

Around Osceola

5k benefits Meals on Wheels.

About 450 people joined the race on March 17 in downtown Kissimmee.

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THIS WEEKEND!



Saturday, April 7, 2018

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TOP STORIES

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'Crosswalk Crackdown' set to reduce deaths

By Charlie Reed
 For the News-Gazette

Drivers be warned: You must yield to pedestrians in crosswalks or face a \$166 ticket and three points on your driver's license.

Osceola County deputies and Kissimmee and St. Cloud police are combining forces for a "crosswalk crackdown" starting April 18 to reduce pedestrian fatalities and injuries.

Osceola County – and most of Central Florida – is the most dangerous place to walk in the U.S. per capita and has been for a decade.

In 2016, 19 walkers were killed and 148 were injured by cars and trucks in Osceola County, a 30 percent increase from 2014, according to the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.

Osceola County, the cities of Kissimmee and St. Cloud, and their See **Crackdown**, Page 2.



NEWS-GAZETTE PHOTO/MARTIN MADDOCK

A man crosses Emmett Street near the Osceola County Administration Building on Thursday. Local authorities will be cracking down on drivers who don't stop for pedestrians in crosswalks.

AROUND TOWN

A powerful reading



NEWS-GAZETTE PHOTO/MARTIN MADDOCK

Maria Garcez gets emotional support from her fellow students and co-authors of the book, *Coming to America*, as she tearfully reads an excerpt from her story about the death of her father in Venezuela and her family's subsequent move to the United States. Garcez and eight fellow students were at Osceola High School Wednesday night to read selections from their personal stories and sign copies of their books that were offered for sale to those attending.

Local officials pleading with FEMA to extend Puerto Rican housing aid

By Charlie Reed
 For the News-Gazette

Federal emergency funds supporting hundreds of storm evacuees from Puerto Rico living in local motels run out in mid-May.

That includes 249 students, 149 of which are graduating seniors.

Local officials including Kissimmee Mayor Jose Alvarez and Osceola County

Schools Superintendent Debra Pace have been pleading with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the government of Puerto Rico to extend housing support for those families, at least until the end of May, when the school year ends.

"We're hoping to get the vouchers extended until at least school is over to give these kids peace of

mind. It's important we try to assist them so they have a roof over their heads while they're still in school, taking tests and trying to finish out the year, especially those seniors," Alvarez said.

It's the latest short-term fix local government and school officials in Osceola County are hoping to accomplish. Alvarez said

See **Aid**, Page 5.

Teachers fight back against proposed healthcare hikes

By Rachel Christian
 Staff Writer

Teacher Debra Davis suffered a stroke last year while she was grading papers.

The educator said her recent health issues are already taking a financial toll on her life.

"I have to go to specialists now," said Davis, who has taught in the Osceola County School District for over 20 years. "For me, every year I pay out of pocket \$6,000 [deductible]. And every year for the last three years, I've had to pay out of pocket."

Davis and more than 6,600 other faculty and staff members are now facing health insurance premium hikes and higher co-pay costs that would shortchange hundreds of educators' take-home pay in Osceola County.

Davis was joined by 16 other employees who went before the School Board Tuesday demanding that members reconsider and revise a proposed benefits and salary contract released last month.

The proposal for the 2018-19 school year showed that employees who insure

their children through the district stand to lose \$1,800 a year in higher premium costs. Spouse and family plans are set to increase even more by as much as \$4,400 a year.



Teachers speak out

Personal stories of financial hardship, sacrifice and struggle served as the common thread that unified more than an hour of public comment delivered by teachers and support staff from around the county.

Teacher Jessica Torrance was recently diagnosed with cancer.

In addition to a \$5,000 deductible, she would begin paying \$500 a year in premium costs if the contract passes.

"I'm hoping that this board, knowing that these teachers work hard, knowing that the state is not helping us, the federal government is not helping us, will take that money that you have the ability to use and give it back to instructional staffs at the school," Torrance said.

Stephen Bundy is a teacher at Ventura Elementary. He's also an

See **Teachers**, Page 3.

REMEMBERING KISSIMMEE

Mother Nature's fury



JOHN LEWIS
Former deputy police chief

We all know that the weather these past two months has been up and down to say the least. Weather is the reason people come to Florida and why Floridians own coats for when the temperature drops below 70.

The weather has always been unpredictable and Mother Nature has wreaked havoc on the peninsula for a long time. However, two years stand out for weather here in Kissimmee, 1998 and 2004.

Anyone who lived here through either of those years knows the issues that were presented to us. First, the night of tornadoes, Feb. 22, 1998. I remember that day well. It was hot, humid and windy during the day. I remember hearing all the weather forecasts warning of potential severe storms. I was sure that there would be no impact from the storms and went to sleep on that night thinking of all the tasks I had to do on Monday.

My phone rang and I quickly answered it. I wasn't

on call so I was expecting to be called out for a violent crime or murder. The message was quick and to the point. The dispatcher said, "Put a uniform on and get to Lakeside Estates. A tornado has struck and all personnel are being called in."

I then realized I had no power in the house and realized this isn't going to be good.

While driving to Cypress Elementary School (the Incident Command Post) I was astonished at the destruction. Some houses were fine, seemingly untouched, while others were completely destroyed. I received my assignment to conduct license checks at the entrance to Lakeside Estates at Boggy Creek Road and only allow residents to enter the development. The police department had set up road blocks as well as assigning units to go to homes and check on everyone. They were to rescue people if needed, but document if everyone was OK. We would be there for the next 14 days.

It was a stressful time for officers and residents. It is the first time I can remember KPD asking Orlando police for assistance because we didn't

have enough personnel to continue doing the road blocks and crime was not going to wait for us to clean up. Anyone who lived through it knows that event made us all feel vulnerable and powerless.

Just six short years later, we were faced with an unprecedented situation. We were forecast to receive outer feeder bands of Hurricane Charley that was going to strike Tampa Bay. The city and county were to be set up to handle overflow evacuees since we weren't supposed to get a direct hit. Then, late in the afternoon of Aug. 13, 2004, we received word that the storm had "wobbled" and was taking dead aim at Kissimmee.

As the weather deteriorated, I recalled a conversation I had when I was just a rookie. During the summer of 1990, the local television stations were warning that a hurricane might make landfall near Central Florida. I asked one of the veterans of the department if I should be worried. His response, "rookie, we are 70 miles from the coast and anything that comes ashore there won't

See **Fury**, Page 5.

CRACKDOWN

Continued from Page 1

respective law enforcement agencies, along with the Osceola County School District and Lynx bus systems last year joined forces to launch the Best Foot Forward campaign.

The grassroots safety initiative is designed to reverse the escalating deaths, injuries and fatalities in Osceola by changing driver behavior at pedestrian crosswalks. Best Foot Forward was rolled out in Orange County earlier this year.

"What makes this different than traditional pedestrian safety and bike safety programs is that it's really focused on trying to change people's behavior. More people die here crossing the street than anywhere else in the country. It's terrible," said Amanda Day, project director for Best Foot Forward.

The combined effort in Osceola doesn't just include law enforcement but also education campaigns at schools, particularly elementary schools, Day said.

"That's one of the most critical parts of the change," she said.

Similar efforts over the years to encourage drivers and passengers to wear seat belts and people to quit smoking have started with educational campaigns aimed at children.

Best Foot Forward is

also incorporating city and county engineering departments to do more than simply paint crosswalks.

"Our streets are designed for cars and not for people that walk or bike," and that can change when government works together, Day said.

For now, the effort is tightly focused on ticketing drivers who don't yield at crosswalks.

Instead of implementing broad pedestrian safety initiatives, Best Foot Forward is tightly focused on reducing incidents at crosswalks.

"We're gonna focus on

one slice of the big pie: How to get more drivers to stop for people in crosswalks through enforcement, education and engineering," Day said.

There are new signs around town reminding drivers of the penalties for breaking the law, and police and deputies have been issuing warnings instead of tickets since January.

But that will stop in a few weeks when the "crosswalk crackdown" begins.

So how does enforcement work? Plain-clothes officers will be walking the streets, putting themselves at risk to help enforce the existing law.

The following 15 crosswalks, most near schools and Lynx bus stops, are part of the pilot program and include:

- Michigan Avenue & Chris Court
- Broadway & Dakin Avenue
- Church Street & Dakin Avenue
- Dyer Boulevard & Kensington Road
- Florida Parkway & Royal Palm Drive
- Hoagland Boulevard & Hideaway Bay
- South Thacker Avenue & Ernest Street
- Central Avenue & Hilda Street
- Neptune Road & Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
- North Thacker Avenue & Kissimmee Trail
- West Donegan Avenue & Coral Avenue
- 3233 Polynesian Isle Boulevard
- Koa Street & Laurel Avenue
- Simpson Road & Fortune Road
- South Doverplum Avenue & San Remo Road

For more information go to: www.iyield4ped.org/about/bfflaunchosceola.

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We believe this change will allow us to serve students' needs as an educational institution even better than before.

*National University College (NUC) is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, 3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104 (267) 284-5000. NUC's National University College - IBC Institute (NUC-IBC), National University College - POPAC Institute (NUC-POPAC), Florida Technical College (FTC), The Digital Animation & Visual Effects School (The DAVE School), and LaSalle Computer Learning Center (LCLC) are included in this accreditation. The Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) is a regional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, April 2018.

Child abuse prevention month begins

By Rachel Christian
Staff Writer

Events are being held across Osceola County this month by advocacy groups and law enforcement officials to raise awareness about child abuse.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, and Joy Chuba, executive director of the Child Advocacy Center in Osceola County, said it's the perfect time to educate the public on a sensitive topic. "Child abuse and neglect effect every community, it's

not unique to ours," she said. "It's important to bring awareness to the topic and talk about it because it's a preventable crime."

The Child Advocacy Center teamed up with community partners outside the Osceola County Sheriff's Office Monday to kick off the first of several April events.

Local leaders and volunteers planted Pinwheels for Prevention

at the Sheriff's Office and other locations around downtown Kissimmee.

"Great childhoods require a loving and supporting environment," County Commissioner Fred Hawkins Jr. stated in a press release after the event. "That atmosphere helps children grow into productive, contributing adults who help their community and our country be healthy and prosperous."

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

TEACHERS

Continued from Page 1

Osceola County native and a former student of current District Superintendent Debra Pace.

Bundy and his wife have taught in the district for 15 years. He said they have each seen their paychecks increase by only about \$250 during that time.

Meanwhile, the couple stands to lose a combined \$209 a paycheck if proposed healthcare changes go through.

"I understand we haven't had an increase in insurance in a couple years, but we also haven't had a decent raise," Bundy said. "Next year's [proposed] salary increases for my wife and I, together, is \$42. I don't see how that increase to the insurance that's \$418 a month, is anywhere equal to that \$42 raise that we're getting."

A majority of district employees said they are already working at least one other job to make ends meet.

Nicole Anstadt wore her SeaWorld employee shirt when she addressed the board. Anstadt said she works 20 hours each weekend at the theme park selling "souvenirs to families that can actually afford to attend our parks."

Anstadt has a master's degree and 17 years of experience in her field.

"The so-called salary increases are nothing but a cruel April Fool's joke to me and to every other teacher in this district," she said. "I already struggle to pay our bills this year. I'm afraid of what's to come next year."

St. Cloud Elementary School teacher Gayle Noe told members that as a single mother, she doesn't have time to take another job.

"I don't have a spouse to watch my child while I go out and work a second job," Noe said. "I don't have that support that some people do. There's a lot of single parents out here. I'm not the only one."

One teacher told board members she had to sign up for the Medicaid program WIC late last year in order to afford expensive formula for her baby, who was born with a rare digestive disease.

"Now, one day a month, I'm out of sick time because of maternity leave, I take a pay cut from my salary to go stand in the welfare line," she said. "I want you guys to have a dose of reality of what we're going through."

Organizing and fighting back

The Osceola County Education Association (OCEA) is the union that represents faculty and support staff in the district.

The group called on members through its Facebook page last week to speak at the Tuesday school board meeting.

OCEA President Apryle Jackson said she organized the public showing of opposition so board members could hear the possible impact of the proposed contract firsthand.

"It's time to take a stand," Jackson wrote on the OCEA Facebook page prior to the meeting. "When the majority simply sit back and do nothing, those making decisions believe it isn't important."

The union has already sat down at the bargaining table once with the district since the salary and benefits proposal was released. OCEA rejected the contract at that first meeting, and the district responded at a Thursday meeting. The district response occurred after press time for today's edition.

School Board response

School District attorney Frank Kruppenbacher publicly advised board members to refrain from commenting on the proposed contract because negotiations with the union are still ongoing.

But School Board Chairman Ricky Booth and other members still weighed in after public comment ended.

Booth showed the room a table of how much state funding per student each county in Florida received last year.

He emphasized that Osceola County was near the bottom of that list, receiving roughly \$1,000 less per student than the most well-funded school districts in the state.

He also responded to an audience comment about School Board members' salaries.

"No county in the state of Florida spends less per student on administrative costs than Osceola County," Booth said. "I just want you all to know what work we're doing up here and what we have to contend with."

Board Member Jay Wheeler suggested that teachers' unions across the state unify their healthcare lobbying efforts in Tallahassee in order to bring about lasting change.

"It's gone beyond a local level," Wheeler said. "We need your help."

All of the board members thanked the employees who spoke at the meeting, and said their comments would be taken into consideration as the bargaining process continues.



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ORDINANCE NO. 2018-34

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission of the City of St. Cloud, Florida, at a meeting to be held on April 17, 2018, in the Council Chamber at City Hall, 1300 9th Street, St. Cloud, Florida at 6:00 p.m., will consider the issue and make a recommendation to the City Council relative to enactment of Ordinance No. 2018-34 entitled

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ST. CLOUD, FLORIDA, ASSIGNING A ZONING DISTRICT OF "P" PROFESSIONAL, COMPATIBLE WITH A "PARK/OPEN SPACE" FUTURE LAND USE DESIGNATION CHANGE, ADOPTED BY ORDINANCE NO. 2018-33, FOR APPROXIMATELY 127.99 ACRES IDENTIFIED AS CHISHOLM PARK TRAIL, LOCATED AT 4700 CHISHOLM PARK TRAIL; PROVIDING FOR ENTERING THE DESIGNATION ON THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP, FILING OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION AND PROOF OF PUBLICATION, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS AND 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. The complete legal description by metes and bounds and the ORDINANCE in its entirety can be reviewed at the Planning and Zoning Department between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 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)

Jessie Light, Planning Commission Secretary
1300 9th Street, St. Cloud, FL 34769
(407) 957-8427

The Osceola Board of County Commissioners seeks volunteers to serve on the following Advisory Boards:

Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (7 Positions) - Not less frequently than every three (3) years, the advisory committee shall review the established policies and procedures, ordinances, land development regulations, and adopted local government comprehensive plan of the appointing local government and shall recommend specific actions or initiatives to encourage or facilitate affordable housing while protecting the ability of the property to appreciate in value.

Board of Adjustment (1 Position) - District 2 - Members of the Board of Adjustment shall be knowledgeable in the field of comprehensive planning and shall be familiar with the Osceola County Comprehensive Plan, the Osceola County Land Development Code and other applicable regulations. Members of the Board of Adjustment serve at the pleasure of the Board of County Commissioners. The Board of Adjustment shall have the authority to grant or deny, wholly or in part, any request for a variance from the specified regulations and grant conditional use requests pursuant to the appropriate findings and further that it is not contrary to the public interest and the health, safety, comfort, convenience, and welfare of the citizens of Osceola County, or that the request is in conflict with provisions of this Code. Must reside in County Commission District 2. Typically meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Terms are four (4) years, unless it is to fill a vacant position.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Citizens Advisory Task Force (1 Position) - District 2 - The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Citizen Advisory Task Force increases public awareness of the function of the community Development Block Grant Program and the types of assistance available to low and moderate income residents. In this role, the Task Force reviews and provides input on the Action Plan, Consolidated Plan, citizen Participation Plan and Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing. The Task Force also provides input on the implementation of community projects. Fifty-one percent of Task force members must meet the low and moderate income definition (households at or below 80 percent area median income). The committee meets twice a year at the Osceola County Human Services office in the Beaumont Complex, 330 N. Beaumont Avenue, Kissimmee, FL 34741

Code Enforcement Board (1 Position) - Business - The Code Enforcement Board shall be empowered to hear and adjudicate cases presented before them on matters involving codes and ordinances adopted by the Osceola County Commission. It is the intent of the Board of County Commissioners, by adopting Chapter 7 of the Osceola County Code of Ordinances, to provide an equitable, expeditious, effective and inexpensive method of enforcing the County's Code and Ordinances. Examples of some of the Codes the Code Board hears would be; occupational license violations, building code, fire, mechanical, electrical and plumbing codes, zoning and sign ordinance violations and other various codes and ordinances. The Code Board is comprised of seven (7) members who shall be residents of the County and who shall be appointed by the Board of County Commission on the basis of experience or interest in the subject jurisdiction of the Board. Pursuant to Florida Statute the membership of the Code Board shall, whenever possible, consist of the following: Architect, Business Person, Engineer, General Contractor, Subcontractor or Realtor. The Code Enforcement Board typically meets the third (3rd) Wednesday of every month at 3:00pm in the Board Chambers located on the fourth (4th) floor of the Administration Building.

Fire and Rescue Advisory Board (1 Position) - District 2 - The Fire and Rescue Advisory Commission considers various operational and budgetary aspects of Osceola County's fire services and makes recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners. Meetings are scheduled the first Thursday of every month and take place in the following location: **Emergency Operations Center, 2586 Partin Settlement Road, Kissimmee, FL 34747**

Housing Finance Authority (1 Position) - The Housing Finance Authority is composed of five (5) residents of the County serving for four (4) years or until their successors are appointed and are qualified. Florida Statutes 159.605 provides that not less than a majority of the members of the Housing Finance Authority shall be knowledgeable in one of the following fields: Labor, Finance or Commerce. These are the only qualifications for membership on the Authority, established by Law.

Library Advisory Board (1 Position) - At-large - The Library Advisory Board is a visionary force, meeting the needs of a growing and diverse community.

Those interested in applying may visit <http://www.osceola.org/agencies-departments/advisory-boards/> for a listing of all boards and the application documents required.



VIEWPOINT

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OUR VIEW

Bus service essential to success of Poinciana SunRail station

We like to think there are many Osceola County residents, especially in Poinciana, anticipating the SunRail train when it's expected to debut — finally — on July 30.

But there already is a big problem looming at the Poinciana station. It appears that Lynx no longer has plans to have bus routes to take commuters to and from the station. But thankfully, with just months to spare, our county commissioners are speaking up for potential riders in the Poinciana area.

Creating strong Lynx bus routes will be essential to the success of the station and dependable buses will also be imperative to eliminating traffic congestion in that area. Osceola County Commissioner Viviana Janer told fellow commissioners on Monday that two of the three fixed routes Lynx planned for Osceola County's SunRail stations have now been eliminated. That leaves one bus route at the Tupperware station north of downtown Kissimmee and none for the Poinciana station. We believe that's just not acceptable, and either do the commissioners. We applaud them for that.

Janer said that \$1.2 million was budgeted into the county's financial plan by Florida Department of Transportation over two years ago to help finance feeder bus service in Osceola County. She also said transportation officials no longer think there will be enough people in Poinciana who will ride these buses to SunRail.

We disagree. Traveling to Poinciana during high traffic times can be absolute gridlock. Instead of offering fixed bus routes, Lynx is currently only offering what's known as a NeighborLink connection, or an on-call shuttle bus service. But Janer said it didn't make sense that Osceola was not given the same opportunity that other local funding partners were granted when they had fixed bus routes to all their major stops. She also noted that without better public transit options, Poinciana residents will have to drive and park at the SunRail station, which would do nothing to ease traffic woes in that area. And she's absolutely right.

Commissioner Brandon Arrington, whose district includes the station in question, took it one step further and called the recent elimination of fixed bus routes "a slap in the face." Well said, Commissioner Arrington. Because Osceola was sold on that fact that the Poinciana station would have bus service. Without service, you might be setting Poinciana SunRail service to fail. That makes no sense.

Commission Chairman Fred Hawkins Jr. offered to write a letter to FDOT requesting that officials appear before



the board and provide clarity and possible solutions regarding Poinciana in upcoming months. Every little bit helps. Having no fixed bus routes is not a viable option if we want effective SunRail service in Poinciana. Osceola County commissioners know that and are making their voices heard. We have faith in our commissioners that they will fight to try to get the necessary job done.



Want to write a letter to the editor?

Email it to Editor Brian McBride at bmcbride@osceolanewsgazette.com.

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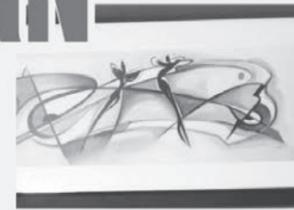
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Local men jailed in child predator sting

By Brian McBride
Editor

Two Kissimmee men, one who was a Walt Disney bus driver, were arrested in an undercover Polk County sting targeting online child predators.

From March 25-31, Polk County Sheriff's Office detectives, along with detectives and investigators from other law enforcement agencies, conducted a weeklong undercover joint investigation.

Fifteen men were arrested and an arrest warrant has been issued for another. Two other men were recently arrested, or had charges added, related to child pornography.

They included Kevin Van Orman, 35, and Paulo Rodrigues, 50, both of Kissimmee. Rodrigues is HIV positive according to a

Polk Sheriff's Office report. "These predators are out there trying to violate our children," said Polk Sheriff Grady Judd. "I am disgusted by their brazenness and callous indifference to the importance of protecting children. I ask parents to please be involved with their children and monitor their online activity."

On March 25, Van Orman engaged with an undercover Sheriff's Office detective posing as a 15-year-old girl online. Throughout the conversation, he described himself as "a big teddy bear" and offered to give the girl a massage, to cuddle, and do "whatever else she was comfortable with," the report stated.

It was clear to Van Orman throughout the conversation that the person with whom he

was communicating was a 15-year-old girl, Sheriff's Office officials said. He also told her that he would perform oral sex on her and "use protection" during intercourse. After traveling to the undercover location, detectives arrested him. He told detectives that he is a bus driver at Walt Disney World and his wife is pregnant. He also has two children, according to the report.

Van Orman was also chatting with another undercover detective who was posing as a 14-year-old and offered to perform various sexual acts on her the next night. He was also charged for that offense.

Van Orman was charged with use of a computer to solicit a child, traveling to meet a minor and attempted lewd battery.

In August of 2017,

Rodrigues engaged with an undercover PCSO detective posing as a 14-year-old boy online.

It was clear to Rodrigues throughout the conversation that the person with whom he was communicating with was a 14-year-old boy, Sheriff's Office officials said.

The conversations spanned back to August. Rodrigues asked the "boy" if he would be interested in meeting. He told the boy that they could perform oral sex on each other and then have sex. Rodrigues traveled to the undercover location and was arrested. Rodrigues told detectives that he was HIV positive and planned to have sex with the boy without telling him, the report stated.

He was charged with: traveling to meet a minor, attempted lewd battery and uninformed HIV infected.

AID

Continued from Page 1

the decision should be in by next week.

The greater issue, however, is housing for the thousands of Puerto Ricans who have come to Central Florida – particularly Osceola and Orange counties – since Hurricane Maria devastated the island in September.

Approximately 5,700 newly arrived Puerto Ricans now call Osceola home. There are tens of thousands more in Orange County and throughout the state. There's no estimate on how many plan to stay here permanently or how many will eventually return to the island, which is still reeling from the disaster as the 2018 hurricane season looms.

In San Juan, the capital, the destruction from Maria is still evident. Tarp-covered homes and building crushed by the storm are widespread. Across the island, there are downed power lines and rolling blackouts continue. Some 80,000 homes and businesses remain in the dark more than six months after the hurricane.

"Despite claims by FEMA that 95 percent of

electric meters' are hooked back up, I saw rampant power outages from the suburbs to rural areas. Also witnessed a sea of blue tarps and extensive home damage yet to be repaired," said Congressman Darren Soto, who was in Puerto Rico for two days late last month.

"The island is still neck-deep in disaster," he said.

Meanwhile, Central Florida is also facing a crisis when it comes to the influx of storm victims to the region, said Soto, D-Kissimmee.

Many aspects of the massive influx are going well, Soto said, such as in-state college tuition for Puerto Rican college students, easy enrollment in K-12 schools for children and a plentiful albeit low-wage job market.

"Affordable housing is the big issues, and as we all know it's been a big issue in Osceola even before the Puerto Rico situation," he said. New apartments under construction everywhere. But despite all the building, it's still a heavy demand and low supply. New home construction

is predominately vacation homes. It's tough. We're facing an international market for housing while doing our best to get workforce housing in Osceola."

Soto said he and other officials are now reaching out to developers based in Puerto Rico, encouraging them to build in Osceola County.

According to local Realtors, there's a six-month to a year-waiting list for apartments, ranging from \$1,200 for one-bedrooms and \$1,500 for two-bedrooms.

"This is something close to their hearts. We need all the help we can get," Soto said. "We have an opportunity to open up affordable housing for all resident because of this of new demand."

There is also a \$2.3 billion Puerto Rico federal aid package – including money for Florida schools and citrus growers – that passed in January is still isn't flowing from Washington, according to Soto. He and Sen. Bill Nelson this week sent a letter to the federal

government urging the funds to be expedited.

"It's a shame it's taken months after the money was allocated and it's still not there," he said.

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FURY

Continued from Page 2

be a hurricane by the time it gets to Kissimmee." I wondered if that veteran officer who was now retired knew what he was talking about. Sadly, his information could not have been further from the truth.

We got hit and hit bad. All of the city and county resources were overwhelmed with the sheer magnitude of the event. No power, every traffic light out, and many patrol cars with no windows after they were struck with flying debris. It was an awesome display of Mother Nature's power.

But what do I remember most, as soon as Charley had passed, everyone it seemed went for a drive to survey the damage. It was difficult to get anywhere due

to the lack of power, lines down and the large amount of traffic on the roadway. People, if there is another direct hit from a hurricane, stay home unless it's life threatening.

This storm changed the course of Kissimmee forever. Traffic lights would need to be reinstalled and then timed correctly, shelters needed to be open and officers needed to postpone working on their homes so they could patrol and keep Kissimmee safe.

Eventually, with the help of multiple agencies from around the state, we slowly recovered. Only to then be hit by Hurricanes Frances and Jean – full stripeout.

Between the tornadoes and hurricanes, Kissimmee

was on the map. Former President Bill Clinton toured the tornado damage and Former Governor Jeb Bush made several trips to the county emergency operations center to check in on recovery efforts. By the end of the storms, Kissimmee and Osceola County were very proficient at handling weather related emergencies.

Even to this day, lessons learned from these events are taught around the country and have allowed us all to be better prepared. So, city government learned how to better respond and building codes got stronger.

As for me, I still want to go back to that veteran officer and smack him, because Kissimmee can get hit, but at least we know what to do now.

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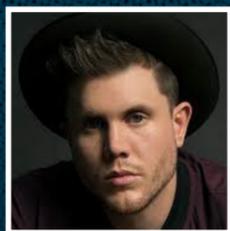
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SPORTS



Solar Bears Clinch
Playoffs begin Thursday.
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Local & National Sports • Sports Commentary

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Fire Frogs back on the field today for 2018 opener

By Ken Jackson
Sports Editor

Year Two in the Hot Lily Pad is upon us. The Florida Fire Frogs make their 2018 season debut today at 4 p.m. at Osceola County Stadium. Tickets start at \$7.



FIRE FROGS

Full season minor league baseball returned to Osceola County last year after a 17-year hiatus.

The team, the Single-A Florida State League affiliate of the Atlanta Braves, opened the season Thursday and Friday in Daytona Beach at Jackie Robinson Stadium against the Daytona Tortugas, a Cincinnati Reds affiliate.

The Fire Frogs are also home Sunday at 11 a.m. before heading out on a week-long road trip, and will return home on April 17.

The high Class A talent pool from the Atlanta Braves coming to play here only had to make a short drive down Osceola Parkway from the Braves' spring base at ESPN's Wide World of Sports.

"Yeah, we saw guys getting sent to Mississippi (Double-A) or Gwinnett (Triple-A in Georgia) and talking about an eight-hour drive, and we were here in 20 minutes," said pitcher Tucker Davidson, who was slated to get the start Friday in Daytona.

The starting pitching rotation, led by pitching coach Mike Maroth, a local who went to Orlando's Boone High School and played at UCF before a big-league career mostly with the Detroit Tigers, comes en masse from the Rome Braves, Atlanta's low-A team.

Jeremy Walker, Davidson, Bryse Wilson (today's projected starter), Joey Wentz and Ian Anderson make up that group, with most beginning their second full season in pro baseball after coming out of the 2016 Draft.

Davidson said he and his teammates just want to build on what they learned last year, the longest season they'd ever played based on the number of games, as they take tips from the coaching staff led by Manager Luis Salazar.

"Obviously you want to win every day," Davidson said. "It's a grind, but in the end we're just trying to get better every day."

"Mike has been great to work with so far. He's been through the grind before, and we're learning a lot from him."

