

Best of Osceola Ballot

Make your voices heard. Vote for your favorite businesses in Osceola County in the 2018 Best of Osceola contest. **Page 14**



OSCEOLA NEWS-GAZETTE

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Thursday, June 7, 2018

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Groups engage Hispanic voters for election

By Rachel Christian
Staff Writer

Thousands of Puerto Ricans sought refuge in Central Florida following the devastation of Hurricane Maria in September.

With 2018 midterms fast approaching, groups in Osceola County are ramping up voter education and registration efforts to make sure these and other Hispanic residents have a voice in the upcoming election.

About 47 percent of local registered voters voluntarily identified themselves as Hispanic, according to numbers provided by Osceola County Supervisor of Elections Office.

Of those 98,801 voters, 49 percent identify as Democrats, 11 percent as Republicans and 40 percent are registered with minor parties or as independents.

Still, the number of registered Latino voters hasn't increased much relative to the overall county population since 2016 – only about 1.5 percent – despite an influx of Puerto Rican residents.

Kari Ewalt, community relations director for the Elections Office, said this may be attributed to different priorities held by Puerto Rican evacuees.

"They may be more focused on re-building their lives than registering to vote," Ewalt said. "That number may increase as we get closer to the election."

A non-partisan Hispanic advocacy group called UnidosUS has set a statewide registration goal this year of 90,000 voters, with 10,000 coming from Osceola County alone.

See **Voters**, Page 2.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Hispanic advocacy group UnidosUS has been traveling to different state locations to get Hispanic residents registered to vote.

AROUND TOWN

Getting a leg up



NEWS-GAZETTE PHOTO/MARTIN MADDOCK

Zachery Varner from Livingston, Ala., was one of the competitors in the steer wrestling event during the 141st Silver Spurs Rodeo on Friday night. For more photos, see page 24.

Agriculture industry still struggling in wake of Hurricane Irma

By Charlie Reed
For the News-Gazette

The ghost of Hurricane Irma still haunts Florida's agriculture market, a mainstay of the state's economy, second only to tourism.

Osceola County – one the state's biggest agriculture producers – was spared devastating losses, but some local farms and ranch operators relied upon funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to recover.

Hurricane Irma nearly wiped out the area's iconic citrus crop. Some growers in South and Central Florida said they lost up to 90 percent of their crops. Osceola cattle

ranchers and commercial vegetable and fruit farmers were among the luckiest in the state, overall.

Irma made landfall in September in Monroe and Collier counties and then barreled up the state. Some \$2.5 billion in losses – including \$761 million to the citrus crops alone – were incurred – by the agriculture industry, Florida's largest after tourism. From property damage to flooded groves, Irma packed a punch. Much of the recovery money for ranchers and growers was distributed came from the Federal Emergency Management Agency

See **Agriculture**, Page 5.

Summer program offers free meals for Osceola County kids



NEWS-GAZETTE PHOTO/MARTIN MADDOCK

Dekari Ferrell, Juliana Aponte and Jabari Burden get ready to enjoy some lunch at Chambers Park.

By Rachel Christian
Staff Writer

Learning doesn't end when the school year ends, and neither does the need for good nutrition.

A free program offering well-balanced, hot meals to students 18 and under is back this summer with seven Osceola County locations.

Summer BreakSpot is a coordinated regional effort between Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida and community partners to provide a free breakfast, lunch or snack to kids who may not be able to afford it otherwise.

"Many families whose children receive free and reduced lunch during the year find it challenging to make ends meet once summer arrives," said Nancy Brumbaugh, food services director at Second Harvest Food Bank. "Our mission is

to make sure no child goes hungry over the summer."

Summer BreakSpot is a federally funded nutrition program administered by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services that utilizes churches, daycare centers, nonprofit organizations and other community partners to get meals to students.

Since the program launched in 2008, Second Harvest has provided more than 940,057 summer meals for kids. Brumbaugh said the program is projected to serve its millionth meal by the end of this summer.

The All-Star Summer Camp at Chambers Park in Kissimmee is one of the seven BreakSpot sites in Osceola County. The more than 100 day-campers congregate each afternoon at the dining hall where they receive meals delivered

See **Feeding**, Page 5.

Heat wave spikes power usage by 21%

Summer doesn't arrive until June 21, but temperatures make it feel like the seasons have already changed.

An early season heat wave combined with a lack of afternoon thunderstorms has forced residential and commercial air conditioners to work overtime, resulting in a surge in electricity use in Kissimmee on Monday, according to a Kissimmee Utility Authority press release. As temperatures rise, so does demand for air conditioning.

Energy demand on Monday reached 360

megawatts – 21 percent higher than last week's average. The increase in electricity use will likely lead to higher power bills for utility customers in the coming weeks, KUA officials said.

KUA offers these energy-saving tips that require little or no expense and can help to reduce energy costs:

- ▶ Set the thermostat on the highest comfortable setting (KUA recommends 78-80 degrees). Raising the temperature just two degrees can reduce cooling costs by as much as five percent.

- ▶ Use oscillating and

ceiling fans instead of lowering the thermostat setting – but remember to turn them off when you're not in the room.

- ▶ Close blinds, shades or drapes during the hottest part of the day to block the sun's heat.

- ▶ Remember that window air conditioning units generally are not designed to cool more than one room.

- ▶ Clean or replace window unit or central air conditioning system filters monthly. Dirty filters cause air conditioners to work harder and use more energy.

POLICE NEWS

Motorcyclist killed in Osceola crash

An Ocoee motorcyclist was killed in Osceola County on Saturday after he was ejected from the bike.

According to a Florida Highway Patrol report, Robert Whyte, 52, was driving a 2015 Honda motorcycle southbound on State Road 429 at about 7 p.m.

Witnesses told troopers that Whyte was abruptly changing lanes for no apparent reason. He then traveled into the median and the motorcycle overturned,

ejecting him from the bike, the report stated.

Whyte, who was not wearing a helmet, was pronounced dead on scene. The crash remains under investigation.

Kissimmee teen arrested in child porn sting

A Kissimmee teenager was arrested after he was allegedly caught in a Polk County Sheriff's Office sting targeting child pornography.

Throughout the month of May, Polk County Sheriff's Computer Crimes detectives served search warrants and made 11 arrests during "Operation Guardians of Innocence II" which focused on identifying and arresting those involved in the possession, promotion, and distribution of child pornography. A total of 660 felony charges were filed against the suspects, with more charges pending.

See **Police**, Page 5.

VOTERS

Continued from Page 1

Caroline Wassmer has been canvassing for UnidosUS since 2012. She and other volunteers can often be spotted outside popular Latino supermarkets and restaurants in Kissimmee, especially along U.S. Highway 192 and in Hispanic-dominated neighborhoods like BVL.

"With the number of people increasing in the area, especially from Puerto Rico, I knew I had to get involved in this campaign," Wassmer said.

UnidosUS launched three, five-person canvassing teams April 9 in Osceola County, nearly nine months prior to Election

Day. They've been out registering and educating voters nearly every day since, and Wassmer estimates the teams speak to roughly 100 people a day.

The county's rapidly growing Hispanic demographic makes Osceola a "logical" starting point for registration efforts, said UnidosUS Senior Civic Engagement Strategist Jared Nordlund.

"We find it's easier for our campaign staff to start there and work their way into Orange County," Nordlund said. "We've been registering voters since 2008, and we constantly pull 10,000 registrations during

election years in Osceola County alone."

Hispanics account for 52.3 percent of Osceola's overall population, compared to 30.5 percent in Orange County, according to the latest U.S. Census Bureau estimates. The numbers also show that Latino residents are increasing at a faster rate in Osceola County than in Orange.

Nordlund said regulation is important this year because Florida voters have several important issues waiting for them on the November ballot.

Candidates from the U.S. Senate all the way down to the local school board and

county commission are facing tight midterm races, as well as 13 proposed amendments to the Florida Constitution.

"A lot of these offices have far reaching impacts on our lives," Nordlund said. "We want to make sure members of our community have their voices heard not just during a presidential year, but during every election."

While UnidosUS focuses on registration and mobilization of Latinos, another organization called the LIBRE Initiative is lending a hand in political education efforts.

LIBRE may not register voters directly, but the two

groups share a common goal – to inform citizens nationwide about issues affecting the Hispanic community, including immigration, education and healthcare reform.

Bridging knowledge gaps is vital to new Hispanic residents who may be unfamiliar with the U.S. political system, said LIBRE Executive Director Brian Velazquez.

"You have people coming over to the mainland United States, and the word Democrat and Republican doesn't mean anything to them," Velazquez said. "I think the main obstacle is getting people to understand why they

should be engaged, that we have midterm as well as presidential elections in this country, and part of that is getting them familiar with candidates and how the system works."

Other hinderances, like language barriers and immigration status, may prevent otherwise civically-oriented individuals from voting in U.S. elections, Velazquez said.

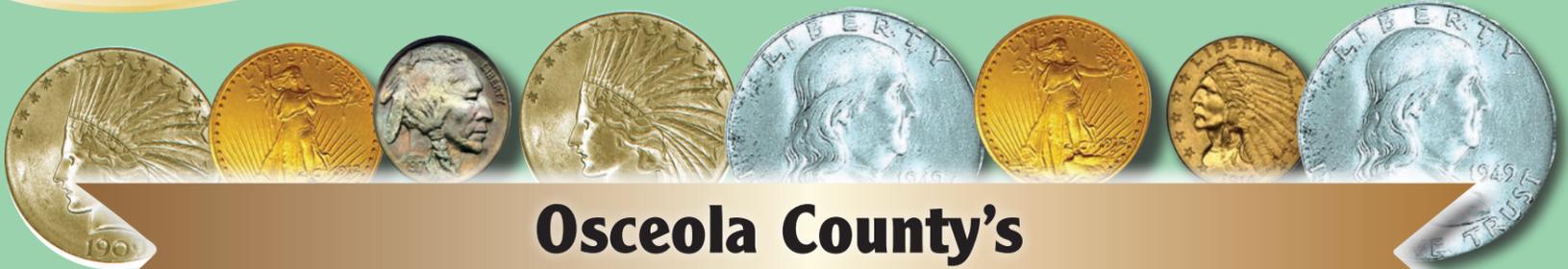
"Hispanics are very resilient and very resourceful," he said. "If they're interested in something, they will find a way to overcome those barriers, especially if there's people there to show them how."

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OSCEOLA BUSINESS

Osceola's new public works director is 1st woman to hold position

Osceola County's new Public Works director has three decades of experience in the field, with a background that includes solid waste, civil engineering and administration.

Danielle Slaterpryce, who starts work Monday, is also the first woman to lead the department with approximately 230 employees and a budget of \$58.7 million.

"In order to be successful in government service, you have to have a passion for it. It is a calling," said Slaterpryce. "I like working with the community and seeing things improve. Personally, it is also important to help other people to achieve their goals and be successful."

Slaterpryce has operated her own firm for the last two years. Prior to that, she was the assistant city administrator for the city of West Palm Beach. She worked as a project manager for Kimley-Horn, and director of Public Works for Okaloosa and Putnam counties. In Putnam, she was also the county engineer.

"Do I understand solid waste contracts, storm water management, and how to build a road? Absolutely," she said. Her experience was frequently gained by successfully handling assignments no one else wanted. She is particularly proud of work on a bridge in Okaloosa County that required discussions between the state of Florida, the Department of Defense (as Eglin Air Force Base was involved) and that county.

As for being the first woman to head Public Works, she said that being the first female director has been "par for the course" during her career.

"It's really not a gender issue. I always like being at the forefront and pushing through. Part of that is enlightening people that it isn't about your gender. I have the skillset to do the job," Slaterpryce said, noting that the number of women in the field has increased over the years. "It has been satisfying to be able to mentor upcoming engineers and professionals and to watch them become successful."

Slaterpryce was impressed by downtown Kissimmee and St. Cloud, as well as the areas' "really beautiful parks," she said. "I'm looking forward to meeting staff and community members, and helping the community to successfully meet some of the infrastructure challenges it is facing. I've dealt with those types of issues before, and while it is never easy, there is a way forward."

Slaterpryce succeeds Frank Raymond, who will focus on construction of the new NeoCity office building.

School District offices to close on Fridays during summer

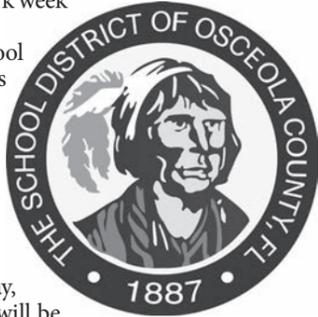
The Osceola School District will run on a four-day work week during the summer months.

Beginning on June 4 and ending on Aug. 2, the School District's administrative offices and school front offices will be open to the public Mondays through Thursdays during the following hours: Mondays through Wednesdays from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Thursdays from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Some district facilities may be open on Fridays for teacher trainings, school-based events, or maintenance work.

For the week of July 2, regular work hours on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. will be followed for all departments and schools. School District offices will be closed on Wednesday, July 4.

The first day of school for students for the 2018-19 school year will be on Monday, Aug. 13. Next year's school calendar can be found at <http://www.osceolaschools.net/1819academiccalendar>.



Central Florida's unemployment rate at 3.1 percent for April

The unemployment rate in the CareerSource Central Florida region (Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, and Sumter counties) was 3.1 percent in April 2018.

This rate was 0.5 percentage point lower than the region's year ago rate of 3.6 percent. The region's April 2018 unemployment rate was 0.3 percentage point lower than the state rate of 3.4 percent. The labor force was 1,354,004, up 32,497 (2.5 percent) over the year. There were 42,007 unemployed residents in the region.



The unemployment rates for the five counties that comprise the Central Florida region were: Lake County (3.3 percent), Orange County (3 percent), Osceola County (3.4 percent), Seminole County (3 percent), and Sumter County (4.9 percent).

In April, nonagricultural employment in The Villages MSA was 28,800, an increase of 400 jobs (1.4 percent) over the year.

In April, nonagricultural employment in the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA was 1,284,700, an increase of 40,000 jobs (3.2 percent) over the year.

The Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA had the highest annual job growth compared to all the metro areas in the state in leisure and hospitality (10,900 jobs); professional and business services (7,700 jobs); mining, logging, and construction (6,000 jobs); and government (1,200 jobs) in April 2018.

The Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA had the second highest annual job growth compared to all the metro areas in the state in education and health services (4,700 jobs) and manufacturing (3,100 jobs) in April 2018.

The Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA was tied for the second highest annual job growth compared to all the metro areas in the state in trade, transportation, and utilities (2,700 jobs) and financial activities (2,400 jobs) in April 2018.

The Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA was tied for the second fastest annual job growth rate compared to all the metro areas in the state in education and health services (3.1 percent) in April 2018.

The Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA had the third highest annual job growth compared to all the metro areas in the state in other services (1,400 jobs) in April 2018.

The Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA had the third fastest annual job growth rate compared to all the metro areas in the state in manufacturing (7.1 percent) in April 2018.

The mining, logging, and construction (8.3 percent); manufacturing (7.1 percent); leisure and hospitality (4.2 percent); professional and business services (3.5 percent); financial activities (3.2 percent); other services (3.2 percent); education and health services (3.1 percent); trade, transportation, and utilities (1.2 percent); and government (0.9 percent) industries grew faster in the metro area than statewide over the year.

The industries gaining in jobs over the year were: leisure and hospitality (10,900 jobs); professional and business services (7,700 jobs); mining, logging, and construction (6,000 jobs); education and health services (4,700 jobs); manufacturing (3,100 jobs); trade, transportation, and utilities (2,700 jobs); financial activities (2,400 jobs); other services (1,400 jobs); and government (1,200 jobs).

POINCIANA

Wellness series set at Aquatic Center

By Lisa Concepcion
Poinciana Writer

The "Forever Improving Through Wellness" Series begins Tuesday, June 19, and continues every Tuesday until July 24, from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. at the Mary Jane Arrington Gym and Aquatic Center, 625 Country Club Drive.

A new wellness topic is discussed each week, along with a snack preparation segment throughout the series. This is a partnership between IFAs Extension in Osceola County and Polk County. Advance registration is required. The fee is \$15 for the series and includes one free guest, ages 14 or older.

For more information, call 321-697-3000.

Many children in the area receive free or reduced lunch when they are in school. The 2017-18 school year has ended. Enter Summer BreakSpot.

Summer BreakSpot provides nutritious meals at no cost to children 18 and under while school is out for the summer. Participating organizations for meals are through the USDA's Summer Food Service Program or Seamless Summer Option.

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services provides guidance, support and training for program sponsors and

distributes funds from USDA to reimburse sponsors for meals served. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services identifies areas of need to help sponsors and determine site locations.

In Poinciana and the greater Poinciana area, there are numerous sites-Deerwood Elementary School, 3701 Marigold Ave.; Poinciana Academy of Fine Arts, 4201 Rhododendron Ave.; Discovery Intermediate School, 5350 San Miguel Road; Chosen Generation Christian, 4906 Old Pleasant Hill Road; Iglesia de Cristo Misionera el Tabernaculo de Poinciana, 4937 Old Pleasant

Hill Road; Iglesia Dios Manantial, 4360 Monterey Road; Alpha Omega Baptist Church, 5151 Berkshire Road; KOA Elementary School, 5000 KOA St.; Pleasant Hill Academy, 140 Pompei Drive; Liberty High School, 4250 Pleasant Hill Road; Living Water Fellowship, 4101 Pleasant Hill Road; The Association of Poinciana Villages Community Center, 395 Marigold Ave.; Little Lambs, 601 Walnut St.; Palmetto Elementary School, 315 Palmetto St.; Chestnut Elementary School, 4300 Chestnut Street and Poinciana High School, 2300 S. Poinciana Blvd.

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

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GUEST EDITORIAL

Empowering kids instead of arming them

Let's open the classroom doors - all of them. Open up the schools, open up America, looking for the lost souls.

"Woo hoo!" he shouted as he fired off his guns. By the time he was done, 10 more people were dead. Eight students, two teachers.

More sacred lives tossed to the God of War.

The murders at Santa Fe High School, in Santa Fe, Texas, on May 18 were "the fourth-deadliest mass shooting at a U.S. public school in modern history," according to Reuters, as though such stats help us grasp what happened, and why. Perhaps in a way they accomplish the opposite - converting the deaths to numbers, filing them away in the national memory as the news cycle moves on.

But we all know the next horror headline is waiting to be written.

"... while shootings at schools are terrible, it's not the schools that are the problem. The real problem is that America as a whole is dangerous," writes Mike Males at Yes! magazine. He makes the point that American schools, overall, are far safer than most of the rest of American society, where thousands of gun homicides occur annually. The problem faced by American schools, in other words, is that they're located here, in the land of the free and the home of the armed, where 300 million firearms are at the ready; and thus they are vulnerable to occasional invasions by armed America.

The problem here is unimaginably large. The more gun homicides the country

endures, the more people feel the need to be armed in order to protect themselves, which simply - paradoxically - feeds the problem. The more guns out there, the more dangerous the world is. It's the sheer presence of firearms that creates the likelihood that they will be used, just as national preparation for war makes the next war virtually inevitable.

As Males points out, arming 20 percent of the teachers "would mean 800,000 more armed adults in schools," intensifying the danger of going to school beyond what anyone dare imagine.

But the other side of the American "debate" about guns and violence seems achingly ineffectual. Tougher gun laws - background checks with teeth - may be necessary, but take control over such a miniscule part of the problem. Legal and bureaucratic fixes will not, by themselves, rescue, let alone transform, a violent culture.

The 17-year-old Santa Fe High School shooter's weapons were legal, for God's sake. Dimitrios Pagourtzis murdered classmates and teachers with his father's legally owned shotgun and revolver. Does that lessen the seriousness of what he did?

The issue here goes well beyond the law. Is this not a matter of what constitutes empowerment? The addictive popularity of guns is not due to their pragmatic usefulness. It's due to the sense of power they bestow: being fully human, fully alive.

No matter, as Brad J. Bushman pointed out some years ago in Psychology Today, that "the costs of gun ownership far outweigh the benefits." The gun you own is, he writes, "much more likely to be used to kill you (suicide) or someone you love (accident, homicide in a heated argument) than a stranger in self-defense. The costs of living in a society of gun owners also means a substantially higher rate of homicides, suicides, and accidents."

And, oh yeah, mass murders.

And the boy in the trench coat opens fire in art class. He's described (like all those who preceded him) as a "quiet loner." His father said he was bullied and disrespected at school.

And USA Today tells us: "As the horror unfolded, Pagourtzis roamed from classroom to classroom, taunting students and blasting away as they made ill-fated efforts to elude or hide from his barrage of gunfire."

Please, let this be the moment at which we pause, as a lost kid - deeply, spiritually lost - uses guns and bullets to find a half an hour of respect, then surrenders. What's missing in this scenario is an alternative.

Empowerment is about more than being able to protect yourself. It's about fully being yourself, connected to your community: valued by it, indispensable to it. This is not a priority or focus of our educational system, which mostly separates its students from one another and measures their worth in separation. This means there will always be losers. And sometimes - as the headlines tell us every couple of months - the losers push back.

The most encouraging alternative I've seen to this situation is the movement, taking hold in some of our country's most troubled schools, called Restorative Justice, which begins by giving every student his or her voice.

Several years ago I wrote a column about City Springs School, a K-8 school in Baltimore, which has transformed itself by moving beyond zero tolerance and punishment-based discipline, replacing this failed educational status quo with peace circles, in which all participants - adults and children - sit together in vibrant equality.

"I spent half a day at City Springs recently, as part of my own determination to see how people are creating peace on our planet," I wrote. "I sat in 'proactive circles' with first-graders and eighth-graders, listening and participating as the kids checked in and talked about how they were doing that day. One teacher said the proactive circle, held not in response to a problem but simply to get the day started, was like taking a daily vitamin. Kids and adults connect with each other and a context of respect and mutual cooperation is established anew."

I'm talking here not about quick fixes but long-term transformation - the emergence of schools that don't separate education from empowerment. What happens to kids who grow up feeling valued?

ROBERT KOEHLER
Tribune Media



Contact Robert Koehler at koehlercw@gmail.com.



SOUND OFF OSCEOLA

We want to hear from you!

With the recent school shooting in Texas, do you think there are effective security measures to take to ensure it would never occur in Osceola County? If yes, what are they? If no, why?

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FEEDING

Continued from Page 1

by Second Harvest and distributed by camp staff.

The children come from all walks of life, said David Noel, the camp's recreational coordinator.

But the meals Second Harvest donates allow the camp to keep costs lower while still offering healthy lunches and snacks to kids on a regular basis.

"It helps out tremendously," he said. "They really focus on nutrition, on making sure

the kids are eating right. I think it's awesome they care about the kids' health, and not just feeding them anything."

But do the lunches pass the campers seal of approval?

"They always devour it," Noel said, laughing. "Which is great."

Three years ago, BreakSpot expanded its outreach even more. It added a fleet of seven donated trailers equipped with walk-in coolers, hot meal storage

centers and food truck-style side service windows.

The trailers travel to underserved and far-reaching areas where "pockets of poverty" have formed, Brumbaugh explained.

"It allows us to reach the far corners of our seven-county area," she said. "Kids who may not be able to get to our service centers because they're home watching younger siblings or things of that nature. This allows us to come to them."



NEWS-GAZETTE PHOTO/MARTIN MADDOCK

Children attending Chambers Park Community Center received free lunches.

The Summer Breakspot program is free and any child under 18 years old will be served at mobile trailer

locations, no questions asked. No registration is required. To find the nearest Summer BreakSpot site, visit www.summerfoodflorida.org.

Residents can also text "FoodFL" to 877-877 or dial 2-1-1.

AGRICULTURE

Continued from Page 1

and was distributed by U.S. Department of Agriculture through its established network of local offices around the U.S.

The USDA office in Kissimmee is co-located with county and state agricultural agencies at Osceola Heritage Park. After the storm, FEMA offered farm loans, livestock assistance funds, emergency conservation programs,

and tree replacement services for agricultural producers. Some \$2.5 billion in losses – including \$761 million to the citrus industry – were incurred by the agriculture industry, Florida's largest after tourism, supplying buyers all over the country.

Still, Florida's citrus industry has been on the decline for years because of citrus greening, one of

the most serious citrus plant diseases in the world, according to the USDA. Once a tree is infected, there is no cure and most affected trees die within a few years.

Local and state officials continue pushing for even more help from the federal government in Washington D.C. for the state's beleaguered agriculture industry. Florida will get a federal block grant worth

\$340 million to go exclusively to the citrus industry.

The issue is now a driving political force for candidates running for Florida Agriculture Commissioner. The current commissioner, Adam Putnam, is running for governor.

Agriculture commissioner is one of three Cabinet jobs that will be on the November ballot, along with attorney general

and state chief financial officer. Candidates in the 2018 race for the agriculture department are offering a variety of approaches to make Florida's food chain more resilient before future natural disasters. Florida's Legislature also has created tax breaks on fuel used to transport agricultural products, on agricultural materials purchased for repairs and for citrus packing

houses that had their businesses interrupted by the storm or citrus disease. Some races for the Florida House and Senate also highlight the issue of emergency services for the agriculture industry. Florida's hit from Irma was just one in a series of natural disasters across the nation in 2017 that showcased the precarious nature of growing and distributing food.

POLICE

Continued from Page 2

A search warrant was executed in Kissimmee, where the 16-year-old teen lived. Detectives received a tip that child pornography files were being downloaded to a Dropbox account. The detectives responded to the home and talked

with his parents, and then responded to Haines City High School to talk to the suspect. He admitted to viewing images depicting children as young as infants, according to a Polk Sheriff's Office press release. During an initial preview of

his cell phone, detectives located files depicting child pornography with victims as young as 12-24 months old. They seized the equipment for further analysis. He was taken into custody without incident and charged with 12

counts possession of child pornography.

"As you know, this is just the beginning - once we serve search warrants and seize the devices that these suspects are using to download and distribute pornography, we will do a

complete forensic analysis, and in all likelihood we will be adding on more charges related to the felony possession and distribution of images and videos of children being sexually battered," Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd said.

"Most of the images we saw during this investigation depicted children being sexually battered, that we have seen before - which means we haven't yet identified any local child victims, but as always, that is also a part of our investigation."



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OSCEOLA COUNTY HISTORY

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

Introducing: Mary Crawford Bryan

In December 1865, the eldest of six children, Mary Crawford Bryan was born to Jasper Newton Bryan St. and Amanda Fitzpatrick in Marshallville, Macon County, Georgia. She decided to stay and teach school in Kissimmee while visiting two of her brothers, Nathan Colbert "Bert" and Conrad in about 1890.

Bert and his wife, the former Annie Oliver welcomed Mary into their home and she lived with them for many years. Mary taught 3rd grade from 1892 to 1932, sometimes having as many as thirty to forty students in a classroom. Even as her former students moved on with their lives, she corresponded with many, writing letters of encouragement and providing scholarship funds to those in need.

Mary shared her love of music by offering musical programs and lessons to students. Also a nature lover, she cultivated many varieties of coleus and caladium and became an avid bird watcher.

For the first seven months Mary taught, August 1892 to February 1893, she received a salary of \$25 a month. The next year, her pay increased to \$30 but there was only a five month term. A \$5 increase in pay came the third year, again for a five month term. At the end of that third year of teaching, she was offered the position of assistant to the primary teacher, who at that time was teaching 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades. She received no increase in pay but was later given the 2nd and 3rd grades entirely, with a raise to \$40.

Mary died on June 14, 1950 and on October 23 1951, the new elementary



school, Mary C. Bryan Elementary School was dedicated in her honor. Over the years, additions and modifications were made to the original structure when it became Beaumont Middle School.

Photo Courtesy: Osceola County Historical Society Photo Collection
 Sources: Centennial Book and newspaper articles

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Introducing: Mary Essie Petrie Caldwell



Essie Petrie Caldwell

The family moved to Montgomery, Alabama when Essie was nineteen. As a close personal friend, she had the honor of attending the inauguration of Jefferson Davis as President of the Confederate States of America in 1861. Shortly after the Civil War, she opened a school, which became one of the leading schools of Montgomery. Pupils came from surrounding towns and villages in order to study under her and have the advantage furnished by her school.

Following her marriage to James Caldwell in Montgomery, they continued to live there until 1897 when James's health prompted them to move to Kissimmee with their daughter Jean. James passed away on January 24, 1902. In 1910, when the Will Bryan Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy was formed in Kissimmee, Essie and Jean were charter members and remained with the organization until it disbanded in 1921. Soon another chapter was formed and honored Essie by naming it the Essie Petrie Chapter. Essie authored numerous poems, one which was sung at every UDC meeting.

Essie lived a long and full life, passing away on September 17, 1928 at the age of 90. She and James rest in Rose Hill Cemetery, location of Dine with the Departed event.

Source: assorted issues of "Kissimmee Valley Gazette"; 1927-1928 Yearbook for Essie Petrie Caldwell Chapter of United Daughters of the Confederacy (OCHS Collection)

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SPORTS



St. Cloud 9s

Baseball, softball teams win titles.

Page 9.

Local & National Sports • Sports Commentary

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THE SPORTS COLUMN

Orlando Magic names a new coach; does it really make a difference?

Welcome to the Summer of Malcontent!

Or, what Orlando Magic fans have come to know, the last six years.

Your hometown NBA team — term used loosely based on its performance since Dwight Howard left in a big messy huff — named its 13th head coach last week.

Steve Clifford will be the fourth one in five seasons when preseason camp opens this fall, and the response among the jilted fan base was a lot like an off-key trumpet note.

That trumpet has been playing Taps for years.

When a team gets rid of one coach and replaces him with a “new style” of coach, the hope is that the “new voice” spurs some new success. But Steve Clifford won’t be taking the shots or playing the defense for the team in games.

The Magic players who do are awful. And it can’t improve any time soon because of some of the contracts to which they’re signed. Clifford, along with the brain trust of Jeff Weltman and John Hammond, talk about revamping the roster, but how can they when they’re paying Bismack Biyombo \$17 million per season to play about 19 minutes per game and expect nothing out of him on offense (they paid Howard \$18 million under his last Orlando contract and he was the NBA’s best defensive player at the time)?

Like Biyombo, Evan Fournier is also making \$17 million to miss shots and play little defense for the next two seasons, more than Draymond Green and Klay Thompson, who you’ve seen playing for another title this week. Both have contracts the team cannot trade, move or liquidate. The Magic can’t even pair Biyombo with Nic Vucevic, who is

serviceable at both ends of the floor, during a game. Vucevic’s salary cap number is \$12.2 million so, sadly, he’s the one with trade value when it comes time to gut this flailing roster.

And good luck extending Jonathan Isaac, who looked like he can play in a small sample size of 27 games due to injuries last year, and Aaron Gordon, who some think could be a top-10 player in the league, when their rookie contracts end.

The Magic won’t reach the NBA playoffs under Clifford, or whoever took this job at this time, unless he commits to the long haul and the brain trust commits to him. At least he has a better chance of surviving two losing seasons better than Frank Vogel did, because Clifford was the choice of those in charge and Vogel was thrust upon them by former General Manager Rob Hennigan, who deserves a place in a Turkish prison — or role as vice president of the Magic Fan Club, same difference — for thrusting the Biyombo and Fournier contracts upon those left to clean them up and work around.

The Magic didn’t, couldn’t and wouldn’t hire a splashy name that NBA deep thinkers would call the next Brad Stevens because that guy wouldn’t take this job right now.

Based on the roster and contract situations, you could mix the DNA of Phil Jackson, Gregg Popovich with the ashes of Red Auerbach and John Wooden, put it in a mock turtleneck and sports coat and *still* not have a coach that could help the Magic win within the next two years.

See **Column**, Page 8.

KEN JACKSON
 Sports Editor



Metro Osceola takes 3rd in first team competition



SUBMITTED PHOTO

From left, Leighanna Vaughan, Callie Diehl and Emily Gierscher combined to earn third place for Metro Osceola Gymnastics at last month’s AAU State Championships in Daytona Beach in the Silver Elite division. It was the first time in over two decades that the St. Cloud studio had three athletes in the same division at the same time to compete in team competition.

Vaughan takes first place in age group at state meet

By **Ken Jackson**
 Sports Editor

It seems odd that one of the oldest youth gymnastics studios in the area would be a newcomer to elite state-level competitions.

But, this spring was the first time Metro Osceola Gymnastics in St. Cloud had enough competitors (three) at the same level at the same time in order to compete as a team.

It finally came together last month when Callie Diehl, 10, Emily Gierscher, 12, and Leighanna Vaughan, 13, combined to lead Metro Osceola to a third-place finish among Silver Elite teams at the Amateur Athletic Union State Championships at the Ocean Center in Daytona Beach. It was Metro Osceola’s first team award in its over 20-year existence.

It was a thrilling event for Carol Emery, who runs the 17th Street studio with her son Taylor, a longtime competitor himself who coaches the girls.

“This was the first year we had three kids in the same division, so we’ve been waiting for this to come together,” Carol said. “People look at this little gym and wonder what we’re doing here, but we’ve got as many as 180 kids training here.”

What’s more impressive is that, going into the fall, Taylor Emery said the girls had tentatively decided to make this year their final year of competition.

“These girls were holding their heads down this time last year,” he said. “Now they’re heads up, shoulders back, and proved to themselves that they’re small but they’re strong and now we’re trying to do it again next year.”

Vaughan finished in first place among her age group, Diehl was third and Gierscher was sixth. The girls’ combined balance beam scores were second among the 10 teams who made the finals and third in the vault and floor exercise.

“When coach brought the idea to us we were excited,” Vaughn said. “We think taking third place was a big accomplishment.”

Taylor Emery echoed that, since as a three-gymnast team every one of their scores would count toward the team score, good or bad.

