifle was used in the Sandy Hook shooting in Connecticut in which 20 first-graders and six educators were killed in 2012.

The same type of gun was used to kill 17 in a Parkland, Florida, high school, a massacre that led to drew hundreds of thousands of anti-gun violence protesters to the capital and to the streets in cities across the nation this past weekend.

The company was



In this April 30, 1943, file photo, Mae Zelinsky shoots as Betty O'Beda feeds a 30-caliber rifle during an ammunition test at Remington Arms Company. The gun was fired down an enclosed range into a sand pit. U.S. gun maker Remington Outdoor Company has filed for bankruptcy protection, after years of falling sales and lawsuits tied to the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre. Records from the bankruptcy court of the district of Delaware show that the company filed late Sunday, March 25.

cleared of wrongdoing in the Sandy Hook shooting, but investors wanted nothing to do with it. Cerberus Capital Management, which had acquired the company in 2007 as gun sales began to boom, tried to sell it less than a week after the shooting.

There were no takers. But it was larger trends already underway that doomed Remington.

Arms manufacturers had for years ramped up production as gun ownership became a red-hot social, and political flashpoint. Some gun-rights advocates have binged on guns

on the misguided belief that a Democratic administration would harshly restrict gun sales.

Those misperceptions became moot with Trump's rise to the White House.

Trump was the first sitting president to address the National Rifle Association in three decades, telling members at their annual meeting last spring that "You have a true friend and champion in the White House."

Any belief that more restrictive regulation was on the way faded quickly.

In 2017, firearm background checks, a good bar-

ometer of sales, declined faster than in any year since 1998, when the FBI first began compiling that data.

But there were clear signs that gun sales, even as production increased, were already in decline. That is partially because a larger percentage of guns in the U.S. are owned by an increasingly small group of people.

According to a recent study by Harvard University and Northeastern University, the number of privately-owned guns in America grew by more than 70 million to ap-

proximately 265 million between 1994 and 2015. But half of those guns are owned by only 3 percent of the population.

That smaller base of what are sometimes referred to as super-owners has made the industry more unstable.

In 2015 Colt Holdings Co., another storied gun maker, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

Profit growth at Sturm, Ruger & Co. is under severe pressure and the company's shares are down 18 percent this year.

Some of Wall Street's heaviest hitters are step-

ping into the national debate on guns as investment firms ask firearms makers what they are doing about gun violence.

BlackRock is a major shareholder in gun makers Sturm Ruger, American Outdoor Brands, and Vista Outdoor Brands. About a week after the shooting in Parkland, BlackRock said it wanted to speak with the three firearms makers about their responses to the tragedy.

It's also looking into creating new investment funds for investors that exclude firearms makers and retailers.

What Facebook's privacy policy allows may surprise you

NEW YORK (AP) — To get an idea of the data Facebook collects about you, just ask for it. You'll get a file with every photo and comment you've posted, all the ads you've clicked on, stuff you've liked and searched for and everyone you've friended — and unfriended — over the years.

This trove of data is used to decide which ads to show you. It also makes using Facebook more seamless and enjoyable — say, by determining which posts to emphasize in your feed, or reminding you of friends' birthdays.

Facebook claims to protect all this information, and it lays out its terms in a privacy policy that's relatively clear and concise. But few users bother to read it. You might be surprised at what Facebook's privacy policy allows — and what's left unsaid.

Facebook's privacy prac-

tices have come under fire after a Trump-affiliated political consulting firm, Cambridge Analytica, got data inappropriately from millions of Facebook users. While past privacy debacles have centered on what marketers gather on users, the stakes are higher this time because the firm is alleged to have created psychological profiles to influence how people vote or even think about politics and society.

Facebook defends its data collection and sharing activities by noting that it's adhering to a privacy policy it shares with users. Thanks largely to years of privacy scandals and pressure from users and regulators, Facebook also offers a complex set of controls that let users limit how their information is used — to a point.

You can turn off ad targeting and see generic ads instead, the way you would

on television or in a newspaper. In the ad settings, you'd need to uncheck all your interests, interactions with companies and websites and other personal information you don't want to use in targeting. Of course, if you click on a new interest after this, you'll have to go back and uncheck it in your ad preferences to prevent targeting. It's a tedious task.

As Facebook explains, it puts you in target categories based on your activity. So, if you are 35, live in Seattle and have liked an outdoor adventure page, Facebook may show you an ad for a mountain bike shop in your area.

But activity isn't limited to pages or posts you like, comments you make and your use of outside apps and websites.

