



# PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## FLSS Exemption Sheet

### APPLICABLE EXEMPTIONS

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	119.071(2)(c): Active criminal intelligence/active criminal investigative information.	<input type="checkbox"/>	119.071(5)(g): Biometric Identification Information (fingerprints, palm prints, footprints, etc.).
<input type="checkbox"/>	119.071(2)(e): Confession.	<input type="checkbox"/>	985.04(1): Juvenile offender records.
<input type="checkbox"/>	119.071(5)(a)(5): Social Security numbers held by agency.	<input type="checkbox"/>	119.0712(2): Personal information contained within a motor vehicle record.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	119.071(2)(d): Surveillance techniques, procedures, and personnel; inventory of law enforcement resources, policies, or plans pertaining to mobilization, deployment or tactical operations.	<input type="checkbox"/>	119.071(2)(h)(1): Identity of victim of sexual battery, lewd and lascivious offense upon a person less than 16 years old, child abuse, or other sexual offense.
<input type="checkbox"/>	119.071(4)(d)(1): Home address, telephone, SSN, DOB, or photos of active/former LE personnel, spouses and children.	<input type="checkbox"/>	316.066(5)(a): Crash reports are confidential for a period of sixty (60) days after filing.
<input type="checkbox"/>	365.171(12): Identity of 911 caller or person requesting emergency services.	<input type="checkbox"/>	119.071(2)(b): Criminal intelligence/investigative information from a non-Florida criminal justice agency.
<input type="checkbox"/>	119.071(5)(b): Bank account, debit, charge, and credit card numbers held by an agency.	<input type="checkbox"/>	394.4615(7): Mental health information.
<input type="checkbox"/>	395.3025(7)(a) and/or 456.057(7)(a): Medical information.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	119.071(4)(c): Undercover personnel.
<input type="checkbox"/>	943.053 and/or 943.0525: NCIC/FCIC, FBI, and in-state FDLE/DOC.	<input type="checkbox"/>	119.071(2)(f): Confidential Informants (CIs).
<input type="checkbox"/>	119.07(4)(d): Extra fee if request is voluminous or requires extensive Personnel or technology.	<input type="checkbox"/>	119.071(2)(l): Assets of crime victim.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other: Federal Exemption: B-6		

### REVIEW COMPLETED BY

Case Number:		Records Production Personnel Name:	Padron-Hoke, M.
Records Tracking Number (if applicable):	17-09-2579	Records Production Personnel ID:	9489
Reference:	Thompson Emails RE: Mar-a-Lago	Date:	11/20/2017

**From:** [Thompson, Edward L.](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [Eramo, Timothy John](#); [ROBERT PEARCE \(WPB\)](#)  
**Subject:** Town of Palm Beach Evacuation/Curfew/Storm Emergency Response Plan (SERP)  
**Date:** Friday, September 08, 2017 3:56:42 PM

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## **Evacuation Zone**

-  
The Town of Palm Beach (Mar a Lago) is in mandatory evacuation Zone B

<http://townofpalmbeach.com/index.aspx?NID=582>

In the event of a mandatory evacuation and a declaration by the Director of Public Safety that a state of emergency exists within the Town as a result of a hurricane impact, the Police Department will establish roadblocks at each of the access points/bridges leading into the Town as soon as it is safe for public safety officers to be on the roads.

The roadblocks prevent access to the island while conditions are unsafe. At the discretion of Town officials, the following persons will be allowed into Palm Beach:

- Persons who can provide documentation proving they are residents of Palm Beach
- Employee/personal representative of a resident
- Business owners
- Employee/representative of a business owners
- Persons listed on the Emergency Contact Lists provided by the Police Department
- Media personnel with valid credentials
- Persons approved by the Field Command Post or Emergency Operations Center

The Town is in Zone B.

<http://townofpalmbeach.com/DocumentCenter/View/1818>





## Hurricane Preparedness Phases

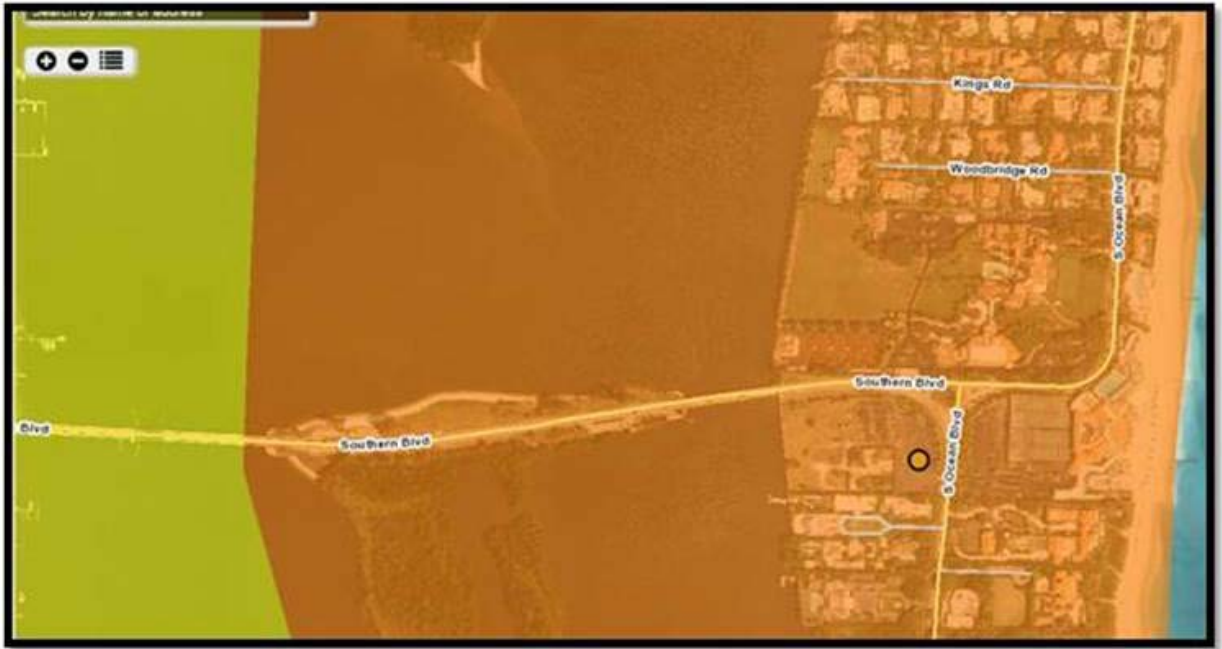
Post hurricane, barricades will be placed at all entrances to the Town. Police will permit entry into the Town in five phases:

- **Phase I:** Until all hazards have been removed, only emergency personnel will be allowed access to the Island; that includes police and fire rescue personnel, public works employees, as well as utility personnel.
- **Phase II:** Access will be permitted only to residents and business owners who have a valid, government-issued photo ID card showing a Town of Palm Beach street address. This may be either a Florida driver's license, Florida identification card or Town of Palm Beach Voluntary Identification Card. Condominium building managers with appropriate identification will be allowed to go to their place of employment to turn on power to elevators.
- **Phase III:** Residents, business owners, and verified employees will have access to the Town.
- **Phase IV:** Residents, business owners, employees, and verified business patrons will be granted access to the Town.
- **Phase V:** No or limited restrictions based upon power outages.

The police department may transition through each phase fast or slow depending on the conditions in the field. The goal is to open the Town to all people as soon as it is safe to do so.

\*Anyone granted access found driving around the Town without a legitimate purpose will be immediately removed and denied future access.





### **Curfew**

<http://discover.pbcgov.org/publicsafety/dem/Pages/default.aspx>

The curfew will remain in effect until additional information is sent out and the roadways are clear. **Only "essential emergency personnel" will be permitted weather permitting, to be out during the curfew hours.**

For your situational awareness, this is the information released by the news outlets regarding Palm Beach County Curfews

### **CITY/COUNTY CURFEWS**

**PALM BEACH COUNTY:** Starting Saturday, Sept. 9 at 3 p m.. a countywide curfew will be in effect. The curfew lasts until it's modified or canceled. A person must have a legitimate purpose for being out past curfew hours. In addition to the curfew, the State of Emergency also Prohibits the Sale and/or Distribution of Alcohol as well as the Sale and/or Display of Firearms. The county says curfew is to ensure the safety of all Palm Beach County as well as the personal property and businesses in our county from looters and individuals taking advantage of the aftermath of Hurricane Irma. The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office and all law enforcement in municipal areas said they will have zero tolerance for looting.

### **BRIDGE CLOSURES**

\* The U.S. Coast Guard said Miami, Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River county bridges will be locked down starting at noon Friday.

By 8 p m., they will all be locked down. Lock down means cars can still drive over them, and will not go up for boats.

### **Town of Palm Beach Storm Emergency Response Plan (SERP)**

<http://www.townofpalmbeach.com/DocumentCenter/View/5363>

### **Town of Palm Beach HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS**

<http://townofpalmbeach.com/DocumentCenter/View/1728>

**Edward (Eddie) Thompson**

**Section Manager**  
**Strategic Intelligence**  
**Homeland Security Bureau**  
**Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office**  
**3228 Gun Club Road**  
**West Palm Beach, FL 33406**  
**Office : 561-688-3912**  
**Cell : 786-402-4059**  
**[thompsons@pbsd.org](mailto:thompsons@pbsd.org)**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Thompson, Edward L.](#)  
**Subject:** SITREP 9/11  
**Date:** Monday, September 11, 2017 7:17:18 AM

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**\*\*This email was sent from an external (non-PBSO) source.\*\***

Good morning Mr. Thompson,

I received multiple weather updates from PB Regional Fusion Center over the weekend so thank you.

I can see the power tracker online with the link you sent, it looks like Mar-a-Lago has power – yes?

Any additional updates with local information of damage assessment/infrastructure, roads, etc. will be appreciated.

Thank you.

V/r

[REDACTED]  
White House Communications Agency  
Intelligence Support Branch  
202.757.6385 (office)  
202.814.8004 (mobile)

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**From:** Thompson, Edward L. [mailto:ThompsonE@pbso.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 8, 2017 9:08 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** NWS Miami Briefing on Hurricane Irma: 830 PM Friday, September 8th

**From:** NWS Miami [mailto:kevin.scharfenberg@noaa.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 08, 2017 8:55 PM  
**To:** \_NWS SR-MFL.Ops  
**Subject:** NWS Miami Briefing on Hurricane Irma: 830 PM Friday, September 8th

**\*\*This email was sent from an external (non-PBSO) source.\*\***

See attached for latest NWS Miami Briefing on Irma.

--

**Kevin Scharfenberg**

Science and Operations Officer

National Weather Service Forecast Office Miami, Florida

(Office) 305-229-4522 (Direct) 305-229-4521

	<a href="#">@nwsiami</a>		<a href="#">NWSMiami</a>
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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Thompson, Edward L.](#)  
**Cc:** [ROBERT PEARCE \(WPB\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Update: Hurricane Irma\_Florida Preparation  
**Date:** Friday, September 08, 2017 10:37:47 AM  
**Attachments:** [image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)  
[image009.png](#)

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**\*\*This email was sent from an external (non-PBSO) source.\*\***

Good morning Mr. Thompson,

Thanks again for the information.

Please keep us in the loop on updates/SITREPS.

V/r

[REDACTED]  
White House Communications Agency  
Intelligence Support Branch  
202.757.6385 (office)  
202.814.8004 (mobile)

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**From:** Thompson, Edward L. [mailto:ThompsonE@pbso.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 6, 2017 6:19 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED] >  
**Cc:** ROBERT PEARCE (WPB) <Robert.Pearce@ussf.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Update: Hurricane Irma\_Florida Preparation

**NWS/NHC Hurricane Irma Update:**

Hurricane Irma is currently 35 miles east-southeast of St. Maartin, moving west-northwest at 16 mph. Maximum sustained winds remain at 185 mph, with recorded wind gusts of 225 mph.

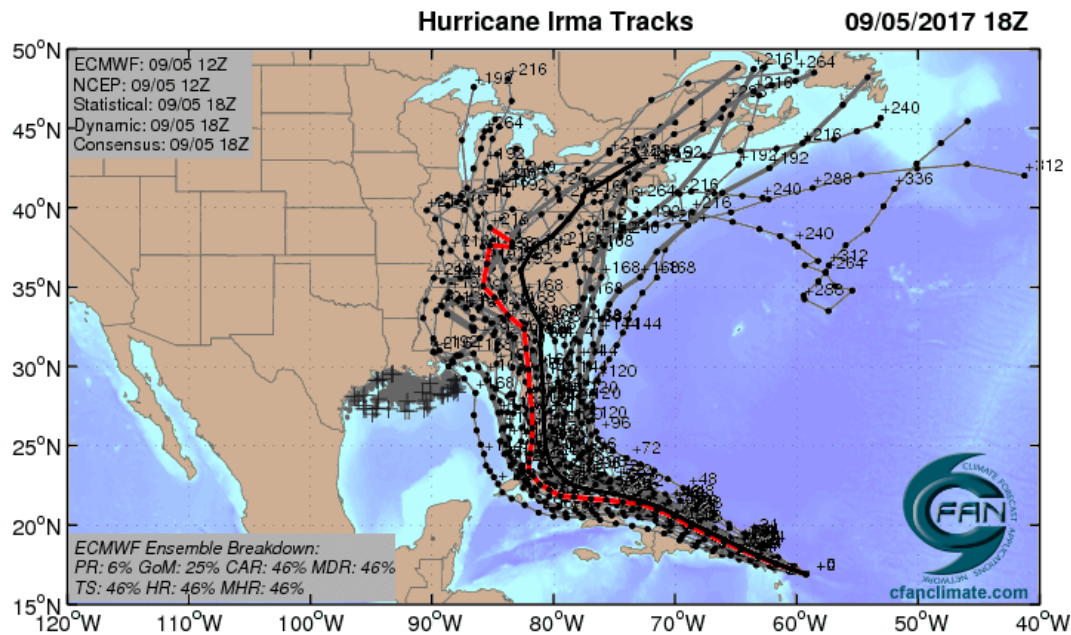
A general west-northwestward motion is expected during the next 48-72 hours. Hurricane-force winds extend out approximately 80 miles from the center and tropical-storm-force winds extend out approximately 175 miles from the center. The National Hurricane Center reports that Hurricane Irma is the strongest Atlantic Basin hurricane on record.

The bulk of the guidance now calls for Irma to turn northward, moving near or over the Florida east coast or the northwestern Bahamas. The official forecast has also been shifted eastward, but the possibility remains that it may shift back to the west. The forecast now calls for landfall in South Florida between 96-120 hours. Users are reminded to not focus on the exact forecast track, especially at the longer ranges, since the average NHC track errors are about 175 and 225 statute miles at days 4 and 5, respectively.

Irma is likely to remain in a light shear, warm water, environment for the next 3 to 4 days. The intensity guidance continues to show slow weakening, and this part of the intensity forecast is little changed from the previous advisory, with Irma remaining a strong hurricane during this time. The intensity forecast is lowered at 120 hours due to the forecast landfall, and even if Irma stays over water it is likely to encounter some vertical shear at that time.

The chance of direct impacts from Irma beginning later this week and this weekend from wind, storm surge, and rainfall continues to increase in the Florida Keys and portions of the Florida Peninsula. However, it is too soon to specify the timing and magnitude of these impacts. The center of Irma may be very close to South Florida by Sunday morning, with conditions going downhill already during the day, Saturday and worsening for South Florida on Sunday.

Irma's wind field will be large, therefore, dangerous surf and coastal flooding will likely exist throughout the southeastern U.S. coastline even well away from Irma's center by late week.



This hazardous weather outlook is for South Florida:

TODAY AND TONIGHT:

Thunderstorms: Thunderstorms are possible this afternoon and early evening, mainly over interior sections. Lightning strikes are the primary threat.

Waterspouts: Waterspouts are possible on all South Florida waters today.

Temperatures: Heat indices will range from 105 to 108 degrees.

THURSDAY THROUGH TUESDAY

Scattered mainly afternoon thunderstorms are expected for the remainder of the week. Lightning strikes are the primary threat.

Heat index values on Thursday and Friday are forecast to exceed 105 degrees over portions of South Florida.

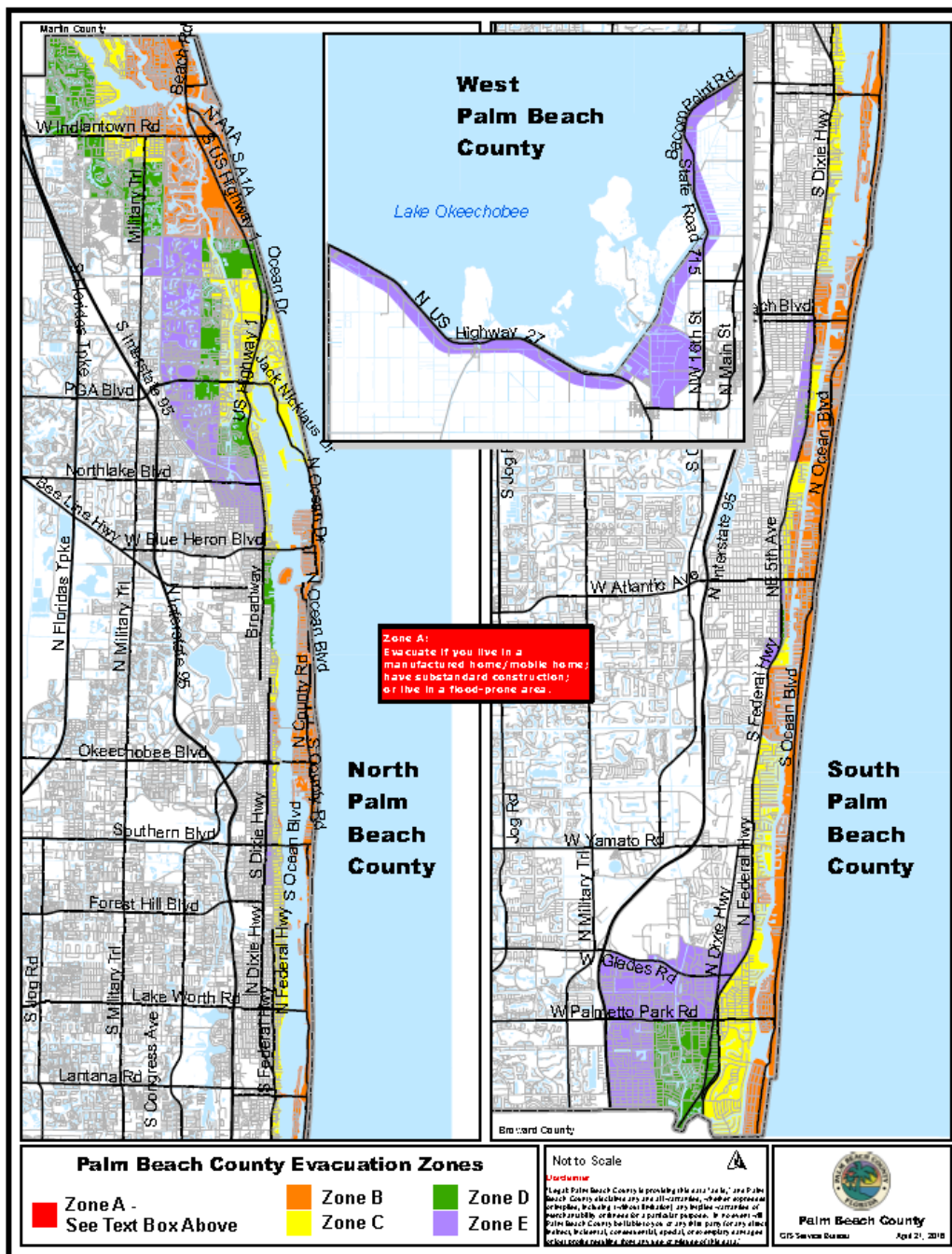
---

**From:** Thompson, Edward L.  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 05, 2017 3:50 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** ROBERT PEARCE (WPB)  
**Subject:** Hurricane Irma\_Florida Preparation

The location is in an evacuation zone

[http://pbcbgov.com/knowurzone/pdf/Evacuation\\_Zones\\_Full\\_County.pdf](http://pbcbgov.com/knowurzone/pdf/Evacuation_Zones_Full_County.pdf)





## Weather Update - Hurricane Irma - 1400 Hours

><http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/><

NWS/NHC Weather Update for 1400 hours

Reports from an Air Force Hurricane Hunter aircraft indicate that the maximum sustained winds have increased to near 185 mph with higher gusts. Irma is an extremely dangerous category 5 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale. Some fluctuations in intensity are likely during the next day or two, but Irma is forecast to remain a powerful category 4 or 5 hurricane during the next couple of days.

Irma is currently about 180 miles east of Antigua, moving west at 14 mph. Irma is still forecast to turn west-northwest sometime tonight.

For the next five days, wind shear, sea-surface temps, and ocean heat content will remain very favorable for development, with



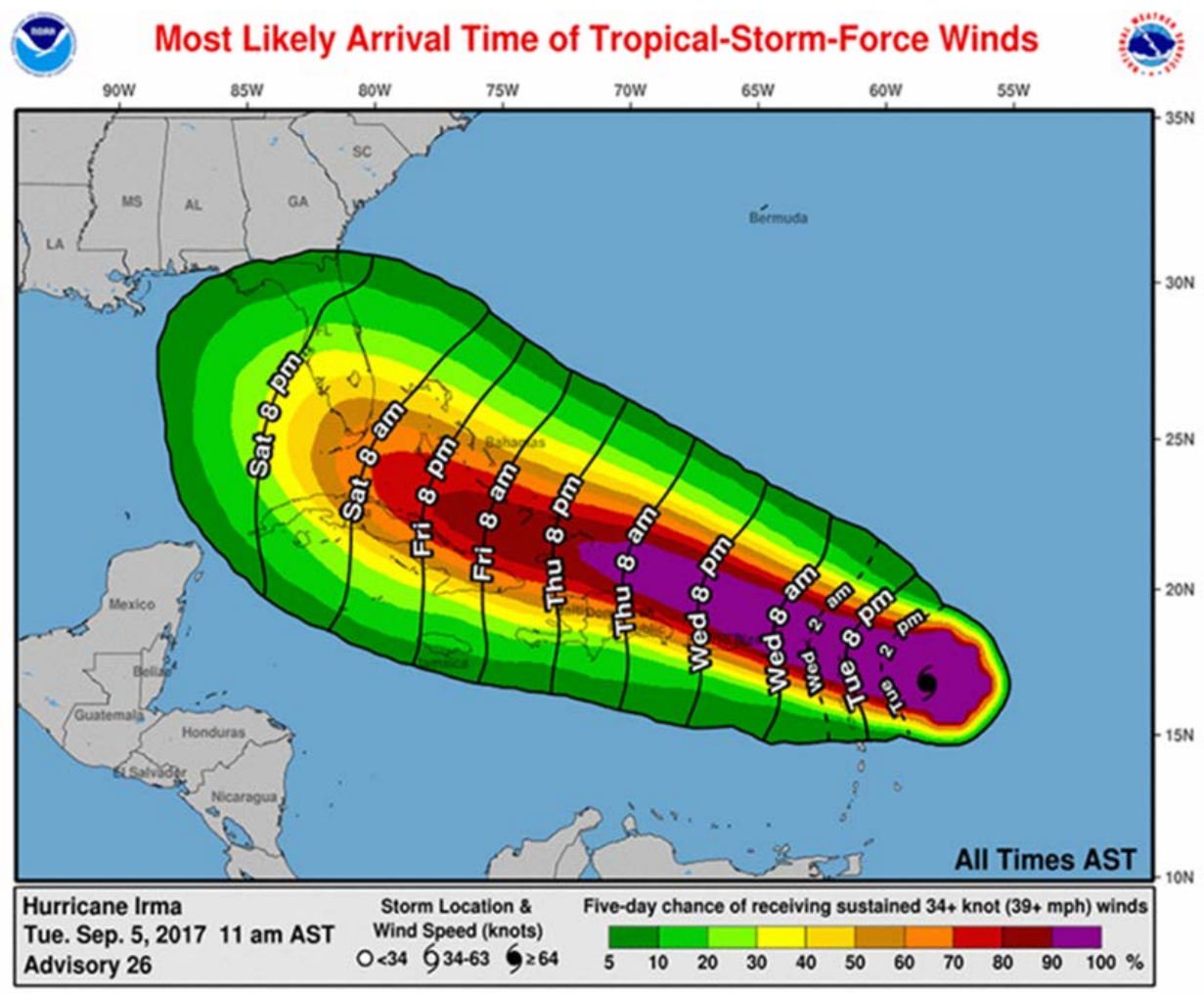
Irma passing over slightly warmer waters later this week.