“Our small team finishing third all-around was impressive considering we had no buffer. It was almost magical from where we were at the start of the season,” he said. “I prepared when we signed up as a team,” he said. “I

See **Gymnasts**, Page 8.

Three Fire Frogs named Florida State League All-Stars

All-Star Game is June 16 in Tampa; Orlando native, former NFL RB Chris Johnson visits

By **Ken Jackson**
 Sports Editor

Brett Cumberland, Cristian Pache and Chad Sobotka will represent the Florida Fire Frogs for the North squad in the Florida State League All-Star Game on June 16 at George M. Steinbrenner Field in Tampa.

The North division will be managed by Dunedin Blue Jays Manager Casey Candaele.

Where Cumberland was Florida’s hottest hitter at the start of the year, Pache has carried that mantle of late.

Through Tuesday, Cumberland, who catches and serves as the designated hitter, led the league with 33 walks in just 175 plate appearances, and his .376 on-base percentage leads all starters. He had a 13-game on-base streak through Monday.

Behind the dish he’s thrown out 14 out

of 30 potential base stealers in 2018, a mark of 47 percent, which ranks tied for second in the league.

Pache, a 19-year-old native of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic and the Fire Frogs’ starting center fielder and leadoff hitter, leads the team in at bats, runs (27), hits (60), doubles (11), triples (3) and RBI (24) while hitting .293 through Tuesday and .349 over his prior 10 games.

Sobotka was promoted to Double-A Mississippi on May 15 but ended his tenure as a Fire Frog on a 7 2/3 scoreless innings streak. The right-hander went 2-0 with a 2.20 ERA in his 13 appearances at the High-A level, compiling 28 strikeouts in 20 1/3 innings, and holding opponents to a .121 batting average out of the bullpen.

First pitch of the 2018 All-Star game is scheduled for 6:30 p.m., and there will be a



FIRE FROGS



Cumberland



Pache



Sobotka

post-game fireworks display. There will also be a home run derby on June 15 beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Prior to the All-Star Game, the team will have a seven-game home stand beginning Friday at 6:31 p.m. against the Jupiter Hammerheads and Bradenton Marauders.

Friday is Bark in the Park Night, and fans can bring their fine furry friends to the game; Just 4 Dogs will be giving out free dog bowls to the first 50 dogs and admission for dogs is free with a paid adult.

Saturday will be a busy night as three-time Pro Bowl NFL running back and Orlando native Chris Johnson will hold a

Meet ‘n Greet with fans starting at 5 p.m. and will throw out the ceremonial first pitch prior to the game against the Hammerheads.

The Fire Frogs will also celebrate mascot Striker’s birthday on Saturday, when kids 12 and under receive free admission after joining the Tadpole Club, and the first 300 kids will receive free mini golf vouchers to Pirate’s Island.

Striker’s mascot friends Shades (Orlando Solar Bears) and Phinley (Clearwater Threshers) will also be on hand for the birthday bash.

Online tickets are available for \$4.24 using the promo code 424CJ at floridafirefrogs.com.

Kowboy lineman Dwyer signs to block, study theology at Southeastern

By Ken Jackson
Sports Editor

The signing story for Osceola offensive lineman Cameron Dwyer is a real "best of both worlds" story.

Dwyer signed last month with Southeastern University, an NAIA program in Lakeland. So he'll get to go to college close to home.

And, at Southeastern, he'll get to study something close to his heart, and an uncommon major for this generation — theology.

With a line on minoring in education and becoming a lead pastor, Dwyer said in the future he hopes to "preach, teach and coach".

He said his school choice came down to Ithaca (N.Y.) and Southeastern, and the Lakeland school gave him

the chance to pursue what he loves.

"I originally thought I wanted to get into marine science, but I asked myself if I'd be really passionate about it," he said. "Then I prayed hard about what I'm really passionate about, and it's spreading the Word. So I started looking for Christian colleges and a Valencia advisor told me about it. It doesn't hurt that it's right down the road."

Dwyer, (5-11, 260) was one of the key components — and only senior — on the Kowboys' offensive line that kept Coach Doug Nichols' flexbone running attack humming, to the tune of nearly 3,000 rushing yards — again — this season as part of one of the state's best rushing attacks.

In Lakeland, it'll be just like old times for Dwyer. The Fire were one of the nation's most prolific NAIA offenses

in 2017, ranked No. 1 in scoring offense per game (55.1 points), third in rushing offense (330 yards per game) and total offense (557.4). The team had two 1,000-yard rushers and a 1,000-yard receiver. Southeastern was 8-2 on the year, rolled through the Sun Conference (5-0) and earned a spot in the NAIA national playoffs.

Nichols said Dwyer is the "ultimate feel good story."

"Cameron was a true program kid. He played on the freshman team, then the JV as a sophomore and was a backup as a junior," he said. "After a solid senior year as a starter he's going on to play in college."

"He's going to do well. He's going to be playing alongside and against men so he's going to have to get bigger and pick up the speed of the game."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Osceola lineman Cameron Dwyer, with Kowboys' Coach Doug Nichols, has signed to play at Southeastern University, where he plans to major in theology.

COLUMN

Continued from Page 7.

Steve Clifford, or Clifford the Big Red Dog. It just doesn't matter.

And if it takes any longer than a couple of years to change the direction, we could be nearing a Decade of Malcontent ...

... I said Warriors in 6 when it started. They won't hit shots one night, and LeBron should will Cleveland to a win on another night ...

Last month the Supreme Court struck down the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act, which had prohibited sports gambling in every state besides Nevada.

Now states get to choose for themselves if they are going to allow legalized sports betting. And there's a list of states lining up to give gamblers the thumbs-up when first allowed to do so in the next 45 days or so.

Do not expect Florida, The Tourism State, to be one of them. That's probably a wise choice — and that's not an editorial comment on my ability to pick football games, although you're way to familiar with that if you read this space last winter.

I'm also not saying that it's because the state is trying to avoid creating a problem in people's lives — I'm not an advocate of telling other adults what they *shouldn't* be doing if it's legal, although Disney has spent millions fighting legalized gambling.

Between all the major football programs and professional sports teams in the state, watching and cheering them on should be enough to do on game day without making the contents of one's wallet hinge on the outcome of their games.

So Florida, and its long list of tourism advocates (some people spell that "lobbyists") likely won't be adding sports betting to the list of fun stuff to do, but those in the know say Mississippi will.

Do I need to run down a list of things Florida has going for it that Mississippi doesn't?

By the way, a drive to Mississippi, with a gas and lunch stop, is nine hours.

All I'm saying is ... I'm just sayin'.

GYMNASTS

Continued from Page 7.

told them if we're all our 'A' game, we'll do well.

"And it happened. They stood up and shined and competed their best meet. I believed they surpassed their expectations walking into a floor with thousands of competitors. The girls were solid physically and mentally. I told them to focus more on doing your best than the scores at the meet — the effort over the results."

Vaughn, helped by winning the beam with a 9.550 score, was in first place headed into her final event, the vault, and she scored the exact number she needed, a 9.500, to win her division with a four-rotation score of 37.475 that included the floor exercise and uneven bars. Her best combined score in elite competition was 31.6.

"I didn't know what I needed to win it, and I probably preferred it that way," she said. "I just wanted to do it, land it and get through it"

Vaughn said the floor exercise is her favorite element because she used to be a dancer until she made gymnastics her top activity at age 6.

"I still really like to dance," she said.

Gierscher took up gymnastics at age 5 "because it seemed fun," and her combined score of 36.875 was much higher than a 31.9 she scored last year. She was second in the beam (9.500) at the Daytona Beach competition.

She's already looking forward to the next Silver Elite meet that Metro can compete in, and is working hard on her vaulting technique to help the team score higher.

"We're hoping we get to compete as a team again at state next year," Gierscher said.

Thanks to winning the vault with a 9.575 in her division, Diehl scored a 37.750, also beating her best previous combined score of 33.450.

Taylor said the summer schedule began this week for a season that he — and the girls — weren't sure would come this time last year.

"These are really good girls," Carol said. "We wish they were all this easy to work with."

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St. Cloud baseball, softball teams win league championships



SUBMITTED PHOTO



SUBMITTED PHOTO

St. Cloud Middle School won this year's county middle school championship. Team members are: sixth graders Natalie Booth, Brooklyn Scott, Kylie Porter, Alexia Garrett, Mackenzie Mazur and Rachel Poole, seventh graders Piper Parks, Amanda Whalen, Sydney Bouaziz, Ansley Bo and Trinity Kearns and eight graders Kiley Holland, Hannah Nasco, Ema-leigh Falleur, Amanda Ulery and Emma Paulhamus.

The Gaston Financial Red Sox were the St. Cloud Top Team and District 3 Majors champions, going 22-2. Front row left to right: Julian Nasco, Brant Gaston, Ethan Hassan, Landen Mann. Back row left to right: Anthony Capuana, Jediah Wetherington, Clayton Williams, Brennan Brown, Jack Duncan, Gunner Holland, Logan Manalo, Ivan Ramos. Coaches: Gabe Gaston, Bobby Brown, Billy Duncan (not pictured)

SPORTS BRIEFS

► **Narcoossee summer volleyball camps**

Narcoossee Middle School will hold a series of summer volleyball clinics through the months of June and July. The June clinics (11-13, 18-20, 25-27 from 7-9 p.m.) are skill based; the July camps (9-10 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., 16-18 and 23-25 from 9 a.m.-noon) are tournament-style play. Pre-registration fee is \$35 per session per player (\$15 extra walkup fee if spots available, sessions limited to 36 players). The camps are open to all incoming 6th through 9th graders. Signups available at school front desk. Proceeds benefit the school's volleyball and other athletic programs. For information email randall.schafer@osceolaschools.net or call 321-624-6230.

► **Larry Goodwin Education Foundation Golf Classic**

The annual Larry Goodwin Memorial Scholarship for Kids Golf Classic, hosted by Education Foundation Osceola, will be Nov. 9 at the Walt Disney World Palm and Magnolia golf courses. Teams that sign up by July 4 will have the chance to win a "Around Town Golf Package" for four that will include multiple golf courses throughout Central Florida. Playing spots and sponsorships are available, starting at \$40 and \$160 (single player and teams) up to \$10,000 presenting sponsorships. The money raised is used to provide scholarships for Osceola County students. Registration is available online at <https://www.foundationosceola.org/p/68/golf-classic#.WvRdcYgvzIU> or go www.foundationosceola.org. For more information contact

Pattie Burdick at 407-935-3684 or email pattie.burdick@osceolaschools.net.

► **Osceola School District Legacy Program**

The School District of Osceola County has launched a Legacy Club to promote greater community engagement with schools. Individuals ages 60-64 will receive to \$2 off admission to any district athletic, musical, arts, or theater performances. Those over 65 will receive to free admission. To apply go online to osceolaschools.net/legacyclub.

► **Kissimmee tennis program**

The City of Kissimmee's Park and Recreation Department is now accepting participants for the Jr. Acers tennis program that runs monthly through September. This program is for students that have learned the basic techniques and are beginning to judge the ball and sustain a rally. Jr. Acers emphasizes technical skills and introduces players to singles and doubles play. The camp will take place Saturdays from 10 a.m.- noon (10-13 years old) and noon-2 p.m. (14-17) at Oak Street Park and 11-12 p.m. (13-13) and 12-1 p.m. at Mark Durbin Park at Lakeside. Fee is \$75 per month (\$60 at Lakeside). For information call 407-518-2360 or visit www.kissimmeeparks.org.

► **Senior softball**

Osceola Senior Softball welcomes players ages 55-over. All skill levels are welcome. Pickup games are at the Denn John fields behind Valencia College on Mondays and Fridays at 9 a.m. For more information, call League President Mike Rodriguez at 772-359-8415.

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THE DAILY PLANNER

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Weekly and Monthly Events

Kick off your summer of fun at the Summerfest Grape Stomp celebration at Lakeridge Winery & Vineyards. That's right, it's time to do the "crush", the "foot trodding", the "punch-down", or the "purple foot two step." Whatever you call it, it's fun. Plus prizes, bounce houses, a rock climbing wall, live entertainment, a wine and cheese bar, food courts and more. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Greater Clermont Cancer Foundation.



WHO Families of all ages are invited!
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DAILY 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.

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.

SATURDAY 06-09

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.

HONOR THE OCEAN
 Orlando Science Center is bringing the community together to celebrate and honor the ocean. Learn how we can protect and nurture our shared ocean, and check out reef restoration. Plus Seafood Watch activities, special demos in the NatureWorks exhibit, a recycled marine debris art display and much more. The event runs 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Orlando Science Center.



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

HUGE ANNUAL YARD SALE
 The Vine Church is hosting its huge annual yard sale to benefit its Honduras mission of 13 years to help build an orphanage that currently houses 60 children. Sale items include furniture, appliances, clothing, shoes, electronics, tools, dishes, home decor and more. The sale starts at 7 a.m., at 1003 S. John Young Parkway in Kissimmee.

THURSDAY 06-14

THE LITTLE MERMAID
 Opening night of The Little Mermaid, adapted by Brandon Roberts, based on Hans Christian Andersen's fairytale. The performances will run through July 29 at Orlando Shakespeare Theater. Families of all ages welcome. ORLANDOSHAKES.COM

ENCHANTED
 Winter Park invites you to see the movie "Enchanted" in part of its Popcorn Flicks in the Park series. The movie will begin at 8 p.m. in Central Park.

COFFEETALK
 COFFEETALK featuring City Manager Randy Knight, from 8 to 9 a.m. at the Winter Park Country Club.

PICTURING CONTEMPORARY LANDSCAPE EXHIBITION
 Join us on the second Thursday of the month for guided lunchtime tours of the Enchanted Florida: Picturing Contemporary Landscape exhibition. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy in our gardens afterward. The tour is noon to 12:30 p.m.

SATURDAY 06-16

PICNIC WITH FATHER
 Picnic with Father — a family fun event, in honor of Father's Day. The picnic is noon to 3 p.m. at the Kraft Azalea Garden in Winter Park.

WINTER GARDEN CRUISE-IN CAR SHOW

Classic cars and other show cars will line the streets of historic Winter Garden at the Winter Garden Cruise-In Car Show. Guests are asked (but not required to) bring items for the homeless, including socks, sample size toiletries, canned goods, boxed items, etc. Each person who donates will receive a raffle ticket and is eligible for a \$50 drawing at 8 p.m.



FAMILY SUMMER SATURDAYS
 Family Summer Saturdays at Maitland's Art & History Center, every other Saturday in June and July. On June 16, explore kinetic art, flying art and paint with air. Families of all ages invited. 10 a.m. to noon.

MONDAY 06-18

PHYSICIAN LECTURE
 Dr. Pasquale Reino, orthopedic surgeon at Poinciana Medical Center, will conduct a lecture about understanding total joint replacement. A physical therapist will also be present to explain physical therapy and answer questions. After the lecture, Dr. Reino will hold an open Q&A. The lecture runs 5:30-6:30 p.m., dinner will be served. RSVP to 1-888-253-8117. Call 407-530-2013 for more information.

FRIDAY 06-22

ROMANTIC DATE NIGHT
 Tired of the same old date night? Come to the romantic Maitland Art Center and get creative. Each night features a different project designed for fun, laughter and getting to know each other, plus time for drinks and to enjoy the scenery. Guidance provided, as well as room to experiment and play. Each attendee takes home their own original artwork. Tickets are \$35 per couple. Wine, beer and snacks are available for purchase. To register, visit ARTANDHISTORY.ORG/EVENT/2711/2018-06-22

SATURDAY 06-23

BBQ AT THE HISTORIC NARCOOSSEE SCHOOLHOUSE
 5026 Yukon Street. BBQ meal (pulled chicken or pork sandwich and sides), \$8.00 per plate. Baked goods sold separately. Eat-in or carry-out available. Sponsored by the Narcoossee Area Chapter of the Osceola County Historical Society. Contact by email info@narcoosseehistory.org or by phone 407-891-0010. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

LAKE WALES MUSEUM
 The Lake Wales Museum is celebrating summer with a host of new activities and special programs on Saturdays from June 9 to August 11, 2018. On June 23, families can read to a dog, make a book, plus story time and kite making. For more information on the Lake Wales Museum & Cultural Center, call 863-676-1759 or visit CITYOFFLAKEWALES.COM/439/DEPOT-MUSEUM

FRIDAY 06-29

MENNELLO MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART
 The Mennello Museum of American Art presents the work of multi-media nKorean-American artist Jiha Moon in a solo exhibition, Jiha Moon: Double Welcome, Most Everyone's Mad Here. The exhibition will be on view from June 22 through August 12, 2018, with an Artist Talk and Opening Reception on June 29. For more information, visit MENNELLOMUSEUM.ORG

SATURDAY 06-30

R&B TUNES
 Colors Presents: R&B Only. The California-based event encourages attendees to talk, dance and enjoy company with one another, while listening to R&B tunes. Tickets are available online or at the door, if the show has not sold out.

ROBO MUD RUN
 SCPD and the City of St. Cloud will host the Robo Mud Run at Peghorn Park. The run will feature a 5K and 10K route, with more than 50 obstacles including swamp swims and monkey bar challenges. Registration is \$65. Government and group rates available. Visit ROBOMUDRUN.COM

MONDAY 07-02

UNITED STATES NAVY BAND
 America's Navy is coming to Lake Buena Vista, Florida, one of seven cities in the state to host a performance by the United States Navy Band during its 2018 tour — one of the signature outreach programs of the U.S. Navy. The United States Navy Band Cruisers performance will take place at 7 p.m. at Disney Springs' Marketplace Stage. The performance is free and open to the public.

TUESDAY 07-03

RED, HOT & BOOM!
 Red, Hot & Boom! at Cranes Roost Park in Altamonte Springs. Live performances by big name artists like Alyssa Ragh, MAX, Logan Henderson, In Real Life, Lauv, Jack & Jack and Echosmith. The event is free and open to the public. Performances will run 4 to 11 p.m., with a special fireworks show at 9:30 p.m. Visit UPTOWNALTAMONTE.COM or call 407-571-8180 for more information.

ONGOING

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

DUPLICATE BRIDGE OR SHUFFLEBOARD
 St. Cloud Duplicate Bridge or Shuffleboard. Bridge is every Monday and Friday at noon. You don't need a partner to play. Shuffleboard is every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday at 1:30 p.m. For more information on Bridge, call John: 407-593-1119. For more information on Shuffleboard, call Marie: 407-556-3090.

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

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

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.

SATURDAY 07-07

Repticon
 Repticon, a recognized leader in hosting reptile and exotic animal expos throughout the United States, is coming back to Kissimmee with an outstanding mixture of vendors, breeders, and educators. This family-oriented, fun-filled event offers guests the opportunity to learn about animals not normally seen in local pet stores. Breeder-vendors are always willing to teach; and, throughout the event, there will be seminars on animal-related topics by experts in the field of herpetology.

SUNDAY 07-15

TORAH LEARNING
 Torah Learning, Congregation Beth Emeth at Hampton Inn Calypso Cay. Please call the Rabbi to RSVP at 407-222-6393. All are welcome.



THE GUIDE

CONTACT

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT AROUND OSCEOLA COUNTY & CENTRAL FLORIDA

SPOTLIGHT WEEKLY PICKS

TODAY, THROUGH 6/17



ODD IS ART, the art display featuring works from Ripley's Believe It or Not!'s new book is still open for viewing. The exhibit runs through June 17 at Redefine Gallery in Orlando.



MY ORLANDO, featuring sketches, paintings and photographs of the City Beautiful from a group of artists. The free art exhibit runs through June 17 at CityArts Factory in Orlando.

FRIDAY, JUNE 8



SEA TURTLES RETURN, for the 8th annual Titusville Sea Turtle Festival. Events kick off Friday morning from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Playalinda Beach, and will run through Saturday with artists, food, educational booths and more.



MONTE CARLO CASINO NIGHT, at Melia Orlando in Celebration. Casino-style blackjack, craps and roulette. Admission includes raffle tickets and appetizers. Ages 21 and up; valid ID required for entry.

SATURDAY, JUNE 9



WORLD OCEANS DAY CELEBRATION, at Orlando Science Center. Join this annual global event honoring the ocean with special activities and educational experiences. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.



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

Superhero fans unite

'Justice League: A Call for Heroes' exhibit makes debut



NEWS-GAZETTE PHOTO/JAMES WEST

"Justice League: A Call for Heroes" made its big debut at Madame Tussauds Orlando on May 25. The interactive exhibit is expected to remain in the wax museum through fall.

By Jennifer DiDomenico
A&E Editor

Channel in your inner superhero this summer at Madame Tussauds Orlando. "Justice League: A Call for Heroes" is waiting for you.

The brand new, action-packed attraction takes guests on an interactive journey through some of the biggest blockbuster films known. You can experience epic action and adventure alongside Wonder Woman, Superman and Batman.

"We worked really closely with Warner Brothers and DC," said James Paulding, general manager for Madame Tussauds Orlando and SEA LIFE Orlando at the newly rebranded ICON Orlando 360. "It's been a great partnership. We're all equally excited about what we're doing."

"To bring the Justice League to life in this way is very cool for us, and really for [Warner Brothers and DC] as well," he continued.

On a private tour, Paulding guided the News-Gazette through the exhibit to experience the one-of-a-kind attraction firsthand.

We journeyed through about half of the wax museum's other exhibits before entering a private area, where our interactive session began with a special message from the Justice League superheroes themselves.

The superheroes declared their need for our help, as LexCorp's experimental technology has gone haywire and is threatening the world. You, too, can help them save innocent civilians while figuring out a way to stop Lex Luthor's out-of-control experiment before it's too late.

Message boards throughout the exhibit will help you know what to look for, and markings on the ground will even show you where to stand to get the full experience. Note: The message boards are available in three languages.

To fight the battle, it will first take the strength of Wonder Woman's Power Gauntlets to block the signal of the LexCorp transmission. You and your family will harness all of your combined energies and strike Wonder Woman's signature power pose to create a force strong enough to cause a great explosion with wind and sound effects (and great photo opportunities).

Next, race to Superman's side to help the Man of Steel himself lift a helicopter that is hurtling toward the ground. As you assist him by pushing upward, Superman will thrust the helicopter back into the sky, with never-before-used technology at Madame Tussauds Orlando.

End the battle in Gotham City. Step onto the rooftops of the Gotham City Police Department and use the legendary Bat-Signal to call Batman into action for

the final quest. Smoke and wind will reveal him, as he lands on the rooftop ready to save the world.

Paulding said with "Justice League: A Call for Heroes," the goal was to simply "do something different" while also trying to "completely blow it out of the ballpark." Needless to say, that is the case.

Each scene is incredibly accurate—with unbelievable attention to detail, from the characters' lifelike appearances and elaborate costumes to the vivid backdrops themselves.

"Everything very detailed, and fans will look for specific details in each scene," said Paulding. "It's a whole step forward for us."

But let's face it, there's extreme detail in everything Madame Tussauds Orlando does. Each lifesize wax figure is made with such time and care, that every face is hand painted and every single hair on each figure's head is inserted individually.

The overall making of the figures takes extensive time on both ends, between the creators and the celebrities.

Before molding each figure, a binder is made of the celebrity selected to be designed, filled with different angled photos, notes and more. That binder is used throughout the full process to narrow down every detail of the celebrity's look.

The tradition of Madame Tussauds began with Madame Tussaud herself. Since

See **JUSTICE LEAGUE**, Page 13.

osceola arts

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ORLANDO STARFLYER IN FULL SWING

NEW ATTRACTION FOR THRILL SEEKERS OPENS AT ICON ORLANDO 360

By Jennifer DiDomenico
A&E Editor

The Orlando StarFlyer at ICON Orlando 360 is now open. The new attraction welcomed its first round of thrill seekers and brave flyers on June 1.

As one of the tallest structures in Central Florida, and as the tallest StarFlyer in the world, the daring attraction takes guests up to 425 feet in the air, while swinging above Orlando at 60 miles per hour.

Visit Osceola News-Gazette's Facebook page to see a video of the attraction in full swing on its opening day: <https://www.facebook.com/osceolanewsgazette/>.

The Orlando StarFlyer is just one of the many attractions at the recently

rebranded ICON Orlando 360. The rebrand encourages guests to find their "Iconic Moment" at the one-of-a-kind, 18-acre entertainment complex, also home to ICON Orlando—the 450-foot observation wheel, formerly known at the Orlando Eye.

In addition, ICON Orlando 360 is home to SEA LIFE Aquarium, Madame Tussauds Orlando, SKELETONS: Museum of Osteology, and more than a dozen bars and restaurants.

Single-ticket admission and annual passes to ICON Orlando 360's attractions can be purchased at the venue or online.

For more information on ICON Orlando 360 and all of its attractions, visit www.ICONOrlando.com.



NEWS-GAZETTE PHOTO/JENNIFER DIDOMENICO

'BEAVERTAILS,' EH?

CANADIAN PASTRY SHOP OPENS AT ORLANDO OUTLET MALL

By Jennifer DiDomenico
A&E Editor

There's a new dessert shop in Central Florida. BeaverTails is now open and serving all of its Canadian sweets and treats at Orlando Vineland Premium Outlets.

You may have seen these Canadian favorites before, as they were previously showcased at Disney's Epcot theme park.

"In the past we were fortunate enough to be one of the products featured in Epcot, with BeaverTails being offered at the Canadian Pavilion. That was on a rotational basis and eventually room was made for a different product to represent Canada," said BeaverTails CEO and owner Pino Di Ioia. "We, of course, were delighted with the Disney experience at the time and would love to be able to return one day."

"After having the pleasure of being in Epcot, we are thrilled to be back in Orlando," Di Ioia continued.

The Canadian brand originated in 1978 as a kiosk at the Killaloe Fair in Ottawa, Ontario, by Pam and Grant Hooker. The first stores opened in the late 1970s in Canada. As the brand quickly took off, more stores in Canada and abroad began to open.

In 2002, the team of Pino Di Ioia and his family took over management of BeaverTails, moving the head office to Montreal. By 2008, new boutique locations opened with an expanded menu, including items like ice cream and poutines. The American market then began to open.

Today, BeaverTails pastries are available at 140 locations — 124 in Canada, 10 in the United States and distribution licenses in six international countries.



PHOTO/BEAVERTAILS

The food truck-like location is located just outside of the very popular Orlando Vineland Premium Outlets, offering classic BeaverTails pastry flavours, signature hot and cold beverages and even traditional Canadian poutine. The classic treats include whole wheat, hand-stretched pastries with toppings ranging from the Classic Cinnamon & Sugar to the Triple Trip, with

chocolate hazelnut spread and Reese's Pieces and peanut butter, and more.

"As a world famous leisure food synonymous with having fun and making memories, we couldn't be happier to finally be present in the epicenter of the world's leading leisure destination, Orlando," said Di Ioia.

For more information on BeaverTails, visit <http://beavertails.com/en/>.

YOUR SUMMER CHECKLIST: POTTERY

PAINT POTTERY THIS SUMMER AT A WALT DISNEY WORLD RESORT

By Jennifer DiDomenico
A&E Editor

Editor's Note: "Your Summer Checklist" is a weekly column running all summer long, to help you and your family play tourist in your own town. You can submit your suggestions to jdidomenico@osceolanewsgazette.com.

My family celebrated Memorial Day Weekend with a staycation at Disney's Yacht and Beach Club. There's always so much to do at a Disney Resort, and, in reality, you don't even have to leave the grounds to fully enjoy your stay on property.

Because (tropical disturbance) Alberto decided to join us on our trip, we spent most of our time indoors, and really put the resort amenities to the test.

One of our favorite activities was painting

pottery in the solarium—the Yacht and Beach Club's recreation space. What we didn't know: You don't need to be a Disney Resort guest to participate. So the good news is that we can go back anytime, and so can you.

Pottery painting is on select days, at select times. So plan to check the schedule with your chosen resort's front desk before stopping by.

The pottery pieces range in price, but are — for the most part — pretty reasonable. I chose to paint a coffee mug, costing me only \$10 for the mug, paints and use of paintbrushes. This price also included firing the mug in the kiln before pick up. Firing usually takes a few days, but you will be notified via text or call when your piece is ready.

This activity makes for a great outing for the whole



NEWS-GAZETTE PHOTO/JENNIFER DIDOMENICO

Paint pottery and join in on other paid recreational activities at the Walt Disney World Resorts.

family. Parents are of course asked to supervise their children at all times, as the recreation staff is just there to assist.

Depending on the resort, the recreation staff plays a

Disney movie during the painting session.

Personal tip: stop by the resort's quick-service dining to end your day-long staycation with a Mickey Mouse ice cream bar.

#NATIONALDONUTDAY

DUCK DONUTS CELEBRATES ITS CUSTOMERS

By Jennifer DiDomenico
A&E Editor

There's a lot to celebrate at Duck Donuts in Kissimmee. On Friday, the local donut shop celebrated National Donut Day by showing some customer appreciation with free donuts.

"We're excited to have everyone out," said Duck Donuts Kissimmee owner Mark Griffin, during the event. "We wanted to show some customer love back."

Griffin, a Kissimmee local in the real estate business, said owning a donut shop was never part of the plan. He and his family vacationed to the outer banks of North Carolina every summer, always making a stop at the original Duck Donuts location in Duck, North Carolina. (Hence the name, Duck Donuts.)

"We are such big fans of Duck Donuts," he said. "We just liked the core concept, the amazing donuts, and the friendly people. It was a magical thing to do every year while we were on vacation." Griffin said he even has photos of his children growing up year after year, Duck Donuts in hand.

"For us, it was about bringing it back to our hometown," he said. His Kissimmee store was the first Duck Donuts to open in the state of Florida. It is



NEWS-GAZETTE PHOTO/JENNIFER DIDOMENICO

Melissa Hamm celebrating National Donut Day in her best attire at Duck Donuts in Kissimmee.

now one of three Florida locations, with the others in Estero and Boca Raton.

Duck Donuts is known for its fresh, made-to-order donuts. The franchise chain is unlike traditional donut shops, in that, the donuts aren't dropped into the fryer until they are ordered. The donuts then sit on a cooling tray for less than one minute before being topped.

Customers are able to watch their donuts get all dressed up right in front of them, with toppings like sprinkles, sugars, drizzles and more.

"It's always hard to pick a favorite," Griffin said, candidly. "But I'm a big fan of a couple of them. The

lemon and key lime, and then of course the orange, a native for Florida." He said some of the customer favorites are the cinnamon sugar and maple bacon.

The shop also offers breakfast-style sandwiches on a donut bun with bacon, sausage, egg and cheese, and donut ice cream sundaes (classic, salted caramel and s'mores). Plus a variety of coffee, milk, juices and soft drinks.

Up next, Duck Donuts in Kissimmee will welcome everyone back for a big party to celebrate its one-year anniversary this July.

For more information on Duck Donuts and its full menu, visit www.DuckDonuts.com.

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BUTTERFLIES, BABY GOATS TO HEADLINE BREVARD ZOO EXHIBIT

From the release:

After a three-year absence, butterflies are fluttering back to Brevard Zoo with feathered, furry and scaly friends in tow.

Dubbed "Butterflies and the Magic of Nature," the exhibit will feature hundreds of native butterflies, colorful birds, a massive snapping turtle, training demonstrations, hands-on nature play activities and other enchanting attractions.

"Much of the natural world feels like the stuff of magic," said Michelle Smurl, the Zoo's director of animal programs. "This

exhibit explores the science behind phenomena like metamorphosis, migration, camouflage and pollination in a fun and innovative way."

The exhibit's biggest stars may be month-old Nubian goats Violet and Lily. These floppy-eared creatures quickly won Zoo staff over with their sweet, playful personalities.

Presented by Hope and Brian Fisher, Butterflies and the Magic of Nature will run from until Sunday, September 30. Entry is included with general Zoo admission.

Admission Information:
General Zoo admission

is \$19.95 for adults, \$18.95 for seniors, and \$14.95 for children (ages 3-11). Admission is free for children under 3 years of age.

Find your wild side with intimate animal encounters and other experiences like animal feedings, Rhino Encounter, Lemur Rendezvous, train rides, kayaking and more.

You can read more about the Brevard Zoo and its special events and exhibits at www.BrevardZoo.org.

The zoo is located at 8225 N. Wickham Road in Melbourne.

JUSTICE LEAGUE

Continued from Page 11

the first museum opened its doors, Madame Tussauds wax museum chain has spread across the world with locations in America, Europe, Asia and Australia. Madame Tussauds Orlando opened in 2015.

"Justice League: A Call for Heroes" made its debut on May 25 and is expected to run through fall. Madame Tussauds Orlando is only one of two Madame Tussauds locations to host the Justice League exhibit, with the other exhibit in Sydney, Australia.

Entrance to "Justice League: A Call for Heroes" is included in general admission. Tickets may



NEWS-GAZETTE PHOTO/JENNIFER DIDOMENICO

The illuminated indicators on the ground show guests where to stand to be part of the Justice League experience.

be purchased at the door or online at <https://www.madametussauds.com/orlando/en/tickets/>.

For more information on Madame Tussauds, visit www.MadameTussauds.com.

Just in time for the tax free shopping weekend!

BACK TO SCHOOL SPECIAL SECTION

ATTENTION BUSINESS OWNERS

Students are returning to school Monday, Aug. 13, and the Osceola News-Gazette will help you show the parents your paramount products and services they will need this time of year.

