

Best of Osceola Ballot

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OSCEOLA NEWS-GAZETTE

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Thursday, June 21, 2018

Serving Osceola County for 127 Years TOP STORIES



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WE BACK THE BLUE

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KPD to honor fallen officers on 1st anniversary

Community barbecue planned

By Rachel Christian Staff Writer

The Kissimmee Police Department announced plans this week to host a special memorial community barbecue one year after two officers were killed in the line of duty.

Officer Matthew Baxter and his superior officer, Sgt. Richard "Sam" Howard, were fatally shot during a routine stop near Cypress Street in Kissimmee on Aug. 18. Baxter died that night, and Howard the following day.

Baxter, 27, was married to a former Kissimmee police officer and had four small children. Howard, 36, had one child. Both men were active members of the Osceola County community.

They were the first KPD officers killed in the line of duty since Thomas Bartholomew was fatally shot while responding to a domestic violence call in July 1983.

An outpouring of public grief and sympathy followed last year's shooting. Prayer vigils and other observances were held as local See Officers, Page 2.



Matthew Baxter



Richard "Sam" Howard

AROUND TOWN

Want some advice?



NEWS-GAZETTE PHOTO/MARTIN MADDOCK

Freelance graphic artist Bill Haas shared some of his artwork with students when he worked for Disney as an animator and gave advice to students wanting to pursue a career in the arts. Osceola High School hosted the Osceola TIPS (Talent Identification Program) camp on June 14.

FDOT prepares for upcoming SunRail expansion

By Rachel Christian Staff Writer

Less than six weeks remain before SunRail makes its southern expansion Osceola County debut.

As the July 30 date nears, transportation officials are working to make sure residents know when, where and how to ride the commuter train's new Kissimmee stops.

On Monday, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) released an updated SunRail operation schedule for the Tupperware, downtown Kissimmee and Poinciana station locations. The new schedule will go into effect July 23 to give passengers a chance to adjust to the changes. Trains will run the additional 17-miles of track in Osceola and southern Orange counties, but no passengers will be on board during that portion of the route.

FDOT also announced that SunRail would increase service times from 18 round trips a day to 20 round trips.

The first train will depart Poinciana - the southern-most station - beginning at 5:45



FILE PHOTO

SunRail hosted an open house for residents to check out the train at the Poinciana station in May.

a.m. and running every half hour until 8:45 a.m. Trains operate less frequently between 10:45 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. before picking back up for evening commuters until about 7 p.m.

The last train of the day will depart the downtown Kissimmee station at 10:03 p.m. heading north to Orange County.

See SunRail, Page 6.

Board approves contract for online charter school despite concerning record

By Rachel Christian Staff Writer

The contract for an online charter school was approved by the district this month, despite the school's failure to meet several performance standards, including a 2018 graduation rate goal of 50 percent.

Florida Cyber Charter Academy (FLCCA) is a Jacksonville-based online charter school with contracts in three counties, including Osceola. The virtual school, which had just over 1,000 students at the beginning of the 2017-18 school year, was first recognized by the Osceola County School District in 2012.

Since then, FLCCA has failed to meet a range of performance standards.

'Great concern' found in district evaluation

According to the district's most recent Charter School Renewal Evaluation Instrument, FLCCA met just two out of 17 outlined standards. The school failed to provide adequate student enrollment data, proper support for students with disabilities and English language learners, sufficient proof that graduation requirements were being met and other key measures.

The K-12 online charter set its graduation goal at 50 percent, far below the state average of 82.5 percent, according to the document. It also neglected to provide an adequate plan for graduation rate improvement during its interview with the district.

Only 20 percent of students enrolled in the Osceola FLCCA charter

are county residents, a figure described as a "great concern" in the district assessment. Because of a 2017 Florida school-choice overhaul law, local districts can't bar contracted charter schools from accepting students from outside the county.

"The scores of 80 percent of their students are impacting Osceola County, and the students are not residing in our county," the evaluation stated.

School board members voice concerns, too

For these and other reasons, the district rejected FLCCA's request for a five-year contract, and instead, negotiated a three-year agreement with an understanding that the school would no longer accept new high school students until improvements are made, said Debra Pace, Osceola County School District superintendent.

But even three years was too long for School Board Chairman Ricky Booth and others who voted on the item June 5.

"If this is going to have a negative impact on the grade we receive from the state, we can't afford to allow... charter schools to come in and operate at less than what we expect in this county," Booth said.

He suggested the contract be approved for one year instead. The suggestion was widely supported by his fellow board members.

District superintendent remains optimistic

Still, Pace was optimistic about FLCCA making good on its promises.

See School, Page 6.



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Weisheyer elected as president-elect for Florida School Board Association

Osceola County School Board Member Tim Weisheyer has been elected as president-elect for the Florida School Boards Association (FSBA). It's a nonprofit corporation providing a collective voice for the elected school boards in Florida. As president-elect, Weisheyer will work at the local, state, and national level to champion for increased student achievement through the development of effective

school board leadership and advocacy for public education. He will serve as FSBA president-elect for 2018-19 and then FSBA president for 2019-20. "For years, I have been sharing the message about the difference education can make in the life of a child, a family, and a community and advocating for policies that support the same," said Weisheyer. "I am honored to provide the visionary leadership needed as president-elect to enhance

the organization's service to its members and to strengthen its influential voice on educational issues, which will positively affect Osceola County and Florida. To the position, I will bring my experience as a principled decision-maker, a seasoned School Board member, a successful business owner, and a committed community leader with the skills and foresight to know what and how things need to be done in order



Weisheyer

to improve educational success at all levels."



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Sheriff's Office warning residents about scam

The Osceola County Sheriff's Office is warning the public to be aware of a phone scam involving

callers who are saying they represent the agency. According to Sheriff's Office officials, the caller

tells the person they have a federal warrant for their arrest and requires the victims to forward money

to the caller via gift cards to avoid being arrested.

See **Scam**, Page 6.

OFFICERS

Continued from Page 1

groups rallied to raise funds for the families of the fallen law enforcement officers. As the one-year anniversary approaches, KPD Police Chief Jeff O'Dell said the upcoming community barbecue is meant to serve as a positive, lighthearted celebration of life for Baxter and Howard. "We want to appreciate the community that wrapped their arms around us when we needed it the most," O'Dell said in a statement Monday.

"It is time now for a lighter event, giving members of the department a chance to have fun and fellowship with our community." In May, separate memorial services were held in Tallahassee, Washington D.C. and outside the Osceola County Courthouse in memory of fallen law enforcement officers, including Baxter and Howard. The upcoming event is set to include games, entertainment and food.

Stacie Miller, KPD public information officer, said other event details are still being planned, and that residents can check the KPD Twitter page for any updates. Miller said the department intends to make the barbecue a free annual event for the community. It is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug. 18 at Kissimmee Lakefront Park. The accused suspect of last year's shooting, Everett Miller, 45, is being held at the

Orange County Jail awaiting trial. The former U.S. Marine was transferred to the Orlando facility in April, following a disciplinary issue at the Osceola County Jail, according to jail public information officer Hope Hicka. Miller, who could face the death penalty for his two counts of first-degree murder, is scheduled to appear in court Aug. 16 for a status hearing. Miller last appeared in court May 24.



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OPENING FALL 2018

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.

Shingle Creek Regional Park

Shingle Creek Regional Park at Steffee Landing offers canoe and paddleboard rental facility called The Paddling Center at Shingle Creek.

The creek and surrounding area, to include West Lake Tohopekaliga (Lake Toho for short), has a rich history and cultural heritage reaching back to the 1800s. Shortly after the United States Civil War, Shingle Creek became home to those seeking a new life in a warmer climate.

With plenty of available resources such as food, water, and timber, as well as easy access to the trade hub that was West Lake Toho, Shingle Creek was among the earliest settlements in the greater Kissimmee area. At the turn of the 20th century, the creek's abundant Bald Cypress trees provided timber for settlers' houses, as well as shingles for their roofs, thus inspiring the creek's name.

Steeffe Landing is uniquely situated at the confluence of the original "water highway" used by the Seminole Indians and the modern "land highway" (U.S. Highway 192), which is a well-known tourist corridor linking Disney World to the city of Kissimmee, 10 miles away. Paddling Center visitors on canoes and kayaks passing under Highway 192 quickly become immersed in the ecological diversity and natural beauty that is Shingle Creek, experiencing what the Seminole Indians may have experienced 200 years ago.

Today, Shingle Creek is remarkably undisturbed. This is due, in part, to the amazing efforts put forth by Osceola County to acquire lands adjacent to the creek in attempts to fend off urban sprawl. Although much of the creek and its surrounding lands have remained relatively unchanged since the days of early settlers, there is still fluctuation and variation within the environment.

Shingle Creek is fed by a large watershed located in South Orange County and North Osceola County. During months of heavy rains, in late summer and early fall, water levels may rise 1 to 3 feet over the course of several weeks as evidenced by the high water marks on the cypress trees lining the Creek. High water levels typically are associated with swifter currents, and there are times when only experienced paddlers are able to successfully navigate the 1.25 mile South paddling trail from the launch point at The Paddling Center facility. Even during these wet months, visitors enjoy a wide-open paddling trail that comprises the 1.25-mile north paddling trail. Both north and south paddling trails offer a diverse array of wildlife, such as alligators, wading birds, turtles, otters,

Beautiful Cypress Forest Scenery and eagles; as well as some beautiful flora –

Spanish moss, bromeliads, cypress trees, and water lilies. Surprisingly, due to the constant water flow throughout the year, mosquitoes are virtually non-existent when on the water, making it an exceptionally pleasant experience for all.

To accommodate the diverse needs of local organizations and groups, as well as visitors from within and outside the U.S., The Paddling Center developed several special programs during its first year in existence. These include guided and unguided ecotours, educational classes (water- and land-based), team building activities, and kayak training classes. Coming soon will be camping and clamping (catered camping) on Makinson Island located on West Lake Toho, as well as a shuttle van service allowing paddlers to go down-current (South) only through an



amazing cypress forest area, and bike rentals. Biking and hiking opportunities have expanded greatly due to the imminent completion of a biking/hiking trail along the East shoreline of the Creek stretching from The Paddling Center facility to Babb Landing and the Pioneer Village complex, located just over a mile to the North. A bridge over the creek at Babb Landing

will allow bikers/hikers to cross over to the West shoreline of the creek and continue North toward the county line and beyond. Plans for expanding this biking/hiking trail North to Clermont and the West Orange Biking Trail are being explored, as are plans to link the East and West coast of Florida via a "Coast-to-Coast" biking trail from Port Canaveral

to St. Petersburg. Once the coast-to-coast and North-to-South biking trail sections are linked into a continuous route, there will exist a magnificent biking, hiking, and paddling trail complex within Central Florida with Shingle Creek and The Paddling Center being a central hub, where all three tails come together.

The county also has a long-held vision of

expanding the paddling trail to the South, beyond West Lake Toho and utilizing the Kissimmee River to reach the Everglades. This vision includes identifying selected campsites spaced 10 miles apart, allowing paddlers to complete multiple day-long paddles starting from Shingle Creek, the headwaters of the Everglades, to Lake Okeechobee.



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VIEWPOINT

OSCEOLA NEWS-GAZETTE

Year 127- No. 49

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(USPS Number 513540)

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

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

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

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GUEST EDITORIAL

Politics: We need it

By Lee H. Hamilton

Every so often, I jot down a list of the things that discourage me about our country. There's the widespread disregard for our core values of tolerance and mutual respect, for instance. Our declining national optimism. Our relaxed attitude toward fixing our election machinery, overseeing financial institutions, and making sure that our key democratic institutions and processes are working effectively. There's wage stagnation, income inequality, a high poverty rate, failing infrastructure, inadequate health-care coverage, a dysfunctional Congress.... You get the idea.

This is not really a list of failings. It's a to-do list. And it pretty much begs the question, if we're not to throw up our hands and give in, how do we make progress on it? Well, I'll tell you: politics.

I suppose most Americans will disagree. How can we depend on people — politicians — whom many hold in utter disregard? And what can we expect from political institutions like legislatures, Congress, the bureaucracy, the political parties, and a rickety electoral system that are widely viewed with suspicion?

The answer, I think, has to be that we should do all we can to encourage and support them to fix these problems, because they're all we've got.

American politics can be an inefficient, noisy, messy ride. But be careful before you

condemn it and its practitioners, because alternatives like a chaotic anarchy or the brutal efficiency of a dictatorship are far worse.

In other words, if we're going to attack the problems that concern us, we need politics: otherwise, our government would grind to a halt. We would be without a means of remedying our collective problems. The institutions of politics — the rule of law, elections, city councils, legislatures, Congress — are the way we make operational a government of, by, and for the people. They are how we work together.

At its heart, politics is about searching for a remedy to a problem, and building support behind that remedy. It's the way we try to keep citizens satisfied and strive to meet their hopes, demands and dreams. At its best, politics and political involvement are how we give citizens a feeling of community and an understanding that we're all in this together.

It's our vehicle for expressing shared values and for reconciling the tensions, diversity and differences among us that are bound to arise as we tackle these enormously difficult challenges.

This is not to say that our system is even close to perfect. The list of things we need to fix — from the influence of money on elections and political decision-making to an elections machinery that is crying out for attention and reform — is long. But we need to strike a balance.

As a citizen you have to be critical of your system and ask yourself how to

improve it and support reforms that would make it better. Yet I worry that our disdain for politicians and the howling criticism aimed at our democratic institutions in recent years has so undermined confidence in the system that people have lost their trust in their fellow citizens, their elected representatives, and their institutions — in other words, in the very people, organizations, and core values that can get us out of this mess.

If you ask people what they most cherish about our political system, most will say it's the idea of opportunity. For all its fits and starts, its horse-trading and negotiating and raw give and take, politics is also how we try to provide equal rights, civil liberties, and a fair shot at opportunity for all. Sure, we fall short of the ideal. But in a representative democracy, it's the mechanism we possess to try to create a more perfect union.

The plain truth is, it doesn't do much good just to talk about the ideals or shared values of America. You also have to try to realize them on the ground, to pull them out of the complicated — and often self-contradictory — mass of popular longings and opinions and translate them into policy and law. For better or worse, politics is how we do this.

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

24/7 WWW.AROUNDOSCEOLA.COM



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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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.

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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 them.

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Little League of Poinciana currently holding early registration

By Lisa Concepcion
Poinciana Writer

Little League of Poinciana is currently holding early registration for fall ball at a discounted price. Boys and girls ages 4 to 13 who register

online until July 15 will pay \$80. This price includes Fall Ball 2018 and Spring 2019. Registration includes a tee shirt for Fall Ball and jersey, hat and belt for Spring 2019. Online registration is www.littleleagueofpoinciana.com. For questions call 407-655-4150.

► Today is the first day of summer. While the days may become hotter there is a place where you can cool of and be entertained. Let the Poinciana Branch

Library entertain you with their "Let Us Entertain You! Extreme Animals" series today from 2 to 3 p.m. Experience wildlife in the library. Extreme Animals brings exotic animals for an educational and

entertainment experience. Acrylic Painting for Seniors is Friday from 10 a.m. to noon. Flex your creative muscle in this fun

and class on acrylic painting. All supplies are included except the canvas. Intended only for adults. Class size limited to 15 students.

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

SCHOOL

Continued from Page 1

"They have a history of improved performance in the K-8 piece," Pace said. "We do believe they are working very hard to comply with the expectations of the board."

Pace cited student testing improvements. In 2015-16, the school received an "I" grade from the state due to its inability to test enough students. But in 2016-17, FLCCA met the 97 percent testing requirement and

earned a "C" rating from the state, the evaluation shows.

Sharon Williams, a representative from FLCCA, was called on by School Board Member Jay Wheeler, who openly criticized the charter and asked Williams how the school intends to improve.

"If we had a high school performing at the level you are performing at, I would be at Dr. Pace's office asking her to fire some people," he said.

Williams replied that by capping high school student enrollment, FLCCA could focus on retaining the students it already has.

"The longer a student stays in the school, the higher they perform," Williams said. "The idea is they will understand the model, they will be used to it, they will stay and they will perform to the level and expectations of the district. And that's what we are committed to do."

The board ultimately voted to approve FLCCA's contract with Osceola County for the 2018-19 school year.

FLCCA closes in other counties

This isn't the first time school districts have questioned Florida Cyber Charter Academy, formerly known as Florida Virtual Academy.

FLCCA still runs

operations in Duval and Clay counties, but in February, the organization said it would not renew its charter contract in Pasco County for the upcoming school year.

This follows previous FLCCA closures in Hillsborough and Pinellas counties.

Charter schools are public schools that operate under a performance contract, or a "charter"

which frees them from many regulations created for traditional public schools, according to the Florida Department of Education website. In 2011, the state legalized online charter schools.

The law also requires districts to use a standard state contract for charter schools, which limits the number of restrictions a school district can plan on a charter school.

SUNRAIL

Continued from Page 1

To see the complete SunRail schedule, visit www.sunrail.com.

FDOT has also hosted two open house events recently to familiarize

residents with SunRail and how to use the train. The last event took place Saturday at the Tupperware station, the first Osceola County stop of the southern expansion.

The event drew an estimated 1,200 attendees.

The previous open house at the Poinciana station in May drew an estimated 2,500 people, according

to a release by FDOT.

The final Osceola County event will take place from 5 to 9 p.m. June 30 at the Kissimmee downtown station, located at 320 Pleasant St.

LYNX is adding and updating a number of routes to align with the upcoming southern expansion. These changes will go into effect July 15 – two weeks before

the new SunRail stations open to the public – to allow passengers time to adjust. A complete list of route schedule changes can be found at golynx.com.

SCAM

Continued from Page 2

There have been several incidents reported recently involving this type of scam. The caller was able to utilize a common phone number spoofing program

in order to display the main telephone number to the Osceola County Sheriff's Office from which they were calling from.

Sheriff's Office officials

said the agency does not make such telephone calls, nor will they request anyone to send money in order to avoid arrest. This is part of an ongoing scam across the

country that local and federal agencies are investigating.

If you have received a similar call, been the victim of a scam or any other crime you are asked to contact the

Osceola County Sheriff's Office at 407-348-2222.

You can also contact Crimeline at 1-800-423-8477, if you have any information pertaining to the

subjects committing these scams or information on any other crimes where that information which leads to an arrest may be eligible for cash rewards of up to \$1,000.



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SPORTS



Indoor Kicks

Orlando Sea Wolves roster taking shape. Page 8.

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THE SPORTS COLUMN

Playing in Celebration on a Monday much more fun than in USGA's U.S. Open

I finished just two strokes back in the U.S. Open. Kinda.

No, you didn't see me on TV last weekend at Shinnecock Hills out on Long Island flailing away like I was swinging a tire iron and cursing the name of the United States Golf Association (more about them later).

I played the Monday after the tour pros got on their chartered flights out of New York. And, in the case of this past Monday, the day after Celebration was apparently hit by a named storm.

Celebration Golf Club hosts "Monday After the Majors" tournaments the day after each of the four men's professional golf majors plus the Players Championship. The format is a two-man scramble, so you and a partner (in my case Monday, Florida Fire Frogs Director of Operations Erik Anderson) can play the best of your shots and shoot a score that you'll brag to your friends about the rest of the week.

This isn't a shill for anyone, as another radio media outlet puts it on and we don't represent the course or any of the event sponsors as advertisers (although that can be fixed, and I know the number of some folks that can help). I'm just telling you all about the good time that was had by all on Monday.

Pushed forward by Anderson's booming drives and my, um, okay-ish iron play, Team News Frogs were in a position for glory. Instead, thanks to leaving tough putts and missing a few by inches, ours truly could only card a four-under 68, a pretty good number but historically middle-of-the-pack material.

At the players' luncheon and raffle afterwards, included in the price tag, we found out we were just two strokes out of a five-way tie for the lead. But still, a top-10 finish on the Monday after the U.S. Open made being out in the

heat and humidity (and out of our respective offices) worth it.

The next two events are July 23 and Aug. 13, the Monday after the conclusion of The Open Championship at Carnoustie and PGA Championship at Inverness Country Club. Get with Celebration Golf Club for information on these fun events...

... Speaking of fun, that word couldn't be used at the real U.S. Open last weekend. No player broke par for the 72 holes and a couple on Saturday couldn't brake 80 ... or even 82. An English golfer who you'd think would have been at home at the links-style, windswept layout chipped, putted and probably swore his way to a 92 on Thursday.

It was Saturday, after the 36-hole cut made victims out of top pros like Jordan Speith, Tiger Woods, Rory McIlroy, Bubba Watson, Jason Day, Matt Kuchar, Sergio Garcia, Jon Rahm and others, that made victims out of darn-near everybody. The course, especially the greens, got baked but the sun and raked by the wind. Shots rolled through the fairways and off the greens. I watched Swedish pro and former major champion Henrik Stenson hit shots on the 15th and 17th holes that landed in the middle of the green. His next shots on each hole came from sand traps.

The USGA has a blueprint for setting up their major courses — long rough, hard greens, fast conditions. Make the players play defensively. Par is good, make enough while avoiding the disasters and you can win.

But a course like Shinnecock Hills, sitting exposed to winds from the ocean and a bay, already

See **Column**, Page 9.

KEN JACKSON
Sports Editor



Santiago follows family pipeline to P.R. school



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Osceola High pitcher Liane Santiago (in hat sitting fourth from left) recently signed a scholarship offer to play collegiately at Pontificio Catholic University in her native Puerto Rico. There she will meet up with her sister Lianese, a catcher for the team.

▶ Osceola pitcher signs to play for PCU in Ponce

By **Ken Jackson**
Sports Editor

Liane Santiago is going home, and heading to go to school with family.

Santiago, a pitcher and infielder for Coach George Coffey's Osceola High softball team, has signed a scholarship to play in her hometown of Ponce, Puerto Rico for Pontificio Catholic University.

Her sister, Lianese, who preceded her at Osceola then when to PCU, is a catcher for the Catholic-based school.

"That's exciting, the idea of playing with her again," Liane said.

That may have had a hand in the school extending the only college offer she said she received.

"One is better than zero I guess," Santiago said. "I had accepted that I wasn't going to play in college, but in the end God had

a plan for me. I'm excited for what this will bring for me."

In her recently-completed senior season, Santiago split time in the pitching circle with sophomore Shelby Jones for the Kowboys as a senior this year that went 19-7, but they often split innings in each game to give opposing lineups a different look after one or two times through the order, Coffey said.

"They are two completely different pitchers, so to get hitters off balance midway through the game was a benefit to us," he said.

"She has the drive to do what she wants, and she will be comfortable there with her family around her. She'll be able to help that team right away and have an impact, including offensively. She'll get more of a chance to hit there than she did here because of the makeup of our team."

When not pitching she played the infield last season, just like in her final game, a loss in the Class 9A regional quarterfinal playoffs against Oviedo. She started at first base and came in to pitch in the fourth inning when the Kowboys fell behind.

Her last OHS at-bat was a thing of determination and defiance — facing the end of the game in the fifth inning due to the 10-run mercy rule, uncharacteristic for Osceola, Santiago drilled a two-out, two-run home run to left field, her first of the year and the second of her OHS career.

"She hit one in her first at-bat as a freshman, the last at-bat as a senior, and didn't have one in between," Coffey said, finding something to smile about in an otherwise downer of a 14-3 defeat.

"I just didn't want the season to end," Santiago said with a smile

See **Santiago**, Page 8.

Jason Kreis out as Orlando City coach after just 64 matches

▶ Team to address its second search for a new coach prior to Saturday's home match

By **Ken Jackson**
Sports Editor

Orlando City SC has agreed to part ways with Head Coach Jason Kreis, effective immediately, according to a team release issued Friday afternoon.

Assistant coach Bobby Murphy will lead the team while the Club conducts a comprehensive search for a new Head Coach. He interimed as head coach nearly two years ago to the day when the club replaced its original MLS coach Adrian Heath and brought Kreis aboard.

His first appearance leading the team was in a U.S. Open Cup match late Wednesday night in Washington against D.C. United that ended after the deadline for this print issue. The team's next MLS match is Saturday at Orlando City Stadium against the Montreal Impact. The Lions lost to the Impact, 3-0, in Montreal on April 13, the match that will serve as Kreis' last with the club.

Club CEO Alex Leitão will address the head

coaching transition and the ongoing search for Kreis' replacement prior to Saturday's match, the team said earlier this week.