Anderson, who will turn 20 in a couple weeks, was 4-5 with a 3.14 ERA last year, and said it was tough to struggle through July and August last year in Rome.

"But you have to learn how to struggle, they want us to figure it out for ourselves. The players obviously get better as you go up, so you have to be more prepared," he said.

Marcus Mooney, an infielder also coming in from Rome, said he already knows Salazar will be a

See **Fire Frogs**, Page 9.

ORANGE BELT CONFERENCE TRACK Boys meet: it's a tie!

▶ Bulldogs win girls meet, tie with OHS for first time

By Ken Jackson
Sports Editor

The Orange Belt Conference track meet Thursday at St. Cloud had it all: repeat champions, new talent, three kinds of weather during the day's longest race and, for the first time, a tie in the boys' team standings, brought on by a fluky ending in the day's final race.

Osceola's boys, led by their depth in the sprints and hurdles, and St. Cloud's boys, pushed by its distance running program, tied with 183 points to finish ahead of Harmony (122) and Liberty (54).

"We preach OBCs all season long, but everybody did things to buy in and sacrificed a little to make this happen."

— KEVIN HARKEMA

St. Cloud's girls (164.5) used a similar approach to beat Osceola (154), Liberty (131) and Harmony (103.5), who ran without its injured top distance runner, Vanessa Bolen.

Thanks to taking four of the top six spots in the 3200 meters, the Bulldogs led the Kowboys by four points heading into the boys 4x400 relay, the last race of the day. Osceola had to win, which it did in 3:26.98, and St. Cloud could finish no better than fourth, which they did, but



NEWS-GAZETTE PHOTOS/DONALD LAMB

Above, Osceola freshman Markevus Jackson won the 100 and 200 meter races and anchored the Kowboy 4x100 and 4x400 relays to wins Tuesday at the Orange Belt Conference track meet at St. Cloud High. Below, the 3200 meter boys race, won by St. Cloud's Tristen Montalvo, finished in a gully-washing downpour.

Harmony's anchor runner dropped the baton just short of the finish line, dropping the Longhorns to sixth in the race and moving St. Cloud up to third, resulting in a tie.

Afterwards, St. Cloud coach Kevin Harkema, who was seen giving his 4x400 team a spirited pep talk prior to the race, remarked about how hard it is to tie an OBC meet.

"We did it in a district meet one time, but this was hard to do, and crazy how it happened," he said. "I can't believe the last time the St. Cloud boys side had any part of a win. We preach OBCs all season long, and we'll have a little break before districts (4A-5 on April 17 at St. Cloud), but everybody did things to buy in and sacrificed a little to make this happen. And it's good to have the girls on top."

That 3200, won by Tristen Montalvo, who



also took the 800 (1:59.41), 1600 (4:27.14) and ran on the 4x800 relay (8:20.81), started under breezy, cloudy skies and finished in rain that started in a drizzle that became a downpour at the finish, but it didn't keep the Bulldogs from going 1-2-4-6 in the race.

In all, Osceola took eight conference boys titles, double that of St. Cloud. Freshman Kowboy sprinter Markevus Jackson had an impressive OBC debut, winning the 100 (11.00) and 200 (22.45) meters. Hurdler

See **Track**, Page 9.

Channel your inner ninja warrior; St. Cloud's FitCore open



NEWS-GAZETTE PHOTO/MARTIN MADDOCK

The St. Cloud Chamber relay team gets off to a quick start at the opening of the FitCore course Tuesday at Godwin Park. It's designed to be tackled by ages 13+.

Calling all my friends who are fans of American Ninja Warrior!

KEN JACKSON
Sports Editor



Instead of sitting on your couch and watching fitness mavens who basically climb walls with their fingertips for a living do it on TV, you can take a page from their playbook and give ninja-ing a try at the new FitCore course at Godwin Park in St. Cloud.

Having given it a go, though, at its ribbon-cutting on Tuesday, maybe the couch is a safer place.

It looks so easy on NBC; at least the buff athletes do as they run, jump, climb over and through obstacles designed by sadistic producers for the entertainment benefit of those my 9-year-old daughter, who loves the show. I'm not sure if she watches to see the athletes succeed or crash and burn.

St. Cloud's FitCore course will keep you closer to the ground than the summit of Mount Midoriyama, but there's no water to fall into — just a base of rubberized mulch.

The course, designed and built by Landscape Structures, features nine obstacles that look benign enough taken one at a time. Doing it all in one shot should earn a person some kind of Ninja status.

All kidding aside, when the city of St. Cloud heard about the opportunity to create the first such fitness course in the state of Florida, a recreation offering for older teenagers and adults.

"Fitness is an important component to quality of life," said St. Cloud City Manager Bill Sturgeon, who tackled the course at Tuesday's ribbon-cutting with a couple of his former fire department brethren. "We were looking for amenities for older kids and adults, and it looked cool on

paper. Now that it's built it's so much better in person."

The course is designed for teens and up — active ones, and know to stretch before tackling this pathway of sore muscles. It starts with a benign gauntlet of angled platforms to run through, but then your arms better be ready to go to work. Two sets of different shaped monkey bars are on either side of a rope pyramid athletes climb up, then down. Then it's on to a vertical rope climb — ring the bell at the top to signal that the "fun" is half over.

Move onto a big board with ledges of varying heights and narrow widths. You use your fingers and joints to shimmy across. Do it fast (keep reading why).

Now that you're sore, out of breath and questioning what you see in this endeavor, it's time to negotiate three rotating platforms, followed by a rope

See **FitCore**, Page 9.

SPORTS

THE REEL DEAL

Come see the Wednesday night weigh-ins at 8

The third Toho Marine Lake Toho Wednesday Night Shootout is in the books, and 22 boats and 43 anglers turned out and four places were paid out this week. The duo of Pete and Eric took home first place honors with a five-fish 19.55-pound limit earning them \$215 to split.

Placing in the money every tournament so far was the team of Skip Stowers and Mark Holasek. Their 19.28 pounds included the Denali Rods Big fish of the night, a 10.24 pound Toho Piggy. \$105 went to them for second place in addition to the Big fish jackpot of \$110. Mark was also the

recipient of the first Denali Rod awarded for the biggest fish for the month of March. Third place and \$85 was claimed by Terry Seagraves and his partner Paul with 16.26 pounds. And just in the money with 16.09 pounds was Shelton and Johnie. Twelve limits were caught for an overall total weight of 168.25 pounds.

Catch the weigh-ins live every Wednesday night around 8 pm down at Big Toho Marina.

The North vs. South tournament hosted by Osceola Anglers High School Fishing Club was held this past Saturday and was "one for the books" according to participant and club journalist Kenzie Harrelson, a Freshman at Harmony High School who represented the North Team.

"The North won with an amazing 45 pound lead over the South," Harrelson said. "There was plenty of healthy bags to make the competition exciting for all anglers."



CINDY JOINT
The Reel Deal

Just over 175 pounds of fish was brought to the scales by the North, and the South had almost 130 pounds. The North consisted of 12 teams, six from Osceola Anglers and six from Seminole Anglers. Congratulations to all the teams that fished.

The Central Florida Bass Hunters held a tournament on Lake Toho Kissimmee last weekend and 14 teams competed and brought a combined 66 bass to the scales for an overall weight of 167 pounds. First Place went to the team of Fay Rowles and Ernie Ferrell with a limit of 19.2 pounds that included the big bass, a 7.2 pounder. Second was the duo of Bob Bakewell and Fisher Omans with 17.4 pounds and rounding out the top three was Brandon Prohitt and his Co-Angler Louis Desimone.

Enjoy your weekend. Tight Lines friends!

Solar Bears clinch No. 3 playoff spot



SOLAR BEARS PHOTO/FERNANDO MEDINA

Joe Perry (26) is now the Orlando Solar Bears' all-time leading goal scorer.

By Ken Jackson
Sports Editor

The Orlando Solar Bears have clinched an ECHL playoff berth, and it wasn't just by the skin of their teeth.

The home team clinched the No. 3 spot in the Southern Division win a pair of convincing wins last week at the Amway Center.

Orlando (33-28-9) froze the Jacksonville IceMen, 6-1, on Thursday, then swamped the Greenville Swamp Rabbits, 5-0, on Saturday.

Solar Bears forward Joe Perry made history when he beat the final buzzer to net a hat trick and score his 52nd goal in an Orlando uniform, passing Eric Faille or sole possession of the franchise scoring mark. He had an even strength goal, power play goal and shorthanded goal as well as an assist. Hunter Fejes added two goals.

"We worked hard (Thursday), we played a good game, we got momentum from our power play," Solar Bears Coach Drake Berehowsky said. "Joe does a lot of things for ice, he's big for us in the locker room and on the bench."

Perry said it was a game where "everything went my way."

"I'll take the three," he said. "If the same guys can learn where they are on the ice, it's nice to have that chemistry going into the playoffs."

In Saturday regular-season home finale that honored first responders, a sellout crowd of 9,555 saw Perry and Fejes score, along with J.J. Piccinich, Martins Dzierkals and Chris LeBlanc, and Cal Heeter make 36 saves in the shutout effort.

"It was a great game and a great crowd," Heeter said.

His performance Saturday, and Mackenzie Skapski's 23-save effort Thursday, gives Berehowsky a tough choice if he's to rely on one netminder to ride into and through the playoffs.

"It's a good problem," he said. "Cal's competitive and playing lights out right now. We know he's a great goalie. He challenges everyone in practice."

Orlando concludes the regular season this weekend on the road. They played the Atlanta Gladiators on Friday and face the South Carolina Stingrays tonight.

Despite being locked into the No. 3 spot, Berehowsky said the team will prepare to win all weekend.

"Consistency is a big thing," he said. "The playoffs are like a regular game so we won't change anything we do. We have to prepare the best we can. We're not worried about who we're playing. We're going to have to face great teams the rest of the way."

LeBlanc said even the players know they want to be rolling going into the playoffs for the Kelly Cup.

"We have to tighten up a few areas, but I think we're headed in the right direction going in," he said. "We're focused on ourselves, not our opponents at this point."

If South Carolina gets the No. 2 seed and the first-round opponent — the Florida Everblades need just two points in their final four games to lock up the No. 1 spot — Games 1 and 2 will be in South Charleston, S.C. on Thursday and Saturday, and Games 3-5 will be at the Amway Center on April 19, 21-22.

In five previous seasons in the ECHL, the Solar Bears have never won a postseason series, losing in three prior attempts.

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SPORTS

FIRE FROGS

Continued from Page 7.

great influence on his career. "He's seemed great in the short time we've gotten to know him," he said. "He's hard-nosed, and knows what it's like to play pro ball and make it your life's work."

Braxton Davidson, Atlanta's first-round draft pick in 2014, returns to play for the Fire Frogs. The team's everyday left fielder in 2017 will return to his natural position, first base, this year after hitting .213 in 111 games last year.

"Last year I was stressing on getting to the next level instead of taking it day-by-day. I'm a whole lot more confident that I was last Opening Day, I had a great spring. And I like Luis. He has three rules: play hard, be on time and know the signs. I feel ready to just take this year one game at a time and let the rest take care of itself."

The Fire Frogs' Opening Day roster features seven of the Braves' Top 30 prospects, including Anderson (No. 5), outfielder Cristian Pache (9), Wentz (10), Wilson (13), Davidson (23) and catcher Brett Cumberland (24) and outfielder Anfernee Seymour (25) who return to Florida.

Florida's roster includes 13 players that were on the Fire Frogs roster at any point in 2017. They include relievers Mauricio Cabrera, Sean McLaughlin, Chad Sobotka and Devan Watts, and lefty Drew Harrington on the mound.

Returning at the dish will be Cumberland, infielders Davidson, Ray-Patrick Didier, Omar Obregon and Alejandro Salazar, and outfielders Justin Ellison and Seymour.

Five foreign countries are represented, including

the Dominican Republic (Cabrera and Matos), Australia (left-handed pitcher Jon Kennedy), Aruba (Didder), Nicaragua (Obregon) and Venezuela (Salazar).

Ken Carson, president of the Florida State League, will be in attendance today to support the Fire Frogs' new in-house leadership group, led by Director of Operations Erik Anderson, the former facility manager at Osceola County Stadium.

"I'm impressed with all the new staff and what's in place, this is a strong affiliate with a strong organization," he said last week. "They have a strong working agreement with the Braves who, next to the Cubs, can call themselves

America's Team. The team is near the top of the player development standings of all the clubs, so fans will get to see the stars of tomorrow coming to a game here."

Time will tell if there's a Ronald Acuna on this current roster. Acuna was Florida's Opening Day center fielder and played in all three advanced minor-league levels, hitting .325 with 21 home runs, 88 runs and 82 RBIs and played in the Futures Game as part of All-Star weekend. He spent this spring training with the major-league club and despite hitting .432 during spring training was assigned to the Triple-A Gwinnett Stripers and is now Major League Baseball's No. 1 rated prospect heading into the 2018 season.

TRACK

Continued from Page 7.

Quavon Brown won the 110 (14.72) and took second in the 330 (39.61) behind St. Cloud's Matthew Velez (39.55). High jumper Kameron Green (6-2) and triple jumper Jaleal Maloney (43-3.25) won blue ribbons, as did the OHS 4x100 (43.37) and 4x400 (3:26.98) relay teams.

Harmony's Christian Taylor (400, 49.42) and Elijah Gunn (pole vault, 13-7) were crowned conference champions, as were Celebration discus thrower Hunter Hummel (169-4), Gateway shot putter Dennis Briggs (48-11.5) and Poinciana long jumper Aaron Hernandez (21-9.75).

For the girls, only St. Cloud's Valeria Villatoro, who won the 1600 (5:31.98) and 3200 (12:45.04) and

Poinciana hurdler Shaneylix Davila who took the 100 (14.51) and 300 (43.49) kept Osceola from sweeping the races. The Kowboys got wins from Alliann Johnson, (100, 12.18), Sade Davidson (200 in 25.11 and 400 in 56.28), Virginie Beljour (800, 2:24.37), the 4x100 (49.72), 4x400 (4:05.35) and 4x800 (9:56.02) relay teams.

St. Cloud got other wins from Destiny Wright (triple jump, 34-5.75), Haudi Whitson (pole vault, 9-5.75) and thrower Essence Tornabene, whose bid to return to the state meet started Wednesday in the discus (123-11) and shot put (40-8.25).

Poinciana long jumper Jendaya Nesbitt (16-7.25) and Liberty high jumper Christelle Bonzil (5-1.75) also won.

FITCORE

Continued from Page 7.

hammock that requires a leap of faith just to reach. But the end's in sight, just negotiate a rope where a balance beam should be (you get another rope at shoulder level to steady yourself), then hop off and stick the landing. Success!

City officials say the course was built for around \$100,000, and the builders will be making some refinements, like adding a step to better reach the finger ledges.

A quartet of St. Cloud Police officers who looked prepared to raise a barn or pick up a squad car with their bare hands completed the course in two minutes and 19 seconds, ahead of three other teams. Yours truly sat back and watched the "experts" tour the course to observe the finer points of the required climbing and jumping, made a lap through the torture chamber. Lacking the proper grip strength to conquer each obstacle the way I wanted, I needed two (or three) tries to clear a couple of them.

My time? A nifty 13:17. Yours truly has some work to do just to achieve pathetic. But it's a start, although I'm sure NBC would have cut to commercial on me.

Heed my pro tips, such as: get a grip. I don't mean emotionally; gloves will help on the rope structures, but they actually make the metal monkey bars tougher to grab.

Keep your speed up. Get across the bars or finger ledge before your arms fatigue. Slow and steady causes aches and pains — as I write this late Wednesday, lifting my hands and arms over my head is an uncomfy chore.

Bend your legs while hanging, especially on the finger ledge, or else your center of gravity will be low and Earth forces will pull your weight toward the ground. My fingers are still sore from this.

But, I get to tell my daughter that I took my shot at being a Ninja Warrior.

Term used loosely, of course.

SPORTS BRIEFS

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

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

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

► **St. Cloud Soccer registration** Registration for the St. Cloud Soccer Club is now being accepted for the spring seasons in St. Cloud and Harmony. The league offers recreational (players ages 4-13 just entering the game) and Select (more competitive for ages 7-18) programs. Harmony has more open game play, registration is \$95 per player for Under-5 through Under-12 teams. St. Cloud (Stephanie Rothstein Park) has more structured game play and teams due to larger membership, registration is \$150 (Under-5 & 6), \$165 (U7-8), \$170 (U9-10) and \$180 (U11-12). For more information visit www.stcloudsoccer.com or reach Mike Alferts at malfers1713@gmail.com.

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The 15th annual Exotic Car Festival will take place in downtown Celebration April 12-15. The four-day festival showcases North America's largest collection of exotic cars, race cars and Hollywood movie cars. The event helps support children with life-threatening medical conditions, and has donated more than \$2 million to children's charities since its founding in 2004. For more information, visit www.CelebrationExoticCars.com.



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DAILY 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.*



SPRING FEVER IN THE GARDEN

Spring Fever in the Garden will take place on Plant Street in downtown Winter Garden this weekend. *The festival will take place 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday.*

7TH ANNUAL TOUCH-A-TRUCK

Maitland Community Preschool presents the 7th annual Touch-A-Truck, featuring trucks, busses, boats and construction equipment for children to see and explore. Kids and families of all ages are welcome. *Tickets are \$5 per person, \$20 max per family. Tickets are available at the event. Orangewood Church: 1300 W. Maitland Blvd, Maitland, FL 32751. Visit ORANGEWOOD.ORG/TAT*

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.*

ALEXANDER AND THE TERRIBLE, HORRIBLE, NO GOOD, VERY BAD DAY

Orlando Shakespeare Theatre presents five Saturday performances of Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day. *Performance dates include April 7, 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.; April 14, 2 p.m.; April 21, 2 p.m.; April 28, 2 p.m.; and May 5, 2 p.m. For more info and tickets, visit ORLANDOSHAKES.ORG*

SUNDAY 04-08

CONGREGATION BETH EMETH BIBLE STUDIES
Hampton Inn: 4971 Calypso Bay Way in Kissimmee. 10-11 a.m. Call 407-222-6393.

FAMILY FUN DAY PICNIC
 Lake Nona is hosting a Family Fun Day Picnic from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Crescent Park in Laureate Park: 8374 Upper Perse Circle in Orlando. The event will feature picnic areas, carnival games, entertainment and activities for the whole family. Furry friends are invited.

WEDNESDAY 04-11

DISCUSSION WITH MULTI-TALENTED ARTIST JACK FIELDS
 Multi-talented artist Jack Fields will discuss the development of his unique puppets including Godrick, his works on film, and the many ways he uses fiber arts techniques in his storytelling. His short film Happy Memories will be screened, and several puppets will make special appearances. *Art & History Museums - Maitland. The event is free and there will be a cash bar. The artist talk and movie screening will run 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.*

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.*

ARTISTS-IN-ACTION HYE SHIN AND SUZANNE OBERHOLTZER IN THEIR STUDIOS

Visit Artists-in-Action Hye Shin and Suzanne Oberholtzer in their studios at Lake Lily in part of the Maitland Art and History Museums Open Studios event. *Open studios runs 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., with the same operating hours on Friday, April 20.*

STYX AND DON FELDER
 Styx and Don Felder will take the stage at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre at 7 p.m. *Tickets start at \$49. For more information, visit STAUGAMPHITHEATRE.COM*

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*

THE COLOR RUN
 Registration is still open for The Color Run. Osceola News-Gazette readers receive \$5 off their registration fee with code "OSCEOLANEWS" at checkout. *The 5K event will take place at Osceola Heritage Park. Visit THECOLORRUN.COM/LOCATIONS/ORLANDO*

JUDY MOODY & STINK: THE MAD, MAD, MAD, MAD TREASURE HUNT
 Orlando Repertory Theatre presents Judy Moody & Stink: The Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad Treasure Hunt. *The show is at 2 p.m. For tickets, visit ORLANDOREP.COM*

SUNDAY 04-15

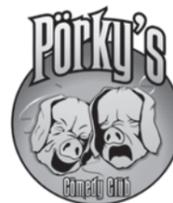
REV. CHASE KEENER
 New Life Free Will Baptist Church, 1211 Ocean Street, Kissimmee. For directions or more information, call 863-640-4008.

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

RUMMAGE AND BAKE SALE
 Sponsored by the Presbyterian women, the Rummage and Bake Sale at St. Cloud Presbyterian Church will offer clothing, shoes, household items, books and linens. *Donations for the sale will be accepted April 16-19, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Proceeds will benefit local charities. The sale itself will take place April 20-21, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 909 10th Street in St. Cloud.*



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 PORKYSCOMEDYCLUB.COM*

SATURDAY 04-21

NARCOOSSEE SCHOOLHOUSE BROMELIADS & BAKED GOODS FUNDRAISER
 The Narcoossee Schoolhouse Bromeliads & Baked Goods Fundraiser will take place 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., at the historic Narcoossee Schoolhouse: 5026 Yukon Street in Narcoossee. Colorful bromeliads will be offered for \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Sponsored by the Narcoossee Area Chapter of the Osceola County Historical Society, the fundraiser will benefit the historic Narcoossee Schoolhouse project. *For more information, visit NARCOOSSEEHISTORY.ORG or email info@narcoosseehistory.org.*

A NIGHT OF COCKTAILS & COMEDY
 Melia Orlando Suite Hotel presents: A Night of Cocktails & Comedy. Guests are invited to enjoy an intimate, but entertaining evening with some really funny folks. *Tickets packages including dinner and the show are available. Space is limited. For more information, visit EVENTBRITE.COM and search 'Cocktails & Comedy' in Kissimmee.*

SUNDAY 04-22

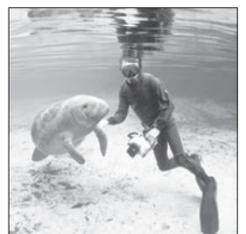
CARIBBEAN FUSION
 Is back at Kissimmee Lakefront Park, noon to 8 p.m. Experience Caribbean culture through music, food, craft and dance.

FRIDAY 04-27

SPECIAL PRESENTATION OF NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
 Did you ever wonder about the people who lived in Osceola County and settled St. Cloud? Join us as they come alive to tell their stories. The St. Cloud Heritage Museum and Parks and Recreation Department invite you to a special presentation of Night at the Museum at 7 p.m. After the live performance, the film, Night at the Museum, will be shown. *Admission is a \$5.00 donation. The museum is located at 1012 Massachusetts Avenue. Come early to tour your hometown museum. For more information, call 407-957-7243 or Olive Horning at 407-414-2682.*

ONGOING

SCUBA CLUB SOCIAL
 Come learn about some adventure trips and have some fun sharing your dive stories. *Meets the second Monday at 6:30 p.m. at 403 Broadway in downtown Kissimmee. Call Ron at 321-437-8190 for more information.*



SELF DEFENSE
 The Womanly Art of Self Defense classes, classes for women to learn to protect themselves will start in Kissimmee. *These are very small classes. You pay what you can afford. The first class is free. Proceeds go to charitable organizations in Kissimmee area. For more information, call 407-870-8477.*

DIVORCECARE
 A recovery seminar and support group featuring nationally recognized experts on divorce and recovery topics. *Poinciana Christian Church, 3181 Pleasant Hill Road, Kissimmee; every Wednesday from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Child care provided; 407-870-9700; dkissimmee.com*

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

LAKEFRONT STRIDERS
 A running and walking club. Tuesdays and Thursdays. *St. Cloud lakefront (located at the Marina, New York and Lakeshore). Walkers start at 6:15 and runners at 6:30. Find us on Facebook under Lakefront Striders.*

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

AROUND OSCEOLA

CONTACT
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 EMAIL BMCBRIDE@OSCEOLANEWSGAZETTE.COM

TOOLS FOR BETTER LIVING
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Earth Day 2018: Events and other ways to celebrate

By Krista Stump

Earth Day is Sunday, April 22, and there are plenty of opportunities to celebrate all weekend long.

Earth Day was first created in 1970. Before the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Clean Water Act, or the Clean Air Act, factories were legally allowed to dump waste into streams and emit pollutants to the air. The smog was so thick in some cities that you couldn't see through it. These issues were not only damaging the environment, but were hurting our health. In the spring of 1970, Sen. Gaylord Nelson created Earth Day to bring awareness to these issues. That December, the EPA was born.

Since the creation of the EPA, many environmental and health issues have significantly improved. Each year we continue to celebrate Earth Day as a way to bring about awareness and show our appreciation for the countless benefits we get from this planet.

Earth Day Events

Celebrate Earth Day this year at one of these free, family-friendly events:

- ▶ St. Cloud Earth Day, Saturday April 21, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Chisolm Park, St. Cloud. The free event will offer music, vendors, planting, kids activities, and hands on demonstrations. For more information, visit www.stcloud.org.

- ▶ Central Florida Earth Day, Saturday, April 21, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Lake Eola Park (east side), Orlando. Central Florida Earth Day is an exciting day of colorful and educational exhibits and activities. Admission is free. For more information visit www.CFEarthDay.org.

Other ways to celebrate

There are many other ways to celebrate. Try one of these ideas to reflect and have some fun this Earth Day.

- ▶ Go for a hike. Visit Split Oak Forest, Twin Oaks Conservation Area, Shingle Creek Regional Park, or any of the other beautiful natural areas and parks in Osceola County. Visit www.osceola.org for park locations and hours.

- ▶ Plant a tree. Register to attend a one-hour class on Tree Selection and Planting and take a free tree home the same day. Classes are offered in English and in Spanish. Call UF/IFAS Extension Osceola at 321-697-3000 for more information. Registration required. Register at <http://freetreeosceola.eventbrite.com>.

- April 21 - UF/IFAS Extension Osceola - located in Osceola Heritage Park - 1921 Kissimmee Valley Lane.

- April 28 - Poinciana - Mary Jane Arrington Gym and Aquatics Center - 625 Country Club Drive.

- ▶ Make one small change. Conserve water, recycle more, start a compost pile, or add native plants to your garden. Commit to one small act and reap the environmental benefits.

- ▶ Have a technology-free day (or hour). There's no doubt that technology has improved our quality of life. Without it, we would not have modern solutions to agriculture, clean air, or drinkable water. But if you've been feeling too tied to your phone lately, Earth Day may be a great excuse to put it down for a bit and enjoy a technology-free moment.

See **Earth Day**, Page 12.

Osceola County stands against child abuse



PHOTO/OSCEOLA COUNTY

Osceola County commissioners joined in the fight against child abuse by helping to plant a pinwheel garden at Courthouse Square on Monday.

Osceola County commissioners joined in the fight against child abuse by helping to plant a pinwheel garden at Courthouse Square on Monday.

The annual event is planned by the Children's Advocacy Center Osceola in support of Child Abuse Prevention Month.

"Supporting the healthy development of our nation's children is a basic obligation of our society," Commission Chairman

Fred Hawkins, Jr. said. "Great childhoods require a loving and supporting environment. That atmosphere helps children grow into productive, contributing adults who help their community (and our country) be healthy and prosperous."

Research estimates that implementing effective policies and strategies to prevent child abuse and neglect can save taxpayers \$80 billion per year.

The cost of doing nothing impacts social services, healthcare and the education and justice systems.

Local pinwheel gardens are planted in April throughout Osceola County, and across Florida, as part of the nationwide Pinwheels for Prevention campaign. Pinwheels are the national symbol of child abuse prevention and a visible reminder of the safe, happy

and healthy childhoods that all children deserve.

Each year, advocates and volunteers plant pinwheel gardens in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month, a national month dedicated to recognizing the ways that people can get involved in the healthy development of children. The campaign has distributed more than 4 million pinwheels nationwide since 2008.

5k benefits Osceola Meals on Wheels program

The March for Meals 5K on March 17 had over 450 participants who ran and walked a 3.1-mile course around downtown Kissimmee and the lakefront. The top three male, female and senior participants who were awarded prizes and trophies. The overall male winner was Rodolfo Santos and the overall female winner was Jeanne Cardinal. Additionally, the top 10 male and female participants received a special medal and prizes.

The March for Meals 5K had multiple teams participate this year and the Shamrockers won the largest team (52 members) and the Osceola County Tax Collector's Office won most spirited team.

There was a DJ, a special appearance by the Fire Frogs mascot - Striker - and over 15 vendors on-site helping the Osceola Council on Aging raise funds and awareness for senior hunger. The March for Meals 5K benefits the Osceola Council on Aging's Meals on Wheels program.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The March for Meals 5K on March 17 had over 450 participants who ran and walked a 3.1-mile course around downtown Kissimmee and the lakefront.

City honors wounded warriors with parking makeover

St. Cloud city officials recently unveiled a new and improved parking stall for wounded veterans.

The parking stall is located right in front of City Hall.

The makeover was made possible courtesy of a generous donation from Aquagenix. Aquagenix is part of DBi Services, which provides infrastructure management,

maintenance and operations services to clients around the world.

The first-of-a-kind design showcases purple asphalt, made of 100 percent recycled glass

that is ground up and coated with color.

The city hopes to use the same product to upgrade and beautify other areas, in the future.

OSCEOLA

Warning signs of opiate addiction

By Mary Marcuccio

With the opiate epidemic being a national concern, how do you know if anyone in your home or family is having a problem, and what is your next step if so?