So, it's time to get back on the bus and advertise in our Back-to-School special section. The section is packed full of vital information, schedules, the latest trends and cool tips to help students have a successful school year. It's a road map of what students and parents can expect this year as they prepare for their new journey. You will find that is a valued

2018 high school football preview included

We are also combining this issue to include the 2018 high school football preview. The issue will cover 8 of the Osceola high school football teams, upcoming games and more. What a great way for local companies to support their community and invite residents to do business with

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OBITUARIES

In Memoriam For daily obituaries and services please visit www.aroundsceola.com

VANKESTEREN - Mary Van Kesteren, 95, of Kissimmee, FL., passed away on Friday, May 25, 2018. She was born on February 25, 1923 to Raymond and Jane (Moore) Vail in Riverhead, NY. Mary is survived by two sons, William Van Kesteren and his wife Irene and Robert Van Kesteren and wife Trudy; daughter, Mary Hough; grandchildren, Irene Van Kesteren, Catherine Van Kesteren, Kim Van Kesteren, Kerryann Finn, Eric Van Kesteren, Robert Van Kesteren, Jr, Leeann Aprile, Justin Aprile, Josh Aprile, Chelsea Aprile, Marybeth Sanders, Albert Scarpati and Kathleen Scarpati; thirty-one great-grandchildren; and nine great-great-grandchildren.



Mary was a member of the Ladies Auxillary Port Jefferson Station Fire Department, Daughters of the American

Revolution, life member of the Mount Sinai Yacht Club, volunteer Salvation Army, H2U Osceola, Secretary Port Jefferson Station P.T.A., Secretary Republican Club, C.E.O. of W.D. Van Kesteren Trucking, Avid Gardener, Holland American Cruise Line; and member of the Admirals Club. Her favorite season was the summer we spent on the Mar bo bill, motoring on the Long Island Sound, Fishing, Swimming, Claiming having the time of our lives. Mom was the happiest when all of us were happy; she brought games for all of us to play when the weather was bad, always keeping her family's happiness foremost in her mind. Mom continued her love of boating cruising

to all of the islands; Italy, Spain, England, Hawaii and many other locations with her senior card club friends. Mom and Anna cruised so often that they were asked to join the Holland America Cruise Line Admirals Club. As an Avid Gardener she could take a plant that looked dead and bring it to full bloom, she loved her plants they always looked like they could be in a flower show. She loved horseback riding, and taught her children how to ride and to properly take care of our horses. Our Mother was the foundation of our entire family. She taught us to live life to its fullest, face each day with love and compassion in our hearts. Family First Foremost and Forever.

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OBITUARY NOTICES

- Emily Grace Maldonado Rolon, infant, of Kissimmee, passed away Wednesday, May 30, 2018. Conrad-Thompson Funeral Home, Kissimmee. 407-847-3188
- John E. Eklund, 61, of Kissimmee, passed away Friday, May 25, 2018. Conrad-Thompson Funeral Home, Kissimmee, 407-847-3188.
- Marilynn Helen Lyon, 74, of Poinciana, passed away Tuesday, May 29, 2018. Osceola Memory Gardens, Poinciana, is handling the arrangements. 407-931-4811
- Aurea Rodriquez, 89, of Kissimmee, passed away Friday, May 25, 2018. Conrad-Thompson Funeral Home, Kissimmee, 407-847-3188.

NOMINATE YOUR FAVORITE LOCAL BUSINESS FOR THE BEST OF OSCEOLA!



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Please fill out at least 15 businesses to be considered valid. One per person.

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Flooding fast facts



Floods can be highly destructive natural disasters. The U.S. Geological Survey's Water Science School says that around 71 percent of the Earth's surface is covered by water. While oceans hold about 96.5 percent of all the planet's water, rivers, lakes, ice caps, and glaciers also are large water sources.

National Geographic points out that flooding has caused more death and destruction than any other kind of natural disaster in the United States. Flooding may result from overflowing streams or rivers; when coastal storms cause the sea to surge inland; if a dam or levee has ruptured; if ice melts rapidly in the mountains; or if excessive rain cannot be absorbed by the ground fast enough. Flooding can even occur without warning, and such instances are referred to as "flash flooding."

Staying safe during floods involves understanding floods. The following information, courtesy of the Emergency Management Institute, FEMA, Ready.gov, and National Geographic, can help men and women better understand floods and how to stay safe in flooding situations.

- ▶ No region is safe from flooding. Floods can occur anywhere, but are rare in areas where water is scarce.

- ▶ Floods may develop very slowly or in just a matter of seconds after an extensive rainfall.

- ▶ Areal floods can occur where saturated grounds are present.

- ▶ Although the term "hundred-year flood" describes an extremely large and very rare event, these types of floods have recently been occurring worldwide with increased regularity.

- ▶ In the United States, floods cause about \$6 billion worth of damage and kill, on average, 140 people every year.

- ▶ Coastal flooding alone attributes to \$3 trillion in damage worldwide.

- ▶ China's Yellow River valley has been home to some of the worst floods in history.

- ▶ Flood waters can quickly knock people off their feet and carry them away.

- ▶ It's important to sanitize oneself after coming in contact with flood water, which could be contaminated with various natural and manmade substances.

- ▶ It may be necessary to move to higher ground when flooding situations occur. It's important to heed safety precautions and evacuation messages.

- ▶ Rapidly moving water has the potential to carry a house, car, trees, or other structures away.

- ▶ Drivers should not try to navigate through flood waters. Many deaths that occur during floods happen when drivers try to move through flood waters.

- ▶ It's imperative to keep an emergency kit, nonperishable food, flashlights, and batteries on hand to combat potential disasters like floods.

- ▶ Flood damage is not necessarily covered by homeowners insurance. Those who live in high-risk flood zones would be wise to purchase flood insurance to protect themselves.

Floods can be formidable foes. Armed with information, people can be safer when the waters rise.

Stay safe when caught outdoors

When storms roll in, they might bring along high winds, thunder and lightning and drops in temperature. Many people ride out storms indoors, but some may find themselves suddenly caught in a storm and not know what to do.

For the unprepared, the potential for injury is significant. So it's important to routinely brush up on surviving a storm when caught in one outdoors.

Lightning

Lightning can pose a significant threat. Real Clear Science says the average bolt of lightning, striking from cloud to ground, carries roughly one billion joules of energy, 300 million volts and 30,000 amps. Lightning also generates temperatures hotter than the surface of the sun. According to data collected by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in North America, Florida, Texas and Colorado had the highest number of lightning-related fatalities between 2005 and 2014. Environment Canada says that roughly 10 people die in Canada each year because of lightning.

Finding shelter when lightning strikes is ideal but not always possible. If you cannot get indoors, the next best thing is to stay low to the ground. Lightning tends to strike the tallest items around. Therefore, staying put in a ditch or depression in the ground can protect you against a possible lightning strike.

NOAA says to stay away from tall, isolated trees, which can become lightning rods. The same can be said for seeking shelter under a tent or pavillion, as these structures are often metal and can conduct the lightning.



Cars can be a somewhat safe spot if there is nothing else available. The metal shell of the car will disperse the lightning to the ground, offers AccuWeather.

The National Weather Service says groups caught outside during lightning storms should spread out to avoid the current traveling between group members. Also, remember that, while water will not attract lightning, it can conduct and spread the charge, so avoid bodies of water and wet areas.

Winds

High winds also pose a safety risk. These winds may accompany thunderstorms, tornados or hurricanes. For those who are caught outside in high winds, The Weather

Channel advises taking cover next to a building or under a secure shelter.

Wind can easily bring down trees, branches, and power lines. It also may blow around outdoor furniture and other heavy items. FEMA says to stay away from balconies or elevated areas to avoid falling objects. Avoid roadways and train tracks when on foot, as gusts can blow people into the path of oncoming vehicles.

Electrocution from downed power lines is a potential side effect of high winds. Avoid anything that might be touching power lines.

Being indoors during severe weather is ideal but not always possible when a storm arrives unexpectedly. Knowing how to behave in these emergency situations can prevent injury and even death.

Overcome wedding weather obstacles

Summer approaches with the promise of warm temperatures. Weather is one reason why summer is such a popular season to tie the knot. But just because sunny skies and rising mercury are par for the course, that does not mean Mother Nature won't invite herself to the festivities — and attempt to upstage happy couples in the process.

Some feel it's good luck for couples to get rain on their wedding days, but many couples would trade in a little of that luck for clear skies. However, weather can be fickle, and couples who build contingency plans into their wedding festivities are much more likely to overcome inclement weather than couples without such plans.

Have solutions for sun and heat.

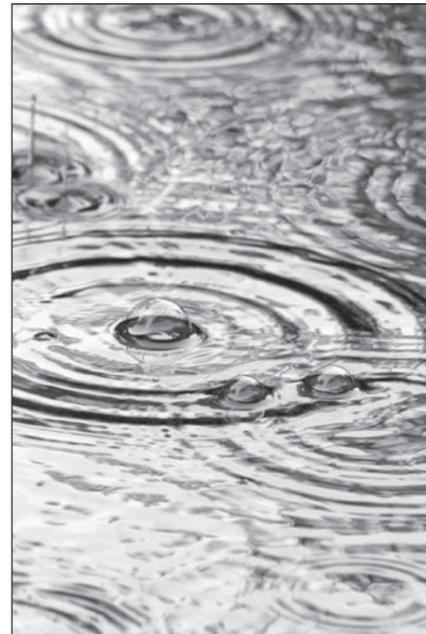
Couples don't want their wedding guests or bridal party members passing out due to heat exhaustion. Make sure to offer shade if the ceremony or reception is outside. Stock the area with cold bottles of water or a chilled lemonade stand. Have fans and umbrellas available just in case guests need a way to protect themselves from the sun.

Strong storms.

Over the course of hot and humid days, storm clouds can develop and roll in. Afternoon thunderstorms are quite common on summer days. Accommodate for sudden downpours by hosting early luncheon receptions or ensure there is a plan B that includes a covered area. Couples can stash spare shoes or even rain slickers in a car to keep their wedding attire protected against rain as they dash between venues or take photos.

Embrace the rain.

Vivid skies with lightning or overcast days can make for unique and striking wedding photography. Couples needn't look at the downside of rain, but rather they should see the opportunities for one-of-a-kind memories.



Keep a generator on standby.

Storms may knock out power. Some reception halls or banquet facilities may have their own backup power, but be sure to address how power outages are handled. If need be, bring in a portable generator to keep the reception room cooled by fans.

Plan for wind.

Coastal outdoor weddings present beautiful backdrops for weddings. But being near the shore may mean accepting windy conditions. Tie down tents and use weights to keep wedding programs or other papers from catching a current. The bride and her wedding party should opt for free-flowing tresses so they needn't worry about intricate updos coming undone.

Maintain a sense of humor.

It's impossible to predict wedding day weather, but staying calm, going with the flow and laughing at things they can't control can help couples make memories that last a lifetime.

WET WEATHER DRIVING TIPS

Driving in the rain can be more hazardous than driving in the snow, particularly because drivers fail to realize the dangers wet roads can impose. After averaging 10 years of statistics, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration found that 46 percent of weather-related crashes happened during rainfall, but just 17 percent occurred while it was snowing or sleeting.

Drivers often think rain is no big deal, but while it's not necessary to avoid driving when the raindrops begin to fall, exercising caution when the roads are wet can decrease the risk of being in an auto accident.

- ▶ **Slow down.** Wet roadways cause tires to lose traction, as friction is reduced between the rubber and the asphalt. It's possible to lose up to one-third of traction in the rain. To compensate, slow down to reduce sliding and stopping distances.

- ▶ **Improve visibility.** Turn on windshield wipers and lights when it is raining. This makes it easier to see the road and makes your vehicle more visible to other motorists.

- ▶ **Leave more distance between cars.** In addition to improving your reaction time, giving others more space can improve visibility by reducing the amount of mist or splashing caused by other vehicles.

- ▶ **Stick to daytime driving.** If possible, when it is raining, drive only during the day. Glare from wet roadways and headlights at night can further compromise poor visibility.

- ▶ **Watch for wind gusts.** Anticipate gusts when traveling through windy road corridors or over bridges.

BRAIN FOOD

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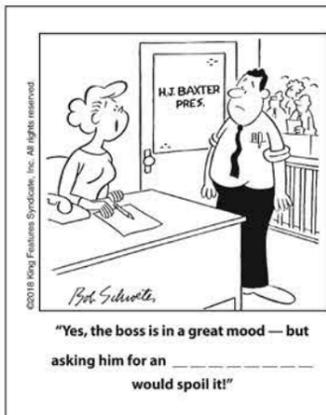
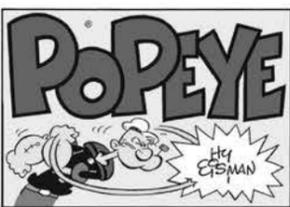
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Respond
TRACE
 Angst
AMELIAS
 Fairy
PRIEST
 Creak
ARGON

TODAY'S WORD

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Fence is different. 2. Bart is shorter. 3. Stripe is missing. 4. Number is different. 5. Glass break is different. 6. Piece of glass is missing. 7. Number is different. 8. Hat is different. 9. Hat is different. 10. Hat is different. 11. Hat is different. 12. Hat is different. 13. Hat is different. 14. Hat is different. 15. Hat is different. 16. Hat is different. 17. Hat is different. 18. Hat is different. 19. Hat is different. 20. Hat is different. 21. Hat is different. 22. Hat is different. 23. Hat is different. 24. Hat is different. 25. Hat is different. 26. Hat is different. 27. Hat is different. 28. Hat is different. 29. Hat is different. 30. Hat is different. 31. Hat is different. 32. Hat is different. 33. Hat is different. 34. Hat is different. 35. Hat is different. 36. Hat is different. 37. Hat is different. 38. Hat is different. 39. Hat is different. 40. Hat is different. 41. Hat is different. 42. Hat is different. 43. Hat is different. 44. Hat is different. 45. Hat is different. 46. Hat is different. 47. Hat is different. 48. Hat is different. 49. Hat is different. 50. Hat is different. 51. Hat is different. 52. Hat is different. 53. Hat is different. 54. Hat is different. 55. Hat is different. 56. Hat is different. 57. Hat is different. 58. Hat is different. 59. Hat is different. 60. Hat is different. 61. Hat is different. 62. Hat is different. 63. Hat is different. 64. Hat is different. 65. Hat is different. 66. Hat is different. 67. Hat is different. 68. Hat is different. 69. Hat is different. 70. Hat is different. 71. Hat is different. 72. Hat is different. 73. Hat is different. 74. Hat is different. 75. Hat is different. 76. Hat is different. 77. Hat is different. 78. Hat is different. 79. Hat is different. 80. Hat is different. 81. Hat is different. 82. Hat is different. 83. Hat is different. 84. Hat is different. 85. Hat is different. 86. Hat is different. 87. Hat is different. 88. Hat is different. 89. Hat is different. 90. Hat is different. 91. Hat is different. 92. Hat is different. 93. Hat is different. 94. Hat is different. 95. Hat is different. 96. Hat is different. 97. Hat is different. 98. Hat is different. 99. Hat is different. 100. Hat is different.

CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: S equals T

FIBM C VYUSNMCSB DIJDHBM
 FJMZ SIB AYSSBUR, J FYNAX ZCR
 JS JZ XNB SY SIB DANDH YV
 SIB XUCF.

LAFF-A-DAY

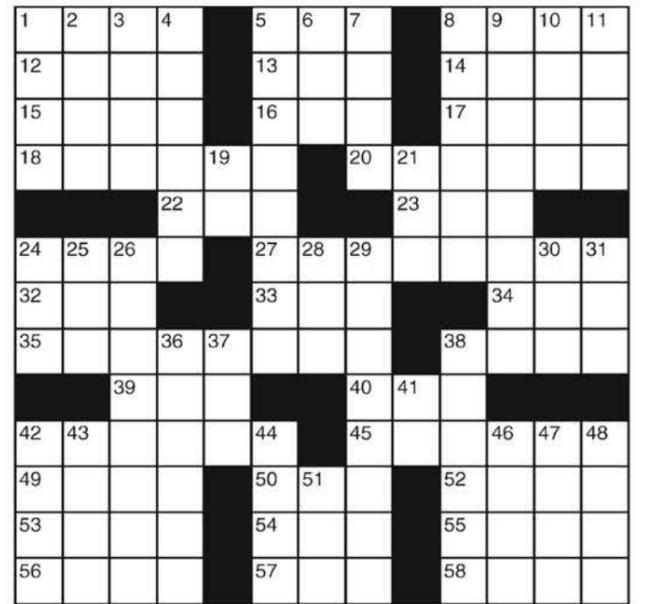


"This is nice, Harold. You and I relaxing, the children playing on the floor. But I'm a little puzzled. Who are these children?"

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Move rapidly
- 5 Pirates' quaff
- 8 EPA concern
- 12 World's fair
- 13 Detergent brand
- 14 Hardy cabbage
- 15 Tolerate
- 16 Whatever number
- 17 "— have to do"
- 18 Release
- 20 Heart lines
- 22 Sauce source
- 23 Prickly seed-case
- 24 Scenery chews
- 27 Afternoon shows
- 32 Biz deg.
- 33 Journalist Tarbell
- 34 "Erie Canal" mule
- 35 Math tables, e.g.
- 38 Ratio phrase
- 39 Auto
- 40 Hr. portion
- 42 Religious retreat
- 45 Declare
- 49 See 38-Down
- 50 A billion years
- 52 Lotion additive



- 53 Faraway fleet?
- 54 Blackbird
- 55 Palm variety
- 56 Libretto
- 57 Meadow
- 58 — off (angry)
- 6 Grecian vessel
- 7 Poet Angelou
- 8 Slalom slope
- 9 Futon, for one
- 10 — podrida
- 11 Solidifies
- 19 "When pigs fly!"
- 21 Japanese sash
- 24 "Let me think ..."
- 25 "The — Daba Honeymoon"
- 26 Compact car maker?
- 28 Citric beverage
- 29 Devil's home?
- 30 Chow down
- 31 — -mo replay
- 36 Toughest to find
- 37 Gershwin or Glass
- 38 Young one
- 41 Kipling poem
- 42 Touch
- 43 Protected
- 44 Repast
- 46 Nastase of tennis lore
- 47 Lasso
- 48 Anthropologist Margaret
- 51 Individual

DOWN

- 1 Hump-backed animal of India
- 2 Kin of 1-Down
- 3 Colorful fish
- 4 Swamp
- 5 Easily prepared product

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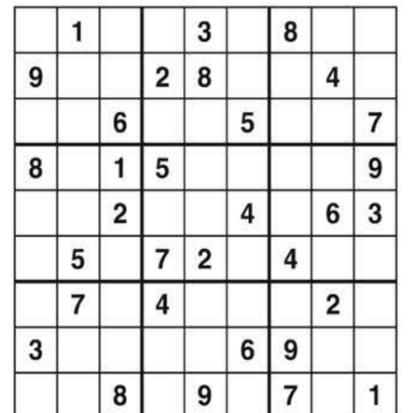
Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: The island of Saipan is a commonwealth of which nation?
2. LANGUAGE: How many lines are in a limerick?
3. U.S. STATES: What is the only U.S. state name that ends in three consecutive vowels?
4. ASTRONOMY: Where is the Lowell Observatory located?
5. MATH: What is the longest side of a right triangle called?
6. HISTORY: Which European conflict was ended with the Dayton Agreement in 1995?
7. LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel "Mansfield Park"?
8. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president gave the famous Gettysburg Address?
9. COMICS: What was the real name of the Green Arrow?
10. TELEVISION: What was Kramer's first name on "Seinfeld"?

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
 ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Answers
 1. United States
 2. Five
 3. Hawaii
 4. Flagstaff, Arizona
 5. Hypotenuse
 6. Bosnian War
 7. Jane Austen
 8. Abraham Lincoln
 9. Oliver Queen
 10. Cosmo



Solution time: 25 mins.
 Answers



Answers

SCRAMBLERS

Solution
 1. React; 2. Malaise; 3. Sprite; 4. Groan
 Today's Word
 INCREASE

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

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Interested applicants should send resumes to: ltaylor@sunpubfla.com



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Sun Publications of Florida Publishers of the Osceola News-Gazette is currently seeking **CONTRACTORS FOR DELIVERY AREAS**

Van or Truck, Valid FL Drivers license and proof of Valid Auto Insurance Required. Experience a plus.

Please fill out an application in person at our office, located at:
108 Church Street
Kissimmee, FL 34741

Circulation Assistant

OSCEOLA NEWS-GAZETTE

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.



Growing Printing Plant in Central Florida is looking for the following position:

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Looking for a person with recent working knowledge of Postal Rule and regulations specifically Flat and EDDM mail.

Has worked with Postal software preferably BCC Software. Some skills in Microsoft Office, i.e. Excel, Publisher helpful.

Experience with windows based Ink Jet Imaging Systems.

Sun Publications of Florida is located in Lakeland Florida. We offer competitive compensation, a benefit package and 401K. Please Contact Lisa Taylor at (863) 583-1202 ext 319 or ltaylor@sunpubfla.com

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Runs Thursday and Saturday



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

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

Case No.: 2009-CA-005887
BAC HOME LOANS SERVICING, L.P., F/K/A COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS SERVICING, L.P., Plaintiff,

vs.
ANGEL B. BARILLAS, ET AL., Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated May 30, 2018, in the above action, the Osceola County Clerk of Court will sell to the highest bidder for cash at Osceola, Florida, on JULY 10, 2018, at 11:00 A.M., at 2 Courthouse Square, Suite 2600, Kissimmee, FL 34741 for the following described property:

Lot 119, ESTANCIA, according to the map or plat thereof, as recorded in Plat Book 15, Pages 184 and 185, of the Public Records of Osceola County, Florida.

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

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact ADA Coordinator Osceola County, Court Administration at (407) 742-2417, Fax #: 407-835-5079 or at ctadm2@ocnjcc.org, Osceola County Courthouse, 2 Courthouse Square, Suite 6300, Kissimmee, FL 34741

at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

Tromberg Law Group, P.A. Attorney for Plaintiff
1515 South Federal Highway, Suite 100
Boca Raton, FL 33432
Telephone #: 561-338-4101
Fax #: 561-338-4077
Email: eservice@tromberglawgroup.com

By: */s/ Tayane Oliveira*
Tayane Oliveira, Esq.
FBN 1002525
Our Case #: 17-000159-F
June 7, 14, 2018

CLAIM OF LIEN NOTICE

Claim of Lien and Sale of Motor Vehicles Lien Law F.S. 713.78, WILDER WRECKER Inc., 2021 N. Main Street, Kissimmee, FL 34744, (407) 846-1010, will sell for cash at above address the following vehicles:

- 1) 1994 HONDA 4 DOOR
- 2) 2002 CHEV 4 DOOR
- 3) 2010 TAOI MOTORCYCLE
- 4) 1976 PRO LINE 20 FT. BOAT
- 5) 1980 PRIVATEER 20 FT. BOAT

Pursuant to Florida Statute 713.78, these vehicles will be sold at the public auction on JUNE 18, 2018, at 9:00 A.M. Vehicles sold as is, seller reserves the right to bid and guarantees no titles.

June 7, 2018

LEGAL NOTICE # 1322144

Notice is hereby given of the intention to apply to the 2019 Regular Session or subsequent sessions held in 2019 of the Florida Legislature for passage of an act for the relief of Kareem Hawari providing an appropriation (\$3,500,000) to compensate him for his bodily injury (including traumatic brain injury) arising out of negligent supervision on March 5, 2010, which oc-

curred when Mr. Hawari was participating in a wrestling match at Harmony Community School, a school of the School District of Osceola County, and providing an effective date.

Ryan Christopher Rodems, Esq. of Morgan and Morgan, P.A., 20 North Ave., 16th Floor, P.O. Box 4979, Orlando, FL 32802-4979, Telephone: (407) 420-1414 Facsimile: (407) 245-3486 Attorneys for Plaintiff Florida Bar No.: 947652 May 17, 24, 31, 2018 June 7, 2018

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

Case #: 2017-CA-002489 MF TRUSTCO BANK, Plaintiff,

vs.
SIVANANTHATHEVAN KATHIRAVELU, a/k/a KATHIRAVELU SIVANANTHATHEVAN; KUNARATHNAM RAJEE; SUJATHA KATHIRAVELU; EAGLE POINTE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.; JOHN DOE; JANE DOE, Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION TO: Sujatha Kathiravelu 657 Eagle Pointe South Kissimmee, Florida 34746

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an Amended 1) Verified Complaint to Foreclose First Mortgage and for Rescission of Satisfaction of Mortgage, 2) Verified Complaint to Foreclose Second Mortgage on the following described real property located in Osceola County, Florida, to-wit: **Lot 280, Eagle Pointe Phase 4, according to the map or plat thereof, recorded in Plat Book 11, Pages 119 and 120, of the Public Records of Osceola County, Florida.**

Also known as: 657 Eagle Pointe South, Kissimmee, Florida 34746

has been filed against you, and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Plaintiff's Attorney, whose address is:

JEFFERY R. JONTZ
ERIC B. JONTZ
FISHBACK, DOMINICK, BENNETT, ARDAMAN, AHLERS, LANGLEY & GELLER, LLP
1947 Lee Road
Winter Park, Florida 32789-1834
Telephone: (407) 262-8400
Facsimile: (407) 262-8402
Primary Email: jjontz@fishbacklaw.com
Secondary Email: dbandemer@fishbacklaw.com

on or before JULY 10, 2018, and file the original with the Clerk of the Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorneys, or immediately thereafter, otherwise a default will be entered against you for relief demanded in the Complaint.

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

WITNESS my hand and seal of this Court on this 17th day of May 2018.

ARMANDO R. RAMIREZ
CLERK OF CIRCUIT AND

COUNTY COURTS By: /s/ SN As Deputy Clerk June 7, 14, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION File No. 2018-CP-344 Division PROBATE

IN RE: ESTATE OF KEVIN LEE MOORE, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of **KEVIN LEE MOORE**, deceased, whose date of death was January 30, 2018, is pending in the Circuit Court for Osceola County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 2 Courthouse Square, Kissimmee, FL 34741. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

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

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

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

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED

TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is: May 31, 2018.

Personal Representative: TIM MOLNER
3524 Kaiser Ave.
St. Cloud, FL 34772

Attorney for Personal Representative: SAMANTHA SHEALY
RAUBA, Attorney
Florida Bar Number: 59503
Schatt, Hesser, McGraw
P.O. Box 4440
Ocala, FL 34478
Telephone: (352) 789-6520
E-Mail: SRaubas@schathesser.com
May 31, 2018
June 7, 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 22, 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) 2003 FORD
- 2) 2006 SATURN
- 3) 2007 MITSUBISHI

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 7, 2018

VELMA'S DINER located at: 4312 Deer Run Road, in the County of Osceola, in the City of Saint Cloud, Florida 34772, intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida. That the party interested in said business enterprise is as follows:

SHAWN BATES
DATED at Saint Cloud, Osceola County, Florida on this 1st day of June, 2018.
June 7, 2018

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

On 06/20/2018 at 09:00 A.M., an auction will take place at 1720 ALEXANDER ST., KISSIMMEE, FL 34746. The vehicles which will be auctioned include:

- 1) 2000 PONTIAC
- 2) 2013 HONDA
- 3) 2007 MITSUBISHI

1G2JB1248Y7245852
2HGF4A51DH706100
VIN: JA4MS3197U007230
Please be advised, per F.S. 713.78 that a newspaper ad must be published for 1 day in a newspaper of general circulation (daily or weekly circulation) which has been in circulation for at least 1 year. The advertisement must be published at least 10 calendar days prior to the date of sale, in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the sale is to be held. The 10 calendar days do not include the date of the advertisement nor the date of the sale.

June 7, 2018

LEGAL NOTICE

The IDEA Grant application is being formulated for Osceola District Schools. To provide input, please call Linda Schroder-King at (407) 343-8718.
June 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, 30, 2018

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

Case #: 2018-CA-000685 MF JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff,

vs. ADNER ALCY; MARIE F. ALCY; EAGLE LAKE PHASE 1 SUBDIVISION HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC., A/K/A EAGLE LAKE PHASE ONE SUBDIVISION HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY, Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION

To the following Defendant(s), UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY: 2727 EAGLE CLIFF DR. KISSIMMEE, FLORIDA 34746, who is evading service of process and the unknown defendants who may be spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees, assignees, creditors, trustees, and all parties claiming an interest by, through, under or against the defendant(s), who are not known to be dead or alive, and all parties having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property described in the mortgage being foreclosed herein.

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Foreclosure of Mortgage on the following described property: **LOT 55E, EAGLE LAKES PHASE 3, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 20, PAGE 71 THROUGH 73, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA. A/K/A 2727 EAGLE CLIFF DR, KISSIMMEE, FLORIDA 34746** has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it, on:

Kahane & Associates, P.A., Attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is 8201 Peters Road, Suite 3000, Plantation, Florida 33324, on or before July 17, 2018, a date which is within thirty (30) days after the first publication of this Notice in the OSCEOLA NEWS-GAZETTE and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

This notice is provided pursuant to Administrative Order No. 2.065.

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

WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court this 6th day of May 2018.

ARMANDO RAMIREZ
As Clerk of the Court
By: /s/ SN
As Deputy Clerk

Submitted by:
Kahane & Associates, P.A.
8201 Peters Road,
Suite 3000
Plantation, FL 33324
Telephone: (954) 382-3486;
Telefacsimile:
(954) 382-5380
Designated service E-Mail:
notice@kahaneandassociates.com
File No. 17-02200 JPC
June 7, 14, 2018

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

Case #: 2016-CA-001092 MF JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff,

vs. ANA VILLANUEVA, A/K/A ANA M. VILLANUEVA; MARTA VILLANUEVA, A/K/A MARTA E. VILLANUEVA; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ANA VILLANUEVA, A/K/A ANA M. VILLANUEVA; CAPITAL ONE BANK (USA), N.A.; TRADITION TOWN-HOMES HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY, Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure filed March 29, 2018, and entered in Case No. 2016-CA-001092 MF, of the Circuit Court of the 9th Judicial Circuit, in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, is Plaintiff, and ANA VILLANUEVA, A/K/A ANA M. VILLANUEVA; MARTA VILLANUEVA, A/K/A MARTA E. VILLANUEVA; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ANA VILLANUEVA, A/K/A ANA M. VILLANUEVA; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF MARTA VILLANUEVA, A/K/A MARTA E. VILLANUEVA;

ARMANDO RAMIREZ
Clerk of the Circuit Court
By: /s/ SM
As Deputy Clerk
June 7, 14, 21, 28, 2018

UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY; CAPITAL ONE BANK (USA), N.A.; TRADITION TOWN-HOMES HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.; are Defendants. ARMANDO RAMIREZ, the Clerk of the Circuit Court, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash IN SUITE 2600/ROOM 2602 OF THE OSCEOLA COUNTY COURTHOUSE, at 2 COURTHOUSE SQUARE, KISSIMMEE IN OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA 34741, at 11:00 A.M., on the 27th day of JUNE, 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

LOT 107, TRADITION, ACCORDING TO MAP OR PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 19, PAGE(S) 39, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

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

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

DATED on this 31st day of May 2018.

By: /s/ Eric Knopp
ERIC KNOPP, Esquire
Bar No.: 709921

Submitted by:
Kahane & Associates, P.A.
8201 Peters Road,
Suite 3000
Plantation, FL 33324
Telephone: (954) 382-3486
Telefacsimile:(954) 382-5380
Designated service email:
notice@kahaneandassociates.com
File No. 15-02316 JPC
June 7, 14, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case #: 2018-CA-000741 MF LARRY WHALEY TRUSTEE, Plaintiff,

vs. ASDRUBAL RUIZ; RUTH RUIZ; JOSE M. ALCALDE; IVETTE M. ROSADO; GONTO JOHNS; ALBERT LEE JOHNS; and NIDICH II, LLC.

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: THE ESTATE OF GONTO JOHNS, if living or dead, all unknown parties claiming by, through, under, or against the named Defendant who is not known to be dead or alive whether the unknown parties claim as heirs, devisees, grantees, assignees, lienors, creditors, trustees or other claimants YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to quiet the title on the following real property in Osceola County, Florida: **Parcel 1:**

Lot 9, Block 5, less the Easterly 56 feet for road right of way, according to the plat thereof, as recorded in Plat Book B, Page 67, of the Public Records of Osceola County, Florida.

Parcel 2:

Lot 10, Block 5, less the Easterly 56 feet for road right of way, according to the plat thereof, as recorded in Plat Book B, Page 67, of the Public Records of Osceola County, Florida.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on J. Randy Edmonson, of Manzo & Associates, P.A., Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is: 4767 New Broad Street, Orlando, FL 32814, telephone number (407) 514-2692, on or before JULY 10, 2018, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint or petition.

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

DATED on this 17th day of May 2018.