"This is a very difficult decision to take, but sometimes in sports we must make tough decisions with the best future of the organization in mind," Orlando City Leitão said in last week's release. "I have enormous respect for Jason and the work his team did in Orlando. He arrived in a difficult moment and is leaving with a legacy of respect and professionalism. Now is the time to look forward, keep our heads high and continue pushing toward the many goals we set this season."

Assistant Coaches CJ Brown and Miles Joseph have also left the Club by mutual agreement, effective immediately.

Kreis joined Orlando City halfway through the Club's second year in Major League Soccer in July 2016. Under his leadership, the Lions built a 21-29-14 MLS record and 1-1-0 in the U.S. Open Cup. The team is currently in the sixth and final Eastern Conference playoff spot.



PHOTO/ORLANDO CITY

Jason Kreis was released as Orlando City head soccer coach last week after taking over midway through the 2016 season and leading the Lions to a 21-29-14 record during that span. He previously coached in Salt Lake and New York in the MLS.

Kreis made wholesale changes to the roster this year, bringing in veterans like Sacha Kljestan and Justin Meram to bolster the offensive attack and central defender Lamine Sané to strengthen the defense. But Meram has been largely ineffective,

and Sané and other key components like fellow center back Jonathan Spector and striker Dom Dwyer, who the club traded assets and allocation money to acquire last year, and others have missed significant time with injuries.

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SeaWolves putting together roster as they prepare for next player combine

By Ken Jackson
Sports Editor

The Orlando SeaWolves, the new Major Arena Soccer League team that will begin play in December at the Silver Spurs Arena, continues to assemble a squad the team hopes will be competitive in the MASL right away.

That plan includes another team combine to be held in Orlando July 21-22 under the watchful eye of Coach Keith Tozer, the 20-year head coach of the United States Men's National

Futsal Team and no stranger to the indoor game. Futsal is another scaled-down soccer derivative played five-a-side and often indoors. In his career as an indoor soccer head coach he has won six championships and tallied over 700 career victories, making him the winningest professional coach in the sport's history. Tozer is currently the commissioner of the Professional Futsal League and also a FIFA

and CONCACAF regional Futsal instructor.

The combine will take place at XL Soccer World (825 Courtland Street in Orlando). The combine is open to players 18 and older aspiring to play in the MASL or interested in fine tuning their skills under the supervision of a world-renowned coach. SeaWolves soccer operations staff will be on hand to evaluate the participants. Registration is \$75 in advance and \$100 at the door. Interested parties can register by visiting www.orlandoseawolves.com. All participants will receive a SeaWolves t-shirt.



The event will coincide with the World Futsal Championships, which will be hosted in Orlando at the ESPN World Wide Sports Complex.

The SeaWolves have already spent the past month locking in players, starting with inking former Orlando City Soccer Club player Lewis Neal on May 15, and reaching verbal commitments with fellow OCS alum Luke Boden and Jonny Mendoza, who was born in Colombia but graduated from Longwood Lyman High School and played for the Stetson Hatters, and MASL free agent Gordy Gurson. One of Gurson's former teammates with the Seattle Impact and St. Louis Ambush, veteran goalie Piotr Sliwa.

Six days later the team announced the signing of Dylan Hundelt, the son of arena soccer star Kevin Hundelt, who played from 1987-2001. Entering his fourth season Hundelt is coming off a breakout year with the Ambush in which

he had a career-high six goals and four assists in 17 games, including two short-handed goals.

"Dylan is a player with tremendous upside," SeaWolves General Manager Chris Kokalis said. "He is a high-intensity defender who blocks shots and makes things happen when he's on the field. I think fans will fall in love with his hustle and work rate."

Midfielder Victor France, goalkeeper Rainer Hauss and defender Luiz Mota were signed out of Brazil, and the SeaWolves made their first trade, acquiring defender Richard Schermund from the St. Louis Ambush for future considerations.

On June 12, the team signed veteran MASL defender Joshio "Yoshi" Sandoval. He has missed only three games in his five-year MASL career and his teams have qualified for the playoffs four times. After three seasons with the Chciago Mustangs, Sandoval signed as a free agent with the Cedar Rapids Rampage, where he worked the last two seasons with Chris Kokalis. The Hammond, Ind. native has been a regular member of the U.S. Arena Soccer National Team and played in the 2017 World Minifootball Federation World Cup in Tunisia.

"Yoshi is as reliable as they come defensively, and he's a good teammate," Kokalis said. "At 28 we feel he is just entering into his prime years."

Midfielders Rodolfo Lopes and Julian Pavloski and forward Kevin Rockwell have received contracts to compete for a roster spot during the team's training camp which will begin in November. The team held tryouts last weekend in West Palm Beach.



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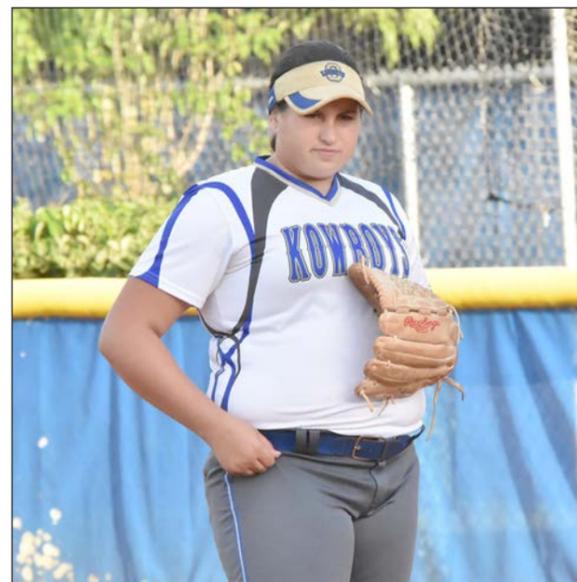
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SANTIAGO

Continued from Page 7.



NEWS-GAZETTE PHOTO/MARTIN MADDOCK

Liane Santiago helped pitch and hit the Kowboys back to the regional playoffs for the third consecutive season.

following the game, which ended with her standing in the on-deck circle in the seventh with runners on base.

With her high-school career now in the rear-view mirror, Santiago is focused

on moving her life back to Puerto Rico and becoming a competitive college-level pitcher.

"They have a couple of good pitchers, but I feel like I can come in and help out right away," she said.

COLUMN

Continued from Page 7.

plays hard, fast and windy, then was lengthened to accommodate the game's best shot bombers. The USGA didn't need to influence the ground — they didn't have to on Thursday, the event's opening day when 20 mph winds sent the average score up to six-over par. Nobody complained.

But when players hit shots from where they were supposed to, to places they were supposed to, and got penalized, nearly everybody complained.

"We're out to protect par," is the USGA's rally cry, but it's about 20 years behind the times. Players are too talented and athletic now to be held back by course conditions that don't compare to a windy day on the moon.

On championship Sunday the USGA let the course play as it should — all but admitting they blew it on Saturday — and while six guys still ballooned to a 77 or more, 15 of the 67 cut survivors broke par, including Tommy Fleetwood's record-tying 63.

Next year the Open returns to a golf world gem,

Pebble Beach. Aside from putting a hole on a rock in the ocean, it's going to be hard to screw up that golf cathedral. But I bet some players will still take the Lord's name in vain ...

... One last golf bit: I guess you saw or heard about Phil Mickelson's attempt to make Shinnecock play a little easier: hit the ball again before it rolls off a green, or into a bunker, or under Tiger Woods' yacht.

Obviously you can't do that, but ol' Lefty used the rule as written a hundred years ago — take two penalty strokes and be on your way — did something never done or seen before in a tournament like that. So of course, the stuffed collared shirts of the USGA, and the sewer-dwellers of Twitter, got in an uproar. "That cheater destroyed the spirit of the game!"

Really, there's a hard-and-fast spirit to a game where you whack a dimpled ball with a crazy looking stick into a hole far, far away? Phil, a decorated golf champion and eventual Hall of Fame member was out of contention by the 13th hole

on Saturday, and out of his wits. Rather than watch the ball roll over 80 feet away into an impossible lie, and feel foolish, he ran up and knocked the ball back toward the hole — and looked foolish.

He took his penalty, and a 10 on the par-4 hole, and went on his way, but not before being told how wrong he was and what the true penalty should be.

He should be disqualified. Ban him from the Tour for three months. Don't let him in next year's U.S. Open.

(That last one's kind of rough. He's from California. Pebble Beach right there on the Monterey Peninsula.)

He was nine shots out of the lead when it happened — I'm convinced he wouldn't have done it if he thought he could still win — and it's not like he went right behind the hole and rebounded it into the cup.

This can be let go. His penalty will be the damage inflicted upon his image.

He just better not do it if I see him in the field on a Monday at Celebration.

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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 25-27 camp will be 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 Godwin Memorial Scholarship for Kids Golf Classic, hosted by Education Foundation Osceola, will be the morning of Friday, 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). Participants can register at the Oak Street Park Community Center (717 Palm Ave.). For information call 407-518-2360 or visit www.kissimmee.org.

► **Senior softball**

Osceola Senior Softball welcomes players ages 55-over. All skill levels are welcome. Until the fall season starts, pickup games will be held 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 or email mrod156@hotmail.com. For general information on pickup games, call Jim Parker at 321-333-2012.

► **Harmony wrestling**

The Harmony Longhorn wrestling club meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Harmony High School Wrestling room. Athletes ages K-8 are invited to participate. Beginners are welcome. The club season runs Oct. 10 through May 27 and is broken into three sessions. The \$40 fee includes about 50 practices, a team T-shirt and an AAU card plus insurance. Former Gateway High standout Brian Miller is the club coach. Also on the staff is Harmony High head coach Victor Lorenzano and his staff, which includes Chris Grillo, Adam Hopman and Billy Linane Call Coach Miller at 908-752-7098 for further information.

LIFESTYLES

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Maintain sparkling clear pool water



Swimming weather is something to enjoy. But for pool owners, few things are more of a headache than wanting to jump into the pool only to find that the water is cloudy, green and uninviting.

Clean pools are safe, and that safety requires periodic maintenance. Homeowners may need to periodically revisit pool water chemistry and cleaning techniques in order to maintain clean, healthy and safe pools.

Disinfectant levels

Maintaining a satisfactory level of disinfectant will help prevent the multiplication of bacteria and algae in the pool. Many pools are kept clean through the use of chlorine products. The ratio of chlorine to water needed to maintain the clarity of the water depends on the size of the pool, the sanitizer used, weather, sunlight and evaporation, and the pH. In many instances, the available free chlorine in a pool when tested should be between 3 and 4 ppm to offer adequate sanitation. Frequent testing will help pool owners gauge how well the pool water is holding chlorine and how to compensate if extra is needed.

Brushing/vacuuming

Nearly every pool owner has had to deal with algae at some point in his or her life. One of the best ways to minimize algae spores in the pool besides high-sanitation levels is through routine brushing and vacuuming. According to Leslie's Pool Supplies, pool walls, floors and steps are the most common places to find algae in a pool. If left untreated, algae can burrow their roots inside the cracks on these surfaces, making them very difficult to remove. That's why weekly (or more frequent) brushing and vacuuming can help keep surfaces clean and algae-free. Vacuuming also helps remove debris that has fallen into the water and sunk, which can decompose and contribute to water cloudiness.

Maintain pH

Maintaining the proper chemical balance of pool water will help keep it clean and protect system components from damage. The pH level of pool water measures its acidity or alkalinity. The pH level should be between 7.4 and 7.6 for best results. Latham Pool Products says water that is too acidic can cause eye and skin irritation and damage liners or equipment with corrosion. High pH may cause cloudy water and make chlorine less active. Again, frequent testing helps pool owners understand their water chemistry better and make adjustments.

Filtration

For cleanliness, water circulation and filtration is essential. This helps spread the chemicals to all areas of the pool and also helps to remove debris. Filters come in different types, including sand, diatomaceous earth, or DE, and cartridge. Each has its pros and cons. How long to run the filter depends on water temperature, gallons of water in the pool and the estimated water turnover rate of the filter. Pool owners can start with longer filter run times and gradually cut down until they find the right rate based on water appearance, according to popular pool forum Trouble Free Pools.

Pools can be great places to spend warm, sunny days. With care, pools can remain clean and clear throughout warm weather seasons.

Safety in and around the pool

Beating the heat in a pool is one of the most popular warm-weather activities. Swimming attracts people of all ages because of its various benefits. In addition to being an enjoyable recreational activity, swimming also is a low-impact way to exercise. Having a backyard pool makes swimming and outdoor fun that much easier.

Although exact numbers are difficult to come by, various sources indicate there are approximately 4.5 million residential swimming pools across the United States. While it once was relatively rare to find a backyard swimming pool in Canada, things have changed — especially in Quebec. No other province comes close to matching Quebec for backyard pools, which has well over 300,000 backyard pools, more than Ontario (which has five million more people). Quebec also has more pools per capita than almost anywhere else in North America according to numbers compiled by Pool & Spa Marketing magazine.

Pools can be enjoyable places to gather and make for the focal points of yards, but they require careful use so fun is not overshadowed by tragedy. Unfortunately, young children have the highest risk of pool injury or drowning, with more than 200 youngsters drowning in swimming pools each year. The American Red Cross and National Swimming Pool Foundation® have partnered to educate home pool users. The following guidelines are important when adults and children are enjoying the pool.

- ▶ Create barriers. Preventing accidental drowning means removing easy access to pools. Pools should be surrounded by secure fencing with an automatically latching gate. Fences should



not be accessible by climbing. Extra precautions like installing a safety cover on inground pools and removing or securing ladders when the pool is not in use can help as well.

- ▶ Establish rules. Each pool owner should establish their own set of rules for the pool. These can include “no running around the pool,” “no diving in a shallow pool” and “no riding toys at poolside.” Pool owners can customize rules as they pertain to safety issues in their yards.

- ▶ Maintain constant supervision. People of any age can drown. That is why it's always safest for swimmers to swim with a buddy or with someone watching. The American Academy of Pediatrics says an adult should be in the water and within arm's reach when infants and toddlers are swimming. This is known as “touch

supervision.” For older children, an adult should be paying constant attention and remain free from distractions, like talking on the phone, socializing, tending to household chores, or drinking alcohol.

- ▶ Use approved flotation devices. Individuals who do not know how to swim should rely on a Coast Guard-approved flotation device. Water wings and general pool floats are not adequate, especially in situations that requires someone to be saved.

- ▶ Take swimming lessons. Knowing how to swim will not entirely remove the risk of drowning, but it certainly can reduce it. Many swim programs teach water survival skills as well as general swimming techniques.

Fun around the pool is par for the course come summer. But fun must be balanced with safety when swimming.

Swimming more than just a recreational activity

Many people view swimming as a purely recreational activity, but the health benefits of swimming should not be overlooked.

Swimming is a great way to get fit, providing great cardiovascular exercise that's easy on the joints. Swimming engages a variety of muscle groups, making it a great way to get a complete workout. The following are some additional benefits of including swimming as part of your exercise regimen.

- ▶ When swimming, muscles are worked hard, which can help build strength. Much of that work can be traced to the fact that water is far more resistant

than air, forcing a body in water to work harder to move than it would if it were walking on solid ground.

- ▶ Water buoyancy can enable people to do exercises that would be jarring on land. In water, roughly 90 percent of the body is buoyant. That means working out in the water will put less strain on the knees and hips when it comes to performing high-impact jumping exercises.

- ▶ Swimming is a great cardiovascular workout. Swimming can elevate the heart rate to an optimal level and work the lungs, too. Pushing oneself harder and harder can help to burn calories and lead to weight loss.

- ▶ Just about every muscle is used when a body is swimming. Swimming targets the shoulders, back, arms, legs, hips, and gluteals without requiring complicated workout equipment.

- ▶ Swimming may help improve coordination, balance and posture. Swimming also may promote greater flexibility by stretching the body through fluid movements.

While swimming is often considered a relaxing activity tailor-made for warm summer days, it also provides a complete and demanding workout that can benefit the body in a variety of ways.

Pools and lawns can get along

Homeowners interested in installing pools in their backyards need not worry about the potential impact of such decisions on surrounding landscapes.

According to the Association of Pool & Spa Professionals, there are 10.4 million residential and 309,000 public swimming pools in the United States. Although the average monthly temperatures in Canada are lower than those throughout much of the United States, many Canadian homeowners still have pools in their backyards. Quebec is home to the most pools per capita for Canada — with some estimates suggesting the province has more than 300,000 backyard pools, according to Pool and Spa Marketing magazine.

Many homeowners wonder if the chlorine and other chemicals in pool water have any affect on the lawn, particularly if pool water robs lawns of vital nutrients they need to thrive. But the resource All About Lawns says most people needn't worry about errant drops or even higher levels of overflow. It all comes down to the selectivity of grass. Blades of grass are particular about which nutrients from the water they absorb and in what quantities. Lawns are largely unaffected by chlorine.

Furthermore, soil can withstand chlorine when kept at applicable sanitary levels (which generally range between two to three parts per million), at high acid levels. That's much more than is usually contained in pool water.

Pool water is also maintained in the neutral range at a pH of 6.5 to 7.8, which is safe for plants. Should the pool water test at a higher acidity or alkalinity, it can

adversely affect landscapes, particularly delicate plants.

Pool owners should be diligent about smart application and storage of pool chemicals. Powdered or liquid chlorine and other water chemistry products that spill onto grass or plants may cause damage.

In safe amounts, chlorine should not adversely affect lawns and other plants that surround pools.



THE GUIDE

CONTACT
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 OSCEOLA NEWS-GAZETTE A&E EDITOR
EMAIL JDIDOMENICO@OSCEOLANEWSGAZETTE.COM

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT AROUND OSCEOLA COUNTY & CENTRAL FLORIDA

SPOTLIGHT WEEKLY PICKS

SATURDAY, JUNE 23



MAGIC AWAITS, at the Orange County library for Pottersversary. Dress in your House colors to celebrate 20 years of Harry Potter. Wizard trivia, crafts, games and more. All ages, 2 to 4 p.m. Call 407-835-7323.



BABY GOAT YOGA, at Sawgrass Acres (4430 Dixie Way in Mims). Meet a friendly goat while practicing yoga. All levels of experience welcome. \$35 to participate. Call 407-454-4788.



SHENANIGANS, the Orlando Comedy Festival at Park Inn. Experience performances in standup, improv and sketch comedy. The event starts at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$25. Call 321-438-8025.

MONDAY, JUNE 25



FRIDA KAHLO SERIES, presented by Rollins College in part of Lifelong Learning. Learn about Kahlo's life and work at Rollins College at 11 a.m. The cost is \$70. Call 407-646-2000.

THROUGH JUNE 28



THE ENZIAN PRESENTS, "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" —a documentary on Mister Fred Rogers and his well-known TV show. The film will play on select dates. General admission is \$11. Visit Enzian.org.

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

Cats and Coffee

Orlando Cat Café celebrates partnership with SPCA FL



NEWS-GAZETTE PHOTO/JENNIFER DIDOMENICO

Orlando Cat Café recently celebrated its new partnership with SPCA Florida. The café serves guests as a coffee shop, while also housing 12 to 20 adoptable cats at a time. The café is located on Cagan Park Avenue in Clermont.

By Jennifer DiDomenico
 A&E Editor

The News-Gazette was recently invited to Orlando Cat Café. And honestly, what's better than an afternoon spent petting cats and playing with kittens while drinking coffee? (The answer is, "Nothing. Nothing is better than that.")

The invite was to celebrate Orlando Cat Café's new partnership with SPCA Florida. The two are working together to help save the lives of Central Florida felines.

Guests are welcome to grab a cup of Axum coffee and hang out with adoptable cats on a daily basis. The café serves a modern-day adoption location, giving potential fur-ever parents the chance to get to know their fur babies before bringing them home.

Orlando Cat Café is home to 12 to 20 adoptable cats at a time, where they can roam freely in the designated "Cat Play Area"— separate and safe from the coffee shop. Guests are welcome to join the cats in the "Cat Play Area" or stay on the "Café" side and see the cats through the window. Any Axum food or drink purchased on the "Café" side may be brought into the "Cat Play Area," as long as guests refrain from feeding the felines.

Orlando Cat Café opened in 2016, on Cagan Park Avenue in Clermont. While

other cat cafés exist worldwide, Orlando Cat Café was the first to open in the state of Florida.

"It was a long process, about 22 months to get everything together," said Orlando Cat Café Director of Community Purrations Jessica Whitehouse, regarding the business details and health codes of pairing animals and food together. She also said the café took the place of a former Anytime Fitness location, so a lot of renovations had to be completed before move-in.

"But since we opened in 2016, we've celebrated 208 adoptions to date," Whitehouse said.

Orlando Cat Café has even celebrated adoptions with out-of-state parents.

"Our area is very touristy, so we have a lot of tourist traffic come through to visit the cats," Whitehouse continued. "We've had about eight or 10 out-of-state adoptions, where [the families] have actually brought the cats back home with them."

Sandy Cagan, co-owner of Cagan Management Group and founder of the Orlando Cat Café, said she got the idea from a news story back in 2015. She has been a cat lover her entire life, and wanted to give back to her community in a special way.

"Our announcement with SPCA is a huge deal," said Cagan. "We opened with Animal League, a great local shelter. But we needed a bigger organization to sustain us

and provide us with more [adoptable] cats. We are excited to welcome SPCA."

SPCA Florida is a highly regarded 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, headquartered in Lakeland, Fla. It has been dedicated to improving the lives of pets and people in the community since its founding in 1979. SPCA Florida works to provide care, compassion and hope to more than 6,000 homeless animals entering their doors every year.

Guests can visit SPCA's adoptable cats at Orlando Cat Café for one hour at a time. During non peak times, guests may enter the "Cat Play Area" right away. During peak times, a reservation may be necessary. For the safety of the cats, the amount of people in the "Cat Play Area" may be limited.

Orlando Cat Café also hosts a number of different monthly events. For example, Yoga with Cats. Yoga classes in the "Cat Play Area" are offered on the second and fourth Saturday of every month. The class taught by professional instructors is "purrfect" for beginners or any level.

A favorite among visitors, Palettes & Pets. This monthly paint night is hosted on the second Thursday of every month, from 5 to 7 p.m. Artist Kathie Camara will guide you through the featured painting, step-by-step. All painting supplies is

See CATS, Page 13.



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WHERE TO WATCH: FIFA WORLD CUP

For soccer fans around the world, the countdown for the 2018 World Cup is officially over. While watching the action firsthand in Russia may be difficult to beat, there are plenty of incredible places to catch all the can't-miss tournament moments from sunny Kissimmee.

Catch all the tournament action at Disney Springs. The eclectic complex is home to multiple dining venues to catch the games, as well as the Pelé Soccer retail location where guests can buy their team jerseys and celebrate with fellow soccer aficionados.

which will be broadcasting the matches in Spanish via Telemundo Network.

For a full month of soccer-themed celebrations and offerings, head to Orlando International Premium Outlets and watch all the matches live in Vinito Ristorante. Fans and shoppers alike can enjoy the restaurant's viewing lounges, food and drink specials, and complimentary beer samples during key matches.

Watch the 2018 World Cup games in style at The Florida Mall's soccer viewing lounges. All 32 matches will be broadcasted live in the center's vibrant viewing areas. Plus, the mall will offer exciting entertainment, family-friendly activities, and more every Saturday during the month-long showdown.

Score one of the best views of the games in town at Wreckers Sports Bar. Located at the Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center, Wreckers features an indoor, two-story, 37-foot sports screen — the largest in Kissimmee — as well as more than 50 HD TVs and a menu full of fan-favorite foods.

For additional viewing opportunities, check out any of these crowd-pleasing venues:

- Celebration Town Tavern
 - The Clubhouse Grille at Reunion Resort
 - ESPN Club at Disney's BoardWalk
 - Miller's Ale House Kissimmee TopGolf Orlando
- Release submitted by Experience Kissimmee.

Get into the spirit at NBC Sports Grill & Brew at Universal CityWalk, where the entire restaurant is decked-out in World Cup décor. Guests can find fun photo ops, giveaways, and enjoy the matches on any of the restaurant's 100 screens or the giant outdoor screen,

To see the 2018 FIFA World Cup's full game schedule, visit <https://www.fifa.com/worldcup/matches/>.

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SAVE THE DATE: JULY 4

BATMAN NO. 50, ART SIGNING AT COMIC STORE

By Jennifer DiDomenico
A&E Editor

Coliseum of Comics recently announced that it will sell three Coliseum-exclusive variant covers for the upcoming Batman No. 50. The comic features the wedding of Bruce Wayne (Batman) and longtime nemesis Selina Kyle (Catwoman).