Three of the four most reliable intensity models predicted in their Tuesday morning runs that Irma would be a Category 4 or 5 hurricane with 130 - 160 mph winds through Saturday, and the official NHC forecast of a Category 4 or 5 hurricane for the remainder of the week looks reasonable. The only major impediment to Irma's strength would appear to be interaction with land; a close pass or direct hit on Hispaniola or Cuba could potentially damage or destroy the hurricane's inner core and knock it down to Category 2 or 3 strength.

What is not yet certain is whether Irma will travel along Florida's west coast or its east coast, offshore from one or the other, or along the spine of the Florida peninsula. Any of these paths could bring significant and potentially devastating impacts to large parts of the state. There remains a small chance that Irma will make a sharp enough turn to miss Florida and head north through the Bahamas.

While it is too soon to rule out other possibilities, Irma has a good chance of moving northward close enough to the Florida peninsula for significant impacts to large parts of the state, potentially devastating in some areas. Irma may be moving at 10 mph for a day or more after it makes its northward turn, which will prolong the period of high winds and heavy rains within its circulation. Even if it moves along Florida's west coast, residents on the East Coast could still receive hurricane-force winds, significant storm surge, and torrential rains of 10 - 15" or more. Depending on Irma's track, some areas could experience 8 hours or more of hurricane-force wind and 24 hours or more of tropical-storm-force wind.

Tropical-storm-force winds are projected to reach South Florida as early as Friday evening.



**Palm Beach Regional Fusion Center**  
**[PBRegionalFusion@pbsso.org](mailto:PBRegionalFusion@pbsso.org)**  
**Phone: 561-688-3700**  
**FAX: 561-688-3968**

Edward (Eddie) Thompson  
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Office : 561-688-3912  
Cell : 786-402-4059  
[thompsons@pbsso.org](mailto:thompsons@pbsso.org)

-----Original Message-----

From: Southeast Florida Fusion Center [<mailto:seffc@mdpd.com>]  
Sent: Tuesday, September 05, 2017 3:27 PM  
To: Thompson, Edward L.  
Subject: FW: Hurricane Irma\_Florida Preparation

\*\*This email was sent from an external (non-PBSO) source.\*\*.

Good afternoon,

Could you please help with the below request?

Respectfully,

Southeast Florida Fusion Center  
[seffc@mdpd.com](mailto:seffc@mdpd.com)  
office: 305 470-3880  
fax: 305 470-3895

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-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2017 2:00 PM  
To: Southeast Florida Fusion Center <[seffc@mdpd.com](mailto:seffc@mdpd.com)>  
Subject: Hurricane Irma\_Florida Preparation

Good afternoon,

My name is [REDACTED]. I work with the White House Communications Agency in Washington DC -- we're a military organization that provides communications support to the President.

I spoke with a member of the Florida Fusion Center and was given your email by one of the members there.

We're being asked for preliminary situational assessments on Hurricane Irma and any expected impact to Florida, more specifically Mar-A-Lago. It's possible that we will travel to Mar-a-Lago or locations in Florida if Hurricane Irma makes landfall and impacts Florida (and other states).

We're being proactive in reaching out to your agency, so can I ask to be added to your distribution list for SITREPS on Hurricane Irma?

Any information or assistance is greatly appreciated.

V/r

[REDACTED]  
White House Communications Agency  
Intelligence Support Branch  
202.757.6385 (office)  
202.814.8004 (mobile)

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-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2017 1:51 PM  
To: 'FloridaFusionCenter@fdle.state.fl.us' <[FloridaFusionCenter@fdle.state.fl.us](mailto:FloridaFusionCenter@fdle.state.fl.us)>  
Subject: Hurricane Irma\_Florida Preparation

Good afternoon,

My name is [REDACTED]. I worked with the White House Communications Agency in Washington DC -- we're a military organization that provides communications support to the President.

We're being asked for preliminary situational assessments on Hurricane Irma and any expected impact to Florida, more specifically Mar-A-Lago. It's possible that we will travel to Mar-a-Lago or locations in Florida if Hurricane Irma makes landfall and impacts Florida (and other states).

We're being proactive in reaching out to your agency, so can I ask to be added to your distribution list for SITREPS on Hurricane Irma?

Any information or assistance is greatly appreciated.

I can follow this request up with a phone call, if preferred.

Thank you.

V/r

[REDACTED]  
White House Communications Agency  
Intelligence Support Branch  
202.757.5546 (office)  
202.814.8004 (mobile)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Thompson, Edward L.](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Hurricane Irma\_Florida Preparation  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 06, 2017 9:59:37 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)

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**\*\*This email was sent from an external (non-PBSO) source.\*\***

Thank you Mr. Thompson.

Please continue to keep us in the loop with SITREPs, updates, etc.

V/r

[REDACTED]  
White House Communications Agency  
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202.757.6385 (office)  
202.814.8004 (mobile)

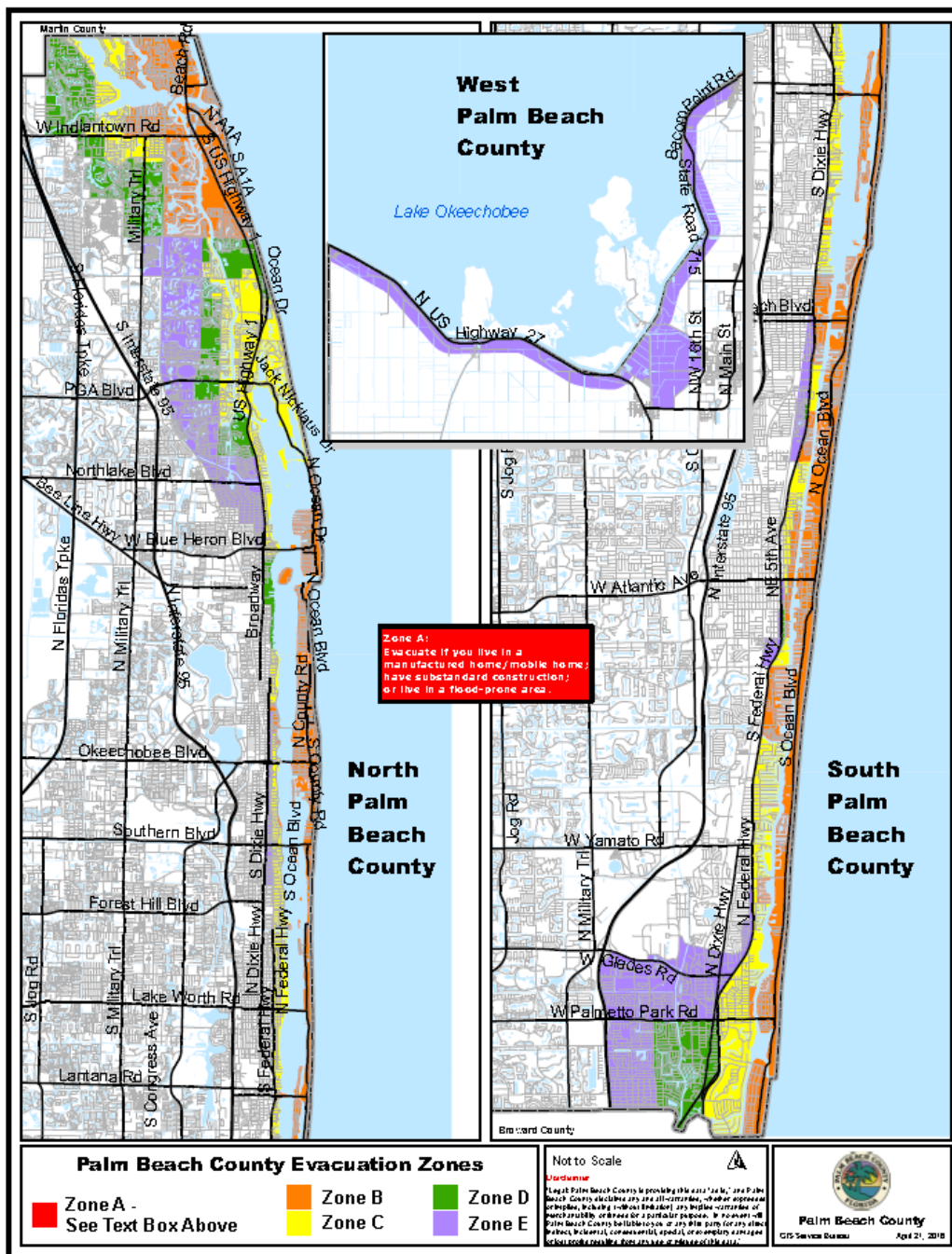
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**Sent:** Tuesday, September 5, 2017 3:50 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** ROBERT PEARCE (WPB) <Robert.Pearce@uss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Hurricane Irma\_Florida Preparation

The location is in an evacuation zone

>[http://pbcgov.com/knowurzone/pdf/Evacuation\\_Zones\\_Full\\_County.pdf](http://pbcgov.com/knowurzone/pdf/Evacuation_Zones_Full_County.pdf)<



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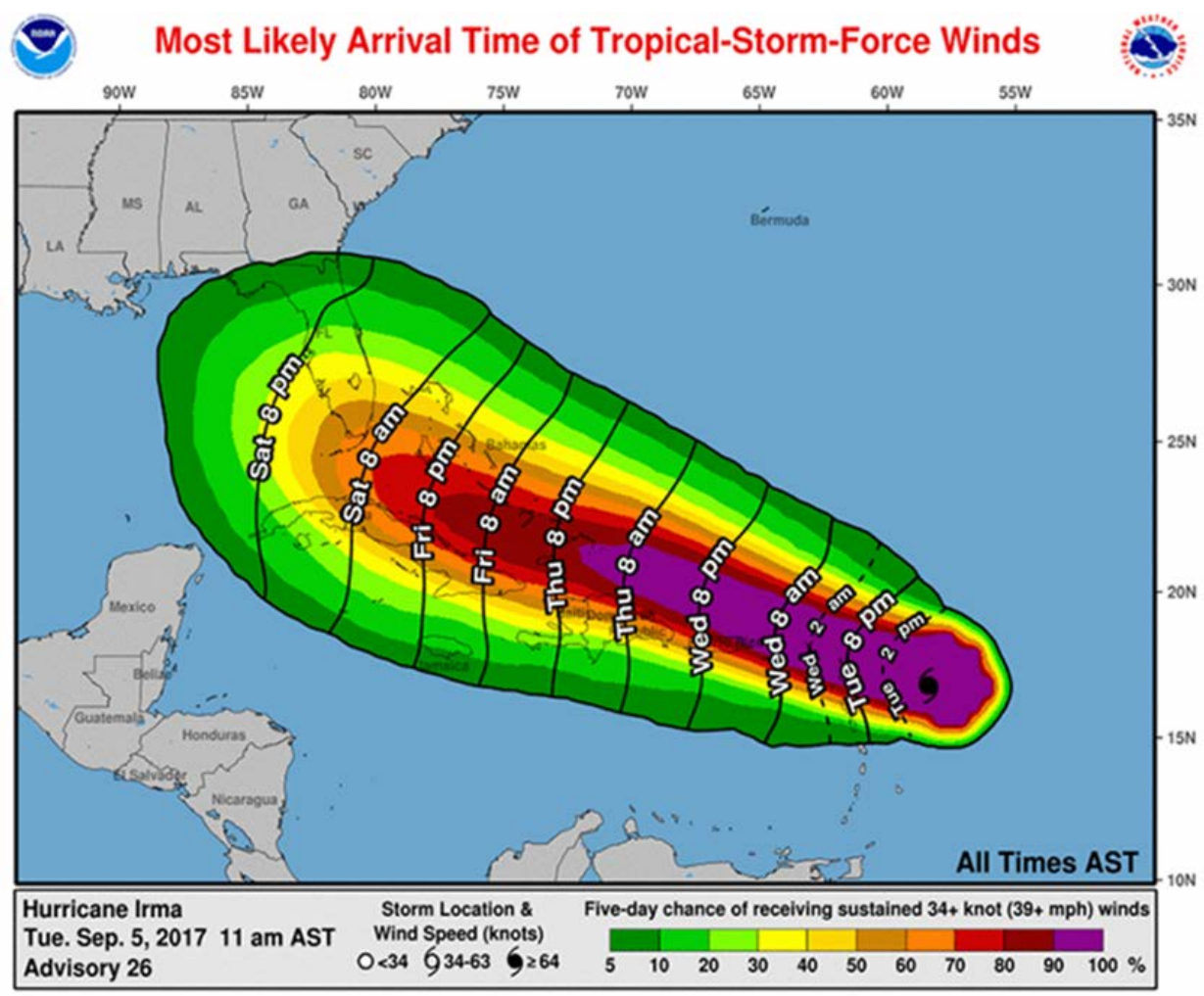
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**[PBRegionalFusion@pbsso.org](mailto:PBRegionalFusion@pbsso.org)**  
**Phone: 561-688-3700**  
**FAX: 561-688-3968**

Edward (Eddie) Thompson  
Section Manager  
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[thompsons@pbsso.org](mailto:thompsons@pbsso.org)

-----Original Message-----

From: Southeast Florida Fusion Center [<mailto:seffc@mdpd.com>]  
Sent: Tuesday, September 05, 2017 3:27 PM  
To: Thompson, Edward L.  
Subject: FW: Hurricane Irma\_Florida Preparation

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To: Southeast Florida Fusion Center <[seffc@mdpd.com](mailto:seffc@mdpd.com)>  
Subject: Hurricane Irma\_Florida Preparation

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-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2017 1:51 PM  
To: 'FloridaFusionCenter@fdle.state.fl.us' <[FloridaFusionCenter@fdle.state.fl.us](mailto:FloridaFusionCenter@fdle.state.fl.us)>  
Subject: Hurricane Irma\_Florida Preparation

Good afternoon,

My name is [REDACTED]. I worked with the White House Communications Agency in Washington DC -- we're a military organization that provides communications support to the President.

We're being asked for preliminary situational assessments on Hurricane Irma and any expected impact to Florida, more specifically Mar-A-Lago. It's possible that we will travel to Mar-a-Lago or locations in Florida if Hurricane Irma makes landfall and impacts Florida (and other states).

We're being proactive in reaching out to your agency, so can I ask to be added to your distribution list for SITREPS on Hurricane Irma?

Any information or assistance is greatly appreciated.

I can follow this request up with a phone call, if preferred.

Thank you.

V/r

[REDACTED]  
White House Communications Agency  
Intelligence Support Branch  
202.757.5546 (office)  
202.814.8004 (mobile)

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**From:** [Hardy-Smith, Nicole Renee](#)  
**To:** [PB Regional Fusion](#)  
**Subject:** event 8.20.17 - near Mar a Lago  
**Date:** Friday, August 18, 2017 9:58:25 AM

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Possible event has been added to calendar. Notifications have been made to both Palm Beach PD/West Palm Beach PD

Nicole Hardy-Smith  
Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office  
Senior Criminal Intelligence Analyst  
Strategic Intelligence / IOC  
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**From:** [Thompson, Edward L.](#)  
**To:** [Stanfill, Kevin L.](#); [Garcia, Ricardo](#); [Gerena, David A.](#); [Giumenta, James](#); [Pajenski, Randi M.](#); [Webb, Kayonne K.](#)  
**Cc:** [Alberti, Anthony A](#)  
**Subject:** Four Seasons- Republican National Committee Event  
**Date:** Friday, March 03, 2017 8:13:25 AM

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<http://postonpolitics.blog.palmbeachpost.com/2017/03/01/trump-scott-rubio-expected-at-gop-donor-weekend-in-palm-beach/>

President Donald Trump, Florida Gov. Rick Scott and Sen. Marco Rubio are all expected to speak at a weekend event for major Republican donors in Palm Beach, GOP sources confirm.

A few hundred people are expected at the Republican National Committee event at the Four Seasons.

Trump, who will be spending the weekend at his Mar-a-Lago Club, is slated to speak at a Friday night dinner. Scott will speak to a Saturday lunch and Rubio to a dinner on Saturday.

Trump spent three consecutive weekends in Palm Beach but remained in Washington, D.C., this past weekend.

**Edward (Eddie) Thompson**  
**Section Manager**  
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**Cell : 786-402-4059**  
[thompsone@pbsso.org](mailto:thompsone@pbsso.org)

**From:** [Thompson, Edward L.](#)  
**To:** [Ward, Andrea L.](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Software keeps drones grounded when President Trump is in Palm Beach County  
**Date:** Friday, March 17, 2017 11:36:16 AM

---

**Edward (Eddie) Thompson**  
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**[thompsons@pbso.org](mailto:thompsons@pbso.org)**

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**From:** Thompson, Edward L.  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2017 1:29 PM  
**To:** Garcia, Ricardo  
**Subject:** Software keeps drones grounded when President Trump is in Palm Beach County

<http://www.wptv.com/news/region-n-palm-beach-county/jupiter/software-keeps-drones-grounded-when-pres-trump-is-in-pbc>

Conditions on President's Day would have been perfect for Chris Leyden, a boat captain, to shoot some footage of his boat coming in and out of the Jupiter Inlet.

"It was a beautiful day. It was fantastic. Winds were calm and it was sunny," Leyden said. "I set up but I wasn't even able to take off."

A message popped up on his screen, informing him he was in a temporary no-fly zone because President Trump was 15 miles away from Jupiter Inlet, at Mar-a-Lago.

"I didn't know about the 30-mile radius," Leyden said. "I was only informed about the 10-mile radius."

Drones have software called geo-fencing which prohibits them from taking off when flight restrictions are in place.

"Smart controllers or intelligent controllers are embedded on higher grade equipment so you won't find geo-fencing on an \$80 drone you find at the hobby store," Shawn Holmgren with Palm Beach Drone said.

Cheaper drones are not equipped with geo-fencing software but they're also less of a possible threat.

“They’re light weight they don’t have the lifting capability, they don’t have the distance, the range,” Holmgren said. “An \$80 drone is only going to go 50 to 60 feet from the operator.”

But even if a cheaper drone gets too close to the President, the Secret Service has ways to keep those drones on the ground as well.

“I know that they could, easily, deploy signal jamming devices,” Holmgren said.

Although it would have been a picture perfect day to fly his drone, Leyden said he isn’t complaining.

“I understand the rules and the reasons for them and I’m all about keeping the President safe,” Leyden said.

**Edward (Eddie) Thompson**  
**Section Manager**  
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**From:** [Thompson, Edward L.](#)  
**To:** [Billy Weinshenk \(billyweinsha@pbcgov.org\)](mailto:billyweinsha@pbcgov.org)  
**Subject:** FW: Trump plans to host China's Xi in April: media reports  
**Date:** Friday, March 17, 2017 3:18:46 PM

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<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trump-china-idUSKBN16K15D>

U.S. President Donald Trump plans to host Chinese President Xi Jinping at a two-day summit next month, according to media reports, as his administration seeks to smooth relations with the world's second-largest economy.

The meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 6-7 at Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida, U.S. online media outlet Axios reported on Monday, citing officials familiar with the plans.

CNN also reported the planned summit, citing an unnamed administration official. It said the plan was tentative and that Secretary of State Rex Tillerson was expected to finalize plans during a trip this week to Asia, which includes a stop in China.

Press Secretary Sean Spicer said on Monday the White House was preparing for a meeting between the two leaders but was not ready to announce a date.

**Edward (Eddie) Thompson**  
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**From:** Vassi Alina  
**To:** [Fusion](#)  
**Subject:** Mar-a-Lago Protest  
**Date:** Monday, July 03, 2017 7:52:16 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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**Good morning,**

**I wanted to share this article I read in the Palm Beach Post. [Protesters, counterprotesters air views on president on march to Mar-a-Lago](#)**

**Please give me an update on the state of the protest.**

**Thank you**



**Alina Vassi**  
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**From:** [Thompson, Edward L.](#)  
**To:** [Fusion](#)  
**Subject:** News / Share from PostNOW App  
**Date:** Monday, August 21, 2017 6:31:36 AM

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JUST IN: Protesters march to Mar-a-Lago, denounce Trump comments

<http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/breaking-news/just-protesters-march-mar-lago-denounce-trump-comments/SvJn5Vs3pQwOI33fOsuCSI/>

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Thompsone@pbsso.org

**From:** [Anderson, Cassandra L](#)  
**Subject:** News Clips 3/19/2017  
**Date:** Monday, March 20, 2017 11:59:59 AM  
**Attachments:** [News Clips.docx](#)

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# ***News Clip 3/19/2017***

## **Palm Beach Post**

### **BOYNTON BEACH Miami man killed when truck runs over his bicycle**

A Miami man was killed Monday night in suburban Boynton Beach after he was run over by a tractor-trailer while riding his bicycle, according to the Palm Beach County Sheriff 's Office.

Witnesses told investigators Pedro Moreno, 51, attempted to beat the tractor-trailer across the intersection of Boynton Beach Boulevard and Lyons Road, but was struck and run over by the truck's wheels, the sheriff 's office said.

The crash took place about 9:30 p.m. Moreno was taken to Del-ray Medical Center where he was pronounced dead at 10:12 p.m. — JORGE MILIAN

### **WELLINGTON Man, 78, killed in crash near Wellington mall**

A 78-year-old man was killed Friday in a crash near the Mall at Wellington Green, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office said.

The man was identified Saturday as Howard Tommie of Okeechobee. The crash occurred about 4:15 p.m. at State Road 7 and a service road next to the mall, according to a Palm Beach County Sheriff 's Office crash report.

Tommie was driving north on State Road 7 when he failed to yield to a westbound vehicle using the service road, the report said. He may have suffered a medical episode before the crash, investigators said.

The driver of the other vehicle, Dragica Badju, 58, of suburban West Palm Beach, suffered minor injuries, the sheriff 's office said. — JULIUS WHIGHAM II

### CRIME STOPPERS **These suspects were wanted as of Thursday:**

**Eric Keller**, 29, on charges of dealing in stolen property, burglary of a structure conveyance, false verification of ownership and grand theft. He was born June 21, 1987, and has blond hair and blue eyes. His last known address was Second Street, Lake Park.

**Michael Drayton**, 31, on charges of burglary with assault or battery and robbery. He was born July 8, 1985, and has black hair and brown eyes. His last known address was Fourth Street, Jupiter.

Call Crime Stoppers of Palm Beach County at 800-458-TIPS (8477).



Keller



Drayton

### WELLINGTON HEROIN CRISIS

## Wellington mayor: No opioid 'crisis'

*By Matt Morgan Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



**HEROIN**  
Killer  
of a generation

Mayor Anne Gerwig is reluctant to associate the village with the opioid issue.

**WELLINGTON** — Mayor Anne Gerwig refused to sign a letter backed by the rest of the village council to ask Gov. Rick Scott to declare a health emergency over heroin overdose deaths.

While acknowledging the problem sweeping the county and nation, Gerwig drew the line at Wellington, saying the letter may give the wrong impression about overdoses in the village of 60,000.

"It's horrible, and it does happen in Wellington. We all know that," she said. "But associating ourselves with an opioid crisis should be handled pretty carefully."

The four other council members signed the letter, which said the national heroin death toll is "now comparable to AIDS deaths in the 1990s."

The letter arrived on Scott's desk weeks after similar requests from Palm Beach County Commissioner Melissa McKinlay — whose district includes Wellington — and the Martin County Commission.

