

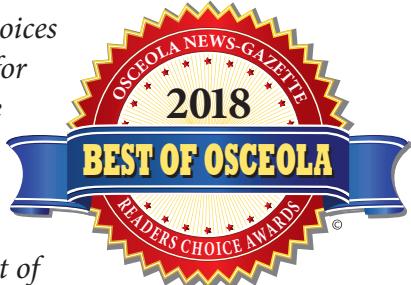
1 New dog park coming to BVL.
The new addition should be completed by the fall.

2 Man gets five years for gun dealing.
The Kissimmee suspect manufactured more than 200 illegal guns.

3 Students get scholarships.
The Osceola Visionaries gave them out during a recent luncheon.

Best of Osceola Ballot

Make your voices heard. Vote for your favorite businesses in Osceola County in the 2018 Best of Osceola contest. Page 9



Serving
Osceola County
for 127 Years
TOP STORIES

LOCAL

SunRail open house in Kissimmee. Page 3.

SPORTS

Osceola's Audra Thompson leads all-county softball team. Page 7.

REAL ESTATE

Home tips to upgrade your gaming experience. Page 17

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Informing readers. Helping build a stronger community.

OSCEOLA NEWS-GAZETTE



50 CENTS

WWW.AROUNDOSCEOLA.COM

Saturday, June 30, 2018

County to build 1st fire safety training center

By Rachel Christian
Staff Writer

For years, Osceola County's 325 paid firefighters have had to make a 25-mile trek to Mid Florida Tech in South Orlando to complete vital certifications and training.

Not any more.

County commissioners and fire rescue officials gathered Tuesday morning to celebrate the future home of Osceola County's first fire safety training center off Clay Street in Kissimmee.

The new 11-acre site was introduced with ceremonial silver spades and honorary hard hats.

"These training grounds will provide the men and women in our department an opportunity for something we've never had before – to train continuously and daily in our own backyard," said Osceola

County Fire Chief Robert Sorenson during the ceremony. "We will no longer need to take valuable, life-saving resources out of our county."

The facility has been a long time coming. Osceola County Fire Rescue submitted a request to County Manager Don Fisher in 2012, and ever since then, the department has been allocating money from its capital improvements fund to pay for the new facility.

The county acquired the property – located near Kissimmee Gateway Airport – about four years ago after the lot went up for sale.

One of the key features of the \$7.5 million project is its four-story concrete burn building training tower. The structure will teach firefighters how to navigate the hazards burning buildings create

See Fire, Page 3.



NEWS-GAZETTE PHOTO/JENNIFER DIDOMENICO
Shown above is a sign showing where Osceola County's first fire training center will be built. For more photos, see page 24.

AROUND TOWN

Birthday buddies



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Riley Windsor, of St. Cloud, recently celebrated his third birthday by his family taking him to visit the St. Cloud Police Department in support of its community "Back the Blue" program. St. Cloud Police Officer Mark Harper, right, gave them a tour of the police department and showed Riley all the police cars and trucks. Harper then gave Riley a police backpack and filled it with toys, coloring books, crayons and stickers.

NAACP honors police chief, city commissioner

By Charlie Reed
For the News-Gazette

Nearly a year after two Kissimmee police officers were shot and killed, Chief Jeff O'Dell was honored by the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

His surprise appreciation award came at the end of the group's annual dinner at the Kissimmee Civic Center Saturday night.

"We back the blue," said NAACP Chair Deloris

McMillon before handing over the glass plaque of gratitude to O'Dell, who oversees a diverse force in Kissimmee.

The city's population is more than half Hispanic. The Kissimmee Police Department stepped up community outreach programs in the aftermath of the fatal shooting.

Instead of dividing the community, the tragedy brought together people of all creeds, colors, genders and age, McMillon said. Residents mourned the

death of Sgt. Richard "Sam" Howard and Officer Matthew Baxter. The shooter is a local man and Marine Corps veteran still awaiting trial.

The retired Osceola High School vice principal and dean organized this year's annual gathering of the NAACP, a decades-long tradition in Kissimmee.

This year's keynote speaker was Florida Sen. Randolph Bracy, whose district covers Orange County and other parts of Central Florida. The

Report shows affordable rent 'out of reach' for many residents



By Rachel Christian
Staff Writer

The economy is healthy. The unemployment rate is low. Some states have even raised their minimum wage.

But for many working-class residents in Osceola County, stagnant wages and rising housing costs have made paying the rent on time a monthly miracle.

A minimum wage employee in Kissimmee would need to work an average of 86 hours a week in order to afford a modest one-bedroom apartment at Fair Market Rate, according to "Out of Reach," an annual report released this month

by the National Low Income Housing Coalition.

Rental costs matter in Osceola County because, as the report shows, 40 percent of residents are renters.

The Fair Market Rate for a local one-bedroom apartment is \$919 and a two-bedroom fetches \$1,098. A Kissimmee worker would need to earn at least \$21.50 an hour, or \$36,760 a year, to afford that one-bedroom dwelling without spending more than 30 percent of their income on housing costs.

Yet, some of the area's most popular jobs

See Rent, Page 5.

OSCEOLA AG



AGRICULTURAL BRIEFS

► Putnam seeks nominations for 2018 Woman of the Year in Agriculture

Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Adam Putnam is now accepting nominations for the 2018 "Woman of the Year in Agriculture" award, which recognizes women in all areas of the industry who have made outstanding contributions to Florida agriculture.

The deadline for submitting nominations is July 31, 2018.

Nominations may be submitted electronically by accessing the application located on the Woman of the Year in Agriculture page. Nominations may also be sent via mail or fax to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Director of External Affairs Clay Hollis. Send completed nomination forms to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Plaza Level 10, The Capitol, 400 S Monroe St., Tallahassee, Fla. 32399-0800; Fax 850-617-7744, Clay.Hollis@FreshFromFlorida.com.

More information about the "Woman of the Year in Agriculture" award and past award winners can be found at FreshFromFlorida.com.

For more information about the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, visit FreshFromFlorida.com.

► State surpasses 50,000 preserved acres through program

Gov. Rick Scott recently approved the preservation of more than 8,300 acres through four cost-effective conservation easements, which prevent future development of the land and allow agricultural operations to continue to contribute to Florida's economy. The purchases are part of the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program, where the state partners with Florida's farmers and ranchers to preserve active agricultural operations and their immense economic and environmental benefits. Today's partnerships increase the total land preserved by the program to over 50,660 acres through 45 conservation easements.

Since 2011, the current Governor and Cabinet have approved the acquisition of 38 projects totaling more than 47,000 acres, a more than 1,000-percent increase in acres preserved by the program.

"We must continue to prioritize the conservation of our agricultural lands and world-renowned natural spaces," said Commissioner of Agriculture Adam H. Putnam. "Through the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program, we partner with farmers and ranchers to preserve the invaluable pieces of our rural economy and environment to help preserve what makes Florida such a special place to live."

Florida agriculture has an overall economic impact estimated at more than \$120 billion annually, making it the state's second largest industry. The agriculture industry supports more than 2 million jobs in Florida.

For more information about the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, visit FreshFromFlorida.com.

► FWC provides important alligator safety advice



Alligators become more active during warm weather months, and it's not uncommon to see them throughout the state. Most interactions consist of seeing alligators at a distance. However, if you have a concern about a specific alligator, the Florida Fish

and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) urges you to call their toll-free Nuisance Alligator Hotline at 866-FWC-GATOR (392-4286).

"The FWC places the highest priority on public safety," said Eric Sutton, FWC's executive director. "When someone calls our Nuisance Alligator Hotline to report an alligator they believe poses a threat, we dispatch one of our contracted nuisance alligator trappers to resolve the situation."

Although alligator bite incidents resulting in serious injury are rare in Florida, the FWC recommends taking precautions when having fun in and around the water. Alligators inhabit all 67 counties in Florida and can be found anywhere there is standing water. Reduce the chances of conflicts with alligators by swimming only in designated swimming areas during daylight hours. Also keep pets on a leash and away from the water.

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

The FWC also works to keep Floridians and visitors informed, including providing advice about Living with Alligators.

Learn more about alligators at MyFWC.com/Alligator.

CONTACT
BRIAN MCBRIDE EDITOR
EMAIL BMCBRIDE@OSCEOLANEWSGAZETTE.COM

THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR A SUBMISSION.

Applying pesticides appropriately

By Grantly Ricketts
For the News-Gazette

There are many people who are of the notion that the only good bugs are dead ones.

This belief is far from the truth; in fact, it has proven that most bugs are beneficial and are not harmful. One has to be very mindful that there are actual insect imitators that are harmful; they resemble the beneficial insects and pretend to be the good guys. One insect imposter that came to mind is the Mexican bean beetle, which is one of the worst enemies to our vegetable garden but often mistaken for a lady beetle which is beneficial. In addition, the big-eyed bugs are beneficial and are often identified as chinch bug which feed on grass roots. Having knowledge of this information, it is therefore important that we properly identify all bugs before taking any action. If the landscapers or homeowners are unable to properly identify an insect, they can bring it to the UF/IFAS Extension in

Osceola County for a free identification. The extension agent will give the clientele the best recommendation for an effective control.

Furthermore, when considering controlling landscape pests, always keep a threshold level in mind. First thing to remember is that pests cause aesthetic damage and economic loss. Therefore, ask yourself how much damage you can tolerate. Simply because there is an insect does not mean that there is an outbreak and pesticides should be applied. If you believe that you cannot tolerate the level of pest infestation, then you should turn to the best control measure, an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach. It is important to point out that IPM approach combines management approaches for greater effectiveness of pest control. Another key point is that IPM approach consists of four categories: biological, cultural, mechanical, and chemical. Biological control uses natural enemies to



control pests. One example of biological control is using parasitic wasp to control tomato horn worm. Cultural control uses cultural practice to reduce pest establishment and survival, a good example that comes to mind is practicing sanitation in the landscape or garden by not having trash or debris that insects can use as habitat. Mechanical and physical control kills pests directly or makes the environment unsuitable. Using a trap to control rodents is a good example of mechanical control. Finally, chemical control is simply using pesticides. First thing to remember is that with

IPM, using chemical as a form of control should be the last resort and should be combined with other approaches for a more effective control. It is also important to note that pesticides should be applied in a manner that will not harm the environment and human. Each time pesticide is applied to the landscape it has the potential to kill both harmful and beneficial insects. Another factor to consider when using pesticide is, timing of application; pesticide should not be applied when plants are flowering. This will result in killing pollinators such as bees and butterflies.

Boating safety tips to help manatees

The 4th of July is a busy boating holiday with Florida's appealing waterways beckoning in-state and out-of-state boaters to enjoy its many charms, including the manatees. Save the Manatee Club urges residents and visitors to watch out for manatees throughout the holiday and beyond.

The largest known cause of manatee mortality is from collisions with boats. Additionally, most living manatees have been hit by boats – many manatees have been hit multiple times – and most suffer through these injuries that can negatively affect their ability to eat, swim, mate, and take care of their young. Manatees must surface to breathe and prefer shallow waters. Any boat, moving fast, can injure and kill a manatee if there is not enough clearance for the boat's hull to pass safely over a manatee's back. Slowing down in manatee habitat is one of the best ways to reduce the risk of watercraft-related injury and death. In order to safeguard manatees and to

curb the number of manatee injuries and deaths from boat collisions, Save the Manatee Club offers a number of free public awareness materials to help boaters protect manatees. One of these is a Boating Safety Packet,

which contains a weatherproof boat decal with a hotline number for reporting manatee injuries, deaths, or harassment, resulting in manatee harassment. Remember, it is always important to report a sick, injured, or orphaned manatee to the FWC. Here's how to recognize if something is wrong:

A manatee floating high in the water and is unable to submerge may indicate a serious problem.

An adult manatee not resting or traveling rapidly should surface to breathe every 2-3 minutes.

Manatees entangled in crab traps or fishing line should be reported to the FWC – do not try to cut the entanglement.

A pink scar or open wound on a manatee needs to be reported.

Thrashing and splashing manatees are usually a mating herd and need their space, however a lone manatee that has beached itself should be reported to the FWC – do not push the manatee back into the water.

A small, lone manatee with no larger manatees around could be an orphan and the FWC should be called at 1-888-404-FWCC (3992).

"We greatly appreciate the help of the boating community to be extra vigilant on Florida's waterways during the July 4th holiday and every day," says Patrick Rose, the Club's Executive Director & Aquatic Biologist. "The risks and threats to the manatee's survival remain uncontrolled and accelerating, and we need everyone to be good stewards and help ensure that manatees continue to roam free for future generations to enjoy."

The free public awareness and education materials are available by emailing Save the Manatee Club at education@savethemanatee.org or by calling toll free at 1-800-432-JOIN (5646).

FWC offers additional BearWise funding to reduce conflicts

For a third year in a row, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is inviting local governments to apply for BearWise funding to help their communities reduce human-bear conflicts.

The FWC will focus on providing funding to local governments with BearWise ordinances that require residents and businesses to keep garbage secure from bears. The funding will offset the costs for residents and businesses to use bear-resistant equipment to secure their garbage from bears.

Gov. Rick Scott and the Florida Legislature appropriated the FWC \$500,000 in BearWise funding starting July 1.

"These new funds will allow us to expand our work with local governments to make it easier for people to avoid conflicts with bears," said Kipp Frohlich, Director of the FWC's Division of Habitat and Species Conservation.

The FWC invites counties and cities to submit applications to be considered for funding. Preference will be given to applications from areas with BearWise ordinances and to large projects benefiting a large number of people.

Local governments are strongly encouraged to consult with FWC staff to discuss options and implementation before submitting their applications. The FWC will assist any local government considering passing an ordinance, including providing example ordinances.

Since 2007, the FWC has provided almost \$1.6 million in BearWise funding to residents and businesses in the 16 counties with the highest levels of human-bear conflicts in Florida. Funds have been used to purchase over 10,000 bear-resistant trash cans, 9,700 sets of hardware to secure regular trash cans, and 160 dumpsters modified to keep bears out.

For a community to be considered, the FWC must receive applications



FWC photo by Tim Donovan.

before close of business on Aug. 1, 2018. Applications should be emailed to BearManagement@MyFWC.com or mailed to: The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Attention: Bear Management Program, 620 South Meridian St., 6B, Tallahassee, FL 32399.

For additional details on the funding and application process, visit MyFWC.com/BearWise.

SunRail open house at Kissimmee station today

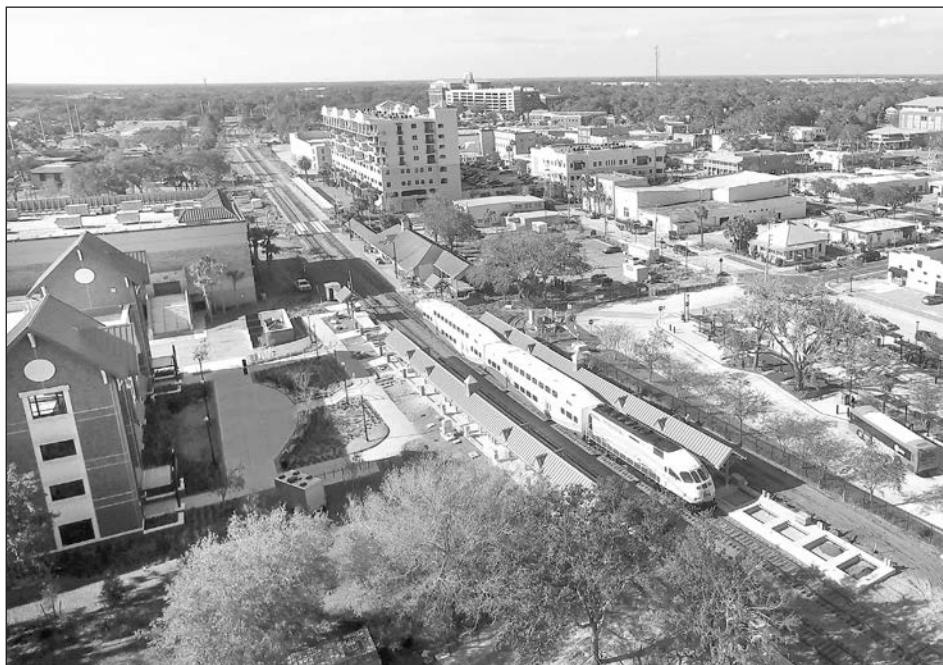


PHOTO BY ANDREW SULLIVAN/OSCEOLA COUNTY

The SunRail train takes a recent test run through downtown Kissimmee.

SunRail train tours wrap up this weekend with one final open house before new service starts the end of July.

It's happening today at the downtown Kissimmee SunRail/Amtrak Station at 320 Pleasant St. from 5 to 9 p.m. It's expected to be another big draw, as the three prior open houses have seen big crowds, according to a SunRail press release.

New service in Osceola County is scheduled to open July 30, and the train tours provide prospective riders with a taste of what SunRail offers, including information about its 17-mile southern expansion.

FIRE

Continued from Page 1

while giving personnel a place to practice window rescues and other tactics.

The new training center will also include a driving pad for emergency vehicle operation certification, which EMT and firefighters must complete on an annual basis.

There were also be shaded areas for firefighters to conduct hose and other field training, and a modular building to house small classrooms and training offices.

Sorenson said training is an essential part of any emergency services department. Firefighter and EMS personnel must complete a minimum 20 hours of training each month to comply with state agency requirements.

"Training happens each day, every day," Sorenson said. "It is how we keep our men and women – and the public – safe."

County Commission Chairman Fred Hawkins Jr. applauded efforts by Sorenson and local officials during Tuesday's groundbreaking.

"By raising our training to the next level, we as an organization, will be more efficient in the application of skills on the fire ground," Hawkins said. "I'm glad we finally found our way to make this facility a reality."

The new fire safety-training center is expected to be operational by January.

KUA

KISSIMMEE
UTILITY
AUTHORITY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held concerning the Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Budget. All interested persons are invited to attend. A resolution adopting the Approved Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2019 will be considered at this meeting.

The hearing will be held as part of the regular meeting of the Board of Directors.

Date: July 11, 2018
Time: 3:30 P.M.
Place: KUA Administration Building
1701 W. Carroll Street
Kissimmee, FL 34741

In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the Office of the President & General Manager, 1701 W. Carroll St., Kissimmee, telephone number (407) 933-7777 Ext. 6100, prior to the meeting.

If you should decide to appeal any decision made by the KUA Board with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, you will need a record of the proceedings, and, for such purposes, you may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the meeting is made, which includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be made.

063018 SNG



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LAKEFRONT PARK**

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VIEWPOINT

OSCEOLA NEWS-GAZETTE

Year 127– No. 52

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JENNIFER DIDOMENICOProduction Manager
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SOUND OFF OSCEOLA

We want to hear from you!

Do you think there is enough affordable family entertainment in Osceola County?

YES

NO

If yes, what do you like to do? If no, what would you like to see?

Zip Code: _____ Email: _____

Would you like to speak with us in further detail? May we contact you?

Yes

No

Please return this survey to our office or mail your comments to:
Osceola News-Gazette
108 Church Street, Kissimmee, FL 34741
or you can also answer online at www.aroundosceola.com.

AS I SEE IT

Not afraid to address challenging issues

By Peggy Choudhry

I wanted to thank the News-Gazette for a fantastic article: (Choudhry fails to get city support for crisis center published on June 23).

This article detailed and highlighted the true questions and conversations we should be having as we move forward in creating this One Stop Care Crisis Center for the betterment of our county and citizens.

Unfortunately, at this City Commission meeting, Kissimmee Mayor Jose Alvarez

I pledge that I will continue to be the people's biggest supporter and not be afraid to address challenging issues with any board. I am a person to do what I say I will do, not just during elections but all the time.

asked the supporters and guests that were present, if they would prefer "to just raise their hands" if they support efforts to this center in order to save time. We were also told not to be disruptive which we learned included clapping after a speaker. I was happy to see that voters and supporters of the One Stop Care Crisis Center choose to speak and wanted their thoughts heard by the city commission. This only led some



of us to believe that some members of the commission may have already had their minds made up (no matter what we said) but this article thankfully brings many important points to the table.

I look forward to discussing these points on July 16 with our Osceola County Commission Board as well as on all the other media that has invited me to shed light on this beforehand. I want to assure the voters that as an elected official we should always have the best interest in mind and not depend on other officials from other boards to make decisions for you. I say this because the article clearly identified Mayor Alvarez expressing to us that in order for him to make a decision he needs to hear first from officials in the county. So it surprised

me to see any elected official not speak up for their voters and instead allow another official to make a decision for them. I will not do this, I will protect my voters as I should and speak up for them as Vice Mayor Wanda Rentas and Commissioner Olga Gonzalez did on the day where it counted most. I want to thank them for having their own minds and defend the rights of the people. Thank you again Commissioner Olga Gonzalez and Vice-Mayor Wanda Rentas for the vote to provide services to your voters and listening to what they were requesting. You both showed courage in a pre-determined political climate. Again, as elected officials this is nothing personal, this is for the betterment of our community and we are addressing these issues as such.

I pledge that I will continue to be the people's biggest supporter and not be afraid to address challenging issues with any board. I am a person to do what I say I will do, not just during elections but all the time. For those who want to reach me and/or support these efforts in any way please call my office at 407-742-2000.

Peggy Choudhry is an Osceola County commissioner representing district 1.



Want to write a letter to the editor?

Email it to Editor Brian McBride at bmcbride@osceola

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Signature (Required) _____

Date: _____

LOCAL

New dog park to open in Buenaventura Lakes

By Rachel Christian
Staff Writer

Residents of Buenaventura Lakes will soon be able to explore Osceola County's latest dog park, slated to open by early fall.

Located off Royal Palm Parkway, the new fully enclosed 5-acre dog park will feature two separate entrances for large and small canine pets. The site will also include water fountains, benches, small shaded pavilions and special water stations to rinse off muddy paws when the play time is over.

County Public Works Director Bob Mindick said the new park was a way to utilize county-owned property left vacant for over a decade in a way that benefits Kissimmee residents. It also capitalizes on the growing popularity of Osceola County's three other dog destinations in Poinciana, Triangle Park and Shingle Creek, off Bass Road.

"It seems like as soon as we open one, it fills up," Mindick said. "We want to try and add more and spread them around so residents in more areas can enjoy them."

The dog park is nestled into a residential area that once served as Pavilion Park. It shut

down about 13 years ago due to late-night parties and neighborhood noise complaints. Creating a dog park that is only open from sunrise to sunset aims to alleviate those issues, Mindick said.

The new BVL park isn't equipped with parking, so it will almost exclusively serve residents within walking distance of the site. Parking wasn't an option due to the project's residential location, Mindick said.

The estimated cost of the project is \$150,000, with fencing and landscaping improvements making up a bulk of the cost. The money will be taken out of the public works' general fund.

The county saved funds by utilizing electric and water hook-ups still connected from Pavilion Park, Mindick said.

All dog breeds are permitted at the location, though dogs must be well behaved to use the facility. A set of rules and guidelines will be posted, but otherwise, residents are expected to follow proper "dog park etiquette."

"People who go to dog parks are usually really good at policing themselves," Mindick said. "We rarely have any issues because



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A new dog park is currently being built in Buenaventura Lakes.

people tend to look out for one another and make sure rules are being followed."

The park will be open from sunrise to sunset with an electric-lock fence that will

automatically open at the appropriate times. Work on the park began about four months ago and is slated to wrap up in late summer or early fall, Mindick said.

RENT

Continued from Page 1

- including tourism, hospitality and transportation – didn't earn anywhere near \$21.50 an hour.

Two industries – trade, transportation and utilities and hospitality – dominate the Osceola County workforce, with about 41 percent of average annual employment coming from these two industries alone, according to the Florida Legislative Office of Economic and Demographic Research.

Trade and transportation workers earn an average

salary of \$27,944 a year, while hospitality employees make \$22,495 annually. Two-fifths of Osceola County workers fall at least \$9,265 short of affording a one-bedroom apartment without being cost burdened by it.

Over the last year, local government leaders have taken steps to address the needs gap in Osceola County, including modifying the comprehensive plan and waiving mobility fees for affordable housing projects. Still, 80 percent of

permits granted in the last year were awarded to single family units – homes too expensive for individuals earning less than \$35,000 a year to afford, said Susan Caswell, the assistant community development administrator for Osceola County.

Caswell went before the Osceola County School Board last month to discuss local growth patterns and steps officials are taking to solve housing issues in the community.

She found that about 70 percent of Osceola County residents earning \$20,000 to \$35,000 a year are cost burdened by rent, with 30 percent of those residents spending over half their income on housing costs.

She added that although the county and city have spearheaded affordable housing projects in recent years, the number of units produced is a drop in the bucket to the growing need in the community.

"In the last five years,

we've provided 852 units through our housing funding," Caswell told board members. "But when you compare that to the 27,000 in need, you can see that we're never really going to catch up."

Cameron Preserve is the county's latest effort to combat affordable housing issues. The 100-unit complex offers one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments with rents ranging from \$355-\$781 a month.

The county broke

ground on the project last year and began accepting pre-screening applications on June 15. Units are only available to Osceola County families living in motels, people classified as homeless by the Department of Housing and Urban Development or individuals enrolled in a Transitional Housing program with the Community Hope Center.

In two weeks, officials say they have already received 318 applications for Cameron Preserve.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD

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

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

The Planning Advisory Board will hold a Public Hearing on this request, **Wednesday, July 18, 2018, at 6:00 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as possible, in the Commission Chambers of City Hall, located on the first floor of City Hall, 101 Church Street, Kissimmee, Florida 34741. The purpose of this Public Hearing is to make a recommendation to the City Commission concerning the request to amend Ordinance No. 2771. The proposed Ordinance would amend by changing the land use classification for the area described below as follows:

FROM: CONS (Conservation) – City

TO: MF-HDR (Multiple Family High Density Residential) – City

The subject property is located at Parcel ID#: **09-25-29-00U0-0185-0000**

Legal Description:

N 1/2 OF N 1/4 OF SW 1/4 LESS RD R/W

PROPOSED ORDINANCE 18-09: Point of Kissimmee: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2771 KNOWN AS THE ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE CITY OF KISSIMMEE, FLORIDA, UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF FLORIDA STATUTE 163.3184; DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO AMEND THE COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN AS HEREIN PROVIDED AFTER THE PASSAGE OF THIS ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING AS REQUIRED BY LAW; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

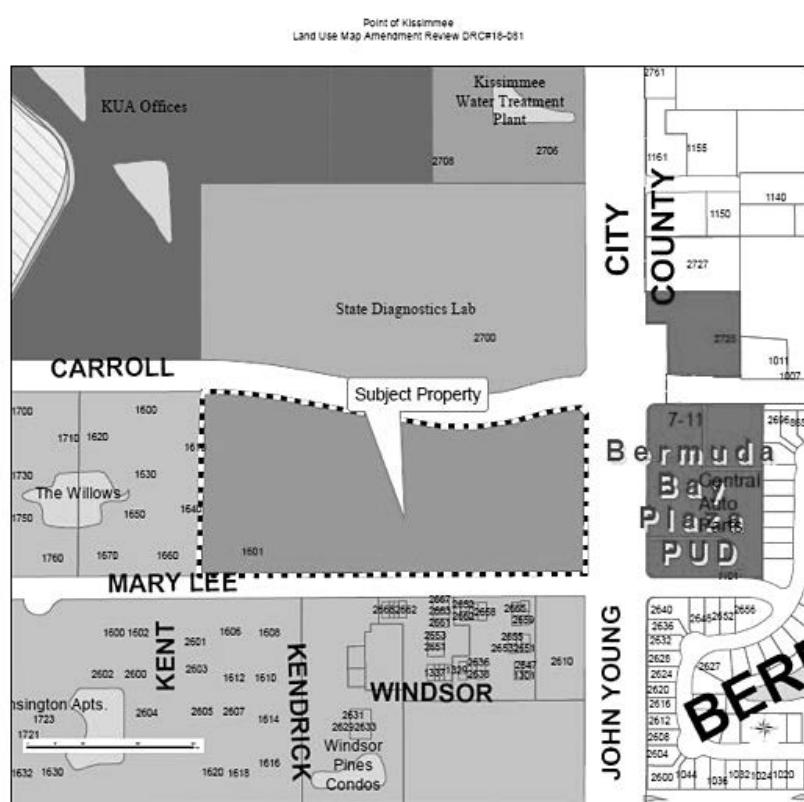
All interested parties may appear and be heard on the above date. Written opinion will be received until 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 18, 2018. The proposed amendment and the supporting documents, including a parcel description, may be inspected in the Development Services Department, City Hall between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Any questions may be directed to the Development Services Department, at (407) 518-2140.

Reference # 18-00081
Point of Kissimmee

PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD
KISSIMMEE, FLORIDA

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

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



Subject Property		Future Land Use Designation			
CRA District Boundary		SF-LDR (Single Family Low Density Residential)	INST (Institutional)		
Road Centerlines		SF-MDR (Single Family Medium Density Residential)	UT (Utilities)		
County Boundary		MH-MDR (Mobile Home Medium Density Residential)	Conservation (CONS)		
Railroad		MF-MDR (Multiple Family Medium Density Residential)	Recreation (REC)		
City Limit Boundary		MF-HDR (Multiple Family High Density Residential)	MU-D (Downtown)		
Kissimmee Gateway Airport		OR (Office Residential)	MU-V (Vine Street)		
Parcels		CG (Commercial General)	MU-FR (Flora Ridge)		
Lake Surfaces		Industrial Business (IN)	MU-T (Tapestry)		
Future Land Use		Airport Expansion (AE)	MU-FB (Frank Brown)		

Man gets 5 years for gun dealing

A Kissimmee man was recently sentenced to five years in prison for manufacturing and dealing in firearms without a license.