"DC Comics offered comic stores the opportunity to have an exclusive cover and we wanted something as memorable as it is beautiful, so we tapped artist Alé Garza," said President of the Coliseum chain Phil Boyle. "Mr. Garza's work spans almost 20 years and he's become a go-to artist for capturing those moments that make you stop and take a second look."

Garza will be on-site at Coliseum's Central Florida

locations on July 4 for autograph signings to celebrate the launch. The schedule is as follows: Kissimmee (10 a.m. to noon), Millenia (1:30 to 3:30 p.m.) and Fashion Square Mall (4:30 to 6:30 p.m.).

The 48-page comic is written by Tom King, and features artwork by a handful of illustrators including Lee Bermejo, Frank Miller, José Luis García-López, Ty Templeton, Becky Cloonan, Andy Kubert, Neal Adams and Mitch Gerads. A new, on-going solo book for the bride, Catwoman, will also launch July 4.

Coliseum has already started taking pre-orders for the July 4 release date. Pre-orders range from \$6.99 to \$24.99.

For more information or to pre-order an exclusive



NEWS-GAZETTE PHOTO/
JENNIFER DIDOMENICO

Coliseum of Comics recently announced its exclusive variant covers for Batman No. 50 with a signing event July 4.

edition of Batman No. 50, visit <https://coliseumofcomics.com/batvariant50/>.

REMEMBERING RICHARD

By Jennifer DiDomenico
A&E Editor

The Disney community lost a very special member earlier this month. Richard Gerth, a longtime cast member for Walt Disney World Resort, passed away at 92 years of age.

Gerth was a greeter at the Grand Floridian Resort & Spa, where he would tip his hat and give his best regards to guests entering and exiting the hotel, always with a smile on his face.

What stood out on Gerth's cream-colored, three-piece suit was his blue name tag. While Disney name tags share a cast member's name and hometown, and often achievements, cast members with solid blue name tags are known to be recipients of the Walt Disney Legacy Award—an award that recognizes cast members, crew members and Imagineers around the world, who embody the values to "dream, create and inspire."

Another familiar face who has received the award is "Ye Haa" Bob Jackson, who entertains all at a piano show at River Roost Lounge located at Disney's Port



PHOTO/DONNA DIDOMENICO

Jennifer DiDomenico and Richard Gerth at Disney's Grand Floridian, May 2017.

Orleans Resort - Riverside. The Facebook page dedicated to Gerth — "Richard Gerth - Grand Floridian Greeter" — confirmed his passing on June 7.

The confirmation post reads, "It is with great sadness that we can confirm the passing of our favorite greeter, Richard Gerth. At the time of passing he was resting very peacefully and surrounded by his family. It was a graceful transition from this life to the next.

We are thankful for all of the memories that have been shared and the family appreciates your thoughts and prayers during this sad time."

The page has more than 17,000 likes. In November 2015, the page had just exceeded 1,000 likes.

CATS

Continued from Page 11



PHOTO/JAMES WEST

included, and you will take home your own 11x14-inch canvas painting.

A former art teacher at a nearby studio, Camara started volunteering at the café when it opened.

"I love it here," she said. "Sometimes I paint the

kitties, and sometimes I get to cuddle with them." Definitely a win-win.

Admission to the café and special events can be found online. For more information on Orlando Cat Café, visit www.OrlandoCatCafe.com.

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OBITUARIES

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

WEISS-Michele Joann "Shelly" Weiss, 48 passed away June 12, 2018 at her home in Tallahassee, Florida. Shelly was born in Toledo, Ohio on August 24, 1969 to parents Michael and Carolyn Weiss.



Shelly graduated from Osceola High School in 1987. While in school she was a cheerleader, member of chorus, played saxophone, member of Girl Scouts and Keyettes, and was a junior volunteer at Osceola Regional Hospital. She was an avid writer having her first poem published when she was in fourth grade. Her first job after graduation was at the Osceola County Court House where she served as a clerk for Clerk of Court, Mel Wills. She graduated from Florida State University with three master's degrees EDS, LMHC, and CRC in 1996.

She moved to Orlando to work for Vocational Rehab, developed a program for UCF for children with disabilities, and she opened her practice of mental health counseling. While in Tallahassee she worked with Governor Jeb Bush in getting public buildings ADA compliant.

As an avid writer she wrote children's books for guidance group organization which are available on Amazon. She traveled as an inspirational speaker. She was a bible scholar. She developed the

my dream portfolio process for establishing life goals. She is a member of FSU Alumni, writing therapist organization, and turtle rescue organization.

Shelly was preceded in death by her father, Michael Weiss Sr., grandparent's Laymon and Beulah Wright, William and Dorothy Young, and Henry Weiss. She was also preceded by her special pets, Seminole and Zoey.

She is survived by her best friends, Jireh and Addy, her mother, Carolyn, her brother, Michael Jr., and his wife, Tammy of McMinnville, TN; her brother, Mark and his wife, Jacqueline of Brentwood, TN; nieces, Amanda and Anna Claire, nephews, Cody and Alex, and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

A Celebration of Life memorial service will be at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, June 23, 2018 at the Roger C. Thompson Memorial Chapel, Conrad & Thompson Funeral Home with the Pastor Jeffrey Lehman, Associate Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Kissimmee, officiating.

A reception with food and fellowship will follow after the services in the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to service dog organization of your choice or at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in her honor.

The Weiss family is being cared for by Conrad & Thompson Funeral Home, 511 Emmett Street, Kissimmee, Florida 34741, (407) 847-3188.

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- OBITUARY NOTICES**
- Wayne Wesley Godwin, 73, of St. Cloud, passed away Tuesday, June 5, 2018. Osceola Memory Gardens, Kissimmee is handling the arrangements. 407-847-2494.
 - Sohia Leigh Rose, 2, of Davenport, passed away May 31, 2018. Conrad-Thompson Funeral Home, Kissimmee. 407-847-3188.
 - Robert L. Dickey, 77, of Kissimmee, passed away June 6, 2018. Conrad-Thompson Funeral Home, Kissimmee. 407-847-3188.
 - Jean Autrey Stark Kasper, 99, of Kissimmee, passed away June 6, 2018. Conrad-Thompson Funeral Home, Kissimmee, 407-847-3188.
 - Eugenia Cadiz, 98, of Kissimmee, passed away Sunday, June 10, 2018. Osceola Memory Gardens, Kissimmee is handling the arrangements. 407-847-2494.
 - James F. Marx, 84, of Orlando, passed away Friday, June 15, 2018. Conrad-Thompson Funeral Home, Kissimmee. 407-847-3188.
 - David Edward Williams, 83, of Kissimmee, passed away Saturday, June 16, 2018. Conrad-Thompson Funeral Home, Kissimmee. 407-847-3188.
 - Edgar Ellis Foshee, 83, of St. Cloud, passed away Sunday, June 17, 2018. Osceola Memory Gardens, St. Cloud, is handling the arrangements. 407-847-2494.
 - Robert W. Reid, 61, of St. Cloud, passed away Wednesday, June 13, 2018. Conrad-Thompson Funeral Home, Kissimmee. 407-847-3188.

THE DAILY PLANNER

CONTACT
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Weekly and Monthly Events

Menopause the Musical is coming to Tampa for six live performances. GFour Productions, winner of 44 Tony Awards and 54 Drama Desk Awards, proudly brings the international hit show to Ferguson Hall at the Straz Center for the Performing Arts. Performances start on Wednesday, June 27 and run through Sunday, July 1. Tickets are on sale now and available at the Straz Center Ticket Office, online at www.strazcenter.org, or by calling 813-229-STAR.

WHO Adults are invited!
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DAILY THURSDAY 06-21

ZION & LENNO
 Zion & Lennox return to Central Florida on Aug. 10, for a concert at the Silver Spurs Arena. Tickets are on sale now. Starting at \$45, tickets can be purchased at TICKETMASTER.COM, by phone 800-745-3000 and at the Silver Spurs Arena Box Office. For more information, visit OHPARK.COM

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/](http://ARTANDHISTORY.ORG/EVENT/2711/2018-06-22)

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE
 City Commissioner Jim Gray will speak about the Ronald McDonald House during a business luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Lake Nona. Visit LAKENONACC.ORG

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.

POTTERSVERSARY
 Magic awaits at the Orange County library for Pottersversary. Dress in your House colors and join us to celebrate 20 years of everything Harry Potter. We'll have wizard trivia, games and crafts for the whole family. All ages welcome.

LAKE WALES MUSEUM
 The Lake Wales Museum is celebrating summer with a host of new activities and special guest 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 CITYOFLAKEWALES.COM/439/DEPOT-MUSEUM

DESIGNER BAG BINGO BENEFITTING SPECIAL OLYMPICS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY
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SUNDAY 06-24

FESTIVAL INTERNACIONAL
 Festival Internacional is happening at the Silver Spurs Arena. Tickets are on sale now at TICKETMASTER.COM

TUESDAY 06-26

MEDICARE COUNSELING SHINE is offering Medicare Counseling — free, unbiased help with healthcare plans, medication, financial assistance and claims. The session runs 10 a.m. to noon, at the St. Cloud Community Center: 2101 17th Street in St. Cloud.

FRIDAY 06-29

JIHA MOON OPENING RECEPTION
 Jiha Moon's collection of 20 small ceramic sculptures are now on display at the Mennello Museum of American Art in Orlando. Join the opening reception from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., with a gallery talk by Jiha Moon from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The reception catered by Runway Catering will follow. Plus music by Tony Miracle. Tickets are \$10 for non-members.

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.

JIHA MOON FAMILY WORKSHOP
 Jiha Moon will host a family workshop at the Mennello Museum of American Art in Orlando. The workshop runs 1 to 3 p.m. Join the waitlist at BIT.LY/2LSCBF7



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 Raghu, MAX, Logan Henderson, In Real Life, Lauv, Jack & Jack and Echsmith. 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.

WEDNESDAY 07-04

WINTER PARK'S FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION
 Join Winter Park's 23rd annual Fourth of July celebration, from 9 a.m. to noon in Central Park. The festivities begin at the main stage with opening remarks from city officials and the "Oath of Allegiance" naturalization ceremony for citizenship applicants. The bike parade begins at 11 a.m., with live entertainment following throughout the day. Visit CITYOFWINTERPARK.ORG

BOK TOWER FREE ADMISSION
 Bok Towers is celebrating 4th of July with free admission all day.

THURSDAY 07-05

BOOK SALE
 The Friends of the St. Cloud Veterans Memorial Library are having a book sale through July 7 at 810 E. 13th Street in St. Cloud. Operating hours are Thursday (noon to 8 p.m.), Friday and Saturday (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.). Bring your own bag any of the three days and fill it for \$3 in part of the "BAG IT SALE." Call 407-742-8888.

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.

TUESDAY 07-10

MOMMY AND ME YOGA
 Mommy and Me Yoga will be held from 9 to 10:30 a.m. in South Central Park in Winter Park.

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.

Food & Wine CLASSIC

FOOD & WINE CLASSIC
 Tickets are on sale now for the Swan and Dolphin Food & Wine Classic, scheduled for Oct. 26-28. Overnight packages at the resort also are available. For the latest information about the event, guests can call 1-800-227-1500 or visit SWANDOLPHINFOODANDWINECLASSIC.COM, LIKE WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SWANANDDOLPHIN

ONGOING

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.



AUTOMOTIVE

New Cars/Trucks • Tech Tips • Safety Tips
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Joining the Range Rover family slotted between the Evoque and Range Rover Sport, the Range Rover Velar offers new levels of luxury, refinement and all-terrain capability to the premium midsize SUV segment. Visually, the Velar is beautifully balanced with powerful proportions; a continuous waist line rises through to the taut tapered lines of the rear and a generous 113.15-inch wheelbase contributes significantly to both its elegant design and spacious interior.

By Frank A. Aukofer
Motor Matters

Moneyed people can be picky, which likely is one reason for Land Rover's all-new Range Rover Velar sport utility vehicle. Land Rover, a storied British company, was founded after World War II and is renowned worldwide for building vehicles that can traverse almost any terrain.

In recent times, with computerization and more sophisticated designs, Land Rovers still project an aura of a vehicle that can go anywhere, any time. But Land Rover SUVs have morphed into the stuff of a different call of duty, one in which they serve the famous and wealthy on their rounds of country clubs and five-star resorts.

Though the Land Rover people assert that a surprising number of their customers take their expensive machines off-road purely for entertainment, it's quite likely most never negotiate anything other than a paved highway or parking lot.

For 2018, the company's lineup has been simplified. There are 11 models and trim

levels, all bearing the Land Rover name. On the larger side are the Discovery and Discovery Sport models, two with 2.0-liter four-cylinder engines.

There also are eight versions of the Land Rover Range Rover: Evoque, Velar, Range Rover and Range Rover Sport. Smallest is the Evoque, which is the outlier of the bunch with a convertible model as well as hard tops with two or four doors and a choice of all-wheel or front-wheel drive. To satisfy customers who want their Rover just so, the Velar slots between the Evoque and Range Rover.

Though the new Velar — the name was cobbled up from letters in the Land Rover name — is classified as a compact SUV, it tilts toward midsize. Passenger space amounts to 99 cubic feet — about what you find in a midsize sedan. But it also has a whopping 34 cubic feet of cargo space behind the second row seats. It competes against the compact Audi Q5 and BMW X3, as well as the midsize Audi Q7 and BMW X5.

The Velar, which shares its underpinnings with the Jaguar F-Pace, embodies a new design language for Range

New Addition to Range Rover

Rover vehicles. Aimed at the on-road driving experience, it is more streamlined with seating for the driver down lower than on other Land Rover vehicles.

Though you can order a four-cylinder Velar with a base price of \$49,900, the tested model was the R-Dynamic HSE P380, which has a single price of \$78,095 that includes a full load of optional equipment.

It is powered by a 380-horsepower, 3.0-liter V-6 supercharged engine that delivers 332 lb.-ft. of torque, enough to propel this all-wheel-drive, 4,675-pound metal sculpture to 60 mph in 5.7 seconds, according to the manufacturer's specifications.

Despite its bulk, the Velar has a sprightly feel in traffic. If you turn off the stop-start system, which was the preference here, there's no hesitation off the line when you punch the gas pedal. The eight-speed automatic transmission shifts smoothly and you can shift for yourself with paddles on the steering wheel.

The Velar exudes luxury. Seats are supportive and comfortable, upholstered in soft leather. Sound deadening materials eliminate most road and wind noise, though some engine sounds intrude through the firewall under hard acceleration.

Infotainment functions are controlled by two 10-inch touchscreens that eliminate almost all buttons and switches. However, the screens themselves incorporate 41 virtual buttons. There also are another 16 buttons and switches on the steering wheel, so figure on a lengthy study period.

One cool feature: a shockproof and waterproof "activity key" that substitutes for the ignition remote. Leave the remote in the Velar while you go swimming or kayaking; the activity key will get you back in the driver's seat.

The Velar's panoramic sunshade, following a current fad, is made of a cheesy cloth that admits too much sunlight. And the sun visors do not slide on their support rods to adequately block sun from the sides.

Manufacturer Photos



SPECIFICATIONS 2018 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER VELAR R-DYNAMIC HSE

VEHICLE TYPE
5-passenger midsize SUV

BASE PRICE
\$77,100 (as tested: \$78,095)

ENGINE TYPE
Supercharged V-6

DISPLACEMENT 3.0-liter

HORSEPOWER (net)
380 at 6500 rpm

TORQUE (lb.-ft.)
332 at 3500 rpm

TRANSMISSION
8-speed automatic

OVERALL LENGTH 189.1 in.

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

CURB WEIGHT 4,675 lbs.

FUEL CAPACITY 16 gal.

EPA MILEAGE RATING
18 mpg city, 24 mpg highway

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Were you an INDUSTRIAL or CONSTRUCTION TRADESMAN and recently diagnosed with LUNG CANCER? You and your family may be entitled to a SIGNIFICANT CASH AWARD. Call 1-855-839-6761 for your risk free consultation. (m)

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HELP WANTED

Easy \$2,000 Wk Sales Job Selling Direct TV, Home Alarm Systems and AT&T Phones. Send your name, phone and email to davidsmith7777@hotmail.com **DAVE** 330-559-8638

MISCELLANEOUS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SERVICES/Miscellaneous

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

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.



PUBLIC NOTICES

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

View all Public Notices online
www.aroundosceola.com and



NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
 Notice is hereby given that on 7/9/18 at 10:30 am, the following vehicle will be sold at public auction pursuant to F.S. 713.585 to satisfy towing, storage, and labor charges: **2011 DODGE # 2B3CJ5DT8BH534066.** The vehicle will be sold for \$2942.63. Sale will be held by lienor at The Mechanics Auto Repairs- 2361 Fortune Rd, Kissimmee, FL 34744, 407-530-4719. Pursuant to F.S. 713.585, the cash sum amount of \$2942.63 would be sufficient to redeem the vehicle from the lienor. Any owner, lienholders, or interested parties have a right to a hearing prior to the sale by filing a demand with the Osceola County Clerk of Circuit Court for disposition. The owner has a right to recover possession of the vehicle prior to the sale, by posting a bond pursuant to F.S. 559.917, and if sold, proceeds remaining from the sale will be deposited with the Clerk of the Circuit Court in Osceola County for disposition. Lienor reserves the right to bid.
 June 21, 2018

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
 Personal property of the following tenant(s) will be sold for cash to satisfy rental liens in accordance with Florida Statutes, Self Storage Facility Act, Sections 83-806 and 83-807.
TENANT: **LOTS #:**
 1) ADAMS B-4
 2) QUERTERMOSS B-13
 3) GONZALEZ D-27
 Auction to be held on JUNE 28, 2018, at 9:00 o'clock a.m., at Louise Enterprises, Inc., 719 Ocean Street, in Kissimmee, Florida 34744. Telephone: (407) 933-2746.
 June 14, 21, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 9th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.
 Case No.: 2018-DR-1878 DS
 In RE: The Marriage of: WALTER DANIEL POST, Petitioner/Husband, and RAINA ELIZABETH POST, Respondent/Wife.
NOTICE OF ACTION
TO: RAINA ELIZABETH POST
 YOU ARE NOTIFIED THAT an action to obtain a dissolution of marriage has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on **Michael J. Barber, Esquire,** the Petitioner's attorney, whose address is 808 North Main Street, Kissimmee, Florida 34744, on or before the 6th day of JULY 2018, and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on the Petitioner's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the 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 Court Administration at 2 Courthouse Square, Kissimmee, Florida 34741, Telephone: (407) 742-2417 within two (2) working days of your receipt of this notice; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 1-800-955-8771.
 DATED on this 7th day of June 2018.
 ARMANDO RAMIREZ
 As Clerk of the Court
 By: /s/ RS
 As Deputy Clerk
 June 14, 21, 28, 2018
 July 5, 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 JULY 6, 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) 1994 ACURA
 VIN: JH4DC4455RS042685
 2) 2008 HONDA
 VIN: 1HGCP36818A008204
 3) 2007 TOYOTA
 VIN: JTDKB20U877564126
 4) 1998 TOYOTA
 VIN: 4TAWM72NXWZ049786
 5) 1978 FORD
 VIN: E12HHBF1580
 6) 1999 FORD
 VIN: 1FMJ32X1XUB24364
 7) 1998 HONDA
 VIN: 1HGEJ8145WL091472
 8) 1996 NISSAN
 VIN: JN1CA21D9TT731149
 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 21, 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. ALCAIDA; IVETTE M. ROSADO; GONTO JOHNS; ALBERT LEE JOHNS; and NIDICH II, LLC, Defendants.
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 and ALBERT LEE 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.
 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

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

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: **JAVIER LAWN CARE** located at: 1469 Harbin Drive, in the County of Osceola, in the City of Kissimmee, Florida 34744,

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:
JAVIER STEPHEN SEMALES
 DATED at Kissimmee, Osceola County, Florida on this 15th day of June, 2018.
 June 21, 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: **GARY'S AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES** located at: 2925 Clay Whaley 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:
GARY LEE JOHNSON
 DATED at Saint Cloud, Osceola County, Florida on this 15th day of June, 2018.
 June 21, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
 General Jurisdiction Division
 Case #: 2018-CA-000592 MF
 HSBC BANK USA, N.A., AS INDENTURE TRUSTEE

FOR THE REGISTERED NOTEHOLDERS OF RENAISSANCE HOME EQUITY LOAN TRUST 2005-3, RENAISSANCE HOME EQUITY LOAN ASSET-BACKED NOTES, SERIES 2005-3, Plaintiff, vs.
CAROL PENNINGTON GROTH, et. al., Defendant(s).
NOTICE OF ACTION - CONSTRUCTIVE SERVICE TO: CAROL PENNINGTON GROTH and UNKNOWN SPOUSE OE CAROL PENNINGTON GROTH, whose residence is unknown, and all parties having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property described in the mortgage being foreclosed herein. YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property: **LOTS 15 AND 16, BLOCK 14, MAGNOLIA PARK, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 97, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.** has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on counsel for Plaintiff, whose address is: 6409 Congress Avenue, Suite 100, Boca Raton, Florida 33487 on or before JULY 17, 2018/ (30 days from Date of First Publication of this Notice) and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition filed herein.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in these proceedings, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact: Court Administration at 2 Courthouse Square, Suite 6300, Kissimmee, Florida 34741, Telephone: (407) 742-2417, within two (2) working days of your receipt of this described notice; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 1-(800) 955-8771.
 WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court at Osceola County, Florida, this 24th day of May 2018.
 ARMANDO RAMIREZ
 CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
 By: /s/ S.N.
 As Deputy Clerk
 ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, & SCHNEID, PL
 6409 Congress Avenue
 Suite 100
 Boca Raton, FL 33487
 PRIMARY EMAIL:
mail@rasflaw.com
 17-090101-ADB
 June 14, 21, 2018

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
 A.R.C. TOWING Inc. gives Notice of Foreclosure of Lien and intent to sell these vehicles on JULY 6, 2018, 08:00 a.m., at 7421 W. Irl Bronson Highway, Kissimmee, FL 34747, pursuant to subsection 713.78 of the Florida Statutes.
 A.R.C. TOWING Inc. reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids.
 1) 2001 CHEVROLET VIN: 1G1JC524117177487
 2) 1997 CHEVROLET VIN: 2G1WL52M1V9244518
 3) 2006 TOYOTA VIN: 4T1BE32K36U744067
 4) 2001 MAZDA VIN: JM1BJ225610489810
 June 21, 2018

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

Case #: 2017-CA-001669 MF TOWD POINT MASTER FUNDING TRUST REO, BY U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE, Plaintiff, vs. JEAN P. DUPONT, SR., et al; Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF ACTION TO: JEAN P. DUPONT, SR. 1315 OAKWOOD CT. KISSIMMEE, FL 34744

UNKNOWN TENANT NO. 1 1315 OAKWOOD COURT KISSIMMEE, FL 34744

UNKNOWN TENANT NO. 2 1315 OAKWOOD COURT KISSIMMEE, FL 34744

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following described property in Osceola County, Florida, is being filed...

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA. PROBATE DIVISION

File No. 2018-CP-000401 PR Division: Probate

IN RE: ESTATE OF: WILLIAM T. GRAHAM, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS The administration of the Estate of William T. Graham, deceased, whose date of death was April 15, 2018, is pending in the Circuit Court for Osceola County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is: 2 Courthouse Square, Kissimmee, Florida 34741.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE FELD WRECKER SERVICE gives Notice of Foreclosure of Lien and intent to sell these vehicles on JULY 4, 2018, 9:00 a.m., at: 605 E. DONEGAN AVENUE, KISSIMMEE, FL 34744, pursuant to subsection 713.78 of the Florida Statutes.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA. PROBATE DIVISION

File No. 2018-CP-000395 PR Division: Probate

IN RE: ESTATE OF: BERNICE ARNOLD, A/K/A BERNICE ARNOLD CHISHOLM, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS The administration of the Estate of BERNICE ARNOLD, a/k/a BERNICE ARNOLD CHISHOLM, deceased, whose date of death was May 16, 2018, is pending in the Circuit Court for Osceola County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is: 2 Courthouse Square, Kissimmee, Florida 34741.

