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Saturday, June 2, 2018

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TOP STORIES



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Osceola Health Dept.: Be cautious of measles

Four cases reported in Florida

By Rachel Christian
Staff Writer

Over the past week, four confirmed measles cases have been reported in the state, according to officials at the Florida Department of Health.

All four cases involved individuals who traveled to or exposed people from several Florida counties to the respiratory disease, which can cause fever, cough, rash and even death.

No cases have been reported in Osceola County, but officials at the local health department are urging residents to proceed with caution all the same.

"At this point, we're just promoting awareness," said Nathaly Acosta, tuberculosis/epidemiology and refugee health program manager for the Florida Department

of Health in Osceola County. "There is no need for panic, just caution and awareness."

Acosta said all four reported instances have been linked back to someone bringing the disease from a foreign country and then spreading it to others.

With school out and summer in full swing, the rate of international travel is elevated, and so is the chance of contracting measles, Acosta said. Internationally, there have been measles cases reported in Europe, Ukraine, Afghanistan, Taiwan and Venezuela.

Outbreaks of measles in the U.S. have decreased dramatically since the Measles Mumps Rubella (MMR) vaccine rolled out in the 1960s.

In the decade before 1963 when a vaccine first became available, nearly all children got measles by the time they were 15 years old,



PHOTO/METRO

The MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) shot is very effective, according to the Florida Department of Health in Osceola County.

according to the Center for Disease Control. It is estimated 3 to 4 million people in the United States were infected each year. It resulted in an estimated 400 to 500 deaths a year, 48,000 hospitalizations and 1,000 cases of brain damage.

Measles outbreaks have resurfaced in recent years across the country, and most people who contracted the illness were unvaccinated, according to the

See **Measles**, Page 2.

Food banks trying to stock extra goods for hurricane season



FILE PHOTO

Food banks, such as the Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida, shown above, is trying to stock extra provisions for hurricane season.

By Charlie Reed
For the News-Gazette

Hurricane season is here. Most of us will take basic precautions and buy some extra canned foods, water and maybe a generator to help keep our refrigerator and phones working during a potential power outage. When weather

forecasters start showing hurricane prediction models that include Central Florida in the path of an approaching storm, we build on those initial preparations. We go to buy more goods to help ourselves prepare and notice fewer items on the shelves. Supplies go down as the need goes up.

See **Food**, Page 3.

St. Cloud population spikes 36% in 7 years

By Rachel Christian
Staff Writer

The city of St. Cloud is growing faster than any other city in a four-county radius, according to new U.S. Census Bureau numbers released May 24.

From 2010 to 2017, the town's population boomed 36 percent, adding 13,440 residents. That makes St. Cloud the fastest growing city in Osceola, Orange, Seminole and Polk counties. St. Cloud's growth spurt outpaced the next city on the list, Ocoee, by 7 percent. Apopka in Orange County came in third, with a 23 percent growth increase.

The city of Kissimmee grew 19 percent, according to the numbers.

St. Cloud adds 794 acres to city limits

But the city is growing in more ways than one.

St. Cloud added about 1.75 square miles of mostly vacant unincorporated county land from 2010 to 2017. And last week, the City Council voted to grow the geographical area even more, by annexing an additional 1.19 square miles, or about 784 acres, into the city.

The move was made ahead of a massive upcoming development project called Tohoqua, which will span lands south of Neptune Road and north of the Twin Oaks Conservation Area.

Discussions have circled for years over the mixed-use planned community that is set to add 2,216 single family homes, 1,004 apartment units, a high school, a K-12 charter school, a fire station and 296,000 square feet of

See **St. Cloud**, Page 3.

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HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS EXPO

TODAY

9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

HOME DEPOT PARKING LOT - ST. CLOUD

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See the Hurricane Preparation Guide inside today's issue.

Presented by:

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD

This is to inform you that the City of Kissimmee Planning Advisory Board will make a recommendation to the City Commission concerning a request to amend the official Zoning Map, the City of Kissimmee Land Development Code Ordinance No. 2038 for the property described herein:

FROM: **OS (Open Space) – City**

TO: **CF (Community Facility)– City**

The subject property parcel ID: **29-25-29-1970-0001-1210**

Legal Description:

PINEDALE PB A PG 026 LOTS 121 & 122 LYING SE OF RR R/W ORD #2470

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 18-04: Kissimmee Training Facility: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2038 KNOWN AS THE CITY OF KISSIMMEE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, REZONING THE PROPERTY HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED, REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The Planning Advisory Board will meet to consider their recommendation on said request on **Wednesday, June 20, 2018 at 6:00 P.M.** in the Commission Chambers of City Hall, 101 Church Street, Kissimmee, Florida,

All interested parties may appear and be heard on the above dates. Written opinion will be received until **5:00 P.M., Wednesday, June 20, 2018.** Any questions regarding this public hearing may be directed to the Development Services Department at (407) 518-2140.

Reference # **DRC 18-00068** **PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD**
Kissimmee Training Facility **KISSIMMEE, FLORIDA**

In accordance with Florida Statutes 286.26, persons needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the Office of the City Clerk (407) 518-2308 prior to the meeting. (FS286.26)

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



St. Cloud makes land offer for future city park



PHOTO/CITY OF ST. CLOUD

The St. Cloud City Council voted to make an offer to the Osceola County School District for a piece of land to develop into a new park.

By Rachel Christian
Staff Writer

The St. Cloud City Council voted to make an offer of up to \$250,000 on a one-acre parcel of land last Thursday, despite misgivings from the city's planning and zoning director.

At a previous meeting, Councilwoman Linette Matheny suggested the council purchase the lot, centrally located at 901 Virginia Ave., and turn it into a neighborhood park.

The land was one of three properties marked as surplus by the Osceola County School District, Matheny told fellow board members when she first proposed the idea May 10.

But Andre Anderson, director of the St. Cloud Planning and Zoning Department, did not share Matheny's enthusiasm for the idea when he brought his recommendation forward to the council on May 24.

Anderson said it would be "premature" to purchase the acre lot while the city's Parks and Recreation Department is still constructing its master plan design. He also displayed a graphic showing lands the city intends to buy for future neighborhood and pocket parks.

Anderson added that state redevelopment incentives recently became

available in the area and suggested that the property remain on the tax rolls to benefit the city. It was a sentiment supported by Councilman Donny Shroyer, who strongly rejected Matheny's idea from the start.

The parcel was formerly leased by the city for years, with intentions to plant a community garden, Anderson said. An old cannery building currently sits on the property.

Despite Anderson's recommendations not to pursue an offer on the site, Matheny pressed forward.

"A master plan is still just a plan," she said about the Parks and Recreation Department document. "It's an idea, it's a guiding document. It's not the Bible...I feel like make hay while the sun shines here. This is an opportunity."

The councilwoman read a letter submitted by St. Cloud resident Valerie Anderson that spoke to a lack of parks within a 10-mile walking distance of the south side of 10th Street heading to Virginia Avenue. The letter also claimed that many of the smaller parks in the area often fill to capacity and lack certain key amenities, such as tables and benches.

Council member Dave Askew, who had showed support for Matheny from the beginning, pointed out that houses currently

sit on many of the parcels Anderson had designated as future park sites on his map.

"When do we actually see us acquiring any of this property at all?" Askew asked Anderson. "I mean, the property would need to go up for sale. These look like whole blocks, so we would have to get at least four houses on each one of those blocks."

Anderson called the map of proposed parks "a market driven plan."

"It would be up to the market to dictate," the city planner replied. "We've put a plan in place to guide that market."

Askew seemed unsatisfied with the answer, choosing to take Matheny's "make hay while the sun shines" attitude instead.

Askew confirmed the minimum bid offer on the property was \$146,000.

"So, we could possibly get half a block for \$146,000," Askew said. "But if we're not in the game, there's no bid."

Shroyer's motion to deny the purchase of the property did not pass. Matheny's motion to have the city manager make a competitive offer to the School District passed 3-2, with Mayor Nathaniel Blackwell lending his support.

A maximum bid offer of \$250,000 was then approved by the council, along with a budget amendment to allow for the purchase.

City installs new lightning safety system

Earth Network crews have worked to install a new lightning detection system throughout the city of St. Cloud.

The new warning horns will be placed at the following locations: Civic

Center (3001 17th St.), Stephanie Leigh Rothstein Memorial Park (2701 Missouri Ave.), Ralph V. Chisholm Park (4700 Chisholm Park Trail) and Lakefront Park (1104 Lakeshore Blvd.).

The new outdoor alerting system replaced the city's current system. Residents will notice a new, louder sound when the system is activated. Installation was expected to be completed last month.

MEASLES

Continued from Page 1

Center for Disease Control. From Jan. 1 to April 21, 2018, 63 people from 16 states, including California, New York and Illinois, were reported to have measles.

Acosta said the last confirmed case in Osceola County occurred in 2011, when a 1-year-old girl contracted the disease.

"The MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) shot is not a 100 percent guarantee

that someone won't possibly contract measles if they're exposed to it," Acosta said. "But it is extremely effective. Even if someone does happen to contract it, the chances are much greater that it will be a much milder form."

Measles is extremely contagious and typically contagious with a high fever, cough and runny nose. Two or three days after symptoms begin, tiny white spots may

appear inside the mouth, followed by a distinctive looking rash. The rash usually first appears on the face at the hairline and spreads downward to the neck, arms, legs and feet. When the rash appears, a person's fever may spike to more than 104 degrees.

If someone thinks they have contracted measles, they should visit their doctor or a hospital.

FOOD

Continued from Page 1

Now imagine that you lived on a fixed-income or that you and your family struggle to cover day-to-day expenses – two scenarios that describe thousands of locals.

Most all residents of the county are working-class folks with a median family household income of \$44,500. Roughly 20 percent of Osceola County's 324,000 resident live below the federal poverty line. The most needy individuals and families in the county rely on weekly, if not daily, food assistance from government and nongovernment sources. So what happens to those who can't fill their fridge or buy extra supplies in preparation for a storm.

They will still need the food they typically rely on and in addition, likely even food, water and other emergency supplies.

"Any kind of natural disaster hits low-income people the most," said Greg Higgerson, vice president of development for Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida.

"It takes working-class people a lot longer to get back on their feet a lot of the time. And food is one of the things they shouldn't have to worry about."

Second Harvest – part of the Feeding America Network of Foodbanks – works with the food industry and the public and distributes as much excess food in society as possible. It works with 550 agencies in Florida, 30 in Osceola County.

Established in 1983, Second Harvest is an umbrella organization that partners with smaller, local nonprofits to collect and distribute uneaten foods from grocery stores, restaurants and farms throughout Central Florida on a daily basis. The organization also works with Feeding America, the largest federal domestic hunger relief program in the U.S., which brings in donations from major U.S. food corporations such as Kraft and Con-Agra. Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida is a key hub for transporting food into and out of Florida during natural disasters as needed. The food bank's stocks are shelved early in the summer and held in a reserve during hurricane season.

"We're blessed with food wealth. If we get hit, those resources can be marshalled quickly and sent to us, which we saw in (Hurricane) Irma as well as the hurricanes in 2004," Higgerson said. "We have the resources on tap."

Along with feeding hungry folks every day and during disaster, Second Harvest also partners with regional non-governmental first-responders, such as the Red Cross and the Salvation Army.

"Now with a few disasters under our belt, the public has begun to recognize and support us more. We can leverage \$9 worth of meals from a \$1 donation," he said.

POLICE NEWS

Stepfather arrested for sexual battery of stepdaughter

Osceola County Sheriff's Office deputies arrested a stepfather who was accused of sexually battering his stepdaughter.

On Wednesday, deputies began investigating the sexual abuse of a child under the age of 12. The child said her stepfather has been sexually battering her for the past four months, according to a Sheriff's Office report.

The incidents occurred in both Osceola and Orange counties. Detectives from the Osceola County

Sheriff's Office, as well as the Orange County Sheriff's Office, responded and continued the investigation. Ortiz was cooperative with detectives and admitted to the allegations, the report stated.

Ortiz was arrested for five counts of capital sexual battery, six counts of lewd/lascivious molestation and two counts of lewd/lascivious exhibition.

Ortiz is facing additional charges for the incidents that occurred in the jurisdiction of Orange County.

Anyone with information

regarding this case or any additional victims, is asked to contact the Osceola County Sheriff's Office at 407-348-2222 or Crimeline at 1-800-423-TIPS, where information leading to an arrest may be eligible for a \$1,000 reward.

Pedestrian hit, killed by Kissimmee driver

A Kissimmee man, on Monday, hit and killed a pedestrian who was trying to cross a road in Orange County.

According to a Florida Highway Patrol report, Alberto De La Cruz, 33, was driving a 2012 Honda Civic southbound on State Road 535 at about 10:34 p.m.

The pedestrian, who was not identified pending notification of next of kin, attempted to cross from east to west at neither a crosswalk or intersection, the report stated. De La Cruz was unable to avoid the man and struck him. He was taken to an area hospital where he was pronounced dead.

ST. CLOUD

Continued from Page 1

commercial development space, among other features.

The project didn't need approval from St. Cloud officials; it already received the green light from Osceola County months ago.

As Mayor Nathan Blackwell put it during a board meeting, "If we don't annex this property, it's going forward regardless."

Instead, the decision before city council members May 24 – the same day new census population numbers were released – was

whether to fold Tohoqua into St. Cloud limits.

To annex or not to annex?

The decision to expand St. Cloud by almost 800 acres came down to a numbers game: how much did the city stand to gain from property taxes and other fees associated with the Tohoqua project versus what it would cost the city to supply services like fire rescue and water to the area in question.

Stephen McDonald, chief economist of Community Solutions Group, a division of GAI Consultants, crunched those numbers. He estimates that adding those 784 acres could provide an annual surplus of \$600,000 in revenue for St. Cloud, or \$18 million over a 30-year period.

Most of the money St. Cloud stands to take in comes from taxes on elevated property values in Tohoqua, McDonald explained. The average property value for a home

built in St. Cloud prior to 2009 is about \$76,543, he said, while the average for one built in 2016 was \$153,297. McDonald estimates the value of an average home in Tohoqua to be roughly \$187,236.

"You may have to put some dollars out before the revenues come in," the economist said, "but at the end of the day, it is a very fiscally positive scenario for the city."

The council ultimately chose to voluntarily annex the property by a vote of 3-2.

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VIEWPOINT

OSCEOLA NEWS-GAZETTE

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GUEST EDITORIAL

Trust me, every dad wants a donkey for Father's Day

Another Mother's Day is in the books, which means dads nationwide can begin preparing their "perfect day" wish lists.

My Father's Day requests always include the phrase "multiple, uninterrupted naps."

This year, however, my desires will also feature an item that, if my wife relents and purchases it, will catapult me into the "cool dad" stratosphere, should such a galaxy exist. Fellow dads in my 'hood will flock to me like the preteen all the other kids yearn to hang out with, not because of his personality but because he owns a treehouse. Every weekend my phone will blow up with texts, all asking the same question:

"Where's the donkey?"

I am referring to the latest craze in beer dispensing - a four-legged pack animal carrying two saddlebags that become coolers when filled with ice and a 12-pack of suds. Beer burros, also known as beer donkeys, are fast becoming the rage at weddings, corporate events and themed parties. I recently encountered my first such donkey at a Cinco de Mayo bash thrown by a financial services organization.

"I've even been asked to go to golf courses and have the donkey follow the guys around as they golf," said Tia Cook, operations manager at Walking M Farms in Higley, Ariz.

Besides providing petting zoo animals and pony rides for kids, Cook owns four mini-donkeys, each weighing between

275 and 300 pounds, that will stand at attention for up to two hours as party guests help themselves to beer, tequila shots or whatever beverage is stored in the donkey's panniers.

"We've served juice boxes and water too," said Cook, stressing that beer donkeys can be altered for kids' parties.

I just want one at the ready after I mow my lawn.

I won't dress it in a Mexican sombrero, western bandana or other attire Cook's donkeys wear, depending on the event. And I promise to love it unconditionally, provided it faithfully does its beer donkey duty and keeps me from having to unfold myself from the couch and amble to the kitchen each time I want a cold beer. For years, I've tried to train my dog to open the refrigerator and fetch one for me, but that behavior only exists in Super Bowl commercials.

The donkey would be my salvation. "So, what do you think?" I asked my wife. "We've got plenty of yard space. I'll even clean up the donkey poop. Seems a small price to pay."

"Speaking of price, exactly how much is this Father's Day gift?" my wife asked.

"Well, the lady in Arizona charges \$350 an hour and up. So, I'm guessing..."

She cut me off. "I'm guessing you're getting barbecue tools for Father's Day."

Undeterred, I offered to share the animal. "When your girlfriends come over, you can

turn it into a chardonnay donkey," I said. "Or a strawberry daiquiri donkey. How does that sound?"

"It sounds like you've had a few too many of what you want the donkey to carry," she said. "Besides, I think it's cruel."

Cook insists she rarely gets complaints from party guests who feel carrying beer is an inappropriate use of the donkey's time.

"Most people want to love on them, take pictures with them and ask questions," she said. "They get interested in what they are and where they come from. And donkeys are bred to pack."

She added, however, that she does get the occasional "May I touch your (jack) ass" comments from partygoers who all think their attempt at humor is original.

"I've had people ask if they can take (the donkey) back to their hotel room, which sounds a little weird," Hill said, adding that she has declined those requests.

I have a month to convince my wife the donkey will be a welcome addition to our family. It will be a tall task but not nearly as difficult as trying to teach my dog to use a bottle opener.

GREG SCHWEM
Tribune Media



Greg Schwem is a corporate stand-up comedian. Visit him on the web at www.gregschwem.com.

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No

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SPORTS



Reel Deal

St. Cloud Toho Marine now open.

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Local & National Sports • Sports Commentary

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Toho High to play county schools; Eagles go indy

► Football squads adjust schedules to play Tigers

By Ken Jackson
 Sports Editor

Tohopekaliga High, set to throw its doors open in August, is getting everything in place for its first football season, like a stadium, coaching staff and equipment.

Now, the Tigers have a schedule.

Opening a school in the second year of the two-year contract cycle can make it difficult to put together a schedule, but five of the county's seven other programs adjusted their schedules to take on Toho in its inaugural season.

That still didn't make it easy for THS Athletic Director Kevin Mays. He and Tigers' head coach Anthony Davis pieced together a nine-game schedule that features five road games and bye weeks in Week 5 and Week 10. The closest regular-season opponent not from Osceola County is three counties away.

The Tigers will make their gridiron debut at home in the Aug. 17 Kickoff Classic against Cypress Creek. The regular-season opener is the following week at Jupiter High, and the regular-season home opener is Aug. 31 against St. Petersburg Dixie Hollins.

Five of the next six games are against county foes: at Harmony and Celebration Sept. 7 and 14, home to Liberty Sept. 27 and at Poinciana Oct. 5. After a home game against Port Orange Atlantic, the closest out-of-county opponent,

St. Cloud comes calling on Oct. 19.

The season ends at Superior, a new Clearwater charter school, on Nov. 2.

The county's other biggest football change is that Poinciana, under new coach Phillip Prior, has left District 5A-13 for this season and will play as an independent, with the plan to return to district play in 2019. The move means games against Orlando powerhouses Bishop Moore and Jones were replaced by Tohopekaliga and a rebuilding Colonial program. A game played last year against a California team at Disney in Week 1 was replaced by Celebration.

"I'm okay with it for one year," Prior said. "It's not that we're afraid of playing anybody, because you get better playing top competition, but doing it made it possible to replace two out-of-town teams with two county opponents. Hopefully our new district in 2019 will help us put more Osceola County programs on our schedule."

Eagles Athletic Director Rob Weilert, who took the job this spring after moving over from Liberty, said it was it was "a decision made before I got here, but not one I disagree with."

"Our goal in future scheduling is to get more Osceola County teams on our schedule and also to re-enter district play for the 2019 season," he said, noting the Eagles will have three in-county games after

See **Schedules**, Page 7.

ALL-COUNTY BOYS TENNIS

CHS relied on Partidas

► Storm sophomore helped get squad to regionals

By Ken Jackson
 Sports Editor

Over the last few years, you could rely on the Celebration Storm tennis teams to be among the county's and area's best and make deep runs through their district tournaments and into the regional playoffs.

How does a team reliably get that far? By having reliable athletes, who come up big in the big spots of the big matches and events.

For the boys team, that "Mr. Reliable" was sophomore Angel Partidas, who was in his first season with Celebration after transferring from Osceola after his freshman year.

He earned a spot in Coach Darren Holt's starting five-man rotation and, as the No. 2 player most of the season, was a winner Holt could rely on.

Partidas, who has only been in this country for about 18 months after moving from his homeland of Venezuela, steamed through Orange Belt Conference foes undefeated, lost just one match in the

regular season, then rolled through his District 4A-5 bracket, helping the Storm clinch the district title. And he won his match and a doubles match with partner Sagar Shah in the Region 2 semifinals, but Celebration fell to Strawberry Crest, 4-3.

That solid season earned Partidas *Osceola News-Gazette Boys Tennis Player of the Year* honors.

Funny thing is, Partidas, who's English mastery is strong for someone who still charts his U.S. residency in months, says he didn't start taking the game seriously until about three years ago.

"I played soccer and swam seriously," he said. "My dad took our family to see the (Sony-Ericsson) professional tennis tournament in Miami in 2013 and I was hooked, I knew what I wanted to play seriously," he said. "My dad (Jose Partidas) was a serious tennis player and was my first real coach until I started working with Coach Holt."

In just a short time playing competitively, Partidas has developed a strong baseline game.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Celebration sophomore Angel Partidas poses with the District 4A-5 boys tennis championship trophy with Storm Coach Darren Holt. Partidas rolled through the season and the 4A-5 tournament, and also won his regional playoff match.

"Defense is my strength," he said. "I don't just go to the net. My matches can take up to two hours. Yes, it's a long time to play, but I don't mind it if I win and the team wins."

Holt said that Partidas had to come up big at the district tournament, despite four Storm players seeded No. 1, for the Storm to win the title.

See **Partidas**, Page 7.

BOYS TENNIS

Player of the Year:

Angel Partidas (CHS, Soph.)

All-county team:

Harmony: Chris Magnaye.

Gateway: Richard Molina, Erik Sousa.

Celebration: Alex Moutran, Sagar Shah, Jamal Scaggs.

St. Cloud: Blake Peele, Joshua Whiteacre.



St. Cloud needed big spring comeback to take back OBC All-Sports championship

By Ken Jackson
 Sports Editor

It was an exciting spring sports season, especially for St. Cloud.

The Bulldogs athletic program needed an epic comeback to pass rival Harmony and reclaim Orange Belt Conference All-Sports trophy for the first time since 2015.

Trailing the Longhorns, 82-74, coming out of the winter schedule, St. Cloud claimed OBC championships in girls track, boys weightlifting, tied Osceola in boys track and won girls tennis in an interesting tiebreaker that may have decided the standings.

Thanks to scoring 53.5 points in the spring, 12.5 more than Harmony, the Bulldogs finished the 2017-18 schedule with 127.5 points, nosing

out the Longhorns (125), who had won the All-Sports title eight of the past 10 years entering 2017-18.

After St. Cloud, Harmony and Celebration finished their girls tennis OBC schedules deadlocked at the top, school athletic directors agreed to draw school names out of a hat. On video, HHS AD John Wallauer drew St. Cloud — his alma mater — first, and Celebration second.

"I will never let John live this down, that he's the one who lost the All-Sports trophy to St. Cloud," St. Cloud AD Eric Godfrey said in jest this week.

(Upon further review of the math, if the three schools had been declared co-champions for the purpose of giving points and all received six points,

See **All-OBC**, Page 7.



NEWS-GAZETTE PHOTO/KEN JACKSON

St. Cloud High Athletic Director Eric Godfrey shows off the OBC All-Sports Trophy at the county athletic awards banquet May 14.



NEWS-GAZETTE PHOTO/KEN JACKSON

Tohopekaliga High School nears completion. The school will host Cypress Creek in its Aug. 17 Kickoff Classic; the football stadium is to the left of this photo.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD

The City of Kissimmee proposes to change the use of land for the area described in this advertisement by adopting an ordinance with the following title:

An ordinance amending Ordinance No. 2771 known as the Ordinance Adopting the Comprehensive Development Plan for the City of Kissimmee, Florida, under the authority of Florida Statute 163.3184; Directing the City Manager to amend the Comprehensive Land Use Plan as herein provided after the passage of this ordinance; Providing for a public hearing as required by law; Repealing all ordinances in conflict herewith; and Providing an effective date.

The Planning Advisory Board will hold a Public Hearing on this request, **Wednesday, June 20, 2018** at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as possible, in the Commission Chambers of City Hall, located on the first floor of City Hall, 101 Church Street, Kissimmee, Florida 34741. The purpose of this Public Hearing is to make a recommendation to the City Commission concerning the request to amend Ordinance No. 2771. The proposed Ordinance would amend by changing the land use classification for the area described below as follows:

FROM: REC (Recreational) – City

TO: INST (Institutional) – City

The subject property is located at Parcel ID#: **29-25-29-1970-0001-1210**

Legal Description:

PINEDALE PB A PG 026 LOTS 121 & 122 LYING SE OF RR R/W ORD #2470

PROPOSED ORDINANCE 18-03: Kissimmee Training Facility: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2771 KNOWN AS THE ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE CITY OF KISSIMMEE, FLORIDA, UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF FLORIDA STATUTE 163.3184; DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO AMEND THE COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN AS HEREIN PROVIDED AFTER THE PASSAGE OF THIS ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING AS REQUIRED BY LAW; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

All interested parties may appear and be heard on the above date. Written opinion will be received until 5:00. p.m., **Wednesday, June 20, 2018**. The proposed amendment and the supporting documents, including a parcel description, may be inspected in the Development Services Department, City Hall between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Any questions may be directed to the Development Services Department, at (407) 518-2140.

Reference # 18-00069
Kissimmee Training Facility

PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD
KISSIMMEE, FLORIDA

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

In accordance with Florida Statute 286.26, persons needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the Office of the City Clerk (407) 518-2308, prior to the meeting.



THE REEL DEAL

New St. Cloud Toho Marine and Outdoors location opens

Toho Marine and Outdoors in St. Cloud had a Grand Opening and ribbon cutting of their new store located off Canoe Creek Road on May 25. There was a great turn out of past and present customers, former Osceola County Sheriff Bob Hansell, professional anglers and St. Cloud Mayor

Nathan Blackwell. Owner Joe Clements hosted a great event that incorporated his annual "Bubba Fest". A live band entertained the guests and the store offered storewide discounts all day. The Osceola Anglers High School Fishing Club was there helping and raising money for their club.



CINDY JOINT
The Reel Deal

Stop in and check out their new store. It is almost like a mini Bass Pro Shops inside.

They are open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5:30 pm and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon.

There were 21 teams in the Toho Marine Lake Toho Wednesday Night Shootout on May 23. Over 184 pounds of bass crossed the scale and 12 teams landed a limit. Four places were paid out. First place honors went to Jared and Paul with their 19.56-pound sack that included the Denali Rods big fish of the night, a 6.89-pounder. They took home \$205 for first and an extra \$105 for the big fish. In second Place was the team of Charlie and Austin with 17.93 pounds for a \$100 payout. Third went to Joe and Jordan bringing 17.16 pounds to the scales and walked away with \$80. And the final cash spot went to Mark and Ernie with 16.91 pounds. They made their entry fees back.



NEWS-GAZETTE PHOTO/CINDY JOINT
Toho Marine and Outdoors owner Joe Clements, center, cuts the ribbon on the new store at the May 25 grand opening as St. Cloud Mayor Nathan Blackwell and other well wishers look on.

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

Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (1 Position) - 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 of facilitate affordable housing while protecting the ability of the property to appreciate in value.

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

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.

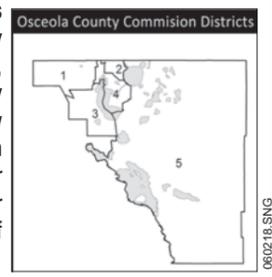
Value Adjustment Board (1 Position) - Citizen - Citizen who owns homestead property in the county. The Citizen must not be a member or employee of any taxing authority in this state; or a person who represents property owners, property appraisers, tax collectors, or taxing authorities in any administrative or judicial review of property taxes. The Citizen shall be appointed in a manner to avoid conflicts of interest or the appearance of conflicts of interest.

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.

BRIEFS

Top Gun hoops camp
The annual Top Gun Shooting Camp, at the St. Cloud High gym, is June 4-8 from 8 a.m.-noon for children in grades 4-12. Camp fee is \$100 and includes camp shirt, daily drinks and snacks. (Campers should bring their own water). Campers can stay until 1:30 p.m. (Overtime) and play full court games for \$40 more. Space is limited and only 30 overtime spots are available. For information email Chad.ansbaugh@osceolaschools.net.

COL Basketball Camp
City of Life Christian Academy Coach Ray Buggs, will host a Basketball Skills Development Camp, Jun 4-8 (1st-5th grades) and June 11-15 (6th-8th) from 8 a.m.-noon for \$75 per camper.



SPORTS

ALL-OBC

Continued from Page 5.

St. Cloud would have still finished ahead, 126.5-126, thanks to the boys track tie at the OBC championships.)

Osceola, which won the softball title in the fall and shared boys track, was third with 111.5 points. Celebration won OBC boys tennis and boys volleyball titles and was fourth with 100 points.

Gateway, the baseball champion, was fourth (62), followed by Poinciana (46) and Liberty (39).

Here are the All-OBC spring teams, as voted on by coaches:

Baseball — Osceola: Diego Arroyo, J.P. Clement, Hamilton Martinez, Frankie Santaniello. **Celebration:** Justice Candelario, Joseph Martin. **Gateway:** Melvin Cotto, Wyatt Pascual, Emile Perez. **Harmony:** Nick Evans, Jackson Sibbitt. **St. Cloud:** Darren Friedman, Alex Hernandez, Ty Hoyle. **Liberty:** Zach Tayes. **Coach of the Year:** Jim Moran (GHS).

Softball — Osceola: Natalia Ferrer, Shelby Jones, Leyla Laboy, Maria Nunez, Lianne Santiago, Audra Thompson. **St. Cloud:** Ariana Manzanares, Taylor McFann, Amy McNabb, Alyssa O'Donnell, Morgan Watral. **Liberty:** Morgan Bates, Serena Ramos, Michelle Santiago. **Harmony:** Gracie Justesen. **Coach of the Year:** Ron Styron (GHS).

Girls Tennis — St. Cloud: Jeanne Gearity, Samantha Singleton. **Celebration:** Beatrice Coehlo, Daniela Torres. **Harmony:** Mary Jacobson, Jacqueline Ryals, Tanea

“I will never let John (Wallauer) live this down that he’s the one who lost the All-Sports trophy to St. Cloud.”

— ERIC GODFREY

Spurill. **Gateway:** Sabrina Rodriguez. **Coach of the Year:** Jessica Pociask (HHS).