When we talk about opiates, we're referring to a class of medications that are narcotics, having a sedating effect on the body, as well as heroin the street drug. The most commonly abused medications are any of the pain pills (Percocet, Vicodin, Oxycontin), although there are many others, which are less commonly abused. Among those, we must highlight Fentanyl, a remarkably strong and powerful opiate, which has gained much notoriety recently because drug dealers are lacing many drug products with it and we're seeing a spike in overdose deaths because of it.

Drugs are everywhere and available to everyone. Your high-schooler is able to get heroin with one call/text/connect - I call it "one away." You're likely sitting in an office with at least one drug user, statistically speaking. And your neighborhood is likely home to at least one active drug user.

If you think you don't have a "drug problem," please think again. Here is what you don't know and need to.

Capt. Carlos Espinosa, Orange County Sheriff's Office, shared the following:

"Everyone reading this should be concerned with the drug crisis even if it's not in their own family. Every citizen's quality of life is affected by drugs. For example, drug addiction and mental illness contribute significantly to homelessness. Crime - prostitution, auto burglaries for example - are largely driven by drug addiction. The user doesn't want to hurt you; their intent is to get money for drugs. And public restrooms - at the park, the beach, etc. - are often a haven of drug activity. This is a huge safety issue for you and your family. It benefits 'us' to help 'them' because we're all connected."

"The reader should be very aware that central Florida is having a huge drug crisis, most significantly heroin. In Orange County this year, the number of drug overdoses increased significantly from last year, and the rate of death from overdoses almost doubled, as compared with last year.

Drug dealers are adding fentanyl, a very powerful opiate, to many drugs, including cocaine and marijuana. Most of our losses can be attributed to fentanyl laced products."

Some warning signs, "Red Flags" to watch for in your home/family:

- ▶ Money missing and seems unaccounted for: mom thinks "I thought I had \$10 left in my wallet; didn't I have \$10? Well, maybe I spent it." you, the parent, begin to question yourself, your memory of money and circumstances

- ▶ Change (coins) missing from home - purse, change jar, etc.

- ▶ Small items missing and unaccounted for - jewelry, valuables, household items of resale quality.

- ▶ Spoons may be missing from the kitchen; or appear blackened/burnt on the underside.

- ▶ Opiates are sedatives, "downers," therefore they make the user very tired. User will begin to seem very doopey, fatigued, sleep much more than usual, sometimes to the point of being unable to wake; watch for episodes of "nodding off" while sitting, talking, eating, driving

- ▶ Eyes will reflect opiate usage - pupils are pinpoint and fixed - unresponsive to changes of light

- ▶ Opiate side effects: itchy skin, having the feeling and appearance of "skin crawling"; "cotton mouth" - speech is impaired and/or slurred, user constantly licks his lips and lips appear dysfunctional.

- ▶ Opiate users will often wear sunglasses inappropriately - inside, nighttime, days which obviously do not warrant their wearing.

- ▶ Appetite and weight will usually decrease drastically as opiate use becomes all consuming; the user progressively loses all interest in eating and drinking. Watch for: multiple bottles and glasses of water, often partially full.

- ▶ User loses all interest in any recreational activity, including the opposite sex.

- ▶ Personal hygiene suffers; user loses interest in showering, clean clothes.

- ▶ Watch for evidence of constipation (opiate side effect) - laxatives, enemas.

- ▶ Lying about everything; secretive behavior.

- ▶ Watch for time missed from school/work because of not being able to function - lethargic, always sleepy/dopey: this is user's active use symptoms/ "high."

- ▶ Watch for signs of "dope sick" - this is the user's attempt at getting clean/off opiates: symptoms are exactly like the flu, in

varying degrees, and can last for a day to a week. Be aware of time being missed from school/work because of these repeated "sick days."

- ▶ Watch for snorting paraphernalia, i.e. empty/disassembled pens, straws, rolled/folded dollar bills or pieces of paper.

- ▶ Watch for: sinus congestion, sniffing, stuffy nose; indication of snorting drugs.

- ▶ Users will usually wear long-sleeved clothing, to cover arms/track marks, even in the hottest weather/conditions.

If you can admit to seeing any of the concerns above, please take action. Listed below are some national resources for families.

- Nar-anon (Parent/Family Support) www.Nar-anon.org, 888-947-8885

- Al-anon (Parent/Family Support) www.Al-anon.org 888-425-2666

- Families Anonymous (Parent/Family Support) www.familiesanonymous.org

- Parent/Family Support Groups - in U.S. www.supportgroupproject.org

Two online support groups:

- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/theaddictsmom/>

- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/TAMFlorida/>

Mary Marcuccio is a family consultant in St. Cloud. Contact her at mary@mybottomline.info 860-877-8707, www.mybottomline.info.

EARTH DAY

Continued from Page 11

- ▶ Go outside. And if nothing else, go outside and enjoy some fresh air.

- ▶ Go for a walk, play with your kids, or simply enjoy a quiet moment

on your porch.

For more information contact Krista Stump at UF/IFAS Extension in Osceola County at stumpk@ufl.edu or visit <https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/osceola>.

[ifas.ufl.edu/osceola](https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/osceola).

Krista Stump is a natural resources extension agent with UF/IFAS Extension Osceola County.

Sleeping pills should be used cautiously

Dear Mayo Clinic: I am 79 years old. Lately I have had trouble sleeping, and I would like to try a sleeping pill. Are they safe for someone my age?

Answer: An inability to sleep can be exhausting and frustrating. It saps your energy and goes hand in hand with problems such as depression, chronic pain, susceptibility to illness, high blood pressure, and increased risk of accidents. Sleeping pills can at times be an effective component of sleep therapy. However, they need to be used cautiously, especially among older adults.

Often, the inability to get to sleep or stay asleep is a symptom of an underlying disease or condition contributing to poor sleep. This can include chronic pain, coughing, heart problems, difficulty breathing, digestive problems, acid reflux, thyroid problems and sleep disorders such as obstructive sleep apnea or leg movement disorders. Alcohol or medications such as certain antidepressants, caffeine, decongestants, asthma drugs or pain medications also can contribute to insomnia. Because of this, it's important that you first have a thorough medical evaluation.

When considering taking any sleeping pill, it's crucial for you and your doctor to weigh the benefits against the risks. Certainly, good sleep is important. However, taking a drug to assist with sleep can cause side effects such as dizziness or lightheadedness and a risk of dependence. Sleeping pills also suppress breathing - which can worsen breathing problems such as sleep apnea - and may increase infection risk.

Problems with thinking and body movement also can occur. You may remain drowsy after waking up or have daytime memory and physical performance problems. These side effects may be annoying, unsettling or even dangerous. Sleeping pill use may increase the risk of falling and fracturing bones or causing head injuries - particularly at night. Sometimes, sleepwalking - or even driving, shopping, eating or making phone calls while not fully awake - can occur.

When a sleeping pill is prescribed, short-acting, newer generation drugs are common first line choices. Side effects with these drugs are still relatively common, but they tend to occur less frequently and with less severity than with older generation sleep medications. A longer acting drug also may be considered, but its effect on older adults can be much longer lasting. Low doses

See Pills, Page 15.

April showers of savings

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from the local businesses

OSCEOLA

KISSIMMEE SPOTLIGHT
 Newsletter of the Kissimmee Chamber of Commerce
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 SENATOR VICTOR TORRES DISTRICT 15
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 ANDY STANLEY | best-selling author and communicator. MICHAEL HYATT | founder and CEO of Michael Hyatt & Company. CAREY LOHRENZ | the first female F-14 Tomcat Fighter Pilot in the U.S. Navy. JOE TORRE | Baseball Hall of Fame inductee, the Chief Baseball Officer for the MLB, Chairman of the Joe Torre Safe At Home Foundation, and former baseball manager and player. CATHERINE HOKE | founder and CEO of Defy Ventures a national nonprofit that transforms the hustle of current and formerly incarcerated people. JIM LOEHR | a world-renowned performance psychologist and author. IAN CRON | bestselling author, nationally recognized speaker, Enneagram teacher, trained psychotherapist, Dove Award-winning songwriter and Episcopal priest.

THE SCHEDULE
 SESSION 1: 9:00AM/10:30AM BREAK: 10:30AM/11:00AM
 SESSION 2: 11:00AM/12:30PM LUNCH: 12:30PM/1:45PM
 SESSION 3: 1:45PM/3:30PM

In its 18th year, Leadercast is predicted to reach its largest audience to date broadcast LIVE from Atlanta to hundreds of locations around the world.

Chick-fil& Celebration **CELEBRATION AREA COUNCIL** **\$59 PER PERSON** MAY 4, 2018
 Admission includes breakfast, lunch, and snacks throughout the day. 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM at STETSON UNIVERSITY 800 CELEBRATION AVE, CELEBRATION

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Fields Insurance Agency	Financial Education Services-Alfonso Maldonado	Steven Kromanaker
Financial Education Services-Tamika Shine-Day	Herzing University	Resource Employment Solutions, LLC
Hometown Lenders	Le Sath Esthetics & Health Oasis, Inc.	SLAM Osceola
Portofino at ChampionsGate		St. Cloud Medical Group-Family Medicine at The Loop
		Sua Advertising
		Summit Broadband
		Unique Events Catering
		VTrips Vacation Home Management
		Windsor at Celebration
		World Financial Group-Adriana Herrera

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Scout Day at LegoLand

A Scout is Thrifty — it's the Ninth Point of the Scout Law. It's also a benefit of wearing the uniform.

Scout Day is Sunday, May 20 at LegoLand Florida. Scouters who get their tickets online (www.legoland.com/boy-scouts-central-florida-council) can get single day admissions, normally \$93.99, for just \$34 plus tax. The Water Park Combo tickets, normally \$116.49, are \$56.50 for a day full of fun reserved for Scouts.

Those who attend on May 20 can sign up for one of three STEM Educational Experiences and earn an exclusive LegoLand Florida Resort patch.

Lego Star Wars (TM) Days will also be in full swing, featuring themed Lego activities, all a part of the park admission. Visit the website for additional information.

LEGOLAND FLORIDA RESORT

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 SUNDAY MAY 20, 2018

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Kissimmee; 321-939-1491
www.corpuschristi.church

Crossroads Baptist Church
3797 Edsel Ave.
St. Cloud; 407-891-8688
www.lifeatthecrossroads.com

Destiny Church Of Foursquare
101 W. Cypress St.
Suite H, Kissimmee
407-870-1594

The Dwelling Place Church
4730 W. Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy
Kissimmee
407-917-2354
www.tdpchurchfl.com/

Eastern Avenue Baptist Church
1001 Eastern Ave.
St. Cloud; 407-892-4644

El Tabor Church
5625 Orange Ave.
Kissimmee
407-343-9050

Emmanuel Baptist Church
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Faith Community Church
1990 Neptune Road
Kissimmee; 407-846-0157

Faith Community Church of Holopaw.
5000 Holopaw Road
Holopaw

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Kissimmee; www.faithharvestonline.org

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1203 Orange Ave, St. Cloud
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Kissimmee; 407-846-8595

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St. Cloud; 407-892-4653
gscfla.org

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st.cloud@gmail.com
407-241-9045

Iglesia de Cristo en Fortune Road
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Kissimmee; 813-473-9075

Iglesia de Dios de Kissimmee
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Kissimmee
407-348-8788

Iglesia de los Hermanos: Nuevo Comienzo
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St. Cloud; 84-319-1195

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407-593-1419
www.impactchurchfamily.org

Intercession City Church of God
5563 S. Orange Blossom Trail, Kissimmee
Intercessioncitycog.com

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

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

Living Waters Church of God
1001 W. Carroll St.
Kissimmee; 407-847-6387

Narcoossee Baptist Church
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St. Cloud; 407-709-3481
www.nbaptistchurch.org/

Neptune Road Baptist Church
1620 Neptune Road
Kissimmee; 407-847-8174

New Beginnings Baptist Church
2001 Bulldog Lane
St. Cloud; 407-325-2915

New Life Free Will Baptist Church
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(behind Krazy Vern's Car Wash)
863-640-4008 or
407-460-6411

North Kissimmee Baptist Church
425 W. Donegan Ave.,
Kissimmee; 407-847-5372

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

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4912 Old Pleasant Hill Road
Kissimmee; 407-944-1151

Primera Iglesia Cristiana en Kissimmee Asambleas de Dios
2031 Simpson Rd.
Kissimmee
407-348-6461

Real Life Christian Church - Hunter's Creek
3232 N John Young Parkway
Kissimmee
352-394-3553
www.real.life/#8mkib

Redemption Church
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Kissimmee; 407-247-9993
www.redemptionchurch.life

St. Cloud Church of Christ
904 Florida Ave., St. Cloud
(corner of 9th St.)
407-957-8044

St. Cloud Church of God
501 Dakota Ave.; St. Cloud
stcloudchurchofgod.com

St. Cloud Missionary Baptist Church
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407-892-3444; www.scmcb.org

St. Cloud Presbyterian Church
909 10th St., St. Cloud
407-892-2813
www.stcloudpresbyterian.org

St. James AME Zion Church
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Kissimmee; 407-847-3025

St. John's Episcopal Church
1709 North John Young Parkway; Kissimmee
407-847-2009
stjohns-ec.com

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www.lukeandpeter.org

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www.stnicholasanglican.com

St. Rose Of Lima Catholic Church
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Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church
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Tabernaculo de Poinciana
4937 Old Pleasant Hill Road
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Pastorjosesantiago.com



FAITH PAGE



EGLISE PENCOÏSTE DU DERNIER TEMPS

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HORAIRE DE SERVICES SUNDAY:
Morning: 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Evening: 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY:
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SCHOOL ZONE

THIS WEEKS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

► Boggy Creek Elementary

- The next PTO and School Advisory Council (SAC) meeting will be held on April 10. at 5:30 p.m. followed by the PTO meeting.
- On April 13 and 27, students may purchase a NUT sticker (no uniform today) for \$1 and wear clothing of their choice. Students must still wear appropriate clothing and shoes, but do not have to be dressed in white, black, navy, or khaki. Stickers are purchased the day of the event only.

► Cypress Elementary

- On April 11, Cypress Elementary staff will be having a "Crash Training" offered by Osceola Sheriff Department.

► Kissimmee Elementary School

- This month's SAC committee meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 11, at 1 p.m. Parents and community members will be able to assist in the input and finalization of the School Improvement Plan and the Parent Compact for the next school year.

► Neptune Elementary School

- There will be a Spirit Night at Tijuana Flats for Neptune Elementary on Monday, April 9, from 5 to 8 p.m. Come join the fun with your family and friends.
- Neptune Elementary invites everyone to join on Tuesday, April 10, in the media center for the school's monthly SAC and PTO meetings. The SAC meeting will begin at 4 p.m., and the PTO meeting will follow at 4:30 p.m. Parents are encouraged to attend the meeting.

► Celebration K-8 School

- The Elementary Honor Roll Ceremony for third through fifth grade students at Celebration K-8 will be on Friday, April 13. Third grade will be at 9 a.m., fourth grade will be at 9:30 a.m., and fifth grade will be at 10 a.m. This ceremony honors students with high academic achievement.

► Denn John Middle School

- Denn John Middle will recognize students for their academic achievement as follows: eighth grade on Tuesday, April 10; seventh grade on Thursday, April 12; and sixth grade on Friday, April 13.

► Discovery Intermediate School

- Yearbooks are still on sale at Discovery Intermediate and can be purchased for \$24 until May. Please contact Mrs. Veety in the media center if you have any questions.
- The Drama Club at Discovery Intermediate will be meeting every Tuesday in rooms 5-115 and 5-104 from 4:15 to 5:30 p.m. Please contact Mrs. Ambrose if you have any questions.
- Discovery is excited to offer free tutoring every week for students needing extra assistance with reading and math, and will continue this tutoring through the end of school year. Students will receive the tutoring services from certified teachers before or after school. Students will report to the media center, and will receive small group instruction in reading or math on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 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's 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. Please contact Ms. Becker if you have any questions.

► Neptune Middle School

- FSA Reading and Math makeups will begin on Monday, April 16. No early release dates on state testing dates include: April 18, 25 and May 2, 9.
- Pre-order the Seahawk yearbook in the media center at Neptune Middle. The price is \$30. Also, eighth graders can pick up baby picture order forms for the yearbook. Please contact Ms. Senter, media specialist, with any questions you may have.
- This month's SAC meeting will be April 17 at 5:30 p.m. in the media center. Every parent/guardian is welcome to attend.

► Liberty High School

- Grad Bash will be on April 20. Herff Jones will be delivering cap and gowns on May 1 and May 2 during all lunch periods.
- Coming soon to Liberty

High is "Once on this Island," an interactive and entertaining production you won't want to miss. Seating will be limited, and tickets will only be available online. Watch for more details on the school's website and www.seatyourself.biz/libertytheatre.

► Poinciana High School

- Parents are encouraged to visit Poinciana High's school website to complete surveys needed as part of the accreditation process. The accreditation process is very important as it places value in the education and graduation of your student.

► St. Cloud High School

- St. Cloud High's business students who operate 'By Land or Lake,' a not-for-profit business that offers paddle board, kayak, and beach umbrella rentals on weekends at Chisolm Park, spent part of their Spring Break giving back to visually impaired veterans. They guided this group of veterans on a two-mile kayak trip from Chisolm Park to the St. Cloud Lakefront Marina.

► Zenith Accelerated Learning Academy

- The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) will be given on April 10 to students at Zenith interested in pursuing a military career or who are interested in taking a career assessment test to discover their career interests in pursuing post-secondary plans.
- Zenith Salon offers its students the experiences necessary for the development of skills required to be a licensed nail specialist. The Florida state board of cosmetology prescribes the allocation of time to the nail specialty program. Topics covered include: manicuring, pedicuring, nail growth and structure, nail diseases and disorders, skin diseases and disorders, 3-D nail art, free hand art, nail extensions, sculpting, safety precautions, decontamination, sanitation, advanced nail techniques, industry concepts, salon management, and exposure to a salon setting. Hours for appointments are 7:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Please call Ms. O'Dell at 407-846-3976 to book an appointment.

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

EXTENSION SERVICES

► Friday, April 20, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., 2018 Small Ruminant Production Conference at UF/IFAS Extension Osceola County, OHP.

Join University of Florida faculty members and local experts for a day of learning and networking. There will be live demonstrations.

The fee is \$30 and includes written materials & lunch. Register at <https://2018srconferenceflag.eventbrite.com>

► Saturday, April 21, Trees Osceola - Want a Free Tree? Three class times in English and Spanish: 10 to 11 a.m.; noon to 1 p.m.; and 3 to 4 p.m., It's at UF/IFAS Extension Osceola County, OHP.

Register to attend a one-hour class on Tree Planting, site and tree selection and you will take a tree home the same day. Register at <https://freetreesosceola.eventbrite.com>.

PILLS

Continued from Page 12

of antidepressant drugs that cause sleepiness may be an option for those who also have depression, or as a second line option for those who don't.

Due to increased risk of side effects, many doctors recommend avoiding older generation benzodiazepines and triazolam (Halcion) in particular. Benzodiazepines, especially the longer acting ones, are generally not recommended for older adults. In addition, a 2014 study found that risk of developing Alzheimer's disease increased by up to 51 percent in those who

have used benzodiazepines, with highest risk among those who used them more frequently or who used the long-acting ones.

The choice to use sleeping pills is a nuanced decision to be made in close cooperation with your doctor. In general, Mayo Clinic sleep experts recommend that older adults keep sleeping pill

use to a minimum, as an occasional sleep aid or over the short term of a few weeks while other avenues to improved sleep are explored. Regular follow-up with your doctor is important. (adapted from Mayo Clinic Health Letter)

- Eric Olson, M.D., Center for Sleep Medicine, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn.

► Mayo Clinic Q & A is an educational resource and doesn't replace regular medical care. E-mail a question to [MayoClinicQ&A\(AT SIGN\)mayo.edu](mailto:MayoClinicQ&A(AT SIGN)mayo.edu). For more information, visit www.mayoclinic.org.



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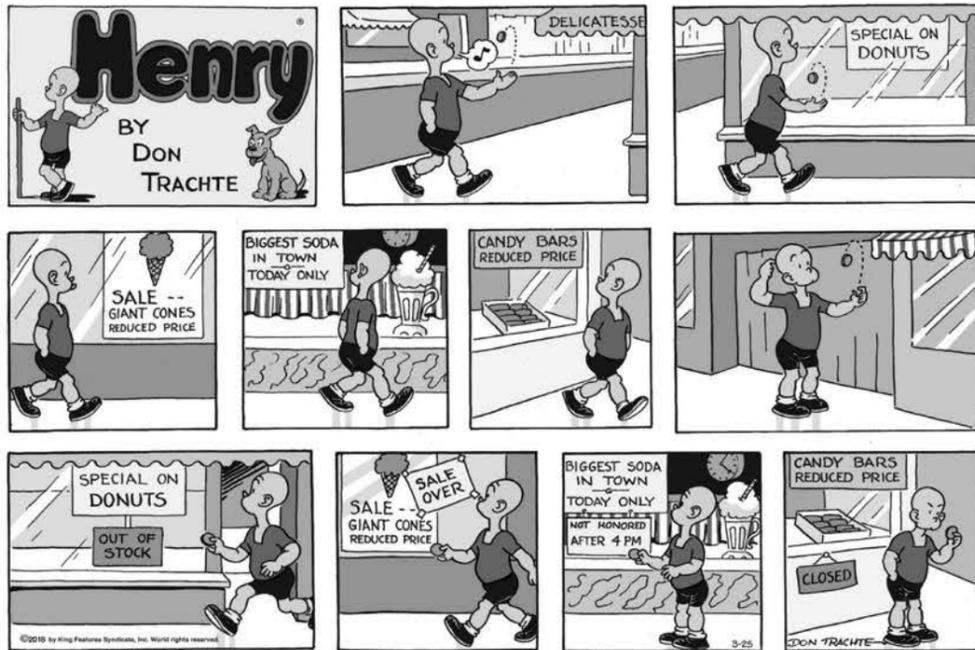
For more info: call Jody at 321-402-0423 or visit www.aroundosceola.com

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For a complete list of school events, visit www.osceola.k12.fl.us

BRAIN FOOD

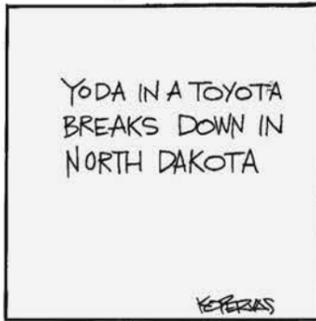
CONTACT
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Out on a Limb



by Gary Kopervas



R.F.D.



by Mike Marland

Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

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

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Winter or summer | S _ _ _ _ _ | Motive | R _ _ _ _ _ |
| 2. Groucho's brother | _ _ _ _ O | Angelic instruments | _ _ _ _ S |
| 3. Heckle or Jeckle | _ _ _ P _ | Sister of Bart Simpson | _ _ _ G _ |
| 4. Traveler's inn | _ O _ _ _ | Shelf | _ E _ _ _ |
| 5. Pitted fruit | _ _ _ _ H | Armistice | _ _ _ _ E |
| 6. Bread ingredient | _ _ _ U _ | Stump or stun | _ _ _ O _ |
| 7. Pool table target | _ O _ _ _ | Fence post | _ I _ _ _ |
| 8. Homer's TV wife | _ A _ _ _ | Join together | _ E _ _ _ |
| 9. Uplift | E _ _ _ _ | Chalkboard material | S _ _ _ _ |
| 10. Multiplication lists | _ _ _ _ S | Writing pads | _ _ _ _ T |

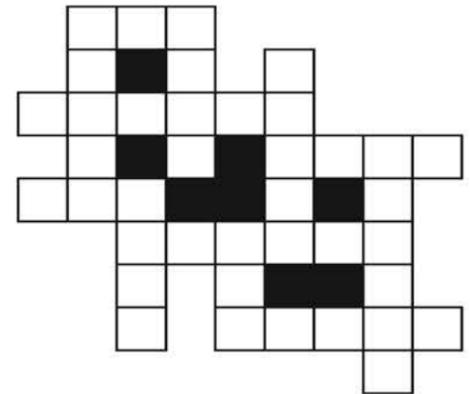
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FEAR KNOT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

- SHO
- RHIAZE
- BOZIM
- TDCU
- DRINCO
- ENZ
- ♥DHSO
- HARCE
- DRI
- HOUGAC
- ♥RINDA
- ♥EMNA



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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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DDAXURPMJGDIA XV
 SQNKIFDEASCXVTQ
 COMJHFC LRETAWAY
 WIURPNLEJHFRSDB
 ZXFVTRICQPOEEHM
 KIHFFCDTBURVSAZ
 YWVBATMR RHQISOM
 NLKLARA OICHRADF
 CAGOZVTNNTXWLVU
 SRNOITASREVNOCQ
 ONMDKJDLIKYHMF E

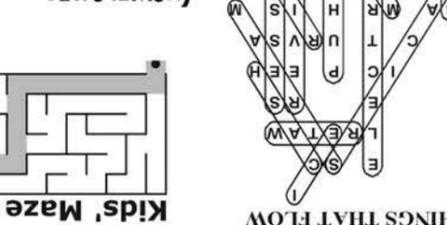
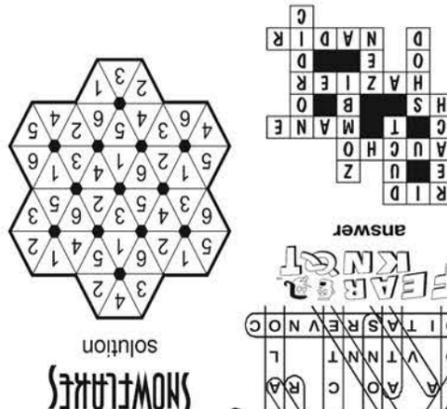
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally

- | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|----------|--------|
| Air | Data | Ketchup | River |
| Blood | Electrons | Lava | Stream |
| Cash | Glaciers | Molasses | Water |
| Conversation | Ice | Money | |

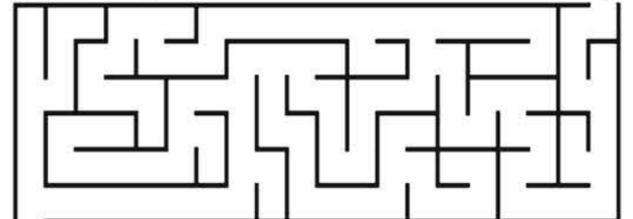
- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Season, Reason | 5. Peach, Peace |
| 2. Harpo, Harps | 4. Lodge, Ledge |
| 3. Harpo, Harps | 3. Magpie, Maggie |
| 4. Harpo, Harps | 2. Harpo, Harps |
| 5. Harpo, Harps | 1. Season, Reason |

Even Exchange

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



Kids' Maze

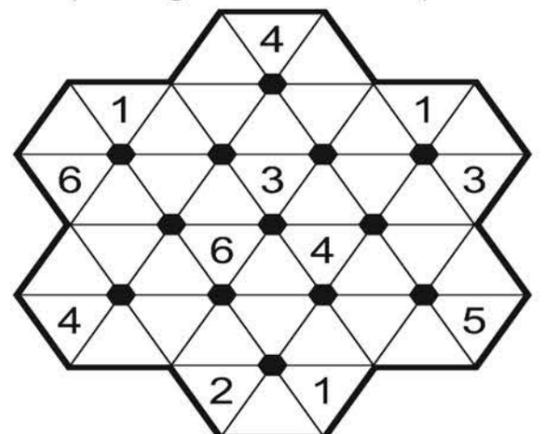


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SNOWFLAKES

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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Complete these home improvements over the weekend



Home improvement projects ramp up when the weather warms up, as homeowners channel the rejuvenating feelings of spring and tackle their home-to-do lists. Large-scale renovations can greatly affect a home, but smaller projects can yield impressive results and be completed over the course of a single weekend.

If time is of the essence, these weekend or one-day projects may satisfy homeowners' desires to fix up their homes.

► **Create an accent wall.** Painting a focal wall in a home can create a serious impact. The bonus is it will not take as long or require as many materials as painting an entire room. Accent walls frequently feature a bold color, so decide on placement and tackle this project in less than a day.

► **Install stair runners.** Dress up hardwood stairs with decorative carpet runners. Runners come in elongated pieces of carpeting or individual pieces that can be placed on each step. If carpeting doesn't fit with the home's design, painting individual stair treads also can create visual appeal.

► **Dress up the entryway.** An entryway is a guest's first impression of a home. Many entryways can use a minor overhaul, both inside and outside. Paint the front door a different color so it pops from the curb. Install a new mailbox or decorative house numbers. A new welcome mat can change the look as well. Inside, consider laying a new floor. Resilient vinyl tiles come in many different patterns and can mimic the look of wood, travertine or marble. Installing a floor can take a day or two.

► **Install a new faucet.** Instantly improve a kitchen or a bathroom with new fixtures. New faucets can provide aesthetic appeal and low-flow faucets can help conserve water.

► **Create a gallery on the staircase.** Gather and arrange framed photos, artwork or wall accents so that they ascend the wall of a staircase. This creates a designer touch and can dress up an often barren area of wall space.