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

Case No.: 49-2017-CA-001150 MF U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff, vs. JESUS GERMAN BROOKS BELTRAN, A/K/A JESUS BROOKS BELTRAN, ET. AL., Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Summary Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered May 23, 2018, in Civil Case No. 49-2017-CA-001150 MF of the Circuit Court of the NINTH Judicial Circuit in and for Osceola County, Kissimmee, Florida, wherein U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, is Plaintiff, and JESUS GERMAN BROOKS BELTRAN, A/K/A JESUS BROOKS BELTRAN, ET. AL., are the Defendants, the Clerk of Court ARMANDO RAMIREZ, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at Osceola County Courthouse, 2 Courthouse Square, Suite 2600/ Room 2602, Kissimmee, FL. 34741 in accordance with Chapter 45, Florida Statutes on the 10th day of JULY, 2018, at 11:00 A.M., on the following described property as set forth in said Summary Final Judgment, to-wit:

Lot 139, Orangebranch Bay, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 18, Page 65 through 71, 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.

By: /s/ Lisa Woodburn LISA WOODBURN, Esq. McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC Attorney for Plaintiff 110 S.E. 6th Street, Suite 2400, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301 Phone: (407) 674-1850 Fax: (321) 248-0420 Email: MRSservice@mccallaraymer.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA. PROBATE DIVISION

File No. 2018-CP-000401 PR Division: Probate

IN RE: ESTATE OF: WILLIAM T. GRAHAM, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS The administration of the Estate of William T. Graham, deceased, whose date of death was April 15, 2018, is pending in the Circuit Court for Osceola County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is: 2 Courthouse Square, Kissimmee, Florida 34741.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE PRESTON'S TOWING gives Notice of Foreclosure of Lien and intent to sell these vehicles on JULY 4, 2018, 9:00 a.m., at: 605 E. DONEGAN AVENUE, KISSIMMEE, FL 34744, pursuant to subsection 713.78 of the Florida Statutes.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA. PROBATE DIVISION

File No. 2018-CP-000395 PR Division: Probate

IN RE: ESTATE OF: BERNICE ARNOLD, A/K/A BERNICE ARNOLD CHISHOLM, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS The administration of the Estate of BERNICE ARNOLD, a/k/a BERNICE ARNOLD CHISHOLM, deceased, whose date of death was May 16, 2018, is pending in the Circuit Court for Osceola County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is: 2 Courthouse Square, Kissimmee, Florida 34741.

AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

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

The date of first Publication of this notice is: June 14, 2018.

Co-Personal Representatives: /s/ Charles Arnold Charles Arnold 5307 Mill Stream Drive St. Cloud, Florida 34771

/s/ Ronald Arnold Ronald Arnold 12700 E. Irl Bronson Memorial Highway St. Cloud, Florida 34773

Attorney for Co-Personal Representatives: /s/ Lee H. Massey LEE H. MASSEY Florida Bar No. 36207 LEWIS and MASSEY, P.A. 1021 Massachusetts Avenue St. Cloud, Florida 34769 Telephone: (407) 892-5138 Fax #: (407) 892-1534 E-Mail: lmassey@lewis-masseylaw.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA. PROBATE DIVISION

File No. 2018-CP-000394 PR Division: Probate

IN RE: ESTATE OF: MARY MOONEY, A/K/A MARY ELLEN MOONEY, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS The administration of the Estate of MARY MOONEY, a/k/a MARY ELLEN MOONEY, deceased, whose date of death was January 1, 2018, is pending in the Circuit Court for Osceola County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is: 2 Courthouse Square, Kissimmee, Florida 34741.

Co-Personal Representatives: /s/ Christine Ladas-Drake Christine Ladas-Drake 2455 Pine Chase Circle St. Cloud, Florida 34769

/s/ Warner Mooney Warner Mooney 2700 2nd Street St. Cloud, Florida 34769

Attorney for Co-Personal Representatives: /s/ Lee H. Massey LEE H. MASSEY Florida Bar No. 36207 LEWIS and MASSEY, P.A. 1021 Massachusetts Avenue St. Cloud, Florida 34769 Telephone: (407) 892-5138 Fax #: (407) 892-1534 E-Mail: lmassey@lewis-masseylaw.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA. PROBATE DIVISION

File No. 2018-CP-000380 PR Division: Probate

IN RE: ESTATE OF: GUN RICCHI, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS The administration of the Estate of GUN RICCHI, deceased, whose date of death was May 13, 2018, is pending in the Circuit Court for Osceola County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is: 2 Courthouse Square, Kissimmee, Florida 34741.

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

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in these proceedings, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact: Court Administration at 2 Courthouse Square, Suite 6300, Kissimmee, Florida 34741, Telephone: (407) 742-2417, within two (2) working days of your receipt of this described notice; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 1-(800) 955-8771.

ARMANDO RAMIREZ CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT By: /s/ S.N. As Deputy Clerk ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, & SCHNEID, PL 6409 Congress Avenue Suite 100 Boca Raton, FL 33487 PRIMARY EMAIL: mail@rasflaw.com 17-121275-AdB June 21, 28, 2018

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

Case No.: 49-2018-CA-000951 MF WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A., Plaintiff, vs. SUSAN L. TSCHERWINSKI, ET AL., Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION TO: POINCIANA VILLAGE MASTER ASSOCIATION, INC., whose last known principal place of business was: 6131 LAKE WORTH RD. SUITE B GREENACRES, FL 33463

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in OSCEOLA County, Florida, to-wit: LOT 23, IN BLOCK 542, OF POINCIANA NEIGHBORHOOD 1, VILLAGE 2, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, AT PAGE 69 THROUGH 87, INCLUSIVE, 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 WILLNAE LaCroix, Esquire, Brock Scott, PLLC, the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 1501 N.W. 49th Street, Suite 200, Fort Lauderdale, FL. 33309, within thirty (30) days of the first date of publication on or before the 24th day of JULY 2018, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on the Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in these proceedings, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact: Court Administration at 2 Courthouse Square, Suite 6300, Kissimmee, Florida 34741, Telephone: (407) 742-2417, within two (2) working days of your receipt of this described notice; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 1-(800) 955-8771.

ARMANDO R. RAMIREZ AS CLERK OF THE COURT By: /s/ S.N. As Deputy Clerk File No. 17-F03038 June 21, 28, 2018

IN THE COUNTY COURT IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case #: 2017-CC-000206 CF COMPASS BAY TOWNHOME ASSOCIATION, INC., Plaintiff, vs. CHRISTIANE M. FERREIRA SANTOS, et al, Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE Pursuant to CHAPTER 45, FLORIDA STATUTES NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated May 21, 2018, entered in Case No. 2017-CC-00206 CF of the COUNTY Court in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein COMPASS BAY TOWNHOME ASSOCIATION, INC., is Plaintiff, and CHRISTIANE M. FERREIRA SANTOS; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF CHRISTIANE M. FERREIRA SANTOS; are Defendants, the Clerk of Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash: [X] Suite 2600/ Room 2602 of the Osceola County Courthouse, 2 Courthouse Square at 11:00 a.m., on the 10th day of JULY, 2018 the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to-wit:

Lot #98 of COMPASS BAY UNIT THREE, according to the Plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 23, Page 10, of the Public Records of Osceola County, Florida, a/k/a 3165 Tocca Circle, Kissimmee, FL 34746.

must file their claims with this Court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

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

The date of first Publication of this notice is: June 14, 2018.

Personal Representative: /s/ Christina Maria Ricchi Christina Maria Ricchi 2425 McMichael Road St. Cloud, Florida 34771

Attorney for Personal Representative: /s/ Lee H. Massey LEE H. MASSEY Attorney for Christina Maria Ricchi Florida Bar No. 36207 LEWIS and MASSEY, P.A. 1021 Massachusetts Avenue St. Cloud, Florida 34769 Telephone: (407) 892-5138 Fax #: (407) 892-1534 E-Mail: lmassey@lewis-masseylaw.com

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

General Jurisdiction Division Case #: 2018-CA-001168 MF U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for GSA Home Equity Trust 2006-9, Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-9, Plaintiff, vs. COVEY L. WISE, et al., Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION - CONSTRUCTIVE SERVICE TO: LOANCITY, a/k/a Loancity, Incorporated Last Known Address: c/o Richard D. Soukoulis, President/ COE, 5671 Santa Teresa Blvd., # 200, San Jose, CA 95123

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in Osceola County, Florida: LOT 12, TOWN CENTER VILLAS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 17, AT PAGE 44, 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 Willnae LaCroix, Esquire, Brock Scott, PLLC, the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 1501 N.W. 49th Street, Suite 200, Fort Lauderdale, FL. 33309, within thirty (30) days of the first date of publication on or before the 24th day of JULY 2018, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on the Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in these proceedings, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact: Court Administration at 2 Courthouse Square, Suite 6300, Kissimmee, Florida 34741, Telephone: (407) 742-2417, within two (2) working days of your receipt of this described notice; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 1-(800) 955-8771.

DATED on this 31st day of May 2018. ARMANDO R. RAMIREZ AS CLERK OF THE COURT By: /s/ S.N. As Deputy Clerk File No. 17-F03038 June 21, 28, 2018

tact: Court Administration at 2 Courthouse Square, Suite 6300, Kissimmee, Florida 34741, Telephone: (407) 742-2417, within two (2) working days of your receipt of this described notice; if you are hearing impaired, call 1-(800) 955-8770. If you are

voice impaired, call 1-(800) 955-8771. DATED on this 21st day of May 2018. HALPERN LAW GROUP, P.A., Counsel for Compass Bay Townhome Association, Inc., 4239 SW High Meadows Avenue, Palm City, FL

34990 772-678-4333/ 888-506-8850 (fax) dhalpern@halpernlawgroup.com By: /s/ David Harris Halpern David Harris Halpern, Esq. Florida Bar #: 0667358 June 14, 21, 2018

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER THE ADOPTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2019 BUDGET; AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER THE IMPOSITION OF MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS, ADOPTION OF AN ASSESSMENT ROLL, AND THE LEVY, COLLECTION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE SAME; AND NOTICE OF REGULAR BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING.

The Board of Supervisors of the Celebration Community Development District ("District") will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, July 17, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at the District Office located at 313 Campus Street, Celebration, Florida, 34747, for the purpose of hearing comments and objections on the adoption of the District's Fiscal Year 2019 Budget. A regular Board meeting of the District will also be held at that time in which the Board may consider any other business that may properly come before it.

A copy of the agenda, proposed Budget(s) and Preliminary Assessment Roll may be obtained at the Office of the District Manager, 313 Campus Street, Celebration, Florida 34747, during normal business hours. In accordance with Section 189.418, Florida Statutes, the proposed budget will be posted on the District's website http://www.celebrationcdd.com/ at least two days before the Public Hearing date.

The Public Hearing and meeting are open to the public and will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Florida Law for Community Development Districts. The Public Hearing and meeting may be continued to a date, time and location to be specified on the record at the Hearing or meeting.

The special assessments are annually recurring assessments and are in addition to previously levied debt assessments. The table below presents the proposed schedule of operation and maintenance assessments. Amounts are preliminary and subject to change at the Hearing and in any future year. The amounts are subject to early payment discount as afforded by law. The proposed assessment by land use and type is as follows:

Table with 4 columns: Parcel/Product Type, Maintenance, Debt Service, FY19 Total. Rows include CELEBRATION VILLAGE, Phase 1 and WEST VILLAGE, LAKE EVALYN, Phase 1.

Table with 4 columns: Parcel/Product Type, Maintenance, Debt Service, FY19 Total. Rows include NORTH VILLAGE, Phase 2 and SOUTH VILLAGE, Phase 3.

Table with 4 columns: Parcel/Product Type, Maintenance, Debt Service, FY19 Total. Rows include ROSEVILLE CORNER, Phase 4 and EAST VILLAGE, Phase 4.

Table with 4 columns: Parcel/Product Type, Maintenance, Debt Service, FY19 Total. Rows include EAST VILLAGE 2 (Aquila Reserve), Phase 4 and SOUTH VILLAGE, Phase 4.

Table with 4 columns: Parcel/Product Type, Maintenance, Debt Service, FY19 Total. Rows include ARTISAN PARK, Phase 5 and ISLAND VILLAGE, Phase 5.

Table with 4 columns: Parcel/Product Type, Maintenance, Debt Service, FY19 Total. Rows include ISLAND VILLAGE, Phase 5 (continued).

The Osceola County Tax Collector will collect the assessments for platted lots, and the assessments will appear on the annual ad valorem real estate tax bill. The District will directly collect the assessments for unplatted acreage, and will be sending out a bill in October of 2018.

All affected property owners have the right to appear at the Public Hearing and to file written objections with the District within twenty (20) days of publication of this notice. Such written comments on the Proposed Budget and resulting assessment may be sent to the attention of the District Manager, 313 Campus Street, Celebration, Florida 34747.

There may be occasions when one or more Supervisors will participate via telephone. Any person requiring special accommodations at this Hearing or meeting because of a disability or physical impairment should contact the District Office at (407) 566-1935 at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the Public Hearing and meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 7-1-1 or (800) 955-8771 (TTY)/(800) 955-8770 (Voice) for aid in contacting the District Management Company.

If anyone chooses to appeal any decision of the Board with respect to any matter considered at the Public Hearing and meeting, such person will need a record of the proceedings and should accordingly ensure a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which includes the testimony and evidence upon which such appeal is to be based.

Gary L. Moyer District Manager

June 21, 28, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
 GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION
 CASE NO. 49-2016-CA-001704 MF
 WELLS FARGO BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION,
 AS TRUSTEE FOR BANC OF AMERICA ALTERNATIVE
 LOAN TRUST 2005-12 MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH
 CERTIFICATES SERIES 2005-12,
 Plaintiff,
 vs.
 DANAE R. MCGANN, A/K/A DANAE MCGANN AND BRIAN D.
 MCGANN, A/K/A BRIAN MCGANN, A/K/A BRIAN DOUGLAS
 MCGANN AND BRIAN D. MCGANN, AS TRUSTEE OF THE
 MCGANN REVOCABLE TRUST, DATED JUNE 8, 2005 AND
 DANAE R. MCGANN, AS TRUSTEE OF THE MCGANN
 REVOCABLE TRUST, DATED JUNE 8, 2005, 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 49-2016-CA-001704 MF of the Circuit Court of the Ninth Judicial Circuit in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein WELLS FARGO BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AS TRUSTEE FOR BANC OF AMERICA ALTERNATIVE LOAN TRUST 2005-12 MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES SERIES 2005-12, is the Plaintiff, and DANAE R. MCGANN, A/K/A DANAE MCGANN; BRIAN D. MCGANN, A/K/A BRIAN MCGANN, A/K/A BRIAN DOUGLAS MCGANN; BRIAN D. MCGANN, AS TRUSTEE OF THE MCGANN REVOCABLE TRUST, DATED JUNE 8, 2005; DANAE R. MCGANN, AS TRUSTEE OF THE MCGANN REVOCABLE TRUST, DATED JUNE 8, 2005; UNKNOWN BENEFICIARIES OF THE MCGANN REVOCABLE TRUST, DATED JUNE 8, 2005; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF DANAE R. MCGANN, A/K/A DANAE MCGANN; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF BRIAN D. MCGANN A/K/A BRIAN MCGANN A/K/A BRIAN DOUGLAS MCGANN; AMERICAN EXPRESS CENTURION BANK; CITIBANK, N.A., SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO CITIBANK (SOUTH DAKOTA), NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, 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, 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 27, CELEBRATION EAST VILLAGE UNIT 3, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 13, PAGE 162 THROUGH 183, INCLUSIVE, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA. Property Address: 729 OAK SHADOWS RD, CELEBRATION, FL 34747

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

Dated this 1 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
 By: Isi Philip Stecco
 Philip Stecco, Esquire
 Florida Bar No. 108384
 Communication Email: pstecco@rasflaw.com
 16-0045449-DeT
 June 14, 21, 2018

**NOTICE OF WORKSHOP
 HARMONY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

The Board of Supervisors of the Harmony Community Development District will hold a Workshop to discuss the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget on Thursday, June 28, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. at the Harmony Golf Preserve Clubhouse, located at 7251 Five Oaks Drive, Harmony, Florida 34773

The Workshop is open to the public and will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Florida Law for Community Development Districts. The Workshop may be continued to a date, time and location to be specified on the record at the Workshop.

There may be occasions when one or more Supervisors will participate via telephone. In accordance with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations at these meetings because of a disability or physical impairment should contact the District Management Company, Inframark, Infrastructure Management Services, at (954) 603-0033 at least two (2) calendar days prior to the meetings. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 7-1-1 or 1-800-955-8771 (TTY)/1-800-955-8770 (Voice), for aid in contacting the District Management Company at least two (2) days prior to the date of the meetings.

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

Bob Koncar
 District Manager

June 21, 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 OF 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 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. **3051**, 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 103 Parcel No.: 24 25 29 2561 0001 1030

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. **3053**, 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 115 Parcel No.: 24 25 29 2561 0001 1150

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. **3054**, 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 116 Parcel No.: 24 25 29 2561 0001 1160

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. **3055**, 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 117 Parcel No.: 24 25 29 2561 0001 1170

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. **3056**, 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 118 Parcel No.: 24 25 29 2561 0001 1180

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. **3057**, 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 119 Parcel No.: 24 25 29 2561 0001 1190

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. **3058**, 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 120 Parcel No.: 24 25 29 2561 0001 1200

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. **3061**, 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 125 Parcel No.: 24 25 29 2561 0001 1250

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. **3062**, 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 126 Parcel No.: 24 25 29 2561 0001 1260

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. **3064**, 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 131 Parcel No.: 24 25 29 2561 0001 1310

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. **3065**, 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 132 Parcel No.: 24 25 29 2561 0001 1320

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. **3066**, 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 133 Parcel No.: 24 25 29 2561 0001 1330

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. **3068**, 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 140 Parcel No.: 24 25 29 2561 0001 1400

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. **3072**, 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 145 Parcel No.: 24 25 29 2561 0001 1450

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**

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 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
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**WARNING
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BRAIN FOOD

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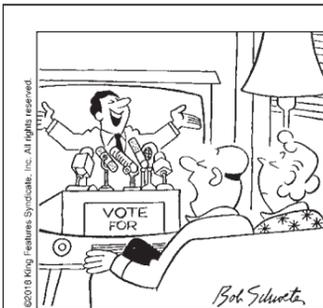
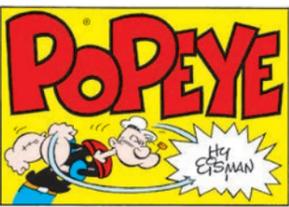
Amber Waves

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!

- Impress: **ZEAMA**
- Area: **GREAN**
- Blunt: **TRICED**
- Guard: **PORTAL**

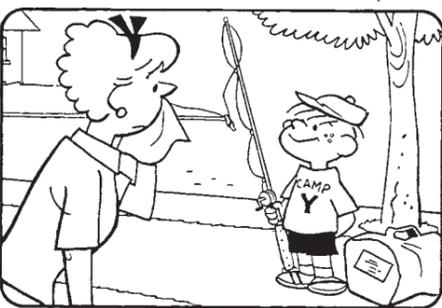
TODAY'S WORD

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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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: H equals S

CESGV UQQRJP CS WX YPUX
 LQAZCHG, WX JGRPBLQV ZVRGN
 "XQY HBQYUN LG CHBCWGN QE
 XQYV HBGUE!"

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LAFF-A-DAY

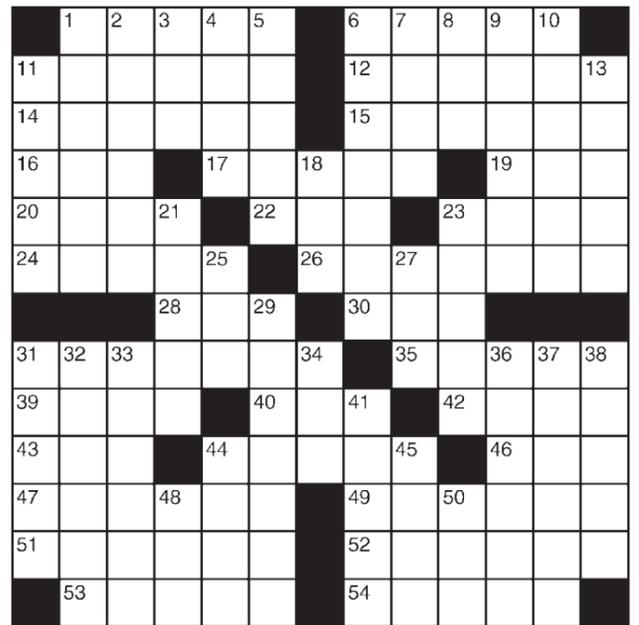


"No, it wasn't a flight accident. I just tripped over my scarf."

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Talent
- 6 Clinton-era housepet
- 11 Origin
- 12 Consecrate with oil
- 14 Green club
- 15 Say under one's breath
- 16 "Eeewww!"
- 17 Down in the
- 19 Spell-down
- 20 Actress Perlman
- 22 Zilch
- 23 Stunned sensation
- 24 Bra part
- 26 Floods
- 28 Yon bloke
- 30 Operated
- 31 Poison in a 1939 play
- 35 "Caribbean Queen" singer Billy
- 39 Titleholder's proof
- 40 Apprehend
- 42 Facility
- 43 Sternward
- 44 Went outwith
- 46 Bus bldg.
- 47 Bowling alley border
- 49 Bread spread
- 51 Intertwine



- 8 Barracks bed
- 9 Knapsack of a sort
- 10 Earn a blessing?
- 11 Boot attachments
- 13 Kilmer poem
- 18 Central
- 21 Oohed and
- 23 Conical-cap wearer
- 25 Wrestling win
- 27 "7 Faces of Dr. —"
- 29 Mosque tower
- 31 Saw
- 32 Money back
- 33 Resolve
- 34 Garfield, for one
- 36 Festive spring day
- 37 Michaelmas daisies
- 38 Approaches
- 41 Jazz style
- 44 Art —
- 45 Mussolini title
- 48 Spigot
- 50 Commonest English word

DOWN

- 1 Battled
- 2 Part of MLK Jr.
- 3 Illustrations
- 4 On the rocks
- 5 Same old story?
- 6 Embroidery creation
- 7 Responsibility

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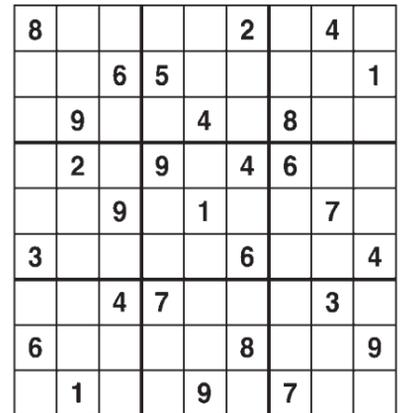
Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is the only bird that can fly backward with precision?
- EXPLORERS: What was the name of the ship that explorer Henry Hudson sailed up a river that bears his name today?
- LITERATURE: What was the name of Hermione's pet cat in the "Harry Potter" book series?
- FOOD & DRINK: What type of bread also is commonly known as "pocket bread"?
- BIBLE: In which book does the phrase "the love of money is the root of all evil" appear?
- GEOGRAPHY: Where is the famed Trevi Fountain located?
- MUSIC: Which band was named after an 18th century agriculturalist who invented the seed drill?
- GEOLOGY: What kind of black, glass-like rock forms when magma cools suddenly?
- HISTORY: When did the great fire of London occur?
- LANGUAGE: What is the meaning of the Latin phrase "anno domini"?

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
- Hummingbird
 - The Half Moon
 - Crookshanks
 - Piza
 - 1 Timothy 6:10
 - Rome, Italy
 - Jericho Fall
 - Obsidian
 - 1666
 - "In the year of the Lord"



Solution time: 24 mins. Answers



Answers

SCRAMBLERS

CAMERA
 Today's Word

1. Amaze; 2. Range; 3. Direct; 4. Patrol

SCOUTS WRAP UP WEEK OF FUN



This year's scout camp week was themed Passport to Adventure and ran from June 11-15. Each day, scouts of all ages met at the Elks Club 1873 in Kissimmee for lots of outdoor fun including a bounce house and water slide, target shooting with slingshots and BB guns, archery and various craft projects. Top row: David Demitt from Troop 192 and Kevin "Bacon" Baker from Troop 302 stand at attention and salute as the flag raising ceremony takes place on the last day of camp. Scouts Daniel Edwards, Ryelen Lovell-Lahr and Brandon Johnson raise the flag with a little help from the younger scouts. Second row: Webelo Scout Piero Scola finishes off his clay Brontosaurus during a crafts session. Bear Scout Evan Prather slides 20 feet after a good running start. Third row: Wolf Scouts Caidence Lopez lets loose on a balloon target as Aurora Anezaga fits another arrow into her bow. Pack 800 Tiger Leader Andrew Parkhurst, helps his son, Harrison, aim his bow. Right: Camp Counselor Sky Malave shoots a BB gun along side of Arrow of Lights scouts.