Boys Tennis — Celebration: Alex Moutran, Angel Partidas, Jamal Scaggs. **Harmony:** Chris Magnay. **Gateway:** Richard Molina, Erik Sousa. **St. Cloud:** Blake Peele, Joshua Whiteacre. **Coach of the Year:** Darren Holt (CHS).

Flag Football — Harmony: Brooke Barber, Bryn Hudson, Adrianna Rodriguez, Taitiyana Taylor. **St. Cloud:** Rakela Cummings, Jada Nieves, Elise Schmidt. **Celebration:** Selena Rivera, Gabby Suarez. **Osceola:** Alex Dodenhoff, Taylor Stalley. **Poinciana:** Kayla Russell, Randa Smichi. **Liberty:** Mya Faneitty, Kaylin Moran. **Coach of the Year:** Ryans Calmont (PHS).

SCHEDULES

Continued from Page 5.

having just one, Liberty, last year.

So Poinciana will open 2018 at Celebration on Aug. 24, then play at home the following two Fridays against Mulberry and Liberty in the annual “Battle of the Boulevard,” a game the Eagles have not won since Liberty opened in 2007.

The rest of the county programs, who would be swapping home and away games with the teams on their 2017 schedules anyway, had to make subtle changes to their schedules to accommodate their games with Tohopekaliga. Osceola

and Gateway, the two teams not playing THS, have the same original schedule as last year.

Here are the 2018 football schedule changes for the county’s other programs:

St. Cloud: The Bulldogs’ bye week moves from the last week of the season to the first, so now the regular season begins Aug. 31 at Tom Gannarelli Field against Osceola in the 95th installment of their rivalry. The THS game on Oct. 19 replaces Barron Collier — so St. Cloud won’t get to re-greet former Bulldogs Coach

Mark Jackson — and the regular season now ends Nov. 1 against Discovery in a rare Wednesday game.

Harmony: The Longhorns host the Tigers on Sept. 7 in what was a Week 3 bye. The open week is now at the end, replacing what would have been a home game against Bradenton Southeast.

Liberty: The Chargers schedule changes little from the finished 2017 product modified for

Irma. Instead of playing Melbourne Central Catholic on Sept. 28, they play Toho.

Celebration: Home games to open the season against Poinciana (Aug. 24) and Freedom (Aug. 31) opener replace those with Sarasota and Lakeland Christian. The Storm play Toho on Sept. 14, and their bye week is now at the end of the year.

The first day of fall football practice is July 30.

PARTIDAS

Continued from Page 5.

“It was an interesting two days at districts. Our No. 1 went down in his first match, so it quickly went from us having a strong shot at first easily to a tight game between us and Lakeland,” Holt said. “(Angel) pulled out an exciting third set tie break win to win a medal and our team got behind and supported Osceola and George Jenkins who were also both playing crucial matches to help us tie with Lakeland. We just had to win one of the two boys doubles finals to win district. As it happens we won both doubles.

“On top of having a solid

record of wins through out season, he remained mentally strong in his final match at districts and also in the semifinals at Regionals.”

The summer and fall won’t be an offseason for Partidas, he said. He’s working hard on developing a stronger service and will be playing in USTA Juniors events, including a few “home games” at the new USTA Tennis Center in Lake Nona.

“But I can’t wait for spring, for our season to start again,” he said. “I’m really excited, because I think we can make it farther than regionals.”

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ORDINANCE NO. 2018-24

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of St. Cloud, Florida, at a meeting to be held on June 14, 2018, in their Chamber at City Hall, 1300 9th Street, St. Cloud, Florida at 6:30 p.m., will consider enactment of Ordinance No. 2018-24 entitled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ST. CLOUD, FLORIDA, TO ANNEX INTO THE CITY OF ST. CLOUD APPROXIMATELY 44.56 ACRES IDENTIFIED AS THOMPSON GROVE, LOCATED EAST OF HICKORY TREE ROAD, SOUTH OF E. IRLO BRONSON MEMORIAL HIGHWAY, WEST OF LIVE OAK LAKE ROAD, AND NORTH OF LIVE OAK LAKE; 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. The complete legal description by metes and bounds and the ORDINANCE in its entirety can be reviewed at the City Clerk’s office between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. and between 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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

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

Linda P. Jaworski, City Clerk
 1300 9th Street, St. Cloud, Florida 34769
 407-957-7300

PUBLIC NOTICE / CITY OF KISSIMMEE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF PROPOSED 2018-2019 ACTION PLAN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2018-2019 ACTION PLAN

For Program Year PY 2018 (October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019), the City of Kissimmee expects to receive \$670,003 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. Funds may be used for eligible activities, such as housing rehabilitation, land acquisition, public services, public facilities and improvements, or demolition and clearance. In addition, Osceola County and the City of Kissimmee developed a joint Five-Year (2015-2019) Consolidated Plan for the Osceola County HOME Consortium which included a Strategic Plan to identify housing and community development needs and to develop priorities and strategies for meeting those needs. This notice provides a summary of the activities proposed in the PY 2018 CDBG Action Plan to address the Strategic Plan needs and strategies and gives the location for reviewing the PY 2018 CDBG Action Plan.

The purpose of the City’s CDBG Program is the development of viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low/moderate income.

The following activities are proposed to be undertaken by the City of Kissimmee for the PY 2018 CDBG Program. Project amounts are approximates and may change.

Community Based Development Organization - Project OPEN – Community Vision	\$120,540
Code Enforcement - Comprehensive code enforcement in the CDBG Target Area	\$ 76,120
Public Services	
Osceola Council on Aging - Building Strong Families	\$ 5,505
Community Hope Center - Chronic Homeless Outreach Initiative	\$ 60,000
Kissimmee Parks and Recreation - Dream Builders Summer Camp	\$ 28,875
Planning / Administration	\$134,000
Public Works/Infrastructure – Hudson Street Improvements	\$150,000
Owner Occupied Rehabilitation Program	\$ 94,963
TOTAL:	\$670,003

No permanent displacement of persons as a result of CDBG-funded activities is anticipated. Should displacement occur, assistance will be provided pursuant to 24 CFR 570.606.

Copies of the City of Kissimmee Program Year 2018-2019 CDBG Action Plan will be available at City Hall, Development Services Department, 101 Church Street, Kissimmee, FL 34741 as of June 4, 2018. All citizens are invited and encouraged to make oral or written comments beginning June 2, 2018 through July 3, 2018 and to attend the public hearing on July 17, 2018 at the City of Kissimmee City Commission Meeting.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH FLORIDA STATUTE 286.26, PERSONS NEEDING ASSISTANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY OF THESE PROCEEDINGS SHOULD CONTACT THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK, 101 CHURCH STREET, KISSIMMEE, FL 34741 AT (407)518-2309 AT LEAST 48 HOURS PRIOR TO MEETING.

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KISSIMMEE SPOTLIGHT

Newsletter of the Kissimmee Chamber of Commerce
kissimmeechamber.com

CHAMBER of Commerce
KISSIMMEE/OSCEOLA COUNTY

KISSIMMEE/OSCEOLA COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
CHAMPIONS FOR BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY
2017 Chamber of the Year

- ✓ CREATING OPPORTUNITY
- ✓ EMBRACING HERITAGE
- ✓ BUILDING UNITY

CHAMBER of Commerce
KISSIMMEE/OSCEOLA COUNTY

FACP
Florida Association of Chamber Professionals

Congratulations Cindy Lewis!!!

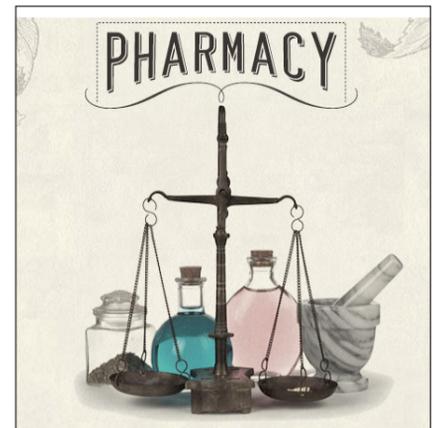
The Florida Association of Chamber Professionals has awarded Cindy Lewis as the **2017 Professional of the Year** for her outstanding and extraordinary performance. Cindy has served our Chamber for almost three decades. She will celebrate 29 years in October.



THE DAILY PLANNER

Weekly and Monthly Events

Pharmacy Orlando is hosting Charlie Chaplin Night, tonight. Get ready for a fun event celebrating the 1920s. Pharmacy will pay homage to Charlie Chaplin with casino-style games and delicious cocktails. The ticket price includes access to the special fete, a cup of "A Day Not Wasted" punch, plus gaming chips to take a chance at poker or craps to win Pharmacy prizes. In the spirit of Charlie Chaplin's silent movies, Pharmacy invites guests to wear white if you are a lady and black if you are a gentleman. Remember Chaplin once said "A day without laughter is a day wasted," so don't waste your Saturday. For more information, search "Charlie Chaplin Night" on Eventbrite.



WHO Ages 21 and up | **WHAT** Charlie Chaplin Night
WHEN Sat., June 2, 7-10 p.m. | **COST** Tickets are \$25
WHERE 8060 Via Dellagio Way Suite 106 in Orlando

DAILY SATURDAY 06-02

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS EXPO

The Hurricane Preparedness Expo will run 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Home Depot of St. Cloud's parking lot: 4560 13th Street in St. Cloud. The event is kid friendly, with bounce houses and a children's workshop. Vendors include the Osceola Emergency Management Services, Osceola County Animal Control, One Blood, St. Cloud Police Department, St. Cloud Fire Department and more.

HURRICANE PARTY

The 12th annual Hurricane Party is happening today in Historic Downtown Sanford. Five stages with live music by The Supervillains, Josh Heinrichs (full band), Thomas Wynn & The Believers and many more. Noon to 2 a.m. Tickets are \$20 at the venue: 202 S. Sanford Ave. Visit DRINKATWESTEND.COM

RELIVE THE 2000s PUB CRAWL

Relive the 2000s at the Downtown Orlando 2000s Pub Crawl. Anything and everything will be from the 2000s, even the music. The crawl includes The Patio, Shots, Chillers and more, ending with a block party on Wall Street Plaza. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 day of. Advanced tickets can be purchased on Eventbrite.

FAMILY SUMMER SATURDAYS

Family Summer Saturdays at Maitland's Art & History Center, every other Saturday in June and July. On June 2, explore land art with urban eco-artists, and add your own lasting elements to the projects using concrete. You can also create handmade prints, using nature and earth for inspiration and impressions. Families of all ages invited. 10 a.m. to noon.

SCIENCE NIGHT LIVE

Assemble your crew and prepare for an epic evening out at Orlando Science Center's popular adults-only event, Science Night Live. Guests 21 or older are invited to unmask their superpowers and unleash their inner child at this unique and ever-changing experience that proves there's no age limit on curiosity. Tickets are \$16 each and limited.

SILVER SPURS RODEO

Today is the last day of the Silver Spurs Rodeo. Osceola Heritage Park's Silver Spurs Arena in Kissimmee. The rodeo starts at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 per adult and kids 10 and under are free. For more information and to purchase tickets visit SILVERSPURSORODEO.COM

SPLASH INTO SUMMER

Splash into Summer — a family fun event, presented by the City of Winter Park. The event runs noon to 5 p.m. at Cady Way and Community Center Pools.

MONDAY

06-04

POWERUP YOUR STARTUP OR NEW BUSINESS WORKSHOP

The CashNLearn Free June enrollment to the PowerUp Your StartUp or New Business Workshop is now open. CNL is committed to helping small businesses and entrepreneurs create robust, successful businesses. The Free 10 session workshop is an interactive, live teleconference so you can join us from the comfort of your own home. The sessions start on June 4 and run on select dates through June 19. All sessions are 7-8 p.m. Join us today and claim your spot at CASHNLEARN.COM. Limited space is available.

WEDNESDAY

06-06

ARTISTS CRITIQUE AND CONVERSATION

Artists Critique and Conversation at Maitland's Art and History Museum. Selected artists will receive constructive comments from artist, professor and mentor Lilian Garcia-Roig — whose works are included the Enchanted Florida exhibition in Maitland Art Center — will give a talk about her acclaimed body of work, plein air techniques and more. The talk begins at 6 p.m., with the Critique at 7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Cash bar.

BOK TOWER GARDENS

Bok Tower Gardens is welcoming four-legged friends to visit the gardens through Aug. 31. Admission for dogs is \$5 per animal. All dogs must remain on a leash during their visit and are not permitted in certain areas. Family Memberships and above include free admission for dogs.

FRIDAY

06-08

SHERLOCK HOLMES MUSICAL

Valencia College Theater presents "My Dear Watson," an original Sherlock Holmes musical written by Orlando area composer Jami-Leigh Bartschi. The Central Florida original play set in the late 1800s explores the relationship between John Watson, Professor Moriarty and the iconic consulting detective Sherlock Holmes. Performances on June 8, 9, 11, 15 & 16 at 7:30 p.m., and June 10 & 17 at 2 p.m.

SATURDAY

06-09

BOK TOWER'S SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Violinist Ashley Liberty and pianist Daniel Strange will perform an entire program of smokin' fast, exciting, foot-stomping music in their show 'Hot Fiddle,' in part of Bok Tower's summer concert series. For tickets visit BOKTOWERGARDENS.ORG

PRIDEFEST KISSIMMEE

City of Kissimmee and The Center Orlando will host PrideFest Kissimmee at Kissimmee Lakefront Park beginning at noon. This event that seeks to unite the community, will feature live music and entertainment, food trucks, a variety of vendors, the KUA Kids Zone, and advocacy and support organizations. The event is free and open to the public.

CONTACT

BRIAN MCBRIDE EDITOR

EMAIL BMCBRIDE@OSCEOLANEWSGAZETTE.COM

THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR A SUBMISSION.

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.

Hello my name is
CHAMBER of Commerce
KISSIMMEE/OSCEOLA COUNTY

New Member Orientation

Thursday, June 28, 2018
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Kissimmee Chamber Board Room
1425 E. Vine Street
Kissimmee, FL 34744

I've joined the Chamber...now what do I do??

Learn all about your valuable benefits of being a Chamber member including ChamberMaster, Leads Groups, Ambassadors, Councils, Networking Opportunities, Educational Events, Public Affairs and Economic Development

Please register on line at www.kissimmeechamber.com

Kissimmee/Osceola County Chamber of Commerce
www.kissimmeechamber.com

OSCEOLA HOB NOB 2018
JULY 19, 2018 5:30PM - 8:00PM
OSCEOLA HERITAGE PARK
Exhibition Hall A

Ticket Information

\$20 in advance \$25 at the door

Sponsored By:

Partners:

To register, visit www.kissimmeechamber.com/events, or contact Belinda Olivera at (407) 847-4434 or events@kissimmeechamber.com.

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New Members
A Place for Grace Campaign For Daniel Villazon
Osceola County Judge Crosby & Associates, Inc.
La Rosa Realty-Amel Bushaala
Martin Law Group, P.L.
Nature's Place Therapy & Learning Institute
Penta Linguae LLC
Qwerty Contractors
Rental Depot of Florida, LLC
Sage Park of Osceola
The Kidney Awareness Society
Troy University

Master Certified Technician
 Master Technician

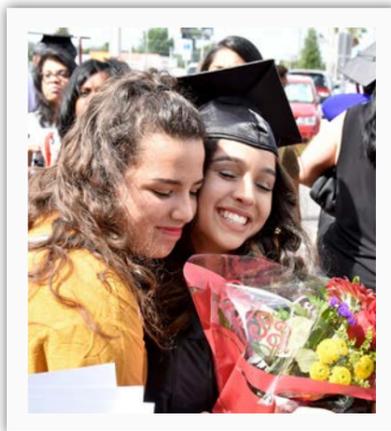
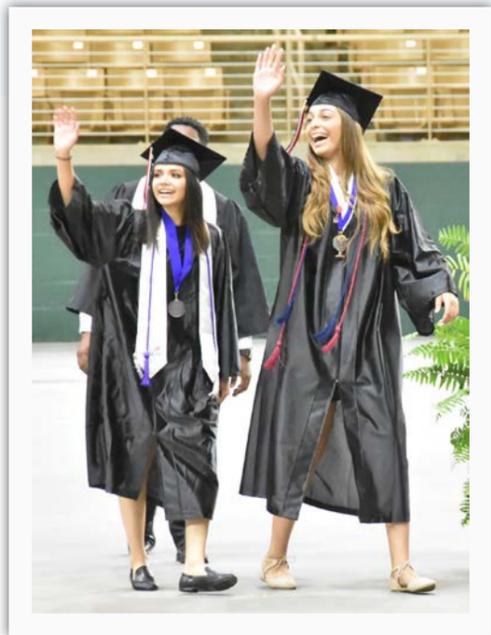
OSCEOLA NEWS-GAZETTE

congratulates the

CLASS OF 2018



Hello graduates! You had an amazing journey throughout the Osceola County School District and your hard work and dedication has paid off. You have made your family members, teachers and peers proud of what you have achieved. Now, as you prepare to walk a new path in life, there is no limit in what you can accomplish. We wish you all the luck in your bright futures. Congratulations class of 2018!



Photos by Martin Maddock

CONGRATULATIONS

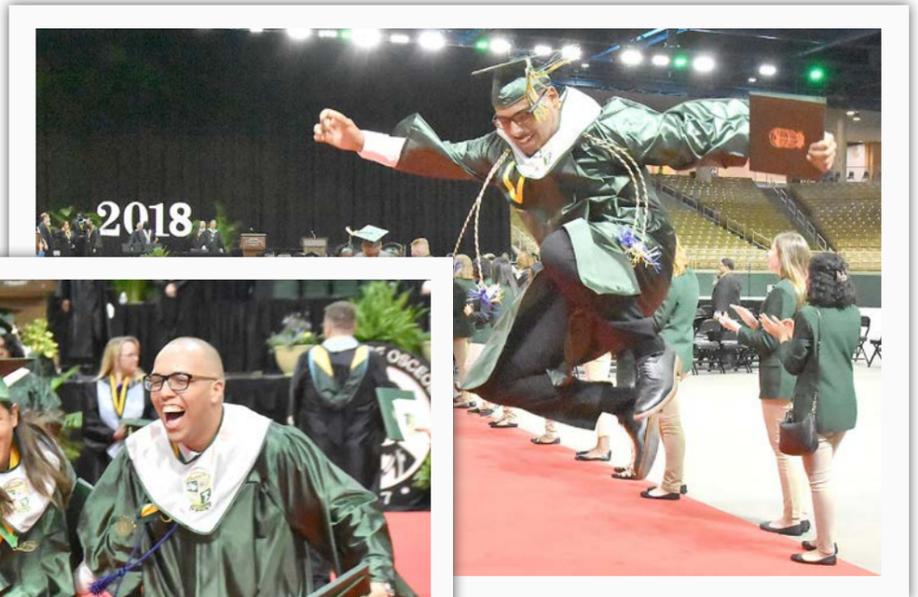
Osceola County Class 2018

Choose from a variety of diploma, associate and bachelor's degree programs, and see why FTC has been the choice of people like you since 1982.

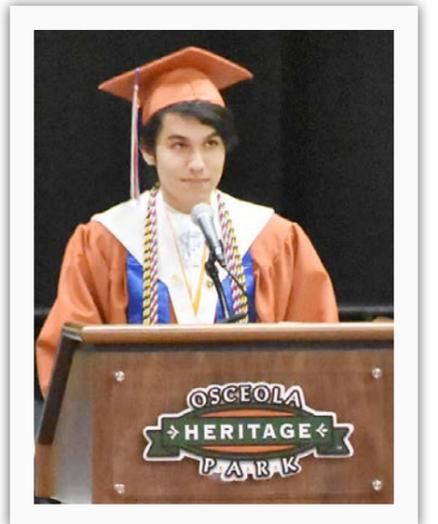
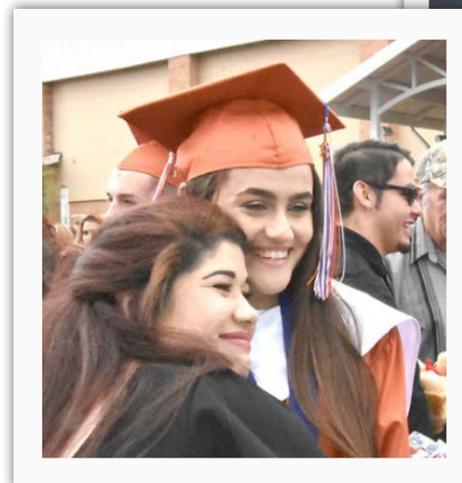
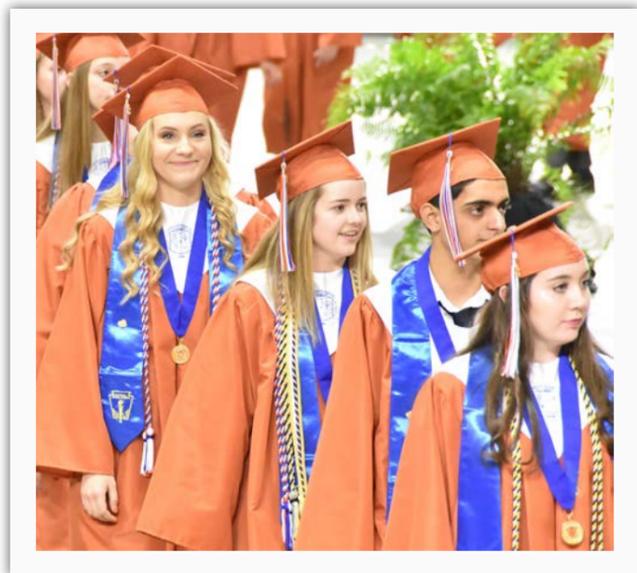
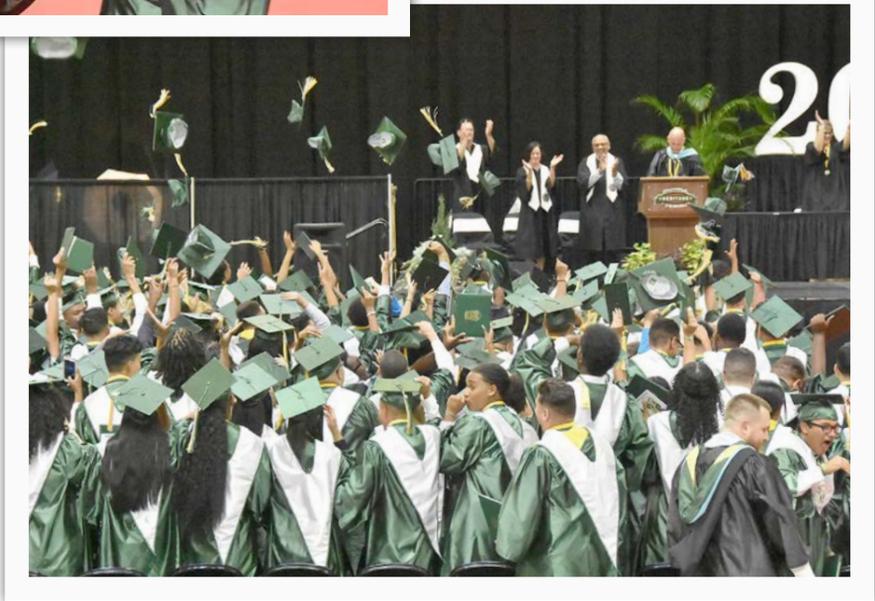
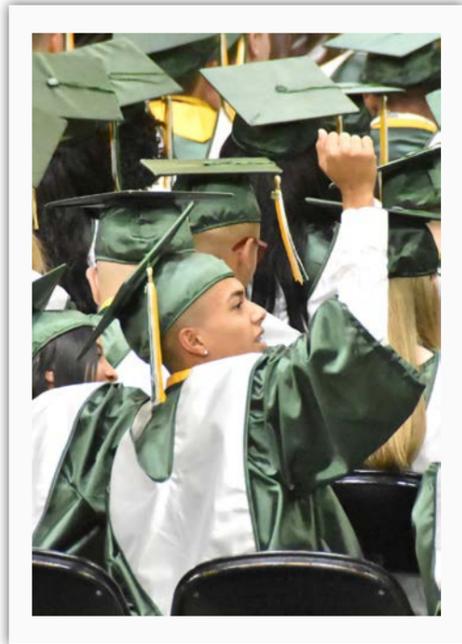
Visit ftccollege.edu
or call (407) 955-5244

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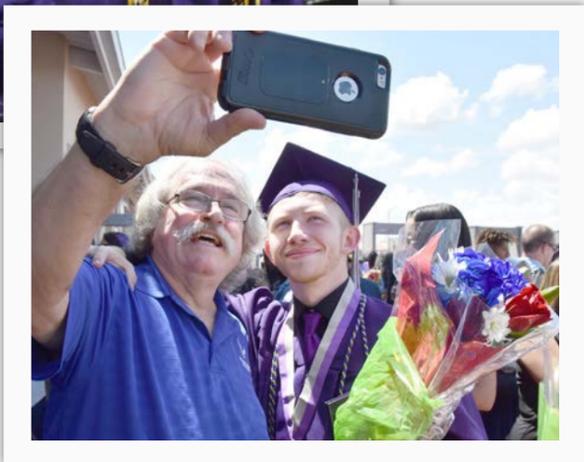
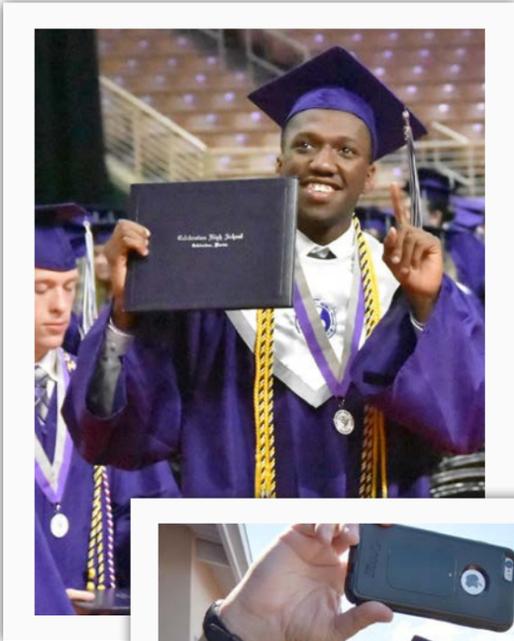
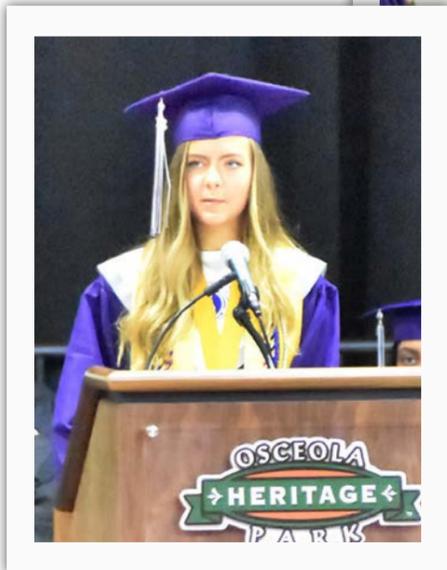
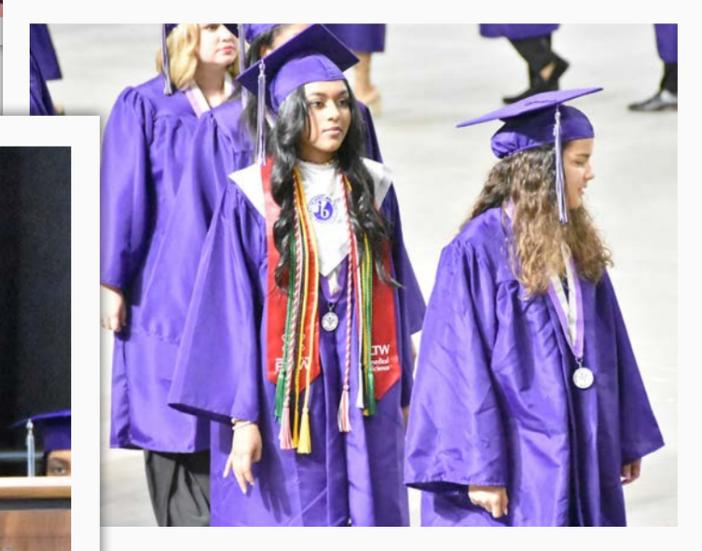
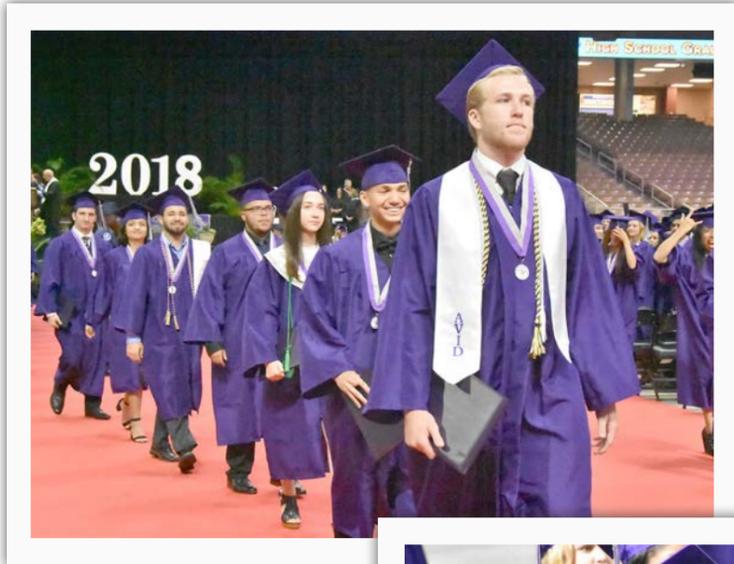




