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Saturday, March 31, 2018

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TOP STORIES

LOCAL



The city of St. Cloud selects new fire chief. Page 6.

SPORTS



New indoor soccer team comes to Kissimmee. Page 7.

WHERE TO FIND IT

- Viewpoint 4
- Daily Planner 10
- Brainfood..... 16
- Classifieds 20
- Photo Gallery 24

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Osceola residents join 'March for Our Lives'

By Charlie Reed
For the News-Gazette

Osceola County residents of all ages joined a nationwide chorus calling for "common-sense" gun reform at the "March for Our Lives" in Kissimmee on March 24.

It was among 800 sister rallies to the main march in Washington D.C., which drew hundreds of thousands in the wake of the Valentine's Day murders of 17 people at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla.

That mass shooting has ignited a movement across the U.S. - started by high school students - to convince politicians that gun laws need to change. The activists are fighting to ban assault weapons and for stricter background checks on weapons sales.

"We need to ban assault weapons. Those are weapons of war," said Michelle Nelson, an eighth-grader at Osceola County School for

the Arts. She was among a handful of students who spoke at the Kissimmee rally, held on the steps of the Osceola County Courthouse.

"In just one school year we've had four active-assailant shutdowns. It's scary. It's hard to worry about that and my five-year-old sister in school instead of focusing on my academics," Nelson told the crowd of about 50. "We're not only here to march for my life and my sister's life, but for all the lives that have been lost and that can be saved," she said.

Organized by the Osceola Democratic Party, the rally featured addresses from several local politicians including state Rep. John Cortes, D-Kissimmee, Osceola County Commissioners Cheryl Grieb and Viviana Janer and Kissimmee Mayor Jose Alvarez.

"We're preempted from doing things locally," Janer said. "We can't do an ordinance but we can help take guns off the street." See **March**, Page 3.



NEWS-GAZETTE PHOTO/CHARLIE REED

Michelle, 13, right, Carly, 5, and their mother, Renee Nelson, hold signs calling for gun reform at the March 24 "March for Our Lives" rally in Kissimmee.

AROUND TOWN

It's getting warmer out there



NEWS-GAZETTE PHOTO/MARTIN MADDOCK

As temperatures warm up into the 80s again this week, children can be seen frolicking in the water in the splash pad at Kissimmee's Lakefront Park.

District breaks ground on Harmony Middle



PHOTO/OSCEOLA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Osceola County School District broke ground on the new Harmony Middle School on Wednesday.

By Rachel Christian
Staff Writer

The Osceola County School District broke ground on a new 170,000 square foot middle school in Harmony Wednesday.

The school, which is slated to open August 2019,

is the first of five new facility projects the district has planned for the next five years.

Harmony Middle will occupy 33 acres, and will accommodate about 1,400 sixth to eighth grade

See **School**, Page 3.

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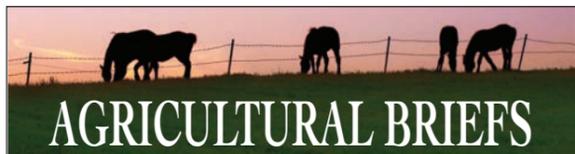
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AGRICULTURAL BRIEFS

▶ FWC provides tips for living with alligators



The American alligator is a conservation success story. Florida has a healthy and stable alligator population, which is estimated at 1.3 million alligators of every size. They are an important part of Florida's wetlands, but should be regarded with

caution and respect.

Alligators become more active and visible during spring when temperatures rise and their metabolism increases. Although serious injuries caused by alligators are rare in Florida, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) recommends taking precautions when having fun in and around the water. Alligators inhabit all 67 counties in Florida and can be found anywhere there is standing water. Reduce the chances of conflicts with alligators by swimming only in designated swimming areas during daylight hours. Also keep pets on a leash and away from the water.

Because alligators control their body temperature by basking in the sun, they may be easily observed. However, the FWC urges people to keep their distance if they see one. And never feed alligators because it is dangerous and illegal.

The FWC places the highest priority on public safety and administers a Statewide Nuisance Alligator Program to address complaints concerning specific alligators. People concerned about an alligator should call the FWC's toll-free Nuisance Alligator Hotline at 866-FWC-GATOR (392-4286). SNAP uses contracted nuisance alligator trappers throughout the state to remove alligators 4 feet in length or greater that are believed to pose a threat to people, pets or property. The FWC also works diligently to keep Floridians and visitors informed, including providing advice about Living with Alligators.

▶ Look out for manatees when boating



Chances of close encounters between Florida manatees and boaters increase in the spring.

For manatees, it is the season when they leave their winter refuges and travel along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts and through inland waters. For boaters, it is a

critical time to be on the lookout for manatees to avoid colliding with these large aquatic mammals.

"Spring is a great time to go boating in Florida, but manatees are out there too. Please watch out for them," said Ron Mezich, who heads the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) manatee management program.

From April 1 through Nov. 15, seasonal manatee zones require boaters to slow down in certain areas to prevent manatees from being struck by motorboats or personal watercrafts. FWC law enforcement officers are on patrol in state waters to remind boaters of the seasonal manatee speed zones and take enforcement actions when appropriate.

Since manatees are difficult to detect when underwater, operators of boats and personal watercrafts can help by:

- Wearing polarized sunglasses to help spot manatees.
- Looking for large circles on the water, also known as manatee footprints, indicating the presence of a manatee below.
- Looking for a snout sticking up out of the water.
- Following posted manatee zones while boating.
- Reporting an injured, distressed, sick or dead manatee to the FWC's Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-FWCC (3922) or dialing #FWC or *FWC on a cellphone.

▶ Forestry firefighter of the year named

Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Adam Putnam and the Florida Forest Service recognized Senior Forest Ranger John DeWolfe as the 2017 Forestry Firefighter of the Year. John DeWolfe has served as a wildland firefighter with the Florida Forest Service since September 1997, and he currently serves in the Lakeland District. During last year's historic wildfire season, which burned more than 260,000 acres, DeWolfe served as the Incident Commander for the Florida Forest Service's incident management teams in the Lakeland District and the Withlacoochee Forestry Center.

"Our wildland firefighters risk their lives daily to protect Florida's wildlife and residents from wildfire, and last year they courageously battled one of the most severe wildfire seasons in recent history," said Putnam. "I congratulate John on being named the 2017 Forestry Firefighter of the Year and thank him for his selfless service."

Could hemp replace oranges as Florida's agricultural powerhouse?

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

While Florida tries to save its struggling citrus industry, the state is exploring a potential new cash crop; industrial hemp.

The University of Florida Board of Trustees gave the greenlight to develop hemp management and cropping systems this month. Gov. Rick Scott last summer signed the Industrial Hemp Pilot Projects bill into law. It allows UF and Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University to conduct research projects on cultivating industrial hemp in rural areas of the state.

The 2014 Federal Farm Act permits states and universities to grow or cultivate hemp for research to determine future uses as a commercial project. So far, 30 states have approved similar bills, with some 30 colleges and universities participating the research.

UF officials are in the process of choosing locations in South, Central and North Florida to explore a broad range of climates and soils

where hemp can be grown. Osceola County is certainly a possible candidate with tens of thousands of undeveloped acres in the southern portion of the county.

The move is an important step to test the viability of what could become a valuable alternative crop for the state's agriculture producers as the citrus industry continues to reel from citrus greening disease and the devastating effect on crops after Hurricane Irma last fall.

Some growers in South and Central Florida lost up to 90 percent of their crops, with \$761 million in citrus industry losses because of the storm. Agricultural forecasts for Florida's iconic crop remains bleak, making industrial hemp all the more attractive as a replacement crop.

Hemp is not the illegal "weed" bought on the street or medical marijuana that can be purchased legally at official dispensaries. Hemp is often confused with its cannabis cousin marijuana, but it contains considerably less of the psychoactive compound THC and requires



minimal care in cultivation as opposed to a carefully controlled environment.

Industrial hemp, a variety of the cannabis sativa plant, has been cultivated for 10,000 years as a fiber and grain crop. Industrial hemp also has applications for building materials, plastics, forages, skin products and even pain relief as a topical oil. Hemp can easily be made into paper, and hemp seeds already are consumed in the U.S. and around the world for their nutritional value.

In order for the UF research to begin, it still must be

approved by federal and state legislative entities including the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell, R-Kentucky, said this week he wants to bring hemp production back into the mainstream by removing it from the controlled substances list that now associates it with its cousin marijuana.

"It's now time to take the final step and make this a legal crop," McConnell said.

Florida fruit is just peachy

By **Jessica Sullivan**
 For the News-Gazette

Florida might not be best known for growing peaches, but they have been grown in Central Florida for the past 100 years. Here's what you need to know to grow, pick, or buy Florida peaches this spring.

Enjoying Florida peaches

Peaches are high in potassium, vitamins A and C, and beneficial antioxidants, making them a healthy snack. Florida peaches are in season March-May and are unique among other peaches on the market. Florida peaches have shorter growing times in our warm climate, so they tend to be smaller than those from northern locations. Softness is not a good indicator of ripeness in Florida peaches; the types found in grocery stores are firmer even when they are ripe and ready to eat. Peaches grown in other states are harvested before they are ripe, and their taste will improve as they continue to ripen after harvest. Florida peaches are picked when ripe because their taste and sweetness will not be improved as they ripen. In other words, Florida peaches shouldn't be picked before they are ripe, and you shouldn't try to keep them very long after you pick them. Store Florida peaches in the refrigerator and don't stack them. Gently wash peaches before eating.

Local "you-pick" farms:

Deer Park Peaches: 6900 Kempfer Road, St. Cloud, 321-288-3030, FB: Deer Park Peaches
 Premium Peach: 3920 Packard Ave., St. Cloud, 407-448-9958, FB: Premium Peach LLC

Growing your own peaches

The varieties listed in this article are "low-chill" and will produce quality fruit in our warm climate. They are also self-pollinating, so you won't need multiple trees or varieties to produce fruit.

Peach fruits have two different textures: "melting flesh" or "non-melting flesh." Melting flesh peaches are juicy, stringy and are best eaten fresh, in smoothies, or processed into preserves. The fruit is soft and prone to bruising so they do not store well fresh. Melting flesh peaches should be tree-ripened, as their flavor will not improve with ripening after harvest. Varieties to grow here: 'UFSun', 'UFBest', 'UFOne'. Non-melting flesh peaches are the firmer type of Florida peach that you will find in grocery stores. They are suitable for eating fresh, canning, freezing or pies. Varieties to grow here: 'FloridaGrande', 'TropicBeauty', 'FloridaPrince', 'FloridaGlo'.

Florida peaches are all "clingstone" or "semi-clingstone," which means the

peach pit will not totally separate from the flesh like some northern varieties of "freestone" peaches.

Suitable soil pH for peaches is 6-6.5. As with any fruiting plants in Florida, irrigation is needed to keep peach trees healthy during dry periods.

Frequent, light applications of slow-release fertilizer during the growing season will help peach trees stay healthy and produce well. A slow-release fruit fertilizer like a 12 percent nitrogen; 4 percent phosphorus; 8 percent potassium with micronutrients will work in our sandy soils.

Peaches require pruning in the winter and again in the summer to give them good structure and keep them short enough for easy fruit picking. Peach trees will develop smaller and lower-quality fruits if they are not thinned. To have larger fruit, thin the developing fruits to one fruit every six inches of branch when the fruit is about as big as a dime.

For more information about gardening and farming in Florida, contact the UF IFAS Extension in Osceola County: 321-697-3000.

Jessica Sullivan is an agent with UF/IFAS Extension - Osceola County Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems.

April 15 marks start of Florida's bat maternity season

If you have bats roosting in your attic, eaves or chimney spaces, now is the time to give them an eviction notice.

Bat maternity season begins April 15 and runs through Aug. 15. Exclusions of bat colonies must be completed before the season starts.

"During bat maternity season, bats gather to give birth and raise their young," said Terry Doonan, a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation

Commission (FWC) biologist and mammal conservation coordinator. "The season lasts until the young bats can fly and feed themselves. In Florida, this occurs from mid-April through mid-August for most bat species."

Bat exclusions are illegal during this maternity season to prevent young bats that cannot yet fly from being trapped inside structures and dying.

Florida is home to 13 resident bat

species, including threatened species such as the Florida bonneted bat. Some bat species roost in artificial structures, including buildings and houses. Although it is illegal to harm or kill bats in Florida, guidelines have been developed allowing for the legal exclusion of bats outside of the maternity season.

Exclusion guidelines on how to remove bats from buildings can be found at MyFWC.com/Bats.

MOVERS AND SHAKERS

Farm Bureau president: 'We're very optimistic' about future of agriculture in Osceola

Editor's note: Herb Harbin is the president of the Osceola County Farm Bureau, a group that supports those in the farming and horticulture industry through community involvement and legislative action.

On National Agriculture Day, March 21, the News-Gazette sat down with Harbin to discuss the future of agriculture in Osceola County, why controlled burns are beneficial to Central Florida soil and drones that help monitor crops.

News-Gazette: The legislative session wrapped up a couple weeks ago. What are some good things that came out of the Farm Bureau's efforts in Tallahassee this year?

Harbin: We were able to get some help for farmers still recovering from the hurricane, some tax breaks on supplies they had to buy to repair damage around their property and things like that.

Some key spending bills were passed that will help support research efforts at the University of Florida and local extension offices, which operate 4H and other local ag education programs.

The Rural Lands and Family Protection Program also received good funding this year, though we can always use more. That funding is so important because it allows families to stay and preserve their farmland by giving owners property easements. There is a big incentive for people to sell to developers who continue getting closer and closer to agriculture land. Money from that program makes it easier, less costly for them to stay on that land and support their family.

We should preserve and protect this valuable land, and allow the next generation to stay on land that has been in their family for generations sometimes.

We all need food to survive, and as our world grows, that need is going to increase. We are lucky we live in a country where we can produce enough food to feed our people. We import things, sure, but we also have many natural resources in our nation, and we need to preserve them.

What's important to the agriculture community is important to everyone. We are all a part of this, and everyone's food comes from farmers, ranchers and other producers.

News-Gazette: Do you think continued development is a threat to the future of agriculture in Osceola County?

Harbin: It does create some challenges. When people continue getting closer to rural lands, there's a lot of things about farm practices and running a farm they may not understand, like spraying fields with pesticides or having controlled burns. These are all completely normal things, but if you're not used to them and if it's happening near you, you might be concerned about a fire going on near your home and the smoke that goes with it.

News-Gazette: Why do farmers need to have controlled burns anyway?

Harbin: It's a part of best practices management. Science shows that the soil has richer nutrients and minerals after a periodic burn. The soil in Central Florida especially. Soil in South Florida, that swampy muck kind of soil, that's different. But the gray sand kind of soil here is used to periodic lightning strikes and lightning fires that naturally tend to occur every five or six years.

As we continue to develop the land though, and fire safety practices improve, we aren't seeing those naturally occurring fires where they need to be anymore. So by creating a controlled fire periodically, a grower can ensure that same rich land.

News-Gazette: Are you optimistic about the future of agriculture in Osceola County?

Harbin: Yes, I would say for the most part we're very optimistic. We have a lot of great support at the local level from our county commissioners and other local officials. They care and listen to the needs of the agriculture community, and check in with us to see what issues we're having and where they can help.

There are some things coming up in the future in Osceola County that will be beneficial to farmers and ranchers. For example, the NeoCity project will be a great thing for the community. The small sensors that will be developed and produced there can be used out in the fields to give farmers a tremendous amount of useful data about the soil, its chemical levels, how much water it needs, so much. It's amazing.

Technology has transformed the agriculture industry in a great way. We can grow things better than ever before, and have more control over it. A you-pick blueberry farmer out on Old Canoe Creek Road can read data from ground sensors from his phone, and adjust water levels and other measures accordingly. It's a great thing, and we're happy to see something like that, those kinds of advancements, coming to Osceola County.



Herb Harbin

SCHOOL

Continued from Page 1



PHOTO/OSCEOLA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Ground was broken for the new Harmony Middle School on Wednesday. From left: Dave Torbert, partner at SchenkelShultz Architecture; Bob Moss, owner of Moss Construction; Ricky Booth, chairman of the Osceola County School Board; Dr. Debra Pace, superintendent of the Osceola School District; Tim Weisheyer, Osceola County School Board member; Jay Wheeler, Osceola County School board member; and Fred Hawkins Jr., Osceola County Commission chairman.

students once construction is complete.

Officials said the Harmony middle school is being constructed as a direct response to rapid growth in the eastern part of Osceola County.

A \$28 million construction contract was awarded to Moss in July to build the new structure, which will be located near Harmony High School at 3671 Arthur J. Gallagher Blvd. in St. Cloud.

Designed by SchenkelShultz Architecture, the campus will include a two-story academic building that contains the administration offices, media center, kitchen, multi-purpose room and 1,408 student stations.

Safety and security were key considerations during

design planning: the site is fully fenced with gates for access.

In addition, the school will have a one-story, 800-seat gymnasium building, two retention ponds, a multi-purpose field with track, baseball field, basketball courts and protected wetlands.

The building construction will consist of concrete tilt wall panels, a steel structure and low slope roofs.

Funds to create the new school will come from district impact fees. Each new home or residential property is charged a fee based on how many students it may contribute to the county. Those fees were recently increased at a March County Commission meeting to accommodate

the new school structures, including Harmony Middle.

Chief Financial Officer Sarah Graber said funds generated from a half penny sales tax approved in November 2016 only pays for the renovation of existing schools, not the construction of new ones.

Superintendent Debra Pace was joined by School Board members and other community figures Wednesday for the school's ribbon cutting.

"The planning and construction of our new middle school in Harmony plays a critical role in the combined efforts to promote and support our students, as well as to further positive economic growth in Osceola County," said School Board Chairman Ricky Booth.

Officials: Stop trying to recycle plastic bags

By Charlie Reed
For the News-Gazette

If you're tossing your recyclables into the curbside bin inside of plastic garbage bags then they're likely going

straight to the dump. You're also wasting your time if you put those ubiquitous small plastic bags in with your cans, bottles, paper and cardboard.

Plastic bags turning up

on the receiving floor of recycling centers in the county get caught on sorting machine gears. It's prompted Osceola County to advise

See **Recycle**, Page 6.

MARCH

Continued from Page 1

She is working with Osceola County Sheriff Russ Gibson for an upcoming "Gift Cards for Guns" event.

Deanna Paul, a retired law-enforcement officer and Narcoossee resident, said she came out "because enough is enough." "I support the 2nd Amendment, but regular citizens shouldn't have assault weapons that are designed to take many lives. And unfortunately, we're seeing just what they can do," Paul said.

Recently introduced legislation – both in Congress and the Florida Legislature – include efforts to arm teachers.

Katie Meyers, a teacher and gun owner with a concealed-carry permit, said that's a bad idea.

"I just don't see where it would be possible for teachers to carry a gun safely in a school," said Meyers, who works with children with emotional and behavioral disorders at Narcoossee Elementary School.

Brian Morgan came with Meyers and brought his 4-year-old son Alfie.

It's crazy that it took a month to get fast-lane TSA approval but you can go buy a gun the same day," he said.

Vietnam veteran Victor Noto came out not only to call for more gun regulation but also to support the youth-driven movement.

"I like what the kids are doing," said Noto, who lives in Good Samaritan Village. "It gives me hope for the future."

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VIEWPOINT

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GUEST EDITORIAL

Melting the ice in the human heart

By Robert C. Koehler

How close, how intimate, have you ever gotten with Greenland?

A new documentary called "Stella Polaris," directed by Yatri Niehaus - part of Chicago's 10th annual Peace on Earth Film Festival - takes you on a meditative journey to this lonely, extraordinary island, to its melting ice, its rampaging waters and crumbling glaciers, where climate change is a part of daily life, and where the native people have wisdom and heart to offer the rest of us.

It begins with a slow meditation on the beauty of the ice. Then, six minutes in, a wall of ice suddenly crashes into the ocean.

"The Old People of Greenland have told us, since the sixties, this time it's too late to stop it," a native man says. "... Your religion, your money and your politics cannot stop the melting of the Big Ice."

But the story is told matter-of-factly, mostly without rancor or blame. Indeed, it's not really a story in the ordinary sense. It's a slow walk across the ice: a swirl of light and sky, ice and ocean, in loving close-up and stunning overview.

Punctuating the photography are the words of an array of Greenland natives, who talk about life here at the far end of Planet Earth - life that's "ordinary" and Western in some ways, but that reverberates with memories of the old ways and the Old People.

"From clothes to food, we had everything we could ever ask to have," a man named Angaangaq says at one point. "Then the government came and declared that the village of Qaggat, my grandmother's village, is very poor. There was no money in the village. It didn't have a store. So the

government closed the village and moved by grandmother to Maniitsoq."

As he talks, the camera pans over a sterile, soulless, "modern" building, presumably in the new, money-infused town the Danish government had established.

"My grandmother died in 1969," he continues. "We all say now she died of a broken spirit. She was moved from the village she grew up in, where she was the matriarch of an entire society - honored, recognized, respected, acknowledged, loved - to a senior home where she was nobody."

And then the camera pans to the melting ice.

"Only by melting ice in the heart of Man does Man have a chance to change and begin using his knowledge wisely."

And slowly a truth emerges, that peace on Earth, whatever that is, involves listening to the Old People: the indigenous people, the victims of cultural, spiritual and physical genocide these last 500 years. They had a connection to the planet that their conquerors dismissed as primitive and irrelevant. "Stella Polaris" makes this point not with venom but with melting ice, which in close-up cuts through one's consciousness like tears.

This movie is merely one of 34 international films, from 11 different countries, that are part of this year's Peace on Earth Film Festival, which will be held March 9 to March 11 at Chicago's Davis Theater. Besides the films, the festival also includes Q&A sessions with some of the directors, plus both filmmakers' and a peacemakers' panel discussions.

The mission of the festival, which I have been lucky enough to be a part of since its inception, in 2008, is "to raise awareness of peace, nonviolence, social justice and an eco-balanced world."

It "aims to contribute to a culture of peace through international cinema, dialogue and programming highlighting individuals on the vanguard of peace activism and social change. POEFF endeavors to enlighten and empower individuals, families and communities to step out of the ignorance of conflict, violence and divisiveness, into the light of communication, consideration, tolerance and understanding."

Step out of the ignorance of conflict . . .

This is an idea that bears close attention. Is it possible? What does it mean? At one point in "Stella Polaris," a woman named Laali, a Greenland native who became a social worker and lived for a dozen years in Northern Canada, said:

"I was working with the First Nation, the Inuit and the Metis women, who were abused or homeless. . . . The native people really use their culture, their teachings to lift up the spirits of the women, the teenagers, the children who are in need. They use their elders. They sit in circles with them. . . ."

The film doesn't explore this further, but the point here is profound: It is the essence of stepping out of the ignorance of conflict. The peace circle/Restorative Justice movement has entered the so-called civilized world from Northern Canada and other parts of the world where indigenous culture has not been totally uprooted.

Sitting in a circle with others - creating a safe place where everyone is respected, everyone is welcome, everyone can speak - builds connection and creates the possibility of healing. As Rupert Ross writes:

"Healing is by turns subtle and dramatic, but underlying the entire process is this movement toward reconnection. . . ."

"As the First Principle in The Sacred Tree is phrased: 'It is . . . possible to understand something only if we can understand how it is connected to everything else.'"

And I return to the ice, the ocean and the sky. "Stella Polaris" is not so much a movie to understand as a movie to surrender to. We can't undo what we've done to the planet, but perhaps we can ask its forgiveness.

Robert Koehler is an award-winning, Chicago-based journalist and nationally syndicated writer. His book, "Courage Grows Strong at the Wound," is still available. Contact him at koehlercw@gmail.com, visit his website at commonwonders.com or listen to him at Voices of Peace radio.



Want to write a letter to the editor?

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Too Much Average Very Little

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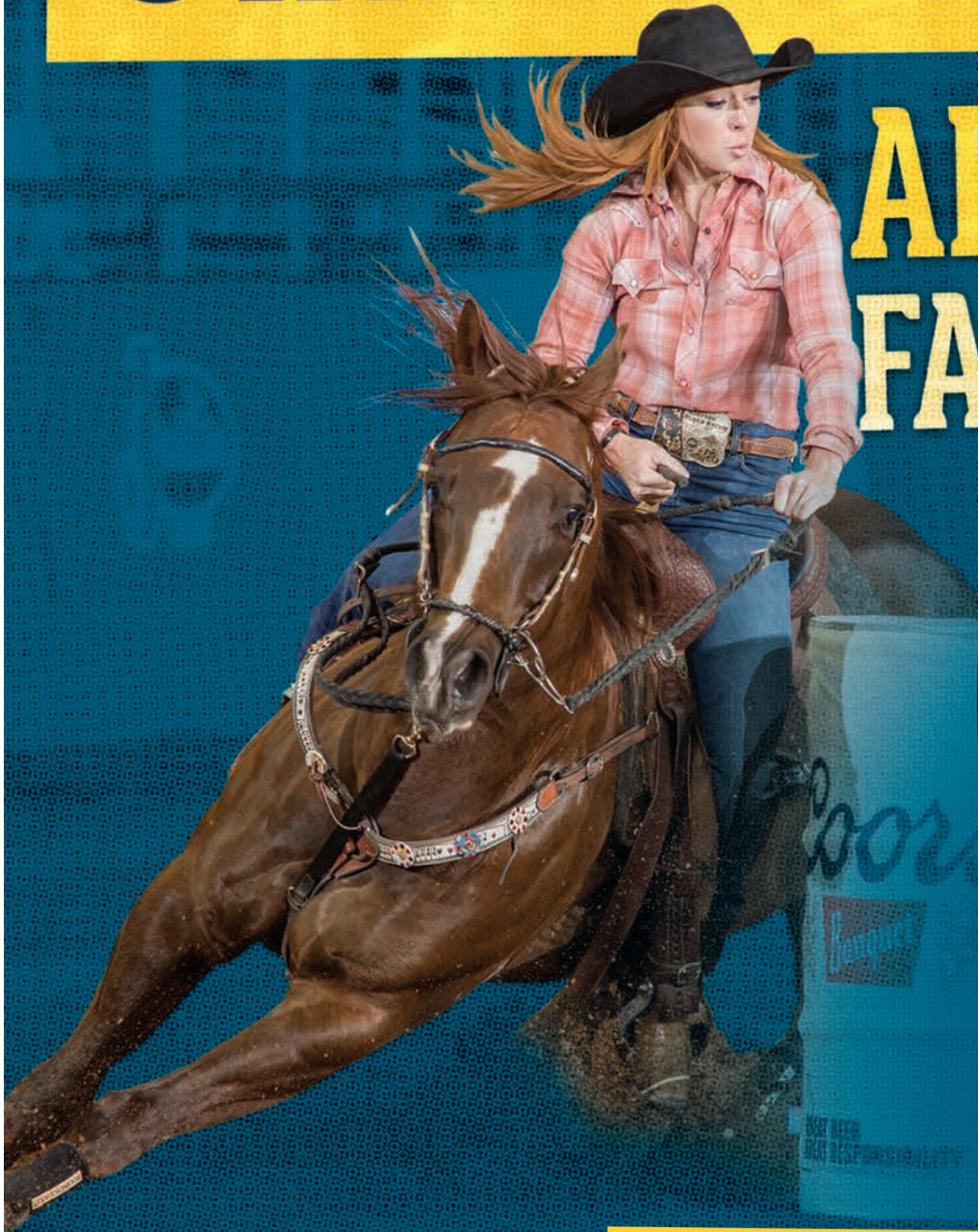
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RODEO PREVIEW DAY

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
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St. Cloud selects new fire chief

By Rachel Christian
Staff Writer

On Monday, Joe Silvestries stepped into his new role as the St. Cloud fire chief.

Silvestries is an experienced firefighter, but said he is still excited to take on the new leadership position.

"It's a great honor to be selected as fire chief," he said the week before starting his new job. "I'm excited to begin."

Silvestries replaces former fire chief Bill Sturgeon, who is now city manager. The two men have known each other for years, and both formerly served as Orange County firefighters.

Sturgeon stepped down from his role as chief in July when he took over as St. Cloud's interim city manager. In November, the City Council approved for him to remain in the position permanently.

Rick Stilp has been serving as interim fire chief since September. Sturgeon reached out to Silvestries about the position along with other candidates back in January.