► **Install a fresh light fixture.** Improve drab spaces with a little illumination. Better Homes & Gardens suggests replacing an existing fixture with something new and vibrant. If hanging a new fixture is not within one's skill set, free-standing table or floor lamps also can cast a new glow on a space.

► **Add molding.** Molding can add instant aesthetic appeal to a room. Molding is appropriate near the floor, at the top of walls where they meet the ceiling, or even mid-wall as a chair rail. Some homeowners like to create framed molding on walls in formal living spaces.

► **Update kitchen or bathroom hardware.** Replacing hardware is a fast and easy project, but one that can have immediate impact. Swap out tired or outdated hardware for newer brushed metals and more impactful shapes and designs.

Home renovations do not need to take weeks or months. Many projects can be completed over the course of a weekend.

Foreclosures slide 60 percent in Osceola County

Osceola County foreclosures in the February market showed more than a 60 percent decline, data showed.

Florida Realtors' data for single-family homes in Osceola County shows a 60.7 percent decline in the number of closed foreclosures for February with only 11 recorded sales. Short sales have also fallen in February's market data for the county. Only four closed short sales occurred last month, compared to eight the year before, showing a 50 percent year-over-year decline.

The condo and townhome market of Osceola County saw a 55.6 percent year-over-year decline in its foreclosure inventory, down to just four closed sales for the month. Short sales were equally sparse, with just two closed sales, though this is up 100 percent over last year when there was only one short sale closed during the month.

The metro area covering Orlando, Kissimmee, and Sanford saw a 53.3 percent decline in the number of closed foreclosures in the single-family home market with only 77 closed sales recorded in February. Meanwhile, short sales have fallen 34 percent year-over-year to 35 closed sales.

Condos and townhomes in this metro area have also seen foreclosure inventory drop. Only 18 closed sales occurred in this market segment, decreasing 37.9 percent from this time last year.

Short sales have gone up from last year,



however. In this case there was a 55.6 percent increase in the number of closed short sales with 14 recorded closings.

Finally, when reviewing statewide data, a 51.3 percent year-over-year decline in foreclosures was seen across single-family homes to 628 closed sales, while short sales totaled 207, down 43.3 percent.

Condos and townhomes in the state saw

further decreases in inventory. Foreclosures in this market segment are down 51.8 percent from this time last year with 193 closings recorded, and short sales have fallen 24.4% with 68 closed sales.

Foreclosures for condos and townhomes in Florida have seen a 10.7 percent increase in price to \$124,000, while short sales have increased 7.8 percent to \$125,000.

Consumers: Now is not a good time to buy home

New consumer findings from the National Association of Realtors surprisingly show that while a growing share of households in the first three months of the year feel more confident about the economy and their financial situation, those positive feelings are not translating to positive views that now is a good time to buy a home.

That's according to NAR's first quarter Housing Opportunities and Market Experience (HOME) survey¹, which also found that homeowners are increasingly positive about selling, and non-homeowners have anxieties about saving for a down payment and qualifying for a mortgage.

Heading into the busy spring buying season, optimism that now is a good time to buy a home is at its lowest share in the past two years (68 percent; 72 percent last quarter). Among renters, feelings about buying are further diminished (55 percent; 60 percent last quarter). Conversely, those most optimistic about buying are homeowners, older respondents and those living in the more affordable Midwest and South regions.

NAR Chief Economist Lawrence Yun said extremely challenging market conditions to start the year are chipping away at homebuyer optimism. "The critical shortage of listings in most markets continues to spark a hike in home prices that is not easy for many buyers – and especially first-time buyers – to overcome," he said. "Adding more fuel to the affordability fire is the fact that mortgage rates have shot up to a four-year high in just a few months. Many house hunters are telling Realtors that they are dispirited by the stiff competition for the short number of listings they can afford."

Amidst the ongoing climb in home prices in most markets, the share of homeowners who believe now is a good time to sell increased to 77 percent in the first quarter (76 percent last quarter), which is second only to last year's third quarter (80 percent) as the highest overall share since the HOME survey began in December 2015. A year ago, 69 percent of homeowners thought it was a good time to sell.

All cash sales for homes decline in Osceola

Florida Realtors has released February market data for 2018 a decrease for all cash sales in Osceola County.

In Osceola County, single-family home market showed a decline over last year of 5.7 percent in cash sales to 100 homes.

In the condo and townhome market the change over last year was positive. Cash sales increased 12.3 percent year-over-year to 91 cash sales. In this case, positive year-over-year changes have held for most of the past 12 months. Only August of 2017 showed a negative change.

As a percentage of all closed sales, 47.9 percent of condos and townhomes in Osceola County were paid in cash. This is a decline of 20.7 percent from last year. And in the single-family home market there was less investor participation with only 28.7 percent of sales being paid in cash, an increase of 4.4 percent from last year. Closed sale means escrow is closed with a condition all the closing cost as well as the funds for buying a house is funded by a buyer. The title is then transferred into new owner's name.

In the nearby metro area of Orlando, Kissimmee, and Sanford, cash sales of single-family homes totaled 593, up 5.5

percent from this time last year. Of all closed sales in February, 26.7 percent of them were paid entirely in cash, an increase of 6 percent from last year. The condo and townhome market in this metro area had 51.8 percent of all closed sales paid in cash, declining 10.4 percent over last year. These 51.8 percent of sales accounted for 394 cash sales, which is unchanged from last year. At 51.8 percent, these cash sales as a percentage of all closed sales have declined 10.4 percent from this time last year.

Lastly, a look at statewide data shows that February cash sales have declined 4.6 percent year-over-year to 5,588 sales. In Florida's single-family home market, the percent change over the previous year has been negative consistently over the past 12 months of data gathering. And as a percentage of closed sales, at 30 percent the percent change over last year is also down, this time by 7.7 percent. In the condo and townhome market of the entire state of Florida, cash sales fell 0.2 percent to 4,900 sales, which accounted for 57.9 percent of all sales closed during February. This percentage has fallen 6.3 percent from this time last year.



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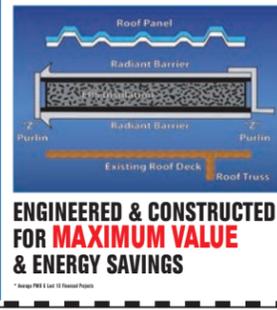
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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 9th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
Case #: 2015-CA-003030 MF MTGLQ INVESTORS, L.P., Plaintiff,
vs.
ALOISIA A. WINTER, A/K/A ALOISIA WINTER, ET AL., Defendants.
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment dated March 29, 2018, entered in Civil Case No. 2015-CA-003030 MF in the Circuit Court of the 9th Judicial Circuit in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein MTGLQ INVESTORS, L.P., Plaintiff, and THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHERS WHO MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST IN THE ESTATE OF ALOISIA A. WINTER, A/K/A ALOISIA WINTER, DECEASED; EAGLE LAKE PHASE 1 SUBDIVISION HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.; JERRY MEDEIROS; SUNTRUST BANK, are Defendants, Clerk of Court, will sell the property at public sale at the Osceola County Courthouse,

2 Courthouse Square, Suite 2600 / Room 2602, Kissimmee, FL 34741 beginning at 11:00 A.M., on MAY 15, 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to-wit:
LOT 35A, EAGLE LAKE PHASE I, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 14, PAGES 141-143 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.
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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.
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Jason M. Vanslette, Esq.
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VIN: 3N1AB7AP7HY263318
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10) 2006 MITSUBISHI
VIN: JA3AJ26E56U061067
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April 7, 2018

2) 2002 LEXUS IS300 - White
VIN: JTHBD192020055606
3) 1999 TOYOTA Rav4 - Silver
VIN: JT3GP10V6X7064187
4) 2004 NISSAN Altima SL - Brown
VIN: 1N4AL11D94C130193
5) 2001 BMW 325ci 2 Door Convertible - Black
VIN: WBABS33451JY53389
6) 2007 MERCEDES C230 - Black
VIN: WDBRF52H67F919450
7) 2003 HONDA Element - Silver
VIN: 5J6YH28553L013525
Sale Date: APRIL 21, 2018
Sale Location: Magic Tows, LLC, -1201 Sawdust Trail - Kissimmee, Florida 34744
April 7, 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) 1991 HONDA
1HGCB766MA026731
2) 2016 TOYOTA
2T1BURHEOGC580724
Sale Date: 04/24/2018
Location: Center State Automotive Inc., 170 H Greenkeep Drive, Unit H, Kissimmee, FL 34741
Lienors reserve the right to bid.
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, Chase Team Realty, LLC desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of Celebration Virtual Suites, located at 215 Celebration Ave, Suite 520, Celebration, FL 34747 in Osceola County, FL, intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida. Dated: April 3, 2018.
April 7, 2018

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
On 04/19/2018 at 09:00 A.M., an auction will take place at 1720 ALEXANDER ST., KISSIMMEE, FL 34746. The vehicles which will be auctioned include:
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2) 2006 CHEVY
VIN: 1GNDS13S362289037
3) 2005 CADILLAC
VIN: 1GYEE637250154486
Please be advised, per F.S. 713.78 that a newspaper ad must be published for 1 day in a newspaper of general circulation (daily or weekly circulation) which has been in circulation for at least 1 year. The advertisement must be published at least 10 calendar days prior to the date of sale, in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the sale is to be held. The 10 calendar days do not include the date of the advertisement nor the date of the sale.
April 7, 2018

NOTICE OF SALE
JOE'S AUTO SERVICE CENTER INC., 1123 13th STREET, ST CLOUD, FL 34769
Towed-03/15/2018
Year-2014
Make-CHEVY
VIN: 1G1PA5SH8E7481442

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 9TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA... ANA LOPEZ, A/K/A ANA M. LOPEZ, UNKNOW... RICKA RICK STORACI, A/K/A RICK STORACI; BELLALAGO AND ISLES OF BELLA-LAGO COMMUNITY ASSO-CIATION, INC.; ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER AND AGAINST THE HEREIN NAMED INDIVIDU-AL DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS, are the Defendants. The Clerk of the Court, Armando Ramirez, will sell to the highest bidder for cash in Suite 2600/ Room 2602 of the Osceola County Courthouse, 2 Courthouse Square, Kissimmee, FL 34741, on MAY 1, 2018 at 11:00 AM EST the following described real property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order on Plaintiff's Motion to Reset Foreclosure Sale dated April 3, 2018, and entered in Case No. 16-CA-2630 MF of the Circuit Court of the 9th Judicial Circuit, in and for OSCEOLA County, Florida, wherein BAYVIEW LOAN SERVICING, L.L.C., a Delaware Limited Liability Company, Plaintiff, vs. ANA LOPEZ, A/K/A ANA M. LOPEZ, UNKNOW... RICKA RICK STORACI, A/K/A RICK STORACI; BELLALAGO AND ISLES OF BELLA-LAGO COMMUNITY ASSO-CIATION, INC.; ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER AND AGAINST THE HEREIN NAMED INDIVIDU-AL DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS, are the Defendants. The Clerk of the Court, Armando Ramirez, will sell to the highest bidder for cash in Suite 2600/ Room 2602 of the Osceola County Courthouse, 2 Courthouse Square, Kissimmee, FL 34741, on MAY 1, 2018 at 11:00 AM EST the following described real property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

IMPORTANT

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

AND

1982 NEWH, Mobile Home Identification No. GB1CS220069B, Florida Mobile Home Title Certificate No. 21521999

AND

1983 SKYL, Mobile Home Identification No. 01610142S, Florida Mobile Home Title Certificate No. 22246262

AND

1982 NEWH, Mobile Home Identification No. GB1CS220069A, Florida Mobile Home Title Certificate No. 21522000

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

Please arrive 15 minutes before the start of the scheduled hearing time to view the calendar posted outside the courtroom. The courtroom in which your hearing will be held will be posted on the calendar.

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. THE CLERK SHALL RECEIVE A SERVICE CHARGE OF UP TO \$70 FOR SERVICING AND CERTIFYING THE SALE AND TITLE THAT SHALL BE ASSESSED AS COSTS. THE COURT, IN ITS DISCRETION, MAY ENLARGE THE TIME OF THE SALE. NOTICE OF THE CHANGED TIME OF SALE SHALL BE PUBLISHED AS PROVIDED HEREIN.

DATED on this 3rd day of April 2018, STRAUS & EISLER, P.A. Attorneys for Plaintiff 25005 Weston Road, Suite 213 Weston, FL 33331 954-349-9400 By: /s/ Michael J. Eisler Michael J. Eisler Esq. Florida Bar No. 500615 April 7, 14, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA... WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A., Plaintiff, vs. RICK A. STORACI A/K/A RICK STORACI; et al., Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sale will be made pursuant to an Order Resetting Sale entered on February 27, 2018, in Civil Case No. 49-2012-CA-001432-MF, of the Circuit Court of the NINTH Judicial Circuit in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein, WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A., is the Plaintiff, and RICK A. STORACI, A/K/A RICK STORACI;

COLLEEN STORACI, KNOWN SPOUSE OF RICK A. STORACI, A/K/A RICK STORACI; BELLALAGO AND ISLES OF BELLA-LAGO COMMUNITY ASSO-CIATION, INC.; ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER AND AGAINST THE HEREIN NAMED INDIVIDU-AL DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS, are the Defendants. The Clerk of the Court, Armando Ramirez, will sell to the highest bidder for cash in Suite 2600/ Room 2602 of the Osceola County Courthouse, 2 Courthouse Square, Kissimmee, FL 34741, on MAY 1, 2018 at 11:00 AM EST the following described real property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

LOT 143, BELLALAGO-PHASE 3, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 17, PAGE 89, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

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

IMPORTANT

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

AND

1983 SKYL, Mobile Home Identification No. 01610142S, Florida Mobile Home Title Certificate No. 22246262

AND

1982 NEWH, Mobile Home Identification No. GB1CS220069A, Florida Mobile Home Title Certificate No. 21522000

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

Please arrive 15 minutes before the start of the scheduled hearing time to view the calendar posted outside the courtroom. The courtroom in which your hearing will be held will be posted on the calendar.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated July 26, 2017, and entered in 2017-CA-000207 MF of the Circuit Court of the NINTH Judicial Circuit in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION "FANNIE MAE", A CORPORATION ORGANIZED AND EXISTING UNDER THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, Plaintiff, vs. CARLOS IVAN IRIZARRY AND MARIBEL RODRIGUEZ OTERO, et al, Defendant(s).

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: LAREDO'S MEXICAN GRILL

located at: 5295 W. Irla Bronson Memorial Highway, in the County of Osceola, in the City of Kissimmee, Florida 34746, intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida.

That the corporation interested in said business enterprise is as follows: LAREDO'S OF KISSIMMEE CORP. DATED at Kissimmee, Osceola County, Florida, on this 4th day of April, 2018 April 7, 2018

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

ON APRIL 26, 2018, at 9:00 A.M., an action will take place at H & H Towing and Recovery, 3501 Pugmill Road, Kissimmee, FL 34744. The vehicles which will be auctioned include: 1) 2005 FORD VIN: 1FMZK02175GA61198 2) 2003 VOLKSWAGEN VIN: WVVWRH63BX3P282403 April 7, 2018

or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; (describe notice); If you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711 to reach the Telecommunications Relay Service.

DATED on this 29th day of March 2018, ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ & SCHNEID, P.L.L.C. Attorney for Plaintiff 6409 Congress Avenue, Suite 100 Boca Raton, FL 33487 Telephone: 561-241-6901 Facsimile: 561-997-6909 Service Email: mail@rasflaw.com By: /s/ Thomas Joseph THOMAS JOSEPH, Esquire Florida Bar No. 123350 Communication Email: tjoseph@rasflaw.com 16-233890-MoP April 7, 14, 2018

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

Case #: 2016-CA-003012 MF WINDSOR HILLS MASTER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC., a Florida non-profit corporation, and THE VISTAS AT WINDSOR HILLS TOWNHOMES HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC., a Florida non-profit corporation, Plaintiff, vs. ANKUR SHAH, individually, et al., Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to a Summary Final Judgment of Foreclosure and Award of Attorneys Fees and Costs, dated March 29, 2018, and entered in Case Number: 2016-CA-003012-MF, of the Circuit Court in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein WINDSOR HILLS MASTER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC., AND THE VISTAS AT WINDSOR HILLS TOWNHOMES HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC., is the Plaintiff, and ANKUR SHAH and UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ANKUR SHAH, are the Defendants, the Osceola County Clerk of the Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, at the Osceola County Courthouse, 2 Courthouse Square, Suite 2600 Room # 2602, Kissimmee, Florida 34741, beginning at 11:00 a.m. on the 15th day of MAY, 2018 the following described property as set forth in said Summary Final Judgment of Foreclosure and Award of Attorneys Fees and Costs, to-wit: Property Address: 2575 Maneshaw Lane, Kissimmee, Florida 34747

Property Description: Lot 4, Building 16, WINDSOR HILLS PHASE FOUR, according to the map or plat thereof, as recorded in Plat Book 16, Page(s) 166 and 167, of the Public Records of Osceola County, Florida.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Court Administration at Two Courthouse Square, Suite 6300, Kissimmee, FL 34741, Telephone: (407) 742-2417 within two (2) working days of your receipt of this Summons. If you are hearing impaired call (800) 955-8771; if you are voice impaired, call (800) 955-8770.

DATED on this 29th day of March 2018, /s/ Jennifer L. Davis John L. Di Masi Florida Bar No. 0915602 Patrick J. Burton Florida Bar No.: 0098460 Jennifer L. Davis Florida Bar No.: 0879681 Toby Snavely Florida Bar No.: 0125998 JOHN L. DIMASI, P.A. 801 N. Orange Avenue, Suite 500, Orlando, Florida 32801 Ph (407) 839-3383 Fx (407) 839-3384 Primary E-Mail: jdavis@orlando-law.com Attorneys for Plaintiff April 7, 14, 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: LAREDO'S MEXICAN GRILL

located at: 5295 W. Irla Bronson Memorial Highway, in the County of Osceola, in the City of Kissimmee, Florida 34746, intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida.

That the corporation interested in said business enterprise is as follows: LAREDO'S OF KISSIMMEE CORP. DATED at Kissimmee, Osceola County, Florida, on this 4th day of April, 2018 April 7, 2018

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

ON APRIL 26, 2018, at 9:00 A.M., an action will take place at H & H Towing and Recovery, 3501 Pugmill Road, Kissimmee, FL 34744. The vehicles which will be auctioned include: 1) 2005 FORD VIN: 1FMZK02175GA61198 2) 2003 VOLKSWAGEN VIN: WVVWRH63BX3P282403 April 7, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA... General Jurisdiction Division Case #: 2016-CA-000589 MF WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A., Plaintiff, vs. PAULO C. NASCIMENTO, et al., Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order dated March 10, 2018, entered in Case No. 2016-CA-000589 MF of the Circuit Court of the Ninth Judicial Circuit, in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., is the Plaintiff, and Paulo C. Nascimento; Alessandra Herane Nascimento, a/k/a Alessandra A. Nascimento; Paradise Palms Resort Homeowners Association, Inc.; Paradise Palms Club, LLC, are the Defendants, that Armando R. Ramirez, Osceola County Clerk of Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at, Suite 2600/Room 2602, 2 Courthouse Square, Kissimmee, FL 34741, beginning at 11:00 A.M., on the 1st day of MAY, 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

LOT 44, PARADISE PALMS RESORT-PHASE 3A, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 22, PAGE 68, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

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

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

WITNESS my hand on March 26, 2018 By: /s/ Matthew M. Slowik Matthew M. Slowik, Esq. FBN #: 92555 Attorneys for Plaintiff Marinosci Law Group, P.C. 100 West Cypress Creek Road, Suite 1045 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309 Phone: (954)-644-8704; Fax (954) 772-9601 ServiceFL2@mlg-default.com File #: 16-13728-FC March 31, 2018 April 7, 2018

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

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF EVELYN G. ZIEMER, Deceased. NOTICE TO CREDITORS (Summary Administration) TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS OR DEMANDS AGAINST THE ABOVE ESTATE: You are hereby notified that an Order of Summary Administration has been entered in the Estate of EVELYN G. ZIEMER, deceased, Case Number: 2018-CP-104, by the Circuit Court for Osceola County, Florida, Probate Division; the address of which is 2 Courthouse Square, Kissimmee, Florida 34741; that the Decedent's date of death was July 6, 2017; that the total value of the estate is \$0.00, that the names and addresses of those to whom it has been assigned by such order are: Patricia D. Roberts, 349 Lake Dr., Ft. Walton Bch, FL 32548, and William G. Ziemer, 1915 Paradise Dr., Kissimmee, FL 34741.

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:

All creditors of the estate of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent other than those for whom provision for payment was made in the Order of Summary Administration must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE. ALL CLAIMS AND DEMANDS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER APPLICABLE TIME PERIOD, 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: April 7, 2018. /s/ Patricia D. Roberts Patricia D. Roberts, Petitioner

LISA JO SPENCER

Florida Bar No. 0002925 lisaj@lisajospencerlaw.com LISA JO SPENCER, P.A. 151 Mary Esther Boulevard, Suite 503, Mary Esther, FL 32569 (850) 226-4998 / (850) 226-4981 fax ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER April 7, 14, 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 County 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. 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 #: 92555

Attorneys for Plaintiff

Marinosci Law Group, P.C. 100 West Cypress Creek Road, Suite 1045 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309 Phone: (954)-644-8704; Fax (954) 772-9601 ServiceFL2@mlg-default.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, Suite 2000, Kissimmee, FL 34741. The names and addresses of the Personal Representative and the Personal Representative's attorney are set forth below: All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, including unliquidated, contingent or unliquidated 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 the decedent's estate, including unliquidated, 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 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: /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

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

Attorney for Personal Representative: CHRISTINE WESLEY 5303 W. Cleveland St. Tampa, Florida 33609

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION

File #: 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 decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice has been 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. Personal Representative: /s/ Paula J. Cogswell PAULA J. COGSWELL 305 Stonewall Street Raeford, North Carolina 28376

Attorney for Personal Representative: /s/ Timothy L. Finkenbinder Timothy L. Finkenbinder Attorney Florida Bar No. 0025480 OVERSTREET, MILES, CUMBLE & FINKENBINDER, P.A., 100 Church Street Kissimmee, FL 34741 Telephone: (407) 847-5151 Fax: (407) 847-3353 E-Mail: tfinkenbinder@kisslawyer.com Secondary E-Mail: tmorgan@kisslawyer.com March 31, 2018 April 7, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, 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 unliquidated, 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 NOT SO FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first Publication of this notice is: March 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

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

Attorney for Personal Representative: CHRISTINE WESLEY 5303 W. Cleveland St. Tampa, Florida 33609

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 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 31, 2018. Personal Representative: /s/ Sally A. Evers SALLY A. EVERS 6975 Rancho Court St. Cloud, Florida 34771

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION
 Case #: 2016-CA-002995 MF U.S. BANK TRUST, N.A., AS TRUSTEE FOR LSF9 MASTER PARTICIPATION TRUST,
 Plaintiff,
 vs.
 HOPE A. PICKELL, 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 March 13, 2018, and entered in Case No. 2016-CA-002995 MF of the Circuit Court of the NINTH JUDICIAL Circuit in and for OSCEOLA COUNTY, Florida, wherein U.S. BANK TRUST, N.A., AS TRUSTEE FOR LSF9 MASTER PARTICIPATION TRUST, is Plaintiff, and HOPE A. PICKELL, et al, are the 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 1st day of MAY, 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Lis Pendens, to wit:

LOT 3, NOVA BAY II, ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 11, PAGE 181 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 notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than seven (7) days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711 to reach the Telecommunications Relay Service.

Dated on the 3rd day of April 2018.
 /s/ Candice J. Hart
 Candice J. Hart, Esquire
 f/k/a Candice J. Gundel, Esq.
 Florida Bar No. 071895
 Primary: chart@blawgroup.com
 Secondary: Service@BlawGroup.com
 BUSINESS LAW GROUP, P.A., 301 W. Platt Street, # 375, Tampa, FL 33606
 Telephone: (813) 379-3804
 Facsimile: (813) 221-7909
 April 7, 14, 2018

45,031 of the Florida Statutes:
UNIT 205, BUILDING 400, BLOSSOM PARK VILLAS, A CONDOMINIUM, ACCORDING TO THE DECLARATION OF CONDOMINIUM FILED IN O.R. BOOK 2426, PAGE 2665 AND ANY AMENDMENTS THERETO, ALSO RECORDED IN CONDOMINIUM BOOK 6, PAGES 176 THROUGH 183, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA TOGETHER WITH AN UNDIVIDED INTEREST IN AND TO THE COMMON ELEMENTS APPURTENANT TO SAID UNIT.
3016 Parkway Blvd 205, Kissimmee, FL 34747
 for cash in an In Person Sale at 2 Courthouse Square, Suite 2600/Room 2602, Kissimmee, FL 34741 beginning at 11:00 A.M., on MAY 15, 2018.

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.

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

Dated on the 3rd day of April 2018.
 /s/ Candice J. Hart
 Candice J. Hart, Esquire
 f/k/a Candice J. Gundel, Esq.
 Florida Bar No. 071895
 Primary: chart@blawgroup.com
 Secondary: Service@BlawGroup.com
 BUSINESS LAW GROUP, P.A., 301 W. Platt Street, # 375, Tampa, FL 33606
 Telephone: (813) 379-3804
 Facsimile: (813) 221-7909
 April 7, 14, 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 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 Garfinkel 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

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, 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,

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 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 Garfinkel Whynot, Attorneys' for Plaintiff, whose

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-28

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission of the City of St. Cloud, Florida, at a meeting to be held on April 17, 2018, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 1300 9th Street, St. Cloud, Florida at 6:00 p.m., will consider the issue and make a recommendation to the City Council relative to enactment of Ordinance No. 2018-28 entitled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ST. CLOUD, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE BY AMENDING ARTICLE III, "ZONING REGULATIONS", DIVISION 20, "SUPPLEMENTAL DISTRICT REGULATIONS", TO ADD SECTION 3.20.37 "SIDEWALK CAFES", BY AMENDING ARTICLE III, TO ADD DIVISION 27 "ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT", AND AMENDING THE CITY CODE, CHAPTER 4, SECTIONS 4.3 AND 4.4 REGARDING CONSUMPTION AND POSSESSION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ON CITY PROPERTY AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, CODIFICATION AND 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 Planning and Zoning Department between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ST. CLOUD, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE BY AMENDING ARTICLE III, "ZONING REGULATIONS", DIVISION 20, "SUPPLEMENTAL DISTRICT REGULATIONS", TO ADD SECTION 3.20.37 "SIDEWALK CAFES", BY AMENDING ARTICLE III, TO ADD DIVISION 27 "ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT", AND AMENDING THE CITY CODE, CHAPTER 4, SECTIONS 4.3 AND 4.4 REGARDING CONSUMPTION AND POSSESSION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ON CITY PROPERTY AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, CODIFICATION AND 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 Planning and Zoning Department between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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

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, 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 Kissimmee 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 Kissimmee 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 Kissimmee 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 Kissimmee 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 Kissimmee 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 Kissimmee 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 Kissimmee 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 Kissimmee 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 Kissimmee 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 Kissimmee 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 Kissimmee 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 Kissimmee 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 Kissimmee 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 Kissimmee 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.

Russell Gibson, As Sheriff of Osceola County, Florida.
 March 31, 2018
 April 7, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION
 Case #: 2016-CA-001483 MF THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON, F/K/A THE BANK OF NEW YORK, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE CERTIFICATEHOLDERS OF CWABS INC., ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-BC1,
 3000 Bayport Drive, Suite 880, Tampa, FL 33607
 Plaintiff(s),
 vs.
 RICARDO RIVERA;
 MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS NOMINEE FOR THE CIT GROUP/CONSUMER FINANCE, INC.,
 Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, pursuant to Plaintiff's Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered on February 19, 2017, in the above-captioned action, the Clerk of Court, Armando R. Ramirez, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the Osceola County Courthouse, 2 Courthouse Square, Suite 2600/Room 2602, Kissimmee, Florida 34741 in accordance with Chapter 45, Florida Statutes, on the 1st day of MAY, 2018 at 11:00 A.M., on the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment of Foreclosure or order, to wit: **LOT 503, INDIAN RIDGE VILLAS PHASE 5, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 10, PAGE 51, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.**
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 7834 TURKEY OAK LANE KISSIMMEE, FL 32747
 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 pend

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ORDINANCE NO. 2018-33

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission of the City of St. Cloud, Florida, at a meeting to be held on April 17, 2018, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 1300 9th Street, St. Cloud, Florida at 6:00 p.m., will consider the issue and make a recommendation to the City Council relative to enactment 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 shall be heard with respect to the proposed ORDINANCE at the Public Hearing thereon. This ORDINANCE, in its entirety can be reviewed at the Planning and Zoning Department between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 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)

Jessie Light, Planning Commission Secretary 1300 9th Street, St. Cloud, FL 34769 Telephone: (407) 957-8427 April 7, 2018

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ORDINANCE NO. 2018-32

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission of the City of St. Cloud, Florida, at a meeting to be held on April 17, 2018, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 1300 9th Street, St. Cloud, Florida at 6:00 p.m., will consider the issue and make a recommendation to the City Council relative to enactment of Ordinance No. 2018-32 entitled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ST. CLOUD, FLORIDA, TO ANNEX INTO THE CITY OF ST. CLOUD APPROXIMATELY 127.99 ACRES IDENTIFIED AS CHISHOLM PARK, AT 4700 CHISHOLM PARK TRAIL; IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 171.044, FLORIDA STATUTES.