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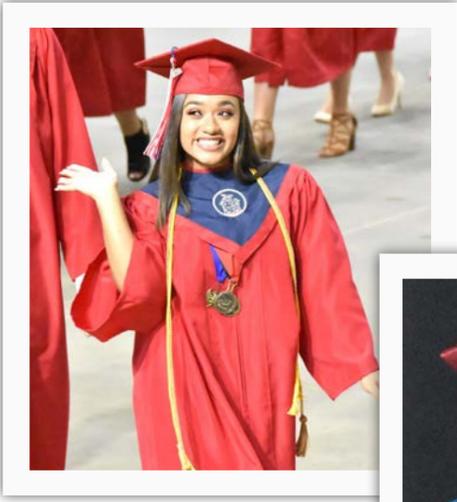
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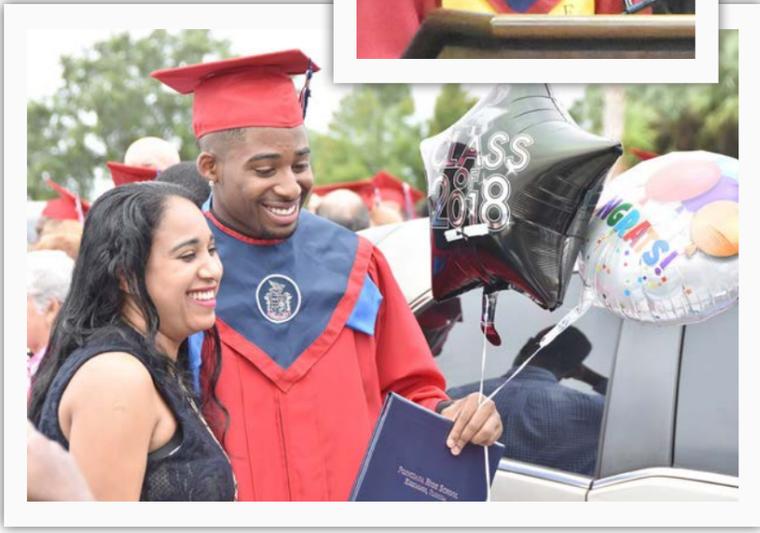
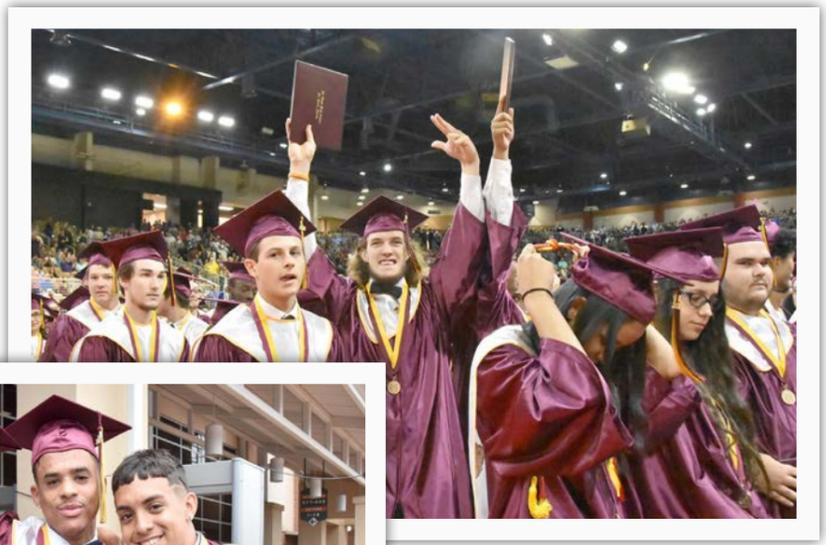
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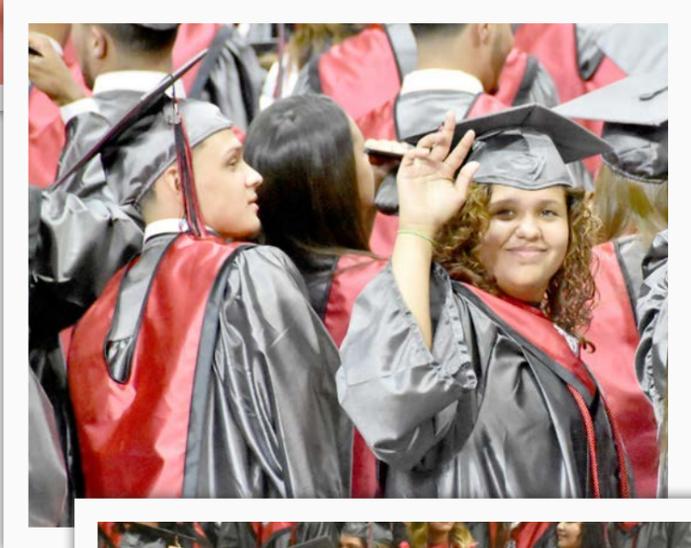
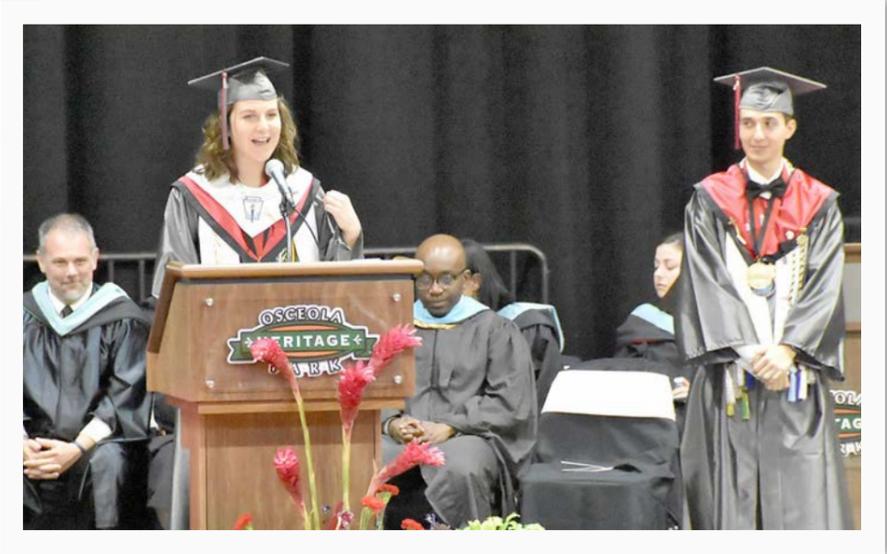
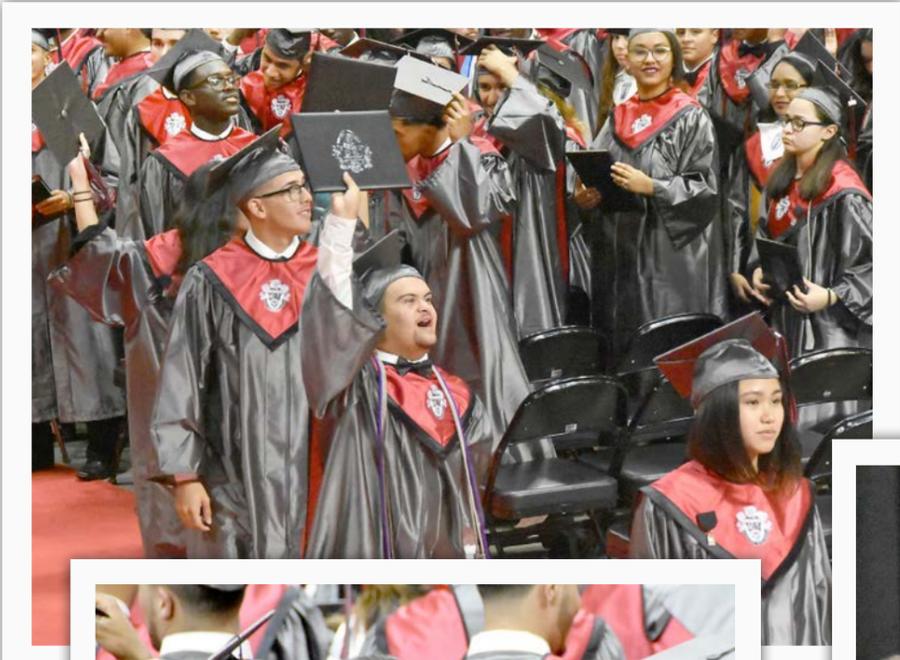
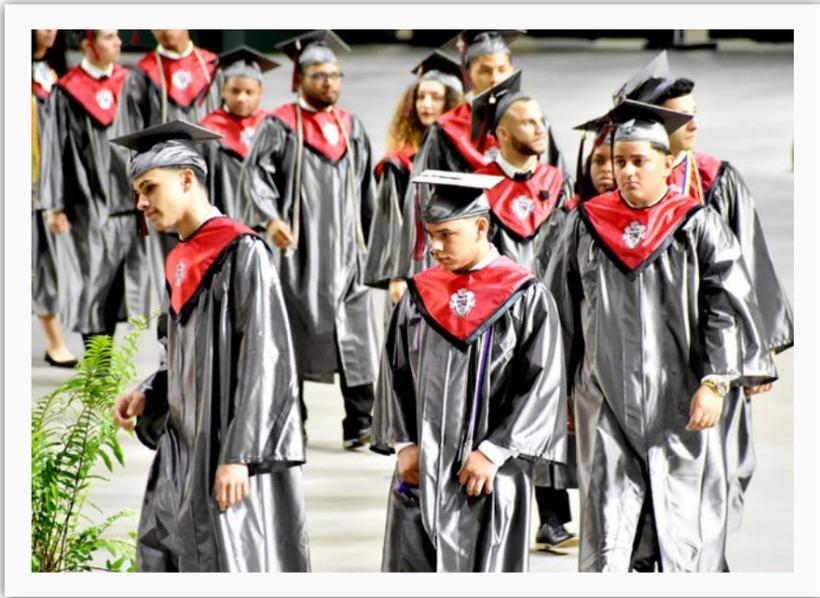


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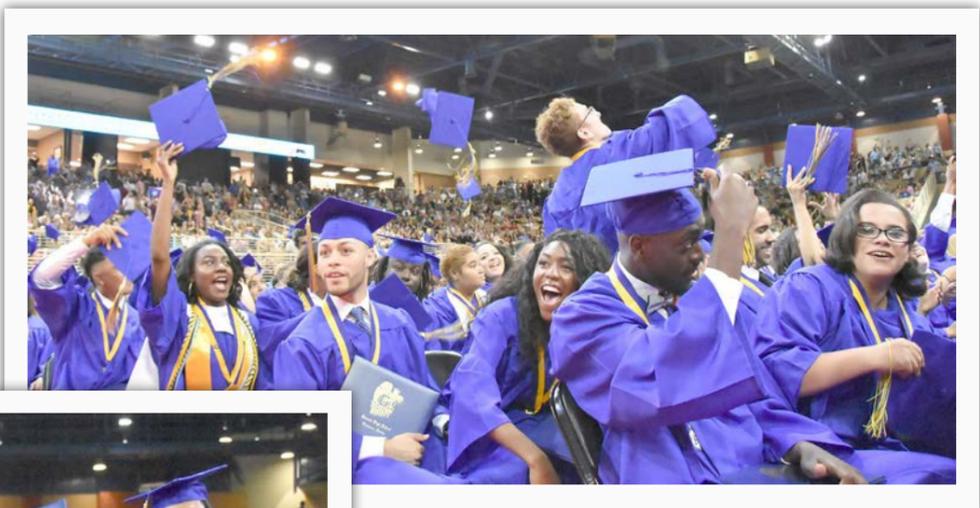
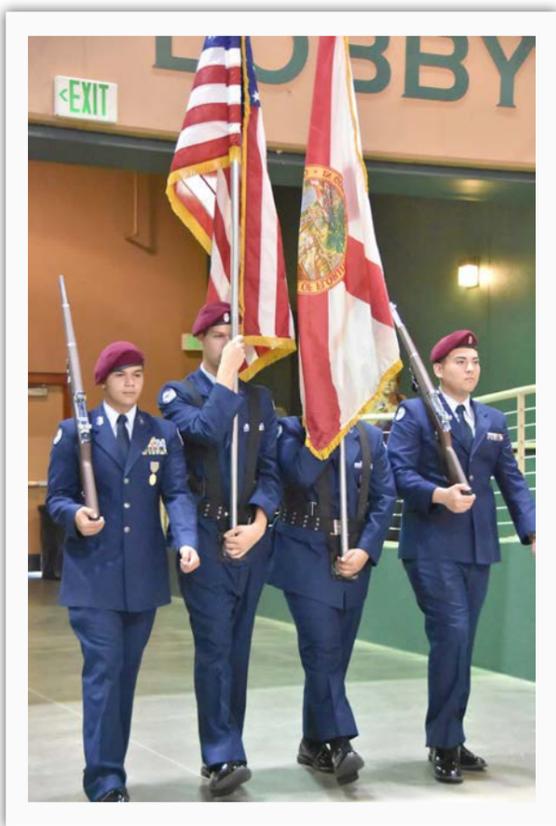
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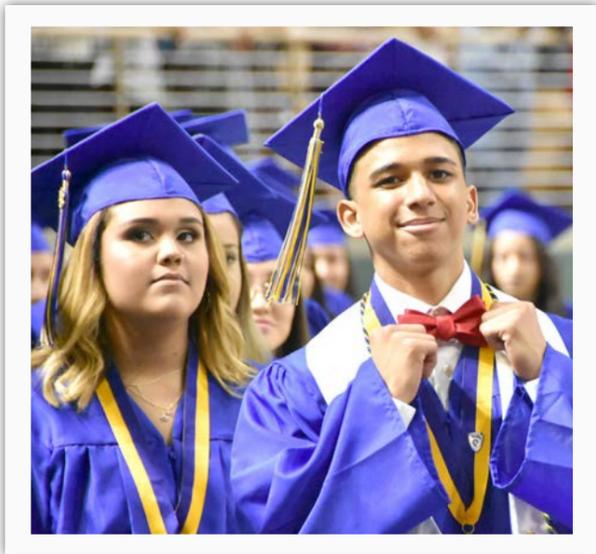
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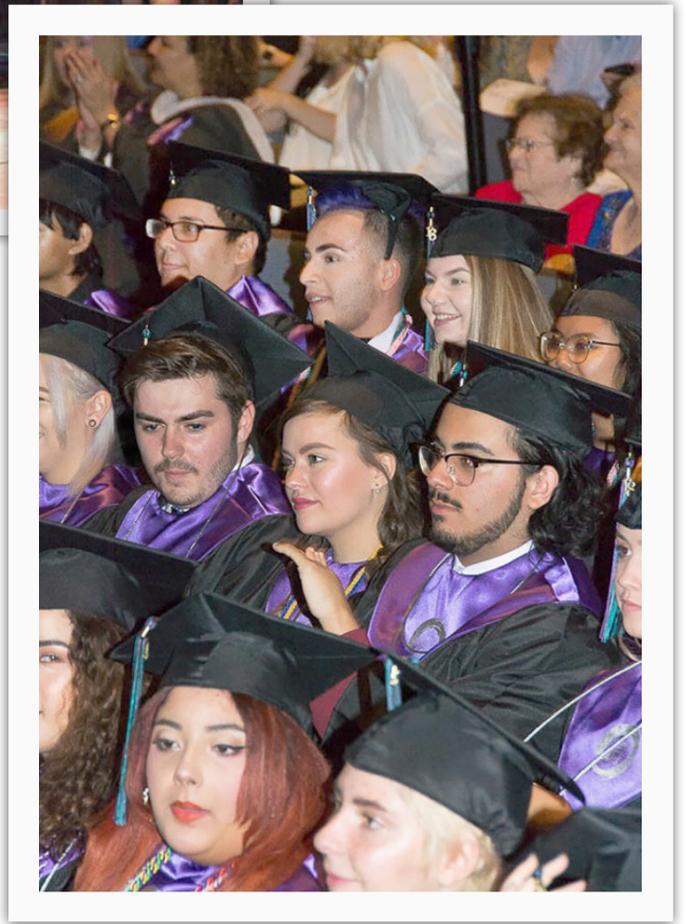
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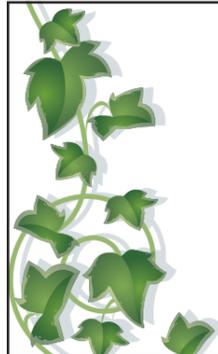
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Manufacturer Photos

New 2018 Autobahn Trim



The car that defined the term hot hatch embodies a classic formula: refinement, style, power, and playful performance. In 2018 the Golf GTI returns with a host of enhancements that continue the tradition of affordable performance it has built since its U.S. debut in 1983. The 2018 Golf GTI is available in three trims: S, SE and Autobahn.

By Frank A. Aukofer
Motor Matters

As the granddaddy of the hot hatch movement, the Volkswagen Golf GTI has tracked steadily in the fast lane for nearly 40 years, and now drifts toward luxury with the new GTI Autobahn model.

As before, this compact four-door delivers attainable high performance with sports-car handling, comfortable accommodations for four adults, the practicality of a hatchback, generous cargo space and the a choice of a manual gearbox or dual-clutch automatic transmission.

A two-door model no longer is available and the previous Sport version also has vanished. The 2018 GTI comes in three trims: S at \$27,265, SE at \$31,320 and the tested Autobahn model with the six-speed twin-clutch gearbox at \$37,020. A six-speed manual gearbox is standard on all GTIs with the automatic costing \$1,100 extra.

All Volkswagen GTI models are powered by a 220-horsepower, turbocharged 2.0-liter four cylinder engine that delivers 258 lb.-ft. of torque, or low-rev twisting force. Torque, enhanced by the turbocharger, is what gives the GTI a powerful surge off the line.

Order the mid-level GTI SE trim and the headlights also are LEDs. A motorized tilt-and-slide sunroof, pushbutton starting, HD and SXM satellite radio, more powerful brakes, limited-slip differential, blind-spot and rear cross-traffic monitoring, and automatic emergency braking also are included.

The top-line Autobahn adds adaptive shock absorbers, leather upholstery, dual-zone climate control, navigation, adaptive cruise control, lane-keeping assist, Fender premium audio system, electronic parking assist, automatic headlight high beams and electronic parking assist.

The tested GTI Autobahn gets an enthusiast's juices flowing with a low-restriction exhaust system that sends a

musical of growling sounds into the passenger pod.

There are two driving modes: Drive and Sport. In the Drive setting, there's some hesitation off the line as the turbo spools up. That goes away in the Sport mode, which delivers instant throttle response.

The dual-clutch transmission actually is a combination of two separate transmissions, one for odd-numbered gears and the other for the even-numbered gears, so shifts happen in milliseconds as the clutches close and open.

As with other dual-clutch gearboxes, the GTI's can be driven automatically or manually with paddles mounted on the steering wheel. Though it's possible with some effort to confuse it, the onboard computer uncannily predicts whether the driver will shift up or down.

Inside, the GTI Autobahn exhibits quality materials and workmanship, comprehensive instruments and comfortable, well-bolstered seats for spirited driving. Though there are seatbelts for five, the center-rear position is mostly useless because of a high, hard cushion, floor hump and console intrusion that leaves no foot space.

There's 17 cubic feet of space for cargo behind the rear seatback. The seatbacks fold nearly flat to expand the cargo area to 54 cubic feet. A temporary spare tire nestles beneath the cargo floor—a plus in an era when many cars have abandoned spares in favor of sealants and air pumps, which would not be of any help in the event of a blowout.

The Golf's predecessor was the charming and ubiquitous Beetle, which essentially was a single model in hard top and convertible trim. Now the Golf offers a range of models from base economy to hot performance.



SPECIFICATIONS 2018 VOLKSWAGEN GOLF GTI AUTOBAHN

VEHICLE TYPE
5-passenger FWD compact hatchback

BASE PRICE
\$37,020 (as tested: \$37,020)

ENGINE TYPE
16-valve turbocharged 4-cylinder w/TSI

DISPLACEMENT 2.0-liter

HORSEPOWER (net)
220 at 4700 rpm

TORQUE (lb.-ft.)
258 at 1500 rpm

TRANSMISSION
6-speed twin-clutch automatic

OVERALL LENGTH
168.0 in.

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

CURB WEIGHT 3,128 lbs.

FUEL CAPACITY 13.2 gal.

EPA MILEAGE RATING
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kissimmee.org

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Osceola County Human Services will begin accepting applications and pre-screening applicants for this affordable housing property on Friday, June 15th, 2018 beginning at 8:30 a.m. at 320 N. Beaumont Avenue, Kissimmee, FL 34741. Preferences will be given in the following order:

- Osceola County resident (1) year minimum (documentation required) and
- Families with children living in hotels on 192, **MUST bring the original flyer as verification** from The Osceola County School District Families in Transition Program (FIT) or
- Families with children, living in hotels on 192, with documentation of their hotel tenancy or
- Individuals living in hotels on 192, with documentation of their hotel tenancy or
- Transitional Housing families with referrals from Community Hope Center, Help Now, or HOME or
- Individuals /families who meet the definition of HUD Homelessness, with a referral from Homeless Services Network

Pre-screening applications will be distributed on a first come, first served basis. Submittal of an application does not guarantee approval of a unit. HUD maximum income for family size will apply:

Household Size	Max Household Income	Household Size	Max Household Income
1	\$35,800	5	\$55,200
2	\$40,900	6	\$59,300
3	\$46,000	7	\$63,400
4	\$51,100	8	\$67,500

Please contact Osceola County Human Services at 407-742-8598 for any questions.

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OBITUARIES
In Memoriam

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

STOVER -Helen Marie Stover, 92, was born in Greenville, PA. on May 28, 1925 to Robert and Ella Mathay. She moved to Kissimmee in 1971. She was a member of Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, V.F.W., and the American Legion. She worked as a secretary for many years from an investment corporation in Butler, PA. She worked with USO and sang on the radio for the soldiers. She married Raymond Stover, later they moved to Miami, FL. and had two children: Raymond Jr. and Michele Stover. Michele married to Charles Lindquist. She has two grandchildren, Charles Jr. and Kristina Lundquist. Inurnment will be held in Bushnell at Florida National Cemetery.



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Los Servicios Humanos del Condado de Osceola comenzarán a aceptar solicitudes y candidatos para la evaluación previa de esta propiedad de viviendas asequibles el viernes 15 de junio de 2018 a partir de las 8:30 a.m. en 320 N. Beaumont Avenue, Kissimmee, FL 34741. Las preferencias se darán en los siguientes orden:

- Mínimo (1) años del residente del Condado de Osceola (se requiere documentación) y
- Las familias con niños que viven en hoteles en 192, DEBEN traer el folleto original como verificación del Programa de Familias en Transición (FIT) del Distrito Escolar del Condado Osceola
- Familias con niños, que viven en hoteles en 192, con documentación de la tenencia de su hotel
- Personas que viven en hoteles en 192, con documentación de la tenencia de su hotel
- Familias de vivienda de transición con referencias de Community Hope Center, Help Now o HOME
- Individuos / familias que cumplen con la definición de HUD sin hogar, con una referencia de Homeless Services Network

Las aplicaciones de evaluación previa se distribuirán por orden de llegada. La presentación de una solicitud no garantiza la aprobación de una unidad. Se aplicará el ingreso máximo de HUD para el tamaño de la familia:

Tamaño del hogar	Ingresos máximos del hogar	Tamaño del hogar	Ingresos máximos del hogar
1	\$35,800	5	\$55,200
2	\$40,900	6	\$59,300
3	\$46,000	7	\$63,400
4	\$51,100	8	\$67,500

Comuníquese con Servicios Humanos del Condado de Osceola al 407-742-8598 si tiene alguna pregunta.

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Realtors midyear forecast: Home sales, prices to rise



A stronger economy, wage growth and an improving job market are expected to march home sales and prices higher in 2018, but low supply and weakening affordability will temper the rate of increases, according to speakers at a residential real estate forum during the 2018 Realtors Legislative Meetings & Trade Expo.

Lawrence Yun, chief economist of the National Association of Realtors, presented his 2018 midyear forecast and said despite headwinds a moderate and multiyear increase in home sales is likely ahead. After accelerating 3.8 percent in 2016, existing home sales rose only 1.1 percent to 5.5 million in 2017 and are forecast to finish 2018 at a pace of around 5.6 million (up 1.8 percent). He projects 5.7 million sales for 2019. "Overall fundamentals remain solid, driven by a growing economy and steady job creation, which will sustain home sales in 2018 slightly above last year's pace," said Yun. "The worsening housing shortage means home prices are primed to rise further this year too, hindering affordability conditions for homebuyers in markets across the country."

Yun said the widespread shortage of homes for sale is the major factor limiting sales from being higher. While home sales have risen modestly since the start of the year, Yun said without more supply to fully satisfy demand and alleviate the upward pressure on prices, contract activity is likely to remain flat and will more or less continue sideways through the end of the year.

Total housing inventory at the end of March was 1.67 million existing homes available for sale, which is 7.2 percent lower than a year ago (1.80 million). Inventory has trended

down steadily for the past five years, said Yun, and the country is now experiencing the lowest inventory levels in a generation; unsold inventory is at a 3.6-month supply at the current sales pace, down from 3.8 months a year ago.

Home price growth, up 48 percent from 2011 to 2017 and likely to rise an additional 4 percent in 2018, is far outpacing income growth, up only 15 percent during the same timeframe. Increased home prices on top of rising mortgage rates – Yun anticipates rates will rise to 4.6 percent in 2018 and 5 percent in 2019 – puts affordability at a six-year low, according to NAR's Housing Affordability Index, and will likely continue to fall in coming months.

"Challenging affordability conditions have prevented a meaningful rise in the homeownership rate after having fallen to a 50-year low a few years ago," said Yun. "To increase homeownership, more home construction is needed, which could be boosted by delivering regulatory relief to community banks, removing the lumber tariff, re-examining stringent zoning laws and training more workers for the construction industry."

Yun said consumer optimism that now is a good time to buy a home has fallen the past two years, according to data from NAR and other industry consumer sentiment surveys. While the lack of supply and challenging affordability conditions is chipping away at homebuyer optimism, Hale said buyers aren't giving up their dreams of purchasing a home.

"Buyers know it's tough, 35 percent of shoppers anticipate a lot of competition, but they remain optimistic, and more than 70 percent expect to close in 2018," she said.

5 tips for financing the next home improvement project

(BPT) - Whether it's transforming a fixer-upper into your dream home or just giving a makeover to your kitchen or bathroom, home improvement projects are on the minds of many new homeowners across the country.

While many things about renovating your home are flexible, your budget might not be. In general, not a single floorboard is laid, or a new countertop installed without money, which is why every home renovation project should begin with careful financial planning.

To help homeowners with their renovation projects, Marcus by Goldman Sachs is working with home renovation expert, JoJo Fletcher, to share her budget-friendly home renovation tips.

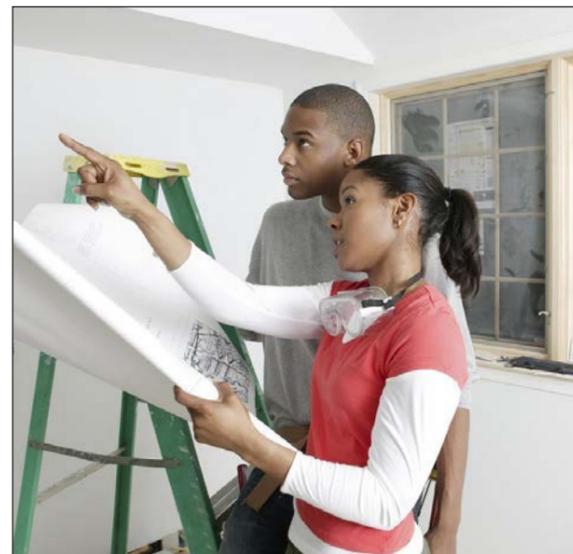
"Think about small changes you can make if you don't have the time to take on a big project right now, like freshening up any kitchen by refinishing your cabinets with a bright white coat of paint," said JoJo Fletcher, ambassador for Marcus by Goldman Sachs(R). "When it comes to financing a larger project, however, I recommend homeowners explore all their options in order to get the most out of their budget."

There are several ways to finance these projects and it's important to explore your options to find the one that's right for you. Below are five important tips to keep in mind when deciding how to fund your next home project.

1. Shop around. The better you plan, the better chance you'll save money. Before anything gets torn out or installed, you should spend time consulting with contractors and getting estimates. Look at the work they've done to see if they would be a good fit. Most importantly, don't be afraid to ask a lot of questions to make sure you're working with the right people and paying the right price.

2. Consider financing options. There are several options when financing a home improvement project and it is important to choose the right fit for you. Home equity loans and home equity lines of credit (HELOC) require you to borrow against the value of your home, with home equity loans offering a lump sum while home equity lines of credit provide you with a credit line you can borrow against. An unsecured home improvement loan can be used based on your creditworthiness and ability to pay, not tied to a piece of collateral.

JoJo Fletcher added, "I recommend homeowners consider a home improvement loan if they are looking to borrow money and have good credit. For instance, Marcus by Goldman Sachs offers no-fee, fixed rate home improvement loans up to \$40,000, which could be a better option than putting renovation costs on a higher interest credit card, or borrowing against your



home's equity. Applying for a loan is easy and you can see your offers in as little as five minutes."

3. Create a budget. Because of the nature of remodels, things often end up costing more than you might think. No matter how big or how small the project, you need to have a solid sense of what your "all in" budget number is. This should not only account for hard and soft costs for things like labor, materials and designers, it should also account for contingency costs. Experts typically recommend budgeting an additional 15 to 20 percent for unexpected scenarios that might arise. A thoughtful budget will help keep your priorities in front of you and prevent you from spending more than you want.

4. Remember, this is an investment! Not all home renovations will pay off in the long term. It's important to consider cost vs. value before you start making changes, especially for homeowners looking to sell in the near future. If you plan on putting your house on the market sooner rather than later, be sure to keep track of the top home features to get the best return on your investment.

5. Work with a designer. This might sound like a luxury or an added expense, but in many cases, a designer could actually help save money by finding deals or providing suggestions for less expensive alternatives, such as using quartz or white concrete instead of marble. Above all, their expertise can help avoid costly mistakes that can often arise when people try to cut corners on their own.

Housing economists call for more home construction

An increase in housing supply is crucial to the health and sustainability of the real estate market and the economy, according to speakers at a session organized by the Realtor University Richard J. Rosenthal Center for Real Estate Studies during the 2018 Realtors Legislative Meetings & Trade Expo.

The session, "Outlook for Home Prices and

Residential Construction," focused on rapidly rising home prices, tight home inventories and whether or not the country is in the middle of a bubble. All three of the panelists agreed that more new home construction is necessary to meet rising demand from increasing household formation and curtail the affordability crisis.

"Young adults of today are forming households at a much lower rate than previous generations, and high housing costs contribute to that," said Len Kiefer, deputy chief economist for Freddie Mac. According to Kiefer, one third to three quarters of U.S. markets have an elevated home price-to-income ratio and many major markets, such as Austin, Miami and Portland, are getting close to surpassing their 2008 ratio.

"Are we in a bubble? No, not currently," said Kiefer. He outlined ways the current market is different from the one leading to the recession, such as no signs of over leveraging and the very low ratios of household income



to debt. The aggregate risk of mortgages in the U.S. is also comparatively low "Those risky loans that contribute to the last bubble have largely gone away in the current market," he said.

However, the panelists were quick to point out that just because we are not currently in a bubble does not mean we won't enter one. If supply and demand continues to become more and more out of balance, it could trigger a fast price growth, said NAR Chief Economist Lawrence Yun. "A best-case scenario is largely dependent on new home construction. An increase in

inventory will provide some much-needed release," he said.

Ken Simonson, chief economist for Associated General Contractors of America, discussed how low employment in construction is also contributing to the lag in new home construction, despite high demand.

"Construction saw a 30 percent drop in employment in the previous decade, the largest drop of any industry. They also began laying people off a year before the recession began and did not start hiring again until much later than other industries," said Simonson.



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Layton Construction Company (LCC) has been selected as the construction manager for a 197,000 sq ft ground up new three story fully functional hospital project in Orlando, Florida and is currently seeking bids from qualified Subcontractors and Suppliers.