U.S. District Judge Gregory A. Presnell sentenced Hector Luis Santiago-Jorge, 48, Kissimmee, to the prison term, which was the maximum penalty, for manufacturing and dealing in firearms without a federal license. The court also ordered that Santiago-Jorge forfeit 10 AR-15 type firearms and 168 rounds of ammunition that were seized from his residence by federal

law enforcement officers.

Santiago-Jorge had pleaded guilty on March 5.

According to court documents, between November 2016 and October 2017, Santiago-Jorge manufactured more than 200 firearms, most of which were AR-15 type weapons. He then sold many of these firearms to purchasers in Puerto Rico. The firearms manufactured by Santiago-Jorge, none of which had a serial number, are commonly known as "ghost guns" because they are difficult for law enforcement to trace.

"This criminal thought

he could circumvent the laws in place that make our communities safer from weapons trafficking," said HSI Tampa Special Agent in Charge James C. Spero. "But thanks to the hard work of HSI and our partners, this sentencing should put criminals on notice that we will fully investigate anyone threatening the safety of our citizens."

This case was investigated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.

NAACP

Continued from Page 1



NEWS-GAZETTE PHOTO/CHARLIE REED

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People held its annual dinner at the Kissimmee Civic Center on June 23.

County and other parts of Central Florida. The Democrat is the first black Florida legislator to be appointed chairman of the Criminal Justice Committee.

Bracy said he was able to land his historic post in the Florida Legislature because of the passage of civil rights laws at the local, state and federal levels.

"Just think, at one point in our history, I wouldn't have been able to vote," said Bracy. "But there's still more work to be done."

The University of Central Florida alum said the latest step toward advancing civil rights for all Floridians would be approving Amendment 4 on the upcoming November ballot. The measure would restore voting rights for people who have a felony conviction on their record excluding murder or sexual assault and will be decided by voters through a proposed constitutional amendment.

Florida's current system only allows for the restoration of a tiny fraction of applicants. It also disproportionately affects black residents, who are five times as more likely to be incarcerated than white residents, according to statistics.

Gov. Rick Scott, who's now running for U.S. Senate, has sought to concentrate executive power over the process but voters ultimately will decide on Election Day.

Key to getting the initiative on the ballot – which required more than 1 million signatures from registered voters in the state – was advocates partnering with corporations that are "ideologically and fiscally aligned," Bracy said.

"Government can't do it alone. They can't make our children and community great," said Bracy, whose grandmother was among the first students to integrate Gainesville High School in Gainesville, home of the University of Florida. His grandfather established the first chapter of the

NAACP in Orange County. "We must inspire greatness within ourselves," he said.

The young senator joked with the crowd about the fictional African nation featured this year in the movie "Black Panther."

"How can we create our Wakanda?"

It starts, he said, when everyone can say to themselves: "I'm great. I can make a difference. I can change the world."

The NAACP also honored the following Osceola County residents:

► Mary Paul Berrian, a retired Navy lieutenant commander and St. Cloud High graduate, Distinguished Achievement Award.

► Ann Y. Tyler, a local activist and retired educator, Lifetime Achievement Award.

► Kissimmee City Commissioner Angela Eady, a St. Cloud native and lifelong Osceola County resident, Outstanding Community Service Award.

SUNRAIL

Continued from Page 3

"SunRail can make the daily commute fast, easy and affordable, as well as less stressful," the press release stated.

Persons wishing to express their concerns relative to FDOT compliance with Title VI may do so by contacting Roger Masten c/o SunRail, 801 SunRail Drive, Sanford, FL 32771; or by

phone at 321-257-7161; or by email roger.masten@dot.state.fl.us. Persons who require accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should also contact Roger Masten via the information provided above.

SunRail currently runs

32-mile daily service, stopping at 12 stations, Monday through Friday, from the DeBary Station in Volusia County to the Sand Lake Road Station south of Orlando. For more information about SunRail, including fares, station locations as well as schedule and hours of operation, visit www.sunrail.com.

SPORTS



SeaWolves

Team debuts Nov. 10 against Brazil.

Page 9

Local & National Sports • Sports Commentary

CONTACT

KEN JACKSON

OSCEOLA NEWS-GAZETTE SPORTS EDITOR

EMAIL KJACKSON@OSCEOLANEWSGAZETTE.COM

TWITTER @OSCEOLASPORTS

Fire Frogs pitchers dealing, but can't get run support in start of 2nd half

By Ken Jackson
Staff Writer



At the midpoint of the season, the Florida State League gives all its ball clubs that struggled in the standings in the regular season — like the hometown Florida Fire Frogs — new life by crowning a first-half champion and then resetting the standings.

Fire Frogs Manager Luis Salazar just wishes his club would take advantage of its new life.

After going 29-37 to finish fifth in the Northern Division in the first half, Florida, the Atlanta Braves' affiliate, dropped five of its first six games of the second half, and must dig out of an early hole in order to win the second half and make the playoffs. The Clearwater Threshers (Philadelphia Phillies) have jumped out to a 6-0 second-half start in the North.

The slow start has not been without a big effort from the starting pitching, especially this week.

On Tuesday, righthander Ian Anderson tossed a quality start, giving up two runs and six hits with six strikeouts in six innings, but the offense could not make a winner out of him in a 5-1 loss to the Dunedin Blue Jays. Right fielder Garrison Schwartz, who led off the fourth inning with a double, scampered home on a wild pitch to briefly tie the game at 1.

On Wednesday, the Fire Frogs could not get key hits in key at-bats in a 3-2 10-inning loss to Dunedin in a camp day matinee game

See **Fire Frogs**, Page 9.

attended by several groups of youngsters. Florida was 2-for-16 with runners in scoring position and left 14 men on base, including leaving them loaded in the second, sixth and ninth innings.

Dunedin scored the first run of the pitcher's duel between Florida's Joey Wentz, who's rounding back into form after a stint on the disabled list, and the Blue Jays' Angel Perdomo, in the top of the eighth inning, but Florida tied it at 1-1 thanks to the bat of Braxton Davidson, who launched a mammoth home run to right field; his team-leading 12th homer (third in the FSL) should be landing this weekend, and apologies to any windows put out at Osceola School District headquarters across Bill Beck Boulevard.

The game went to the extra frame, where Dunedin scored twice, but Florida did not go quietly, as Jordan Rodgers drove in Schwartz with a double to put the tying run at second with no out, but fitting the theme of the day, the Fire Frogs couldn't get the fortune-changing hit needed.

Wentz's start (six innings, three hits, no runs) was largely wasted. Over his last two starts, Wentz has

By Ken Jackson
Sports Editor

Audra Thompson is part of a veteran core of players on the Osceola High softball team.

The better news for Kowgirls Coach George Coffey and his staff is that Thompson and those teammates are all sophomores.

And, this past season, a sophomore led them all.

Thompson, the team's shortstop, was Osceola's offensive leader, and one of a host of emotional leaders, for the 18-8 Kowgirls who won another district championship — thanks in part to her game-winning double in the District 9A-7 championship game, a 4-3 win over Davenport Ridge.

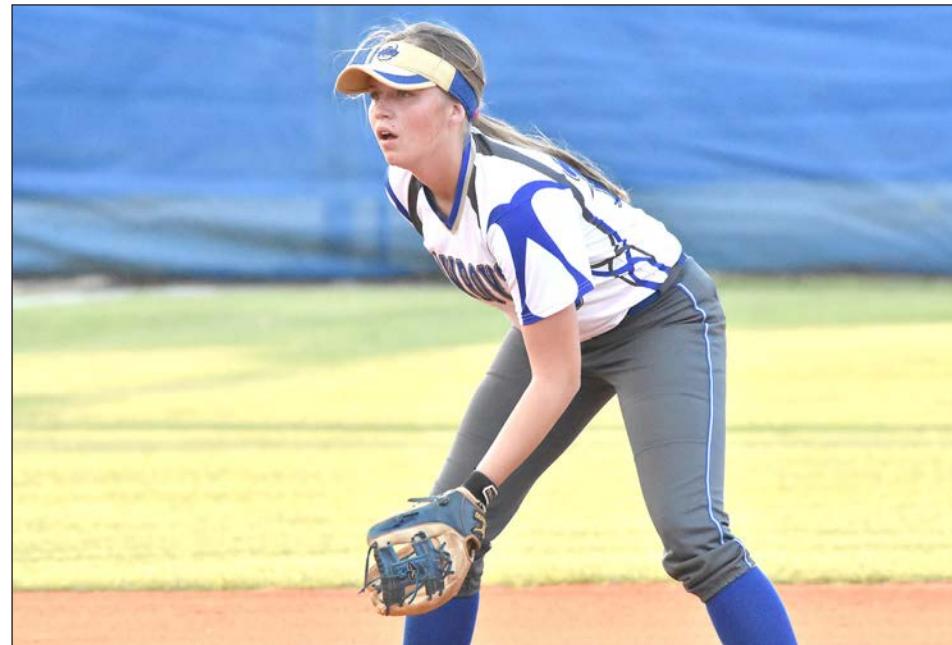
She produced in plenty other big moments last season, which is why she's the 2017 Osceola News-Gazette Softball Player of the Year.

Thompson batted .509, leading Osceola in that and every other offensive

ALL-COUNTY SOFTBALL

Veteran sophomore

► Osceola shortstop Audra Thompson has logged plenty, including a .509 hitting season, in two varsity seasons



NEWS-GAZETTE PHOTO/MARTIN MADDOCK

Osceola Kowgirls sophomore shortstop Audra Thompson led the team last season in most offensive categories, including a .509 batting average. Even as an underclassman, she's started a majority of the team's games, as part of a young class that came in during the 2017 season.

category, only tying for the team lead in doubles. Defensively, she teamed with second baseman Leyla Leboy, center fielder Kendal Thompson and

catcher Maria Nunez — all sophomores — to make the Kowgirls strong up the middle.

Rather than get caught up in her stats last season,

Thompson said she focused on each at bat and putting together wins, and the season took care of itself.

See **Thompson**, Page 8.

ALL-COUNTY SOFTBALL

Player of the Year:

Audra Thompson (OHS, Sophr.)

All-county team: Harmony: Gracie Justesen.

Liberty: Morgan Bates, Serena Ramos, Michelle Santiago.

St. Cloud: Ariana Manzanarez, Taylor McFann, Amy McNabb, Alyssa O'Donnell, Morgan Watral, Marlana McNutt. **Osceola:** Natalia Ferrer, Shelby Jones, Leyla Leboy, Maria Nunez, Liane Santiago.



THE REEL DEAL

Stowers, Holasek go back-to-back in Toho Marine Shootout

Here's the Toho Marine Lake Toho Wednesday Night Shootout results for June 20:

Nineteen teams come out on the last evening of "Spring" (Really, June 21 is the "First Day of Summer"? Central Floridians know better and just ignore that line on the calendar). There was a total of 44 bass caught and released, and 133.62 pounds of bass came across the scale. Winning back-to-back Wednesday Night tournaments was the team of Skip Stowers and Mark Holasek. Skip landed

three of the five-fish limit, and their total weight was 18.87 pounds. They went home happy and with \$225 to split.

Coming in second place were Joe and Jordan with a close 18.23 pounds. They received \$115. And still hanging on in the money another week were Shelton Smith and his partner Brandon. They weighed in 17.38 pounds and won their entry fee money back and some change. The Denali Rods Big Fish of the night went to Randy Montoney. He fished solo but managed

to sack 15.72 pounds that included the 6.04-pound Big Fish. Randy placed sixth and earned \$95 for his catch.

Two locals recently took

top honors at The Weekend Warriors Bass Club monthly tournament on Lake Marion June 23. There was a 27-

team turn out, a total of 76 bass landed with only eight

See **Reel Deal**, Page 9.

CINDY JOINT
The Reel Deal



Skip Stowers (left) and Mark Holasek show off their catch from the Wednesday Night Shootout out of Lake Toho. They've won the weekly event twice in a row.

SPORTS

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Experience a plus.*

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

INHOUSE ADS

Just in time for the tax free shopping weekend!

BACK TO SCHOOL

SPECIAL SECTION

ATTENTION BUSINESS OWNERS

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

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

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A Special Offer from: **OSCEOLA
NEWS-GAZETTE**

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.

Matthew Glass signs on to play for new volleyball program at Aquinas College in Michigan



SUBMITTED PHOTO

St. Cloud boys volleyball player Matthew Glass (seated right) recently signed a scholarship to play at Aquinas (Mich.) College in Grand Rapids. Father Daniel Glass and Bulldogs' Coach Ettie Singleton were on hand.

By Ken Jackson
Sports Editor

While setting himself up for future college success on the volleyball court, St. Cloud High's Matthew Glass may also be creating a path for the Bulldogs boys volleyball program.

Glass, the first college signee for the Bulldogs program since it reappeared six seasons ago under Coach Ettie Singleton, will be part of the first men's team at Aquinas (Mich.) College, as the Grand Rapids school adds intercollegiate men's volleyball to its list of teams.

Rick Schroeder, the current Aquinas women's volleyball coach, will also serve as head coach of the men's program.

Glass spent two years as an outside hitter for Singleton and the Bulldogs after entering high school focusing on, then giving up, basketball.

"When my junior year ended I knew I wanted to play volleyball in college, because I enjoyed it so much," Glass said. "I'm excited about being a part of a new program, but I'm also really nervous because this is a big step."

Glass said he submitted his highlight film to a recruiting application, where it was seen by the Aquinas coaching staff. That led to an invite and a visit to the Michigan campus, one that Glass said he felt at home at.

"It has great facilities and staff, and I really liked the coaches," he said. "I want to major in accounting and get my CPA license, and they have a fine program for that."

Glass still attends open gym at St. Cloud — in fact his signing was Monday right before one — where he said he's working on his passing to all parts of the court and "being in the right spots."

Coach Singleton said Aquinas will be a great fit for Glass as a first-year program.

"He's coming into a program with no established starters and a clean slate, so it's a program where he'll get playing time right away," she said.

"We never had to beg him to stay at practice, he works so hard and he's gotten better since he came in as a junior. He's very coachable and is able to learn new offenses. I'm very excited for him."

Aquinas will be the fourth Wolverine Hoosier Athletic Conference member to add volleyball. Men's Volleyball at the NAIA level is currently labeled as an "Emerging Sport", with the goal of becoming a full fledged

"He's coming into a program with no established starters and a clean slate, so it's a program where he'll get playing time right away."

— COACH SINGLETON

"Championship Sport" in the near future. A total of 31 NAIA institutions across the country currently offer the sport of men's volleyball with the goal of qualifying for the National Invitational Tournament in mid-April.

St. Cloud qualified for the district tournament, won by state runner-up Celebration, in Glass' senior year, and he hopes that and his signing will make boys volleyball a higher-profile sport at St. Cloud.

"I'd love to see it get going, after we started it up," he said.

THOMPSON
Continued from Page 7.

"I didn't really look at my numbers, in fact I actually thought I started the season slow," she said. "I worked harder after practice to work on my mechanics. I tried to be a leader on the field, maybe not the most vocal off the field, but on it with the eight players with me on the field."

Coffey said he wasn't as much surprised with Thompson's success this year as he was impressed.

"She played a ton last year (as a freshman) and that group ought to be strong again," he said. "Audie has the maturity level to realize what it takes to be a leader. We hope, with her,

that group leads just as well for the next two years.

"She as all the tools: offense, defense, game intelligence and, above all she loves the game. She has a passion that other kids don't show."

After the Cowboys advanced to the Region 3 finals in 2017 in a pleasant surprise when Thompson and her classmates were freshman, they were equally surprised, though unpleasantly, to be handed a lopsided 14-3 loss in the regional quarterfinals this year by Oviedo. Despite the outcome, Thompson went 3-for-4 and scored a run.

"It still hurt, but it feels a little better knowing you

did all you could do and left it all out there," she said. "We lost Maria (Nunez, the catcher, to an injury) in the district final, and losing Maria actually brought us together to try to win so she could play again this season. Our defense just wasn't there that night."

Thompson said the team didn't talk about the season ending for a few days, but in workouts since have already started discussing next season.

"We know we should have a solid team next year," she said.

And a solid junior season for Thompson and her classmates awaits.

SPORTS

Orlando SeaWolves make Spurs debut Nov. 10 against Brazilians

The Orlando SeaWolves will host an international friendly match against the Brazil National Minifootball Team on Nov. 18 in what will be their inaugural game.

The two teams will line up opposite each other at 7:05 p.m. at Silver Spurs Arena in Kissimmee. Tickets for the event, starting at just \$15 per person, go on sale July 6 at 10 a.m. at the Silver Spurs Arena box office and online at ticketmaster.com.

Special group packages for the game are available, and a special \$1,500 VIP floor box package for businesses includes 10 seats next to the field, all you can eat food, beer or soda, and a banner displayed



at the game. Reserve on the team's website (www.orlandoseawolves.com) Only 30 VIP floor boxes are available for the match.

The Brazil National Minifootball Team is the country's national small-sided soccer (including arena soccer) squad which takes part in worldwide

competitions. The squad is made up of former Champions League players, Brazilian Soccer League members, and Brazilian players from the Major Arena Soccer League.

The exhibition is a precursor to the SeaWolves' 12-game home schedule at the Silver Spurs Arena. The MASL represents the highest level of professional arena soccer in the world.

Season tickets are on sale now for all 12 Orlando SeaWolves home games starting as low as \$10 per game. Go to <http://www.orlandoseawolves.com/> for ticket ordering information.

The team will kick off its inaugural season this December at Silver Spurs Arena in Kissimmee.

REEL DEAL

Continued from Page 7.

limits caught for an overall weight of 219.18 pounds. Shelton Smith and Steve Pennington came in first place with 20.68 pounds that included the Big Fish of the tournament, a 5.88-pounder reeled in by Shelton. Second went to Daren McDermott and Pete Batusis with 16.17 pounds. And third place went to Randy Montoney

who fished this series for the first time and solo. He had 15.08 pounds.

The Florida Bass Cat Owners also had a two-day tournament out of the Kissimmee Lakefront Marina this past weekend. The big winners with over 65 pounds for two days were Bill Fugate and Darrell Cranor. Second place went to the team of Ron Ryals

and Bobby Bakewell with 46.02 pounds.

Coming in third was Greg Berlatsky and his partner with 43.54 pounds. The duo of Jerry VanLue and Steve Gorree had the Tournament Lunker, a sweet 8.98-pound Florida Trophy Catch qualifier.

Have a Happy and, above all, SAFE 4th of July everyone. Tight Lines!

FIRE FROGS

Continued from Page 7.

not allowed a run while scattering four hits, and he's lowered his ERA at home from 0.84 to 0.66 across six starts.

But, at .229, the Fire Frogs carry the lowest team batting average in the 12-team Florida State League. The pitching staff is seventh with a 3.79 ERA and have pitched seven shutouts, second in the league.

Schwartz (.294) is the only hitter approaching the .300 mark. Center field and leadoff hitter Christian Pache — all 19 years old of

him — leads the team in most offensive categories, including hits, runs, doubles and triples.

SCHEDULE: The Fire Frogs are home tonight at 6:31 p.m. to finish a two-game series against the Daytona Tortugas (Cincinnati Reds) then return July 4-5 for two games against the Charlotte Stone Crabs (Tampa Bay Rays). Fireworks are scheduled (weather permitting) after the July 4th game, and the 5th is a Thursday, meaning beer is free for those 21

and up from first pitch until the Stone Crabs score.

SALAZAR SKIPS A STEP: Infielder Alejandro Salazar, who played in Kissimmee in 2017 and opened this season here as well, was promoted to the Class AAA Gwinnett Stripers, skipping the Class AA step. Salazar, who hit .266 with 12 runs and 14 RBI in 54 games with the Fire Frogs, while playing every infield position, went 2-for-7 with a double this week in his first two games in Gwinnett.

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 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. 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 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. 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 free admission. Apply at osceolaschools.net/legacyclub.

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

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- 9 Child Care Center _____
- 10 Chiropractor _____
- 11 Dance/Gymnastic _____
- 12 Day Spa _____
- 13 Dentist Office _____
- 14 Doctor's Office _____
- 15 Gym/Health Club _____
- 16 Hardware Store _____
- 17 Hearing Center _____
- 18 Heating & Air Conditioning Company _____
- 19 Home Repair Company _____
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- 33 Bakery _____
- 34 Barbecue Restaurant _____
- 35 Breakfast _____
- 36 Deli _____
- 37 Family Diner _____
- 38 Friendliest Wait Staff _____
- 39 Frozen Treats _____
- 40 Hamburger _____
- 41 Hot Dog _____
- 42 Italian Restaurant _____
- 43 Latin Restaurant _____
- 44 Local Restaurant _____
- 45 Mexican Restaurant _____
- 46 Pizza _____
- 47 Sports Bar _____
- 48 Steakhouse _____
- 49 Subs _____
- 50 Wings _____

Mail This Ballot to:

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Please Include:

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Mail in ballots must be postmarked by July 25, 2018 or you can drop them off at the office by July 27, 2018 at 5 p.m.

You can also cast your vote online at www.aroundosceola.com

Online voting ends July 31, 2018 at Midnight



For official rules and regulations please visit www.aroundosceola.com



THE DAILY PLANNER

CONTACT

BRIAN MCBRIDE EDITOR

EMAIL BMCBRIDE@OSCEOLANEWSGAZETTE.COM

THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR A SUBMISSION.

Weekly and Monthly Events

Get the red, white and blue party started early with the annual Red Hot & Boom celebration on Tuesday, July 3, at Cranes Roost Park. Featuring live entertainment by XL106.7 Radio, including performances by Echosmith, Alyssa Raghu, Lauv, Logan Henderson, In Real Life Max, and Jack & Jack. Plus children's activities, vendor booths, food, drinks and more. The event runs 4 to 11 p.m. A 25-minute fireworks show will start at 9:30 p.m. Admission to the event is free; food and drinks will be available for purchase.

WHO Everyone is invited!

WHAT Red Hot & Boom

WHEN Tuesday, July 3, from 4 to 11 p.m.

WHERE 150 Cranes Roost Boulevard in Altamonte Springs

COST Admission is free



DAILY 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 Echosmith. The event is free and open to the public. Performances will run 4 to 11 p.m., with a special fireworks show at 9:30 p.m. Visit UPTOWNALTAMONTE.COM or call 407-571-8180 for more information.

WEDNESDAY 07-04



ANNUAL MONUMENTAL FOURTH OF JULY EVENT

Presented by the City of Kissimmee and sponsored by KUA. Live concerts on the event Lawn by The Gerry Williams Band, C+C Music Factory and Doug E. Fresh; a Kids Zone; food trucks; craft vendors and more. The event runs 5 to 10 p.m. with a fireworks show to end the night. Admission is free. Kissimmee Lakefront Park: 201 Lakeview Drive in Kissimmee

ST. CLOUD FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION

The event offers fun for the whole family and a fireworks display. St. Cloud Lakefront, 1104 Lakeshore Boulevard in St. Cloud. Free admission.

FOURTH OF JULY PARADE

The parade of floats, NEVs, cars, bicycles and walkers will kick off from Celebration Town Hall and run through Celebration Town Center. Hosted by Celebration. 9 a.m. There is no admission fee; parking is free.

BOK TOWER FOURTH OF JULY

Bok Tower Gardens is celebrating Fourth of July by offering free admission to the gardens all day.

FOURTH OF JULY AT SEAWORLD

Orlando will light up the sky with SeaWorld's "Ignite" fireworks display. Guests can expect a special patriotic finale, best seen from Bayside Stadium. Celebrations are included in standard theme park admission.

FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION IN AVALON PARK

Features community performances, family fun areas, followed by a fireworks show. All events run from 5 to 9 p.m. Admission is free. 3651 Avalon Park E Boulevard in Orlando.

CITY OF WINTER PARK FOURTH OF JULY

The city invites everyone to enjoy its annual Fourth of July tradition, featuring a Kids Zone, bicycle parade, a touch-a-truck station, games, inflatables, free hot dogs and more. The bicycle

parade begins at 11:30 a.m. Central Park, 150 W. Morse Boulevard, Winter Park; 9 a.m. Admission is free.

LAKE EOLA'S 41ST ANNUAL FIREWORKS AT THE FOUNTAIN

Featuring children's activities, live music, food, drinks and more. The events start at 4 p.m., and a fireworks display will start at 9 p.m. Admission is free. Lake Eola Park: 512 E Washington Street in Orlando.

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.

MONDAY

07-09



DISCOVER DAYS SUMMER CAMP

"Grow It, Cook It, Eat It" from July 9 to 13. Kids will enjoy camp activities focused on experiential learning and nature play. Discovery Days is funded, in part, through a grant from George W. Jenkins Fund within the GiveWell Community Foundation. Scholarships are available. Bok Tower, visit BOKTOWERGARDENS.ORG

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.

SATURDAY

07-14

FAMILY SUMMER SATURDAYS

Discover the element of metal. The event includes a 2D project and a 3D fine art project. Families of all ages are invited, with chances to work on your own, as a family and as a group. The Art and History Museums, Maitland; July 14; 10 a.m.-noon, Visit ARTANDHISTORY.ORG

SUNDAY

07-15

TOAH 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

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 in

formation about the event, guests can call 1-800-227-1500 or visit SWANDOLPHINFOODANDWINE-CLASSIC.COM, like WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SWANANDDOLPHIN

MONDAY

07-16

PHYSICIAN LECTURE SERIES

Poinciana Medical Center will host its physician lecture series.

Credentialed orthopedic surgeon

Dr. Nam Dinh will conduct a

lecture about understanding hip

pain, followed by an open Q&A.

Dinner will be served at 5:30

p.m., the lecture will begin at 5:45

p.m. Call 407-530-2013 for more

information. RSVP at 1-888-253-

8117.

TUESDAY

07-17

DRIVER SAFETY CLASS

The AARP Driver Safety

Program's Smart Driver Course

helps participants refine driving

skills and develop safe driving

habits. Upon completion of

the course, Florida Drivers 55 or older may be eligible for vehicle insurance discounts. Osceola Council on Aging, 700 Generation Point in Kissimmee; 9 a.m.-4 p.m. \$15.00 for AARP Members, \$20.00 for nonmembers. Registration required, call 407-593-1957.

WEDNESDAY

07-18

PAINT PARTY

The Winter Park Paint Party will be held from 10 a.m. to noon at Phelps Park: 1200 N. Phelps Avenue in Winter Park.

SATURDAY

07-21

ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND

Follow Alice down the rabbit hole in a special showing of the classic film Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. Enzian, 11 a.m. For tickets, visit ENZIAN.ORG

ONGOING

FOOD BANK

The Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida is now sponsoring an After school Meals Program at Iglesia Principe De Paz, 2204 W. Columbia Ave., Kissimmee.



REPUBLICAN PARTY OF OSCEOLA COUNTY

Meets the fourth Thursday of the month 6:30pm at the Kissimmee Elks Lodge 1655 King Highway (2 miles South off Neptune Road) Come by and help us move the Republican agenda forward as we Make America Great! Call 407-846-8889 or go to osceolarepublicans.org for additional information.

AL-ANON

Open to anyone who has been affected by the disease of alcoholism. Rebos Clubhouse, 1614 Orange Ave., St. Cloud. 10 a.m., Saturdays. Free. 407-896-4929

MENTAL ILLNESS SUPPORT GROUP

Osceola County group invites the public to a free anonymous self-help support group for people with depression, bi-polar and anxiety disorders along with family and friends. Every Monday.

Veteran's Memorial Library, 810 13th St., St. Cloud; 7-8:30 p.m. For more information, call Pat at 407-593-1997 or Kathy at 407-847-7420.

BINGO

Fraternal Order of Eagles; 15 W Darlington Ave., Kissimmee 4:00 p.m.; (2) \$200 games guaranteed (1) \$250 jackpot guaranteed. 407-846-4990; Everyone is welcome.

ELKS CLUB CRIBBAGE, KARAOKE

Kissimmee Elks Lodge, 1655 Kings Highway, Kissimmee. Every Wednesday 5:30-9 p.m. Open to the public.

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

AROUND OSCEOLA

 **CONTACT**
BRIAN MCBRIDE EDITOR
EMAIL BMCBRIDE@OSCEOLANEWSGAZETTE.COM

Students reap rewards for their efforts



Nine Osceola County students were each awarded \$1,000 scholarships from the Osceola Visionaries on June 9 at an awards ceremony held at the Golden Corral in Kissimmee. Top: Deputy Kissimmee City Manager Desiree Matthews addressed the recipients and their families. Gerome Godwin presided over the ceremony. Above: Deloris McMillon presented the scholarship awards.

News-Gazette Photos by Cindy Joint

Back row students from left: Kameron Green, Da'nas Ahmad Pinellas, Trevor Fredrick, Ahyata Roberts. Front row from left: Camilla Nesbeth, Irene Saengpet Tatianna Bowser, Pekelydra Williams. Not Pictured: Chelsea Fleurido

Is creeping indigo creeping into your Osceola County pastures

By Brittany Justesen

Creeping indigo is a broadleaf non-native legume that came from Africa 90 years ago. The recent rise of awareness has concerned many Florida horse owners. It is found throughout Central and North Florida, becoming the dominant herb in some pastures. Creeping indigo can be found in high traffic areas, such as pathways, roadsides, or heavily grazed pastures.