ARMANDO RAMIREZ
Clerk of the Circuit Court
By: /s/ SM
As Deputy Clerk
June 7, 14, 21, 28, 2018

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

General Jurisdiction Division
Case No.: 2017-CA-000394 DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY AS TRUSTEE FOR GSAA HOME EQUITY TRUST 2006-8 ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES SERIES 2006-8, Plaintiff,

vs. UNKNOWN TRUSTEE OF THE OP LAND TRUST, et al, Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated February 28, 2018, and entered in 2017-CA-000394 MF of the Circuit Court in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY AS TRUSTEE FOR GSAA HOME EQUITY TRUST 2006-8 ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES SERIES 2006-8, is the Plaintiff, and MARIE K. GASPARD, A/K/A KETTLER GASPARD, A/K/A MARIE ALEXIS; LITTLE CREEK HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION OF OSCEOLA COUNTY; UNKNOWN TRUSTEE OF THE OP LAND TRUST; GASPARD RICARDO; UNKNOWN BENEFICIARIES OF THE OP LAND TRUST, 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 28, 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

LOT 121 OF LITTLE CREEK, PHASE I, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 15, PAGE(S) 197, 198 AND 199 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Property Address: **4546 ROSS LANIER LN, KISSIMMEE, FL 34759**

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

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

DATED on this 1st day of June 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
17-008221-DeT
June 7, 14, 2018

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

Case #: 2017-CA-003056 OC ARTISAN CLUB CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, INC., Plaintiff(s),

vs. ARCHI TRUST LLC, AS TRUSTEE FOR TRUST NUMBER 112216-1400, et al., Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: ARCHI TRUST LLC, AS TRUSTEE FOR TRUST NUMBER 112216-1400, c/o Mohamed Saleh Inistar 2135 30th Street South Haines City, FL 33844

If alive and, if dead, all parties claiming interest by, through, under or against ARCHI TRUST LLC, AS TRUSTEE FOR TRUST NUMBER 112216-1400, and all parties having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property described herein.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose on a Claim of Lien has been filed against you on the following real property, lying and being and situated in OSCEOLA County, FLORIDA, more particularly described as follows:

Unit 407, Building 2, ARTISAN CLUB CONDOMINIUM, a Condominium, according to the Declaration of Condominium recorded in Official Records Book 2859, Page(s) 2216, of the Public Records of Osceola County, Florida, together with an undivided interest in the common elements appurtenant thereto, a/k/a 1400 Celebration Ave. 407, Kissimmee, FL 34747

You are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, on **Business Law Group, P.A.**, Attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is

301 W. Platt Street, # 375, Tampa, FL 33606, no later than JULY 10, 2018, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

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

WITNESS my hand and Seal of this Court this 21st day of May 2018.

ARMANDO RAMIREZ
As Clerk of Said Court
By: /s/ SM
As Deputy Clerk

THIS INSTRUMENT PREPARED BY:
Business Law Group, P.A.
301 W. Platt Street, # 375
Tampa, FL 33606
Telephone: (813) 379-3804
Attorneys for Plaintiff
June 7, 14, 2018

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

General Jurisdiction Division
Case No.: 2016-CA-001730 FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION, Plaintiff,

vs. JEFF BORIEO, et al., Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated May 04, 2017, and entered in 2016-CA-001730 of the Circuit Court of the NINTH Judicial Circuit in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION, is the Plaintiff, and JEFF ROLAND BORIEO; DANIELLE BORIEO; DOUGLAS STANLEY PENC; HARMONY RESIDENTIAL OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC., 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 21, 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

LOT 19C, BIRCHWOOD NEIGHBORHOODS B & C, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 14, PAGES 67 THROUGH 73 AND CORRECTED BY DOCUMENT RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 2144, PAGE 392 AND IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 2150, PAGE 999, ALL OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY.

Property Address: **3302 CAT BRIER TRL, HARMONY, FL 34773**

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

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

DATED on this 31st 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/ Thomas Joseph
Thomas Joseph, Esquire
Florida Bar No. 123350
Communication Email:
tjoseph@rasflaw.com
18-131111-DeT
June 7, 14, 2018

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

Case #: 2015-CA-001466 MF U.S. BANK NA, SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE TO BANK OF AMERICA, NA, SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST TO LASALLE BANK NA, AS TRUSTEE, ON BEHALF OF THE HOLDERS OF THE WASHINGTON MUTUAL MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, WMALT SERIES 2006-3, Plaintiff,

vs.

JEFFREY L. DENSMORE, ET AL., Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated May 21, 2018 in the above action, the Osceola County Clerk of Court will sell to the highest bidder for cash at Osceola, Florida, on SEPTEMBER 18, 2018, at 11:00 AM, at 2 Courthouse Square, Suite 2600, Kissimmee, FL 34741 for the following described property: **Lot 67B, Brighton Lakes Phase 1, Section 17 & 18, Township 26 South, Range 29 East, as filed in Osceola County, Florida.**

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

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

Tromberg Law Group, P.A. Attorney for Plaintiff
1515 South Federal Highway, Suite 100
Boca Raton, FL 33432
Telephone #: 561-338-4101
Fax #: 561-338-4077
Email: eservice@tromberg-lawgroup.com
By: /s/ Marlon Hyatt
Marlon Hyatt, Esq.
June 7, 14, 2018

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

General Jurisdiction Division
Case #: 2016-CA-000940 MF HSBC BANK USA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE, for the registered holders of Nomura Home Equity Home Loan, Inc. Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2007-2, Plaintiff,

vs. Janet Sanabria, et al., Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order dated February 27, 2018, entered in Case No. 2016-CA-000940 MF of the Circuit Court of the Ninth Judicial Circuit, in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein HSBC BANK USA, National Association, as Trustee, for the registered holders of Nomura Home Equity Home Loan, Inc. Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2007-2, is the Plaintiff, and Fredrick Eli Maldonado, a/k/a Fredrick Maldonado, a/k/a Fre Maldonado; Janet Sanabria, a/k/a Janet M. Sanabria; Poinciana Village Five Association, Inc.; Association of Poinciana Villages, Inc. 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 27th day of JUNE, 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

LOT 3, BLOCK 2081, POINCIANA NEIGHBORHOOD 1, VILLAGE 5, A SUBDIVISION ACCORDING TO THE PLAT OR MAP THEREOF DESCRIBED IN PLAT BOOK 3, AT PAGE (S) 144-158, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

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

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

Dated on this 31st day of May 2018.

Melbourne, Florida 32935
Attorney for Personal Representatives:
David H. Slonim, Esq.
Attorney for Petitioner
Florida Bar No. 0583634
The Slonim Law Firm, P.A.
2230 N. Wickham Road
Suite A
Melbourne, Florida 32935
Telephone: (321) 757-5701
Fax: (866) 249-5702
Primary E-Mail:
dslonim@slonimlaw.com
Secondary E-Mail:
brose@slonimlaw.com
June 7, 14, 2018

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

Case #: 2011-CA-001373 MF CITIMORTGAGE, INC., Plaintiff,

vs. ALBERTO HERNANDEZ, et al, Defendants.

RE-NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

RE-NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order Granting Plaintiff's Motion to Reschedule Foreclosure Sale filed May 17, 2018, and entered in Case No. 2011-CA-001373 MF of the Circuit Court of the NINTH Judicial Circuit in and for OSCEOLA COUNTY, Florida, wherein CITIMORTGAGE, INC., is Plaintiff, and ALBERTO HERNANDEZ, et al, are the Defendants, the clerk, Armando R. Ramirez, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, beginning at 11:00 A.M., Osceola County Courthouse 2 Courthouse Square, Suite 2600/Room Number 2602, Kissimmee, FL 34741, in accordance with Chapter 45, Florida Statutes, on the 5th day of JULY, 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Lis Pendens, to wit:

Lot 11, Block 2094, Poinciana Neighborhood 1, Village 5, according to plat recorded in Plat Book 3, Pages 144 through 158, of the Public Records of Osceola County, Florida.

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

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

Dated: May 30, 2018.

Phelan Hallinan
Diamond & Jones, PLLC
Attorneys for Plaintiff
2001 NW 64th Street
Suite 100
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309
Tel: 954-462-7000
Fax: 954-462-7001
Service by email:
FL.Service@PhelanHallinan.com
By: /s/ Tammy Geller
Tammy Geller, Esq.
Florida Bar No.: 0091619
Emilio R. Lenzi, Esq.
Florida Bar No. 0668273
Our File #: 66618
June 7, 14, 2018

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

General Jurisdiction Division
Case #: 2016-CA-000940 MF HSBC BANK USA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE, for the registered holders of Nomura Home Equity Home Loan, Inc. Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2007-2, Plaintiff,

vs. Janet Sanabria, et al., Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order dated February 27, 2018, entered in Case No. 2016-CA-000940 MF of the Circuit Court of the Ninth Judicial Circuit, in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein HSBC BANK USA, National Association, as Trustee, for the registered holders of Nomura Home Equity Home Loan, Inc. Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2007-2, is the Plaintiff, and Fredrick Eli Maldonado, a/k/a Fredrick Maldonado, a/k/a Fre Maldonado; Janet Sanabria, a/k/a Janet M. Sanabria; Poinciana Village Five Association, Inc.; Association of Poinciana Villages, Inc. 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, Florida 34741. The names and addresses of the personal representatives and the personal representatives' attorney are set forth below.

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

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

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

Personal Representative(s):
David H. Slonim
2230 N. Wickham Road
Suite A
Melbourne, Florida 32935
Attorney for Plaintiff
Florida Bar No. 0583634
The Slonim Law Firm, P.A.
2230 N. Wickham Road
Suite A
Melbourne, Florida 32935
Telephone: (321) 757-5701
Fax: (866) 249-5702
Primary E-Mail:
dslonim@slonimlaw.com
Secondary E-Mail:
brose@slonimlaw.com
June 7, 14, 2018

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

Case No.: 2017-CC-777 CL EAGLE LAKE PHASE 1 SUBDIVISION HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC., Plaintiff,

vs. YAO XUN YANG, et al., Defendants.

AMENDED NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: YAO XUN YANG
2713 Kinsey Drive
Kissimmee, FL 34746

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to enforce a lien foreclosure on the following property in Osceola County, Florida: **Lot 76E EAGLE LAKE PHASE 3, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 20, PAGE 71, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.**

A lawsuit has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on: **CARLOS R. ARIAS, ESQUIRE**, Plaintiff's Attorney, whose address is **ARIAS BOSINGER, PLLC,**

Clerk of the Circuit and County Court
By: /s/ SM
As Deputy Clerk
May 24, 31, 2018
June 7, 14, 2018

WARNING

Notice of Application for Tax Deed

Notice is hereby given that CAPITAL ONE CLTRL ASSIGNEE OF FIG 2222 LLC, the holder of tax certificate No. 6910, issued on June-01-2016, has filed said certificate in this office and has made application for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The tax certificate information is as follows: Apparent Titleholder(s): ETHEL G ELFREY, ETHEL G. ELFREY EST, MARY POTTS Assessed to: **Legal Description:** BETSYS ESTATES PB 6 PG 57 LOT 2 Parcel No.: 01 28 32 2603 0001 0020

All of said property being in the County of Osceola, State of Florida.

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

DATED this day, June 01, 2018, publication of this notice is requested. Notice to be published in the OSCEOLA NEWS-GAZETTE

ARMANDO RAMIREZ
Clerk of the Circuit Court, Osceola County, Florida
By: DC, DEPUTY CLERK
JUNE 7, 14, 21, 28, 2018

WARNING

Notice of Application for Tax Deed

Notice is hereby given that FABIAN LONDONO, the holder of tax certificate No. 9172, issued on June-01-2011, has filed said certificate in this office and has made application for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The tax certificate information is as follows: Apparent Titleholder(s): TRAJEAN FIDEL Assessed to: **Legal Description:** S1/2 OF N1/2 OF NE1/4 OF SE1/4 OF NE1/4 & N1/2 OF S1/2 OF NE1/4 OF SE1/4 OF NE1/4 Parcel No.: 11 27 31 0000 1412 0020

All of said property being in the County of Osceola, State of Florida.

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

DATED on this day, June 01, 2018, publication of this notice is requested. Notice to be published in the OSCEOLA NEWS-GAZETTE

ARMANDO RAMIREZ
Clerk of the Circuit Court, Osceola County, Florida
By: DC, DEPUTY CLERK
June 7, 14, 21, 28, 2018

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

GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION
CASE NO. 2017-CA-000166 MF U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE C-BASS MORTGAGE LOAN ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-RP2, Plaintiff,

vs. MICHAEL R. WATSON AND MICHELE WATSON, et al, Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated September 27, 2017, and entered in 2017-CA-000166 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 THE C-BASS MORTGAGE LOAN ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-RP2, is the Plaintiff, and MICHELE WATSON; MICHAEL R. WATSON; UNITED COMPANIES LENDING CORPORATION, A DISSOLVED STATE OF LOUISIANA CORPORATION, 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 26, 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

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NOTICE OF ACTION

RE: TIMESCAPE RESORTS, LLC
OSCEOLA County, Florida
Non-Judicial Timeshare foreclosure process

TO: Unit Owner(s)
Notice Address
Timeshare Interest
Amount due:

Clyde D Mottley
137 Riverwood Glen
Dallas, GA 30157
4/11,440 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 1
\$9,864.01 with a per diem interest amount of \$4.84 from December 1, 2017

Ricarte Normandia Saltos Macias and Ulvia Teresa Tinzaray Ortega
FCO De Orellana El Coca Manuela Canizares Y Rio Sur Ecuador/Orellana 220150
Ecuador
4/11,440 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 1
\$9,891.00 with a per diem amount of \$4.88 from December 1, 2017

Dariel Melendez Vega
2615 28th Avenue East
Palmetto, FL 34221
2/9568 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 7
\$4,749.60 with a per diem amount of \$2.34 from December 1, 2017

Jose Ramirez and Clarisa Ramirez
P.O. Box 5482
Lake Worth, FL 33461
2/9568 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 6
\$4,139.52 with a per diem amount of \$2.04 from December 1, 2017

Derric O Bradford and Patricia Scott
901 Vox Highway
Johnstonville, SC 29555-6057
4/11,440 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 1
\$5,413.83 with a per diem amount of \$2.67 from December 1, 2017

Frenchie G Jones and Jo Ann K Jones
1565 NW 15th Terrace
Ft Lauderdale, FL 33311
4/11,440 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 1
\$3,454.58 with a per diem amount of \$1.70 from December 1, 2017

Kenneth D Bradtley and Tabiatha A Crockett
5505 Moravian Heights Lane
Clemmons, NC 27012
4/11,440 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 1
\$6,148.81 with a per diem amount of \$3.03 from December 1, 2017

Dora M Hernandez and Lindsey A Hernandez
1809 Ulster Avenue
Deltona, FL 32738
8/11,440 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 1
\$5,361.07 with a per diem amount of \$2.64 from December 1, 2017

John M Bond, Sr and Dinah I Bond
4 Welbeck Court
Montgomery, MD 20886-4303
4/11,440 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 1
\$815.18 with a per diem amount of \$0.40 from December 1, 2017

Tyrone Jimmeson and Cynthia Wilson
1049 Genesee Park Blvd
Rochester, NY 14619-1653
5/11,440 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 1
\$6,604.42 with a per diem amount of \$3.26 from December 1, 2017

Carmen Parsons-Bowie and Gilbert T Bowie
3401 S Turf Road
Miramar, FL 33025
10/11,440 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 1
\$12,374.22 with a per diem amount of \$6.10 from December 1, 2017

Corey D Cureton and Tyra L Cureton
147 4th Avenue
Aliquippa, PA 15001
5/11,440 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 1
\$2,422.20 with a per diem amount of \$1.19 from December 1, 2017

Carlos A Medina and Febe D Cabrera
1398 NW 79 Street Lot A-118
Miami, FL 33147
4/11,440 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 1
\$5,157.75 with a per diem amount of \$2.54 from December 1, 2017

Joseph H York and Michelle E York
24 Cedar Circle
Bonita Beach, FL 33162
10/11,440 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 1
\$14,998.13 with a per diem amount of \$7.39 from December 1, 2017

Kevin Russell and Icyirna Russell
Nicholls Town Andros
Bahamas
4/11,440 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 1
\$6,330.05 with a per diem amount of \$3.12 from December 1, 2017

Jeff J Castro and Angela R Davis
2164 Bridlington Lane
Columbus, OH 43229-3993
5/11,440 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 1
\$5,321.48 with a per diem amount of \$2.62 from December 1, 2017

Donna M Harris
12800 Vonn Road, Apt 8703
Largo, FL 33774
4/11,440 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 1
\$7,200.00 with a per diem amount of \$3.55 from December 1, 2017

Cossett Garcia and Rebecca Zamora
18615 48th Street
Opa Locka, FL 33055
5/11,440 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 1
\$7,422.20 with a per diem amount of \$3.66 from December 1, 2017

Jeannette Montalvo and Hector J Montalvo
833 Del Prado Drive
Kissimmee, FL 34758
4/11,440 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 1
\$4,975.79 with a per diem amount of \$2.45 from December 1, 2017

Tracy Banks and Veronica A Banks
820 Highway 355 N
Nashville, AR 71852-7521
4/11,440 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 1
\$6,117.73 with a per diem amount of \$3.02 from December 1, 2017

Joseph Kevin Scott and James Philip Martin
P.O. Box 7086

St Petersburg, FL 33734-7086
6/9568 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 6
\$11,591.62 with a per diem amount of \$5.72 from December 1, 2017

Ronald L Cunigan and Joyce C Cunigan
4113 9th Street E
Bradenton, FL 34208-4933
8/11,440 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 1
\$4,598.99 with a per diem amount of \$2.27 from December 1, 2017

Peggy A Smith
9119 McMillan Lane
Tampa, FL 33535-1315
8/11,440 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 1
\$2,525.30 with a per diem amount of \$1.25 from December 1, 2017

Kreisten B Figueroa and Alejandro Figueroa
14885 Mystic Lake Circle, Apt 5203
Naples, FL 34119-6771
4/11,440 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 1
\$4,548.83 with a per diem amount of \$2.24 from December 1, 2017

Anthony J Dillard and Christa A Dillard
7919 Armor Lane
Frisco, TX 75035
8/11,440 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 1
\$1,253.20 with a per diem amount of \$0.62 from December 1, 2017

Edward L Mohler, Sr and Ann C Mohler
714 Old Farm Road
Lexington, VA 24450
4/11,440 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 1
\$2,763.30 with a per diem amount of \$1.36 from December 1, 2017

John T Gibson and Antoinette L Gibson
311 W. Marshall Street, Apt 206
Norristown, PA 19401-4670
5/11440 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 1
\$6,772.56 with a per diem amount of \$3.34 from December 1, 2017

Randy Ratliff and Dawn Ratliff
6220 Lea Lane
Blairsville, GA 30512
5/11,440 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 1
\$6,464.56 with a per diem amount of \$3.18 from December 1, 2017

Angela D Telles
15 Birch Hill Road
New Durham, NH 03855
4/11,440 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 1
\$5,500.68 with a per diem amount of \$2.71 from December 1, 2017

Ronald Poelman and Mary Poelman
O-11213 Linden Drive NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49544
4/11,440 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 1
\$3,713.86 with a per diem amount of \$1.83 from December 1, 2017

Maria N Pachot
13431 Zori Lane
Windermere, FL 34876
5/11,440 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 1
\$6,786.00 with a per diem amount of \$3.35 from December 1, 2017

Danny J Van Pelt and Pauline E Van Pelt
3709 6th Avenue
East Moline, IL 61244
4/11,440 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 1
\$5,261.37 with a per diem amount of \$2.59 from December 1, 2017

Erik Bennett
4701 31st Place SW
Naples, FL 34116-8264
8/11,440 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 1
\$10,853.91 with a per diem amount of \$5.35 from December 1, 2017

Joseph H York and Michelle E York
24 Cedar Circle
Bonita Beach, FL 33162
10/11,440 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 1
\$14,998.13 with a per diem amount of \$7.39 from December 1, 2017

Yrma E Gonzales
400 NE 17th Street
N. Miami Beach, FL 33162
4/11,440 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 1
\$5,506.25 with a per diem amount of \$2.72 from December 1, 2017

Patricia Bustamante
16791 Redwood Way
Ft Lauderdale, FL 33326
5/11,440 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 1
\$7,483.72 with a per diem amount of \$3.69 from December 1, 2017

Lorenzo L Parker and Andrea N Parker
213 Avonwood Drive SW
Marietta, GA 30064-2576
3/9568 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 5
\$1,442.06 with a per diem amount of \$0.71 from December 1, 2017

Sandra R McNeely
116 Tomy Hawk Trail
Saltville, MS 38866-7215
6/9568 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 7
\$8,954.86 with a per diem amount of \$4.41 from December 1, 2017

Jerrold H Singleton and Queena O Singleton
12140 S Lafayette Avenue
Chicago, IL 60628-6621
2/9568 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 7
\$3,964.19 with a per diem amount of \$1.95 from December 1, 2017

Sergio Adan Vega Quiroa and Karen Eunice Rodas Murga
Calle 15 de Septiembre 6-11
Suchitepeque, EZ 01001
Guatemala
2/9568 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 7
\$4,493.63 with a per diem amount of \$2.22 from December 1, 2017

Alice Jane Cardwell Hodges and David Hugh Jones
Lower Grimmer Farm
Minsterley, Shropshire SY5 0DP
United Kingdom
5/13,520 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 2
\$7,841.01 with a per diem amount of \$3.87 from December 1, 2017

Hans Jorgen Burud and Hilde Kristin Solem
Fredlilokka #20
Drammen N-3031
Norway
5/13,520 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 2

\$6,350.98 with a per diem amount of \$3.13 from December 1, 2017

Alfredo Parrilla Chavez and Ada Lydia Quinones Medina
P.O. Box 20000 PMB 210
Canovanas, PR 00729
2/9568 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 6
\$4,645.85 with a per diem amount of \$2.29 from December 1, 2017

Lorena Del R Angulo Salverredy and Jose Genaro Valdivia Lianos
Calle Mendibury 562 Apto 707 Miraflores
Lima 00017, Peru
3/9568 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 7
\$8,945.41 with a per diem amount of \$4.41 from December 1, 2017

Sarah L McDuffie
1112 S Oak Park Avenue
Oak Park, IL 60304
4/9568 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 7
\$9,523.59 with a per diem amount of \$4.50 from December 1, 2017

Julio Omar Quintero Beltran and Sandra Parra Quiroga
Calle 152 B #51 73B
Bogota 11091
Colombia
3/9568 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 6
\$9,282.76 with a per diem amount of \$4.58 from December 1, 2017

Jennifer Green
2001 Poplar Falls Road
Lithonia, GA 30058
3/9568 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 7
\$7,378.76 with a per diem amount of \$3.64 from December 1, 2017

Bolivar Edgardo Lopez Castro and Patricia Martinez Lopez
Palmera Abanico #62
Franc Palmira 24554
Mexico
6/9568 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 7
\$10,488.98 with a per diem amount of \$5.17 from December 1, 2017

Meghan M Jackson
P.O. Box 608
Richmond Hill, GA 31324-0608
4/9568 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 7
\$9,173.63 with a per diem amount of \$4.52 from December 1, 2017

Iris I Reyes
6231 Olde Moat Way
Davie, FL 33331-3430
3/9568 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 7
\$8,216.24 with a per diem amount of \$4.05 from December 1, 2017

Antonio Sanchez Guevara and Ilda Victoria Gonzalez Espinosa
Calle Idelfonso Green S/N
Cabo San Lucas BCS 23400
Mexico
8/9568 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 6
\$14,646.92 with a per diem amount of \$7.22 from December 1, 2017

Marcos Javier Andrade Guijarro and Cecilia Esperanza Llerena Calderon
Calle California Alto E13-73 Y Los Nogales
Quito EC 17015 0, Ecuador
6/9568 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 7
\$12,330.03 with a per diem amount of \$6.08 from December 1, 2017

Katherine Patricia Navia Santana, Luis Alberto Marriot Chavez & Jose David Navia Santana
Alborada Decima Etapa MZ 107 V14
Guayaquil, Ecuador
6/9568 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 6
\$12,026.37 with a per diem amount of \$5.93 from December 1, 2017

Juan Bernardo Velasquez Portillo and Martha Patricia de la Rosa Alvarez
Calle 8 #30-13 Ocada
Norte de Santander, Colombia
3/9568 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 7
\$8,286.16 with a per diem amount of \$4.09 from December 1, 2017

Jaime Washington Almeida Villavicencio
Parroquia De Izamba Rafael Daequez Tras CIC 80 Pical
Galo Mino
Ecuador
3/9568 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 7
\$10,381.25 with a per diem amount of \$5.12 from December 1, 2017

Jose Francisco Betancourt Caicedo and Jacqueline Bonilla Barona
Carrera 57 Numero 13 C 45 Apt 403 Bloque 2
Cali Valle Delcauca
Colombia
6/9568 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 7
\$12,470.31 with a per diem amount of \$6.15 from December 1, 2017

Jaime Dario Palacio Cano
Carrera 42 14-90 Apt 707 EDF La Duquesa
Medellin, Colombia
4/11,440 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 1
\$8,286.38 with a per diem amount of \$4.09 from December 1, 2017

Ricardo Rafael Ochoa Sarmiento and Kelin Rumaris Rios Oliva
Barrio Nueva Esperanza 2782
Choluteca 51101
Honduras
4/9568 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 7
\$9,786.13 with a per diem amount of \$4.83 from December 1, 2017

Cesar Augusto Cortes Garzon and Carolina Gomez Sosa
Villa de Leya II Etapa MZ 4 Casa 24
Pereira, Colombia
2/9568 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 6
\$7,474.87 with a per diem amount of \$3.69 from December 1, 2017

Juliana Marcela Sanchez Blanco and Marco Aurelio Hernandez Abuabara
KRA 110 NO 215-65 Casa 29
Bogota 11091, Colombia
4/11,440 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 1
\$8,976.33 with a per diem amount of \$4.43 from December 1, 2017

Luis Pio Huaco Rivera and Bercelia Tapia Rubio Jr
Alicia Alarcon No 381 SMP
Lima, Peru
10/11,440 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 1
\$19,758.03 with a per diem amount of \$9.74 from December 1, 2017

Cesar Augusto Silva Duarte and Vivian Milena Villamil Santiago
Calle 10 #2A-06 Sur Torre A, Apt 404

Facativa Cund 253051
Colombia
2/9568 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 5
\$6,838.75 with a per diem amount of \$3.37 from December 1, 2017

Elkin Plata Avella and Sandra Lizeth Rivera Bello
CR 8A #153-51 Torre 1 Apt 104
Conj Altos Del Moral
Bogota, Colombia
2/9568 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 6
\$7,036.38 with a per diem amount of \$3.47 from December 1, 2017

Claudia Mercedes Moreno Martinez
Transv 70 9D-76 INT 5 Apto 804
Bogota, Colombia
6/9568 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 7
\$12,223.40 with a per diem amount of \$6.03 from December 1, 2017

Natalia Andrea Caicedo Lozado and Luis Felipe Vergara Quintana
Carrera 58 #3HN-119 Casa 54
Cali Valle, Colombia
3/9568 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 7
\$8,456.16 with a per diem amount of \$4.17 from December 1, 2017

Mauricio Lancheros Salgado and Soraya Rubi Martinez
Carrera 10 #5-29 Apto 301
Bogota, Colombia
3/9568 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 5
\$8,193.45 with a per diem amount of \$4.04 from December 1, 2017

Shirley P Hitson
14090 29th Road
Lake City, FL 32024
3/9568 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 5
\$8,413.05 with a per diem amount of \$4.15 from December 1, 2017

Solex Obiudo Obunnaeme and Nkolika Obianui Obiudoh
6 Best Time Avenue Dkota by Waterside Dkota
Lagos, Nigeria
8/9568 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 6
\$12,830.81 with a per diem amount of \$6.33 from December 1, 2017

Fabiola Hernandez Reyes and Luis Alberto Milian Urias
Palma Real #23 Colonia Flores Magon
Veracruz, Mexico
2/9568 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 6
\$7,975.72 with a per diem amount of \$3.93 from December 1, 2017

Eliseo Fierro Acevedo and Milagros Trujillo Averbé
Manzana Q Casa 5 Arkabal
Espinal Tolima, Colombia
4/13520 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 2
\$8,856.05 with a per diem amount of \$4.37 from December 1, 2017

Marco Vinicio Valverde Alban and Marisol Pastoriza Coronel Veelastegui
Macholo 2 Babahoyo
Riobamba, Ecuador
8/13520 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 2
\$13,581.84 with a per diem amount of \$6.70 from December 1, 2017

Victor Andres Zarate Enriquez and Rosa Elena Cabrera Chusan
Mirador Del Norte MZ 52 Villa 11
Guayaquil, Ecuador
6/9568 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 6
\$13,771.80 with a per diem amount of \$6.79 from December 1, 2017

Edward Alexander Garcia Ramirez and Maria Carolina Angel Lopez
Calle 41 #1604 Apt 201 Torre B
Ibague Col, Colombia
3/9568 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 5
\$10,561.90 with a per diem amount of \$5.21 from December 1, 2017

Gilberto Enrique Almedva Jarrin and Angelica Meichoro Humaia Chumplitz de Almedva
Calle 21 MZ Z lote 37 URB Coopip SMP
Lima, Peru
8/9568 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 5
\$21,044.85 with a per diem amount of \$10.38 from December 1, 2017

Leonardo Alfredo Tafur Patino and Martha Donatila Beltran Macias
Ciudadela Universitaria 3 ERA Etapa
Portoviejo Manabi, Ecuador
2/9568 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 5
\$8,796.11 with a per diem amount of \$4.34 from December 1, 2017

Oskar Josue Arambulo Pisco and Lady Nora Luque Nava
Decima Norte 416 Entre Carrera 2DA Y Junin
Machala Puerto Bolivar, Ecuador
6/9568 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 6
\$14,417.38 with a per diem amount of \$7.11 from December 1, 2017

Wilfredo Demetrio Veintimilla Terreros and Mercedes Maria Nicola Zambrano
Kennedy Norte Mantana 701 Solar 47
Guayaquil, Ecuador
10/11,440 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 1
\$20,513.59 with a per diem amount of \$10.12 from December 1, 2017

Rosa Isabel Raza Salcedo and Gaio Quiroz Diaz
San Rafael Ave de Los Planetas Y Cruz Del Sur S250
Quito, Ecuador
8/9568 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 7
\$20,606.11 with a per diem amount of \$10.16 from December 1, 2017

Kesha J McCaster
2040 John Dodgen Way
Marietta, GA 30062
2/9568 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 5
\$6,876.71 with a per diem amount of \$3.39 from December 1, 2017

Edna M Emery and Robert L Emery
117 Janice Place
Macon, GA 31211
8/9568 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 6
\$16,407.74 with a per diem amount of \$8.09 from December 1, 2017

Melissa D Partsch and Michael S Mann
P.O. Box 155
Pomona Park, FL 32181-0155
8/11440 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 1
\$13,020.77 with a per diem amount of \$6.42 from December 1, 2017

Carolina Lisbeth Saldana Giron and Elizabeth Garner Castillo
Apt 0843-02369
Panama City, Panama
5/11,440 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 1

\$11,697.66 with a per diem amount of \$5.77 from December 1, 2017

Marcos Fabrizio Jaramillo Caicedo and Gabriela Adriana Espinoza Jupiter
URB Belo Horizontes HZ 48 Villa 35
Guayaquil, Ecuador
5/11,440 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 1
\$11,213.75 with a per diem amount of \$5.53 from December 1, 2017

Yirma Thaylan Caballero Von Chong, Erelia Von Chong Aguilar & Irma Von Chong Aguilar de Caballero
BDA San Jose David Chirigui
Panama Chiriqui, Panama
2/9568 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 5
\$8,901.25 with a per diem amount of \$4.40 from December 1, 2017

Maria Angelica Chavez Velez and Jaime Petronio Rodriguez Boada
Manuel Borreto N32-325 Y Gonzalez Suarez
Quito Pichincha, EC170150
Ecuador
2/9568 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 5
\$7,685.10 with a per diem amount of \$3.79 from December 1, 2017

Rolfe Bernal Medina and Ligia Stella Pulido Jimenez
Calle 23A #59-72 Torre 1 Apto 504
Bogota 110911, Colombia
2/9568 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 6
\$9,087.12 with a per diem amount of \$4.48 from December 1, 2017

Jonathan Cassal Serrano and Isabel Jannely Ortiz Camino Real No 64 El Rosario
Tlaxcala, TLAX 90456
Mexico
4/9568 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 5
\$13,059.23 with a per diem amount of \$6.44 from December 1, 2017

Ricardo Abdiel Flores Gonzalez and Cynthia Marie Morales Corrales
Rio Abajo Calle 14 Edif Seniorial del Rio Q5 1735 Panama City
Panama
8/13520 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 2
\$14,998.14 with a per diem amount of \$7.40 from December 1, 2017

Maria Loreto Riveros Requena and Maria Paz Riveros Requena
Del Inca 5730 Depto #903 Las Condes
Santiago, Chile
6/9568 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 5
\$16,997.58 with a per diem amount of \$8.38 from December 1, 2017

Alejanero Luis Nino Castano and Adriana Judith Hernandez Oriuela
Carrera 103 #11-40 Casa H3 Sandaros Del Polo Cali 760001 Colombia
5/13520 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 2
\$11,784.23 with a per diem amount of \$5.81 from December 1, 2017

Aleta Nilson
2870 N Towne Avenue, Apt 106
Pomona, CA 91767-2034
4/9568 undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phase 6
\$6,412.08 with a per diem amount of \$3.16 from December 1, 2017

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED of an action for non-judicial foreclosure of a timeshare interest on the purchase money mortgage executed by you on the following described real property, located in OSCEOLA County, Florida, to-wit:

Undivided tenant in common fee simple interest in Phases (as set forth above) in CALYPSO CAY VACATION VILLAS, A TIMESHARE PLAN together with all appurtenances thereto, according and subject to the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions for CALYPSO CAY VACATION VILLAS, A TIMESHARE PLAN, as recorded in Official Records Book 2023, Page 342, of the Public Records of Osceola County, Florida and all amendments and exhibits thereto.

has been filed against you. If you fail to cure the default as set forth in this notice or take other appropriate action with regard to this foreclosure matter, you risk losing ownership of your timeshare interest through the trustee foreclosure procedure established in Section 721.856, Florida Statutes. You may choose to sign and send to the trustee an objection form, exercising your right to object to the use of the trustee foreclosure procedure. If you would like an Objection form, you should contact the undersigned Trustee, Robert P. Watrous, Esquire, in writing. Upon the trustee's receipt of your signed objection form, the foreclosure of the purchase money mortgage with respect to the default specified in this notice shall be subject to the judicial foreclosure procedure only. You have the right to cure your default in the manner set forth in this notice at any time before the trustee's sale of your timeshare interest. Objections must be made in writing to:

Robert P. Watrous, Esquire
TRUSTEE FOR TIMESCAPE RESORTS, LLC
1800 Second Street, Suite 780
Sarasota, FL 34237

within 30 days of the first date of publication of this Notice.