"If you start typing something and change your mind and delete it, Facebook keeps those

and analyzes them too," Zeynep Tufekci, a prominent techno-sociologist, said in a 2017 TED talk.

And, increasingly, Facebook tries to match what it knows about you with your offline data, purchased from data brokers or gathered in other ways. The more information it has, the fuller the picture of you it can offer to advertisers. It can infer things about you that you had no intention of sharing — anything from your ethnicity to personality traits, happiness and use of addictive substances, Tufekci said.

These types of data collection aren't necessarily explicit in privacy policies or settings.

What Facebook does say is that advertisers don't get the raw data. They just tell Facebook what kind of people they want their ads to reach, then Facebook makes the matches and

shows the ads.

Apps can also collect a lot of data about you, as revealed in the Cambridge Analytica scandal. The firm got the data from a researcher who paid 270,000 Facebook users to complete a psychological profile quiz back in 2014. But the quiz gathered information on their friends as well, bringing the total number of people affected to about 50 million.

Facebook says Cambridge Analytica got the data inappropriately — but only because the app said it collected data for research rather than political profiling. Gathering data on friends was permitted at the time, even if they had never installed the app or given explicit consent.

Ian Bogost, a Georgia Tech communications professor who built a tongue-in-cheek game called "Cow Clicker" in 2010, wrote in The Atlantic recently that

abusing the Facebook platform for "deliberately nefarious ends" was easy to do then. What's worse, he said, it was hard to avoid extracting private data.

If "you played Cow Clicker, even just once, I got enough of your personal data that, for years, I could have assembled a reasonably sophisticated profile of your interests and behavior," he wrote.

"I might still be able to; all the data is still there, stored on my private server, where Cow Clicker is still running, allowing players to keep clicking where a cow once stood."

Facebook has since restricted the amount of types of data apps can access. But other types of data collection are still permitted. For this reason, it's a good idea to check all the apps you've given permissions to over the years. You can also do this in your settings.



if you only
had the time, right? Now you do.
3-12 MONTH assignments now available.

Peace Corps now offers short-term volunteer assignments overseas for 3 months to 1 year for especially skilled professionals with at least 10 years experience.

PEACE CORPS RESPONSE

peacecorps.gov/response

Russian shopping mall fire kills 64; no alarms reported

BY NATALIYA VASILYEVA
Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Witnesses say fire alarms were silent and staff was nowhere to be seen when a fire at a shopping mall packed with children and their parents on the first weekend of the school recess killed 64 people in Russia's Siberia.

The fire at the Winter Cherry mall in Kemerovo, a city about 3,000 kilometers (1,900 miles) east of Moscow, was extinguished by Monday morning after burning through the night.

Sixty-four deaths were confirmed after firefighters finished combing through the four floors of the mall, Emergency Situations Minister Vladimir Puchkov told a televised briefing. Six of the bodies have not yet been recovered. Some of the dead were found inside a cinema, which one witness said had been locked shut.

Investigators said Monday that emergency exits were blocked and a security guard turned off the public announcement system when he received a call about the blaze, but they provided no information why that happened.

On Monday morning, Kemerovo residents were bringing flowers, candles and stuffed animals to a plaza outside the mall, and local hospitals reported an influx of people wanting to donate blood for the victims.

Out of 23 victims whose bodies have been identified, eight are children, the emergency officials said.

Thirteen people have been hospitalized. Health Minister Veronika Skvortsova, who visited the Kemerovo hospital where the victims were receiving treatment, said on Russian state television that the patient in the gravest con-



In this Russian Emergency Situations Ministry photo, on Sunday, March 25, 2018, smoke rises above a multi-story shopping center in the Siberian city of Kemerovo, about 1,900 miles east of Moscow, Russia.

dition is an 11-year-old boy who jumped out of a window from the fourth floor. The boy's parents and younger sister died in the fire, Skvortsova said.

Some 200 animals are also believed to have died in the mall's petting zoo. The zoo's manager told the Tass news agency that the animals included rabbits, turtles, pigs, goats and rodents.

Russia's top investigative body said Monday afternoon that they are searching for a security officer who appears to have turned off the PA system when he received a call about the blaze.

Four people have been detained in connection with the deadly fire, including one of the mall's tenants. The investigators did not give the cause of the fire but said they have obtained evidence proving "flagrant violations" that could have contributed to the heavy loss

of life, including the fact that the fire escapes were blocked.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Monday it was too early to draw conclusions about whether local officials failed in Kemerovo.

Witness testimony indicated that the fire alarms were not working, but it was not clear why. Eyewitnesses also said that staff did not arrange for the evacuation at the shopping mall, which was converted from a former confectionery factory in 2013.