"I think it is just trying to bring into focus that this is a crisis," Councilwoman Tanya Siskind said. "It's not a particularly huge crisis here in Wellington but it just made us part of that voice."

The letters from McKinlay and Martin County were prompted in part by reporting on the epidemic by The Palm Beach Post, which devoted a front page in November to a collage of faces of 216 people who died of heroin-related overdoses in Palm Beach County in 2015.

The Palm Beach County Medical Examiner's Office has said more than 500 people died of overdoses of all types in the county in 2016.

"This is a problem that is touching our community, and we cannot bury our heads in the sand," Vice Mayor John McGovern said. "We have to be vigilant and we have to demand that our fellow elected officials up the chain of government are equally vigilant."

The number of overdose calls in Wellington increased from 68 in 2015 to 104 in 2016. Not all those calls were for opioid overdoses, but Palm Beach County Fire Rescue Battalion Chief Michael Arena said opioids likely were the main reason for the increase. The village responded to more calls, with overdose calls accounting for about 17 percent of the increase.

But Gerwig said that based on conversations she has had with local emergency response officials, the consensus has been that opioids have not reached a "crisis" level in Wellington yet.

Village Manager Paul Schofield adapted the Wellington letter from McKinlay's, which cited larger numbers that Gerwig said give a false picture of how bad it is in Wellington.

Even if she didn't agree with the exact wording, Gerwig said she would have signed the letter if it had been discussed in public and the majority of the council had voted to approve the language. Council members wanted the letter so they could show it to legislators last week during Palm Beach County Day in

Tallahassee. [mmorgan@pbpost.com](mailto:mmorgan@pbpost.com)

## OUR VIEWS TRUMP IN PALM BEACH COUNTY **County right to seek help on president-hosting costs**



The local security costs of President Donald Trump's stays in Palm Beach, for the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office only, is at least \$1.4 million so far.

RICHARD GRAULICH / THE PALM BEACH POST

Since being sworn in as president less than two months ago, President Donald J. Trump has spent five weekends, including this one, at his gilded estate Mar-a-Lago, which he has dubbed his "Southern White House."

While this is certainly an honor for the area, protecting the leader of the free world and his considerable retinue comes with certain costs.

So far, the bill to the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office alone is at least \$1.4 million. That's what Sheriff Ric Bradshaw estimated in mid-February, a couple of presidential visits ago. The total, of course, has risen since then.

These are expenses that the federal government should bear — or at least share. It shouldn't fall to the residents of this county alone. Yet so far, the outlook is discouraging.

Trump supporters ask: Why the fuss? Other presidents incurred huge taxpayer expenses when they traveled and took vacations. Look at President Barack Obama! This is a different situation. These visits are occurring far too frequently to be considered mere vacations. For years as a private citizen, Trump spent nearly every wintry weekend flying down here from New York City. It's clear he means to keep that habit. As County Commissioner Dave Kerner said, "We're getting to the point where he's governing from here."

That's inarguable. The president has hosted the Japanese prime minister and his wife here. He is expecting the Chinese president next month. He and his aides monitored the surprise news of a North Korean missile test here — in full view of camera-snapping diners at the Mar-a-Lago Club.

That "Southern White House" moniker is one phrase that Trump means literally as well as seriously.

By using the Palm Beach mansion as a de facto Executive Mansion, Trump's travel is bound to be much more expensive than that of other presidents. According to the Washington Post, Trump's first three presidential visits to Mar-a-Lago — in just his first month in office — cost the federal treasury some \$10 million. That's one-tenth of what Obama's extracurricular travel and safety cost over eight years. Trump's on track, in other words, to exceed that in one year.

Meanwhile, flight restrictions imposed to ensure the president's safety shut down the nearby Lantana airport every hour that he's here, grounding operations for days and imperiling employment for 250 people.

Palm Beach County commissioners have asked nicely for reimbursement.

Commissioner Mary Lou Berger says that she, Bradshaw and a county administrator recently held a conference call with officials from the Department of Homeland Security, Secret Service, Congressional Budget Office and Federal Emergency Management Agency.

So far, nothing. "They were very polite," Berger said, "but that's where they stopped. I did not get a lot of encouragement."

So we applaud Kerner for trying to put some muscle into the effort. He's come up with a novel idea: Impose a tax on any special benefit the county has provided to the president by declaring Mar-a-Lago "a municipal service benefit unit."

Florida statutes allow for such units, which typically tax things like street lighting and road paving that incur an unusual public expense. One hitch: the statute authorizes county commissioners to create these units specifically in unincorporated areas. That would seem to leave Mar-a-Lago, located in the town of Palm Beach, out of reach.

Kerner, however, has asked the county attorney to scour case law. The hope is to show that the county's home-rule authority gives it leeway to establish such a unit, despite the statutory language.

This battle is not personal or political about the president, said the first-year commissioner, a Democrat. "It's about protecting our local tax base."

Local government has a finite amount of money to work with, and these presidential-security expenses are an additional factor that must be accounted for. If local government must pay millions to protect the president, that's money unavailable for vital local needs.

Simple fairness dictates that if the president is going to use a county residence as a part-time working White House, then the costs of supporting that part-time working White House be borne by the entire nation, not just those of us who happen to pay local taxes here.

That 'Southern White House' moniker is one phrase that Trump means literally as well as seriously.



## LAKE OKEECHOBEE RESERVOIR

# Residents come out in force to oppose Lake O land buy Reservoir plans will kill jobs, ruin Glades, they tell Sen. Joe Negron. *By Susan Salisbury Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Clewiston resident Vandon Byers (front) shows support for the Machinists Union Families group Friday night at Pahokee High School. Hundreds of Glades area residents joined in opposition to a proposal to build a 60,000-acre reservoir on farmland south of Lake Okeechobee. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ARES / THE PALM BEACH POST



Florida Senate President Joe Negron (center) listens to residents Friday night. The Pahokee High auditorium was filled to its capacity of 400, and several hundred people outside were turned away.



"We cannot, do not and will not support SB 10 as it is today," Pahokee resident Lynda Moss told state Sen. Joe Negron on Friday. MICHAEL ARES / THE PALM BEACH POST

PAHOKEE — In a face-off Friday night at Pahokee High School, hundreds of Glades area residents came out in force to tell Florida Senate President Joe Negron his proposal to build a 60,000-acre reservoir on farmland south of Lake Okeechobee would kill jobs and economically devastate their rural communities.

Dozens of machinists union members wore black T-shirts emblazoned with "Save our Jobs" in white letters. Sugar cane and vegetable farmers bore green-and-white "Stop the land grab," and "Hands off my tractor," signs. Others hung toilet seats around their necks, stating, "Clean up your own septic mess," a reference to the estimated 250,000 to 600,000 septic tanks draining into Lake Okeechobee from the north. The auditorium was filled to its capacity of 400, and several hundred people who quietly waited outside were turned away. Police estimated the total number of people who turned out at 1,000.

"We cannot, do not and will not support SB 10 as it is today," said Lynda Moss, a Pahokee resident whose family owns and operates Moss Towing and Trucking in South Bay. "The devastation from the loss of jobs is unimaginable at this point." Years ago, farmers were mandated to clean up Lake O k e e c h o b e e a n d h a v e exceeded their goals, Moss said.

"We feel it is time for the coastal communities to take accountability for what they've done and take accountability for the water," Moss said, adding that a retention area is needed at the north end of the lake.

Moss called the Glades "God's Country," and she and others expressed pride in being the nation's winter vegetable producing leader, a position they say a land buy would topple.

Clewiston resident Janet Taylor, a Hendry County commissioner and a leader of Glades Lives Matter, told Negron, "Mr. President, please don't make this issue about saving one area of your district at the expense of another."

Senate Bill 10, now called the "Coast-to-Coast Comprehensive Water Resource Program," began as a \$2.4 billion proposal to acquire between 60,000 and 153,000 acres of prime sugar cane and vegetable-growing land, largely in western Palm Beach County. An identical bill has been filed in the Florida House, HB 761.

The proposal now has been expanded to include water projects related to the St. Johns River, the Indian River Lagoon and the Florida Keys, and the estimated cost has grown to \$3.3 billion.

Negron, R-Palm City, and Sen. Rob Bradley, R-Fleming Island, contend that reservoirs south of Lake O will help solve pollution and toxic-algae problems in the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries. Algae ended up on beaches in Martin and Palm Beach counties ahead of the July 4 weekend last summer.

Pahokee Mayor Keith Babb, Pahokee City Manager Chandler Williamson, and Palm Beach County Commissioner Melissa McKinlay sat on the panel with Negron, whose district now includes Pahokee.

Negron said he was there to try to understand the legitimate economic concerns of the residents of Pahokee, Belle Glade, Clewiston, Canal Point and the entire Glades area.

Residents submitted dozens of written questions. Most of the questions were directed at Negron and asked why he thinks the project is needed, and whether it will work.

They asked how they as individuals and as a community will survive if the land is taken out of production, and they lose their jobs and homes and cherished way of life.

Negron said he hopes to come up with a plan that doesn't adversely affect jobs. By one estimate, job losses would total 4,100 in agriculture and other businesses sustained by it.

Land the state owns and land owned by private owners who are not in the sugar industry, as well as land swaps, are being considered, Negron said. He said that by the end of the legislative session in May, he expects to have a combination of public and privately held land cobbled together that could be purchased to build a water reservoir south of the lake.

Negron said he wants a solution to Lake O discharges and to make sure every community is doing its fair share, which is why he has supported fertilizer ordinances.



"But for me, it's unsustainable, long-term, to have situation that when the lake gets to 16 feet, we are just going to open up flood gates and have discharges of hundreds of billions of gallons of water east and west," Negron said.

State Rep. Rick Roth, R-Wellington, who is a Belle Glade farmer, asked Negron what would happen if no willing sellers are found. Glades-area farmers and landowners have said they will not sell their land.

Negron said he disagrees that there no willing sellers, and said there are some who are "in discussions with us."

More storage to the south and north of the lake would solve 80 percent of the problem, Negron added. "We all need to come together and come up with something that will work for everyone," he said.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers controls Lake Okeechobee, and state and local governments cannot tell it what to do, Negron said. He asserted that if the Corps had kept the lake one foot deeper last year, discharges into the St. Lucie River would not have occurred.

A lake that's too full should also be a flood concern for Pahokee and the Glades, Negron said, reminding the crowd of the 1928 hurricane when a wall of water killed more than 2,000 people in western Palm Beach County.

McKinlay, who opposes the land buy, said the ripple effect of taking the land out of agricultural production would touch all aspects of the community.

She said that there are 5.5 million acres of publicly owned lands south of the lake. Restoration projects already approved should be completed before a new one is contemplated, McKinlay said.

Babb said the community doesn't oppose storing water, but it is against storing water on productive agricultural land.

He agreed that the state needs to use the 120,000 acres it already has purchased for Everglades restoration first.

With an unemployment rate at 25 percent, the Glades cannot afford to lose any jobs and needs more economic development, Babb said.

The Everglades Foundation, Everglades Trust and other environmental groups support buying land south of the lake for storage and favor reducing discharges to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries.

During the past 20 years, farmers have given up nearly 120,000 acres for stormwater-treatment areas.

After the meeting, several community leaders said while they appreciated Negron's visit, they feel that Negron's mind was already made up.

"It's unfortunate that Senator Negron still continues to push for this misguided land grab," said John Scott Hundley of EAA Farmers.

Said Robert Miller, a representative of the machinists union: "It's sad that President Negrón refuses to change his mind on this job-killing bill so that our jobs and our communities will not be harmed." [ssalisbury@pbpost.com](mailto:ssalisbury@pbpost.com) Twitter: [@ssalisbury](https://twitter.com/ssalisbury)

## LOCAL POLITICS **'THE RADICAL CENTER' OF TRUMP RESISTANCE** They're not fringe types. You might be surprised who is leading local efforts against Trump administration policies. *By Barbara Marshall Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



On most Tuesday mornings, protesters with the Palm Beach Indivisibles gather outside U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio's office in Palm Beach Gardens. BRUCE R. BENNETT / THE PALM BEACH POST



On March 5, about 80 Women's March Florida protesters spelled out their message on Waveland Beach, in southern St. Lucie County.  
PHOTO BY CHIC KELTY



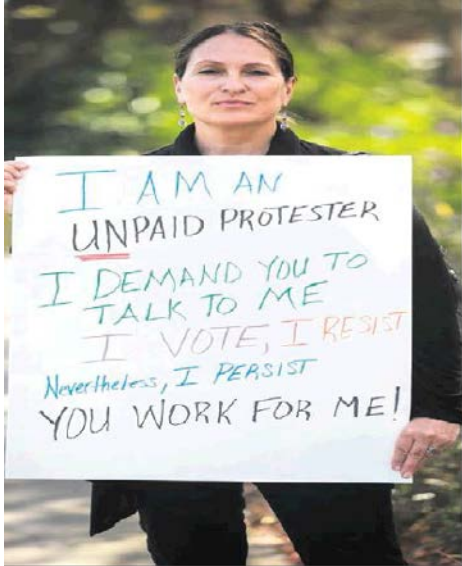
John Studdard



"Clean air and water should not be partisan politics," said Nikkie Berlin, an organizer with Palm Beach Indivisibles. "They should be a basic right." BRUCE R. BENNETT / THE PALM BEACH POST



"I had a sense that the American people had been gulled into electing someone so clearly unsuited to the job," said Robb Allan, one of the founders of the Palm Beach Indivisibles, pictured here outside the Palm Beach Biltmore Condominium complex. "There was a strong sense that we couldn't lay back and let politicians fix this. In a country where citizens are supposed to rule, citizens would have to step up." MICHAEL ARES/ THE PALM BEACH POST



Laura Cain joined the Palm Beach Indivisibles because she was fearful for her 22-year-old transgender child, who she feels will become a target in Trump's America. "I cannot stay silent anymore. It's a deeply personal movement for me." BRUCE R. BENNETT / THE PALM BEACH POST



Chic Kelty

It would be difficult to imagine three more unlikely political activists.

Robb Allan, John Studdard and Chic Kelty are prosperous, straight, white, middle-aged businessmen who met at a club for private pilots. Two are former Republicans. They weren't political activists. Or particularly active in politics at all.

"We were happy plodding along in our largely uncontroversial lives," said Studdard, 49, chief operating officer of Achieve, a downtown West Palm Beach research and marketing firm. "We're inherently not troublemakers. We don't like a lot of drama in our lives."

Then Donald Trump was elected president.

Despondent and frightened by what they saw as the country's repressive turn, the three friends — political centrists who say they're socially liberal but fiscally conservative — decided they couldn't sit back while the social progress made during their lifetimes was eroded or erased.

They felt they had to use their professional skills for something they never dreamed would be necessary: political resistance.



Their tool is Palm Beach Indivisibles, the local chapter they founded as part of the nationwide Indivisible movement. In less than two months, the local group's Facebook page gained more than 1,100 members, many brand new to activism.

"We were as surprised about that as anyone," said Studdard.

Since Trump's election in November, a growing progressive movement across the country is attempting to disrupt the conservative Trump agenda of repealing Obamacare and rolling tions, among other goals.

The Women's March on Washington spawned hundreds of local offshoots, including an active Palm Beach County chapter.

Regional groups such as South Florida Activism organize protest rallies, particularly along Trump's motorcade route each time he visits his winter vacation home in Palm Beach.

Not surprisingly, most in the anti-Trump offensive skew liberal and Democratic. Palm Beach Indivisibles remains staunchly non-partisan.

"We're the radical center," says Kelty.

He's a West Palm Beach entrepreneur and inventor, who says he needs free trade and open borders for the manufacturing and distribution of his pool and pond supplies. Kelty was a life-long Republican until last year.

The radical center has become the group's slogan.

"We need a functioning Republican and Democratic party," says Allan, a Palm Beach resident and moderate Democrat, who says currently the country has neither.

"Everything good in this country was built by consensus between two sides."

The men say they have the backing of a "submarine" group of wealthy Palm Beachers who have agreed to anonymously support them.

The national Indivisible movement began after Thanksgiving, founded by former congressional staffers who used the Tea Party's obstruction of the Obama White House as a template. The online Indivisible Guide they wrote provides an action plan for members to lobby their own congressional representatives to resist the Trump agenda.

Turn about, according to the Indivisibles, is fair play.

"Trump is not popular," the guide states. "He does not have a mandate. He does not have large congressional majorities. If a small minority in the Tea Party could stop President Obama, then we the majority can stop a petty tyrant named Trump."

Groups that register under the Indivisible banner must agree to use the guide's strategies while endorsing progressive, inclusive, non-violent tactics.

"Be polite but persistent," the guide advises.

In less than four months, more than 4,500 Indivisible groups have sprung up across the country, according to the group's website.

The local chapter's target is U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio. Members demonstrate in front of his Palm Beach Gardens office most Tuesday mornings, demanding he meet with them or hold a town hall meeting. So far, they say Rubio has ignored their requests, although he's being evicted from his Tampa and Jacksonville offices due to disruptions from frequent demonstrations.

Palm Beach Indivisibles doesn't expect to endorse candidates or push legislation. Their message to their members of Congress is straightforward: When it comes to Trump appointees, legislation and budgets, "just say no."

"They're dismantling fundamental parts of our culture and our government, such as the EPA and the NEA (National Endowment for the Arts), so we're OK with being the group of 'no.' That's exactly how the Tea Party stymied Obama's second term," said Studdard. "We really haven't had a fight like this in our lifetimes. There's no turning back."

Here's a closer look at some of Palm Beach Indivisibles' members:

### **Robb Allan, Palm Beach**

Minutes after watching a TV news segment about the Indivisibles movement on Jan. 4, Robb Allan had registered the name Palm Beach Indivisibles on Facebook.

This was the kind of organization he'd been looking for since the election.

In the Palm Beach uniform of blue blazer and sockless loafers, Allan, 64, looks like an entrenched representative of the status quo, not a member of the nation's growing resistance movement.

A former Newsweek journalist who runs a family real estate and investment business called Gulfstream Group, Allan hasn't attended a political demonstration since the antiwar rallies of the late 1960s.

"In the intervening 50 years, the country seemed to be moving in a direction of greater freedom," Allan said. "It has been an expansion of egalitarian freedoms for people."

Feeling that progress was in danger following Trump's election, he stepped off the political sidelines.

"I had a sense that the American people had been gulled into electing someone so clearly unsuited to the job," he said. "There was a strong sense that we couldn't lay back and let politicians fix this. In a country where citizens are supposed to rule, citizens would have to step up."

In the past two months, Palm Beach Indivisibles has attracted mostly Boomer and Gen X members, among them business owners, parents and those fearful of what lies ahead for their LGBT friends and family members. Allan hopes disaffected Republicans will feel comfortable enough to join.

"We're not partisan, progressive or confrontational; we've agreed not to be any of those things," said Allan. "There is a general uniformity about the need to protect core American values."

He realizes he's headed down a rough road. Despite weeks of trying, he says Sen. Rubio's office has yet to respond to requests for a meeting.

"The Tea Party understood that you can only talk to someone who will listen," Allan said. "I'd rather have a quiet, direct conversation with an elected official than a big public confrontation. It's not going to be effective to publicly humiliate them."

After all, Allan says, "It's not about, they win, we lose. We need a middle."

### **Laura Cain, Tequesta**

Laura Cain has never been a protester or a supporter of many politicians. As an independent, she voted for the person, not the party. She said she cast her vote for Hillary Clinton in November without enthusiasm.

But on a gloomy, windy Sunday earlier this month, she took her place among about 80 other demonstrators, spelling out the word "Persist" on Waveland Beach in southern St. Lucie County.

Cain was at the bottom of the letter "I" in a protest organized by the Treasure Coast chapter of Women's March Florida. Flying overhead, pilots and Palm Beach Indivisibles founders Robb Allan and Chic Kelty took photos for the group.

Like most PBI members, Cain supports a variety of groups in the Trump resistance.

"I've never been politically active in my life until November 9," said Cain, 55, a paralegal and Indivisibles member. "But when I woke up on November 9, it was almost like 9-11 all over again. It was that profound."

Much of her fear was for her 22-year-old transgender child, who she feels will become a target in Trump's America.

"I was so alarmed by Trump's rhetoric, but also by the stories I was reading about his followers and how hateful their words and actions were," said Cain. "I cannot stay silent anymore. It's a deeply personal movement for me."

She's convinced that when it comes to obstructing the Trump agenda, demonstrations have their purpose — she takes an early lunch every Tuesday to protest at Sen. Rubio's PGA Boulevard office — but believes direct action is far more effective.

"We call, we write, we show up, even when they dismiss us, as Rubio is doing. He and others need to understand that I'm not going anywhere. Nor are the 1,100 people in Palm Beach Indivisibles. This movement is gaining momentum."

### **Nikkie Berlin, West Palm Beach**

Nikkie Berlin isn't protesting for herself, she says.

After all, she's an educated, professional 45-year-old white woman with all the advantages that entails.

But the former real estate agent who turned her grandmother's designer clothes into Diva Squared, an online vintage clothing boutique, knows what it is to struggle.

"I have been poor, I have used Planned Parenthood and I want young, un-established women to have that option," said Berlin, who is on Obamacare. Her retired parents live on Social Security. "I'm just an everyday, average person ... but I feel that now is the time to stand up and to speak up."

She joined Palm Beach Indivisibles because of its nonpartisan approach to issues.

Every Tuesday, she follows the Indivisibles action plan of directly contacting members of Congress when she heads up the protests at Sen. Rubio's office.

"Some of these issues aren't partisan," she said. "If these regulations are overturned with respect to the EPA, a state that lives off air and water quality and beaches is going to suffer."

Berlin believes that like-minded people working together can derail what they see as the worst impulses of the Trump White House.

"If we can't figure out how to do it together," she said, "we're going to end up stuck here." [bmarshall@pbpost.com](mailto:bmarshall@pbpost.com) **Twitter: @Bmarshallpbp**

'If a small minority in the Tea Party could stop President Obama, then we the majority can stop a petty tyrant named Trump.'

— Indivisible Guide, National Indivisible movement



# Don't tie up emergency lines with questions

*Jeanne Phillips Dear Abby*



**Dear Abby:** I'm a 911 dispatcher and I am shocked by the abuse of the 911 system. We are here to help in times of emergency, but our lines are continuously tied up by people who don't have one. PLEASE help by passing along this plea to your readers:

- Please don't call to ask for phone numbers; we are not Information.
- If you are on a speakerphone or shouting, WE CAN'T HEAR YOU CLEARLY! We know you are upset, but we can't help if we can't understand where you are or what type of assistance you need.
- Do not assume that our computers can pick up your location. We can get an idea of where you are, but there is no guarantee that the information is accurate.
- Every question we ask is important. You may not think so, but we wouldn't ask if the information was not vital.
- And please, don't call us asking for directions or the time!

A dispatcher's job is to keep our responders and the public safe. When our lines are tied up by people who abuse the system, we are unable to help those in dire need of our help. We spend our days dealing with high-stress situations, and we do our best to guarantee a safe outcome for everyone involved. Please respect the 911 emergency system and call only for true emergencies. — **911 DISPATCHER**

**Dear 911 Dispatcher:** I'm printing your letter because it boggles my mind that anyone would be so stupid or inconsiderate as to deliberately call the emergency phone number asking for directions or the time. It is my understanding that some of the 911 systems are antiquated, and too many calls can tie them up, leaving someone with a real emergency unable to get through. In times like that, minutes can be critical. Perhaps the problem would be solved if callers who did not have a true emergency were fined for doing so — since I'm sure you have the number from which the call was placed.

## **Driver crashes car into fence near Mar-a-Lago, faces mental health review** *By Brooke Baitinger Staff writer*

A juvenile who crashed his car into a fence near Mar-a-Lago Friday evening was issued a traffic citation for reckless driving and ordered to receive a mental health evaluation, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office said Saturday.