If you do not object to the use of the trustee foreclosure procedure, you will not be subject to a deficiency judgment even if the proceeds from the sale of your timeshare interest are insufficient to offset the amounts secured by the lien.

Dated this 31st day of MAY, 2018.

Robert P. Watrous, Esquire, TRUSTEE
TRUSTEE FOR TIMESCAPE RESORTS, LLC
June 7, 14, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT, IN AND
FOR OSCEOLA
COUNTY, FLORIDA.
Case #: 2018-CA-001087 FO
IN RE FORFEITURE:
\$5,449.00 in
United States Currency
**NOTICE OF FORFEITURE
PROCEEDINGS**

TO ALL PERSONS WHO CLAIM AN INTEREST IN THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY: \$5,449.00 in United States Currency
Russell Gibson, as Sheriff of Osceola County, Florida, seized the above described property on or about March 18, 2018, in or about Kissimmee, Osceola County, Florida. A Verified Complaint for Order of Probable Cause Finding and Final Order of Forfeiture pursuant to the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act, Sections 932.701-.7062, Florida Statutes (2017), has been filed in the Circuit Court, in and for Osceola County.
If no claimant appears and no claim is filed, a request will be made for an immediate hearing and Final Order of Forfeiture.
/s/ Kirk S. Warren
Kirk S. Warren, Esquire

Post Office Box 151
Lakeland, FL 33802-0151
(863) 688-3400
FL Bar No. 439177
kswaty1@verizon.net
Attorney for Petitioner,
Russell Gibson, As Sheriff
of Osceola County, Florida.
June 7, 14, 2018

**NOTICE UNDER
FICTITIOUS NAME LAW
Pursuant to Section 865.09
FLORIDA STATUTES**
To Whom It May Concern:
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of: **CDR TRAINING - FINISH FIRST** located at: 12024 Royal Wulff Lane, in the County of Osceola, in the City of Saint Cloud, Florida 32817, intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida.
That the corporation interested in said business enterprise is as follows: **SUNBIZ**
DATED at Saint Cloud, Osceola County, Florida on this 31st day of May, 2018.
June 7, 2018

WARNING**Notice of Application for Tax Deed**

Notice is hereby given that CAPITAL ONE CLTRL ASSIGNEE OF FIG 2222 LLC, the holder of tax certificate No. 3115, issued on June-01-2016, has filed said certificate in this office and has made application for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The tax certificate information is as follows: Apparent Titleholder(s): EXCELLENCE HOLDING LLC Assessed to:
Legal Description: 2050 CONDOTEL INN A CONDO CB 7 PGS 134-137 OR 2785/2890 UNIT 253 Parcel No.: 24 25 29 2561 0001 2530
All of said property being in the County of Osceola, State of Florida.

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

DATED this day, June 01, 2018, publication of this notice is requested. Notice to be published in the OSCEOLA NEWS-GAZETTE.
ARMANDO RAMIREZ
Clerk of the Circuit Court, Osceola County, Florida
By: DC, DEPUTY CLERK
June 7, 14, 21, 28, 2018

WARNING**Notice of Application for Tax Deed**

Notice is hereby given that CAPITAL ONE CLTRL ASSIGNEE OF FIG 2222 LLC, the holder of tax certificate No. 3119, issued on June-01-2016, has filed said certificate in this office and has made application for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The tax certificate information is as follows: Apparent Titleholder(s): EXCELLENCE HOLDING LLC Assessed to:
Legal Description: 2050 CONDOTEL INN A CONDO CB 7 PGS 134-137 OR 2785/2890 UNIT 267 Parcel No.: 24 25 29 2561 0001 2670
All of said property being in the County of Osceola, State of Florida.

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

DATED this day, June 01, 2018, publication of this notice is requested. Notice to be published in the OSCEOLA NEWS-GAZETTE.
ARMANDO RAMIREZ
Clerk of the Circuit Court, Osceola County, Florida
By: DC, DEPUTY CLERK
June 7, 14, 21, 28, 2018

WARNING**Notice of Application for Tax Deed**

Notice is hereby given that CAPITAL ONE CLTRL ASSIGNEE OF FIG 2222 LLC, the holder of tax certificate No. 4649, issued on June-01-2016, has filed said certificate in this office and has made application for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The tax certificate information is as follows: Apparent Titleholder(s): AIE YOUNG ALLEN, ROBERT L ALLEN JR Assessed to:
Legal Description: S.L & I.C. PB B PG 54 LOT 36 ANNEX-INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT 4708/1253 Parcel No.: 09 26 30 4950 0001 0360
All of said property being in the County of Osceola, State of Florida.

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

DATED on this day, June 01, 2018, publication of this notice is requested. Notice to be published in the OSCEOLA NEWS-GAZETTE.
ARMANDO RAMIREZ
Clerk of the Circuit Court, Osceola County, Florida
By: DC, DEPUTY CLERK
June 7, 14, 21, 28, 2018

WARNING**Notice of Application for Tax Deed**

Notice is hereby given that CAPITAL ONE CLTRL ASSIGNEE OF FIG 2241 LLC, the holder of tax certificate No. 6195, issued on June-01-2015, has filed said certificate in this office and has made application for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The tax certificate information is as follows:
Apparent Titleholder(s): JOAN COLWELL, JOSEPHINE T COLWELL Assessed to:
Legal Description: S L & I C PB B PG 28 N 1/2 LOTS 39 & 40 Parcel No.: 32 26 31 4950 0001 0390
All of said property being in the County of Osceola, State of Florida.

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

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ARMANDO RAMIREZ
Clerk of the Circuit Court, Osceola County, Florida
By: DC, DEPUTY CLERK
June 7, 14, 21, 28, 2018

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
AND REGULAR MEETING OF THE
PORTOFINO VISTA
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

The Board of Supervisors of the Portofino Vista Community Development District will hold a regular meeting and a public hearing on June 27, 2018 at 11:30 AM at the Portofino Vista Clubhouse located at 3545 Allegra Circle, St. Cloud, FL 34772, for the purpose of hearing comments and objections on the adoption of the budget(s) for the operation and maintenance of District facilities for Fiscal Year 2019. In addition, the Board will hear public comment and objections relative to the levy of a non ad valorem assessment pursuant to Florida Law for the purpose of funding operations and maintenance and principal and interest expenses of the District. The District may also fund various facilities through the collection of certain rates, fees and charges which are identified within the budget(s). A copy of the budget(s) may be obtained at the offices of the District Manager, 5385 N. Nob Hill Road, Sunrise, Florida 33351, during normal business hours.

The Board will also consider any other business, which may properly come before it. The meeting may be continued to a date, time, and place to be specified on the record at the meeting. The meeting is open to the public and will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Florida Law for Community Development Districts.

There may be occasions when one or more Supervisors will participate by telephone. At the above location there will be present a speaker telephone so that any interested person can attend the meeting at the above location and be fully informed of the discussions taking place either in person or by telephone communication.

Any person requiring special accommodations at this meeting because of a disability or physical impairment should contact the District Office at (954) 721-8681 at least five calendar days prior to the meeting.

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

Rich Hans
Manager

May 31, 2018
June 7, 2018

WARNING**Notice of Application for Tax Deed**

Notice is hereby given that CAPITAL ONE CLTRL ASSIGNEE OF FIG 2222 LLC, the holder of tax certificate No. 5702, issued on June-01-2016, has filed said certificate in this office and has made application for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The tax certificate information is as follows: Apparent Titleholder(s): MAI KHANG, WUNG LEE THAO Assessed to:
Legal Description: SLIC PB B PG 32 S 1/2 LOT 104 LESS W 5 FT FOR R/W AND SL & IC PB B PG 21 S 1/2 LOT 97 SEC 01-27-30 LESS W 5 FT FOR R/W Parcel No.: 06 27 31 4950 0001 1045
All of said property being in the County of Osceola, State of Florida.

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

DATED on this day, June 01, 2018, publication of this notice is requested. Notice to be published in the OSCEOLA NEWS-GAZETTE.
ARMANDO RAMIREZ
Clerk of the Circuit Court, Osceola County, Florida
By: DC, DEPUTY CLERK
June 7, 14, 21, 28, 2018

WARNING**Notice of Application for Tax Deed**

Notice is hereby given that CAPITAL ONE CLTRL ASSIGNEE OF FIG 2222 LLC, the holder of tax certificate No. 3083, issued on June-01-2016, has filed said certificate in this office and has made application for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The tax certificate information is as follows: Apparent Titleholder(s): EXCELLENCE HOLDING LLC Assessed to:
Legal Description: 2050 CONDOTEL INN A CONDO CB 7 PGS 134-137 OR 2785/2890 UNIT 160 Parcel No.: 24 25 29 2561 0001 1600
All of said property being in the County of Osceola, State of Florida.

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

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ARMANDO RAMIREZ
Clerk of the Circuit Court, Osceola County, Florida
By: DC, DEPUTY CLERK
June 7, 14, 21, 28, 2018

WARNING**Notice of Application for Tax Deed**

Notice is hereby given that CAPITAL ONE CLTRL ASSIGNEE OF FIG 2222 LLC, the holder of tax certificate No. 3084, issued on June-01-2016, has filed said certificate in this office and has made application for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The tax certificate information is as follows: Apparent Titleholder(s): EXCELLENCE HOLDING LLC Assessed to:
Legal Description: 2050 CONDOTEL INN A CONDO CB 7 PGS 134-137 OR 2785/2890 UNIT 161 Parcel No.: 24 25 29 2561 0001 1610
All of said property being in the County of Osceola, State of Florida.

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

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ARMANDO RAMIREZ
Clerk of the Circuit Court, Osceola County, Florida
By: DC, DEPUTY CLERK
June 7, 14, 21, 28, 2018

WARNING**Notice of Application for Tax Deed**

Notice is hereby given that CAPITAL ONE CLTRL ASSIGNEE OF FIG 2222 LLC, the holder of tax certificate No. 3085, issued on June-01-2016, has filed said certificate in this office and has made application for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The tax certificate information is as follows: Apparent Titleholder(s): EXCELLENCE HOLDING LLC Assessed to:
Legal Description: 2050 CONDOTEL INN A CONDO CB 7 PGS 134-137 OR 2785/2890 UNIT 162 Parcel No.: 24 25 29 2561 0001 1620
All of said property being in the County of Osceola, State of Florida.

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

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Clerk of the Circuit Court, Osceola County, Florida
By: DC, DEPUTY CLERK
June 7, 14, 21, 28, 2018

WARNING**Notice of Application for Tax Deed**

Notice is hereby given that CAPITAL ONE CLTRL ASSIGNEE OF FIG 2222 LLC, the holder of tax certificate No. 3086, issued on June-01-2016, has filed said certificate in this office and has made application for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The tax certificate information is as follows: Apparent Titleholder(s): EXCELLENCE HOLDING LLC Assessed to:
Legal Description: 2050 CONDOTEL INN A CONDO CB 7 PGS 134-137 OR 2785/2890 UNIT 164 Parcel No.: 24 25 29 2561 0001 1640
All of said property being in the County of Osceola, State of Florida.

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

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ARMANDO RAMIREZ
Clerk of the Circuit Court, Osceola County, Florida
By: DC, DEPUTY CLERK
June 7, 14, 21, 28, 2018

WARNING**Notice of Application for Tax Deed**

Notice is hereby given that CAPITAL ONE CLTRL ASSIGNEE OF FIG 2222 LLC, the holder of tax certificate No. 3087, issued on June-01-2016, has filed said certificate in this office and has made application for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The tax certificate information is as follows: Apparent Titleholder(s): EXCELLENCE HOLDING LLC Assessed to:
Legal Description: 2050 CONDOTEL INN A CONDO CB 7 PGS 134-137 OR 2785/2890 UNIT 165 Parcel No.: 24 25 29 2561 0001 1650
All of said property being in the County of Osceola, State of Florida.

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

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ARMANDO RAMIREZ
Clerk of the Circuit Court, Osceola County, Florida
By: DC, DEPUTY CLERK
June 7, 14, 21, 28, 2018

WARNING**Notice of Application for Tax Deed**

Notice is hereby given that CAPITAL ONE CLTRL ASSIGNEE OF FIG 2222 LLC, the holder of tax certificate No. 3088, issued on June-01-2016, has filed said certificate in this office and has made application for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The tax certificate information is as follows: Apparent Titleholder(s): EXCELLENCE HOLDING LLC Assessed to:
Legal Description: 2050 CONDOTEL INN A CONDO CB 7 PGS 134-137 OR 2785/2890 UNIT 168 Parcel No.: 24 25 29 2561 0001 1680
All of said property being in the County of Osceola, State of Florida.

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

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ARMANDO RAMIREZ
Clerk of the Circuit Court, Osceola County, Florida
By: DC, DEPUTY CLERK
June 7, 14, 21, 28, 2018

WARNING**Notice of Application for Tax Deed**

Notice is hereby given that CAPITAL ONE CLTRL ASSIGNEE OF FIG 2222 LLC, the holder of tax certificate No. 3089, issued on June-01-2016, has filed said certificate in this office and has made application for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The tax certificate information is as follows: Apparent Titleholder(s): EXCELLENCE HOLDING LLC Assessed to:
Legal Description: 2050 CONDOTEL INN A CONDO CB 7 PGS 134-137 OR 2785/2890 UNIT 169 Parcel No.: 24 25 29 2561 0001 1690
All of said property being in the County of Osceola, State of Florida.

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

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ARMANDO RAMIREZ
Clerk of the Circuit Court, Osceola County, Florida
By: DC, DEPUTY CLERK
June 7, 14, 21, 28, 2018

WARNING**Notice of Application for Tax Deed**

Notice is hereby given that CAPITAL ONE CLTRL ASSIGNEE OF FIG 2222 LLC, the holder of tax certificate No. 3091, issued on June-01-2016, has filed said certificate in this office and has made application for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The tax certificate information is as follows: Apparent Titleholder(s): EXCELLENCE HOLDING LLC Assessed to:
Legal Description: 2050 CONDOTEL INN A CONDO CB 7 PGS 134-137 OR 2785/2890 UNIT 176 Parcel No.: 24 25 29 2561 0001 1760
All of said property being in the County of Osceola, State of Florida.

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

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ARMANDO RAMIREZ
Clerk of the Circuit Court, Osceola County, Florida
By: DC, DEPUTY CLERK
June 7, 14, 21, 28, 2018

WARNING**Notice of Application for Tax Deed**

Notice is hereby given that CAPITAL ONE CLTRL ASSIGNEE OF FIG 2222 LLC, the holder of tax certificate No. 3094, issued on June-01-2016, has filed said certificate in this office and has made application for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The tax certificate information is as follows: Apparent Titleholder(s): EXCELLENCE HOLDING LLC Assessed to:
Legal Description: 2050 CONDOTEL INN A CONDO CB 7 PGS 134-137 OR 2785/2890 UNIT 203 Parcel No.: 24 25 29 2561 0001 2030
All of said property being in the County of Osceola, State of Florida.

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

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ARMANDO RAMIREZ
Clerk of the Circuit Court, Osceola County, Florida
By: DC, DEPUTY CLERK
June 7, 14, 21, 28, 2018

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Notice is hereby given that CAPITAL ONE CLTRL ASSIGNEE OF FIG 2222 LLC, the holder of tax certificate No. 3095, issued on June-01-2016, has filed said certificate in this office and has made application for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The tax certificate information is as follows: Apparent Titleholder(s): EXCELLENCE HOLDING LLC Assessed to:
Legal Description: 2050 CONDOTEL INN A CONDO CB 7 PGS 134-137 OR 2785/2890 UNIT 204 Parcel No.: 24 25 29 2561 0001 2040
All of said property being in the County of Osceola, State of Florida.

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

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ARMANDO RAMIREZ
Clerk of the Circuit Court, Osceola County, Florida
By: DC, DEPUTY CLERK
June 7, 14, 21, 28, 2018

WARNING**Notice of Application for Tax Deed**

Notice is hereby given that CAPITAL ONE CLTRL ASSIGNEE OF FIG 2222 LLC, the holder of tax certificate No. 3097, issued on June-01-2016, has filed said certificate in this office and has made application for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The tax certificate information is as follows: Apparent Titleholder(s): EXCELLENCE HOLDING LLC Assessed to:
Legal Description: 2050 CONDOTEL INN A CONDO CB 7 PGS 134-137 OR 2785/2890 UNIT 208 Parcel No.: 24 25 29 2561 0001 2080
All of said property being in the County of Osceola, State of Florida.

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

DATED on this day, June 01, 2018,

SCHOOL'S OUT BLOWOUT AT RODEO



The 141st Silver Spurs Rodeo was in town June 1 and 2 with the School's Out Blowout making this rodeo all about the kids. Outside there were bounce houses, the STEM Mobile lab, rodeo demonstrations and live entertainment. Indoors, the night started out with a mutton busting competition, junior bull riding, junior quadrille, junior barrel racing and more. All the traditional events were featured later in the evening. Top row: Isabella Feliciano with the ladies of the Silver Spurs Rodeo. Joe Luciano, designer of the mobile STEM lab talks about hurricanes with guests. Second row: Weston Holly from Polk City tries his hand at mutton busting. Aiden Hancock from St. Cloud won the competition and received a new belt buckle. Third row: Issac Gonzales was first to compete in the junior bull riding competition and took first place. Junior quadrille riders move their horses with precision. Rodeo clown Clint Parrish shows how to win at musical chairs. (Right) Kids chase down calves for the ribbon and a prize.

News-Gazette Photos by Martin Maddock

Slip it on the Barbie



This undated photo provided by America's Test Kitchen in May 2018 shows grilled beef kabobs in Brookline, Mass.

Grilled beef skewers get even better with a robust marinade

By AMERICA'S TEST KITCHEN

Well-marbled steak tips, with their beefy flavor and tender texture, proved the best choice for our grilled beef kebabs.

We created a robust marinade using several key elements: Beef broth and tomato paste added rich, umami tones, salt helped brine the meat and keep it moist, a bit of sugar helped with caramelization, and rosemary and lemon zest added bright aromas. (For a spicy North African variation, we used cilantro, paprika, cumin, and cayenne.)

We cut the meat into large pieces and packed it tightly onto the skewers to help keep it moist and tender while grilling and also patted it dry to help prevent steaming. We paired our beef with a trio of firm and flavorful vegetables that came into their own when grilled: peppers, red onions, and zucchini.

If you can't find sirloin steak tips, sometimes labeled "flap meat," substitute 2 pounds of blade steak (if using, cut each steak in half to remove the gristle). You will need six 12-inch metal skewers for this recipe. If you have long, thin pieces of meat, roll or fold them into approximate 2-inch cubes before skewering.

GRILLED BEEF KEBABS WITH LEMON AND ROSEMARY MARINADE

Servings: 4-6
Start to finish: 1 hour and 15 minutes, plus 1 hour to marinate

Marinade

1 onion, chopped
1/3 cup beef broth
1/3 cup extra-virgin olive oil
3 tablespoons tomato paste
6 garlic cloves, chopped
2 tablespoons chopped fresh rosemary
2 teaspoons grated lemon zest
2 teaspoons salt
1 1/2 teaspoons sugar
3/4 teaspoon pepper

Beef and Vegetables

1 1/2 pounds sirloin steak tips, trimmed and cut into 2-inch pieces
2 zucchini or yellow summer squash, halved

lengthwise and sliced 1 inch thick
2 red or green bell peppers, stemmed, seeded, and cut into 1 1/2-inch pieces
2 red onions, cut into 1-inch pieces, 3 layers thick

For the marinade process all ingredients in blender until smooth, about 45 seconds, scraping down sides of blender jar as needed. Transfer 3/4 cup marinade to large bowl and set aside.

For the beef and vegetables place remaining marinade and beef in 1-gallon zipper-lock bag and toss to coat. Press out as much air as possible and seal bag. Refrigerate for at least 1 hour or up to 2 hours, flipping bag every 30 minutes.

Add zucchini, bell peppers, and onions to bowl with reserved marinade and toss to coat. Cover and let sit at room temperature for at least 30 minutes.

Remove beef from bag and pat dry with paper towels. Thread beef tightly onto two 12-inch metal skewers. In alternating pattern of zucchini, bell pepper, and onion, thread vegetables onto four 12-inch metal skewers.

— For a charcoal grill: Open bottom vent completely. Light large chimney starter mounded with charcoal briquettes (7 quarts). When top coals are partially covered with ash, pour evenly over center of grill, leaving 2-inch gap between grill wall and charcoal. Set cooking grate in place, cover, and open lid vent completely. Heat grill until hot, about 5 minutes.

— For a gas grill: Turn all burners to high, cover, and heat grill until hot, about 15 minutes. Leave primary burner on high and turn other burner(s) to medium-low.

Clean and oil cooking grate. Place beef skewers on grill (directly over coals if using charcoal or over hotter side of grill if using gas). Place vegetable skewers on grill (near edge of coals but still over coals if using charcoal or on cooler side of grill if using gas). Cook (covered if using gas), turning skewers every 3 to 4 minutes, until beef is well browned and registers 120 F to 125 F (for medium-rare), 12 to 16 minutes. Transfer beef skewers to serving platter, tent loosely with aluminum foil, and let rest while finishing vegetables.

Continue to cook vegetable skewers until tender and lightly charred, about 5 minutes; transfer to platter. Using tongs, slide beef and vegetables off skewers onto platter. Serve.

Nutrition information per serving: 260 calories; 110 calories from fat; 12 g fat (3 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 67 mg cholesterol; 462 mg sodium; 11 g carbohydrate; 2 g fiber; 6 g sugar; 26 g protein.

A new twist on grilled potatoes, thanks to rosemary, garlic

By AMERICA'S TEST KITCHEN

Grilled potatoes are a summer classic. We wanted to put a new spin on this dish by adding rosemary and garlic.

Unfortunately, we found it was difficult to add enough flavor to plain grilled potatoes. Coating the potatoes with oil, garlic, and rosemary produced burnt, bitter garlic and charred rosemary.

It turned out that we needed to introduce the potatoes to the garlic-oil mixture not once, but three times. Before cooking, we pierced the potatoes, skewered them, seasoned them with salt, brushed on the garlic-rosemary oil, and pre-cooked them in the microwave.

Then, before grilling, we brushed them again with the infused oil. After grilling, we tossed them with the oil yet again. We finally had it: tender grilled potatoes infused with the smoky flavor of the grill and enlivened with the bold flavors of garlic and rosemary.

GRILLED POTATOES WITH GARLIC AND ROSEMARY

Servings: 4
Start to finish: 1 hour

This recipe allows you to grill an entree while the hot coals burn down. Once that item is done, start grilling the potatoes. This recipe works best with small potatoes that are about 1 1/2 inches in diameter. If using medium potatoes, 2 to 3 inches in diameter, cut them into quarters. If the potatoes are larger than 3 inches in diameter, cut each potato into eighths. Since the potatoes are first cooked in the microwave, use wooden skewers.

1/4 cup olive oil
9 garlic cloves, minced
1 teaspoon chopped fresh rosemary

Salt and pepper
2 pounds small red potatoes, unpeeled, halved, and threaded onto wooden skewers

2 tablespoons chopped fresh chives

Heat oil, garlic, rosemary, and 1/2 teaspoon salt in 8-inch skillet over medium heat until sizzling, about 3 minutes. Reduce heat to

medium-low and continue to cook until garlic is light blond, about 3 minutes. Pour mixture through fine-mesh strainer into small bowl; press on solids. Measure 1 tablespoon solids and 1 tablespoon oil into large bowl and set aside. Discard remaining solids but reserve remaining oil.

Place skewered potatoes in single layer on large plate and poke each potato several times with skewer. Brush with 1 tablespoon strained oil and season with salt. Microwave until potatoes offer slight resistance when pierced with paring knife, about 8 minutes, turning halfway through microwaving. Transfer potatoes to baking sheet coated with 1 tablespoon strained oil. Brush with remaining 1 tablespoon strained oil and season with salt and pepper to taste.

— For a charcoal grill: Open bottom vent completely. Light large chimney starter filled with charcoal briquettes (6 quarts). When top coals are partially covered with ash, pour two-thirds evenly over half of grill, then pour remaining coals over other half of grill. Set cooking grate in place, cover, and open lid vent completely. Heat grill until hot, about 5 minutes.

— For a gas grill: Turn all burners to high, cover, and heat grill until hot, about 15 minutes. Turn all burners to medium-high.

Clean and oil cooking grate. Place potatoes on grill (on hotter side if using charcoal) and cook (covered if using gas) until grill marks appear, 3 to 5 minutes, flipping halfway through cooking. Move potatoes to cooler side of grill (if using charcoal) or turn all burners to medium-low (if using gas). Cover and continue to cook until paring knife slips in and out of potatoes easily, 5 to 8 minutes longer.

Remove potatoes from skewers and transfer to bowl with reserved garlic-oil mixture. Add chives, season with salt and pepper to taste, and toss until thoroughly coated. Serve.

Nutrition information per serving: 285 calories; 100 calories from fat; 11 g fat (2 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 0 mg cholesterol; 171 mg sodium; 41 g carbohydrate; 4 g fiber; 3 g sugar; 5 g protein.



This undated photo provided by America's Test Kitchen in May 2018 shows grilled potatoes with garlic and rosemary in Brookline, Mass.

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COOKING ON A DEADLINE

A BLT showcases dueling dynamics

BY KATIE WORKMAN
Associated Press

As summer nears and the promise of perfect tomatoes peeks up over the horizon, the prospect of an excellent BLT shines brightly. What is interesting to me about a BLT is the dueling dynamics of how the ingredients join together in this sandwich.

On the one hand, the bread, bacon, lettuce and tomatoes all become one better-than-the-sum-of-its-parts whole. On the other hand, the ingredients still manage to remain distinct. You're aware of the crisp-tender bread, the juicy lush tomatoes, the crunchy lettuce, the salty frizzled-up bacon and the mayonnaise pulling the components together. *E pluribus unum.*

I've ratcheted up the classic BLT a notch or two here by adding tarragon to the mayo, not only inside the sandwich but also on the outside of the bread before it's griddled, to give extra flavor and caramelizing.

What makes it a California BLT is the addition of avocado and sprouts.

Buy good bacon. Use good mayo. Find a great tomato. Make sure your avocado is ripe. After that, all you have to do is assemble, and you will have a fantastic sandwich.

CALIFORNIA BLT'S

Servings: 4 sandwiches
Start to finish: 25 minutes



This October 2017 photo shows a California BLT in New York.

<p>8 slices thick-cut bacon, halved crosswise 1/2 cup mayonnaise 2 teaspoons minced tarragon 2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper to taste 8 slices good bread, country white, sourdough, multigrain, your choice 1/2 teaspoon finely minced garlic 1 large tomato, sliced 1 avocado, peeled, pit removed, and sliced</p>	<p>4 slices romaine heart lettuce, sliced crosswise 1/3 cup sprouts, such as broccoli sprouts</p> <p>Preheat the oven to 400 F, and place a wire cooling rack in a rimmed baking sheet.</p> <p>Lay the bacon on the wire rack and bake for 15 to 20 minutes, until crisp (the bacon will crisp up a bit more as it cools, so take it out when it still has some pliability).</p> <p>Meanwhile, in a small bowl, combine the mayonnaise, tar-</p>	<p>ragon, lemon juice, and salt and pepper. Spread a thin layer of the mayonnaise mixture on one side of each of the slices of bread. (You should use less than half the mayo mixture). Heat a large skillet over medium heat. Place as many of the bread slices in the skillet as will fit, mayo side down. Allow to cook until very lightly brown, about 2 minutes, then remove from the skillet and repeat with the remaining slices. Set aside.</p> <p>Stir the minced garlic into the rest of the mayo mixture. Divide</p>	<p>the remaining mayo mixture over the bread slices, on the untoasted side. Layer the tomato, avocado, lettuce and a generous pinch of sprouts on top of the bread. Top with the remaining slices of bread, toasted side up. Cut in half, and serve.</p> <p><i>Nutrition information per serving: 473 calories; 229 calories from fat; 25 g fat (5 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 18 mg cholesterol; 899 mg sodium; 52 g carbohydrate; 5 g fiber; 8 g sugar; 14 g protein.</i></p>
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What the secret to making great whoopie pies? Brown sugar

By AMERICA'S TEST KITCHEN

Made up of two cookie-like chocolate cakes stuffed to the gills with fluffy marshmallow filling, the whoopie pie is a sweet indulgence.

For the cake component, we drew inspiration from devil's food cake, creaming butter with sugar, adding eggs and buttermilk for tenderness, and using all-purpose flour and baking soda for the right amount of structure.

For the chocolate flavor, we preferred the darker color and flavor that Dutch-processed cocoa provided. One-half cup of cocoa delivered a balanced flavor, especially when boosted with a splash of vanilla extract.

We tried replacing some of the granulated sugar with brown sugar, and found that it deepened flavor and added moisture. In fact, we liked the results so much we wound up using all brown sugar.

Using a 1/3-cup dry measuring cup, we portioned the batter onto two baking sheets to give the cakes plenty of room to spread. For the filling, we eschewed the traditional sugar and lard in favor of marshmallow creme, which we enriched with butter for a mixture that was fluffy yet firm. Don't be tempted to bake all the cakes on one baking sheet; the batter needs room to spread while it bakes.

WHOOPIE PIES

Makes: 6 sandwich cookies
Start to finish: 1 hour



This undated photo provided by America's Test Kitchen in May 2018 shows whoopie pies in Brookline, Mass.

<p>Cakes</p> <p>2 cups (10 ounces) all-purpose flour 1/2 cup (1 1/2 ounces) Dutch-processed cocoa powder 1 teaspoon baking soda 1/2 teaspoon salt 8 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened</p>	<p>1 cup packed (7 ounces) light brown sugar 1 large egg, room temperature 1 teaspoon vanilla extract 1 cup buttermilk</p> <p>Filling</p> <p>12 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened</p>	<p>1 1/4 cups (5 ounces) confectioners' sugar 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract 1/8 teaspoon salt 2 1/2 cups marshmallow creme</p> <p>For the cakes Adjust oven racks to upper-middle and lower-middle positions and heat oven to 350 F. Line two baking sheets with parchment</p>	<p>paper. Whisk flour, cocoa, baking soda, and salt together in bowl.</p> <p>Using stand mixer fitted with paddle, beat butter and sugar on medium speed until pale and fluffy, about 3 minutes. Add egg and beat until incorporated, scraping down bowl as needed. Add vanilla and mix until incorporated. Reduce speed to low and add flour mixture in 3 additions, alternating with buttermilk in 2 additions. Give batter final stir by hand to ensure that no flour pockets remain. Using 1/3-cup dry measuring cup, scoop 6 mounds of batter onto each prepared sheet, spaced about 3 inches apart. Bake until centers spring back when lightly pressed, 15 to 18 minutes, switching and rotating sheets halfway through baking. Let cakes cool completely on sheets.</p> <p>For the filling Using stand mixer fitted with paddle, beat butter and sugar on medium speed until fluffy, about 3 minutes. Beat in vanilla and salt. Add marshmallow creme and mix until combined, about 2 minutes. Refrigerate until slightly firm, about 30 minutes. (Filling can be refrigerated for up to 2 days.) Place 1/3 cup filling on bottom of half of cakes, then top with remaining cakes, pressing to spread filling to edge. Serve. (Whoopie pies can be refrigerated for up to 3 days.)</p> <p><i>Nutrition information per serving: 923 calories; 364 calories from fat; 41 g fat (25 g saturated; 2 g trans fats); 141 mg cholesterol; 555 mg sodium; 131 g carbohydrate; 2 g fiber; 81 g sugar; 9 g protein.</i></p>
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Obama-era license aimed to let Iran convert money in dollars

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration secretly sought to give Iran access — albeit briefly — to the U.S. financial system by sidestepping sanctions kept in place after the 2015 nuclear deal, despite repeatedly telling Congress and the public it had no plans to do so.

An investigation by Senate Republicans released Wednesday sheds light on the delicate balance the Obama administration sought to strike after the deal, as it worked to ensure Iran received its promised benefits without playing into the hands of the deal's opponents. Amid a tense political climate, Iran hawks in the U.S., Israel and elsewhere argued that the United States was giving far too much to Tehran and that the windfall would be used to fund extremism and other troubling Iranian activity.

The report by the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations revealed that under President Barack Obama, the Treasury Department issued a license in February 2016, never previously disclosed, that would have allowed Iran to convert \$5.7 billion it held at a bank in Oman from Omani rials into euros by exchanging them first into U.S. dollars. If the Omani bank had allowed the exchange without such a license, it would have violated sanctions that bar Iran from transactions that touch the U.S. financial system.

The effort was unsuccessful because American banks — themselves afraid of running afoul of U.S. sanctions — declined to participate. The Obama administration approached two U.S. banks to facilitate the conversion, the report said, but both refused, citing the reputational risk of doing business with or for Iran.

"The Obama administration misled the American people and Congress because they were desperate to get a deal with Iran," said Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, the subcommittee's chairman.

Issuing the license was not illegal. Still, it went above and beyond what the Obama administration was required to do under the terms of the nuclear agreement. Under that deal, the U.S. and world

powers gave Iran billions of dollars in sanctions relief in exchange for curbing its nuclear program. Last month, President Donald Trump declared the U.S. was pulling out of what he described as a "disastrous deal."

The license issued to Bank Muscat stood in stark contrast to repeated public statements from the Obama White House, the Treasury and the State Department, all of which denied that the administration was contemplating allowing Iran access to the U.S. financial system.