"I think Joe is a very professional, stand-up person who is going to bring a lot of leadership to the position," Sturgeon said. He's

a trustworthy person with good vision."

Silvestries arrives to his new position with nearly 30 years of experience as a firefighter. He most recently served as an assistant fire chief in Clermont, where he lives with his wife and their 18-year-old son.

Silvestries said he was about the same age as his youngest son when a friend recommend that he consider a career as a firefighter. Silvestries signed up for an EMT training class, and met with firefighters at Station 30 in Orange County to learn more about joining the department.

"Once they told me about the pay, vacation and retirement, I was sold," Silvestries said with a laugh. "I knew I already loved the job after completing some training and being around other firefighters, so the benefits only made it better."

Since then, Silvestries has created a long, successful career as a firefighter, overseeing more than 30 stations in Orange County as shift commander and participating in special operations.

As St. Cloud's new fire chief, Silvestries will play an important role in the department's future as the town continues to grow. He'll



Silvestries

be responsible for working with city officials and helping them achieve certain goals, such as earning specific accreditation and opening new stations.

A fire chief is an appointed position with Silvestries serving as an at-will employee.

"So basically, I plan on staying there as long as they're happy with me and want me to keep serving in that role," he said.

Silvestries will be in charge of overseeing three stations and roughly 65 employees.

Since he is new to the St. Cloud area, Silvestries said he wants to learn as much about the community and the department as he can during his first few weeks on the job.

"I want to learn from the local government and others what goals St. Cloud has for the fire department's future, and then start taking steps to make those goals a reality," he said. "I want to make sure tax payer dollars are being used well in an effective way."

Silvestries said he is also looking forward to working with his new fellow firefighters.

"It's a relatively young department with a lot of energy, so I'm excited," he said.

POLICE NEWS

Motorcyclist killed in crash

A Kissimmee motorcyclist was killed on Sunday after he slammed into a house.

According to a Florida Highway Patrol report, Timothy Ablan, 30, was riding a 1999 Honda motorcycle southbound on Salsona Avenue and drove through the intersection of Virginia Drive. The motorcycle then went into the front yard of a Virginia Drive home and slammed into the north side of the house.

Ablan was found in the bushes along side of the house and was pronounced dead.

The motorcycle then went into the front yard of a Virginia Drive home and slammed into the north side of the house.

FHP responded about 11 a.m., but it was unclear what time the crash occurred, according to the report. The crash remains under investigation.

Orlando man killed in Osceola crash

An Orlando man was killed getting off Interstate 4 in Osceola County after he lost control of the car he was driving.

The male driver was driving a 2006 Toyota Scion westbound on I-4 and attempted to exit onto State Road 429. According to a Florida Highway Patrol report, the man lost control of the car, left the roadway and hit a tree head-on. He was pronounced dead on scene. He was not identified by troopers because his family had not been notified.

Easter Extravaganza set for today

By Lisa Concepcion
Poinciana Writer

Travel a bit outside of Poinciana proper today and enjoy Bellalago's Egg-citing Easter Extravaganza and Health Fair at Lago Vista (the boat ramps) from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The day of fun includes an Easter egg hunt, carnival games, rides, cotton candy, crafting, entertainment and food tricks. This event is open to the public.

► Celebrate Women's History Month today from 2 to 3 p.m., at the Poinciana Branch Library.

Actress Brooke Pratt will present the story of Margaret Brown, better known as the Unsinkable Molly Brown. She is best known for her brave actions during the sinking of the RMS Titanic. Brown was also a human - rights activist a philanthropist and an actress.

► The Association of Poinciana Villages' first Paint Night of 2018 will be on Friday, April 6, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Poinciana Community Center, 445 Marigold Ave.

This event is exclusively for Poinciana residents. The painting will be on canvas

and will be a "Poinciana Tree." This will be a custom made painting for the night's theme. The fee is \$20, and includes all materials and instructions. Space is limited. To register go to <https://letsgetgohartcentralflorida.com/products/poinciana-villages-paint-party?variant=2140999122954>.

► Help support Valencia College Poinciana's culinary program and enjoy a fabulous breakfast too. The Country Breakfast and Silent Auction for the Culinary Program will take place on Tuesday, April 10. This is a "drop-in event" with both breakfast and program from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. The breakfast will be pancakes and eggs prepared by Chef Jenifer Denlinger. The recommended donation is \$10. Credit card, check, money order or cash donations will be accepted. Donations can be mailed to Valencia College: Attn: PNC Admin, 3255 Pleasant Hill Road, Kissimmee, FL, 34746. Please include a memo-PNC Country Breakfast. RSVP through Eventbrite: <http://tinyurl.com/http-tinyurl-com-PBreakfast>.

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

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www.Housing4allinc.org

RECYCLE

Continued from Page 3

residents about the problem with three solar-powered message boards stationed around the county.

"Unfortunately, everybody does it. They put perfectly acceptable items into the bags, which can't be processed," said Solid Waste Manager Danny Sheaffer.

It's been an issue for more than a year, he said. It means Waste Management

– the company contracted by the county to run the recycling program – simply doesn't recycle most loads that include this thin plastic.

"You can take the plastic grocery bags back to most of the major chains who then can recycle them," Sheaffer said.

It's the same story for the city of Kissimmee. Entire truckloads of otherwise recyclable goods are going to landfills because residents aren't following the rules and contaminating the stream.

Another common recycling issue is food residue in recyclable containers – that little bit of sauce left in the spaghetti jar or the yogurt still clinging to the inside of a single-serving cup.

It's as simple as giving the containers a quick rinse, so the residue doesn't dry up and require a lot of effort and water to clean later.

Kissimmee began charging residents for such offenses a few years ago but put that on hold until notices are sent to all residents. Officials said they hope to curb the problem before it gets out of hand and starts costing taxpayers more.

"The biggest thing is the customer are not reading

the lids, so we constantly have to educate them," said Kissimmee Sanitation Supervisor Jody Kirkendall.

Meanwhile, since China stopped accepting much of the recycling coming from America, the once-profitable program is now losing money, he said.

"China was the No. 1 buyer of recycling all around the world, then it put constraints in place which has been problematic for local government recycling programs," Kirkendall said.

Recycling isn't mandatory in Kissimmee or unincorporated Osceola County, but residents are charged either way.

The city charges \$17.27 per month for the 15,650 single-family homes in city limits and handles the recycling program in-house.

The 64,000 single-family households in unincorporated Osceola County are charged \$17.57 a month, \$16 of which goes to Waste Management. That's about \$1 million a month for the program.

Check out the top of your recycling bin for exactly what you can and can't recycle.

In the meantime, here's a list of acceptable and non-acceptable items.

Acceptable paper: Newspapers, junk mail, magazines, telephone books, catalogues, office paper and brown paper bags.

Plastics: Bleach, detergent, shampoo bottles and bottles with necks No. 1-7 (number is located on the base of a container). Make sure to rinse them.

Metals: Aluminum and aerosol cans, pie pans and steel food containers. Make sure to rinse them.

Cardboard: Food boxes, milk and juice containers and cardboard boxes. Make sure to flatten the boxes.

Glass: Green, clear and brown bottles and jars. Make sure to rinse.

Non-acceptable: Recyclables in plastic bags, plastic grocery bags, food waste, clothes and linens, wrapping paper, Styrofoam, disposable cups or flatware, electronics, hardback books, ceramics or dishes, motor oil containers, household hazardous waste, light bulbs, window glass or mirrors, yard waste, unnumbered plastics, toothbrushes, toys, hoses, plastic or metal clothes, hangers, construction debris, bricks, wood, cement paint, or spray paint.

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SPORTS



State Weight

7 go on to state lifting meet.

Page 9.

Local & National Sports • Sports Commentary



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Gateway reaches 10 wins after 3-0 week in OBC

By Ken Jackson
Sports Editor

The Gateway Panthers baseball team is young this season. And, after three wins this week, they're now 10-3.

Gateway, looking for a third straight trip to the regional playoffs, geared up with a 3-0 week in which it outscored Orange Belt Conference opponents 36-12 with wins over Celebration (11-7 Monday), Poinciana (10-0 Tuesday) and Harmony (15-5).

While his pitchers struggled with control a bit Wednesday — Harmony scratched out five runs in the fifth inning on four walks, a hit batter, and

error and just one hit — the offense compensated when needed, and Gabriel Delorbe threw a no-hitter Tuesday against Poinciana with seven strikeouts.

"Everything felt good, and the defense played great," Delorbe said of Tuesday. "I think our season's going good."

Wednesday's game was about who made the fewest mistakes, and while Gateway was far from perfect, they took advantage of five walks and seven Harmony errors.

Center fielder Emile Perez was 3-for-5 with a pair of runs, and designated hitter Armando Ramirez

See **Beisbol**, Page 8.



NEWS-GAZETTE PHOTO/MARTIN MADDOCK

Gateway pitcher Joseph Roque fires one to the plate in Wednesday's 15-5 win over Harmony. The lefty pitched 4 2/3 innings to earn the win.

MASL coming to Spurs

OSCEOLA COUNTY IN THE MAJOR LEAGUES

Indoor soccer team begins play in December

By Ken Jackson
Sports Editor

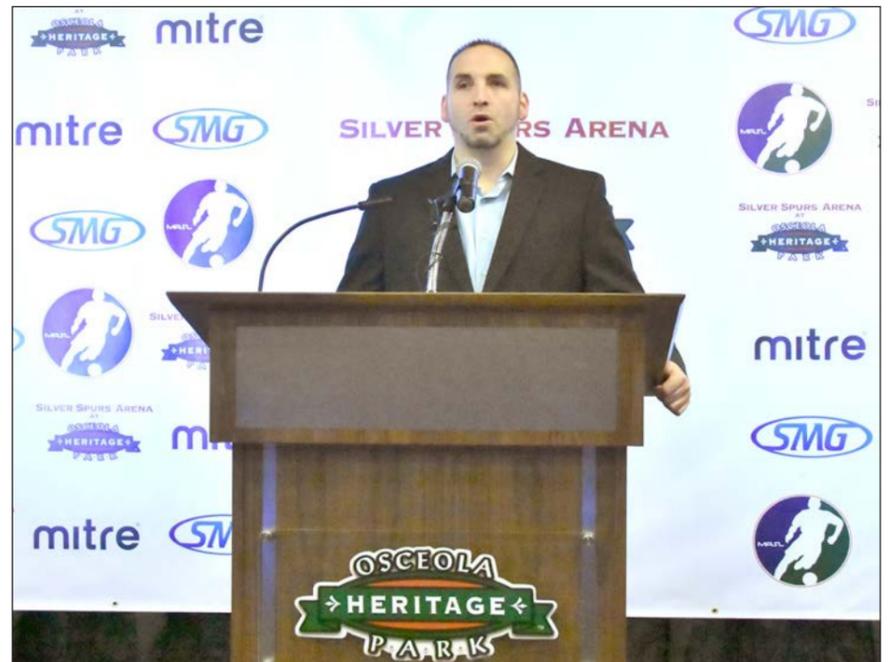
After years of hosting minor-league sports — years ago — Kissimmee's Silver Spurs Arena joined the major leagues Wednesday with the announcement that a new Major Arena Soccer League franchise will call Osceola County home for the league's 2018-19 season.

The Kissimmee team joins the MASL, the "major league" of indoor soccer, along with a team in Toronto that will get the league to 18 teams situated across the country and in Mexico. The local team should have a natural rivalry with the Lakeland-based Florida Tropics, entering their third season in the MASL.

Information is available about the club at a working temporary website, www.maslorlando.com. Among the information there is a "Name the Team" contest. Fans can submit their suggested names, and those who choose the eventual selected name will win game tickets, which will start at \$10.

Orlando Professional Indoor Soccer LLC, made up of investors already involved in another MASL team, the Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Rampage, are the owners. They, along with Chris Kokalis, the new franchise's general manager, and officials from Osceola Heritage Park and Osceola County, joined together at The Heritage Club for the announcement.

The team will play 12 regular-season games from



NEWS-GAZETTE PHOTO/MARTIN MADDOCK

Chris Kokalis, general manager of a new Major Arena Soccer League team that will begin play at the Silver Spurs Arena this December, introduces a gathered crowd to the league and sport of indoor soccer Wednesday at The Heritage Club. The new team, and another to start play this season in Toronto, will bring the MASL to 18 teams in 2018-19.

December through April. Kokalis said he also hopes to schedule a preseason exhibition and host a small group of teams for a sort of "winter training."

With the winter and spring MASL season and the presence of the Orlando City Lions and Orlando Pride nearby, professional soccer becomes a year-round activity in the Orlando metropolitan area, a fact not lost on MASL Commissioner Joshua Schaub.

"The MASL views Orlando as a prime soccer market and a perfect match for the MASL," he said. "The league looks forward to many exciting years ahead in Orlando as we continue to introduce arena soccer to Florida and expose our international league to new markets. Fans can look forward to an extremely fast paced and physical brand of soccer."

Major-league indoor soccer is a fast-paced, high-scoring game enclosed by boards, with five players and a goalkeeper on the field at a time for each team. Most games feature double-digit scores; MASL games averaged 13.64 goals per game during the 2017-18 season. The Baltimore Blast, the reigning league champion, has been around for over 25 years in indoor leagues of various names (National Professional Soccer League, Major Indoor Soccer League II, National Indoor Soccer League).

MASL teams are also located in Harrisburg, Pa., Syracuse, Cedar Rapids, Kansas City, Milwaukee, St. Louis, El Paso and Hidalgo, Texas, Monterrey and Hermosillo, Mexico, San Diego, Ontario and Turlock, Calif., and Tacoma, Wash.

OHP General Manager

Robb Larson said the work to bring the team to Kissimmee had been ongoing for months, and started even before that with upgrades to the arena that include a new modern scoreboard, LED ribbon boards and upgraded concourses, parking lots and new lighting.

"We're watching what's going on in Orlando as a soccer market, and we look forward to the season getting started," he said.

The league reported an average attendance of 2,539 for regular season games in 2017-18, and 4,100 in the playoffs. Kokalis said the Silver Spurs' 7,500 seating bowl fits what the MASL is trying to accomplish.

"We looked at some others in the area but Robb and his team were willing to work with us,

See **Soccer**, Page 9.

Kissimmee Klassic back for 26th year with stellar lineup

By Ken Jackson
Sports Editor

The Kissimmee Klassic, the 32-team, multi-bracket high school softball tournament hosted by Osceola High, returns for its 26th edition starting Thursday at 2 p.m. at the Osceola County Softball Complex.

Annually, the Klassic showcases the best field of softball squads, bar none, in the state of Florida, and likely the Southeast.

This year will be no different, tournament liaison Roger Jones said.

"It is setting up to maybe be the most talented tourney in the country," he said. "Twenty-nine of the 32 teams coming to the Klassic have been ranked this year already. Eleven of the teams have been ranked No. 1 or 2 in their state already this year at some time, and three of them are defending state champs, with four of them have been nationally ranked in the top 30 of the country already."

This year's tournament continues through Saturday evening's championship games.

Land O'Lakes, the reigning Class 6A state champion, is the top seed in the Blue Bracket, which includes 8A champ Orange Park Oakleaf and state semifinalist St. Thomas Aquinas, 5A runner-up Eustis and 2A runner up Aucilla Christian.

It's in the Blue Bracket where you'll find St. Cloud, 8-3 entering another stern test as a Klassic warmup, the Rutenbar Klassic in Bartow, where they face Bartow and Winter Springs today in pool play.

After hosting at District 8A-10 game Tuesday against Windermere, the Bulldogs face Parkland Stoneman Douglas on Thursday at 4 p.m.

In the Gold Bracket, Pembroke Pines Charter (16-1), the current No. 1 in the state Class 7A poll, is the top seed in a bracket that includes Tampa Alonso, Gulliver

Prep, and St. Petersburg Canterbury, all top-five programs in the polls in their classes.

Osceola (12-3) eighth in the Class 9A poll, is among that mix, the fourth seed in the Gold. The Kowgirls open the tournament Thursday at 7:30 against Riverview.

Over 100 players coming to the tournament have signed college scholarships orally committed to programs.

Other first round games Thursday in the gold bracket are: Lake Region vs. Coral Gables (2 p.m.); Pembroke Pines Charter vs. Tampa Plant (4 p.m.); Montverde Academy vs. Cooper City (4 p.m.); Rockledge vs. Lake Howell (4 p.m.); Canterbury vs. Vero Beach Master's Academy (6 p.m.); Gulliver Prep vs. Okeechobee (6 p.m.); Eau Gallie vs. Tampa Alonso (7:30 p.m.).

The blue bracket contains most of the tournament's heavyweights: See **Klassic**, Page 9.



FILE PHOTO

St. Cloud, shown here playing Cooper City in the 2017 Kissimmee Klassic, opens the event Thursday at 4 p.m. against Parkland Stoneman Douglas.

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THE REEL DEAL

Wednesday tourneys, Elite One Man Series are in full swing



CINDY JOINT
The Reel Deal

Ten teams turned up this past windy Wednesday for the weekly Toho Marine Lake Toho Wednesday Night Shootout, and 104.11 pounds of bass were caught. The winning team of Butch and Austin took home the jackpot with 19.49 pounds. Second place went to last week's winning team of Skip Stowers and Mark with a limit totaling 15.69 pounds that included the Denali Rods Big Fish, a sweet 6.97 pounder. Missing a shot of the jackpot by ounces in both total weight and big fish was Charlie Harrelson, who fished solo that night.

The second Toho Marine Elite One Man Series Tournament was held March 24 on Lake Istokpoga, where 33 Anglers participated and \$2,175 was paid out among the top five places. Tim Snellings had a total of 22.03 pounds for the win and received \$1,088 that included a nice 7.20-pounder that weighed-in as the second biggest fish earning him an additional \$145. Bob McDaniel came in Second Place with 16.66 pounds earning \$435. Third Place and \$326 went to Richard Johnson for his 13.87 pound limit and the Big Fish honors with his 7.34 pound catch and a bonus of \$290. Kim Hebb was right behind him in fourth with 12.49 pounds, \$217 and rounding out the

top five was Ryan Hoover with 11.79 pounds and \$109. The Enigma Fishing recipient for finishing one spot out of the money was Anthony Pepe.

Some 85 bass were caught for a total of 196.14 pounds. Only seven out of the 33 anglers were able to catch a limit on what some described as a tough lake Saturday. After two tournaments completed, Bob McDaniel is your current leader in the Angler Of The Year with 397 points, leading Santos Solis Jr. (385 points) and Rich Mills (384). Next stop is Lake Okeechobee / Scott Driver Park on April 21.

The Osceola Anglers is hosting the North vs. South Tournament this weekend out of Camp Mac. This is an event where high school anglers are grouped with other high school fishing clubs. Teams are made up of students from the North Central Florida area and compete against students from the South Central Florida area. The overall total weight of all fish determines who wins. I will have full results next week.

Have a wonderful Easter weekend. If taking in a boat ride, please be safe. Tight lines, friends!

BEISBOL

Continued from Page 7.

had five effective plate appearances: three walks, a sacrifice fly, another RBI single in the seventh, with three runs and two stolen bases.

Joseph Roque pitched 4 2/3 innings to get the victory, striking out three and giving up three hits.

"I'm proud of the boys," GHS Coach Jim Moran said. "We're a good team, sometimes we don't show it, but these kids know what they're doing wrong. We don't have to tell them, they just go to battle."

Harmony (8-8) played their first game under Coach Joe Allison, the former JV coach. School officials made the change during spring break, replacing former coach Hal Keene.

"We're sorry for the kids that it had to be done during the season," Longhorns Athletic Director John Wallauer said this week. "It just couldn't wait until the end of the year."

Allison said he's already met with parents to get everyone in the program back on the same page.

"We want to be a program, something maybe we'd gotten away from the last couple of years," he said. "I love this program and definitely plan to put my hat in for the job permanently at the end of the year."

First baseman Jackson Sibbitt had an RBI single for Harmony, who travels to Poinciana on Wednesday and District 7A-6 foe Sebastian River Friday.

Melvin Cotto, the Panthers' ace, is 5-1 on the year as a sophomore who overcame heart problems in the offseason and is now playing problem-free.

"I feel good. I wish the district (tournament) was right now, we're playing well and everyone is working hard."

Gateway hosts Liberty Tuesday and travels to Osceola on Friday in a game that could likely dictate the Orange Belt Conference winner. The Panthers, who've lost just three times, with two of them coming to St. Cloud (7-3), beat the Kowboys, 2-1 on March 2.

Osceola (10-4) scratched out a 2-1 win Tuesday over Celebration (6-8). J.P. Clement and Frankie Santaniello had RBI singles to give the Kowboys a 2-0 lead, and Franklin Ramirez, C.J. Oliverria and Hamilton Martinez combined to throw a two-hitter.

The Storm cut the lead to 2-1 in the fourth on Chris Nunez's RBI groundout that scored Eric Echevarria.

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SPORTS

County sends 7 lifters to 2A state meet

By Ken Jackson
Sports Editor

Seven Osceola County lifters claimed spots in the Class 2A state weightlifting field on Friday, and a handful of others have to wait another couple days to see if their Region 6 lifts were good enough to qualify as wild cards.

Friday's regional included District 10 schools from Polk County, and it was Auburndale (36 points) that took the team title. Osceola and St. Cloud (31) tied for second and Harmony (29) was fourth.

Poinciana (10) tied for eighth out of the 17 schools. Celebration (2) was 13th.

St. Cloud Coach Cory Aun, who did his best to split time as the Bulldogs' coach and the event coordinator, said a handful of lifters did not pass weigh-ins and it threw the results into a tizzy.

"We tied for second with Osceola and by all rights they should have beaten us," he said. "Harmony could have won if the Auburndale 129-pounder bombed out and if one of the Osceola kids made weight. My 119 and 129 did not make weight. It's a different meet if they all do."

Only the regional champions in the 10 weight classes in the state's eight 2A regions are guaranteed state meet spots. After the regional champions, the top 12 at each weight class across the state earn a wild card berth. The state meet

is April 7 at Arnold High in Panama City Beach.

The last regional meet occurred Wednesday, delaying the results.

"That's four days past the time when we were supposed to hold them all," Aun said. "I'm hoping by Friday I'll have the composite list to find out who made it out. I'm keeping my fingers crossed one or two more couldn't sneak in."

Poinciana's Jacob Bazilme (205-175-380) was the 199 pound winner. At 139, Harmony's Brett McCarroll (255-260-515) won and returns to the state meet and will take Joseph Derryberry (238, 305-305-610) with him.

Osceola's Dion Bergan (heavyweight, 345-315-660) also earned a return trip to state. Kowboys Bernie Velez (154, 240-240-480) and Jakobe Thomas (219, 320-265-585) are also headed to Panama City.

St. Cloud is represented by Ricardo Hernandez (169, 290-235-525).

A handful of other county lifters are waiting it out, including Osceola's Daniel Rodriguez (third at 119, 340 total), Harmony's Cameron Scheerer (second at 129, 435), St. Cloud's Johnny Fritz and Gil Sosa (second and third at 183 with 515 and 495), Harmony's Garrett Breeding, a district and OBC champion (third at 199 with 580) and Osceola's Jordan Redmond (second at heavyweight, 650).



NEWS-GAZETTE PHOTO/ROB HERBERT

St. Cloud's Ricardo Hernandez was the 169-pound Region 6 champion and qualified for the state meet.

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SOCCER

Continued from Page 7.

and this can be one of the best venues in the league and a perfect fit for this product," he said. "Osceola County has welcomed us with open arms. This is a tourist destination and we look to drive tourism. We look forward to having a relationship with Orlando City and furthering the game of soccer in Osceola County."

He said the league gets players from all different levels.

"College players use it as a stepping stone to get to a higher level, and those in outdoor leagues like (the minor league) USL who use it as a way to continue playing during their offseason," Kokalis said. "There are international players who see it as a last chance to continue their careers."

He said local tryouts

will be held in May, with camps held statewide over the summer in order to find talent.

Toni Smith, a representative of the Iowa-based ownership group, said Osceola County and Central Florida are an appealing market to put a team in.

"We love this area, we've been coming here for 20 years. We're big Disney fans, too," she said. "The weather is awesome."

County Commissioner Cheryl Grieb noted the MASL season is during a slower time in local tourism.

"This will pick up some of the slack our local hotels feel in the winter months," she said. "We're excited about the formation of a new professional team at the highest level of indoor soccer in the United States, and that it's coming here."

KLASSIC

Continued from Page 7.

Stuart South Fork vs. Eustis (4 p.m.); Gainesville vs. Aucilla Christian (6 p.m.); Lakewood Ranch vs. Academy at the Lakes (6 p.m.); Bartow vs. Keystone Heights (6 p.m.); St. Thomas Aquinas vs. Tate (7:30 p.m.); Land O'Lakes vs. Winter Springs (7:30 p.m.); Timber Creek vs. Oakleaf (7:30 p.m.).

The tournament

continues with games starting at 1 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. Saturday. The championship games begin at 7 p.m. Saturday.

Admission is \$15 per day or \$30 for a tournament pass. Children under 12 are free with a paid adult.

For more information about the Kissimmee Klassic, visit kissimmeeklassic.com.

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Weekly and Monthly Events

Old Town is celebrating 28 years of its well-known Saturday Nite Classic Car Show and Cruise on April 7. The all-day celebration will begin at 11 a.m., and includes live entertainment, giveaways and more. Live music will begin on the Trophy Row Stage at 3 p.m. and run through the evening. Cars will be on display all day, with a cruise down Old Town's brick main road at 8:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Regularly scheduled nights of the Saturday Nite Classic Car Show and Cruise will resume on April 14. For more information, visit www.myoldtownusa.com.

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WHEN April 7
COST Free and open to the public
INFORMATION Visit www.myoldtownusa.com



DAILY 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.



CHRISSY METZ

TV star Chrissy Metz will sign copies of her book *This is Me*. Barnes & Noble: 2418 E. Colonial Drive in Winter Park.

MEET AND GREET

Meet local authors from a variety of genres in celebration of Women's History Month. Orlando Public Library, 101 E. Central Boulevard, Orlando. The free event will take place 2 to 4 p.m. Call 407-835-7323 for more information.

OUR LAST NIGHT

The Social. The show starts at 6 p.m. For tickets, visit THESOCIAL.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@picouncil.org.

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.

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.

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

SPRING BOUTIQUE FASHION SHOW & LUNCHEON

Prepared to be pampered. With over 25 vendors, ladies can shop, get advice and a massage. Plus auctions and door prizes. A portion of the proceeds will benefit "Housing 4 All", a nonprofit that helps to find housing for those in need in the community. Poolside at the Melia Hotel in Celebration. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tickets are \$30 and include lunch and the show. Lunch will be served at noon.

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

SUNDAY

04-15

REV. CHASE KEENER

New Life Free Will Baptist Church, 1211 Ocean Street, Kissimmee. For directions or more information, call 863-640-4008.

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.

FRIDAY

04-20

COMEDY CLUB

April 20 & 21. Beer, wine and liquor bar for purchase, plus select Jimmy Bear's BBQ food. Porky's Comedy Club will host a weekend of laughs. Expect performances by comedians Shannon Hall and Jim Moran. Doors open at 7 p.m., the show starts at 8:30 p.m. For tickets and more information, visit www.porkyscomedyclub.com.

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 LINE DANCE CLUB

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

CRIBBAGE ON FRIDAYS

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

TAI CHI FOR HEALTH ON SATURDAYS

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

FLORIDA OMBUDSMAN

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

CRAFTY LADIES

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

HISTORY TRUNK

Early Learning Coalition of Osceola County is offering the Early Learning History Trunk for rent, for free. The trunk is designed for pre-K classrooms to bring history and nature alive in exciting and interactive ways. For information contact Larissa at osceolahistory.org or visit OSCEOLAHISTORY.ORG/TRAVELING-TRUNKS-2/

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.

SUNDAY

04-29

7TH ANNUAL SCIENCE OF WINE

Orlando Science Center welcomes adults to the 7th annual Science of Wine from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Presented by Southern Glazer's Wines and Spirits, the event takes you through a tour of your wine. Experience the science behind the taste and body of your favorite wines while dining on hand-selected pairings provided by some of Orlando's best restaurants. For more information, visit OSC.ORG

SATURDAY

05-12

2018 SMOKIN BREWS, BOATS & BBQ

Will take place at the St. Cloud Lakefront. Craft Brew Festival: 1-4 p.m. People's Choice BBQ Competition: 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Booths, vendors and entertainment all day. For more information, visit STCLOUDMAINSTREET.ORG



AROUND OSCEOLA

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TOOLS FOR BETTER LIVING

UF/IFAS Extension
 UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

UF/IFAS Extension: A garden of useful information

By Eva Pabon

It's right here, right now – spring in Osceola County is the best time and place to be gardening.