Plant Description

Creeping indigo is a prostrate plant (branches lie low to the ground) with a shallow crown. Stems can grow up to 6 feet long with five to seven alternate leaflets. Flowers form at the base of the leaflets forming numerous pink to red blooms. The perennial root of the plant is difficult to pull up by hand because of its 2-foot taproot.

Creeping indigo is spread by the seeds of the

plant. The plant produces clusters of 1-inch long downward pointing seed pods containing four to eight seeds. Numerous fuzzy hairs can be found on the leaves, stem, and seed pods.

Toxins

There are two toxins in creeping indigo that can cause neurologic and non-neurologic symptoms to all livestock, but horses are more susceptible. The progression of

symptoms will present itself days to weeks later. Equine deaths have been reported in recent years and can potentially be life threatening to all livestock that consume the plant.

3-Nitropropionate acid (3-NPA) causes the irreversible neurologic symptoms, including depression, head pressing in a corner of the stall, compulsive walking, and crossing of the limbs with a "crablike gait." The effects

of 3-NPA are non-reversible and the toxin metabolizes quickly making it hard to detect in the blood serum.

Indospicine is the toxic agent of the plant that causes non-neurologic symptoms, which include hyper salivation, dehydration, light sensitivity, weight loss, pale mucous membranes, labored breathing, corneal ulcerations, ulcers in the mouth and tongue, and digital pulses without laminitis.

There is no effective treatment for creeping indigo poisoning. Quickly remove the horse from the pasture where creeping indigo is present and consult your veterinarian.

Prevention and management

Monthly scouting year round is necessary to prevent creeping indigo from becoming a problem in your pastures. If you need

See **Indigo**, Page 12.

LOCAL



Informing readers. Helping build a stronger community.

This is not just a slogan, it's our way of life.

The Osceola News-Gazette has been serving our community for 126 years. We are a part of the fabric of our local community bringing you the news and information that impacts your daily life. From blue ribbons to state championships. From cattle drives to home runs, environmental issues to volunteering opportunities. From county and city government to arts and entertainment. We bring you the most relevant, up-to-date information about our community to keep you informed on issues that impact you.

We are here to inform you and help build a stronger community - together.

WE ARE OSCEOLA

OSCEOLA NEWS-GAZETTE

Informing readers. Helping build a stronger community.

INHOUSEADS

**OSCEOLA
NEWS-GAZETTE**
**INFORMING READERS.
HELPING BUILD A STRONGER COMMUNITY.**

Young reader worries about her lethargic dog

By Cathy M. Rosenthal

Dear Cathy,

I am a 13-year-old girl. My parents and I adopted a 3-year-old, mixed lab, female dog last August from a rescue group in South Carolina. At first, Dorie was very timid and thin, but she has gained a lot of weight and is not at all active. She prefers to either lay on her bed or on the back deck in the sun. Although our huge yard is fenced, she doesn't like to explore. She refuses to walk on a leash, and when I hook her up to it, she sits or lies down. We stand her up, bribe her with treats, but she just plops down. I don't believe the dog knows how to play because she isn't interested in balls, Frisbees or tugs.

Dorie can wait hours to urinate, even when brought outside several times a day. She seems to be drinking ample water and never has had an accident. She is very fearful of the car and when we need to take her in it, my parents have to carry her to the car. She also gets carsick and anxious. Perhaps it was the long ride from South Carolina to Long Island that made her this way. Dorie has a wonderful disposition, but as you can see, she can be stubborn. I want to play with her and take her for walks, so she won't gain any more weight. Should we worry, because she doesn't urinate frequently? Can you please help me? - Emma, Oakdale, NY

Dear Emma,

I don't think Dorie is being stubborn. I think she may be older than 3 years old or have a health problem, like a thyroid condition, that is making her lethargic. Ask your parents to take her to a

veterinarian for an exam and blood work and get a second opinion on her age.

If she doesn't have a health problem or is not an older dog, then the added weight can undoubtedly make her lethargic and uncomfortable, especially in her joints. She might be more motivated to move if you reduce her weight first with a high-quality calorie-restricted diet. Your veterinarian can recommend a prescription dog food, but there are several available at pet stores.

Regarding her limited urination during the day, it may just be a habit she developed with her previous family. If the doctor finds no health problem, there is nothing to worry about there.

As for exploring and playing, if her former family never played with her, she will need to learn how to play from you. Put a few pieces of low-calorie dog food into a simple puzzle toy, like a Kong, with a little peanut butter to tempt her. Hopefully, she will play with the toy to get the food pieces out.

She may never race around the yard looking for toys, but if you can use puzzle toys to keep her mind busy and engaged, she may eventually become a more engaged and active pet.

Dear Laurie,

My husband and I have four cats and a dog. One of these cats is a female, spayed, 9 years old, and licks everything. Floors, walls, bags, especially me. She lays

on the keyboard tray while I am on the computer. If my hand is anywhere near her face, she licks me. She licks so much she makes sore spots on me. Yesterday, she was licking my leg. I don't really mind it until it starts to hurt. I asked a vet about this behavior once, and all he said was "I don't know." Can you give me any insight as to why she does this? None of the other cats do this. - Laurie, via email

Dear Laurie,

Excessive licking is not uncommon in cats. Cats lick to groom themselves, but sometimes, things like boredom, stress, pain and even nutritional deficiencies can lead to excessive licking of themselves as well as other things around the home.

Regardless of the reason, however, it can become an obsessive-compulsive behavior that can be difficult to break, if not treated.

Talk to your new veterinarian (hint, hint) about temporary medication that can help interrupt obsessive-compulsive behaviors. While on the medication, make sure your cat is not stressed by anything new in the home. Also, engage her in a lot more one-on-one play time to reduce her compulsive need to lick.

Get some toys that encourage her to use her hunting behaviors or a laser light she can chase around a room. Exercise for her body can help reduce this compulsive behavior.



Cathy M. Rosenthal is a longtime animal advocate, author, columnist and pet expert who has more than 25 years in the animal welfare field. Send your pet questions, stories and tips to cathy@petpundit.com. Please include your name, city, and state.

INDIGO

Continued from Page 11

help identifying creeping indigo you can contact your County Extension Agent.

GrazonNext HL is the effective herbicide for creeping indigo control in pastures. Its active ingredient is aminopyralid. Broadcast rate is 24 ounces

per acres and spot-treatment rate is 0.5 to 1.0 ounces per gallon of water.

Both of these rates will give excellent control, but once sprayed, the dead plant can retain its toxicity and should be removed. Retreatment will be necessary.

Do not spread manure or use for compost because of the residual from the spray and possible seed dispersal.

Brittany Justesen is a livestock agent with UF/IFAS Extension Osceola County.

2017 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORTS

AVAILABLE NOW

Toho Water Authority's 2017 Annual Water Quality Reports are now available on our website via the following direct link: www.tohowaterqualityreports.com. The federally mandated reports contain important information about the source and quality of your drinking water. The reports include test results from water quality analyses conducted throughout 2017. To request a paper copy please call our customer service at 407-944-5000.



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63018 SNG

A refresher on cyber security

By Jill Schlesinger

Remember how freaked out we all were nine months ago after the Equifax data breach?

It's easy to forget. When a news event flares up, we pay attention and then as the issue recedes, we can get a bit complacent. That's why the recently enacted European Union General Data Protection Regulation gives us a perfect excuse for a refresher on cyber security and privacy.

You likely received a slew of emails at the end of May - those had to do with GDPR, a new regulation that was meant to give EU citizens more control over the data that's collected by online services. But given that most big U.S. companies do business in the EU and do not want to maintain separate policies globally, the new rules will likely affect U.S. consumers as well.

GDPR requires companies to be more explicit about how your personal data is used and imposes penalties on companies that are not in compliance with it. One interesting aspect of the rule is that it provides European consumers with the "right to be forgotten," which means that an EU resident can tell a company to stop sharing her data with third parties and also gives her the "right to erasure," which means that she can essentially say, "I

am dead to you; quit using my data and erase me from your files."

Just to be clear: This is what a European consumer can do, but, according to Linda Sherry, director of national priorities at Consumer Action, "As global firms adapt to the EU's data protection law, we're hopeful that all consumers will benefit from stricter data security and gain a reasonable measure of control over their personal information that so many others prosper from the EU's strong regulation."

But it's still on you to take privacy seriously and to guard your information. I have offered some of these tips in previous columns, but I have added a few new ones from the National Cyber Security Alliance:

Update and conduct regular backups on your systems.

Don't click on links willy-nilly. Even if you think you know the sender, be cautious about clicking on email links. When in doubt, delete it.

Protect your Password. Change logins and passwords

► Jill Schlesinger, CFP, is CBS News Business Analyst. Jill covers the economy, markets, investing and anything else with a dollar sign on TV, radio (including her nationally syndicated radio show), the web and her blog, "Jill on Money." She welcomes comments and questions at askjill@moneypatch.com. Check her website at www.jillonmoney.com.

monthly, use password generators and sign up for two-factor authentication.

► Beware of oversharing on social media and do not assume that messaging services are secure.

► Refrain from providing businesses with your Social Security number simply because they ask for it. (Medicare recipients should be careful, because SSNs are still on many cards. New cards without your most precious identifier have started to be mailed as of April, but the process won't be completed until April 2019.)

► Don't provide personal information over the phone, through snail mail or via the internet unless you have initiated the contact or you know with whom you are dealing.

► Shop carefully. Don't send financial information on unsecured wireless networks and when making purchases, use a credit card, which has more fraud protections under federal law than debit cards or online payment services.

Sparkler safety for everyone

Sparklers can be a fun way to light up warm summer nights. With their brilliance and glowing trails through the darkness, sparklers attract both children and adults on special occasions like Independence Day or during backyard barbecues or parties.

Even though sparklers can be fun, people who intend to use sparklers are urged to treat these devices with respect and caution. The Consumer Product Safety Commission reports that sparklers can burn at 2,000 F, which is as hot as a blow torch, and definitely hot enough to melt some metals.

Sparklers are responsible for 9 percent of all fireworks burns and other injuries, warns the CPSC.

Sparklers are created by hardening flammable chemicals on the end of a wire or a wooden stick. Unlike other fireworks, sparklers burn slowly due to their chemical composition. This makes sparklers seemingly safer for youngsters to handle.

But parents and other guardians may want to reconsider. Emergency rooms repeatedly treat burn injuries to hands and faces resulting from sparkler usage. Kids may be tempted to show sparklers off to their friends and then run and lose their balance or wave the sparkler around and not know others are close by.



When using sparklers, heed the following safety tips from the National Council on Fireworks Safety.

► Ensure that sparklers are legal where you live prior to purchase.

► Sparklers are best handled by people ages 12 and older. Children younger than 12 require extreme supervision.

► Everyone handling sparklers should wear closed-toe shoes, and not flip-flops or sandals, to protect their feet from sparks.

► Wear eye protection, such as safety goggles.

► Leather gloves or those lined with Kevlar can help protect hands against burns.

► Each person should have his or her own sparkler stick. Only light one at a time.

► Maintain a distance of six feet from one another

while sparklers are blazing.

► Even though it can seem festive to wave a sparkler or make circles through the air, doing so increases the risk for injury.

► Remain in an upright position when holding a lit sparkler.

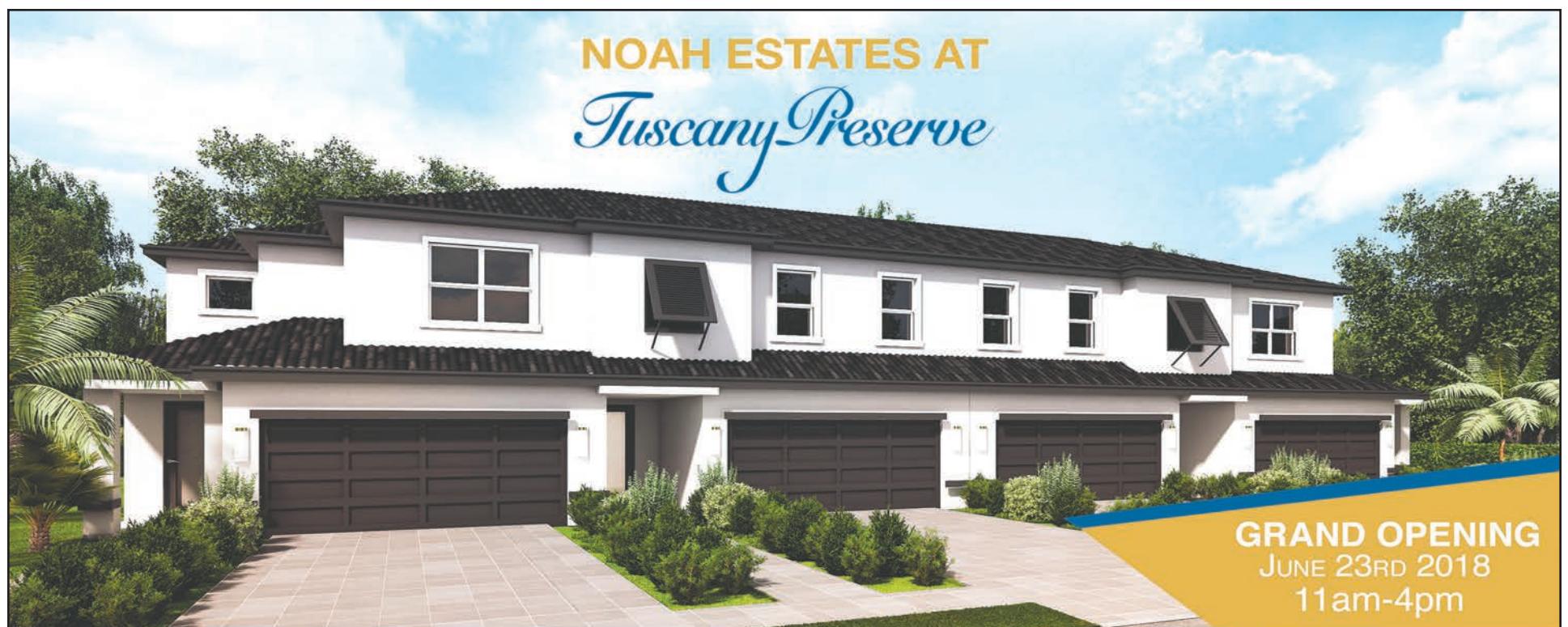
► Tossing or throwing the sparkler is extremely hazardous.

► Do not use sparklers (or other fireworks) while under the influence of alcohol.

► Sparkler sticks can remain hot long after the flame is extinguished. Keep a bucket of water nearby and dump some water on the sparkler after use.

More sparkler and firework safety information is available through the National Council on Fireworks Safety at www.fireworksafety.com.

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www.OsceolaMemGds.com

WHERE TO WORSHIP

Real Life Christian Church - Hunter's Creek

3232 N John Young Parkway
Kissimmee
352-394-3553
www.real.life/#8mkib

Redemption Church

920 Osceola Parkway
Kissimmee
407-247-9993
www.redemptionchurch.life

St. Cloud Church of Christ

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

St. Cloud Church of God

501 Dakota Ave.
St. Cloud
stcloudchurchofgod.com

St. Cloud Missionary Baptist Church

2400 10th St.
St. Cloud
407-892-3444
www.scmbc.us

St. Cloud Presbyterian Church

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

CHURCHES IN OSECOLA COUNTY

St. James AME Zion Church

719 N. John Young Parkway
Kissimmee
407-847-3025

St. John's Episcopal Church

1709 North John Young Parkway; Kissimmee
407-847-2009
stjohns-ec.com

St. Luke & St. Peter Episcopal Church

2745 Canoe Creek Road
St. Cloud
407-892-3227
www.lukeandpeter.org

St. Nicholas Anglican Church

1792 S. Orange Blossom Tr.
Kissimmee
407-344-2700
www.stnicholasanglican.com

St. Rose Of Lima Catholic Church

3880 Pleasant Hill Road
Kissimmee
407-932-5004
srlcc.org

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church

604 N. John Young Parkway
Kissimmee
407-846-0544



OBITUARIES

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

BRANHAM-Clinton Hunter Branham, 35 of St. Cloud, Florida passed away Thursday, June 21, 2018. He was born in Orlando, Florida the son of Richard A. and Rebecca Lawson Branham Jr.



Clinton worked in construction as an Interior Texture Design Specialist and was a Baptist by faith. His love of sports was evident at a very early age. Being a left hand pitcher with quite a nasty curveball made him a highly sought asset for many baseball teams through his youth. His love of sports continued through his life. He was an avid outdoorsman and fisherman – as instilled by our wonderful father since birth! Many outdoor camping and fishing trips through our lives were priceless memories that he held thru life. Many trips to the coast and late night shiner fishing for largemouth bass are some of our fondest memories of our lifetime. His other passion was riding four wheelers. Many trips trail riding on his Suzuki Quad Sport were some epic times he cherished. Anybody that worked beside or with Clinton knew his work ethic was far above par. His dedication to his work, whichever facet of construction he was doing, was the best result or finish that any homeowner would be proud of. He was a perfectionist in all of his

trades, and it showed in the quality of work produced. Clinton loved all of his family to the utmost regard. Family meant everything. Although he had no biological children of his own, he loved kids dearly and was a father figure to several children in the absence of their own parents. He often went without to provide for these children. No questions asked. Clinton's love for his mother was immeasurable – The losing of her in such a sudden tragic way had a massive impact on him that I believe ultimately was a factor in his death. Hopefully you have found peace now and you and Mom are re-united in Heaven.

Clinton is survived by his father, Richard A. "Buck" Branham of St. Cloud, Florida; brother; Chris Branham of Orlando, Florida; sister; Crystal Branham of St. Cloud, Florida; 3 nephews; Kendall Branham, Dylan Gallagher and Liam Ponce; 1 niece; Raven Raby. He was preceded in death by his mother, Rebecca Branham in 2016.

A Memorial Celebration of Life will be held for Clinton on Saturday, June 30, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. in the Roger C. Thompson Memorial Chapel at Conrad & Thompson Funeral Home with Reverend Dr. Bob Reaves officiating.

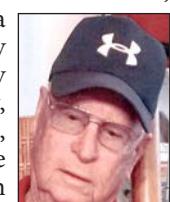
The Branham family is being cared for by: CONRAD & THOMPSON FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATION SERVICES, 511 Emmett Street, Kissimmee, Florida 34741, (407) 847-3188.

GONZALEZ-It is with great sadness that the family of Edina Gonzalez, also known to family and friends as "Yaya", announces her passing on June 5th, 2018 after a 10 year battle with cancer and 2 year battle with dementia. She was 82.



She was born on September 23, 1935 in Havana, Cuba and immigrated to the US in 1968. She later became a US citizen. She was married and widowed twice during her life and worked as a seamstress in NYC and

GRiffin-Thomas A. Griffin, 86 of St. Cloud, Florida passed away peacefully on Friday, June 22, 2018. He was born in Offerman, Georgia and moved to St. Cloud in 1970 from Ft. Knox, Kentucky.



He was a retired lineman for the Sprint Telephone Company, and was a Catholic by faith. Thomas was Veteran of the United States Army serving his country faithfully and with honor during

Tampa, FL for most of her working years.

She will be lovingly remembered by her son, Willie, daughter-in-law, Kim, her grandchildren, Jessica (Jeremiah), Logan, and Justin, and great-grandson, Silas.

A memorial mass will be held on July 7th, at 11:00 am, at St Lawrence Catholic Church, 5225 N Himes Ave, Tampa, FL 33614. A reception will follow after the mass at Higgins Hall – Gabriel Room next to the church.

Memorial donations in memory of Edina can be made securely to St. Jude Children's Hospital at: www.stjude.org/donate

the Korean Conflict.

Thomas is survived by his daughter; Lilian Thereat (James) of St. Cloud, Florida; brother; George "Lester" Griffin of Auburndale, Florida and one grandson; Lee Thomas Thereat of Kissimmee, Florida.

Memorial Contributions may be made to your favorite charity in Loving Memory of Thomas A. Griffin.

The Griffin family is being cared for by: CONRAD & THOMPSON FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATION SERVICES, 511 Emmett Street, Kissimmee, Florida 34741. (407) 847-3188.

Our Family Caring for Your Family

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MOSCHOURIS-Alma Lea Wheeler Moschouris passed away peacefully at her home surrounded by her loving family on June 7, 2018. She was born in Flemington, West Virginia on August 23, 1930 to Jesse and Elizabeth Wheeler.



Alma retired from Mercury Marine in 1993. She loved crafts and was known for her angels. She also baked many cakes for her large family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband; Peter Moschouris (former

St. Cloud City Councilman), Mother of Maryella Wood (Robert), George P. Moschouris, Susan Giep (John) and Gary Moschouris (Tamara). Alma was Nana to nine grandchildren; Philip, Tim, Stephen, Stacy, Craig, Nick, Katie, Alex, John Micheal and 8 great grandchildren.

Alma was preceded in death by her sisters; Jean Barbour and Ernestine Fleming, brothers; Kermit and Dale Wheeler.

A memorial service will be held on July 14, 2018 at Church of St. Luke and St. Peter, 2745 Canoe Creek Road, St. Cloud, FL 34772 at 11 a.m.

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VOLUNTEER ZONE

THIS WEEK'S VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

► Bookmark Buddies

P.M. Wells Charter Academy (<http://www.pmwellscharter.org/>) is a public charter school serving students in grades K-8. The school is in need of volunteers to serve as Bookmark Buddies at the school. Bookmark Buddies is a mentor reading program that helps third grade students improve their reading skills and score at Level 2 or higher on the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA). The program recruits volunteer mentors each year that help to improve the reading skills of low performing students. Mentors meet at the P.M. Wells Charter Academy for 30 minutes a week, one-on-one, throughout the school year. No prior tutoring experience is necessary and all the tutoring materials are provided, making for an easy and fun volunteer experience. The Bookmark Buddies mentor builds a strong friendship and takes great satisfaction in their student's success as they begin to gain confidence and improve their reading and writing skills.

P.M. Wells is looking for volunteers to help elementary school art teacher work with students, and clean tables, desks and work surfaces. The school also is seeking volunteers to help tutor middle school students in math. Volunteers interested in becoming Bookmark Buddies at P.M. Wells Charter Academy can contact Principal Alan Ramos at 321-697-1020 or Mrs. Ingrid Hernandez, volunteer coordinator, at i hernandez@pmwellscharter.org.

► The Backyard Project

The Backyard Project is a local organization that strives to enhance community awareness and support by providing resources to those in need. The Backyard Project regularly provides meals to the homeless community in Kissimmee and we are looking for volunteers ages 16 and up to help with meal preparation and delivery. Those interested can email The Backyard Project at bypfvvolunteer@gmail.com.

► Meals on Wheels drivers needed

The Osceola Council on Aging needs Meals on Wheels delivery drivers. Volunteers must have a valid license, an insured vehicle, and pass a background check. Deliveries are made Monday through Friday mornings and

Mother's Day and Thanksgiving Day. Contact Marie Blackford at 407-933-9532 or blackfm@osceola-coa.com

Meals on wheels is a 501 (c) 3, nonprofit, private charitable organization dedicated to providing services to enable independence and self-sufficiency for seniors, disabled adults, the disadvantaged and families in poverty. www.osceola-generations.org.

► Osceola District Boy Scouts

Osceola District of Central Florida Council Boy Scouts of America covers all of Osceola County and currently serves 1076 youth and over 550 adult volunteers in 52 (units) packs, troops, and crews. Osceola District Boy Scouts are looking for adult volunteers to assist our district committee and district commissioner staff. Scouting background is preferred but all volunteers must be over the age of 21, pass a criminal background check, and take a youth protection course. All district level volunteers must also be approved by a nominating committee before their approval.

A prospective member of our district committee would assist the Boy Scouts in planning and executing county wide programs and initiatives as well as fund-raise and assist recruiting new youth to one of our 52 packs, troops or crews. Applicants can contact Cory Dewell, Osceola district executive Boy Scouts of America Central Florida Council, at 407-624-2101 (cell), 407-703-0258 (work) or email at Cory.Dewell@cflscouting.org.

► St. Cloud Friends of the Library

The St. Cloud Friends of the Library needs new members and volunteers to help with their upcoming book sale Thursday, July 5, from noon to 8 p.m.; Friday, July 6, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and Saturday, July 7, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The St. Cloud Friends of the Library welcomes new members. The group meets the third Thursday of each month at 11 a.m. in the St. Cloud Veterans Memorial Library at 810 13th St., St. Cloud. For more information, visit the library or its website or contact:

**TO SUBMIT YOUR REQUEST,
CONTACT BRIAN MCBRIDE**

EMAIL bmcbride@osceolanewsgazette.com

THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR A SUBMISSION.

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

ginger40@earthlink.net or call 407-892-7428.

► School District needs volunteers

All of the Osceola County School District schools need volunteers to help with book fairs, picture days, in the media center, cafeteria, athletics, band, career day speakers, and more. For the upcoming 2018-19 school year, School District officials want people to apply as a new volunteer or renew if they were a volunteer during the 2017-18 school year after July 1. In addition, Take Stock in Children (for high school students) and Bookmark Buddies (for third graders) programs always need mentors. Both of these programs require a yearlong commitment and a brief training session. These two programs are run through the Education Foundation. To volunteer or for more information, call Robin Davis, district volunteer liaison specialist, at 407-870-4080, Ext. 66250.

► Volunteer at SNIp-it Clinic

The SNIp-it Clinic is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization working to: Reduce the pet overpopulation in our shelters. Educate the public on the benefits of spay/neuter. Provide low cost, high quality spay/neuter services. Service TNR and Animal Rescue Organizations. The clinic provides high quality spay/neuter services for cats and dogs to help dramatically reduce the number of animals entering in to shelters each year. More than 30,000 animals were euthanized in Central Florida last year. Reducing the pet population is the only way to guarantee that animals won't have to suffer or die because of the lack of homes.

The clinic has many opportunities for all levels 18 years or older. Normal business hours are Tuesday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The clinic can use help with laundry, sterilizing surgical packs, cleaning, filing, answering phones, fundraising and marketing. It also has weekend opportunities that include special events and feral cat trapping for TNR. Contact Susan Muncy: email: 2snipit@gmail.com or by phone: 407-476-4748.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD

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

FROM: OS (Open Space) – City

TO: MUPUD (Mixed Use Planned Unit Development) – City

The subject property parcel ID: **09-25-29-00U0-0185-0000**

Legal Description:

N 1/2 OF N 1/4 OF SW 1/4 LESS RD R/W

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 18-10: Point of Kissimmee: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2038 KNOWN AS THE CITY OF KISSIMMEE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, REZONING THE PROPERTY HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED, REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The Planning Advisory Board will meet to consider their recommendation on said request on Wednesday, July 18, 2018 at 6:00 P.M. in the Commission Chambers of City Hall, 101 Church Street, Kissimmee, Florida,

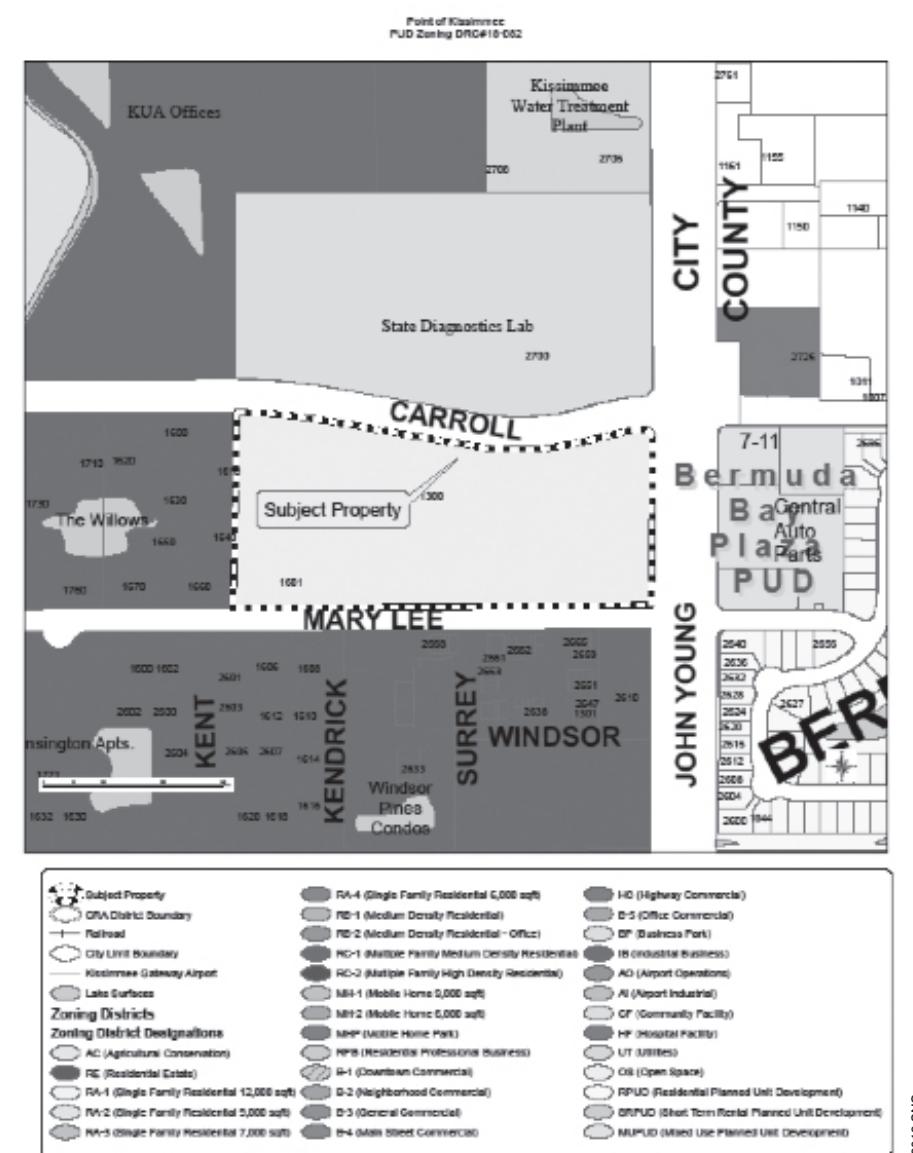
All interested parties may appear and be heard on the above dates. Written opinion will be received until **5:00 P.M., Wednesday, July 18, 2018**. Any questions regarding this public hearing may be directed to the Development Services Department at (407) 518-2140.