The crash happened just after 6 p.m., before President Donald Trump's arrival. According to the sheriff's office, the driver of a Dodge Charger sped past the traffic posts on South Ocean Boulevard toward Mar-a-Lago and crashed into the fence. Because of the juvenile's actions and statements, detectives from the Violent Crimes Division took him to JFK North/ West Palm Behavioral Health in West Palm Beach, officials said. Those statements and actions were not released. Neither was his name or age.

## **78-year-old dies in crash** — *Adam Sacasa*

A driver may have suffered a medical issue before he died in a crash outside The Mall at Wellington Green, according to a Palm Beach Sheriff's crash report.

Howard Tommie, 78, of Okeechobee, died after the crash, which happened at 4:15 p.m. Friday.

Investigators say Tommie was driving a 2002 GMC SUV north across the east and westbound lanes of Service Road 6 near State Road 7, outside the mall.

He hit the driver's door of Dragica Badju, 58, of West Palm Beach, who was driving a 2013 Toyota sedan.

Tommie may have lost control of his SUV because of a medical issue when he didn't yield to Badju, investigators said. He was taken to a local hospital where he died at 5:13 p.m.

Badju suffered minor injuries, according to the report.

# Woman battles disease, courts

## Gun incident involving couple, 84 and 86, led to dementia diagnosis

*By Marc Freeman and Adam Sacasa Staff writers*



Levine

Before Beverly Levine's arrest last year on charges of trying to kill her husband, the 86-year-old woman claimed she heard noises from the roof of her West Boca home. She feared there were people — the Mafia, perhaps — coming to take her and her spouse away.

She'd grab a handgun she had in the house and pace the floors. She repeatedly checked the garage for intruders.

But despite the dementia diagnosis she received after her arrest — and husband Herbert Furash's sworn statement that he wasn't threatened at gunpoint on the June night she fired two shots that didn't hit him — Levine continues to face prosecution. On lockdown at an Alzheimer's facility in West Delray, Levine is charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, a third-degree felony punishable by up to five years in prison. She also is under a judge's orders not to have any contact with the man she married in 2012, 14 years after the death of her first husband, Melvin. Levine has no criminal history or previous domestic violence incidents.

The Palm Beach County State Attorney's Office will not comment about its decision to seek a conviction against Levine, citing a policy of not discussing open cases, spokesman Mike Edmondson said last week. He also declined to discuss the general handling of cases involving those with dementia, either accusers or the accused.

A court document detailing the reason for the charge states Levine threatened violence against Furash and pointed a gun at him that caused a "well-founded fear" of being harmed.

Efforts to resolve Levine's case with a plea deal continue, with a hearing tentatively set for April 3.

Defense attorney Leonard Feuer has argued that the charge should be dismissed. He contends there's no crime, considering Furash's statement and the fact that Levine's threats were against "imaginary" people because of her "intense ongoing delusion" about rooftop invaders.

"The facts of this case are undoubtedly tragic," Feuer said last week. "Mrs. Levine perceived physical threats to both herself and her husband as a product of her

unfortunate mental decline. When she acted, it was to protect both herself and her husband from what she perceived to be a life-threatening situation."

Furash and Levine lived in a 1,458-square-foot home in the 18000 block of Stewart Circle. Levine bought it with her first husband in the early 1990s, according to property records. The one-story home is in a quiet community called Town Villas, north of Yamato Road and east of Lyons Road. Rows of connected villas with screened-in patios, maintained lawns and trimmed palm trees are owned mostly by retirees and snowbirds.

Neighbors describe them as a lovely couple who were socially active in the community. They hosted social gatherings at their house, exchanged Christmas gifts and went out to dinner with the couple next door.

Maria Figueroa, 91, and her husband Jack, 90, have known and been friendly with Levine for 15 years. Maria Figueroa said the couples have socialized and she never observed any fighting or arguing between Levine and Furash.

"They're a lovely couple," she said. "We had a nice friendship with them."

But some neighbors were aware of Levine's deteriorating mental condition.

Frank Malcangi, 77, said it was clear Levine was fearful about people trying to break in.

"She'd call me and say, 'Frank! Frank! Frank! Is somebody on the roof? They're trying to get in; they're trying to get in,'" Malcangi said, recalling how he checked the home to try to give her peace of mind.

Malcangi described Levine and Furash as an educated and sophisticated couple who had a lot of friends in the neighborhood. After Furash had hip surgery, Malcangi said he would help drive him to the drugstore and his doctors.

"It was a surprise to everybody," Malcangi said of the shooting. "We didn't even know she had a weapon. If I knew it, I know I would have done something."

Court documents don't say where Levine got the .38 special revolver or for how long she had it.

In a November deposition, Furash, an 84-year-old retired educator, testified that his wife's condition worsened after the 2014 death of her daughter, Bari Baitch, 60, because of illness. His wife's son, Richard Levine, had died from an illness in 2004; he was 53.

Beverly Levine called a roofing company to investigate the noises she repeatedly heard. She contacted the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office several times. No one could convince her that she and Furash were safe, the husband said.

"She was concerned about people coming into the house through the roof, through the doors, through the windows, trying to take me, take her, take both of us, take

the house," Furash testified in the deposition. "And that just played on her all that time. Even the Mafia was out to get us."

Deputies were called to the couple's home six times in the year before the gunfire, records show. Police call logs don't list the reasons.

On the night of June 19, Levine again called 911 to report footsteps on the roof. After deputies responded and left, Levine grabbed her gun and ordered Furash to their bedroom, expecting an imminent invasion by people on the rooftop, according to court records.

He said he struggled to grab the gun from Levine, but she was strong. Two shots were fired. Furash fled the house barefoot, clutching his walker, and was picked up by passers-by who took him to a nearby drugstore.

Early the next morning, Levine called the Sheriff's Office to report that she had shot her husband twice and he was missing. When deputies responded, she didn't tell them about the noises on the roof. Instead, she explained that she and Furash had an argument about her accusation that he had a girlfriend, and she shot him because he wanted to leave the home, according to an arrest report.

While Levine told police she was sure the bullets hit Furash, she was wrong. He had no gunshot wounds. Deputies reported that they found bullet holes in an armoire and a wall.

At the time, Levine was charged with attempted felony murder with a firearm, but on July 11 prosecutors declined to proceed on that count.

In a written statement about the incident, Furash explained that his wife had fears about "people" coming to get them. He wrote that she had held the gun to his back, hit him on the head and made a death threat before they fought over the gun and it went off.

But on Feb. 13, Furash signed an affidavit that Levine never pointed a gun at him or threatened violence. He wrote that his wife "threatened to kill the 'people' she imagined were coming to harm us."

Feuer, in his motion to dismiss the charge, wrote that it does not legally hold up because his client never threatened her husband and holding the gun to his back is not the same as pointing it at him.

Furash "thought he felt the outline of the broadside of the gun at his back, but it was not pointed at him," Feuer explained.

If the case winds up going to trial, Feuer has told prosecutor Jean Francis that Levine will use an insanity defense. Feuer wrote that Levine has "an inability to distinguish between reality and grandiose theories involving her own imminent demise."

Mary M. Barnes, president and CEO of Alzheimer's Community Care in West Palm Beach, said she was not directly aware of the facts of the case, but she was surprised by the continuing prosecution because of the circumstances.

"Why would they move forward if the medical diagnosis was apparent?" Barnes questioned.

Barnes said the situation could have been avoided had someone tried an intervention.

"That gun should have been taken out of that house a long time ago," Barnes said.

"This could have been prevented."

The husband, in his deposition, said he didn't take the gun away because he "always felt it would work itself out."

On one occasion, Furash asked Levine why she was holding the gun in the house.

"Well, they are coming to get us," Levine responded, according to Furash. He said he replied, "You know what, I don't want any accidents to happen."

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Beverly Levine is charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, a third-degree felony punishable by up to five years in prison.

## TRUMP GETS A NEW TRAVEL OPTION

**Now that Mar-a-Lago has a helipad, Marine One can whisk the president from the airport** *By Skyler Swisher | Staff writer*

**Marine One** ... is the call-sign used to refer to any of the special military helicopters that carry the president.

... was inaugurated by President Eisenhower in 1957 to shuttle between the White House and his Rhode Island summer home.

... is transported overseas by a military jumbo jet.

... flies amid constantly shuffling decoys and is accompanied by a military escort.

... has been limited by the town of Palm Beach to official business only. Its helipad must be demolished when Trump leaves office.





EVAN VUCCI/AP President Trump exits Marine One this week at Andrews Air Force Base.



CATIE PETERSON/STAFF ARTIST



The helipad could be used to shuttle the president the 4 miles between the airport and Mar-a-Lago. Roads near the residence would remain closed.

This is not just another weather chopper you're going to start seeing in South Florida. Marine One, the president's helicopter, can cruise at speeds of 150 mph to get the commander in chief to safety. It flies so smoothly, it's quiet enough inside for the president to talk in a normal tone of voice. And, naturally, it's stocked with the president's favorite snacks, whether it's Starburst or granola bars. Marine One could make regular appearances in South Florida's skies now that a landing pad has been completed at President Donald Trump's Winter White House, his Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach. Instead of taking a motorcade from the airport — and tying up traffic — he can fly, though it's not yet clear how often that will happen.

"It is probably the most impeccably maintained aircraft on the planet."

— **Retired Marine Col. Ray L'Heureux**, a Marine One pilot who has flown four presidents

Marine One is at the president's disposal at all times — whether he is traveling overseas in Europe or giving a policy speech in the U.S.

"It's a mobile Oval Office," said retired Col. Ray L'Heureux, a former Marine One pilot and commander who has flown four presidents. "It is probably the most impeccably maintained aircraft on the planet."

How efficient is presidential travel compared with standing in the security line at the airport? Using Marine One and the presidential jet Air Force One, the president can travel 230 miles from the South Lawn of the White House to Midtown Manhattan in an hour, L'Heureux said.

It takes an entire fleet of dozens of aircraft based in Quantico, Va., to fly the president. Marine One is the call-sign used to refer to any of the special military helicopters that carry Trump.

With their high-gloss, green and white paint scheme, the helicopters are nicknamed the "white tops."

President George W. Bush enjoyed Starburst candy on his flights. President Barack Obama opted for healthier granola bars and almonds, said L'Heureux, who flew presidents George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama. Marine One has been a fixture of the presidency since 1957. President Dwight Eisenhower took the first flight on Marine One when he needed to quickly get from his summer home in Newport, R.I., to the White House.

What would have been a two-hour journey was reduced to seven minutes.

Over the years, Marine One has become embedded in presidential history — from President Richard Nixon leaving Washington in the chopper after Watergate to President George W. Bush stepping aboard with his Scottish Terrier, Barney.

The president typically doesn't spend much time on Marine One, L'Heureux said. The longest flight he piloted took only about an hour. Two pilots fly the helicopter, and a crew chief is responsible for maintenance and ensuring the chopper is ready for the president. The crew chief wears formal Marine dress and is frequently captured in photos saluting the president as he boards.

The United States is the only nation that flies its own transportation overseas for the head of state, L'Heureux said. A military jumbo jet carries the president's helicopters and heavily armored limousine known as "The Beast."

The president's helicopters must be maintained at their home base in Virginia, meaning they are unlikely to be left in South Florida if Trump continues to make Mar-a-Lago a frequent destination, L'Heureux said.

L'Heureux has landed at Normandy Battlefield in France and Windsor Castle in England. But it's flying through the nation's most restricted airspace — past the monuments in Washington, D.C. — and touching down on the White House lawn that is his most memorable experience.

"It's probably what I miss most about that job," said L'Heureux, who wrote a book about his experiences called "Inside Marine One." "It doesn't matter if it's winter, spring, summer or fall — day or night — it never fails to move you."

Marine One doesn't fly alone, and a cadre of support aircraft provide protection. After the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, the president's helicopters were upgraded to allow the president to communicate with anyone he'd need to reach in government, L'Heureux said.

The former pilot declined to discuss Marine One's security features, which are top secret, but he wasn't surprised to learn Mar-a-Lago will have a landing site.

"This is absolutely normal and standard procedure for a helicopter pad to be built," L'Heureux said. "It's for national security if you have to get him out quickly."

A spokeswoman for the Marine One unit would not say how Trump plans to use the helicopter while at Mar-a-Lago. On Friday, he traveled by motorcade from Palm Beach International Airport to his part-time home about 4 miles away.

The landing pad could be used to ferry the president from Palm Beach International Airport to Mar-a-Lago, or it's possible the helipad will be used only if the president needs to quickly leave Palm Beach in an emergency, said Kirk Blouin, director of public safety for the town of Palm Beach.

Roads will remain closed near the residence when Trump visits even if he does travel by helicopter, Blouin said.

The Palm Beach Town Council put some restrictions on the use of landing pad, said John "Skip" Randolph, town attorney for Palm Beach. The landing pad can be used

only for presidential duties, and it must be demolished once Trump leaves office, he said.

For the pilots responsible for flying the commander in chief, L'Heureux said, one thing is certain: Politics doesn't come into play. "It doesn't matter if there is a 'D' or an 'R' by the name," he said. "You are going to do that job to the utmost of your ability." [sswisher@sunsentinel.com](mailto:sswisher@sunsentinel.com), 561-243-6634 or @SkylerSwisher

**From:** [Anderson, Cassandra L](#)  
**Subject:** News Clips 3/20/2017  
**Date:** Monday, March 20, 2017 2:56:58 PM  
**Attachments:** [News Clips.docx](#)

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# **News Clip 3/20/2017**

## Palm Beach Post

### **Man accused of pulling gun during argument**

*By Julius Whigham II Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Saintil

A 19-year-old suburban West Palm Beach man with a prior felony conviction was arrested Thursday after he threatened a woman with a gun, according to officials. According to the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, Timothy Saintil was arguing with an 18-year-old woman Thursday morning outside her home on Harriet Place near 45th Street and Haverhill Road.

He faces charges of aggravated assault with a weapon and being a felon in possession of a firearm and was released from jail Friday after posting \$60,000 bond.

In July 2015, Saintil pleaded guilty to attempted burglary and heroin possession charges, court records show. He was sentenced to 364 days in jail. [jwhigham@pbpost.com](mailto:jwhigham@pbpost.com)

POST COVERAGE TRUMP IN PALM BEACH

# Trump ends visit with love for fans

Stay includes talks with vice president, GOP

lawmakers. *By George Bennett Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



President Donald Trump stops his motorcade to greet supporters on Bingham Island near Palm Beach on Sunday, while on his way to Palm Beach International Airport. MELANIE BELL / THE PALM BEACH POST



Protesters line Southern Boulevard for Trump's departure Sunday. See more photos from Trump's visit to Palm Beach at [PalmBeachPost.com](https://www.palmbeachpost.com). BRUCE R. BENNETT / THE PALM BEACH POST



PALM BEACH — President Donald Trump logged some more hours at his golf club on Sunday while Vice President Mike Pence visited a church in Coral Springs before both jetted separately to Washington later in the day.

It was the fifth weekend of the nine in his presidency that Trump has spent at his Mar-a-Lago estate. The part-time Palm Beach resident has spent roughly 20 percent of his time in office in Florida.

At about 4:15 p.m., the president boarded Air Force One at Palm Beach International Airport with New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft. He had a message about North Korea dictator Kim Jong Un, telling the press pool reporter: "Had meetings on North Korea. He's acting very, very badly."

First lady Melania Trump, who with son Barron accompanied the president when he arrived Friday on Air Force One, planned to travel separately on Sunday, the White House said.

On his way out of town, the president stopped his motorcade and got out of his armored SUV to swiftly greet supporters on Bingham Island, the tiny spot between Palm Beach and West Palm Beach that has become the hangout for Trump backers. On the mainland, opponents gathered at Dreher Park on Southern Boulevard just east of Interstate 95.

Among those whose hands he shook: Valeria Bianco, who on Saturday got a Secret Service invite to meet the president at Mar-a-Lago, along with six other supporters. Bianco, of Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, was holding a sign that read "Hi Barron," and a heart, referring to Barron Trump, the president's son whose 11th birthday is today. She dropped the sign while rushing to get closer to Trump's SUV.

"I was reaching down to get the sign and he was reaching out because he remembered me from yesterday," Bianco said after the motorcade left. "It was nice because he remembers us. That's what makes him so special because he connects with ordinary people."

At Dreher Park, Trump's motorcade sped past more than 120 protesters lining Southern Boulevard. They jeered and waved signs reading "Show US Your Taxes," "Narcissist," "Loser!" and "Liar!"

Kellee Corti, of West Palm Beach, among the protesters, said she was disturbed that the president has proposed reductions in social service programs even as Palm Beach County law enforcement agencies are paying overtime to provide security for Trump's weekend visits.

"All of these things are being cut, and at the same time we're spending \$3.5 million per weekend," Corti said.

Trump spent about 3½ hours at his Trump International Golf Club in unincorporated West Palm Beach on Sunday. The White House said he had meetings and calls



planned and would not say whether Trump, who was wearing a golf shirt and hat when he left the club, actually played on his Jim Fazio-designed course.

Trump returned from the golf club to Mar-a-Lago shortly after noon. About 40 supporters were gathered along Southern Boulevard on Bingham Island.

The motorcade stopped briefly, but Trump did not emerge from his limousine as he did Friday and the motorcade quickly departed.

Gisela Garneau, of West Palm Beach, said she screamed "We love you" to Trump when his SUV stopped and the president gave a thumbs up and blew a kiss before the procession resumed.

On Saturday, seven Trump supporters who gathered on Bingham Island to watch the presidential motorcade were invited to Mar-a-Lago to meet Trump. Trump saw the supporters and asked staff to find them and invite them to his estate, White House spokeswoman Lindsay Walters said Sunday.

"He wanted to thank them and invited them back. They came back and he briefly spoke to them, thanked them and took a few photos," Walters said.

Pence was in Palm Beach on Saturday night to speak to the conservative Club for Growth at The Breakers and to later join Trump, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and Marvel Entertainment CEO Ike Perlmutter for dessert at Mar-a-Lago.

On Sunday, Pence visited Church by the Glades in Coral Springs before flying out of Fort Lauderdale.

Three Republican lawmakers who attended the Club for Growth conference — Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, Utah Sen. Mike Lee and Rep. Mark Meadows of North Carolina — also spent three hours at Mar-a-Lago on Saturday to discuss health care overhaul with Trump adviser Steve Bannon and other senior staff.

Cruz, appearing on CBS' "Face the Nation" on Sunday, said he is concerned that the House's Trump-backed bill will not pass in the Senate.

"I've got to tell you, if Republicans hold a big press conference and pat ourselves on the back that we've repealed Obamacare and everyone's premiums keep going up, people will be ready to tar and feather us in the streets," Cruz said. "And quite rightly."

He added that he "cannot vote for any bill that keeps premiums rising."

Staff writer Jeff Ostrowski and Palm Beach Daily News staffers Eleanor Roy and Melanie Bell contributed to this story. [gbennett@pbpost.com](mailto:gbennett@pbpost.com) [Twitter:](#)

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## WHITE HOUSE SECURITY

# Man near White House claims bomb in trunk

*Julie Hirschfeld Davis ©2017 The New York Times*

WEST PALM BEACH — The Secret Service detained a man late Saturday after he drove his car up to a checkpoint near the White House and said he had a bomb, according to police, an episode that resulted in his arrest and security on the grounds being beefed up.

President Donald Trump was spending the weekend in Palm Beach, but the Secret Service increased its “posture of readiness” in response to the episode, a spokesman said.

The intrusion came just days after a man made his way onto the White House grounds while Trump was inside. That intruder roamed the grounds undetected for about 17 minutes as Secret Service agents failed to respond to several alarms.

In Saturday’s episode, the intruder stopped his car at the White House checkpoint just after 11 p.m. and got out, declaring, “There’s a bomb in the trunk,” as he appeared to clasp something in this hand, according to a report issued by the Metropolitan Police Department.

“This is a test,” the man said as a Secret Service officer detained him and took him to the ground, according to the report.

The man was charged with making false bomb threats and the unauthorized use of a vehicle, which had been reported stolen, the report said.

Earlier Saturday, another man was arrested after jumping over bicycle-rack-style barricades into a restricted area in front of the White House on Pennsylvania Avenue, where he stood “yelling nonsensical statements,” according to a police report.

Police did not identify either suspect.

Neither episode was as serious as the one on March 10, in which Jonathan Tuan-Anh Tran, 26, of Milpitas, California, breached the outer perimeter of the White House near the Treasury building.

## WEST PALM BEACH SOUTHERN BRIDGE

# Work to start in April on new bridge

## Southern Boulevard project will overlap Flagler bridge work.

*By Tony Doris Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



The Southern Boulevard bridge replacement project carries a price tag of \$93 million and is scheduled for completion in late 2020. CONTRIBUTED

Keep up with The Post's complete coverage of West Palm Beach on its Facebook page dedicated to the city. On Facebook, search for Post on West Palm Beach.

WEST PALM BEACH — Plans are moving forward for an April start to replace the Southern Boulevard bridges, despite last week's announcement that the completion of the Flagler Memorial Bridge, 31/2 miles to the north, will be delayed until June. About 100 locals packed a St. Catherine Greek Orthodox Church meeting room Wednesday evening, at the western foot of the bridge to Palm Beach, to look at plans, diagrams and artists' renderings and quiz FDOT officials about the upcoming project.

The original plan called for holding off on the Southern construction until after the Flagler Memorial Bridge was done, to avoid clogging traffic to and from the island. But FDOT spokeswoman Barbara Kelleher said the early months of work on the Southern causeway will focus on installing a partly pre-fabricated temporary bridge just north of the main Southern bridge and won't limit traffic on the old one for now. The \$93 million Southern project involves replacing two bridges — the main drawbridge on the West Palm Beach side and the low-slung tide relief bridge, next to Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago Club property. The project is scheduled for completion in late 2020.

The new bridges will be wider and safer for cars, bicycles and pedestrians, and at 21 feet high at mean high tide will be 4 feet taller for boats.

The additional height means the approach, at the intersection of Southern and South Flagler Drive, will be built up by 3 feet to meet the new bridge.

The main bridge will have one 12-foot-wide traffic lane in each direction, a 10-foot-wide bike lane on each side, and, behind a barrier, a 6-foot-wide sidewalk on each side.

Boats on the Intracoastal Waterway will be able to pass under the bridge, with openings on the quarter- and three-quarter-hour.

And the public will still be able to use the scenic causeway park during construction, though parts of it might be closed off to accommodate work vehicles and equipment, Kelleher said.

When the president's motorcade needs to get through, the Secret Service will notify the project manager to make sure the bridges are passable, she said.

If you're worried about the president's ability to get a good night's rest, Kelleher said current plans call for all work to take place light hours.

Any weekend work would have to be approved by the town of Palm Beach, she said, but so far there's no weekend work scheduled. In any event, work on the tide relief bridge, next to Mar-a-Lago's tennis courts, isn't scheduled to start until August 2018.

More meetings will be scheduled to update the public as work progresses, Kelleher said. [tdoris@pbpost.com](mailto:tdoris@pbpost.com) **Twitter: @TonyDorisPBP**

More meetings will be scheduled to update the public as work progresses.

# New Lake Worth community center for recovering addicts set to open

March 20, 2017



Maeva Renaud, executive director of Common Ground Community Development, is in charge of launching a new community center that will open April 8 the South J Street site where Bx Beer Depot used to be. (Kevin D. Thompson/The Palm Beach Post)

LAKE WORTH — **Common Ground Church's Community Development Center** is scheduled to have its grand opening April 8 where **Bx Beer Depot** once stood on South J Street. Common Ground Church Pastor **Mike Olive** is leasing the 1,784-square-foot space where the center will serve as an incubator for artists and budding entrepreneurs who are in recovery.

"We want to help entrepreneurs and artists develop their gift," Olive, who has been managing the famed Bamboo Room since May 1, told The Palm Beach Post in January. "We want to help the city become everything it's meant to be."

Bx Beer Depot, the home brew supply store and brewpub, closed in January after seven months in business.

**Maeva Renaud**, executive director of Common Ground Community Development, a nonprofit that promotes artists and entrepreneurs, has said the center will offer a safe space for those trying to get their lives back on track.