Shortly after the nuclear deal was sealed in July 2015, then-Treasury Secretary Jack Lew testified that even with the sanctions relief, Iran "will continue to be denied access to the world's largest financial and commercial market." A month later, one of Lew's top deputies, Adam Szubin, testified that despite the nuclear deal "Iran will be denied access to the world's most important market and unable to deal in the world's most important currency."

Yet almost immediately after the sanctions relief took effect in January 2016, Iran began to complain that it wasn't reaping the benefits it had envisioned. Iran argued that other sanctions — such as those linked to human rights, terrorism and missile development — were scaring off potential investors and banks who feared any business with Iran would lead to punishment. The global financial system is heavily intertwined with U.S. banks, making it nearly impossible to conduct many international transactions without touching New York in one way or another.

Former Obama administration officials declined to comment for the record.

However, they said the decision to grant the license had been made in line with the spirit of the deal, which included allowing Iran to regain access to foreign reserves that had been off-limits because of the sanctions. They said public comments made by the Obama administration at the time were intended to dispel incorrect reports about nonexistent proposals that would have gone much farther by letting Iran actually buy or sell things in dollars.



In this April 16, 2018, file photo, Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, speaks during a news conference in Cincinnati. The Obama administration secretly sought to give Iran brief access to the U.S. financial system by sidestepping sanctions kept in place after the 2015 nuclear deal, despite repeatedly telling Congress and the public it had no plans to do so.

The former officials spoke on condition of anonymity because many are still involved in national security issues.

As the Obama administration pondered how to address Iran's complaints in 2016, reports in The Associated Press and other media outlets revealed that the U.S. was considering additional sanctions relief, including issuing licenses that would allow Iran limited transactions in dollars. Democratic and Republican lawmakers argued against it throughout the late winter, spring and summer of 2016. They warned that unless Tehran was willing to give up more, the U.S. shouldn't give Iran anything more than it already had.

At the time, the Obama administration downplayed those concerns while speaking in general terms about the need for the U.S. to live up to its part of the deal. Secretary of State John Kerry and other top aides fanned out across Europe, Asia and the Middle East trying to convince banks

and businesses they could do business with Iran without violating sanctions and facing steep fines.

"Since Iran has kept its end of the deal, it is our responsibility to uphold ours, in both letter and spirit," Lew said at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in March 2016, without offering details.

That same week, the AP reported that the Treasury had prepared a draft of a license that would have given Iran much broader permission to convert its assets from foreign currencies into easier-to-spend currencies like euros, yen or rupees, by first exchanging them for dollars at offshore financial institutions.

The draft involved a general license, a blanket go-ahead that allows all transactions of a certain type, rather than a specific license like the one given to Oman's Bank Muscat, which only covers specific transactions and institutions. The proposal would have allowed dollars to be

used in currency exchanges provided that no Iranian banks, no Iranian rials and no sanctioned Iranian individuals or businesses were involved, and that the transaction did not begin or end in U.S. dollars.

Obama administration officials at the time assured concerned lawmakers that a general license wouldn't be coming. But the report from the Senate panel showed that a draft of the license was indeed prepared, though it was never published.

And when questioned by lawmakers about the possibility of granting Iran any kind of access to the U.S. financial system, Obama-era officials never volunteered that the specific license for Bank Muscat in Oman had been issued two months earlier.

According to the report, Iran is believed to have found other ways to access its money, possibly by exchanging it in smaller quantities through another currency.

The situation resulted from the fact that Iran had stored billions in Omani rials, a currency that's notoriously hard to convert. The U.S. dollar is the world's dominant currency, so allowing it to be used as a conversion instrument for Iranian assets was the easiest and most efficient way to speed up Iran's access to its own funds.

For example: If the Iranians want to sell oil to India, they would likely want to be paid in euros instead of rupees, so they could more easily use the proceeds to purchase European goods. That process commonly starts with the rupees being converted into dollars, just for a moment, before being converted once again into euros.

U.S. sanctions block Iran from exchanging the money on its own. And Asian and European banks are wary because U.S. regulators have levied billions of dollars in fines in recent years and threatened transgressors with a cutoff from the far more lucrative American market.

Trustees report warns Medicare finances worsening

WASHINGTON (AP) — Medicare will run out of money sooner than expected, and Social Security's financial problems can't be ignored either, the government said Tuesday in a sobering checkup on programs vital to the middle class.

The report from program trustees says Medicare will become insolvent in 2026 — three years earlier than previously forecast. Its giant trust fund for inpatient care won't be able to fully cover projected medical bills starting at that point.

The report says Social Security will become insolvent in 2034 — no change from the projection last year.

The warning serves as a reminder of major issues still languishing while Washington plunges deeper into partisan strife. Because of the deterioration in Medicare's finances, officials said the Trump administration will be required by law to send Congress a plan next year to address the problems, after the president's budget is submitted.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said in a statement that there's time to fix the problems. "The programs remain secure," Mnuchin said. Medicare "is on track to meet its obligations to beneficiaries well into the next decade."

"However, certain long-term issues persist," the statement added. "Lack-luster economic growth in previous years, coupled with an aging population, has contributed to the projected shortages for both Social Security and Medicare."

Social Security recipients are likely to see a cost of living increase of about 2.4 percent next year, said government number-crunchers who produced the report. That works out to about \$31 a month.

At the same time, the monthly Medicare "Part B" premium for outpatient care paid by most beneficiaries is projected to rise by about \$1.50, to \$135.50.

Both the cost-of-living

increase and the Medicare outpatient premium are not officially determined until later in the year, and the initial projections can change.

More than 62 million retirees, disabled workers, spouses and surviving children receive Social Security benefits. The average monthly payment is \$1,294 for all beneficiaries. Medicare provides health insurance for about 60 million people, most of whom are age 65 or older.

Together the two programs have been credited with dramatically reducing poverty among older people and extending life expectancy for Americans. Financed with payroll taxes collected from workers and employers, Social Security and Medicare account for about 40 percent of government spending, excluding interest on the federal debt.

But demands on both programs are increasing as America ages.

Unless lawmakers act, both programs face the prospect of

being unable to cover the full cost of promised benefits. With Social Security that could mean sharply reduced payments for retirees, many of whom are already on tight budgets. The report said the total annual cost of Social Security is projected to exceed total annual income in 2018 for the first time since the Reagan era, meaning the program will have to tap into reserves.

For Medicare, insolvency would mean that hospitals, nursing homes and other providers of medical care would be paid only part of their agreed-upon fees.

Medicare is widely seen as a more difficult problem that goes beyond the growing number of baby boomers retiring. It's also the unpredictability of health care costs, which can be jolted by high-priced breakthrough cures, and which regularly outpace the overall rate of economic growth.

The Cabinet secretaries for Treasury, Health and Human Services, and Labor usually

participate in the annual release of the report, along with the Social Security commissioner, and take questions from reporters. None of those top officials was present Tuesday; an aide cited scheduling conflicts.

The four top officials serve as the Social Security and Medicare trustees, along with two independent trustees who are supposed to represent the public. The public trustees are usually more candid, but those posts remain unfilled.

President Donald Trump campaigned on a promise not to cut Social Security or Medicare, but he hasn't offered a blueprint for either program.

Democrats, meanwhile, want to extend the social safety net by spending more on health care and education. Advocates for the elderly said Tuesday there should be no cuts to Social Security benefits.

But federal deficits keep rising, and the recent Republican tax-cut bill is expected to add to the debt.

Last year's tax law, which cut taxes on Social Security benefits, helped exacerbate the shortfall. So too did repeal of the individual mandate in so-called Obamacare, which promises to increase the number of people without health insurance and therefore Medicare payments for uncompensated medical care.

Higher deficits mean less maneuvering room for policymakers when the day of reckoning finally arrives for Social Security and Medicare.

In principle, the U.S. is supposed to be paying forward its Social Security and Medicare obligations by building up trust funds to cover future costs. That money is invested in special government securities, which also collect interest. But when the money is actually needed to pay for benefits, economists say a government deep in debt could be hard pressed to make good.

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Hawaii volcano lava destroys hundreds of homes overnight

HONOLULU (AP) — Lava from Hawaii's Kilauea volcano destroyed hundreds more homes overnight, overtaking two oceanfront communities where residents were advised to evacuate last week, officials said Tuesday.

No injuries were reported as most residents heeded the advice to leave.

The latest lost homes were in addition to at least 117 others that were previously reported by officials since lava began spilling last month from cracks in the ground in a mostly rural district of the Big Island.

"We don't have an estimate yet, but safe to say that hundreds of homes were lost in Kapoho Beach Lots and Vacationland last night," Janet Snyder, a spokeswoman for Hawaii County, said Tuesday.

A morning overflight confirmed that lava had completely filled Kapoho Bay, inundated most of Vacationland and covered all but the northern part of Kapoho Beach Lots, scientists with the U.S. Geological Survey's Hawaiian Volcano Observatory said.

Despite earlier reports that lava claimed Big Island Mayor Harry Kim's second home in Vacationland, an aerial flyover confirmed his home is still standing, Snyder said.

County Managing Director Wil Okabe said his own vacation home in Kapoho Beach Lots was threatened. Okabe described the area as a mix of vacation rentals and year-round residences.

"For us it's more of a vacation area, but for those who live there permanently, they're trying to figure out where they're going to be living," he said. Kim and Okabe live in Hilo, the county's seat, which is more than an hour drive from the Kapoho area.

One shelter was full Tuesday, officials said.

Gov. David Ige signed a second supplemental emergency proclamation Tuesday that gives the county more options for shelters and sets criminal penalties for violating emergency rules, such as failing to evacuate and interfering with emergency workers.

Lava claimed Harry Pomerleau's home in Vacationland.

"It's a necessary evil. It's not our land. It belongs to Pele," he said, referring to the Hawaiian volcano goddess. "I have to imagine she knows what she's doing."

Kapoho resident Mark Johnson was coming to terms with the possibility of losing his home and 5-acre citrus farm.

"I'm really kind of at peace actually," he said. "I've had 28 years of wonderful experience down there in Kapoho."

Johnson and Pomerleau evacuated last week when authorities with bullhorns arrived at 1 a.m. saying it was time to get their things and leave.

They didn't expect the lava flow to head their way.

"God only knows what it's going to do next," Johnson said.



In this May 19, 2018 photo, lava from Kilauea volcano can be seen lighting the night sky from Kapoho resident Mark Johnson's citrus farm near Pahoehoe, Hawaii.

He wants to return if lava spares his home on a ridge overlooking the ocean. But it's unclear how long it would take to re-open access to the area, he said.

Pomerleau said all of the vacation homes he did handyman work for are gone.

Thousands of people in the Puna area had to evacuate after the first fissure opened May 3. Officials issued man-

datory orders for residents of Leilani Estates, and those in Kapoho Beach and Vacationland were advised to leave last Friday or risk being trapped and unreachable by emergency crews.

Homes in Kapoho Beach Lots and Vacationland are on smaller lots and closer together than those in other parts of the Puna district. Okabe estimated there are sev-

eral hundred homes in each of the two subdivisions.

Those who live or vacation in the area were mourning the loss of popular tide-pools where kids enjoyed swimming.

"That coastline is really important to us—a place where we spent time with our family," said Franny Brewer who lives in upper Puna.

She reminisced about taking her daughter to swim in the ocean for the first time in a local swimming spot known as Champagne Ponds.

"I've been crying a lot," she said. "It's hard because obviously a lot of people have lost a lot more than just a beautiful place to visit and memories."

Spade remembered as vibrant and colorful, like her creations

NEW YORK (AP) — Bright. Vibrant. Colorful. And, most essentially, fun.

The same words used so often to describe Kate Spade's enormously popular handbags — "It" bags that were both aspirational and affordable — were an apt description of the woman herself, say many in the fashion world. And that only contributed to the sense of shock and loss in the industry upon hearing the news Tuesday that Spade had apparently taken her own life at 55.

"She was always just as happy and delightful as her collection was," said Fern Mallis, industry consultant and former director of the Council of Fashion Designers of America during Spade's rise to success in the 1990s. "She was every bit the representation of that brand, and the fun of it all."

Indeed, Spade had said it herself: "I hope that people remember me not just as a good businesswoman," she told Glamour magazine in 2002, "but as a great friend — and a heck of a lot of fun." Spade was found hanged in the bedroom of her Park Avenue apartment Tuesday morning in an apparent suicide, law enforcement officials said.

Spade liked to say that she wasn't obsessed with fashion, or interested in trends. She tried jeans, for example, decided they didn't look good on her, and moved on. "I grew up in the Midwest, where you have to have (a fashion item) because you like it, not because you're supposed to have it," she told The AP in 2004. "It's an adornment, not an obses-

sion."

And a Kate Spade bag was an adornment that was, crucially, affordable, unlike other iterations of "It" bags whose status seemed to hinge on the price tag. "It was a real shift," Mallis said. "Everybody had Kate Spade bags. You could afford them, and happily buy more than one. They were affordable AND terrific AND fabulous."

Having a Spade bag "was a sign that you were in the know," said Eric Wilson, fashion news director at InStyle. "You associated yourself with this fun, cool, with-it, hip brand that wasn't snobbish or so exclusive that it felt like a European luxury brand."

And the bags seemed to effortlessly appeal to a variety of women. "She had a quirky visual language that captivated Bat Mitzvah girls and artists alike," wrote actress Lena Dunham on Twitter. "She was also a staple of NYC who spread goodwill."

Born Katherine Brosnahan, Spade grew up in Kansas City, Missouri. She was working as an accessories editor at Mademoiselle magazine when she launched her company with husband Andy in their New York apartment in 1993, based on six shapes of bags she thought every working woman needed. She called them her "stepping stones" — and said years later that they were still her favorites.

As her brand expanded, "the fun, colorful, bright designs she created added an element of cheerfulness others have tried to emulate," said Deidra Arrington, associate



A woman carries her Kate Spade shopping bag outside the fashion designer's Madison Avenue store, Tuesday, June 5, 2018, in New York.

professor of fashion design and merchandising at Virginia Commonwealth University. "She was a visionary." One obvious measure of her influence was the number of counterfeit Kate Spade bags one could find on the streets, Arrington said. "Most women remember their first Kate Spade bag. I still have mine."

Indeed, on social media, many women were recalling their first Spade bag. "My grandmother gave me my first Kate Spade bag when I was in college," Chelsea

Clinton wrote on Twitter. "I still have it." Jenna Bush Hager wrote: "I will never forget the first Kate Spade bag I got for Christmas in college."

Spade was not only about bags: she would expand into shoes, apparel, luggage and other accessories, and stationery. "Everyone loves to get a letter," Spade told the AP in 2006, explaining that she never used computers and had her staff print out emails. "I love sending them. I love getting them."

Spade, who won multiple CFDA awards and was named a "giant of design" by House Beautiful magazine, walked away from her company in 2007, a year after it was acquired from the Neiman Marcus Group for \$125 million by the company then known as Liz Claiborne Inc.

Coach, now known as Tapestry, bought the Kate Spade brand last year for \$2.4 billion. Spade and her husband — who is the brother of comedian David Spade — started a new handbag

company recently, Frances Valentine.

Wilson, of InStyle, recalled often finding her in her store, helping shoppers. "Often I would walk in and I'd see her there serving customers, not telling them 'I'm Kate Spade' or 'Kate Valentine, her other alias, but just helping people,'" he said. "I found her to be just down to earth, a normal mom, talking about the trials and tribulations of raising a child and life in the city."

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North Korean military may benefit from Kim's charm offensive

TOKYO (AP) — While raising hopes for denuclearization and a peace treaty to finally end the Korean War, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's newly found focus on diplomacy comes with an ironic flip-side: It could be a godsend for his generals.

Kim's thinking on how his military fits in to his plans to foster detente on the Korean Peninsula and negotiate security guarantees from Washington may become clearer when he sits down with President Donald Trump next week in Singapore.

But one thing is already clear. Kim cannot survive without his loyal troops. Whatever grand strategy he has in mind will strongly reflect their interests — and that includes the ability to make lots of money.

Along with the nuclear bombs and intercontinental ballistic missiles that have gotten the world's attention, the Korean People's Army is deeply involved in everything from raising mushrooms and apples to running its national airline and selling the country's mineral resources abroad.

So they stand to benefit greatly if Kim succeeds in depleting support for sanctions by negotiating with Trump and the North's affluent neighbors.

Rivalled only by the ruling party itself, with which it is carefully intertwined, the military is the biggest and most formidable organization in North Korea. It consumes roughly one-third of the country's annual budget and employs 1 million-plus personnel, making its standing army one of the world's largest despite the North's small population of less than 25 million.

From the reign of Kim's father, one of North Korea's most important slogans has been "Military First." And since he took power, Kim has set his sights on simultaneously developing the nation's nuclear forces and its economy. His current diplomatic overtures to China, Seoul and Washington are based on his claim, laid out to party elites in April, to have already "completed" the development of his nuclear arsenal.

With the nuclear development mission accomplished, his argument goes, it's time to adopt a "new strategic line" that emphasizes the economy and the strategic use of diplomacy.

That should not be seen as a move against his military.

Just as shifts in the economy since Kim assumed power in late 2011 have created a growing income gap in the civilian sector, so have they contributed to growing disparity within the military ranks, suggests William Brown, an adjunct professor at Georgetown University and former analyst with the U.S. State Department and CIA.

"Some units and some soldiers are making good money doing construction work and others are making essentially nothing doing their foxhole duty. Same for the officers," he said. "Some are coming out of their 10-year tour of duty with marketable skills, like driving and fixing taxis, and others with no skills at all."

Brown said that, in the long run, diplomatic success could free Kim to cut costs by reducing the military's bloated ranks. But he stressed that for now "keeping soldiers happy when others seem to be getting



In this Aug. 14, 2017, file photo distributed by the North Korean government, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un acknowledges a welcome from the military officers during his visit to Korean People's Army's Strategic Forces in North Korea. Independent journalists were not given access to cover the event depicted in this image.

rich is of paramount importance."

"I get the sense that Kim is getting ready for another massive state wage increase to make state workers, including the military, a little more happy," he said.

The military's involvement in such a wide variety of side-businesses also means it is in its interest to see an increase in trade well beyond sales of nuclear technology or missile parts that will likely remain the target of international non-proliferation watchdogs no matter how well Kim's talks go.

"They own a large num-

ber of enterprises, and their share in the mining sector is probably one of the largest. So they've definitely lost out as sanctions have made North Korean coal and mineral exports plunge," said Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein, an associate scholar with the non-profit Foreign Policy Research Institute.

Silberstein added that the most important role of the military in the economy is its ability to readily provide manpower where needed, doing construction and road repair work, helping out with the harvest and working in the mines.

"That role is hard to quantify," he said, "but it is likely massive."

Unconfirmed reports this week out of Seoul and Washington that Kim recently replaced his top three military officials could suggest he is already trying to ensure the military is properly positioned to handle more foreign investment and to toe his new line without being lured by an influx of money into corruption or insubordination.

Symbolic of the military's dual role, one of the three new generals, Kim Su Gil, was at Kim's side during a recent trip to the Won-

san-Kalma tourism zone, a massive development project along the east coast that Pyongyang hopes will become a major attraction for South Korean visitors if sanctions are lifted.

The area, crawling with troops known as "soldier-builders" erecting luxury hotels and paving new roads, was popular with South Korean visitors during a previous period of detente.

Its popularity ended abruptly when a North Korean soldier fatally shot a South Korean woman who strayed into a restricted area.

'Nobody is left': Guatemala volcano ravaged entire families

ESCUINTLA, Guatemala (AP) — Lilian Hernandez wept as she spoke the names of aunts, uncles, cousins, her grandmother and two great-grandchildren — 36 family members in all — missing and presumed dead in the explosion of Guatemala's Volcano of Fire.

"My cousins Ingrid, Yomira, Paola, Jennifer, Michael, Andrea and Silvia, who was just 2-years-old," the distraught woman said — a litany that brought into sharp relief the scope of a disaster for which the final death toll is far from clear.

What was once a collection of verdant canyons, hillsides and farms resembled a moonscape of ash, rock and debris on Tuesday in the aftermath of the fast-moving avalanche of super-heated muck that roared into the tightly knit villages on the mountain's flanks, devastating entire families.

Two days after the eruption, the terrain was still too hot in many places for rescue crews to search for bodies or — increasingly unlikely with each passing day — survivors.

By afternoon a new column of smoke was rising from the mountain and Guatemala's disaster agency said volcanic material was descending its south side, prompting an evacuation order and the closure of a near-

by national highway. Rescuers, police and journalists hurried to leave the area as a siren wailed and loudspeakers blared. "Evacuate!"

The new evacuation order set off a panic even in areas that were not under it. Dozens of people could be seen walking down roadsides carrying children or a few belongings beside paralyzed traffic in parts of Escuintla township south of the volcano.

A lucky few, like retiree Pantaleon Garcia, was able to load his grandchildren into the back of a pickup with a jug of water and some food, to go to stay with relatives in another town.

"You have to be prepared, for the children," he said.

Even in more distant central Escuintla, which hosts most of the shelters for those evacuated from other areas, businesses were closed as people left.

On Sunday, when the volcano exploded in a massive cloud of ash and molten rock, Hernandez said her brother and sister ran to check on their 70-year-old grandmother on the family's plot of land in the village of San Miguel Los Lotes.

"She said that it was God's will, she was not going to flee," Hernandez said. "She was unable to walk. It was hard for her to get around."

Her brother and sister made it to safety, but their

grandmother has not been seen again.

Hernandez and her husband, Francisco Ortiz, survived because they moved out of Los Lotes just two months ago to begin a new life on a small plot of land.

The couple has been staying at a Mormon church in the nearby city of Escuintla and going to a morgue there to await news. So far only the body of one relative, her 28-year-old cousin, Cesar Gudiel Escalante, has been recovered and identified.

"The people ended up buried in nearly 3 meters of lava," Ortiz said. "Nobody is left there."

Other families experienced similar tragedies.

As President Jimmy Morales toured the area and met with survivors on Monday, a woman begged him to help her loved ones in Los Lotes.

"Mr. President, my family is missing. Send a helicopter to throw water over them because they are burning," she said. "I have three children, a grandchild, and all my brothers, my mother, all my family are there. ... More than 20 have disappeared."

The fast-moving flows with temperatures as high as 1,300 degrees Fahrenheit (700 Celsius) and hot ash and volcanic gases that can cause rapid asphyxiation caught many off guard.

On Tuesday, it was clear

that the official death toll was sure to climb and fears spread that anyone still stuck in the buried houses was dead and would remain entombed there.

Guatemala's National Institute of Forensic Sciences raised the death toll Tuesday evening to 75. The institute said that 23 of those recovered bodies had been identified.

Sergio Cabanas, director of the disaster agency, said Tuesday night at a news conference that 192 people were listed as missing. He said it was not immediately clear if some of those could be among the unidentified bodies.

Officials are cross-checking census data with aerial photos of homes, registers of people in shelters and lists of the missing and injured, Cabanas said. The only thing they did not yet have was information on the unidentified bodies, but would be adding that as it became available, he said.

At a roadblock, Joel Gonzalez complained that police wouldn't let him through to see his family's house in the village of San Juan Alotenango, where his 76-year-old father lay buried in ash along with four other relatives.

"They say they are going to leave them buried there, and we are not going to know if it's really them," the 39-year-

old farmer said. "They are taking away our opportunity to say goodbye."

A spokesman for Guatemala's firefighters said that once it reaches 72 hours after the eruption, there will be little chance of finding anyone alive.

"We don't rule out the possibility of some person alive, but the condition in which the homes are makes that possibility pretty unlikely," said the spokesman, Julio Sanchez, adding that some of the ash was still at temperatures between 750 and 1,300 degrees Fahrenheit (400 and 700 degrees Celsius).

In the devastated town of El Rodeo, gray soot coated trees and homes and an ash-covered deer lay dead in the debris. Rescuers wearing hard hats, masks and goggles used shovels to dig through homes, unearthing at least one body burned beyond recognition.

Amid the destruction, there was one glimmer of hope: The rescue of a black-and-white dog found alive in a home where four people lay dead.

"He is called Rambo," said volunteer firefighter Sergio Vazquez, who carried the dog on his shoulders to safety. "It may be that this dog no longer has a family."

Vazquez had no explanation for how the dog survived while the people died.

Sanchez, the Conred spokesman, said many dogs and cats had been rescued with burns on their paws from the mud and ash, some blinded from the volcanic gases.

"Animals have a different sort of resistance ... and different behavior when it comes to finding refuge," Sanchez said.

Only 17 of the bodies recovered so far have been identified due to the extreme heat that charred their features and burned off fingerprints, and authorities hope other means such as DNA testing can help.

Authorities say at least 46 people were injured in the eruption, and 12 shelters were housing 1,877 people.

The Guatemalan military said a U.S. Air Force plane was flying in Tuesday to take about a half-dozen children who suffered burns for treatment in Galveston, Texas.

Lacking electricity in the hardest hit areas, emergency crews were carrying out rescue efforts during daylight hours and calling them off for safety reasons when darkness fell.

As dawn broke Tuesday, the volcano continued to rattle with what Guatemala's Volcanology Institute said were eight to 10 moderate eruptions per hour — vastly less intense than Sunday's big blasts.



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Ditching diets is essential to overcoming eating disorders

Eating disorders affect at least 30 million Americans and have the highest mortality rates of any mental disorder. Those who survive eating disorders often have a long, difficult journey ahead of them.

Eating disorders are classified as mental illnesses characterized by severe disruptions in eating behaviors. In our diet-focused culture, many people may not realize that eating disorders still take a huge toll.

As someone who has conducted extensive research and writing in the field of eating disorder recovery, and who has ongoing personal experience in eating disorder recovery, I have found that although full recovery from an eating disorder is possible, it can take time and often requires much action. There can be many causes of eating disorders, including genetics, personality, trauma, or often a combination of causes. But by the time a person gets diagnosed by a doctor or therapist, the immediate causes are less relevant than how to recover. Consistent healthy habits are helpful in the recovery process.

Ditch the dietThe most important action that a person can take to recover from eating disorders is to stop dieting. Weight loss dieting is the number one cause of eating disorders, binge eating, body dissatisfaction and low self-esteem. In contrast, weight-neutral self-care approaches – that is, focusing on maintaining one's current weight – have been found to assist in eating disorder recovery.

But ditching the diet is only the first step. It is necessary to investigate

and address factors that maintain eating disorders.

Let go of safety behaviorsMany people in partial recovery from eating disorders still rely on behaviors that help them feel safe, or less anxious, about their weight or appearance. These so-called safety behaviors can vary but might include monitoring food intake, monitoring weight, double-checking nutritional values, being very careful about food ingredients, and avoiding eating in social situations.

The short-term anxiety-reducing benefits of safety behaviors are part of what makes them so hard to eliminate. Unfortunately, safety behaviors create a distraction and leave the eating disorder itself unchallenged.

In order to stop engaging in the safety behaviors that serve to maintain eating disorders, it is important to find alternate ways of thinking and acting around food, eating, body and weight. Strategies to reach full eating disorder recovery include letting go of safety behaviors and engaging in more self-trust and self-care.

Self-weighing is a safety behavior that maintains the overvaluation of weight, which is part of the American Psychiatric Association's definition of eating disorders. Continued concern with weight or shape at the end of treatment has been found to be a strong predictor of relapse back into an eating disorder. A powerful strategy to reduce overvaluation of weight is to consider a personal 30-day "no weigh" experiment.

Other safety behaviors that aim at gaining information about one's shape



Catherine Gillespie

or size – such as mirror checking, pinching the fat on one's torso, feeling muscles or bone, engaging in social size comparison, and seeking reassurance from others about one's body – all have to be considered for elimination. Each one of these examples can be a safety behavior that serves to maintain undue concern with one's weight and shape, and in turn, keeps the eating disorder alive.

Practice self-trustPracticing self-trust around eating means giving oneself unconditional permission to eat when hungry, whatever foods are desired, in the amount desired. Research has shown that unconditional permission to eat is the exact opposite of an eating disorder. It can be anxiety-producing to give oneself unconditional permission to eat, but it turns out that any kind of food rules, including limits on when, what and how much to eat, led research participants to be more preoccupied with food. Food rules prompted participants to have a much higher tendency to overindulge, especially when they broke one of their food rules. On the other hand, research participants who allowed themselves to eat when hungry and to choose foods and amounts they desired had a lower tendency to overindulge or



Metro

Overcoming body image issues and finding a stable nutrition plan are important steps for those struggling with eating disorders.

engage in binge eating.

Trusting one's body to direct eating choices is one aspect of self-trust. Self-trust also extends to many other self-care practices.

Engage in self-careA person's individual relationship with their own body is the "doorway to pathology", meaning if that relationship is not a positive one, a person is at risk of developing an eating disorder. In order to fully recover from an eating disorder, this doorway must be filled with positive self-care practices. People in recovery can learn to engage in self-care practices that do not contain any elements of self-harm.

Overindulgence in food contains both elements of self-care and self-harm. Self-care involves tuning in and listening to body signals and responding in helpful ways. For instance, being "tired" could elicit telling yourself to "rest a bit" or "turn off the light and go to sleep now." The feeling of being "very uncomfortable" could signal it's "time to change this situation," and the feeling of being "overwhelmed" could mean it's "time to take a break" or "time to make a list," depending on the situation.

These responses are all dependent on the assumption of self-trust. One has

to trust that the body does not lie. Our bodies tell us what we need to know and responding to their messages can help us to fully recover from eating disorders

Take some risksIt can feel scary to let go of safety behaviors and to replace them with self-care based on self-trust. Change is inherently risky. But for positive change to occur, it is necessary to take some risks. And it is worth it, because full recovery involves more than just letting go of eating disorder and safety behaviors. It also involves feeling better about oneself.

Research participants who had reached full eating disorder recovery had positive self-concepts. Those who were fully recovered from eating disorders showed higher levels of self-esteem, self-efficacy, or a person's belief in his or her ability to succeed at a task, and self-directedness than those who were not in recovery or those who were in partial recovery. Another research study showed that the more positive ways that participants were able to think about themselves, the less likely they were to drop out of eating disorder treatment.

Taking risks to trust one's body and to engage in responsive self-care are almost guaranteed to lead to an improved self-concept. Taking these risks can be anxiety-producing in the short run but worth it, to reach full eating disorder recovery.

– Catherine Gillespie is Associate Dean of the School of Education at Drake University.

ICE agents X-raying migrants isn't just illegal, it's a misuse of science

A teenager's father is murdered in Somalia, and the boy travels to the United States seeking asylum. Another teen's father and brother are murdered by extremist groups in Afghanistan and he too makes his way to the U.S. to seek asylum. Since both are minors, federal law decrees that they must be held separately from adults under the oversight of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR).

However, in these two cases, and an unknown number of others, these minors were taken in handcuffs by Immigration and Customs Enforcement and held in adult detention facilities. The reason? In the absence of other information that could corroborate the teens' self-reported ages, analysis of their dental X-rays revealed that both could be adults.

Lawyers for these two teens sued on the grounds that sole reliance on X-rays for age determination is illegal, and several federal judges agreed.

As a forensic anthropologist, I support these judicial decisions. My work can include estimating the ages of deceased persons using X-rays of bones and teeth, and I'm intimately familiar with the limitations of how specific these techniques can be. In my field, we generate an age range alongside several

caveats; it's irresponsible for ICE to rely solely on X-rays to provide a definitive answer in determining if a person is a minor or an adult.

What can bones and teeth tell us?Forensic anthropologists study the hard tissues of the human body, which includes bones and teeth. I'm typically charged with estimating biological characteristics of deceased persons, including how old a person was when they died.

For children and teenagers, such an analysis can be carried out by examining X-rays. Growth and development are predictable processes, and milestones occur in a particular order. This is the reason that a tooth such as the first adult molar is also known as the "six-year molar," because it generally erupts in everyone around age 6, give or take.

The analysis proceeds the same way whether we're examining the X-rays of a living or deceased person. Essentially, we compare the stage of growth shown in the X-ray to existing growth charts from children and teenagers of known ages.

The crucial point is that it's not possible to make a definitive, single age determination from X-rays or examination of bones or teeth. A variety of factors affect how well chronolog-



Elizabeth DiGangi

ical age corresponds with biological age; that is, the amount of time since birth doesn't necessarily correlate to the exact same stage of growth in every child or teenager.

Lots of things can influence how well biological and chronological age line up, including nutrition, environmental exposure to disease-causing germs and viruses (and their level of virulence), whether the person has been vaccinated against preventable diseases, body weight, hormones and genetics, among many others.

While these factors differ between individuals, they also differ broadly between populations of people – for instance, as a group, Americans likely develop at a different rate than sub-Saharan Africans.

Many of the studies relied upon to make age estimations are based on populations not representative of the individuals to whom they're being applied. Therefore, a certain amount of error can be

expected in the final age estimation. What's more, this error is immeasurable. Without scientific studies on growth that are specific to each population, we don't know if on average, Population A ages six months, one year or two years faster or slower than Population B. And while many methods are bolstered by a statistical likelihood, this is not the same thing as being certain. We can never be 100 percent sure.

Estimation ranges versus exact agesOf course, the amount of time since birth is the legally important age. But because a disparity exists, forensic anthropologists refer to the results of the scientific methods we use as "age estimation." The estimation will never be a pinpointed exact age, because of the variation that exists between individuals and between populations of people.

Therefore, forensic anthropologists report age estimations as a range. For example, rather than saying someone is 17 years and 8 months old, our estimation may be that she is between 17 and 20 years old.

Sometimes, the estimated age range might include ages below and above 18. Take the development of the wisdom tooth, something we often

look at when estimating age of older teenagers and young adults. But the development of this tooth is extremely variable, ranging from never developing at all to erupting anywhere from the mid-teens to early 20s. In such cases, how would a final decision of adult or minor status be made?