**Reference # DRC 18-00082
Point of Kissimmee**

**PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD
KISSIMMEE, FLORIDA**

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

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



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MAZDA3

Solid Compact Car for Driving Enthusiasts



Mazda3's combination of craftsmanship, quality and uncommonly good driving dynamics place it apart from its competition in the crowded compact segment. Mazda3 models include G-Vectoring Control, a Mazda-exclusive technology that uses the engine to put a minute amount of weight on the front tires, making steering inputs more surefooted and increasing peace of mind with the goal of improving stability.

By Frank A. Aukofer
Motor Matters

A longstanding favorite of driving enthusiasts, the Mazda3 is a quality compact with exceptional overall performance and many desirable features. Yet, sedans and hatchbacks have been losing ground to SUVs, especially the car-based crossovers. At Mazda, for example, the CX-5 midsize crossover outsells all of the Mazda cars, including the Mazda3, Mazda6, and the MX-5 Miata two-seat sports car.

Still, there's a solid cadre of American customers who prefer sedans — especially those with some sporting credentials — for pure driving enjoyment. That's where a car like the Mazda3 Grand Touring comes in.

Two versions are available: a four-door hatchback and the subject here, the traditional four-door notchback sedan, which comes with a choice of two engines. The base model starting at \$18,095, which is no slouch, is equipped with a 155-horsepower, 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine mated to a six-speed manual gearbox or a six-speed automatic transmission.

The Grand Touring model we tested, featured a 184-horsepower, 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine that develops 185 lb.-ft. of torque. It is the torque, or twisting force, that delivers the excitement of strong acceleration off the line. The Grand Touring moves to 60 mph in about 7 seconds, more than respectable for a compact sedan in the Mazda3's price range.

For enthusiasts who like to shift for themselves, our Grand Touring tester arrived with steering-wheel-mounted paddles to manually shift the six-speed automatic transmission. Though the transmission did fine on its own, the paddles were useful for holding gears on twisting, hilly roads.

With a starting price of \$25,070, the Grand Touring with its six-speed automatic transmission is a bit more expensive than some of its compact competitors. Spiffed up with a short list of options, it came with a \$28,470 bottom-line sticker.

That's roughly \$5,000 less than the average price of a new car these days. Yet it's a complete package, with a full suite of safety equipment, including lane keeping warning and assist, low-speed automatic collision braking, blind-spot warning,

adaptive cruise control, rear cross-traffic alert, and tire-pressure monitoring.

One of the options deserves a separate mention. It is Mazda's adjustable head-up display, which uses a separate screen that rises up from the top of the dashboard into the driver's line of sight. In addition to a digital speedometer, it also reads traffic signs (like speed limits) and shows other information.

A center-mounted 7-inch color touchscreen displays navigation and an array of vehicle functions as well as satellite radio and other entertainment data. Selections can be made from the screen or by using a rotary knob mounted on the center console.

The Grand Touring sedan's exterior styling borders on the generic for compact sedans, handsome without being

offbeat or offensive. Where it stands out is in the interior materials, design, and execution. The heated leather-covered sport seats on the test car showed quality workmanship and offered long-distance support and comfort up front.

Desirable equipment, both standard and optional, included a motorized glass sunroof, dual-zone automatic climate control; LED headlights, fog lights, and taillights; pushbutton starting; keyless locking, and rain-sensing windshield wipers.

On the road, the test car cruised quietly except for engine noises that intruded under hard acceleration. The electric power steering felt nicely weighted and responsive around curves and maintained a strong line in straight freeway cruising. A supple suspension system, abetted by 18-inch alloy wheels and all-season tires, helped the handling without sacrificing ride quality.

Mazda has long touted its SkyActiv technology, a holistic approach that covers every aspect of vehicle design to improve fuel economy as well as driving dynamics, no matter how tiny. When you sweat the small stuff, you get something like the Mazda3 Grand Touring.



Manufacturer Photos

SPECIFICATIONS 2018 MAZDA3 GRAND TOURING

VEHICLE TYPE
5-passenger FWD compact sedan

BASE PRICE
\$25,070 (as tested: \$28,470)

ENGINE TYPE
16-valve SkyActiv-G 4-cylinder

DISPLACEMENT
2.5-liter

HORSEPOWER (net)
184 at 5700 rpm

TORQUE (lb.-ft.)
185 at 3250 rpm

TRANSMISSION
6-speed automatic

OVERALL LENGTH
180.3 in.

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

CURB WEIGHT
3,100 lbs.

FUEL CAPACITY
13.2 gal.

EPA MILEAGE RATING
27 mpg city, 36 mpg highway

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BRIAN MCBRIDE EDITOR

EMAIL BMCBRIE@OSCEOLANEWSGAZETTE.COM

Florida home prices hover at \$200K to \$249K



Florida Realtors' newly released sales data for Osceola County shows that the most active price point for single-family homes and condos and townhomes during May was at \$200,000 to \$249,999, while lower priced properties become increasingly scarce on the market.

In the single-family home market, Osceola County has seen 139 homes close during the month at \$200,000 to \$249,999, while homes that were priced from \$150,000 to \$199,999 came in second with 107 closed sales. While these price ranges were seeing the most activity, they still show year-over-year declines of 15.8 percent and 32.3 percent respectively as the more affordable homes disappear off the market. Moving down the price ranges, homes that were \$100,000 to \$149,999 have declined 64.4 percent to 16 homes, while those that were \$50,000 to \$99,999 have fallen 40 percent to three sales, and there were no closed sales under \$50,000. Going up the price scale, homes that were priced from \$250,000

to \$299,999 saw 95 closed sales, increasing 46.2 percent from last year, while those that were \$300,000 to \$399,999 saw 70 closed sales, up 4.5 percent from last year.

Condos and townhomes for comparison have seen 86 closed sales at the sweet spot of \$200,000 to \$249,999, up 352.6 percent over last May. Falling behind that were units that were priced from \$150,000 to \$199,999, which had 78 closed sales, up 30 percent year-over-year. Declines from last year were seen below these prices. At \$100,000 to \$149,999 there were 46 closed sales, a decline of 32.4%, while properties that were \$50,000 to \$99,999 fell 50 percent to 15 closed sales. And like in the single-family home market, there were no sales under \$50,000. Moving into higher priced territory, properties that were \$250,000 to \$299,999 remained unchanged from last year at 12 closed sales, while those that were \$300,000 to \$399,999 increased 100 percent to 18 sales.

Tips to upgrade your home gaming experience

(StatePoint) Whether going on an epic adventure, hunting for treasure, exploring vast wondrous lands, or playing sports, video gamers are always seeking the latest ways to create the ultimate experience at home.

Here are three ways to upgrade your home gaming tools for a more immersive experience.

Surround Sound

Today's games feature sound design that deserve the best at-home sound systems to match. To truly bring your games to life, create a surround sound effect with a multi-piece speaker system that includes a subwoofer. If you want to pump up the sound without disrupting the rest of the household, consider soundproofing the room where you do your gaming. Stylish, affordable ways to do so include hanging thick tapestries or curtains.

Better Visuals

Take your visuals to the next level with a high-

quality projector, such as the XJ-F210WN, part of Casio's award-winning Advanced Series line. Reaching maximum brightness in as fast as five seconds, its dust resistant design helps ensure that projection brightness stays consistent. An Intelligent Light Control feature senses ambient brightness in the room and automatically adjusts the projection brightness accordingly, to ensure gamers will have quality visuals in any lighting conditions. When it comes to connectivity, this lamp-free model features two HDMI terminals as well as a USB power supply.

In the gaming industry, it's clear that enthusiasts are passionate about creating a complete experience to truly immerse themselves in the game, said Joe Gillio, senior director, Casio's Business Projector Division. Those who love video games want to ensure they have



innovative features, bright images and great visuals at an affordable price.

Ergonomics

Let's face it. If you are a serious gamer, you're spending hours a week on your hobby. May as well settle in and get comfortable, right? Opt for ergonomic accessories and

furniture so you can keep playing for a long time, without straining your back, neck or wrists. You may just become a better player if you do.

You already have the latest console and today's top-notch games. With a few upgrades, you can ensure your tools and accessories are up to snuff, too.

Available homes continue to decline

Declining inventory continues into May with Florida Realtors current housing data recently released.

The number of active listings available at the end

of the month declined by 7.7 percent from this time last year to 1,575 homes within Osceola County's single-family home market. With falling inventory, so too falls the Months Supply of Inventory (MSI) which estimates the number of months it will take to deplete the current inventory at the given rate of recent sales.

May data for single-family homes in Osceola County puts the MSI at 3.7 months, down 7.5 percent from May 2017. Condos and townhomes in the area are showing sharp year-over-year declines by comparison. Active listings in this market have fallen 31.5 percent from last year to 516 properties, while MSI has fallen 46.3 percent to 2.9 months of supply.



has fallen 29 percent year-over-year to an MSI value of 2.2 months. This is after inventory in this market has declined 22.9 percent to 1,856 listings.

Florida statewide data is more tepid by comparison. The decline in inventory of single-family homes is slight at 0.7 percent with inventory coming in at 90,180 homes listed at the end of May. The Months Supply of Inventory hasn't changed at all from last May, holding steady at four months. And in the condo and townhome market of the state, active listings fell 2 percent from May 2017 to May 2018, landing at 54,044 units available at the end of the month, while the MSI fell 5 percent to a supply of 5.7 months, the only instance in this analysis where buyers were favored in the market.

Existing-home sales backpedal, decrease 0.4 percent in May

Existing-home sales fell back for the second straight month in May, as only the Northeast region saw an uptick in activity, according to the National Association of Realtors.

Total existing-home sales, <https://www.nar.realtor/existing-home-sales>, which are completed transactions that include single-family homes, townhomes, condominiums and co-ops, decreased 0.4 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.43 million in May from downwardly revised 5.45 million in April. With last month's decline, sales are now 3 percent below a year ago and have fallen year-over-year for three straight months.

Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist, says a solid economy and job market should be generating a much stronger sales pace than what has been seen so far this year.

"Closings were down in a majority of the country last month and declined on an annual basis in each major region," he said. "Incredibly low supply continues to be the primary impediment to more sales, but there's no question the combination of higher prices and mortgage rates are pinching the budgets of prospective buyers, and ultimately keeping some from reaching the market."

The median existing-home price for all housing types in May was \$264,800, an all-time high and up 4.9 percent from May 2017 (\$252,500). May's price increase marks the 75th straight month of year-over-year gains.

Total housing inventory at the end of

May climbed 2.8 percent to 1.85 million existing homes available for sale, but is still 6.1 percent lower than a year ago (1.97 million) and has fallen year-over-year for 36 consecutive months. Unsold inventory is at a 4.1-month supply at the current sales pace (4.2 months a year ago).

Properties typically stayed on the market for 26 days in May, unchanged from April and down from 27 days a year ago. Fifty-eight percent of homes sold in May were on the market for less than a month.

"Inventory coming onto the market during this year's spring buying season – as evidenced again by last month's weak reading – was not even close to being enough to satisfy demand," added Yun. "That is why home prices keep outpacing incomes and listings are going under contract in less than a month – and much faster – in many parts of the country."

Realtor.com's Market Hotness Index, measuring time-on-the-market data and listings views per property, revealed that the hottest metro areas in May were Midland, Texas; Boston-Cambridge-Newton, Mass.; San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, Calif.; Columbus, Ohio; and Vallejo-Fairfield, Calif.

According to Freddie Mac, the average commitment rate for a 30-year, conventional, fixed-rate mortgage increased for the seventh straight month to 4.59 percent in May (highest since 4.64 percent in May 2011) from 4.47 percent in April. The average commitment rate for all of 2017 was 3.99 percent.

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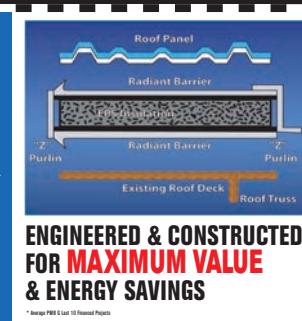
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Drivers. Home every night and
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Highest pay percentage in
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Accepting Applications**
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more information

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BEAUTIFUL CONDO
in Celebration, FL
3BDRM/2BTH - 1,430sqft
w/Garage
1st floor, Furnished.
Minimum 1 year lease.
\$2,000/month
Call Now! 727-940-8540

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OPHTHALMOLOGIST**
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to add experienced ophthalmic as-
sistants and technicians. We offer
competitive wages, benefit package,
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travel, and vacation time. Please
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***NURSES & CNAS
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1, 2 & 3 Bedroom Mobile
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Looking for a person with recent working knowledge of Postal Rule
and regulations specifically Flat and EDDM mail. Has worked with Postal
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Pay includes base plus commission. Interested applicants should send resumes to: itaylor@sunpubfla.com.

Check the classifieds

CHECK OUT THESE LOCAL GARAGE SALES

> Garage Sales Kissimmee

> Garage Sales St. Cloud

FINAL MOVING SALE
3447 Fernwood Drive
Kissimmee, FL 34741
Friday, June 29th
8 a.m. - Noon
8ft Ladder, Beach Bike,
Folding Bike, Tool Bench,
Wheelbarrow, Pet Stroller
Call for Code
(407) 808-0044

HUGE SALE!

Sat-6/30-8am-4pm
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Saturday, July 7th at 10:00 AM

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6758 N. Military Trail #206, West Palm Beach, FL 33407
Huge selection of modern, vintage and designer high-end
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if qualified. Call Aviation Institute
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Week of June 25, 2018

Sun Publications of Florida

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

Commercial Print Account Executive / Sales

Sun Publications of Florida is a commercial web printing company located in Lakeland Florida.
We produce newspapers, tabloids, coupon books and glossy stock magazines.

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

The right candidate should have the ability to multi-task with a professional and positive attitude,
be a self-starter, and possess excellent customer service skills. Candidate would work together with
Sun Publication's Print Coordinator and Plant Manager in scheduling and deliveries of printed
publications. Knowledge of account management and print sales will be helpful.

Benefits include health, dental insurance, and 401K, paid time off.
Pay includes base plus commission.

RECEPTIONIST

Kissimmee Utility Authority (KUA) is a municipal
electric utility.

Receptionist salary range: (Low) \$18.34 – (High) \$20.36.
Excellent benefits.

To apply, please visit www.kuajobs.com
EOE



073018.SNG

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Got a garage stuffed with things you no
longer need or want?

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Take all of your old things and turn them into cash with a
garage sale. Having a garage sale is easy. All you have to do
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PUBLIC NOTICES

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

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA. General Jurisdiction Division Case #: 2017-CA-001560 MF THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON TRUST COMPANY, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, F/K/A THE BANK OF NEW YORK TRUST COMPANY, N.A. AS SUCCESSOR TO JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A., AS TRUSTEE FOR RESIDENTIAL ASSET MORTGAGE PRODUCTS, INC., MORTGAGE ASSET-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES SERIES 2005-RS8, Plaintiff, vs. UNKNOWN TRUSTEE OF THE FAMILY TRUST II, et al, Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated May 23, 2018, and entered in 2017-CA-001560 MF of the Circuit Court of the NINTH Judicial Circuit in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON TRUST COMPANY, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, F/K/A THE BANK OF NEW YORK TRUST COMPANY, N.A. AS SUCCESSOR TO JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A., AS TRUSTEE FOR RESIDENTIAL ASSET MORTGAGE PRODUCTS, INC., MORTGAGE ASSET-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES SERIES 2005-RS8, is the Plaintiff, and UNKNOWN TRUSTEE OF THE FAMILY TRUST II; PHILIP GEE; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF PHILIP GEE; LIBERTY VILLAGE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.; UNKNOWN BENEFICIARIES OF THE FAMILY TRUST II, are the Defendant(s). Armando Ramirez, as the Clerk of the Circuit Court, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at Suite 2600/Room # 2602, 2 Courthouse Square, Kissimmee, FL 34741, at 11:00 A.M., on JULY 24, 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

LOT 182, OF LIBERTY VILLAGE PHASE 2, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 14, PAGES 113 THROUGH 117, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Property Address:

4521 PHILADELPHIA CIR,

KISSIMMEE, FL 34746

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

IMPORTANT AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance.

Please contact Court Administration at Two Courthouse Square, Suite 6300, Kissimmee, Florida 34741, Telephone: (407) 742-2417 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; (describe notice); If you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711 to reach the Telecommunications Relay Service.

DATED on this 21st day of June 2018.

ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ & SCHNEID, P.L.

Attorney for Plaintiff

6409 Congress Avenue,

Suite 100

Boca Raton, FL 33487

Telephone: 561-241-6909

Facsimile: 561-997-6909

Service Email:

mail@rasflaw.com

By: /s/ Thomas Joseph

Thomas Joseph, Esquire

Florida Bar No. 123350

Communication Email:

tjoseph@rasflaw.com

17-041502-DET

June 30, 2018

July 7, 2018

NOTICE UNDER FICTITIOUS NAME LAW
Pursuant to Section 865.09 FLORIDA STATUTES
To Whom It May Concern:
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of: THRIVE AFFORDABLE VET CARE

located at: 3201 Vineland Road, in the County of Osceola, in the City of Kissimmee, Florida 34746, intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida.

That the corporation interested in said business enterprise is as follows:

PETCO-THRIVE JV LLC
Dated at Kissimmee, Osceola County, Florida on this 26th day of June, 2018. June 30, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 9th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION Case #: 2016-CA-001742 MF WELLS FARGO BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR CARRINGTON MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST, SERIES 2007-FRE1, ASSET-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, Plaintiff, vs.

MARIE NOEL; JEAN FRANCOIS; CENTERPIECE PROPERTIES, LLC; BELLAGO AND ISLES OF BELLAGO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.; AVATAR PROPERTIES, INC.; BELLAGO AND ISLES OF BELLAGO CLUB, A/K/A AVATAR PROPERTIES, INC., D/B/A BELLAGO CLUB; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY, Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure filed March 28, 2018, and entered in Case No. 2016-CA-001742 MF, of the Circuit Court of the 9th Judicial Circuit in and for OSCEOLA County, Florida, wherein WELLS FARGO BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR CARRINGTON MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST, SERIES 2007-FRE1, ASSET-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, Plaintiff, and MARIE NOEL; JEAN FRANCOIS; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY, Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure filed March 28, 2018, and entered in Case No. 2016-CA-001742 MF, of the Circuit Court of the 9th Judicial Circuit in and for OSCEOLA County, Florida, wherein WELLS FARGO BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, F/K/A THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON, F/K/A THE BANK OF NEW YORK AS TRUSTEE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CERTIFICATE HOLDERS OF THE CWALT, INC., ALTERNATIVE LOAN TRUST 2004-16CB, MORTGAGE PASS THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2004-16CB, Plaintiff,

vs.

SANDRA PARSONS, A/K/A SANDRINA PARSONS, ET AL, Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated June 7, 2018, entered in Civil Case No. 2018-CA-000462 MF in the Circuit Court of the 9th Judicial Circuit, in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON, F/K/A THE BANK OF NEW YORK AS TRUSTEE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CERTIFICATE HOLDERS OF THE CWALT, INC., ALTERNATIVE LOAN TRUST 2004-16CB, MORTGAGE PASS THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2004-16CB, Plaintiff, and PALMIRA RIVET-SANCHEZ; BELLAGO AND ISLES OF BELLAGO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.; CORPORATE PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES, LLC; AVATAR PROPERTIES INC., D/B/A BELLAGO CLUB; INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CONSULTANTS, INC. are the Defendant(s).

Armando Ramirez, as the Clerk of the Circuit Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at Suite 2600/Room # 2602, 2 Courthouse Square, Kissimmee, FL 34741, at 11:00 A.M., on JULY 24, 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

LOT 31, ISLES OF BELLAGO, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 17, PAGES 191-195, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Property Address:

4418 Canopy Court, Kissimmee, FL 34758

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.

LOT 133, BELLALAGO PHASE 2N, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 16, PAGE(S) 115-117, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

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

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator, Court Administration, Osceola County Courthouse, 2 Courthouse Square, Suite 6300, Kissimmee, FL 34741, (407) 742-2417, FAX 407-835-5079, AT LEAST 7 DAYS BEFORE YOUR SCHEDULED COURT APPEARANCE, OR IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIVING NOTIFICATION IF THE TIME BEFORE THE SCHEDULED COURT APPEARANCE IS LESS THAN 7 DAYS. IF YOU ARE HEARING OR VOICE IMPAIRED, CALL 711 TO REACH THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS RELAY SERVICE.

DATED on June 18, 2018.

Kelley Kronenberg

8201 Peters Road,

Suite 4000,

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33324

Phone: (954) 370-9970

Fax: (954) 252-4571

Service E-Mail:

ftlrealprop@kelleykronenberg.com

/s/ Reena Patel Sanders

Reena Patel Sanders, Esq.

FBN: 44736

File No. M140634-JMV

June 23, 2018

July 7, 2018

Submitted by:

Kahana & Associates, P.A.

8201 Peters Road,

Suite 3000,

Plantation, FL 33324

Telephone: (954) 382-3486

Telefacsimile: (954) 382-5380

Designated service email:

notice@kahaneassociates.com

File No. 16-01763 SPS

June 30, 2018

July 7, 2018

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
On 07/15/2018 at 09:00 A.M., an auction will take place at 1720 ALEXANDER ST., KISSIMMEE, FL 34746. The vehicles which will be auctioned include:
1) 2003 FORD VIN: 1FAFP34P53W23287 Please be advised, per F.S. 717.38 that a newspaper ad must be published for 1 day in a newspaper of general circulation (daily or weekly circulation) which has been in circulation for at least 1 year. The advertisement must be published at least 10 calendar days prior to the date of sale, in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the sale is to be held. The 10 calendar days do not include the date of the advertisement nor the date of the sale.

June 30, 2018

July 5, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 9th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA Case #: 2018-CA-000462 MF THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON, F/K/A THE BANK OF NEW YORK AS TRUSTEE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CERTIFICATE HOLDERS OF THE CWALT, INC., ALTERNATIVE LOAN TRUST 2004-16CB, MORTGAGE PASS THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2004-16CB, Plaintiff,

vs.

SANDRA PARSONS, A/K/A SANDRINA PARSONS, ET AL,

Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated May 23, 2018, and entered in 2017-CA-001740 MF in the Circuit Court of the 9th Judicial Circuit, in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR HARBORVIEW MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST MORTGAGE LOAN PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-14, Plaintiff,

vs.

CORPORATE PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES, LLC, et al., Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated May 23, 2018, and entered in 2017-CA-001740 MF in the Circuit Court of the 9th Judicial Circuit, in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR HARBORVIEW MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST MORTGAGE LOAN PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-14, Plaintiff,

vs.

ANGELA PEARSON AND CARL PEARSON, et al., Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated May 23, 2018, and entered in 2017-CA-001740 MF in the Circuit Court of the 9th Judicial Circuit, in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR HARBORVIEW MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST MORTGAGE LOAN PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-14, Plaintiff,

vs.

ANGELA PEARSON AND CARL PEARSON, et al., Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated May 23, 2018, and entered in 2017-CA-001740 MF in the Circuit Court of the 9th Judicial Circuit, in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR HARBORVIEW MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST MORTGAGE LOAN PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-14, Plaintiff,

vs.

ANGELA PEARSON AND CARL PEARSON, et al., Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated May 23, 2018, and entered in 2017-CA-001740 MF in the Circuit Court of the 9th Judicial Circuit, in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR HARBORVIEW MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST MORTGAGE LOAN PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-14, Plaintiff,

vs.

ANGELA PEARSON AND CARL PEARSON, et al., Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated May 23, 2018

OSCEOLA NEWS-GAZETTE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA, General Jurisdiction Division Case #: 2017-CA-000599 MF CALIBER HOME LOANS, INC., Plaintiff, vs. JUAN M. URLA AND MADELLINE R. URLA, et al., Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated May 23, 2018, and entered in

2017-CA-000599 MF of the Circuit Court of the NINTH Judicial Circuit in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein CALIBER HOME LOANS, INC. is the Plaintiff, and JUAN M. URLA; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF JUAN M. URLA; MADELLINE R. URLA; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF MADELLINE R. URLA, N/K/A LESTER SAMAYOA; EAGLE BAY TOWNHOMES OF OSCEOLA COUNTY HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.; EAGLE BAY OF OSCEOLA COUNTY HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.; EAGLE BAY OF OSCEOLA COUNTY

OSCEOLA CHAIN OF LAKES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER THE ADOPTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2019 BUDGETS, AND NOTICE OF REGULAR BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MEETING.

The Board of Supervisors ("Board") of the Osceola Chain of Lakes Community Development District ("District") will hold a public hearing on July 11, 2018, at 1:30 p.m. at 313 Campus Street, Celebration, Florida 34747, for the purpose of hearing comments and objections on the adoption of the proposed budgets ("Proposed Budget") of the District for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2018 and ending September 30, 2019 ("Fiscal Year 2019"). A regular board meeting of the District will also be held at that time where the Board may consider any other business that may properly come before it. A copy of the agenda and Proposed Budget may be obtained at the offices of the District Manager, 313 Campus Street, Celebration, Florida 34747, (321) 939-4301 ("District Manager's Office"), during normal business hours.

The public hearing and meeting are open to the public and will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Florida law. The public hearing and meeting may be continued to a date, time, and place to be specified on the record at the meeting. There may be occasions when Board Supervisors or District Staff may participate by speaker telephone.

Any person requiring special accommodations at this meeting because of a disability or physical impairment should contact the District Manager's Office at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service by dialing 7-1-1, or 1-800-955-8771 (TTY) / 1-800-955-8770 (Voice), for aid in contacting the District Manager's Office.

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

Gary Moyer
District Manager
Saturdays, June 23, 30, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA, GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION CASE NO. 2008-CA-003674 MF WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A., AS TRUSTEE FOR THE CERTIFICATEHOLDERS OF SOUNDVIEW HOME LOAN TRUST 2007-OPT1, ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES SERIES, 2007-OPT1, Plaintiff, vs. SYLVIA AVILA AND MIGUEL AVILA, et al., Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated June 06, 2012, and entered in 2008-CA-003674 MF of the Circuit Court of the NINTH Judicial Circuit in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A., AS TRUSTEE FOR THE CERTIFICATEHOLDERS OF SOUNDVIEW HOME LOAN TRUST 2007-OPT1, ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES SERIES, 2007-OPT1, is the Plaintiff, and SYLVIA AVILA; MIGUEL AVILA; UNKNOWN TENANT # 1, A/K/A TANYA FLORER; OPTION ONE MORTGAGE CORPORATION, are the Defendant(s). Armando Ramirez, as the Clerk of the Circuit Court, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at Suite 2600/ Room # 2602, 2 Courthouse Square, Kissimmee, FL 34741, at 11:00 A.M., on JULY 24, 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

LOT 7, STARLINE ESTATES, UNIT 1, REPLAT, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGE 221, PUBLIC RECORDS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

LESS THAT CERTAIN PORTION IN ORDER FOR TAKING RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 3915 PG 2218 DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

PARCEL 2118, A PORTION OF LOT 7, STARLINE ESTATES UNIT ONE REPLAT, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGE 221, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCE AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 9, STARLINE ESTATES UNIT ONE REPLAT, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGE 221, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA, SAID POINT BEING ON THE NORTH RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF STAR LINE DRIVE, SAID POINT ALSO BEING A FOUND 4"X4" CONCRETE MONUMENT WITH NO IDENTIFICATION; THENCE SOUTH 89° 17' 35" WEST ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID LOT 9 AND SAID NORTH RIGHT OF WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 715.05 FEET TO A POINT ON A CURVE, CONCAVE TO THE NORTHEAST, HAVING A RADIUS OF 50.00 FEET AND A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 90°0'0"; THENCE RUN NORTHWESTERLY ALONG THE ARC OF SAID CURVE, A DISTANCE OF 78.54 FEET (CHORD BEARING = NORTH 45° 42' 25" WEST, CHORD DISTANCE =70.71 FEET) TO THE END OF SAID CURVE AND TO A POINT ON THE EAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF NARCOOSSEE ROAD; THENCE NORTH 00° 42' 25" WEST ALONG SAID EAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 698.00 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 7 OF SAID PLAT AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE NORTH 00° 42' 25" WEST ALONG SAID EAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE AND THE WEST LINE OF SAID LOT 7, A DISTANCE OF 285.00 FEET TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT 7; THENCE NORTH 89° 17' 35" EAST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID LOT 7, A DISTANCE OF 53.31 FEET; THENCE DEPARTING SAID NORTH LINE, SOUTH 00°41'47" EAST, A DISTANCE OF 285.00 FEET TO A POINT ON THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID LOT 7; THENCE SOUTH 89° 17' 35" WEST ALONG SAID SOUTH LINE, A DISTANCE OF 53.25 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

Property Address: 855 S. NARCOOSSEE RD., SAINT CLOUD, FL 34771

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 21st 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

Faxsimile: 561-997-6909

Service Email: mail@rasflaw.com

By: IS/Thomas Joseph

Thomas Joseph, Esquire

Florida Bar No. 123350

Communication Email: t.joseph@rasflaw.com

11-05987-DeT

June 30, 2018

July 5, 2018

MASTER ASSOCIATION, INC., are the Defendant(s). Armando Ramirez, as the Clerk of the Circuit Court, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at Suite 2600/ Room # 2602, 2 Courthouse Square, Kissimmee, FL 34741, at 11:00 A.M., on JULY 24, 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

LOT 30, EAGLE BAY PHASE ONE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 19, PAGES 8 THROUGH 14, INCLUSIVE, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Property Address: 2731 DODDS LANE, KISSIMMEE, FL 34743

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

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

DATED on this 21st 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

Faximile: 561-997-6909

Service Email: mail@rasflaw.com

By: /s/ Thomas Joseph

Thomas Joseph, Esquire

Florida Bar No. 123350

Communication Email: t.joseph@rasflaw.com

16-236135

June 30, 2018

July 7, 2018

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

Case #: 2009-CA-008311 MF CITIMORTGAGE, INC., Plaintiff, vs. NORMAN JAMES, JR, et al., Defendants.