There will be a stage, a reading center and a coffee bar.

"We want to make this space available for family friendly events," Renaud said earlier this year.

City Commissioner **Andy Amoroso** has been critical of the center's location.

"Recovery in a downtown entertainment business district where there is alcohol should not be," Amoroso said in January. "It's not conducive to what recovery is."

# NEW: Babysitter jailed after 4-year-old wanders off

By **Julius Whigham II** - Palm Beach Post Staff Writer



Paredes

Updated: 10:09 a.m. Monday, March 20, 2017 | Posted: 7:57 a.m. Monday, March 20, 2017

WEST PALM BEACH — A 4-year-old boy was found wandering alone in a suburban West Palm Beach neighborhood Thursday after the woman responsible for his care **left him unattended while she went to work**, authorities said.

Margarita Paredes, 21, was arrested on one count of child neglect. She was released from the Palm Beach County Jail early Friday after posting \$3,000 bail.

The child appeared to be in good health and uninjured, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office said. Deputies say a woman left the child in Paredes' care while the woman attended a wedding at the Palm Beach County Courthouse. Paredes later informed the woman that she had to leave to go to work at a McDonald's in Wellington.

According to the report, the woman asked Paredes to leave the child in another person's care.

Paredes took the child to another residence and left him inside the front gate, but did not check to see if anyone was home or confirm that the child went inside, the arrest report said.

The boy — who only spoke Spanish — was found wandering shortly before 2 p.m. Thursday in **the 1600 block of Meridian Road**, south of Okeechobee Boulevard and east of Drexel Road. He told a deputy he was lost and did not know how to find his way back to his house, deputies say. Neighbors were eventually able to help deputies find the boy's home.



# UPDATE: 1 flown to hospital after rollover crash in Belle Glade

By **Chelsea Todaro** - Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

Updated: 8:34 a.m. Monday, March 20, 2017 | Posted: 6:41 a.m. Monday, March 20, 2017

PALM BEACH COUNTY — **UPDATE 8:30 a.m.:** A person was flown by helicopter to a local trauma center after car rolled over in Belle Glade, said Palm Beach County Fire Rescue Capt. Albert Borroto.

The condition of the victim is unknown and it is unclear if other passengers were inside the vehicle.

**Original story:** A rollover crash has been reported in the area of County Road 827 and County Road 827A in Belle Glade, according to Palm Beach County Fire Rescue.

Officials said the occupant of the vehicle is still trapped inside.

The crash was reported around 6:15 a.m.

It's unclear if the occupant of the vehicle is injured.



# LATEST: West Palm couple accused of selling drugs in front of children

By **Julius Whigham II** - Palm Beach Post Staff Writer



Ramiro Banda and Jeannette Cedeno face several charges, including child neglect, marijuana possession and trafficking cocaine. (PBSO)

Posted: 10:59 a.m. Sunday, March 19, 2017

WEST PALM BEACH — A **West Palm Beach couple faces charges after authorities alleged** they sold and used drugs in a home they share with children.

Palm Beach County sheriff's deputies arrested Ramiro Banda, 26, and Jeanette Cedeno, 25, on Thursday on charges that include child neglect, possession of marijuana and trafficking cocaine.

Both remained in custody Saturday at the Palm Beach County Jail in lieu of \$25,000 bail.

According to sheriff's office reports, deputies search an address on **South Chillingworth Drive, north of Okeechobee Boulevard and west of Interstate 95**. Deputies detected the presence of drug paraphernalia and drugs, including a small child's table that had marijuana residue next to children's snacks.

Deputies also found sandwich bags filled with cocaine and a gun buried in the backyard, the sheriff's office said. The master bedroom contained a women's jacket with \$1,100 in cash in the pocket and another \$100 in a top dresser drawer.

## **Have you seen them? Wanted fugitives in Palm Beach County**

The arrest report did not disclose the ages of the children. They were turned over to the custody of a relative, the report indicates.

Sun Sentinel

## **Overdose victims' families seek answers**

### **Medical examiner's office backlog means a long wait**

*By Brooke Baitinger Staff writer*



COURTESY OF MILLER FAMILY The medical examiner found Samantha Miller intentionally overdosed using multiple drugs, including an extreme dose of Prozac.



AMY BETH BENNETT/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER "She was the first woman in recovery I met that I could relate to, and that gave me hope," Meaghan Treiling said about Samantha Miller.

Palm Beach County's rising number of drug overdoses has left the morgue often unable to quickly give families the answers they're seeking about their loved ones' deaths.

The county saw more than 600 fatal overdoses last year, resulting in an overwhelming number of drug tests that have left laboratories backlogged, said Associate Medical Examiner Dr. Reinhard Motte. That means autopsy reports can't be quickly completed.

"The mostly finished autopsy report sits on my desk until I get that last [toxicology report]," Motte said. "At that point, you know which way the case is going, but we need those final details."

That leaves families like Samantha Miller's agonizing.

Miller, of Boynton Beach, disappeared in November, drawing an outpouring of searchers from the community and coverage across the news media. When her body was found in a car, her family feared she had accidentally overdosed.

After waiting nearly four months, Miller's mother, Dierdre Miller, recently received the results of her daughter's autopsy report. The medical examiner's finding: Samantha Miller intentionally overdosed using multiple drugs, including an extreme dose of Prozac.

Miller, who would have turned 28 this month, was prescribed Prozac to treat her depression, her mother said.

The backlog at the Palm Beach County Medical Examiner's Office affects dozens of families who need answers about overdose victims' deaths for various reasons, Motte said. Some are grieving and need the final details to find closure.

Others have more complicated cases, such as trying to support their families while awaiting the death certificate from the medical examiner's office that unfreezes an estate, he said. The records department receives 50 calls every day from families seeking answers, he said. The families are told the case is "still pending toxicology." "Sometimes they are in tears, and sometimes I get an earful," he said of the families' responses. "Both responses are understandable."

Some 253 cases from 2016 until March 16 still need to be finalized, he said. He typically receives 10 new cases each day, which combine with those left from the previous day, he said.

"I would love to go before the county and force [it] to hire more people," he said. "All we're doing is stepping up to the plate and doing the work that needs to be done."

When Samantha Miller's relatives learned she had died by suicide, it didn't provide closure, they said. But it did provide some relief after months of waiting, her mother said.

After desperate pleas for help from her family, throngs of volunteers stepped in to try to find her. When she was reported missing Nov. 19, Dierdre Miller and her family dropped their New Jersey Thanksgiving plans and drove through the night to the Boynton Beach Police Department.

In the days that followed, residents in the community who had never met Samantha or her family rallied behind the search, spreading the word across social media and passing out fliers. Some walked the streets of cities between Boca Raton and West Palm Beach, where people claimed to have seen her, Miller said.

A Delray Beach police officer was among those who helped search. He had never seen a family come down to Florida to find their child before, said Officer Rob Addea.

Her story became emblematic of the recovery struggle in South Florida, he said. But the family's journey to bring her home touched a community that was all too familiar with the pattern of young people coming to Florida for rehab and "getting lost" for a variety of reasons, he said. It showed that they are sons and daughters, and that lack of love from the family is not the culprit, he said.

"No family is immune to this heartache," he said, adding that his "witnessing how much it pained them was a reminder of how much pain these families go through." Miller's friend, Meaghan Treiling, 24, said she'll remember her for being "a big support in my life." She met Miller at a West Palm Beach treatment center where

Miller worked as a rehabilitation technician, assisting therapists in performing patient-related activities, she said. "She was the first woman in recovery I met that I could relate to, and that gave me hope," Treiling said.

Most families awaiting answers from the Medical Examiner's Office are understanding, Motte said, but he wishes they wouldn't be. The more people who file complaints over the wait, the more chances he gets to go before a board and beg for more personnel and budgeting. Hiring more people would remedy most of the issues causing the delays, he said.

"We don't have enough doctors, investigators or morgue technicians," he said.

Dierdre Miller said she got to know the medical examiner on a personal level because they had spoken so much over the months of waiting for the final cause.

"When I was in Florida and we were told of her passing, it was the hardest day I've ever experienced in my life," she said. "But the day we found out, the autopsy report said she had died from suicide, that felt like Samantha had passed away all over again. That I had lost my daughter not once, but

twice." [bbaitinger@sunsentinel.com](mailto:bbaitinger@sunsentinel.com) or 561-243-6648

## Trump passes a divided group

*By Caitlin R. McGlade Staff writer*

On recent Sunday mornings, Gisela Garneau and Isabelle Mogadam set up camp on opposite sides of the Southern Boulevard bridge to Mar-a-Lago.

It's a regular weekend activity for some South Floridians — whether they love or hate President Donald Trump.

Garneau stands on Bingham Island, proudly holding her "Welcome home President Trump" sign. She said Trump blew her a kiss Sunday as she yelled she loved him.

Mogadam is near a park in West Palm Beach with her sign: "Hit the road jerk; Don't come back no more."

Trump, who made his fifth visit to Palm Beach since his inauguration this weekend, drives by in his motorcade on the way to his West Palm golf club or the airport.

On both sides, people said they do it for their kids. For solidarity. For taking a stand for what's right. To make an impression on the president.

"I give hats away, I give flags away. All that great American spirit stuff to support President Trump," said Garneau, a West Palm Beach resident who runs a home decor shop.



Mogadam, a 54-year-old West Palm Beach resident who designs dog collars, says it is important for her to protest as the motorcade passes each time.

She moved to the United States from Iran in 1988.

"I was in the revolution in Iran and I know ... how a dictator will start doing things, and when I saw it, I thought this one, this man is a dictator," she said. "We are going to stand here as much as we can to show him that we are here to resist him."

People on both sides said they seldom interact with those on the other.

"On Twitter, I'm pretty much a wolf. I want people to run with me. Get rid of the sheep that [former President Barack] Obama's been leading," said supporter David Armstrong. "Any sheep that come to my Twitter account, we eat them. If they're not Pro-Trump ... I dump them. I block them all."

Some protesters turn their back as Trump's motorcade passes.

Graham Gilbert, 8, of Jupiter, came with his parents and said there's a Trump supporter in his class. "I don't talk to him," he said.

Supporters say they are trying to catch a moment with president. It has worked for some.

On Saturday, a few supporters were taken to Mar-a-Lago after Trump saw them on his route from his West Palm Beach golf club to his Palm Beach estate. At Mar-a-Lago, the group met briefly with Trump and took photos.

On his way to the airport Sunday afternoon, Trump's motorcade stopped briefly as he opened the door to wave at the crowd. Cries of "God bless America" followed the car as it drove away.

People on both sides were adamant that the other side had been conned.

Mogadam said that one day Trump supporters would realize that he doesn't stand for them.



# Pence visits So Fla church

Springs worshippers hear VP *By Mike Clary Staff writer*



SCREEN GRAB VIA [CHURCHBYTHEGLADES.COM](http://CHURCHBYTHEGLADES.COM) Vice President Mike Pence talks with Pastor David Hughes at the Church by the Glades in Coral Springs on Sunday.



JOE CAVARETTA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER About 50 people gathered to protest Mike Pence's appearance, calling attention with signs and rainbow flags to his past opposition to same-sex marriage and gay rights.

## Tracking Trump

Lining the president's motorcade route for hours has become a regular weekend activity for some South Floridians.

CORAL SPRINGS – During a visit to a west Broward County megachurch that was slated to be about religion and not politics, Vice President Mike Pence delivered a defense of his boss Sunday when the pastor asked him about healing the nation's deep political divide.

"You are respectful and kind, and that was clearly absent from a lot of the [political] debate [which was] so partisan," said Pastor David Hughes as he and Pence sat on stage before about 2,000 worshipers in the Church by the Glades in Coral Springs.

"How can we disagree without being disagreeable?"

In seeming to acknowledge the divide, Pence responded by describing President Donald Trump as a man who "has broad shoulders, but he's got a big heart."

"Sometimes he's bigger than life, charismatic, always memorable," he said. "I think we're going to see that unity will come back as we turn the country around."

Hughes said his church was contacted Wednesday about hosting a visit from Pence. Hughes asked that the visit not be political. But the visit did stir controversy from the minute Hughes announced Pence's scheduled appearance on social media, with some parishioners voicing objections.

"This is a diverse congregation, perhaps more Democrat than Republican," said Hughes.

The vice president received a round of applause from the congregation when he was ushered to a front row seat by a squad of Secret Service agents soon after the musical opening of the 10 a.m. service.

Before summoning Pence to the stage, Hughes told the audience about the call from the vice president's office. "They asked if he would be welcome," he said. "I said we'd be honored. This was not about partisan politics, but patriotism."

Once on stage, Hughes asked Pence to talk about his own Christian faith before bringing up the political polarization in the country. Outside about 50 people gathered at the corner of Atlantic Boulevard and Lake-view Drive to protest Pence's appearance, calling attention with signs and rainbow flags to his past opposition to same-sex marriage and gay rights.

"He has a terrible history on women's rights," said Kathleen Van Schalkwyk, one of the rally organizers. "We feel the pastor made a mistake in accepting the offer that he come here. But we are protesting Mike Pence, not the church."

Before the service, Hughes said he did not want the Pence visit to become political.

"Our intent is for this NOT to be a political or partisan event, but rather an opportunity to hear how a sitting Vice President integrates his personal faith with his very public calling," Pastor Hughes wrote in his Instagram post.

Hughes said the Church by the Glades congregation is "not red or blue, not donkeys or elephants, just Jesus."

Outside the church on Sunday, one parishioner said she was looking forward to hearing from Pence about his religious journey. "Mike Pence is here to worship with us and we're very excited," said Miri Rodriguez, 38, who emigrated from Venezuela to the U.S. when she was 13.

"[Some people] made this into something political, saying if you have him here in your church, you're supporting his political views," she said.

Dozens of police officers, including many on motorcycles, helped direct traffic and block off intersections as the Pence motorcade arrived and departed. Those who entered the sanctuary for the 10 a.m. service were asked to empty their pockets before passing through airport-style metal detectors. Purses were searched.

Trump was also in South Florida this weekend, making his fifth visit to his private Mar-a-Lago club in Palm Beach since taking office Jan.

20. [mwclary@sunsentinel.com](mailto:mwclary@sunsentinel.com)

**From:** [Anderson, Cassandra L](#)  
**Subject:** News Clips 3/21/2017  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 21, 2017 9:00:23 AM  
**Attachments:** [News Clips.docx](#)

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# **News Clip 3/21/2017**

## **Palm Beach Post**

### **PALM BEACH TEEN CRASH**

## **Police: Teen in car crash near Mar-a-Lago suicidal Boy says he was trying to kill self after FBI chat following CNN prank.** *By Eleanor Roy Palm Beach Daily News*

PALM BEACH — A teenager who ran his car into a fence four blocks north of Mar-a-Lago just before President Donald Trump arrived Friday evening was attempting suicide and previously had called in terrorist threats to CNN, according to Palm Beach police.

The boy, whose name was redacted from a police report because of his age, was reported as a missing suicidal teen, armed and dangerous with a baseball bat and a metal pipe. According to the report, officers found the bat and pipe in the white Dodge Charger belonging to his mother after the teen crashed it into a construction fence shortly before 6:50 p.m.

Trump's motorcade arrived at Mar-a-Lago about 7:10 p.m. The report didn't mention Trump's arrival, or whether the Secret Service considered the teen to be a credible threat to the president.

The boy was apprehended by a Palm Beach County sheriff's deputy after he backed into a fence on Via Palma, which is within the Secret Service-mandated restricted zone around Mar-a-Lago, the report said. He told officers he ran into the fence while turning around to try to drive into the Intracoastal Waterway and kill himself, according to the report.

The report said the teen drove past two security checkpoints "at a high rate of speed" in the 800 block of South County Road, just north of its intersection with South Ocean Boulevard. That area is restricted to ID-carrying residents only.

The boy was interviewed by the FBI after, the report said, he and a few friends pretended to be refugees in January and prank-called CNN. Federal agents contacted the boy's mother to set up an interview, according to the report, and they later met with an agent. It wasn't clear when he was interviewed. The teen told police

that the agent told him being "interviewed by the FBI in reference to terrorism" would be on his "permanent record."

"(The boy) stated that he thought his 'life was over' and would never get accepted to a college or acquire a decent job," the report said. "(He) stated he then went home and attempted to commit suicide by shooting himself with a firearm."

When he couldn't find bullets, the report said, the boy took his mother's Charger, which he drove in excess of 110 mph on Northlake Boulevard and on Interstate 95 "in hopes to crash into another vehicle to kill himself."

Police said witnesses called 911 when they saw the Charger traveling at about 80 mph down South County Road. The car hit a traffic sign and ran at least two red lights in Midtown while heading south toward the restricted zone. The boy was ordered to undergo a mental health evaluation. [eroy@pbdailynews.com](mailto:eroy@pbdailynews.com)

## POST COVERAGE JUPITER TRIPLE HOMICIDE

# Jupiter resident, 24, charged in 3 killings Christopher Vasata was found shot nearby on night of killings. *By Bill DiPaolo Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Jupiter Police Chief Frank Kitzerow (left), with State Attorney David Aronberg (center) and police Maj. Chris Smith, announces the arrest of Christopher Vasata in the three slayings. ALLEN EYESTONE / THE PALM BEACH POST





Vasata



Henry



Doherty



El-Salhy



Jupiter Police Chief Frank Kitzerow (left), with State Attorney David Aronberg, announces the arrest in the three killings on Super Bowl night. Suspect Christopher Vasata had been arrested in recent years in local drug-related cases. ALLEN EYESTONE / THE PALM BEACH POST

### **CALL WITH TIPS**

*Anyone with information is asked to call 561-746-6201 or Crime Stoppers of Palm Beach County at 800-458-TIPS (8477). Callers remain anonymous and may be eligible for a reward of up to \$1,000.*

JUPITER — Six weeks after three young people were found shot to death in the Jupiter River Estates neighborhood on the night of the Super Bowl, police on Monday announced an arrest.

Christopher Vasata, 24, of Jupiter, faces three counts of first-degree murder, one count of attempted first-degree murder with a firearm, and one count of a felon in possession of a firearm or ammunition. Vasata is expected to appear before a judge this morning at the Gun Club Road courtroom in West Palm Beach.

"The case continues to be active and ongoing," Jupiter Police Chief Frank Kitzerow said in a Monday evening news conference.

Kelli J. Doherty, 20, of Tequesta, Brandi El-Salhy, 24, of Gainesville, and Sean P. Henry, 25, of Jupiter, were killed in the rented home at 1105 Mohawk St. in the neighborhood north of Toney Penna Drive and east of Maplewood Drive in Jupiter. The chief said the three were in the backyard of the property when they were attacked.

Authorities found Vasata, who also was shot, in the Paseos neighborhood later that February night. Since the slayings, Vasata has been recovering in a local hospital.

Another person may be involved in the triple homicide, according to police.

As of Monday evening, it was unclear how Vasata may have been connected to the three who died, though Vasata, El-Salhy and Henry all attended Jupiter High School. Vasata played volleyball for the school in 2010, according to reports at the time. The Jupiter resident also has a history of drug arrests and convictions, according to court records.

Kitzerow, who was with Palm Beach County State Attorney David Aronberg and Jupiter Mayor Todd Wodraska at the news conference at the town's police station, would not comment when asked whether Vasata was attending the Super Bowl party or give any other details.

"The one question I get asked is, 'What is going on with the triple homicide?' " the mayor said. He thanked the law enforcement teams working on the case.

Kitzerow noted that the investigation is ongoing.

In the coming days, the FBI is likely to offer a reward for information, the police chief said.

Jennifer Foster, a 13-year resident of Jupiter River Estates, said she and other neighbors welcomed the arrest.

"Things are slowly getting back to normal. I still get jolted when I hear fireworks go off at night. But I feel safe. I'm happy for the families that there has been an arrest," Foster said.

The Mohawk Street home where the shootings happened is owned by Jeffrey Vorpapel. He is the father of Charles Vorpapel, who was renting the house. Charles

Vorpagel, 27, was arrested Feb. 9 on a federal firearms charge. According to the federal criminal complaint, more than 3 pounds of marijuana were found bagged for sale inside the Mohawk residence along with 914 Xanax tablets and 16.9 grams of cocaine and drug paraphernalia.

Vasata's previous encounters with police include:

- In July 2015, he was arrested for possession of marijuana and later pleaded guilty. Jupiter police said they found Vasata and a woman in a Mercedes along Indian-town Road and found marijuana in the vehicle.

- In 2013, Vasata was arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana with intent to sell after police say he bought 15 pounds, or \$36,000 worth of marijuana to sell. Jupiter police worked with the Martin County Sheriff's Office to monitor a drug deal between Vasata and another individual in Stuart. Jupiter police followed him to a home on the 1100 block of Cherokee Street and handed 2 pounds of marijuana to someone who drove it to Stuart to be sold, according to the report. The residence is just blocks away from the Mohawk Street murder scene four years later.

"I know what I did," he reportedly told police about the drug deal. "I'm going to handle this like a man," Vasata said. "I don't need to do it anymore, I have enough money to pay for school and get a real job."

He told police he had been selling marijuana for a year and sold about 15 pounds a week.

- In 2012, he was arrested on a possession of hallucinogenic mushrooms charge. He told officers he was trying to sell them because he didn't like them, according to the police report.

Back in the Jupiter River Estates neighborhood, the white house with a blue front door has been vacant since the shooting.

Staff writers Hannah Winston and Mike Stucka contributed to this story. [bdipaolo@pbpost.com](mailto:bdipaolo@pbpost.com) Twitter: [@Billdipaolo](https://twitter.com/Billdipaolo)

## TRUMP IN PALM BEACH CROWD MINGLING

# Ex-agent: Impromptu outings not rare Secret Service agents ready for presidents who stray from path.

*By Lawrence Mower Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



President Donald Trump stops to greet his supporters on Bingham Island on his way to the airport Sunday. MELANIE BELL / THE PALM BEACH POST

Bill Clinton liked to go jogging around Washington.

Barack Obama would stroll from the White House to a nearby Five Guys burger joint. So while some expressed alarm after President Donald Trump stepped out of his armored SUV to greet supporters on his way to the airport on Sunday, former Secret Service agents only grimaced.

"While the Secret Service would certainly prefer the president never, ever do that, they all do that," said former Secret Service agent Dan Emmett, who served for 21 years and is the author of the upcoming book, "I Am a Secret Service Agent."

"It's a Secret Service nightmare, but agents are trained for that."

Former agents say such impromptu stops — known as "off the record" events — are more common than most people believe, and obviously riskier than staying in places that have been screened by the president's security detail.

But because they're random, they carry an element of surprise that works to agents' advantage: Bad guys don't know they'll be there, either. The track record bears it out (knock on wood): Presidential assassins all knew where the presidents would be when they pulled the trigger.

"I know it seems to the untrained eye that it's dangerous — What if this? What if that?" said former agent Dan Bongino, who was on the presidential detail under Presidents George W. Bush and Obama and now lives in Martin County. "The reality is, (bad guys are) not there, ready for an attack and an assault on the president."

That doesn't mean some presidents don't knowingly walk into potentially dangerous situations.

During the Rodney King riots, Emmett remembered when President George H.W. Bush, who wasn't prone to "off-the-record" stops, wanted to see the devastation in Los Angeles in 1992. "We thought he was just going to drive around," Emmett said. Instead, "He got out of the limo and was walking through South Central LA in a Brooks Brothers suit, with buildings still smoldering and store owners on the roofs with shotguns. You had people that close to the president with live weapons."

That's not quite Bingham Island, the narrow stretch of land between Trump's Mar-a-Lago and West Palm Beach, where the president stopped, waved and pointed at supporters before getting out and shaking a few hands on Sunday. He even invited seven supporters back to his mansion on Saturday for a brief chat.

Secret Service agents had to push back the crowds, and they scrambled to make sure the door to the president's armored SUV stayed open while he was out of the car. A U.S. Secret Service spokeswoman on Monday declined to comment on Trump's stop.

Agents said they can do little but protest when the most powerful person on the planet wants to get out and talk to people or stop at a diner for a meal.