News-Gazette Photos by Martin Maddock



This undated photo provided by America's Test Kitchen in May 2018 shows classic deviled eggs in Brookline, Mass. This recipe appears in the "The Complete Make-Ahead Cookbook." AP

No fuss, no muss

Make delicious deviled eggs without the strain or torment

The best deviled eggs start with the best hard-cooked eggs. Conventional wisdom insists that older eggs peel more easily than fresh eggs but we wanted to be able to start with eggs of any age and still end up with flawlessly smooth peeled results.

Instead of a cold-water start, we used our recipe for Easy-Peel Hard-Cooked Eggs, which calls for placing cold eggs directly into hot steam. This denatures the outermost

egg white proteins, causing them to shrink away from the shell membrane and making it easy to slip off the eggshells after cooking.

Fresh herbs, cider vinegar, Dijon, Worcestershire sauce, and cayenne elevated the flavor of the filling, and we also created two variations: one with aromatic curry powder and another with crisp bacon and fresh chives. This recipe can be doubled. If you prefer, use a pas-

try bag fitted with a large plain or star tip to fill the egg halves.

CLASSIC DEVILED EGGS

Makes 12 egg halves
Start to finish: 35 minutes
6 large eggs
3 tablespoons mayonnaise
1 tablespoon minced fresh parsley, plus 12 small whole parsley leaves for garnishing

1 teaspoon cider vinegar
1 teaspoon Dijon mustard

1/4 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce

Pinch cayenne pepper

Bring 1 inch water to rolling boil in medium saucepan over high heat. Place eggs in steamer basket. Transfer basket to saucepan. Cover, reduce heat to medium-low, and cook eggs for 13 minutes.

When eggs are almost finished cooking, combine 2 cups ice cubes and

2 cups cold water in medium bowl. Using tongs or spoon, transfer eggs to ice bath; let sit for 15 minutes. Peel before using.

Halve eggs lengthwise with paring knife. Transfer yolks to bowl; arrange whites on serving platter. Mash yolks with fork until no large lumps remain. Add mayonnaise and use rubber spatula to smear mixture against side of bowl until thick, smooth paste forms, 1 to 2 minutes. Add minced parsley,

vinegar, mustard, Worcestershire, and cayenne and mix until fully incorporated.

Transfer yolk mixture to small heavy-duty plastic bag. Press mixture into 1 corner and twist top of bag. Using scissors, snip 1/2 inch off filled corner. Squeezing bag, pipe yolk mixture into egg white halves. Garnish with parsley leaves before serving.

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Asparagus sings with a red pepper, almond and tomato sauce

It's time to revisit grilled vegetables! I was recently tagged in a post where the author said that she was taught to grill vegetables dry and then season them when they come off the grill.

I don't know what she was grilling and she seemed very happy with that method but it made me think about all the people who were now going to try to grill their summer vegetables without oiling them first. And anyone who has read one of my books, articles or grilled with me knows, my mantra is "oil the food, not the grates."

It makes sense that you would oil the vegetables to keep all the juices inside and prevent them from drying out. After all, dried fruit and vegetables are made by slowly dehydrating (the juices out of) them. A little bit of oil creates a barrier that prevents the natural juices from evaporating as the vegetables cook and the oil promotes caramelization, a.k.a. those great grill marks. This is important because grill marks equal flavor, and a juicy vegetable is much tastier than a dried-out one.

Grilled vegetables are good all on their own, but they are even better with a great Romesco sauce to drizzle over them or dip them into. Romesco sauce is a red pepper, almond and tomato sauce that hails from the Catalonia part of Spain where it was originally served with seafood and charred onions. Romesco is gaining popularity in the states and I have seen it served with just about everything. It is my favorite summer condiment and I use it to dress up grilled shrimp, fish, poultry, meat and all manner of vegetables. My version calls for fire-roasted tomatoes and one large roasted red pepper, so it is more tomatoey than pepper-y which is my preference. If you prefer the taste of red peppers to tomatoes, switch the ratios and use 1/2 the amount of tomato that I call for and double the red peppers. I don't not use the bread which is in the classic recipe to thicken the sauce because I don't want to muddle the pure vegetable and roasted garlic flavor, and I like a looser texture.

Grilled asparagus and Romesco is my favorite combination. And, this time of year, asparagus abounds.



This June 16, 2018 photo shows Grilled Asparagus with Romesco Sauce from a recipe by Elizabeth Karmel in Amagansett, N.Y. AP

So, the recipe that I am featuring is for Grilled Asparagus with Fire-Roasted Romesco Sauce but you can use the same basic principle for any quick-cooking vegetable. Just remember to place the vegetables horizontally across the cooking grates so you get maximum grill marks and they won't fall through the grates. If you place them parallel to the grates, it will be easy for them to slip through and fall through the grates, and that would be a pity!

GRILLED ASPARAGUS WITH FIRE-ROASTED ROMESCO SAUCE

Serves: 4
Start to finish: 1 hour
Grilling Method: Direct/medium Heat
Grilled asparagus is my favorite, but don't stop there. Charred whole scallions, zucchini, yellow squash, roasted cauliflower, potatoes and mushrooms are all better for a bit of Romesco sauce. It's all good. Throw

in some grilled bread and it's great!

1 pound fresh asparagus (Look for large stalks with firm deep green or purplish tips and moist ends)

Olive oil
Kosher salt, about 1 teaspoon

Romesco Sauce (recipe below)

Rinse asparagus and snap or cut off bottom. Place asparagus in a re-sealable plastic bag and drizzle just enough oil in the bag to coat all the spears. Seal bag and turn spears to coat evenly in the bag. Sprinkle with salt, reseal bag and turn again to evenly distribute the salt.

Place asparagus on the cooking grate over direct heat for 3-5 minutes or until marked and caramelized. Turn spears occasionally to grill each side. Asparagus should begin to brown in spots (this indicates that the natural sugars are caramelizing) but should not char.

Remove from grill and serve immediately with Romesco sauce.

Fire-roasted Romesco Sauce

Servings: 32, or about 4 cups

Grilling Method: Indirect/medium high heat

2 pounds of ripe plum tomatoes or 2 cans Fire-Roasted Tomatoes

1 roasted red pepper (see recipe below)

1 head garlic, roasted (see recipe below)

3 tablespoons red-wine vinegar, more if needed

1/2 cup blanched or Marcona almonds

1 tablespoon freshly ground ancho chili

1 tablespoon smoked Spanish paprika

1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil, preferably Spanish

1-2 teaspoons kosher salt or sea salt; more to taste

1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

Wash and dry tomatoes. Cut out the core and drizzle the center of each tomato

with olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Place in a disposable aluminum

tray and place in the center of the cooking grate. Grill-

roast for 30-45 minutes or

until tomatoes are caramelized and soft. (Note, this is also a good time to roast the pepper and the garlic the pepper will take about 15 minutes and the garlic will take about 45 minutes.) Remove from grill and let cool in the pan, making sure to keep any of the juices that escaped.

Peel and seed peppers and remove garlic from skin and set aside. Using a food processor or a blender, place tomatoes, their juice, roasted pepper and roasted garlic together and puree. Add vinegar and almonds and puree until smooth and uniformly chunky. Add ancho chili and smoked paprika and pulse to combine. Slowly add olive oil until you like the consistency of the sauce. Add salt and pepper and pulse to combine. Taste and adjust seasoning if necessary with salt and pepper. Use immediately or store covered in the refrigerator for up to 1 week. (I store the sauce in glass mason jars; this recipe fills 2 pint jars, you can keep one and give one away!)

Roasted Red Pepper

Rinse and dry pepper. Grill over high direct heat, turning until skin blackens and blisters all over. Remove from grill and immediately put in a paper bag or sealed plastic container until cool. Note: the steam will loosen the skin from the flesh of the pepper. Skin and seed the pepper (the skin will slip off easily). Use as directed in recipe.

Roasted Garlic

1 head garlic
2 teaspoons olive oil
Pinch of kosher salt
Remove first layer of papery skin from garlic. Slice off top 1/2-inch from pointy top. Drizzle with olive oil and sprinkle with salt. Wrap in foil and cook on grill over medium-high indirect for 40 minutes or until cloves are golden-brown and soft. Alternatively, place in a 350 F oven. Remove from grill or oven and let cool. Follow recipe instructions.

Let us sing the praises of the humble, grillable flank steak

We wanted a simple, economical cut of meat for a casual backyard barbecue. After considering various cuts, we landed on flank steak. Like other cuts from the chest and side of the cow, such as skirt steak and hanger steak, flank steak boasts rich, full, beefy flavor.

What's more, because it is very thin, it cooks quite quickly, making it an ideal candidate for grilling. We visited our supermarket's meat counter, bought a 2-pound flank steak, trimmed it, and got cooking. We found that there was

no need to marinate this cut before cooking; with just a little salt and pepper and some sugar (which we added to aid in browning), it was ready to hit the grill.

For this quick-cooking steak, we opted for a half-fire grill setup: We spread the coals over half the grill to concentrate the heat for optimal char on the steak and left the other side of the grill much cooler so we could move the steak over if it started to burn. In just about 10 minutes, the steak was perfectly done.

For a bright counterpoint, we made a quick and easy herb sauce.

Fresh parsley contributed a grassy, herbal element; pungent garlic stood up to the meaty flavor of the steak; and lemon juice added a touch of acidity. A bit of sugar introduced sweetness and helped mellow the potent sauce.

We prefer flat-leaf parsley as opposed to curly parsley here. California Olive Ranch Everyday Extra Virgin Olive Oil is our favorite supermarket extra-virgin olive oil.

EASY GRILLED FLANK STEAK

WITH GARLIC-HERB SAUCE

Servings: 4-6
Start to finish: 50 minutes

1 (2-pound) flank steak, trimmed

1 teaspoon sugar

Salt and pepper

1 cup minced fresh parsley

1/3 cup extra-virgin olive oil

2 tablespoons lemon juice

3 garlic cloves, minced

Pat steak dry with paper towels, sprinkle with 3/4 teaspoon sugar, and season with salt and pep-

per. Combine parsley, oil, lemon juice, garlic, remaining 1/4 teaspoon sugar, 1/4 teaspoon salt, and 1/4 teaspoon pepper in small bowl and set aside for serving.

— 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 evenly over 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. Leave primary burner on high and turn other burner(s) to medium.

Clean and oil cooking grate. Place steak on hotter side of grill. Cook (covered if using gas), turning as needed, until lightly charred and meat registers 120 to 125 F (for medium-rare), 8 to 12 minutes.

Transfer steak to carving board, tent with aluminum foil, and let rest for 5 to 10 minutes. Slice steak against grain very thin on bias and serve with garlic-herb sauce.

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US leaving UN's Human Rights Council, cites anti-Israel bias

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States is leaving the United Nations' Human Rights Council, which Ambassador Nikki Haley called "an organization that is not worthy of its name." It's the latest withdrawal by the Trump administration from an international institution.

Haley said Tuesday the U.S. had given the human rights body "opportunity after opportunity" to make changes. She lambasted the council for "its chronic bias against Israel" and lamented the fact that its membership includes accused human rights abusers such as China, Cuba, Venezuela and Congo.

"We take this step because our commitment does not allow us to remain a part of a hypocritical and self-serving organization that makes a mockery of human rights," Haley said.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, appearing alongside Haley at the State Department, said there was no doubt that the council once had a "noble vision."

But today we need to be honest," Pompeo said. "The Human Rights Council is a poor defender of human rights."

The announcement came just a day after the U.N. human rights chief, Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein, denounced the Trump administration for separating migrant children from their parents. But Haley cited longstanding U.S. complaints that the 47-member council is biased against Israel. She had been threatening the pull-out since last year unless the council made changes advocated by the U.S.

"Regrettably, it is now clear that our call for reform was not heeded," Haley said.

Still, she suggested the decision need not be permanent, adding that if the council did adopt reforms, "we would be happy to re-join it." She said the withdrawal notwithstanding, the U.S. would continue to defend human rights at the United Nations.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office called the U.S. decision "courageous," calling it "an unequivocal statement that enough is enough."

The move extends a broader Trump administra-

tion pattern of stepping back from international agreements and forums under the president's "America First" policy. Although numerous officials have said repeatedly that "America First does not mean America Alone," the administration has retreated from multiple multilateral accords and consensus since it took office.

Since January 2017, it has announced its withdrawal from the Paris climate accord, left the U.N. educational and cultural organization and pulled out of the Iran nuclear deal. Other contentious moves have included slapping tariffs on steel and aluminum against key trading partners, recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital and moving the U.S. Embassy there from Tel Aviv.

Opposition to the decision from human rights advocates was swift. A group of 12 organizations including Save the Children, Freedom House and the United Nations Association-USA said there were "legitimate concerns" about the council's shortcomings but that none of them warranted a U.S. exit.

"This decision is counterproductive to American national security and foreign policy interests and will make it more difficult to advance human rights priorities and aid victims of abuse around the world," the organizations said in a joint statement.

Added Kenneth Roth, the executive director of Human Rights Watch: "All Trump seems to care about is defending Israel."

On Twitter, al-Hussein, the U.N. human rights chief, said it was "Disappointing, if not really surprising, news. Given the state of #HumanRights in today's world, the US should be stepping up, not stepping back."

And the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank close to the Trump administration, defended the move, calling the council "notably incurious about the human rights situations in some of the world's most oppressive countries."

Brett Schaefer, a senior fellow, pointed out that Trump could have withdrawn immediately after taking office but instead gave the council



This is a Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2008 file photo, showing a general view of the Human Rights Room (Room XX) at the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. Diplomats say the United States is about to quit the United Nation's main human rights body, primarily over Washington's claim that the Human Rights Council is biased against Israel. The move would be the Trump administration's latest snub of the international community. The U.S. State Department said Friday, June 15, 2018 no decision has been made to leave.

18 months to make changes.

Haley has been the driving force behind withdrawing from the human rights body, unprecedented in the 12-year history of the council. No country has ever dropped out voluntarily. Libya was kicked out seven years ago.

The move could reinforce the perception that the Trump administration is seeking to advance Israel's agenda on the world stage, just as it prepares to unveil its long-awaited Israeli-Palestinian peace plan despite Palestinian outrage over the embassy relocation. Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser, Jared Kushner, is visiting the Middle East this week as the White House works to lay the groundwork for unveiling the plan.

Israel is the only country in the world whose rights record comes up for discussion at every council session, under "Item 7" on the agenda. Item 7 on "Israel and the Occupied Palestin-

ian Territories" has been part of the council's regular business almost as long as it has existed.

The United States' current term on the council ends next year. Although the U.S. could have remained a non-voting observer on the council, a U.S. official said it was a "complete withdrawal" and that the United States was resigning its seat "effective immediately." The official wasn't authorized to comment publicly and insisted on anonymity.

That means the council will be left without one of its traditional defenders of human rights. In recent months, the United States has participated in attempts to pinpoint rights violations in places like South Sudan, Congo and Cambodia.

The U.S. pullout was bound to have ripple effects for at least two countries at the council: China and Israel. The U.S., as at other U.N. organizations, is Israel's biggest defender. At the rights council, the United

States has recently been the most unabashed critic of rights abuses in China — whose growing economic and diplomatic clout has chastened some other would-be critics, rights advocates say.

The Chinese government expressed regret over Washington's decision to pull out of the council. In Beijing, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesman said the council is "an important platform" for countries to discuss human rights and that Beijing has been committed to supporting the group's work.

But the Chinese government is often accused by Western countries of human rights violations and by rights groups of seeking to undermine the mechanisms of the U.N. human rights council. In March, a Chinese diplomat repeatedly interrupted a speech by a prominent Chinese dissident to block him from addressing the U.N. Human Rights Council, a failed attempt that bared China's

sensitivity on human rights.

The foreign ministry spokesman, Geng Shuang, dismissed the U.S. criticism that the council is problematic because it includes China and other authoritarian governments, saying that claim is "a total disregard of facts." "Everyone without bias can see clearly China's great achievement and progress in terms of human rights," Geng said.

There are 47 countries in the Human Rights Council, elected by the U.N.'s General Assembly with a specific number of seats allocated for each region of the globe. Members serve for three-year terms and can serve only two terms in a row.

The United States has opted to stay out of the Human Rights Council before: The George W. Bush administration opted against seeking membership when the council was created in 2006. The U.S. joined the body only in 2009 under President Barack Obama.

House GOP gets little direction from Trump on immigration

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump told House Republicans he is "1,000 percent" behind their rival immigration bills, providing little clear direction for party leaders searching for a way to defuse the escalating controversy over family separations at the southern border.

And it's uncertain if Trump's support will be enough to push any legislation through the divided GOP majority.

House lawmakers, increasingly fearful of a voter backlash in November, met with Trump for about an hour Tuesday at the Capitol to try to find a solution that both holds to Trump's hard-line immigration policy and ends the practice of taking migrant children from parents charged with entering the country illegally. Many lawmakers say Trump could

simply reverse the administration's "zero tolerance" policy and keep families together.

While Trump held firm to his tough immigration stance in an earlier appearance Tuesday, he acknowledged during the closed-door meeting that the coverage of family separations is taking a toll. Trump said his daughter, Ivanka, had told him the situation with the families looks bad, one lawmaker said.

"He said, 'Politically, this is bad,'" said Rep. Randy Weber, R-Texas. "It's not about the politics, this is the right thing to do."

But Trump touched on many topics during the meeting, including his historic meeting with the North Korean Kim Jong Un. He praised a few GOP lawmakers by name for defending him on TV, according to one Republican in the room. And

he took a jab at Rep. Mark Sanford, congratulating the South Carolina Republican on his recent campaign, according to others granted anonymity to discuss the private meeting. Sanford, a frequent Trump critic, lost after his GOP primary opponent highlighted his criticism of the president.

As Trump walked out of the session in the Capitol basement, he was confronted by about a half-dozen House Democrats, who yelled, "Stop separating our families!"

Later in the day, protesters heckled Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen as she ate dinner at a Mexican restaurant in Washington, chanting "Shame!" and "End family separation!"

A department spokesman tweeted that during a work dinner, the secretary and her staff heard from a small

group of protesters who "share her concern with our current immigration laws."

Leaders in both the House and Senate are struggling to shield the party's lawmakers from the public outcry over images of children taken from migrant parents and held in cages at the border. But they are running up against Trump's shifting views on specifics and his determination, according to advisers, not to look soft on his signature immigration issue, the border wall.

Rep. Kristi Noem, R-S.D., said Trump told lawmakers he "would continue to support the legislation, and that people shouldn't be worried that he would change his mind." She said it was a light moment. "Everybody laughed."

Even if Republicans manage to pass an immigration bill through the House,

which is a tall order, the fight is all but certain to fizzle in the Senate.

Sen. Chuck Schumer, the Democratic leader from New York, is adamant that Trump can end the family separations on his own and that legislation is not needed.

Without Democratic support, Republicans cannot muster the 60 votes needed to move forward on legislation.

Schumer said with most Americans against family separations, it's Republicans "feeling the heat on this issue, and that's why they're squirming."

In the House, GOP leaders scrambled Tuesday to produce a revised version of the broader immigration bill that would keep children in detention longer than now permitted — but with their parents.

The major change unveiled Tuesday would loosen rules

that now limit the amount of time minors can be held to 20 days, according to a GOP source familiar with the measure. Instead, the children could be detained indefinitely with their parents.

The revision would also give the Department of Homeland Security the authority to use \$7 billion in border technology funding to pay for family detention centers, said the person, who was not authorized to discuss the matter by name and commented only on condition of anonymity.

In the Senate, meanwhile, Republicans are rallying behind a different approach. Theirs is narrow legislation proposed by Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, that would allow detained families to stay together in custody while expediting their hearings and possible deportation proceedings.

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FDA reconsiders added sugar label for maple syrup, honey

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) — The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is reconsidering its plan to label pure maple syrup and honey as containing added sugars.

Maple syrup producers had rallied against the plan, saying FDA's upcoming requirement to update nutrition labels to tell consumers that pure maple syrup and honey contain added sugars was misleading, illogical and confusing and could hurt their industries.

After receiving feedback including more than 3,000 comments on its draft plan, the FDA said Monday that it would now come up with a revised approach.

"The feedback that FDA has received is that the approach laid out in the draft guidance does not provide the clarity that the FDA intended. It is important to FDA that consumers are able to effectively use the new Nutrition Facts label to make informed, healthy dietary choices. The agency looks forward to working with stakeholders to devise a sensible solution," the FDA said.

FDA Commissioner Dr. Scott Gottlieb had said earlier this year that he has made nutrition one of his top priorities, and the Nutrition Facts label hasn't been meaningfully updated in decades. He said the FDA's goal was to increase consumer awareness of the quantity of added sugars in foods.

In maple country of Vermont — the country's largest producer of the sweet stuff — the congressional delegation and state's attorney general urged the FDA commissioner to re-



In this March 9, 2016, file photo, a bottle of maple syrup are displayed at the Merrifield Farm and Sugar Shack in Gorham, Maine. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is reconsidering its plan to label pure maple syrup and honey as containing added sugars. Maple syrup producers had rallied against the plan, saying FDA's upcoming requirement to update nutrition labels to tell consumers that pure maple syrup and honey contain added sugars was misleading, illogical and confusing and could hurt their industries

consider the added sugars label for maple syrup, with Attorney General T.J. Donovan calling on Vermonters to comment on the FDA's plan.

The American Honey Producers Association said the plan could lead

to consumers wondering what's being added to pure honey, when nothing is.

"I applaud the FDA's decision to hear Vermonters on this issue," Donovan said on Tuesday. "We all agree that consumers have a right to know what is in

their food, especially when it comes to their health and safety," he said. "And, we also agree that common sense is a virtue."

Maple syrup producer Roger Brown of Slopeside Syrup in Richmond, Vermont, who has been a

leading voice on the issue, said the FDA's response to the feedback is a good step.

"I applaud the FDA for acknowledging the relevance of the issue and the need to re-examine it," he said. "I am grateful that

this question and this issue has been a part of a pretty broad conversation and has generated a lot of support from the maple community, from Vermonters and maple fans around the country.

Alexa, I can trust you with my checkbook, right?

NEW YORK (AP) — Hey Alexa, what's my bank account balance?

Big banks and financial companies have started to offer banking through virtual assistants — Amazon's Alexa, Apple's Siri, and Google's Assistant — in a way that will allow customers to check their balances, pay bills and, in the near future, send money just with their voice. And with the rapid adoption of Zelle, a bank-to-bank transfer system, it soon could be possible to send money to friends or family instantly with voice commands.

But the potential to do such sensitive tasks through a smart speaker raises security concerns. Virtual assistants and smart speakers are still relatively new technologies, and potentially susceptible to being exploited by cyber criminals.

Regional banking giant U.S. Bank is the first bank to be on all three services — Alexa, Siri and Assistant. The company did a soft launch of its Siri and Assistant services in early March and this month started marketing the option to customers.

Other financial companies have set up virtual assistant features. Credit card companies Capital One and American Express both have Alexa skills that allow customers to

check their balances and pay bills. There are other smaller banks and credit unions that have set up Google Assistant or Alexa as well.

"We want to be there for our customers in any possible way that we can," said Gareth Gaston, executive vice president for omnichannel banking at U.S. Bank.

For now, U.S. Bank is keeping the features available through bank-by-voice fairly restrictive. Customers will be able to check bank balances, pay U.S. Bank credit cards and mortgages, ask Alexa or Google the due dates on bills, and other basic functions. Money cannot be transferred from a U.S. Bank account using voice yet, Gaston said, but the bank is considering the option.

Asking Google, Alexa or Siri for the weather or to tell a joke is one thing, but it's a whole other issue when these assistants access and share sensitive personal information. These apps will typically announce a person's available balance over the speaker, which has the potential to create awkward situations at parties.

In the case of Google and Alexa, users must create a secure connection between their bank and the assistant through Alexa's Skills or Google's Actions. All banks require the use of a four-digit



In this June 14, 2018, photo, Gareth Gaston, Executive Vice President and Head of Omnichannel Banking at US Bank, discusses voice assistant banking with a mobile phone, an Amazon Echo, center, and a Google Home, right, in New York.