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 Planning and Zoning Department between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 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)

Jessie Light, Planning Commission Secretary 1300 9th Street, St. Cloud, FL 34769 Telephone: (407) 957-8427 April 7, 2018

PUBLIC NOTICE AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Kissimmee Gateway Airport has proposed an overall DBE goal of 8.42%, based solely upon its, currently, known FY '19 AIP. No Airport Improvement Projects (AIPs) have been identified for FY '18 or FY '20. The proposed DBE Overall Goal; and its, corresponding, Goal Methodology are available for public inspection at the Airport Administration Office during customary business hours for a period of thirty (30) days, beginning April 9, 2018. Written comments will be accepted for a period of forty-five (45) days beginning, that same date April 9, 2018. An adjustment to this document, indicating the FY '19 DBE Goal plus other new data will be advertised when the staff receives additional funding information for FY '18 or FY '20. Please send all written comments to:

/s/ Terry Lloyd Director of Aviation Kissimmee Gateway Airport 401 Dyer Blvd Kissimmee, FL 34741 407-518-2505 April 7, 2018

NOTIFICACIÓN PUBLICA PROYECTOS de AEROPUERTO

El Aeropuerto Municipal Kissimmee Gateway ha propuesto un objetivo global de 8.42%, por medio a la entidad de Empresa Comercial Desfavorecida, mejor conocida por sus siglas en ingles "DBE", basado únicamente en su, actualmente conocido, Año Fiscal '19 con el Plan de mejora del Aeropuerto conocido como "AIP" por parte de la Administración Federal de Aviación. No se han identificado proyectos de mejora del aeropuerto (AIP) para el año fiscal 18 o el año fiscal 20. El objetivo general propuesto por DBE; y su correspondiente Metodología de propósito está disponible para inspección pública en la Oficina de Administración del Aeropuerto durante el horario de oficina habitual por un periodo de treinta (30) días, a partir del 9 de abril, 2018. Se aceptarán comentarios por escrito durante un periodo de cuarenta y cinco (45) días comenzando, esa misma fecha 9 de abril, 2018. Se anunciará un ajuste a este documento, indicando la Meta para el año fiscal '19 del DBE más otros datos nuevos cuando el personal reciba información adicional de fondos para año fiscal '18 o año fiscal '20. Por favor envíe todos los comentarios por escrito a:

/s/ Terry Lloyd Director de Aviación Kissimmee Gateway Aeropuerto 401 Dyer Blvd Kissimmee, FL 34741 407-518-2505 April 7, 2018

CELEBRATION COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT NOTICE OF SOLICITATION FOR REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Tree Trimming Maintenance Services Agreement Osceola County, Florida

Notice is hereby given the Celebration Community Development District (the "District") requests proposals to provide tree trimming services (Request for Proposals No. 2018-102) including but not limited to, tree trimming and pruning throughout the District, as more specifically set forth in the project manual.

The project manual comprised of proposal and contract documents will be available beginning Tuesday, April 10, 2018, at 2:00 p.m., from the District Manager's Office, 313 Campus Street, Celebration, Florida 34747, or by contacting Maria Fuentes at 407-566-2018. All project manuals must be picked up in person at the District Office.

Pre-Proposal Conference: A mandatory pre-proposal conference and onsite inspection will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, April 20, 2018, convening at 313 Campus Street, Celebration, Florida, 34747 for the purpose of introducing the project and answering any questions that proposers may have. There will be space on the bus for one (1) representative from each firm for the site tour, which will convene immediately following the conference.

Firms desiring to provide services for this project must submit

ten (10) copies of the required proposal no later than Monday, April 30, 2018 by 10:00 a.m. at the Office of the District Manager, 313 Campus Street, Celebration, Florida, 34747 ATTN: Gary L. Moyer, at which time the proposals will be publicly opened. Proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope pursuant to the Instructions to Proposers. Proposals received after the time and date stipulated above will be returned unopened to the Proposer.

Ranking of Proposers will be made on the basis of the qualifications according to the criteria set forth in the evaluation criteria contained within the project manual. The District reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, with or without cause, to waive minor technical errors and informalities, or to accept the proposal which, in its judgment, is in the best interest of the District.

The District will not reimburse firms, which are not awarded the contract, for any costs relating to the proposal, preparation, or submittal.

Celebration Community Development District Gary L. Moyer - District Manager April 7, 2018

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ORDINANCE NO. 2018-31

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission of the City of St. Cloud, Florida, at a meeting to be held on April 17, 2018, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 1300 9th Street, St. Cloud, Florida at 6:00 p.m., will consider the issue and make a recommendation to the City Council relative to enactment of Ordinance No. 2018-31 entitled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ST. CLOUD AMENDING ARTICLE III, "ZONING REGULATION", DIVISION 20 "SUPPLEMENTAL DISTRICT REGULATIONS", SECTION 3.20.16 "TEMPORARY STORAGE, OFFICE TRAILERS, AND CONSTRUCTION TRAILERS", SUBSECTION A.4 "SALES OFFICES IN RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISIONS OR PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENTS" AND SECTION 3.20.22 "MODEL CENTERS", SUBSECTION J OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE; REMOVING SECTION 3.20.16.A.4.C; PROVIDING THAT PARKING IS NOT REQUIRED FOR MODELS HOMES WHEN A SALES CENTER IS CONSTRUCTED CONCURRENTLY; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICT, CODIFICATION AND 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 Planning and Zoning Department between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 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)

Jessie Light, Planning Commission Secretary 1300 9th Street, St. Cloud, FL 34769 Telephone: (407) 957-8427 April 7, 2018



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

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

SUMMARY OF NOTICE

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

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

Table with 2 columns: Field Name and Value. Fields include OWNER OF BUILDING/STRUCTURE, NAME AND/OR DESCRIPTION OF BUILDING/STRUCTURE, STREET ADDRESS OF BUILDING/STRUCTURE, LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF BUILDING/STRUCTURE, OWNER'S ADDRESS.

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

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

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO. 49-2014-CA-003445-MF

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A., Plaintiff, vs. THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, GRANTEES, DEVISEES, LIENORS, TRUSTEES, AND CREDITORS OF VANINA FAUSTIN, DECEASED; THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, GRANTEES, DEVISEES, LIENORS, TRUSTEES, AND CREDITORS OF MARCELO ESTRIPIET, DECEASED; THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, GRANTEES, DEVISEES, LIENORS, TRUSTEES, AND CREDITORS OF CARMEL PAUL, DECEASED; BERTONIE M. ESTRIPIET; LLOYD A. ESTRIPIET; MARCELLE ESTRIPIET; STEVEN A. ESTRIPIET; HENRY M. ESTRIPIET; ELSIE M. ALEXANDER; MARIE CAROLE PAUL A/K/A CAROLE PAUL; MARC ALIX PAUL; DANIK PAUL; GERALD Y. PAUL; GENEVIEVE PAUL; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF GENEVIEVE PAUL; VANINA FAUSTIN; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ELSIE M. ALEXANDER; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF MARIE CAROLE PAUL A/K/A CAROLE PAUL; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF GERALD Y. PAUL; UNKNOWN TENANT 1; UNKNOWN TENANT 2; AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT(S), WHO (IS/ARE) NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIM AS HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, SPOUSES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, Defendants.

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

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

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

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

CONDITIONS FOUND WHICH RENDER STRUCTURE UNSAFE

- The following is a list of conditions which cause the structure to be unsafe and in violation of the following Code sections:
CONDITION:
1. The building located on the property is in a general dilapidated condition so severe as to be unfit and unsafe for human occupation, and constitutes a nuisance. It is unsafe and unsanitary and, generally, violates the following code provisions:
Standard Unsafe Building Abatement Code - Section 101.6, Maintenance.
All buildings or structures, both existing and new, and all parts thereof, shall be maintained in a safe and sanitary condition. All devices or safeguards which are required by the Standard Building Code in a building when erected, altered or repaired, shall be maintained in good working order. The owner, or his designated agent, shall be responsible for the maintenance of buildings and structures.

The structure located on this property has not been maintained in accordance with the above-referenced requirements. It must be maintained or demolished.
2. The building is unsafe also because it meets certain of the criteria shown under the definition for "unsafe building" given by Section 202 of the Standard Unsafe Building Abatement Code, which states as follows:
Unsafe Building Abatement Code - Section 202, Definitions
Unsafe Building - Any building or structure that has any of the following conditions, such that the life, health, property or safety of its occupants or of the general public are endangered:

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

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, TRUSTEES 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 QUILS; 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, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2 PAGES 114 THROUGH 120 AND CORRECTED 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 17-01548-MoP March 31, 2018 April 7, 2018

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

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

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

RIGHT OF APPEAL

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

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

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

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE

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

DATE ISSUED: 12/15/2017 BUILDING OFFICIAL: Scott J. Hernandez, Jr. SIGNATURE: [Signature] STATE OF FLORIDA COUNTY OF OSCEOLA SWORN to and subscribed freely and voluntarily for the purposes therein expressed before me by [Signature] Building Official, City of Kissimmee Building Division, known to me to be the person described in and who executed the foregoing, this [day or] day of [Month] 2018. He is personally known to me. WITNESS my hand and official seal in the County and State last aforesaid this [day] day of [Month] 2018. CRYSTAL MUNIZ Notary Public (Print Name) My commission expires [Date]

March 24, 31, 2018 April 7, 2018

FOURTH KISSIMMEE CATTLE DRIVE



Osceola county remembered its heritage by hosting the fourth annual cattle drive through downtown Kissimmee on Monday along with the Ram National Circuit Finals Rodeo. RNCFR Contestants went out into the community Thursday and Friday visiting local charities, elementary schools and businesses before the rodeo action began at the Silver Spurs Arena Friday continuing through this weekend. Top row: Cattle are penned up by the historic courthouse before the drive. Sheena Sears affectionately strokes a horse. Second row: Members of the Crescent O ranch and Doc Partin Ranch get ready to unload more horses for the event. Henry Near and his son, Mason, get a close look at the cattle. County Commissioner Cheryl Grieb saddles up before the start of the drive. Third row: Cattle are driven up Broadway as a crowd gathers to watch and take photos. John Partin keeps a close eye out behind him keeping a gap between his horse and the cattle. Right: Ricky Booth and John Partin lead the herd through the intersection of Broadway and Monument Avenue.

News-Gazette Photos by Martin Maddock & Jennifer DiDomenico



OSCEOLA NEWS-GAZETTE Triple E

COIN TOSS

Bitcoin is big, and getting bigger all the time as its price swings wildly. But the newest crypto rage is initial coin offerings, which raise capital for startups by selling tokens of new digital currencies.

Investors beware, say regulators. The ICO market isn't regulated. The boom in ICOs, pulling in many Main Street investors, has come with heavy hype and a crowdfunding vibe, high risk, a dose of apparent fraud and an opening for hackers to steal personal data.

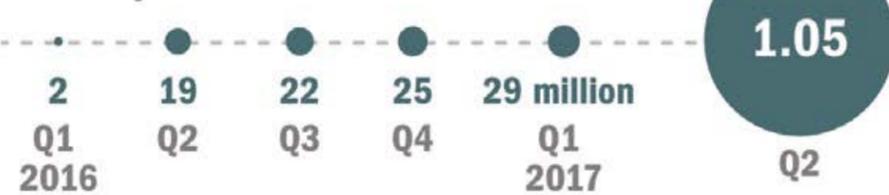
ICOs grew from a small market in 2015, mostly raising less than \$1 million each, to a bigger presence in 2016 including one that raised \$150 million. They really took off last year, raising \$574 million in July alone.

Fear of missing out on the next big thing may be driving inexperienced investors into unsuitable or even disastrous transactions.

Federal regulators are keeping a close eye. The Securities and Exchange Commission has set up a special cyber unit working on several ICO cases involving suspected fraud. The agency has brought some enforcement actions.



Total proceeds from ICOs



Sources: Ernst & Young; CoinDesk

*March 27

Beware
hot new rage is
initial coin
offerings

2.43

Q3

\$3.78 billion

Oct-Nov
2017

Marcy Gordon; Jenni Sohn • AP

Company Spotlight Facebook fallout

Axiom 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 Axiom closed down 19 percent at \$22.71 Thursday.

Axiom 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 Axiom's Audience



Solutions division, which helps marketers target ad campaigns and engage with consumers. Last month Axiom 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."

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

AP

*annualized

Source: FactSet

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Healthy competition?

Major health insurers and middlemen that manage prescription benefit programs are joining forces, and that could give them more power to fight high drug prices.

U.S. regulators are reviewing two proposed megadeals: CVS Health is trying to buy Aetna, and Cigna is trying to buy Express Scripts. This would put insurers, who pay for drugs, together with companies called pharmacy benefit managers that use their vast buying power to negotiate discounts and volume-based rebates from drug companies.

UnitedHealth, the nation's biggest health insurer,

already owns OptumRx, a large PBM.

Les Funtleyder, health care portfolio manager at E Squared Asset Management, says if the deals are approved the three big companies could have even more leverage in negotiations with drugmakers over prices, and also more control over which drugs will be covered by which insurance plans.

Does this spell trouble for drugmaker profits?

"I don't know that it will be doomsday," Funtleyder says. Drugmakers that come up with new, innovative medicines will continue to be able to charge high prices. But it may be much harder for drugmakers when there are multiple treatment options.



Strength in numbers: Big insurers and companies that manage prescription drug plans are trying to team up in hopes of wringing bigger discounts and rebates from drugmakers.

Insurer	Insured U.S. members in 2017 (in millions)	Pharmacy benefit manager	U.S. monthly prescriptions managed in 2017 (in billions)	Status
UnitedHealth Group	45.7	OptumRx	1.3	Single company
Aetna	22.2	CVS Health	1.8	Merger pending
Cigna	15.9	Express Scripts	1.4	Merger pending

Source: Company financial reports

Linda A. Johnson; Alex Nieves • AP

Company Spotlight Rough tread

The federal highway safety agency says it has received allegations that defective Goodyear motor home tires caused crashes that killed or injured 95 people during the past two decades.

The allegations were revealed in an information-seeking letter dated Tuesday that was sent to Goodyear by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The agency began investigating whether the company's G159 tires are unsafe last year after a judge ordered the release of Goodyear data that had been sealed under

court orders and settlement agreements.

Lawsuits and safety advocates allege the tires were designed for delivery trucks and not for recreational vehicles that travel at highway speeds. They allege that Goodyear kept the tire problems secret by settling cases and getting judges to seal records. Despite the allegations, the tires have not been recalled.

Akron, Ohio-based Goodyear says it's cooperating fully with the investigation. Its shares closed up 1.8 percent Thursday at \$27.74.



Goodyear (GT)	Thursday's close: \$27.74	Total return	1-yr	3-yr*	5-yr*
52-WEEK RANGE	Price-earnings ratio: 20	GT	-19.4%	2.3	19.1
\$26 \$37	(Based on past 12-month results)	Div. yield: 2.0%	Dividend: \$0.56		

AP

*annualized

Source: FactSet

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China vows to 'counterattack' US as trade spat worsens

WASHINGTON (AP) — China's government vowed Friday to "counterattack with great strength" if President Donald Trump goes ahead with plans to raise U.S. tariffs on an additional \$100 billion worth of Chinese goods and said negotiations were impossible under current conditions.

Trump's surprise move Thursday to instruct the U.S. trade representative to consider the additional tariffs came a day after Beijing announced plans to tax \$50 billion in American products, including soybeans and small aircraft, in response to a U.S. move this week to slap tariffs on \$50 billion in Chinese imports.

In Beijing, a Commerce Ministry spokesman said China doesn't want a trade war — but isn't afraid to fight one.

"If the U.S. side announces the list of products for \$100 billion in tariffs, the Chinese side has fully prepared and will without hesitation counterattack with great strength," spokesman Gao Feng said.

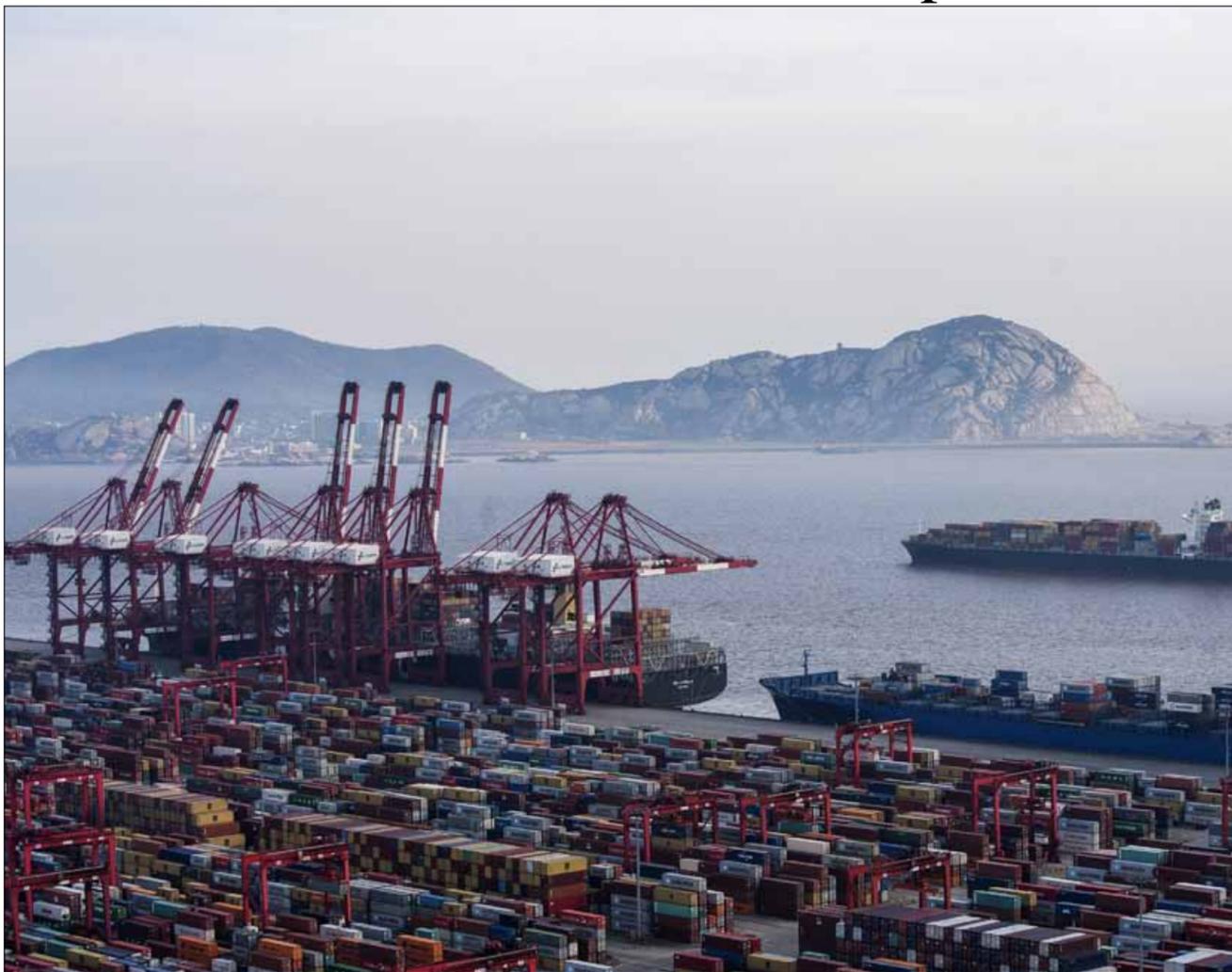
He gave no details of what measures Beijing might take.

Trump's proposal intensified what was already shaping up to be the biggest trade battle since World War II. Global financial markets had fallen sharply as the world's two biggest economies squared off over Beijing's aggressive trade tactics. They calmed down Wednesday and Thursday on hopes the U.S. and China would find a diplomatic solution but slid Friday after Beijing said it would fight the Trump administration's latest threats.

The White House announced after the markets closed Thursday that Trump had instructed the Office of the United States Trade Representative to consider whether \$100 billion of additional tariffs would be appropriate and, if so, to identify which products they should apply to. He's also instructed his secretary of agriculture "to implement a plan to protect our farmers and agricultural interests."

"China's illicit trade practices — ignored for years by Washington — have destroyed thousands of American factories and millions of American jobs," Trump said in a statement announcing the decision.

The latest escalation comes after the U.S. on Tuesday said it would impose 25 percent duties on \$50 billion



In this March 29, 2018 photo, container ships is docked at the Yangshan port in Shanghai. President Donald Trump has instructed the U.S. trade representative to consider slapping an additional \$100 billion in tariffs on Chinese goods in a dramatic escalation of the trade dispute between the two countries.

of imports from China, and China quickly retaliated by listing \$50 billion of products that it could hit with its own 25 percent tariffs. The Chinese list Wednesday included soybeans, the biggest U.S. export to China, and aircraft up to 45 tons (41 metric tons) in weight. Also on the list were American beef, whiskey, passenger vehicles and industrial chemicals.

Earlier in the week, Beijing announced separate import duties on \$3 billion of U.S. goods in response to the Trump administration's duties on all steel and aluminum imports, including from China.

U.S. officials have sought to downplay the threat of a broader trade dispute, saying a negotiated outcome is still possible. But economists warn that the tit-for-tat moves bear the hallmarks of a classic trade rift that could escalate. And already, the tensions have rattled global stock markets.

U.S. Trade Representative

Robert Lighthizer called China's move "unjustified" and said Trump's proposal was an "appropriate response to China's recent threat of new tariffs."

"Such measures would undoubtedly cause further harm to American workers, farmers, and businesses," he said in a statement. "Under these circumstances, the President is right to ask for immediate appropriate action to obtain the elimination of the unfair acts, policies, and practices identified in USTR's report."

China's Commerce Ministry said in a statement it must "adopt new countermeasures" to protect the interests of the Chinese people — but it did not announce any specific measures.

The clash reflects the tension between Trump's promises to narrow a U.S. trade deficit with China that stood at \$375.2 billion in goods last year and China's ruling Communist Party's development ambitions. Trump says China's trade practices have

caused American factories to close and lead to the loss of American jobs.

Trump's top economic adviser, Larry Kudlow, said earlier Thursday in an interview with Fox Business Network that negotiations were ongoing.

But, he said, "at the end of the day, China's unfair and illegal trading actions are damaging to economic growth, for the U.S., for China and for the rest of the world."

He also called Trump "the first guy with a backbone in decades ... to actually go after it. Not just whisper it, but to go after it with at least preliminary actions."

The Chinese spokesman, however, denied talks had occurred.

"Finance and trade officials from the two sides have not conducted any negotiations on the trade issue," Gao said.

The spokesman complained that after Beijing issued a "resolute response" to Trump's \$50 billion list

of Chinese goods for higher duties issued this week, the American president responded by threatening still more increases.

"Under these circumstances, the two sides cannot possibly conduct any negotiations about this issue," said Gao.

One trade policy expert said he doubted that Trump's rhetoric would help forge any deal with China.

"Mr. Trump is upping the ante, but the lack of a clear game plan and an incoherent messaging strategy from the administration is setting this up for an all-out trade war rather than a fruitful negotiation," said Eswar Prasad, professor of trade policy at Cornell University.

In China, some observers held out hope that the two countries were headed toward negotiations and noted that despite Beijing's tough talk, it likely does not want the country's export-driven economy to be hit by punishing tariffs.

"If the trade dispute escalates or lasts for a long time, it will have a big impact on China's manufacturing industry, and foreign investment in related projects will be affected too," said Zhang Lifan, a Beijing-based independent political commentator. "In the long-run, losses in manufacturing will lead to decrease in tax revenue and eventually affect China's economic growth."

Sen. Ben Sasse, R-Neb., a frequent Trump critic, called the escalation "the dumbest possible way" to punish China.

"Hopefully the President is just blowing off steam again but, if he's even half-serious, this is nuts," Sasse said in a statement. "Let's absolutely take on Chinese bad behavior, but with a plan that punishes them instead of us."

Any additional tariffs would be subject to a public comment process and would not go into effect until that process is complete.

US punishes Russian oligarchs, officials with more sanctions

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States hit seven Russian oligarchs and 17 Russian government officials with sanctions on Friday for what it called "malign activity" around the world, as the Trump administration tried to show that President Donald Trump is taking tough action to stand up to Moscow.

A dozen Russian companies owned by the oligarchs were also targeted, along with a state-owned arms-dealing company and a subsidiary bank, the Treasury Department said. Senior administration officials cast the penalties as part of a concerted and ongoing effort by the U.S. to push back Russian President Vladimir Putin's government and his inner circle, emphasizing that since Trump took office last year, the U.S. has punished 189 Russian-related people

and entities with sanctions.

Trump has continued to avoid directly criticizing Putin himself, and recently invited the Russian leader to meet with him, possibly at the White House. Still, in recent weeks Trump's administration has rolled out a series of actions — including several economic and diplomatic steps — to increase pressure on Putin and those in his circle.

"Nobody has been tougher on Russia than I have," Trump said at a news conference on Tuesday.

Rather than punishing Russia for one specific action, the new sanctions are in response to "the totality of the Russian government's ongoing and increasingly brazen pattern" of bad behavior, said the officials, who weren't authorized to comment by name and briefed reporters on condi-

tion of anonymity.

The sanctions freeze any assets that those targeted have in U.S. jurisdictions and bars Americans from doing business with them. It was not clear whether any of those hit have significant, or any, holdings that would be covered and most of them were warned of possible penalties in January when they were identified as possible targets on lists published by the Treasury and State departments. The administration officials said Americans who may currently have business with them would be given guidance about how to wind down that business and avoid running afoul of the sanctions.

The officials ticked through a list of activities they said had prompted the U.S. to act, including Russia's annexation of Crimea,

backing separatist rebels in eastern Ukraine, support for Syrian President Bashar Assad, cyber-hacking and attempts to subvert Western democracy.

There was no immediate reaction from Russia's government.

Many of the targets are individuals and businesses associated with Russia's energy sector, including those affiliated with state-owned Gazprom. Officials said the goal was to show that those who have benefited financially from Putin's position of power are fair game for U.S. punishments, noting that many of those being sanctioned are closely tied to Putin himself.

Targets include:

—Kirill Shamalov, who is reportedly Putin's son-in-law, married to his daughter Katerina Tikhonova, although neither Putin nor the Kremlin

have acknowledged that she is his daughter.

—Igor Rotenberg, the son of Arkady Rotenberg, a friend of Putin's friend since they were teenagers.

—Andrey Kostin, named among government officials, heads the nation's second-largest bank, VTB, which is controlled by the state.

—Alexei Miller, the long-time head of the state-controlled Gazprom natural gas giant. Both Miller and Kostin are longtime key members of Putin's team.

Other oligarchs on the list include some top names on the Forbes' list of billionaires, aren't part of Putin's inner circle but like any other billionaire tycoons in Russia they vie for the Kremlin's attention to preserve and extend their business empires.

Also targeted is aluminum magnate Oleg Deripaska, a

figure in the Russia investigation over his ties to former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort. Deripaska has been targeted with U.S. sanctions previously, but officials said those being announced Friday were more comprehensive.

Many of the Russian oligarchs and politicians and affiliated businesses had already been identified by the Treasury and State Department as potential targets on a list that was compiled and published in January.

One of those hit by Friday's sanctions, Konstantin Kosachev, the chairman of the Russian Federation Council's foreign affairs committee, expressed surprise he had not already been blacklisted by the U.S.

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Most users may have had public Facebook data 'scraped'

NEW YORK (AP) — Facebook's acknowledgment that most of its 2.2 billion members have probably had their personal data scraped by "malicious actors" is the latest example of the social network's failure to protect its users' data.

Not to mention its apparent inability to even identify the problem until the company was already embroiled in scandal.

CEO Mark Zuckerberg told reporters Wednesday that Facebook is shutting down a feature that let people search for Facebook users by phone number or email address. Although that was useful for people who wanted to find others on Facebook, it turns out that unscrupulous types also figured out years ago that they could use it to identify individuals and collect data off their profiles.

The scrapers were at it long enough, Zuckerberg said, that "at some point during the last several

years, someone has probably accessed your public information in this way."

The only way to be safe would have been for users to deliberately turn off that search feature several years ago. Facebook had it turned on by default.

"I think Facebook has not been clear enough with how to use its privacy settings," said Jamie Winterton, director of strategy for Arizona State University's Global Security Initiative. "That, to me, was the failure."

The breach was a stunning admission for a company already reeling from allegations that the political data-mining firm Cambridge Analytica inappropriately accessed data on as many as 87 million Facebook users to influence elections.

Over the past few weeks, the scandal has mushroomed into investigations across continents, including a probe by the U.S. Federal Trade Commission. Zuck-

erberg himself will be questioned by Congress for the first time on Tuesday.