Our subtropical climate frees us to prepare garden beds after the frosts of January and February, allowing plants more time to mature before the summer heat kicks in. It's also the time when plant sales and garden workshops start popping up, offering us a harvest of new possibilities and the questions that go with them. So where do you start?

Whether you're a seasoned gardener or you're planting seeds for the first time, you can turn to the University of Florida IFAS Extension service for help. There is an office in every county, including Osceola County. UF/IFAS Extension has over 100 years of experience working with Florida gardeners, and we have a bushel basket of information resources ready to use.

EDIS

The Electronic Data Information Source (EDIS) is an online database with over 3,600 peer-reviewed publications about all aspects of gardening in Florida. Standout titles include the Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide, Organic Vegetable Gardening in Florida and Gardening in Raised Beds, as well as publications about specific vegetables, herbs, fruits, flowers and landscape plants—if you can name it, there's probably a handy fact sheet about it.

Florida-Friendly Landscaping Program

Having a beautiful home garden or landscape shouldn't have to be hard on your wallet or the environment. Florida-Friendly Landscaping (FFL) helps homeowners and green industry professionals learn how to use low-maintenance plants and environmentally sustainable practices. Head on over to the FFL website to learn about the Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Program in your county.

Gardening Solutions

This site from UF/IFAS Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology brings Florida homeowners and gardeners the best information about Florida-friendly plants, sustainable landscape practices, and ways to beautify your yard and garden. Website: (<http://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu>).

The Florida Master Gardener Program

Florida Master Gardeners are UF/IFAS Extension-trained volunteers who offer gardening education within the community, at schools, garden clubs, plant sales and farmers' markets. Master Gardeners are an excellent source of face-to-face gardening information, and a richly satisfying experience if you're interested in volunteer work.

If you will like more information about the program, we are having a Master Gardener Orientation Session on Tuesday, May 22 at 10 a.m. in the UF/IFAS Extension office in Osceola County. You can register online at <https://mgintro.eventbrite.com> or you can call the office at 321-697-3000.

Website: (<http://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener/>)

UF/IFAS Extension Bookstore

For many gardeners, the second most important place in their home is their

See **Extension**, Page 12.

Osceola honors 5 as 'Woman Warrior'



FPHOTO/OSCEOLA COUNTY

As part of Women's History month, Osceola County recognized, from left, Beth Knight, Tammi Madison, Miriam Martes, Carmen Carrasquillo and Donna Sines, at a recent County Commission meeting for their leadership.

In honor of Women's History Month, Osceola County recognized five women for their positive contributions to the community on Monday.

"Our community is stronger because of these remarkable women and their accomplishments," said Osceola Commission Vice Chairwoman Cheryl Grieb. "The contributions of this year's honorees are different, yet significant. What they share in common is a love for Osceola County and its residents. We hope this recognition inspires others."

The impetus for the award started four years ago after Viviana Janer was elected to the commission.

"These Osceola County women are strong examples of commitment and leadership. I'm once again proud that the county can highlight their achievements in order to empower others," Janer said.

"While women today face challenges in the workplace, we continue to overcome those obstacles and battle for a brighter future for all."

This year's Woman Warrior honorees, according to a county press, release include:

► District 1, Miriam Martes, pastor, The Rock Church: Miriam loves being a "people person" and being hands-on with community involvement. She has served as a minister and a Pastor at The Rock Church, helping to establish ministries throughout the world. She currently is a Pastor at The Rock Church, married with four children. She did not have any religious beliefs until she became a Christian her senior year of college. At a student internship program, she was invited to The Rock Church in Queens, New York in the spring of 1996 where she experienced a remarkable

transformation. She testifies that the Lord saved her from a life of drugs and delinquency. She developed an immense passion to help young people struggling to "find" themselves. Miriam graduated Cum Laude from St John's University in New York City.

► District 2, Carmen Carrasquillo, chief operations officer, Osceola Council on Aging: Carmen has been affiliated with the Council On Aging since 1992, first as a volunteer then as a board member. She worked effectively with residents and leaders to initiate and sustain programs directly serving frail seniors and disabled adults. These have earned the Osceola Council on Aging Senior Center numerous awards for maintaining the independence and dignity of our constituents, including Outstanding Senior Center in the state of Florida. Her

background as a bilingual teacher in the New York Public School system led to starting the first English classes for Spanish speaking adult residents in Osceola County; implementing the first Spanish voter registration campaign here; and becoming a founding member of BRAVO, a non-profit organization that provided assistance to emigrating Hispanic populations in the County. Carmen is a graduate of New York's Baruch College.

► District 3, Beth Anne Knight, Osceola County deputy county manager: Beth has a wide-ranging set of responsibilities in the day-to-day operation of Osceola County, as well as an important role in the development of policy and planning for the county's future. The county's "external" departments

See **Women**, Page 12.

Community leaders help raise awareness for Meals on Wheels

The Osceola Council on Aging invited community leaders to participate in the Meals on Wheels program and they helped deliver meals to the 80 seniors throughout Osceola County.

The community leaders served clients of the Osceola Meals on Wheels program. It was an opportunity to educate our community leaders on the need and how the Meals on Wheels program works in preventing Senior Hunger in Osceola County.

The Osceola Council on Aging staff coordinated 25-plus community leaders who delivered Meals on Wheels to seniors throughout Osceola County.

The community leaders consisted of Osceola Council on Aging board members, local law enforcement and fire department officials, lawmakers and local candidates.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

St. Cloud City Councilman Dave Askew delivers food to a Meals on Wheels recipient.

OSCEOLA

Pancake breakfast, student art contest set

The Rotary Club of Kissimmee West will host the seventh annual Student Art Contest & Pancake Breakfast April 7 from 8 a.m. to noon at the Osceola County School for the Arts.

More than 500 student art entries are expected, to be submitted including sculptures, drawings, paintings, photography and more from the local county and private schools.

The breakfast menu will feature pancakes, sausage and beverages for a \$5 donation per person or \$15 for a family of up to 5.

Children's activities will be provided along with raffles and a silent auction. A People's Choice Award will be awarded to the entry receiving the most votes cast by those in attendance. Votes are cast for each dollar donated by attendees for their favorite entry.

An attendee may vote as many times as they desire. The People's Choice Award winner will receive half of the proceeds from the voting while the other half is donated to charity.

Art entries from each school will be judged and a first-, second-, and third-place award for the best from each school.

Net proceeds from the event are to benefit local charitable organizations and programs as well as student education in Osceola County.

Funds raised from the previous events to date have resulted in the Kissimmee West Rotary donating over \$50,000 to support local educational programs in public and private schools, provide student dictionaries, and to support the Community Food Bank at the Osceola Council on Aging.



Jaime Medina-Campis, a student at Sunrise Elementary School, won the 2017 Best of Show Award.

MOMENTS IN TIME

► On April 8, 563 B.C., Gautama Buddha, the founder of Buddhism, is thought to have been born in what is now Nepal. Buddhist tradition had placed his birth in the 11th century B.C., until modern scholars determined he was likely born in the 6th century.

► On April 3, 1776, lacking sufficient funds to build a strong navy, the Continental Congress gives privateers permission to attack all British ships. Any goods captured by the privateer were divided between the ship's owner and the government.

► On April 6, 1830, Joseph Smith, founder of the Mormon religion, organizes the Church of Christ.

Smith claimed in 1823 that he had been visited

by an angel named Moroni who spoke to him of an ancient Hebrew text. Smith translated this text, and in 1830 The Book of Mormon was published.

► On April 7, 1945, the Japanese battleship Yamato, purportedly the greatest battleship in the world, is sunk in Japan's first major counteroffensive in the struggle for Okinawa.

It sank after being struck by 19 American aerial torpedoes, drowning 2,498 of its crew.

► On April 5, 1969, some 100,000 antiwar demonstrators march in New York City to demand that the United States withdraw from Vietnam. The weekend of protests ended with demonstrations and parades in other cities.

WOMEN

Continued from Page 11

such as Animal Control, Community Development, Community Outreach/Public Information, Corrections, Emergency Management, Fire Rescue/EMS, Human Services, and Public Works all report to her. These departments' serve the public directly – and

under her leadership their mission is conducted with promptness, passion and professionalism. Beth has always been involved in the community and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Osceola Council on Aging, Community Vision and the McCormick

Institute. She earned her Master's degree in business administration from the University of Central Florida.

► District 4, Donna M. Sines, director Community Vision: Donna is regarded as an expert in organizational management and developing outcome-

focused collaborations. She has more than 25 years of experience in the non-profit sector and is best known for the creation of Community Vision (established in 1995). She was a leader in downtown Kissimmee's revitalization. Under her guidance, Community Vision secured a multi-

million dollar grant to operate a mobile health unit offering free healthcare to underserved communities and generating an additional \$10 million new dollars. The organization received a \$1 million endowment to fund a Community Vision health collaborative in perpetuity. Recent accomplishments include development of Project OPEN, a program that breaks the cycle of poverty through education and training. It provides short-term certification training in high-demand careers, offering a pathway out of poverty with a focus on single moms and the unstably housed.

► District 5, Tammi Madison, board member St. Cloud Community Pantry: Tammi started volunteering at the St. Cloud Community Pantry 12 years ago. She has served on the board as

treasurer and director. Her passion is to help those less fortunate and she feels a person should never go to bed hungry. Tammi is a Kissimmee native, who has been married to her husband, Randy, for 37 years. She has three sons and eight grandchildren. After studying business administration, human resources and marketing at Florida Southern, she spent 11 years running Central Florida Aviation Refinishing, Inc. – one of two aviation businesses owned and operated by women in America, which was recognized one of the nation's Top 10 aviation businesses. She had 10 years in government procurement with the School District, GOAA and Osceola County. Tammi was a wedding cake caterer, owner/publisher of a Christian magazine and an etiquette consultant.

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.

KISSIMMEE UTILITY AUTHORITY AND THE CITY OF KISSIMMEE PRESENT

MOVIE in the Park

THE GREATEST SHOWMAN

ON A 32-FOOT SCREEN

FREE ADMISSION • FREE POPCORN
TRIVIA CONTEST • PRIZE GIVEAWAYS
THEMED ACTIVITIES

FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 2018

ACTIVITIES BEGIN AT 5:30 P.M. • MOVIE AT 7:45 P.M.

KISSIMMEE LAKEFRONT PARK – CIVIC LAWN
BRING A LAWN CHAIR OR BLANKET

EXTENSION

Continued from Page 11

bookshelf. UF/IFAS has an online bookstore where you can order books, ID decks, posters and DVDs for your gardening library and gifts for the gardener in your life. Whether it's a guide to organic vegetables, keeping your palms healthy or managing pests without pesticides, this bookstore has something for you. (<http://ifasbooks.ifas.ufl.edu>)

Your Local UF/IFAS Extension Office

Every county in Florida has one: a local office staffed by faculty from the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, experienced experts dedicated to using the latest scientific research to help find solutions to your gardening issues. Extension offices often have demonstration gardens and hold workshops, phone and site consultations, open houses and special events in your community.

Some examples of upcoming programs in Osceola County include

Florida-Friendly Landscaping Series, Vegetable Gardening, Lawn Care and more.

Contact the UF/IFAS Extension Osceola County office at <http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/osceola> or at 321-697-3000.

Community events

UF/IFAS Extension specialists and master gardener volunteers are a familiar presence at gardening workshops, plant sales, county fairs, farmers' markets and other events happening in your community.

This spring, you can find them at the following events in Central Florida. They include Osceola County Master Gardeners Plant Sale April 13-14.

Other Classes are available in Osceola County, for more information you can visit <https://ocagriculture.eventbrite.com>

Eva Pabon is a residential horticulture agent and master gardener coordinator at the UF/IFAS Osceola County Extension. Her email is epabon5@ufl.edu.

SCHOOL ZONE

THIS WEEKS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

▶ Deerwood Elementary

- Deerwood Elementary's second grade will be going on a field trip to Legoland on April 13. The school is looking for volunteers and parents to chaperone the trip. Please contact the school's OASIS Coordinator for more information.

▶ Kissimmee Elementary School

- Kissimmee Elementary's 2017-18 yearbook will be available to students for \$15 through pre-sales only. This means that if a student is wanting to purchase a copy of the yearbook, they need to have pre-paid for it ahead of time. Please see Mrs. Biela in the media center if your child is interested.
- Kissimmee Elementary's SAC committee meeting taking place on Wednesday, April 11, at 1 p.m. will allow parents and community members to assist in the input and finalization of the SIP (School Improvement Plan) and the Parent Compact for the next school year.

▶ Lakeview Elementary School

- Lakeview Elementary participates in the Ronald McDonald House "Pull For The House" pop tab collection contest. Staff, students, friends, and families collect the aluminum pop tabs year-round to be recycled with proceeds benefiting the Ronald McDonald House. Although the school is ALWAYS collecting, the cut-off for this year's submission is by end of school day on April 2. Tabs can be sent in to the school at any time, all year long. Lakeview Elementary has won first place for the last four consecutive years. Send in those tabs, and help Lakeview Elementary strive for five.

▶ Neptune Elementary School

- There will be a Spirit Night for Neptune Elementary at Tijuana Flats on Monday, April 9, from 5 to 8 p.m. Come join the fun with your family and friends.

▶ Poinciana Academy of Fine Arts

- The next SAC meeting at Poinciana Academy of Fine Arts will be held on April 5 at 9:30 a.m. in the media conference room. At this meeting, parents are invited to look at the Family Engagement plan and Title I Compact for the 2018-2019 school year.

▶ Denn John Middle School

- The AVID students at Denn John Middle will be taking a trip to Florida Polytechnic on Monday, April 2.
- Student Council members at Denn John Middle will explore civics and history by visiting the Ninth Circuit Court and the historic Kissimmee Courthouse grounds on Tuesday, April 3.
- Come support Denn John Middle's flag football team at the following games: Denn John Middle vs Parkway Middle on Monday, April 2, at 5:45 p.m. at Denn John Middle. Narcoossee Middle vs Denn John Middle on Wednesday, April 4, at 5:45 p.m., at Denn John Middle.
- The next Denn John Middle SAC meeting will be on April 3. During this SAC meeting, two important topics will be addressed: The Parent and Engagement Plan (PFEP) and the School Compact will be revised and reviewed.

▶ Discovery Intermediate School

- Yearbook sales have begun at Discovery Intermediate. The cost is \$24 until May, and you can purchase them from Mrs. Veety in the media center.
- Discovery Intermediate STEM science teacher Mr. Jones will meet with the STEM Club every Tuesday until the end of school year in Rm. 4-112 from 4 to 5 p.m.
- The Drama Club at Discovery Intermediate will be meeting every Tuesday in rooms 5-115 and 5-104 from 4:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- Discovery Intermediate is excited to offer free tutoring for students needing extra assistance with reading and math weekly. Students will report to the media center. They will receive small group instruction in reading or math on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays with the teacher.
- The Discovery Intermediate Student Council meets every Thursday in room 4-203 from 4 to 4:30 p.m. The mission of Discovery Intermediate Student Council is to fulfill the needs of every student, faculty member, staff member, and those in the community, through setting an example of respect, honesty, safety,

and promoting the values of others. If you have questions, please contact Ms. Becker at 407-343-7300.

▶ Neptune Middle School

- FSA Writing makeups are the week of April 2-7.
- Pre-order the Neptune Middle Seahawk yearbook in the media center today. The price is \$30. Also, eighth graders can now pick up baby picture order forms for the yearbook. See Ms. Senter, Media Specialist, with any questions you may have.

▶ Westside K-8

- You can participate in Westside K-8's next SAC/PTSO meeting on Thursday, April 5, at 4:30 p.m. Parents, business partners, students, and teachers will be helping to revise the Title I Compact for the 2018-19 school year.
- You are cordially invited to Westside K-8's upcoming theatrical performance, a parody of "Romeo and Juliet", "A Midsummer Night's Dream", and "Just Like Us" on April 5, 6, and 13. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and showtime is 7 p.m. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$5.

▶ Liberty High School

- Information for seniors: Senior cap and gown pictures will be taken on Thursday, April 5. Please see Ms. Sandra Thompson, Senior Advisor, if you have any questions. Seniors are invited to attend the Prom Fashion Show, sponsored by the Liberty High School Ambassadors. The fashion show will take place during seventh period on Friday, April 6.
- Coming Soon! "Once on this Island" is an interactive entertaining production you won't want to miss at Liberty High. Seating will be limited, and tickets will only be available online. Watch for more details on the school's website and at www.seatyourself.biz/libertytheatre.

▶ Osceola High School

- Osceola High School will be kicking-off this year's National Library Month Celebration by hosting the official book launch of Coming To America on April 4 at 7:00 p.m. This published work is an anthology of migration narratives written by nine Osceola High School students and edited by English teacher, Mr. Manuel Hernandez.

▶ **FOR UPCOMING SCHOOL EVENTS, CONTACT DANA SCHAFER**
 EMAIL SCHAFFER@OSCEOLA.K.12.FL.US
 THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR A SUBMISSION.



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

CENTRAL FLORIDA COUNCIL

Mission Statement

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

Scouting in Journalism — Boys' Life

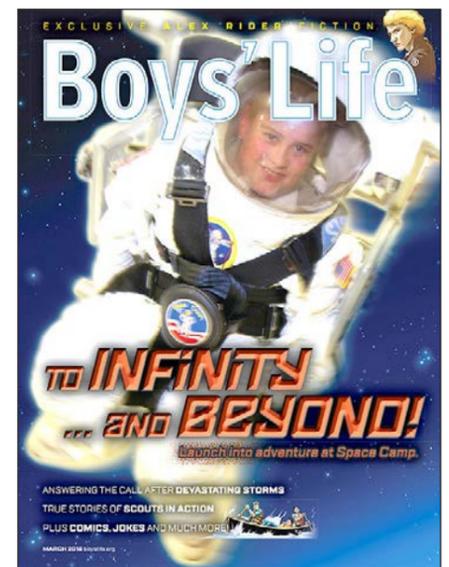
It's fitting that a column about Scouting that appears in a newspaper, which is all about journalism, highlights the monthly periodical all about Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Venture Crews and Explorer.

Boys' Life is the Boy Scouts of America's monthly magazine, publishes in two demographic editions. Both editions often have the same cover, but are tuned to the target audience through the inclusion of 16-20 pages of unique content per edition. The editions cater to younger Cub Scouts (ages 6-10) and older Boy Scouts and Venture crews (11-18).

It was first published in 1911, just over a year after organized Scouting was founded in the United States.

Content includes Special Features, Adventure Stories, Bank Street Classics, Entertainment, Environmental Issues, History, Sports, and Codemaster. Feature columns include Electronics, Entertainment, Fast Facts, History, Hitchin' Rack With Pedro the Mailburro, Think and Grin (jokes page), Science, Scouting Around, and Sports. Two columns, Hobby Hows and Collecting, featured Scouts' own personal hobby tips and collections, with them being offered \$10 for being published in the issue.

The magazine's mascot is Pedro the Mailburro, who answers readers' letters and is the subject of a comic strip. He was introduced in 1947. Boys' Life included a column "written" by Pedro that later evolved into a department known as "Hitchin' Rack". Scouts could write a letter addressed to Pedro, and mail it to Irving, Texas, where the BSA and Boys' Life magazine were headquartered. The comic was discontinued and replaced with "The Wacky Adventures of Pedro."



The March 2018 cover of Boys' Life magazine, celebrating its 107th year in print this year

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BRIAN MCBRIDE EDITOR
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THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR A SUBMISSION.

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



OBITUARIES

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

PACK - Anna Cassandra Pack "Cassie," age 24, passed away suddenly on March 26, 2018.

Cassie was born in Jacksonville, FL on July 2, 1993, to Cassandra Hartley and grew up there in Duval. She married to Richard Allan Pack Jr. and moved to Kissimmee, FL where she attended college and worked for the Kissimmee Christian Church as a ministry coordinator.

She is survived by her husband, Richard Allan Pack Jr; parents, John Mark and



Deborah Tyre and Cassandra Hartley of Jacksonville, FL; brother, Gordon Waters (Annmarie) of Jacksonville, FL; sisters, Emilee Prater (John) of Jacksonville, FL and Jessica Bulin (James) of Castalian Springs, Tennessee; uncles and aunts; nieces; cousins; and a network of church family across the globe.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday March

31, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. at the Kissimmee Christian Church, 415 N. Main St., Kissimmee, FL 34741, and on Saturday April 7, 2018, at Christ's Church, 6405 Greenland Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32258. Interment will be private in Jacksonville, FL.

In lieu of flowers donated, donations are being coordinated by Kissimmee Christian Church.

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Lamb a favorite meal at springtime holiday dinner tables



Versatile and flavorful, lamb is enjoyed across the globe and is especially popular come springtime holidays. Throughout the Middle East and parts of Eastern Europe, lamb has traditionally been enjoyed once the weather warms and the season of fertility renews.

Christians, who refer to Jesus Christ as the "Lamb of God" pay homage to the Easter miracle and often dine on lamb as part of their celebrations. Depending on how they interpret Jewish law, Jews may or may not include lamb at their traditional Passover seder.

Lamb is a tender and tasty meat that can be prepared in various ways. Lamb can be roasted, braised, stewed, broiled, and even grilled.

To prepare lamb well, it is extremely important to follow safety guidelines concerning food cross-contamination. Undercooked and raw meats may contain E. coli bacteria; therefore, lamb should not come in contact with other foods that will be served uncooked.

Many cuts of lamb are very tender so they will not require long marinating times to help break down the fibers in the meat. Lamb does not need a lot of prep time. In fact, a simple seasoning of herbs, garlic or a spice rub will provide substantial flavor. According to The Daily Meal, New Zealand or Australian lamb has a milder flavor than domestic lamb. Over-seasoning can overwhelm the delicate flavor of the lamb in these cases.

While preferences differ, many chefs attest that a bone-in cut of lamb will be more flavorful. However, boneless cuts are easier to carve. Similarly, cooks have strong opinions on the doneness of lamb, with some preferring rare meat while others like theirs well-done. Lamb can be juicy and tender at a wide range of cooking temperatures, so home chefs can decide how they want to prepare their lamb. The average temperature for roasting lamb to medium doneness will fall between 135 to 145 F, with the USDA recommending at least 145 F as the desired temperature. Lamb roasts at a rate of 20 minutes per pound at a cooking temperature of 325 F.

Use a thermometer to accurately measure the internal temperature of lamb. Remove the lamb when it is roughly five degrees below the desired temperature, as the meat will continue to cook even after it is removed from the oven, skillet or grill. After cooking, let the lamb rest for around 10 minutes for thinner cuts and 20 minutes for roasts or leg of lamb to allow the juices to redistribute.

Certain flavors pair especially well with lamb, including citrus, mint, garlic, oregano, and curry. Lamb can be served beside potatoes, couscous, polenta, vegetables, and even pasta.

Easter symbolism complements the holiday

Tradition plays an important role in Easter celebrations for many families. Cherished traditions and symbols of Easter may include anything from egg hunts to lilies to lambs. Understanding the importance behind these symbols can make sharing the miracle of Easter that much more special.

Eggs

Eggs are one of the more recognizable symbols of Easter. For Easter egg hunts, eggs are hard-boiled and decorated in bright hues. It's believed that the origins of Easter eggs are both secular and religious. From the secular (once pagan) perspective, the egg is an ancient symbol of new life, according to The History Channel, and has been associated with pagan festivals that celebrate spring. Some Christians feel that Easter eggs represent Christ's emergence from the tomb and his subsequent resurrection. Eggs were once a food not consumed during Lent, therefore painting and decorating them to mark the end of fasting and penance became a way to celebrate Easter.

Crucifix

The crucifix is one of the central symbols of Easter and Christianity. The cross is a symbol of Christ's crucifixion and sacrifice. The crucifix also highlights the ability of God to give new life to people after death.

In addition to wearing and displaying the cross during Easter, some people bake "hot cross buns" as another symbol of the season.

Rabbit

The Easter bunny is very much a secular symbol of the holiday, but one



that has become so ingrained with the season that many people ascribe to it a Christian meaning. Pagan celebrations of spring often linked rabbits or hares with the season because of their fertility and ability to bring forth new life. According to the Christian living resource Crosswalk, believers associate the rabbit coming out of its underground home as a symbol of Christ emerging from the tomb.

Lilies

Lilies are often exchanged during Easter celebrations or presented as hostess gifts for those sharing the holiday meal with others. The American Bible Society says lilies grow in the spring around the time when Easter is typically celebrated. Also, because they

look like trumpets, they can be a symbol that heralds Christ's resurrection.

Lamb

The lamb is another symbol associated with Easter. Lambs were originally associated with the Jewish holiday of Passover, when lambs were sacrificed and their blood was used to mark which houses contained those faithful to God. As a result of his crucifixion, Christ became the symbolic lamb for all — the ultimate sacrifice. In fact, Christ is often referred to as "The Lamb of God."

Easter is replete with many recognized symbols. Unearthing their meanings can be a learning experience and a way to further immerse oneself in this holy holiday.

Create and hide unbreakable Easter eggs

Easter is one of the most important days of the year for Christians. Easter Sunday is filled with symbolism and tradition, some of which harken back to early Christianity, while others trace their origins to paganism.

The Easter Bunny and Easter eggs are two Easter traditions with less extensive histories. The Easter Bunny, according to sources including History.com, first arrived in America in the 1700s via German settlers who brought with them their tradition of an egg-laying hare called "Osterhase." Children would make nests where the rabbit could lay its colored eggs. Eventually, the custom spread from Pennsylvania, where many German immigrants settled, to other areas around the country.

Eggs are symbolic of new life and rebirth in many cultures. To Christians, eggs represent the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Another theory suggests that Christians were once forbidden to eat during the Lenten season preceding Easter. Therefore, Christians would paint and decorate eggs for Easter to mark the joyous celebration and cessation of penance and fasting.

Even though these traditions have endured, Easter eggs themselves might not be so strong. This year, Easter celebrants may want to experiment with different materials that are more forgiving and more enduring than standard eggs.

Wooden eggs

Families may find that wooden eggs are much more forgiving than standard eggs. Wooden eggs don't have to be boiled, and they don't need time to harden, and they're quite maneuverable for young fingers.

Decorators can explore different ways to color wooden eggs. Acrylic paints are readily available and safe for users of any age. Wood stains or wood markers also can



be used to give the eggs a natural finish. Others may want to rip small pieces of decorative paper to create a decoupage effect on their wooden eggs.

Sew soft eggs

Those who are handy with a needle and thread can explore patterns for making soft, stuffed eggs. Cozy fleece or other fabrics can be sewn together to make the general egg shape. Then the egg is filled with polyester filling, feathers or another soft material. Ribbons, buttons, trims, and other decorative touches can personalize the eggs and add a touch of whimsy. Check out www.sew4home.com for their ideas on handmade Easter eggs.

Modeling clay

Children who love to get their hands dirty may enjoy making Easter eggs out of modeling materials. Colors can be blended together to create a marbled effect. Depending on the clay medium, the eggs may air-harden or may need to be heated at a low temperature in the oven to fully cure.

Easter eggs are a fun tradition that adds to the festivity of spring. While traditional eggs can be used, many different, more long-lasting materials can be used as well.

Avoid chicks and ducklings this Easter

Baby chickens and ducks make for adorable Easter scenery, as their soft feathers and diminutive size make them a natural draw for inquisitive and loving children just looking for a new pet. But those little winged cuties will grow up into adult animals, which often make them impractical Easter treats for the average family.

When purchasing chicks or ducklings, many people may not realize just how quickly these animals grow. Pekin ducklings, one of the more popular species of duck available, can reach adult size between four and five weeks of age. Chicks can transform from that small puffball of yellow or white feathers into an adult-sized bird in mere months. Some chicken breeds weigh four pounds between seven and nine weeks of age.

Many families find that once chicks and ducklings outgrow their initial nesting box they become impractical. They need suitable shelter as well as a space to enjoy the outdoors. Animals are often abandoned if their needs become too much to handle.