Bid Packages associated with the project will include everything from earthwork through low voltage systems

What: Preconstruction Meet & Greet
When: Tuesday, June 12 @ 11:00 a.m.
Where: Residence Inn Orlando Lake Nona
6955 Lake Nona Blvd.
Orlando, FL 32827

Layton Construction Company and HCA are strongly committed to the development and implementation of initiatives which promote the inclusion of all local construction-related businesses with an emphasis on minority and women-owned enterprise firms. Please join us at the preconstruction Meet & Greet to explore more opportunities.

For information regarding the bid packages for this project, please contact:
Amber Perkins Tannehill, Project Estimator at 615-843-6211 or via email at aperkins@laytonconstruction.com

To RSVP for the upcoming Meet & Greet, please contact:
Rhea Kinnard at (615) 941-8396 or via email kinn0167@aol.com

Circulation Assistant
The Osceola News-Gazette is hiring a full time Circulation Assistant. Person must be computer literate with great customer service skills and able to multi-task. Must be very organized & have a good driving record. Some heavy lifting required. Newspaper Carrier experience a plus.
Interested candidates should send a resume with referrals to kbeckham@osceolanewsgazette.com.

PUBLIC NOTICES

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
General Jurisdiction Division
Case #: 2015-CA-002748 MF
Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC,
Plaintiff,
vs.
William T Cook, et al.,
Defendants.
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated April 26, 2018, entered in Case No. 2015-CA-002748 MF of the Circuit Court of the Ninth Judicial Circuit, in and

for Osceola County, Florida, wherein Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC, is the Plaintiff, and William T Cook; The Unknown Spouse of William T Cook; Any and All Unknown Parties Claiming by, Through, Under and Against the Herein Named Individual Defendant(s) who are not Known to be Dead or Alive, Whether said Unknown Parties may Claim an Interest as Spouses, Heirs, Devises, Grantees, or other Claimants; The Parkway Property Owners' Association, Inc.; Blossom Park Villas Condominium Association, Inc.; Tenant # 1; Tenant # 2; Tenant # 3; and Tenant # 4 the names being ficti-

tious to account for parties in possession 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 AM on the 12th day of JUNE, 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:
UNIT 107A, BUILDING 900, BLOSSOM PARK VILLAS, AS DESCRIBED IN THAT CERTAIN DECLARATION OF CONDOMINIUM RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 2426 PAGE 2665. AND ANY AND ALL

AMENDMENTS ATTACHING THERETO, ALL IN THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA, TOGETHER WITH AN UNDIVIDED INTEREST IN AND TO THE COMMON ELEMENTS APPURTENANT THERETO.
Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.
If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator, Court Administration, Osceola County Courthouse, 2 Courthouse Square, Suite 6300, Kissimmee, Florida 34741, (407) 742-2417, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.
Dated on this 18th day of May 2018.
BRÖCK & SCOTT, PLLC
Attorney for Plaintiff
1501 N.W. 49th Street,
Suite 200,
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309
Phone: (954) 618-6955
ext. 4729

Fax: (954) 618-6954
FLCourtDocs@brockand-scott.com
By: /s/ Kara Frederickson
Kara Frederickson, Esq.
Florida Bar No. 85427
File No. 115-F08622
May 26, 2018
June 2, 2018
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
RK TOWING, INC. gives Notice of Foreclosure of Lien and intent to sell these vehicles on the following dates at 8:00 a.m., 907 A Garden Street, Kissimmee, FL 34744, pursuant to subsection 713.78 of the Florida Statutes.
RK TOWING, INC. reserves

the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids.
JUNE 14, 2018
1) 1999 FORD
VIN: 1FMRU1765XLC50320
2) 2006 DODGE
VIN: 1D4HD48N36F154211
JUNE 17, 2018
1) 2014 HONDA
VIN: 5FNRL5H6XEB122149
JUNE 18, 2018
1) 2000 PONTIAC
VIN: 1G2WR5213YF128989
JUNE 19, 2018
1) 2005 PONTIAC
VIN: 2G2WP522651191439
June 2, 2018
NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION
Public Notice is hereby given that ACE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM LLC, d/b/a RUSSELL'S TOWING, will hold a public auction at 8:00 A.M., on JUNE 15, 2018, at: 2720 13th Street, St. Cloud, FL 34769.
Pursuant to the laws of the state the following vehicles will be sold to the highest bidder:
1) 2007 MITSUBISHI VIN: 4A3AK24F07E024642
Terms of the sale are cash and no checks are accepted. Seller reserves the right to final bid. All sales are final. No refunds will be made. Sale auto will be sold "as is" with no guarantee.
June 2, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
 Case No.: 2017-CA-003023
EAGLE LAKE PHASE 1 SUBDIVISION HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.,
 Plaintiff,
 vs.
EDWIN VEGA, et al.,
 Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE Pursuant to CHAPTER 45

Notice is given that pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated May 29, 2018, in Case No. 2017-CA-003023, of the Circuit Court, in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein **EAGLE LAKE PHASE 1 SUBDIVISION HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.,** is the Plaintiff, and **EDWIN VEGA, MARIA SERRANO** and **UNKNOWN PARTIES IN POSSESSION, N/K/A BENJAMIN SANTIAGO,** are the Defendants. The Clerk of Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at Suite 2600/ Room 2602 of the Osceola County Courthouse, 2 Courthouse Square, at 11:00 a.m., on JUNE 28, 2018, the following described property set forth in the Order of Final Judgment: **Lot 67B, of EAGLE LAKE Phase 1, according to the plat thereof, as recorded in Plat Book 14, Pages 141 through 43, 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 SEVEN DAYS BEFORE YOUR SCHEDULED COURT APPEARANCE, OR IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIVING THIS NOTIFICATION IF THE TIME BEFORE THE SCHEDULED APPEARANCE IS LESS THAN (7) SEVEN DAYS; IF YOU ARE HEARING OR VOICE IMPAIRED, CALL 711.

DATED: May 30, 2018.
 By: */s/ Laura M. Ballard*
 Laura M. Ballard, Esquire
 Florida Bar No.: 10227
 ARIAS BOSINGER, PLLC
 140 North Westmonte Drive
 Suite 203
 Altamonte Springs, FL 32714
 (407) 636-2549
 June 2, 9, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA. PROBATE DIVISION
 File No. 2018-CP-000302 PR
 DIVISION: Probate.

IN RE: ESTATE OF: HELEN M. MINSHEW, A/K/A HELEN A. MINSHEW, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the Estate of HELEN M. MINSHEW, a/k/a HELEN A. MINSHEW, deceased, whose date of death was November 15, 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, must file their claims with this Court WITHIN (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

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

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

The date of first Publication of this notice is: May 26, 2018.

Personal Representative:

/s/ Nathan E. Minshew
 NATHAN E. MINSHEW
 1330 Sullivan Road
 Davenport, Florida 33896
Attorney for Personal Representative:
/s/ C.D. Lewis Jr.
 C.D. LEWIS JR.
 Attorney for
 Nathan E. Minshew
 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@lewis-masseylaw.com
 May 26, 2018
 June 2, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA. PROBATE DIVISION
 File No.: 2018-CP-000144.
 Division: Probate.

IN RE: ESTATE OF GRACE E. HASTON, 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 **GRACE E. HASTON**, deceased, File Number 2018-CP-000144, 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 June 9, 2017, that the total value of the estate is EXEMPT, and that the names and addresses of those to whom it has been assigned by such order are: **Name:** Johnny G. Haston
Address: 5150 Boggy Creek Road, Lot # 31, St. Cloud, FL 34771

Name: Judy Tittsworth
Address: 3974 Blue Springs Road, Sparta, TN 38583
 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 full 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. 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 first publication of this Notice is: June 2, 2018.

Person Giving Notice:
/s/ Johnny G. Haston
 Johnny G. Haston
 5150 Boggy Creek Road
 Lot # 31
 St. Cloud, Florida 34771

Attorney for Person Giving Notice:
/s/ Kathy D. Sheive
 Kathy D. Sheive, Esquire
 Attorney
 Florida Bar No.: 0752509
 318 N. John Young
 Parkway, Suite 1
 Kissimmee, FL 34741
 Telephone: (407) 944-4010
 Fax #: (407) 944-4011
 E-Mail: kdsheive@gmail.com
 Secondary E-Mail: kathydsheive@gmail.com
 June 2, 9, 2018

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

PRESTON'S TOWING gives Notice of Foreclosure of Lien and intent to sell these vehicles on the following dates at 09:00 a.m. at 605 E Donegan Avenue, Kissimmee, FL 34744, pursuant to subsection 713.78 of the Florida Statutes. PRESTON'S TOWING reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids.

JUNE 18, 2018

- 1) 1998 TOYOTA VIN: 1NXBR12E9WZ128473
 - 2) 2015 HONDA VIN: JHMZF1D64FS003523
- JUNE 19, 2018**
- 1) 2004 CHEVROLET VIN: 1G1JC52F447307381
 - 2) 2003 HONDA VIN: SHSRD68403U104637

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. 2010 CHEVROLET 2G1WB5EK6A1245413
Sale Date: 06/18/2018
Location: Center State Automotive Inc., 170 H Greenskeep Drive, Unit H, Kissimmee, FL 34741
 Lienors reserve the right to bid.
 June 2, 2018

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

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

- 1) 2008 Chevrolet Equinox LTZ - Teal VIN: 2CNDL13F686326513
- 2) 2008 Chevrolet HHR LT Utility - Tan VIN: 3GNDA23D08S542171

Sale Date: JUNE 13, 2018
AND

- 1) 2011 Kia Sorento Suv 4 Door - Black VIN: 5XYKT4A27BG061267
- 2) 2005 Chrysler Pacifica Touring Utility - Green VIN: 2C4GM68415R578909

Sale Date: JUNE 14, 2018
Sale Time: 10:00 A.M.
Sale Location: Magic Tows, LLC - 1201 Sawdust Trail - Kissimmee, Florida 34744
 June 2, 2018

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

ANGELS TOWING OF POINCIANA gives Notice of Foreclosure of Lien and intent to sell these vehicles on JUNE 15, 2018 at 8:00 A.M., at 413 SHORT DRIVE, KISSIMMEE, FL 34759-4025, pursuant to subsection 713.78 of the Florida Statutes.

ANGELS TOWING OF POINCIANA reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids.

- 1) 2006 NISSAN VIN: JN1AZ34D26M303715

June 2, 2018

PUBLIC NOTICE

AT&T Mobility, LLC is proposing to install a monopole tower at 2127 Patrick St, Kissimmee, Osceola County, FL 34741 (28 17 23.69 N / 81 25 34.73 W). The height of the tower will be 15.2 meters above ground level (39 meters above mean sea level). The tower is anticipated to have no lights. Specific information regarding the project is available by calling Sarah Grauty at 802-578-7030 during normal business hours. Any interested party may submit comments by June 30, 2018 with EBI Consulting at 6876 Susquehanna Trail S., York, PA 17403 on the impact of the proposed action on any districts, sites, buildings, structures or objects significant in American history, archaeology, engineering or culture that are listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under National Historic Preservation Act Section 106. Interested persons may review the application for this project at www.fcc.gov/asr/applications by entering Antenna Structure Registration (Form 854) file no. A1104313. Interested persons may raise environmental concerns about the project under the National Environmental Policy Act rules of the Federal Communications Commission, 47 CFR §1.1307, by notifying the FCC of the specific reasons that the action may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Requests for Environmental Review must be filed within 30 days of the date that notice of the project is published on the FCC's website and may only raise environmental concerns. The FCC strongly encourages interested parties to file Requests for Environmental Review online at www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest, but they may be filed with a paper copy by mailing the Request to FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554. A copy of the Request should be provided to 6118003898-SLG at EBI Consulting, 6876 Susquehanna Trail South, York, PA 17403.
 June 2, 2018

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated March 28, 2018, entered in Case No. 2017-CA-001052 MF of the Circuit Court of the Ninth Judicial Circuit, in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for Structured Asset Investment Loan Trust Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-BN2C, is the Plaintiff, and Jeanne M. Celli, a/k/a Jeanne Celli; Unknown Spouse of Jeanne M. Celli, a/k/a Jeanne Celli, 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 26th day of JUNE, 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit: **LOT 11, BLOCK "V", ORANGE GARDENS SECTION FOUR, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 367, 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, Osceola County Courthouse, 2 Courthouse Square, Suite 6300, Kissimmee, Florida 34741, (407) 742-2417, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

Dated on this 18th day of May 2018.
BROCK & SCOTT, PLLC
 Attorney for Plaintiff
 1501 N.W. 49th Street,
 Suite 200,
 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309
 Phone: (954) 618-6955
 ext. 4729
 Fax: (954) 618-6954
 FLCourtDocs@brockandscott.com
 By: */s/ Kara Frederickson*
 Kara Frederickson, Esq.
 Florida Bar No. 85427
 File No. 17-F00737
 June 2, 9, 2018

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated September 27, 2017, and entered in 2008-CA-012424-MF of the Circuit Court of the Ninth Judicial Circuit, in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein HSBK BANK USA, N.A., AS TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF ACE SECURITIES CORP. HOME EQUITY LOAN TRUST AND FOR THE REGISTERED HOLDERS OF ACE SECURITIES CORP. HOME EQUITY LOAN TRUST, SERIES 2006-ASAP5, ASSET BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, is the Plaintiff, and ANDREY BARHATKOV, AS TRUSTEE OF THE 608 ABACO CT FAMILY TRUST; ANDREY BARHATKOV; BASS LAKE ESTATES HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.; UNKNOWN PARTIES IN POSSESSION # 1, N/K/A RUSSELL JACKSON; UNKNOWN PARTIES IN POSSESSION # 2, N/K/A TONIA BAKER, are the Defendant(s). Armando Ramirez, as the Clerk of the Circuit Court, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at Suite 2600/Room # 2602, 2 Courthouse Square, Kissimmee, FL 34741, at 11:00 A.M., on JUNE 12, 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit: **LOT 6, BASS LAKES ESTATES, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 13, PAGE(S) 42-43, PUBLIC RECORDS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.**

Property Address: **608 ABACO COURT, KISSIMMEE, FL 34746**

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 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; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711 to reach the Telecommunications Relay Service.

ing 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.

DATED on this 22nd day of May 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/ Philip Stecco*
 Philip Stecco, Esquire
 Florida Bar No. 108384
 Communication Email:
 pstecco@rasflaw.com
 13-14975-MOP
 May 26, 2018
 June 2, 2018

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated March 28, 2018, entered in Case No. 2017-CA-001052 MF of the Circuit Court of the Ninth Judicial Circuit, in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for Structured Asset Investment Loan Trust Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-BN2C, is the Plaintiff, and Jeanne M. Celli, a/k/a Jeanne Celli, 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 26th day of JUNE, 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit: **LOT 11, BLOCK "V", ORANGE GARDENS SECTION FOUR, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 367, 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, 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.

DATED: May 23, 2018.
FLORIDA COMMUNITY LAW GROUP, P.L.
 Attorneys for Plaintiff
 1855 Griffin Road,
 Suite A-423
 Dania Beach, FL 33004
 Tel: (954) 372-5298
 Fax: (866) 424-5348
 Email: jared@fclg.com
 By: */s/ Jared Block*
 Jared Block, Esq.
 Florida Bar No. 90297
 May 26, 2018
 June 2, 2018

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated March 28, 2018, entered in Case No. 2017-CA-001848 MF of the Circuit Court of the Ninth Judicial Circuit, in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for Structured Asset Investment Loan Trust Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-BN2C, is the Plaintiff, and Jeanne M. Celli, a/k/a Jeanne Celli, 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 26th day of JUNE, 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit: **LOT 11, BLOCK "V", ORANGE GARDENS SECTION FOUR, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 367, 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, 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.

DATED: May 23, 2018.
FLORIDA COMMUNITY LAW GROUP, P.L.
 Attorneys for Plaintiff
 1855 Griffin Road,
 Suite A-423
 Dania Beach, FL 33004
 Tel: (954) 372-5298
 Fax: (866) 424-5348
 Email: jared@fclg.com
 By: */s/ Jared Block*
 Jared Block, Esq.
 Florida Bar No. 90297
 May 26, 2018
 June 2, 2018

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated May 16, 2018, and entered in Case No. 2017-CA-001848, of the Circuit Court of the Ninth Judicial Circuit in and for Osceola County, Florida wherein SILVER GROUP FINANCIAL, LLC, is the Plaintiff, and OSCEOLA MEDICAL PLAZA, LLC, a Florida Limited Liability Company, FAIZ A. FAIZ, AMMAR FAIZ, ACUTE PATIENT CARE, INC., a Florida Corporation, OSCEOLA INJURY CENTER, LLC, a Florida Limited Liability Company, AJAZ AFZAL, M.D., and ANY UNKNOWN PARTIES IN POSSESSION, Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sale will be made pursuant to the Summary Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated May 16, 2018, and entered in Case No. 2017-CA-001848, of the Circuit Court of the Ninth Judicial Circuit in and for Osceola County, Florida wherein SILVER GROUP FINANCIAL, LLC, is the Plaintiff, and OSCEOLA MEDICAL PLAZA, LLC, a Florida Limited Liability Company, FAIZ A. FAIZ, AMMAR FAIZ, ACUTE PATIENT CARE, INC., a Florida Corporation, OSCEOLA INJURY CENTER, LLC, a Florida Limited Liability Company, AJAZ AFZAL, M.D., and ANY UNKNOWN PARTIES IN POSSESSION, Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated December 10, 2014, and an Order Rescheduling Foreclosure Sale dated May 18, 2018, entered in Civil Case No.: 14-CA-524-MF of the Circuit Court of the Ninth Judicial Circuit in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A., AS TRUSTEE IN TRUST FOR THE REGISTERED HOLDERS OF PARK PLACE SECURITIES, INC., ASSET-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-WCW1, Plaintiff, vs. FAHAD KHAN; ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE HEREIN NAMED INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES OR OTHER CLAIMANTS; THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON, F/K/A THE BANK OF NEW YORK, AS SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE TO JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A., AS TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF THE CERTIFICATEHOLDERS OF THE CWHEQ INC., CWHEQ REVOLVING HOME EQUITY LOAN TRUST, SERIES 2006-F; BASS LAKE ESTATES HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.; TENANT 1, N/K/A EYSHA BAIG; TENANT 2, N/K/A HUSSEIN ENSARI, Defendant(s).

RE-NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated December 10, 2014, and an Order Rescheduling Foreclosure Sale dated May 18, 2018, entered in Civil Case No.: 14-CA-524-MF of the Circuit Court of the Ninth Judicial Circuit in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A., AS TRUSTEE IN TRUST FOR THE REGISTERED HOLDERS OF PARK PLACE SECURITIES, INC., ASSET-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-WCW1, Plaintiff, and FAHAD KHAN; ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE HEREIN NAMED INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES OR OTHER CLAIMANTS; THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON, F/K/A THE BANK OF NEW YORK, AS SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE TO JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A., AS TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF THE CERTIFICATEHOLDERS OF THE CWHEQ INC., CWHEQ REVOLVING HOME EQUITY LOAN TRUST, SERIES 2006-F; BASS LAKE ESTATES HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.; TENANT 1, N/K/A EYSHA BAIG; TENANT 2, N/K/A HUSSEIN ENSARI, are Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated December 10, 2014, and an Order Rescheduling Foreclosure Sale dated May 18, 2018, entered in Civil Case No.: 14-CA-524-MF of the Circuit Court of the Ninth Judicial Circuit in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A., AS TRUSTEE IN TRUST FOR THE REGISTERED HOLDERS OF PARK PLACE SECURITIES, INC., ASSET-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-WCW1, Plaintiff, and FAHAD KHAN; ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE HEREIN NAMED INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES OR OTHER CLAIMANTS; THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON, F/K/A THE BANK OF NEW YORK, AS SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE TO JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A., AS TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF THE CERTIFICATEHOLDERS OF THE CWHEQ INC., CWHEQ REVOLVING HOME EQUITY LOAN TRUST, SERIES 2006-F; BASS LAKE ESTATES HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.; TENANT 1, N/K/A EYSHA BAIG; TENANT 2, N/K/A HUSSEIN ENSARI, are Defendants.

ARMANDO RAMIREZ, The Clerk of the Circuit Court, will sell to the highest bidder for cash, Osceola County Courthouse, 2 Courthouse Square, Suite 2600, Room 2602, Kissimmee, FL 34741, at 11:00 A.M., on the 26th day of JUNE, 2018, the following described real property as set forth in said Final Judgment of Foreclosure, to wit: **LOT 3, BASS LAKE ESTATES, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 13, PAGES 42-43, PUBLIC RECORDS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.**

Any 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. After 60 days, only the owner of record as of the date of the lis pendens may claim the surplus.

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 PROVISIONS 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 NOTICE; IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED OR VOICE IMPAIRED, CALL 1-800-955-8771.

DATED: May 23, 2018.
 By: */s/ Michelle N. Lewis*
 MICHELLE N. LEWIS
 Florida Bar No.: 70922
 Attorney for Plaintiff:
 Brian L. Rosaler, Esquire
 POPKIN & ROSALER, P.A.
 1701 West Hillsboro Boulevard, Suite 400
 Deerfield Beach, FL 33442
 Telephone: (954) 360-9030
 Facsimile: (954) 420-5187
 May 26, 2018
 June 2, 2018

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated May 16, 2018, and entered in Case No. 2017-CA-001848, of the Circuit Court of the Ninth Judicial Circuit in and for Osceola County, Florida wherein SILVER GROUP FINANCIAL, LLC, is the Plaintiff, and OSCEOLA MEDICAL PLAZA, LLC, a Florida Limited Liability Company, FAIZ A. FAIZ, AMMAR FAIZ, ACUTE PATIENT CARE, INC., a Florida Corporation, OSCEOLA INJURY CENTER, LLC, a Florida Limited Liability Company, AJAZ AFZAL, M.D., and ANY UNKNOWN PARTIES IN POSSESSION, Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated May 16, 2018, and entered in Case No. 2017-CA-001848, of the Circuit Court of the Ninth Judicial Circuit in and for Osceola County, Florida wherein SILVER GROUP FINANCIAL, LLC, is the Plaintiff, and OSCEOLA MEDICAL PLAZA, LLC, a Florida Limited Liability Company, FAIZ A. FAIZ, AMMAR FAIZ, ACUTE PATIENT CARE, INC., a Florida Corporation, OSCEOLA INJURY CENTER, LLC, a Florida Limited Liability Company, AJAZ AFZAL, M.D., and ANY UNKNOWN PARTIES IN POSSESSION, Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated May 16, 2018, and entered in Case No. 2017-CA-001848, of the Circuit Court of the Ninth Judicial Circuit in and for Osceola County, Florida wherein SILVER GROUP FINANCIAL, LLC, is the Plaintiff, and OSCEOLA MEDICAL PLAZA, LLC, a Florida Limited Liability Company, FAIZ A. FAIZ, AMMAR FAIZ, ACUTE PATIENT CARE, INC., a Florida Corporation, OSCEOLA INJURY CENTER, LLC, a Florida Limited Liability Company, AJAZ AFZAL, M.D., and ANY UNKNOWN PARTIES IN POSSESSION, Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated May 16, 2018, and entered in Case No. 2017-CA-0018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 9th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA. Case #: 2016-CA-002878 MF U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE STRUCTURED ASSET INVESTMENT LOAN TRUST, MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-9, Plaintiff, vs. ANHTHU THI TRAN, A/K/A ANTHU T. TRAN; HECTOR JUARBE A/K/A HECTOR M. JUARBE; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ANHTHU THI TRAN A/K/A ANTHU T. TRAN; UNKNOWN TENANT 1; UNKNOWN TENANT 2; ASSOCIATION OF POINCIANA VILLAGES, INC.; POINCIANA VILLAGE FIVE ASSOCIATION, INC., Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE
Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered on February 22, 2018, in this case, 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 13, BLOCK 2132, POINCIANA VILLAGE 5 NEIGHBORHOOD 1, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 144, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.
a/k/a 1111 LAVALUR CT, KISSIMMEE, FL 34759-3465 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 JUNE 26, 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 29th day of May 2018.
eXL Legal, PLLC
Designated Email Address: efiling@exllegal.com
12425 28th Street North, Suite 200,
St. Petersburg, FL 33716
Telephone #: (727) 536-4911
Attorney for the Plaintiff
By: */s/ David L. Reider*
DAVID L. REIDER
FBN #: 95719
888130394-ASC
June 2, 9, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION
File No.: 2018-CP-000121
Division: _____
IN RE: ESTATE OF ANTHONY WAYNE COCHRAN,
Deceased.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of ANTHONY WAYNE COCHRAN, deceased, whose date of death was December 20, 2017, is pending in the Circuit Court for OSCEOLA County, Florida, Probate Division, the address or 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 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: June 2, 2018.

Personal Representative:
DARRELL E. COCHRAN
580 Ott Street
Franklin, Indiana 46131
BRINSON AND BRINSON
ATTORNEYS AT LAW, P.A.
Attorneys for
Personal Representative
28 North John Young Parkway,
Kissimmee, FL 34741
Florida Bar No. 663050
June 2, 9, 2018

PUBLIC NOTICE
AT&T Mobility, LLC is proposing to install a monopole tower at 1046 N John Young Pkwy, Kissimmee, Osceola County, FL 34741 (28 18 4.29 N / 81 24 58.2 W). The height of the tower will be 9.8 meters above ground level (31.1 meters above mean

sea level). The tower is anticipated to have no lights. Specific information regarding the project is available by calling Sarah Grauty during normal business hours. Any interested party may submit comments by July 3, 2018 with EBI Consulting at 6876 Susquehanna Trail S., York, PA 17403 on the impact of the proposed action on any districts, sites, buildings, structures or objects significant in American history, archaeology, engineering or culture that are listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under National Historic Preservation Act Section 106. Interested persons may review the application for this project at www.fcc.gov/asr/applications by entering Antenna Structure Registration (Form 854) file no. A1104009. Interested persons may raise environmental concerns about the project under the National Environmental Policy Act rules of the Federal Communications Commission, 47 CFR §1.1307, by notifying the FCC of the specific reasons that the action may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Requests for Environmental Review must be filed within 30 days of the date that notice of the project is published on the FCC's website and may only raise environmental concerns. The FCC strongly encourages interested parties to file Requests for Environmental Review online at www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest, but they may be filed with a paper copy by mailing the Request to FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554. A copy of the Request should be provided to **6118003897-SLG** at EBI Consulting, 6876 Susquehanna Trail South, York, PA 17403.
June 2, 2018

The purpose of this meeting is two-fold: (1) to discuss the report from the Consultant on the First Phase of the Authority's Strategic Plan and Board Designation of Strategic Initiatives; and (2) a presentation on a proposal to increase Sewer Rehabilitation Funding and Proposed Application for partial Federal financing through the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA)

All persons interested are invited to attend and any person deciding to appeal any decision of the Tohopekaliga Water Authority Board of Supervisors with respect to any matter considered at this workshop will need a record of the proceedings. For such purpose, he/she 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.

Any person requiring special accommodations at the workshop because of a disability or physical impairment should contact the Tohopekaliga Water Authority at 407-944-5000.
June 2, 2018

NOTICE OF QUALIFYING PERIOD FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF HARMONY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
Notice is hereby given that the qualifying period for candidates for the Office of Supervisor of Harmony Community Development District will commence at noon on June 18, 2018, and close at noon on June 22, 2018. Candidates must qualify for the Office of Supervisor with the Osceola County Supervisor of Elections located at 2509 E. Irlro Bronson Highway, Kissimmee, Florida (407) 742-6000. All candidates shall qualify for individual seats in accordance with Section 99.061, Florida Statutes, and must also be qualified electors of the District. A qualified elector is a person at least 18 years of age who is a citizen of the United States, a legal resident of the State of Florida, a registered voter in Osceola County, Florida, and who resides within the boundaries of the District. Campaigns shall be conducted in accordance with Chapter 106, Florida Statutes. Harmony Community Development District has two Seats up for election, specifically Seats 2 and 4. Each seat carries a four-year term of office. Elections are nonpartisan and will be held at the same time as the general election on November 6, 2018, in the manner prescribed by law for general elections. For additional information, please contact the Osceola County Supervisor of Elections.
June 2, 2018

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING TO BE CONDUCTED BY THE TOHOPEKALIGA WATER AUTHORITY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Please be advised that the Board of Supervisors of the Tohopekaliga Water Authority, an independent special district, established and created pursuant to Chapter 189, Florida Statutes, by special act of the Florida Legislature, hereinafter "TWA", plans to hold a special meeting on Wednesday, June 13, 2018 from 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM in the Bruce R. Van Meter Board Room located on the first floor of the TWA Administration Building located at 951 Martin Luther King Blvd., Kissimmee, Florida 34741.

The purpose of this meeting is two-fold: (1) to discuss the report from the Consultant on the First Phase of the Authority's Strategic Plan and Board Designation of Strategic Initiatives; and (2) a presentation on a proposal to increase Sewer Rehabilitation Funding and Proposed Application for partial Federal financing through the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA)

All persons interested are invited to attend and any person deciding to appeal any decision of the Tohopekaliga Water Authority Board of Supervisors with respect to any matter considered at this workshop will need a record of the proceedings. For such purpose, he/she 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.