Federal law dictates that X-rays in cases where adult age is not obvious be used only in concert with other methods, such as verification of documentation and interviews. This makes sense because X-rays only provide orienting information rather than a definitive answer.

The recent court cases demonstrate that ICE has broken the law by exclusively relying on X-rays for age determination, ruling that the teens be released back into ORR's custody as minors. Are these cases isolated or illustrative of a bigger problem? A 2008 report by the Office of Homeland Security found that it was not only unclear how often ICE needed to resort to X-rays to assist with age determination, but unknown how common it was for them to rely solely on X-ray results. Without accurate numbers, there is no way to know how widespread the practice is or how to improve the process.

The stakes are high.

Children – especially unaccompanied ones – are especially vulnerable. For this reason, the 1997 Flores Settlement Agreement, which ICE is bound by, stipulates that migrant minors be kept separate from unrelated adults.

Given recent news that ORR doesn't know the whereabouts of almost 1,500 children it placed, many people have lost confidence in these agencies to do the right or moral thing regarding migrants. If ORR can't keep track of children under its care, can ICE be trusted to lawfully treat people whose ages are uncertain?

In this situation, the law is consistent with the science. And as a scientist, I am obligated to ensure my interpretations are not used irresponsibly in a way that could cause harm. Citizens, scientists and government officials alike should ensure that refugees and migrants are treated fairly, with the dignity and respect they deserve, and in a way consistent with how we would expect to be treated. Making age determinations based on X-rays alone is not in line with that goal and can have serious punitive consequences for young migrants.

– Elizabeth A. DiGangi is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Binghamton University, State University of New York.

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Trump, his lawyers cite expansive view of executive power

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump claimed he has an "absolute right" to pardon himself, part of an extraordinarily expansive vision of executive authority that is mostly untested in court and portends a drawn-out fight with the prosecutors now investigating him.

No need of a pardon anyway, Trump tweeted Monday, because "I have done nothing wrong."

In fact, his lawyers assert in a memo to special counsel Robert Mueller, it's impossible for him to have done anything wrong in the area of obstructing justice, an issue Mueller has been investigating. That's because, as the country's chief law enforcement officer, Trump himself has ultimate control of the Justice Department and executive branch.

Beyond that, his lawyers have repeatedly insisted that it's beyond dispute that a sitting president cannot be criminally prosecuted.

The legal maneuvering comes as Trump tries repeatedly to undercut the investigation. On Monday, the president tweeted that the appointment of a special counsel was "totally UNCONSTITUTIONAL." On Tuesday, he called it the "Russian Witch Hunt Hoax" and blamed Attorney Jeff Sessions for allowing it to continue.

"I would have quickly

picked someone else" to lead the Justice Department, Trump tweeted of Sessions, who recused himself from the probe last year following reports of his meeting with the Russian ambassador.

Mueller's investigation is moving forward nonetheless, and as it does courts may have to confront questions with minimal if any historical precedent. Those include whether a president can be forced to answer questions from prosecutors, whether it's possible for a commander in chief to criminally interfere in investigations and whether a president's broad pardon power can be deployed for corrupt purposes.

"There's a reason they're untested. It's because they were unthinkable," said Savannah Law School professor Andrew Wright, who served in the White House counsel's office under President Barack Obama. "The president's game here in part is to take issues that are so beyond the pale that they have never been tested and say, 'Look, there's no authority here on point.'"

Mueller is investigating whether Trump associates coordinated with Russia during the 2016 presidential election and whether Trump took steps to shut down that investigation through actions including the firing of FBI Director James Comey.

Though Trump insists

he did nothing wrong, the statements from him and his lawyers, including the just-disclosed January memo to Mueller, make clear that much of their defense revolves around establishing that he was constitutionally empowered to take the actions he took.

The defense argument suggests that protocols meant to protect against abuses of power are merely norms the American public has come to expect, rather than laws binding on a president.

In Trump's view, for instance, he is entitled to fire an FBI director — Comey or any other — for any reason. He can similarly terminate an FBI investigation given the constitutional powers he enjoys, the president's lawyers say. That argument may help ward off allegations from Comey that the president shutting down an FBI investigation into former White House national security adviser Michael Flynn.

There is logic to the argument that Trump couldn't have obstructed justice by firing Comey, even if the questions haven't been fully resolved, said Josh Blackman, a professor at South Texas College of Law.

"If you're trying to apply the obstruction statutes to something the president has the power to do, then I don't think the statute applies," he

added.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders, who was questioned repeatedly Monday about whether the president is above the law, said no, he is not.

But Blackman said that was overly simplistic, that the better question is how the law applies to the president.

"It's a great slogan, but the law doesn't treat the president equal in all respects," Blackman said. "There are certain things the president can do that no one else can do," such as granting pardons and negotiating international treaties.

There's some historical precedent for a court clash that could be instigated by the Trump investigation, but in many ways the arguments remain unsettled.

The Supreme Court, for instance, has never definitively ruled on the question of whether a president can be forced to testify, though the justices in 1974 did rule that Richard Nixon had to produce recordings and documents that had been subpoenaed.

Bill Clinton was subpoenaed in 1998 to appear before the Whitewater grand jury, though that subpoena was withdrawn after Clinton struck a deal to give testimony. The agreement headed off a potential challenge to the subpoena on constitutional grounds.

In a 1997 ruling allowing Paula Jones' sexual harassment lawsuit against Clinton to go forward, Justice John Paul Stevens wrote: "We have made clear that in a criminal case the powerful interest in the 'fair administration of criminal justice' requires that the evidence be given under appropriate circumstances lest the 'very integrity of the judicial system' be eroded."

He also said that presidents have given testimony and produced documents often enough that "such interactions ... can scarcely be thought a novelty."

Though Mueller has raised the prospect of subpoenaing Trump if he rejects a voluntary interview, it's not clear he'll actually do so. Such a move could theoretically end in a court defeat for Mueller, and would almost certainly prolong the investigation.

The past several days have also spurred arguments about the scope of the president's pardon power.

Trump has already proved willing to break from protocol through granting pardons outside the Justice Department's pardon attorney, which historically reviews clemency petitions and makes recommendations on worthy candidates.

On his own, he has recently pardoned conservative Barack Obama critic Dinesh D'Souza, who had pleaded

guilty to campaign finance fraud, and former Bush administration White House aide I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby. And Trump said he was contemplating clemency for Martha Stewart and former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich, among "lots" of other people.

A 1974 opinion from the Justice Department's Office of Legal Opinion maintains that presidents cannot pardon themselves "under the fundamental rule that no one may be a judge in his own case," though that question has never been tested before the country's highest court. The opinion does say that if a president were to declare himself temporarily unable to remain in office, the vice president could take over as acting president and pardon the president.

In the end, the Mueller investigation raises significant questions about how to balance a president's right to manage the executive branch as he believes with the public interest that he be subject to the law.

"Their argument has antecedents that are legitimate about the president's management of the executive branch," said Wright, who also served as a lawyer for former Vice President Al Gore. "But they're taking them well past their logical extremes."

Mueller's team accuses Manafort of witness tampering

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort made several attempts to tamper with witnesses in his ongoing criminal case, prosecutors said as they asked a federal judge to consider jailing him while he awaits trial.

In a court filing, prosecutors working for special counsel Robert Mueller wrote that Manafort and one of his associates "repeatedly" contacted two witnesses in an effort to influence their testimony. The contacts occurred earlier this year, shortly after a grand jury returned a new indictment against Manafort and while he was confined to his home.

The filing marks the second time that Mueller's team has accused Manafort of violating a judge's order in the case. Late last year, federal agents discovered that Manafort was attempting to ghostwrite an opinion piece in Ukraine even though he was under a gag order in the case.

On Tuesday, U.S. District Judge Amy Berman Jackson gave Manafort until Friday to respond to the allegations of attempted witness tampering and she set a hearing for June 15 on the matter.

The allegations relate to Manafort's criminal case in Washington where he faces charges of money-laundering conspiracy, false statements and acting as an unregistered foreign agent for Ukrainian interests. He also faces bank fraud and tax evasion charges in Virginia.

The charges, which involve tens of millions of dollars routed through offshore accounts, do not

relate to his work on the Trump campaign or involve allegations of Russian election interference.

In the latest court documents, prosecutors say that while he was under house arrest, Manafort and his associate attempted to get two witnesses to lie about the nature of lobbying and public relations work they carried out at Manafort's direction on behalf of Ukraine.

The court documents do not name Manafort's associate, but they refer to him as "Person A" and note the pseudonym is consistent with previous filings in the case. In earlier filings, Person A has referred to Konstantin Kilimnik, a longtime Manafort associate who prosecutors have said has ties to Russian intelligence.

Kilimnik, who has denied having connections to Russian intelligence agencies, was also involved in the ghostwritten op-ed matter, which prosecutors also connect to Person A in the latest filing.

Manafort spokesman Jason Maloni said his client and his attorneys were reviewing the filing. Reached Tuesday, Kilimnik declined comment.

The two witnesses were also not named in court filings. But prosecutors say they were principals in a public relations firm that worked with Manafort in organizing a group of former European officials, known as the Hapsburg group, who promoted Ukrainian interests in Europe as well as the U.S.

The group's work factors into an indictment against Manafort that accuses him of acting as an unregistered foreign agent by lobbying



In this Thursday, Nov. 2, 2017, file photo, Paul Manafort, President Donald Trump's former campaign chairman, leaves Federal District Court, in Washington.

in the U.S. on behalf of Ukrainian interests. Prosecutors say Manafort directed the group's work and secretly funneled more than \$2 million to it to take positions favorable to Ukraine including by lobbying in the U.S. without disclosing that they were being paid to favorably represent the country.

Manafort has denied any wrongdoing and pleaded not guilty. Several members of the Hapsburg group have previously denied the allegations.

According to the court filing, Manafort began messaging and calling one of the witnesses in February shortly the unsealing of the indictment that included the allegations of unregis-

tered lobbying related to the Hapsburg group. Around that same time, Manafort's co-defendant and longtime business associate, Rick Gates, pleaded guilty and agreed to cooperate with prosecutors.

The day after Gates' plea, Manafort messaged and called one of the witnesses and continued reaching out over the next several days, according to a sworn affidavit filed by an FBI agent in the case.

In one call, the agent wrote, Manafort said he wanted to give the witness a "heads-up about Hapsburg." The individual immediately ended the call "because he was concerned about the outreach," according to the affidavit.

On Feb. 26, Manafort sent the person a series of messages through an encrypted application, including a link to a Business Insider story with the headline: "Former European leaders struggle to explain themselves after Mueller claims Paul Manafort paid them to lobby for Ukraine." Another message said, "We should talk. I have made clear that they worked in Europe."

The witness told investigators that he interpreted Manafort's efforts to reach him as a way to influence his potential statements. The person believed from his experience that the Hapsburg group lobbied in the United States and knew that Manafort knew that as well, the agent wrote.

Court papers also accuse Person A of making several attempts to influence the witnesses' testimony in February and later in April. That month, Person A wrote to one of the witnesses, "My friend P is looking for ways to connect to you to pass you several messages." He then asked if that could be arranged.

The witness told federal agents that Manafort and Person A were also trying to get the witnesses to tell members of the Hapsburg group that if they were contacted by anyone, they should say the group only performed lobbying and public relations work in Europe. Both witnesses said that wasn't true.

Retired policeman's hunch leads to suspect in 6 killings

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) — A hunch from a retired detective helped lead police to a man suspected of shooting six people to death in the Phoenix area, some of whom were connected to his divorce, authorities said after the assailant killed himself with officers closing in.

A round-the-clock investigation that began late last week led police Monday to an extended-stay hotel in suburban Scottsdale where 56-year-old Dwight Lamon Jones was staying. As officers approached, they heard gunfire and found his body.

Jones' victims included a well-known forensic psychiatrist who testified against him in court in 2010, two paralegals who worked for the law office that represented the suspect's wife, a marriage-and-divorce counselor who was apparently targeted in a case of mistaken identity and a man and a woman whose possible connection to Jones was not immediately disclosed.

In an unexpected twist, the suspect's ex-wife, Connie Jones, said her current husband, a retired police detective, made the connection between her divorce and the crime scenes and notified police of his suspicion Saturday night.

Connie Jones said in a statement that her ex-husband was a "very emotionally disturbed person."

Jones was arrested in May 2009 at his family's Scottsdale home on a domestic violence charge after his wife said he backed her against a wall, hit her in the face and threatened to kill her, according to court records. The arrest was cited by his then-wife when she filed for divorce.

"Personally, I have feared for my safety for the past nine years. I cannot express the emotions I feel for the innocent families touched by this senseless violence," Connie Jones said.

"We started to see that Mr. Jones was visiting them in an effort to right some wrong based on what we could see," said Rich Slaviv, assistant police chief in Scottsdale.

The slayings began Thursday with the fatal



Emergency personnel surround a hotel where a suspect wanted in multiple killings was staying Monday, June 4, 2018, in Scottsdale, Ariz. According to police, the suspect killed himself as police closed in on the hotel. AP

shooting of Dr. Steven Pitt, who, according to court records, had evaluated Jones and testified in 2010 that he had anxiety and mood disorders and symptoms of a paranoid personality.

Pitt said Jones did not conform to social norms and acted impulsively and aggressively. He lacked remorse and close friends and required excessive admiration, the records said.

The testimony was cited in the couple's November 2010 divorce, which granted Jones' wife sole custody of their now 21-year-old son.

"This is not a success story, but it's a story that has closure," Maricopa County Sheriff Paul Penzone said.

The 59-year-old psychiatrist was well known in his field and assisted in

high-profile murder cases, including the JonBenet Ramsey mystery in Colorado and a notorious Phoenix serial killer investigation.

Paralegals Veleria Sharp, 48, and Laura Anderson, 49, worked at the law office that represented Jones' wife. Police believe Jones may have been targeting the attorney, but she was not present Friday when Jones went to the office in downtown Scottsdale.

Sharp was shot in the head but ran out of the office to get help before collapsing on the street, police said. She was pronounced dead at a hospital.

Counselor Marshall Levine, 72, appears to have been mistaken for someone else who once occupied the same office. At one time, the space was used by a counselor who

saw Jones' son as part of the divorce. Levine, who took over the space, was not involved in the divorce case.

Police would not speculate why Jones tracked down people connected to his divorce so long after it happened. They say he had been living in extended-stay hotels for the past nine years.

Analysis of shell casings found at Pitts' office, the law firm and Levin's office confirmed that the victims were killed with the same gun, police said.

Jones' DNA was found on one of spent casings. And traffic cameras showed a vehicle fitting the description of Jones' gold Mercedes near the law firm 30 minutes before the double killing on Friday, police said.

Police also linked Jones

to the fatal shootings of 70-year-old Mary Simmons and 72-year-old Bryon Thomas — found dead early Monday in a home in the affluent Fountain Hills suburb. Police identified the couple Monday night, did not provide information on a possible connection to Jones and did not immediately respond Tuesday to an emailed request for more information.

Jones, who was seen driving around Fountain Hills, was later seen dumping a .22-caliber gun stolen from the Fountain Hills home.

Some neighbors who were home on Monday afternoon stepped out to observe the police presence that remained on the street, which is usually a serene area.

"It's quiet around here,"

said landscaper Saul Ramirez, who stopped to take cellphone videos of the scene.

As police shared new details of the case, several hundred people crowded into a chapel at a mortuary in Scottsdale to honor Pitt with music, humorous stories and a Hebrew prayer of mourning.

He was remembered as a perfectionist in his work on major cases and a loving man who doted on his fiancée and family members. Phoenix police Lt. Bryan Chapman, who had become a close friend during their work on criminal cases, said Pitt volunteered countless hours to help investigate many lesser known crimes.

"He was the hardest working person I ever met," Chapman said.

Miss America eliminates swimsuits and won't judge on looks

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — The Miss America pageant is dropping the swimsuit competition, saying it will no longer judge contestants on their appearance.

The competition began nearly 100 years ago in Atlantic City, New Jersey, as a bathing beauty contest designed to keep tourists coming to the seaside resort the weekend after Labor Day.

But it has run into resistance to the swimsuit, and to a lesser extent, evening gown competitions, that had come by some to be seen as outdated. An email scandal last December in which former Miss America officials denigrated

the intelligence, appearance and sex lives of former title winners led to a shake-up at the top, and the group's top three leadership positions are now held by women.

"We're not going to judge you on your appearance because we are interested in what makes you you," Gretchen Carlson, a former Miss America who is head of the organization's board of trustees, said while making the announcement Tuesday on "Good Morning America."

Carlson, whose sexual harassment lawsuit against Fox News Chairman Roger Ailes led to his departure, said the board has heard from potential contestants

saying, "We don't want to be out there in high heels and swimsuits."

"Guess what?" she said. "You don't have to anymore."

In place of the swimsuit competition, contestants will participate in an interactive session with the judges "where she will highlight her achievements and goals in life and how she will use her talents, passion, and ambition to perform the job of Miss America," the organization said in a statement.

"Miss America's new mission statement is: 'To prepare great women for the world, and to prepare the world for great wom-

en,'" said Regina Hopper, the group's president and CEO. "We want more young women to see this program as a platform upon which they can advance their desire to make a real difference and to provide them with the necessary skills and resources for them to succeed in any career path they choose."

Leanza Cornett, Miss America 1993, supports the change, adding the swimsuit competition was something she felt she had to endure.

"I hated it," she told The Associated Press Tuesday. "I always felt awkward and uncomfortable. But I did recognize the significance of that part of the

competition. Part of the tradition of why we were here in Atlantic City was that it started as a bathing beauty competition. So I put up with it."

"In the climate of #MeToo, I think it's a really wise decision," she said. "We're living in a different era now, and when we move forward for the empowerment of women, we will be taken much more seriously, and I think that's huge."

Carlson said she is not worried ratings for the nationally televised broadcast might suffer because of the elimination of swimsuits. She said that the swimsuit portion is not the highest rated section

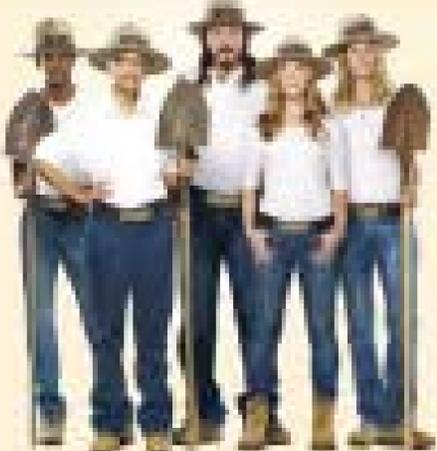
of the broadcast and that viewers seem to be more interested in the talent competition.

She also said the group will make changes to the evening wear portion of the competition, adding it will not judge women on their chosen attire.

"It's what comes out of their mouths that we care about," she said.

The changes will start with this year's broadcast on Sept. 9.

Carlson said the Miss America Organization will emphasize its role as a scholarship provider.



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Turkey, Iran help wealthy Qatar thrive, one year into blockade

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — It's been a year since three of Qatar's neighbors plus Egypt severed ties with the Gulf state, cut off exports, expelled their citizens and banned Qatari flights from using their airports and airspace.

The tiny country has weathered the storm by drawing from its substantial cash reserves, deepening alliances with Turkey and Iran, and using its strategic location in the Persian Gulf as the world's largest producer of liquefied natural gas to continue shipments to major world powers.

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt launched the blockade on June 5 last year to pressure Qatar to change its policies. The group, angered by Doha's support for opposition Islamist groups and its ties with Iran, accused the Gulf state of working to destabilize the region and of harboring and supporting terrorists. They made sweeping demands that Qatar change course, shutter its flagship Al Jazeera Arabic news channel and kick out Turkish troops from a base there.

Qatar has rejected the accusations and the demands, calling the blockade a politically motivated attempt to undermine its sovereignty.

When the diplomatic standoff erupted, worried residents rushed to grocery stores in the capital, Doha, emptying out shelves of milk and other food items that had come from Saudi Arabia and the UAE. At the onset of the diplomatic rift, about one-sixth of Qatar's imports were produced in countries that imposed the trade sanctions, according to the International Monetary Fund.

Saudi Arabia sealed shut Qatar's only land border and the UAE blocked shipments from its ports to Qatar, but the government in Doha quickly moved to reroute supplies through ports in Oman and India. Rather than rely on imports from its Arab neighbors, Qatar looked to Iran and Turkey to plug the gaps. Qatari flights were rerouted over Iranian airspace. Turkey boosted its military presence in Qatar.

Within a day, shelves

were restocked. Qatar also air-lifted thousands of cows into the country to ramp up local production of milk and dairy.

The government's quick response was hailed by citizens and some of the country's nearly 2 million foreign residents.

"There's really no shortage in daily life at all," said Gerd Nonneman, a resident of Qatar and professor of International Relations and Gulf Studies at the Qatar branch of Georgetown University.

He's felt an impact, though, professionally. For one, institutions in the blockading countries can no longer engage with those based in Qatar. Also, Nonneman said many of his old friends and colleagues in those countries no longer speak with him due to the political pressures.

"The main effect seems to be that colleagues and friends in these countries seem to feel it's not right, or not safe — not advisable, let's put it that way — to engage with us," he said.

Otherwise, daily life in Qatar continues mostly uninterrupted.

Construction supplies were also rerouted, allowing Qatar to continue pace with building new roads, hotels and mega-stadiums as it prepares to host the World Cup in 2022.

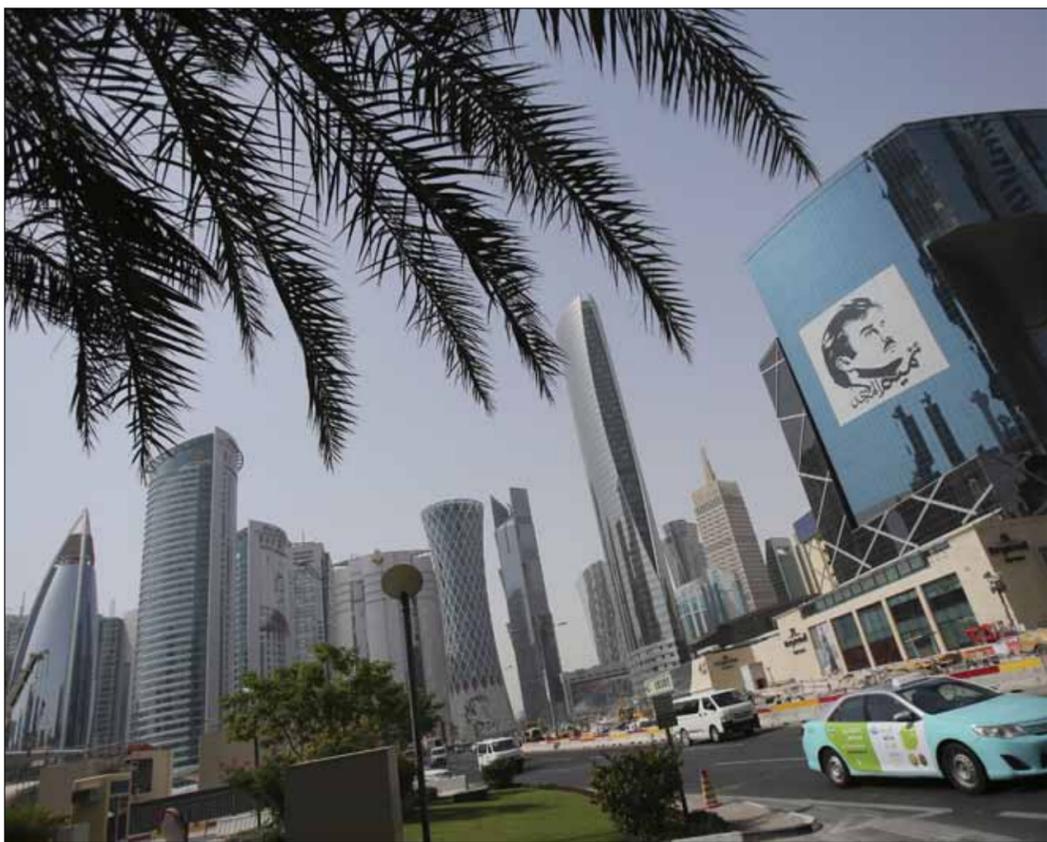
Still, lower oil prices and the diplomatic rift weighed on the economy. By the end of last year, real estate prices had fallen by about 11 percent. Resident private sector deposits and foreign financing, like nonresident deposits, dropped by \$40 billion.

Qatar's non-oil economic growth slowed down from 5.6 percent in 2016 to about 4 percent in 2017.

The country, however, comfortably adjusted by drawing from its ample reserves and assets to pump money into the economy and local banks.

Qatar's Central Bank reserves took a hit, declining from \$31 billion in 2016 to \$15 billion last year. Reserves climbed up to \$18 billion by the end of January.

Even so, only a fraction of Qatar's wealth is parked in



In this May 5, 2018 photo, a taxi passes by a building with the image of the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, in Doha, Qatar.

its central bank. The country's sovereign wealth fund, the Qatar Investment Authority, which sold off some of its overseas stakes last year, has assets of around \$318 billion, according to the IMF. That gives Qatar considerable wealth to maneuver.

With a tiny population of just over 300,000 citizens, and ownership in the world's largest gas field off its Persian Gulf coast, Qatar boasts the highest per capita income of any country in the world.

"They were always well-placed in terms of their external vulnerabilities," said Yasemin Engin, an economist at Capital Economics. "Overall, their banks are well-positioned to deal with any shocks."

The Gulf state's national oil and gas company, Qatar Petroleum, is the world's largest producer of liquefied natural gas. That makes Qatar extremely important to countries like China, Japan, India and Britain, which rely on its gas to fuel their economies.

Even the UAE's electrical

grid is fueled by Qatari gas. Despite ties being severed, Qatar still sends about 2 billion cubic feet (56 million cubic meters) of natural gas a day into the UAE, supplying it with about a third of its daily need. About 200 million cubic feet (5.66 million cubic meters) of that goes on to Oman.

The blockade might be most felt by Qatar's national airline, which used to fly to 18 cities in the blockading nations, and whose CEO says the company expects large financial losses as a result.

Tourism rates have also fallen. Prior to the blockade, tourists from neighboring Gulf Arab countries made up just over half of all tourist arrivals into Qatar. They now make up around 10 percent, according to Capital Economics. Tourist arrivals from other countries fell by 8.6 percent compared to the previous year.

With little signs the standoff will end anytime soon, Qatar is trying to lure investors with legislation that will allow 100 percent

foreign ownership of local businesses. The UAE is considering a similar law.

It appears that with time too, President Donald Trump's administration has shifted its position on the Qatar crisis and is now less supportive of Saudi and Emirati concerns, according to Ayham Kamel of Eurasia Group.

Qatar is home to the forward headquarters of the U.S. military's Central Command and hosts around 10,000 American soldiers.

In a recent analysis, Kamel said a partial resolution to the crisis is now an increasingly realistic scenario, but it would only involve symbolic measures like possibly easing restrictions on the travel of Qatari nationals across the region to demonstrate goodwill without actually easing economic pressures on Doha.

Mixed-nationality families in the Gulf were affected by the measures, and Qatari students in the Gulf countries were pulled out of final exams. The crisis also strained traditional kinships in the region.

"Growing up, we were always told about the importance of Gulf unity and always raised being taught by our parents and grandparents that we are one community, we are linked with shared ethnic roots and shared cultural and religious values," said Haya Alwaleed Al-Thani, a college senior who is also related to the large ruling Al-Thani family.

The blockade by three members of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council left Qataris feeling "deceived and betrayed", she said.

The reaction among Qataris has been an upswell of nationalism and support for Qatar's young ruler, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani.

"I think our leadership's ability to react quickly and ensure the same high quality of life is maintained regardless of the political circumstances has made me feel very proud," she said. "As a Qatari citizen, I've never felt so proud."

Only a few of Guatemala volcano's dead have been identified

EL RODEO, Guatemala (AP) — People of the villages skirting Guatemala's Volcano of Fire have begun mourning the few dead who could be identified after an eruption killed dozens by engulfing them in floods of searing ash and mud.

Mourners cried over caskets lined up in a row in the main park of San Juan Alotenango on Monday evening before rescuers stopped their work for another night.

There was no electricity in the hardest hit areas of Los Lotes and El Rodeo, so most searching continued only until sunset. As dawn broke Tuesday, the volcano continued to rattle, with what the country's volcanology institute said were eight to 10 moderate eruptions per hour — vastly less intense than Sunday's big blasts.

Guatemalan authorities put the death toll at 69, but officials said just 17 had been identified so far because the intense heat of the volcanic debris flows left most bodies unrecognizable.

"It is very difficult for us to identify them because some of the dead lost their features or their fingerprints" from the red-hot flows, said Fanuel Garcia, director of the National Institute of Forensic Sciences. "We are going to have to resort to other methods ... and if possible take DNA samples to identify them."

Authorities say at least 46 people were injured. Twelve shelters were housing 1,877 people.

Sunday's eruption caught residents of remote mountain hamlets off guard, with little or no time to flee to safety.

Using shovels and backhoes, emergency workers dug through the debris and mud, perilous labor on smoldering terrain still hot enough to melt shoe soles a day after the volcano exploded in a hail of ash, smoke and molten rock.

Bodies were so thickly coated with ash that they looked like statues. Rescuers used sledgehammers to break through the roofs of houses buried in debris up to their rooflines to check for anyone trapped inside.

Hilda Lopez said her mother and sister were still missing after the slurry of hot gas, ash and rock roared into her village of San Miguel Los Lotes, just below the mountain's flanks.

"We were at a party, celebrating the birth of a baby, when one of the neighbors shouted at us to come out and see the lava

that was coming," the distraught woman said. "We didn't believe it, and when we went out the hot mud was already coming down the street."

"My mother was stuck there, she couldn't get out," said Lopez, weeping and holding her face in her hands.

Her husband, Joel Gonzalez, said his father had also been unable to escape and was believed to be "buried back there, at the house."

Conrad spokesman David de Leon said the volcano first erupted around midday Sunday, billowing smoke and ash miles into the sky. Then around 2 p.m., came a new, more powerful explosion.

Soon, searing flows of lava, ash and rock mixed with water and debris were gushing down the volcano's flanks, blocking roads

and burning homes.

"It traveled much faster. It arrived in communities right when the evacuation alerts were being sent out," de Leon said.

Authorities scrambled to issue an evacuation order. Some communities emptied out safely. But in places like Los Lotes and the village of El Rodeo, about eight miles (12 kilometers) downslope from the crater, it was too late for many.

The fast-moving flows overtook people in homes and streets with temperatures reaching as high as 1,300 degrees Fahrenheit (700 Celsius), and hot ash and volcanic gases that can cause rapid asphyxiation.

"As soon as we received the information around 6 a.m. that the volcano was in an eruptive phase, the protocol was initiated to verify with different sectors and also talk to the

communities, to community leaders," De Leon said. "We had the information from our scientific service, and they told us the trend was that the activity was diminishing."

In El Rodeo on Monday, heavily armed soldiers wearing blue masks to avoid breathing in ash stood guard behind yellow tape cordoning off the disaster scene. Helmeted workers carried bodies away on stretchers, and smoke was still rising from some parts of the ashen landscape strewn with boulders and other debris.

President Jimmy Morales traveled to survey the disaster area.

Emergency crews in helicopters managed to pull at least 10 people alive from areas cut off by the flows. Conrad said 3,271 people had been evacuated.

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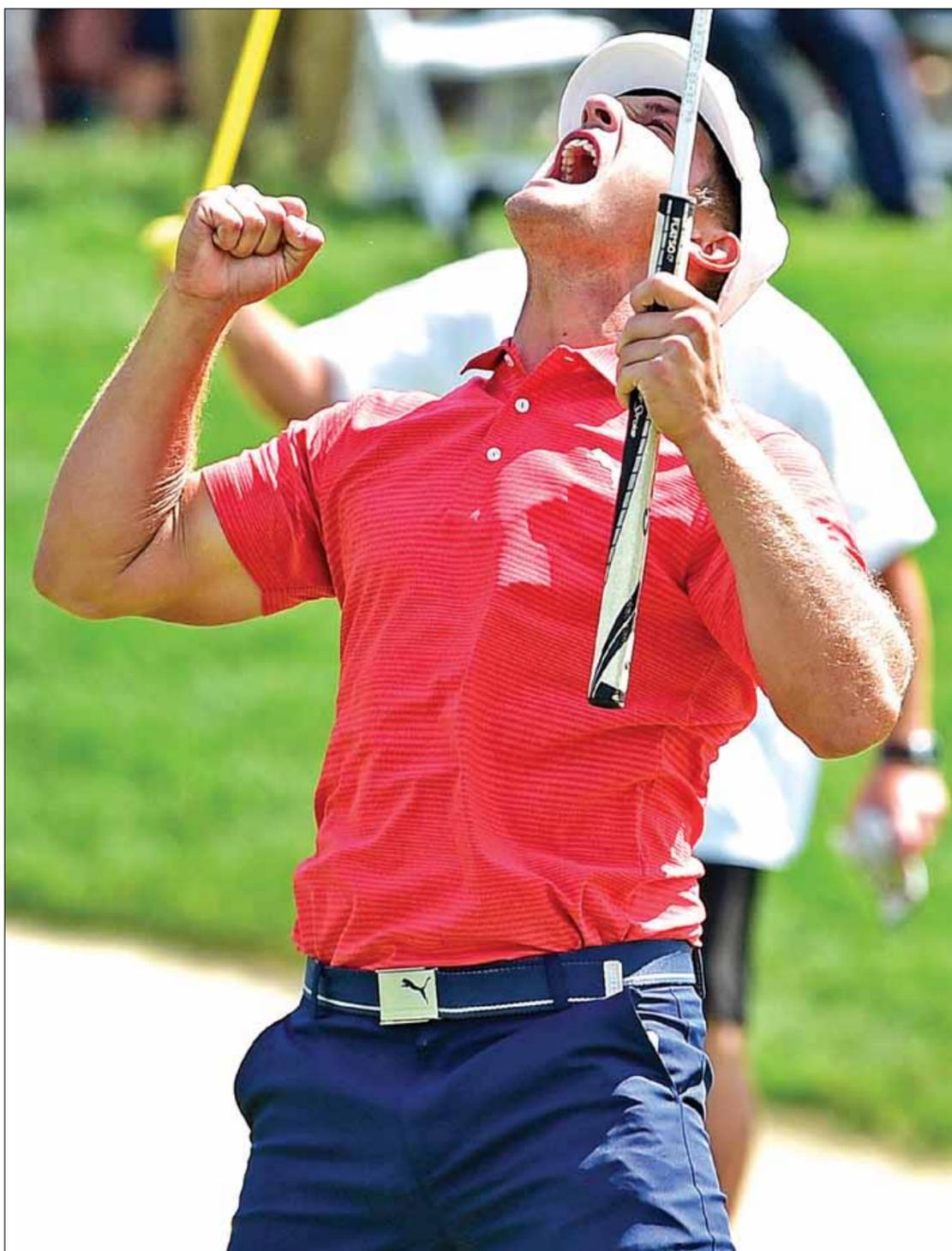
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Bryson DeChambeau celebrates after beating Beyond Hun An, from South Korea, on the 18th hole in the second playoff hole during the final round of the Memorial golf tournament Sunday, in Dublin, Ohio.