"You can give a suggestion. You can give advice. But ultimately it's up to the president," said 29-year agent Danny Cecere, who retired in 2003.

President Jimmy Carter liked to walk to the South Lawn of the White House and talk to visitors on the other side of the fence, for example, he said.

The agents said that having local police on the scene is critical to keeping presidents safe when they choose to stop somewhere unscheduled. When Trump stopped on Sunday, Palm Beach County sheriff's deputies were helping keep people back.

Emmett recalled driving around Moscow when Clinton asked to get out of the car and talk to a crowd of people.

"That seems a little bit dangerous," Emmett said, but Clinton wandered into the crowd anyway.

His fears lessened when "we were immediately surrounded by these very large and menacing-looking policemen in police coats," he said.

Bongino said even when stops seem impromptu, they often aren't. Usually, agents have scouted out the lemonade stand where a president wants to stop.

You're making sure "it's not the Osama bin Laden school of lemonade-making or something," Bongino said.

But the agents said that if Trump keeps stopping to talk to supporters along his route between Palm Beach International Airport and the winter White House at Mar-a-Lago, it could raise the level of danger significantly.

"Doing the exact same routine, time after time after time, you're giving them your playbook," Emmett said.

For that reason, Bongino expects Trump will start taking advantage of his newly constructed helipad. He didn't use Marine One this weekend, though.

Not only are helicopters safer than being on the ground, he said, past presidents used them whenever possible so they didn't disrupt traffic. [lmower@pbpost.com](mailto:lmower@pbpost.com)

## TRUMP IN PALM BEACH COSTS

# Official: Use bed tax for Trump's security costs

*By Wayne Washington Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Palm Beach County Commissioner Steven Abrams.

WEST PALM BEACH — Another weekend. Another visit by President Donald Trump. And now, another idea on how to cover the costs of providing security during those trips to Palm Beach County.

Palm Beach County Commissioner Steven Abrams asked county staff to research the idea of using bed tax money to cover security and roadway management costs during Trump's frequent trips to his Mar-a-Lago mansion on Palm Beach.

Abrams' idea is the second in five days to emerge from a county commissioner looking to plug the multimillion-dollar hole that Trump's trips likely will bore into the county's budget. County officials have pleaded with their federal counterparts for reimbursement, but, so far, those requests have not been met by a commitment to repayment.

Last week, Commissioner Dave Kerner floated the idea of assessing the owner of Mar-a-Lago a tax pegged to special benefits provided by the county, namely that extra security and roadway management Trump gets when he flies into town.

Kerner was quoted in The Washington Post on Monday saying law enforcement resources used to help protect Trump are needed to combat the county's opioid and heroin epidemic.

"Those are real issues: keeping cops off the street and diminishing our opioid epidemic response," Kerner told the newspaper.

In an email Sunday to County Administrator Verdenia Baker and County Attorney Denise Nieman, Abrams asked them to see whether money from the tourist



development tax, the 6 percent tax on hotel/motel stays, which is commonly referred to as the bed tax, could be used to help defray the costs of Trump's trips.

In mid-February, Sheriff Ric Bradshaw estimated those costs had already reached about \$1.4 million.

Asking Baker and Nieman to look into the idea of using bed tax money, Abrams highlighted a section of state law that addresses how such money can be used.

"A county located adjacent to the Gulf of Mexico or the Atlantic Ocean ... may use up to 10 percent of the tax revenue received pursuant to this section to reimburse expenses incurred in providing public safety services, including emergency medical services as defined in s. 401.107(3), and law enforcement services, which are needed to address impacts related to increased tourism and visitors to an area," the law states.

Glenn Jergensen, executive director of the Tourist Development Council, which is funded with bed tax money, said state law does allow counties to use bed tax money to be used for law enforcement and emergency services. But Jergensen said his understanding of the law is that only counties with populations of less than 225,000 can use bed tax money that way.

Palm Beach County has a population of about 1.4 million.

The county meets the two other criteria in the law that would allow it to use bed tax money for law enforcement and emergency management. Those criteria are that the tax must generate at least \$10 million per year and that the county have at least three municipalities.

Over the past three years, the bed tax has generated an average of \$41 million per year in revenue in the county, which has 39 municipalities.

If a population limit is the only reason the county can't use bed tax money for law enforcement and emergency management, Abrams said that could be addressed by legislative action in Tallahassee.

"We can try," Abrams said. "We know he's going to be visiting for the next four years."

Bed tax money is used to build sports facilities and to promote culture and tourism. Jergensen said all of the tax money is used each year.

"Bed tax money is pretty much accounted for," he said of the funds. "They're budgeted for. They all have a home."

Abrams, however, said Trump's trips aren't only subtracting from the county's bottom line; there are benefits, too.

"As we are aware, bed tax receipts increase during the president's visits due to his being accompanied by his entourage and the press corps," the commissioner wrote to Nieman and Baker.

The county is conducting a study to get a better understanding of the costs and benefits of Trump's visits. That study is not expected to be completed until later this year.

County Mayor Paulette Burdick was cool to the idea of using bed tax money. "I'm open to any creative solution to address this," she said, "but my first choice is to have the federal government pay for those costs. I understand that we have to protect the president, but I'm not sure what the Secret Service should be doing and what we should be doing. Certainly, I wouldn't be supportive of taking tourist development dollars from their currently assigned purposes."

The county has formally requested a share of the \$7 million federal officials have set aside to reimburse local governments for the cost of providing security to Trump when he was president-elect. New York City, where Trump also has a residence, submitted a \$35 million reimbursement request.

Burdick sounded an optimistic note about figuring out a way to pay for security and road management during presidential visits.

"We're less than 50 days into his presidency," she said. "Hopefully, the federal government will pay for it."

Abrams said he wants the county to press on with efforts to get federal reimbursement. But looking into the idea of using tourist development dollars makes sense, too, he said.

"It's certainly worth exploring," he said. [wwashington@pbpost.com](mailto:wwashington@pbpost.com)

**ONLINE** Read The Post's complete coverage of President Trump in Palm Beach County at [myPalmBeachPost.com/donaldtrump](http://myPalmBeachPost.com/donaldtrump).

## TRUMP IN PALM BEACH

# Trump golfing at faster rate than Obama

*By George Bennett Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

President Donald Trump's frequent visits to his weekend White House at Mar-a-Lago are "part of being president" and his many trips to the golf course are different from the ones he criticized former President Barack Obama for taking, White House press secretary Sean Spicer said Monday.

Trump has visited Palm Beach five of the first nine weekends of his presidency, wrapping up his latest trip Sunday.

Trump appears to have played golf 10 times since taking office, a rate of once every six days. Obama, frequently criticized by Trump and Republicans for his time on the links, played an estimated 333 rounds over eight years — a rate of once every 8.8 days he was in office.

Spicer fielded queries about golf and Mar-a-Lago during an afternoon press briefing dominated by questions about FBI Director James Comey's testimony before the House Intelligence Committee.

Spicer said he could not confirm reports of an upcoming Mar-a-Lago summit in April with Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Spicer was asked whether Trump's trips to Mar-a-Lago are justified in light of spending cuts proposed in Trump's budget. The trips could cost federal taxpayers \$2 million to \$3 million per weekend, according to various estimates. Palm Beach County taxpayers have spent more than \$1.5 million since the Nov. 8 election to provide local law enforcement to supplement Secret Service protection of Trump.

"Presidents always travel. Wherever he goes, he carries the apparatus of the White House with us ... The president will continue to go and travel around the country and have meetings to solve the nation's problems," Spicer said.

"The president's very clear that he works seven days a week. This is where he goes to see his family. He brings people down there. This is part of being president," Spicer said.

Asked how Trump's golf outings were different from Obama's, Spicer said: "You saw him utilize this as an opportunity with Prime Minister (Shinzo) Abe to help foster deeper relationships in Southeast Asia, in Asia rather, and have a growing relationship that's going to help U.S. interests. How you use the game of golf is something that he's talked about."

Trump and Japan's Abe played golf on Feb. 11 at Trump National Golf Club in Jupiter, then visited Trump International Golf Club in unincorporated West Palm Beach. It was one of the few times the White House has actually confirmed Trump was playing golf.

When he's in Palm Beach, Trump often makes the brief trip to Trump International in a golf shirt and hat, and spends more than three hours at the club. But that doesn't necessarily mean he's playing golf, Spicer said.

"On a couple of occasions he's actually conducted meetings there, he's actually had phone calls. So just because he heads there doesn't mean that that's what's happening," Spicer said.

Asked why few details of those meetings or calls are ever revealed, Spicer said, "It's the same reason that he can have dinner or lunch with somebody ... The president's entitled to a bit of privacy at some point." [gbennett@pbpost.com](mailto:gbennett@pbpost.com)

[Twitter: @gbennettpost](#)

## **AIR TRAVEL U.S. bans most electronics on certain flights Reason unclear for temporary ban on flight**

**from 8 nations.** *By Alicia A. Caldwell and David Koenig Associated Press*

WASHINGTON— The U.S. government is temporarily barring passengers on certain flights originating in eight other countries from bringing laptops, iPads, cameras and most other electronics in carry-on luggage starting Tuesday.

The reason for the ban was not immediately clear. U.S. security officials would not comment. The ban was revealed Monday in statements from Royal Jordanian Airlines and the official news agency of Saudi Arabia.

A U.S. official told The Associated Press the ban will apply to nonstop flights to the U.S. from 10 international airports in Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia (2), Turkey and the United Arab Emirates (2).

The official was not authorized to disclose the details of the ban ahead of a public announcement and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Royal Jordanian said cellphones and medical devices were excluded from the ban. Everything else, the airline said, would need to be packed in checked luggage. It was unclear to what other countries and airlines the ban would apply.

David Lapan, a spokesman for Homeland Security Department, declined to comment. The Transportation Security Administration, part of Homeland Security, also declined to comment.

Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly phoned lawmakers over the weekend to brief them on aviation security issues that have prompted the impending electronics ban, according a congressional aide briefed on the discussion. The aide was not

authorized to speak publicly about the issue and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

A U.S. government official said such a ban has been considered for several weeks. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity to disclose the internal security discussions by the federal government.

Royal Jordanian said the electronics ban affects its flights to New York, Chicago, Detroit and Montreal. The Saudi statement said flights from Riyadh and Jeddah would be impacted.

The ban would begin just before Wednesday's meeting of the U.S.-led coalition against the Islamic State group in Washington. A number of top Arab officials were expected to attend the State Department gathering. It was unclear whether their travel plans were related to any increased worry about security threats.

Brian Jenkins, an aviation-security expert at the Rand Corp., said the nature of the security measure suggested that it was driven by intelligence of a possible attack. He added that there could be concern about inadequate passenger screening or even conspiracies involving insiders — airport or airline employees — in some countries. Another aviation-security expert, professor Jeffrey Price of Metropolitan State University of Denver, said there were disadvantages to having everyone put their electronics in checked baggage. Thefts from baggage would skyrocket, as when Britain tried a similar ban in 2006, he said, and some laptops have batteries that can catch fire — an event easier to detect in the cabin than in the cargo hold.

Most major airports in the United States have a computer tomography or CT scanner for checked baggage, which creates a detailed picture of a bag's contents. They can warn an operator of potentially dangerous material, and may provide better security than the X-ray machines used to screen passengers and their carry-on bags. All checked baggage must be screened for explosives.

## Tourists could get Trump tab

### **Palm Beach official: Let hotel taxes pay for security**

*By Skyler Swisher | Staff writer*

Letting tourists pay for protecting President Donald Trump at Mar-a-Lago is the newest idea to defray the costs.

Palm Beach County Commissioner Steven Abrams wants to explore using tax money collected from hotel guests to cover the overtime costs being racked up by law enforcement during Trump's frequent visits to his Weekend White House in Palm Beach.

State law doesn't allow Palm Beach County to use tourist hotel taxes, called bed taxes, to pay for public safety services, but Abrams is hoping legislators will amend the law.

"This will come out of the pockets of tourists," he said. "We see an increase in bed tax when the president is in town because he brings the press corps. Those revenues could help offset the security costs."

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office estimates it spends \$60,000 a day in overtime assisting the Secret Service when Trump visits, totaling more than \$1.5 million in extra costs since Trump was elected in November.

County officials have been pushing for the federal government to reimburse them for those costs, but so far, they haven't gotten assurances they will receive compensation.

Abrams said Trump is helping to generate tax revenue for the county because the press and staffers that accompany him on his trips stay in hotels, which is one of the reasons he wants to use those funds.

It's unknown how many staffers and reporters book hotel rooms when Trump visits, said Ashley Svarney, a spokeswoman for Discover the Palm Beaches, the county's tourism marketing organization.

In total, Palm Beach County has nearly 17,000 hotel rooms. A 6 percent tax is levied on hotel stays and short-term rentals, generating more than \$30 million in revenue annually.

Tourist tax revenue has been spent on marketing, fixing eroded beaches and building a new spring training stadium in West Palm Beach.



Tourism has been on the rise, but it's unknown to what degree Trump has contributed, said Svarney.

Discover the Palm Beaches does see a benefit to the increased media attention on Palm Beach County whenever Trump is at Mar-a-Lago.

"It further amplifies the Palm Beach brand," Svarney said. "Our hope is it may pique the interest of a potential traveler who is seeing our beautiful beaches, turquoise water and our sunny skies."

When first lady Melania Trump visited the Morikami Gardens with the Japanese prime minister's wife, Google searches spiked for the botanical garden in Delray Beach, Svarney said. Discover the Palm Beaches has also noticed increased media attention from Chinese outlets following reports that Trump will host Chinese President Xi Jinping at Mar-a-Lago, she said.

Florida law allows coastal counties with 225,000 or fewer residents to use up to 10 percent of tourist hotel taxes to "reimburse expenses incurred in providing public safety services." But Palm Beach County doesn't qualify because it has nearly 1.4 million people.

Other county commissioners have offered suggestions on paying for Trump's visits. Commissioner Dave Kerner has proposed levying a special fee on Mar-a-Lago, while County Mayor Paulette Burdick told CNN that the mounting costs could mean "cuts or increase in taxes."

Early budget projections put the county's budget deficit at about \$40 million. Commissioners have other spending priorities they want to tackle, including boosting funds to combat heroin addiction and homelessness.

Trump himself took aim at President Barack Obama for his travels to Hawaii. He tweeted in 2011, "The habitual vacationer, @BarackObama, is now in Hawaii. This vacation is costing taxpayers \$4 milion +++ while there is 20% unemployment." At the time, the unemployment rate was not 20 percent, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In a briefing Monday, White House press secretary Sean Spicer said Trump has been working seven days a week even while at Mar-a-Lago.

"This is where he goes to see his family," he said. "He brings people down there. This is part of being president." [sswisher@sunsentinel.com](mailto:sswisher@sunsentinel.com), 561-243-6634  
or@SkylerSwisher

# Officials report new Zika cases

*By Rebeca Piccardo Staff writer*

Florida health officials reported a new locally acquired Zika infection in Miami-Dade County on Monday, as well as four new travel-related cases in South Florida.

The person infected in Miami-Dade had "multiple exposures" to areas where mosquitoes were spreading the virus and likely contracted the mosquito-borne Zika virus in 2016, according to the Florida Department of Health. The person did not feel any symptoms, but was tested for the virus in February and state health officials just received confirmation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"Because the individual was asymptomatic, it is difficult to determine when infection occurred," Florida health officials said.

These new infections raise the total number of Zika cases for 2017 to 29 people. The cases reported in Florida this year include 13 pregnant women and two people whose source of infection is undetermined after a health department investigation. Infections in pregnant woman have been linked to fetal deaths and potentially devastating birth defects, primarily microcephaly, or an unusually small head, often accompanied by severe developmental problems when the infant was born.

The first case of Zika in the mainland U.S. was confirmed in Miami-Dade County by public health officials on Jan. 15, 2016. The patient had been infected in another country and then traveled to South Florida.

By late July, state health officials confirmed the first Zika cases transmitted by local mosquitoes in the Wynwood arts district near downtown Miami. Officials then identified Zika transmission zones in other parts of Miami as well as in Miami Beach. All local Zika zones were lifted after 45 days "with no evidence of active transmission and no additional people infected," state officials said. The last advisory was lifted Dec. 9.

"It is not uncommon, however, for there to be isolated incidents of locally acquired Zika," officials said. "One case does not mean ongoing active transmission is taking place."

There are currently no areas of ongoing, active transmission of Zika by mosquitoes in Florida, health officials said.

For more information, Florida residents and visitors can call the Zika Virus Information Hotline at 1-855-622-6735.

# U.N. imposes controls on fentanyl chemicals

*Associated Press*

The U.N.'s Commission on Narcotic Drugs has imposed controls on the production, sale and export of some substances used for the illicit manufacture of fentanyl, a deadly opioid that kills thousands of people a year across the United States, including hundreds in South Florida.

A prescription painkiller, fentanyl is up to 50 times stronger than heroin. It is often mixed with heroin or made to look like other painkillers that fetch a higher street price, with fatal results for users unaware that it has been added.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control attributes more than 33,000 deaths in the United States to overdoses involving opioids obtained either illicitly or through prescriptions in 2015. A fentanyl overdose killed pop star Prince last year.

The chief U.S. State Department counter-narcotics official hailed the United Nations' move. In an interview with the Sun Sentinel last week, Assistant Secretary of State William Brownfield said efforts to increase international cooperation, law enforcement and education is the only way to reduce overdose deaths, including in South Florida.

"That's how we are going to see the improvement on this issue, just as the crack cocaine crisis of 30 years ago also came under control," Brownfield said.

In an interview with The Associated Press last week, Brownfield said globally monitoring the fentanyl market is only one stage in reducing dependency or addiction to the drug. He acknowledged it will not put an immediate dent in illegal trafficking of the chemicals.

Both the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy point to China as North America's main source of fentanyl, related drugs and the chemicals used to make them, and say the main entry point is from Mexico.

China says there is no statistical evidence to support the assertion. But it put four fentanyl-related compounds under monitoring last month, apparently in part because of U.S. concerns.

While acknowledging that U.S.-Mexican relations are strained over President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown, Brownfield dismissed suggestions that bilateral cooperation against fentanyl and other drug traffickers would suffer as a result. Mexico's Economy Minister Ildefonso Guajardo has recently warned that further strains could affect cooperation on drug smuggling and on immigration.

Brownfield agreed that "complicated problems" exist between the two countries. He said the imperative remained to cooperate because "the government of Mexico is no more pleased or enthusiastic about this drug situation than the United States government."

*Associated Press writer Erika Kinetz and Sun Sentinel staff writer Ryan Van Velzer contributed to this report.*

**From:** [Anderson, Cassandra L](#)  
**Subject:** News Clips 3/22-23/2017  
**Date:** Monday, March 27, 2017 11:43:04 AM  
**Attachments:** [News Clips.docx](#)

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# **News Clip 3/22-23/2017**

## **Palm Beach Post**

### **THE ACREAGE**

# **Former Miami-Dade officer accused of firing gun at his Acreage neighbors**

*By Jorge Milian Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

A former Miami-Dade County police officer remains in the Palm Beach County Jail after he allegedly fired several gunshots Thursday at neighbors in The Acreage, according to an arrest report.

Michael Patrick Gallagher, 55, is facing two counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and is being held without bond.

The alleged victims were approaching their home on the 15600 block of 82nd Street North, west of Seminole Pratt Whitney Road between Citrus Grove and Temple boulevards, when they noticed Gallagher, their neighbor, in a dispute with another man, said the report, made public Monday.

"No buddy, this is the wrong block," Gallagher was heard saying before pulling out a gun and shooting at the man. The man ran to a parked car, which then sped off.

The victims pulled up to Gallagher and one of them asked, "Hi neighbor. You OK?"

G a l l a g h e r a l l e g e d l y responded by saying, "Do you want some too, (expletive)?" Then he fired several times at the victims' Camaro, which also sped away, according to the report.

"I don't know why he decided to react that way," one of the victims told The Post.

"I'm just glad none of the bullets hit my car or us."

One of the victims said he's never had any issues with Gallagher and that they have been friendly to each other in the past.

Gallagher refused to talk with Palm Beach County sheriff's deputies, invoking his right to speak to an attorney even before he was asked questions, the report said.

Gallagher also immediately informed PBSO he was a former law enforcement officer.



The report said that on his way to jail, Gallagher asked a deputy if “I knew who my victim was and if I knew about drug activity?” The report does not include who Gallagher was referring to.

The victim who spoke to The Post said he’s a car salesman who works six days a week and “doesn’t have time for that drug foolishness.” The man said he thinks Gallagher may have been intoxicated during the incident.

Gallagher was court ordered to undergo a mental health evaluation and was warned not to have any contact with the victims. He was scheduled to appear before a judge Tuesday for a first-appearance hearing but was not in court.

Florida Department of Law Enforcement records show that Gallagher was a Miami-Dade police officer who retired in 2011.

Because he is a former police officer, Gallagher’s jail mugshot is not available on PBSD’s booking blotter. Staff researcher Mike Stuka contributed to this report. [jmilian@pbpost.com](mailto:jmilian@pbpost.com) Twitter: [@jorgemilian1](https://twitter.com/jorgemilian1)

## IN FOCUS: WELLINGTON

# Village crime? Actually, it’s down



Matt Morgan

Crime in Wellington is a sore subject for some.

The village is branded as a “Great Hometown” that is a safe place to live for families. It’s also an equestrian wonderland in the winter.

But some have been starting to question that safety because of recent crimes such as two homicides, a sober home raid and a large uptick in burglaries from vehicles. I’ll get emails asking me about crime in certain neighborhoods and people will post on Facebook, asking if Wellington is still safe.

Well, according to the numbers, it is.

The crime rate actually fell in the village in the last fiscal year, according to a presentation by District Commander Capt. Rolando Silva at the last Village Council meeting.

Last year, the sheriff’s office said its focus in Wellington was on lowering juvenile crime, traffic crashes and keeping property crimes low.

All of those things happened, but deputies were unable to hit lofty goal numbers for lowering the traffic crash rate to 2.2 crashes per 100 residents. Silva said they’ll keep

trying to get that number down through enforcement and education such as flashing signs telling people not to text and drive.

There was a 4 percent increase in the number of traffic stops from the previous year, but Silva said they don't all have to result in tickets. If a driver has a minor violation and they have a good attitude, it's likely they could get off with a warning.

Juvenile crime also dropped, but it's still a concern. Robberies nearly doubled from nine to 17, and Silva said that was mostly a result of teen-on-teen crime.

One help to that will be a crackdown on minors who commit serious crimes, Silva said. They'll be pushing for more harsh charges for juvenile crime involving firearms or other major offenses.

Wellington deputies will also be cracking down on gun crime, specifically in the areas of Wellington Trace and Greenview Shores, where there has been an increase in those kinds of incidents.

Instead of just handing the person a notice of a court date for a misdemeanor, they may be hauled off to the jail for a night, Silva said.

The numbers may not be exactly representative of the current situation because the report covers only Oct. 1, 2015, through Sept. 30, 2016.

Silva acknowledged there is still work to be done on some of these issues and the sheriff's office is ready to handle them going forward.

Though there have been some higher-profile crimes in the village recently, Wellington still has it pretty good.