Any person requiring special accommodations at the workshop because of a disability or physical impairment should contact the Tohopekaliga Water Authority at 407-944-5000.
June 2, 2018

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ORDINANCE NO. 2018-25
Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of St. Cloud, Florida, at a meeting to be held on June 14, 2018, in their Chamber at City Hall, 1300 9th Street, St. Cloud, Florida at 6:30 p.m., will consider the adoption of Ordinance No. 2018-25 entitled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ST. CLOUD, FLORIDA, ASSIGNING A FUTURE LAND USE DESIGNATION OF "MIXED USE" TO APPROXIMATELY 44.56 ACRES IDENTIFIED AS THOMPSON GROVE, LOCATED EAST OF HICKORY TREE ROAD, SOUTH OF E. IRLO BRONSON MEMORIAL HIGHWAY, WEST OF LIVE OAK LAKE ROAD, AND NORTH OF LIVE OAK LAKE; PROVIDING FOR AMENDING THE OFFICIAL FUTURE LAND USE MAP OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, FILING OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION AND PROOF OF PUBLICATION, APPLICABILITY AND EFFECT, SEVERABILITY, COPIES ON FILE AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

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

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

Linda P. Jaworski, City Clerk
1300 9th Street, St. Cloud, Florida 34769
Telephone: 407-957-7300
June 2, 2018

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ORDINANCE NO. 2018-26
Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of St. Cloud, Florida, at a meeting to be held on June 14, 2018, in their Chamber at City Hall, 1300 9th Street, St. Cloud, Florida at 6:30 p.m., will consider the adoption of Ordinance No. 2018-26 entitled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ST. CLOUD, FLORIDA, ASSIGNING A ZONING DISTRICT OF "MIX" MIXED USE, COMPATIBLE WITH A "MIXED USE" FUTURE LAND USE DESIGNATION CHANGE, ADOPTED BY ORDINANCE NO. 2018-25, FOR APPROXIMATELY 44.56 ACRES IDENTIFIED AS THOMPSON GROVE, LOCATED EAST OF HICKORY TREE ROAD, SOUTH OF E. IRLO BRONSON MEMORIAL HIGHWAY, WEST OF LIVE OAK LAKE ROAD, AND NORTH OF LIVE OAK LAKE; 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 public comments shall be heard with respect to transmittal of the ORDINANCE. This ORDINANCE in its entirety can be reviewed at the City Clerk's office between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. and between 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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

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Linda P. Jaworski, City Clerk
1300 9th Street, St. Cloud, Florida 34769
Telephone: 407-957-7300
June 2, 2018

NOTICE OF QUALIFYING PERIOD FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE VILLASOL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
Notice is hereby given that the qualifying period for candidates for the office of Supervisor of the VillaSol Community Development District will commence at noon on June 18, 2018, and close at noon on June 22, 2018. Candidates must qualify for the office of Supervisor with the Osceola County Supervisor of Elections located at 2509 E. Irlro Bronson Memorial Highway, Kissimmee, Florida, (407) 742-6000. Website: www.voteosceola.com. All candidates shall qualify for individual seats in accordance with section 99.061, Florida Statutes, and must also be a qualified elector of the District. A qualified elector is any person at least 18 years of age who is a citizen of the United States, a legal resident of the State of Florida and of the District, and who is registered to vote with the Osceola County Supervisor of Elections. Campaigns shall be conducted in accordance with Chapter 106, Florida Statutes. The VillaSol Community Development District has three (3) seats up for election, specifically seats 1, 4 and 5. Each seat carries a four year term of office. Elections are nonpartisan and will be held at the same time as the general election on November 6, 2018, in the manner prescribed by law for general elections. For additional information, please contact the Osceola County Supervisor of Elections.
June 2, 2018

NOTICE OF QUALIFYING PERIOD FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE OVEROAKS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
Notice is hereby given that the qualifying period for candidates for the office of Supervisor of the Overoaks Community Development District will commence at noon on June 18, 2018, and close at noon on June 22, 2018. Candidates must qualify for the office of Supervisor with the Osceola County Supervisor of Elections located at 2509 E. Irlro Bronson Memorial Highway, Kissimmee, Florida, (407) 742-6000. Website: www.voteosceola.com. All candidates shall qualify for individual seats in accordance with section 99.061, Florida Statutes, and must also be a qualified elector of the District. A qualified elector is any person at least 18 years of age who is a citizen of the United States, a legal resident of the State of Florida and of the District, and who is registered to vote with the Osceola County Supervisor of Elections. Campaigns shall be conducted in accordance with Chapter 106, Florida Statutes. The Overoaks Community Development District has three (3) seats up for election, specifically seats 3, 4 and 5. Each seat carries a four year term of office. Elections are nonpartisan and will be held at the same time as the general election on November 6, 2018, in the manner prescribed by law for general elections. For additional information, please contact the Osceola County Supervisor of Elections.
June 2, 2018

STATEMENT OF MARKETABLE TITLE ACTION
The Natchez Trace Homeowners Association, Inc. (the "Association"), 697 Adriane Park Circle, Kissimmee, FL 34744, has taken action to ensure that the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions for NATCHEZ TRACE, recorded on June 20, 1988, in Official Records Book 0881, Page 1357, of the Public Records of Osceola County, Florida, as the same has been amended from time to time, including the Amendment to Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions for Natchez Trace Subdivision recorded on November 26, 1990 in Official Records Book 994, Page 2046, of the Public Records of Osceola County, Florida, (the "Declaration") and which currently burdens the property of each and every member of the Association, retains its status as the source of marketable title with regard to the transfer of a member's residence; and to preserve such claim of right of such covenants and restrictions for a period of not longer than thirty (30) years after filing of this notice. To this end, the Association shall cause this notice required by Chapter 712, Florida Statutes, to be recorded in the public records of Osceola County, Florida. Copies of this notice and its attachments are available through the Association pursuant to the Association's governing documents regarding official records of the Association. The land affected by this Notice and Statement is as set forth in Exhibit 1 of the Notice of Board Meeting.

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NOTICE OF PRESERVATION OF THE DECLARATION OF COVENANTS, CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS FOR NATCHEZ TRACE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

THIS NOTICE OF PRESERVATION OF THE DECLARATION OF COVENANTS, CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS FOR NATCHEZ TRACE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC., a Florida non-profit corporation, whose address C/O Tanner Properties, LLC, 697 Adriane Park Circle, Kissimmee, FL 34744 (the "Association");

WHEREAS, the Association is the non-profit homeowners association formed for the governance of the residential subdivision known as NATCHEZ TRACE a/k/a NATCHEZ TRACE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC., located in Osceola County, Florida (the "Subdivision"); and

WHEREAS, the Subdivision is governed by the provisions of that certain Declaration of Covenants and Restrictions for NATCHEZ TRACE, recorded on June 20, 1988 in Official Records Book 0881, Page 1357, of the Public Records of Osceola County, Florida, as the same has been amended from time to time, including the Amendment to Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions for Natchez Trace Subdivision recorded on November 26, 1990 in Official Records Book 994, Page 2046, of the Public Records of Osceola County, Florida (the "Declaration") and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Sections 712.05 and 712.06, Florida Statutes, the Association desires to and has timely taken the actions necessary to preserve the covenants and restrictions which are the subject of the Declaration by the filing of this Notice;

NOW THEREFORE, the Association does hereby state and declare as follows:

- 1. Recitals.** The recitals set forth above are true and correct and are incorporated herein by reference.
- 2. Preservation of Declaration.** On the 22nd day of May, 2018, the Board of Directors of the Association voted unanimously to preserve the Declaration and protect the Declaration from extinguishment by the operation of the Marketable Record Titles to Real Property Act, Chapter 712, Florida Statutes, pursuant to the provisions of Section 712.05, Florida Statutes. Accordingly, this Notice has the effect of preserving the Declaration for a period of not longer than thirty (30) years following the recordation of this Notice among the Public Records of Osceola County, Florida.
- 3. Statement of Marketable Title Action.** Attached to this Notice as **Exhibit A** is an Affidavit executed by the President of the Association (also being a member of the Board of Directors), affirming that the Board of Directors of the Association caused a statement meeting the requirements of Section 712.06, Florida Statutes, to be included in a notice which was mailed to all members of the Association, a copy of which is attached hereto as **Exhibit B**.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Association has executed this Notice in manner and form sufficient to bind it as of the date set forth above.

(corporate seal)
/s/ Ira D. McKittrick
Printed name: IRA D. MCKITTRICK
Witness

NATCHEZ TRACE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.,
a Florida non-profit corporation
By: */s/ Steve Haupt*, President
Printed name: STEVEN HAUPT

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF OSCEOLA

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 22nd day of May, 2018, by Steven Haupt, as President of NATCHEZ TRACE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC., a Florida non-profit corporation, on behalf of the corporation; who is personally known to me or has produced _____ as identification.

(NOTARY SEAL)
/s/ Kathleen Tanner
Notary Public Signature

KATHLEEN TANNER
(Name typed, printed or stamped)

EXHIBIT A
(To the Notice of Preservation)
AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF OSCEOLA

Before me, the undersigned authority, this day personally appeared Steven Haupt ("Affiant"), who having been duly sworn, did depose and say as follows:

1. That Affiant is the President and is a Director of NATCHEZ TRACE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC., a Florida non-profit corporation (the "Association").
2. That the Association is the homeowners association which governs the community known as NATCHEZ TRACE a/k/a NATCHEZ TRACE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC., located in Osceola County, Florida, pursuant to that certain Declaration of Covenants and Restrictions Natchez Trace recorded on June 20, 1988, in Official Records Book 0881, Page 1357, of the Public Records of Osceola County, Florida, as the

same has been amended, from time to time, including the Amendment to Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions for Natchez Trace Subdivision recorded on November 26, 1990 in Official Records Book 994, Page 2046, of the Public Records of Osceola County, Florida (the "Declaration").

3. That the Board of Directors of the Association caused a statement in substantially the form required by Section 712.06(b), Florida Statutes, to be mailed to the members of the Association not less than seven (7) days prior to the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Association held on May 22, 2018 at which the Board of Directors voted (unanimously or approved by two-thirds vote) to preserve the covenants and restrictions contained in the Declaration. A copy of the Board's notice containing that statement is attached to the Notice of Preservation as **Exhibit B**.

NATCHEZ TRACE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.,
a Florida non-profit corporation
By: */s/ Steven Haupt*, President

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF OSCEOLA

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 22nd day of May 2018, by Steven Haupt, as President of NATCHEZ TRACE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC., a Florida non-profit corporation, on behalf of the corporation; who is personally known to me or has produced _____ as identification.

(NOTARY SEAL)
/s/ Kathleen Tanner
Notary Public Signature
KATHLEEN TANNER
(Name typed, printed or stamped)

EXHIBIT B
(To the Notice of Preservation)
NOTICE OF BOARD MEETING FOR PRESERVATION OF COVENANTS AND RESTRICTIONS

The Board of Directors (the Board) of the Natchez Trace Homeowners Association, Inc. (the "Association") will consider on the 22nd of May 2018, at 6:00 p.m. at Park, an action to preserve the Declaration of Covenants and Restrictions for NATCHEZ TRACE, recorded on June 20, 1988, in Official Records Book 0881, Page 1357, of the Public Records of Osceola County, Florida, as the same has been amended from time to time, including the Amendment to Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions for Natchez Trace Subdivision recorded on November 26, 1990 in Official Records Book 994, Page 2046, of the Public Records of Osceola County, Florida. (the "Declaration").

Copies of the Notice of Preservation and this Notice of Board Meeting and its attachments are available through the Association pursuant to the Association's governing documents regarding official records of the Association. Further, this notice is being timely mailed or hand-delivered to the members of this Association, consistent with §712.05, Florida Statutes, i.e. not less than seven (7) days prior to the above referenced Board meeting.

The following Statement is hereby given to all Members as required by the provisions of Section 712.05 and 712.06, Florida Statutes:

STATEMENT OF MARKETABLE TITLE ACTION
The Natchez Trace Homeowners Association, Inc. (the "Association"), 697 Adriane Park Circle, Kissimmee, FL 34744, has taken action to ensure that the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions for NATCHEZ TRACE, recorded on June 20, 1988, in Official Records Book 0881, Page 1357, of the Public Records of Osceola County, Florida, as the same has been amended from time to time, including the Amendment to Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions for Natchez Trace Subdivision recorded on November 26, 1990 in Official Records Book 994, Page 2046, of the Public Records of Osceola County, Florida, (the "Declaration") and which currently burdens the property of each and every member of the Association, retains its status as the source of marketable title with regard to the transfer of a member's residence; and to preserve such claim of right of such covenants and restrictions for a period of not longer than thirty (30) years after filing of this notice. To this end, the Association shall cause this notice required by Chapter 712, Florida Statutes, to be recorded in the public records of Osceola County, Florida. Copies of this notice and its attachments are available through the Association pursuant to the Association's governing documents regarding official records of the Association. The land affected by this Notice and Statement is as set forth in Exhibit 1 of the Notice of Board Meeting.

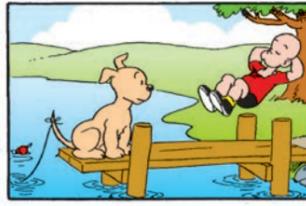
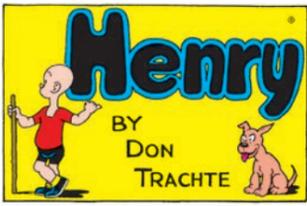
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BRAIN FOOD

CONTACT

BRIAN MCBRIDE EDITOR
 EMAIL BMCBRIDE@OSCEOLANEWSGAZETTE.COM



Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

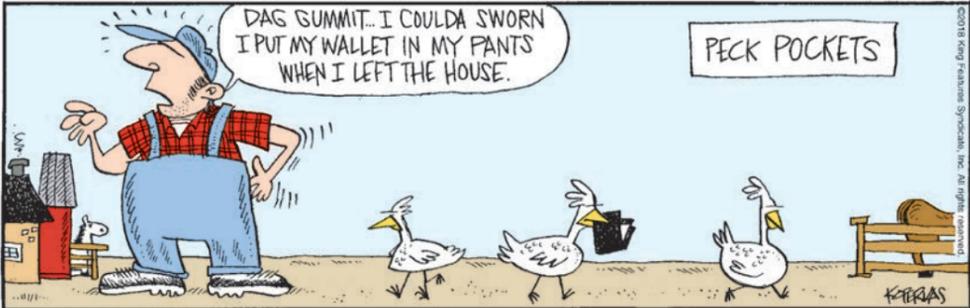
Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

- | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| 1. Whittle | __ A __ _ _ _ | Bend in the road | __ U __ _ _ _ |
| 2. More than enough | __ M __ _ _ _ | Eve's fruit | __ P __ _ _ _ |
| 3. Famous telescope | __ _ B __ _ _ | Unpretentious | __ _ M __ _ _ |
| 4. Rosie's bolt | __ _ _ _ T | Nile or Rhine | __ _ _ _ R |
| 5. Louis XVI's country | F __ _ _ _ _ | Frolic | P __ _ _ _ _ |
| 6. At a future time | __ _ T __ _ _ | Pub choice | __ _ G __ _ _ |
| 7. President Jimmy | __ _ _ T __ _ | Vocation | __ _ _ E __ _ |
| 8. Estate | __ _ N __ _ _ | Soldier of rank | __ _ J __ _ _ |
| 9. The one before | __ A __ _ _ _ | Brood of puppies | __ I __ _ _ _ |
| 10. Thread holder | __ _ _ L | Parody | __ _ _ _ F |

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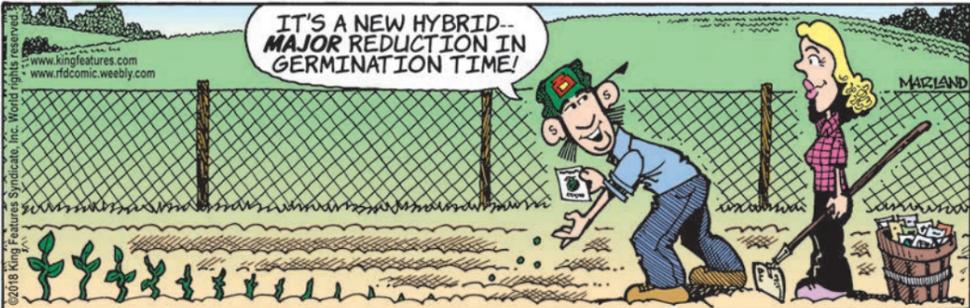
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



MAGIC MAZE ● SHY WORDS

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

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

- | | | | |
|-------|--------|---------|-------------|
| Bushy | Fleshy | Pushy | Swishy |
| Cushy | Gushy | Shylock | Trashy |
| Dishy | Marshy | Shyness | Wishy-washy |
| Fishy | Mushy | Sloshy | |

1. Carve, Curve
 2. Ample, Apple
 3. Huddle, Humble
 4. Rivet, River
 5. France, France
 6. Later, Lager
 7. Carter, Career
 8. Manor, Major
 9. Later, Litter
 10. Spool, Spoof

Even Exchange

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



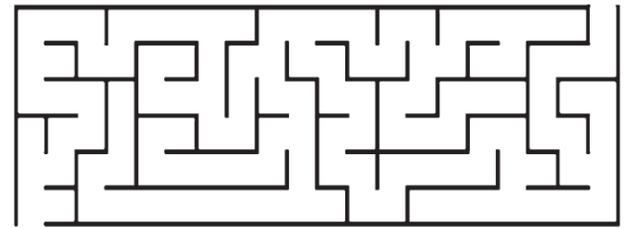
ANSWERS

1. SHY WORDS
 2. FEAR KNOT
 3. HATERS
 4. EARTH
 5. HEART



Kids' Maze Solution

Kids' Maze

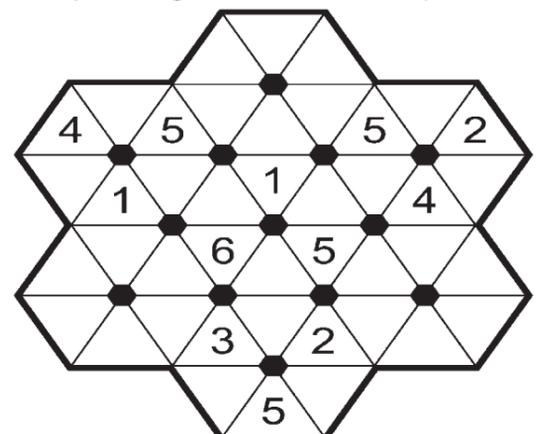


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SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

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



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

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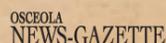
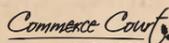
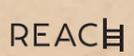
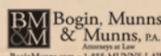
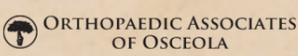
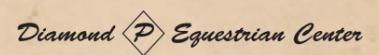
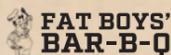
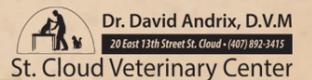
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OSCEOLA NEWS-GAZETTE Triple E

Starbucks' early rise pays off

Starbucks was the caffeinated early riser in the mobile payments market — and it shows.

The coffee chain's mobile payment app shows no sign of losing its place as the most popular, eMarketer says. The research firm says Starbucks' payment service is poised to stay ahead of Apple, Google and Samsung until at least 2022.

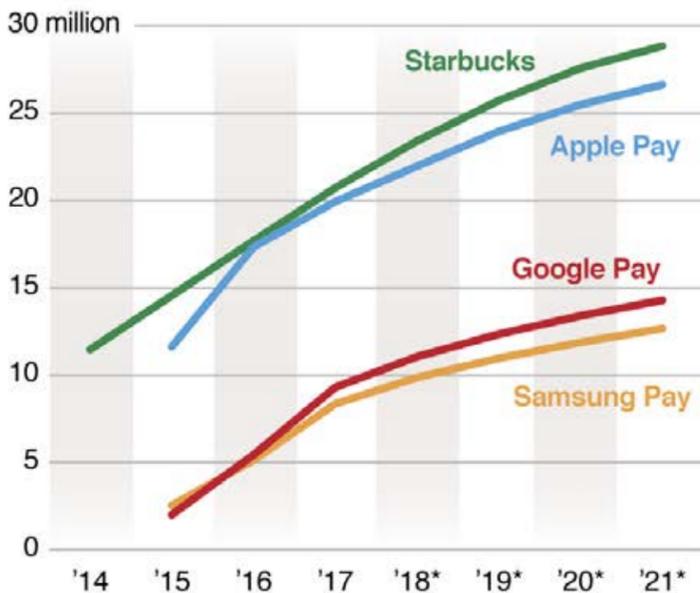
The report doesn't measure which app is more valuable, but forecasts how many people will make a retail purchase using



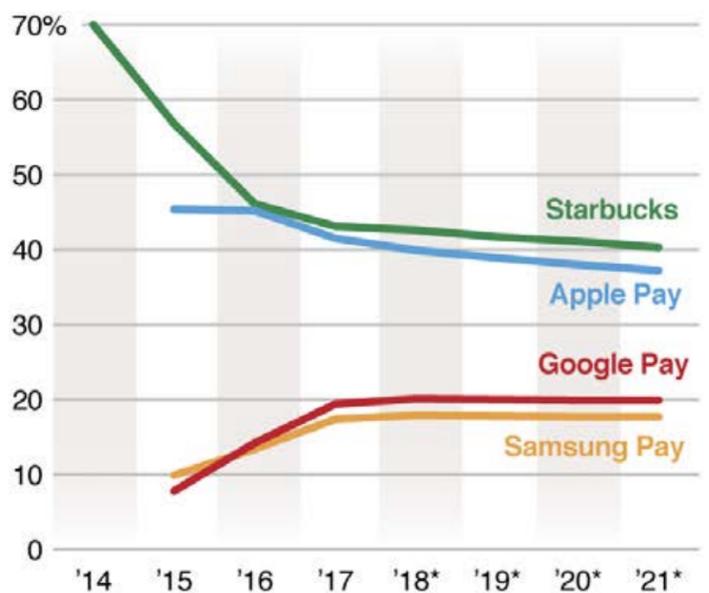
the app at least once every six months. More than 23 million people age 14 and older are expected to use the Starbucks app this year, compared with about 22 million for Apple Pay, 11 million for Google Pay and 10 million for Samsung Pay.

The big tech firms hadn't yet entered the market when Starbucks introduced its payment app in 2009. EMarketer forecasting analyst Cindy Liu says Starbucks gained traction with its ability to tie payments to its loyalty rewards program.

U.S. mobile payment users



U.S. user penetration by service



Source: eMarketer

*estimate

Matt O'Brien; Alex Nieves • AP

Company Spotlight Deal revs up GM stock

General Motors shares soared to a more than three-month high after Japanese technology conglomerate SoftBank said it would invest \$2.25 billion into the carmaker's autonomous vehicle business.

The deal is the largest yet between a technology investment firm and a traditional automaker, and it places GM among the leaders in putting self-driving vehicles on the road.

GM CEO Mary Barra said the investment would hasten GM's plans to



carry passengers in self-driving cars without human backup drivers by 2019. GM is putting up \$1.1 billion of its own money alongside SoftBank's investment to help speed large-scale deployment of the self-driving robotaxis.

The investment gives SoftBank a nearly 20 percent stake in GM Cruise, the company's San Francisco-based autonomous vehicle unit.

GM shares jumped 12.9 percent, their biggest one-day gain since emerging from bankruptcy eight years ago.

General Motors (GM)

Thursday's close: \$42.70

52-WEEK RANGE

\$33 ————— \$47

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

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

GM 31.0 10.6 8.4

Div. yield: 3.6% Dividend: \$1.52

AP

*annualized

Source: FactSet

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Company Spotlight **Jack Daniel's next round**

Brown-Forman CEO Paul Varga is handing the reins of the maker of Jack Daniel's whiskey and other spirits to Lawson Whiting, a long-time company executive who helped reshape the Louisville, Kentucky distiller's portfolio.

Varga will retire at the end of the year, but he'll remain on Brown-Forman's board of directors.

Whiting, 49, has held several roles in his 21 years at Brown-Forman, including assignments in finance, marketing and sales functions in the United States and Europe. He helped reshape



Brown-Forman's portfolio as chief brands and strategy officer.

Whiting pledged to continue Brown-Forman's focus on the premium American whiskey category and to further strengthen its super-premium brand portfolio.

The company is set to open a new downtown Louisville distillery for its historic Old Forester brand next month.

Brown-Forman shares closed up 1.9 percent at \$57.76 Wednesday.

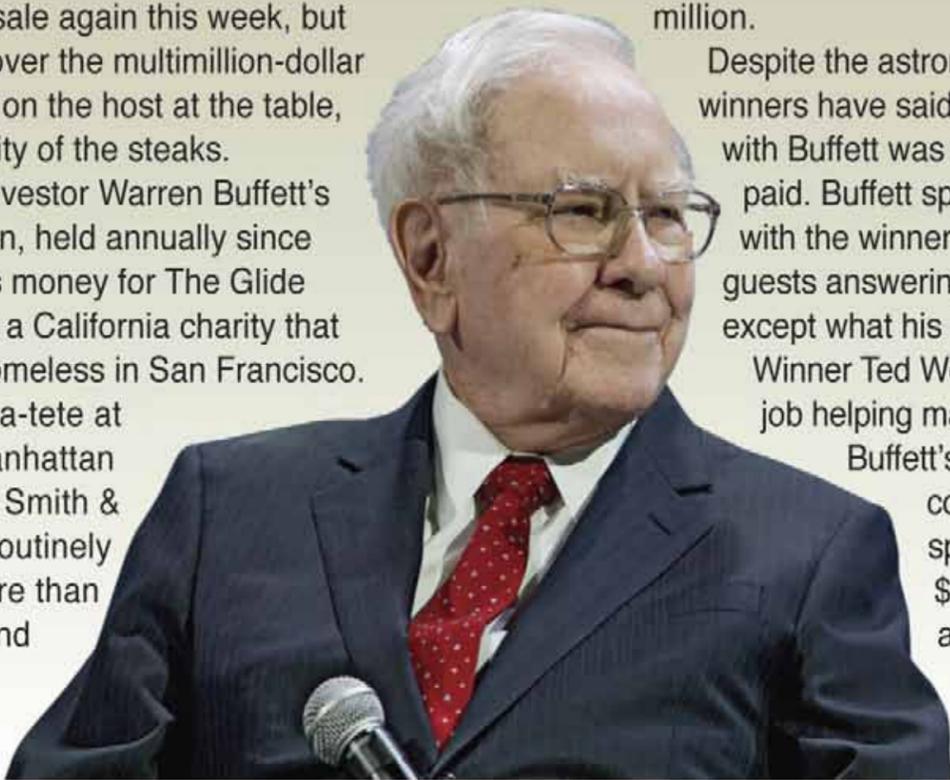
Brown-Forman (BF.B)	Wednesday's close: \$57.76	Total return	1-yr	3-yr*	5-yr*
52-WEEK RANGE	Price-earnings ratio: 37	BF.B	44.7	17.6	17.3
\$38 \$60	(Based on past 12-month results)	Div. yield: 1.1%	Dividend: \$0.63		
AP		*annualized	Source: FactSet		

Breaking bread with Buffett

One of the most expensive lunches in the world is on sale again this week, but diners fork over the multimillion-dollar price based on the host at the table, not the quality of the steaks.

Famed investor Warren Buffett's lunch auction, held annually since 2000, raises money for The Glide Foundation, a California charity that helps the homeless in San Francisco.

The tete-a-tete at midtown Manhattan steakhouse Smith & Wollensky routinely sells for more than \$2 million and this year's bidding is already



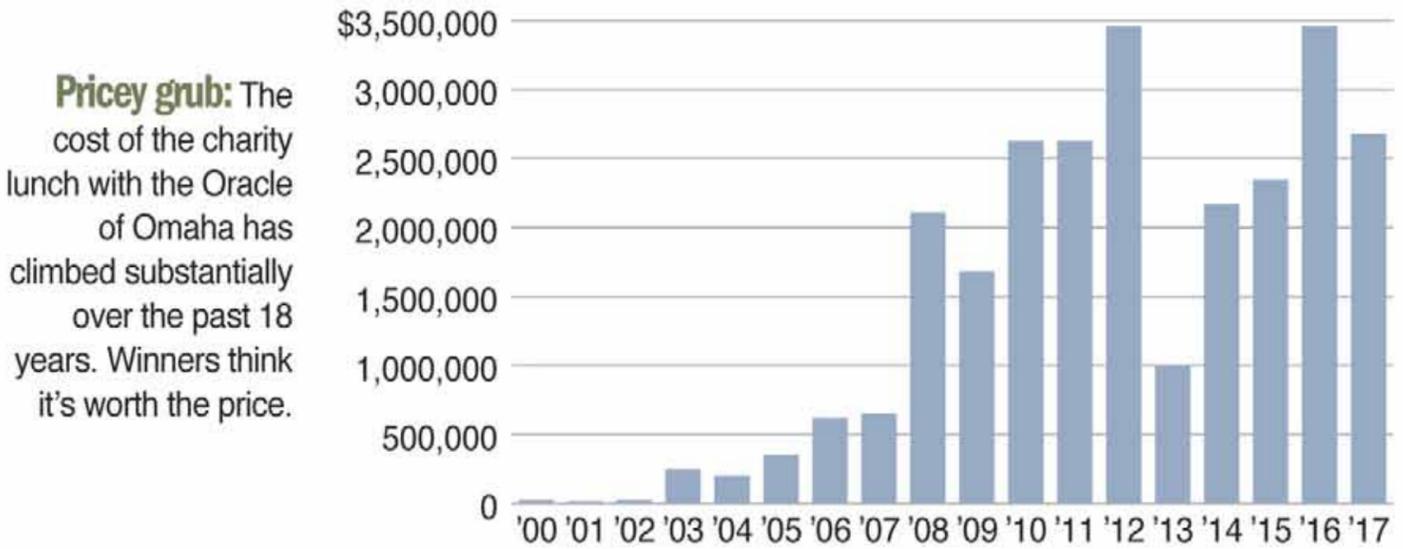
over \$3 million. The record is nearly \$3.5 million

Despite the astronomical prices, past winners have said they believe the time with Buffett was well worth what they paid. Buffett spends several hours with the winner and up to seven guests answering all questions — except what his next investment will be.

Winner Ted Weschler even landed a job helping manage investments at Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway conglomerate after spending a combined \$5.3 million for the 2010 and 2011 lunches.

A 26 oz. prime rib at Smith & Wollensky goes for \$59.

The cost of lunch with Warren Buffett



Pricey grub: The cost of the charity lunch with the Oracle of Omaha has climbed substantially over the past 18 years. Winners think it's worth the price.

Source: Glide Foundation

Joshua Boak; J. Paschke • AP

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Going it alone

US alienates allies before taking on Beijing

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration's decision to slap tariffs on its top allies could weaken Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross' hand as he travels to Beijing to try to fend off a trade war with China.

That, at least, is the view of many longtime trade analysts and China watchers.

"This is really the U.S. going it alone," said Philip Levy, senior fellow at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs who was a trade adviser in the George W. Bush administration. "By assaulting all our allies, we leave ourselves standing unprotected and by ourselves in a way we really never have been."

"We are alienating all of our friends and partners at a time when we could really use their support," added Wendy Cutler, a former U.S. trade negotiator who is now vice president at the Asia Society Policy Institute.

After briefing reporters on the administration's decision to slap tariffs on imported steel from Canada, Mexico and the European Union, Ross is leaving Friday for Beijing for negotiations aimed at resolving a dispute over China's aggressive attempts to challenge U.S. technological supremacy.

Trade analysts say the Trump team should be enlisting its allies to present a united front to China. After all, U.S. friends like Japan and the European Union share many of the same gripes about China. They decry rampant theft of intellectual property and Chinese overproduction, which

has flooded world markets with cheap steel and aluminum.

And in fact, U.S. Trade Rep. Robert Lighthizer, Japan's economics minister, Hiroshige Seko, and EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom did issue a vague statement from Paris on Thursday urging unidentified countries to do more to protect intellectual property and to reduce overcapacity.

But the U.S. undermined the alliance on Thursday by slapping key allies and trading partners — Canada, Mexico and the EU — with tariffs of 25 percent on steel and 10 percent on aluminum. All vowed to retaliate by penalizing American products.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, noting that Canadians and Americans have been allies for 150 years and fought and died together in World War II and in Afghanistan, took a shot at the Trump team:

"Americans remain our partners, friends, and allies," Trudeau said. "This is not about the American people. We have to believe that at some point their common sense will prevail. But we see no sign of that in this action today by the U.S. administration."

Now, the U.S. is turning to Beijing and to a standoff that has taken some confusing turns.

Last month, the administration proposed tariffs on \$50 billion of Chinese imports to punish China for forcing U.S. companies to hand over technology in exchange for access to its market. President Donald



AP
In this May 19, 2018, photo, a worker positions a roll of steel plate at a dockyard in Qidong in eastern China's Jiangsu province. China appealed Friday, June 1, 2018, to its trading partners to reject "trade and investment protectionism" after Washington raised tariffs on steel imports and said it will impose curbs on Chinese investment.