The animal resource Vet Street also advises that ducks and chicks tend to be messy pets. They shed feathers constantly and can deposit waste all over. Ducks and chicks may also like to kick up bedding when nesting. The birds also may pass diseases to people through their fecal matter, which is why humans must wash their hands after contact.

Many people also think that chicks and ducks are perfect for little kids. But the animals can become stressed by rough handling and peck or scratch to avoid perceived danger.

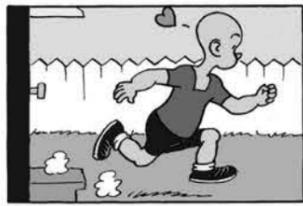
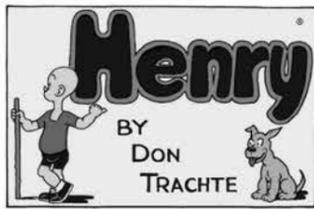
Instead of live ducks and chicks this Easter, well-meaning parents or grandparents are better sticking with the chocolate varieties.

BRAIN FOOD

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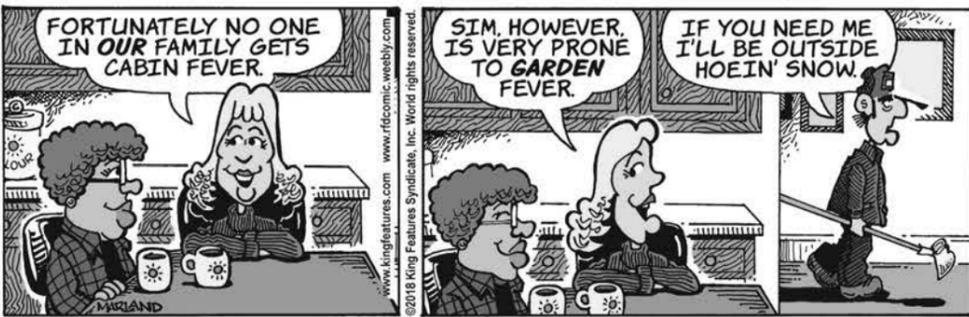
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



R.F.D.

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Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

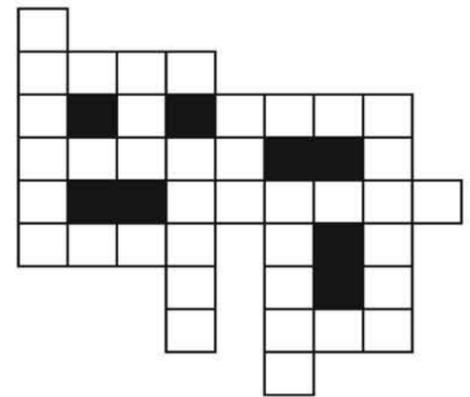
Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------|
| 1. \$1,000 | __ R __ _ _ | Pituary, e.g. | __ L __ _ _ |
| 2. Pantry | __ _ _ D __ _ | Greater in size | __ _ _ G __ _ |
| 3. Get to the bottom of | __ O __ _ _ | Lotion | __ A __ _ _ |
| 4. Elizabeth's chair | __ _ _ _ E | Crowd | __ _ _ _ G |
| 5. Equidistant | M _ _ _ _ _ | Conundrum | R _ _ _ _ _ |
| 6. "Nevermore" orator | __ _ _ _ N | Bolero composer | __ _ _ _ L |
| 7. Frightened | __ C __ _ _ | Gawked | __ T __ _ _ |
| 8. Apprehensive | __ N __ _ _ | Brief and to the point | __ R __ _ _ |
| 9. Affix | __ _ _ _ H | Ambush | __ _ _ _ K |
| 10. Pencil tip | __ O __ _ _ | Use an art brush | __ A __ _ _ |

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- EGE
- ♥ NEWRIT
- BUTOR
- GLOO
- ♥ ARTSLA
- ♥ ONW
- ♥ AGTO
- ♥ NOGRW
- ♥ UBR
- ♥ AIRNET
- ♥ GREAN
- ♥ NWSE



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

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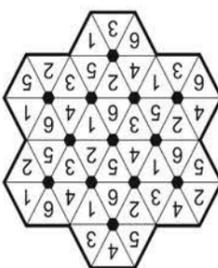
L V R O L I F C Z W T Q H N K
 I H F C Z W U R P T M O J H E
 C Z O X U A S Q N N C L J G E
 C G O O S E N E C K Z X V T R
 P N S L K J C A E H E C A Y W
 E H C R A S V Y N T R P N L K
 I H G E E C S B Z A P X W U S
 R P T R B T O M L J B R I G E
 D B C Y I A T U S K S W A L C
 Y X W C C B R E K C O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

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

- | | | | |
|--------|-----------|--------------|--------|
| Banana | Crescent | Hockey stick | Rocker |
| Beaks | Cutlass | Hook | Scythe |
| Bow | Gooseneck | Letter "s" | Tusks |
| Claws | Harp | Ribs | |

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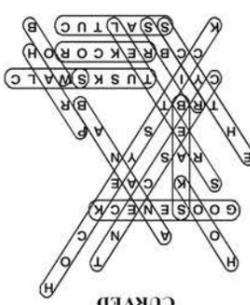
Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



solution
SNOWFLAKES

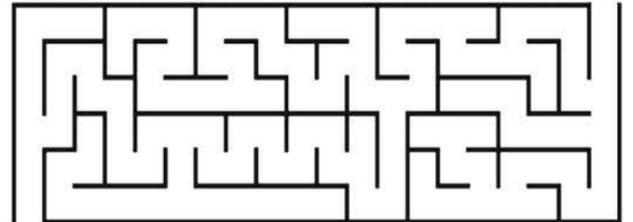


answer
FEAR KNOT



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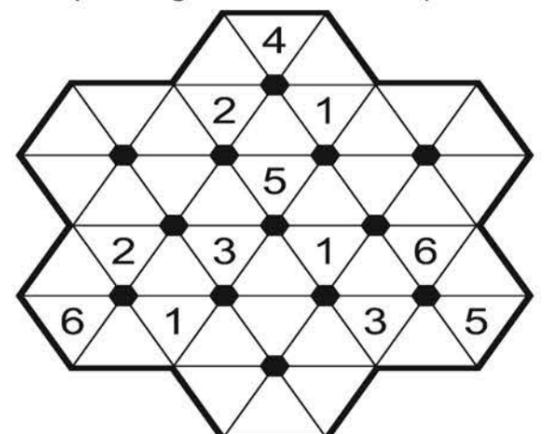
Kids' Maze



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SNOWFLAKES by Japheth Light

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



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

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- Even Exchange answers
- 1. Grand Gland
 - 2. Larder, Larder
 - 3. Scared, Stared
 - 4. Throne, Throne
 - 5. Attach, Attack
 - 6. Point, Paint
 - 7. Middle, Riddle
 - 8. Solve, Salve
 - 9. Tense, Tense
 - 10. Raven, Ravel



Kids' Maze Solution

REAL ESTATE

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Buy vs. Rent Index shows sings of a peak in U.S. market

The Beracha, Hardin and Johnson Buy vs. Rent Index was recently released indicating that most U.S. markets are nearing their peak in the real estate cycle.

Housing indices within the index have noted a steady pace of rising prices since 2012 across the country that have recently begun to slow. But the index, produced by Florida Atlantic University and Florida International University faculty, did not forecast a drastic drop in prices, as we saw in 2007.

"Housing markets are slowing, suggesting that we are nearing a peak in housing markets around the U.S.," said real estate economist and index co-creator Ken Johnson. "But this is good news, as we are pulling back from the brink, unlike we did in 2007."

Added Eli Beracha, Ph.D., an Associate Professor at the Hollo School of Real Estate and another index co-creator, "Our data indicates that prices are above their 40-year trend but not significantly so, as they were in 2007. Rather than a crash, I anticipate slower growth in prices accompanied by longer marketing times for sellers and increasing inventories, which should bring prices back in conjunction with their 40-year trend."

There were 23 metro areas covered in the BH&J Index, with 13 falling moderately within buy territory, and 10 moderately within rent territory. In Miami, the most local metro area, the index points to renting as the more affordable option.

This index, based on fourth quarter data from 2017, follows the S&P CoreLogic Case-Shiller Home Price Index which earlier found a 6.3% increase in home prices. The BH&J Index is differentiated by inclusion of additional data sources like rent prices, mortgage rates, alternative investment streams, and other variables to explain changes in market conditions.

Protect your home from termites this spring

(BPT) - Spring is officially here, bringing flowers, greenery and increased pest activity. Because termite evidence is more noticeable in warmer months, it is important to check for any warning signs every spring. Fortunately, there are a few things you can do to reduce the likelihood of a termite infestation in the first place.

Keep shrubs trimmed

Well-maintained shrubbery looks nice, but it also serves an important purpose: Trimming shrubs reduces the likelihood termites and pests will enter your home. Stray branches that touch a house's exterior provide pests with direct access to potential entry points. By properly maintaining landscaping, you can make access more difficult for these unwelcome houseguests.

Modify your landscape

It's important to make smart decisions when adding landscaping, because termites are more attracted to some materials than others. Instead of traditional mulch, opt for synthetic mulch or pea gravel. These alternatives are less attractive to termites than wood-based mulch.

Maintain home exteriors

Termites need water to survive. Controlling excess moisture can help reduce the risk of an infestation. Regularly maintaining home exteriors, such as wooden siding and windows, can help you detect and repair leaks early.

Monitor interior moisture

Many homeowners forget to think about moisture inside their homes, particularly in basements and crawlspaces. Properly ventilating these areas helps minimize



the amount of moisture around floor joists and subflooring. Reducing moisture in interior spaces can help reduce the likelihood that termites will take up residence in your home.

If you suspect you may have a termite problem, the best solution is to call a pest professional such as Terminix. Termite

warning signs include blisters in wood flooring, hollowed or damaged wood, and evidence of swarms such as discarded wings, mud tubes and droppings that resemble sawdust or coffee grounds. Early detection can prevent a small termite problem from becoming a widespread infestation.

Existing-home sales rebound 3 percent in February

Despite consistently low inventory levels and faster price growth, existing-home sales bounced back in February after two straight months of declines, according to the National Association of Realtors. Sizeable sales increases in the South and West offset declines in the Northeast and Midwest.

Total existing-home sales, <https://www.nar.realtor/existing-home-sales>, which are completed transactions that include single-family homes, townhomes, condominiums and co-ops, grew 3.0 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.54 million in February from 5.38 million in January. After last month's increase, sales are now 1.1 percent above a year ago.

Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist, said sales were uneven across the country in February but did increase nicely overall.

"A big jump in existing sales in the South and West last month helped the housing market recover from a two-month sales slump," he said. "The very healthy U.S. economy and labor market are creating a sizeable interest in buying a home in early 2018. However, even as seasonal inventory gains helped boost sales last month, home prices - especially in the West - shot up considerably. Affordability continues to be a pressing issue because new and existing housing supply is still severely subpar."

Added Yun, "The unseasonably cold weather to start the year muted pending sales in the Northeast and Midwest in January and ultimately led to their sales retreat last month. Looking ahead, several markets in the Northeast will likely see even more temporary disruptions from the large winter storms that have occurred in March."

The median existing-home price for all housing types in February was \$241,700, up 5.9 percent from February 2017 (\$228,200). February's price increase marks the 72nd straight month of year-over-year gains.



Total housing inventory at the end of February rose 4.6 percent to 1.59 million existing homes available for sale, but is still 8.1 percent lower than a year ago (1.73 million) and has fallen year-over-year for 33 consecutive months. Unsold inventory is at a 3.4-month supply at the current sales pace (3.8 months a year ago).

According to Freddie Mac, a 30-year, conventional, fixed-rate mortgage moved higher for the fifth straight month to 4.33 percent in February (highest since 4.34 percent in April 2014) from 4.03 percent in January. The average commitment rate for all of 2017 was 3.99 percent.

Properties typically stayed on the market for 37 days in February, which is down from 41 days in January and 45 days a year ago. Forty-six percent of homes sold in February were on the market for less than a month.

"Mortgage rates are at their highest level in nearly four years, at a time when home prices are still climbing at double the pace of wage growth," said Yun. "Homes for sale are going under contract a week faster than a year ago, which is quite remarkable given weakening affordability conditions and extremely tight supply. To fully satisfy demand, most markets right now need a substantial increase in new listings."

Realtor.com's Market Hotness Index, measuring time-on-the-market data and listings views per property, revealed that the hottest metro areas in February were San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, Calif.; Midland, Texas; Vallejo-Fairfield, Calif.; San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, Calif.; and Sacramento-Roseville-Arden-Arcade, Calif.

First-time buyers were 29 percent of sales in February, which is unchanged from last month and down from 31 percent a year ago. NAR's 2017 Profile of Home Buyers and Sellers - released in late 2017 - revealed that the annual share of first-time buyers was 34 percent.

NAR President Elizabeth Mendenhall, a sixth-generation Realtor from Columbia, Missouri and CEO of RE/MAX Boone Realty, said first-time buyers are seeing stiff competition for the available listings in their price range. "Realtors in several markets note that entry-level homes for first-timers are hard to come by, which

is contributing to their underperforming share of overall sales to start the year," she said. "Prospective buyers should start conversations with a Realtor now on what they want in a new home. Even with the expected uptick in new listings in coming months, buyers in most markets will likely have to act fast on any available listing that checks all their boxes."

All-cash sales were 24 percent of transactions in February, which is up from 22 percent in January and the highest since last February (27 percent). Individual investors, who account for many cash sales, purchased 15 percent of homes in February, which is down from 17 percent in January and unchanged from a year ago.

Distressed sales - foreclosures and short sales - were 4 percent of sales in February, down from 5 percent in January and 7 percent a year ago. Three percent of February sales were foreclosures and 1 percent were short sales.



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AUDI

A-5 COUPE

Slick, Swift and Svelte for Refined Tastes



By Lyndon Conrad Bell
Motor Matters

The all-new 2018 Audi A5 Coupe presents a degree of finesse and sophistication few other models in its category can match. The fluidity of its exterior styling, the gracious accommodations of its interior features and the quietly competent way it moves, mark the A5 as a singularly desirable coupe.

Already one of the most handsome cars on the road, the Audi A5's styling rejuvenation makes what was merely lovely before, downright beautiful now. While the overall shape remains familiar, the elongation of its lines renders it more graceful and sportier.

Backing up the promise of the exterior styling, Audi's engineering team fit a 252-horsepower version of the VW Group's 2.0-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engine as the A5's base powerplant. A seven-speed dual-clutch automated manual transmission feeds engine output to all four wheels.

This is a full 32 horsepower more than the previous version of Audi's luxury sports coupe got from its standard engine. More significantly, this 2.0-liter four spins out 273 lb.-ft. of torque at a low 1,600 rpm. This gives the A5 a 0-to-60 mph of just over 5 seconds.

Driving the old and new A5s back-to-back, I felt the difference immediately. Long story short, the A5 now flows as well as it shows.

This is a grownup's performance car. If you're looking for a thundering exhaust note and lumbering ride quality, then you might want to turn your attention toward something else. The A5 Coupe is a slick, swift and svelte ride, specifically designed to appeal to individuals with refined tastes.

The Audi's interior treatment underscores this assertion. The moment I settled into the nicely proportioned and decidedly supportive front seat, the A5 offered up my seatbelt. Rather than requiring the driver or front seat passenger to look over their shoulders to locate the seatbelt on the "B" pillar, the A5 presents the buckle.

Further exhibiting the panache typical of Audi, the rest of the interior is outfitted in high style. Every creature comfort the buyer could reasonably expect is submitted in a chic arrangement, one readily telegraphing the value of the car. Clever solutions, along with outstanding materials and workmanship abound.

As an example, the TFT (thin film transfer) virtual instrument panel can be set to show a continually updating satellite view of the Audi's physical position. Additionally, Audi's MMI (multi media interface) remains one of the best telematics systems in the automotive world. That said however, I do miss the days when its monitor could be hidden away when not in use.

Still, outward visibility is excellent, which is a refreshing circumstance for a coupe. All sightlines are clean, even the rear three-quarter perspective. The adaptability of the driving position further marks the A5 coupe as having been designed with the pilot in mind. The generously proportioned steering wheel adjusts for height and reach, while the front seats offer more positions and flexibility than a yoga instructor.

The 2018 Audi A5 Coupe's dynamic capabilities are fully commensurate with every other aspect of the car. The driver can specify high performance operation or graceful cruising with the A5's multiple driving modes. The sleek coupe tightens up when opting for the sport configuration to reveal determined handling, resolute acceleration and acutely responsive steering.

I thoroughly enjoyed attacking twisting two-lanes in this setting. Conversely, I appreciated the quietly unobtrusive demeanor of the A5 in normal mode during morning and evening commutes.

If a luxury sports coupe fits your lifestyle, then you'll want to give the 2018 Audi A5 an opportunity to sway you. Odds are, its optimal blend of performance, comfort, style and sophistication will do so. Pricing starts at \$42,600.



SPECIFICATIONS 2018 AUDI A5

VEHICLE TYPE
2+2-passenger AWD midsize coupe

BASE PRICE
\$42,600 (as tested: \$43,575)

ENGINE TYPE
16-valve TFSI turbocharged 4-cylinder

DISPLACEMENT 2.0-liter

HORSEPOWER (net)
252 at 6000 rpm

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

TRANSMISSION
7-speed S tronic

OVERALL LENGTH 184.0 in.

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

CURB WEIGHT 3,605 lbs.

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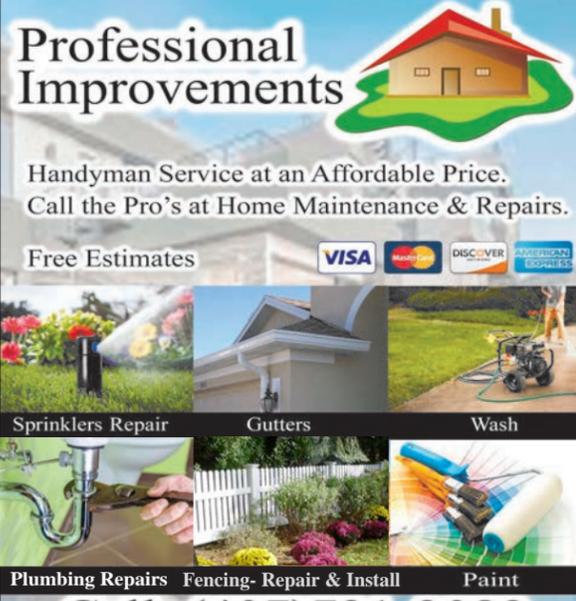
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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 9th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.
General Jurisdiction Division
Case #: 2014-CA-002683 MF
DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS INDENTURE TRUSTEE UNDER THE INDENTURE RELATING TO IMH ASSETS CORP.,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

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order Granting Plaintiff's Motion to Reschedule the Foreclosure Sale Date entered in Civil Case No. 2014-CA-002683 MF of the Circuit Court of the 9th Judicial Circuit in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS INDENTURE TRUSTEE UNDER THE INDENTURE RELATING TO IMH ASSETS CORP., COLLATERALIZED ASSET-BACKED BONDS, SERIES 2004-5, is the Plaintiff, and DAVID N. BARRON and CHARLENE G. BARRON, et al, are Defendants. The Clerk, ARMANDO RAMIREZ, shall sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at Osceola County Courthouse, 2 Courthouse Square, Suite 2600 / Room # 2602, Kissimmee, Florida 34741, at 11:00 A.M., on MAY 1, 2018, in accordance with Chapter 45, Florida Statutes, the following described property located in OSCEOLA County, Florida, as set forth in said Final Judgment of Mortgage Foreclosure, to-wit:
THE WEST 100 FEET OF THE NORTH 150.0 FEET OF THE SOUTH 183.0 FEET OF LOT 44, THE SEMINOLE LAND AND INVESTMENT COMPANY S (INC) SUBDIVISION OF SECTION 21, TOWNSHIP 26 SOUTH, RANGE 31 EAST ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK B, PAGE 50, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA LESS ROAD RIGHT OF WAY.

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Dated: March 16, 2018.
/s/ Anthony Loney
Anthony Loney, Esq.
FRENKEL LAMBERT WEISS WEISMAN & GORDON, LLP
Attorney for Plaintiff
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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL DIVISION
Case #: 2016-CA-001390 MF
DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR SOUNDVIEW HOME LOAN TRUST 2006-2, ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-2, Plaintiff,
vs.
WARREN E. TISCHER, et al, Defendants.

RE-NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
RE-NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order Granting Plaintiff's Motion to Reschedule Foreclosure Sale filed February 22, 2018, and entered in Case No. 2016-CA-001390 MF of the Circuit Court of the NINTH Judicial Circuit in and for OSCEOLA COUNTY, Florida, wherein DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR SOUNDVIEW HOME LOAN TRUST 2006-2, ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-2, is Plaintiff, and WARREN E. TISCHER, et al, are Defendants, the clerk, Armando R. Ramirez, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, beginning at 11:00 A.M., Osceola County Courthouse 2 Courthouse Square, Suite 2600/ Room Number 2602, Kissimmee, FL 34741, in accordance with Chapter 45, Florida Statutes, on the 24th day of APRIL, 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Lis Pendens, to-wit:
LOT 14, MORELAND ESTATES, PHASE ONE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 6, PAGE 139, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus funds from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the Lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.
If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation 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 seven (7) days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.
Dated: March 27, 2018.
Phelan Hallinan Diamond & Jones, PLLC
Attorneys for Plaintiff
2727 West Cypress Creek Road, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309
Tel: 954-462-7000
Fax: 954-462-7001
Service by email: FL.Service@PhelanHallinan.com
By: /s/ Heather Griffiths
Heather Griffiths, Esq.
Florida Bar No. 0091444
Phelan Hallinan Diamond & Jones, PLLC
Emilio R. Lenzi, Esq.,
Florida Bar No. 0668273
PH # 75359
March 31, 2018
April 7, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
General Jurisdiction Division
Case #: 2016-CA-002915 MF
PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC,
Plaintiff,
vs.
LINETTE R. CARROLL, ET. AL.,
Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE
NOTICE IS GIVEN that, in accordance with the Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated February 28, 2018, in the above-styled cause, the Clerk of Court, Armando Ramirez, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at Suite 2600/ Room # 2602, of the Osceola Courthouse, 2 courthouse Square, Kissimmee, FL 34741, on APRIL 17, 2018 at 11:00 a.m., the following described property:
LOT NO. 376, OF SOUTHERN PINES, UNIT 3A, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 20 PAGE 31 THROUGH 36, INCLUSIVE OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.
Property Address:
4950 WINDBOURNE WAY, SAINT CLOUD, FL 34772
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 a court proceeding or event, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
RK TOWING, INC. gives Notice of Foreclosure of Lien and intent to sell these vehicles on April 15, 2018 at 8:00 a.m., 907 A Garden Street, Kissimmee, FL 34744, pursuant to subsection 713.78 of the Florida Statutes.
RK TOWING, INC. reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids.
1) 2007 LEXUS
VIN: JTHBK262272031433
March 31, 2018

Please contact: ADA Coordinator, Court Administration, Osceola County Courthouse, 2 Courthouse Square, Suite 6300, Kissimmee, FL 34741, (407) 742-2417, Fax #: 407-835-5079 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving notification if the time before the scheduled court appearance is less than 7 days. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711 to reach the Telecommunications Relay Service.
WITNESS my hand on March 26, 2018.
By: /s/ Matthew M. Slowik
Matthew M. Slowik, Esq.
FBN #: 925553

Attorneys for Plaintiff
Marinosi Law Group, P.C.
100 West Cypress Creek Road, Suite 1045
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309
Phone: (954)-644-8704;
Fax (954) 772-9601
ServiceFL@mig-defaulaw.com
ServiceFL2@mig-defaulaw.com
File #: 16-13728-FC
March 31, 2018
April 7, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, STATE OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY PROBATE DIVISION
File #: 2018-CP-000129 PR
DIVISION: —
IN RE: CHARLENE ADELE PHILLIPS, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of CHARLENE ADELE PHILLIPS, deceased, whose date of death was January 21, 2018, is pending in the Circuit Court for Osceola County, Florida, Probate Division; File No. 2018-CP-000129-PR; the address of which is: 2 Courthouse Square, #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 unmaturred, contingent or liquidated claims, and who have been served a copy of this notice, must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY (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 unmaturred, contingent or liquidated claims, 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 31, 2018.
Personal Representative:
CHRISTINE WESLEY
5303 W. Cleveland St.
Tampa, Florida 33609

Attorney for Personal Representative:
/s/ C.D. Lewis Jr.
C.D. LEWIS Jr.
Attorney for
Barbara Joyce Taylor
Florida Bar No. 435848.
LEWIS and MASSEY, P.A.
Attorneys-at-Law
1021 Massachusetts Avenue
P.O. Box 701654, St. Cloud, Florida 34770-1654
Telephone: (407) 892-5138
Fax #: (407) 892-1534
E-Mail:
cdlewis@lewismasseylaw.com
March 31, 2018
April 7, 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: **HAIR IT IS, LLC** located at: 61 13th Street, in the County of Osceola, in the City of Saint Cloud, Florida 34769, 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:

MYRA HERNANDEZ DATED at Saint Cloud, Osceola County, Florida, on this 23rd day of March, 2018
March 31, 2018

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
RK TOWING, INC. gives Notice of Foreclosure of Lien and intent to sell these vehicles on April 12, 2018 at 8:00 a.m., 907 A Garden Street, Kissimmee, FL 34744, pursuant to subsection 713.78 of the Florida Statutes.
RK TOWING, INC. reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids.
1) 2008 HYUNDAI
VIN: 5NPE146C08H320665
March 31, 2018

Attorney for Personal Representative:
D. Michael Lins, Esquire
Florida Bar No. 435899
LINS LAW GROUP, P.A.
14497 N. Dale Mabry Highway, Suite 160-N,
Tampa, FL 33618
Ph. (813) 386-5768
Fax (813) 968-9426
Primary E-mail:
mike@linslawgroup.com
Secondary E-Mail:
kris@linslawgroup.com
March 31, 2018
April 7, 2018

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
RK TOWING, INC. gives Notice of Foreclosure of Lien and intent to sell these vehicles on April 12, 2018 at 8:00 a.m., 907 A Garden Street, Kissimmee, FL 34744, pursuant to subsection 713.78 of the Florida Statutes.
RK TOWING, INC. reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids.
1) 2008 FORD
VIN: 2G1W157K191289972
APRIL 13, 2018
1) 2007 VOLKSWAGEN
VIN: 3VW9E931C67M509268
APRIL 16, 2018
1) 2017 TACU
VIN: L9NTEACB5H1010516
March 31, 2018

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
Notice is hereby given that the following vehicles will be sold at public auction pursuant to F.S. 713.78 on the sale dates at the locations below at 9:00 a.m. to satisfy towing and storage charges.
1) 2002 FORD
2FMZA51412BA86466
2) 2005 CHRYSLER
2C4GP64X5R508555
Sale Date: 04/16/2018
Location: Center State Automotive Inc., 1120 H Greens-keep Drive, Unit H, Kissimmee, FL 34741
Lienors reserve the right to bid.
March 31, 2018

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
Notice is hereby given that the following vehicles will be sold at public auction pursuant to F.S. 713.78 on the sale dates at the locations below at 9:00 a.m. to satisfy towing and storage charges.
1) 2002 FORD
2FMZA51412BA86466
2) 2005 CHRYSLER
2C4GP64X5R508555
Sale Date: 04/16/2018
Location: Center State Automotive Inc., 1120 H Greens-keep Drive, Unit H, Kissimmee, FL 34741
Lienors reserve the right to bid.
March 31, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.
PROBATE DIVISION
File No. 2018-CP-000141 PR
DIVISION: Probate.
IN RE: ESTATE OF ANITA GEORGIE CROSSMAN, A/K/A/ ANITA G. CROSSMAN, Deceased.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the Estate of ANITA GEORGIE CROSSMAN, a/k/a ANITA G. CROSSMAN, deceased, whose date of death was December 1, 2017, is pending in the Circuit Court for Osceola County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is: 2 Courthouse Square, Kissimmee, Florida 34741. The names and addresses of the Personal Representative and the Personal Representative's attorney are set forth below.
All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.
All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, including unmaturred, contingent or liquidated claims, and who have been served a copy of this notice, 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 WITHIN THE TIME PERIOD 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 31, 2018.
Personal Representative:
/s/ Barbara Joyce Taylor
Barbara Joyce Taylor
3259 Villa Way Circle
St. Cloud, Florida 34769