RE-NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

RE-NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order Granting Plaintiff's Motion to Reschedule Foreclosure Sale filed June 7, 2018, and entered in Case No. 2009-CA-008311 MF of the Circuit Court of the NINTH Judicial Circuit, in and for OSCEOLA COUNTY, Florida, wherein CITIMORTGAGE, INC., is the Plaintiff, and NORMAN JAMES, JR, et al., are the Defendants.

RE-NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

RE-NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order Granting Plaintiff's Motion to Reschedule Foreclosure Sale filed June 7, 2018, and entered in Case No. 2009-CA-008311 MF of the Circuit Court of the NINTH Judicial Circuit, in and for OSCEOLA COUNTY, Florida, wherein CITIMORTGAGE, INC., is the Plaintiff, and NORMAN JAMES, JR, et al., are the Defendants.

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

DATED on this 21st 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

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Service Email: mail@rasflaw.com

By: /s/ Thomas Joseph

Thomas Joseph, Esquire

Florida Bar No. 123350

Communication Email: t.joseph@rasflaw.com

17-047373-DeT

June 30, 2018

July 7, 2018

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

FILE No.: 2011-GW-0036 PG IN RE: The Guardianship of Joseph Roberts.

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to Section 733.816, Florida Statutes, the Osceola Council on Aging, Inc., Guardian of Joseph Roberts has deposited the amount in excess of \$2,000.00 into the Registry of the Court account with the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Osceola County, Florida, for the reason said funds cannot be distributed or paid to the lawful owner because of inability to find the lawful owner or claimant, or, no lawful owner is known to exist, or, the lawful owner or claimant refused to accept such funds. Six (6) months subsequent to the date of the publishing of this notice, said funds will be deposited with the Chief Financial Officer, less Clerk's Fees, if such funds have not been claimed by the lawful owner or claimant thereof. Signed and dated this 22nd day of May 2018.

Dated: June 19, 2018.

Phelan Hallinan

Diamond & Jones, PLLC

Attorneys for Plaintiff

2001 NW 64th Street

Suite 100

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309

Tel: 954-462-7000

Fax: 954-462-7001

Service by email: FL.Service@PhelanHallinan.

(CIRCUIT COURT SEAL)

ARMANDO RAMIREZ
Clerk of the Circuit Court of Osceola County,
By: /s/ Stacie Conner
STACIE CONNER
Civil Division Administrator
Probate Division
May 31, 2018
June 30, 2018

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

Case No.: 2010-CA-02450 MF NEW PENN FINANCIAL LLC, D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING,

Plaintiff, vs.

TAMIA VANNEST, A/K/A TAMIA NICOLE VANNEST, Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

Pursuant to CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sale will be made pursuant to an Order or Final Judgment. Final Judgment was awarded on April 25, 2018, in Civil Case No. 2010-CA-4250-MF, of the Circuit Court of the NINTH Judicial Circuit in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein NEW PENN FINANCIAL LLC, D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING, is the Plaintiff, and TAMIA VANNEST, A/K/A TAMIA NICOLE VANNEST; CLINT VANNEST, A/K/A CLINTON RUSSELL VANNEST; JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, F/K/A WASHINGTON MUTUAL BANK; ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER AND AGAINST THE HEREIN NAMED INDIVIDUAL DE-

FENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SA

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD**

This is to inform you that the Planning Advisory Board of the City of Kissimmee will make a recommendation to the City Commission concerning a request to amend the Planned Unit Development for the project known as **Epoch Flora Ridge** for approval to amend the building height and uses.

The subject property is located at **Parcel ID: 05-25-29-00U-0011-0000; 05-25-29-00U-0020-0000; 08-25-29-00U-0039-0000**.

The Planning Advisory Board will hold a meeting to consider their recommendation on said request on **Wednesday, July 18, 2018**, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers of City Hall, 101 Church Street, Kissimmee, Florida.

All interested parties may appear and be heard on the above dates. Written opinion will be received until 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 18, 2018. Any questions may be directed to the Development Services Department at (407) 518-2140.

Reference # DRC# 18-00062 PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD
Epoch Flora Ridge KISSIMMEE, FLORIDA

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

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

June 30, 2018

**OSCEOLA CHAIN OF LAKES
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT****Notice of Audit Selection Committee Meeting and
Notice of Regular Board of Supervisor's Meeting**

Notice is hereby given that the Audit Selection Committee of the Osceola Chain of Lakes Community Development District ("the District"), will convene a meeting for the purpose of reviewing and approving evaluation criteria to be considered when reviewing proposals received by the District in response to its solicitation for audit services. The meeting will be convened on **Wednesday, July 11, 2018, at 1:30 p.m., at 313 Campus Street, Celebration, Florida 34747**.

Immediately following adjournment of the Audit Selection Committee meeting, the Board of Supervisors of the District will hold its general business meeting to consider any business that properly comes before it.

The meetings are open to the public and will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Florida law for independent special districts. The meetings may be continued without additional notice to a date, time, and place to be specified on the record at the meetings. Copies of the agendas for the meetings may be obtained at the office of the District Manager, 313 Campus Street, Celebration, Florida 34747, (321) 939-4301, during normal business hours. There may be occasions when staff or other individuals may participate by speaker telephone.

Any person requiring special accommodations at the public meetings because of disability or physical impairment should contact the District Office at (321) 939-4301, at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8770, for aid in contacting the District Office.

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

Gary L. Moyer
District Manager
June 30, 2018

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

The following personal property of SHARON ANN MCKAGUE, will, on July 9, 2018, at 10:00 a.m., at 3608 Wonderland Park Lane, Lot #3608, Kissimmee, Osceola County, Florida 34746; be sold for cash to satisfy storage fees in accordance with Florida Statutes, Section 715.109:

1973 SUNC MOBILE HOME,

VIN # 32D302FS2582 TITLE # 0010960254

and all other personal property located therein

PREPARED BY:
Jody B. Gabel
Lutz, Bob & Telfair, P.A.
2 North Tamiami Trail, Suite 500
Sarasota, Florida 34236
June 23, 30, 2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA,
IN AND FOR
OSCEOLA COUNTY
General Jurisdiction Division
Case No.:
49-2018-CA-000184 MF

DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL
AL TRUST COMPANY, AS
TRUSTEE FOR MORGAN
STANLEY ABS CAPITAL I
INC. TRUST 2006-NC4,
MORTGAGE PASS-
THROUGH CERTIFICATES,
SERIES 2006-NC4,
Plaintiff,
vs.
MICHAEL C. SENKOW,
ET. AL.,
Defendants.

**NOTICE OF
FORECLOSURE SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Summary Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered June 14, 2018 in Civil Case No. 49-2018-CA-000184-MF of the Circuit Court of the Ninth Judicial Circuit in and for Osceola County, Kissimmee, Florida, wherein DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR MORGAN STANLEY ABS CAPITAL I INC. TRUST 2006-NC4, MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-NC4, is the Plaintiff, and MICHAEL C. SENKOW, ET. AL., are Defendants.

**NOTICE OF
FORECLOSURE SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment dated June 7, 2018, entered in Civil Case No. 2016-CA-000575 in the Circuit Court of the 9th Judicial Circuit in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein MTGLQ INVESTORS, L.P., Plaintiff, and YRMIS M. ARREVILLAGA, ET AL., Defendants.

**NOTICE OF
FORECLOSURE SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment dated June 7, 2018, entered in Civil Case No. 09-CA-889-MF of the Circuit Court of the 9th Judicial Circuit in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON, AS SUCCESSOR INDENTURED TRUSTEE UNDER NOVASTAR MORTGAGE FUNDING TRUST 2005-2, Plaintiff, and SAIMA S. KHAN, ET. AL., Defendants.

**RE-NOTICE OF SALE
Puruant to CHAPTER 45**

NOTICE OF SALE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the order of Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated February 01, 2010, and entered in Case No. 09-CA-889-MF of the Circuit Court of the 9th Judicial Circuit in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON, AS SUCCESSOR INDENTURED TRUSTEE UNDER NOVASTAR MORTGAGE FUNDING TRUST 2005-2, is Plaintiff, and SAIMA S. KHAN, ET. AL., are Defendants.

**NOTICE OF
FORECLOSURE SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment dated June 7, 2018, entered in Civil Case No. 2016-CA-000575 in the Circuit Court of the 9th Judicial Circuit in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein MTGLQ INVESTORS, L.P., Plaintiff, and YRMIS M. ARREVILLAGA, ET AL., Defendants.

**NOTICE OF
FORECLOSURE SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment dated June 7, 2018, entered in Civil Case No. 09-CA-889-MF of the Circuit Court of the 9th Judicial Circuit in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON, AS SUCCESSOR INDENTURED TRUSTEE UNDER NOVASTAR MORTGAGE FUNDING TRUST 2005-2, is Plaintiff, and SAIMA S. KHAN, ET. AL., are Defendants.

**NOTICE OF
FORECLOSURE SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment dated June 7, 2018, entered in Civil Case No. 09-CA-889-MF of the Circuit Court of the 9th Judicial Circuit in and for Osceola County, Florida, wherein THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON, AS SUCCESSOR INDENTURED TRUSTEE UNDER NOVASTAR MORTGAGE FUNDING TRUST 2005-2, is Plaintiff, and SAIMA S. KHAN, ET. AL., are Defendants.

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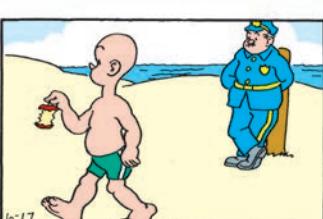
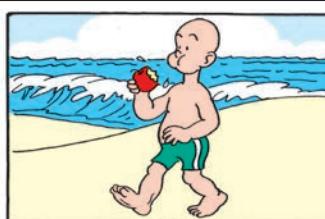
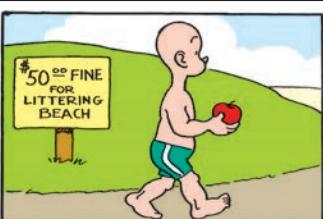
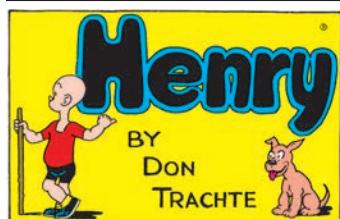
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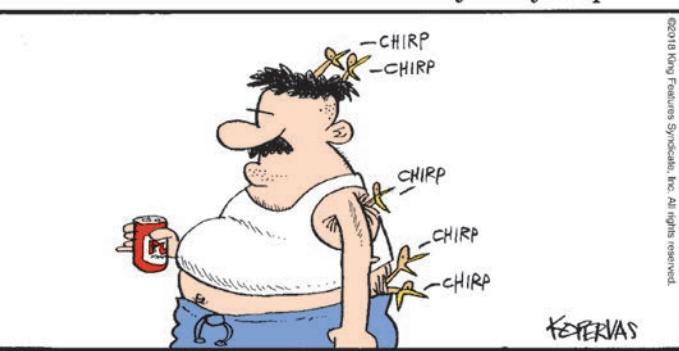
NOTICE IS HEREBY

BRAIN FOOD



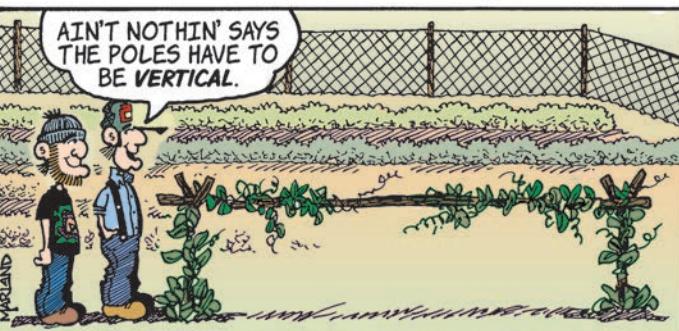
Out on a Limb

AS SPRING TURNS TO SUMMER, BIRDS BEGIN TO LEAVE THE NESTS THEY CREATED AROUND VARIOUS PARTS OF BERNARD'S BODY.



by Gary Kopervas

R.F.D.



by Mike Marland

Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

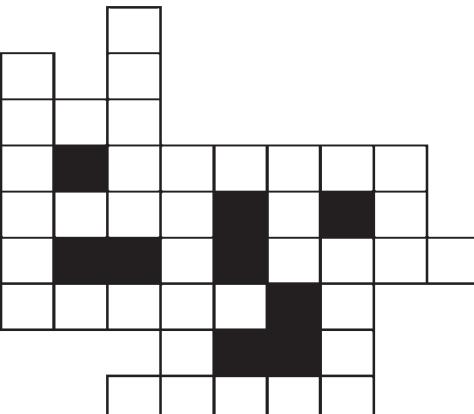
Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

1. Sports team list	R _____	Wanted sign	P _____
2. Released	E _____	Cooked in oil	I _____
3. Clothes stiffener	T _____	Browse the internet	E _____
4. Avocado color	N _____	From Athens	K _____
5. Put the lid on	V _____	Tremble	W _____
6. Silent	E _____	Grandma's blanket	L _____
7. Monkey with	A _____	Kind of tantrum	E _____
8. Restaurant lists	E _____	Subtract	I _____
9. Confess	P _____	Feel ill-will toward	S _____
10. Like Zorro	K _____	Like some potatoes	H _____

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By: rj johnson



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

NEW! 30 Fear Knot puzzles \$3.50 • Six Volumes • Order at rbmamall.com

MAGIC MAZE ● LONELY

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

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

Desert	Lighthouse	Outpost	Solo
Fire tower	Marooned	President	Space
Hermit	Mid-ocean	Single	The moon
Island	North Pole	Solitude	

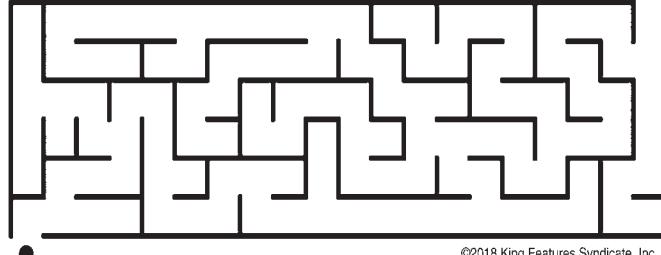
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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



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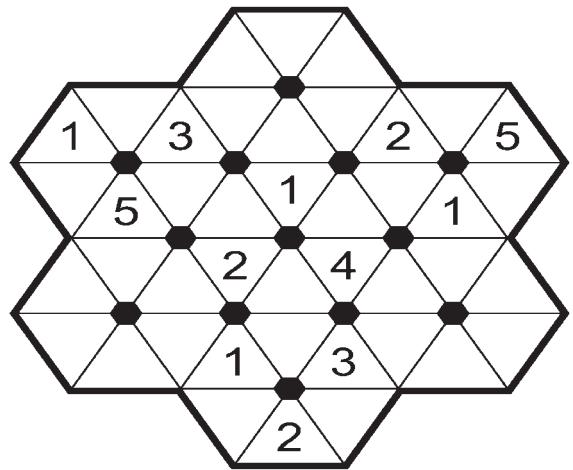
Kids' Maze



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Snowflakes by Japheth Light

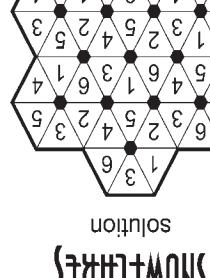
There are 13 black hexagons in the puzzle. Place the numbers 1 - 6 around each of them. No number can be repeated in any partial hexagon shape along the border of the puzzle.



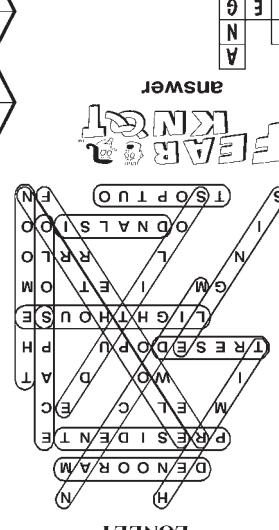
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆◆◆

◆ Easy ◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆◆ Difficult

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SNOWFLAKES



LONELY

Even Exchange answers

- 1. Roseter, Poster
- 2. Freed, Friend
- 3. Search, Seach
- 4. Green, Greek
- 5. Cover, Cover
- 6. Quiet, Quilt
- 7. Temper, Tempear
- 8. Menus, Minus
- 9. Repeat, Resent
- 10. Masked, Mashad



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OSCEOLA NEWS-GAZETTE Triple E

Section E

June 30, 2018

South rises in homebuilding

As goes the South, so goes U.S. home construction.

Nearly 60 percent of the newly built homes sold in May were in Southern states, according to the Census Bureau.

This is a stretch of the country that runs diagonally from Delaware down to Texas. The region encompasses 16 states — and in 1963 they represented just 36 percent of new homes being sold.

What becomes clear is that homebuilders are increasingly reliant

on the outward expansion of metro areas such as Houston, Dallas, Atlanta and much of Florida. These are areas where land is generally cheap, which means homes can be sold at lower price

points that attract more buyers.

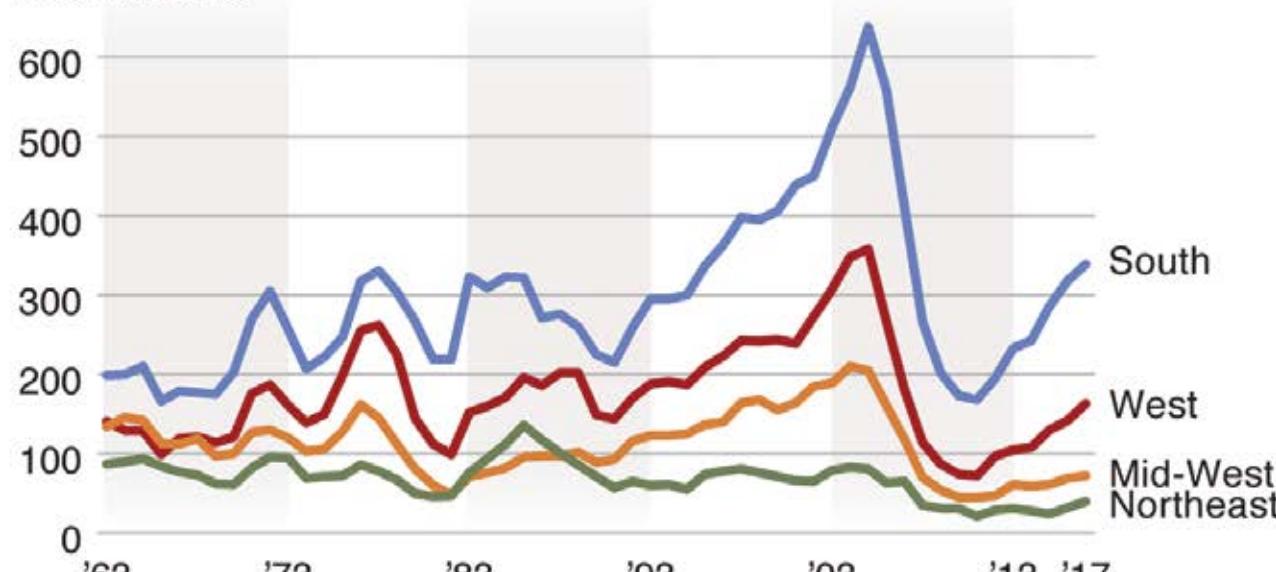
The median sales price of a new home in the South last year was \$291,200. That is about 40 percent less than the median sales price in the Northeast and 25 percent less than the median sales price in the West, gaps that have widened over time.



Annual number of newly built homes sold by region*

Dixie demand

Nearly 60 percent of new homes sold this May came from the South, a figure that has been steadily rising as prices have remained relatively affordable compared to the rest of the country.



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau; AP reporting *not seasonally adjusted

Josh Boak; J. Paschke • AP

Company Spotlight

A more appetizing recipe?

Shares in Chipotle Mexican Grill had their worst day in more than four months Thursday as investors weighed the Mexican food chain's sweeping turnaround plan.

The strategy, which the Denver-based company outlined late Wednesday, aims to burnish the chain's brand and grow its business, which has been struggling to regain its momentum since a 2015 E. coli outbreak sent sales plunging.

Among the changes: Chipotle will revamp its menu



and marketing communications, expand its online delivery business, launch a new customer loyalty program, restructure its business and close some restaurants.

"I can easily see a future where Chipotle more than doubles the business to \$10 billion in revenue," said CEO Brian Niccol.

The company expects that the initiatives will result in a second-quarter, one-time charge of between \$115 million and \$135 million.

Chipotle shares slid 6.3 percent Thursday.

Chipotle Mexican Grill (CMG) Thursday's close: \$428.36

52-WEEK RANGE

\$248 ■■■■■ \$475

Price-earnings ratio: 64

(Based on past 12-month results)

Price change 1-yr 3-yr* 5-yr*

CMG 2.8 -11.1 3.3

AP

*annualized

Source: FactSet

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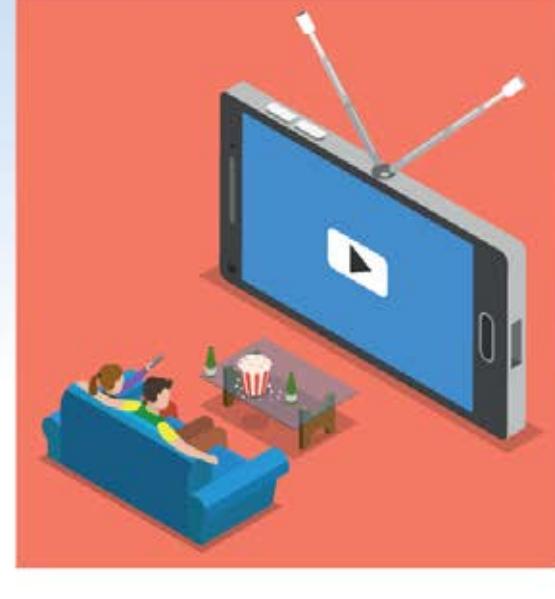


Outfoxed by cheaper TV

U.S. consumers are continuing to tune out when it comes to cable and satellite TV. And that has some analysts scratching their heads over the bidding war for a big chunk of Twenty-First Century Fox.

In the first quarter, U.S. video subscriptions among the biggest pay TV providers fell by 3.5 percent compared to a year earlier, continuing a decline that has only accelerated for nearly two years.

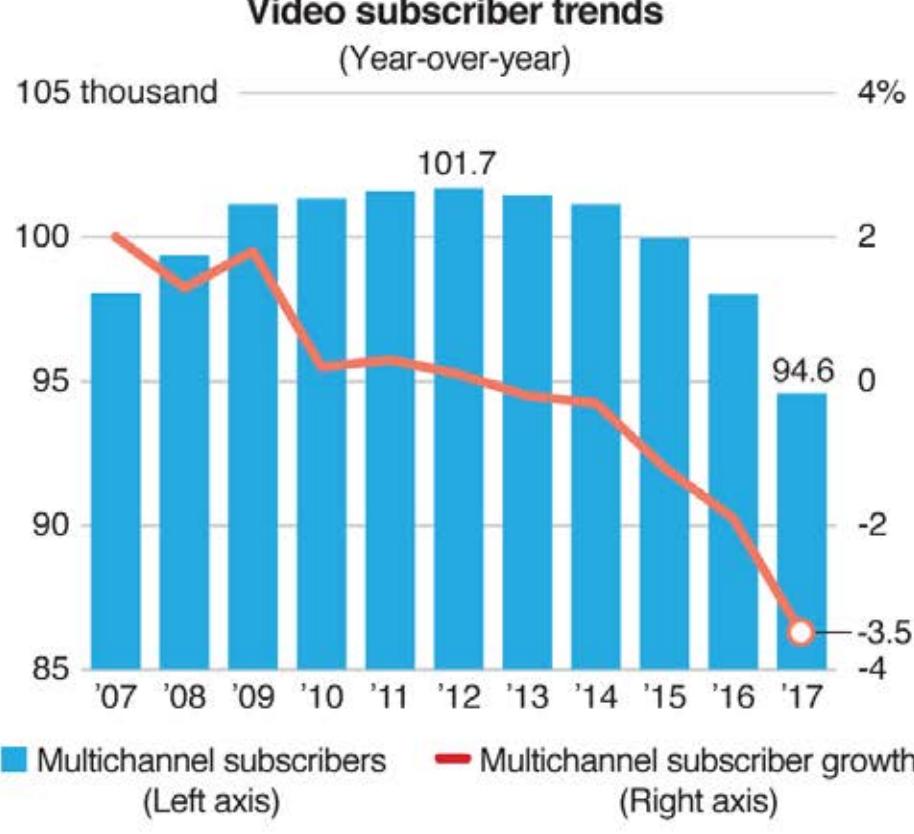
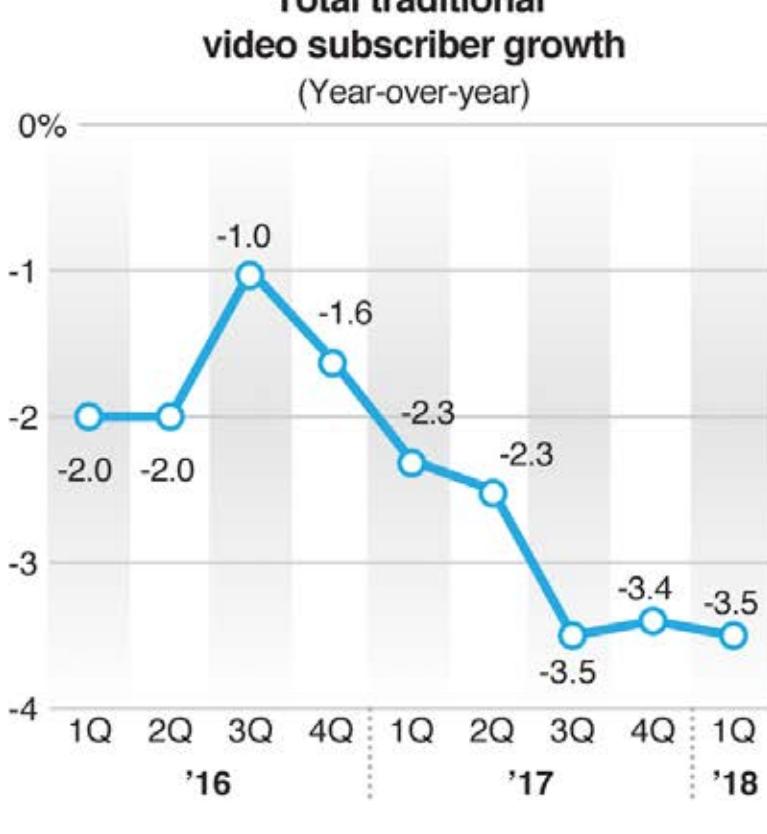
Continued cord cutting shows that consumers want "cheap access to content," says Cowen analyst Doug Creutz. And they're starting to find it in the form of online cable



substitutes such as YouTube TV, DirecTV Now, Sling, Sony Playstation Vue and Hulu with Live TV.

To Creutz, the Comcast-Disney war over the bulk of Fox reflects a fundamental misreading of the video marketplace. Fox's TV and satellite networks may be overvalued, he argues, because people aren't willing to pay as much for live video channels these days. Comcast and Disney are also both doing fine with their current strategies, he says.

Since Disney upped its bid to \$71 billion on June 20, Disney shares are down about 3 percent, while Comcast's are off 3 percent.