PIN before they will provide balance and bank account info over these speakers, and suggest making those PINs different from the one on a customer's ATM card.

Apple's Siri is the most restrictive of the three virtual assistants, only showing a user a bank account balance on a screen, and not

allowing other features like paying bills. Banks can integrate Siri into their iPhone and iPad apps, but Apple's HomePod smart speaker that launched earlier this year does not currently accept banking commands. A company spokeswoman declined to say whether that feature was coming.

Google Assistant has the capability to do individual voice recognition, providing one additional level of security on that platform, but that is not implemented on U.S. Bank's Action yet. Security experts say that additional level of security could be foiled, however.

"Users' voices can be re-

corded, manipulated, and replayed to the assistants," said Kurt Baumgartner, a security researcher with Kaspersky Lab. "Also, with access to banking accounts and abilities to transfer and pay out money, remote financial fraud may be within the reach of cybercriminal groups soon."

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Volgograd provides the proper perspective at World Cup

VOLGOGRAD, Russia (AP) — Nearly 60 years since it changed its name to Volgograd, the Russian city once called Stalingrad and its bloody history loom large even in the midst of the fun and football of the World Cup.

Stalingrad, the name of the city on the Volga river between 1925 and 1961, is now often shorthand for one of the most violent battles in history. The exact death toll can never be known, but historians believe about a million people from both sides died that savage winter of 1942-3 when the Nazi war machine was stopped from crossing the Volga, then surrounded and defeated.

The city was basically reduced to rubble and its modern-day residents will forever remember the sacrifices of their ancestors.

"It's sacred for us because in every family in the Volgograd region, there are people who died in the battle and we mustn't forget about it and every year we do patriotic action and do some lessons for children so they know all about it," said 21-year-old Daria Kolomyichenko.

"It's our history and we are very proud."

To visitors, particularly from nations that fought against the Nazis, the monuments around the city — especially the 85-meter (280-foot) statue known as "The Motherland Calls!" — are also a reminder that the sacrifices of Russians at Stalingrad were crucial to the Allies winning World War II. With Britain and Russia feuding politically, the English team played their first match of the World Cup in Volgograd.

"To see the statue and have an understanding of the history reminds you that some things are even bigger than football and that's good perspective for us all," said England coach Gareth Southgate.

The battle is a constant presence in the city of around 1 million. While the monuments loom large in the Hero City — the honor granted by the then Soviet Union. Volgograd is now a thriving regional center, bustling with attractions, parks and visitors. There is more than enough to appreciate to ignore the occasional swarms of flies and mosquitoes that hounded fans as England beat Tunisia 2-1 at Volgograd Arena Monday night

The stadium was constructed on the banks of the Volga and at the bottom of the Mamayev Kurgan, the hill that was savagely fought over by the Red Army and the Nazis. Sometimes changing hands several times on any particular day, it is said the ground on the hill was so soaked in blood that the springs were poisoned.

No wonder the Soviet authorities more or less enshrined the hill's status as sacred. A collection of memorials and outsized structures on the hill include a granite pool, an eternal flame and mass graves. But it's the scul-



In this Sunday, June 17, 2018 photo, Russian soldiers take part in changing guard at the Hall of Military Glory in Volgograd, Russia. Nearly 60 years since it changed its name to Volgograd, the Russian city once called Stalingrad and its bloody history loom large even in the midst of the fun and football of the World Cup.

ture on the top that draws one's breath. The Motherland Calls casts a long shadow across the city.

England fans also joined up with dignitaries to lay a wreath to commemorate the dead.

"I'm into football and you're into football, but when you have an event like this, you realize it's more, there's more than just football," said fan Billy Grant.

Football is a game that perhaps unites the world more than any other, and certainly more than any political or religious creed. Russia may be facing international censure for its annexation of the Crimea peninsula from Ukraine, for its alleged role in the poisoning of an ex-Russian spy and his daughter in southern England and meddling in the U.S. election, but visitors from all over the world are reminded of the magnitude of the nation's role in World War II, regardless of what one thinks of Josef Stalin.

The Panorama Museum in Volgograd, built next to the gutted remains of a ruined mill, showcases an array of tributes to the city including a sword from King George VI that was presented to Stalin by British Prime Minister Winston Churchill in 1943, and the Legion d'Honneur that French President Francois Mitterand bequeathed to the city in 1984.

The horrors of the Battle of Stalingrad are clear, but there's no antagonism towards the Germans.

In a cemetery some 40 miles northwest of Volgograd in Rossoshka, there's a dignified cemetery for German soldiers who perished at Stalingrad and nearby Rostov-on-Don.



In this photo taken on Sunday, June 17, 2018, graves of Russian soldiers in a cemetery near Stalingrad in Rossoshka, Russia. 72-year-old Vitaly Danilkin takes care of a cemetery some 40 miles northwest of Volgograd in Rossoshka, for German soldiers who perished at Stalingrad and nearby Rostov-on-Don, as well as a Soviet cemetery on the other side of the road.

Local historian Svetlana Kostyrykina writes in a local travel guide that there 52,000 of them are buried in two mass graves and that another 120,000 Germans thought to be missing are inscribed on rectangular panels around the site, "like huge dice lost in the steppe."

Vitaly Danilkin, as grizzled a 72-year-old as you are likely to see, cares for the site as well as a Soviet cemetery on the other side

of the road. Cutting the grass in the summer, and clearing the snow in winter, Danilkin is always on the lookout for war-related artifacts. His 43-year-old son, Alexei, with the permission of the state, runs a small team that does exactly that and is alert to anyone illegally looking for memorabilia — there's a big black market for Stalingrad-related helmets, guns, medals and tags.

Vitaly, who has been doing his job for three years, said he's the only who would do it for "only 7,000 rubles a month" when he was hired. He has since gotten a raise to 9,000 rubles (\$140) a month.

"Someone has to do it," said Vitaly.

For those few who still have a connection with the battle, the pain remains.

Just a few months ago, Vitaly saw an elderly lady descend into floods of

tears as she kissed one of the portraits in a small museum room on the side of the Soviet cemetery.

As for the World Cup, Vitaly is not so interested but he clapped when Russia won its first match against Saudi Arabia 5-0.

"I'm a patriot," he said. "I love my Russia."

Stalingrad, it's clear, was full of patriots.



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Some parents of epileptic kids wary of pot-based medication

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP) — A British pharmaceutical company is getting closer to a decision on whether the U.S. government will approve the first prescription drug derived from the marijuana plant, but parents who for years have used cannabis to treat severe forms of epilepsy in their children are feeling more cautious than celebratory.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is expected to decide by the end of the month whether to approve GW Pharmaceuticals' Epidiolex. It's a purified form of cannabidiol — a component of cannabis that doesn't get users high — to treat Dravet and Lennox-Gastaut syndromes in kids. Both forms of epilepsy are rare.

Cannabidiol's effect on a variety of health conditions is frequently touted, but there is still little evidence to back up advocates' personal experiences. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration has long categorized cannabis as a Schedule I drug, a category with "no currently accepted medical use and a high potential for abuse." That strictly limits research on potential medical uses for cannabis or the chemicals in it, including cannabidiol, or CBD.

But for years, parents desperate to find anything to help their children have turned to the marijuana-based products made legal by a growing number of states.

Meagan Patrick is among the parents using CBD to treat symptoms in their children. She moved from Maine to Colorado in 2014 so she could legally get CBD for her now-5-year-old daughter, Addelyn, who was born with a brain malformation that causes seizures.

"My child was dying, and we needed to do something," Patrick said.

As for the potential approval of a pharmaceutical based on CBD, she said fear is her first reaction.

"I want to make sure that her right to continue using what works for her is protected, first and foremost. That's my job as her mom," Patrick said.

Advocates like Patrick became particularly concerned when GW Pharmaceuticals' U.S. commercial business, Greenwich Biosciences, began quietly lobbying to change states' legal definition of marijuana, beginning in 2017 with propos-



In this April 23, 2018, photo, Addelyn Patrick, 5, sits inside a teepee in the playroom at Realm of Caring in Colorado Springs, Colo. Addelyn was born with a brain malformation and suffers from multiple forms of seizures.

als in Nebraska and South Dakota.

Some worried the company's attempt to ensure its product could be legally prescribed and sold by pharmacies would have a side effect: curtailing medical marijuana programs already operating in more than two dozen states.

The proposals generally sought to remove CBD from states' legal definition of marijuana, allowing it to be prescribed by doctors and supplied by pharmacies. But the change only applies to products that have FDA approval.

Neither Nebraska nor South Dakota allows medical use of marijuana, and activists accused the company of trying to shut down future access to products containing cannabidiol but lacking FDA approval.

GW Pharmaceuticals never intended for the changes to affect other marijuana products, but they are necessary to allow Epidiolex to be sold in pharmacies if approved, spokesman Stephen Schultz said.

He would not discuss other places where the company will seek changes to state law. The Associated Press confirmed that lobbyists representing Greenwich Biosciences backed legislation in California and Colorado this year.

"As a company, we understand there's a significant business building up," Schultz said. "All we want to do is make sure our product is accessible."

Industry lobbyists in those states said they take company officials at their word, but they still insisted on protective language ensuring that recreational or medical marijuana, cannabidiol, hemp and other products derived from cannabis plants won't be affected by the changes sought by GW Pharmaceuticals.

Patrick Goggin, an attorney who focuses on industrial hemp issues in California, said the company would run into trouble if it tried to "lock up access" to marijuana-derived products beyond FDA-approved drugs.

"People need to have op-

tions and choices," he said. "That's the battle here."

Legal experts say the changes are logical. Some states' laws specifically prohibit any product derived from the marijuana plant from being sold in pharmacies. The FDA has approved synthetic versions of another cannabis ingredient for medical purposes but has never approved marijuana or hemp for any medical use.

A panel of FDA advisers in April unanimously recommended the agency approve Epidiolex for the treatment of severe seizures in children with epilepsy, conditions that are otherwise difficult to treat. It's not clear why CBD reduces seizures in some patients, but the panel based its recommendation on three studies showing significant reduction in children with two forms of epilepsy.

Denver-based attorney Christian Sederberg, who worked on the GW Pharmaceuticals-backed legislation in Colorado on behalf of the marijuana industry, said all

forms of marijuana can exist together.

"The future of the industry is showing itself here," Sederberg said. "There's going to be the pharmaceutical lane, the nutraceutical (food-as-medicine) lane, the adult-use lane. This shows how that's all coming together."

Alex and Jenny Inman said they won't switch to Epidiolex if it becomes available, though their son Lukas has Lennox-Gastaut syndrome.

Alex, an information technology professional, and Jenny, a preschool teacher, said it took some at-home experimentation to find the right combination of doctor-prescribed medication, CBD and THC — the component that gives marijuana users a high — that seemed to help Lukas with his seizures.

"What makes me a little bit nervous about this is that there's sort of a psyche amongst patients that, 'Here's this pill, and this pill will solve things,' right? It works differently for dif-

ferent people," Alex Inman said.

The Inmans moved from Maryland to Colorado in 2015 after doctors recommended a second brain surgery for Lukas' seizures. The couple and other parents and advocates for CBD said children respond differently to a variety of strains.

The Realm of Caring Foundation, an organization co-founded by Paige Figi, whose daughter Charlotte's name is attached to the CBD oil Charlotte's Web, said it maintains a registry of about 46,000 people worldwide who use CBD.

For Heather Jackson, who said her son Zaki, now 15, benefited from CBD and who co-founded the foundation, Epidiolex's approval means insurers will begin paying for treatment with a cannabis-derived product.

"That might be a nice option for some families who, you know, really want to receive a prescription who are going to only listen to the person in the white coat," Jackson said.

Fewer US teens smoking, doing drugs ... and drinking milk

NEW YORK (AP) — Fewer U.S. teens are smoking, having sex and doing drugs these days. Oh, and they're drinking less milk, too.

Less than one-third of high school students drink a glass of milk a day, according to a large government survey released Thursday. About two decades ago, it was nearly half.

Last year's survey asked about 100 questions on a wide range of health topics, including smoking, drugs and diet. Researchers compared the results to similar questionnaires going back more than 25 years.

One trend that stood out was the drop in drinking milk, which started falling for all Americans after World War II. In recent decades, teens have shifted from milk to soda, then to Gatorade and other sports drinks and recently to energy drinks like Monster and Red Bull.

The survey showed slightly fewer kids are drinking soda and sports drinks now, compared to the last survey in 2015.

One caveat: Most students were not asked about energy drinks so how many kids drink them now isn't known. A study from a

decade ago estimated that nearly a third of kids between the age of 12 and 17 were regularly drinking energy drinks.

Kids have shifted from a dairy product rich in calcium and vitamin D to beverages laden with sugar and caffeine, which is likely contributing to the nation's obesity problem, said Barry Popkin, a University of North Carolina researcher who studies how diets change.

"This is not a healthy trend for our long-term health," he said.

For teens, the government recommends 3 cups daily of

dairy products — milk, yogurt or cheese.

The survey by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is conducted every two years. About 15,000 students at 144 high schools were surveyed last year. The surveys are anonymous and voluntary, and there's no check of medical records or other documents to verify answers.

Some of the findings: — Not as many teen are having sex, although there wasn't much change from the 2015 survey results. Last year, about 40 percent said they'd ever had sex, down from 48 percent a de-

cade ago.

— There was no substantial recent change for cigarette smoking, either. About 9 percent are current smokers, down from more than 27 percent when the survey started in 1991. Ditto alcohol, with 30 percent saying they currently use alcohol, down from 51 percent in 1991.

— Marijuana use seems to be hovering, with about 36 percent of students saying they had ever tried it. But overall, illegal drug use seems to be falling, including for synthetic marijuana, ecstasy, heroin, inhalants, and LSD and other hal-

lucinogenic drugs. For the first time, the survey asked if they had ever abused prescription opioid medications. About 14 percent did.

— Another first-time question: Have you had a concussion from a sport or physical activity at least once in the previous year? Nationally, 15 percent said they had. The finding may sound high but it's not far off from what's been reported by some other researchers, said Michael Collins, who runs a University of Pittsburgh-affiliated sports concussion program.

In tit-for-tat, Trump threatens more tariffs against China

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump has directed the U.S. Trade Representative to prepare new tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese imports as the two nations move closer to a potential trade war.

The tariffs, which Trump wants set at a 10 percent rate, would be the latest round of punitive measures in an escalating dispute over the large trade imbalance between the two countries. Trump recently ordered tariffs on \$50 billion in Chinese goods in retaliation for intellectual property theft. The tariffs were quickly matched by China on U.S. exports, a move that drew the president's ire.

U.S. stock markets fell sharply Friday morning, with investors increasingly nervous about the impact of a trade war. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 400 points, or 1.6 percent. Other stock indexes also sank.

Large U.S. companies with significant overseas business were hit especially hard. Boeing's stock shed 4.3 percent, Caterpillar 3.7 percent and GE 2.1 percent.

"China apparently has no intention of changing its unfair practices related to the acquisition of American intellectual property and technology," Trump said in a statement Monday announcing the new action. "Rather than altering those practices, it is now threatening United States companies, workers, and farmers who have done nothing wrong."

Trump added: "These tariffs will go into effect if China refuses to change its practices, and also if it insists on going forward with the new tariffs that it has recently announced."

China's Commerce Min-

istry on Tuesday criticized the latest threat of tariffs, saying it was an "act of extreme pressure and blackmail that deviates from the consensus reached by both parties after many negotiations, and is a disappointment to the international community."

"If the U.S. becomes irrational and issues this list, China will have no choice but to adopt strong countermeasures of the same amount and quality," the ministry statement said.

Trump said that if China responds to this fresh round of tariffs, then he will move to counter "by pursuing additional tariffs on another \$200 billion of goods."

It wasn't immediately clear when the new tariffs could be put in place, as the trade office has yet to identify the Chinese goods to be penalized or conduct a legal review. The first round of penalties announced by both nations is set to take effect July 6.

The intellectual property sanctions were the latest in a spate of protectionist measures unveiled by Trump in recent months that included tariffs on steel and aluminum imports to the U.S. and a tough rhetoric on trade negotiations from North America to Asia.

The escalation in the dispute with China may also serve as a warning to other trading partners with whom Trump has been feuding, including Canada and the European Union.

The move quickly drew praise from former Trump senior adviser Steve Bannon, who told The Associated Press: "President Trump told China and the world tonight that America will not back down when it comes to economic aggression."

But Wall Street has



U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo speaks at an Economic Club of Detroit luncheon at Ford Field in Detroit, Monday, June 18, 2018.

viewed the escalating trade tensions with wariness, fearful they could strangle the economic growth achieved during Trump's watch. Gary Cohn, Trump's former top economic adviser, said last week that a "tariff battle" could result in price inflation and consumer debt — "historic ingredients for an economic slowdown."

Trump's comments came hours after the top U.S. diplomat accused China of engaging in "predatory economics 101" and an "unprecedented level of larceny" of intellectual property.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo made the remarks at the Detroit Economic Club as global markets reacted to trade tensions be-

tween the U.S. and China.

He said China's recent claims of "openness and globalization" are "a joke." He added that China is a "predatory economic government" that is "long overdue in being tackled," matters that include IP theft and Chinese steel and aluminum flooding the U.S. market.

"Everyone knows ... China is the main perpetrator," he said. "It's an unprecedented level of larceny."

"Just ask yourself: Would China have allowed America to do to it what China has done to America?" he said later. "This is predatory economics 101."

Asked to comment on Pompeo's remarks, the Chinese foreign ministry

in Beijing said in a regular briefing with reporters that the U.S. had lost credibility as a free trader.

"We don't want a trade war, but we're not afraid of a trade war," ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said.

Pompeo raised the trade issue directly with China last week, when he met in Beijing with President Xi Jinping and others.

"I reminded him that's not fair competition," Pompeo said.

Trump had announced a 25 percent tariff on up to \$50 billion in Chinese imports. China is retaliating by raising import duties on \$34 billion worth of American goods, including soybeans, electric cars and whiskey.

Trump also has slapped tariffs on steel and aluminum imports from Canada, Mexico and European allies.

Pompeo on Monday described U.S. actions as "economic diplomacy," which, when done right, strengthens national security and international alliances, he added.

"We use American power, economic might and influence as a tool of economic policy," he said. "We do our best to call out unfair economic behaviors as well."

In a statement, Trump says he has an "excellent relationship" with Xi, "but the United States will no longer be taken advantage of on trade by China and other countries in the world."

Trump, GOP to huddle as outrage builds over border policy

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans on Capitol Hill frantically searched on Tuesday for ways to end the administration's policy of separating families after illegal border crossings, ahead of a visit from President Donald Trump to discuss broader immigration legislation.

Top conservatives, including key Trump allies, announced they were introducing bills to stop the practice amid a public outcry over the administration's "zero tolerance" approach to illegal crossings.

Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas introduced legislation that the White House said it was reviewing, and Rep. Mark Meadows of North Carolina, a leader of the conservative Freedom Caucus, also introduced a measure.

Both bills were offered as alternatives in case broader GOP immigration legislation heading for a vote this week fails, as is likely. "This becomes a backup proposal," Meadows told reporters at the White House.

Trump's meeting late Tuesday with House Republicans comes as lawmakers in both parties are up in arms after days of news reports showing images of children being held at border facilities in cages and an audio recording of a young child pleading for his

"Papa."

The issue boiled over Tuesday at a House hearing on an unrelated subject when protesters with babies briefly shut down proceedings.

Maryland Rep. Elijah Cummings, the top Democrat on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, teared up as he pleaded with Republicans on the panel to end what he called "internment camps."

"We need you, those children need you — and I am talking directly to my Republican colleagues — we need you to stand up to President Donald Trump," he said.

Under the current policy, all unlawful crossings are referred for prosecution — a process that moves adults to the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service and sends many children to facilities run by the Department of Health and Human Services. Under the Obama administration, such families were usually referred for civil deportation proceedings, not requiring separation.

Nearly 2,000 children were separated from their families over a six-week period in April and May.

The House is already embroiled in an election-year struggle over immigration legislation that threatens

to hurt Republicans in November.

Democrats have seized on the family separation issue. And now, Republicans are increasingly joining them in their call to stop separating families.

"While cases are pending, families should stay together," tweeted Cruz, who is in an unexpectedly tough re-election battle. He introduced his own bill to speed up court proceedings to no more than 14 days. "Children belong with their families."

Michigan Republican Rep. Fred Upton called for an immediate end to the "ugly and inhumane practice" of separation. "It's never acceptable to use kids as bargaining chips in political process," Kansas GOP Sen. Pat Roberts said he was "against using parental separation as a deterrent to illegal immigration."

"The time is now for the White House to end the cruel, tragic separations of families," said Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska.

From afar, ailing Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., tweeted, "The administration's current family separation policy is an affront to the decency of the American people and contrary to principles and values upon which our nation was founded. The administra-

tion has the power to rescind this policy. It should do so now."

The Trump administration insists the family separations are required under the law. But after signaling Monday that it would oppose any fix aimed solely at addressing that issue, the White House said Tuesday it was reviewing the emergency legislation being introduced by Cruz to keep migrant families together.

The senator's bill would add more federal immigration judges, authorize new temporary shelters to house migrant families, speed the processing of asylum cases and require that families that cross the border illegally be kept together, absent criminal conduct or threats to the welfare of any children.

At a White House briefing Monday, Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen declared, "Congress alone can fix it." That line has been echoed by others in the administration, including Trump, who has falsely blamed a law passed by Democrats for the "zero tolerance" approach to prosecutions of families crossing the border.

Two immigration bills under consideration in the House could address the separations, but the outlook for passage is dim. Conser-

vatives say the compromise legislation that GOP leaders helped negotiate with moderates is inadequate.

Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, a member of the Freedom Caucus, said he's skeptical that even a full-throated endorsement from Trump will be enough to get the compromise bill through the House.

The compromise bill shifts away from the nation's longtime preference for family immigration to a new system that prioritizes entry based on merits and skills. It beefs up border security, clamps down on illegal entries and reinforces other immigration laws.

To address the rise of families being separated at the border, the measure proposes keeping children in detention with their parents, undoing 2-decade-old rules that limit the time minors can be held in custody.

Rep. Bob Goodlatte R-Va., chairman of the Judiciary Committee, is reworking the family separation provision in the compromise bill, a GOP aide said Tuesday.

Faced with the prospect of gridlock in the House, senators appear willing to take matters into their own hands.

John Cornyn of Texas, the No. 2 Republican leader, said Senate Republicans are

working on language to address the family separations that could receive a floor vote, potentially as part of a spending bill package.

"I don't think the answer to family separation is to not enforce the law. I think the answer to family separation is: Don't separate families while you're enforcing the law," Cornyn told reporters. "It's all within our power, and people have to overcome their desire to preserve an issue to campaign on."

GOP senators including Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, Jeff Flake of Arizona and Susan Collins of Maine also said they've been discussing family separation legislation.

The administration, meanwhile, is hoping to force Democrats to vote for the bills or bear some of the political cost in November's midterm elections. Democrats brushed aside that pressure.

"As everyone who has looked at this agrees, this was done by the president, not Democrats. He can fix it tomorrow if he wants to, and if he doesn't want to, he should own up to the fact that he's doing it," said Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York.

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Private jet once owned by Elvis Presley for sale

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — A private jet once owned by Elvis Presley that has sat on a runway in New Mexico for nearly four decades is back on the auction block.

The online auction site IronPlanet announced this week that the plane with red velvet seats had returned the market after its current owner bought it last year for \$430,000.

A previous auction house says Elvis designed the interior that has gold-tone woodwork, red velvet seats and red shag carpet. But the red 1962 Lockheed Jetstar has no engine and needs a restoration of its cockpit.

The plane was owned by Elvis and his father, Vernon Presley.

It has been privately owned for 36 years and sitting on a tarmac in Roswell, New Mexico.

IronPlanet said in a statement the jet is still grounded in Roswell and the current owner "has not made any changes to this piece of history."

Photos of the plane also show the exterior in need of restoration and seats of the cockpit torn.

A previous owner disputed an auction house's claim the king of rock 'n' roll designed its red velvet interior.

Roy McKay told KOB-TV in Albuquerque he designed the interior himself. McKay said that when he purchased the jet, it had a two-toned gray interior and "kind of looked like a casket."