Attorney for Personal Representative:
/s/ C.D. Lewis Jr.
C.D. LEWIS Jr.
Attorney for
Barbara Joyce Taylor
Florida Bar No. 435848.
LEWIS and MASSEY, P.A.
Attorneys-at-Law
1021 Massachusetts Avenue
P.O. Box 701654, St. Cloud, Florida 34770-1654
Telephone: (407) 892-5138
Fax #: (407) 892-1534
E-Mail:
cdlewis@lewismasseylaw.com
March 31, 2018
April 7, 2018

NOTICE OF SALE
JOE S AUTO SERVICE CENTER INC., 1123 13TH STREET, ST CLOUD, FL 34769
Towed-03/10/2018
Year-2015
Make-BMW
VIN: WB8A3A5G55FN82170
Date of Sale-04/16/2018
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location of Sale: Joe's Auto Service Center Inc., 1123 13th Street, St. Cloud, FL 34769
March 31, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.
Case No.: 2018-CA-555 FO
IN RE FORFEITURE: 2006 International Tow Truck, Black in Color, bearing VIN #: 1HTMMAAM06H21706
NOTICE OF FORFEITURE PROCEEDINGS
TO ALL PERSONS WHO CLAIM AN INTEREST IN THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY:
2006 International Tow Truck, Black in Color, bearing VIN #: 1HTMMAAM06H21706
Russell Gibson, as Sheriff of Osceola County, Florida, seized the above described property on or about January 18, 2018, in or about Kissimmee, Osceola County, Florida. A Verified Complaint for Order of Probable Cause Finding and Final Order of Forfeiture pursuant to the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act, Sections 932.701-7062, Florida Statutes (2017), has been filed in the Circuit Court, in and for Osceola County, Florida. If no claimant appears and no claim is filed, a request will be made for an immediate hearing and Final Order of Forfeiture.
/s/ Kirk S. Warren
Kirk S. Warren, Esquire
Post Office Box 151
Lakeland, FL 33802-0151
(863) 688-3400
FL Bar No. 439177
kswatty1@verizon.net
Attorney for Petitioner,
Russell Gibson, As Sheriff of Osceola County, Florida.
March 31, 2018
April 7, 2018

NOTICE OF ACTION
TO: FELIX MEJIA
8 Dorset Drive
Kissimmee, FL 34758
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action has been commenced against you to Foreclose a Claim of Lien for unpaid Assessments owed to the Plaintiff on the following real property, lying and being situated in Osceola County, Florida, more particularly described as follows:
LOT 4, IN BLOCK 534, OF POINCIANA NEIGHBORHOOD 1, VILLAGE 2, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, AT PAGE(S) 69 THROUGH 87, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.
This property is located at the street address of: 8 Dorset Drive, Kissimmee, FL 34758
This action has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defense, if any, upon Garifneel Whynot, Attorneys' for Plaintiff, whose address is: 300 North Maitland Avenue, Maitland, FL 32751, within 30 days after the first publication of this notice and file the original with the Clerk of the 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.
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 impaired, call 1-(800) 955-8770, if you are voice impaired, call 1-(800) 955-8771.
WITNESS my hand and Seal of said Court this 22nd day of March 2018.
(CIRCUIT COURT SEAL)
ARMANDO RAMIREZ
Clerk of the Court
By: /s/ SM
As Deputy Clerk
20150-288
March 31, 2018
April 7, 2018

NOTIFICACIÓN DE ADOPCIÓN
RESOLUCIÓN NO. 01-2018
PROVEER MÉTODO Y PERÍODO DE CALIFICACIÓN DE CANDIDATOS

POR CUANTO, bajo la cédula y ordenanza de la ciudad de Kissimmee, habrá una elección municipal general en la ciudad de Kissimmee el 28 de agosto del 2018 y

POR CUANTO, será necesario que se elija en dicha elección municipal general por los electores cualificados de la ciudad de Kissimmee para ocupar la silla No. 2 de la Comisión de la ciudad y la silla No. 4 de la Comisión de la ciudad; y

CONSECUENTEMENTE, SEA RESUELTO, que cada candidato a la oficina de la comisión de la ciudad debe calificar por separado para la oficina particular para la que él es un candidato, según lo ahora estipulado por la sección 7 del Artículo II de la cédula de Kissimmee. Los candidatos deben ser calificados para votar en dicha elección, y deben ser residentes de la ciudad por un (1) año antes de inscribirse para la oficina particular, y estar inscrito con la oficina de supervisor de elecciones entre las 12:00 p.m. de 18 de junio del 2018 y 12:00 p.m. del 22 de junio del 2018. Los nombres de todos los candidatos a dichas oficinas serán publicados en la boleta oficial, si han calificado y han pagado la cuenta de la elección requerida en el \$ 99.093 de F.S. En caso que sea necesario, habrá una votación de desempate en la ciudad de Kissimmee el 6 de noviembre del 2018.

SE DETERMINA, que esta resolución será efectiva inmediatamente tras su paso por la Comisión de la ciudad, Ciudad de Kissimmee, Florida.

Debidamente adoptado este día, el 16 de enero del 2018.
CIUDAD DE KISSIMMEE
/s/ José Alvarez
ALCALDE-COMISIONADO
/s/ Linda S. Hansell
REGISTRADOR DE LA CIUDAD
March 31, 2018

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
Case #: 2017-CC-002920 CL
POINCIANA PORTFOLIO SERVICES, LLC, AS ASSIGNEE OF ASSOCIATION OF POINCIANA VILLAGES, INC., a Florida not-for-profit corporation,
Plaintiff,
vs.
FELIX MEJIA, et al,
Defendants.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD
This is to inform you that the Planning Advisory Board of the City of Kissimmee will make a recommendation to the City Commission concerning a request to amend the Planned Unit Development for the project known as **Fortune Road Commons** for approval to change the use to multi-family and Institutional.
The subject property is located at
Parcel ID: 13-25-29-000U-0050-0000
The Planning Advisory Board will hold a meeting to consider their recommendation on said request on **Wednesday, April 18, 2018**, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers of City Hall, 101 Church Street, Kissimmee, Florida.
All interested parties may appear and be heard on the above dates. Written opinion will be received until 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 18, 2018. Any questions may be directed to the Development Services Department at (407) 518-2140.
Reference # DRC # 17-00083 PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD **Fortune Road Commons** PUD KISSIMMEE, FLORIDA
In accordance with Florida Statute 286.26, persons needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the Office of the City Clerk (407) 518-2308 prior to the meeting. (FS286.26)
In accordance with Florida Statute 286.0105: any person wishing to appeal any decision made by the City Commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purposes may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is made.
March 31, 2018

NOTICE OF SALE
Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered on April 19, 2016, and the Order Rescheduling Foreclosure Sale, in this cause, in the Circuit Court of Osceola County, Florida, the Office of Armando Ramirez, Clerk of the Circuit Court, shall sell the property situated in Osceola County, Florida, described as:
LOT 18, BLOCK 55, BUENA VENTURA LAKES, UNIT 3, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED AND FILED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGE 124 THROUGH 133, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.
a/k/a 127 LEON CT, KISSIMMEE, FL 34743-7014
at public sale, to the highest and best bidder, for cash, at the Osceola County Courthouse, located at 2 Courthouse Square, Suite 2600, Room 2602, Kissimmee, FL 34741, on MAY 01, 2018, beginning at 11:00 A.M.
If you are a person claiming a right to funds remaining after the sale, you must file a claim with the clerk no later than 60 days after the sale. If you fail to file a claim you will not be entitled to any remaining funds.
IF YOU ARE A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY WHO NEEDS ACCOMMODATION IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROCEEDING, YOU ARE ENTITLED, AT NO COST TO YOU, FOR 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 DATED AT St. Petersburg, Florida, this 27th day of March 2018.
eXL Legal, PLLC
Designated Email Address: efilng@exlegal.com
12425 28th Street North, Suite 200
St. Petersburg, FL 33716
Telephone No. (727) 536-4911
Attorney for the Plaintiff
By: /s/ Douglas M. Bales
DOUGLAS M. BALES
FBN #: 0767270
888141537
March 31, 2018
April 7, 2018

NOTIFICACIÓN DE ADOPCIÓN
RESOLUCIÓN NO. 01-2018
PROVEER MÉTODO Y PERÍODO DE CALIFICACIÓN DE CANDIDATOS

POR CUANTO, bajo la cédula y ordenanza de la ciudad de Kissimmee, habrá una elección municipal general en la ciudad de Kissimmee el 28 de agosto del 2018 y

POR CUANTO, será necesario que se elija en dicha elección municipal general por los electores cualificados de la ciudad de Kissimmee para ocupar la silla No. 2 de la Comisión de la ciudad y la silla No. 4 de la Comisión de la ciudad; y

CONSECUENTEMENTE, SEA RESUELTO, que cada candidato a la oficina de la comisión de la ciudad debe calificar por separado para la oficina particular para la que él es un candidato, según lo ahora estipulado por la sección 7 del Artículo II de la cédula de Kissimmee. Los candidatos deben ser calificados para votar en dicha elección, y deben ser residentes de la ciudad por un (1) año antes de inscribirse para la oficina particular, y estar inscrito con la oficina de supervisor de elecciones entre las 12:00 p.m. de 18 de junio del 2018 y 12:00 p.m. del 22 de junio del 2018. Los nombres de todos los candidatos a dichas oficinas serán publicados en la boleta oficial, si han calificado y han pagado la cuenta de la elección requerida en el \$ 99.093 de F.S. En caso que sea necesario, habrá una votación de desempate en la ciudad de Kissimmee el 6 de noviembre del 2018.

SE DETERMINA, que esta resolución será efectiva inmediatamente tras su paso por la Comisión de la ciudad, Ciudad de Kissimmee, Florida.

Debidamente adoptado este día, el 16 de enero del 2018.
CIUDAD DE KISSIMMEE
/s/ José Alvarez
ALCALDE-COMISIONADO
/s/ Linda S. Hansell
REGISTRADOR DE LA CIUDAD
March 31, 2018

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD
This is to inform you that the Planning Advisory Board of the City of Kissimmee will make a recommendation to the City Commission concerning a request to amend the Planned Unit Development for the project known as **Fortune Road Commons** for approval to change the use to multi-family and Institutional.
The subject property is located at
Parcel ID: 13-25-29-000U-0050-0000
The Planning Advisory Board will hold a meeting to consider their recommendation on said request on **Wednesday, April 18, 2018**, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers of City Hall, 101 Church Street, Kissimmee, Florida.
All interested parties may appear and be heard on the above dates. Written opinion will be received until 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 18, 2018. Any questions may be directed to the Development Services Department at (407) 518-2140.
Reference # DRC # 17-00083 PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD **Fortune Road Commons** PUD KISSIMMEE, FLORIDA
In accordance with Florida Statute 286.26, persons needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the Office of the City Clerk (407) 518-2308 prior to the meeting. (FS286.26)
In accordance with Florida Statute 286.0105: any person wishing to appeal any decision made by the City Commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purposes may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is made.
March 31, 2018

NOTICE OF ACTION
TO: FELIX MEJIA
8 Dorset Drive
Kissimmee, FL 34758
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action has been commenced against you to Foreclose a Claim of Lien for unpaid Assessments owed to the Plaintiff on the following real property, lying and being situated in Osceola County, Florida, more particularly described as follows:
LOT 4, IN BLOCK 534, OF POINCIANA NEIGHBORHOOD 1, VILLAGE 2, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, AT PAGE(S) 69 THROUGH 87, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.
This property is located at the street address of: 8 Dorset Drive, Kissimmee, FL 34758
This action has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defense, if any, upon Garifneel Whynot, Attorneys' for Plaintiff, whose address is: 300 North Maitland Avenue, Maitland, FL 32751, within 30 days after the first publication of this notice and file the original with the Clerk of the 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.
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 impaired, call 1-(800) 955-8770, if you are voice impaired, call 1-(800) 955-8771.
WITNESS my hand and Seal of said Court this 22nd day of March 2018.
(CIRCUIT COURT SEAL)
ARMANDO RAMIREZ
Clerk of the Court
By: /s/ SM
As Deputy Clerk
20150-288
March 31, 2018
April 7, 2018

NOTIFICACIÓN DE ADOPCIÓN
RESOLUCIÓN NO. 01-2018
PROVEER MÉTODO Y PERÍODO DE CALIFICACIÓN DE CANDIDATOS

POR CUANTO, bajo la cédula y ordenanza de la ciudad de Kissimmee, habrá una elección municipal general en la ciudad de Kissimmee el 28 de agosto del 2018 y

POR CUANTO, será necesario que se elija en dicha elección municipal general por los electores cualificados de la ciudad de Kissimmee para ocupar la silla No. 2 de la Comisión de la ciudad y la silla No. 4 de la Comisión de la ciudad; y

CONSECUENTEMENTE, SEA RESUELTO, que cada candidato a

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
KISSIMMEE AUTO SALVAGE gives Notice of Foreclosure of Lien and intent to sell these vehicles on the following dates, at 8:00 A.M., 1400 Hurrellson Lane, Kissimmee, Florida 34741; (407-847-5197), pursuant to subsection 713.78 of the Florida Statutes.
KISSIMMEE AUTO SALVAGE reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids.

APRIL 15, 2018
1) 2005 TOYOTA
VIN: 4T1BE32K55U993517
2) 1996 CHEVY BLAZER
VIN: 1GN013W5T2272638
APRIL 16, 2018
1) 2000 NISSAN 200SX
VIN: 1N4AB42D2VC507032
APRIL 17, 2018
1) 1995 NISSAN
VIN: 4N2DN11W8SD807905
March 31, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION
File No. 2018-CP-000002 PR
Division: _____

IN RE: ESTATE OF MATTHEW J. MITCHELL, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

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

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

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

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

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

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION
File No. 2018-CP-000140-PR
IN RE: ESTATE OF SUSAN RITA SCHUCHMAN, a/k/a SUSAN RITA HELLER, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS OR DEMANDS AGAINST THE ABOVE ESTATE:

The administration of the estate of SUSAN RITA SCHUCHMAN, a/k/a SUSAN RITA HELLER, deceased, File Number 2018-CP-000140-PR, is pending in the Circuit Court for Osceola County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is: Two Courthouse Square, Kissimmee, FL 34741. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:
All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, including unmaturing, contingent or unliquidated claims, on whom a copy of this notice is served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

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

ALL CLAIMS AND DEMANDS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.
The date of the first publication of this Notice is: March 24, 2018.

31, 2018.
JUDITH HALPERIN
Personal Representative
1005 Wild Elm Street
Celebration, FL 34747
Frank G. Finkbeiner,
Attorney
Florida Bar No. 146738
108 Hillcrest Street
P.O. Box 1789
Orlando, FL 32802-1789
(407) 423-0012
Attorney for Personal Representative
Designated:
frank@fgfatlaw.com
Secondary:
sharon@fgfatlaw.com
March 31, 2018
April 7, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION
Case #: 2018-CP-000133 PR
IN RE: ESTATE OF PERAM BASKARA, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Peram Baskara, deceased, whose date of death was December 19, 2017, is pending in the Circuit Court for Osceola County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 2 Courthouse Square, Kissimmee, Florida 34741. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

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

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

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.
The date of first publication of this notice is: March 24, 2018.

Personal Representative:
Uma Baskara
24 Malvern Road
Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7UQ
United Kingdom

Attorney for Personal Representative:
Ellen S. Morris, Esq.
Florida Bar Number: 850306
ELDER LAW ASSOCIATES PA
7284 W. Palmetto Park Road, Suite 101,
Boca Raton, FL 33433
Telephone: (561) 750-3850
Fax: (561) 750-4069
E-Mail: emorris@elderlawassociates.com
Secondary E-Mail: lrubin@elderlawassociates.com
March 24, 31, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION
File No.: 2018-CP-000154
In Re The Estate Of: CLAYTON LAMONT WORLEY, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The formal administration of the Estate of CLAYTON LAMONT WORLEY, deceased, File Number 2018-CP-000154, has commenced in the Probate Division of the Circuit Court, Osceola County, Florida, the address of which is 2 Courthouse Square, 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 the decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice has been served must file their claims with this Court at the address set forth above WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE AS SET FORTH BELOW OR THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON SUCH CREDITOR.

All other creditors or persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice has not been served must file their claims with this Court at the address set forth above WITHIN THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE AS SET FORTH BELOW.

ALL CLAIMS AND DEMANDS 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 the first publication of this notice is: March 31, 2018.

tion of this notice is: March 31, 2018.
Personal Representative:
SHAYLA WORLEY
859 Lenox Oaks Circle
Atlanta, GA 30324

Attorney for Personal Representative:
ERIC S. MASHBURN
Law Office of Eric S. Mashburn, P.A., Post Office Box 771268, Winter Garden, FL 34777-1268, (407) 656-1576
E-mail: info@wintergardens-law.com
Florida Bar Number: 263036
March 31, 2018
April 7, 2018

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

The vehicles described below shall be sold at Public Auction on APRIL 16, 2018, at 3:00 P.M., cash only. Auction to be held at DELLWOOD SERVICE, 2112 North Main Street, Kissimmee, Florida 34744. Telephone: (407) 847-2334.
1) 2004 TOYOTA
VIN: 1NXBR32E54Z274197
March 31, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION
File #: 2018-CP-000156 PR
Division: _____

IN RE: ESTATE OF AUDREY J. GULLICKSON, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of AUDREY J. GULLICKSON, deceased, whose date of death was January 9, 2018, is pending in the Circuit Court of Osceola County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is: 2 Courthouse Square, Kissimmee, Florida 34741. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

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

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

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.
NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.
The date of the first publication of this notice is: March 31, 2018.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION
File #: 2018-CP-000142 PR
Division: _____

IN RE: ESTATE OF RANDALL ROY KELLEY, Deceased.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of RANDALL ROY KELLEY, deceased, whose date of death was January 1, 2018, is pending in the Circuit Court for Osceola County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is: 2 Courthouse Square, Kissimmee, Florida 34741. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

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

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

ALL CLAIMS AND DEMANDS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.
The date of first publication of this notice is: March 31, 2018.

Personal Representative:
/s/ Sally A. Evers
SALLY A. EVERS
6975 Rancho Court
St. Cloud, Florida 34771

Attorney for Personal Representative:
/s/ Fred H. Cumbie, Jr.
Fred H. Cumbie, Jr.
Attorney
Florida Bar No. 0141664
Overstreet, Miles, Cumbie & Finkenbinder, P.A.
100 Church Street
Kissimmee, Florida 34741
Telephone: (407) 847-5151
Fax: (407) 847-3353
E-Mail: fcumbie@kisslawyer.com
Secondary E-Mail: tmorgan@kisslawyer.com
March 31, 2018
April 7, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION
File #: 2018-CP-000142 PR
Division: _____

IN RE: ESTATE OF RANDALL ROY KELLEY, Deceased.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of RANDALL ROY KELLEY, deceased, whose date of death was January 1, 2018, is pending in the Circuit Court for Osceola County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is: 2 Courthouse Square, Kissimmee, Florida 34741. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

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

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

ALL CLAIMS AND DEMANDS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.
The date of first publication of this notice is: March 31, 2018.

Personal Representative:
/s/ Sally A. Evers
SALLY A. EVERS
6975 Rancho Court
St. Cloud, Florida 34771

Attorney for Personal Representative:
/s/ Fred H. Cumbie, Jr.
Fred H. Cumbie, Jr.
Attorney
Florida Bar No. 0141664
Overstreet, Miles, Cumbie & Finkenbinder, P.A.
100 Church Street
Kissimmee, Florida 34741
Telephone: (407) 847-5151
Fax: (407) 847-3353
E-Mail: fcumbie@kisslawyer.com
Secondary E-Mail: tmorgan@kisslawyer.com
March 31, 2018
April 7, 2018

NOTICE OF TRANSMITTAL PUBLIC HEARING ORDINANCE NO. 2018-10

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of St. Cloud, Florida, at a meeting to be held on April 12, 2018, in their Chamber at City Hall, 1300 9th Street, St. Cloud, Florida at 6:30 p.m., will consider the adoption of Ordinance No. 2018-10 entitled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ST. CLOUD, FLORIDA, ASSIGNING A FUTURE LAND USE DESIGNATION OF "MIXED USE" TO APPROXIMATELY 2,015.59 ACRES IDENTIFIED AS CENTER LAKE RANCH, LOCATED EAST OF NARCOOSSEE ROAD, WEST OF NOVA ROAD, SOUTH OF JONES ROAD AND NORTH OF E. IRL ROY BRONSON MEMORIAL HIGHWAY; PROVIDING FOR AMENDING THE OFFICIAL FUTURE LAND USE MAP OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, FILING OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION AND PROOF OF PUBLICATION, APPLICABILITY AND EFFECT, SEVERABILITY, COPIES ON FILE, AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

Interested parties may appear at the meeting at which time this ORDINANCE is to be considered and public comments shall be heard with respect to transmittal of the ORDINANCE. This ORDINANCE in its entirety can be reviewed at the City Clerk's office between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. and between 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Committee/ Board, with respect to any matter considered at such hearing/ meeting, such person will need a record of the proceedings and that, for this purpose, such person may need 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, and which record is not provided by the City of St. Cloud. (FS 286.0105)

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the Secretary/Clerk of the Committee/ Board (listed below), prior to the meeting. (FS 286.26)

Linda P. Jaworski, City Clerk
1300 9th Street, St. Cloud, Florida 34769
Telephone: 407-957-7300
March 31, 2018

STATE OF MAINE DISTRICT COURT
LOCATION: Lewiston
ANDROSCOGGIN, ss.
DOCKET NO. RE17-175

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.
PLAINTIFF,
vs.
STEPHEN J. SANCHEZ
DEFENDANT.

ORDER ON PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

TITLE TO REAL ESTATE IS INVOLVED
Before the Court is the Motion of Plaintiff's attorney, Loraine L. Hite, Esq., of the law firm of Bendett & McHugh, PC, 270 Farmington Ave., Suite 151, Farmington, CT 06032 for an Order allowing Service by Alternate Means on the Defendant Stephen J. Sanchez, named in a Summons and Complaint, Title to Real Estate Involved, now pending before this Honorable Court. M.R. Civ. P. 4 (g) (1). Plaintiff moves for service to be made on the Defendant Stephen J. Sanchez, by publishing a copy of this Order once a week for three (3) successive weeks in the Osceola News-Gazette which is a newspaper of general circulation in the Town of Osceola and County of Osceola, Florida, as well as in the Sun Journal, a newspaper of general circulation in the Town of Auburn and the County of Androscoggin, Maine.

Plaintiff's Motion is GRANTED.
This is an action for the foreclosure of a mortgage on real property and may affect real property of the Defendant located at 1744 Hotel Road, Auburn, ME 04210-3621, and described in such Mortgage Deed as recorded in Book 5947 at Page 256-263 in the Androscoggin County Registry of Deeds, Auburn, Maine.

After due diligence, Plaintiff Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., has been unable to make personal service of Plaintiff's Summons and Complaint, Title to Estate Involved, on Defendant Stephen J. Sanchez. Plaintiff has met the requirements of Rule 4(g)(1)(A)-(C). M.R. Civ. P. 4(g)(1)(A)-(C); 4(g)(2).

IT IS ORDERED that service be made upon the Defendant Stephen J. Sanchez by publishing a copy of this Order once a week for three (3) successive weeks in the Osceola News-Gazette which is a newspaper of general circulation in the Town of Osceola and County of Osceola, Florida, as well as in the Sun Journal, a newspaper of general circulation in the Town of Auburn and the County of Androscoggin, Maine and by mailing a copy of this Order as published to the Defendant at 1744 Hotel Road, Auburn, ME 04210-3621, the last known address of Defendant Stephen J. Sanchez. This method and manner of service is reasonably calculated to provide actual notice of the pendency of the action to defendant Stephen J. Sanchez.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Defendant Stephen J. Sanchez, being served by publication, appear and serve an Answer to the Motion or Complaint on counsel for Plaintiff, Loraine L. Hite, Bendett & McHugh, PC, 270 Farmington Avenue, Suite 151, Farmington, CT 06032. The Answer must be filed with the Court by mailing to the following address: Clerk of Court, Lewiston District Court, PO Box 1345, 71 Lisbon Street, Lewiston, Maine 04240, within forty-one (41) days after the first publication of this Order.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
IF YOU FAIL TO SERVE AN ANSWER WITHIN THE TIME STATED ABOVE, OR IF, AFTER YOU ANSWER, YOU FAIL TO APPEAR AT ANY TIME THE COURT NOTIFIES YOU TO DO SO, A JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU IN YOUR ABSENCE FOR THE MONEY DAMAGES OR OTHER RELIEF DEMANDED IN THE COMPLAINT. IF THIS OCCURS, YOUR EMPLOYER MAY BE ORDERED TO PAY PART OF YOUR WAGES TO THE PLAINTIFF OR YOUR PERSONAL PROPERTY, INCLUDING BANK ACCOUNTS AND YOUR REAL ESTATE, MAY BE TAKEN TO SATISFY THE JUDGMENT. IF YOU INTEND TO OPPOSE THIS LAWSUITE, DO NOT FAIL TO ANSWER WITHIN THE REQUIRED TIME.

If you believe the Plaintiff is not entitled to all or part of the claim set forth in the Complaint or if you believe you have a claim of your own against Plaintiff, you should talk to a lawyer. If you feel you cannot afford to pay a fee to a lawyer, you may ask the Clerk of Court, Lewiston District Court, Maine, for information as to places where you may seek legal assistance. The clerk shall enter the following on the docket: THE ORDER dated March 7, 2018, is incorporated in the docket by reference. This entry is made in accordance with M.R. Civ. P. 79 (a) at the specific direction of the Court.
Date: 3/7/18

/s/ Nancy D. Carlson
NANCY D. CARLSON
Judge
March 31, 2018
April 7, 14, 2018

PUBLIC NOTICE
Osceola County East U.S. 192 Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Report Available

In accordance with S. 163.356(3)(c), Florida Statutes, Osceola County East U.S. 192 CRA has developed the annual report of its activities for the preceding fiscal year, including a complete financial statement setting forth assets, liabilities, income, and operating expenses as of the end of fiscal year 2017. This report has been filed with the Clerk of the County Commission and is available for inspection during business hours in the office of the Clerk, located at 1 Courthouse Square, Suite 2401, Kissimmee, FL 34741 phone number 407-742-2100. In addition, the report is available in the office of Strategic Initiatives, 3 Courthouse Square, 2nd Floor, Kissimmee, Florida 34741, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., or by visiting "http://E192CRA.Osceola.org"

For questions regarding this Annual Report please contact the Strategic Initiatives department at 407-742-4200 or email at East192CRA@osceola.org
March 31, 2018

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD

The City of Kissimmee Planning Advisory Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, April 18, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the City Commission Chambers of City Hall, 101 Church Street, Kissimmee, Florida 34741 to hear a conditional use with Site Plan request for a drive-thru facility.

The subject property is located at
Parcel ID: 08-25-30-1537-0001-0020

All interested parties may appear and be heard on the above date. Written opinion will be received until 5:00 p.m. **Wednesday, April 18, 2018.** Any questions may be directed to the Development Services Department at (407) 518-2146.