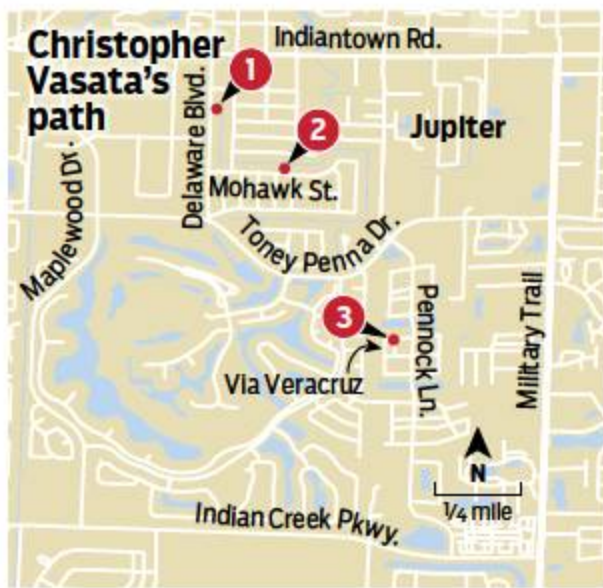
## POST IN-DEPTH JUPITER SLAYINGS

# Up to 3 on loose in Jupiter killings

**Report: '3 or 4 masked people' stormed home, killed 3 near a fire pit.** *By Jorge Milian Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Vasata



Sources: Jupiter Police Department,  
Palm Beach County Fire Rescue

**1. Christopher Vasata** said he walked from his home on South Delaware Boulevard the half-mile southeast to the house at 1105 Mohawk St. that Charlie Vorpapel was renting.

**2. At 10:30 p.m.,** three people were shot and killed at the home on Mohawk Street.

**3. At 10:45 p.m.,** emergency crews responded to a report of a wounded man on Paseos Way. That man was Vasata who had fled from the shooting site in a BMW.

ROBERT CALZADA / STAFF



Jeffrey Vorpapel (center), father of Charles Vorpapel, renter of the Jupiter home, leaves court Tuesday. LANNIS WATERS / THE PALM BEACH POST

As many as three people who took part in a triple slaying at a Jupiter home Feb. 5 remain free, according to an arrest report, as a fourth man facing charges in the killings missed a Tuesday court appearance.

Christopher Vasata, charged with three counts of first-degree murder and other felonies, was one of "three or four masked people" who stormed the home in Jupiter's River Estates neighborhood and shot to death the three victims as they socialized outside around a fire pit, said Charles Vorpapel, who is facing federal weapon and drug charges in connection with the slayings.

Vorpapel, who was renting the home at 1105 Mohawk St., told Jupiter police that Vasata "had to be one of the shooters."

Vasata, 24, was arrested Monday at St. Mary's Medical Center in West Palm Beach, where he was recovering from two gunshot wounds to his lower back and buttocks. He was scheduled to make his first court appearance Tuesday morning but was too ill to attend, Judge Dina Keever-Agrama was told. The appearance has been rescheduled for today.

The report does not indicate who shot Vasata.

Vasata confessed to the slayings during a "spiritual moment" while recovering from his wounds, the report said. "I just killed three people and I'm looking at heaven," Vasata told an officer. He later denied making the statement.

Kelli J. Doherty, 20, of Tequesta, Brandi El-Salhy, 24, of Gainesville, and Sean P. Henry, 26, of Jupiter, were dead as the result of multiple gunshot wounds by the time Jupiter police arrived at the home at about 10:30 p.m., the report said.

Vorpagel said he managed to escape the carnage by jumping over a fence then hiding. He was later taken to Jupiter Medical Center suffering from shock.

A few minutes after the shootings, Palm Beach County sheriff's deputies began pursuit of a dark-colored, four-door sedan that stopped on the 100 block of Paseos Way, about a mile southeast of the murder scene. Vasata emerged from the rear of the vehicle, then collapsed on the roadway, the report said.

The sedan fled, and the report does not say whether PBSO continued the pursuit. Vasata told a deputy he was shot by unknown assailants while "at a buddy's house." During a search of Vasata, a loaded magazine for a .40-caliber Glock handgun, a Perfecta.40-caliber bullet and a single black glove were found in his shorts, the report said.

A BMW, leased by Vasata, was parked near where he collapsed on Paseos Way, the report said. A box of Perfecta.40-caliber bullets was found inside the BMW.

Vorpagel, 27, told investigators that Vasata was not an "invited guest" at his home and added that he was likely one of the masked men who killed his friends.

A Honda Accord belonging to Henry, one of the victims, was found Feb. 6 on southbound Interstate 95 near Northlake Boulevard. Two firearms and a set of BMW keys were uncovered in a culvert about 10 to 15 feet from the vehicle, the report said. A single black glove and bloodstained items were found inside the Honda. Forensic examinations showed that five spent casings at the shooting scene were Perfecta .40-caliber bullets, the report said. The casings were traced to a Glock handgun recovered at the home and another found in the culvert next to Vasata's BMW.

Jeffrey Vorpagel, Charles Vorpagel's father, attended Vasata's scheduled court appearance Tuesday but declined comment. Unidentified family and friends of the victims were also in court and did not speak to reporters.

No one answered at a home on the 300 block of South Delaware Boulevard where Vasata lives. Vasata told police he walked the half-mile from the house to Vorpapel's home on the day of the shootings, the report said.

Vasata has a history of drug arrests. He was charged with possession of marijuana with intent to sell in 2013 after police said Vasata bought \$36,000 worth of marijuana to sell.

Staff writers Bill DiPaolo and

Hannah Winston contributed to this story. [jmilian@pbpost.com](mailto:jmilian@pbpost.com)

**VIDEO ONLINE** To see a video of the press conference announcing the arrest, go to [PalmBeachPost.com/vasata](http://PalmBeachPost.com/vasata).

## KEY DATES IN THE JUPITER TRIPLE HOMICIDE — *BILL DIPAOLO, STAFF WRITER*

**Feb. 5, 10:34 p.m.:** Near the end of a Super Bowl party, shots are fired in the Jupiter River Estates neighborhood, north of Toney Penna Drive and east of Maplewood Drive, in Jupiter. Kelli J. Doherty, 20, of Tequesta, Brandi El-Salhy, 24, of Gainesville, and Sean P. Henry, 26, of Jupiter, are shot and killed at 1105 Mohawk St.

- About six minutes after the shooting, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office deputies pursue a dark-colored four-door sedan less than a mile south of the shooting, near the intersection of Via Veracruz and Paseos Way in Jupiter. A young man emerges from the rear driver's side and collapses on the roadway. The sedan speeds away. The young man is Jupiter resident Christopher Vasata, 24, who is taken to St. Mary's Medical Center with two gunshot wounds to his lower back/buttocks. He tells a deputy he has been shot by an unknown person(s) "at a buddy's house." A BMW is next to where Vasata was found.

**Feb. 6, morning:** Jupiter police say they have a person of interest. Henry's stolen Honda Accord is found on the shoulder of southbound Interstate 95, about a mile north of Northlake Boulevard. Two firearms and a set of BMW keys are recovered. The spent bullet casings from the murder scene appear to be the same as the live bullets found in one of the recovered firearms. The BMW keys match the BMW parked near where Vasata was shot. Firearms and bullets found in the BMW that Vasata had driven to Paseos Drive "likely" match those used to kill the three victims, the report said.

**Feb. 6, all day:** Jupiter Christian School closes to minimize neighborhood traffic while police investigate. The Palm Beach County School District limits access to

nearby Jupiter High School. Homes on and around Mohawk Street are evacuated when a suspicious package is found.

**Feb. 8:** Federal agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives search 1105 Mohawk St., accompanied by accelerant-sniffing dogs. There is no immediate word on what they are seeking.

**Feb. 9:** Charles Vorpapel, 27, the renter of the house where the shootings happened, is arrested on a federal firearms charge. According to the federal criminal complaint, more than 3 pounds of marijuana are found bagged for sale inside the Mohawk residence along with 914 Xanax tablets and 16.9 grams of cocaine along with other drug paraphernalia. The Mohawk Street home where the shootings happened is owned by Jeffrey Vorpapel, the father of Charles Vorpapel.

**Feb. 9-13:** A Celebration of Life is held on Feb. 13 for Henry at Jupiter FIRST Church, where he was a member. A Celebration of Life is held for El-Salhy at Jupiter's Ocean Cay Park. Her friends say El-Salhy loved the beach. Friends of Doherty and the other victims gather Feb. 9 to raise money for the victims' families at Jupiter's Craft Bar Kitchen, an Indiantown Road restaurant where Doherty worked as a server this past year.

**Feb. 17:** Jupiter River Estates residents tell The Palm Beach Post they understand why police are tight-lipped on their investigation, but the lack of information has them jittery. Police have not said how many shots were fired or where the bodies were found on the property, citing the ongoing investigation. FBI spokesman James Marshall responds to questions sent via email from The Palm Beach Post: "Please refer to court documents. Beyond that, the FBI has no comment."

**Feb. 23:** The victims were shot in the home's backyard during the Super Bowl, according to a town police search warrant made public. Autopsies showed the victims, found around the outdoor fire pit, were killed by multiple gunshot wounds. Six firearms, three air rifles, cellphones and an iPad also were found in the home after police got there.

**Feb. 24:** A delay for 30 days in the arraignment of Charles Vorpapel is announced by a federal judge.

**March 13:** Charles Vorpapel appears in front of a federal judge to waive his preliminary hearing and right to a speedy trial, court documents state. Vorpapel remains in custody after a judge determines he is "a risk of flight and a danger to the community."

**Monday:** Police announce the arrest of Vasata on three counts of first-degree murder, one count of attempted first-degree murder with a firearm, and one count of a felon in possession of a firearm or ammunition. Vasata was injured in the



shooting and told police while he was hospitalized that he had shot three people, police said.

**Tuesday,:** The three victims were shot by “three or four masked people” who entered the house as the victims hung out in the backyard, according to an arrest report. “Here I am, looking at heaven. I just killed three people and I’m looking at heaven,” Vasata told police at the hospital at one point, according to the report.

## **PALM BEACH GARDENS IMMIGRATION PANEL**

# **Life unpredictable for local immigrants, attorney says Panelists at PBSC forum agree Trump’s changing policies instill fear.**

*By Sarah Peters Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Protesters at Palm Beach International Airport in January speak out against President Donald Trump’s now withdrawn temporary travel ban on immigrants from seven Muslim-majority nations. DAMON HIGGINS / THE PALM BEACH POST

PALM BEACH GARDENS — “Unpredictable.” In one word, that’s how Boca Raton attorney Isabel Castillo described President Donald Trump’s immigration policy. Castillo, speaking Tuesday as part of a panel at Palm Beach State College’s Spanish Language Celebration, said it’s difficult to give people legal advice when the president’s immigration policy changes so frequently.

It’s that unpredictability that instills fear in people, said Aliddy Diaz, Palm Beach State College Student Government Association president for the Palm Beach Gardens campus.

“Just with the flick of a pen, someone’s life can change so much,” she said.

Jill Hanson, a leader of the El Sol Neighborhood Resource Center, described how a Jupiter couple who has lived locally for 20 years and owns a successful small business dutifully reported to an Immigration and Customs Enforcement office in Mira-mar without incident — until recently.

The woman was allowed to leave with an ankle bracelet because their 12-year-old son was with them, but the man was taken into custody and is in detention fighting deportation, Hanson said.

Another undocumented person with similar circumstances might be allowed to stay, and no one knows why, said Hanson, whose late husband, Sol Silverman, inspired the name of El Sol, a safe, indoor space in Jupiter for the hiring of day laborers. West Palm Beach immigration attorney Aileen Josephs said although Trump ran on a platform that was “very, very painful” in his speeches, she’s never seen as much human suffering as she did during the eight years that Barack Obama was president, when about 3 million people were deported.

“I judge politicians not by their words, not by their tweets, but by their actions,” Josephs said.

While Trump still pledges to fulfill his campaign promise of building a \$12 billion border wall to keep people from entering the country illegally, an act of Congress could humanely deal with the estimated 11 million immigrants here illegally who are already in the United States, Josephs said.

For national security purposes, Congress should make them legal to know who they are, where they are, study and provide good policy responses for future generations, Josephs said.

The pathway to legal migration needs to be simplified, especially for those seeking political asylum and fleeing drugs and gangs in Central and South America, panelists said. Women and children often arrive in the United States raped or extorted, some don’t make it alive, Josephs said.

“We have to bring them out of the shadows,” she said.

There’s no real way of knowing how many undocumented immigrants are already here, Hanson said. The immigration system is broken, and people in the United States have taken advantage of that for years, becoming dependent on the labor, she said.

“We’ve incorporated them into our economy. Our children were born here. They go to our schools,” Hanson said. “We have it, fix it in place.” [speters@pbpost.com](mailto:speters@pbpost.com)

[Twitter: @Speters09](https://twitter.com/Speters09)

## POST ON CRIME SHOOTER

# Cops: Shooting spree went from Stuart to Palm Beach

*By Chelsea Todaro Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Sheriff's deputies say Nathan Fiorella bought an air rifle and projectiles in the fall. MARTIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



Fiorella

A Stuart man caused thousands of dollars of damage to at least 15 government buildings, schools and private businesses in Palm Beach and Martin counties during recent shooting sprees, authorities said Tuesday in announcing his arrest.

Investigators say Nathan Fiorella, 32, used a high-powered air rifle in the shootings, which extended all the way from the Martin County Courthouse to Royal Palm Way in Palm Beach. Projectiles the rifle fired were "capable of penetrating very hard surfaces, and could be equaled to that of a firearm bullet," according to a probable-cause affidavit made public Tuesday.

"It was only a matter of time until he shot someone," Martin County Sheriff William Snyder said at a news conference. "The rifle is almost the same as shooting with a handgun."

Fiorella faces charges of shooting a deadly missile into a structure and remained Tuesday at the Martin County Jail in lieu of \$200,000 bail.

The police report did not specify a motive for the shooting sprees. Snyder said Fiorella has been accused of felonies three times but has never been convicted. He has faced eight misdemeanor charges and been convicted of one.

The sheriff's office started in January to investigate Fiorella, whose shooting sprees it said took place at night. Among the buildings he targeted that month were the

Martin County Courthouse, the Martin County elections office and Martin County High School.

Fiorella bought the air rifle and boxes of projectiles in the fall from a company in Utah, the police report said.

Several of the private businesses at which Fiorella is believed to have fired the air rifle were on South Ocean Boulevard, near the Martin County Courthouse. The Florida Parole and Probation Office on Kanner Highway also reported an incident, officers said.

Investigators began surveillance on Fiorella's home Saturday and saw him drive erratically in a black Cadillac Escalade early Sunday near Interstate 95 and Kanner Highway. They tracked him to Palm Beach early Sunday, where he was "driving erratically and disobeying traffic laws," according to the report.

He shot a projectile at the PNC Wealth Management building on Royal Palm Way west of South County Road in Palm Beach before investigators lost sight of his car, according to the report. A projectile shattered a window and was found outside the building.

At about 2:30 a.m. Monday, police teams surrounded Fiorella's vehicle and arrested him. Officials then searched his home and found multiple weapons and ammunition believed to be used in all of the shootings, the sheriff's office said.

The arrest followed a trip by Fiorella into St. Lucie County early Monday in which he ripped two letters off the sign to Port St. Lucie Hospital, according to the arrest report.

"We were so concerned about the safety of this community that some detectives didn't sleep for days," Snyder said.

Few details were available about Fiorella on Tuesday. The arrest report said he graduated from Martin County High School. Jail records indicate he is unemployed and lists his occupation as "car washer." [ctodaro@pbpost.com](mailto:ctodaro@pbpost.com)

## TRUMP IN PALM BEACH PRESS COVERAGE

# When Trump visits golf course, reporters set up shop at county library

By Kristina Webb Palm Beach Post Staff Writer **MORE ONLINE**

Read The Post's complete coverage of President Trump in Palm Beach County at [myPalmBeachPost.com/donaldtrump](http://myPalmBeachPost.com/donaldtrump).



The main county library on Summit Boulevard has become the go-to hangout spot for journalists covering President Donald Trump while he is visiting his golf course nearby. LANNIS WATERS / THE PALM BEACH POST 2010

The hottest spot in Palm Beach County for national news reporters covering President Donald Trump isn't one of the many hot restaurants in West Palm Beach's Dixie Dining Corridor.

It also isn't one of Palm Beach island's swanky eateries, or one of downtown Lake Worth's quirky hangouts.

No, the best place to spot members of the traveling press pool is on Summit Boulevard across from Trump International Golf Club in suburban West Palm Beach. The main branch of the Palm Beach County Library System has served as a weekend holding spot for members of the pool as they wait for Trump to finish visiting the club.

On recent Saturday and Sunday mornings, visitors to the library could see the usual sights associated with the institution — parents reading to children, students performing research, eager readers browsing for a new book — alongside suited journalists camped out while they await the next move of the most powerful man in the world.

Each time Trump goes to the club — whether to take phone calls, hold meetings or hit a few balls — the white vans carrying the media pool that reports on his movements head to the library parking lot. Members of the press can stay in the van,



or they can stroll into the library to work in one of the three study rooms or the larger, 80-seat meeting room.

"We met up with the motorcade at 9:40 (a.m.) and are headed to the library while the president heads to Trump International Golf Course," read one recent pool report. "Have not been advised on his plans once there."

The report then added: "Your pooler has heard rave reviews about the library, is excited to expand his horizons with the power of books."

Whether tongue-in-cheek or not, the comment reveals what the rest of the press pool knows: If you're going to Palm Beach to cover Trump, you can expect to spend some time at the library.

From another pool report: "Pool is holding in a conference room at the public library with the president across the street at Trump International Golf Course."

"The pool vans arrived at the Palm Beach County Library across from the Trump International Golf Club in West Palm Beach," reads a pool report from Trump's fourth weekend in Palm Beach. That time around, the pool hung out in a "boardroom" at the library.

That boardroom can hold up to 20 people and is reserved in advance by the White House's Executive Office of the President, which pays \$150 for each use, said Adam Davis, director of system services for the library.

The library allows the journalists to come inside before the branch opens, Davis said. For example, the president arrived at Trump International at 8:37 a.m. Sunday, while the pool vans peeled off into the library's parking lot. The library's doors don't open until noon, but the members of the pool can go in and work in the boardroom.

"The press corps and the Executive Office of the President have been extremely thankful and really nice about using the library," Davis said.

The library provides a convenient workspace for the "poolers," who so far have not been allowed to accompany Trump into Trump International Golf Club when he spends time there. The club, which is near Palm Beach International Airport, is the nearer of the two Trump Organization golf clubs to what Trump has called his "southern White House."

You might think having the press pool hanging out at the library might make for good press. But it hasn't.

Members of the press pool are discouraged from talking about their experiences.

This reporter reached out to several recent poolers who have traveled with Trump to Palm Beach County, but none would talk about their experiences at the library, and only one replied to decline an interview request.

Davis seemed amused by the attention his branch has received.



"We've been in the New York Times twice," he said, adding later, "We're a popular place to hang out. What can I say?" [kwebb@pbpost.com](mailto:kwebb@pbpost.com)

## POST ON COURTS JUPITER SLAYINGS **Jupiter victim's girlfriend: Life is a 'black hole' Woman cites struggles at school since death; suspect is denied bail.**

*By Chelsea Todaro Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Christopher Vasata, at a hearing in a wheelchair Wednesday, faces first-degree murder charges in three killings. LANNIS WATERS / THE PALM BEACH POST



Baynham

WEST PALM BEACH — Moments after Jupiter triple-homicide suspect Christopher Vasata was wheeled out of the courtroom Wednesday, Keri Baynham bravely stood up before the crowd, teary-eyed but poised, to talk about her lost love.

"I feel like my heart was ripped from my chest," Baynham, a Fort Lauderdale native, stuttered to say about Sean Henry, her boyfriend of 2½ years who was shot to death Feb. 5. "Sean was the most loving and caring person I've ever met."

Wednesday marked 45 days since Henry, 26, of Jupiter, was fatally shot in the backyard of a Jupiter home with Kelli J. Doherty, 20, of Tequesta, and Brandi El-Salhy, 24, of Gainesville. Vasata is one of two people who have been arrested during the course of the investigation. He is facing first-degree murder charges in their slayings, and a police report made public Tuesday suggested as many as three other gunmen might be at large.

Baynham was the only person linked to the victims to speak at Vasata's hearing. Judge Dina Keever-Agrama denied bail for Vasata, 24, of Jupiter, and ordered him to have no contact with the victims' families. Vasata will next appear before a county judge April

19.

Like

El-Salhy and Vasata, Henry went to Jupiter High School and then attended Tallahassee Community College.

He was working for Keating Moore Construction when he was killed and had previously worked at JupiterFIRST Church at Indian Creek Parkway and Maplewood Drive. Henry participated in many programs at JupiterFIRST, including a home-building trip to Haiti just weeks before he died. Two weeks before his murder, he led the prayer for children during a Sunday service.

Baynham told Keever-Agrama that she had known Henry since they were 14 years old and had dated him for 2½ years. She said she has been struggling with school since his death, which put her "in and out of shock."

"Everything since Henry's death has been a blur," Baynham said, her words breaking at times.

"My life has turned into a black hole."

The state will decide what type of sentence Vasata will face if convicted, according to an attorney who represented him during Wednesday's hearing. Vasata will have a public defender representing him for future hearings, the attorney said.

A police report made public Tuesday suggested he is one of the "three or four masked people" who raided the Mohawk Street home where Doherty, El-Salhy and Henry were killed while sitting around a backyard fire pit with Charles Vorpapel, who was renting the house.

Vorpapel, 27, is the other person who has been arrested during the investigation. He faces federal weapon and drug charges in connection to the case, and told police Vasata "had to be one of the shooters," the police report states. Investigators confiscated more than 3 pounds of marijuana inside the home along with 914 Xanax tablets, 16.9 grams of cocaine and other drug paraphernalia, according to a federal criminal complaint. The house is rented by Vorpapel's father, Jeffrey Vorpapel.

Vasata was shot twice in the lower back and buttocks on the night of the slayings.

While recovering from his wounds, Vasata allegedly confessed to the killings and said to an officer, "I just killed three people and I'm looking at heaven," according to the police report. He later denied the statement.

Vasata has a criminal history, mostly from drug arrests. In 2013, police said Vasata bought \$36,000 worth of marijuana to sell, and charged him with possession of marijuana. [ctodaro@pbpost.com](mailto:ctodaro@pbpost.com)

## Lake Worth woman files lawsuit, says 'Cash Me Outside' girl hurt her

*By Alexandra Seltzer Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Kimberly Peterson, 27, accuses 13-year-old Danielle Peskowitz Bregoli of assaulting her. ALLEN EYESTONE / THE PALM BEACH POST



Attorney Gary Lesser is representing Kimberly Peterson in a lawsuit against Barbara Bregoli and her daughter, Danielle. "This is a case of responsibility and what happens when there is no responsibility," Lesser said. ALLEN EYESTONE / THE PALM BEACH POST

WESTPALMBEACH— A Lake Worth woman has filed a lawsuit against the mother of Danielle Peskowitz Bregoli, known as the "Cash Me Outside" girl from Boynton Beach, and accuses the 13-year-old of assaulting her in February.

Kimberly Peterson, 27, and her attorney, Gary Lesser, filed the lawsuit Tuesday against Danielle's mother, Barbara Ann Bregoli. They are asking for damages in excess of \$15,000. Peterson claims she was outside Downtown Pizza in Lake Worth on Feb. 26 when Danielle and her "entourage" were involved in a verbal altercation nearby. Peterson recommended to Danielle that she go home to her parents, and that's when the fight started, she said.

"At that time and place, a verbal altercation ensued, instigated by Bregoli, which led to Peterson being assaulted and repeatedly battered and punched by Bregoli, and those directed by Bregoli, causing serious bodily injury," the lawsuit says.

Danielle became known after her 2016 appearance on the "Dr. Phil" show when she said the now-famous phrase "Cash me outside, how bow dah?" In the episode, titled "I Want to Give Up My Car-Stealing, Knife-Wielding, Twerking 13-year-old Daughter Who Tried to Frame Me for a Crime," the 49-year-old single mother, Bregoli, called her daughter "the Antichrist."

Attempts to reach Danielle's mother were not successful Wednesday.

In the fight, Peterson's nose and left thumb were broken, she said. She already had surgery on her nose, and wears a cast on her left hand.

Peterson, whose court records show pleaded guilty to DUI in 2011 and was sentenced to 12 months of probation, announced the lawsuit against Bregoli on Wednesday morning at her attorney's office.

"This is a case of responsibility and what happens when there is no responsibility," Lesser said. "It's hard being a parent today, we all know this, but we still have to be parents, not buddies, and certainly not business partners."