Winter Cherry was one of Kemerovo's most popular entertainment centers for children, with its own indoor skating rink, petting zoo and trampolines. Kemerovo residents said the mall was packed with children and their parents.

Anna Zarechneva, who was on the top floor where the fire started, watching a movie with her

husband and son, said they only found out about the fire when a man ran into the theater shouting.

"We didn't hear the fire alarm, they even didn't turn on the light during the show," she said. "That movie could have been the last for us, I've only just realized that."

Alexander Lillevyali lost three daughters — 11-year-old twins and a 5-year-old — who were in a cinema hall on the top floor watching a cartoon.

Lillevyali told the Meduza news website that one of his daughters called him, saying that they could smell the smoke but could not get out because the door was locked.

"I was shouting into the phone, telling her to get out but there was nothing I could do — the fire was in front of me," he said.

The Prosecutor General's Office on Monday ordered all shopping malls in Russia to be checked

for fire safety features.

Russian companies routinely complain about excessive checks from various government agencies, which often abuse elaborate rules and regulations to pressure businesses. As a result, many companies prefer to pay bribes instead of complying with outdated and excessive regulations, including fire safety rules.

President Vladimir Putin late on Sunday offered his "deep condolences" to the families of the victims. Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev called for a moment of silence at a session of the government on Monday.

Pope Francis said in a telegram to Putin that he is "deeply saddened" by the loss of life. German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier and Chancellor Angela Merkel both issued condolences to Russia, with Merkel quoted as telling Putin: "We grieve with you."

More than 24 hours after the blaze engulfed the building, the owner of the mall still has not come forward.

Local media named millionaire Denis Shtengelov who built his fortune through a company producing snack food as the owner of the mall. Shtengelov, however, insisted in an interview with the business daily Vedomosti that even though he was initially a majority owner of the mall, he now owns only a minority stake along with "many" other unnamed investors.

Igor Yurgens, president of the Russian Union of Insurance Companies, told state television that individual shops were insured but the mall does not appear to have an insurance policy. Yurgens speculated that the mall did not sign an insurance contract because its fire safety features were below standards.

Egypt votes for president, with el-Sissi certain to win

CAIRO (AP) — Egyptians began voting Monday in an election that President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi is virtually guaranteed to win, one that resembles the referendums held by Arab autocrats in the decades before the 2011 uprisings briefly raised hopes of democratic change.

His only challenger is Moussa Mustafa Moussa, a little-known politician who joined the race at the last minute to spare the government the embarrassment of a one-candidate election after several hopefuls were forced out or arrested.

Moussa, who supported el-Sissi until he joined the race, made no effort to challenge the incumbent, who never mentioned his challenger once in public. "Today we want the people to come out and vote ... It doesn't matter who wins as long as Egypt remains safe," Moussa said after casting his ballot Monday.

Authorities hope enough of Egypt's nearly 60 million eligible voters will take part in the three-day balloting to give the election legitimacy. Local media, which are dominated by pro-government commentators, have portrayed voting as a national obligation and the only way to prevent foreign conspiracies from sowing instability.

Some of the presidential hopefuls who had stepped forward might have attracted a sizable protest vote, but they were all either arrested or intimidated into withdrawing, making this the least competitive election since the 2011 uprising ousted longtime autocrat Hosni Mubarak.

The vote is being held against the backdrop of the most wide-ranging crackdown on dissent in decades, with thousands of Islamists as well as several prominent secular activists in jail. Unauthorized protests are banned, critical voices have been silenced in the local media, and hundreds of websites, including those of independent media and rights groups, have been blocked.

El-Sissi, who led the 2013 military

overthrow of Egypt's first freely elected president, the Islamist Mohammed Morsi, cast his ballot as soon as the polls opened at 9 a.m., at a girls' school in the Cairo suburb of Heliopolis. He made no public comments.

Associated Press reporters visiting polling stations across Cairo saw short lines formed in front of some locations and others that were nearly empty as of early afternoon, though more voters were expected to come out in the evening and over the next two days.

Local television aired footage of festive scenes outside some polling stations, with women and children singing nationalistic songs. The national election commission reported large turnout in Cairo, Alexandria and northern Sinai, the epicenter of an insurgency led by the Islamic State group, but provided no figures.

"I'm not lazy or apathetic, I'm intentionally skipping this one," said Ahmed, a young man smoking a water pipe at a café in central Cairo. A shopkeeper in downtown dismissed the election, saying the world was laughing at Egypt. Both asked that their full names not be used, fearing reprisal.