Reference # DRC 17-00041 PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD
Dunkin Strip Center-Hilliard Isle KISSIMMEE, FLORIDA

In accordance with Florida Statutes 286.26, persons needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the Office of the City Clerk 847-2821 # 2309 prior to the meeting. (FS 286.26)

In accordance with Florida Statutes 286.0105: any person wishing to appeal any decision made by the Planning Advisory Board with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purposes may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is made.
March 31, 2018



Hiring Just Got Easier
& More Social, Too!

with the job posting that delivers it all on
www.cfljobnet.com

Hire Better, Faster, & For Less On
www.cfljobnet.com

Reach qualified job seekers on our site— & across thousands of additional job sites on TheJobNetwork
Find passive job seekers instantly in our resume database
Save time with Real-Time Job Matching™
& applicant ranking

Need to find the right candidate we can help.
Call Jody at 321-402-0423

OSCEOLA NEWS-GAZETTE



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ORDINANCE NO. 2018-30**

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of St. Cloud, Florida, at a meeting to be held on April 12, 2018, in their Chamber at City Hall, 1300 9th Street, St. Cloud, Florida at 6:30 p.m., will consider the enactment of Ordinance No. 2018-30 entitled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ST. CLOUD, FLORIDA, PRESCRIBING THE MANNER OF HOLDING THE REGULAR ELECTION TO BE HELD ON THE FIRST TUESDAY AFTER THE FIRST MONDAY OF NOVEMBER EACH ELECTION YEAR, TO WIT: NOVEMBER 6, 2018 WITH A PRIMARY ELECTION ON AUGUST 28, 2018 (IF REQUIRED), PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 20, ARTICLE 1, SECTION 20 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ST. CLOUD, PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Interested parties may appear at the meeting at which time this ORDINANCE is to be considered and shall be heard with respect to the proposed ORDINANCE at the Public Hearing thereon. This ORDINANCE, in its entirety can be reviewed at the City Clerk's office between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. and between 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Committee/ Board, with respect to any matter considered at such hearing/ meeting, such person will need a record of the proceedings and that, for this purpose, such person may need 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, and which record is not provided by the City of St. Cloud. (FS 286.0105)

In accordance with the Americans With disabilities Act, persons needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the Secretary/Clerk of the Committee/ Board (listed below), prior to the meeting. (FS 286.26)

Linda P. Jaworski
City Clerk
City of St. Cloud
1300 9th Street
St. Cloud, Florida 34769
Telephone: 407-957-7300
March 31, 2018

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

**LEGAL NOTICE
CASE #18-00.01**

An appeal has been filed by John Dilullo

Owner(s) of Kentucky Avenue, Lot 53.2, legally described as:

BEGIN at the Northwestern corner of said Lot 53; thence run South 89°50'58" East along the Northerly boundary line of said Lot 53 for a distance of 337.44 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING; thence run South 00°09'02" West for a distance of 140.46 feet; thence run North 89°59'13" West for a distance of 90.00 feet; thence run North 00°09'02" East for a distance of 140.68 feet to the Northerly boundary line of Lot 53; thence run South 89°50'58" East along the Northerly boundary line of said Lot 53 for a distance of 90.00 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING. Contains 0.29 acres more or less.

APPLICANT IS REQUESTING A WAIVER OF SECTION 3.20.7 OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE TO ALLOW THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCE ON A LOT OF RECORD THAT HAS ONLY TWENTY-TWO FEET (22') OF FRONTAGE ON A PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY WHERE THIRTY-FIVE FEET (35') OF FRONTAGE IS REQUIRED. THE REQUESTED VARIANCE IS THIRTEEN FEET (13').

For the purpose of hearing objections to, or protests against the granting of said appeal, the City of St. Cloud, Florida Board of Adjustment, in accordance with the City Zoning Ordinance, will hold a public hearing on April 11, 2018, in the St. Cloud Council Chambers, 1300 9th Street, Building A, 3rd floor, at 6:30 p.m. by order of the Board of Adjustment.

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board, Agency, or Commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose he may need 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, and which record is not provided by the City of St. Cloud. (FS 286.0105)

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the Secretary of the Board of Adjustment (listed below) prior to the meeting. (FS 296.26)

Jessie Light, Board Secretary
1300 9th Street, St. Cloud, FL 34769
Telephone: (407) 957-8427
March 31, 2018

**NOTICE OF TRANSMITTAL PUBLIC HEARING
ORDINANCE NO. 2018-33**

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of St. Cloud, Florida, at a meeting to be held on April 12, 2018, in their Chamber at City Hall, 1300 9th Street, St. Cloud, Florida at 6:30 p.m., will consider the adoption of Ordinance No. 2018-33 entitled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ST. CLOUD, FLORIDA, ASSIGNING A FUTURE LAND USE DESIGNATION OF "PARK/OPEN SPACE" TO APPROXIMATELY 127.99 ACRES IDENTIFIED AS CHISHOLM PARK, LOCATED AT 4700 CHISHOLM PARK TRAIL; PROVIDING FOR AMENDING THE OFFICIAL FUTURE LAND USE MAP OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, FILING OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION AND PROOF OF PUBLICATION, APPLICABILITY AND EFFECT, SEVERABILITY, COPIES ON FILE AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

Interested parties may appear at the meeting at which time this ORDINANCE is to be considered and public comments shall be heard with respect to transmittal of the ORDINANCE. This ORDINANCE in its entirety can be reviewed at the City Clerk's office between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. and between 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Committee/ Board, with respect to any matter considered at such hearing/ meeting, such person will need a record of the proceedings and that, for this purpose, such person may need 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, and which record is not provided by the City of St. Cloud. (FS 286.0105)

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the Secretary/Clerk of the Committee/ Board (listed below), prior to the meeting. (FS 286.26)

Linda P. Jaworski, City Clerk
1300 9th Street, St. Cloud, Florida 34769
Telephone: 407-957-7300
March 31, 2018

NOTICE OF BOARD WORKSHOP

Pursuant to Florida Statutes, the School Board of Osceola County, Florida, hereby proposes to hold a Board Workshop on the proposed revisions to the School Board Rules, including the Student Progression Plan and the Code of Student Conduct. The workshop will be held on Tuesday, April 03, 2018, at 5:30 PM in the School District of Osceola County Administrative Center Board Room, 817 Bill Beck Boulevard, Kissimmee, Florida.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to Florida Statutes, the School Board of Osceola County, Florida, hereby proposes to hold a Public Hearing on the proposed revisions to the School Board Rules, including the Student Progression Plan and the Code of Student Conduct. The public hearing will be held on Tuesday, May 01, 2018, at 5:30 PM in the School District of Osceola County Administrative Center Board Room, 817 Bill Beck Boulevard, Kissimmee, Florida.

Interested persons may offer input and review any proposals Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM at the School District of Osceola County Administrative Center, 817 Bill Beck Boulevard, Kissimmee, Florida 34744.

An Equal Opportunity Agency
March 31, 2018



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

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

SUMMARY OF NOTICE

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

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

OWNER OF BUILDING/ STRUCTURE:	Mei Tan Ming Sheng Tan Ming Zhuang Tan Ming
NAME AND/OR DESCRIPTION OF BUILDING/STRUCTURE:	Single Family Structure
STREET ADDRESS OF BUILDING/ STRUCTURE:	1308 Robinson Avenue Kissimmee, Florida 34741
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF BUILDING/ STRUCTURE:	22-25-29-1360-00B-0017
OWNER'S ADDRESS:	Block 112 Lorong 1 TOA PAYOH #07-382 Singapore, 310112 Republic of Singapore

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

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

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

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

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

**CONDITIONS FOUND WHICH RENDER STRUCTURE
UNSAFE**

The following is a list of conditions which cause the structure to be unsafe and in violation of the following Code sections:

CONDITION:

- The building located on the property is in a general dilapidated condition so severe as to be unfit and unsafe for human occupation, and constitutes a nuisance. It is unsafe and unsanitary and, generally, violates the following code provisions:

Standard Unsafe Building Abatement Code - Section 101.6, Maintenance.

All buildings or structures, both existing and new, and all parts thereof, shall be maintained in a safe and sanitary condition. All devices or safeguards which are required by the Standard Building Code in a building when erected, altered or repaired, shall be maintained in good working order. The owner, or his designated agent, shall be responsible for the maintenance of buildings and structures.

The structure located on this property has not been maintained in accordance with the above-referenced requirements. It must be maintained or demolished.

- The building is unsafe also because it meets certain of the criteria shown under the definition for "unsafe building" given by Section 202 of the Standard Unsafe Building Abatement Code, which states as follows:

Unsafe Building Abatement Code - Section 202, Definitions

Unsafe Building - Any building or structure that has any of the following conditions, such that the life, health, property or safety of its occupants or of the general public are endangered:

- Any means of egress or portion thereof is not adequate size or is not arranged to provide a safe path of travel in case of fire or panic.
- Any means of egress or portion thereof such as but not limited to fire doors, closing devices and fire resistive ratings, in disrepair or in a dilapidated or nonworking condition such as that the means of egress could be rendered unsafe in case of fire or panic.
- The stress in any material, member or portion thereof, due to all improved loads including dead loads exceeds the stresses allowed in the Standard Building Code for new buildings.
- The building, structure or portion thereof has been damaged by fire, flood, earthquake, wind or other cause to the extent that the structural integrity of the building or

structure is less than the minimum requirement established by the Standard Building Code for new buildings.

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

The Building Official has found that certain of the conditions listed above, specifically those listed under condition(s) exist(s) on the ro e. The attached inspection notices describes those conditions.

RIGHT OF APPEAL

YOU MUST FILE AN APPEAL OF THE PROCEEDING DESCRIBED ABOVE OR THIS ORDER WILL GO INTO EFFECT WITHOUT FURTHER HEARINGS, AND CITY OF KISSIMMEE WILL BE AUTHORIZED BY LAW TO REPAIR OR DEMOLISH YOUR BUILDING OR STRUCTURE AND CHARGE THE COST TO YOU.

Any person having a legal interest in the described building may appeal this Notice to the City of Kissimmee City Commission. The appeal shall be filed in writing with the City of Kissimmee City Manager and the City Building Official at the address given above under "Additional Information" within thirty (30) days of service of this notice. An application may be obtained from the Building Department. The appeal shall contain the following:

- Identify the street address or legal description of the building.
- Identify the legal interest of the Appellant in the building.
- Identify the section of the Notice and Order being appealed.
- Include a statement detailing the issues on which the Appellant desires to be heard.
- Include the signature of the Appellant and the Appellant's official mailing address.

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE

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

DATE ISSUED: 12/15/2017 BUILDING OFFICIAL: Sheng Tan Ming, Jr.

SIGNATURE:

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF OSCEOLA

SWORN to and subscribed freely and voluntarily for the purposes therein expressed before me by Sheng Tan Ming, Jr., Building Official, City of Kissimmee Building Division, known to me to be the person described in and who executed the foregoing, this day of 12 2017. He is personally known to me.

WITNESS my hand and official seal in the County and State last aforesaid this 29 day of March, 2018.



March 24, 31, 2018
April 7, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA,
GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION
CASE NO.: 2017-CA-001060 MF

CIT BANK, N.A., F/K/A ONEWEST BANK N.A.,
Plaintiff,
vs.
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES,
GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUS-
TEES AND ALL OTHERS WHO MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST
IN THE ESTATE OF EDIL MARTINEZ, DECEASED., et al,
Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated January 31, 2018, and entered in 2017-CA-001060 MF of the Circuit Court of the NINTH Judicial Circuit in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein CIT BANK, N.A., is the Plaintiff, and THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHERS WHO MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST IN THE ESTATE OF EDIL MARTINEZ, DECEASED; MILDRED QUILES; ENID MARTINEZ; EDUARDO MARTINEZ; MANUEL MARTINEZ; RAFAEL MARTINEZ; STATE OF FLORIDA, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE; CAVALRY PORTFOLIO SERVICES, LLC, AS ASSIGNEE OF CAVALRY INVESTMENTS, LLC AS ASSIGNEE OF MID-FIRST BANK, AS ASSIGNEE OF BANK OF AMERICA; CAPITAL ONE BANK (USA), N.A., F/K/A CAPITAL ONE BANK; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; CLERK OF COURTS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY; ENTERPRISE LEASING COMPANY OF ORLANDO, LLC, A/K/A ENTERPRISE LEASING COMPANY OF ORLANDO, 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 AM, on MAY 01, 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

**LOT 8, BLOCK 1, BUENAVENTURA LAKES, UNIT 2, AC-
CORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN
PLAT BOOK 2 PAGES 114 THROUGH 120 AND CORREC-
TED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 293, PAGE 334, OF
THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
Property Address: 288 SEAL STREET,
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 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

17-015548-MoP

March 31, 2018

April 7, 2018

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BATTLE RE-ENACTMENT IN 25TH YEAR



The 25th reenactment of the Battle at Narcoossee Mill took place on March 24 at Chisolm Park in St. Cloud, bringing in hundreds to watch the historic event and learn a little about local history during the Civil War era. Top row: Confederate soldiers spot Union troops in the open. Canons fire from the treeline providing some cover. Second row: Hundreds of visitors came out to watch the hour long battle. Confederate troops fire on the approaching enemy. Bottom row: Back in camp, Kyle Besser finishes sharpening his bayonet. A war weary soldier takes a nap in his tent. Terry Pinkstaff plays a fife brought to her by a visiting spectator.

News-Gazette Photos by Cindy Joint

OSCEOLA NEWS-GAZETTE Triple E

Fed sounding more optimistic



The Federal Reserve's latest economic forecasts show a sunnier view. The Fed now envisions lower unemployment and faster growth for the next couple of years than it did three months ago.

The U.S. central bank updates its outlook four times a year, based on individual forecasts of its board members and its 12 regional bank presidents. These forecasts reflect expectations for growth as measured by the gross domestic product, the unemployment rate, inflation as measured by an index tied to consumer spending and the predicted path of rate increases over the next couple of years.

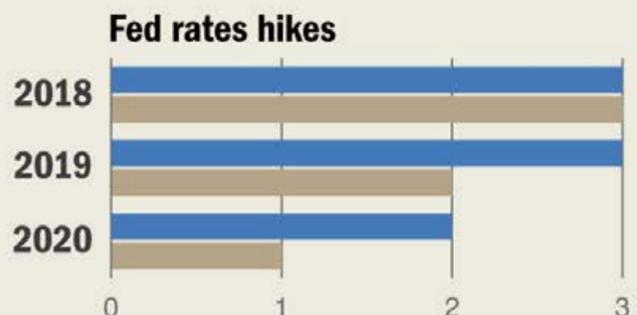
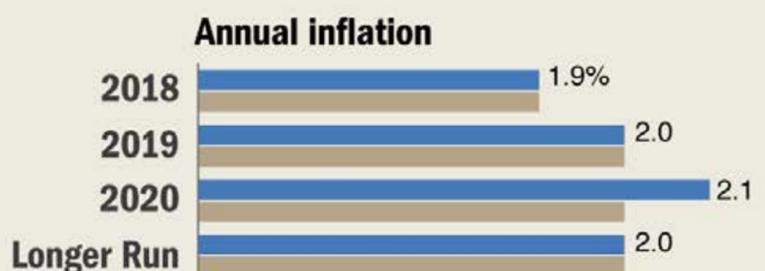
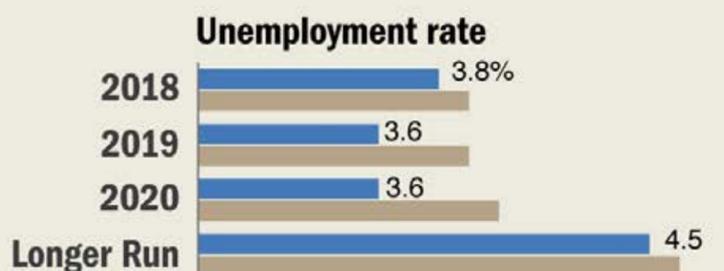
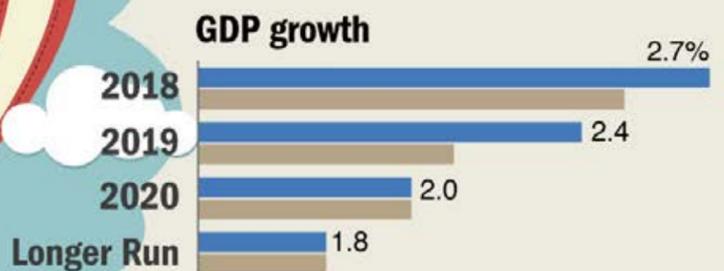
Investors study the Fed's forecasts closely. The latest update shows a median forecast that unemployment next year will reach 3.6 percent – which would be the lowest rate in a half century – from the current 4.1 percent. It also envisions inflation reaching the Fed's 2 percent target next year. The Fed still envisions three rate hikes this year. And it now expects three next year, up from two in its previous forecast.

Here's a look at the new projections compared with those from December:

Source: Federal Reserve

Federal Reserve's economic outlook

March, 2018
December, 2017



Martin Crutsinger; Jenni Sohn • AP

Company Spotlight Testing time for Tesla

Tesla plunged to its lowest price in a year after the electric vehicle maker's credit rating was downgraded by Moody's.

Moody's said its lower rating and negative outlook were a result of Tesla's missed production targets and a squeeze on liquidity, with more than \$1 billion in convertible bonds maturing over the next 12 months. Moody's said it expects Tesla founder Elon Musk will be forced to raise more than \$2 billion in



the near term to meet the company's cash needs.

Moody's action followed word that federal safety regulators have opened an investigation into a fiery crash of one of Tesla's Model X SUVs in California last week. The car's 38-year-old driver was killed in the crash. Tesla said it's unsure if the SUV was operating on its semi-autonomous "Autopilot" system at the time.

The company's stock has been battered over the past few weeks, and is now down 25.4 percent since March 12.

Tesla (TSLA)	Wednesday's close: \$257.78	Price change	1-yr	3-yr*	5-yr*
52-WEEK RANGE \$252 \$390	Price-earnings ratio: Lost money (Based on past 12-month results)	TSLA	-7.0%	11.7	46.7

AP

*annualized

Source: FactSet

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Company Spotlight Facebook fallout

Acxiom shares plunged to a two-year low after the marketing data firm said Facebook's decision to drop its service would cut next year's revenue and profitability by up to \$25 million.

Shares in Conway, Arkansas-based Acxiom closed down 19 percent at \$22.71 Thursday.

Acxiom said it had been informed by Facebook that the social network will stop using third-party data providers like it over the next several months.

The setback affects Acxiom's Audience



Solutions division, which helps marketers target ad campaigns and engage with consumers. Last month Acxiom blamed weakness in the division when it cut its sales outlook for fiscal 2018, which ends March 31.

The service allowed marketers to use data from people's lives outside of Facebook to target them on the platform. Facebook's product marketing director Graham Mudd said in a statement that shutting down the feature over the next six months "will help improve people's privacy on Facebook."

Acxiom (ACXM)	Thursday's close: \$22.71	Price change	1-yr	3-yr*	5-yr*
52-WEEK RANGE	Price-earnings ratio: 191 (Based on past 12-month results)	ACXM	-18.5%	6.9	2.2
\$19 \$33					
AP		*annualized		Source: FactSet	

Trillion-dollar Windows?

In the race to become the world's first \$1 trillion company, Apple and its roughly \$851 billion market cap have a clear lead over Alphabet (\$719 billion) and Amazon (\$700 billion).

But Microsoft (\$702 billion) has just edged out Amazon — and one securities firm thinks it's a dark horse with stamina.

Microsoft has been ramping up its cloud computing and storage services, positioning the company for strong profit growth in the next few years, according to a note published Monday by Morgan Stanley software analyst Keith Weiss.

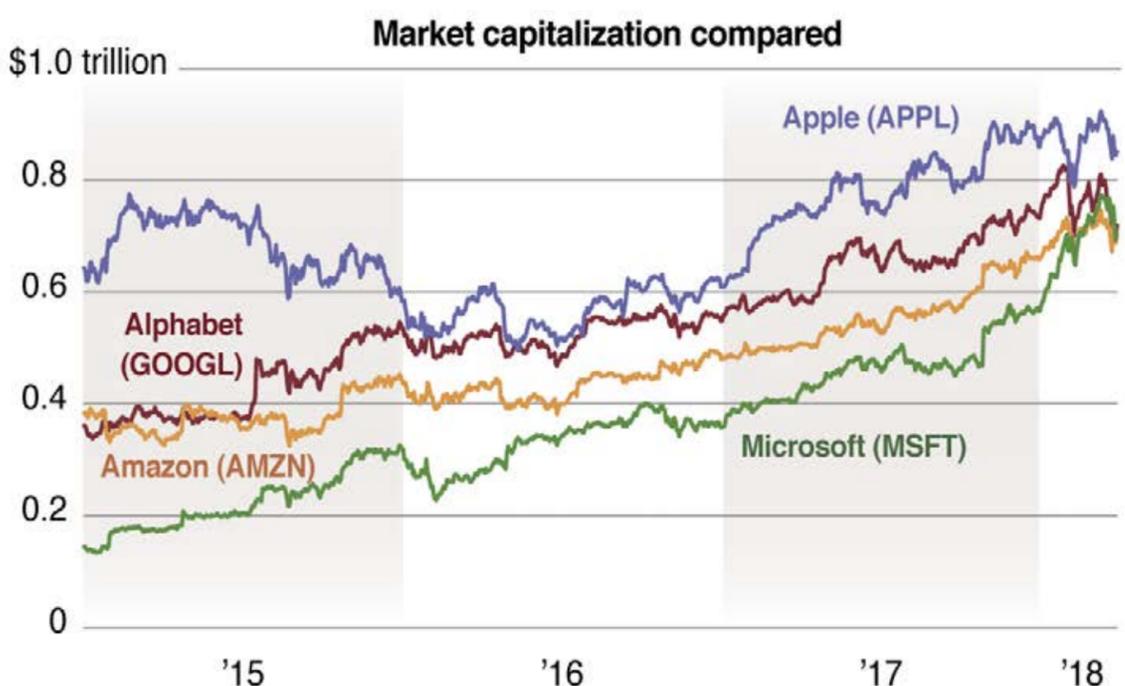
Weiss says Microsoft's Azure cloud platform has advantages that competitors like Amazon and



Google don't. For instance, there are Microsoft's long time business customers, some of whom have run Microsoft servers for more than a decade. Microsoft can easily "upsell" its newer services to companies already comfortable with its products.

Also performing well is Microsoft's Office 365 suite of "productivity" software such as email and spreadsheets. Weiss, however, expects Azure to eventually overtake the Office business as the biggest contributor to the company's gross profits.

Turns out Weiss's boosterism is, well, boosting Microsoft. Its shares surged after the report came out Monday, pushing it ahead of Amazon on Thursday.



Race to one trillion: At the start of 2015, Microsoft was the underdog regarding market capitalization. It has climbed steadily since then.

Sources: FactSet, data through March 29

Matthew O'Brien; J. Paschke • AP

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Trump's VA pick draws concern over thin management record

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's selection of his White House doctor to run the massive Department of Veterans Affairs triggered concern Thursday among lawmakers and veterans groups about whether he has the experience to manage an agency paralyzed over Trump's push to expand private care.

Ronny Jackson, a Navy rear admiral entrusted with the health of the past three presidents, is a lifelong physician whose positions on privatizing operations in the second largest federal department and addressing ballooning health care costs are unknown. First named to the top White House post by President Barack Obama, he would be new to running a big bureaucracy if given leadership over a department of 360,000 employees serving 9 million veterans.

In a statement, Trump praised Jackson as "highly trained and qualified." But representatives of veterans aren't sold on the choice, or on Trump's decision a day earlier to fire VA Secretary David Shulkin.

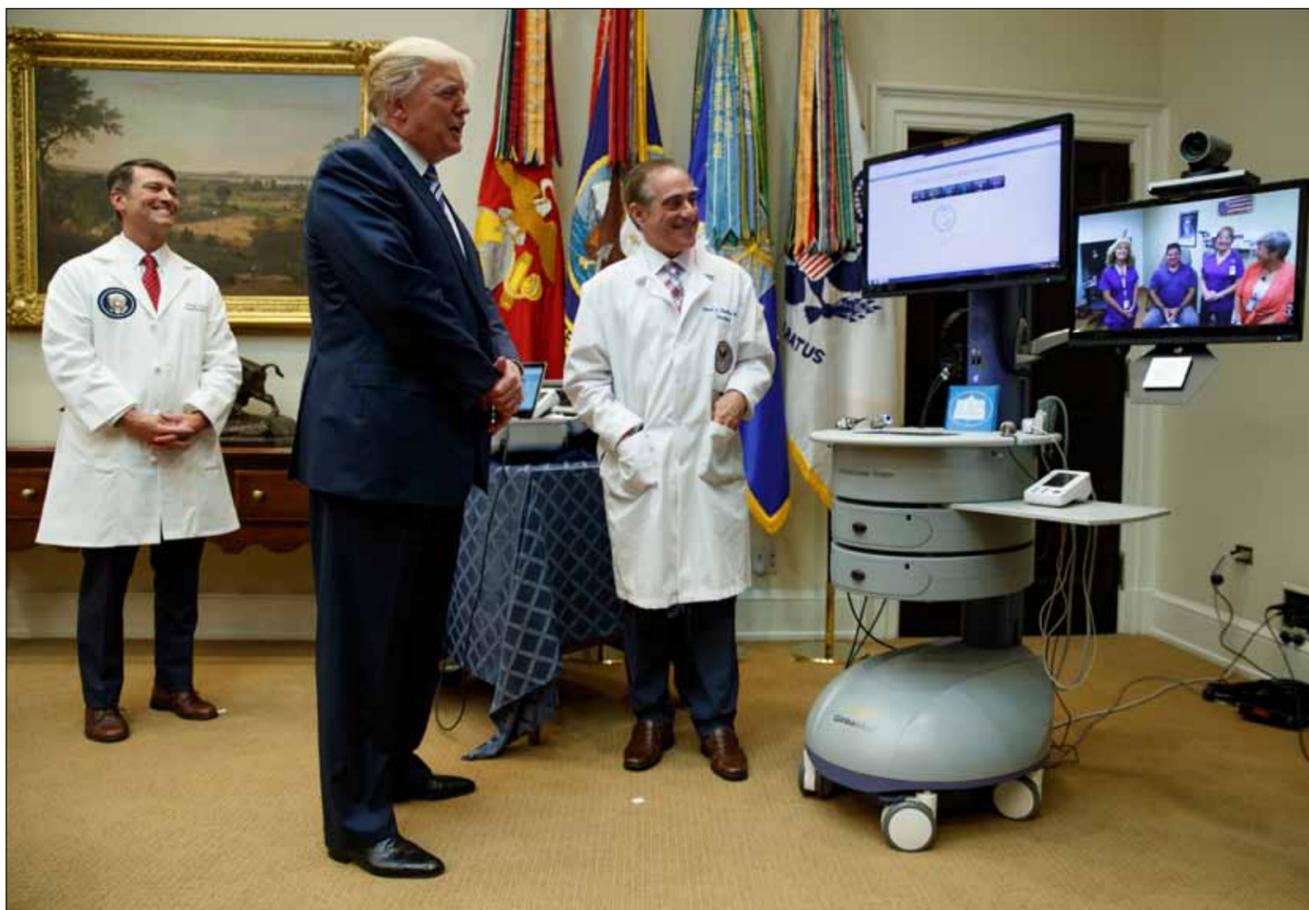
"There is little that we know about Dr. Ronny Jackson's vision and qualifications," said Paul Rieckhoff, founder and CEO of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America. "Our concern is whether President Trump was more interested in picking a secretary who would be politically loyal rather than someone who can work across the aisle to fix long standing problems of bureaucratic delay."

Similar doubts were expressed by Veterans of Foreign Wars, which praised Jackson's military background in a statement but pointed to a nominee biography devoid of "any experience working with the VA or with veterans, or managing any organization of size, much less one as multifaceted as the Department of Veterans Affairs." AMVETS echoed such sentiments.

"We look forward to a rigorous confirmation hearing," Rieckhoff said.

Montana Sen. Jon Tester, top Democrat on the panel that will consider the nomination, said he had yet to determine if Jackson "is up to the job."

It's not clear from Jackson's military service record how much, if any, management experience he has. His



In this Aug. 3, 2017, file photo, Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin, right, and White House physician Dr. Ronny Jackson, left, watch as President Donald Trump talks with a patient during a Veterans Affairs Department "tele-health" event in the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington.

military assignments did not appear to include supervision over a large department or unit. His Navy biography says he deployed to Iraq with a Marine unit and served as the emergency physician in charge of resuscitative medicine for a trauma platoon.

Jackson joined the White House medical team in 2006 and is perhaps best known for his appearance before the press corps in January, announcing the results of Trump's first physical in a performance that showed he was quick-witted and unflinchingly complimentary of Trump.

Marveling at the 71-year-old president's good health, Jackson opined, "It's just the way God made him."

A White House official said Shulkin himself had recommended Jackson for an undersecretary position at the VA in the fall, and Trump ultimately decided he was more comfortable with Jackson than with other top candidates. The official was not authorized to discuss personnel matters and spoke on condition of anonymity.

If confirmed by the Senate,

Jackson would face immediate crises, like a multi-billion dollar revamp of electronic medical records now in limbo that members of Congress fear will prove too costly and wasteful, and a budget shortfall in the coming weeks in its private-sector Veterans Choice program.