Trump later ordered his top trade negotiator to seek up to an additional \$100 billion in Chinese products to tax.

China responded by targeting \$50 billion in U.S. products, including soybeans — a shot at Trump supporters in America's heartland. Rising tensions between the world's two biggest economies alarmed investors and business leaders.

But they breathed a sigh

of relief earlier this month when the U.S. and China declared a cease-fire after talks in Washington. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said then that the trade war was "on hold." And the tariffs were suspended after China agreed to "substantially reduce" its trade surplus with America by buying more U.S. products.

The truce didn't last long. Trump, facing criticism

from some in Congress for cozying up to Beijing, on Tuesday renewed his threat to impose the tariffs on China. His hardline trade adviser, Peter Navarro, charged Wednesday that Mnuchin's conciliatory comments about China were "an unfortunate sound bite."

Critics say the administration should be picking its trade fights far more judiciously.

"This is dumb," said Re-

publican Sen. Ben Sasse of Nebraska. "Europe, Canada and Mexico are not China, and you don't treat allies the same way you treat opponents."

"There's still a risk that this escalates into a trade war," Levy said. "Our allies and partners are going to be pressured by China to take their side. In this environment, it's hard for them for to be very pro-U.S."

After embassy move, Trump weighs Jerusalem consulate changes

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is considering giving U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman more authority over the U.S. outpost that handles Palestinian affairs, five U.S. officials said, a shift that could further dampen Palestinian hopes for an independent state.

Any move to downgrade the autonomy of the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem — responsible for relations with the Palestinians — could have potent symbolic resonance, suggesting American recognition of Israeli control over east Jerusalem and the West Bank. And while the change might be technical and bureaucratic, it could have potentially significant policy implications.

As president, Trump has departed from traditional U.S. insistence on a "two-state solution" for the Mideast conflict by leaving open the possibility of just one state. As his administration prepares to unveil a long-awaited peace plan, the Palestinians have all but cut off contact, enraged by Trump's decision to move the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem.

The deliberations come as Friedman, who has pushed for changes to the

consulate since he arrived in Israel last year, faces growing indignation in the U.S. over partisan comments and other actions in which he has publicly sided with Israel over its critics. On Thursday, a top Democratic lawmaker even suggested Friedman should be recalled after he waded into domestic U.S. politics on Israel's behalf, telling an Israeli newspaper that Democrats have failed to support Israel as much as Republicans.

For decades, the Jerusalem consulate has operated differently than almost every other consulate around the world. Rather than reporting to the U.S. Embassy in Israel, it has reported directly to the State Department in Washington, giving the Palestinians an unfiltered channel to engage with the U.S. government.

That arrangement was relatively clear-cut before Trump moved the embassy. Until Trump's decision in December to move it from Tel Aviv, the United States did not recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital. The Jerusalem consulate provided services to Americans in Jerusalem and also served as the de facto U.S. embassy to the Palestinians, who claim east Jerusalem for the

capital of a future independent state.

But since Trump earlier this month moved the embassy to Jerusalem, the situation has become more complicated. Now the U.S. maintains an embassy in one part of the city and a separate consulate less than a mile away, potentially creating confusion about who has ultimate authority if, for example, an American citizen needs help and turns to the U.S. government.

No final decision has been made about what changes to make to the consulate's chain of command, a decision complicated by the consulate's unique circumstances. But the embassy, run by Friedman, is expected to end up with ultimate authority over the consulate, officials said. They weren't authorized to discuss the matter publicly and requested anonymity.

Dan Shapiro, the former U.S. ambassador to Israel, said such a move would be perceived as undermining Palestinians' claims to sovereignty and statehood aspirations, because it would suggest that Washington considers the Palestinian Authority to be under Israel's jurisdiction. Otherwise, Shapiro said, why would it expect the Palestinians to

talk to the U.S. through its mission to Israel?

"They don't want to deal with the U.S. embassy to Israel as their channel," said Shapiro, now a scholar at Israel's Institute for National Security Studies. "They want their voice to be heard directly in Washington."

Typically, the head of a consulate, known as a consul general, reports to the ambassador, who has "chief of mission authority" over all U.S. posts in the country. In contrast, the consul general running the Jerusalem consulate has historically had his or her own chief of mission authority. The closest comparable case to the Jerusalem situation is the U.S. Consulate in Hong Kong, which also has its own chief of mission who does not report to the U.S. ambassador in Beijing.

Friedman has advocated for having the embassy in Jerusalem subsume the consulate, officials said, although the State Department has ruled out that possibility. Other possibilities include allowing the consulate to retain some day-to-day authorities while letting the embassy set the direction for major policy decisions.

Staunchly pro-Israel and with close ties to the West

Bank settler movement, Friedman is broadly seen by Palestinian leadership as lacking good faith in U.S. efforts to mediate a fair resolution to the Mideast conflict. But on the consulate issue, he has an ally in the White House in the form of national security adviser John Bolton, the officials said.

It wasn't clear precisely when the changes would be made, although one official said the administration is waiting until current Consul General Donald Blome leaves Jerusalem over the summer, possibly in July.

Regardless of any changes, the Jerusalem consulate will remain the primary U.S. point of contact for the Palestinian Authority and for Palestinians, including those in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip seeking visas or other U.S. consular services.

"Consulate General Jerusalem continues to operate as an independent mission with an unchanged mandate from its historic Agron Road location," the State Department said in a statement.

Such changes would likely be carried out by Trump issuing new "letters of instruction," which delegate authorities to ambassadors

and chiefs of mission, to Friedman and whoever heads the Jerusalem consulate, the official said.

Separately, the Trump administration is also facing calls in Congress for the U.S. to recognize Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights, the strategic plateau that Israel captured from Syria in the 1967 Mideast war. Although Israel annexed the Golan in 1981, the U.S. and others consider it to be disputed territory with its status subject to an eventual peace deal between Israel and Syria.

In recent months, however, Iran's increasing involvement in Syria and growing presence in southern Syria near the Golan Heights have drawn alarm in Israel and elsewhere, leading some U.S. law- and policy-makers to believe that the Washington should end its official neutrality in a show of support for Israeli security in the face of a threat from Iran and its proxies.

Ideas under discussion range from flat-out recognition that the Golan is part of Israel to lifting restrictions on U.S. investment incentives for projects or more symbolic steps like including the area on official maps as part of Israel.

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Department stores making themselves over in beauty battle

NEW YORK (AP) — It's the beauty aisles themselves getting makeovers now.

Department stores are being forced to rethink how they sell higher-end makeup and perfume as competition intensifies from discounters like Target, specialty chains like Sephora and Ulta and online brands. So stores like Saks and Macy's are promising workouts for your face, augmented reality and beauty treatment concierges as they try to attract millennial customers and make the cosmetics aisles more of a destination than a stop-over.

To expand its beauty area to the size of a typical grocery store, Saks Fifth Avenue's flagship location is even bumping cosmetics from its position near main-floor entrances to the second level, breaking from a century-old tradition in retailing.

"Department stores have to reinvent themselves, and that's not an easy thing to do," said Larissa Jensen, an analyst at NPD Group, a market research firm. "Everyone has an eye on beauty. It's an area that consumers continue to be excited about."

But shoppers are changing the way they buy beauty products, fueled by social media, the explosion of new trends and emerging brands. Customers want to experiment with products beyond the brands to which they're loyal. And with information online, they're more knowledgeable when they approach the cosmetics counter.

Specialty chains like Ulta and Sephora overtook department stores by share of the U.S. beauty and personal care market in 2009, according to research firm Euromonitor International. By last year the specialists had more than 15 percent of the market and department stores fell below 9 percent.

Department stores, already trying to keep customers coming through the doors, are freshening up the face they present to shoppers.

Saks Fifth Avenue has expanded the beauty section at its New York flagship by 40 percent to 32,000 square feet. It has 15 treatment



In this May 22, 2018, photo cosmetic products are displayed inside the new Christian Louboutin space at the revamped second floor devoted to beauty at Saks Fifth Avenue in New York. Department stores are being forced to rethink how they sell higher-end makeup and perfume as competition intensifies from discounters like Target, specialty chains like Sephora and Ulta and online brands.

rooms for services like getting your back fat frozen or workouts for your face to combat sagging. It offers complimentary services like mini-facials, with a concierge to greet customers and help book appointments.

Meanwhile, Macy's is allowing shoppers to experiment more with products and letting beauty advisers step away from the counter to help them. It also has areas that focus on specific categories like mascaras or highlighters that include many brands. And it's featuring augmented reality technology in a cluster of stores for shoppers who want to experiment with-

out trying everything out. Stores like Neiman Marcus and Nordstrom, meanwhile, are creating hubs of the latest trends and beauty products.

J.C. Penney, still scarred by a disastrous makeover a few years ago, has been expanding its highly successful partnership with Sephora and will have those shops in 75 percent of its stores this year.

"We are all thinking of new ways to innovate," said Nata Dvir, Macy's general business manager of beauty.

Sephora and Ulta had already shaken up the long-time pattern of shoppers going to department stores and talking to advisers for

higher-end products or finding low-priced offerings at drug stores.

Both chains have expanded rapidly, multiplying the number of places shoppers can test makeup and get tutorials. And Sephora in particular has been ahead in adopting technology like using facial scans to find foundations and concealers to match a person's skin tone. It was the first beauty brand to adopt chatbots, according to research firm CB Insights.

Their success has pushed discounters like Walmart and Target as well as drugstores like CVS to revamp their cosmetics areas with more open spaces, brighter

lighting and more attractive fixtures. Discounters have also been working with suppliers to jump on new trends and get items in stores in a few months later instead of in a year.

Target now has sales assistants who specialize in beauty, and launched a concierge service on its site that lets shoppers chat with experts and virtually try on makeup. Customers will soon be able to text a beauty expert, and at 10 stores they can try augmented reality technology.

And online sites, such as Colourpop and Glambot, feature high-end brands at more affordable prices.

Against this competition,

Saks Fifth Avenue aims to offers an over-the-top beauty experience, with large shops devoted to brands like Chanel and Gucci, something that hasn't been seen before in the beauty departments. It's a mix of technology and serious pampering. There's even a florist shop with matching fragrances.

Much was made of the move away from the ground floor, but Saks Fifth Avenue president Marc Metrick says the new format is designed for someone who wants to spend time.

"We really wanted to create an emotional connection with a customer," said Metrick.

Facebook kills 'trending' topics, tests breaking news label

NEW YORK (AP) — Facebook is shutting down its ill-fated "trending" news section after four years, a company executive told The Associated Press.

The company claims the tool is outdated and wasn't popular. But the trending section also proved problematic in ways that would presage Facebook's later problems with fake news, political balance and the limitations of artificial intelligence in managing the messy human world.

When Facebook launched "trending" in 2014 as a list of headlines to the side of the main news feed, it was a straightforward move to steal users from Twitter by giving them a quick look at the most popular news of the moment. It fit nicely into CEO Mark Zuckerberg's pledge just a year earlier to make Facebook its users' "personal newspaper."

But that was then. "Fake news" wasn't yet a popular

term, and no foreign country had been accused of trying to influence the U.S. elections through social media. Trending news that year included the death of Robin Williams, Ebola and the World Cup.

While Facebook is killing the trending section, it is testing new features, including a "breaking news" label that publishers can add to stories to distinguish them from other chatter. Facebook also wants to make local news more prominent.

In an interview ahead of Friday's announcement, Facebook's head of news products, Alex Hardiman, said the company is still committed to breaking and real-time news. But instead of having Facebook's moderators, human or otherwise, make editorial decisions, there's also been a subtle shift to let news organizations do so.

According to the Pew Research Center, 44 percent of

U.S. adults get some or all of their news through Facebook.

Troubles with the trending section began to emerge in 2016, when the company was accused of bias against conservatives, based on the words of an anonymous former contractor who said Facebook downplayed conservative issues in the trending section and promoted liberal causes. Zuckerberg met with prominent right-wing leaders at the company's headquarters in an attempt at damage control. Yet two years later, Facebook still hasn't been able to shake the notion of bias.

In late 2016, Facebook fired the human editors who worked on the trending topics and replaced them with software that was supposed to be free of political bias. Instead, the software algorithm began to pick out posts that were getting the most attention, even if the information

in them was bogus. In early 2017, Facebook made another attempt to fix the trending section, this time by including only topics covered by several news publishers. The thinking was that coverage by just one outlet could be a sign that the news is fake.

The troubles underscore the difficulty of relying on computers, even artificial intelligence, to make sense of the messy human world without committing obvious, sometimes embarrassing and occasionally disastrous errors.

Ultimately, Facebook appears to conclude that trying to fix the headaches around trending weren't worth the meager benefit the company, users and news publishers saw in it.

"There are other ways for us to better invest our resources," Hardiman said.

As it winds down the feature, Facebook is testing out a "breaking news" label with

80 publishers around the world. This tool lets publishers such as The Washington Post add a red label to indicate that a story is breaking news, highlighting it for users who want accurate information as things are happening.

"Breaking news has to look different than a recipe," Hardiman said.

Another feature, called "Today In," shows people breaking news in their area from local publishers, officials and organizations. It's being tested out in 30 markets in the U.S. Hardiman says the goal is to help "elevate great local journalism." The company is also funding news videos, created by outside publishers it would not yet name and original to Facebook, that it plans to launch in the next couple of months.

Facebook says the trending section wasn't a popular feature to begin with. It was available only in five coun-

tries and accounted for less than 1.5 percent of clicks to the websites of news publishers, according to the company. Based on data from surveys of people who used it, Facebook says it was becoming less and less useful as people turned to their main news feed as a place to get news.

While Facebook got outsized attention for the problems the trending section had — perhaps because it seemed popular with journalists and editors — neither its existence nor its removal makes much of a difference when it comes with Facebook's broader problems with news.

Hardiman said ending the trending section feels like letting a child go. But she said Facebook's focus now is prioritizing trustworthy, informative news that people find useful.

Seeing a list of the day's most popular trends did not always help with this.



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Senior North Korean official chastises South Korean reporter

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Bitter rivals North and South Korea are on talking terms again, but their surprising cordiality still has moments of awkwardness, such when a senior North Korean official scolded a South Korean reporter over a question he didn't like.

In a brief exchange that displayed the fundamental differences between the countries, North Korean official Ri Son Gwon reacted with irritation Friday when a South Korean reporter asked him whether North Korea's grievances against the South had been resolved as he arrived for talks on easing tensions at the border village of Panmunjom.

Ri, chairman of the North Korean agency that deals with inter-Korean affairs, seemed stunned by the question. After a moment of silence, Ri, who in the past has been described by South Korean counterparts as hot-tempered, ripped into the reporter.

"Journalists can ask questions from different angles. But don't you think that the questions should change, to meet the demand of changing times?" Ri said. "You obviously know which side caused the situation to become serious. Then why are you asking me whether the (problems) have been resolved?"

Ri said he would consider similar questions as "discourteous" in the future. He called for questions that would "promote reconciliation and cooperation."

Ri is hardly the first North Korean official to chastise South Korean reporters over questions

they found uncomfortable. But officials have been unusually cordial in recent months as North Korea reaches out to South Korea and the United States to reduce tensions.

While South Korean reporters have a reputation for aggressiveness, the question to Ri at Panmunjom was fairly predictable.

North Korea had called off the high-level talks last month over what it saw as bad faith from the southern side. A surprise summit last week between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in put the meeting back on for Friday.

The senior officials from the two sides agreed to establish a liaison office in the North Korean border town of Kaesong and hold military and Red Cross talks later this month on reducing tensions and resuming reunions of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War.

Kim and Moon held their first summit at Panmunjom on April 27 and issued vague aspirations for a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula and permanent peace. But relations chilled when North Korea canceled the high-level meeting and threatened to walk away from a planned summit between Kim and U.S. President Donald Trump because of the South's participation in military exercises with the United States and comments from U.S. officials. Trump canceled the summit, then said it may still take place, shortly before Kim and Moon met again on May 26.

Diplomacy is also accelerating between the U.S.



The head of the North Korean delegation Ri Son Gwon, center, talks with South Korean reporters as he arrives to meet with South Korean Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon at the southern side of Panmunjom in the Demilitarized Zone, South Korea, Friday, June 1, 2018.

and North Korea to prepare for a summit, which may take place June 12 in Singapore. But Ri, still seething over the grievance question, wasn't willing to talk about the potential meeting with reporters.

"Go fly to Singapore to ask that question," he told the South Korean reporter. "This is Panmunjom."

Ri was in a better mood in the meeting room with South Korean officials, lightheartedly mentioning his earlier interaction with the reporter and even proposing that the meeting be opened to the media.

"Reporters are the spokesmen of justice and

truth," Ri said. "If they get to be with us through the whole meeting, they will think, 'Wow, the North-South high-level talks are producing a good outcome' and will vividly report what happens."

South Korean Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon persuaded Ri to keep the discussions behind closed-doors for the sake of efficiency.

There have been plenty of awkward exchanges between North Korean officials and South Korean journalists during tenses times. In 2008, senior North Korean diplomat Hyun Hak Bong angrily

wagged a finger at South Korean reporters who asked about speculation over health problems for then North Korean leader Kim Jong Il, the late father of the current leader, fuming about "nonsense" spread by "bad people who don't wish our republic well."

The interactions have been noticeably different in recent months. In April, senior North Korean official Kim Yong Chol, who is currently in the United States and plans to meet Trump, surprised visiting South Korean reporters by apologizing for media coverage problems during

a joint cultural event in Pyongyang.

But Kim Yong Chol also displayed a dark sense of humor, introducing himself by saying, "Hello, I am the man you blame for the sinking of the Cheonan."

South Korea has accused Kim, a former military intelligence chief, of being behind the sinking of the South Korean warship Cheonan and the shelling of a border island which together killed 50 South Koreans in 2010.

Italian populists sworn into power as euroskeptics cheer

ROME (AP) — Italy's president swore in western Europe's first populist government Friday, featuring a mix of anti-establishment and right-wing ministers who have promised an "Italy first" agenda that has alarmed Europe's political establishment.

The continent's euro-skeptical politicians cheered the birth of the new government coalition of the 5-Star Movement and the right-wing League party. Milan's stock market rose after a last-minute deal Thursday averted the threat of an early election that could have turned into a referendum on whether Italy should ditch the shared euro currency.

President Sergio Mattarella, who negotiated through three months of political deadlock to finally find a workable government, presided over the ceremony in the gilded Quirinale Palace. Eighteen ministers — five of them women — took the oath of office, pledging to observe Italy's constitution and work exclusively in the interests of the nation.

The ministers feature a mix of 5-Star and League

loyalists, and a political neophyte in the form of Premier-designate Giuseppe Conte, who was still teaching his law classes at the university in Florence up until Thursday.

The key economy ministry went to a mainstream economist, Giovanni Tria, who is close to the center-right Forza Italia party of ex-Premier Silvio Berlusconi. Mattarella had vetoed the 5-Star-League's first proposed candidate for the post because of his euroskeptical views, scuttling their first shot at forming a government.

The Cabinet also includes defense attorney Giulia Bongiorno as the new minister for public administration. A center-right lawmaker, she is legendary for defending ex-Premier Giulio Andreotti against mafia collusion charges and defending the ex-boyfriend of American student Amanda Knox against murder charges.

The ceremony Friday afternoon capped a roller-coaster week of political and financial turmoil that saw stock markets around the world plunge and Italy's borrowing rates

soar on the threat of a new election in Europe's third-largest economy.

It also came on the eve of the nation's Republic Day holiday, the day in 1946 when Italy abolished the monarchy and gave birth to the First Republic.

The improbably fast rise of the grassroots 5-Star Movement and its alliance with the right-wing, anti-immigrant League has been dubbed the birth of Italy's Third Republic, after Italy's post-war political order was largely brushed in the March 4 national vote.

"Look at this spectacle!" marveled 5-Star leader Luigi Di Maio moments before the swearing-in ceremony. In a Facebook post featuring a photo of the 5-Star ministers, he said: "There are a lot of us, and we're ready to launch a government of change to improve the quality of life for all Italians."

After the ceremony, Conte headed to the premier's office to formally take the reins — and a symbolic little bell — from ex-Premier Paolo Gentiloni.

The changing of the

guard sets the stage for obligatory confidence votes in Parliament next week. Between them, the League and 5-Stars have a thin parliamentary majority, and some right-wing lawmakers outside the government have vowed to abstain rather than vote against it.

Europe's populists and right-wingers cheered the new Italian government as a slap in the face to Brussels, headquarters of the 28-nation European Union.

French far-right leader Marine Le Pen tweeted: "It's a victory of democracy over intimidation and threats from the European Union." Le Pen shares the League's firm stances against immigrants.

Nigel Farage, former leader of Britain's UKIP party that played a key role in the Brexit campaign for Britain to leave the EU, wished good luck to the two parties.

"Gotta stay strong or the bully boys will be after you," he warned.

It was a reference to EU officials, who have made clear in recent days their concerns — in occasion-

ally undiplomatic terms — about Italy's euroskeptical direction.

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker told a conference Thursday that he loved Italy, but refused to accept the frequent mantra by Italian politicians that Italy's ills are the fault of the EU.

"Italians have to take care of the poor regions of Italy. That means more work, less corruption. Seriousness," he said. "We will help them, as we always did. But don't play this game."

His comments sparked outrage in Italy, with Salvini blasting them as "racist" in his victory speech Thursday in northern Lombardy.

"With the new government, we'll see how to make them respect the rights and dignity of 60 million Italians who want cooperation from Europe, not insults," Salvini said.

By Friday, EC spokeswoman Mina Andreeva said Juncker "deeply regrets" the comments and reaffirmed that he not only loved Italy, but that the EU executive was committed

to working with its new government.

"We have full confidence in the capacity and willingness of the new government to engage constructively with its European partners and EU institutions to uphold Italy's central role in the common European project," Andreeva said.

The government is headed by Conte, but he has as deputy premiers his two more seasoned political masters: Di Maio and Salvini.

Di Maio, who pledged to give needy Italians a basic income, takes over as economic development minister, while Salvini heads the interior ministry, the key position to enforce his pledge to expel hundreds of thousands of migrants.

Ex-Premier Matteo Renzi, whose Democratic Party suffered its worst-ever thrashing in the March vote, wished good luck to the Conte government while vowing to be the "civil opposition."

"We are radically something else than the majority that supports this government," Renzi tweeted.



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Cosby accuser makes first public statements since trial

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The woman whose allegations that Bill Cosby drugged and assaulted her led to his conviction said the pills he gave her made her feel like a "limp noodle," leaving her helpless to fend off the 2004 attack.

Andrea Constand, 45, a former Temple University women's basketball administrator, spoke to NBC News in her first interview since the jury convicted "The Cosby Show" star of three counts of aggravated indecent assault.

Her comments closely tracked what she said on the witness stand at Cosby's two trials — the first ended in a hung jury last summer — as she described how Cosby knocked her out with three blue pills he called "your friends," then attacked her at his suburban Philadelphia home.

"My mind is saying, 'Move your hands. Kick. Can you do anything? I don't want this. Why is this person doing this?' And me not being able to react in any specific way," Constand said in the taped interview, a brief clip of which aired on NBC's "Today" show on Thursday. "So I was limp. I was a limp noodle."

She added: "I was crying out inside, in my throat, in my mind, for this to stop. And I couldn't do anything."

Constand said she felt ashamed and didn't immediately tell anyone



In this April 26, 2018 file photo, Bill Cosby accuser Andrea Constand smiles as she listens during a news conference after Cosby was found guilty in his sexual assault retrial in Norristown, Pa. NBC's "Today" show on Thursday, May 31 aired a brief, taped segment of an interview with Constand.

about the assault because she thought no one would believe it.

NBC's full interview with Constand is due to air Friday night on the network's "Dateline" show.

Cosby is confined to his home awaiting sentencing Sept. 24. The comedian, who turns 81 in July, is likely to face a sentence of five to 10 years in prison.

Cosby has maintained his inno-

cence, saying his sexual encounter with Constand was consensual. His lawyers attacked Constand at the April retrial as a "con artist" who framed Cosby in order to extort a huge civil settlement from him. Constand sued Cosby after prosecutors initially declined to file charges, settling with him for nearly \$3.4 million over a decade ago.

In 'American Animals,' a library heist goes awry

BY JAKE COYLE
AP Film Writer

For anyone who has ever read "Crime and Punishment" and then really wanted to see a frat boy version — Bro-stoyevsky, if you will — your movie has finally arrived.

"American Animals" is about a foursome of Kentucky college students — all white kids from privileged backgrounds — who in 2004 decided to steal some extremely valuable books from the Lexington library at Transylvania University. They are motivated less by the millions the books (particularly John James Audubon's multi-volume "The Birds of America") could fetch than a desire to step beyond a line and turn their regular lives into something "special."

"We're supposed to be hunter gatherers, man," one says to another in a grocery store aisle.

The irony is that their brazen plot turns them into just another kind of cliché — hapless, dimwitted criminals — and leaves them ultimately with nothing but regret and shame. Oh, and this movie.

Bart Layton's "American Animals" isn't just a dramatization of the 2004 heist. It's frequently narrated and commented upon by the real guys whose story the film is based on. Warren Lipka, Spencer Reinhard, Eric Bosuk and Charles Allen II all appear in documentary-style interviews that punctuate the heist narrative, looking back years later with ashen remorse that may or may not mask their pleasure at starring in their own movie.

It opens, cleverly, with the words "This is not based on a true story." Then, with a puff, the middle words blow away leaving only, "This is a true story." Layton has previously played with hybrids of fiction and nonfiction. His 2012 documentary "The Imposter," about the shape-shifting con artist Frederic Bourdin, was as manipulative and deceptive as its sly subject.

And especially in the first half of "American Animals," Layton works hard — too hard — to impress its own stranger-than-fiction playfulness. The talking-head testimonies of the guys, along with their parents and teachers, are joined with scenes in which characters question each other's memories. Layton sometimes plays multiple versions of scenes, like the foggy remembered meeting with a possible fence to sell the books in New York.

The what's-true-what's-not tricks, reminiscent of last year's "I, Tonya," are — like the students' own high-minded plans — not quite as smart as Layton seems to think. But the actors are quite good. Barry Keoghan ("The Killing of a Sacred Deer") plays Spencer, a talented painter in search of some artistic suffering. "Art has to be about something more than: My life is great and I'm really good at drawing," he says.

The valuable books first catch his eye, but it's his friend Warren (Evan Peters) who's the ringleader. While his parents are divorcing, Warren lets his athletic scholarship slide and refashions himself as a James Dean rebel and small-time thief. Through charisma and cajoling, he assembles a team

(Jared Abrahamson and Blake Jenner play Bosuk and Allen) and what starts as a hypothetical lark turns into a genuine if poorly considered plot, predicated on disabling the middle-aged librarian (Ann Dowd) and dressing up as elderly men in costumes that mostly resemble 1970s Dick Van Dykes.

They make a study of heist movies, watching films like Stanley Kubrick's "The Killing," giving themselves "Reservoir Dogs" nicknames and imagining a smooth, stylish "Ocean's 11" operation. In a sense, "American Animals" rewards them with the notoriety they sought. And it's reasonable to wonder if the film — which conflates their crime with the existential malaise of American youth — isn't just another way for them to profit for what they deserve only punishment. (Allen also wrote a 2010 book titled "Mr. Pink." Reinhard is still painting.)

There's plenty hollow in the self-aware machinations of "American Animals." But there's also something affecting in Reinhard's regret and how the film charts the swift, crushing fall of a dopey, quixotic idea hatched by kids who don't realize that what they're playing at isn't a game. "American Animals" would be a legitimate cautionary tale if it wasn't invalidated by its own existence.

"American Animals," a The Orchard and MoviePass Ventures release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for "language throughout, some drug use and brief crude/sexual material." Running time: 116 minutes. Two stars out of four.



This image by The Orchard shows Jared Abrahamson in a scene from "American Animals."

Around the Area

Original map of Pooh's Hundred Acre Wood up for auction

LONDON (AP) — The original version of a map that entranced generations of children is up for auction at Sotheby's.

The auctioneer said Thursday that E.H. Shepard's map of the Hundred Acre Wood, home to Winnie-the-Pooh, could fetch 150,000 pounds (\$200,000) when it is sold in July.

Shepard's 1926 sketch features beloved characters including Pooh and Christopher Robin, and landmarks including "Bee Tree" and "Eeyore's Gloomy Place."

It was last sold in 1970 for 1,700 pounds.

Shepard's illustrations helped cement the popularity of A.A. Milne's "bear of very little brain" and his woodland friends. In 2014, an ink drawing of the characters playing the game poohsticks sold for 314,500 pounds, a record for a book illustration.

The map and four other Shepard Winnie-the-Pooh illustrations will be sold July 10 at Sotheby's London.

Judge sweeps clouds away for makers of R-rated puppet movie

NEW YORK (AP) — A judge in New York ruled Wednesday against the makers of "Sesame Street" in a dispute with the distributor of the upcoming Melissa McCarthy movie, "The Happytime Murders."

U.S. District Judge Vernon Broderick ruled that distributor STX Productions can continue to use the tagline "No sesame. All street" in promoting the R-rated film, which features Muppet-like puppets in a comedic crime story.

Sesame Workshop sued last week, seeking to end the inclusion of the tagline in promotional materials ahead of the film's Aug. 17 release. The company argued the public would be confused and think the movie was supported by "Sesame Street."

The judge heard oral arguments before issuing his ruling. He said Sesame Workshop didn't demonstrate that moviegoers were confused or that sponsors or parents were complaining.

"We fluffing love Sesame Street and we're obviously very pleased that the ruling reinforced what STX's intention was from the very beginning — to honor the heritage of The Jim Henson Company's previous award-winning creations while drawing a clear distinction between any Muppets or Sesame Street characters and the new world Brian Henson and team created," STX said in statement.

Brigitte Nielsen expecting 5th child at 54 years old

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Fifty-four-year-old model, actress and reality star Brigitte Nielsen is pregnant with her fifth child.

The expectant Nielsen posted photos of herself lounging on Instagram and Twitter. She wrote the family is getting larger.

Nielsen is the mother of four sons, ranging in age from 34 to 23.

She married her fifth husband, Mattia Dessi, in 2006. Nielsen didn't reveal a due date.

Drake claims Pusha T used blackface photo out of context

NEW YORK (AP) — Drake claims rival rapper Pusha T used a blackface photo out of context.

Pusha T released "The Story of Adidon" on Tuesday and the artwork featured Drake in blackface.

Drake posted on his Instagram stories on Wednesday night that the image was not from a clothing brand shoot or his music career.

Drake says the picture was from 2007, when he was an actor working on a project that was about young black actors struggling to get roles. He says the photo represented how blacks were once "wrongfully portrayed in entertainment."

The rap stars renewed their feud last week with the release of Pusha T's new album. In his song "Infrared," Pusha T accuses Drake of using a ghostwriter.

Tom Cruise tweets as production starts on 'Top Gun' sequel

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Tom Cruise is back on the flight line for a sequel to the 1986 film "Top Gun."