"The FTC looked the other way for years when consumer groups told them Facebook was violating its 2011 deal to better protect its users. But now the Cambridge Analytica scandal has awoken the FTC from its long digital privacy slumber," said Jeffrey Chester, executive director for the Washington-based privacy nonprofit Center for Digital Democracy.

Neither Zuckerberg nor his company has identified those who carried out the data scraping. Outside experts believe they could have been identity thieves, scam artists or shady data brokers assembling marketing profiles.

Zuckerberg said the company detected the problem in a data-privacy audit started after the Cambridge Analytica disclosures, but didn't say why the company hadn't noticed it — or fixed

it — earlier.

Facebook did not immediately respond to a request for comment Thursday on when it discovered the data scraping.

In his call with reporters Wednesday, Zuckerberg said the company had tried "rate limiting" the searches. This restricted how many searches someone can conduct at one time from a particular IP address, a numeric designation that identifies a device's location on the internet. But Zuckerberg said the scrapers circumvented that defense by cycling through multiple IP addresses.

The scraped information was limited to what a user had already chosen to make public — which, depending on a person's privacy settings, could be a lot — as well as what Facebook requires people to share. That includes full name, profile picture and listings of school or workplace networks.

But hackers and scam artists could then use that information — and combine it with other data in circulation — to pull hoaxes on people, plant malware on their computers or commit other mischief.

Having access to such a massive amount of data could also pose national security risks, Winterton said.

A foreign entity could conceivably use such information to influence elections or stir up discord — exactly what Russia is alleged to have done, using Facebook and other social media, in the 2016 presidential elections.

Privacy advocates have long been critical of Facebook's penchant for pushing people to share more and more information, often through pro-sharing default options.

While the company offers detailed privacy controls — users can turn off ad targeting, for example, or face recognition, and

post updates that no one else sees — many people never change their settings, and often don't even know how to.

The company has tried to simplify its settings multiple times over the years, most recently this week.

Winterton said that for individual Facebook users, worrying about this data scraping won't do much good — after all, the data is already out there. But she said it might be a good time to "reflect on what we are sharing and how we are sharing it and whether we need to."

"Just because someone asks us information, it doesn't mean we have to give it to them if we are not comfortable," she said.

She added that while she no longer has a Facebook account, when she did she put her birth year as 1912 and her hometown as Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Neither is true.

UFC star McGregor facing criminal charges in New York City

NEW YORK (AP) — Ultimate fighting star Conor McGregor is facing criminal charges in the wake of a backstage melee he allegedly instigated that has forced the removal of three fights from UFC's biggest card of the year.

Video footage appears to show the promotion's most bankable star throwing a hand truck at a bus full of fighters on Thursday after a news conference for UFC 223 at Brooklyn's Barclays Center.

The New York Police Department says McGregor was charged and awaiting a court appearance Friday, facing three counts of assault and one count of criminal mischief. It was not immediately known if McGregor has an attorney who could comment on his behalf.

UFC President Dana White said Friday he spoke to McGregor via text and the brawler said the confrontation was something that "had to be done."

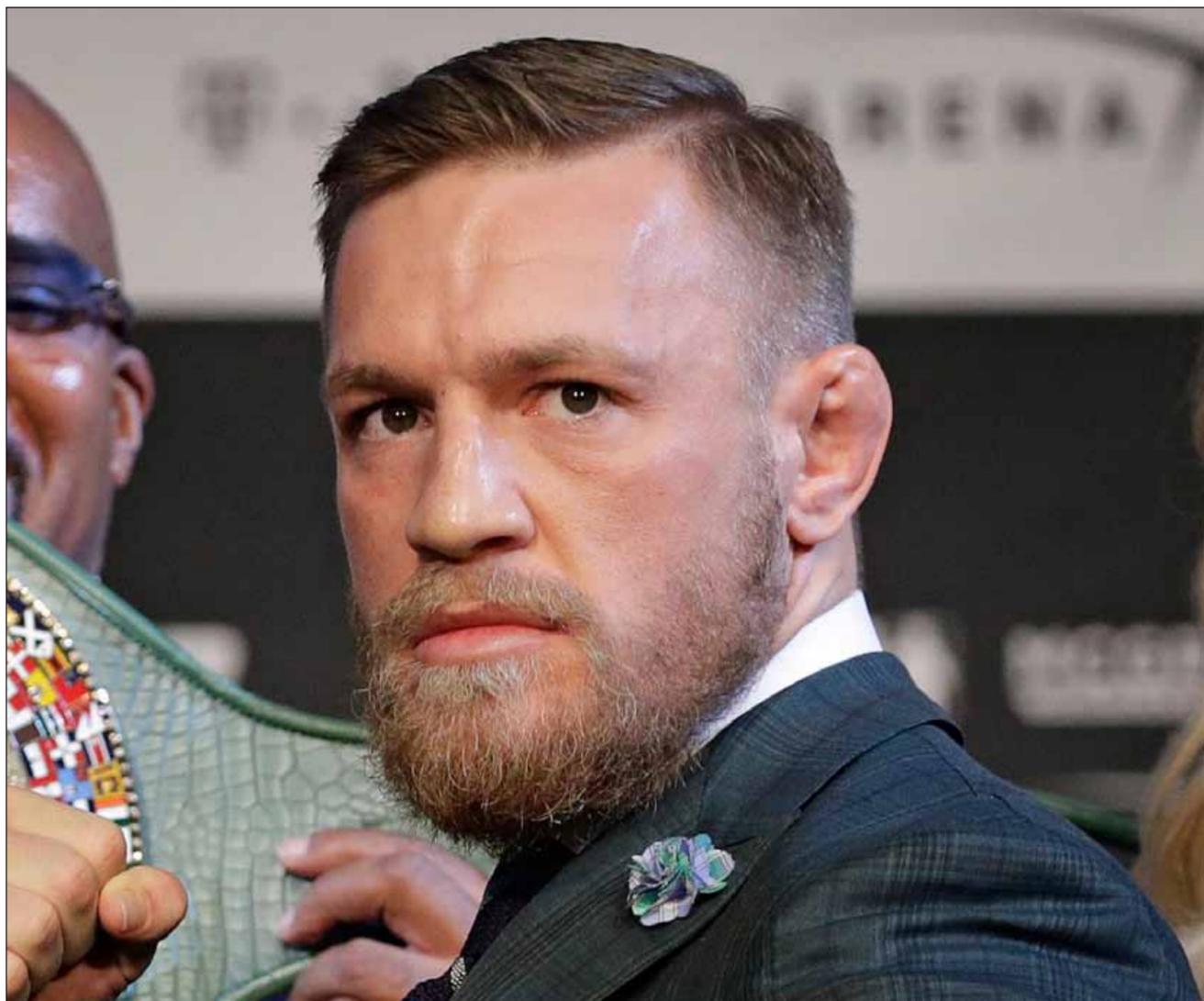
"It was probably the worst conversation we ever had," White told FS1's "First Things First" on Friday morning. "We talked yesterday before he turned himself in."

"It's not that I don't think he understood what happened. He justified it. It was justified to him."

White said the 29-year-old McGregor said he was sorry about the fighters who were injured, but, "this had to be done."

Video showed McGregor with a group of people causing chaos Thursday as they took an elevator to the loading dock at Barclays Center. He can be seen tossing trash cans and being prevented from throwing a barricade at a bus during his unannounced appearance in New York.

Police said McGregor threw a hand truck at a bus causing minor injury to a person on the bus. UFC said three fights on Saturday's UFC 223 card have been scrapped as a result of the incident.



In this Aug. 23, 2017, file photo, Ultimate Fighting star Conor McGregor poses during a news conference in Las Vegas. McGregor is facing criminal charges in the wake of a backstage melee he allegedly instigated that has forced the removal of three fights from UFC's biggest card of the year. Video footage appears to show the promotion's most bankable star throwing a hand truck at a bus full of fighters after a Thursday, April 5, 2018, news conference for UFC 223 at Brooklyn's Barclays Center.

"The organization deems today's disruption completely unacceptable and is currently working on the consequences that will follow," UFC said in a statement. "Individuals involved in the incident are not welcome at tomorrow's ceremonial weigh-in or Saturday's event at Barclays Center."

McGregor hasn't fought for UFC since November 2016 and was stripped this week by UFC President Dana White of the 155-pound championship he had never defended.

White also said this week he did not expect McGregor to attend Saturday's fights.

McGregor profanely responded on Twitter and wrote, "You'll strip me of nothing." He was just getting started.

McGregor last fought at all in a boxing match he lost to Floyd Mayweather Jr. on Aug. 26, 2017.

The popular Irishman is tight with UFC 223 fighter Artem Lobov, who was involved this week in a scuffle in a hotel with Khabib Nurmagomedov. Nurma-

gomedov fights Max Holloway for the lightweight championship left vacant by McGregor.

Lobov was yanked from the card and banned from the building.

Michael Chiesa was sent to the hospital with injuries sustained in the attack and was forced out of his scheduled fight against Anthony Pettis.

"A decision was made by the New York State Athletic Commission to pull me from UFC 223," Chiesa tweeted. "I'm devastated to say the least. @

showtimepettis I hope to run this match up ASAP. June 9th in your backyard. That's all I have to say for now. Much love."

Flyweight Ray Borg suffered multiple cornea abrasions in the wake of the McGregor attack and his fight against Brandon Moreno was also scratched.

White said this week in New York that McGregor would fight again for UFC this year. McGregor's actions now put any future fights in doubt.

McGregor once held

the 145 and 155-pound championships at the same time and boldly stated he wanted an ownership stake in UFC. But the trash-talking, egocentric has been out of the fight game except for his boxing dalliance with Mayweather that made him wealthy enough to never have to fight again. McGregor and his girlfriend welcomed their first child, a son, in May 2017.



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Ex-S. Korean leader Park gets 24-year prison term

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Former South Korean President Park Geun-hye was formally convicted of an array of corruption charges and sentenced to 24 years in prison on Friday, a year after she was driven from office and arrested over a scandal that saw months of massive street rallies calling for her ouster.

The conviction, which she can appeal, is the latest indignity for South Korea's first female president, who grew up in the presidential palace as the daughter of a former dictator and even served as first lady after her mother's assassination. The harshness of the sentence is likely to deepen divisions in a country still wrestling with the aftermath of the most serious political turmoil in years.

Once seen as the darling of South Korean conservatives, Park earned the nickname "Queen of Elections" for her record leading her party to victory in tight races, culminating in her own election as president in 2012. Yet that was all undone by the scandal involving a close confidant and bribery, extortion and other allegations.

Park, 66, maintains she's a victim of "political revenge" and has been refusing to attend court sessions since October. She didn't attend Friday's verdict, citing a sickness that wasn't specified publicly.

In a nationally televised verdict, the Seoul Central District Court convicted Park of bribery, extortion, abuse of power and other charges.

"It's inevitable that the defendant should be held strictly responsible for her crimes, if only to prevent the unfortunate event of a president abusing the power granted by the people and throwing state affairs into chaos from happening again," chief judge Kim Se-yun said.

Kim said Park has shown no remorse for her wrongdoing and continued to pass responsibility to others with "unconvincing excuses."

Along with the prison

sentence, Kim said Park was also fined 18 billion won (\$16.8 million).

Both Park and prosecutors — who had demanded a 30-year sentence — have one week to appeal.

Park's lawyer, Kang Cheol-gu, called the 24-year prison term "very bad" and said the legal team will decide whether to appeal after confirming her willingness.

The court convicted Park of colluding with longtime confidante Choi Soon-sil to pressure 18 business groups to donate a total of 77.4 billion won (\$72.3 million) for the launch of two foundations controlled by Choi.

The two women were also convicted of taking bribes from some of those companies, including more than 7 billion won (\$6.5 million) alone from Samsung. Prosecutors previously alleged that Samsung's bribe was aimed at getting government support for a smooth company leadership transition, but the court said there was not enough evidence to prove that Samsung sought such favor from the government.

The court said Park colluded with senior government officials to blacklist artists critical of her government to deny them state assistance programs. Park was also convicted of passing on presidential documents with sensitive information to Choi via one of her presidential aides.

The scandal has already led to the arrests, indictments and convictions of dozens of high-profile government officials and business leaders. Choi is serving a 20-year prison term; Samsung scion Lee Jae-yong was initially sentenced to five years in prison before his sentence was suspended on appeal; and Lotte chairman Shin Dong-bin was given 2½ years in prison.

Park has a small group of fierce supporters — most of them middle aged and older — who regularly stage rallies calling for her release and after the verdict was broadcast, thousands of them marched near the Seoul court to protest the

ruling. They waved South Korean and U.S. flags and held signs that read, among other things, "Stop murderous political revenge!" "Release (President Park) immediately!" the marchers chanted as they walked between thick lines of police officers. There were no immediate reports of major clashes or injuries.

The gatherings of Park's supporters have been much smaller than the earlier ones calling for her ouster, which began in October 2016, eventually drawing millions every Saturday to a Seoul plaza and elsewhere around the country.

She was impeached by lawmakers that December and removed from office by a Constitutional Court ruling in March 2017.

The protests show how deeply South Koreans are split along ideological and generational lines, the result of decades-long tension with rival North Korea and the lingering fallout from the conservative military dictatorships that ran the country until the late 1980s.

They wanted to see her repeat her father's charismatic economic revival. Park is the daughter of deeply divisive dictator Park Chung-hee, who is revered by supporters as a hero who spearheaded South Korea's rapid economic rise in the 1960-70s. But he's also remembered for imprisoning and torturing dissidents.

During her father's 18-year rule, Park Geun-hye served as first lady after her mother was killed in an assassination attempt targeting her father in 1974. She left the presidential mansion in 1979 after her father was gunned down by his own intelligence chief during a late-night drinking party.

After years of seclusion, Park returned to politics by winning a parliamentary seat in the late 1990s, during a burst of nostalgia for her father after South Korea's economy was devastated by a foreign exchange crisis.

In 2012, she won the presidential election by defeating her liberal rival and current President Moon Jae-in, riding a wave of support by conservatives



AP
Supporters of former South Korean President Park Geun-hye stage a rally to call for her release near the Seoul Central District Court in Seoul, South Korea, Friday, April 6, 2018. A South Korean court is set to issue a verdict against disgraced former President Park on Friday, a year after she was forced out of office and arrested over an explosive corruption scandal that ensnared aides and prominent business leaders. The signs read: " Murder Trial."

who wanted to see her repeat her father's charismatic economic revival.

Park's friendships with Choi, 61, began in the mid-1970s when Choi's late father served as Park's mentor after her mother's assassination. Park once described Choi as someone who helped her when she had difficulties. But her relations with the Choi family have long haunted her political career.

Media reports say that Choi's father was a cult leader and allegedly used his ties with Park to take bribes from government officials and businessmen.

Park has previously insisted that she only got help from Choi on public relations and to edit some presidential speeches.

Park's four years in office were marred by rising animosity with rival North Korea over its advancing nuclear program, a 2014 ferry disaster that killed more than 300 people, mostly teenagers on a school trip, and criticism that she curbed free speech and didn't manage things

transparently.

In a presidential by-election triggered by Park's early exit, Moon won an easy victory against wounded conservatives.

Park's saga is only the latest addition to a long line of scandals involving the country's leaders.

Her conservative predecessor, Lee Myung-bak, who governed from 2008-2013, was arrested and jailed last month over a separate corruption scandal. Lee's liberal successor Roh Moo-hyun jumped to his death in 2009 amid a corruption investigation of his family.

Park Chung-hee's successors, Chun Doo-hwan and Roh Tae-woo, both ex-army generals, spent time in jail for bribery, treason, munity and other charges after leaving office. Kim Young-sam and Kim Dae-jung, both former opposition leaders who fought against the dictatorships of Park Chung-hee and Chun, left office in disgrace after their sons and close associates were arrested or embroiled in scandals.

AP

Ex-spy Skripal no longer in critical condition

LONDON (AP) — Ex-spy Sergei Skripal is improving rapidly and is no longer in critical condition, a British health official said Friday, a month after he and his daughter were poisoned with a rare nerve agent that triggered a diplomatic crisis between Russia and the West.

Skripal and his daughter Yulia were found unconscious on a bench in the English city of Salisbury on March 4 and were taken to a hospital, where for weeks they lay unconscious in critical condition. British authorities blame Russia for what they say was a military-grade Soviet-made nerve agent poisoning. Russia denies responsibility for the attack.

Dr. Christine Blanshard, the medical director at Salisbury District Hospital, said in a statement that

66-year-old Sergei Skripal "is responding well to treatment, improving rapidly and is no longer in a critical condition."

Yulia Skripal, 33, regained consciousness last week and is now in stable condition, Blanshard said.

Russian state television on Thursday played a recording of what they said was a phone call from Yulia to her cousin Viktoria Skripal in Russia. In it, Yulia said she would be discharged from hospital soon.

Blanshard said Friday that Yulia Skripal could "look forward to the day when she is well enough to leave the hospital," but called any speculation about her release date "just that — speculation."

The poisoning has chilled relations between Russia and the West, producing a wave of diplo-

matic expulsions unseen even at the height of the Cold War.

Britain, along with the United States and at least two dozen other U.K. allies have expelled more than 150 Russian diplomats. Russia has ordered the same number of their envoys out.

On Thursday, Russia called a U.N. Security Council meeting to discuss the Skripal poisonings. The Russian ambassador to the U.N. warned Britain that it was "playing with fire" and claimed that Russia was the victim of a hasty, sloppy and ill-intentioned defamation campaign by London and its allies.

In the recording released by Russian state Rossiya TV on Thursday, Yulia Skripal allegedly said she and her father were both recovering and that her

father's health was not irreparably damaged.

Viktoria Skripal, who works as a chief accountant in the city of Yaroslavl, told The Associated Press on Friday that she has no doubt that it was Yulia who called and that she has not heard from her since. She said the call was recorded because she has an app on her phone to keep track of all the calls she makes for work.

"I made this recording, that was Yulia," she said.

Viktoria Skripal has said she wanted to visit Sergei and Yulia and has applied for a U.K. visa. She told the AP that she was invited to come to the British Embassy on Friday afternoon, supposedly to pick up her visa, but the embassy emailed her earlier Friday to say the appointment has been cancelled and that the decision on her visa ap-

plication has not yet been made.

"They're not giving me a visa, they keep postponing it," she said Friday. "They told me to wait. They told me that everything depends on London and that (Prime Minister) Theresa May is on holiday so there is no one to sign on to this."

The Skripals' two guinea pigs and a cat were also victims of the poisoning, the British government said Friday. The two rodents were found dead at the Skripals' home after it was sealed off by investigators. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs said Friday the cat was put down after it was found "in a distressed state."

Russia's Foreign Ministry was quick to react, questioning the decision. Ministry spokeswoman

Maria Zakharova in a Facebook post called the pets who lived at former double agent's home "important evidence" in the case.

Later Friday, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov once again urged Britain to produce its evidence in the poisoning case.

Lavrov, speaking on a trip to Belarus, said British officials have engaged in "frantic and convulsive efforts to find arguments to support their indefensible position" instead of producing evidence.

He said Britain and its Western allies are wrong if they expect Russia to "confess to all deadly sins" it did not commit and "play by their rules."




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Hollywood's diversity push snubs actors with disabilities

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Eileen Grubba was working alongside other actors on a TV commercial when she realized the director's eye was caught by her uneven gait. He started positioning her out of shots — and then it got worse.

Shooting a scene on a bus, the director ordered Grubba to get up and move from her seat in the middle to one in the rear that was fully out of the frame.

"So now we're going to make the disabled people sit at the back of the bus? That's awesome," Grubba, who uses a leg brace because of childhood spinal cord damage, recalled thinking some six years ago.

The disheartening experience reflects the broader picture for many actors with disabilities, whose progress in Hollywood has lagged behind that of other minority performers demanding to be seen and hired. The reasons are complex, insiders and observers say, including unfounded concerns about added production costs, disability stereotypes and an industry clinging to entrenched habits.

"The fact is this is the largest minority group in the United States that routinely is discriminated against in the (entertainment) industry, and we're trying to move the needle," said Jay Ruderman, head of a non-partisan foundation that advocates for inclusion for people with disabilities.

There are some high-profile successes on TV, among them wheelchair-using actor Daryl Mitchell on CBS' "NCIS: New Orleans," Micah Fowler, who has cerebral palsy and stars on ABC's "Speechless," and little person Peter Dinklage, the Emmy- and Golden Globe-winning star of HBO's "Game of Thrones." He's also earned theatrical film roles ("Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri").

But studies show them to be outliers, even as a diversity groundswell has benefited actors of color and African-Americans in particular — including Chadwick Boseman ("Black Panther") on the big screen, Emmy-winner Sterling K. Brown ("This Is Us") on the small one and Oscar- and Emmy-winner Viola Davis on both LGBTQ performers, among them Laverne Cox, are making gains in visibility and work as well.

BY THE NUMBERS

More than 56 million people — nearly 20 percent of the U.S. population — have a disability, according to a 2012 Census Bureau report. But in 900 films released in theaters between 2007-2016, a total of 2.7 percent of the characters with speaking parts had a disability, according to researchers at the USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism.

Of the 20 characters with disabilities tallied on the 10 top-rated broadcast and cable TV shows airing in 2016, one actor (Mitchell of "NCIS") has



This image released by Paramount Pictures shows Millicent Simmonds, left, and John Krasinski in a scene from "A Quiet Place." Simmonds, who is deaf, also starred in the 2017 film, "Wonderstruck."

the disability portrayed on screen, a Ruderman Family Foundation study found. In 21 prominent series on streaming platforms, two actors out of the 17 playing characters with disabilities had a real-life disability.

Hollywood isn't alone in its employment practices. In 2016, the Bureau of Labor Statistics found that the unemployment rate for people with disabilities was more than double that of the non-disabled (10.5 percent vs. 4.6 percent).

ELUSIVE ROLES

When disabled people are portrayed in films and on television, roles lean heavily toward conditions that aren't physically visible. A role involving an apparent disability may go to an actor with the condition — little person Mark Povinelli played a character with dwarfism on Amazon's "Mad Dogs" — or not. In "Strong," the film about a Boston Marathon bombing survivor left a double amputee, a computer-altered Jake Gyllenhaal played the part.

That leaves performers with disabilities largely out in the cold.

"Disabled people (audition) for roles and characters that are disabled, but they don't read for able-bodied characters," even if their disability wouldn't affect the portrayal or story, said actor Kurt Yaeger (Greg the Peg on "Sons of Anarchy"). Yaeger, who lost a leg in a motorcycle accident, said his agility with a prosthetic allows him to "hide" it for non-disabled parts and increases his job options.

Scott Silveri, creator and executive producer of ABC's "Speechless," joins in brushing away the tired notion that a story's dramatic flow or audience

would be thrown off by seeing a physically challenged person.

"When you go into a bank and a teller has a limp, do you get confused, walk out into the parking lot and walk around?" he said. "What's the big deal? Go outside — there are crutches and canes and wheelchairs, and people using them."

The onus, impossibly, is on the so-called "disabled community," which consists of people with many different conditions and groups with varying goals and needs.

Screenwriter Janis Hirsch, who uses crutches because of childhood polio, recalls "losing it" when a "Glee" character in a wheelchair was played by an actor who wasn't. Hirsch complained to a casting director who worked on the show, she said, and got this reply: "You people didn't submit anyone."

Actresses face their own obstacles. The demands for physical perfection, so key a part of the dream factory, fall more heavily on them, according to Grubba: "I've literally had people say to me, 'If you were a man, (your limp) wouldn't matter.'"

AGENTS OF CHANGE

Silveri is among those trying to make a difference. After working on fluffy hit sitcoms including "Friends," the writer-producer decided to peer into his own life and create a series about a youngster with cerebral palsy and his family. (Silveri's brother, who had the condition, died recently at age 47.)

"I'm proud of our show and proud we shine a light," he said, crediting a receptive ABC for snapping "Speechless" up. As

for casting an actor with a disability in the role, he never considered otherwise.

"I want to put out the best show possible, and it just wouldn't pass the smell test to cast somebody who didn't have this disability. But the other half is, it's the right thing to do whenever possible," he said, adding, "and I'd have to hear the argument why not."

Budget fears are a poor excuse, according to actor Danny Woodburn (Mickey on "Seinfeld"), who has dwarfism and co-wrote the 2016 Ruderman Foundation report. Hiring an actor with a disability rarely costs an employer more, he said, but when an accommodation such as a ramp is needed the expense is typically less than \$500.

Industry heavyweights are joining the effort.

Russell Boast, president of the Casting Society of America, has made it a cause for casting directors. In January, the group's members held open calls for performers with disabilities in 50 places nationwide that drew almost 1,000 people. The society also works with the actors' guild, SAG-AFTRA, on events.

If the industry's excuse for not using these actors is because they don't exist, "I'm going to prove that's a myth and I'm going to show you these actors do exist, they're hungry to work and there are some amazingly talented performers that just haven't had a chance," Boast said.

Producers prefer to bank on proven actors, but "stars aren't born stars. They have to be made," said Tery Lopez, director of inclusion and equity for the Writers Guild of America, West, which held its annual workshop in which actors with disabilities are

showcased in works written for them.

Networks and studios were challenged by the Ruderman Foundation and disability advocate Tari Hartman Squire to step up their efforts. Last season, CBS and Fox Studios led in hiring actors with disabilities for series and pilots, the foundation said.

PROGRESS, IN INCHES

The movement has gotten pushback. Some in the industry say insisting on disability-specific casting is an infringement on their freedom to cast the actor they want for artistic or financial reasons, while others label it political correctness run amok.

Director Michael Mailer, son of the late novelist Norman Mailer, defended his casting of Alec Baldwin as a nearly sightless man in "Blind," a 2017 indie film.

"In order to greenlight an independent film, one must attract a 'name' actor for a fraction of a studio paycheck if there is to be any chance at getting the film financed," Mailer wrote in a piece last year for Deadline. "And while I'm sure there are many talented, vision-impaired actors out there, I do not currently know of any who have the marquee appeal needed to get even a modestly budgeted film made."

Ruderman, who had criticized the casting, remains unconvinced by such arguments.

"We're really trying to make a case this is about employment and equality and authenticity, but that's not how people look at it," he said.

Before Shoshannah Stern and Josh Feldman landed their series "This Close" on Sundance Now, the writer-actors got a

confused reception to their pitch about two friends who, like them, are deaf.

"The first question we always got from everybody was, 'Why is this character deaf? I don't get it,'" Feldman said. "But in real life, why is anybody deaf or why is anybody anything? ... So the deaf experience will come into the story, but it doesn't need to be the central piece of the story."

Some get it, said Grubba, a longtime member of the prestigious Actors Studio. She said Brad Falchuk, who partners with Ryan Murphy to produce hit shows including "Feud" (and "Glee"), took her aside during a "Nip/Tuck" scene to ask if she felt comfortable allowing herself to limp. He assured her it only added to the scene, not detracted, she said.

Woodburn, whose credits include the upcoming film "Anthem," is optimistic about what lies ahead.

"I think the tables are turning as we talk more and more about inclusion," he said. The ideal outcome includes shedding the "old ideologies" about casting those with disabilities and providing physical access for all, he said — which can mean not holding auditions in buildings without elevators, as still happens.

While it's been nearly 30 years since Congress passed the Americans with Disabilities Act, Hollywood is still trying to absorb the concept and all else that fairness demands.

"I don't know if it's going to be in a year, five years, 10 years or maybe not in our lifetime," Jay Ruderman said, "but eventually we're going to look at actors playing a disability the same way you would look at an actor putting on blackface."



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'A point of crisis': Trump directs troops deployed to border

WASHINGTON (AP) — Asserting the situation had reached "a point of crisis," President Donald Trump signed a proclamation directing the deployment of the National Guard to the U.S.-Mexico border to fight illegal immigration and drug smuggling.

"The lawlessness that continues at our southern border is fundamentally incompatible with the safety, security, and sovereignty of the American people," Trump wrote Wednesday in a memo authorizing the move, adding that his administration had "no choice but to act."

The announcement came hours after Trump pledged "strong action today" on immigration and a day after he said he announced he wanted to use the military to secure the southern border until his long-promised, stalled border wall is erected.

Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen said she had been working with governors of the southwest border states to develop agreements on where and how many Guardsmen will be deployed.

Trump has been frustrated by slow action on building his "big, beautiful wall" along the Mexican border — the signature promise of his campaign — as well as a recent uptick in illegal border crossings, which had plunged during the early months of his presidency, giving Trump an accomplishment to point to when he had few.

Federal law prohibits the use of active-duty service members for law enforcement inside the U.S., unless specifically authorized by Congress. But over the past 12 years, presidents have twice sent National Guard troops to the border to bolster security and assist with surveillance and other support.

Nielsen said the effort would be similar to a 2006 operation in which President George W. Bush deployed troops to help U.S. Customs and Border Protection personnel with non-law enforcement duties while additional border agents were hired and trained.

President Barack Obama also sent about 1,200 troops in 2010 to beef up efforts against drug smuggling and illegal immigration.

Nielsen said her department had developed a list of locations where it would like assistance on things like aerial surveillance and other support. She declined to say how many personnel would be needed or how much the operation would cost, but she insisted, "It will be as many as is needed to fill the gaps that we have today."