Trump is seeking an aggressive expansion of the Choice program to make it easier for veterans to see private doctors outside the VA system at government expense, but proposals are stalled in Congress following a failed effort last week.

"We're going to have real choice," Trump said in Ohio. "That's why I made some changes, because I wasn't happy with it."

Jackson's nomination comes as Trump's new Cabinet nominees begin to pile up in the Senate. That is certain to stir weeks of confirmation battles this spring when senators, especially those running for re-election, may prefer to shift focus away from the changes at the White House.

None of the nominees, including the president's new picks for secretary of state

and CIA director, is expected to sail to easy confirmation. The GOP-led Senate is narrowly divided 51-49 and Democrats — and some Republicans — are preparing to ask tough questions. Even though Congress has an otherwise slim legislative agenda before campaign season, prolonged confirmation fights could jam up the Senate and influence the election.

Pending Jackson's confirmation, Robert Wilkie, a former Pentagon undersecretary for personnel and readiness, is serving as the acting head of the VA.

Lawmakers said they needed to learn more about Jackson's record.

Republican Sen. Johnny Isakson of Georgia, chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee that will review the nomination, declined to indicate his support. He stressed that he looked forward to "meeting Admiral Jackson and learning more about him." Isakson, a moderate, has expressed skepticism in the past toward toward nominees who expressed strong views in favor of privatization.

Sen. Bernie Sanders, independent of Vermont and a former chairman of the panel, cautioned that Jackson would not be approved if he supported privatizing the VA. "Our job is to strengthen the VA in order to provide high-quality care to our veterans, not dismember it," he said.

Shulkin, a physician and the lone Obama administration holdover in Trump's Cabinet, was unceremoniously fired late Wednesday by Trump in a tweet. Shulkin had enjoyed support from Trump for much of his first year in the administration but support eroded last month after a bruising ethics scandal and political infighting at VA.

Dan Caldwell, executive director of the conservative Concerned Veterans for America, said the group is keeping an "open mind" about Jackson's nomination. Some of the names that had been in circulation for the post had previous ties to the group, which supports giving veterans greater access to private doctors outside the VA system.

"We'd like to hear more about his positions to reform

and fix the VA," Caldwell said. "He has a very distinguished service record and it would be unfair to outright dismiss him — you have to be very professional to reach his rank."

A native of Levelland, Texas, Jackson, 50, graduated from Texas A&M with a degree in marine biology, then from medical school at the University of Texas Medical Branch.

He headed to the Navy, then in 2005 joined a 2nd Marines regiment. Jackson was deployed to Iraq as the physician in charge of resuscitative medicine for a trauma platoon, according to the White House.

Ned Price, a National Security Council spokesman under Obama, described the doctor as "the guy you always want to be around" because he's affable and funny. But Price said it was difficult to believe the nomination was unrelated to the "glowing assessment" of Trump's health that the doctor had provided.

After departures, West Wing anxiety lingers

WASHINGTON (AP) — With a handshake and a presidential kiss on the cheek, Hope Hicks bid farewell to the White House on Thursday, the press-shy communications director taking a rare moment in the spotlight on her final day in Donald Trump's administration.

The exit of the president's most trusted aide, coming one day after yet another Cabinet departure, highlights continuing uncertainty among Trump aides and White House staff about who might be the next to go.

Hicks departed the administration on her own terms and was given a gracious goodbye by Trump outside the Oval Office in view of reporters. That stands in stark contrast to the White House treatment of David Shulkin, the Veterans Affairs secretary

who was fired amid ethics questions and replaced by a White House physician who has no experience running a bureaucracy or working with veterans.

As Trump allies defended the choice of Navy Rear Adm. Ronny Jackson, scrutiny quickly shifted to a number of other Cabinet members facing ethics questions and with strained relationships with the president, as well as a White House chief of staff who has found his influence diminished. Trump aides and outside advisers suggested that other changes weren't imminent, but no one could say how long that would last.

"I'll have to get back to you on that," said deputy press secretary Lindsay Walters when asked if Trump now had his ideal Cabinet.

White House officials are

apprehensive about Hicks' departure, given her unrivaled position in the president's orbit. Despite her title as communications director, Hicks was more accurately described by White House officials as Trump's right-hand-woman and media gatekeeper, providing needed doses of affirmation to the president and able to deliver bad news to him with few repercussions.

The internal jockeying to replace her — if Trump even chooses to do so — has featured backstabbing and planted news stories that, in turn, bash the leading candidates: Mercedes Schlapp, the White House strategic communications director, and Tony Sayegh, assistant secretary for public affairs at the Treasury Department.

Many close to the White

House, however, expect senior adviser Kellyanne Conway or press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders to assume the role, at least temporarily. Sanders has grown close to the president since taking over the press secretary's job after the resignation of Sean Spicer last summer — and has been spending more time in the Oval Office lately.

The job of communications director — which involves developing and executing the administration's long-term messaging strategy — has never been a particularly important one to the president. Aides joke he is his own communications director, who upends carefully laid plans with a tweet or digression.

Trump, never disciplined, has taken to freelancing more of late, as he moves to sur-

round himself with aides less likely to try to rein him in. A speech outside Cleveland on Thursday meant to be about infrastructure instead felt like a campaign rally. And he has broken free of more of the restraints placed upon him by chief of staff John Kelly.

Trump hired John Bolton as national security adviser last week over Kelly's objections and didn't include his chief of staff in the Oval Office meeting in which the job offer was extended. And Kelly, who frequently listens in on the president's calls, was not on the call Trump made from the White House residence earlier this month during which, over staff objections, he congratulated Russian President Vladimir Putin on his re-election.

Though Kelly's job did not appear to be in danger,

Trump has mused to outside allies of late about setting a West Wing structure with no chief of staff, reminiscent of his Trump Tower operation.

Aides said controversies around Trump's staff need to hit a certain decibel level to get the president's attention.

In the case of Shulkin, who was found to have inappropriately accepted gifts and travel, his parting came as he was under fire from all corners, including GOP-leaning veterans groups and good-government watchdogs. And Trump himself vented to confidants that the questions surrounding Shulkin undermined his campaign promise to help veterans, according to three White House officials and outside advisers who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss personnel matters.

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THE GUIDE

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A century after WWI, munitions still making way onto beaches

MANTOLOKING, N.J. (AP) — A century after World War I ended, discarded munitions from that and other wars continue to make their way onto beaches around the country.

Items ranging from tiny fuses to full-scale mines are displaced by beach replenishment projects, sucked from the ocean floor and pumped ashore, or by strong storms that uncover them.

The most recent discovery came earlier this month when seven WWI rifle grenades were found on the beach in Mantoloking, New Jersey, which is undergoing a beach replenishment project to undo damage from Superstorm Sandy more than five years ago.

Many of the items were simply dumped overboard at the end of World Wars I and II; others remain from military drills or target practice. They've been discovered in at least 16 states from New Jersey to Hawaii.

"Surprisingly or not, this stuff continues to turn up," said Niall Slowey, an oceanography professor at Texas A&M University, who has studied the phenomenon extensively. "They disposed of millions of tons of this stuff."

No one knows how many pieces of munitions remain offshore, partly because the military's own records as to how much was disposed of aren't great. A Defense Department report to Congress in 2009 said more than half of sea disposals of munitions was done in the Atlantic Ocean; the Pacific got an-

other 35 percent, and lesser amounts were dumped off Hawaii, Alaska, the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean. The material was dumped as near as 5 miles from shore, in water as shallow as 50 feet.

Slowey and a colleague released a 2012 study estimating there are millions of pounds of undersea bombs in the Gulf of Mexico alone.

Disposal of unneeded munitions at sea was commonly accepted practice until 1970.

"They thought it was beyond harm's reach," Slowey said. "People could not envision that there would be any interaction with material that deep on the ocean floor. But there is a lot more on the sea floor than anyone could have envisioned."

New Jersey has been home to some well-publicized discoveries, including more than 1,100 pieces of munitions pumped ashore during beach replenishment work on a mile and a half of sand in Surf City and Ship Bottom on Long Beach Island in 2007. The items, mostly fuses, prompted temporary bans on the use of metal detectors and the digging of holes in the sand more than a foot deep. It also created a cottage industry in T-shirts with slogans like "Our beaches will blow you away!" and "I got bombed on L.B.I.!"

Similar material surfaced on the Jersey shore towns of Loch Arbour, Allenhurst and Deal in 2016 as part of another post-Sandy beach restoration project.

In May 2008, a bomb



This Feb. 10, 2009 file photo shows some of the more than 1,100 old fuses and small anti-aircraft shells that have been found as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers searches for any remaining World War I era munitions along the Atlantic Ocean in Surf City, N.J. A century after World War I ended, munitions from that and other wars continue to surface on beaches around the United States, usually during beach replenishment projects when they are sucked from the ocean floor and pumped ashore onto the sand, or exposed by strong storms.

squad from the Massachusetts State Police detonated several pieces of unexploded ordnance left over from World War II on Chappaquiddick, including practice bombs.

In June 2013, a beachgoer discovered a partially buried German mine in the surf about 10 feet from shore in Bay Head, New Jersey, on the same day that the Asateague Island National

Seashore in Maryland did a controlled explosion of a World War II bomb that had washed ashore.

In July 2015, a photoflash bomb, designed to illuminate the night sky over WWII battlefields, was discovered on a beach near Tampa, Florida, where authorities blew it up on the sand.

Military and civilian experts say they don't know of anyone in the United States

being injured by munitions found on a beach, but agree the potential for injury is real.

"The problem is you just don't know," said Master Sgt. Brad Kline, an explosives disposal expert at New Jersey's Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. "There could be explosive residue left behind. It's definitely not worth the risk" of handling it. Military personnel use

explosives to blow up munitions that are discovered on the beach and brought to the base.

In Europe, there have been injuries and deaths from unexploded munitions, including the 2005 deaths of three Dutch fishermen whose nets brought a WWII bomb to the surface, and other fishermen burned by chemical weapons they unwittingly dredged up.

California judge rules that coffee requires cancer warning

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Coffee sellers in California should have to post warnings because the brew may contain an ingredient that's been linked to cancer, a judge has ruled.

The culprit is a chemical produced in the bean roasting process that is a known carcinogen and has been at the heart of an eight-year legal struggle between a tiny nonprofit group and Big Coffee.

The Council for Education and Research on Toxics wanted the coffee industry to remove acrylamide from its processing — like potato chip makers did when it sued them years ago — or disclose the danger in ominous warning signs or labels. The industry, led by Starbucks Corp., said the level of the chemical in coffee isn't harmful and any risks are outweighed by benefits.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Elihu Berle said Wednesday that the coffee makers hadn't presented the proper grounds at trial to prevail.

"While plaintiff offered evidence that consumption of coffee increases the risk of harm to the fetus, to infants, to children and to adults, defendants' medical and epidemiology experts testified that they had no opinion on causation," Berle wrote in his proposed ruling. "Defendants failed to satisfy their burden of proving ... that consumption of coffee confers a benefit to human health."

The suit was brought against Starbucks and 90 companies under a law passed by California voters

in 1986 that has been credited with culling cancer-causing chemicals from myriad products and also criticized for leading to quick settlement shakedowns.

The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act, better known as Proposition 65, requires warning labels for about 900 chemicals known to cause cancer or birth defects. It allows private citizens, advocacy groups and attorneys to sue on behalf of the state and collect a portion of civil penalties for failure to provide warnings.

"This lawsuit has made a mockery of Prop. 65, has confused consumers, and does nothing to improve public health," said William Murray, president and CEO of the National Coffee Association, who added that coffee had been shown to be a healthy beverage.

Scientific evidence on coffee has gone back and forth for a long time, but concerns have eased recently about possible dangers of coffee, with some studies finding health benefits.

In 2016, the cancer agency of the World Health Organization moved coffee off its "possible carcinogen" list.

Studies indicate coffee is unlikely to cause breast, prostate or pancreatic cancer, and it seems to lower the risks for liver and uterine cancers, the agency said. Evidence is inadequate to determine its effect on dozens of other cancer types.

Coffee companies have said it's not feasible to remove acrylamide from their product without ruining the flavor.



In this Sept. 22, 2017, file photo, a barista pours steamed milk in a coffee at a cafe in Los Angeles.

But attorney Raphael Metzger, who brought the lawsuit and drinks a few cups of coffee a day, said the industry could remove the chemical without impairing taste.

"I firmly believe if the potato chip industry can do it, so can the coffee industry," Metzger said. "A warning won't be that effective because it's an addictive product."

Many coffee shops have already posted warnings that say acrylamide is cancer-causing chemical found in coffee. But signs that are supposed to be posted at the point of sale are often found

in places not easily visible, such as below the counter where cream and sugar are available.

Customers at shops that post warnings are often unaware or unconcerned about them.

Afternoon coffee drinkers at a Los Angeles Starbucks said they might look into the warning or give coffee drinking a second thought after the ruling, but the cup of joe was likely to win out.

"I just don't think it would stop me," said Jen Bitterman, a digital marketing technologist. "I love the taste, I love the ritual, I love the high, the energy, and I

think I'm addicted to it."

Darlington Ibekwe, a lawyer in Los Angeles, said a cancer warning would be annoying but wouldn't stop him from treating himself to three lattes a week.

"It's like cigarettes. Like, damn, now I've got to see this?" he said. "Dude, I'm enjoying my coffee."

The defendants have a couple weeks to challenge the ruling before it is final and could seek relief from an appellate court.

If the ruling stands, it could come with a stiff financial penalty and could rattle consumers beyond state lines.

The judge can set another phase of trial to consider potential civil penalties up to \$2,500 per person exposed each day over eight years. That could be an astronomical sum in a state with close to 40 million residents, though such a massive fine is unlikely.

California's outsized market could make it difficult to tailor packaging with warning labels specifically to stores in the state.

That means out-of-state coffee drinkers could also take their coffee with a cancer warning. Cream and sugar would still be optional.

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Russia ramps up diplomatic clash, expels even more UK envoys

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia ordered new cuts Friday to the number of British envoys in the country, escalating a dispute with the West over the poisoning of an ex-spy in Britain. The massive expulsion of diplomats on both sides has reached a scale unseen even at the height of the Cold War.

Two dozen countries, including the U.S. and many EU nations, and NATO ordered out more than 150 Russian diplomats this week in a show of solidarity with Britain over the poisoning of Russian ex-spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter in Britain that London blamed on Russia.

Moscow has vehemently denied involvement in the March 4 nerve agent attack in the English city of Salisbury and announced the expulsion of the same number of diplomats from each nation.

Scores of foreign ambassadors streamed into the Russian Foreign Ministry in Moscow on Friday to receive the notices given to 23 nations.

The ministry further escalated its response Friday, saying it has ordered Britain to reduce the number of its diplomats in Moscow to the level that Russia has in London. That exact number wasn't immediately clear.

The ministry said it summoned the British ambassador to hand him a protest over the "provocative and unsubstantiated actions by Britain, which instigated the expulsion of Russian diplomats from various nations for no reason." It gave London one month to reduce its diplomatic personnel in Russia.

When Britain expelled 23 Russian diplomats earlier this month, Russian Ambassador Alexander Yakovenko said it represented a 40 percent cut in the number of embassy personnel.

Commenting on the Russian move, a spokeswoman for the British Foreign Office said "it's regrettable but

in light of Russia's previous behavior, we anticipated a response."

"However, this doesn't change the facts of the matter: the attempted assassination of two people on British soil, for which there is no alternative conclusion other than that the Russian state was culpable," she said. "Russia is in flagrant breach of international law and the Chemical Weapons Convention and actions by countries around the world have demonstrated the depth of international concern."

The expulsions affect not only the diplomats but their families as well, forcing them to take their children out of school in the middle of the year.

A hospital treating the Skripals said Thursday that the 33-year-old daughter Yulia was improving rapidly and was now in stable condition, although her 66-year-old father remained in critical condition.

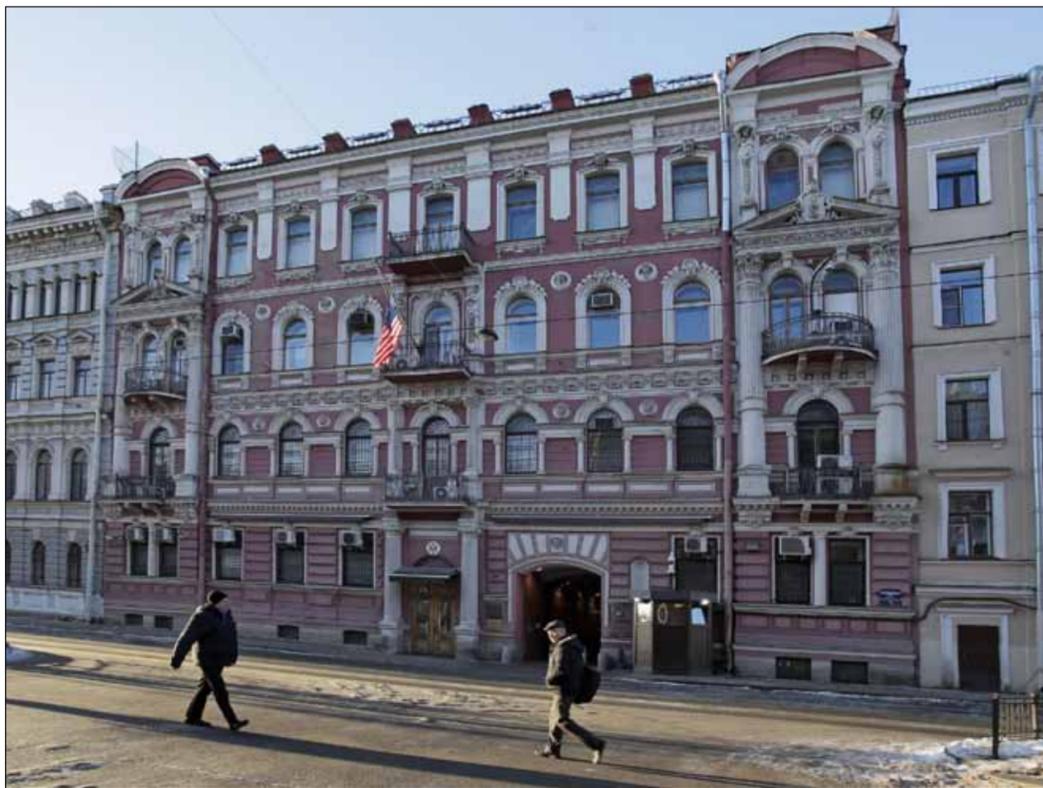
Speaking to reporters Friday, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov insisted that "Russia didn't start any diplomatic wars," and "remains open for developing good ties."

He added that Russia has called a meeting of the international chemical weapons watchdog next week to press for an "unbiased and objective investigation."

Russia has accused Britain of failing to back up its accusations with evidence and refusing to share materials from the probe. The Foreign Ministry said it told the British ambassador on Friday that Moscow is ready to cooperate in the investigation.

The Russian Embassy in London tweeted a statement by the Russian Foreign Ministry's spokeswoman Maria Zakharova saying that Britain and the U.S. "do most to undermine any trust element in international relations."

Earlier this week, the Russian Foreign Ministry alleged that British special services



AP
People walk past the U.S. consulate in St. Petersburg, Russia, Friday, March 30, 2018. Russia announced the expulsion of more than 150 diplomats, including 60 Americans, on Thursday and said it was closing a U.S. consulate in retaliation for the wave of Western expulsions of Russian diplomats over the poisoning of an ex-spy and his daughter in Britain, a tit-for-tat response that intensified the Kremlin's rupture with the United States and Europe.

could have been involved in the poisoning and claimed that Britain, the U.S., the Czech Republic and Sweden all have researched the class of nerve agent that London said was used to poison Skripal.

Britain and its allies have rejected the Russian nerve agent claims.

On Thursday, the Russian Foreign Ministry in Moscow summoned the U.S. ambassador to announce the expulsion of 60 U.S. diplomats in a tit-for-tat response to Washington's move. Nearly two dozen ambassadors from other countries followed suit Friday.

The countries informed Friday of expulsions were Australia, Albania, Germany, Denmark, Ireland, Spain, Italy, Canada, Latvia, Lithu-

ania, Macedonia, Moldova, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Ukraine, Finland, France, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Sweden and Estonia.

The Foreign Ministry added that it would also consider mirror expulsions of diplomats from Belgium, Hungary, Georgia and Montenegro. In response to the U.S. move earlier this week to close the Russian Consulate in Seattle, Moscow also shut the U.S. Consulate in St. Petersburg, giving it until Saturday to vacate the premises.

An Associated Press reporter on Friday saw U.S. consulate staff carrying boxes from the building in St. Petersburg and loading them into a van. Several mini-vans drove out of the consulate while security also detained

a man who threw a Starbucks cup at the building.

Some passers-by near the U.S. Consulate in St. Petersburg cheered the expulsions.

"Let them get out of here," said 61-year-old retiree Viktor Fedin. "You won't put Russia on its knees."

Others were more cautious, worried that the closures would affect visa processing for Russians.

"The Russian government has to respond to the hostile actions against Russia," said 32-year-old researcher Yelena Bogomazova. "But the escalation is bad. The closure of the consulate will make it difficult for people to get U.S. visas. They will have to go to Moscow."

After Russia expelled several dozen U.S. diplomats, the waiting list for U.S. visa

applications in Russia has increased to weeks, if not months, as the U.S. Embassy said it was unable to process visa applications faster because of the staff shortage.

Russia also warned that the expulsions of its diplomats could slow down issuing visas.

In a statement that reflects the soaring tensions, Moscow accused Washington of trying to recruit the Russian diplomats it has expelled as spies.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said the U.S. special services have engaged in "frantic efforts" to make cooperation offers to the expelled Russian diplomats. The ministry described the alleged U.S. overtures as "cynical and disgusting," adding that they have failed.

Greek govt upset as spy show denied access to ancient temple

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — A highly-anticipated television series adapting spy novelist John le Carre's "The Little Drummer Girl" will not include scenes from an ancient site near Athens after a panel of archaeologists turned down an access request by the BBC and the U.S.-based cable network AMC.

Greece's powerful Central Archaeological Council denied the one-day access request to the 2,500-years old Temple of Poseidon at Cape Sounion next month, saying the site would be closed to visitors for too many hours and the production team would be too large.

The decision triggered a furious reaction from the Greece's government, which launched a campaign three days ago to attract film productions to Greece with a series of incentives. The government says overseas productions could be a key growth area in the country that is emerging from eight years of crippling financial crisis.

"We have declared that Greece is now film-friendly. A few days later,

another institution is contradicting this, not us but the hopes and ambitions of artists, technicians and thousands of professionals that are a part of this industry. It is an international embarrassment," Lefteris Kretsos, general secretary at the government's media and communication department, said Thursday.

The decision, he said, "once again highlights the issues we have as a country."

Filming at Greek archaeological sites, whether for commercial productions or news reporting, requires a permit from archaeologists that is often near impossible and very costly to obtain.

The six-part series is due for global release next year and stars Swedish actor Alexander Skarsgard and Britain's Florence Pugh, while South Korean filmmaker Park Chan-wook will make his television debut with the project.

In the 1983 novel, an Israeli spy chief hunts a Palestinian bomber around Europe, recruiting a young English actress to try and expose him.



AP
In this June 20, 2016 file photo, the full moon rises near the ancient marble Temple of Poseidon at Cape Sounion, southeast of Athens.



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50 days to UK royal wedding

Time for the personal touches

LONDON (AP) — The big decisions have been made: Windsor Castle is the venue, May is the month, the guests have been invited and the wedding dress has likely been chosen.

Friday marks 50 days to go until the wedding of Prince Harry, 33, and Meghan Markle, 36 — time to decide the details that will make a large royal wedding feel intimate.

That's the view of Anna McGregor, director of the Wedding Gallery, one of Britain's leading wedding planning agencies. Its emporium in central London offers everything from wedding gowns to sample menus to festive cufflinks shaped like top hats.

"You've chosen your menu, so choosing your drinks would probably start happening about now, and picking how much wine you would need is one of the more fun parts of planning the wedding, because you get to do a great wine tasting," she said.

Her recommendation? In most cases, plan on a bottle of champagne and a bottle of wine for each guest, plus cocktails after dinner "and beer for the boys."

This being a royal wedding, "I'm sure they've got a nice cellar they can pick from as well," she added.

One big challenge still to come, she said, is the seating plan. That can be a weeklong project even for couples who need to work out seating for 10 or 15 tables.

Harry and Markle have invited about 600 people for the wedding at St. George's Chapel and afternoon reception and then are having a more exclusive nighttime gathering for 200 of them. That's a minimum of 60 tables if



Souvenir items are displayed for sale ahead of the upcoming royal wedding of Britain's Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, at a shop in London, Wednesday, March 28, 2018. The wedding takes place on Saturday, May 19, in Windsor Castle, England. Over 2,000 people have been invited to the grounds of Windsor Castle to watch the procession, and over 600 invitations have been sent, though the palace has not revealed who has received one.

you squeeze in 10 people per table.

Some new details are emerging. The Ministry of Defense said this week that regiments and units associated with Harry's years in the military will provide ceremonial support during the wedding and carriage procession. More than 250 members of the Armed Forces will be tasked with this role.

Their wedding cake will be a lemon elderflower concoction made by pastry chef Claire Ptak.

Kensington Palace officials have kept quiet about many of the key wedding details, including the super-secret guest list. Officials say the invitations have been sent but won't reveal the names.

The couple has also invited 2,640 people from

all walks of life to come to the grounds of Windsor Castle to watch them arrive and to see their carriage procession from a fine vantage point.

On the wedding dress front, the designer of Markle's gown is still not known to the public, leading to a guessing game that is picking up speed. Will it be a British or American designer? The lucky fashion

house that received the coveted assignment has no doubt been sworn to secrecy.

Dress fittings will likely take place inside one of the royal palaces, not at a bridal salon, where Markle could be seen by fellow shoppers and their cellphone cameras.

Regardless of what dress she chooses, McGregor expects Harry and Markle

to define wedding styles for the next year — if not years to come — not just for the fashions, but for tableware, flowers and the overall look.

"She's already a style icon," McGregor said. "The royal family are style icons and have been for generations. So yes, it's absolutely going to lead trends and fashions in weddings."

Chrissy Metz calls focus on her stepdad's abuse 'clickbait'

NEW YORK (AP) — Chrissy Metz calls news stories focusing on abusive behavior by her stepfather while growing up mere "clickbait."

Metz is one of the stars of NBC's hit series "This Is Us" and has a new book out called "This Is Me" where she writes about her life, including growing up with a stepfather who sometimes would hit her and was critical of her weight.

"What they fail to leave out is that we have a relationship. I have forgiven him, he's apologized and I respect him and he was more of a father to me than my biological father."

Metz says the attention has caused tension in her family.

"I felt so many emo-

tions about it and I still do because my sisters are getting involved... I want him to know that that was never my intention."

Her purpose, she says, is to share how she got to where she is.

"I didn't realize that all of these life lessons, these experiences were setting me up for where I'm at today and that's what I believe the universe does for us. And so by me going through these experiences, I feel like I'm stronger and I can be an advocate for somebody who's gone through these things or been discriminated against."

Despite the fallout of sharing her family drama with the public, Metz believes it's important to be honest.

"I (spoke out) for myself but also, in turn, it's helping a lot of people and that's the cherry on top," she said.

Her stepfather has publicly denied her claims, which Metz says she understands. "It is so hard to accept responsibility for what you've done," said Metz.

Metz told The Associated Press about her "This Is Us" character, being a struggling actress and future goals.

AP: Your character, Kate, on "This Is Us" has resonated with so many who can relate to her insecurities, mother issues and bond with her dad. Do people think you are Kate?

Metz: Oh yeah. People think I'm Kate all the time.

There are people who just run up and kiss me and I'm like, 'Oh, hi.' It takes some getting used to. It's funny because that's what they know me as. It's great that they're invested.

AP: What was life like for you when you got the role on "This Is Us"?

Metz: These cities (like LA and New York) are expensive to live in and to be an actress with classes and headshots, forget about it. It was always paycheck to paycheck. I was on unemployment for some time... When I booked the role, I was in between paychecks and didn't even have enough gas to get to the audition. I was living with a friend. (I had) 81 cents in my bank account.

AP: Why be so honest about your ups and downs?