But then-GWS Auctions Inc. spokesman Carl Carter told The Associated Press the auction house is confident Elvis designed the interior, which photos



This undated file photo provided by GWS Auctions, Inc. shows a private jet once owned by Elvis Presley, on a runway in New Mexico. The private jet that sat on the runway in New Mexico for nearly four decades is back on the auction block. The online auction site IronPlanet announced that the plane with red velvet seats had returned to the market after its current owner bought it last year for \$430,000.

show has red velvet seats and red shag carpet.

IronPlanet also is confident Elvis designed its red velvet interior, Goldstein said.

Federal Aviation Administration records show

no interior changes were ever made to the jet, Carter said.

IronPlanet is accepting online bids for the plane until July 27.

Presley was born in Tupelo, Mississippi, on Jan.

8, 1935, and moved to Memphis, Tennessee, with his parents at age 13. He became a leading figure in the fledgling rockabilly scene by covering songs originally performed by African-American artists

like Big Mama Thornton ("Hound Dog") and Arthur Crudup ("That's All Right").

His provocative dancing and hit records turned him into one of the 20th century's most recognizable

icons. Historians say his music also helped usher in the fall of racial segregation.

Elvis was 42 when he died on Aug. 16, 1977, in Memphis.

New grads, unlock your future with a credit check-up

In college, establishing credit felt about as pressing as an optional homework assignment. But now that you've graduated, it's suddenly at the top of your summer to-do list, with a deadline of ASAP. And for good reason.

Good credit is your ticket to an easier and more affordable postgrad life. It could help you qualify for apartments, nab low-interest car loans, pay less for car insurance, set up utilities with little or no deposits, and more. And it's not that hard to get started. With a few strategic moves this summer, you can make sure future-you is ready to clinch those savings.

SEE WHERE YOU STAND

If credit hasn't been on your radar until now, you might not know whether you have it or not. So here's where to start:

- Check your credit reports. The federally authorized site AnnualCreditReport.com offers free credit reports from each of the three major bureaus — Experian, Equifax and TransUnion — every 12 months. These list your credit accounts and payment histories, among other information.

- Check your credit scores. Typically ranging from 300 to 850, these numbers give you a bird's-eye view of your credit. The most commonly used ones are generated by credit-scoring companies FICO and VantageScore. You can access these for free through certain credit card issuers and third-party sites.

Once you do this, you might discover that you actually do have credit — and good credit, at that.

Such was the case for Jennifer Jackson of Atlanta, now 27, who got her

first credit card in college. Her dad also added her as an authorized user to a card with a positive credit history.

In school, "I didn't know that I was building credit," says Jackson, who founded the blog ADLT101.com. "I wasn't doing it on purpose. But it ended up helping me."

After graduating, that good credit helped her get a low-interest auto loan, which saved her plenty, she says. Now, as a millennial transition coach, she speaks to students in colleges and universities about how to prepare for postgrad life.

NO CREDIT? GET STARTED

When you're starting fresh — no student loans, credit cards or other credit — your to-do list is straightforward: Get an account that reports pay-

ments to the three major credit bureaus.

"You only need one credit account to have a good score," says Barry Paperno, a credit expert and blogger at Speaking of Credit. "That's all you need. I don't want people to think the bar is so high for getting a score, or a good score."

After six months of reporting from that account, you'll have enough credit history to generate a FICO credit score, he notes. You'll be able to get a VantageScore credit score even sooner.

Here's how you can get going:

- Get a credit card: If you have no credit, you might have to start with a secured card, which means putting down a refundable deposit — usually around \$200. You might also qualify for an unsecured card with your bank or a store-branded card.

- Take out a credit-build loan: With these loans, the money you borrow is typically held in a bank account while you repay the loan in installments. Afterward, the money is released to you.

- Become an authorized user: Jackson's dad added her as an authorized user on one of his cards while she was still in school. "I had a really old car in college. He said, 'OK, I'm going to put your name on this card so you can use it if you need to go get some repairs done on your car.'" Because he had managed that card well, it lifted her score, she says.

ALREADY HAVE CREDIT? CULTIVATE GOOD HABITS

Finding out you've built a solid credit history without trying can feel like

passing a test you didn't study for: It's a relief, and a little exhilarating. But resist the urge to mentally check out. To keep that score in good shape, you need to continue building a positive payment history, which means keeping your balances low and paying loans, credit cards and other accounts on time. Be aware you can do this on a credit card without carrying debt from month to month.

"There's nothing to be gained by running a balance," Paperno says. "There's plenty to lose, particularly the high interest you're going to pay."

By paying in full and on time, you'll avoid interest charges and penalties — and keep your score healthy.

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No Russian, no problem

There's an app for that with Google Translate

SAMARA, Russia (AP) — Randall Garcia and his wife were on a bus in the Russian city of Samara when a local resident stared at the couple and pointed his phone at them. The screen read: "Good luck Costa Rica!"

Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo, or Neymar may be the stars of the World Cup. But Google Translate has been the Most Valuable Player for many fans to leap over the language barrier in Russia. They have used the mobile app version to order food, change money and meet new people, especially in cities like Samara, where most people only speak Russian.

"Google Translate has been a fundamental tool," Garcia said, wearing the red jersey of Costa Rica's national team.

"In a country where people are going out of their way to try to understand us, it's key," he said. "We thought there was going to be a language barrier, but it wasn't like that."

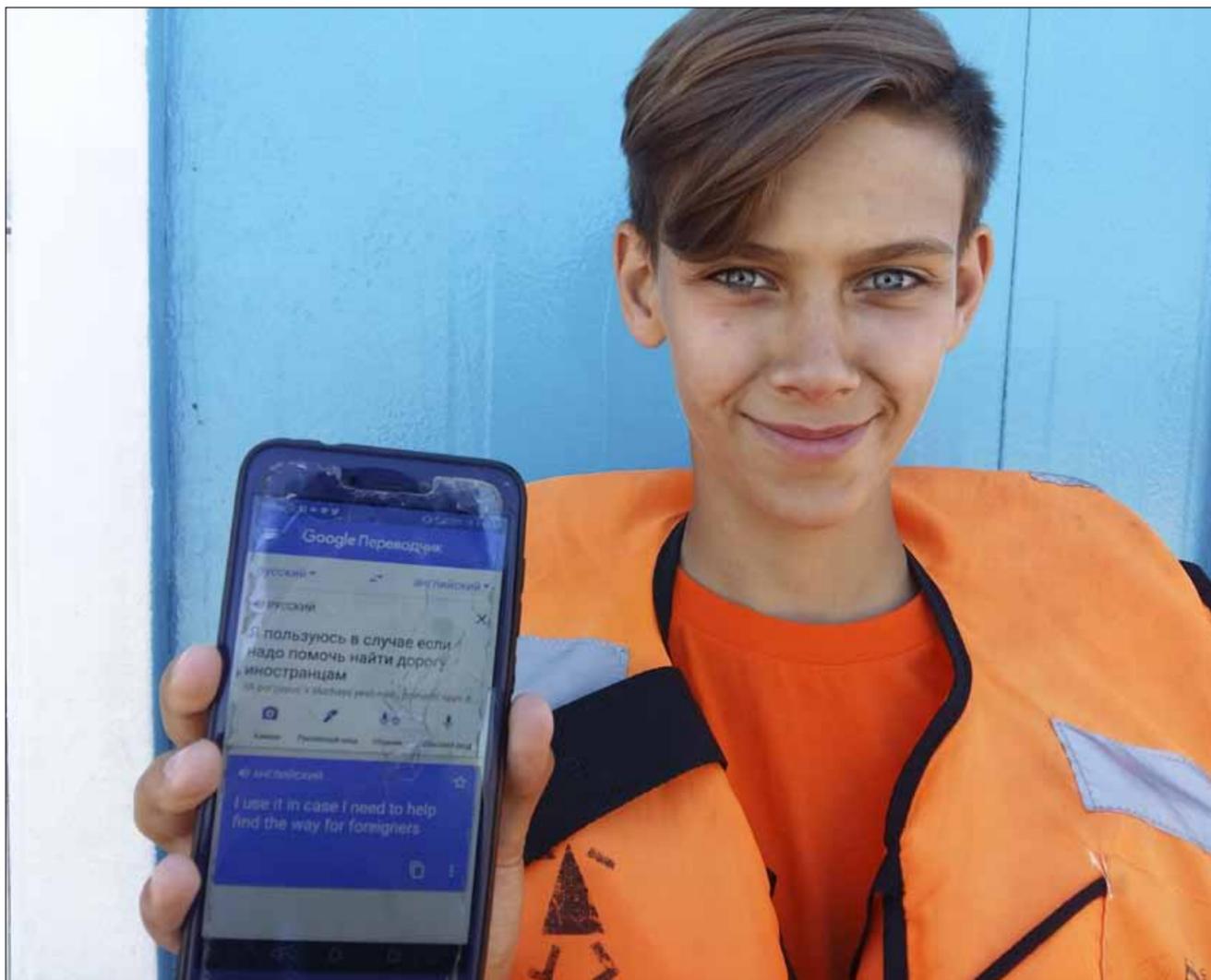
Before hundreds of thousands of fans descended on Russia, many of them studied phrases or took lessons to learn the basics of the language and the Cyrillic alphabet in time for the tournament that kicked off on June 14.

"It's really hard. My partner has been learning a little bit of Russian, but other than that we use Google Translate," said Ruth Morris from Queensland, Australia. She who wore a yellow t-shirt in the colors of the national team emblazoned with green kangaroos that read: "Aussie, Aussie Aussie! Oi, Oi, Oi!"

The day that she arrived to Moscow with her husband, they struck up conversation with a group of local residents at a bar.

"We managed to communicate and make friends using a mix of Google Translate, sign language and - piba!" Brian McKinley said, using the Russian word for beer.

These days, one scene has been repeated thousands of times in cities across Russia: A person



Marat Gurjan, a 15-year-old lifeguard, poses for a picture showing his phone with a note in Russian and English on Google Translate in Samara, Russia, Tuesday June 19, 2018. Google Translate has been key to leap over the language barrier at the World Cup in Russia. Fans have also used the mobile app to order food, change money and meet new people, especially in cities like Samara, where few people speak anything but Russian.

types a sentence on a phone or taps into the microphone and waits until the other one reads it or hears the words, nods, and responds.

"In many ways Google Translate is remarkable. If your intent is to have basic straightforward communication, then Google Translate can serve you adequately," said Andrew Cohen, professor emeritus in second language studies from the University of Minnesota.

Cohen has been using Google translate to assist him with Mandarin Chinese, his 13th language. But he said the offerings are sometimes wrong.

"There are several reasons for this: One is that GT does not have a brain and so it really cannot deal effectively with connotations of word meanings, nor with various collocations of words with other words," he said. Then, there's the issue of pragmatics, since it can't interpret the intentions of the person trying to communicate.

It "may have considerable difficulty translating humor, sarcasm, subtle forms of criticism, curses, apologies so that they work, even requests in a way that they are appropriately mitigated rather than bossy sounding," he said.

"This is where Google Translate still has lots of work to do."

Translate was launched in 2006 and has grown into one of Google's most popular services with more than 500 million monthly users and more than 100 billion words translated each day, according to the company. Russian is one of the most used out of more than 100 languages that range from Afrikaans to Yiddish. They can be used on websites, with speech recognition and as an app on mobile phones, even if there is no connection. Others use one of its features to recognize and translate the writing on

billboards, menus and street signs.

"The Russian Cyrillic is unlike any word in our alphabet," said Marilyn Matos, 30, a Colombian fan who wore earrings in the yellow, blue and red colors of the national flag.

"But we used Google Translator to take pictures, select the text and translate it into Spanish without a problem."

It has even been used to break the ice between journalists and players. During a recent press conference with Antoine Griezmann that only allowed questions in French, a Spanish journalist put the micro-

phone on his phone and used Google Translate to ask, drawing a wide grin from the French striker who plays professionally in Madrid and speaks Spanish.

And it has also been used for safety tips to reduce accidents. Marat Gurjan, a 15-year-old lifeguard whose favorite player is Neymar, uses the app to help communicate on a Volga River beach.

"The World Cup is a great honor," the screen on his phone read in English after he typed a sentence in Russian. "For our country, and especially for Samara."

China hopes for implementation of NKorea-US summit outcome

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese President Xi Jinping told North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Tuesday he hopes Pyongyang and Washington can fully implement the outcome of last week's nuclear summit at which Kim pledged to work toward denuclearization in exchange for U.S. security guarantees.

State broadcaster CCTV said Xi told Kim that through the "concerted efforts of the relevant countries" negotiations regarding issues on the Korean Peninsula are back on track and the overall situation is moving in the direction of peace and stability.

The summit between Kim and U.S. President Donald Trump in Singapore marked an "important step toward the political solution of the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue," Xi was quoted as saying in

the meeting at the Great Hall of the People in central Beijing.

China hopes North Korea and the U.S. can "implement well the outcomes achieved at the summit," Xi said. China would "as always play a constructive role" in that process, he said.

Along with a statement signed by Kim and Trump offering vague commitments to denuclearization and security, Trump also agreed to suspend military exercises with South Korea in what was seen as a major win for North Korea and its chief allies, China and Russia.

Kim's two-day visit to China, which began Tuesday, had not been announced in advance but was expected as part of the Communist neighbors' tradition to report to each other on major devel-

opments.

The visit is Kim's third to China since March, highlighting China's crucial role in efforts by the U.S. and others to get North Korea to abandon its nuclear program. The U.S. has long looked to China to use its influence with North Korea to bring it to negotiations, but the visit comes as ties between Beijing and Washington are being tested by a major trade dispute.

CCTV showed Kim and his wife, Ri Sol Ju, being welcomed by Xi with full military honors. Xi and his wife, Peng Liyuan, later hosted Kim and Ri at a banquet, CCTV reported.

China's official Xinhua News Agency announced the North Korean leader's visit shortly after he apparently landed Tuesday morning,

dispensing with the secrecy shrouding previous trips to China by Kim and his father and predecessor, Kim Jong Il.

On the younger Kim's first visit to China as leader, he took an armored train as his father had. His first two trips were not announced until after he had safely returned to North Korea.

Xi "is exerting a lot of influence from behind the scenes," said Bonnie Glaser, senior adviser for Asia at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

"I expect they will talk about the path going forward and where priorities should lie," Glaser said. Those priorities, from China's perspective, would be to ensure that Beijing is included in any peace treaty talks and in cre-

ating an environment on the Korean Peninsula that will make it unnecessary for U.S. troops to remain.

Kim is likely hoping to get China's support for relief from punishing U.N. sanctions.

At a regularly scheduled briefing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said Tuesday that Beijing supported Russia's calls last week for unilateral sanctions on North Korea — ones that aren't imposed within the United Nations framework — to be canceled immediately.

"China always stands against the so-called unilateral sanctions outside the Security Council framework. This position is very clear and we believe sanctions themselves are not the end," Geng said.

While Beijing and Mos-

cow have supported U.N. restrictions, they bristle at Washington imposing sanctions on its own to pressure North Korea.

Trump's surprise announcement in Singapore of a U.S. suspension of military drills with its South Korean ally fulfills a goal long pursued by North Korea and its primary backers China and Russia. That move is seen as potentially weakening defenses and diplomacy among America's Asian allies, while bolstering China and Russia.

The U.S. has stationed combat troops in South Korea since the Korean War, in which China fought on North Korea's side and which ended in 1953 with an armistice and no peace treaty.

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In this Jan. 27 file photo, Duke's Marvin Bagley III (35) dunks the ball during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game against Virginia in Durham, N.C. Marvin Bagley III dominated at Duke, while fellow freshman Michael Porter Jr. barely saw action at Missouri due to injury. Yet they'll likely be the first forwards to hear their names called during Thursday's draft. Bagley is a possible No. 1 overall pick and double-double machine with a long frame.

The interview remains critical in the NBA draft process

CHICAGO (AP) — The elevator stopped at the 16th floor of the swanky hotel, and after a few nervous steps down the hallway a soon-to-be professional athlete was ready to face perhaps the most unpredictable part of the NBA draft process.

The interview. Down in the lobby, Magic Johnson and Rob Pelinka of the Los Angeles Lakers chatted with familiar faces and pretended not to notice random fans taking selfies with them in the background. Agents held court with other agents, Clippers coach Doc Rivers talked with some journalists and a couple dozen people were outside with their phones ready to snap pictures of whoever was walking in next.

But upstairs, high above the bustle and din of Chicago's Magnificent Mile, the real action was happening.

There were probably about 300 interviews conducted over two days in the Windy City during the draft combine. Those chats — more than perhaps the basketball that was played that week — give teams their best insight into a prospect and help decision-makers determine which players will merit multi-million-dollar investments at Thursday's NBA draft. The Associated Press was granted access to one of the sessions.

The 25-minute meeting was held in a room that had its usual furniture — bed, television, dressers — cleared out for two couches and a table with eight chairs.

"Relax, man," the coach said to the player, an early entry candidate, as he sat down. "We're just trying to get to know you."

Water was offered, and the chat began.

A couple of people were taking handwritten notes, the focus clear by the fact that no one is checking their phones, and the interview was more of a conversation than an interrogation. There was an order to things, with five team staffers asking the bulk of the questions, each getting roughly the same amount of time to play their respective role.

"What would your family tell us about you?"

"How many cellphones do you have?"

"Is this just about money?"

They asked the player what he thought of his teammates in college, how he deals with teammates that he doesn't like, how he reacts to criticism. One of the interviewers has turned his chair around, another has his feet up on an unused chair and there were even a couple moments of laughter. Almost out of nowhere, there was a very specific question about a block-charge call the player was involved in during a game this past season, and how he reacted to a referee about the call not going his way.

The player slid down in his chair a little bit.

"How'd you even know about that?" he asked, sheepishly.

The time flies by, the interview wraps and the player was due in a few minutes one floor down for another of his seven meetings scheduled throughout the day. Everyone stands, handshakes happen all around, and just like that, it was over. The notebooks close, and the player is walked to the door by the coach who pats him on the back twice while saying "you did great."

The kid stepped into the hall, the door closed, and that was it.

Every team does interviews differently, but for the most part the setup was the same — cleared-out hotel room, about 30 minutes per session, somewhere between five to 10 people in the room to greet the player. By nightfall and the end of the day's meetings, everyone is exhausted. Michael Porter Jr., the Missouri player who will be a lottery pick, couldn't even remember how many teams he met with on Day 1.

"It's all on my phone," he said, as he started running down the list.

There have been some famous, or infamous, stories of how draft combine interviews have gone in recent years.

Many NFL hopefuls have said they've been asked about their sexuality; Jeff Ireland, when he was the general manager of the Miami Dolphins, made headlines in 2010 for asking Dez Bryant if his mother was a prostitute. The Minnesota Timberwolves have been asking players for a couple of years if they speed up or slow down at yellow lights — it's a question seeking insight not into their traffic habits, but their ability to make split-second decisions.

The Detroit Pistons brought a virtual reality setup into their interviews this year, much to the delight of players and something that will likely be copied for years to come given how much of a hit it was. The draft hopefuls were presented with about 12 scenarios when they had the VR headsets on, and were told to assess what to do in the various situations.

And the Portland Trail Blazers went deep into psyches, with a sports performance psychologist asking players a series of questions to determine their personality traits.

"So accurate," said Brian Bowen, who eventually removed himself from draft consideration but will still seek a pro career since the NCAA isn't granting the former Louisville recruit eligibility at South Carolina for the 2018-19 season. "It was crazy."

Kevin Huerter, who is leaving Maryland after two seasons and could get selected as early as the middle of the first round, said some teams — San Antonio and Golden State in particular — were more in-depth than some other clubs were with him during the combine interviews.

"Pick one moment in time that describes your personality," Huerter said he was asked during the Warriors meeting. "I thought that was a really good question."

While one player said he was asked to participate in a staring contest, truly bizarre tales seemed nonexistent.

"I don't let it get there," Miami's Bruce Brown Jr. said. "That's just my personality, to bring everybody up and make everybody smile. Every interview went great."

There was plenty of basketball played at the combine, plenty of on-court testing and evaluation going on, and the sharing of medical information is of enormous value to the teams. There have been more workouts for individual teams since the combine, and more interviews. But teams will review notes from sessions at the combine before Thursday night.

"It's all about business," said Duke's Wendell Carter Jr., someone who will almost certainly be a lottery pick and prepared for that by meeting with most of the teams that have top-14 selections in this draft during his time in Chicago last month. "At the next level, there's no more just playing the game."

Forget stylish attack moves, this is set-piece World Cup

VOLGOGRAD, Russia (AP) — The possession football championed by coaches like Pep Guardiola is supposed to produce aesthetically-pleasing goals. Against strong defenses and world-class goalkeepers, sometimes you need to go back to basics.

This World Cup has started with a spate of goals off of set pieces and penalty kicks, as many teams have struggled to score in the run of play.

Inevitably, superstars Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi have been part of the story, on opposite sides.

Ronaldo's delivered with artistry, curling in a free kick as part of a hat trick in Portugal's draw with Spain. Ronaldo famously hones his kicks with long hours of training, using his trademark wide stance from all angles so he is ready for the moment on the big stage.

Ronaldo's goal was one of three free kicks scored in the opening four days in Russia. That's as many as the entire tournament in Brazil four years ago.

It started with Aleksandr Golovin arcing the ball into the net in Russia's win against Saudi Arabia on the opening day. Aleksandar Kolarov scored on a free kick in Serbia's win over Costa Rica on Sunday.

Months before he failed to stop Ronaldo's free kick, Spain goalkeeper David de Gea was grumbling about the Adidas ball developed for the tournament.

"It's really strange," he told Spanish newspaper AS in March. "It could have been made better."

The official ball goes through rigorous tests before being approved by Switzerland-based scientists. The "Telstar 18" had to retain its shape even after being shot against a steel wall 2,000 times at 50 kilometers per hour in Empa's laboratory.

"The deformation caused by the impacting foot initially gives the ball a somewhat wobbly movement," said Martin Camenzind of the laboratory for biomimetic membranes and textiles. "Experienced players take advantage of this effect and 'Bend it like Beckham.' This is not actually a matter of magic, but of applied physics."

And skill when striking the ball.

"This must be perfectly well-rehearsed, because as soon as the foot is on the ball for a few milliseconds, the player can no longer deliberately influence his movement," Camenzind said. "There is simply not enough time to direct nerve impulses from the foot to the brain and to send tactically sophisticated feedback to the muscles of the player. And so, in the brevity of the shot, the physics of foot and ball must fit perfectly."

You still have to pick a space in the net, something Messi struggles to do from penalties lately. Argentina teammates presented him with the opportunity to strike the winner against Iceland but the Barcelona forward failed for the fourth time in seventh penalty attempts for club and country.

Argentina was struggling to break down the tournament newcomers, and Messi knows scoring would have changed the match.

"They would have opened a little more and we could have found more spaces," Messi said.

The tactical script is following the trend from four years ago at a rapid pace. Eleven percent of all goals in Brazil came from corner kicks, while 18 of the 32 headed goals were from set pieces.

"The importance of set pieces has increased tremendously and every team used this tactic as a valuable attacking tool in their game," FIFA's 2014 World Cup technical report concluded. "Defending teams tried to avoid any kind of free kick situations close to their penalty box, fully aware that they created danger. The vanishing spray also helped to ensure that there were no discussions, disruptions or encroachments at free kicks."

The new technology this time is VAR. Video assistant referees should ensure more free kicks, corners and penalties are awarded.

They weren't called into action to help Croatia beat Nigeria 2-0. Oghenekaro Etebo's own goal came from a Croatia corner and Luka Modric scored off a penalty.

"We worked hard on those elements on the training ground," Modric said.

There are no highlights of slick moves for the purists to pore over, but Croatia is top of its group ahead of Argentina.

"Corners and penalties are part and parcel of football," Dalic said. "It doesn't matter how you score, what matters is you score. There was some luck there, but we earned our luck. Of course we want to be more efficient on attack, but we are not going to split hairs about the way we scored."

Nigeria coach Gernot Rohr knows what he has to work on before facing Iceland next.

"This was not a question of tactics," Rohr said. "We played with four in the back because there were three strikers and the Croatian strikers are very strong. What we were missing ... was to be more professional on set pieces."

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Giuliani says Trump may consider pardons after Russia probe

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump's lawyer Rudy Giuliani said Sunday the president might pardon his jailed, onetime campaign chairman and others ensnared in the Russia investigation once special counsel Robert Mueller's work wraps up, if he believed they were treated "unfairly."