DeChambeau wins Memorial in playoff on second extra hole

DUBLIN, Ohio (AP) — For the fourth straight year, Bryson DeChambeau leaves Ohio feeling like a winner.

This time he had a trophy to show for it, and a handshake with Jack Nicklaus to remember.

DeChambeau finally made it easy on himself the third time playing the 18th hole at the Muirfield Village on Sunday, rolling in a 12-foot birdie putt on the second playoff hole to beat Byeong Hun An and win the Memorial.

"I can't believe I did it," said DeChambeau, a winner for the second time on the PGA Tour.

He had played the Memorial only once before, though the 24-year-old Californian has been a regular in central Ohio. He has made it through the 36-hole U.S. Open qualifier each of the last three years, all in the Columbus area.

This was far more rewarding.

DeChambeau watched his putt disappear and raised both arms, pumping them seven times as he yelled above the cheers of fans. Many of them lingered at the 18th green after spending much of the final round as if this might be the day Tiger Woods returned to winning.

It wasn't.

Woods was never a serious factor, especially after missing a 3-foot par putt on the 10th hole and hitting another tee shot into someone's backyard

on the 13th hole. One of his best weeks hitting the ball ended with an even-par 72 and a six-way tie for 23rd.

The finish was no less entertaining.

DeChambeau went from a two-shot deficit at the turn to a one-shot lead after No. 12, and he kept it the rest of the way until a three-putt bogey on the 18th hole from about 55 feet for a 1-under 71. That tied with An, who had closed with a 69 in the group ahead and was the first to reach 15-under 273.

Kyle Stanley joined them in playoff. He hit into the water on the par-3 12th to fall five shots behind with six holes to play, only to run off four straight birdies, capping the big run with a 30-foot putt on the 17th to tie DeChambeau.

Just his luck, Stanley hit a tree on the right elbow of the dogleg at No. 18, and it shot the ball across the fairway and nearly into a creek, except the ankle-deep rough was thick enough to slow it. Even so, he could only advance it 100 yards and made bogey for a 70.

In the playoff, his tee shot was enough to the right that the ball was well above his feet in thick grass. Stanley choked up and took a swing, but the ball squirted out about 30 yards to the right, leading to another bogey, and he was quickly eliminated.

"A couple bad breaks on

18," Stanley said. "I mean in the playoff, if I knock that ball 2-3 feet right of where it was I would have had a shot. But after hole 12 my chances were looking pretty slim, so to come back and make some birdies coming in ... it's a bit of a sour finish, but proud of the way I hung in there."

An took some of the pressure off DeChambeau on the second playoff hole, also on No. 18, when he yanked his approach into the gallery. He played a marvelous flop shot out of deep rough to a couple of feet for a certain par, only for DeChambeau to hit his approach 12 feet behind the hole and make the birdie.

"I finally got it right the third time," DeChambeau said. "It took me a little bit."

Patrick Cantlay also had a chance on Sunday, leading by two shots going to the back nine. But he didn't make a birdie over his last 10 holes, and he fell back when he went bunker-to-bunker on the 17th and made bogey to fall two strokes behind. Cantlay narrowly missed a 25-foot birdie putt on the final hole, shot 71 and finished fourth. Peter Uihlein (66) was alone in fifth.

Joaquin Niemann, the 19-year-old from Chile, birdied the 18th hole to tie for sixth. That was enough for him to earn special temporary membership on the PGA Tour,

meaning he can get unlimited sponsor exemptions.

Justin Thomas shot 68 and tied for eighth in his debut at No. 1 in the world. He will keep that ranking going into the U.S. Open.

Woods started five shots behind. He pulled to within three shots with a two-putt birdie on the par-5 fifth hole, but he didn't make another birdie until he had fallen seven shots behind and only had eight holes in front of him.

Woods was second to last in the key putting statistic among the 73 players who went all four rounds.

"If I just putt normally, I probably would be right there with those guys and up there in the last couple of groups," Wood said. "If I just keep building on this, with how I'm hitting it right now, I'm in good shape for two weeks from now."

The next stop for Woods is the U.S. Open at Shinnecock Hills.

DeChambeau will be there, too, his confidence higher than ever. He first played the Memorial in 2016 and was coming off four straight missed cuts. He tied for 38th that week, a small victory, but realized his game wasn't good enough.

Now, he has PGA Tour titles in successive seasons. And his victory moved him to No. 8 in the Ryder Cup standings.

Jutanugarn wins US Women's Open on fourth playoff hole

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — In some of the bleakest moments during Ariya Jutanugarn's back-nine collapse at the U.S. Women's Open, the 22-year-old from Thailand would take a deep breath, smile to herself and think happy thoughts.

The mind tricks weren't working, but she wasn't going to stop trying.

Finally, after an excruciating few hours of golf, the positive vibes came true.

Jutanugarn lost a seven-shot lead on the back nine before prevailing on the fourth hole of a playoff to win at Shoal Creek on Sunday for her second major championship.

She made a nearly perfect bunker shot to within a foot of the cup on the tournament-clinching hole, beating South Korea's Hyo-Joo Kim, who shot a 5-under 67 in the final round to force the playoff.

It was not an easy up-and-down for Jutanugarn, who said she didn't have a particularly good lie in the sand. Somehow, she kept her cool.

"I felt pretty good," Jutanugarn said about her mood before the shot. "I don't know why."

She felt even better when the ball rolled close enough for an easy putt. A collapse that would have gone down in U.S. Women's Open lore was about to be averted.

Jutanugarn said support from her family and coaches helped her stay positive and come through with her ninth LPGA Tour win.

"I know everything's going to be the same and they're going to love me the same," Jutanugarn said.

Jutanugarn started the day with a four-shot lead over Australia's Sarah Jane Smith and looked like she might win easily after opening with a 4 under on the front nine to stretch her lead to seven shots.

But a triple bogey on No. 10 cut the lead to four and rocked her confidence, especially with her 3-wood. She still had a two-shot lead with two holes remaining, but closed with back-to-back bogeys to fall into a playoff after shooting 73.

Jutanugarn and Kim shot 11-under 277 in regulation.

In the end, Jutanugarn's slow-motion collapse set up an emotional victory and her second major win. She also won the Women's British Open in 2016.

The format for the playoff was a two-hole aggregate on 14 and 18, but the players were still tied after the two holes. The format then switched to sudden death, alternating between the same holes.

Kim looked like she might win the two-hole aggregate after making a long birdie putt on 14 while Jutanugarn settled for par. But Kim made bogey — her first of the day — on 18 while Jutanugarn made par again to send the format to sudden death.

On the fourth playoff hole at 18, both players went into greenside bunkers. Kim's shot out of the bunker was decent, but Jutanugarn's was phenomenal, rolling right next to cup and setting up an easy par putt.

Kim missed her putt for par and Jutanugarn tapped in for the win, turning toward her caddie and family for a happy, tearful embrace.

Jutanugarn looked nearly invincible during Saturday's third round when she made her move into the lead with a 67, powering through the soggy Shoal Creek course with ease. It was more of the same for a while Sunday when she extended her lead to seven shots.

But things were about to get rough in a hurry.

Jutanugarn hit her tee shot into the hazard on the 10th and then had a three-putt for a triple bogey. Her confidence shaken, she had another bogey on 12 and the tournament was suddenly much closer than anyone expected.

While Jutanugarn was fading, the 22-year-old Kim was rolling. She made putt after putt to put pressure on Jutanugarn, including a 50-footer on 15 that pulled her within one shot of the lead. Like everyone else, she was shocked she was still in contention.

"Honestly, I didn't really worry too much about it because I just focused on how I was going to play," Kim said through a translator. "It did not really enter my mind that I was going to come that close."

She couldn't quite complete the comeback, which would have been the biggest in the final round in U.S. Women's Open history.

Smith, a 33-year-old from Australia, had a three-shot lead going into the weekend after back-to-back 67s, but finished the tournament with two straight disappointing rounds. She was in the final group with Jutanugarn, but had a 78 on Sunday to fall into a tie for fifth.

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Trump says he has 'absolute right' to pardon himself

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump asserted his presidential power and escalated his efforts to discredit the special counsel Russia probe Monday, declaring he has the "absolute right" to pardon himself and attacking the investigation as "totally UNCONSTITUTIONAL!"

Trump's comments on Twitter came a day after attorney Rudy Giuliani played down the possibility that the president could pardon himself, suggesting he might have that authority but would be unwise to use it.

"Pardoning himself would be unthinkable and probably lead to immediate impeachment," Giuliani, a member of Trump's legal team, told NBC's "Meet the Press" on Sunday. "And he has no need to do it, he's done nothing wrong."

On Twitter Monday, Trump said: "As has been stated by numerous legal scholars, I have the absolute right to PARDON myself, but why would I do that when I have done nothing wrong?" He then again decried special counsel Robert Mueller's probe as a "never ending Witch Hunt."

Trump later added that the "appointment of the Special Counsel is totally UNCONSTITUTIONAL! Despite that, we play the game because I, unlike the Democrats, have done nothing wrong!"

Trump's legal team is making clear that it will combat any effort to force the president to testify in front of a grand jury. Giuliani on Sunday underscored one of the main arguments in a newly unveiled letter sent by Trump's lawyers to Mueller back in January: A president can't be given a grand jury subpoena as part of the investigation into foreign meddling in the 2016 election.

of television interviews, broke with one of their bolder arguments in the letter that a president could not have committed obstruction of justice because he has ultimate authority over any federal investigation.

Yet the former New York City mayor, who was not on the legal team when the letter was written, added that Trump "probably does" have the power to pardon himself, an assertion challenged by legal scholars. He says the president's legal team hasn't discussed that option, which many observers believe could plunge the nation into a constitutional crisis.

"I think the political ramifications would be tough," Giuliani told ABC's "This Week." "Pardoning other people is one thing, pardoning yourself is tough."

Trump has issued two unrelated pardons in recent days and discussed others, a move that has been interpreted as a possible signal to allies ensnared in the Russia probe.

The letter is dated Jan. 29 and addressed to Mueller from John Dowd, a Trump lawyer who has since resigned from the legal team. Mueller has requested an interview with the president to determine whether he had criminal intent to obstruct the investigation into his associates' possible links to Russia's election interference.

Giuliani said Sunday that a decision about an interview would not be made until after Trump's summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on June 12 in Singapore, and he cast doubt that it would occur at all.

"I mean, we're leaning toward not," Giuliani told ABC. "But look, if they can convince us that it will be brief, it would be to the point, there were five or six points they have to clarify, and with that, we can get



In this May 30, 2018 photo, President Donald Trump arrives for a bill signing ceremony in the South Court Auditorium on the White House campus, Wednesday, May 30, 2018, in Washington. President Donald Trump says he has "absolute right to PARDON myself" but says has "done nothing wrong" in the Russia probe.

this — this long nightmare for the — for the American public over."

In addition to the legal battles, Trump's team and allies have waged a public relations campaign against Mueller and the Justice Department to discredit the investigation and soften the impact of the special counsel's potential findings. Giuliani said last week that the special counsel probe may be an "entirely illegitimate investigation" and need to be curtailed because, in his estimation, it was based on inappropriately obtained information from an informant and Comey's memos.

In reality, the FBI began a counterintelligence investigation in July 2016 to determine if Trump campaign associates were coordinating with Russia to

tip the election. The investigation was opened after the hacking of Democratic emails that intelligence officials later formally attributed to Russia.

Trump's team has requested a briefing about the informant, but Giuliani said Sunday that the president would not order the Justice Department to comply because it would negatively affect public opinion. But he continued to cast doubt on the special counsel's eventual findings, suggesting that Trump has already offered explanations for the matters being investigated and that the special counsel was biased against the president.

"For every one of these things he did, we can write out five reasons why he did it," Giuliani said. "If four

of them are completely innocent and one of them is your assumption that it's a guilty motive, which (Trump) would deny, you can't possibly prosecute him."

Trump's legal team has long pushed the special counsel to narrow the scope of its interview. Giuliani also suggested that Trump's lawyers had been incorrect when they denied that the president was involved with the letter that offered an explanation for Donald Trump Jr.'s 2016 Trump Tower meeting with Russians who offered damaging information on Democrat Hillary Clinton.

"This is the reason you don't let the president testify," Giuliani told ABC. "Our recollection keeps changing, or we're not even asked a question and

somebody makes an assumption."

If Trump does not consent to an interview, Mueller will have to decide whether to go forward with a historic grand jury subpoena. His team raised the possibility in March of subpoenaing the president, but it is not clear if it is still under active consideration.

A court battle is likely if Trump's team argues that the president can't be forced to answer questions or be charged with obstruction of justice. President Bill Clinton was charged with obstruction in 1998 by the House of Representatives as part of his impeachment trial. And one of the articles of impeachment prepared against President Richard Nixon in 1974 was for obstruction.

Immigration fight, tension on tariffs await Congress' return

WASHINGTON (AP) — This was supposed to be the quiet time on Capitol Hill, but Congress returns to work Monday facing a showdown in the House over immigration while Senate Republicans are trying to stop an all-out trade war after President Donald Trump's decision to impose import tariffs on close U.S. allies.

Tensions are running particularly high as Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is threatening to cancel the traditional August recess as he fights Democratic opposition to GOP priorities in a show of busy-work before the midterm election.

It's shaping up to be far from the typical summer slowdown when legislating usually makes way for campaigning.

"Another summer, another heavy work load," tweeted Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, as he pushed to confirm nominations. "NOW is the time to vote on Fridays (even wknds!)." The Senate often is not in session on Fridays.

should-do items in the weeks ahead. Topping the agenda is passage of the annual defense bill, which includes pay raises for the troops. It has already cleared the House. The Senate could begin consideration of its defense bill this week. But the Senate version carries a warning to Trump with a trade provision to block any White House plan to lift penalties on the China-based telecommunications company ZTE, which faces trade law violations over selling sensitive technologies to U.S. adversaries.

Trump's moves on trade are expected to consume conversations among Senate Republicans this week. They're worried about a wider trade war spiking prices for home-state businesses and consumers if Trump imposes steel and aluminum tariffs, as planned, on imports from Canada, Mexico and the European Union.

Republicans will be making the case to the administration that the tariffs could dampen the economic gains from the GOP

tax cuts and sour the mood among voters as lawmakers are campaigning to protect the Republican majority in Congress.

Some Republicans are also hoping Trump simply changes his mind and doesn't follow through with it. But aides said otherwise may be signing on to a bill from Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, that would subject all trade actions by the executive branch, including tariffs, to congressional approval. Rep. Will Hurd, R-Texas, said he would support a similar move in the House. "Congress has shared our responsibility when it comes to trade with the executive branch over the last couple of decades, and I think that's something that we need to re-evaluate," he told CBS' "Face the Nation."

Meanwhile, House Republicans face a self-imposed deadline Thursday for resolving an immigration standoff between GOP centrists who are forcing a vote on legislation to protect young immigrants who were brought to the country illegally as chil-

dren and conservatives who want stricter immigration enforcement with money for Trump's border wall.

The centrists want to provide a way for the young immigrants to become permanent residents, which can lead to citizenship. Conservatives are opposed to creating a new pathway to staying in the U.S. permanently, equating it with granting amnesty to lawbreakers.

Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., and Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., are trying to craft a Republican-led bill as a compromise between the factions, but it's difficult.

House leaders plan a two-hour private meeting of GOP lawmakers Thursday morning to hash out whether talks among the party's factions have produced an immigration compromise that can win broad support. Underscoring the sensitivity of the session, staff is to be excluded.

They're trying to prevent the moderates from joining with Democrats to pass

the "Dreamer" protections, which polls suggest are popular, but which would be a setback for GOP leaders and expose the majority to complaints from the conservative base.

Without a deal, the moderates say they'll push ahead with enough signatures on a so-called discharge petition to force the vote over the leadership's objections.

Hurd said moderates have the votes already, but are "engaged in conversations to figure out ... is there another path. I don't believe that there is."

Rep. Carlos Curbelo, R-Fla., said in an interview last week that he saw a 50-50 chance of those talks succeeding. He warned that if they didn't bear fruit, he and his supporters "fully expect" to continue pushing their petition.

Curbelo said the young immigrants must "be guaranteed a future in our country, meaning they cannot be exposed to deportation." He said, "They must have permanent status immediately and they must have the option of a

bridge into the legal immigration system," meaning a pathway to citizenship.

The moderates' effort has won the backing of GOP Sen. John McCain, fighting brain cancer back home in Arizona, who tweeted on Saturday: "Congress can't ignore this critical issue — and the many lives it impacts — any longer."

Starting Monday in the Senate, McConnell has teed up votes on three nominees to serve as federal district court judges, including the first Hispanic lawyer whom Trump nominated for the bench, Fernando Rodriguez Jr. of Texas.

The selections are expected to receive bipartisan support, though more contentious votes are expected in coming weeks. Republicans have made it a top priority to get Trump's nominees on the bench, to the alarm of Democrats, who say Republicans are working to stack the federal judiciary with young ideologues who will shape it for decades to come.



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Lawyer fights for Harvey Weinstein, in court and out

NEW YORK (AP) — A powerful public figure is accused of sexual assault in a Manhattan hotel room. There's media frenzy. Enter go-to defense attorney Ben Brafman.

Brafman, 69, was on the winning end of that scenario in 2011 when he helped former International Monetary Fund director Dominique Strauss-Kahn beat an attempted rape charge.

Seven years later, Brafman has an even bigger challenge: defending Harvey Weinstein against sex crime charges.

"I'm trying my best to save him in somewhat of an impossible situation he finds himself in," Brafman told The Associated Press.

Saving unpopular clients in impossible situations is something of a specialty for Brafman, whose list of past clients includes professional athletes, celebrities and wealthy businessmen in trouble, some so vilified many lawyers would shy away from them.

He said in the past year he's gotten to know Weinstein as someone with "a forceful personality" who "soaks up all the oxygen in the room," but steadfastly maintains his innocence.

In Brafman, Weinstein gets a tactical and pugnacious lawyer willing to fight for him inside court — and outside, too, in pressure-cooker conditions.

With Strauss-Kahn, Brafman had a case that came to center on the credibility of a hotel maid who had accused the influential French diplomat of sexual assault.

Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr. — the same prosecutor handling the Weinstein case — ultimately dropped the charges, saying there were inconsistencies in the accuser's story.

Compared to Strauss-Kahn, Weinstein's case appears to be a much heavier lift: He faces more serious allegations of raping one woman in a hotel room, plus forcing another to perform oral sex in his of-



In this May 25, 2018, file photo, Harvey Weinstein, center, leaves with his lawyer Benjamin Brafman, right, after posting bail at Manhattan's Criminal Court in New York. Brafman was on the winning end of that scenario in 2011 when he helped former International Monetary Fund director Dominique Strauss-Kahn beat an attempted rape charge. Seven years later, Brafman has an even bigger challenge: defending Weinstein against sex crime charges.

He said in the past year he's gotten to know Weinstein as someone with "a forceful personality" who "soaks up all the oxygen in the room," but steadfastly maintains his innocence.

After Weinstein turned himself in May 25, Brafman came out swinging, telling reporters: "Mr. Weinstein did not invent the casting couch in Hollywood," and that "bad behavior is not on trial in this case."

In the AP interview, the lawyer said he felt compelled to strike back against months of what he calls unfair press coverage fueled by leaks by authorities investigating the case. He also claims Vance is under intense political pressure to get a conviction, further stacking the odds against Weinstein.

"I think part of my ethical responsibility to a cli-

ent in a high-profile case is to try and prevent a conviction by what's happening outside of the courtroom," he said. "And when there is a tsunami of bad press in a case like this, for example, I have to be able to try and level the playing field."

He added: "I'm not defending the crime of rape. To falsely accuse a person of rape, however, is equally offensive. And in this case, I believe that there are a number of very well-known personalities who have made accusations against Harvey Weinstein that are just patently false."

An Orthodox Jew who is the son of Holocaust victims, Brafman was raised in Brooklyn and Queens. He graduated from Ohio Northern University College of Law, and served as an assistant district at-

torney in Manhattan in the mid-1970s before building his defense practice.

In 2001, Brafman won an acquittal for hip-hop star Sean Combs after he was accused of totting an illegal handgun into a crowded Manhattan nightclub. Brafman says it taught him a lesson about managing hard-charging clients used to calling all the shots.

He had less success muzzling another big-name client, Martin "Pharma Bro" Skhrel, who was convicted at a high-profile trial last year of cheating hedge fund investors.

Even after he was found guilty, the former pharmaceutical CEO — notorious for inflating the price of a life-saving drug — kept taunting the likes of Hillary Clinton on social media, prompting a judge to revoke his bail. Skhrel

ended up receiving a seven-year sentence.

Brafman also represented conservative author and filmmaker Dinesh D'Souza, who pleaded guilty to making illegal campaign contributions and was sentenced to probation. D'Souza was back in the news last week when President Donald Trump announced he was pardoning him.

Kenneth Montgomery, a lawyer who has represented an accuser in a rape investigation, said Brafman's willingness to engage the media is understandable in a legal system where "the government has a lot of power, and in a day and age where the media affects people's opinion."

Some defense attorneys stay pointedly mum outside court, but speaking to the media can make sense

if "you want to get in front of" the public narrative of a case, Montgomery said.

Attorney Douglas Wigdor, who represented the maid who accused Strauss-Kahn, said Brafman "advocated on behalf of his client and used all his connections and skills to his client's advantage, and I can't really begrudge him for doing that."

In any case Brafman takes, "I think the client feels my passion for the work that I'm doing," he said. "I'm not a robot. I'm not just a hired gun. I get paid well, but I earn every single penny."

"People ask me if it's fun to be Ben Brafman at a time like this," he said. "It's fun for about a minute. And then it's just really hard work and an awesome responsibility."

Wounded RFK aide from shooting still pushing RFK legacy

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Paul Schrade had an up-close view of the Kennedy dynasty in the 1960s.

The union leader got involved in politics during John F. Kennedy's 1960 presidential campaign, advised Robert F. Kennedy during his own White House run eight years later and introduced the younger Kennedy to California farmworker union leaders who were instrumental in making poverty and labor pillars of his candidacy.

Then, on the early morning of June 5, 1968, an assassin shot Kennedy at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles. A bullet also struck Schrade in the head. He survived the attack and is now 93-years-old.

Schrade and the four others who were injured in the shooting are often overlooked players in the as-

sassination that killed Kennedy at the age of 42 amid his ascendant presidential campaign.

When Schrade gained consciousness at a nearby hospital, a United Automobile Workers leader came to his bedside and told him the news: Kennedy was dead.

Schrade has relived the moment almost every day of his life. He has dedicated his life to the memory of Kennedy, drawing attention to injustice and forgiving convicted murderer Sirhan Sirhan. Those causes have put him in direct conflict with the Los Angeles Police Department and a certain former real estate developer, Donald Trump.

"And I don't care," Schrade said.

A native of Saratoga Springs, New York, Schrade dropped out of Yale and took a job at an aerospace

plant before rising up the ranks of the United Automobile Workers union. He met Robert F. Kennedy during the 1960 presidential campaign and they struck up a friendship that remained as he became attorney general and a U.S. senator in New York.

Schrade convinced him to visit Delano, California, where poor Latino and Filipino farmworkers were involved in a strike with growers. Kennedy met United Farm Worker leaders Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta during the visit.

"I saw Kennedy and Chavez meet and interact," Schrade said. "I knew Kennedy would identify with what (the farm workers) were going through."

When Kennedy announced he would run for president, Schrade agreed to join his team and advise

him on labor issues. The night of the California primary, Schrade almost didn't go to the Ambassador Hotel until he heard a radio report that Kennedy was trailing. But the senator would win California on the strength of the Mexican-American and black vote.

During Kennedy's victory speech after the California and South Dakota primary wins, Schrade was on the stage a few feet behind him. As Schrade and Kennedy made their way through the hotel kitchen, they were shot.

"I felt like I was electrocuted," Schrade said.

Schrade underwent surgery and survived despite fragments of bullets remaining in his skull. But he fell into deep depression and lost his re-election for his union office. He returned to a factory job where he tried

to stay out of politics.

To this day, Schrade believes Los Angeles police botched the case and failed to investigate possible leads about a second gunman. At Schrade's Los Angeles home, his office and living room are stacked with documents arguing that Sirhan Sirhan wasn't the lone shooter. Robert F. Kennedy Jr. recently announced he believed the case into his father's death needed to be reopened.

Los Angeles police and prosecutors consider the case closed.

Schrade didn't stay out of the spotlight for too long. In 2010, a \$578 million complex of public schools for thousands of students opened on the site of the Ambassador Hotel after a two-decade fight that Schrade had a role in waging. The battle involved

costly legal feuds with conservationists who wanted to save the historic hotel from razing, and with Trump, who wanted to build the world's tallest skyscraper on the site.

The schools today serve predominantly Latino and black students. A "Paul Schrade Library" rests on the spot where the ballroom once stood. The education complex is called Robert F. Kennedy Community Schools.

Schrade said many of the problems Kennedy sought to address are still with the country today, including poverty and racial divisions.

"A lot of these issues are still with us so we have to look at what Bobby Kennedy tried to do in 1968," Schrade said. "The fight is not over."

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World Cup security Putin's top priority but threats loom

MOSCOW (AP) — For President Vladimir Putin, the World Cup marks a moment of pride, a long-sought opportunity to showcase Russia's achievements and bolster its international prestige. The Russian leader has made security of the tournament the top priority, ordering an array of measures to fend off any potential threats from the ground, sea or air.

"This whole event was intended to be a soft power exercise for Russia," said Mark Galeotti, a senior fellow at the Institute for International Relations in Prague who has closely followed Russian security agencies. "The Russians are going to try to ensure they can do whatever they can to make it secure."

But despite the meticulous preparations, security challenges abound in a country that has fought a separatist insurgency in the North Caucasus, faced a spate of suicide bombing and other terror attacks for years and waged a military campaign in Syria. Radical Islamists of all stripes could be eager to target the World Cup to hurt Russia and raise their profile.

Aware of the looming danger, Russian law enforcement agencies have spent the last few years methodically preparing for the event — tracking down radical groups, installing security equipment and conducting drills.

"I can assure you that all aspects have been taken into account and we have taken note of all threats," said Alexei Sorokin, head of World Cup organizing committee. "The right balance will be found between security and comfort for fans."

As part of security measures, the authorities have introduced the so-called Fan ID — a chipped ID issued to those willing to attend the World Cup matches after a sweeping background check.

At last year's Confederations Cup, Russian authorities blacklisted 191 fans with criminal records, and just hours before the tournament began, dozens more, including members of some radical groups, were refused permission to attend the tournament.

Igor Zubov, a deputy Russian interior minister, vowed recently that police wouldn't allow any brawls and would move quickly to deport any foreign fans who violate public order.

Among other security precautions, officials went as far as to close sea ports near the cities hosting the tournament to all potentially dangerous cargo for two months from May 25 to July 25. The ban that covers various chemical components has interfered with normal operations of major auto factories and other industrial plants across Russia.

The Russian authorities also have tightened air traffic rules, broadly



In this Russian Emergency Situations Ministry photo, made available on Saturday, April 28, 2018, a Russian Emergencies Ministry officer attends a training session to ensure security at the World Cup during drills at the World Cup stadium in Rostov-on-Don, Russia. The World Cup marks a moment of pride for President Vladimir Putin, a long-sought opportunity to showcase Russia's achievements and bolster its international prestige. The Russian leader has made security of the tournament the top priority, ordering sweeping measures to fend off any potential threats from the ground, sea or air. But despite the strict security regime, threats abound in Russia, which has faced an Islamist rebellion in the south and waged a military campaign in Syria.

expanding no-flight zones near the World Cup host cities and nearby sports facilities.

The Russian Defense Ministry and the Federal Security Service (FSB), the main KGB successor agency, have deployed sophisticated anti-drone equipment in all 11 cities that would host the World Cup, including some systems that were used to protect a Russian air base in Syria from drone attacks.

The military will protect World Cup sites with an array of air defense missiles and other weapons, and squadrons of fighter jets stand ready to scramble to fend off any air attack.

The 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi saw a similar set of sweeping security measures, but the World Cup security presents a much more daunting challenge with 11 host cities across the country.

"Where Sochi was a very specific location that they could and did absolutely control access to, this is an event which is going to take place over a period of a month in a whole variety of different locations and cities around the country," Galeotti said. "Realistically speaking, it has become so much harder to control."

He noted that Russia has relied on massive security operations and

screening of each person, but radical Islamists still pose a threat.

"The Russians are quite good in terms of dealing with terrorist threats, but in an age of sort of lone wolves radicalized on the Internet, with the increasing risk of Jihadism spreading among Central Asian guest workers as well, it's inevitably going to be very hard to actually try and guarantee absolute security," Galeotti said.

Jane's Terrorism and Insurgency Centre (JTIC) also pointed in a recent report that Islamist militants, including Russian jihadists returning from Syria, pose the primary threat to the World Cup. "Although attack trends in Russia have diminished, the World Cup offers a significant aspirational target for would-be attackers," its analyst Chris Hawkins said.

Putin has estimated that about 9,000 citizens of Russia and other ex-Soviet nations have joined militants in Syria, pointing at the need to contain the threat they pose as a key reason behind the Russian military campaign in the country.

The Russian leader made it clear that authorities wouldn't hesitate to use all means available to fend off a threat.

In a recent documentary, Putin recalled an episode when he was heading to the Sochi Olympics'

opening ceremony when he received a report that a hijacked passenger airliner was heading toward the city. He said he instructed the military to act in accordance with standard procedure envisaging that a plane posing a threat must be shot down if it can't be diverted.

Moments later, officials determined that the alarm was false: the incident wasn't a hijacking, merely a drunken brawl, and the plane safely proceeded to its destination in Turkey.

Russia has faced a string of terror attacks in the 2000s, stemming from the separatist wars in Chechnya and the Islamist insurgency that spread across the North Caucasus region.

They included the suicide bombing in Moscow's Domodedovo airport in January 2011 that killed 37 people and injured more than 180, twin suicide bombings on the Moscow subway in March 2010 that killed 40 people and injured more than 120 and the twin suicide bombings in Volgograd that killed 34.

Volgograd is one of the Russian cities hosting the World Cup, and its mayor, Andrei Kosolapov, vows it's now fully safe.

"We have made corrections and the security services, as well as the citizens of Volgograd always pay attention to that," he said. "We've learned from

the examples of previous World Cups in other cities in other countries. I'm sure it will be the best World Cup in history."

In April 2017, a suicide bombing in St. Petersburg, another World Cup host city, left 16 dead and wounded more than 50 others. Russian authorities identified the bomber in St. Petersburg as a 22-year old Russian national born in the Central Asian nation of Kyrgyzstan and recruited by the Islamic State group.

Galeotti noted that while Russia's top domestic security agency, the FSB, has strong intelligence resources across the North Caucasus region in Russia's south, its expertise regarding Muslim groups elsewhere in Russia and other ex-Soviet nations is significantly less solid.

"They have very, very good intelligence networks in the North Caucasus," Galeotti said. "What they are not at all so effective in is having networks in Muslim communities outside that region. The FSB has pretty much no resources and relatively little analytical expertise on Jihadism among Central Asians, and so they are relying on the intelligence they are getting from their Central Asian partners, which ... isn't very good."

Russian authorities have busted numerous

IS-related plots in recent months.

One of them involved a group of suspects in St. Petersburg who planned to bomb the city's landmark Kazan Cathedral and other crowded sites last fall. In December, Putin telephoned U.S. President Donald Trump to thank him for what the Kremlin described as a CIA tip that prevented the bombings in St. Petersburg.

In another recent terror plot uncovered by Russia's FSB, the agency said it nabbed several suspected members of an IS sleeper cell plotting attacks in Moscow and receiving orders from the IS in Syria via a messaging app.

Russian and Western intelligence agencies had closely exchanged information to secure the 2014 Winter Games in Sochi, but such security cooperation has shrunk as Russia-West ties have plunged to post-Cold War lows over the Ukrainian crisis, the war in Syria, and, more recently, the poisoning of an ex-Russian spy and his daughter in Britain.

"I think there is still a certain amount of cooperation, but ... it's more grudging, more slow and therefore it's less effective," Galeotti said.



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