Metz: I told my publicist when I started this whole thing, 'If I can't be who I am, I can't do this.' I can pretend and play another character on television but I can't be that in real life. It's too much. I want to be authentically myself and honest. Sometimes it's probably a fault but it is what it is. I want people to know that, yes, I have a great job and it looks very glamorous but I'm not any different. I just have a different job.

AP: You write about confidence struggles in your book. Where are you now with your self-esteem?

Metz: It took me awhile to cultivate a belief in myself and I'm still learning that. There are times I get on the set and I'm like,

'Am I gonna get fired today? I don't think I'm a good actress.' Sometimes it's just where you're at mentally and you've got to recalibrate.

AP: You've got the TV show and a book. What's on your list next, career-wise?

Metz: I'm the lead of a movie that begins shooting in April. It's based on a true story called "The Impossible Movie." I'm over the moon about that. Eventually I'd love to produce and maybe write an episode of "This Is Us." Maybe do some music and write music. Just help people who I believe in.



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Trump is hopeful, but some skeptical ahead of US-NK talks

WASHINGTON (AP) — An enigmatic North Korean leader takes a secretive train trip to China to affirm fraternal ties and declare a commitment to denuclearization.

It sounds like Kim Jong Un's visit this week, but his father and predecessor Kim Jong Il made similar declarations on a trip to Beijing, months before he died in 2011. Yet North Korea's nuclear weapons development only speeded up.

President Donald Trump expressed optimism Wednesday after the younger Kim's meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, saying there's "a good chance" that Kim will "do what is right for his people and for humanity." But there are plenty of reasons to be skeptical that the U.S.-North Korean summit slated for May will produce the breakthrough that Washington wants.

After a year of escalating tensions, Trump agreed to talks after South Korean officials relayed that Kim was committed to ridding the Korean Peninsula of nuclear

weapons and was willing to halt nuclear and missile tests.

That has tamped down fears of war that elevated as Trump and Kim traded threats and insults and North Korea demonstrated it was close to being able to strike the U.S. with a nuclear-tipped missile.

Kim's meeting with Xi offered some reassurance to Washington that "denuclearization" will be up for negotiation if the first summit between American and North Korean leaders in seven decades of animosity takes place.

But while Trump has elevated expectations of what that sit-down would achieve, North Korea has yet to spell out what it wants in return for abandoning a weapons program that Kim likely views as a guarantee for the survival of his totalitarian regime.

The readout of Kim's remarks to Xi as reported by China's state news agency Xinhua strongly indicates Pyongyang is looking for

significant American concessions.

"The issue of denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula can be resolved," Kim was quoted as saying, "if South Korea and the United States respond to our efforts with goodwill, create an atmosphere of peace and stability while taking progressive and synchronous measures for the realization of peace."

To many North Korea watchers, that sounds like old wine in a new bottle.

In May 2011, the elder Kim, who was making what would be his final trip to China, told then-president Hu Jintao that the North was "adhering to the goal of denuclearization."

That came months after North Korea had revealed a uranium enrichment plant that gave it a second path for making fuel for atomic bombs.

Abraham Denmark, a former senior U.S. defense official, said the North's latest offer to "denuclearize" still appears contingent on U.S.

creating the right conditions. In the past, Pyongyang demanded that U.S. withdraw troops from the peninsula, end its security alliance with South Korea and the nuclear protection it offers its ally.

"It's possible that Kim Jong Un has a different meaning in mind," said Denmark, now director of the Asia program at the Wilson Center think tank. "So far it sounds like the same old tune."

Ending six years of international seclusion, Kim was spirited into Beijing by special train under tight security like his father before him. He met with Xi, seeking to repair relations that have been frayed as China has supported tough U.N. sanctions and slashed trade with its wayward ally in frustration over its refusal to stop its provocative behavior.

State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said Kim's first foreign trip was a "historic step in the right direction" and proof that U.S.-led campaign of "maximum pressure" of economic sanc-

tions was working. Trump said that the pressure would be maintained for now, but offered an optimistic view of how he could achieve peace and denuclearization that eluded past administrations.

"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!"

There's another way of looking at it.

It could be North Korea not the U.S. that is calling the shots. When Kim offered an olive branch to South Korea in the new year, he also warned that the entire U.S. was within range of the North's atomic weapons. With that capability in hand, he may now going on a diplomatic offensive, using it as leverage to win aid and security guarantees rather than with an intent of giving it up.

Trump's own choice as national security adviser John Bolton is famously skeptical of diplomacy with North Korea. Just a month ago, he made the case for a

pre-emptive military strike on the North. That raises questions about whether he might advocate for the same should Trump's summit with Kim fail.

Experts at the Center for Strategic and International Studies think tank said in an analysis that by meeting Xi, Kim may be seeking an insurance policy that "even if summit talks fail with the U.S. that North Korea could still fall back on its relationship with China."

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, a close ally of the president, is worried about a less than ideal outcome.

He said Wednesday he's worried that in his talks with Kim, Trump will focus on the intercontinental missiles that can reach the U.S. mainland and not the shorter-range missiles that threaten Japan and may "end up accepting North Korea's possession of nuclear weapons."

The doctor is in

White House physician nominated to lead VA

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump fired Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin and nominated White House doctor Ronny Jackson to replace him following a bruising ethics scandal and a mounting rebellion within the agency.

A Navy rear admiral, Jackson is a surprise choice to succeed Shulkin, a former Obama administration official and the first nonveteran to head the VA. Trump had been considering replacing Shulkin for weeks but had not been known to be considering Jackson for the role.

In a statement, Trump praised Jackson as "highly trained and qualified." It was a decision that signaled Trump chose to go with someone he knows and trusts, rather than choosing a candidate with a longer resume, to run a massive agency facing huge bureaucratic challenges.

Shulkin said he was undone by advocates of privatization within the administration. He wrote in a New York Times opinion piece that they "saw me as an obstacle to privatization who had to be removed." He added: "That is because I am convinced that privatization is a political issue aimed at rewarding select people and companies with profits, even if it undermines care for veterans."

Jackson has served since 2013 as the physician to the president, one of the people in closest proximity to Trump day in and day out.

His profile rose after he conducted a sweeping press conference about the president's medical exam in January in which he impressed Trump with his camera-ready demeanor and deft navigation of reporters' questions as he delivered a rosy depiction of the president's health, according to

a person familiar with the president's thinking but not authorized to discuss private conversations.

Jackson eagerly embraced the idea of moving to the VA, according to a White House official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss personnel matters. Ironically, it was Shulkin who had recommended Jackson for an undersecretary position at the agency in fall. Jackson was vetted during that time on his policy positions and other issues, the official said.

The promotion of Jackson marks the latest Trump hire to be driven at least as much by personal familiarity with the president as by his vision for the role at government's second-largest department, responsible for 9 million military veterans in more than 1,700 government-run health facilities.

Brig. Gen. Dr. Richard Tubb, who trained Jackson, said in a letter read at Jackson's briefing that the doctor had been attached like "Veltro" to Trump since Inauguration Day.

"On any given day," he wrote, "the 'physician's office,' as it is known, is generally the first and last to see the President."

A White House official said Shulkin was informed of his dismissal by chief of staff John Kelly before the president announced the move on Twitter on Wednesday.

A major veterans' organization expressed concern over Shulkin's dismissal and Trump's intention to nominate Jackson, whom they worried lacked experience to run the huge department.

"We are disappointed and already quite concerned about this nominee," said Joe Chenelly, the national executive director of AM-VETS. "The administration



In this Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2018 file photo, White House physician Dr. Ronny Jackson speaks to reporters during the daily press briefing in the Brady press briefing room at the White House in Washington. On Wednesday, March 28, 2018, President Donald Trump fired Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin, and tweeted that Jackson is his nominee to replace Shulkin.

needs to be ready to prove that he's qualified to run such a massive agency, a \$200 billion bureaucracy."

Rep. Phil Roe, chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, said he believed Shulkin did a "fantastic job" and didn't think he should have been dismissed, but "at the end of the day, Cabinet secretaries serve at the pleasure of the president."

"I respect President Trump's decision, support the president's agenda and remain willing to work with anyone committed to doing the right thing on behalf of our nation's veterans," said Roe, a Republican from Tennessee.

Shulkin is the second Cabinet secretary to depart

over controversies involving expensive travel, following Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price's resignation last September. Trump said in a statement he is "grateful" for Shulkin's service.

Shulkin had agreed to reimburse the government more than \$4,000 after the VA's internal watchdog concluded last month that he had improperly accepted Wimbledon tennis tickets and that his then-chief of staff had doctored emails to justify his wife traveling to Europe with him at taxpayer expense. Shulkin also blamed internal drama at the agency on a half-dozen or so rebellious political appointees, insisting he had White House backing to fire

them.

But the continuing VA infighting and a fresh raft of watchdog reports documenting leadership failures and spending waste — as well as fresh allegations that Shulkin had used a member of his security detail to run personal errands — proved too much of a distraction.

It was the latest in a series of departures of top administration officials, including Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and national security adviser H.R. McMaster.

The VA change comes as Trump is trying to expand the Veterans Choice program, fulfilling a campaign promise that major veterans' groups worry could be an unwanted step toward privatizing VA health care.

His plan remains in limbo in Congress.

Having pushed through legislation in Trump's first year making it easier to fire bad VA employees and speed disability appeals, Shulkin leaves behind a department in disarray. Several projects remain unfinished, including a multibillion-dollar overhaul of electronic medical records aimed at speeding up wait times for veterans seeking medical care as well as expanded mental health treatment for veterans at higher risk of suicide.

Trump selected Robert Wilkie, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, to serve as the acting head of the VA.

Sister Jean takes hoops to a heavenly place

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — On the night before Easter, a night when Sister Jean could reasonably be contemplating more consequential affairs, she will instead be festooned in her maroon and yellow letter jacket, sitting in her wheelchair on the floor of one of America's greatest sports cathedrals, praying for an entirely different sort of miracle.

She'll be trying to will the underdog, 11th-seeded Ramblers from the Jesuit school of Loyola-Chicago another step along the road to a national championship. It's a road even the most pious fan wouldn't have dreamed of a mere three weeks ago.

More than any single player or coach, it is the 98-year-old nun, Sister Jean Dolores-Schmidt, who has left an indelible mark on this year's NCAA Tournament, with her scouting reports and T-shirt-ready advice — "Worship, work and wisdom" — lending an almost otherworldly credence to the idea that, in sports, anything is possible.

And for those seeking a deeper meaning to Loyola's improbable trip to the Final Four, her presence raises questions that would normally be out of bounds in most mainstream sports conversations:

Do Sister Jean's prayers carry more weight than, say, those of the Michigan fans who will be rooting against Loyola on Saturday?

Is it OK to pray for something as pedestrian as, say, your team to win the big game?

Do miracles really happen in sports?

To sum them all up: Does God really care about basketball?

"Because God cares about the whole health of a human being, and because play is an element of the human experience, God cares about play," says Joe Price, an ordained minister who teaches classes on sports and religion at Whit-

tier College. "Now, whether God cares about competitive sport at a professional level is perhaps a different question."

Big-time sports has been long familiar with enthusiastically religious athletes and ultra-successful programs from religious colleges. Tim Tebow, Carson Wentz and Kurt Warner; Notre Dame, BYU and, yes, another Final Four participant this weekend, Villanova. They and others have come to the fore and brought their religion with them, front and center.

And yet, Loyola feels like something different. Instead of a player or coach who stands out as the main catalyst for all this success, it's a nun who is not only bringing added attention to her beloved players, but doing it in a way that unravels stereotypes about the elderly to say nothing of the millions of women who have chosen her calling over the centuries.

"She's showing that, yes, nuns are regular people with a special calling," says Rebecca Alpert, a religion professor at Temple whose book, "Religion and Sports," looks at ways those two facets of life intersect. "She's photogenic. She's media savvy. It's a great story. I like hearing it. I'll buy a bobblehead."

It also brings up this awkward dissonance: Villanova is also accompanied by a person of the cloth, the Rev. Rob Hagan. And yet, because he represents a school that is better known, top seeded, a champion only two years ago and the furthest thing from a plucky underdog, Father Rob is a supporting player in this drama — no bobblehead as of yet — who is receiving his 15 minutes in large part because Sister Jean has gotten hers on the other side of the bracket.

Which brings up the question: If Father Rob's and Sister Jean's teams square off in an all-Catholic final Monday night, who wins?

Another way to ask it



This March 22, 2018 file photo shows Sister Jean Dolores Schmidt sitting with other Loyola-Chicago fans during the first half of a regional semifinal NCAA college basketball game against Nevada in Atlanta. Sister Jean is depicted in a bobblehead and sales of the figurine have soared to the heavens. She has become a celebrity during the NCAA men's basketball tournament. As a result, the National Bobblehead Hall of Fame and Museum, in conjunction with Loyola University, last week unveiled a limited edition bobblehead. Phil Sklar with the soon-to-be-open museum in Milwaukee says within 24 hours, the bobblehead became the institution's top seller of all time.

is whether Sister Jean's prayers hold any more weight than those of others, including secular fans who may want Kansas or Michigan to win on Saturday — to say nothing of the poor folks who were pulling for Kansas State or Texas Tech last weekend in the Elite Eight.

"It's a legitimate question," Price says. "It's about discipline and it's about frequency (of praying), and that doesn't necessarily mean (Sister Jean's) prayers are heard better. But they're articulated in ways that are not about self-gratification. Cheering for a bunch of young men to play their best and fulfill their dream is different from, let's say, a stock car racer who prays to the Lord for a caution flag to come

out so he can win the race."

The idea of divine intervention in sports goes way back, even decades before Al Michaels famously asked "Do you believe in miracles?" as the seconds ticked down in the 1980 U.S. Olympic hockey team's seminal victory over the Russians — a bunch of amateurs unbelievably beating a bunch of professionals.

And yet, the so-called "Miracle on Ice" hardly stands alone in sports, where the never-ending search for the upset, the unexpected, the unexplainable, is, in fact, "the reason we play the game."

Miracle in the Meadowlands.

Music City Miracle.

The Immaculate Reception.

Hail Mary.

The winner of the first three women's national titles: Immaculata College. That was no miracle.

But if little Loyola-Chicago is cutting down nets come Monday night, well, that might be — even if God is in no way connected to the actual result.

"The word 'miracle' is very important because what it signals is something intruding on your day-to-day reality and reminding you that the world is a much more complicated and beautiful place," Alpert says. "You don't have to make the assumption that there's an all-knowing God intervening and making this happen."

Though no harm if you do.

From all the corrup-

tion that's been unmasked in college basketball to the sex-abuse scandals involving Larry Nassar and gymnastics to the Russian doping scandal at the Olympics, sports has become an ugly, ungodly sort of place of late.

Miracle or no, who's to say a 98-year-old superfan and her 11th-seeded team from out of nowhere can't help drag some sports fans from that abyss?

"We can't possibly forget the kinds of questions and issues that are being raised," Alpert says. "But this has ... pulled us away from things that are hurting sports today. If you look at it that way, then we can all be very grateful to Sister Jean."

Good driver, poor credit: What makes your car costs so high

Car owners with poor credit can pay hundreds — if not thousands — more to drive than those with good credit. This plays out in two important ways: higher rates on car loans and, in most states, higher insurance premiums. In fact, having bad credit can raise your insurance quote even higher than if you'd had an accident.

To see how much poor credit can cost car owners, personal finance website NerdWallet looked at auto loan terms and insurance quotes for drivers in different credit tiers.

CREDIT AND CAR LOANS

Drivers with blemished credit often choose a cheaper car than they could otherwise afford. However, they'll still pay more to own it — especially if they finance the purchase. Good credit is generally considered 690 to 719, while bad credit is below 630. In a slightly different

system, prime credit is 661 to 780 and subprime credit is 501 to 600.

For used car loans in the last quarter of 2017, prime credit buyers received an average rate of 5.48 percent, according to credit reporting agency Experian. The average rate was much higher, 16.27 percent, for subprime borrowers.

Say a buyer purchases a used car with a loan of \$21,000 — just under the average amount financed on used car purchases, according to Edmunds. Using the average rates above, here's about how much each borrower would pay on a 48-month loan:

— Prime: \$488 per month and \$2,433 in total interest

— Subprime: \$598 per month and \$7,706 in total interest

In this example, the cost of poor credit is \$110 per month, and \$5,273 over the life of the 48-month

THE TRAP OF TAKING A LONGER LOAN

To get a lower monthly payment, buyers increasingly accept loans with longer terms — about 42 percent take out loans for six years or more, according to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

While there's merit in making sure bills fit your budget, this dramatically increases the cost of a car.

With the loan extended to 72 months, the total cost of poor credit becomes \$8,335, or \$116 per month over six years.

A DIFFERENT SCORE FOR INSURANCE

The credit scores lenders use to determine loan terms are not the same score auto insurers use to set your premium.

A credit-based insurance score is used to predict your likelihood of filing a claim in the next few years, says Lamont Boyd, insurance industry direc-

tor of scores and analytics at FICO. Insurers can use this and other scoring models to help set rates in all states except California, Hawaii and Massachusetts, where the practice is banned.

NerdWallet looked at quotes in the rest of the country for drivers with clean records and either "good" or "poor" credit, as reported to the insurer. We averaged rates from 10 ZIP codes in each state and then ranked the difference in price by state.

We also compared quotes for drivers with good credit and one accident versus similar drivers with poor credit and no accidents, and found poor-credit quotes were often higher. In all but two states, drivers can find quotes at least \$500 cheaper per year for good credit and one accident compared with poor credit and no accidents.

INSURANCE COSTS

VARY WIDELY

In Michigan, home to some of the highest car insurance rates in the country, we found that someone with poor credit can pay an average of \$464 more per month than someone with good credit and the same driving record. The next-highest average price increase was \$185 per month in Kentucky. As in many states, in both Michigan and Kentucky average rates for poor credit more than doubled.

On the opposite end of this spectrum is North Carolina, where good drivers with poor credit pay, on average, \$20 more per month for insurance than those with good credit. Iowa was the next cheapest for motorists with poor credit, at an average increased cost of \$37 per month.

AVOID PAYING UP

To get the best rate possible, before heading to a dealership, check your

credit scores and get pre-approved for an auto loan. You can still get financed on the spot, but "now you have this pretty strong negotiating chip to help you get an even better rate from the dealer," says Delvin Davis, senior research analyst at the Center for Responsible Lending.

And even with spotty credit, you could still save by shopping around for car insurance quotes. In New York, for example, we found a \$1,219 (per year) difference between the lowest and second-lowest quotes for poor credit — and a \$5,689 difference between the highest and lowest.

You can also improve both your credit and credit-based insurance score by:

— Paying all your bills on time

— Keeping credit card balances below 30 percent of the limit

Malala visits native Pakistan, 1st time since Taliban attack

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai said Thursday she was excited to be back in Pakistan for the first time since she was shot in 2012 by Taliban militants angry at her championing of education for girls.

Yousafzai, who landed in her home country just before dawn flanked by heavy security, said in a brief speech at a ceremony at Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi's office that she will continue to campaign for the education of girls and asked Pakistanis to be united on issues like providing better health care and education.

She said she remembered having to leave Pakistan for treatment after she was attacked. Covering her tear-filled eyes with her hands, Yousafzai said it was hard to wait for more than five years to return home.

"It is now actually happening and I am here," she said.

It's unclear how long Yousafzai will stay, neither she nor her family have announced any travel plans. Pakistani officials, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss the matter, said their understanding is that her visit will last until Monday.

Speaking after meeting the prime minister, Yousafzai said Pakistan was always in her thoughts — even when she traveled to cities like New York or London.

"I was always dreaming for the past five years, that I can come to my country, whenever I was travelling abroad," she said, adding that her dreams were of simple things, "like driving in Karachi, Islamabad."

"Finally, I am here," she said.

Since the attack, Yousafzai spent lengthy stretches of time undergoing medical treatment to recover from her wounds. She also went to school in Britain.

Her native Swat Valley still sees occasional militant attacks, though the Pakistani military has largely restored

peace since retaking the area. In February, a suicide bombing at an empty lot used by soldiers for sports and exercise killed 11 troops, underscoring the threat that militants still pose to the region and this Islamic nation.

Abbasi praised Yousafzai for her sacrifices and role in the promotion of girls' education. He said he was happy to welcome her home, where he said "terrorism has been eliminated" — a line often repeated by Islamabad despite persisting militant attacks across the country.

Since her attack and recovery, Yousafzai has also led the "Malala Fund," which she said has invested \$6 million in schools and to provide books and uniforms for schoolchildren.

"For the betterment of Pakistan, it is necessary to educate girls and empower women," she said.

Earlier, tight security greeted the now-20-year-old university student upon her arrival at Pakistan's Benazir Bhutto International Airport. Local television stations showed her with her parents in the lounge at the airport, before leaving in a convoy of nearly 15 vehicles, many of them occupied by heavily armed police.

Her return had been shrouded in secrecy and she was not likely to travel to her hometown of Mingora in the Swat Valley, where the shooting occurred.

As news broke about Yousafzai's arrival, many of her fellow Pakistanis welcomed her.

The party of Imran Khan, former international cricket star and now leading Pakistani opposition politician, said Yousafzai's return was a sign of the defeat of extremism in the country.

Mohammad Hassan, one of Yousafzai's cousins in the northwestern town of Mingora, said it was one of the happiest days of his life. He said he was not sure whether Yousafzai will visit her hometown, where he said schoolchildren were jubilant



In this Feb. 4, 2016, file photo, Nobel Peace Prize-winner Malala Yousafzai, from Pakistan, speaks during the first focus event on education at the "Supporting Syria and the Region" conference at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in London. Yousafzai has returned to Pakistan for the first time she was shot in 2012 by militants angered at her championing of education for girls.

and wished they could greet her.

Javeria Khan, a 12-year-old schoolgirl in Mingora said she wished she "could see her in Swat."

"I wish she had come here, but we welcome her," she said, as she sat among schoolchildren.

Marvi Memon, a senior leader of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League party, said it was a pleasant surprise for her to see Yousafzai back home and a "proud day" for Pakistan.

"What an incredible surprise, I woke up to this morning" to know that Yousafzai is back along with her parents, Memon said.

Yousafzai was just 14 years old but already known for her activism when Taliban gunman boarded the school van in which she was sitting and demanded to know "who is

Malala?" before shooting her in the head. Two of her classmates were also wounded.

In critical condition, Yousafzai was flown to the garrison city of Rawalpindi before being airlifted to Birmingham in Britain.

She has since spoken at the United Nations, mesmerizing the world with her eloquence and her unrelenting commitment to the promotion of girls' education through the Malala Fund, a book, meetings with refugees and other activism.

She was awarded the Nobel in 2014, along with Indian child-rights activist Kailash Satyarthi, and said on the day she collected the prize that "education is one of the blessings of life, and one of its necessities."

She remained in Britain after undergoing medical treatment there and was accepted

to the University of Oxford last year.

At home in Pakistan, however, she has been condemned by some as a Western mouthpiece. Some have even suggested on social media that the shooting was staged. Yousafzai has repeatedly responded to the criticism with a grace far outstripping her years, often saying education is neither Western, nor Eastern.

Often when she has spoken in public, Yousafzai has championed her home country and spoken in her native Pashto language, always promising to return to her home.

On March 23, when Pakistan celebrated Pakistan Day, Yousafzai tweeted, "I cherish fond memories of home, of playing cricket on rooftops and singing the national anthem in school. Happy Paki-

stan Day!"

Local television channels have been showing her return to Pakistan with some replaying the horror of her shooting and the rush to get her treatment.

Pakistani officials say they captured several suspects after the attack on Yousafzai, but the head of the Taliban in Pakistan, Mullah Fazlullah, is still on the run and believed to be hiding in neighboring Afghanistan.

Fazlullah's spokesman, Mohammad Khurasani, earlier this month said Fazlullah's son was among 21 "holy warriors" killed by missiles fired by a U.S. drone at a seminary in Afghanistan in early March.

1 year to Brexit: So much to do, so little time

LONDON (AP) — Britain's exit from the European Union has been likened to putting toothpaste back in the tube. But it's more like trying to separate the fluoride from the paste: complicated and messy.

Thursday marks 365 days until Britain officially leaves the EU. The March 29, 2019, departure will end a 46-year marriage that has entwined the economies, legal systems and peoples of Britain and 27 other European countries.

British Prime Minister Theresa May was on a whistle-stop tour of the United Kingdom's four corners — England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland — to promise a Brexit that unites the country.

"Brexit provides us with opportunities," May said at a weaving firm in southwest Scotland. "It is in our interests to come together and really seize these opportunities for the future."

For all her optimism, there are a thousand complex issues to settle, and little time.

Britain formally announced its intention to leave the EU a year ago, triggering a two-year countdown. University of Manchester political science professor Rob Ford said that timeframe is "ludicrously short."

"That's not sufficient time to disentangle 40 years of political, social and economic entanglement," he said. "Even with the best will in the world — which isn't the spirit in which these negotiations have been conducted — it couldn't happen."

Across the English Channel in Brussels, the chief European Parliament Brexit official, Guy Verhofstadt, listed a few of the many areas where the two sides must strike a deal: fishing, aviation, research and academic exchanges, nuclear cooperation and the handling of radioactive materials. Failure could leave British hospitals unable to offer radiation treatment and British planes stranded on the tarmac.

"In every one of these fields it will be necessary

to find a new arrangement," Verhofstadt told The Associated Press. Britain will turn into a third country "and a third country cannot have the same advantages as a member state."

The EU has repeated that warning ever since Britain voted in June 2016 to leave: Brexit is going to hurt. That applies especially to future trade and economic ties, which the two sides have barely begun to negotiate.

In a speech this month, May said she wanted "the broadest and deepest possible partnership" through a free-trade deal unlike any other in the world. EU leaders warn Britain that it cannot "cherry-pick" the benefits of membership without the obligations.

The two sides have given themselves until October to agree on the outlines of a deal, so that the EU and national parliaments can sign off on it before Brexit day. That deadline is rapidly approaching after many months of delay and deferral.

Nine months passed between Britain voting

to leave the EU and the triggering of the two-year countdown. More delay followed when May called a snap election to strengthen her hand in Brexit talks — only to lose her majority in Parliament and much of her authority as leader.

Her government now relies on support from Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party, which has further complicated talks on the most intractable of all Brexit issues — maintaining the near-invisible border between the EU's Ireland and the U.K.'s Northern Ireland.

Negotiations between Britain and the EU finally began in earnest last summer. Their main achievement so far is a transition period that will last until the end of 2020. During the transition, Britain will continue to pay into EU coffers and follow the bloc's rules, though it will lose its voice in decision-making.

The transition period has eased, though not erased, fears of a Brexit cliff-edge, in which time runs out and Britain crashes out of the

EU with no deal. Both Britain and the EU — and most businesses — want to avoid that economically and politically destabilizing scenario.

Verhofstadt said he is "an optimist by nature" and considers a cliff-edge Brexit unlikely.

"The question is: Can we bridge the red lines of the U.K. with the principles of the European Union? And the answer is yes, it is possible," he said.

Amid the uncertainty, British businesses worry. Since the referendum, inflation in Britain has shot up, and growth, once among the highest in the EU, is now below the bloc's average.

And Britain remains divided. The 52 percent-48 percent referendum result divided Britain into two mutually mistrustful camps, leavers and remainers, battling over the nation's future.

Remainers argue Britain should be able to change its mind if it turns out Brexit will damage the economy and the country. "Nobody voted in the

referendum to be worse off," said pro-EU Labour lawmaker Chris Leslie.

That argument infuriates Brexiters like John Longworth, co-director of lobby group Leave Means Leave. He says pro-EU campaigners are "a fifth column in the U.K. working in collusion with the European Union to try and wreck the Brexit process."

While Brexit has divided Britain, it has brought out unity in the often fractious EU.

"After Brexit, everybody thought there would be a sort of domino effect," Verhofstadt said. "A Dexit, the Danish going out; Next, the Dutch going out; a Frexit even, the French going out. What we have seen is exactly the opposite. Since Brexit, we see that people again have a positive feeling about the EU."

"They are saying, we will not be so stupid as to leave the EU, to destroy the EU. So Brexit has been a serious wake-up call."

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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.

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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."

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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. AP

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 Fitiseanu, 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.

Fitiseanu 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," Fitiseanu 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 Fitiseanu, 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, Fitiseanu 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."

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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."



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