The actor on Thursday tweeted a photo of himself as Navy pilot Pete "Maverick" Mitchell in a flight suit, looking at a fighter jet. The photo includes the phrase "feel the need." In the original movie, Cruise's character talks about how he feels the need for speed.

Cruise writes #Day 1 of production of "Top Gun: Maverick."

The movie is scheduled for release in July 2019.

Appeals court tosses drug convictions of 2 film producers

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — An appeals court has wiped out the convictions of two film producers sentenced to federal prison for running a synthetic marijuana operation.

The Virginian-Pilot reports a Richmond appeals court ordered U.S. District Judge Raymond Jackson to take up the case again of Charles Burton Ritchie and Benjamin Galecki. They were convicted last year of running a \$21 million operation out of Pensacola, Florida, that shipped the drug known as spice to areas in Virginia.

The court ruled Friday that Jackson shouldn't have barred defense testimony from a then-scientist with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. The scientist was later arrested on charges of communicating with a child under 15 for sexual contact.

The two produced "Misery Loves Comedy," a 2015 documentary featuring Martin Short, Amy Schumer, Jimmy Fallon and other comedians.

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Saving Sessions

Inside the GOP effort to protect the AG

WASHINGTON (AP) — Days after President Donald Trump deemed Jeff Sessions "beleaguered" and threatened to fire him last July, members of the president's inner circle made a desperate case to save the attorney general's job.

The White House chief of staff, Reince Priebus, and the president's chief strategist, Steve Bannon, pleaded with Trump during a heated Oval Office meeting to keep Sessions, warning that his dismissal would only pour gasoline on the Russia investigation. And, they said, it could alienate those in Trump's conservative base, supporters enamored with the attorney general's tough stances on law enforcement and immigration.

Priebus and Bannon both were out of their jobs within the month. But Sessions survived, his reprieve delivered by John Kelly as one of his first acts as chief of staff.

Ten months later, the Republican campaign to save Sessions has continued and — at least for now — succeeded. In private meetings, public appearances on television and late-night phone calls, Trump's advisers and allies have done all they can to persuade the president not to fire a Cabinet official he dismisses as disloyal. The effort is one of the few effective Republican attempts to install guardrails around a president who delights in defying advice and breaking the rules.

It's an ongoing effort, though not everyone is convinced the relationship is sustainable for the long term.

As recently as this month, Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani said the president had raised the issue again, wondering aloud if he'd made a mistake in not firing Sessions. And both Giuliani and influential Republican lawmakers have hinted that, once special counsel Robert Mueller's probe wraps up, Sessions could be in danger again.

"There's no doubt he's complained about him, there's no doubt he has some grievances. I don't

know they've aired them out yet. He's not going to fire him before this is over," Giuliani told reporters Wednesday. "Nor do I think he should."

Trump showed Wednesday the campaign to save Sessions hasn't tempered his anger at the attorney general's decision to recuse himself from the Russia probe, an act the president believed birthed the Mueller investigation, which is imperiling his presidency. In a tweet, Trump again declared he regretted appointing the former Alabama senator to the job in a familiar, but no less stunning, public rebuke of a sitting Cabinet official.

Despite the withering complaints, Trump appears to comprehend the potential consequences of firing Sessions and seems resigned to the idea that he's stuck with him for the time being, according to nearly a dozen people close to the decision, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private conversations.

The case that Sessions' protectors have outlined to Trump time and again largely consists of three components: Firing Sessions, a witness in Mueller's investigation of obstruction of justice, would add legal peril to his standing in the Russia probe; doing so would anger the president's political base, which Trump cares deeply about, especially with midterm election looming this fall; and a number of Republican senators would rebel against the treatment of a longtime colleague who was following Justice Department guidelines in his recusal.

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, has said that he will not schedule a confirmation hearing for another attorney general nominee if Sessions is fired.

Giuliani told The Associated Press on Wednesday that Trump has asked him multiple times, before and after the former New York mayor joined the president's legal team last month, about whether Sessions should have been fired.



In this Dec. 15, 2017 file photo, President Donald Trump, left, sits with Attorney General Jeff Sessions during the FBI National Academy graduation ceremony in Quantico, Va. Trump is still roiling about Sessions' decision to recuse himself from the Russia probe, an act of perceived disloyalty. Trump has repeatedly complained about his attorney general and took to Twitter again Wednesday, May 30, 2018, to voice regret about appointing Sessions.

Giuliani said Trump consulted him last summer during the height of his rage about Sessions' recusal. More recently, he said, Trump has not actively considered firing Sessions but has wondered if he made the right decision in not doing so previously.

"And when he asks, 'Should I have done that?' I say, 'No, the way it is now has worked out,'" Giuliani said, adding that he did not believe Trump would fire Sessions. Later, speaking to reporters at the White House, he compared the president's temper to that of the late George Steinbrenner, the mercurial owner of the New York Yankees.

Influential conservatives have also heard Trump lash out about Sessions and, though some have sympathy for the concerns, have repeatedly talked him out of doing anything drastic, said one person in touch

with both men who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private conversations. The person recalled a venting session after a meeting at the White House last fall, when the president aired his frustrations with the attorney general about his recusal. The person expressed sympathy but argued against firing Sessions, in part because of his success in carrying out the president's agenda.

Trump's complaints about Sessions have at times won sympathy from some friends who believe Sessions' recusal was too broad and ill-timed and undercut the positive attention from a State of the Union address the president had recently delivered.

While the recusal remains Sessions' original sin in Trump's eyes, the president has also fumed that he sees Sessions as failing to get a handle on immigra-

tion and not placing enough emphasis on combating transnational criminal organizations.

After being berated by Trump over the recusal decision last spring, Sessions offered his resignation, but the overture was rejected. He is widely viewed as determined to stay in the job because he believes in the president's agenda, which largely mirrors his own interests, and is reluctant to leave a job for which he gave up a Senate seat. Hours after the president's attack on Wednesday, Sessions visited the White House for a routine litigation issue, a Justice Department official said.

There may be a limit to how long the campaign to save Sessions can hold on. Giuliani on Wednesday only offered assurances Trump would not fire Sessions during the Mueller investigation, because of

the "distraction" it would cause.

And a number of Republican senators who have supported Sessions have indicated in recent days that they are warming to Trump's complaints.

Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, who in March said firing Sessions would "blow up" the Senate Judiciary Committee, struck a different tone Wednesday, noting that Cabinet positions are "not lifetime appointments." Looking ahead to fall elections, he has reinforced to Trump that the best approach now "is to keep focused on good governance in the midterms."

At some point, Graham said, Sessions will "have to make a decision" that if "you don't have the confidence" of the president, "that will affect your ability to be effective."

Specter of trade war after US tariffs on EU, Mexico, Canada

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration announced Thursday it will impose tariffs on steel and aluminum imports from Europe, Mexico and Canada after failing to win concessions from the American allies. Europe and Mexico pledged to retaliate quickly, exacerbating trans-Atlantic and North American trade tensions. Financial markets fell amid fears of a trade war.

Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said the tariffs would be 25 percent on steel and 10 percent on aluminum, and go into effect on Friday, as the administration followed through on the penalties after earlier granting exemptions to buy time for negotiations. President Donald Trump had announced the tariffs in March, citing national security concerns.

The European Commission's president, Jean-Claude

Juncker, said Trump's decision amounted to trade protectionism and that Europe would respond with countermeasures. "This is protectionism, pure and simple," Juncker said. Mexico said it would penalize U.S. imports including pork bellies, apples, grapes, cheeses and flat steel.

The U.S. action widens a rift with America's closest allies, threatens to drive up prices for companies and consumers that buy steel and aluminum, heightens uncertainty for businesses and is already alarming investors in global financial markets.

Financial markets dipped amid concerns about the disputes among trading partners, with the Dow Jones industrial average dropped more than 200 points.

The tariffs directed at some of the U.S.'s most ardent allies represented the latest

move in Trump's "America First" agenda that has roiled financial markets and raised the specter of a trade war involving the U.S., China and some of the globe's most dominant economies.

The trade actions have opened the U.S. to criticism that it's burning bridges at a time when Trump is seeking to rid North Korea of nuclear weapons and help stabilize the Middle East.

"We are alienating all of our friends and partners at a time when we could really use their support," said Wendy Cutler, a former U.S. trade negotiator who is now vice president at the Asia Society Policy Institute.

Ross told reporters that talks with Canada and Mexico over revising the North American Free Trade Agreement were "taking longer than we had hoped." Talks with Europe had "made some

progress" but not enough for additional exemptions, he said in a conference call from Paris.

"We continue to be quite willing and indeed eager to have further discussions," Ross said. He said he planned to travel to China on Friday for trade talks between the world's two biggest economies.

European officials had braced for the tariffs and the EU has threatened to retaliate against U.S. orange juice, peanut butter and other goods in return. In terms of the NAFTA talks, the tariffs could hinder the negotiations among the North American neighbors.

On NAFTA, Ross said there was "no longer a very precise date when they may be concluded and therefore (Canada and Mexico) were added into the list of those who will bear tariffs."

Brazil, Argentina and Australia have agreed to limit steel shipments to the U.S. in exchange for being spared the tariffs, the Commerce Department said. Tariffs will remain on imports from Japan.

Fears of a global trade war are already weighing on investor confidence and could hinder the global economic upturn. European officials argue that tit-for-tat tariffs will hurt growth on both sides of the Atlantic and Canada said before the announcement that it would respond in kind.

"Canada considers it frankly absurd that we would in any way be considered to be a national security threat to the United States," Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland said before the tariffs were announced. "The government is absolutely prepared to and will defend Canadian industries and Ca-

nadian jobs. We will respond appropriately."

German Chancellor Angela Merkel stressed her opposition even before the U.S. announcement, saying the looming tariffs were incompatible with World Trade Organization rules. She said if there were no exemptions, "We will respond in an intelligent, decisive and joint way."

France's finance minister, Bruno Le Maire, called the U.S. tariffs "unjustified, unjustifiable and dangerous."

"This will only lead to the victory of those who want less growth, those who don't think we can develop our economies across the world. We think on the contrary that global trade must have rules in a context of multilateralism. We are ready to rebuild this multilateralism with our American friends," he said.

And now, the Scripps National Spelling Bee's dramatic finals

OXON HILL, Md. (AP) — After a longer build-up than usual, the dramatic final rounds of the Scripps National Spelling Bee began on Thursday.

Forty-one spellers advanced to the finals out of a field of 516 — by far the largest in the 93-year history of the competition. Scripps started a wild-card program this year that created a path to nationals for spellers who didn't win their regional bees, and some of the finalists got to the bee that way.

The past 13 champions and 18 of the last 22 have been Indian-American, and that trend could easily continue. Most of the consensus favorites in this year's bee have Indian heritage, including Shruthika Padhy, who tied with two others for the best score on the test. More than 500 spellers

tested their skill in front of pronouncer Jacques Bailly or his backup, the Rev. Brian Sietsema, over two days of preliminary rounds. Nearly 200 misspelled words onstage.

Those who advanced to Thursday's final rounds got there by spelling two words correctly on stage over two days and faring well on a written spelling and vocabulary test — and usually by spending multiple hours a day studying at home to prepare.

One of the top scorers was Shruthika, a 12-year-old from Cherry Hill, New Jersey, who finished seventh in last year's bee and is considered one of the favorites this year. But even she got a few answers wrong.

"We thought it was an easy test," bee director Paige Kimble said. "We were wrong."

Here are some other stories from spellers at this year's bee:

STRETCHED THIN

Some spellers devote years to studying the dictionary, word roots and language patterns. Then there's Rebekah Zeigler.

The 13-year-old from Polo, Illinois, is certainly an accomplished speller. She's competing for the fourth time, although she's never made the finals.

That may be because she also competes in tumbling, volleyball, soccer, softball, basketball, cheerleading and track and field. Next month she'll be at the U.S. Trampoline and Tumbling Association national championships.

"I don't have a lot of free time," Rebekah said.

Rebekah got some of the

loudest cheers in the preliminary rounds, mostly from a crew of fellow veteran spellers.

Rebekah had never gotten past the second round of onstage spelling, known as Round 3, because a written test constitutes the first round. But she spelled "yarrow" correctly and achieved her goal for the week, adding, "I was really nervous and dreading it all week."

UNUSUAL REPRIEVE

Reagan Remmers of Missoula, Montana, was heading out to lunch with her mom after she misspelled "balaclava."

Or so she thought.

"My mom got a phone call that told her I was reinstated," Reagan said. "I was like, 'Oh, sweet!'"

Turns out, the spelling

Reagan gave — "Balaklava" — is a city in Ukraine. Since the judges didn't warn her that her word had a homonym and because Reagan didn't ask for the definition — a garment covering the head and neck except for parts of the face — her spelling was deemed correct after further review.

"I had no idea what the word meant," Reagan said.

Still, her spelling wasn't a complete guess. She asked for the language of origin and was told it was Crimean, which led her to include a "k" instead of a "c."

This was just the fifth time in 20 years that a speller was reinstated after judges had determined he or she misspelled a word, Kimble said.

DEAD AIR

Considering how far he

had to travel to get to the bee, Daniel Doudna can be forgiven for taking his time at the microphone.

Daniel lives in Fairbanks, Alaska, one of three spellers from the state. But the 4,100-mile (6,600-kilometer) trip to Washington is nothing new for the 14-year-old: This is his second time in the bee, and two of his older sisters also competed.

When Daniel starts spelling, he's more deliberate than most, pausing after each letter and letting silence hang in the air. His word on Wednesday was "quietude," and he created some.

"I made too many mistakes by going fast," he said. "After each letter, I mentally review the word to see what the next letter is."

Alberto's last gasp

Mudslides and flooding in Appalachia

As remnants of Subtropical Storm Alberto spread into the Great Lakes region, people were keeping a weary watch on dams and hillsides Thursday as rains from the storms have triggered floods and mudslides in the Appalachians of the Southeast.

In the North Carolina mountains, one of those landslides was blamed for a gas leak that destroyed a home, killing two people. Boone police Sgt. Shane Robbins said the landslide resulted in the "catastrophic destruction" of the home Wednesday afternoon because of a gas leak.

And in Virginia, rescuers were searching for three people feared to have been swept away by floodwaters.

In central Virginia, a swift water rescue team was searching for two people who were seen being swept away by a flash flood's torrent of muddy water Wednesday night, according to a news release from the city of Charlottesville. By early Thursday, was no sign of the missing couple.

North of that, authorities were searching roadside woodlands for a third missing person. The Madison County Sheriff's Office said in a Facebook post Thursday morning that rescuers were searching for a missing person after getting a report of a female in the water. The post said the person was reported missing around 8:30 p.m. Wednesday and the search had been ongoing overnight.

Elsewhere, four North Carolina dams being closely watched by a state team of special engineers were holding up, Gov. Roy Cooper said Wednesday.

But Cooper went ahead and declared a state of emergency for his hard-hit mountain counties, saying the forecast for the



A utility truck drives through floodwaters along Biltmore Avenue Wednesday, May 30, 2018, in Asheville, N.C., after heavy rains. AP

rest of the week calls for isolated heavy rain storms that could instantly cause flooding in areas that have had 20 inches (50 centimeters) of rain in the past 15 days.

"This storm isn't yet over. I'm urging people to keep a close eye on forecasts," Cooper said.

Alberto, while still spinning like a classic tropical storm, has managed to make its way since a Memorial Day landfall in the Florida Panhandle to just outside of Chicago. Forecasters said it would still bring rain and gusty winds to the Great Lakes

this week.

Alberto's heavy rains have been widespread. Scattered flooding was reported in several states from Alabama through Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, the Carolinas and Virginia and West Virginia.

In Hopkinsville, Kentucky, high winds and heavy rains gave Sherry Key a fitful night's sleep.

"I have dogs and they're terribly afraid of storms, so they were on top on top me all night," said Key, an airport office manager.

The worst of the flooding was in the Appalachian

Mountains. Up to 7 inches (18 centimeters) of rain caused flooding in Helen, a mountain town in Georgia, the National Weather Service said.

Atlanta station WAGA-TV reported that several roads near the downtown area of that German-styled tourist destination were shut down because of the rising water. No injuries were reported.

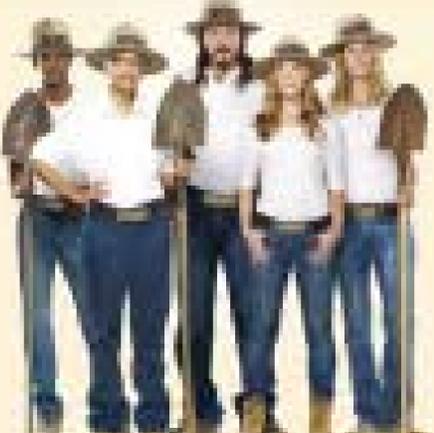
Two deaths had been reported during the storm's passage. A television news anchor and a photojournalist were killed Monday in North Carolina while covering the weather, when

a tree became uprooted from rain-soaked ground and toppled onto their SUV, authorities said. WYFF-TV of Greenville, South Carolina, said news anchor Mike McCormick and photojournalist Aaron Smeltzer died.

In the mountains of North Carolina, two Department of Transportation workers survived a close call when their dump truck was swept away by a mudslide in McDowell County while trying to clean debris from an earlier slide. The men were able to climb from the overturned truck and stand on its side

in the Catawba River until they were rescued, Gov. Cooper said.

Authorities in Cuba say Alberto left four people dead there as the storm drenched the island in heavy rain. Interior Minister Julio Cesar Gandarilla said late Tuesday they died as a result of "recklessness" during the storm. He gave no details. The deaths occurred as authorities worked to contain an oil spill in central Cuba's Cienfuegos Bay that followed the flooding of nearby oil refinery.



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Keeping the lights on

Puerto Rico grid 'teetering' despite \$3.8 billion repair job

CAIN ALTO, Puerto Rico (AP) — After months of darkness and stifling heat, Noe Pagan was overjoyed when power-line workers arrived to restore electricity to his home deep in the lush green mountains of western Puerto Rico. But to his dismay, instead of raising a power pole toppled by Hurricane Maria, the federal contractors bolted the new 220-volt line to the narrow trunk of a breadfruit tree — a safety code violation virtually guaranteed to leave Pagan and his neighbors blacked out in a future hurricane.

"I asked the contractors if they were going to connect the cable to the post and they just didn't answer," said Pagan, a 23-year-old garage worker.

After an eight-month, \$3.8 billion federal effort to try to end the longest blackout in United States history, officials say Puerto Rico's public electrical authority, the nation's largest, is almost certain to collapse again when the next hurricane hits this island of 3.3 million people.

"It's a highly fragile and vulnerable system that really could suffer worse damage than it suffered with Maria in the face of another natural catastrophe," Puerto Rican Gov. Ricardo Rossello said.

Another weather disaster is increasingly likely as warmer seas turbocharge the strongest hurricanes into even more powerful and wetter storms. Federal forecasters say there's a 75 percent likelihood that the 2018 Atlantic hurricane season, which begins Friday, will produce between five and nine hurricanes. And there's a 70 percent chance that as many as four of those could be major Category 3, 4, or 5 hurricanes, with winds of 111 mph (179 kph) or higher.

"It's inevitable that Puerto Rico will get hit again," said Assistant Secretary Bruce Walker, head of the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Electricity, which is planning the long-term redesign of the grid run by the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority.

Despite the billions plowed into the grid since Maria hit on Sept. 20, 2017, Puerto Rican officials warn that it could take far less than a Category 4 storm like Maria to cause a blackout like the one that persists today, with some 11,820 homes and businesses still without power.

"The grid is there, but the grid isn't there. It's teetering," said Hector Pesquera, Puerto Rico's commissioner of public safety. "Even if it's a (Category) 1, it is in such a state that I think we're going to lose power. I don't know for how long."

Federal officials and Puerto Rican leaders blame decades of mis-



An airplane flies over repaired electrical lines in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, Tuesday, May 29, 2018. Despite the billions plowed into the grid since Hurricane Maria hit on Sept. 20, 2017, Puerto Rican officials warn that it could take far less than a Category 4 storm like Maria to cause a blackout like the one that persists today, with some 11,820 homes and businesses still without power.

management that left the island's power authority more than \$9 billion in debt after declaring bankruptcy last year. Expensive projects were launched then cancelled. Politicians approved cheap power for well-connected corporations. By the time Maria hit, wooden power poles were rotted, transmission towers had rusted through and overgrown trees menaced thousands of miles of power lines.

In many places across Puerto Rico, federal emergency funds allocated in the aftermath of the disaster made up for years of neglected maintenance, replacing decaying infrastructure with tens of thousands of new poles and hundreds of miles of power lines rushed from the U.S. mainland at a steep premium.

But in other areas, crews without adequate supplies patched together damaged poles and power lines in a desperate push to restore power. In the western highlands, power cables were spliced together and woven haphazardly through trees in blatant violation of basic safety codes. In Pagan's town of Cain Alto and at least one other location, trees were used as makeshift power poles in the absence of proper equipment.

"We patched things up. We worked with the little material that was available and we recycled material. We took the 1,000 feet of wire that was on

the ground and we strung it up in another area," one power authority worker said, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of retaliation from management. "We took the post that had fallen over or broken and we put it up somewhere else. A lot of the work is defective."

Fredyson Martinez, vice president of the power authority workers' union, said he estimates that roughly 10 percent to 15 percent of the repair work done over the last eight months did not meet basic quality standards.

"The logistics were terrible. I give it an F," he said. "Things need to be fixed."

Federal and Puerto Rican officials are preparing for another catastrophe that cuts power for weeks or months. The Federal Emergency Management Agency is leaving some 600 generators installed in key sites such as hospitals and water pumping stations, more than six times the number before Maria. FEMA has stockpiled 5.4 million liters of water and more than 80,000 tarps, and is distributing them and other emergency supplies to towns across the island so they will be in place for the next disaster.

Still, few people believe the island is truly ready.

"If a hurricane comes tomorrow it will leave the island completely without power again," said Juan Rosario, a community activist and former member

of the power authority's board of directors.

Up to 4,645 more deaths than usual occurred in Puerto Rico in the three months after Maria, contends a new study published this week by the New England Journal of Medicine, an estimate that far exceeds the official government death toll of 64.

Officials now are warning Puerto Ricans to stockpile enough emergency supplies to survive as long as 10 days without help. Tens of thousands of homes still don't have roofs. FEMA distributed 59,000 enormous plastic sheets to homeowners who lost their roofs in Irma or Maria. More than 100,000 more received smaller tarps to protect specific rooms or belongings. Only 21,000 households have received federal aid to carry out permanent repairs.

Juana Sostre Vasquez's wooden house in the central highlands was ripped off its foundation by Maria. With the help of a son-in-law, the 69-year-old rebuilt, using cinderblocks and cement bought with \$14,000 in FEMA reconstruction aid. Her roof is metal sheeting nailed onto wooden two-by-fours because she couldn't afford to build stronger. She says she's hopeful the next hurricane won't send that sheeting flying.

"The money didn't let us do the roof," she said. "I'm doing it little by little as I save a couple of dollars."

Mike Byrne, the head of FEMA's Caribbean office, says he expects the federal government will eventually have spent a total of \$17.5 billion in emergency funds on fixing the hurricane damage and making Puerto Rico's grid more resilient to future storms.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ended its power restoration work in May, so future funding is expected to pass through Puerto Rico's bankrupt power company. After receiving \$945 million in federal funds for repairs to the island's electric grid, Oklahoma-based Mammoth Energy Services announced Monday that the power authority had awarded its subsidiary, Cobra Energy, another \$900 million to finish the job and begin fortifying the grid against future storms.

Last week, Cobra's crews were working to rebuild one of a pair of 230-kilo-volt transmission lines climbing from Puerto Rico's main power plants on its southern coast across high mountains to the main users of energy in the capital, San Juan, and other industrial sites and population centers in the north. Because of a decision years ago to stretch the island's main transmission lines through a narrow path across the rugged mountains, one of the transmission lines must be turned off so its powerful current doesn't energize equipment and workers laboring a few feet away.

Cobra transmission director Alan Edwards had more than 50 linemen working on the repair, at nearly \$4,000 per worker per day in federal funds from the Puerto Rico power authority, when he got the call to stop. A flaw was causing a transmission line to overheat dangerously elsewhere in the system, so the line alongside where Edwards' men were working would have to be returned to service, forcing the crews to stop for at least the rest of the day.

"Maybe we're back at it tomorrow, I don't know. Maybe next week before we can get back out there," Edwards said.

The already staggering reconstruction costs will rise by billions more if another hurricane hits. And many billions worth of those federally funded improvements could eventually pass into private hands: Puerto Rico's Senate could approve the sale of much of the island's power grid to a private power company or companies as early as this week.

The potential sale won't affect the federal government's decision to spend billions of dollars on repairing and improving the grid, said Byrne, the head of FEMA's operations in the Caribbean.

"I can't wait, because these are U.S. citizens that are at risk. U.S. citizens deserve every ounce of effort that I can bring to this, and that's what they're going to get," Byrne said.

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How to make a yummy Cobb salad without bacon and cheese

By AMERICA'S TEST KITCHEN

Stunning presentation aside, Cobb salad has all the markers of a powerhouse meal, including eggs, avocados, tomato, and lean chicken—we just had to do something about all that bacon and cheese.

We were sad to sacrifice bacon's smoky flavor until we tried sauteing shiitake mushrooms with smoked paprika and chili powder. Now we had smokiness and even some umami meatiness without the saturated fat and preservatives. Using kale in place of romaine upped the nutritional ante, and radicchio contributed beautiful color.

For the dressing, just a bit of blue cheese whisked with yogurt, garlic, and lemon juice provided the tangy blue cheese flavor we expected. We tossed some with our greens and drizzled the rest over our still-classic, yet mindfully updated, Cobb salad.

SUPER COBB SALAD

Servings: 6
Start to finish: 45 minutes

8 ounces organic boneless, skinless chicken breasts, trimmed of all visible fat and cut into 1/2-inch pieces

Salt and pepper
2 teaspoons expeller-pressed canola oil

10 ounces shiitake mushrooms, stemmed and sliced thin

1/8 teaspoon smoked paprika
1/8 teaspoon chili powder

8 ounces kale, stemmed and cut into 1-inch pieces (8 cups)

1/3 cup finely chopped red onion

1 tablespoon lemon juice

3/4 cup organic plain low-fat yogurt

3 tablespoons crumbled blue cheese

1 garlic clove, minced

1/2 small head radicchio (3 ounces), cored and cut into 1/2-inch pieces

3 hard-cooked large organic eggs, quartered

1 avocado, halved, pitted, and cut into 1/2-inch pieces

6 ounces cherry tomatoes, halved

Pat chicken dry with paper towels and season with salt and pepper. Heat 1 teaspoon oil in 12-inch nonstick skillet over medium-high heat until shimmering. Add chicken and cook, stirring occasionally, until cooked through, 4 to 6 minutes. Transfer to plate and let cool.

Heat remaining 1 teaspoon oil in now-empty skillet over medium heat until shimmering. Add mushrooms and 1/4 teaspoon salt, cover, and cook until mushrooms have released their liquid, 4 to 6 minutes. Uncover and increase heat to medium-high. Stir

in paprika, chili powder, and 1/8 teaspoon pepper and cook until mushrooms are golden, 4 to 6 minutes. Transfer to second plate and let cool.

Place kale in large bowl and cover with warm tap water (110 F to 115 F). Swish kale around to remove grit. Let kale sit in warm water bath for 10 minutes. Remove kale from water and spin dry in salad spinner in multiple batches. Pat leaves dry with paper towels if still wet. Toss onion with 2 teaspoons lemon juice and set aside.

Whisk yogurt, blue cheese, garlic, remaining 1 teaspoon lemon juice, and 1/4 teaspoon salt together in bowl until well combined. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

Toss kale and radicchio with 1/2 cup dressing to coat. Transfer to serving platter and mound in even layer. Arrange cooled mushrooms, onion, eggs, avocado, and tomatoes in single, even rows over greens, leaving space at either end. Arrange half of chicken in each open space at ends of platter. Drizzle remaining dressing over salad. Serve.

Nutrition information per serving: 223 calories; 108 calories from fat; 12 g fat (3 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 125 mg cholesterol; 322 mg sodium; 12 g carbohydrate; 5 g fiber; 4 g sugar; 19 g protein.



This undated photo provided by America's Test Kitchen in May 2018 shows a super Cobb salad in Brookline, Mass. This recipe appears in the cookbook "Nutritious Delicious."

For delicious cake pops at home, ditch the store-bought mix

By AMERICA'S TEST KITCHEN

There's no denying the novel appeal of cake pops; after all, everyone loves food on a stick, and if it's dessert, even better.

Most recipes call for starting with cake made from a store-bought mix, breaking it into crumbs, combining it with canned frosting, and forming the mixture into balls. We knew we could do better.

Making a simple homemade yellow cake was easy enough and far superior to anything from a box; baking it in an 8-inch square pan gave us just enough cake for about three dozen pops. While traditional frosting worked as a binder, tasters found the pops overwhelmingly sweet.

Moistening the crumbs with milk worked just as well, and a couple of tablespoons of confectioners' sugar provided just enough sweetness.

Briefly freezing the cookie dough-like cake balls made them firm enough to stay put on their sticks, and also helped set the coating of melted chocolate chips (chips worked better than bar chocolate because their stabilizers created a smooth, snappy coating).

We like to use a 2-cup liquid measuring cup to melt the chocolate; its tall, narrow sides allow for easier coating of the cake balls. You'll need a floral foam block (available at craft stores and online) to stand the cake pops upright as the coating sets. If you're unable to find one, stand the dipped cake pops upside down on a parchment paper-lined baking sheet (note that this will give the tops a flat appearance). To make different colors for the coating, add drops of food coloring to the melted white chocolate chips.