Tens of thousands of police and soldiers have been deployed for the vote. On Sunday, authorities said police killed six militants believed to be involved in a weekend bombing in the coastal city of Alexandria that killed two policemen.

Mohammed Ibrahim Ali, a retired engineer, patiently waited for the polls to open at Cairo's bustling Sayda Zinab neighborhood, home to a famous Islamic shrine.

"Even if there are 1,000 candidates, we will vote for el-Sissi," he said, struggling to be heard over the patriotic songs blaring from nearby speakers. "He is the one who makes life great here."

Ahmed Abdel-Atti, a 58-year-old doorman in the same neighborhood, voiced skepticism. "Do you see any other candidates?" he asked.

During the official campaign period, el-Sissi opted for carefully scripted televised functions. The former general donned military fatigues on recent occasions, highlighting the war on Islamic extremists and his past career as a general.

Many Egyptians welcomed the military overthrow of Morsi, whose divisive rule had sparked mass protests, and the subsequent crackdown on his Muslim Brotherhood group. For a time, el-Sissi enjoyed a wave of popular support bordering on hysteria, but that aura has faded over the last four years.

In the Sinai Peninsula, the insurgency that gained strength after Morsi's overthrow has only grown more ferocious, with regular attacks on security forces and deadly church bombings. An assault on a mosque in November killed more than 300 people — the worst terror attack in Egypt's modern history.

The government has meanwhile enacted a series of long-overdue economic reforms — including painful subsidy cuts and the floatation of the currency. That improved the investment climate and earned Egypt a \$12 billion bailout loan from the International Monetary Fund. But the austerity measures sent prices soaring, exacting a heavy toll on ordinary Egyptians.

"I was a wholehearted supporter, but not anymore," said a man who recently lost his job in a telecommunications company and now works at a Cairo gas station. "Yes, there are big projects, but he (el-Sissi) takes from us, the poor, not from them, the rich. We are the people who are living day to day."

He also asked that his full name not be used, fearing trouble with the authorities.

Khaled Abdel-Lateef, a fresh juice seller in downtown Cairo, struck an upbeat note, saying authorities need more time. "We need to be patient," he said. "The good things will come. At the very least, we have security."

Uber selling Southeast Asian business to regional rival Grab

BANGKOK (AP) — Ride-hailing giant Uber is selling its business in Southeast Asia to regional rival Grab while gaining a robust stake in the fast-growing ridesharing, food delivery and financial services business.

Grab said Monday that Uber will take a 27.5 percent stake and a seat on its board as part of the deal. Financial details were not disclosed.

Since becoming Uber's CEO in September, Dara Khosrowshahi has been maneuvering to make the company profitable before a planned initial public offering expected next year. The company's full-year net loss widened to \$4.5 billion in 2017 as it endured multiple scandals and the departure of its co-founder and former CEO Travis Kalanick.

The deal enables Uber to keep a foothold in the increasingly affluent market of 640 million people while cutting its losses.

"It will help us double down on our plans for growth as we invest heavily in our products and technology to create the best customer experience on the planet," Khosrowshahi said in a statement.

Grab provides services in Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar and Cambodia. It says it offers access to five million drivers and agents and handles over a billion transactions a year.

The deal was dismaying to many in Asia who have often compared the rival apps in search of the best deal.

The Uber app will be discontinued in just two weeks, and in the meantime its drivers have to sign up to drive with Grab. Riders, likewise, will need to download the Grab app and set up accounts, although their Uber accounts will still work outside Southeast Asia.

The companies said that Uber Eats, the food delivery business, will run in Southeast Asia through May and then shift to the GrabFood platform.

Grab has been seeking to dominate the regional market for car and motorbike hailing and has expanded into other areas, recently announcing plans to partner with a Japanese credit card company to provide credit to millions of people without bank accounts.

In Indonesia, the region's biggest economy and most populous country with more than 250 million people, it's in a fierce battle for customers with local app Go-Jek, which has backing from Google and Tencent.

Grab's CEO and co-founder Anthony Tan said the acquisition of Uber's regional business marks the beginning of a new era in using mobile businesses to provide transport, food delivery, payments and other financial services across the region.



YOUR LAMP CAN BRING OTHERS A BRIGHT FUTURE.

YOUR DONATIONS TO GOODWILL® HELP FUND JOB PLACEMENT AND TRAINING FOR PEOPLE IN YOUR COMMUNITY



DONATE STUFF. CREATE JOBS.



TO FIND YOUR NEAREST DONATION CENTER GO TO GOODWILL.ORG