One congressional aide said that lawmakers anticipate 300 to 1,200 troops will be deployed and that the cost was expected to be at least \$60 million to \$120 million a year. The Pentagon would probably need authorization from Congress for any funding beyond a few months, said the aide, who wasn't authorized to speak publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Under the mechanism the administration is looking to use, the Guard would not be mobilized as a federal force. Instead, governors would control the Guard within their states.

Governors of the four U.S. states bordering Mexico were largely supportive of the move. The office of California Gov. Jerry Brown, a Democrat who has sparred with Trump on immigration issues, said any federal request would be promptly reviewed to determine how the state could best offer its assistance.

The Mexican foreign ministry said Nielsen told Mexico's top diplomat that



In this June 20, 2008 file photo, members of the 200th Red Horse Air National Guard Civil Engineering Squadron from Camp Perry in Ohio, including Tech Sgt. David Hughes, right, and Tech Sgt. William Bunker, second from right, work on building a road at the border in Nogales, Ariz.

troops deployed to the border "will not carry arms or carry out migration or customs control activities."

Senators in Mexico urged President Enrique Pena Nieto to temporarily suspend cooperation with the U.S. on immigration and security issues. In a nonbinding statement approved unanimously Wednesday, the senators asked Mexico's government to freeze joint efforts "in the fight against transnational organized crime" until Trump starts acting "with the civility and respect that the people of Mexico deserve."

Trump first revealed Tuesday that he'd been discussing the idea of using the military at the border with Defense Secretary Jim Mattis.

"We're going to be doing things militarily. Until we can have a wall and proper security, we're going to be guarding our border with the military," Trump said.

He spent the first months of his presidency bragging about a dramatic drop in illegal border crossings, which some DHS officials had even dubbed the "Trump effect." Indeed, arrests at the border last April were at the lowest level since DHS was created in 2003, and the 2017 fiscal year saw a 45-year low for Border Patrol arrests.

But the numbers have been slowly ticking up since last April and are now on par with many months of the Obama administration. New statistics released Wednesday show about

50,000 arrests of people trying to cross the southwest border last month, a 37 percent increase from the previous month, and a 203 percent increase compared to March 2017. The monthly increase follows typical seasonal fluctuations.

Trump's new focus on hard-line immigration policies appears aimed, at least in part, in drawing a political contrast with Democrats heading into the midterm elections. He has also been under growing pressure from conservative backers who have accused him of betraying his base for not delivering on the wall, and he was set off by images played on his favorite network, Fox News, of a "caravan" of migrants making their way through Mexico.

In Texas, which already has about 100 National Guard members stationed on the border, Republican Gov. Greg Abbott, said the president's decision "reinforces Texas' longstanding commitment to secure our southern border and uphold the Rule of Law."

New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez, a Republican, said she appreciated the Trump administration's efforts to involve states in the effort to better secure the border. Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey, also a Republican, tweeted that his state "welcomes the deployment of National Guard to the border. Washington has ignored this issue for too long and help is needed."

Trump scales back US goals in Syria, against aides' advice

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is abandoning plans to keep U.S. troops in Syria long term, pushing for a quick military withdrawal over a prolonged effort to stabilize the country and prevent the Islamic State group from re-emerging.

Trump has signaled to his advisers that ideally, he wants all troops out within six months, according to three U.S. officials — a finale that would come shortly before the U.S. midterm elections. But Trump has given no formal order to pull out the 2,000 U.S. troops currently in Syria, nor offered a public timetable, other than to say the United States will pull out just as soon as the last remaining IS fighters can be vanquished.

In his haste to withdraw from Syria, Trump stands alone. The Pentagon, the State Department and CIA are all deeply concerned about the potential ramifications if the U.S. leaves behind a power vacuum in Syria, as are Israel, Arab leaders and other nations in the U.S.-led coalition that has fought IS in Iraq and Syria since 2014.

The president made clear his patience was running out

as he met top national security aides on Tuesday. Yet the meeting concluded with no hard-and-fast deadline handed down, leaving Trump's team struggling to deduce how fast is fast enough for Trump, according to officials briefed on the meeting who weren't authorized to discuss it and requested anonymity.

The tense disagreement between Trump and his team has played out in chaotic and increasingly public fashion. On Tuesday, before the Syria meeting, Trump was telling television cameras he wanted to "get out," just as the U.S. special envoy for fighting IS insisted "our mission isn't over." And on Wednesday, the White House issued a statement that declared the IS mission is "coming to a rapid end" but avoided specifics altogether.

"We will continue to consult with our allies and friends regarding future plans," said White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders.

Urging him to slow down, Trump's aides have been emphasizing that IS fighters remain active in Syria, evidence that Trump's own, publicly stated objective — the total defeat of IS — has yet to be met. Officials said the

U.S. is tracking two pockets where IS remains viable — one in the Middle Euphrates Valley Region, another along the Iraq-Syria border. And despite the White House's insistence that the group is "almost completely defeated," a string of renewed IS attacks in recent weeks has raised fears about a resurgence.

Regardless of exactly when the troops leave, the decision to remove them as soon as possible has forced an immediate realignment of long-term U.S. objectives in the country, officials said.

With no military presence to ensure security for American personnel, the U.S. will have to call off other planned operations to clear land mines, restore basic services like water and electricity, and create political conditions needed to resolve Syria's civil war. Already, Trump has put an indefinite hold on \$200 million he pledged previously for those operations.

Those efforts by U.S. diplomats and aid workers have been seen as critical to ensuring that Syria's territory isn't exploited in the future by IS remnants, other extremists or Iran. They formed a key component of Trump's new Syria strategy, laid out

by then-Secretary of State Rex Tillerson in a speech in January declaring it "vital for the United States to remain engaged in Syria." But the speech, while formally approved by the White House, angered Trump, officials said, and the president fired Tillerson last month.

Instead, Trump will leave stabilizing Syria to other nations, in line with his long-stated view that the United States shoulders too much of global costs and should put "America first."

"I want to get out," Trump said. "I want to bring our troops back home. I want to start rebuilding our nation."

Trump has asked Saudi Arabia, which is keenly interested in keeping Iran out of Syria, to contribute \$4 billion toward reconstruction and stabilization efforts that the U.S. no longer plans to undertake. He came away from a phone call Monday with King Salman confident that the king will agree to give the money, two U.S. officials briefed on the conversation said. The Saudi Embassy in Washington did not immediately comment.

Securing foreign dollars while pulling out troops could allow Trump to argue

before the November midterms that he's shifted the burden of resolving far-flung crises away from America. But ceding influence over Syrian territory could hand more control to countries whose interests in the Middle East are sharply at odds with the United States.

As the White House was talking up a U.S. withdrawal on Wednesday, the leaders of Russia, Turkey and Iran were meeting in Ankara to hash out their own plans for Syria's future, including a continued Turkish operation to oust U.S.-backed Kurdish fighters from northern Syria. The three nations have been pushing their own diplomatic track for resolving Syria's civil war, even as the U.S. tries to rejuvenate United Nations-led talks.

"We have agreed to expand the entire range of our trilateral cooperation in Syria," Russian President Vladimir Putin said in the Turkish capital, claiming credit on the trio's behalf for the Islamic State group's near-defeat.

Russia has been propping up Syrian President Bashar Assad for years, with increasing help from Iranian-backed Shiite militias such as Hezbollah — to the dismay

of U.S. allies such as Israel. A phone call Wednesday between Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu grew tense because of the Israeli leader's concerns that the U.S. will withdraw and allow Israel's enemies to gain a further foothold in a neighboring country, two U.S. officials said.

Nor is it clear that the U.S. has capable local partners lined up to handle basic security and prevent a total collapse following a precipitous U.S. pullout — a prospect that offers unsettling echoes of the 2011 U.S. withdrawal from Iraq. As a candidate, Trump derided President Barack Obama for that decision and argued that the resulting power vacuum enabled the formation of the Islamic State.

The Syrian Kurds, the most effective fighting force in Syria aligned with Washington, recently shifted to fighting Turkish forces in the area of Afrin. That forced a pause in operations against the main IS holdout in Syria. The Pentagon has warned that the distraction could give IS the reprieve it needs to regroup after four years of being pummeled.

Bill Cosby's retrial jury mirrors first on gender, race

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP) — After a showdown over race, the jury picked to decide Bill Cosby's fate in the first big trial of the #MeToo era ended up mirroring the gender and racial makeup of the group that deadlocked last year: seven men and five women — 10 white, two black.

Race dominated Wednesday's jury selection. Cosby's lawyers alleged a member of the prosecution team made a disparaging remark after prosecutors rejected one of the few black women considered for the case. The defense, which argued nixing her was illegal, never revealed the remark they claim was said and eventually agreed to pick more jurors.

District Attorney Kevin Steele rejected the allegations, saying that prosecutors had no problem seating the two other black people who had appeared for individual questioning. He contended that Cosby's lawyers were playing to the media.

"There's absolutely no legitimacy to this," Steele said. Both sides returned to court on Thursday to select six alternates. Cosby stumbled slightly getting out of an SUV and then put a hand up to say he was OK before walking into the courthouse.

The battle over the black juror's removal highlighted a vast racial disparity that limited the number of black people available for consideration in the suburban Philadelphia jury pool.

Just 10 of about 240 prospective jurors questioned on the first three days of jury selection were black, or about 4.2 percent. The black population in Montgomery County is about 9.6 percent black, according to the latest U.S. Census estimates.

The county says the names of people called for jury duty are selected randomly from a master list that combines voter registration records and driver's license records. Two of the six black people in an initial group of 120 potential jurors were invited back for individual questioning and wound up getting picked for the jury. The woman rejected on Wednesday was the only black person to reach that stage.

The jury for Cosby's first trial was selected from about 300 miles (483 kilometers) away in the Pittsburgh area. The retrial jury is being picked from the same county where the 80-year-old Cosby is on trial on charges he drugged and molested a woman in 2004.

"This man faces the rest of his life in jail," lawyer Kathleen Bliss said, arguing Cosby, who is black, deserved to have more people on the jury who looked like him. Cosby's lawyers had appeared ready to strike at the first instance of prosecutors blocking a black juror, producing a legal brief that argued the move violated



Bill Cosby, center, arrives with spokesperson Andrew Wyatt, left, for his sexual assault trial at the Montgomery County Courthouse, Thursday, April 5, 2018, in Norristown, Pa.

a 32-year-old Supreme Court ruling that prohibits prosecutors from excluding prospective jurors because of their race. The defense had made the same argument on Tuesday regarding the prosecution's exclusion of several white men, but O'Neill rejected it.

Cosby has pleaded not guilty. He says the encounter with former Temple University women's basketball administrator Andrea Constand was consensual.

The retrial jury appeared to skew younger than the hung jury from last year's trial. Eight of the jurors picked this week are middle-aged men or women. The rest are millennials or on the cusp of middle-age.

Last year's panel included a man in his 80s who told reporters he was suspicious of Constand's story and suspected that "politics was involved" in reviving the decade-old case with

"no stained clothing, no smoking gun, nothing."

The man, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the deliberations, had insight into what jurors could be in for when they deliberate the charges.

"Crying by men and by women and more than one," he said. "And the tears came towards the end, it was so tense."

Prosecutors plan to call as many as five additional accusers in a bid to portray Cosby — the former TV star once revered as "America's Dad" for his family sitcom "The Cosby Show" — as a serial predator.

The AP does not typically identify people who say they are victims of sexual assault unless they grant permission, which Constand has done.

Prosecutors plan to call

YouTube shooter's bizarre videos key to suspected motive

MENIFEE, Calif. (AP) — The woman who shot three people at YouTube's headquarters was prolific at producing videos and posting them online, many of them bizarre, such as a clip in which she removes a revealing purple dress to expose fake breasts with the message, "Don't Trust Your Eyes."

In others, Nasim Aghdam (na-SEEM AG-dahm) exercises, promotes animal rights and explains the vegan diet, often in elaborate costumes or carrying a rabbit.

The videos have become central to the motive authorities have settled on for the shooting: Aghdam's anger with the policies of YouTube — the world's biggest online video website.

Nasim Aghdam, an Iranian native who was in her late 30s, posted the videos under the online name Nasime Sabz, and a website in that name decried YouTube's policies, saying the company was trying to "suppress" content creators.

"Youtube filtered my channels to keep them from getting views!" one of the messages said. "There is no equal growth opportunity on YOUTUBE or any other video sharing site, your channel will grow if they want to!!!!!"

People who post on YouTube can receive money from advertisements that accompany their videos, but the company "de-monetizes" some channels for reasons including inappropriate

ate material or having fewer than 1,000 subscribers.

YouTube had no comment about any actions related to Aghdam's videos.

Aghdam also ran a Farsi-language public channel on the messaging app Telegram, which had 6,000 followers, featuring content unlikely to resonate with Iranians. She was virtually unknown in a country where about 40 million people use the app.

One video was a tutorial on buttocks massage, and another featured a song praising Bahaism, a religion that originated in Iran but is heavily suppressed by the Islamic Republic.

People in Iran expressed pity and shock that Aghdam would shoot others in a country that allows more social media freedoms. State TV briefly reported the shooting based on international reports.

Hossein Naderi, a 23-year-old art student in Tehran, questioned why Aghdam chose to live in America, adding: "I wish I was there to use YouTube freely."

Kimia Shobeiri, 18, suggested the shooting was a ploy to get attention.

"She was insane and just wanted to make herself famous," she said. "With this act she damaged the reputation of Iranians."

Police who found Aghdam sleeping in her car early Tuesday in the city of Mountain View about 25 miles (40 kilometers) from YouTube headquarters said

she was calm and said nothing about being angry with YouTube or having any plans to harm others or herself.

"It was a very normal conversation. There was nothing in her behavior that suggested anything unusual," Mountain View Police Chief Max Bosel said.

Later that day, Aghdam went to a gun range before walking through a parking garage into a courtyard at YouTube's campus south of San Francisco, where she opened fire with a handgun and wounded three people, police said. She then killed herself.

Two women wounded in the shooting were released Wednesday from a San Francisco hospital. The third victim, a 36-year-old man, was upgraded from critical to serious condition.

The suspect's father, Ismail Aghdam, told the Bay Area News Group he warned police the day before the attack that his daughter was upset with how YouTube handled her videos and might be planning to go to its offices.

Police in Mountain View said they spoke to Ismail Aghdam twice after contacting the family to report finding his daughter and that he never told them she could become violent or pose a threat to YouTube employees. During her 20-minute interview with officers, Nasim Aghdam said she was having family problems and had left her home, police said.



San Bruno Police Chief Ed Barberini, center, speaks at a news conference in San Bruno, Calif., Wednesday, April 4, 2018.

Agents with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives on Wednesday searched two homes where Nasim Aghdam had lived — one in Menifee, which is southeast of Los Angeles, and another in 4S Ranch, north of San Diego.

Nasim Aghdam referenced a since-deactivated website, PeaceThunder, in a 2014 interview promoting veganism. The state attorney general's website shows a charity group named PeaceThunder affiliated with Aghdam was dissolved at her request in 2011. She gave no reason but said she was its only member and the group had no assets.

John Rundell, who lives next door to the family in Menifee, said the parents,

son and daughter moved from San Diego about five years ago, but he hadn't seen Nasim Aghdam in months.

The entire family was "very, very friendly," according to Rundell, who spoke most often with the father, an electrical contractor. Topics of conversations included Persian cooking.

"They were just perfect neighbors," Rundell said. "If I had to pick neighbors, I'd have them all around."

Nasim Aghdam painted the house after the family moved in and Rundell said he gave her his own paint to finish the job. She once told Rundell that her pet rabbit was unhappy and asked where he got his.

The family turned away reporters outside the famerly home in Menifee on

Wednesday. A woman named Leila who identified herself as an aunt said Nasim Aghdam was a "really good person" and had no history of mental illness. She did not give her last name.

The family later distributed a statement saying they were "in absolute shock and can't make sense of what has happened."

"Although no words can describe our deep pain for this tragedy, our family would like to express their utmost regret, sorrow for what has happened to innocent victims," the statement read.

Aghdam walked onto the YouTube property through a parking garage and it's not clear whether she encountered any security.

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Daughter of poisoned spy says she's recovering

LONDON (AP) — The poisoned daughter of an ex-Russian spy said Thursday she's recovering quickly after her ordeal, while Russia strongly protested being locked out of the probe into the nerve agent that sickened her and her father.

Britain has blamed Russia for the March 4 poisoning of Sergei Skripal and his daughter, Yulia, in the city of Salisbury. In response, more than two dozen Western allies including Britain, the U.S. and NATO have ordered out over 150 Russian diplomats in a show of solidarity.

Moscow has fiercely denied its involvement in the nerve agent attack and expelled an equal number of envoys. The diplomatic turmoil has hit lows unseen even at the height of the Cold War.

Early Thursday, three buses believed to be carrying expelled American diplomats departed from the U.S. Embassy in Moscow after putting their luggage on trucks. Some toled pet carriers.

Yulia Skripal said in statement released Thursday by British police that her strength is growing daily and expressed gratitude to those who came to her aid.

"I am sure you appreciate that the entire episode is somewhat disorientating, and I hope that you'll respect my privacy and that of my family during the period of my convalescence," the 33-year-old said.

The British hospital treating the Skripals has confirmed that Yulia's condition has improved, while her father, 66, has remained in critical condition.

Russian state television on Thursday released a recording of what it said was a phone call between Yulia Skripal and her cousin in Russia. In it, Yulia Skripal says she and her father are both recovering and in normal health. She says her father is sleeping and his health has not been irreparably damaged.

Rossiya TV said Skripal's niece, Viktoria, who lives in Moscow, gave the station the recording of her conversation with Yulia. The broadcaster said it can't verify the recording's authenticity.



Buses wait to carry expelled diplomats to leave the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, Russia, Thursday, April 5, 2018. Russia last week ordered 60 American diplomats to leave the country by Thursday, in retaliation for the United States expelling the same number of Russians.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, meanwhile, described the British accusations against Moscow over the nerve agent poisoning of the Skripals as a mockery of international law. Speaking at a news conference Thursday, Lavrov insisted that the poisoning case was fabricated by Britain to "demonize" Russia.

"The so-called Skripal case has been used as a fictitious, orchestrated pretext for the unfounded massive expulsions of Russian diplomats not only from the U.S. and Britain but also from a number of other countries who simply had their arms twisted," Lavrov said in Moscow. "We have never seen such an open mockery of the international law, diplomatic ethics and elementary decorum."

Russia last week ordered

60 American diplomats to leave the country by Thursday in retaliation for the United States expelling the same number of Russians.

Lavrov noted that Russia will respond in kind to any further hostile moves, but added "we also want to establish the truth."

He sarcastically likened the British accusations to the queen from Alice in Wonderland urging "sentence first — verdict afterward."

On Wednesday, Russia called a meeting of the international chemical weapons watchdog to demand a joint investigation with Britain into the poisoning — the demand that London has rejected.

The Hague-based Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) voted against

the Russian proposal, but Moscow said the number of countries that abstained from the vote suggested many have doubts about Britain's accusations.

"It's unacceptable to make unfounded accusations instead of conducting a fair investigation and providing concrete facts," Lavrov said. "Yesterday's debate in The Hague showed that self-respecting adults don't believe in fairy tales."

Asked Thursday if Russia would accept the OPCW's conclusions, Lavrov said Moscow must be part of the probe and see the evidence.

"We can't give an advance approval to results of the investigation, in which we aren't taking part and which is kept secret," he said.

British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said Wednesday that "the purpose of

Russia's ludicrous proposal at The Hague was clear — to undermine the independent, impartial work of the international chemical weapons watchdog."

The chief of Britain's defense research lab, the Porton Down laboratory, acknowledged Tuesday it has not been able to pinpoint the precise source of the nerve agent.

Gary Aitkenhead said scientists there identified the substance used on the Skripals as a Soviet-developed nerve agent known as Novichok. But he added "it's not our job to say where that was actually manufactured."

Lavrov said Aitkenhead's statement indicated that Porton Down had samples of Novichok to use it as a marker to determine the type of the nerve agent used in the attack. He noted that

Britain has failed to acknowledge yet that it possesses Novichok.

The British government says it relied on a combination of scientific analysis and other intelligence to conclude that the nerve agent came from Russia, but the Foreign Office on Wednesday deleted a tweet from last month that said Porton Down scientists had identified the substance as "made in Russia."

Russian President Vladimir Putin's envoy for cybersecurity, Alexander Krutskikh, mocked the contradictory statements, saying Thursday that "the latest developments around the Skripal case indicate the days of this British Cabinet are numbered."

Moscow has called a meeting of the U.N. Security Council to press its case.

Brazil's top court rules against da Silva on prison

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Brazil's top court voted narrowly in the early hours Thursday to turn down an attempt by former President Luiz Inacio da Silva to stay out of jail while he appeals a corruption conviction, a decision that will have widespread implications in this polarized nation.

After nearly 11 hours of often heated debate, the justices of the Supreme Federal Tribunal voted 6-5 to deny da Silva's preventative habeas corpus request to stave off a 12-year jail sentence while he fights a conviction in a case that he argues was nothing more than a ploy to keep him off of October's presidential ballot.

Despite the conviction and several other corruption charges pending against him, da Silva leads all preference polls for the election. The decision means he will likely be jailed soon, though probably not until at least next week

thanks to various technicalities.

Within minutes of the decision, da Silva's Workers' Party, which held Brazil's presidency from 2003 to 2016, put out a tweet that foreshadowed the struggles to come.

"The Brazilian people have the right to vote for Lula, the candidate of hope," it read. "The Workers' Party will defend this candidacy on the streets and in every court until the last consequences."

The court's debate underscored how fraught the matter is at a time of high tension and angst in Brazil, which is struggling to emerge from a crippling recession and is four years into a major corruption scandal that has ensnared much of the country's elite, including da Silva.

"The constitution secures individual rights, which are fundamental to democracy, but it also assures the exercise of criminal law," said

Chief Justice Carmen Lucia, who cast the deciding vote after spending much of the session being criticized by colleagues.

Justice Gilmar Mendes, traditionally a critic of da Silva, voted in favor of the former leader's petition to stay out of jail, challenging his colleagues to buck pressure from society.

"If a court bows (to pressure), it might as well not exist," said Mendes.

Justice Luis Barroso argued that the integrity of the justice system was at stake.

"A penal system that doesn't work with minimal effectiveness leads to an instinct for taking justice into one's own hands," said Barroso, who voted against the petition.

Justice Rosa Weber, who legal analysts predicted would be key because there was much doubt about her position on the matter, voted against da Silva.

In one of several brisk exchanges, after Weber's vote, justice Marco Aurelio Mello accused Lucia of plotting against da Silva's case. Mello said limiting the vote just to the habeas corpus petition and not the larger question of when a convict should be forced to begin serving a sentence helped sway Weber's vote.

"I want this to be registered in the court's records," Mello told Lucia, who responded by saying "yes" to the request.

The session reflected the debate happening across Brazil as millions tuned into the televised session. When the decision was leveled, fireworks and yells could be heard and seen in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, two of the nation's most important cities.

Da Silva was once wildly popular after his two terms as president from 2003 to 2010, but he has become a polarizing figure amid the "Car

Wash" corruption scandal that has roiled Brazil the last several years and made average citizens furious with the political class.

Da Silva was convicted in July of helping a construction company get sweetheart contracts in exchange for the promise of a beachfront apartment. He denies any wrongdoing in that case or in several other corruption cases that have yet to be tried. An appeals court upheld the conviction in January, and the three reviewing magistrates even lengthened the sentence to 12 years and one month.

Technically, the Supreme Federal Tribunal's decision doesn't keep da Silva off the ballot. The country's top electoral court makes final decisions about candidacies beginning in August, but it has been expected to deny da Silva's candidacy under Brazil's "clean slate" law, which disqualifies people who have had criminal convictions up-

held.

Thursday's decision was about much more than the future of a once towering politician trying to make a comeback. Many legal observers had said that allowing da Silva to stay out of jail could have a big impact on all the other cases related to "Car Wash" and other white-collar criminals with the means to continue appealing.

Congressman Jair Bolsonaro, a right-leaning legislator who is running second in the polls behind da Silva, summed up what many da Silva detractors were likely thinking.

"Brazil hopes that after today's vote Sergio Moro is able to order his arrest to show corruption doesn't work," Bolsonaro said while demonstrating outside Congress in Brasilia during the session. "We should never do politics like this again. Crooks should not have votes. They should have a cell."

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COOKING ON A DEADLINE

Try this simple vegetarian spring pasta salad

BY KATIE WORKMAN
Associated Press

A great pasta salad is a beautiful thing. It anchors a picnic, potluck or buffet with aplomb. It's portable, flexible, and easily and often vegetarian.

One of the first things I made for my then-boyfriend's (now husband's) parents was a pasta salad, and for whatever reason, it won them over and became a most-requested dish.

Pasta salads are also such a nice way to play around with seasonal vegetables, so you can change things up all year. Spring and summer are peak moments to scoop up the great produce at the farmers' market, grab a box of pasta, and quickly turn all of it into a crowd-pleasing and easy side or main dish. I tend to pack in the vegetables, and the results are beautiful and nicely tilted toward the healthy side.

In this recipe, the asparagus and sugar snap peas get a bit more tender and keep their bright green color after a quick simmer, and the best part is that you can add them right into the pasta at the end of the cooking time; that saves a step and an extra pot.

If you chop the leafy greens, they will blend into the salad more, but sometimes I like to leave them whole and have the whole thing be kind of a cross between a pasta salad and a regular salad.

You can make this salad ahead of time, up to one day. Ideally, leave the arugula, spinach and basil out and add them right before serving.



This photo shows simple vegetarian spring pasta salad in New York. In this recipe, the asparagus and sugar snap peas get a bit more tender and keep their bright green color after a quick simmer, and the best part is that you can add them right into the pasta at the end of the cooking time.

Adding the greens at the last minute keeps them from getting wilted and darkening. Also, hold off on the tomatoes: Tomatoes really should never see the inside of a refrigerator, and since you'll have to refrigerate this salad to keep it fresh, tossing in the tomatoes at the very end will keep them from getting slightly mealy.

If you have made the salad ahead, let it sit at room temperature for at least 20 minutes to take the chill

off before serving, so the flavors all come shining through. Also, if you refrigerated the salad, the pasta will have absorbed the dressing a bit; add an extra drizzle of olive oil, and give it a toss to get it nice and glistening again.

SIMPLE VEGETARIAN SPRING PASTA SALAD

25 minutes start to finish
Serves 8

1 pound dried spiral pasta (or cavatappi, ziti, fusilli or other salad-friendly shaped pasta)

2 cups (8 ounces) halved sugar snap peas

2 cups (1-inch pieces) asparagus

2 cups baby or roughly chopped arugula

2 cups baby or roughly chopped spinach

1 bell pepper (red, yellow, or orange), finely diced

1 pint cherry tomatoes, cut in half, or quarters if larger
1/2 cup sliced scallions
1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil
2 tablespoons mayonnaise
1/4 cup rice vinegar
1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
1/2 cup chopped shallots
1/2 cup slivered fresh basil
Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
1/3 cup finely grated Parmesan cheese

Heat a large pot of salted water to a boil. Cook the pasta according to package directions, but 1 minute before the pasta is tender, add the sugar snap peas and the asparagus. Cook for 1 minute, then drain the pasta and the vegetables and rinse under cold water. Drain well.

Place the pasta, sugar snap peas and asparagus in a bowl with the arugula, spinach, peppers, tomatoes and scallions.

In a small bowl or container, combine the olive oil, mayonnaise, vinegar, mustard, shallots, basil, salt and pepper. Pour this dressing over the pasta salad and toss well to combine. Add the Parmesan and toss again. Taste and adjust the seasonings as needed.

Nutrition information per serving: 424 calories; 167 calories from fat; 19 g fat (3 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 4 mg cholesterol; 268 mg sodium; 53 g carbohydrate; 5 g fiber; 6 g sugar; 11 g protein.

State to buy farms to help new farmers

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — Rhode Island is launching a program to buy farms and sell them to new farmers for dirt cheap.

A farm bought for \$500,000, for example, could then be sold for \$100,000. It is an unconventional approach to ensure that farming remains viable.

The National Farmers Union knows of no other state that buys farmland to sell to farmers at less than market price. Other states give tax credits and loans to beginning farmers.

Though some critics say this is not the role of state government, Rhode Island sees it as a way to keep young entrepreneurs from moving to other states, where land may be cheaper. It also could attract other farmers to the state, though retaining farmers who already are here is the main goal and the selection process favors Rhode Island farmers.

"We want these minds, their energy, this entrepreneurial spirit to stay here in Rhode Island," said Ken Ayars, chief of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's agriculture division.

The state does not know exactly how many people are leaving, but officials often hear from the agriculture community that the high price of land is forcing some people out, while others are leasing land because they cannot afford to buy it, Ayars said.

"When we think about the future of agriculture in Rhode Island, this is a weak link," he said.

Sarah Turkus, 30, started the Sidewalk Ends Farm with two other young women in a vacant lot in Providence

in 2011. When they wanted to expand three years later, they could not find available, affordable land in Rhode Island. They now lease 2 acres (0.81 hectares) in Seekonk, Massachusetts, to grow vegetables, herbs and flowers.