PARTY CAKE POPS

Makes: 36 cake pops
Start to finish: 4 hours

1 1/2 cups (7 1/2 ounces) all-purpose flour

1 cup (7 ounces) granulated sugar

1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder

1/2 teaspoon salt

8 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened

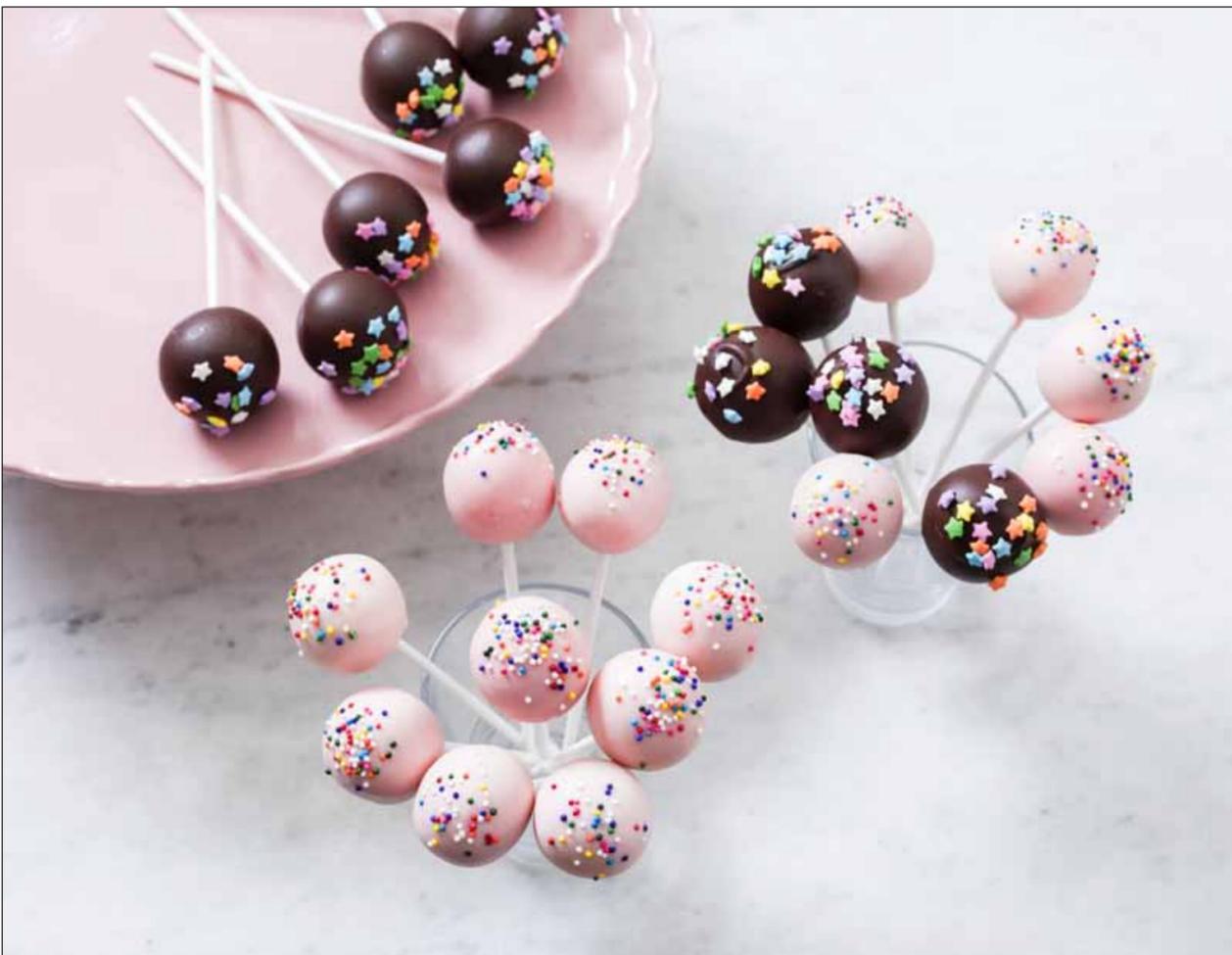
1/2 cup sour cream

1 large egg plus 2 large yolks, room temperature

1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract

1/4 cup milk

2 tablespoons confectioners'



This undated photo provided by America's Test Kitchen in May 2018 shows party cake pops in Brookline, Mass. This recipe appears in the cookbook "The Perfect Cake."

sugar

2 1/2 cups (15 ounces) white chocolate chips or semisweet chocolate chips

Lollipop sticks

Multicolored nonpareil sprinkles

Adjust oven rack to middle position and heat oven to 350 degrees. Grease 8-inch square baking pan, line with parchment paper, grease parchment, and flour pan.

Whisk flour, granulated sugar, baking powder, and salt together in bowl of stand mixer. Fit stand mixer with paddle; add butter, sour cream, egg and yolks, and vanilla; and beat on medium speed until smooth and satiny, about 30 seconds. Scrape down bowl with rubber spatula and stir by hand until smooth and no flour pockets remain.

Scrape batter into prepared pan

and smooth top with rubber spatula. Gently tap pan on counter to release air bubbles. Bake until light golden and toothpick inserted in center comes out clean, 25 to 30 minutes, rotating pan halfway through baking. Let cake cool in pan on wire rack for 10 minutes. Remove cake from pan, discarding parchment, and let cool completely on rack, about 2 hours. (Cake can be wrapped in plastic wrap and stored at room temperature for up to 24 hours.)

In clean, dry bowl of stand mixer fitted with paddle, break cake into rough 1-inch pieces. Add milk and confectioners' sugar and beat on medium-low speed until broken into fine, evenly moistened crumbs and cohesive dough begins to form, about 1 minute, scraping down bowl as needed.

Line baking sheet with parchment paper. Working with 1 packed tablespoon cake mixture at a time, roll into balls and place in single layer on prepared sheet. Cover with plastic wrap and freeze until firm but still pliable, 45 minutes to 1 hour.

Microwave 2 cups chocolate chips in 2-cup liquid measuring cup at 50 percent power, stirring occasionally, until melted, 1 to 2 minutes. Working with 1 cake ball at a time, insert lollipop stick into cake ball, stopping at center. Dip entire cake ball into melted chocolate and turn until completely coated (tipping measuring cup to the side as needed). Lift up from chocolate (do not turn upright) and gently shake side to side to allow excess coating to drip off evenly. Turn cake pop upright, gently twist back and

forth to even out coating, and insert stick into foam block. Sprinkle with nonpareils. Stir and rewarm chocolate in microwave as needed to stay fluid; add remaining 1/2 cup chocolate chips and melt when chocolate level becomes too low to dip easily. (If cake balls become too soft, re-freeze until firm.)

Let cake pops sit at room temperature until coating is set, about 30 minutes. Serve. (Cake pops can be kept at room temperature for up to 4 hours or refrigerated for up to three days; bring to room temperature before serving.)

Nutrition information per cake pop: 132 calories; 62 calories from fat; 7 g fat (4 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 27 mg cholesterol; 35 mg sodium; 16 g carbohydrate; 0 g fiber; 12 g sugar; 2 g protein.

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False accusations about immigration fly between opponents

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump and Democratic critics traded outraged, sometimes plainly false accusations about immigration as the debate over "lost" children and the practice of separating families caught crossing the border illegally reached a new boiling point.

The White House on Tuesday wrongly blamed Democrats for forcing Trump's administration to separate children from parents. Liberal activists and others, including some from media outlets, tried to highlight the issue by tweeting photos of young people in steel cages that actually were taken during the Obama administration. Others seized on reports the government had "lost" more than 1,000 children, though that wasn't quite the case.

It all comes just in time for the midterm elections as Republicans and Democrats try to rally core voters by pointing fingers at one another. Trump won the presidency promising to build a wall along the southern border and end illegal immigration, and the White House believes stressing the same issues will drive voters to the polls and help the GOP hang on to their majorities in the Senate and House.

The White House is "really beating the immigration drum in the lead-up to the midterm elections as a rallying cry and as a way of mobilizing voter support for Trump and the candidates that he chooses," said Doris Meissner, a senior fellow at the nonpartisan Migration Policy Institute and former commissioner of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service during the Clinton administration. "It does seem to provoke a ratcheting up across the board."

Indeed, the situation grew so hostile over the holiday weekend that the president's elder daughter, White House adviser Ivanka Trump, came under fire for tweeting a photo of herself and her youngest son in their pajamas Sunday morning.

"Focus on what is before you, on what you can control and ignore the trolls!" she later wrote.

During a White House conference call Tuesday, senior adviser Stephen Miller contended "the current immigration and border crisis" is "the exclusive product of loopholes in federal immigration law that Democrats refuse to close."

That was after Trump lit up social media over the weekend by falsely claiming there



In this June 18, 2014 file photo, two female detainees sleep in a holding cell, as the children are separated by age group and gender, as hundreds of mostly Central American immigrant children are being processed and held at the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Nogales Placement Center in Nogales, Ariz. President Donald Trump has seized on an error by liberal activists for tweeting photos of detainees at the U.S.-Mexico border in steel cages and blamed the current administration for separating immigrant children from their parents. The photos were taken by The Associated Press in 2014, when President Barack Obama was in office.

was a "horrible law" that separates children from their parents after they cross the border illegally. He had said previously that "we have to break up families" at the border because "the Democrats gave us that law."

But there's no law mandating that parents must be separated from their children, and it's not a policy Democrats have pushed or can change alone as the minority in Congress. The tactic's increased use is being driven by Trump's administration, which recently announced a new "zero-tolerance policy" in which it will press criminal charges against all people crossing the border illegally, even if they have few or no previous offenses. More children are expected to be separated from their parents as a result.

A Customs and Border Protection official told lawmakers last week that 658 children had been separated from their parents at the border from May 6 to May 19 as the parents face charges. That's in addition to hundreds more who were estimated to

have been removed from their parents since October.

The practice has drawn condemnation from Trump critics, who have long accused him of supporting inhumane policies in his efforts to crack down on illegal immigration.

"He actually called the practice horrible. If he thinks it's so horrible then he ought to just end it and not make the children a negotiating tool," said Lee Gelernt, deputy director of the American Civil Liberties Union's Immigrants' Rights Project.

"It's never a good idea to separate small children from their parents," said Rep. Carlos Curbelo, R-Fla. "I cannot defend that, nor do I wish to."

Curbelo is a leader of GOP lawmakers trying to force House immigration votes next month over leaders' objections.

Trump foes made their own missteps in the debate.

Over the weekend, some critics of the policy tweeted photos of young-looking immigrants at the U.S.-Mexico border in steel cages and blamed the Trump admin-

istration for separating immigrant children from their parents. The problem: The photos were taken by The Associated Press in 2014, when Barack Obama was in office, and the photo captions reference children who crossed the border as unaccompanied minors.

How or why the story resurfaced on social media four years after it was published was unclear. But Trump seized on the error.

"Democrats mistakenly tweet 2014 pictures from Obama's term showing children from the Border in steel cages. They thought it was recent pictures in order to make us look bad, but backfires," Trump tweeted Tuesday. "Dems must agree to Wall and new Border Protection for good of country ... Bipartisan Bill!"

It's unclear what "Bipartisan Bill!" Trump might have been referring to.

Congress is heading toward an immigration showdown in the House as Republican moderates force a June vote on legislation to protect young "Dreamer" im-

migrants and beef up border security.

GOP leaders are trying to stop the bill, which has robust support from Democrats and some Republicans. They're worried any legislation that smacks of "amnesty" for immigrants in the U.S. illegally would dampen conservative enthusiasm ahead of the midterms.

Instead, House Speaker Paul Ryan and his leadership team are trying to put together an alternative approach that most Republicans would support. But finding common ground remains difficult. Trump so far has not engaged in the Capitol Hill debate, even as he repeatedly insists Congress must act.

Also making the rounds on social media over the holiday weekend: Allegations that children placed in custody have been "lost" by federal authorities, which officials say isn't the case.

The allegation, which sparked #WhereAreOurChildren on Twitter, grew out of testimony in April by a federal official that the government had lost track of nearly

1,500 unaccompanied minor children it placed with adult sponsors in the U.S.

An official from the Health and Human Services Department told a congressional hearing last month that his department placed follow-up phone calls from October to December to U.S. households that were sponsoring minors who crossed the border without their parents. They reached 86 percent of the children or sponsors, but the department could not verify the whereabouts of 1,475. In some cases, sponsors simply didn't respond to the follow-up phone call, not surprising because many are themselves in the U.S. illegally and reluctant to speak to authorities.

"If you call a friend and they don't answer the phone, you don't assume that they've been kidnapped," HHS' Steven Wagner said.

Officials said Tuesday they are planning more thorough screening of both minors and their sponsors, including a fingerprint background check of every sponsor.

Gowdy disputes Trump's 'spy' claim, says FBI acted properly

WASHINGTON (AP) — There is no evidence that the FBI planted a "spy" on President Donald Trump's 2016 campaign, a senior House Republican said Wednesday, directly contradicting Trump's repeated insistence that the agency inserted a "spy" for political reasons and to help Crooked Hillary win.

Rep. Trey Gowdy, chairman of the House Oversight Committee and a longtime Trump supporter, was briefed last week by the Justice Department and FBI following reports that investigators relied on a U.S. government informant in its investigation into Russian election med-

dling. "I am even more convinced that the FBI did exactly what my fellow citizens would want them to do when they got the information they got and that it has nothing to do with Donald Trump," Gowdy, a South Carolina Republican, told Fox News on Tuesday.

On Wednesday, Gowdy said he had "never heard the term 'spy' used" and did not see evidence of that.

"Informants are used all day, every day by law enforcement," he told "CBS This Morning."

Gowdy's comments are particularly striking because of his role as a powerful GOP

watchdog who took on Democrat Hillary Clinton in his committee's investigation into the 2012 attacks on American in Benghazi, Libya, while she was secretary of state. The probe unearthed the existence of Clinton's private email server, which triggered an FBI inquiry and crippled her 2016 presidential campaign against Trump.

Gowdy announced in January that he would retire from Congress at the end of the current term and return to work in the justice system.

Trump has zeroed in on, and at times embellished, reports on the informant, calling it "spygate" and tweeting

that it was "starting to look like one of the biggest political scandals in U.S. history." Trump has also rejected assertions by the U.S. intelligence agencies that the Russian government was trying to help him beat Clinton.

Trump's legal team has asked to review classified information about the origins of the FBI investigation to prepare the president for an interview with special counsel Robert Mueller, who is now leading the investigation into ties between Trump's campaign and Russia.

"The folks who have seen the information have the same perspective," Gowdy

said. "The folks who have not seen the information, I don't know what informs their perspective."

Gowdy, did, however, express support for Trump's "frustration" with Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who recused himself in May 2017 from the Russia probe based on possible conflict of interest. The recusal of Sessions, an early backer of Trump's presidential bid, followed the revelation that he had two previously undisclosed interactions during the 2016 campaign with the Russian ambassador.

Gowdy told CBS that Trump is just "expressing

frustration that Attorney General Sessions should have shared these reasons for recusal before he took the job. Not afterward."

Trump tweeted out Gowdy's comments on Sessions, including his saying that "there are lots of really good lawyers in the country" and that the president "could have picked someone else" for the top Justice Department job.

"And I wish I did!" Trump wrote.

Trump did not reference Gowdy's comments that there was no evidence of the FBI planting a spy on his campaign.

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Missouri governor who vowed to fight scandal instead quits

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — On a dreary overcast day, Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens stood in a light rain near the Governor's Mansion and recounted his grueling training as a Navy SEAL officer to suggest he would never quit fighting allegations of sexual misconduct and campaign finance violations.

Less than two weeks later, Greitens announced Tuesday that he is quitting with his mission incomplete.

"The time has come, though, to tend to those who have been wounded and to care for those who need us most," said the Republican governor, his voice cracking while his team members struggled to hold back tears. "So for the moment, let us walk off the battlefield with our heads held high."

Greitens' departure will become official at 5 p.m. Friday — marking a stunning political defeat for the 44-year-old, self-made warrior-philosopher who had aspirations of someday becoming president.

For those fellow Republicans who had strenuously urged his resignation, Greitens' exit provides the divided party a chance to reunify at the start of a summer campaign season in which it's seeking to unseat Democratic U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill.

Greitens' resignation also allows him to avoid the potentially dubious distinction of becoming the first Missouri governor ever impeached. A House investigatory committee had subpoenaed Greitens to testify next Monday during a special monthlong session focused solely on his potential discipline.

Fellow Republican Lt. Gov. Mike Parson — a former state lawmaker and sheriff — is to serve the remainder of Greitens' term, which runs until January 2021.

In addition to the legislative investigation, Greitens faced a felony charge in St. Louis of tampering with computer data for disclosing a donor list of The Mission Continues to his political fundraiser in 2015 without

the permission of the St. Louis-based veterans' charity he founded.

A special prosecutor from Kansas City also is weighing whether to refile a recently dismissed invasion-of-privacy charge in St. Louis alleging that Greitens took and transmitted a nonconsensual photo of a partially nude woman with whom he acknowledged having an affair in 2015.

The St. Louis prosecutor's office said it had reached a "fair and just resolution" on criminal charges against Greitens now that he's leaving office, and that more details would be made public Wednesday. But the special prosecutor from Kansas City said Tuesday that her investigation is ongoing.

Greitens could face other investigations. The chairman of the House investigatory committee and an attorney representing the woman's ex-husband both have said they have shared information with FBI agents looking into the governor.

A complaint also remains pending at the Missouri Ethics Commission alleging Greitens filed a false campaign report last year about the source of the charity donor list.

On May 17, Greitens suggested to a crowd of supporters gathered for an agricultural event that wouldn't give up.

"No matter what they throw at me, no matter how painful they try to make it, no matter how much suffering they want to put me and my family through and my team through ... we are going to step forward day after day, and we are going to continue in our mission to fight for the people of Missouri," Greitens said then.

On Tuesday, Greitens remained defiant even while resigning.

"I am not perfect. But I have not broken any laws or committed any offense worthy of this treatment," he said. "I will let the fairness of this process be judged by history."



Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens reads from a prepared statement as he announces his resignation during a news conference, Tuesday, May 29, 2018, at the state Capitol, in Jefferson City, Mo. Greitens resigned amid a widening investigation that arose from an affair with his former hairdresser. Greitens said his resignation would take effect Friday.

Greitens is a married father of two young sons. He is a Rhodes scholar with a doctoral degree in politics who traveled the world on humanitarian missions before joining the Navy. After being wounded in Iraq, he founded a veterans' charity and became a best-selling author and motivational speaker.

He campaigned as a political outsider in 2016, winning an expensive Republican gubernatorial primary and then defeating Democratic Attorney General Chris Koster in the general election to give Missouri Republicans control of the governor's mansion for the first time in eight years.

Greitens had a sometimes rocky relationship with the GOP-controlled Legislature as he pushed his agenda, once comparing them to third-graders and frequently denouncing them as "career politicians."

His support in the Capitol unraveled further after the night of Jan. 10, when a St. Louis TV station aired a report featuring an audio recording secretly made by a woman's ex-husband. In that, the woman describes how Greitens allegedly bound her hands, blindfolded her and took a compromising photo while threatening that he would distribute it if she ever spoke of their encounter. Greitens denied threatening blackmail, but hasn't directly answered questions about whether he took the photo.

A St. Louis grand jury indicted Greitens on Feb. 22 on one felony count of invasion of privacy related to the alleged photo. That prompted the Missouri House to form a special investigatory committee.

In April, the legislative panel released a report containing graphic testimony in which the woman said Gre-

itens had restrained, slapped, shoved and belittled her during a series of sexual encounters that at times left her crying and afraid. Greitens denied any violence and said the allegations amounted to a "political witch hunt." He vowed to stay in office.

But Greitens' troubles deepened in the ensuing weeks when Republican Attorney General Josh Hawley — who is running for McCaskill's seat — referred evidence to the St. Louis prosecutor leading to the felony charge alleging misuse of the charity donor list.

A May 2 House committee report indicated that Greitens himself received the donor list while CEO of the charity and later directed political aides to work off it. Shortly before Greitens resigned Tuesday, the House panel heard a second round of testimony from former aide Michael Hafner about the

charity donor list and other efforts by Greitens' campaign to conceal the original source of some political donations.

Earlier Tuesday, a judge also ruled that a secretive pro-Greitens nonprofit group called A New Missouri must comply with a legislative subpoena for any documents or communications showing potential coordination between the organization, Greitens and his campaign committee. The subpoena also sought receipts, content and communications by A New Missouri related to media advertising.

The judge said the identities of donors to A New Missouri — which don't have to be publicly disclosed because it is a 501c4 organization — could be redacted from the documents.

The legislative panel also had subpoenaed other Greitens' campaign aides.

Need an entry-level job at a store? It can be harder now

NEWYORK (AP) — Asia Thomas knew she was at a disadvantage. It had been 16 years since she quit a job at McDonald's to raise her kids. When she left, restaurants didn't have kiosks to take orders, people didn't use smartphones to pay, and job seekers did applications on paper.

"Things have changed," said Thomas, who lives in Baltimore. "And there were a lot of things I forgot."

Getting a job at a store or fast-food restaurant — often a way into the economy for an unskilled worker — used to be as simple as walking up and down the mall and applying. Now, with store chains closing and laying off thousands of workers, that path is more complicated. The stores that remain financially healthy are actually raising wages in a tight labor market. But they're seeking a new type of worker — one who has a lot more skills up front.

Thomas, 44, was able to get a job at wholesale club B.J.'s for \$12 an hour — but that was only after signing up for computer lessons and taking a class in retail basics like how to track inventory and handle issues like returns. That led her to another opportunity at a casino.

Across all entry-level retail jobs, the number of skills

being demanded rose from 2010 to 2016, according to an analysis done by The Associated Press by Burning Glass Technologies, which scours 25 million job postings.

Burning Glass found a greater emphasis on customer service and communications skills for cashier, stock clerk and sales floor support jobs. And for many other entry-level jobs, employers want even more skills, like the ability to use customer relations software like Salesforce. Even forklift operators are being asked to be proficient in inventory management software.

This has major consequences for workers without college degrees or vocational training trying to get an economic foothold. A decade ago, workers, especially young ones, could start as cashiers and move up to become store managers or even higher. But now, it's harder to even get in the door.

"The bottom may be coming out of the career ladder," said Burning Glass CEO Matt Sigelman.

Experts say those who might otherwise have started out at working at a store may head instead to cleaning, dishwashing or health aide jobs. The number of jobs in those fields is expected

to grow far more than in retail. While these jobs may pay about the same as retail, they can be more demanding physically and provide less opportunity to move up.

"This phenomenon is creating more pressure on incomes at the lower end of the middle class and will push people down closer to and even below the poverty line," said Fred Crawford, senior vice chairman of consulting firm AlixPartners. "It will exacerbate the growing gap between the haves and have-nots."

These changes are being driven by companies' use of large amounts of data not available a generation ago. Supermarkets, for instance, use loyalty programs to better track customers' shopping habits. Clothing chains are now quickly reacting to the latest fashion trends, adjusting the merchandise on store shelves within days. That means front-line workers must do more.

Take cashiers. Employers asked for five skills in 2016, up from three in 2010. The job often requires running sophisticated registers that track loyalty cards, digital coupons and real-time inventory.

"We are looking for workers who are not only friendly and passionate but people

who are tech-savvy," said Marisa Velez, store director of DSW Designer Warehouse in New York's Union Square.

That's a shift from just five years ago, when the technology a sales clerk at the service yourself shoes and accessories chain would use would involve a calculator or calling another store to check if they have an item.

At DSW, Phoebe Li swiftly navigates the aisles stacked with boxes of shoes, seeing if customers need help while she scans an iPad to check on online inventory. The tablets DSW uses will soon be able to ring up a sale as well. "If I see someone bending down looking for a size, I ask them, 'How is everything?'" said Li, 24, who has worked at DSW part-time since February.

"Customers are coming in with limited time," Velez said. "They're rushing. They want what they are looking for. We're able to expedite that through the app, through the iPad and making sure we are respecting their time while still capturing the sale."

Online home goods retailer Wayfair is increasingly looking for customer service and warehouse workers with problem-solving skills. Its employees help customers design a room, or they figure

out how to pack a truck without damaging fragile items. So it's now recruiting gamers at places like Comic Con for those roles, said Liz Graham, who oversees customer service and sales.

Nearly a third of all first jobs in the U.S. are in retail. But 62 percent of service-sector workers, which includes jobs like cashiers and store sales assistants, have limited literacy skills and 74 percent have limited math abilities, according to the National Skills Coalition, funded by Walmart Inc.'s charitable arm.

Chains like Target and Walmart are increasing training on the job. And the nonprofit arm of the industry's trade and lobbying group, the National Retail Federation, launched a training and credential program for entry-level workers last year, joining with nonprofit groups like Goodwill to teach classes. But that may not be enough to fill the skill gap. There were more than 700,000 current job openings in retail in March, according to government data.

The retail industry "relied on a largely unskilled entry labor force. Now, it's leaning more toward skilled people and competing with other sectors" like technology, said

economist Frank Badillo, founder and director of research at MacroSavvy.

The training programs are making difference. Nadine Vixama would have never had a shot without them. Vixama, 42, emigrated from Haiti eight years ago and worked in a money payment business and then at a dry cleaners. But she wanted something that was more about customer service.

She did snag a job at Whole Foods in Cambridge, Massachusetts, first as a bagger and now as a cashier, making a little more than \$11 an hour. But that was after taking English classes and the store basics program developed by the NRF.

"I've learned to treat customers in a better way ... how to keep pace with them," Vixama said. At another class offered by a workplace group, she learned about spreadsheet programs like Excel and studied basic accounting.

Vixama just finished the second class, and shadowed a manager at CVS as part of that training. She's considering an entry-level job at a drugstore and mulling her options.

"I don't want to stay like this," she said. "I want to have better growth opportunities."

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Russian journalist reported killed in Ukraine shows up alive

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian journalist Arkady Babchenko turned up at a news conference in the Ukrainian capital Wednesday less than 24 hours after police reported he had been shot and killed at his Kiev apartment building. The country's security services said Babchenko's death was faked to foil a plot to take his life.

Ukrainian police said Tuesday that Babchenko, a strong critic of the Kremlin, was shot multiple times in the back Tuesday and found bleeding there by his wife. Authorities said they suspected he was killed because of his work.

Vasyl Gritsak, head of the Ukrainian Security Service, announced at a news conference Wednesday that the security agency and the police had solved Babchenko's slaying. He then startled everyone there by inviting the 41-year-old reporter into the room.

To the applause and gasps of the press, Babchenko took the floor and apologized to the friends and family who mourned for him and were unaware of the plan.

"I'm still alive," he said.

Before ushering Babchenko into the room, Gritsak said investigators had identified a Ukrainian citizen who had been recruited and paid \$40,000 by the Russian security service to organize and carry out the killing. The unidentified Ukrainian man in turn hired an acquaintance who had fought in the separatist war in eastern Ukraine as the gunman.

Babchenko, one of Rus-



A view of the multi-storey building where Russian opposition journalist Arkady Babchenko lived, in Kiev, Ukraine, Wednesday, May 30, 2018. A Russian journalist harshly critical of the Kremlin was said to be shot and killed in the Ukrainian capital Tuesday, and the national police said they are assuming he was targeted because of his work. On Wednesday, it was revealed at a press conference that he is still alive, and that the Ukrainian government helped him fake his death.

sia's best-known war reporters, fled the country in February 2017 after receiving death threats. He spoke and wrote about leaving the country because of the threats against

him and his family. He said his home address was published online and the threats he received were made by phone, email and social media.

Ilya Ponomarev, a former

Russian lawmaker who also moved to Ukraine, said Wednesday that Babchenko continued being threatened after he settled last fall in Kiev, where he worked as a host

for the Crimean Tatar TV station. Babchenko did not take the intimidation too seriously, according to Ponomarev.

Moscow's annexation of Crimea and support for

separatist insurgents in eastern Ukraine were topics on which the journalist was scathingly critical of the Kremlin.

Belgium shooting rampage was terrorist act, prosecutors say

BRUSSELS (AP) — The man who killed four people in the Belgian city of Liege this week carried out an act of "terrorist murder" and may have intended to cause more carnage, prosecutors said Wednesday, as authorities tried to establish whether he acted alone.

Benjamin Herman, an inmate on a two-day prison furlough, attacked two female police officers from behind with a knife on Tuesday, stabbed them repeatedly, stole their handguns and shot them as they lay on the ground, officials said. Crossing the road, he fired several shots at a 22-year old man who was a passenger in a car, killing him. Herman then took a cleaning woman hostage at a nearby school. When police closed in, he ran out onto the sidewalk firing and police fatally shot him. Four officers were wounded.

He yelled "Allahu akbar," the Arabic phrase for God is great, several times during Tuesday's rampage, prosecutors said. Officials later confirmed that Herman had also killed another

person Monday.

The attack has shaken Belgium where police and military have been working overtime to guard public buildings for two years since coordinated suicide attacks on the Brussels airport and subway system killed 32 people and injured hundreds on March 22, 2016.

Belgian federal magistrate Wenke Roggen said Wednesday that the attack was considered "terrorist murder and attempted terrorist murder." She said it's being treated as terrorism given the way Herman acted, which she says resembled Islamic State calls via video to attack police with knives and steal their weapons, the fact that he yelled "Allahu Akbar" and was in contact with radicalized people.

The attack started outside a Liege cafe and Roggen said the attacker went in and out of it a few times after shooting the officers but that people inside had fled or hidden thanks to the quick thinking of the owner.

An investigating magistrate specializing in terror-

ism has ordered autopsies on those killed at the scene and a toxicology examination of the attacker.

Prosecutors said Herman has had several run-ins with police since he was a minor. He has been sentenced on assault, drug and insubordination charges. He left prison early Monday on furlough and should have returned Tuesday evening.

"He also committed a murder the night before," Interior Minister Jan Jambon told broadcaster RTL. Jambon said the fourth victim was a former inmate who did prison time with Herman. Herman is alleged to have killed the man on Monday evening by hitting him over the head with a blunt object.

Jambon added that the woman he took hostage may have talked the shooter down and helped to avoid more deaths inside the school.

Jambon, Prime Minister Charles Michel and King Philippe visited the woman in hospital, where she was being treated for shock.

"She was very coura-

geous and perhaps, but this we will have to verify, she helped avoid more victims in the school," Jambon said.

The cleaning woman, identified only by her first name Darifa, told state broadcaster RTBF that Herman said he just wanted to "stir up" the police. He asked her if she was a Muslim and if she was observing the holy fasting month of Ramadan.

"He told me don't worry, I won't do anything at all. Listen, you do what I say, but don't worry. I won't do anything to you," the woman said.

She said he threw his ID card on the ground before running out to confront the police.

"I think he knew that it was all over for him. And he went out," she said.

Jambon said an investigation has been launched into the incident, including the circumstances surrounding Herman's release from prison.

"It's really an isolated case. He wasn't part of a network, he didn't receive instructions from anyone else, so there is no need

to raise the terror threat alert level," Jambon said, adding that investigators have no precise information that any other attacks might be likely.

Amid questions about how two officers could have been disarmed, Jambon praised the work of all involved, saying "the police did an extraordinary job."

"They reacted well. All the systems, all the procedures worked. But if you are attacked from behind, as was the case with the two officers, you can't do anything," he said.

The police officers have been identified as Soraya Belkacemi, 44, and Lucile Garcia, 54. The passenger in the car was named as Cyril Vangriecken, 22, who was preparing to become a primary school teacher.

Belgian media reports named the man killed before Tuesday's rampage as Michael Wilmet.

In Liege, the mother of Soraya Belkacemi, Bernadette Hennart, kissed a necklace and laid it over flowers at the scene, saying it was important for

her and the victim's brother to visit the place where her daughter spent her last moments alive.

Hennart said that they had come "to piece things together. No one has told me very much. Only through the media, and it's not nice. I can't stand watching it. I can't say goodbye to her."

Flags were flying at half-staff on public buildings around the city and people gathered to sign a book of condolences and lay flowers in memory of the victims. The prime minister joined others at the scene in a minute's silence. Police and security officials also assembled in Brussels and Antwerp to mourn the loss of their two colleagues.

"Every morning I am scared that something like this will happen, and every day it happens closer to home," Melissa Lamny told The Associated Press after wrapping flowers around a lamppost at the scene of the killings.



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