Until then, consideration of clemency is unnecessary, Giuliani said, as the White House presses to bring the yearlong investigation to an end.

Giuliani denied that Trump was trying to send a message to Paul Manafort, who was the 2016 chairman for nearly five months, or others to refrain from cooperating with prosecutors. The former New York City mayor suggested that an end to the investigation could be in sight one way or the other — either by undercutting the Mueller's inquiry as illegitimate, or if necessary, by agreeing to a Trump interview with prosecutors under limited conditions.

"The president is not going to issue pardons in this investigation," Giuliani said. "Because you just cloud what is becoming now a very clear picture of an extremely unfair investigation with no criminality involved in it of any kind."

But, he added, "When it's over, hey, he's the president of the United States. He retains his pardon power. Nobody is taking that away from him. He can pardon, in his judgment."

Manafort was sent to jail last week after a federal judge revoked his house arrest over allegations of witness tampering in the Russia investigation. Trump has criticized that

decision as "very unfair" as Manafort prepares for two criminal trials.

Trump has worked outside the traditional pardon process and used his clemency powers in cases where he believed prosecutors may have been motivated by politics. He made clear on Sunday his view of Mueller's investigation, saying it was "on pretty weak grounds right now."

Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, said she thought it would be "more helpful if the president never mentioned the word pardon again with respect to the Russian investigation because he wants to get that Russian investigation completed. And every time he brings up the issue of pardons it gives the investigators something else that they have to look into."

Seeking to undermine Mueller's work, Trump and his lawyers have seized on a Justice Department inspector general's report on the 2016 Hillary Clinton email investigation that found insubordination and poor judgment at the FBI. Some of the officials who worked on the Clinton investigation also worked on the FBI's Russia probe, but the report did not find that political bias had tainted the Clinton review.

The Justice Department has asked its internal watchdog to review whether there was any politically motivated surveillance by the FBI of the Trump campaign.

"This is a case where it's crying out for someone to investigate the investigators," Giuliani said. "We want the Mueller probe to be investigated, the way the Trump administration has been investigated."



In this May 5, 2018, file photo, Rudy Giuliani, an attorney for President Donald Trump, speaks at the Iran Freedom Convention for Human Rights and democracy in Washington.

Echoing Giuliani's view, former White House strategist Steve Bannon said there was no need for pardons because Trump could disrupt the Russia investigation by firing Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, who oversees Mueller.

Bannon suggested that Trump should order Rosenstein to comply in the next two days with every subpoena he has received from congressional committees.

"If he does not do it in 48 hours, he's fired," Bannon said. "You're not going to

need pardons. ... With the exposure of all this, as we go into it, we're going to get into the substrate and the foundation of the entire Mueller investigation."

Signaling some openness to a Trump interview with Mueller's team, Giuliani outlined the possibility under narrow conditions and said he expected Trump to make a decision by July 4. Giuliani said he is opposed to having an interview but "the president wants to do it so we have to sort through it."

"If we did have it ... obvi-

ously what we would really like something in writing, responded to in writing. And it can be under oath."

He said the interview could be audio recorded, but that questions would need to be limited just to specific questions about "the heart of the probe" — allegations of collusion between Russia and the Trump campaign. Mueller is also investigating questions of whether Trump improperly sought to obstruct the probe, such as by firing James Comey as FBI director, and if Trump re-

fuses an interview, Mueller could resort to a subpoena to compel testimony.

Giuliani said they'd prefer that Trump sit for a two-hour interview and Mueller's team probably wants four, "so let's settle at three."

"There might be a narrow area that we could all agree on," he said.

Giuliani spoke on CNN's "State of the Union" and CBS' "Face the Nation," and Bannon appeared on ABC's "This Week." Collins was on CBS.

Trump adviser Roger Stone reveals new meeting with Russian

WASHINGTON (AP) — Special counsel Robert Mueller is examining a previously undisclosed meeting between longtime Donald Trump confidant Roger Stone and a Russian figure who allegedly tried to sell him dirt on Hillary Clinton.

The meeting between Stone and a man who identified himself as Henry Greenberg was described in a pair of letters sent Friday to the House Intelligence Committee and first reported by The Washington Post.

Stone and Michael Caputo, a Trump campaign aide who arranged the 2016 meeting, did not disclose the contact in their interviews with the committee. But they now believe the man was an FBI informant trying to set them up in a bid to undermine Trump's campaign. Greenberg could not immediately be reached for comment, but in a text to the Post he denied he was working for the FBI when he met with Stone.

The letters obtained by The Associated Press and written by Stone and Caputo's lawyers say that, in late May 2016, Caputo received a call from his Russian business partner introducing him to Greenberg, who claimed he had information about Clinton that he wanted to share with the campaign.

Caputo suggested Greenberg meet with Stone, who

had left the campaign in 2015 but remained an informal Trump adviser.

At Caputo's request, Stone met with Greenberg at a Florida cafe, where Greenberg asked for \$2 million in exchange for the information, according to Stone's lawyer. Stone swiftly rejected the offer, explaining that neither he nor Trump would ever pay for "political information," his lawyer wrote.

Both men say they quickly forgot about the episode, which marks the latest in a long list of unusual contacts between Russians and Trump campaign officials as well as offers of help.

The special counsel has spent months investigating Russian meddling in the 2016 election and whether Trump campaign aides played any role in the foreign interference plot. Trump and his lawyer, meanwhile, have tried to discredit the investigation, insisting it's unfounded and plagued by misconduct and political bias.

"WITCH HUNT!" Trump tweeted on Sunday, insisting: "There was no Russian Collusion. Oh, I see, there was no Russian Collusion, so now they look for obstruction on the no Russian Collusion. The phony Russian Collusion was a made up Hoax. Too bad they didn't look at Crooked Hillary like

this. Double Standard!"

As part of their campaign, Trump and his loyalists have tried to convince the public that the FBI violated its usual operating procedures, including installing "spies" inside Trump's campaign, though there's no evidence that's the case.

Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, a member of Trump's legal team, on Sunday dismissed the significance of the Stone meeting.

"So, yes, sure, there was contact, as there was in that meeting. But that meeting led to nothing. This led to nothing. So, if anything, it's proof there was no collusion," he said in an interview with CBS's "Face the Nation," adding that Mueller's team "can investigate from here to, you know, to Timbuktu, and they're not going to find a darn thing."

Both Stone and Caputo failed to disclose the Greenberg meeting in their interviews with the House Intelligence Committee — an omission their lawyers said was accidental.

Caputo's lawyer, Dennis Vacco, said his client had "simply forgotten about this brief encounter in 2016," and only remembered it as he was preparing for his interview with Mueller's team.

Caputo told the AP that Mueller's team asked him at length about the meeting.



In this Sept. 26, 2017, file photo, longtime Donald Trump associate Roger Stone arrives to testify before the House Intelligence Committee, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

"They knew more than I did, which set off alarms. I thought — was this a setup?" he recalled.

Caputo said he hired investigators using money from his legal defense fund to dig into Greenberg's background and has produced a "dossier" with the findings, which Stone endorses.

"Mr. Stone believes it is likely that Mr. Greenberg was actively working on behalf of the FBI at the time of their meeting with the intention of entrapping Mr. Stone and to infiltrate and com-

promise the Trump effort," his lawyer, Grant J. Smith, wrote.

The FBI declined to comment, but has said its counterintelligence investigation didn't begin until July 2016, two months after the meeting.

The Washington Post, citing interviews and documents, reported that Greenberg has at times used the name Henry Oknyansky, and claimed in a 2015 court filing he had been providing information to the FBI for 17 years.

The Post notes the meet-

ing happened around the same time that others members of the Trump campaign were being approached by people with Russian ties offering dirt on Clinton.

Several members of the campaign were also approached by another U.S. government informant in a possible bid to glean intelligence on Russian efforts to sway the race. Several news outlets including the Post, The Wall Street Journal and NBC News have identified an FBI confidential source as Cambridge University professor Stefan A. Halper.

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The last Mafioso?

'Cadillac Frank' trial shows mob's decline

BOSTON (AP) — Francis Salemme leaned forward in his chair and craned his neck to get a better look at the photo being shown to jurors. On the computer screen was Salemme with brown curly hair, at the time the New England Mafia boss known as "Cadillac Frank," holding court outside a hotel under the watchful eye of the FBI.

Almost three decades later, the 84-year-old Salemme, on trial in the strangling of a nightclub owner in 1993, would fit in better at a nursing home than at the helm of a Mafia meeting.

For prosecutors, Salemme is perhaps the last man standing from an era when organized crime flourished in Boston and its environs. The geriatric mobster who was wheeled into the courtroom on the trial's first day is a shell of his former self — much like the New England Mafia he once led.

"It's the end of an era — at least this chapter of organized crime in the Boston area," said Brian Kelly, a former U.S. attorney who prosecuted Salemme in prior cases and helped secure a conviction against notorious gangster Whitey Bulger.

The Mafia still has a presence in cities like New York, Chicago, Philadelphia and Detroit, but it's not nearly as powerful or violent as it was decades ago, said Scott Burnstein, who has written books about the mob. When the upper echelons, like Salemme, started cooperating with authorities, it opened the floodgates for members to turn on one another, Burnstein said.

And as the oath of omerta — the code of silence — went out the window, the men left on the street stopped taking care of the families of those behind bars, which pushed angry members to make deals with the government, said Thomas Foley, a former Massachusetts State Police colonel who wrote a book on the pursuit of Bulger.

"The last part of the golden age of American organized crime went down with people like Cadillac Frank," Burnstein said. "The city will never see a mob trial like this again."

Salemme's baggy suits hang on his frail frame, and gray wisps that are slicked back over his balding head



In this 1993 FBI surveillance photo, Francis "Cadillac Frank" Salemme, left, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, second from left with back to camera, and Frank Salemme Jr., behind right, are seated at The Charles Hotel in Cambridge, Mass. The trial of Francis Salemme, a geriatric former New England Mafia boss accused of killing a nightclub owner in 1993, underscores the decline of the once-powerful mob.

replace his brown curls. Before leaving court one day in May, his lawyer had to remind him not to forget the inhaler he had left on the table.

Salemme, who headed the New England family of La Cosa Nostra, shuffles in and out of the courtroom, hunched over, only occasionally lifting his head to wave and wink at a reporter who has covered him for decades. Salemme looks so different that his former partner in crime, 84-year-old Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, initially couldn't even recognize him sitting just a few feet in front of him in court.

Salemme's trial has transported jurors back to a time when the Mafia was a force to be reckoned with. And the parade of old allies who have marched in to testify against

him shows that the oath of omerta is long dead.

"The loyalties aren't there like they used to be; the discipline isn't there like it used to be," Foley said. "Now all you have to do is threaten them with a significant penalty ... and they're pretty much ready to turn over," Foley said.

Salemme and his co-defendant, Paul Weadick, are accused of killing Steven DiSarro because Salemme feared he would cooperate with authorities. Salemme, who has admitted to several other killings, and Weadick insist they are innocent.

DiSarro's remains were dug up in 2016 after authorities got a tip they were buried near a mill in Providence, Rhode Island.

For more than a month, jurors have heard from and

about gangsters with nicknames like "The Cigar" and "Fatso." They've watched as U.S. Marshals Service officials disguised by makeup and wigs to protect their identities explained how Salemme quietly left Atlanta — where he had been living in the witness protection program under the name "Richard Parker" — with more than \$28,000 in cash after DiSarro's remains were found.

And they've heard hours of colorful testimony, like when a mob associate uttered "bada bing bada boom" as he described how Salemme once grabbed him by the throat.

Closing arguments in the case are set for Monday.

Salemme, a survivor of gang wars that plagued Boston in the 1960s, decided to

cooperate with authorities in 1999 and agreed to serve 11 years in prison on racketeering charges after he learned Flemmi and Bulger had been informing the FBI. Salemme was kicked out of witness protection in 2004 when he was charged with lying to investigators for suggesting other mobsters killed DiSarro and was later allowed back under government protection — until DiSarro's remains were found.

Salemme's regime was the last of the truly feared and powerful ones in New England, said Stephen Johnson, who investigated organized crime for the state police before retiring last year.

Decades of prosecutions and stiffer penalties that gave authorities more leverage to persuade mobsters to give

up their friends have left a fractured organization made up of "Soprano wannabees" who dabble in loansharking, illegal gambling and drugs, Johnson said.

One of the men helping prosecutors who hope to put Salemme away for the rest of his life is his ex-partner Flemmi, who claims he walked in on DiSarro's killing. After Flemmi took the stand this month, prosecutors asked Flemmi about dozens of killings he's been involved in, including one of his own criminal colleagues.

"I didn't feel that he would be able to stand up" to authorities, Flemmi explained when asked why he shot the man.

He then continued to testify against his onetime best friend.

Chicago soldier killed in Korea finally being laid to rest

CHICAGO (AP) — Not long after her father went missing during the Korean War, Carol Elkin spotted then-Gen. Dwight Eisenhower in downtown Chicago and did what any kid might do when coming face to face with the nation's most famous soldier: She asked him to bring her dad home.

On Tuesday, the now 76-year-old Elkin will be at Arlington National Cemetery to bury the remains of Army Maj. Stephen Uurtamo, nearly seven decades after he was taken prisoner by the Chinese and died.

It is a chance to say goodbye to her father, watch as his remains are laid to rest with the dignity and honor he deserves, and watch her

children and grandchildren see that their own history is linked to the history of their country.

"This tells my family they are part of something," said the retiree, who lives on Chicago's North Side with her husband. "I just think that these kids might think we went from World War II to Vietnam and they don't even know there was a Korean War."

The service comes as questions about the whereabouts of those who never returned from the 1950-53 war have pushed their way into the news, with the commitment by President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to recover the remains of as many of the

nearly 7,700 U.S. troops that are still unaccounted for as possible.

For the Uurtamo family, the service is the final chapter of a story that began in late 1950 when the 32-year-old career soldier was declared missing in action after fierce fighting in one of the bloodiest battles of the war near the Ch'ongch'on River in North Korea.

He was declared dead after several returning U.S. prisoners of war reported that Uurtamo had been captured and died at a war transient camp where prisoners who survived came home with stories of watching their buddies starve to death.

"He died from malnutrition and pneumonia," Elkin

said.

The whereabouts of his body remained a mystery for decades. Then, in 2005, a joint U.S. and North Korean military recovery team recovered 32 sets of remains from a burial site. About eight years after that, Elkin went to a Chicago hotel for one of the events the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency holds around the country in which people like her are updated about their missing loved ones and given a chance to provide DNA samples for comparison with DNA pulled from recovered remains.

The match came last September and with it, Uurtamo's name was taken off the list of Americans unaccount-

ed for from the Korean War, which now stands at 7,697 names. He added to the list of 459 people whose remains have been identified since 1982. And, according to the POW/MIA agency, the spot where his name appears on the Courts of the Missing at the National Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu will be affixed with a rosette to indicate he's now accounted for.

Elkin said she, her husband and more than 30 relatives will attend the burial. Inside the casket will be his remains, dress uniform and his medals, she said.

Elkin said it is a chance to be openly proud of the father, whom she rarely talked about because he died in a war few seemed to care about, and her

parents were divorced and "you didn't talk about things like that."

Now, she said, she can talk about her father and her most lasting memory: a day when she was young and he visited her in the hospital and told her not to cry because "little soldiers don't cry."

She is excited by the prospect of her father being buried in "his rightful place" in the most famous military cemetery in the U.S.

"I am proud that our country would do this for someone who served so long ago — that he gets to go out in a blaze of glory," she said.

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Strong quake near Osaka, Japan, kills 4, knocks over walls

TOKYO (AP) — Residents in western Japan were cleaning up debris Monday evening after a powerful earthquake hit the area around Osaka, the country's second-largest city, killing four people and injuring hundreds while knocking over walls and setting off fires.

The magnitude 6.1 earthquake that struck the area early Monday damaged buildings and left many homes without water or gas. The quake also grounded flights in and out of Osaka and paralyzed traffic and commuter trains most of the day.

By evening, bullet trains and some local trains had resumed operation, and stations were swollen with commuters trying to get home, many of them waiting in long lines. An exodus of commuters who chose to walk home filled sidewalks and bridges.

Some commuters took refuge in nearby shelters instead of going home. NHK public television showed dozens of men wearing ties and carrying briefcases sitting on gym mats at a junior high school gymnasium in Ibaraki city, where some families also gathered.

Takatsuki city confirmed another victim late Monday, as the death toll rose to four. City officials didn't have details of the victim, but NHK and Kyodo News reported that an 81-year-old woman was found dead underneath a wardrobe that fell on her at her home in Takatsuki.

Also in Takatsuki, a concrete wall at an elementary school fell onto the street, killing 9-year-old Rina Miyake as she walked to the school. NHK showed the collapsed upper half of the high wall, which was painted cheerfully with flowers, trees and blue sky and surrounded the school swimming pool.

Mayor Takeshi Hamada apologized over her death because of the wall's collapse. The city acknowledged that the wall did not meet building safety codes. The structure was old and made of concrete blocks — a known risk in earthquakes. Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga ordered the Education Ministry to conduct nationwide safety checks of concrete block structures at public schools.

More than 1,000 schools



The gate of Myotoku-ji temple collapses after an earthquake hit Ibaraki City, Osaka, western Japan, Monday, June 18, 2018. A strong earthquake knocked over walls and set off scattered fires around metropolitan Osaka on Monday morning.

were closed in Osaka and nearby prefectures, Kyodo News reported. Wall cracks and other minor damage were found at several schools.

A man in his 80s died in the collapse of a concrete wall in Osaka city. An 85-year-old man in nearby Ibaraki died after a bookcase fell on top of him at home, according to the disaster management agency.

The Fire and Disaster Management Agency said 307 people were treated for injuries at hospitals. Most of the injured were in Osaka. Osaka officials did not give details, but the injuries reported in Kyoto and three other neighboring prefectures were all minor.

The quake struck shortly before 8 a.m. north of Osaka at a depth of about 13 kilo-

meters (8 miles), the Japan Meteorological Agency said. The strongest shaking was north of Osaka, but the quake rattled large parts of western Japan, including Kyoto, the agency said.

Dozens of domestic flights in and out of Osaka were grounded, while train and subway service in the Osaka area, including bullet trains, was suspended to check for damage. Passengers exited trains on the tracks between stations.

Some subway service resumed in the afternoon, but stations remained crowded with passengers waiting for trains to restart, many of them sitting on the floor. Long lines of people waited to board bullet trains as they resumed operation.

Some manufacturers, in-

cluding automakers Daihatsu Motor Co. and Honda Motor Co., electronics makers Panasonic and Sharp Corp., and confectioners Ezaki Glico Co. and Meiji Co., temporarily stopped production lines at their factories in the region for safety checks, news reports said.

The quake knocked over walls, broke windows and set off scattered building fires. It toppled furniture in homes and goods onto shop floors. It also cracked roads and broke water pipes, leaving homes without water.

Many homes and buildings, including a major hospital, were temporarily without power, though electricity was restored at most places by midafternoon.

Due to damage to underground gas lines, 110,000

homes in Takatsuki and Ibaraki cities were without gas, and repairs are expected to take as long as two weeks, according to Osaka Gas Co.

More building damage was found in the afternoon as disaster and relief workers inspected and cleaned up the affected areas. Roofs and roof tiles at homes and at least one temple fell to the ground in Osaka. At a shrine in Kyoto, stone lanterns broke and collapsed to the ground.

Defense troops joined rescue and relief operations in parts of Osaka, along with special vehicles to deliver clean drinking water.

Residents cleaned up debris at home and stores throughout the day. Meteorological agency officials warned of strong aftershocks in the area, urging residents

to stay away from damaged structures.

The earthquake reminded many of the magnitude 7.3 Kobe quake in 1995 that killed more than 6,000 people in the region. Monday's quake also followed a series of smaller quakes near Tokyo in recent weeks. Japan's northern prefectures are still recovering from a magnitude 9.0 quake and tsunami in 2011 that killed more than 18,000.

"It was not as bad as the Kobe quake," said Jun Kawanami, a 30-year-old lawyer in Osaka. He said his wife ducked under a table and elevators in his office building were out of operation. "I used the stairs but I was out of breath by the time I arrived at my office on the 22nd floor," he said.

Puerto Rico struggles with jump in asthma cases post-Maria

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Shortly after he turned 2, Yadiel Hernandez started struggling to breathe. His doctor prescribed an inhaler and an allergy pill for asthma, and his symptoms were mostly under control.

Then Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico, strewing mold-producing wreckage across the island and forcing many to use fume-spewing generators for power. The boy, now 8, started having twice-monthly attacks and needing nearly four times the amount of medicine he used to take.

His mother said weekly power outages in their coastal town of Aguadilla also feed his anxiety, which can make symptoms worse. He panics about not being able to turn on the plug-in nebulizer that helps control his attacks.

"The lights go out and he breaks down," said Johana Hernandez. "He cries out, 'The power is gone, mom! The power is gone! I'm going to have an asthma attack!'"

Doctors in Puerto Rico say

they are seeing an alarming rise in the number and severity of asthma cases that they attribute to destruction caused by the deadly hurricane in September. The chronic lung disease is caused by such things as pollution, airborne mold and pollen, all of which have increased post-Maria.

"It has increased so, so, so much after the hurricane," said Dr. Ivette Bonet, who treats low-income patients at a clinic in the working-class neighborhood of Santurce. Bonet says she has dozens of new patients who never had asthma before the Category 4 storm hit.

"Now they have this cough that they can never get rid of," she said.

Puerto Rico had high rates of asthma even before the hurricane. An estimated 435,000 people on the island of 3.3 million, or 13 percent, had asthma before Maria pummeled the territory on Sept. 20, according to Puerto Rico's Health Department.

That compares to 8.3 percent who suffered from asthma on the U.S. mainland in 2016, according to the latest available figures from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. There are no figures for Puerto Rico in the months after Maria, though new accounts are under way.

Experts say the high rates may be partly due to the relatively high humidity in the Caribbean and the poor state of housing and infrastructure because of Puerto Rico's high poverty rate and bankrupt government.

Now, towering piles of building and plant debris from the hurricane remain in many neighborhoods.

Puerto Rico recorded the highest levels of mold spores in more than a decade in May, said Benjamin Bolanos, director of the San Juan Aeroallergens Station of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology. Heavy seasonal rains are contributing to the problem, he said.

"We have never seen some-

thing like this," Bolanos said.

Generators powered by diesel or gasoline once used only in emergencies belch fumes daily at hospitals, schools and water treatment plants because the power grid remains fragile and plagued by blackouts. Many are older models that don't meet current pollution standards. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency waved those rules because of the power emergency, the first time it has made such an allowance, agency spokesman David Kluesner said.

The U.S. Federal Emergency Management Administration alone has more than 1,200 generators still operating on the island. FEMA spokeswoman Dasha Castillo said all generators run by the agency meet current federal environmental laws.

Meanwhile, mold has invaded homes, especially the tens of thousands that still don't have a proper roof. And there's a problem with rats, mice and cockroaches, all of which can trigger an asthma

attack.

"There are a lot of factors that are still affecting people," said the Health Department's Ibis Montalvo, who heads a program that sends health workers to the homes of asthma patients.

Melissa Pesante says fumes from generators worsened her 5-year-old son's asthma and he spent nearly two weeks in a San Juan hospital. The family lives on the second floor above a home that runs a generator and across from an abandoned house where people keep dumping hurricane debris. Since the hurricane, her son has been prescribed additional medication and has attacks and trouble breathing several times a month, compared with hardly any attacks before the storm, she said.

"He's supposed to use a face mask, but he tells me, 'I don't like it, mom,'" and takes it off, Pesante said of the surgical mask her son is supposed to use whenever he goes outside.

She'd like to eventually

join relatives in Orlando or Miami in hopes that her son's health and her finances will improve.

Some asthma patients actually need generators to power their asthma treatment nebulizers, said Dr. Jorge Rosado, a pediatrician who volunteers at a clinic in the northern town of Toa Baja. That's sometimes the case for Yadiel, whose mother has to turn on a generator if he needs treatment during a blackout.

The situation is particularly bad on the islands of Vieques and Culebra, just east of Puerto Rico, that are still completely dependent on generators. Dr. Juan Manuel Roman travels to Culebra weekly and said that in addition to new patients, his regular patients are seeking treatment far more often. Roman said it's hard to escape the fumes from all the generators that keep the tiny island energized.

"They're always going to inhale them," he said.



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