Sources: Kagan; Company data; Cowen and Company

Ryan Nakashima; Alex Nieves • AP

Company Spotlight Scare for SCANA

SCANA shares slumped Wednesday after South Carolina state legislators proposed a rate-cut plan that could scuttle a tie-up between the electric and gas utility and Virginia's Dominion Energy.

The bill being considered by state lawmakers would temporarily cut the rates that South Carolina Electric & Gas charges its customers by nearly 15 percent. SCANA is the parent company of SCE&G.

Should the bill pass, it could end up



tanking Dominion Energy's proposed buyout of SCANA.

Dominion Energy has warned it might pull its offer to acquire SCANA if the proposed rate cuts become law.

Legislators want to recoup some of the money from surcharges that SCE&G passed on to customers over a decade as it paid for two nuclear reactors that never generated a kilowatt of power before being shuttered last summer.

SCANA slid 4.4 percent Wednesday.

SCANA (SCG)	Wednesday's close: \$36.79	Total return SCG	1-yr -44.3	3-yr* -6.8	5-yr* -1.8
52-WEEK RANGE	\$34 ● \$70	Price-earnings ratio: Lost money (Based on past 12-month results)			
AP		Div. yield: 6.7%		Dividend: \$2.45	

*annualized

Source: FactSet

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China tariffs could erode remaining US shark fin business

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — A new set of Chinese tariffs on U.S. seafood including items made from shark fins could further erode what remains of the American industry for the controversial products.

China announced the 25 percent tariffs in mid-June that are expected to apply to exported American goods such as lobster and salmon beginning in July. They also will apply to whole or cut shark fins, as well as shark fin products that are canned or preserved, according to a Chinese government website.

The U.S. has long banned "shark finning," a practice long reviled by animal welfare groups that involves removing the fin from a shark and discarding the animal at sea. It is still legal to remove and sell the fin of a legally harvested shark after it is brought to land.

The steep tariffs, which could turn away business from U.S. exporters, might have implications for American shark fishermen and processors.

China is one of the biggest buyers of shark fins, as the product is used to make shark fin soup, an Asian delicacy.

"My sense is that's going to decrease demand for sustainably fished U.S. shark fins, and increase demand from countries with less sustainable fisheries," said Shaun Gehan, an attorney for Sustainable Shark Alliance, which represents shark fishermen and dealers. "It'll just be a hardship for the small fish houses and the fishermen that participate in this fishery."

Hundreds of fishermen in the U.S. seek numerous species of shark for their meat and fins in a tightly regulated fishery. The fins represent about a quarter of the value of a shark, and fins that U.S. fishermen harvest are often shipped to Asia for processing.

Animal advocates and environmentalists have long called for a complete ban on the shark fin trade because they believe it jeopardizes threatened



In this Feb. 14, 2011, file photo shows shark fins available for sale at \$480 and \$495 a pound at a store in Chinatown in San Francisco. A new set of Chinese tariffs on U.S. seafood includes products made from shark fins, and the move could jeopardize what remains of the American fin business.

species of shark. Oceana campaign director Whitney Webber said a national fin ban would "reinforce the status of the United States as a leader in shark conservation."

But China's new tariffs could have the opposite effect, potentially increasing demand for shark fins from countries where fisheries are not as well managed, said Robert Hueter, a senior scientist and director of the Center for Shark Research at Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota, Florida.

"They can get fins from anywhere, and they don't need it from us," Hueter said. "This is hurting U.S. fishermen, not really solving any kind of problem."



In this Jan. 3, 2013 file photo, a worker collects pieces of shark fins dried on the rooftop of a factory building in Hong Kong.

believe fins will be a casualty of a U.S.-China trade war. Raymond Wong, a New York-based shark

fin dealer, said the tariffs can be easily bypassed by shipping fins to Hong Kong, which is a common

destination for them anyway.

"If I get dogfish fin from

Maine or wherever, I can send it to Hong Kong," he said. "I've been sending dogfish to Hong Kong for a while. I am OK."

New fears in Russia as researcher of Stalin purges arrested

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian authorities this week brought fresh legal action against an acclaimed researcher into Stalin's purges, accusing him of sexual misconduct toward his underage daughter, in what human rights groups see as a trumped-up attempt to shut down his work at a time when the government is seeking to gloss over Soviet-era crimes.

Yuri Dmitriyev denies wrongdoing. His arrest Wednesday comes as Russia is hosting the World Cup and trying to showcase cleaned-up cities and stadiums and play down its repressive reputation.

Dmitriyev's older daughter, Ekaterina Klodt, told The Associated Press Friday she believes her father is being persecuted for his research and activism.

"Somebody doesn't like the work that he does," Klodt said.

The arrest was the latest step in a lengthy legal case. Dmitriyev had already spent over a year in jail before being acquitted this spring on child pornography charges, but the acquittal was later overturned.

The initial charges against Dmitriyev, who heads the local branch of the Memorial human rights group, centered on nine photographs of Dmitriyev's adopted daughter discovered on his home computer. Dmitriyev said he was regularly photographing the girl to document her health.

Investigators in the northern region of Karelia, near the border with Finland, said Thursday that Dmitriyev, 62, now faces new accusations of sexually abusing his daughter in 2012-2016. It was unclear what brought on the new accusations and investigators declined to comment.

The European Union questioned the "dubious charges"

against him. The case has shocked the Russian human rights community, which sees it as an attempt to discredit his work commemorating Stalin's victims. The country's best-known writers, historians and other public

figures have campaigned in his defense. Earlier this year, just released from prison, Dmitriyev was given a prestigious human rights award by the Moscow Helsinki Group.

In 1997, Dmitriyev, a self-taught researcher and ethnographer, discovered a mass grave in the woods of Karelia full of skulls that had holes in them. So began a two-decade-long effort to locate, identify and commemorate more than 9,500 victims assassinated there on Josef Stalin's orders in the 1930s. Through archival work and expeditions in the woods, Dmitriyev turned the unknown killing field into a memorial where the relatives

of the dead could finally pay their respects, lay flowers and cry. A giant stone marking the site, known as Sandomokh, is engraved with the words "People, Don't Kill Each Other."

"It cannot be that a person would just disappear without a trace. If he was starved to death or executed, the person must have a grave," Dmitriyev said in one video interview before his arrest.

"Memory is what makes us human."

Dmitriyev's supporters speculate that he drew local officials' ire when the commemoration events at Sandomokh started attracting broad public attention. Some experts also believe that because the Russian government today is heavily staffed and influenced by members of security agencies, whose predecessors conducted the purges, Dmitriyev's work is a thorn in their sides.

Writer Dmitry Bykov said Dmitriyev's case is a metaphor for today's Russia.

"If you were to prosecute a saint, of course, don't do it for embezzlement or the fact that he beat someone, but ascribe to him the dirtiest thing possible," he said in a video statement in Dmitriyev's defense.

"There is no better testament of the times we live in."

Dmitriyev's legal troubles began in 2016, when police found nearly 200 photos on his hard drive, and nine were deemed pornographic, according to Dmitriyev's lawyer Viktor Anufriev.

Dmitriyev's colleague, Irina Galkova, observed him and his daughter together three years ago during one of Dmitriyev's expeditions and staunchly disputes the accusations against him.

"On every occasion it was 'Daddy, daddy, daddy,'" Galkova said. "You could see

that he was such an important person in her life."

The AP does not identify alleged victims of sexual assault by name.

Dmitriyev, himself an orphan, adopted the girl when she was 3 after his two biological children had grown up. The girl was frail and always hungry, Dmitriyev said in a recent interview. She ate bananas non-stop and shook with anticipation at the sight of pasta.

Dmitriyev started keeping a photo diary of the girl's wellbeing after the staff at her daycare noticed marks on her body and suspected Dmitriyev of beating her. Dmitriyev says the marks were traces of newspaper ink left after he treated his daughter with mustard plasters, a remedy widely used in post-Soviet countries for colds and the flu.

An advertisement for 'THE GUIDE' magazine. The top half features the title 'THE GUIDE' in large red letters. Below it, there are several smaller sections with headings like 'Are You Pregnant?', 'ANIMAL EMERGENCY', 'ALEJANDRO RIVERA ATTORNEY AT LAW', and 'CIVIL LITIGATION'. The bottom half shows a collage of various service ads including 'TRINITY DIP TANNING', 'OVERNIGHT GETAWAY', 'CASINO', and 'ALEXANDER RIVERA ATTORNEY AT LAW'.

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House Ad

NBC's new 'Today' team marks 6 months

NEW YORK (AP) — Never let it be said that Savannah Guthrie doesn't have her partner's back.

Hoda Kotb left behind her glasses after a recent meeting so her "Today" show co-host scooped them up, although she's not above pointing out that they needed a wash.

Guthrie and Kotb mark six months together next week, a partnership thrust upon them by November's firing of Matt Lauer on sexual misconduct charges. Their performance has allowed NBC News to recover from the shock with little apparent damage to its most valuable property, even as morning television in general adjusts to a world in which many people reach for smartphones instead of TV remotes upon waking.

"We're falling into a rhythm," Kotb said. "We understand when the other is going to jump in on something. It's almost like jumping rope. You start getting the hang of it."

You can sense the exhales in NBC corporate suites, where fear of the unknown was real. Lauer had dominated "Today" for two decades, the highest-paid talent in television news, and disappeared from the screen with no notice. A former morning producer predicted in the Los Angeles Times that "Today" would lose between 10 to 15 percent of its audience without him.

Instead, the 4.2 million viewers that "Today" has averaged since Lauer's departure is down 2 percent from the same period a year earlier, a smaller decline than rivals "Good Morning America" and "CBS This Morning." "Today" typically runs a narrow second to ABC's show in popularity and leads among the 25-to-

54-year-old demographic, the measuring stick for most advertising sales.

"The partnership between Savannah and Hoda has worked out in wonderful ways that we expected and wonderful ways that we couldn't have anticipated," said Noah Oppenheim, NBC News president. "Building on their partnership, the rest of the show has taken on different colors and textures that are resonating with the audience."

Yet after doing surprisingly well over the holidays and getting a boost from the Winter Olympics, NBC has fallen consistently back to second place. One worrisome number for a show that has two women as co-hosts for the first time in its history: since the Olympics, NBC's viewership among men in the advertising demographic has declined 14 percent compared with last year, while ABC is up 2 percent, Nielsen said.

Guthrie, a former White House correspondent for NBC News, has been co-host since 2012. Kotb is a news veteran, too, although best known to "Today" viewers for pairing with Kathie Lee Gifford on the show's boozy fourth hour.

While each has an area of expertise, Guthrie's political experience makes her a natural for those interviews — the morning demands versatility.

"I wasn't looking to be the big man on campus," Guthrie said.

"Big woman," corrected Libby Leist, the show's executive producer.

The hosts' experience sent a message of stability that got the show through its difficulties, she said.

"That's why I think the show has done so well, because you weren't sitting



"Today" show co-anchors Savannah Guthrie, left, and Hoda Kotb pose on set at NBC Studios on Wednesday, June 27, 2018, in New York.

there thinking, 'Who's that person? What kind of experience does that person bring?'" Leist said. "You kind of felt that it was going to be all right."

The phrase "looking forward" is usually heard when someone at "Today" is asked now about Lauer.

"Some things you just carry," Kotb said. "You go on about your life and you might turn something on or flip a page and see a story about it. It's like picking at a scab. It hurts, but at the same time you know you have a big responsibility and you go on. But if you forget everything, maybe you never cared in the first place."

Leist has tweaked the

show, keeping its bones intact. She places special emphasis on explaining complex issues clearly to viewers, and the show isn't seduced by the latest smartphone bulletins. Fascination with the internet is fading; viewers don't always need to know what's trending or what video has gone viral. She and the hosts are shaping the show with their own news judgment — last week they debated whether a story on the accidental drowning of skier Bode Miller's daughter was too depressing, but ultimately felt it was important to warn about the dangers of toddlers and pools.

"Today" also seeks its

own twist on interviews,

and Craig Melvin's tense talk with Bill Clinton about Monica Lewinsky made news.

Beyond the substance, morning-show teams are judged to a large extent on whether viewers want to spend time during an intimate part of the day with the people onscreen. NBC isn't so far removed from the days of Lauer and Ann Curry to forget what happens when chemistry goes terribly wrong.

"I can't figure out which

one is Thelma and which one is Louise," said Gail Shister, longtime television columnist at the Philadelphia Inquirer and now a University of Pennsylvania professor. "They're so

wacky and unpredictable. I think they've got wonderful chemistry."

Kotb is continuing the show's fourth hour with Gifford. Published rumors have NBC considering switching Megyn Kelly's third hour with the fourth, although Oppenheim said it's not being contemplated "right this second." Kotb will go with the flow: "Drinking at nine or drinking at 10, it's still drinking," she quipped.

Guthrie said a new team gives "Today" an opportunity to take chances.

"You can be joyful and light, but also substantive and not silly," she said. "I think we're all trying to move in that direction, to be fun and not frivolous."

Joe Jackson turned his children into stars, but at a price

NEW YORK (AP) — Joe Jackson once had his own dreams of success. He tried to be a boxer and then played guitar with a group called The Falcons. But he realized early on that there was an overwhelming pool of musical talent in his children, particularly little bright-eyed boy named Michael.

He channeled his ambition through them, creating one of the greatest pop vocal groups, The Jackson Five, and launched the career of one of entertainment's greatest legends in Michael Jackson, as well as another superstar talent, daughter Janet.

Yet the legacy of Jackson, who died Wednesday in Las Vegas at the age of 89, was steeped not only in the brilliant guidance of his children into the world's premiere entertainment dynasty, but the iron fist with which he did it.

Michael described beatings with the switch of a tree branch, and a fear so great of his father that he would sometimes vomit at the sight of him. His children called him Joseph — they weren't allowed to call him by familiar terms.

"You call me Joseph," Janet Jackson recalled her father telling her once when she called him dad. "I'm Joseph to you."

By the time they were all adults, his children severed professional ties to him, pre-

ferring to let others guide the careers he once nurtured.

Still, in times of turmoil, it was Joe that they continued to turn to. When Michael Jackson stood trial on allegations that he sexually abused a child (he was acquitted), it was Joe Jackson who was at his side on most days. Janet Jackson rationalized that her father wanted the best for his children, even if he didn't go about it the right way.

And La Toya Jackson,

who once accused her father of physical and sexual abuse, later blamed her abusive former husband for coercing her to say it. In later years, relished her time with her father.

On Wednesday, she delivered a loving tribute to him.

"I will always love you!

You gave us strength, you made us one of the most famous families in the world.

I am extremely appreciative of that, I will never forget our moments together and how you told me how much you cared," she wrote on Twitter.

Joseph Walter Jackson was born in Fountain Hill, Arkansas, on July 26, 1928. He was the eldest of four children to a high school teacher and a house wife. When he was 12, his parents split and he moved with his father to Oakland, California. At 18, he moved to Indiana to live near his mother in East Chicago.

It was in Indiana that he met and married Katherine Scruse, with whom he settled in Gary. He worked as a welder and crane operator, sometimes holding as many as three jobs at a time to support his family.

He abandoned his musical ambitions in part because of his burgeoning brood, which would eventually swell to include nine children — Rebbe, Jackie, Tito, Jermaine, La Toya, Marlon, Michael, Randy and youngest sister Janet — all living in a three-room house in Gary.

(A 10th child, Brandon, was stillborn.) He kept his guitar — but made it clear it was off limits to anyone but him.

His children didn't listen. One day, the older brothers broke a string on the beloved guitar, as Michael Jackson described in his autobiography "Moonwalk."

Fearing a beating, Tito Jackson hid in fear, but when his father demanded he show what he could do with the guitar, he did — and Joe Jackson was awed. And a musical group was born.

Michael joined the group at age 8, and was its showstopper from the beginning. A bundle of energy with a high-pitched voice, amazing dance moves and a smile that wouldn't quit, he quickly became the lead singer. His father invested in professional equipment for the children,

booked tour dates and became their manager. That eventually led to a contract with Motown Records for his five oldest boys, a deal that launched them into superstardom with their bubblegum pop-soul sound.

Years later, he helped maneuver their exit from Motown to Epic Records when he felt that the legendary label was stifling his sons' creativity. They became The Jacksons, with Jermaine staying with Motown and brother Randy joining the group. They eventually wrote their own music, leading to Michael Jackson's growth as a singer-songwriter.

Michael Jackson credited

his father with making sure his children weren't cheated by industry vultures, and noted that unlike some child stars, his parents didn't take their children's money to enrich themselves.

"I'd say we're among a fortunate few artists who walked away from a childhood in the business with anything substantial — money, real estate,

other investments. My father set all these up for us," Jackson wrote in his 1988 autobiography.

"But still I don't know him, and that's sad for a son who hungers to understand his own father. He's still a mystery to me and may always be one."

The relationship with

many of his children never

improved. Janet Jackson said in a CNN interview in 2011 that she rarely spoke to her father, and by adulthood, they had severed ties with Jackson as their manager.

When Michael Jackson

died of an overdose of the anesthetic propofol in 2009, he had been estranged from his father, and his bodyguards

recall not allowing Joe Jackson in when he attempted to see the superstar at his estate.

Joe was not mentioned in

Michael's will. Jackson only

provided for his three children and mother Katherine, who was named as the children's guardian.

That led Joe Jackson to wage a fruitless legal war seeking compensation from various entities.

In his own autobiography,

Jackson acknowledged being

a stern parent, saying he

believed it was the only way

to prepare his children for the

tough world of show business.

But he denied many of

the claims of physical abuse.

No longer involved in his

children's careers, Joseph

Jackson launched a boot

camp for aspiring hip-hop

artists, promoting lyrics without vulgarity and sponsoring

competitions for young artists from across the country.

He spent most of his time at a

home in Las Vegas and traveled the country auditioning

talent for the competition.

"He was never given the

credit he deserved," the Rev.

Al Sharpton wrote on Twitter following the death. "He influenced the world of music with the Jackson 5, Michael Jackson, Janet Jackson and others. May history correct his legacy."

Jackson, a green-eyed dandy who wore a pencil-thin mustache and huge diamond pinky ring, faced allegations by his wife of infidelity. She accused him of fathering a child by another woman — a daughter named Joh'Vonnie Jackson. Katherine filed for divorce twice but never followed through.

"We just let our troubles die out," Joseph Jackson said

in 1988, following a reconciliation.

"We survived. We love each other, and we have children. That's why we're together."

The family also came together in 2010, when Michael's physician, Conrad Murray, stood trial on Michael's overdose death. Joseph, Katherine and several of Michael's siblings watched as Murray was convicted of involuntary manslaughter, a verdict that provided some comfort for the family.

Joe Jackson is survived by his wife, eight of his children with Katherine, daughter Joh'Vonnie Jackson and more than two dozen grandchildren.

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Court's ruling hits teachers unions, but how hard is unclear

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Teachers unions are hoping that recent grass-roots protests over pay and working conditions will blunt the impact of a U.S. Supreme Court ruling on union fees and help persuade dues-paying members not to abandon them.

The court said in a 5-4 ruling Wednesday that government workers can no longer be required to pay fees to labor organizations that represent them in collective bargaining.

The non-members paying those fees are only a small portion of the people represented by teachers unions, which are more concerned about a potentially bigger financial blow if members decide to opt out and join those who benefit from the bargaining representation without having to pay for it.

That leaves unions fighting to prove their worth and relevance.

"There has been an interesting surge in union militancy and strikes, whether we look at the West Virginia teachers, the Tennessee teachers, all of those teachers strikes this past spring occurred in right to work states, where supposedly unions were not strong. And those were some of the largest movements of workers that we've seen in a long time," said Ileen DeVault, a Cornell University professor of labor history and director of The Worker Institute at Cornell.

"I think the inequality in our country has reached a point where people really can't stand for it going any lower. Even Republicans may learn why it was better to have unions rather than to have people out in the streets on strike," she said.

The court's ruling provides "a powerful opportunity for union leaders to hit the reset button," said Kate Walsh, president of the National Council on Teacher Quality, a research and policy group.

"Union leaders in this sector have too often confused their protection and advocacy for some members with their obligation to the profession at large," she said.



AP

In this Oct. 5, 2015 file photo, the Supreme Court is seen in Washington. Teachers unions are hoping that recent grass-roots protests over pay and working conditions will blunt the impact of a U.S. Supreme Court ruling on union fees and help persuade dues-paying members not to abandon them.

The teachers unions hope the successful protests will blunt the impact of the court's ruling.

The head of the largest teachers union, National Education Association President Lily Eskelsen Garcia, said the demonstrations helped recruit new members and illustrate the power of a collective voice.

"I think there are a whole lot of people paying attention now that maybe weren't paying attention before," she said.

She and American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten accused the high court of siding with wealthy business interests over the working class and emphasized their unions aren't going anywhere.

But supporters of the rul-

ing hailed it as a victory for non-union employees who object to paying unions that might be advocating for political causes with which they disagree.

"Public sector unions will now have to prioritize how they spend their funds without the revenue stream of nonmembers' compelled agency fees," said Elizabeth Slattery of the conservative-leaning Heritage Foundation.

The teachers unions have been bracing for the court's decision since it split 4-4 when it considered the issue in 2016 following the death of Justice Antonin Scalia. Like other public-sector unions, they say they've tried to be extra-attentive to member concerns and boost one-on-one communication with members,

making a case for the value of unions in anticipation of an increased push by opponents of organized labor to pressure members to leave.

"That's where our concern comes in," said Melissa Cropper, president of the Ohio Federation of Teachers. "When people start getting social media ads, getting things in their mail, getting people knocking on their door saying, 'Give yourself a raise. Don't pay your union dues anymore,' what impact will that have on our membership?"

Unions can only guess to what extent the ruling might dent their funding, services and political advocacy. They argue it should be a matter of public interest because unions bargain not only issues like teachers' wages and benefits but

also class sizes and other elements that affect students' learning environments.

"When you see attacks on unions, that can have an impact on what's happening in the classroom, and that's what should be concerning to people," Cropper said.

In the short term, unions will lose some resources, members and maybe even staff, making it hard for them to be effective, said Robert Bruno, a professor of labor and employment relations at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

He said the long-term impact — whether it be shrinking union membership or a resurgence and more activism — depends on how unions have prepared for and react to this

shift, and whether teachers in collective-bargaining states can preserve other industry-related public policies, such as the ability to bargain health insurance or pensions.

If unions weaken and working conditions worsen, educators may look for ways to fight back, whether it's at the bargaining table or in public demonstrations to state governments, Bruno said.

"They will stand and take a bullet for a kid," Bruno said. "If they think that they can march on a state capital and they can shut a school down and they can get attention to the needs of that school then, you know, I think they're going to do it."

Finnish neutrality key to Helsinki hosting US-Russia summit

HELSINKI (AP) — Helsinki, the capital of Finland, will host a July 16 summit between Russian President Vladimir Putin and U.S. President Donald Trump. Here is a look at what makes the Nordic country a popular spot for high-level meetings:

FINLAND STICKS TO NEUTRALITY

Finland has a long tradition of hosting U.S.-Russia summits, particularly during the Cold War, when the country was a neutral buffer state and its capital, Helsinki, served as a gateway between the Communist East and the West.

The small Nordic nation of 5.5 million people has a 1,340-kilometer (830-mile) border with Russia — and a complex history with its large neighbor. As a part of the Swedish Kingdom, it took part in dozens of con-

flicts with Russia over the past centuries and fought two wars with the Soviet Union during World War II, from 1939-40 and 1941-44. In the postwar period, however, Finland pursued pragmatic political and economic ties with Moscow.

President Sauli Niinisto has nurtured a close relationship with Putin, as did his predecessor Tarja Halonen, and has equally good ties with U.S. President Donald Trump, whom he met at the White House last year.

HOW FINLAND CAME TO BE

The area known today as

Finland served as a battlefield for Russian-Swedish conflicts for centuries, and fell in 1809 into Russian hands in Europe's Napoleonic Wars after 700 years of Swedish rule. However, as an autonomous Grand

Duchy of the Russian Empire, it was allowed to develop politically — having its own parliament — and economically, eventually leading to independence from Soviet-Russia in the turmoil surrounding the Russian Revolution in 1917.

LONG TIES TO GIANT NEIGHBOR RUSSIA

Finns, who last year celebrated the centenary of regaining their independence, have secured friendly ties with Moscow by pledging neutrality and a non-alignment policy and developing trade with the Russians.

West German politicians and scholars dubbed the policy "Finlandization" in the 1970s, using it in a derisive way to describe the influence of a powerful country in the policies of a

smaller neighbor. The term is much detested by Finns.

With big public support, Finland joined the European Union in 1995 and was one of original euro-zone members, adopting the shared euro currency in 2002.

But Finland is not a member of NATO and most Finns remain opposed to NATO membership today, according to polls, though many politicians in the current center-right government favor it.

FINLAND AND THE COLD WAR

Finland's post-WWII foreign policy was defined by its fine balancing act of maintaining the small country's good relations with the West — particularly with the United States — and the Soviet Union during the Cold War.

At the height of detente in

the 1970s, President Urho Kekkonen hosted a U.S.-Soviet summit in Helsinki in 1975 where U.S. President Gerald Ford, Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev and others signed the Helsinki Accords, a watershed commitment to peace, security and human rights.

In the 1980s, Finland also served as convenient base for high-ranking U.S. officials keen to tap the Finns' knowledge of the Soviet Union, often en route to Moscow. In May 1988, President Ronald Reagan met with Finnish President Mauno Koivisto in Helsinki on his way to the USSR.

OTHER HISTORIC MEETINGS IN FINLAND

After the 1989 fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Finland continued

to maintain equally good relations with Moscow and Washington while integrating more deeply into Western security structures.

In September 1990, the Finns hosted a U.S.-Soviet summit between U.S. President George H.W. Bush and the last Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, in Helsinki over Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the situation in the Middle East.

President Bill Clinton met his Russian counterpart Boris Yeltsin there in March 1997 to discuss NATO expansion into former Soviet bloc countries.

Recently, a Finnish state-owned manor just outside Helsinki has been the venue for several international meetings, including delegations from the Korean peninsula and the United States, and top military leaders of Russia and the United States.



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Nice and easy



This undated photo provided by America's Test Kitchen in May 2018 shows barbecued beef brisket in Brookline, Mass. This recipe appears in the cookbook "Master of the Grill."

AP

How to speed up a slow-cooking barbecued beef brisket

In researching recipes for barbecued brisket, we found that cooks could agree on one thing: slow-cooking (for up to 12 hours) to tenderize the meat.

We wanted to figure out a way to make cooking this cut of meat less daunting and less time-consuming, and we wanted to trade in a professional smoker for a backyard grill.

We brined the brisket to season it throughout and to make sure the meat remained juicy even after hours on the grill. In our tests, we had trouble figuring out how to maintain a low temperature in the grill without frequently refueling.

But then we realized that fire can burn down as well as up. We layered unlit briquettes on the bottom of our grill and added hot coals on top for a fire that burned consistently in the optimal 300 F range

for about 3 hours. We then transferred the brisket to the oven to finish cooking.

BARBECUED BEEF BRISKET

Servings: 8-10

Start to finish: 7 hours and 15 minutes, plus 30 minutes to rest brisket

If your brisket is smaller than 5 pounds or the fat cap has been removed, or if you are using a small charcoal grill, it may be necessary to build an aluminum foil shield in order to keep the brisket from becoming too dark. To do this, make two 1/2-inch folds on the long side of an 18-by-20-inch piece of heavy-duty aluminum foil to form a reinforced edge.

Place the foil on the center of the cooking grate, with the reinforced edge over the hotter side of the grill. Position the brisket fat side down over the cooler side of the grill so that it covers

about half of the foil. Pull the foil over the brisket to loosely tent it. Some of the traditional accompaniments to barbecued brisket include barbecue sauce, sliced white bread or saltines, pickle chips, and thinly sliced onion.

1 (5- to 6-pound) beef brisket, flat cut, untrimmed

2/3 cup salt

1/2 cup plus 2 tablespoons sugar

3 wood chunks, preferably hickory, or 2 cups wood chips (if using gas)

3 tablespoons kosher salt

2 tablespoons pepper

1 (13 by 9-inch) disposable aluminum roasting pan (if using charcoal) or 1 (9-inch) disposable aluminum pie plate (if using gas)

Lightly score brisket fat cap in 1-inch crosshatch pattern, being careful not to cut into meat. Dissolve salt and 1/2 cup sugar in 4 quarts cold water in large

container. Submerge brisket in brine, cover, and refrigerate for 2 hours.

While brisket brines, soak wood chunks in water for at least 1 hour; drain. If using gas, soak wood chips in water for 15 minutes, then drain. Using large piece of heavy-duty aluminum foil, wrap chips in 8 by 4 1/2-inch foil packet. (Make sure chips do not poke holes in sides or bottom of packet.) Cut 2 evenly spaced 2-inch slits in top of packet.

Combine remaining 2 tablespoons sugar, kosher salt, and pepper in bowl. Remove brisket from brine and pat dry with paper towels. Transfer to rimmed baking sheet and rub salt mixture over entire brisket and into slits.

For a charcoal grill: Open bottom vent halfway and place disposable roasting pan on 1 side of grill. Add 2 cups water to pan. Arrange 3 quarts unlit

charcoal briquettes banked against other side of grill.

Light large chimney starter two-thirds filled with charcoal (4 quarts).