"This program specifically, or a program like it, would probably be the only way I'd ever be able to own farmland in our area because of the cost of the land," she said.

Under the program, the state will buy a farm at the full appraised value, which takes into account the land's worth if it was developed. The state will then resell the farm at the agricultural appraised value, which is worth solely as a farm. That is typically 20 percent of the full value, Ayars said. The condition is that it must remain a farm, which the state broadly defines as anything related to the production of agricultural crops or raising livestock.

Rhode Island plans to spend \$3 million from the most recent environmental bond approved by voters to buy farmland and development rights.

The value of all land and buildings on farms nationwide averaged \$3,080 per acre for 2017, according to the United States Department of Agriculture. The farm real estate value in Rhode Island was the highest in the nation at \$13,800 per acre.

Rhode Island plans to solicit applications for its new program within 45 days. The National Farmers Union, which represents farmers, fishers and ranchers with divisions in 33 states, is typically wary of anyone other than a family farmer owning farmland, said Thomas



Driscoll, director of conservation policy.

But, Driscoll said, property values may be getting so high along both coasts that unconventional solutions are needed to ensure food production.

"We want to see how this operates in practice and how it affects farmers who are farming there already, but ultimately access to land is a major problem for farmers and we're glad that people are thinking creatively about it," he said.

Some Republican state lawmakers and established farmers in Rhode Island have said that buying and selling farmland is not the state's role.

Glen Cottrell owns Cottrell Homestead, a 118-year-old dairy farm that is going out of business. He fears this is a roundabout way to seize



Top: Farmer Sarah Turkus, of Providence, R.I., displays chives while planting them on a leased plot of land, in Seekonk, Mass. Above: Sarah Turkus, left, and Dave Kuma, both of Providence, R.I., plant chives on a leased plot of land in Seekonk, Mass., as Sarah's dog Mabel, a 3-year-old hound mix, greets Dave.

property and divide it. "That's what the communists did," he said.

Ayars said the state will only own the land long enough to transfer it from one farmer to another, and a farmer's decision to participate is completely voluntary.

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Trump advisers urge against hasty US retreat from Syria

WASHINGTON (AP) — With a decision seemingly imminent about whether to bring home U.S. troops from Syria, President Donald Trump's national security team is advising against a hasty withdrawal even as he makes his preference clear: "I want to get out."

Trump's director of national intelligence, Dan Coats, told reporters Wednesday that the White House would announce a decision about America's military involvement in the war-torn country "relatively soon." Coats said national security officials held an "all-hands-on deck" meeting Tuesday and "some decisions were made."

Trump said he expects to decide "very quickly" whether to remove U.S. forces, saying their primary mission was to defeat the Islamic State group. "We've almost completed that task," he said.

Trump's comments to reporters at the White House on Tuesday conflicted with views of his military advisers, some of who spoke at a separate event in Washington about the need to stay in Iraq and Syria to finish off the militant group that once controlled large swaths of territory in both countries.

At a news conference with the leaders of the Baltic nations, Trump was asked whether he still favored pulling U.S. troops out of Syria.

"As far as Syria is concerned, our primary mission in terms of that was getting rid of ISIS," Trump answered, using an acronym for the Islamic State group. "We've completed that task and we'll be making a decision very quickly, in coordination with others in the area, as to what we will do."

The mission is "very costly for our country and it helps other countries a helluva lot more than it helps us," Trump said.



In this Saturday, March 31, 2018 file photo, Syrian boys, right, sit on a pickup truck as they travel next to a U.S. vehicle, on a road leading to the tense front line with Turkish-backed fighters, in Manbij, north Syria. President Donald Trump expects to decide "very quickly" whether to remove U.S. troops from war-torn Syria, saying their primary mission was to defeat the Islamic State group and "we've almost completed that task."

"I want to get out. I want to bring our troops back home. I want to start rebuilding our nation," he said.

Trump later met with his national security team to discuss Syria.

According to officials familiar with the preparations for the meeting, that team, including CIA chief Mike Pompeo, who has been nominated to be secretary of state, strongly advised against a hasty withdrawal from Syria. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal talks.

Also on the meeting agenda was the fate of some \$200 million in U.S. stabi-

lization assistance for Syria that the White House put on hold after Trump said last week that he wanted to leave Syria "very soon." The State Department was to have spent the money on building up the country's infrastructure, including power, water and roads.

Trump in recent weeks has asked Saudi Arabia to contribute \$4 billion for reconstruction in Syria, according to a U.S. official, as part of the president's effort to get other countries to pay for stabilizing the country so the U.S. isn't on the hook. The United States is awaiting a response from the Saudis, said the official, who wasn't authorized to

discuss the conversations publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

A senior Syrian Kurdish official said Trump's comments on wanting to withdraw from Syria came at an "inappropriate time" as Islamic State militants re-emerge in eastern Syria and amid threats from Turkey.

The main IS holdout in Syria is in the eastern province of Deir el-Zour, where momentum by the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces has stalled in recent weeks as many Kurdish members of the group have shifted west to the Afrin area to fight Turkish forces. Pentagon officials have publicly raised the prospect

of this giving the IS group the breathing room it needs to regroup.

Many have warned that a premature U.S. withdrawal from Syria would cede the country to Iran and Russia, which have supported Syrian President Bashar Assad. Iran's continued presence in Syria is especially troubling to neighboring Israel, a U.S. ally that regards Iran as an existential threat.

Some high-ranking Trump administration officials urged caution.

Gen. Joseph Votel told a conference at the United States Institute of Peace that the United States would have to continue its work against remnants of

IS in eastern Syria. Votel is commander of U.S. Central Command, which oversees U.S. military operations across the Middle East, including Syria.

Votel said the military campaign has been largely successful but is not over.

"The hard part, I think, is in front of us, and that is stabilizing these areas, consolidating our gains, getting people back into their homes, addressing the long-term issues" such as reconstruction. "There is a military role in this, certainly in the stabilization phase."

Trump says 'strong action' coming on immigration

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump pledged "strong action today" on immigration, a day after he said he wants to use the military to secure the U.S.-Mexico border until his "big, beautiful wall" is erected.

In an early-morning tweet Wednesday, Trump said "Our Border Laws are very weak" and said Democrats "stand in our way" of new laws. He added "We will be taking strong action today."

Trump did not offer further details and the White House did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Trump told reporters on Tuesday that he's been discussing the idea of using the military at the border with Defense Secretary Jim Mattis.

"We're going to be doing things militarily. Until we can have a wall and proper security, we're going to be guarding our border with the military," Trump said, calling the move a "big step."

It wasn't immediately clear exactly how the proposal would work or what

kind of troops Trump wanted to deploy, but the White House later said Trump wanted to mobilize the National Guard.

Federal law prohibits the use of active-duty service members for law enforcement inside the U.S., unless specifically authorized by Congress. But over the past 12 years, presidents have twice sent National Guard troops to the border to bolster security and assist with surveillance and other support. The White House counsel's office has been working on the idea for several weeks, according to a senior official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal plans.

Trump has been frustrated by slow action on building a wall along the Mexican border. He's previously suggested using the Pentagon's budget to pay for the wall, arguing it is a national security priority, despite strict rules that prohibit spending that's not authorized by Congress.

At the Pentagon, officials struggled throughout the day Tuesday to answer questions

about the plan, including rudimentary details on whether it would involve National Guard members.

But the administration appeared to be considering a model similar to a 2006 operation in which President George W. Bush deployed National Guard troops to the southern border.

Under Operation Jump Start, 6,000 National Guard troops were sent to assist the border patrol with non-law enforcement duties while additional border agents were hired and trained. Over two years, about 29,000 National Guard forces participated as forces rotated in and out. The Guard members were used for surveillance, communications, administrative support, intelligence, analysis and the installation of border security infrastructure.

In addition, President Barack Obama sent about 1,200 National Guard troops to the U.S.-Mexico border in 2010 to beef up efforts against drug smuggling and illegal immigration.

Texas also deployed military forces to its 800-mile

(1,290-kilometer) border with Mexico. Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, now Trump's energy secretary, sent 1,000 Texas National Guardsmen to the Rio Grande Valley in 2014 in response to a sharp increase in Central American children crossing the border alone.

Trump met Tuesday with top administration officials, including Mattis, Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen and Attorney General Jeff Sessions, to discuss the administration's strategy to address what White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders described as "the growing influx of illegal immigration, drugs and violent gang members from Central America."

In addition to mobilizing the National Guard, Trump and senior officials "agreed on the need to pressure Congress to urgently pass legislation to close legal loopholes exploited by criminal trafficking, narco-terrorist and smuggling organizations," Sanders said.

Trump has been fixated on the issue since he grudgingly signed a spending bill

last month that includes far less money for the wall than he'd hoped for.

The \$1.3 trillion package included \$1.6 billion for border wall spending — a fraction of the \$25 billion Trump made a last-minute push to secure. And much of that money can be used only to repair existing segments, not to build new sections.

Trump spent the first months of his presidency bragging about a dramatic drop in illegal border crossings. Indeed, the 2017 fiscal year marked a 45-year low for Border Patrol arrests. But the numbers have been slowly ticking up since last April and are now on par with many months of the Obama administration. Statistics show 36,695 arrests of people trying to cross the southwest border in February 2018, up from 23,555 in the same month of the previous year.

At last week's meeting, Trump "directed a vigorous administrative strategy to confront this threat and protect America's national security," said Sanders. Tuesday's briefing was a fol-

low-up to discuss the plans.

Trump appeared to claim credit Tuesday for halting a caravan of about 1,100 migrants, many from Honduras, who had been marching along roadsides and train tracks in the southern Mexican state of Oaxaca.

"I said (to Mexican officials), 'I hope you're going to tell that caravan not to get up to the border.' And I think they're doing that because, as of 12 minutes ago, it was all being broken up," he said.

But the caravan of largely Central American migrants had never intended to reach the U.S. border, according to organizer Irineo Mujica. It was meant to end at a migrants' rights symposium in central Mexico later this week.

The caravan stopped to camp at a sports field in Oaxaca over the weekend. Mexican immigration officers have been signing them up for temporary transit visas, which would allow them to travel to the U.S. border, possibly to seek asylum, or to seek asylum status in Mexico.

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Cosby defense alleges discrimination in jury selection

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP) — Bill Cosby's lawyers challenged the prosecution's exclusion of a black woman from serving on the jury at his sexual assault retrial, alleging on Wednesday that the decision was made on the basis of her race.

Prosecutors pushed back, noting two blacks have been already been seated on the panel that will sit in judgment of the 80-year-old comedian. The judge said he didn't believe the prosecution had any "discriminatory intent" but halted the third day of jury selection to consider the defense argument.

Cosby's lawyers had appeared ready to strike at the first instance of prosecutors blocking a black juror, producing a legal brief that argued the move violated a 32-year-old Supreme Court ruling that prohibits prosecutions from excluding prospective jurors because of their race. The defense had made the same argument on Tuesday regarding the prosecution's exclusion of several white men, but Judge Steven O'Neill rejected it.

The legal maneuvering came as lawyers picked an eighth juror, a white woman who was at first hesitant to guarantee she could block out what she's read and seen about the Cosby case and the #MeToo movement against sexual misconduct.

"I could try. I mean, it's still in my head," she explained, before eventually agreeing.

The jury so far consists of six whites and two blacks. Four jurors are men and four are women.

A dozen people were invited back for individual questioning Wednesday as the prosecution and defense looked to fill the remaining spots. A third batch of 120 potential jurors was also called to the courthouse in suburban Philadelphia.

Cosby chatted with lawyer Kathleen Bliss in court, saying, "How are you this



Bill Cosby, center, leaves hearings for jury selection in his sexual assault retrial with spokesperson Andrew Wyatt, right, Tuesday, April 3, 2018, at the Montgomery County Courthouse in Norristown, Pa.

morning?" She replied, "bright eyed and bushy tailed." He then feigned a glance behind her, as if looking for a tail.

Cosby has pleaded not guilty to charges he drugged and molested Andrea Constand at his suburban Philadelphia home in 2004. He says the encounter with the former Temple University women's basketball administrator was consensual.

No major rulings were expected Wednesday after the trial judge opened Tuesday's session by issuing decisions favorable to a defense team that is trying to cast Cosby as the victim of a shakedown scheme involving false accusations of sexual assault.

O'Neill granted the Cosby team's request to call a woman who says Constand talked about framing a celebrity before she lodged allegations against him in 2005. The judge also ruled that jurors can hear how much Cosby paid Constand in a 2006 civil settlement.

O'Neill's ruling allowing Marguerite Jackson to testify was at odds with his decision to block her from the first trial, which ended in a hung jury. O'Neill did not explain his change of heart but issued one caveat, saying he could revisit her testimony after Constand takes the stand.

During the first trial, O'Neill ruled that Jackson's testimony would be

hearsay after Constand testified she did not know the woman. Since then, prosecutors have told Cosby's lawyers that Constand had modified her statement to acknowledge she "recalls a Margo."

Jackson, a longtime Temple University official, has said that she and Constand worked closely together, had shared hotel rooms several times. Jackson says Constand once commented to her about setting up a "high-profile person" and filing a lawsuit.

Constand's lawyer has said Jackson is not telling the truth.

Jackson's availability as a witness for Cosby could be crucial to a defense plan

to attack Constand's credibility.

O'Neill previously gave a boost to the prosecution, ruling they can call five additional accusers in a bid to portray Cosby — the former TV star once revered as "America's Dad" for his family sitcom "The Cosby Show" — as a serial predator.

The AP does not typically identify people who say they are victims of sexual assault unless they grant permission, which Constand has done.

As Wednesday's session got underway, a judge gave The Associated Press and other media organizations more access to jury selection.

Media lawyers had chal-

lenged an arrangement that forced reporters to watch the group questioning part of the process on a closed-circuit feed from another courtroom. The camera showed the judge, prosecutors and defense lawyers, but not potential jurors who were being questioned as a group.

Montgomery County President Judge Thomas DelRicci agreed to move the camera to the back of the courtroom so the media could see the potential jurors. The judge refused to make room in the crowded courtroom for a pool reporter, but said if the jury pool did not fill the room to capacity, he'd allow reporters to attend live.

YouTube shooter told family members she 'hated' the company

SAN BRUNO, Calif. (AP) — A woman who believed she was being suppressed by YouTube and told her family members she "hated" the company opened fire at the company's headquarters in California, wounding three people before killing herself, police said.

Investigators do not believe Nasim Aghdam specifically targeted the three victims when she pulled out a handgun and fired several rounds in a courtyard at YouTube's headquarters south of San Francisco on Tuesday, police said.

But a law enforcement official with knowledge of the investigation told The Associated Press that Aghdam had a longstanding dispute with the company. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the case, said Aghdam used the name "Nasime Sabz" online.

A website in that name decried YouTube's policies

and said the company was trying to "suppress" content creators. She posted about veganism, animal cruelty along with glamor shots of herself and exercise videos.

"Youtube filtered my channels to keep them from getting views!" one of the messages on the site said. "There is no equal growth opportunity on YOUTUBE or any other video sharing site, your channel will grow if they want to!!!!!"

People who post on YouTube can receive money from advertisements that accompany their videos, but the company "de-monetizes" some channels for reasons including inappropriate material or having fewer than 1,000 subscribers.

Aghdam "hated" YouTube and was angry that the company stopped paying her for videos she posted on the platform, her father, Ismail Aghdam, told the Bay Area News Group.

On Monday, he called police to report his daughter missing after she didn't an-

swer the phone for two days and warned officers that she might go to YouTube, he said.

Officers in Mountain View — about 30 miles (48 kilometers) from YouTube's headquarters — found her sleeping in her car in a parking lot around 2 a.m. Tuesday but let her go after she refused to answer their questions. Aghdam didn't appear to be a threat to herself or others, police spokeswoman Katie Nelson said.

Nelson would not say whether officers had been warned that Aghdam might have been headed to YouTube headquarters.

Law enforcement first said the shooting was being investigated as a domestic dispute but did not elaborate. It was not immediately clear why police later said the people shot were not specifically targeted.

One of the victims — a 36-year-old man — was in critical condition, a spokesman for San Francisco

General Hospital said. A 32-year-old woman was in serious condition and a 27-year-old woman in fair condition, the spokesman said.

YouTube employee Dina Arnspiger said she was on the building's second floor when she heard gunshots, ran to a window and saw the shooter on a patio outside.

"It was a woman and she was firing her gun. And I just said, 'Shooter,' and everybody started running," Arnspiger said.

She and others hid in a conference room for an hour while another employee repeatedly called 911 for updates.

The world's biggest online video website is owned by Silicon Valley giant Google, but company officials said it's a tight-knit community. The headquarters has more than a thousand engineers and other employees in several buildings. Originally built in the late 1990s for the clothing

retailer Gap, the campus south of San Francisco is known for its sloped green roof of native grasses.

Inside, Google several years ago famously outfitted the office with a 3-lane zed room from one story to another.

"Today it feels like the entire community of YouTube, all of the employees, were victims of this crime," said Chris Dale, a spokesman for YouTube.

YouTube CEO Susan Wojcicki said in a tweet that the company would "come together to heal as a family."

Officers and federal agents responding to multiple 911 calls swarmed the company's campus sandwiched between two interstates in the San Francisco Bay Area city of San Bruno.

Zach Vorhies, 37, a senior software engineer at YouTube, said he was at his desk working on the second floor of one of the buildings when the fire alarm went

off.

He got on his skateboard and approached a courtyard, where he saw the shooter yelling, "Come get me." He said the public can access the courtyard without any security check during working hours.

There was somebody lying nearby on his back with a red stain on his stomach that appeared to be from a bullet wound.

He said he realized it was an active shooter incident when a police officer with an assault rifle came through a security door. He jumped on his skateboard and took off.

Officers discovered one victim with a gunshot wound when they arrived and then found the shooter with what appeared to be a self-inflicted gunshot wound several minutes later, San Bruno Police Chief Ed Barberini said. He said two additional gunshot victims were later located at an adjacent business.

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China lists \$50B of US goods it might hit with 25 pct tariff

BEIJING (AP) — China on Wednesday issued a \$50 billion list of U.S. goods including soybeans and small aircraft for possible tariff hikes in an escalating and potentially damaging technology dispute with Washington.

The country's tax agency gave no date for the 25 percent increase to take effect and said it will depend on what President Donald Trump does about U.S. plans to raise duties on a similar amount of Chinese goods.

Beijing's list of 106 products included the biggest U.S. exports to China, reflecting its intense sensitivity to the dispute over American complaints that it pressures foreign companies to hand over technology.

The clash reflects the tension between Trump's promises to narrow a U.S. trade deficit with China that stood at \$375.2 billion in goods last year and the ruling Communist Party's development ambitions. Regulators use access to China's vast market as leverage to press foreign automakers and other companies to help create or improve industries and technology.

President Donald Trump says the U.S. lost a trade war with China "years ago."

In a tweet Wednesday after China's announcement, Trump said: "We are not in a trade war with China, that war was lost many years ago by the foolish, or incompetent, people who represented the U.S."

A list the U.S. issued Tuesday of products sub-

ject to tariff hikes included aerospace, telecoms and machinery, striking at high-tech industries seen by China's leaders as the key to its economic future.

China said it would immediately challenge the U.S. move in the World Trade Organization.

"It must be said, we have been forced into taking this action," a deputy commerce minister, Wang Shouwen, said at a news conference. "Our action is restrained."

A deputy finance minister, Zhu Guangyao, appealed to Washington to "work in a constructive manner" and avoid hurting both countries.

Zhu warned against expecting Beijing to back down.

"Pressure from the outside will only urge and encourage the Chinese people to work even harder," said Zhu at the news conference.

Companies and economists have expressed concern improved global economic activity might sputter if other governments are prompted to raise their own import barriers.

But Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross is brushing off concern over trade war with China. In an interview with CNBC Wednesday morning, Ross said that tariffs imposed by China amount to 0.3 percent of U.S. GDP and that some action on tariffs has been "coming for a while."

"What we're talking about on both sides is a fraction of 1 percent of both economies," he said.

The larger concern, Ross said, is the protection of

U.S. intellectual property.

Still, U.S. stock futures slumped over concerns that the back-and-forth tariff actions will stunt trade and growth. Ross said he would not comment on the stock market's reaction, but then said he thinks "it's being out of proportion."

China announced tariffs worth \$50 billion on a series of U.S. products including soybeans, whiskey and cars.

Chinese officials said they were obliged to act after the U.S. announced plans for retaliatory tariffs in an escalating dispute over China's technology program and other trade issues.

The dispute "may compel countries to pick sides," said Weiliang Chang of Mizuho Bank in a report.

"U.S. companies at this point would like to see robust communication between the US government and the Chinese government and serious negotiation on both sides, hopefully to avoid a trade war," said the chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce in China, William Zarit.

"I can only hope that we solve our differences as soon as possible to avoid damage to the U.S. economy, Chinese economy and to U.S. companies."

American companies have long chafed under Chinese regulations that require them to operate through local partners and share technology with potential competitors in exchange for market access. Business groups say companies feel increasingly unwelcome in China's state-dominated economy and are being

squeezed out of promising industries.

Chinese policies "coerce American companies into transferring their technology" to Chinese enterprises, said a USTR statement.

Foreign companies are increasingly alarmed by initiatives such as Beijing's long-range industry development plan, dubbed "Made in China 2025," which calls for creating global leaders in electric cars, robots and other fields. Companies complain that might block access to those industries.

Wang, the commerce official, defended "Made in China 2025." He said it was "transparent, open and non-discriminatory" and foreign companies could participate.

Wang said the plan, which sets specific targets for domestic brands' share of some markets, should be seen as a guide rather than mandatory.

A report released Tuesday by the USTR also cited complaints Beijing uses cyber spying to steal foreign business secrets. It was unclear whether the latest tariff hike was a direct response to that.

The Chinese list Wednesday included soybeans, the biggest U.S. export to China, and aircraft up to 45 tons in weight. That excludes high-end Boeing Co. jetliners such as the 747 and 777, leaving Beijing high-profile targets for possible future conflicts.

Also on the list were American beef, whisky, passenger vehicles and industrial chemicals.

Zhu, the deputy finance

minister, expressed thanks to American soybean farmers who he said had lobbied the Trump administration to "safeguard hard-won economic relations between the United States and China."

To minimize the cost to China, regulators picked products for which replacements are available, such as soybeans from Australia or Brazil, said Tu Xinquan, director of WTO studies at the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing.

"China has made meticulous efforts in deciding the list of the products to make sure the impact on China's economy is controllable," said Tu.

"If the U.S. decides to increase intensity, China will surely follow suit," said Tu. "In the event of all-out trade war, both may lose all sense of reason, but I do hope it will never happen."

The Global Times newspaper, published by the ruling party and known for its nationalistic tone, suggested further retaliatory action might target service industries in which the United States runs a trade surplus. Regulators have wide discretion to withhold licenses or take other action to disrupt logistics and other service businesses.

"What China needs to do now is to make the United States pay the same price" so Americans "understand anew the Chinese-U.S. strength relationship," the newspaper said.

In a separate dispute, Beijing raised tariffs Monday on a \$3 billion list of U.S. goods including pork,

apples and steel pipe in response to increased duties on imports of steel and aluminum that took effect March 23.

The United States buys little Chinese steel or aluminum, but analysts said Beijing would feel compelled to react, partly as a "warning shot" ahead of the technology dispute.

In another warning move, Chinese regulators launched an anti-dumping investigation of U.S. sorghum last month as rhetoric between Beijing and Washington heated up.

China has accused Trump of damaging the global system of trade regulation by taking action under U.S. law instead of the through the WTO.

Previously, Trump approved higher import duties on Chinese-made washing machines and solar modules to offset what Washington said were improper subsidies.

The technology investigation was launched under a little-used Cold War era law, Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Act of 1974.

However, as part of its response, the USTR also lodged a WTO case last month challenging Chinese policies it said unfairly limit foreign companies' control over their technology.

U.S. authorities say Beijing denies foreign companies the right to block use of technology by a Chinese entity once a licensing period ends. And they say it imposes contract terms that are less favorable than for local technology.

France puts 78,000 security threats on vast police database

PARIS (AP) — France has flagged more than 78,000 people as security threats in a database intended to let European police share information on the continent's most dangerous residents — more than all other European countries put together — according to an analysis by The Associated Press.

A German parliamentarian, Andrej Hunko, was the first to raise the alarm about potential misuse of the Schengen Information System database in a question to his country's Interior Ministry about "discreet checks" — secret international checks on people considered a threat to national security or public safety. He questioned whether and why different countries seemed to apply very different criteria.

"The increase in alerts cannot be explained by the threat of Islamist terrorism alone. Europol reports a four-digit number of confirmed foreign fighters, yet the increase of SIS alerts in 2017 is several times that," Hunko said in a statement late last month when he released the Interior Ministry response to his query.

That response included a spreadsheet detailing for the first time how many people were flagged for checks by each European

country last year — more than 134,000 in all.

"This could mean that families and contacts of these individuals are also being secretly monitored. It is also possible that the measure is being used on a large scale for combatting other criminal activity," Hunko said.

The number of French entries by police and intelligence agencies "indicates a misuse" of the system intended to monitor dangerous criminals, he added.

The overall Schengen database — which is separate to the Europol database and far more widely used — forms the backbone of European security, allowing police, judicial authorities and other law enforcement to immediately check whether a person is wanted or missing, or a car is stolen, or a firearm is legal, for example. The database was checked 5 billion times in 2017 alone, according to the director of the EU-LISA agency, Krum Garkov.

But a relatively unknown provision in European law allows countries to flag people for the "discreet checks" — allowing law enforcement in one country to quietly notify counterparts elsewhere of a person's location and activities. Use of the system

intended for individuals who pose a threat to national security or public safety — has expanded enormously since Islamic State extremists attacked Paris and Brussels in 2015 and 2016, from 69,475 in 2015 to 134,662 last year, according to data from EU-LISA and Germany.

If someone is flagged for a check, their name will come up for any law enforcement official who has stopped them anywhere in Europe — whether trying to cross an external border or running a red light. In the entry, the requesting country can ask for a subsequent action, ranging from simply reporting back their location, vehicle, and traveling companions to detaining them immediately for arrest.

The checks, unlike arrest warrants, expire after a year, although Garkov said countries are notified of pending expirations and can renew them at will.

But vast disparities in its use by individual countries raise questions about both the effectiveness of the tools and the criteria countries are using to enter people into the system.

With 78,619 entries by 2017, France makes up 60 percent of the requests. Britain, with nearly the same population and 16,991 people flagged,

comes in a distant second. Germany, Europe's most populous country, had 4,285 people flagged last year, according to the Interior Ministry data.

To put the French number in perspective, the country's intelligence chief, Laurent Nunez, said late last year that France had recorded 18,000 people as suspected extremists, and considered 4,000 of those to be highly dangerous. The Interior Ministry did not respond to requests to comment about the criteria for discreet checks. CNIL, the government data protection agency, said the 78,000 entries covered every person that France wanted flagged for any reason.

Like the U.S. "no fly list," people can only learn by inference whether they are flagged for a discreet check.

"People are not informed about the existence of this alert, which makes sense. But at the same there needs to be a proportionality assessment," said Niovi Vavoula, a legal scholar at Queen Mary University of London who studies the use of the database. "If certain member states are introducing alerts en masse to the system, this needs to be flagged as a problem."

Iraq grapples with Iranian influence ahead of May elections

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iran's influence is looming large as Iraqis prepare to head to the polls for parliamentary elections in May, with many in the country worried that Tehran may be looking to strengthen its political grip on Baghdad through the ballot box.

Iranian support and military advisers helped Baghdad's Shiite-led government beat back the Islamic State group. But with IS militants now largely defeated militarily, Iran's expanding influence has emerged as one of Iraq's most divisive issues ahead of the balloting.

That influence has sown fear among Iraq's disenfranchised minority Sunnis, who bore the brunt of the war's destruction, and has also caused concern in Washington. Despite tensions between the United States and Iran, both remain key allies of Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi's government.

U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis last month accused Iran of "mucking around" in Iraq's upcoming elections, telling reporters the U.S. has what he called "worrisome evidence" that Iran is funneling "not an insignificant amount of money" into Iraq to try to sway votes. Baghdad rejected the accusation.

Government spokesman Saad al-Hadithi stressed that the use of foreign money in domestic politics "is illegal and unconstitutional."

"The government is taking great efforts to hold free and fair elections and prevent the manipulation of election results," he said.

Both Iran and Iraq are Shiite-majority countries and share deep economic and cultural ties — as well as a 1,500-kilometer (900-mile) border.

The two countries fought a devastating war in the 1980s that left hundreds of thousands dead. But Iranian influence in Iraq has steadily grown since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion that toppled Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, marking the start of a prolonged period of sectarian division, extremist violence and political strife.

Under Saddam, many of Iraq's Shiite political elite spent years in exile in Iran. Since Saddam's ouster, Iraqi markets have been stocked with Iranian goods and millions of Iranian pilgrims descend on Iraq each year to visit holy shrines in the cities of Samarra, Baghdad, Najaf and Karbala.



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