When top coals are partially covered with ash, pour

on top of unlit charcoal

to cover one-third of grill

with coals steeply banked

against side of grill.

Place soaked wood chunks on

top of coals. Set cooking

grate in place, cover, and

open lid vent halfway.

Heat grill until hot, about

5 minutes.

For a gas grill: Remove cooking grate and place wood chip packet directly on primary burner. Place disposable pie plate filled with 2 cups water on other burner(s). Set cooking

grate in place, turn

all burners to high, cover,

and heat grill until hot and

wood chips are smoking,

about 15 minutes. Turn

primary burner to medium

and turn off other

burner(s). (Adjust primary

burner as needed to maintain grill temperature of 250 F to 300 F.)

Clean and oil cooking grate. Place brisket on cooler side of grill, fat side down, as far away from

coals and flames as possible with thickest side facing coals and flames.

Cover (position lid vent over meat if using charcoal) and cook for 3 hours.

During final 20 minutes of grilling, adjust oven rack to middle position and heat oven to 325 F.

Set wire rack in rimmed baking sheet lined with foil and transfer brisket to rack. Roast in oven until tender and meat registers 195 F, about 2 hours.

Transfer brisket to carving board, tent with foil, and let rest for 30 minutes. Slice brisket against grain into long, thin slices and serve.

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White House faces hard deadline on reunited migrant families

MCALLEN, Texas (AP) — The clock is ticking for the Trump administration after a federal judge ordered thousands of migrant children and parents reunited within 30 days, sooner if the youngster is under 5.

The hard deadline was set Tuesday night by U.S. District Judge Dana Sabraw in San Diego after President Donald Trump's order ending the forced separation of families at the Mexican border gave way to days of uncertainty, conflicting information and no word from the administration on when parents might see their children again.

"This situation has reached a crisis level," Sabraw wrote.

The order poses a host of logistical problems for the administration, and it was unclear how it would meet the deadline.

Health and Human Services, which is in charge of the children, referred questions to the Justice Department.

The Justice Department said the ruling makes it "even more imperative that Congress finally act to give federal law enforcement the ability to simultaneously enforce the law and keep families together."

"Without this action by Congress, lawlessness at the border will continue," the department said.

Sabraw, an appointee of Republican President George W. Bush, said children under 5 must reunite with their parents within 14 days.

He also issued a nationwide injunction against

future family separations, unless the parent is deemed unfit or doesn't want to be with the child, and ordered the government to provide phone contact between parents and their children within 10 days.

The case was brought by the American Civil Liberties Union, which sued in March on behalf of a 7-year-old girl who was separated from her Congolese mother and a 14-year-old boy who was taken from his Brazilian mother.

"Tears will be flowing in detention centers across the country when the families learn they will be reunited," said ACLU attorney Lee Gelernt.

More than 2,000 children have been separated from their parents in recent weeks and placed in government-contracted shelters — hundreds of miles away, in some cases — under a now-abandoned policy toward families caught illegally entering the U.S.

Amid an international outcry, Trump last week issued an executive order to stop the separation of families and said parents and children will instead be detained together.

But parents already separated from their children were left in the dark on when and how they would be reunited, and Homeland Security seemed only to sow more confusion over the weekend.

"The facts set forth before the Court portray reactive governance — responses to address a chaotic circumstance of the Government's own making," Sabraw



AP
People protest immigration separation policies outside Federal Court, Tuesday, June 26, 2018, in El Paso, Texas. Cases of children and families seeking refugee were being heard inside the courthouse.

wrote. "They belie measured and ordered governance, which is central to the concept of due process enshrined in our Constitution."

Since Trump issued the executive order, the administration has been casting about for detention space for holding families together and has asked the courts to modify a 1997 settlement that generally bars the government from keeping children locked up with their

parents for more than 20 days.

The task ahead could be monumental: Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar told Congress on Tuesday that his department still has custody of 2,047 immigrant children separated from their parents at the border — only six fewer than last Wednesday.

Democratic senators said that wasn't nearly enough progress.

Under questioning, Azar

refused to be pinned down on how long it will take to reunite families. He said his department does extensive vetting of parents to make sure they are not traffickers masquerading as parents.

Also challenging will be the requirement the judge set on phone contact.

At a Texas detention facility near Los Fresnos, immigrant advocates complained that parents have gotten busy signals or no answer from a 1-800 num-

ber set up by federal authorities to get information about their children.

"The U.S. government never had any plan to reunite these families that were separated," Simon Sandoval-Moshenberg of the Legal Aid Justice Center in Virginia said Tuesday. The government is now "scrambling to undo this terrible thing that they have done."

Italy, others to take migrants but fate of NGO ship unclear

MILAN (AP) — Italy and at least three other countries agreed Tuesday to accept migrants from an aid ship that has been in a holding pattern off Malta for five days, but the vessel's destination remained unclear during Europe's second impasse this month over rescues in Libyan waters by humanitarian groups.

Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte said after a phone call with Malta's prime minister that the boat operated by German aid group Mission Lifeline would disembark in the Mediterranean island nation, where its legal standing to conduct missions off Libya would be investigated.

"Italy will do its part to accept a quota of migrants aboard the Lifeline, with the hope that also other European countries would do the same, as some have previously indicated," Conte said in a statement.

However, Prime Minister Joseph Muscat did not confirm the assertion by Conte — and a similar account from French President Emmanuel Macron — that the Lifeline could dock in Malta. Muscat said in a statement only that if his country allowed the boat in, the activities of its crew would be investigated.

A Maltese government source said a decision on whether to allow the ship

to berth would depend on whether other countries accept some of the migrants. The source was not authorized to speak on the record and requested anonymity.

Macron said France and other countries were working out how to divide the more than 200 rescued passengers.

The Lifeline has been blocked in the Mediterranean Sea since last week, when both Italy and Malta refused to grant it access to their ports.

Indicating the confusion surrounding the boat's direction, Mission Lifeline wrote on Twitter that it had received hardly any direct messages — just news from Twitter — and that it was awaiting word about which EU countries would welcome its passengers.

Later Tuesday, the aid group said Malta had sent a message refusing entry to its territorial waters, contradicting the Italian and French leaders and further confusing the itinerary of the ship and its passengers.

The impasse was similar to another this month over the Aquarius, a rescue ship operated by French aid groups. The ship carrying 630 migrants had its journey to land extended by a week after Malta and Italy would not grant docking rights. Spain ultimately agreed to accept the passengers, and the

Aquarius traveled an additional 1,500-kilometers (900-miles) to get there.

Italy's Sky TG24, which visited the Lifeline on Monday, said it was about four times over passenger capacity and running low on fuel. According to Sky, it had on board 224 migrants, including eight children, and 10 crew members.

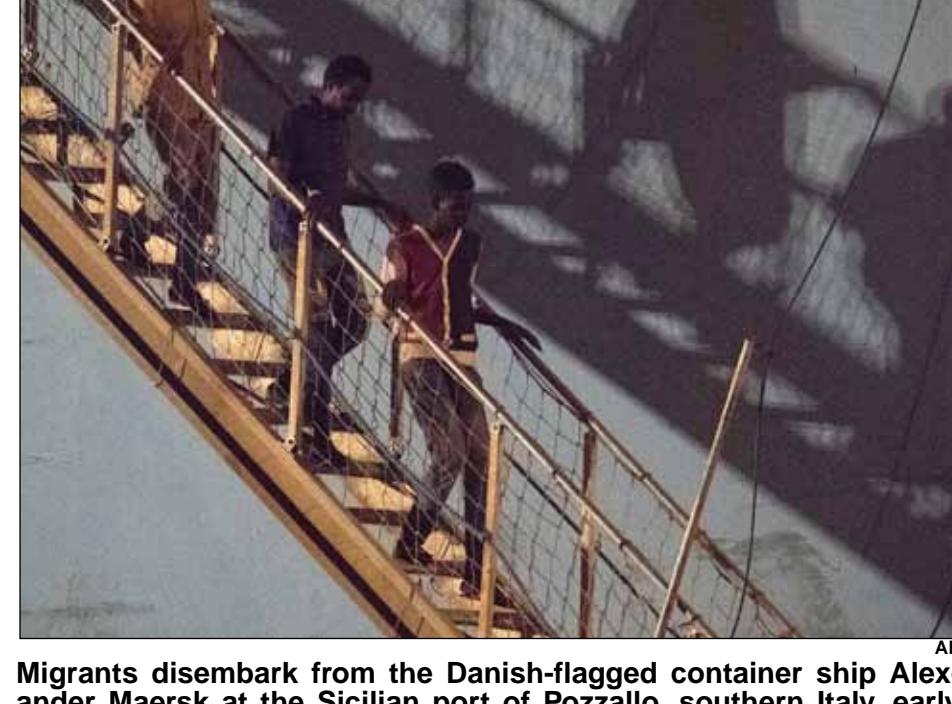
One passenger was evacuated on Monday due to a medical emergency, and Lifeline said in a message on Twitter that "conditions are worsening by days for the people on board."

Italy's new hard-line interior minister, Matteo Salvini, has made clear he doesn't want rescue ships run by non-governmental agencies to ferry migrants to Italy any more. Conte is pressing his European peers to take on more of the migrant burden when they meet at a summit later this week.

In a tweet about the Lifeline, Salvini said the "illegal ship will finally be seized" when it arrives in Malta, adding, "For women and children truly fleeing war, the ports are open, for all the others, no."

Salvini has likened the ships run by private aid groups under non-Italian flags to taxi services that are serving migrant smugglers.

Italy hasn't taken the



AP
Migrants disembark from the Danish-flagged container ship Alexander Maersk at the Sicilian port of Pozzallo, southern Italy, early Tuesday, June 26, 2018. The Maersk, with more than 100 migrants on board, had remained off the coast of Pozzallo for days after taking part in a rescue Thursday of migrants leaving Libya on smugglers' boats.

same position with other ships. It allowed the Danish-flagged container ship Alexander Maersk to dock and disembark 108 migrants in Sicily on Tuesday after days at sea.

Malta's Muscat pressed other EU nations to take on a share of the migrants and later announced that four countries had agreed to take in some of the passengers and two more were considering doing so.

Muscat said if the ship does go to Malta, an investigation would seek to determine why the crew allegedly ignored instructions from the Italian authorities who initially coordinated the rescue.

Authorities have also questioned the legality of the ship, which has a Dutch flag but is run by a German group.

In his proposals for dealing with migration, Conte

has emphasized that migrants arriving in Italy are arriving in Europe, and responsibility for them should be shared by all the member states.

"The obligation of rescue cannot become an obligation to process all the requests on behalf of everyone," the proposal reads, asserting that only 7 percent of migrants arriving in Europe qualify as refugees.



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Court upholds Trump travel ban, rejects discrimination claim

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Tuesday upheld President Donald Trump's ban on travel from several mostly Muslim countries, rejecting a challenge that it discriminated against Muslims or exceeded his authority.

The 5-4 decision Tuesday is the court's first substantive ruling on a Trump administration policy, and the president quickly tweeted his reaction: "Wow!"

Chief Justice John Roberts wrote the majority opinion, joined by his four conservative colleagues.

Roberts wrote that presidents have substantial power to regulate immigration. He also rejected the challengers' claim of anti-Muslim bias.

But he was careful not to endorse either Trump's provocative statements about immigration in general or Muslims in particular.

"We express no view on the soundness of the policy," Roberts wrote.

The travel ban has been fully in place since December, when the justices put the brakes on lower court rulings that had ruled the policy out of bounds and blocked part of it from being enforced.

In a dissent she summarized in court, Justice Sonia Sotomayor said, "History will not look kindly on the court's misguided decision today, nor should it."

Sotomayor wrote that based on the evidence in the case "a reasonable observer would conclude that the Proclamation was motivated by anti-Muslim animus." She said her colleagues in the majority

arrived at the opposite result by "ignoring the facts, misconstruing our legal precedent and turning a blind eye to the pain and suffering the Proclamation inflicts upon countless families and individuals, many of whom are United States citizens."

Justices Stephen Breyer, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Elena Kagan also dissented.

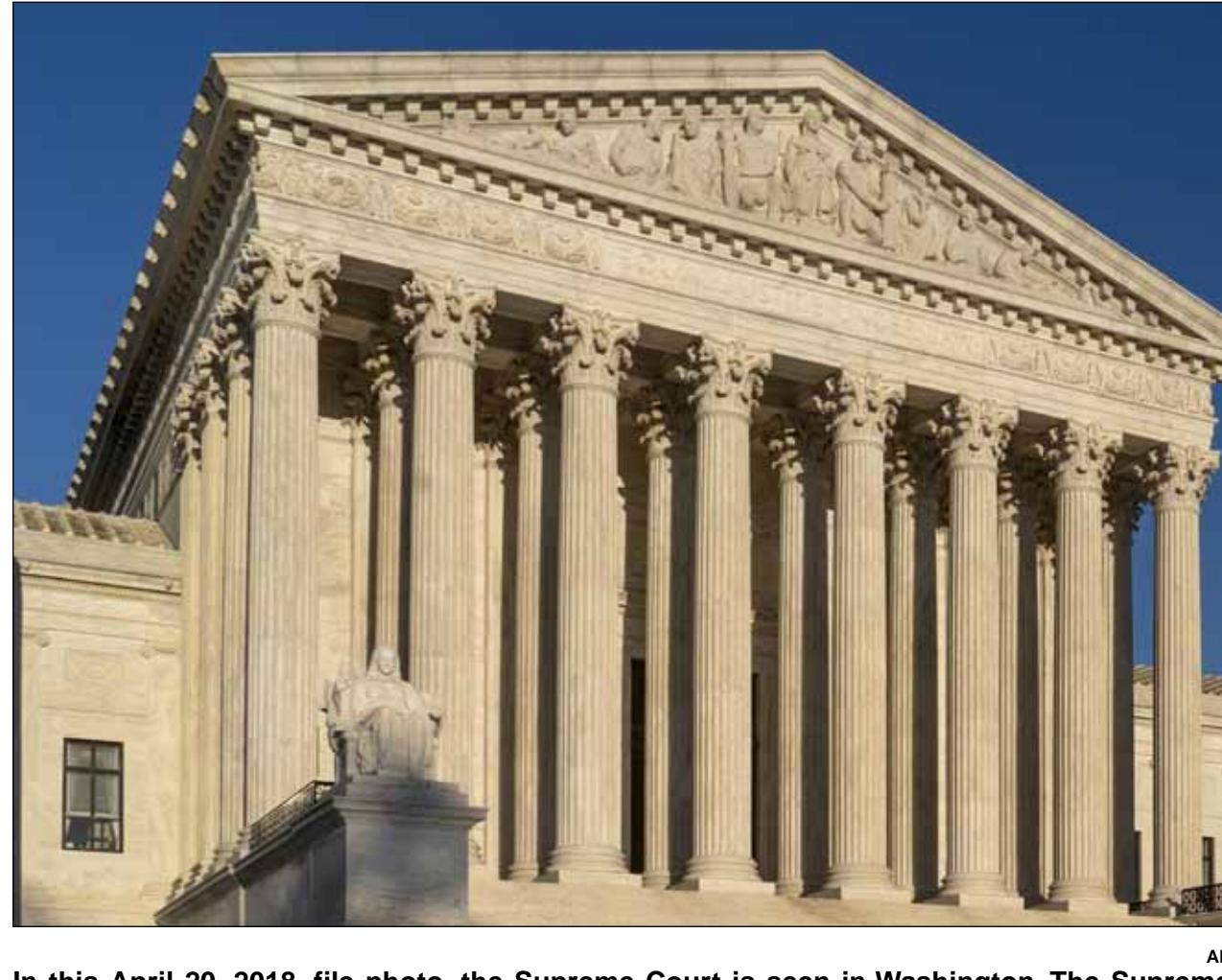
The policy applies to travelers from five countries with overwhelmingly Muslim populations — Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria and Yemen. It also affects two non-Muslim countries, blocking travelers from North Korea and some Venezuelan government officials and their families. A sixth majority Muslim country, Chad, was removed from the list in April after improving "its identity-management and information sharing practices," Trump said in a proclamation.

The administration had pointed to the Chad decision to show that the restrictions are premised only on national security concerns.

The challengers, though, argued that the court could not just ignore all that has happened, beginning with Trump's campaign tweets to prevent the entry of Muslims into the United States.

The travel ban has long been central to Trump's presidency.

He proposed a broad, all-encompassing Muslim ban during the presidential campaign in 2015, drawing swift rebukes from Republicans as well as Democrats. And within a week of taking office, the first travel ban was announced



In this April 20, 2018, file photo, the Supreme Court is seen in Washington. The Supreme Court has upheld President Donald Trump's ban on travel from several mostly Muslim countries, rejecting a challenge that it discriminated against Muslims or exceeded his authority.

with little notice, sparking chaos at airports and protests across the nation.

While the ban has changed shape since then, it has remained a key part of Trump's "America First" vision, with the president believing that the restriction, taken in tandem with his promised wall at the southern border, would make the United States safer from potentially hostile foreigners.

Critics said the changes didn't erase the ban's legal problems, and lower courts largely agreed. The current version dates from last September

and it followed what the administration has called a thorough review by several federal agencies, although no such review has been shared with courts or the public.

Federal trial judges in Hawaii and Maryland had blocked the travel ban from taking effect, finding that the new version looked too much like its predecessors. Those rulings that were largely upheld by federal appeals courts in Richmond, Virginia, and San Francisco.

But the Supreme Court came to a different conclusion Tuesday. The policy

has "a legitimate grounding in national security concerns," and it has several moderating features, including a waiver program that would allow some people from the affected countries to enter the U.S., Roberts said. The administration has said that 809 people have received waivers since the ban took full effect in December.

Roberts wrote that presidents have frequently used their power to talk to the nation "to espouse the principles of religious freedom and tolerance on which this Nation was

founded." But he added that presidents and the country have not always lived up "to those inspiring words."

The challengers to the ban asserted that Trump's statements crossed a constitutional line, Roberts said.

"But the issue before us is not whether to denounce the statements. It is instead the significance of those statements in reviewing a Presidential directive, neutral on its face, addressing a matter within the core of executive responsibility," he said

Trump's clout within GOP on the line in Tuesday elections

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — President Donald Trump is not on the ballot, but he has invested time, energy and political capital in a slate of primary contests across America that will again test his clout within his own party.

Voters weigh in on candidates in seven states Tuesday, but the contest that matters most to Trump is South Carolina, where he appeared at a rally to help Gov. Henry McMaster hours before polls opened. The Republican governor, one of Trump's first high-profile supporters, is fighting for his political life against self-made millionaire John Warren in a runoff election that threatens to embarrass the White House if McMaster falls short.

"Henry was for me from the beginning. There was nobody else," Trump said Monday night before commanding, "Get your asses out tomorrow and vote."

Trump followed the order with a sunrise Twitter reminder: "GO OUT AND VOTE FOR HENRY TODAY, HE WILL NEVER LET YOU DOWN."

The South Carolina

gubernatorial race headlined the latest in a series of primary contests that stretched across New York, Utah, Colorado, Oklahoma, Maryland and Mississippi on Tuesday. With the November general election nearly four months away, more than half of all states will have selected their general-election candidates after the day's votes are counted.

History suggests that Trump's Republican Party, like the political party of virtually every first-term president dating back to Ronald Reagan in 1982, will face heavy losses this fall. Yet it remains unclear whether Democrats' enthusiasm advantage demonstrated in the early months of Trump's presidency will be enough to seize control of Congress and key governor's offices nationwide.

It is clear, however, that Trump will be an active participant in the GOP's fight to maintain power.

As he has in other states with mixed success over the last year, the president also injected himself into marquee races Tuesday in New York, where a convicted felon is fighting for

his old job, and in Utah, where the 2012 Republican presidential nominee, Mitt Romney, is seeking a political comeback as a 71-year-old freshman senator.

Trump last month stepped into a messy congressional primary in New York City's only Republican stronghold, Staten Island, calling for the re-election of GOP Rep. Dan Donovan. Standing in his way: Michael Grimm, who held the seat until 2015, when he pleaded guilty to knowingly hiring immigrants in the country without legal authorization to work at his Manhattan restaurant and cooking the books to hide income and evade taxes.

Grimm, who served seven months in prison for the offenses, was also known for his tough-guy talk while in Congress, where he once threatened, on camera, to break a reporter in half "like a boy" and throw him from a balcony.

Elsewhere in New York, a handful of incumbent congressmen from both parties could lose their jobs. They include Rep. Joe Crowley, considered

a candidate to become the next House speaker should Democrats win the majority. He is locked in his first serious Democratic primary in more than a decade.

Political newcomer Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, a 28-year-old former aide to the late Massachusetts Sen. Ted Kennedy, hopes to take down the Democratic leader. While Crowley is backed by many unions, Ocasio-Cortez has been endorsed by a handful of influential liberal groups, including MoveOn.

More than 2,000 miles (3,200 kilometers) away in deep-red Utah, Trump also endorsed Romney, who once served as the face of the "Never Trump" movement but has since warmed to the Trump presidency.

The former Massachusetts governor is facing little-known state Rep. Mike Kennedy, who questions Romney's conservative credentials and ability to work well with the president. Kennedy won over far-right conservatives at the state GOP convention earlier in the year, but he's expected to struggle among more moderate Republican voters — includ-

ing many Trump critics — around the state.

In a weekend op-ed published in The Salt Lake Tribune, Romney wrote that the Trump administration's policies have exceeded his expectations in its first year, but he pledged to "continue to speak out when the president says or does something which is divisive, racist, sexist, anti-immigrant, dishonest or destructive to democratic institutions."

Not to be forgotten Tuesday: races to determine gubernatorial candidates in Maryland, Colorado and Oklahoma. Oklahoma is also deciding whether to legalize the cultivation, possession and use of marijuana for medicinal purposes.

But the most significant test of Trump's influence comes in South Carolina, where McMaster — elevated to the state's top office last year when Nikki Haley became U.N. ambassador — is in jeopardy. Two weeks ago, the sitting governor failed to win the GOP primary outright, requiring a runoff election this week with Warren.

Warren, a millionaire

businessman and a Marine, has argued that his outsider candidacy makes him, not longtime GOP establishment figure McMaster, more akin to Trump. McMaster shocked even his closest advisers when, as lieutenant governor in early 2016, he became the first statewide-elected official in the country to back Trump's White House bid.

The White House has been throwing everything at its disposal into the race to save McMaster. Trump visited the state for a fundraiser last year. Vice President Mike Pence appeared at a campaign rally with McMaster over the weekend.

Trump dedicated only a few minutes of his hour-long rambling speech to the Republican governor he was there to support. But McMaster got the image he wanted as he embraced Trump while they briefly shared the stage.

"He's a fighter," Trump said of McMaster. "He's tough and he's strong."

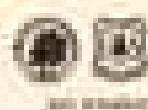
McMaster, given his turn to speak, called Trump "a real force of nature."



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Prince William visits Israel's Holocaust memorial

JERUSALEM (AP) — Prince William began his visit to Israel on Tuesday with an emotional visit to Jerusalem's Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial and a meeting with two survivors who escaped Nazi Germany for the safety of Britain.

Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev, who guided the Duke of Cambridge through the museum's exhibitions detailing Nazi Germany's genocide of 6 million Jews during World War II, said the prince was visibly moved as he stopped to inquire about various elements of the Holocaust.

"The theme that repeated itself throughout the entire visit was his wondering of what kind of deep hatred could have driven people to commit such horrific acts," Shalev told The Associated Press. "He kept saying: 'How did they get to such a place?' ... He really identified with the victims."



Britain's Prince William, left, lays a wreath during a memorial ceremony at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial, in Jerusalem, Tuesday, June 26, 2018.

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Argentina's Lionel Messi reacts after the group D match between Argentina and Croatia at the 2018 soccer World Cup in Nizhny Novgorod Stadium in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia, Thursday. Croatia won 3-0.

Argentina's lack of talent, philosophy making it impossible for Messi to succeed

(AP) — Even before the start of the World Cup, the photographs invited mockery.

There was a picture of Lionel Messi gazing into the distance with his right hand on the back of a goat. Another of Messi cradling a kid goat in his arms.

The theme of the Paper magazine shoot and accompanying 2,000-word article was that Messi was soccer's G.O.A.T. — greatest of all time.

As if it wasn't bad enough that his performance in this World Cup has contradicted the publication's assertion, chief rival Cristiano Ronaldo has passive-aggressively mocked him by growing a goatee and stroking his chin when scoring.

Ronaldo has scored four times in his first two games of this competition and Portugal can advance to the round of 16 with a tie with offensively deficient Iran on Monday. Messi is yet to score and his tournament will be over unless Argentina defeats Nigeria on Tuesday and Iceland fails to beat already-advanced Croatia.

The disparate positions of the generation's two best players reflect not their respective abilities — Messi is the better player, period — or even that of the players around them. Neither has noteworthy support.

What are noticeably different are the mind-sets of their teams. Portugal knows what it is. Argentina doesn't,

which explains the reports about players revolting against coach Jorge Sampaoli.

Sampaoli has been criticized for everything from the team's lack of rhythm to substitution choices, but his greatest failure has been his inability to bestow the team with a sense of identity and purpose.

Whatever their shortcomings, the teams on which Diego Maradona played in the 1986 and 1990 World Cup tournaments had that. The freedom coach Carlos Bilardo granted Maradona was offset by pragmatism in almost every other part of the field. Maradona's job was to win games; his teammates' was to not lose them.

The strategy could produce soccer that bordered on unwatchable, as was the case when Argentina was the tournament runner-up in 1990, but it was effective.

Argentina had some of its most well-rounded teams in the era that immediately followed Maradona's. Argentina continued to play with a No. 10 — the jersey and role inherited by Ariel Ortega, Juan Roman Riquelme and Messi — but started to think of itself as more than a one-man team. The country is as imprisoned by the memories of those teams as it is by its visions of Maradona.

The Argentina of today doesn't have top-to-bottom talent necessary

to gradually build an attack from the back as it did then, but it continues to try. Nor will it revert to Bilardo's cynical tactics. What remains is a team that is neither here nor there and that does little more than wait for Messi to magically create the identity it lacks.

Compare that to Portugal. Ronaldo's team has no illusions about what it is. It makes no attempt to play attractively, content as it is to sit back, absorb pressure and take whatever goals Ronaldo can provide. The Portuguese played like that not only in their tournament-opening tie with heavily favored Spain, but also in their victory over underdog Morocco.

Portugal had a similar mentality when it won the European Championship in 2016. The triumph was the most significant of Ronaldo's international career, but Ronaldo wasn't on the field for the crowning moment, as an injury forced him to the bench only 25 minutes into the final against France. Portugal won 1-0 in overtime. Portugal played to not lose and didn't. The team is doing that again.

As unlikely as Ronaldo is to lift the most coveted trophy in sports, his path there is considerably less perilous than Messi's. Messi has to compensate for more than the shortage of talent around him. He has to make up for the team's lack of a philosophy, too.

Even with two wins, Mexico's place in next round not secure

YEKATERINBURG, Russia (AP) — Seven teams have won their first two World Cup matches, and six of them are through to the next round.

The exception is Mexico.

El Tri still may need points to secure a place in the round of 16 for a seventh consecutive World Cup.

Victories over defending champion Germany and South Korea weren't quite enough. If Sweden beats Mexico on Wednesday and Germany beats South Korea, three teams would be tied atop Group F with six points, sending it to tiebreakers that start with the best goal differential.

Mexico goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa said there wasn't any panic when he and his teammates learned they had unfinished business in their final game.

"We knew that we were going to play for first place against Sweden," Ochoa told reporters Sunday. "This result wasn't going to change anything."

If Mexico and South Korea both win, Mexico would win the group and every other team would be tied with three points.

Sweden hasn't made it to the second round since 2006. And like Mexico, six points wouldn't necessarily be enough to advance. The Swedes might end up needing to win by two goals, depending on what Germany does.

Mexico upset Germany 1-0 in its opener and then dispatched South Korea 2-1. It looked like those results would be enough for Mexico to advance, but then Toni Kroos scored deep into extra time to give Germany a 2-1 win over Sweden, setting up the various scenarios that will come into play during Tuesday's simultaneous matches.

SHOW OF SUPPORT

Swedish midfielder Jimmy Durmaz was subjected to racial attacks from fans on social media after the loss to Germany. Durmaz entered the game as a substitute, and his foul gave Germany the free kick that set up Kroos' game-winner.

Durmaz was born in Sweden to ethnic Assyrian parents who emigrated from Turkey. He's been called a "terrorist," and vitriol has also been directed at his family. The online abuse was reported to police.

In a show of unity, the team and coach Janne Andersson stood with Durmaz as the player read a statement Sunday before a training session, calling the attacks "completely unacceptable."

"I am proud to play in the Swedish national team," Durmaz said. "I will never let any racists destroy that pride. We must all stand against all forms of racism."

SCORING DIFFICULTY

A two-goal victory by Sweden would guarantee it a spot in the next round. But that's easier said than done.

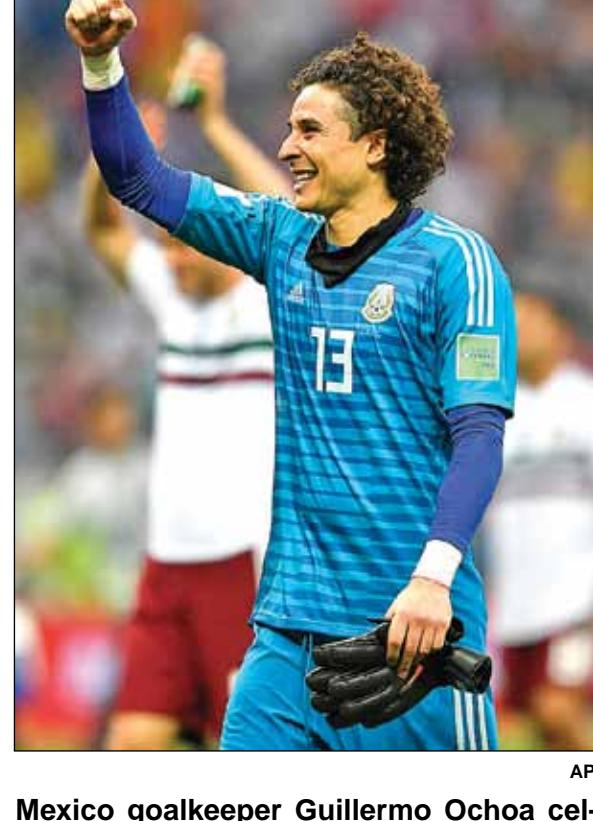
Sweden has just two goals for the tournament, by Andreas Granqvist and Ola Toivonen.

Marcus Berg, who had eight goals in qualifying, has been held scoreless despite a team-high six scoring opportunities through two games.

WALL OF OCHOA

While Mexico's defense has been solid, Ochoa is the biggest reason that El Tri have given up just one goal in the tournament.

Known by supporters as "The Great Wall of Ochoa," he has been a steady presence for Mexico and has a tournament-high 14 saves. He stopped nine shots against Germany and five against South Korea. Denmark's Kasper Schmeichel is next with 10 saves.



Mexico goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa celebrates after the group F match between Mexico and South Korea at the 2018 soccer World Cup in the Rostov Arena in Rostov-on-Don, Russia, Saturday.

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Looming question for Mueller probe: How much to make public?

WASHINGTON (AP) — America has waited a year to hear what special counsel Robert Mueller concludes about the 2016 election, meddling by the Russians and — most of all — what Donald Trump did or didn't do. But how much the nation will learn about Mueller's findings is very much an open question.

Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein may end up wrestling with a dilemma similar to the one that tripped up fired FBI director James Comey: how much to reveal about Trump's actions in the event the president is not indicted. Rosenstein, who lambasted Comey for disclosing negative information about Hillary Clinton despite not recommending her for prosecution, may himself have to balance the extraordinary public interest in the investigation against his admonition that investigators should not discuss allegations against people they don't prosecute.

The quandary underscores how there's no easy or obvious end game for the investigation, which last month reached its one-year anniversary. Though Mueller is expected to report his findings to Rosenstein, there's no requirement that those conclusions be made public. And whatever he decides will unfold against the backdrop of a Justice Department inspector general report that reaffirmed department protocol against making detailed public statements about people who aren't charged.

"Those are going to be the hard questions at the end of Mueller's investigation: what is the nature of that report, and which if any parts are provided to Congress and the public," said Georgetown law professor Marty Lederman, a former official in the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel. "There's just no way for us to know what if any parts of those

reports can be made public or should be made public or will be made public."

The investigation has hit a critical phase. A forthcoming decision by Trump and his lawyers on whether to sit for an interview with Mueller, who is examining whether the president sought to obstruct justice, could hasten the conclusion of the investigation with regard to the White House. What happens next is unclear, though Mueller has been closely conferring along the way with Rosenstein, the No. 2 Justice Department official who appointed him special counsel.

If he decides a crime was committed, it's theoretically possible he could seek a grand jury indictment, though that outcome is seen as highly questionable given a Justice Department legal opinion against charging a sitting president. Trump's lawyers say Mueller's team has indicated that it plans to follow that guidance.

Depending on his findings, he also could seek to name Trump as an unindicted co-conspirator in a case against other defendants, an aggressive step taken by the special prosecutor who investigated President Richard Nixon.

The regulations require Mueller to report his findings confidentially to Rosenstein, who would then decide how and whether to share with Congress. Lawmakers and the public would almost certainly demand access to that report, no matter the conclusion; a determination of wrongdoing would presumably be forwarded to Congress to begin impeachment proceedings, while a finding that no crime was committed would be publicly trumpeted by Republicans as vindication of the president.

Spokespeople for Mueller and the Justice Department declined to comment on the options under consideration.



In this June 21, 2017, file photo, special counsel Robert Mueller departs after a meeting on Capitol Hill in Washington. America has waited a year to hear what Mueller concludes about the 2016 election, meddling by the Russians and _ most of all _ what Donald Trump did or didn't do.

The easiest avenue for public disclosure in any criminal investigation is an indictment in which prosecutors lay out their allegations. But options are much trickier when cases close without prosecution.

In Clinton's case, Comey held an extraordinary news conference in which he said Clinton did indeed have classified information on her private email server and branded her and her aides as "extremely careless." But he concluded his remarks by recommending against charges, saying no reasonable prosecutor would bring a case.

That decision was condemned last May by Rosenstein, who said "we do not hold press conferences to release derogatory information about the subject of a declined criminal investiga-

tion."

Inspector General Michael Horowitz echoed that criticism in a report this month that accused Comey of breaking from protocol. And Comey's successor, Christopher Wray, further rebuked Comey at a congressional hearing last week, saying, "I think the policies the department has governing commenting publicly about uncharged conduct are there for good reason."

Solomon Wisenberg, the deputy independent counsel in the 1990s investigation involving President Bill Clinton, said he struggled to envision Rosenstein making public the extent of Mueller's findings if there's no indictment "because it would be completely inconsistent with the criticism of Comey — and it wouldn't

be right. It wouldn't be the right thing to do."

"It's long been considered unethical to not charge someone but smear them," he said.

Lederman, however, said he thought it made sense to publicly release what investigators found about Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election, especially if it could be relevant to helping combat the problem in the future.

"I don't think there's a problem to the extent the report would be less focused on what Trump did wrong in the past and is focused on his ability or willingness to deal with the Russia threat in the future," he said.

As the investigation inches toward resolution, there's not much reliable precedent to predict the outcome here.

Independent counsel Ken

Starr issued a public report on Bill Clinton, but his appointment came under a different law. A special counsel investigation into the 2003 leak of a CIA officer's identity resulted in criminal charges against a Bush administration White House official, I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, but produced no public report summarizing all the findings of probe.

Regardless of the conclusion, the public clamor for a full accounting may make it impossible for Mueller to wind up his investigation with only minimal comment, said Bill Jeffress, one of Libby's lawyers.

"If that conclusion is simply Mueller announcing, 'I've wound up my investigation and haven't indicted anyone else,' nobody's going to be satisfied with that."

US prosecutors cancel Stormy Daniels meeting in Cohen probe

Porn actress Stormy Daniels had been scheduled to meet with federal prosecutors in New York on Monday as part of their investigation into President Donald Trump's longtime personal attorney, but the meeting was abruptly canceled late Sunday after it was reported by news organizations, her attorney said.

Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, was supposed to meet with prosecutors from the U.S. attorney's office in Manhattan in preparation for a possible grand jury appearance as they work to assemble a case against Trump's longtime personal lawyer, Michael Cohen.

But after several news organizations, including The Associated Press, reported on the meeting, two prosecutors called Daniels' lawyer, Michael Avenatti, and told him that they were concerned about media at-

tention in the case, he said. "I was shocked at that response," Avenatti said.

Avenatti offered to move the meeting to another location and reiterated that Daniels — who he says has been cooperating with prosecutors for months — was ready to go forward with the meeting, but they called back to cancel it, he said. The meeting has not been rescheduled and prosecutors offered no other explanation for the cancellation, he said.

Daniels has said she had sex with Trump in 2006 when he was married, which Trump has denied. As part of their investigation into Cohen, prosecutors have been examining the \$130,000 payment that was made to Daniels as part of a confidentiality agreement days before the 2016 presidential election.

"We believe canceling the meeting because the press has now caught

wind of it is ridiculous," Avenatti wrote in an email to Assistant U.S. Attorney Nicolas Roos. "We do not think it was any secret that at some point you were going to meet with my client."

In response, Roos accused Avenatti of leaking the details of the meeting — an allegation that Avenatti was "patently false" — and said it called into question Avenatti's "commitment to maintaining the required confidentiality" of what is discussed in the meeting with Daniels.

"Such confidentiality is critical to the diligence, fairness, and integrity of this, and indeed all, investigations conducted by this Office," Roos wrote. "This is not our preferred approach, and a step we are only rarely forced to take, but we are left with no choice."

A spokesman for the U.S. attorney's office in

Manhattan had declined to comment on the meeting earlier Sunday night and did not immediately respond to messages seeking comment on the cancellation.

Daniels is suing to invalidate the confidentiality agreement that prevents her from discussing the alleged relationship with Trump. She argues the nondisclosure agreement should be invalidated because Cohen signed it, but the president did not.

Daniels and Avenatti have also turned over documents in response to a subpoena from federal prosecutors about the \$130,000 that Daniels was paid, a person familiar with the matter said. They weren't authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Daniels' interview had been in preparation for a

possible grand jury appearance in the federal investigation into Cohen's business dealings, the person familiar with the matter said.

If prosecutors bring a case to a grand jury, they could call witnesses to testify under oath and the grand jury would decide whether to bring criminal charges with a written indictment.

Daniels was supposed to appear before a grand jury on June 15, but the appearance was canceled after she voluntarily agreed to come in for the interview that had been scheduled for Monday, according to an email from Roos to Avenatti.

In April, FBI agents raided Cohen's home, office and hotel room as part of a probe into his business dealings and investigators were seeking records about the nondisclosure agreement that Daniels had signed, among other

things.

Cohen had said he paid Daniels himself, through a limited liability company known as Essential Consultants, LLC, and that "neither the Trump Organization nor the Trump campaign was a party to the transaction with Ms. Clifford, and neither reimbursed me for the payment, either directly or indirectly."

In May, Rudy Giuliani, one of Trump's attorneys, said the president had repaid Cohen for the \$130,000 payment to Daniels, contradicting Trump's prior claims that he didn't know the source of the money.

Earlier this month, Trump said he hadn't spoken with Cohen — his longtime fixer and a key power player in the Trump Organization — in "a long time" and that Cohen is "not my lawyer anymore."

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Sandy-ravaged aquarium opens splashy new shark exhibit

NEW YORK (AP) — Cue the "Jaws" music. Sharks are the stars of a splashy new exhibit hall at the New York Aquarium that marks a major step in the beachfront facility's recovery from the devastating impact of 2012's Superstorm Sandy.

Set in a shiny new building just behind the famed Coney Island boardwalk, "Ocean Wonders: Sharks!" with its largest tank at 379,000-gallons is set to open June 30 while work continues on the rest of the aquarium's 14-acre campus, more than half of which remains closed almost six years after Sandy.

The Wildlife Conservation Society, which runs the aquarium along with the Bronx Zoo and other city zoos, was about to break ground on "Sharks!" when Sandy knocked out power and flooded exhibits, electrical equipment and administrative offices at the aquarium, which is situated on the narrow peninsula that forms Brooklyn's Coney Island.

"I honestly thought in that first 20 minutes that we'd lost the aquarium," the facility's director, Jon Forrest Dohlin, said.

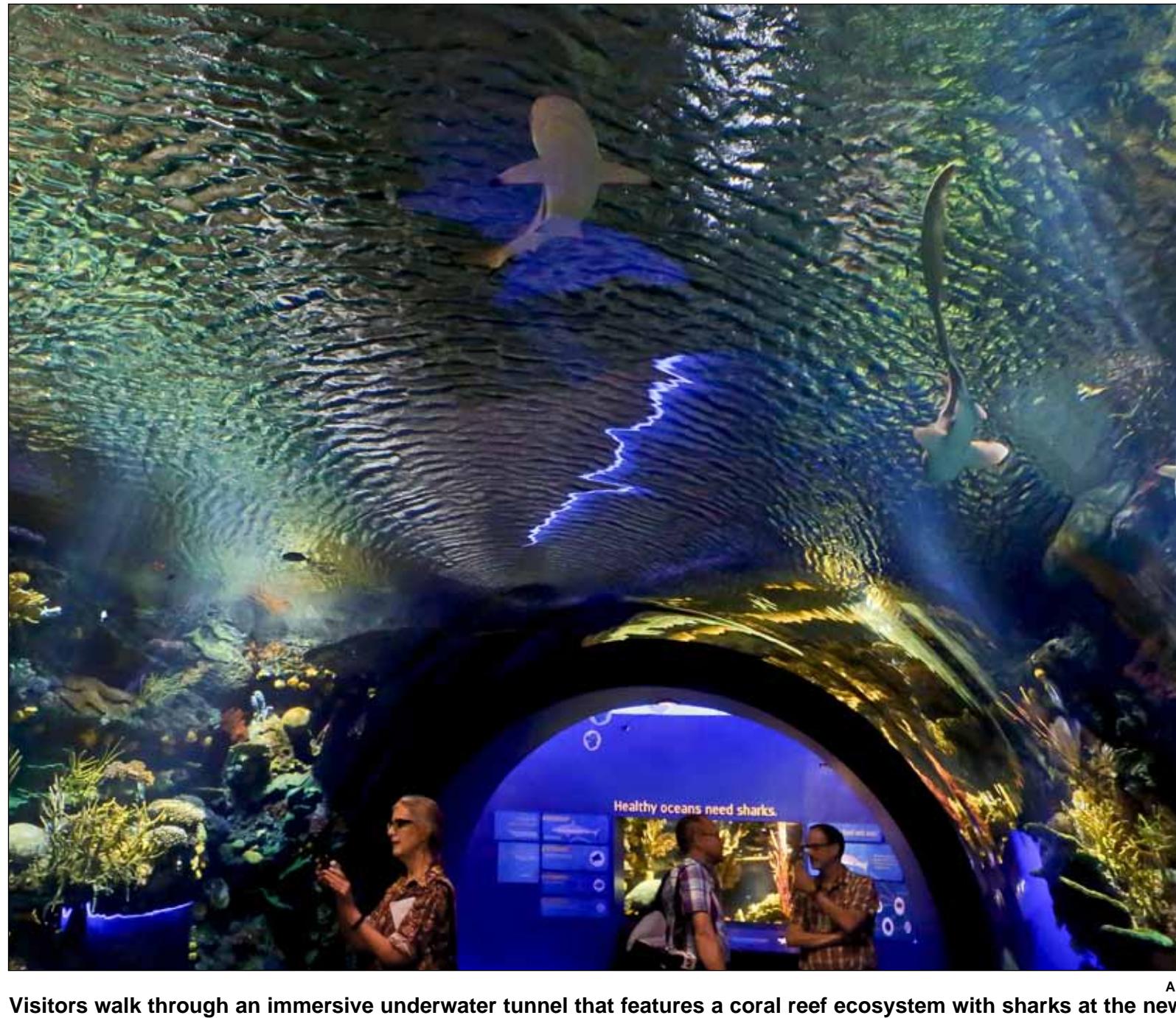
The new shark exhibit was put on hold while staffers worked around the clock to rescue as many animals as possible and reopen the parts of the aquarium that weren't too badly damaged.

Dohlin called the delayed debut of "Sharks!" a great step forward for the aquarium.

The new exhibit is housed in a 57,500-square-foot building whose undulating shapes are clad in a "shimmer wall" of aluminum tiles that evoke scales or a school of sardines.

Inside there are 12 species of sharks as well as six species of skates and rays. Dozens of other sea creatures from loggerhead sea turtles to striped bass join them in three massive tanks and several smaller ones.

Sharks swim overhead in the tunnel-shaped coral reef exhibit, creating the illusion that the visitor is another ocean dweller. The other two big tanks are stocked with marine life not from



AP

Visitors walk through an immersive underwater tunnel that features a coral reef ecosystem with sharks at the new shark exhibition at the New York Aquarium, Wednesday June 20, 2018, in New York. "Ocean Wonders: Sharks!" exhibition, scheduled to open June 30, requires 500,000 gallons of water and will house more than 115 species with interactive presentations.

the tropics but from the waters off New York, including red and white anemones, purple sea urchins and pink starfish that few New Yorkers would peg as neighbors.

"If you go swimming in the water above your waist you're swimming with these animals," Dohlin said. "We want people to understand that there's all this cool stuff in our water."

The \$158 million "Sharks!" exhibit is opening amid ongoing work on the rest of the aquarium, which won't fully reopen until 2020.

Dohlin and other staffers who lost their offices to Sandy are still working out of trailers, and Dohlin said

his trailer is parked almost underneath Coney Island's Cyclone roller coaster.

"All day long I can hear the rumble and feel the rumble and hear the screams," he said. "I thought, 'I'm going to go crazy.' My entire trailer shakes. And now I don't even notice it. It's only when it stops that I feel it."

The shark tank will use its toothy predators as bait to promote awareness of threats to marine ecosystems including overfishing and pollution.

Susan Chin, the Wildlife Conservation Society's in-house architect who led the new building's design team in collaboration with the firm of Edelman Sultan

Knox Wood and its consultants, said she grew up in New York without ever knowing much about the ocean habitats that surround the city.

"Wow, we have seahorses under the Brooklyn Bridge?" Chin said. "You've been living in this city all your life and you didn't know that. That's our job, to open people's eyes to nature. And to help them make that connection."

The exhibit's showpiece is a huge tank representing the Hudson Canyon, a submarine canyon that starts near the mouth of the Hudson River between New York and New Jersey. There are sand tiger sharks with

fearsome teeth, sandbar sharks with tall dorsal fins and nurse sharks huddled together on the floor of the tank. There are also small fish like permit and jack crevallies, a loggerhead turtle named Blue and a roughtail stingray named Ray Charles — both female.

Other sections of the exhibit decry the plastic trash choking the oceans and promote sustainable fishing practices. Sharks are killed both by targeted fishing for their fins and as bycatch, caught by trawlers and long-line fishermen seeking other species.

A main message of the exhibit is that sharks have more to fear from humans

that humans have to fear from sharks.

"We're really pushing against the tide of the perception of sharks that's been created by popular culture," Dohlin said. "Whether it's 'Jaws' or Shark Week, we know that people have a very monochromatic fear of sharks. They're large great whites that will eat you, that's what people think.

The truth is, of course, they're very diverse, they're getting wiped out. So that's something that we really want to turn on its head."

College scandals put sports doctors under new scrutiny

Allegations of sexual abuse carried out over decades by team physicians at Michigan State and Ohio State are sending ripples through university athletics departments, with some schools exploring whether more oversight is needed for figures in such powerful positions.

The scandals involving former Michigan State team doctor Larry Nassar, who was also a physician for USA Gymnastics, and Richard Strauss, a former Ohio State doctor, reveal how the trust and intimacy granted to team physicians can also provide cover for sexual predators.

"It's almost this god figure that people don't want to question," said Dani Moffit, who leads a master's program in athletic training at Idaho State University and researches sexual harassment in college sports. "They are thought to be

these people who are not going to make mistakes."

Groups that represent team doctors say it's hardly the only profession shaken by sex scandals, and they largely blame the recent cases on a couple bad seeds. Still, the fallout has left some doctors and colleges scrutinizing their practices.

Some are ramping up the use of exam chaperones — medical staff who are brought into the room to monitor the doctor's work. Purdue University says it's crafting a new policy requiring chaperones for team doctors, even if students don't request one. Michigan State updated a similar policy last year.

Physicians, too, are increasingly bringing in chaperones for their own protection, said Dr. Chad Asplund, president of the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine. In his work at Georgia Southern Univer-

sity, Asplund said, he has become more diligent about calling for a chaperone any time he examines a female athlete or asks a patient to remove clothing.

"It's safety for the patient and safety for me," Asplund said. "I think people are becoming a lot more protected and a lot more cautious about doing the right thing."

News of the Nassar case prompted leaders at the University of Wisconsin to launch a wide review of their own practices, including safety measures guiding team doctors. Officials declined to share details, saying the study has yet to wrap up.

Athletic trainers, who work alongside team doctors and treat minor injuries, have also been alarmed by the allegations. In the Nassar case, two trainers were reportedly told of Nassar's abuse but failed to stop it.

Moffit, at Idaho State,

said she's adding lectures on sexual abuse and is helping other colleges develop their own training, which she says has long been overlooked in a male-dominated field.

"It's something that is going to be talked about a lot more. There's just so much education that has to be done," she said.

The National Athletic Trainers' Association responded by issuing new guidance to members, telling them how to identify abuse. Trainers are also being told to report misconduct to legal authorities first rather than university officials, who in some cases have been accused of keeping accusations quiet.

Some colleges, though, say it's too soon to make changes. At the University of Iowa, athletics officials said they're "following the national conversation" to see if updates are needed.

Others declined to comment, including the universities of Michigan and Illinois.

Both recent cases have cast light on a role that typically operates behind the scenes but can still carry great power.

Decisions made by team doctors can shape an athlete's career, determining how long they'll be out with an injury or whether they're even fit enough to make a team.

That power, coupled with the familiarity they often develop with younger athletes, creates a dynamic that is ripe for abuse, said Dr. Saul Marks, a sports psychiatrist at the University of Toronto.

"Athletes are especially vulnerable at this age. They're looking for guidance and growth, and so the intensity in the relationships can be stronger," said Marks, who has also served as a doctor for Canada's na-

tional diving team. "As people become closer, boundary crossings can become easier to slide into without realizing what's happening."

When abuse does occur, the risk tied to reporting it is often enough to silence victims whose athletic careers hang in the balance, said Sue Ann Van Dermyden, the head of a California law firm that helps colleges investigate sexual misconduct.

"They recognize by bringing it forward, their dreams could be shattered," she said.

In April, a state investigation in Michigan found that Nassar twisted the power and privacy of his job for abuse. Over time, he convinced gymnasts that his vaginal "treatments" had a medical purpose. And with no chaperone policy, there was often no one there to question it.

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In sign of detente, North Korea skips annual anti-US rally

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — In another sign of detente following the summit between leader Kim Jong Un and U.S. President Donald Trump, North Korea has decided to skip one of the most symbolic and politically charged events of its calendar: the annual "anti-U.S. imperialism" rally marking the start of the Korean War.

Fist-pumping, flag-waving and slogan-shouting masses of Pyongyang residents normally assemble each year for the rally to kick off a month of anti-U.S., Korean War-focused events designed to strengthen nationalism and unity. It all culminates on July 27, which North Korea celebrates as a national holiday called the day of "Victory in the Fatherland Liberation War."

Last year's event was held in Kim Il Sung Square with a reported 100,000 people attending. North Korea even issued special anti-U.S. postage stamps. Officials had no on-the-record comment on the decision not to hold the event this year. But Associated Press staff in the North Korean capital confirmed Monday that it would not be held.

North Korea has noticeably toned down its anti-Washington rhetoric over the past several months to create a more conciliatory atmosphere for the summit and avoid souring attempts by both sides to reduce tensions and increase dialogue. North Korea's state media were filled with reports, photos and video of the June 12 meeting between Trump

and Kim in Singapore.

A 42-minute documentary-style news special was aired on the state television network two days after the summit and has been repeated frequently since, meaning that by now there are probably few North Koreans who are unaware of the changes in the air. For many North Koreans, the program was also quite likely the first time they had ever seen what Trump looks like.

Still, North Korea's handling of the changes and how it presents them to its people remains highly nuanced.

So far, it hasn't said much about what Washington is interested in the most — denuclearization. But it has made significantly fewer references to its need to have nuclear weapons than it was making last year, when Kim was test-launching long-range missiles at a record pace and tensions with Washington neared the boiling point.

North Korea's decidedly less strident posture these days underscores the delicate position it finds itself in after decades of touting the United States as its archenemy.

State media referred to Trump quite deferentially in their reports of the summit, calling him by his full name and adding the title of president of the United States of America — itself a somewhat jarring contrast to the way it normally spits out merely the surname of U.S. officials, with no titles.

Considering how its relations with Washington could quickly slip back into acrimony if the difficult process of negotiating denuclearization and the lifting of trade sanctions breaks down, it remains unclear how much, or if at all, North Korea intends to recalibrate its other propaganda and indoctrination efforts.



AP

In this June 25, 2017, file photo, tens of thousands of men and women pump their fists in the air and chant as they carry placards with anti-American propaganda slogans at Pyongyang's central Kim Il Sung Square, in North Korea, to mark what North Korea calls "the day of struggle against U.S. imperialism" — the anniversary of the start of the Korean War. In another sign of detente following the summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and U.S. President Donald Trump, North Korea has opted not to hold this year's "anti-U.S. imperialism" rally.

monly if the difficult process of negotiating denuclearization and the lifting of trade sanctions breaks down, it remains unclear how much, or if at all, North Korea intends to recalibrate its other propaganda and indoctrination efforts.

Getting rid of all the anti-American propaganda would be a Herculean task.

The 1950-53 Korean War, and the devastation the country suffered at the hands of the U.S. and its allies, remain a major part of every North Korean's education.

Negative portrayals of Americans as big-nosed goblins are a common sight at elementary schools and kindergartens and exhorta-

tions to beware of American aggression, deceit and brutality are a staple message of textbooks and at "class education" centers around the country. Anti-American slogans can also still be seen in Pyongyang and throughout the countryside, though they are not that numerous.

And while softening its criticism of the current U.S.

administration, North Korea has stepped up its attacks on "capitalist values" in general — an oblique warning that its diplomatic outreach to the world should not be taken to mean it's ready to throw away its socialist ideals anytime soon.

EU papers over differences after 'frank' migration talks

BRUSSELS (AP) — The leaders of 16 countries survived the "frank talk" of an emergency meeting on immigration and emerged with a veneer of common purpose Sunday as the European Union enters a potentially vital week for its unity.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said the meeting produced "a lot of goodwill" to resolve differences over how to manage the refugees and economic migrants who are willing to risk their lives to reach Europe.

The leaders of several more countries joined Italy and France in endorsing the idea of setting up centers in Africa to screen potential asylum-seekers for eligibility before they set out for another continent.

The talks were "frank and open," but "we don't have any concrete consequences or conclusions," Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said.

The prevailing honesty and benevolence on display Sunday barely lower the stakes for a full EU summit opening Thursday. Four member countries in eastern Europe refused to take part in the meeting because of demands that they take in more asylum-seekers to ease the burden elsewhere.

New Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte presented a plan that argues existing EU

asylum rules are obsolete and "paradoxical." The current rules effectively mean migrants only can apply for asylum in the country where they first arrive, usually Italy or Greece.

Conte said his 10-point proposal would be a "paradigm shift" in how Europe approaches migration and that he was "decidedly satisfied" with the outcome of Sunday's meeting.

"We have given the right direction for the debate underway. We'll see each other Thursday," he said.

Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron held out little hope they would be able to gather all 28 nations behind a single immigration plan at the upcoming summit.

Merkel, who is battling a domestic political crisis with her coalition partners over migration, said she was seeking "bilateral and trilateral" deals to cope with short-term migration pressures.

EU nations, she said, have to see "how can we help each other without always having to wait for all 28, but by thinking what's important to whom."

The idea of pre-screening Europe-bound asylum-seekers in North Africa gained support from several leaders amid the escalating tensions that threaten to undermine EU cohesion.

Paradoxically, the EU's

immigration policies are receiving renewed attention as the number of newcomers reaching Europe has dropped significantly.

The U.N.'s refugee agency forecasts that around 80,000 people will arrive to Europe by sea in 2018 if current trends continue — but the EU's political turmoil over the topic has soared.

Anti-migrant parties — and governments in Hungary and Italy — have been fomenting public fears of foreigners and have won support doing so.

"Some are trying to use the situation in Europe to create political tension and to play with fear," French President Emmanuel Macron said. "We must not give in. When someone has the right to protection and asylum, we should grant it."

A failure to find agreement could threaten the EU's border-free travel area, one of the biggest accomplishments of the bloc's 60-year history.

Despite the different perspectives, Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel said, "progress is possible on Thursday."

Encouraged by a deal with Turkey that has slashed the number of people arriving from there by 97 percent since 2015, the EU appeared ready to greenlight plans to set up screening centers in Algeria, Egypt,



AP

In this photo taken on Thursday, June 21, 2018, migrants on a rubber boat are being rescued by the ship operated by the German NGO Mission Lifeline in the Mediterranean Sea in front of the Libyan coast. Italy's interior minister says Malta should allow a Dutch-flagged rescue ship carrying 224 migrants to make port there because the ship is now in Maltese waters. Salvini said the rescue was in Libyan waters, which Lifeline denies.

Libya, Morocco, Niger and Tunisia.

Plans to set up migrant reception centers in Albania are also under discussion.

Macron said "the method that we are going to adopt" would involve "working together vis-a-vis the countries of transit and origin outside the European Union."

He mentioned Libya — the main jumping off point for countries bound for Eu-

rope — other African countries and the Balkans.

Noting that migrant arrivals have dropped significantly, Macron said: "it's a political crisis that Europe and the European Union is mostly living today."

Meanwhile, Spain's Sanchez urged his EU partners to help Spain deal with a growing number of arrivals across the Mediterranean Sea.

The UNHCR says around

40,000 people have arrived in Europe by sea so far this year, some 16,000 in Italy, 12,000 in Greece and 12,000 in Spain.

As with everything linked to migration in Europe, even the meeting in Brussels did not please everybody. Four eastern EU countries — the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia — refused to attend and reject taking in migrants in general.

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