In the lawsuit, Peterson also says Danielle's actions in Lake Worth led to food being thrown at Peterson and being repeatedly punched in the face, causing her to "violently fall to the ground." She said Danielle led the fight and participated in it, but the most damage was done by another girl. Peterson and her attorney said they do not know who that other girl is.

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office is investigating. After the altercation, the office sent out a photo of a girl they hoped the public could help identify.

No one answered the door at Danielle's Boynton Beach home Wednesday, although Lesser said he has heard that both mother and daughter are back in Florida after being out in California.

Danielle's father, Palm Beach County sheriff's deputy Ira Peskowitz, is not named in the suit..

As for Danielle, an Instagram post two hours after the lawsuit was announced shows her pointing her middle finger across her face as a backdrop to a string of vicious online comments that include encouragements for her to commit suicide as well as explicit sexual comments.

"Everyone want to point the finger at me smh," her caption reads. "Smh" means "shaking my head" in social media-speak.

Staff writer Daphne Duret contributed to this story. [aseltzer@pbpost.com](mailto:aseltzer@pbpost.com)

**VIDEO ONLINE** Kimberly Peterson and her attorney discuss her lawsuit against Danielle and Barbara Bregoli at [myPalmBeachPost.com](http://myPalmBeachPost.com).

## **Seven aircraft violated FAA's airspace rules in Trump visit Fighter jets sent out for one plane; pilots regularly breach restrictions.**

*By Kristina Webb Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

Pilots continue to violate restricted airspace when President Donald Trump visits his part-time Palm Beach home.

Seven aircraft breached the Federal Aviation Administration's temporary flight restrictions that were in effect from Friday evening through Sunday afternoon for Trump's most recent stay at Mar-a-Lago, the FAA said Monday.

Of those, only one prompted a response from fighter jets: Two F-15E aircraft and a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter were sent to intercept a small Cessna that "was not in radio contact," said a spokesman for the North American Aerospace Defense Command, or NORAD.

In flying to meet the aircraft about 5 p.m. Saturday, the jets did not have to break the sound barrier as they have once in the past, the NORAD spokesman said.

That violation — which happened Feb. 17, soon after Trump had arrived in Palm Beach to spend Presidents Day weekend at what he has called his "Southern White House" — forced NORAD to scramble two F-15 jets at supersonic speeds to head off a plane whose pilot was not responding to orders to leave the area.

The ensuing sonic boom was heard throughout eastern Palm Beach and Broward counties, rattling windows and cueing calls to law enforcement. It also drew international attention after the fighter jets' intercession was widely reported as the cause of the nerve-rattling sonic boom.

Seven is fewer than the 14 planes that violated airspace restrictions on Trump's Presidents Day weekend trip, Feb. 17-20. But the number still is up from the previous visit, March 3-5, when there were only four airspace violations and no interceptions.

The FAA said it will investigate each of this weekend's incidents.

A look at airspace violations over Palm Beach for each of Trump's visits since he took office:

- Feb. 3-5: 10 violations
- Feb. 10-12: three violations
- Feb. 17-20: 14 violations
- March 3-5: four violations
- March 17-19: seven violations [kwebb@pbpost.com](mailto:kwebb@pbpost.com)

## Beware 'Can you hear me now?' calls

Your phone rings and the caller ID shows a number you don't know. You answer it anyway and hear, "Can you hear me now?" It's a pre-recorded robocall — even though it sounds like a real person — and it's illegal.

The Federal Trade Commission said Tuesday it's heard from hundreds of people who have received such calls. The Better Business Bureau warned consumers about this in February.

The FTC says it has seen a significant increase in the number of illegal robocalls because internet-powered phone systems have made it cheap and easy for scammers to make illegal calls from anywhere in the world, and to hide from law enforcement by displaying fake caller ID information.

To date, the FTC has brought more than a hundred lawsuits against more than 600 companies and individuals responsible for billions of illegal robocalls.

Here's what the FTC says to do if you get a call from someone you don't recognize asking, "Can you hear me?":

Don't respond, just hang up. If you get a call, don't press 1 to speak to a live operator or any other number to be removed from the list. If you respond in any way, it will probably just lead to more robocalls — and they're likely to be scams.

Contact your phone provider. Ask your phone provider what services they provide to block unwanted calls.

Put your phone number on the Do Not Call registry. Access the registry online or by calling 1-888-382-1222. Callers who don't respect the Do Not Call rules are more likely to be crooks.

File a complaint with the FTC. Report the experience online or call 1-877-382-4357

— SUSAN SALISBURY,  
PROTECTING YOUR POCKET



# Air-rifle suspect in court: 'The whole system is a con'

*By Chelsea Todaro Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Nathan Fiorella is accused of causing thousands in damage.

A Stuart man accused of shooting into more than 15 buildings with an air rifle in Martin County and Palm Beach made a bizarre statement at his first court appearance.

Nathan Fiorella was appearing Tuesday afternoon before a judge after being charged with shooting a deadly missile into a structure. Authorities say Fiorella caused thousands of dollars of damage to at least 15 government buildings, schools and private businesses.

In a court video provided by TC Palm, the county judge asks whether Fiorella had any last words to say, and he appeared to mumble the words "confusion," "conspiracy," and "control."

Before Fiorella left the courtroom he then added "the whole system is a con," and was then escorted out by deputies.

He remains at the Martin County Jail in lieu of a \$200,000 bail.

Fiorella's spree, according to a police report, targeted buildings such as Martin County's courthouse and elections office, Martin County High School and the PNC Wealth Management building in Palm Beach.

Earlier Tuesday at a news conference, Martin County Sheriff William Snyder said it would've been "only a matter of time until he shot someone. The rifle is almost the same as shooting with a handgun." [ctodaro@pbpost.com](mailto:ctodaro@pbpost.com)

# POLICE BLOTTER

**WEST PALM BEACH POLICE SUSPICIOUS INCIDENT** Police went to the 4400 block of Broadway to speak with a man who said he was robbed of his wallet while walking, possibly on Broadway. He said his wallet contained \$120 and his driver's license. His iPhone also was stolen. Police noted that the man appeared to be very intoxicated. The man indicated that another man in the vicinity might be connected with the robber, but he could not substantiate his theory.

**THEFT A man went into a store** in the 1700 block of Palm Beach Lakes Boulevard, grabbed some ink cartridges from a display and stuffed them in his pockets. As he was leaving without paying for the \$122 in merchandise, he was stopped by a loss prevention officer. Police arrested the man, issued him a notice to appear in court and released him.

**VEHICLE BURGLARY A man in the 300 block** of Puritan Road reported that his vehicle had been ransacked. Nothing was missing. He told police he had been the victim of previous burglaries and now leaves his vehicle unlocked, so no one breaks a window.

**THEFT A woman and her boyfriend** went to a store in the 4000 block of North Haverhill Road. While he paid for his items at a register, the woman placed hers in her purse. She was apprehended in the parking lot, and the stolen goods, valued at \$96.94, were recovered.

**A woman was arrested** after she attempted to steal nine Polo shirts from a store in the 500 block of South Rosemary Avenue. The shirts were valued at \$98.50 each.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE, LAKE WORTH

**CRIMINAL MISCHIEF Two tires were punctured** on a vehicle in a parking lot in the 1700 block of Fourth Avenue North.

**Someone used a golf cart** at a course in the first block of Seventh Avenue North to damage a bench and several poles. The cart had some scratches on the bumper.

**Damage estimated at \$500** was done to a sign and lights at a business in the first block of South Dixie Highway.

**Someone cut a fence** at a business in the 2200 block of Fourth Avenue North, doing \$300 worth of damage. Nothing was stolen.

**TRESPASSING The manager of a store** in the 600 block of South Dixie Highway complained about a man who had been begging customers for money every day. When he told the man to leave, the man refused and began yelling. He asked a deputy to give the man a trespass warning from the premises. The deputy located the man and advised him of the warning.

**ROBBERY A man was leaving a club** in the 600 block of South Dixie Highway when he was attacked from behind by two men. The pair took his wallet and cellphone from his pockets.

**A man was walking** in the 1200 block of Sixth Avenue South, text messaging a friend, when he was approached by a man on a bicycle. The bicyclist grabbed the man's iPhone out of his hands and rode off.

**THEFT A man got on a bus** in the area of Sixth Avenue South and South Dixie Highway. Because the bus was crowded, he got off before his destination. After he exited, he realized his pocket had been picked and his wallet was missing. Contents included his driver's license, Social Security card and \$45.

**LANTANA POLICE THEFT Police were called to a motel** in the 1200 block of Hypoluxo Road, where a taxi driver told them his passenger did not have money to pay for her \$24 fare. An officer spoke to the woman, who said she had been evicted from her home. She said her sister had called the taxi for her and said she had pre-paid for it. Her sister also told her she had paid for a room at the motel. However, the taxi was not paid for, nor was there a motel room reserved for her. The cab driver decided not to press charges, and the motel staff agreed to give her a room for the night free of charge. While police were at the scene, the woman's daughter-in-law called and said she would pick up the woman and help her to find social services.

**Two chair covers valued** at \$15 each were stolen from a balcony of a residence in the 100 block of Yacht Club Way in Hypoluxo.

**BATTERY A woman and several fellow** dancers were practicing their routines in a clubhouse in the 800 block of North Federal Highway when the homeowners association president arrived in a state of distress. The HOA president informed the dancers that they could not use the facility without a \$100 deposit and board approval. While the woman and her fellow dancers said they would be on their way, the HOA president began turning off the lights and continued telling people they had to get out. As the woman was exiting, the HOA president pushed her. A witness told police she had to step in between the two women, because she believed the HOA president would keep pushing the dancer. The officer spoke to the HOA president, who said she had heard that a dance party was going on and went to the clubhouse to kick the dancers out. She said she did not push the other woman, claiming she just put her hand up because she thought the woman was going to strike her. In the end, the HOA president admitted she could have handled the situation better. Both parties involved in the altercation calmed down, and the woman who was pushed declined to press charges.

**VEHICLE BURGLARY A laptop computer**, video gaming system, Gucci gold chain and \$300 were stolen from a vehicle in the 1200 block of West Ocean Avenue. There was no sign of forced entry.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE, ROYAL PALM BEACH **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF A rear sliding glass door** was damaged at a home in the 2200 block of Shoma Drive.

**THEFT Someone took 600 plastic pots** from landscaping job site at a business in the 10600 block of Southern Boulevard. The pots were valued at \$2,300.

**A decal was removed** from a license plate on a vehicle in the 1700 block of Annandale Circle.

**A woman's cellphone** was stolen after she left it in a restroom at a store in the 9900 block of Belvedere Road.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE, WELLINGTON **THEFT A package delivered to a residence** in the 2600 block of Treanor Terrace was taken from the front doorstep. Surveillance video showed a man picking up the box and shaking it. Deputies were able to identify the culprit, who has a history of taking boxes. They were unable to contact him. The woman found the box in bushes at the side of her home. Although it had been opened, the wigs and cleaning products inside were intact.

**A woman reported the theft** of a handgun, DVD player and \$200 from her residence in the 700 block of Forest Club Drive. She suspects her roommate was the culprit.

**Two bicycles were stolen** from a bike rack in the 9100 block of Fatio Boulevard.

**TRESPASSING A customer at a store** in the 10300 block of Forest Hill Boulevard created a disturbance when he slammed items he was holding on one of the counters. An employee told a deputy there was broken glass on the counter as a result. The deputy spoke to the customer, who said he broke his own phone on the counter. He was given a trespass warning from the property.

**CRIMINAL MISCHIEF A woman in the 1300 block** of White Pine Drive found scratches on her car. She told a deputy she believed the culprits were kids playing in the area. Although she did not want to prosecute, she wanted the deputy to talk to the youngsters' parents.

**A woman in the 12400 block** of Westhampton Circle was awakened by a loud bang outside her window. She looked out and saw several males walking along the sidewalk. The following morning she found two taillights broken on her vehicle.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE, GREENACRES

**TRESPASSING A deputy on patrol** in the 6200 block of Forest Hill Boulevard observed a temporary car wash business set up in a parking lot. Recalling numerous complaints made by the property owner about people setting up car washes without approval, the deputy approached the man washing a pickup and asked if he had

permission to be on the property. The man said he did not, and the deputy told him to leave. He was given a trespass warning from the premises.

**ROBBERY A teen in the 5000 block** of Solar Point Drive posted online that he had two pairs of Nike shoes to sell. One of his friends said he knew two possible buyers. The teen, accompanied by his father, met the buyers at a nearby park. After inspecting the shoes, the two buyers ran off with them. The teen and his father pursued them, but when his father fell, the teen gave up the chase. He told a deputy he recognized the robbers as students at his high school. The total value of the stolen Nikes was \$300. The teen decided he did not want to press charges in the matter and considered it as a lesson learned.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE, LOXAHATCHEE/ACREAGE

**SUSPICIOUS INCIDENT A stranger went to a home** in the 5200 block of Avocado Boulevard and told the resident her friend had mistakenly arranged for a package to arrive at that address. She asked the resident to call her when the package arrived. The resident told the stranger she would not accept the package, and suggested the stranger call her friend and get the matter straightened out. The stranger said she would wait for the delivery truck herself. While the resident called her husband to tell him of the incident, the stranger intercepted the delivery truck and got the package. The resident's husband arrived at the scene and attempted to get the stranger's tag number as she drove off in an older model silver Volvo at a high rate of speed. He told a deputy the stranger ran stop signs and was driving recklessly.

**A man in the 13700 block** of 86th Road North told a deputy that a delivery truck dropped off a small package at his residence. A man in a silver Honda drove up to his home, jumped the fence, grabbed the package, hopped back over the fence and drove off. The incident was captured on surveillance video. It was unknown what the package contained, as the resident said he had not ordered anything.

**CRIMINAL MISCHIEF The Sheriff 's Office was tipped** off that someone was breaking windows at a store in the 15900 block of Orange Boulevard. Deputies went to the scene and arrested a suspect found behind the store.

Compiled by Sy O'Neill from area law enforcement records.

## Suspect, 24, from Jupiter arrested in triple shooting

*By Adam Sacasa Staff writer*



Vasata

The man accused in a Super Bowl Sunday shooting in Jupiter that killed three people was one of up to four assailants and later told police "I'm looking at heaven," according to an arrest report released Tuesday.

Christopher Vasata of Jupiter was arrested Monday.

In announcing the arrest, Jupiter Police Chief Frank Kitzerow did not disclose the relationship between Vasata, 24, and the three people who were killed, but did confirm that Vasata was shot during the incident and was later found, with gunshot wounds, in a neighborhood close to the shooting scene.

And, according to the arrest report, investigators think Vasata was one of "three or four masked people," involved in the shooting.

The three who were slain are Brandi El-Salhy, 24, of Gainesville, Kelli J. Doherty, 20, of Tequesta and Sean P. Henry, 25, of Jupiter.

A deputy found Vasata about a mile away just minutes after the Feb. 5 killings. He had gunshot wounds to his buttocks and lower back, investigators said.

In Vasata's pockets, deputies found a loaded magazine from a .40 caliber Glock handgun, a black glove and a bullet. Additionally, inside his leased BMW investigators found a box of bullets that matched the shell casings at the shooting scene, the arrest report said.

Vasata was taken to St. Mary's Medical Center, where he told a Jupiter police officer that he had a spiritual moment.

"Here I am, looking at heaven. I just killed three people and I'm looking at heaven," Vasata told the officer, according to the report.



Vasata later denied saying those words.

Vasata initially told police he had been at the Super Bowl gathering with the others who were shot, but the man who was renting the Mohawk Street house where the shootings happened told investigators that wasn't so.

Charles Vorpapel, 27, who managed to jump a fence when the shooting started, told police Vasata wasn't one of his guests. He said Vasata "had to be one of the shooters," according to the report. Vorpapel was later arrested on federal weapons and drug charges.

Vasata is charged with three counts of first-degree premeditated murder and possessing a weapon as a convicted felon.

State records show Vasata has at least five previous arrests, including convictions for possession of a controlled substance and possession of meth and marijuana with intent to sell.

A court hearing scheduled for Tuesday was rescheduled for Wednesday because Vasata was ill, according to Sun Sentinel news partner WPEC-CBS12.

Why the three were killed remains unclear.

*Staff researcher Barbara Hijek contributed to this report.*

**From:** [Anderson, Cassandra L](#)  
**Subject:** News Clips 3/24-25/2017  
**Date:** Monday, March 27, 2017 1:33:11 PM  
**Attachments:** [News Clips.docx](#)

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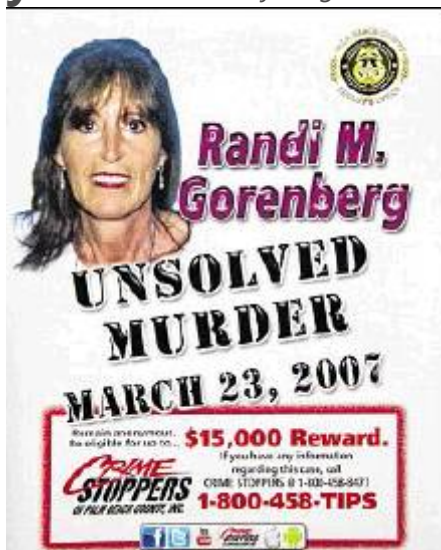
# **News Clip 3/24-25/2017**

## Palm Beach Post

PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE UNSOLVED SLAYINGS

### **Killing of 2 women still unsolved**

**Cynthia Moffett was killed in 2006; Randi Gorenberg a year later.** *By Jorge Milian Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Randi Gorenberg and Cynthia Moffett, both of Palm Beach County, were killed on March 23, one year apart. The killers have never been found. LANNIS WATERS / THE PALM BEACH POST



Idey Elias, the mother of Randi Gorenberg, and sheriff's Detective Bill Springer embrace after speaking at a news conference Thursday marking the anniversaries of the murders of Gorenberg and Cynthia Moffett. LANNIS WATERS / THE PALM BEACH POST

Randi Gorenberg and Cynthia Moffett share an unfortunate anniversary — the two Palm Beach County women were killed on March 23, one year apart.

The women are also linked in one other way — years after their murders, no suspect has been brought to justice.

Moffett, 52, was shot to death March 23, 2006, during a robbery at the Forest Oaks Golf Club in suburban Lake Worth where she was employed in the pro shop.

Gorenberg, 52, had been shopping at Town Center at Boca Raton when she was carjacked in the mall's parking lot around 1 p.m. on March 23, 2007. Gorenberg was shot in the head and her body dumped behind the South County Civic Center in suburban Delray Beach, next to Gov. Lawton Chiles Memorial Park.

"It never gets easier, but we've never given up hope," Julie Moffett Coker said of finding her sister's killer. "It gets harder, harder to talk about it. But it's still fresh in my mind like it happened yesterday."

Cynthia Moffett died outside the pro shop after being shot twice in the torso. Her killer fled after stealing rolled coins totaling \$300.

Detective Jeff Weissman, who works for the sheriff's Cold Case Unit, admits lacking good physical evidence, partly because Moffett's body was found outside following a heavy rainstorm.

"That makes it difficult in terms of DNA evidence," Weissman said. "Rain contaminates (recovery of DNA)."

Despite that, there is hope that authorities are coming closer to cracking the case. Weissman said he received a slew of tips last year after the reward for information leading to Moffett's killer was raised to \$25,000.

"It has put us in a direction that is the farthest we have been on this case since it happened," Weissman said.

Detective William Springer said there is better DNA evidence in the Gorenberg case. "We just need a name," Springer said. "Evidence is no good unless you have a name."

Gorenberg was last seen shopping at the Neiman Marcus store at Town Center, on Glades Road west of Interstate 95. Surveillance video shows her leaving the store carrying packages, but the video cameras did not extend to where Gorenberg's Mercedes-Benz SUV was parked.

Gorenberg's SUV was found behind the Home Depot store at Jog Road and West Atlantic Avenue in suburban Delray Beach, about 2 miles from where her body was left.

"We need the help of people out there," Springer said. "I mean, you have a murderer out there walking among you. You just never know who his next target will be."

Last year, PBSO's four-person Cold Case Unit solved the 1975 murder of Jean Savage, a 37-year-old Del-ray Beach housewife who was found brutally beaten, raped and stabbed to death at her home.

A tip and DNA evidence led detectives to James Franklin Rose, a death row inmate, who confessed to the killing.

PBSO announced Thursday it had solved another cold case with the arrest of 62-year-old Clarence Parker, of Pahokee, who has been charged in connection with the July 1989 stabbing death of Simmie Harris.

"You just have to have patience in these cases," Weissman said. "It's easy to get frustrated on it. You just have to keep working on it. Eventually, it comes through." Anyone with information on either case is asked to call Crime Stoppers of Palm Beach County at 800-458-TIPS (8477). Tipsters can remain anonymous. [jmilian@pbpost.com](mailto:jmilian@pbpost.com) Twitter: [@jorgemilian1](https://twitter.com/jorgemilian1)

## JUPITER TRIPLE SLAYING

# FBI offers \$20,000 reward in slayings

**Authorities seek more information in Jupiter triple homicide.** *By Hannah Winston Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Kelli Dougherty, 20, of Tequesta, Sean Henry, 26, of Jupiter and Brandi El-Salhy, 24, of Gainesville were found shot to death in the backyard of a house in Jupiter on Feb. 5.



Christopher Vasata faces first-degree murder charges.

JUPITER — The Federal Bureau of Investigation is offering up to \$20,000 for any information leading to an arrest in last month's triple homicide in Jupiter.

The announcement comes days after Jupiter police arrested a 24-year-old man in connection with the slayings but said there may be additional gunmen on the run. Sean Henry, 26, of Jupiter, Brandi El-Salhy, 24, of Gainesville, and Kelli Doherty, 20, of Tequesta, were found shot to death in the backyard of a residence at 1105 Mohawk St. just after 10:30 p.m. Feb. 5.

Christopher Vasata was arrested Monday and faces three counts of first-degree murder among other charges. Palm Beach County sheriff's deputies found Vasata



shot about a mile away from the crime scene the night of the fatal shooting and took him to a hospital.

Police said evidence indicates there is at least one other person involved in the shooting.

Vasata told a deputy that he was at his friend Charlie's house when he was shot. Charles Vorpapel, whose family rented the house where the shooting took place and survived, told police Vasata was not a guest at the Super Bowl party, so he had to be one of "three or four masked people" who stormed the home that night.

Vorpapel also told investigators Henry's Honda Accord was missing from the home. The vehicle was found the morning after the shootings on southbound Interstate 95. Inside the vehicle, investigators found bloodstains and a black glove. On the ground near the car, authorities found two guns and a set of BMW keys belonging to Vasata. One of the guns found matched shell casings at the crime scene, according to police. As Vasata recovered from his wounds before his arrest, Vorpapel, 27, was arrested Feb. 9 on unrelated federal firearms charges. Investigators said they found guns, more than 3 pounds of marijuana, hundreds of Xanax pills and cocaine in the home. Both Vorpapel and Vasata were previously arrested on drug charges and lived less than half a mile from each other. Vasata served more than a year in prison for selling marijuana, according to court records.

The motive for the slayings is still unknown.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Jupiter Police Department at 561-741-2410 or the FBI at 754-703-2000. [hwinston@pbpost.com](mailto:hwinston@pbpost.com)

**Twitter: @hannahwinston**

**ON FACEBOOK** Keep up with The Post's complete coverage of Jupiter on its Facebook page dedicated to the town. On Facebook, search for Post on Jupiter.

LAKE WORTH

## Fire Rescue calls soar as opioid crisis makes mark City saw 1,000 more calls last fiscal year than the year before.

*By Kevin D. Thompson Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

Palm Beach County Fire Rescue received 1,000 more calls for service in fiscal year 2016 in Lake Worth, mostly because of the opioid and overdose crisis that's been sweeping the county, city commissioners were told Tuesday night.

Of those, the number of opioid-related and overdose calls in Lake Worth increased from 442 in fiscal year 2015 to 644 in 2016, Matt Gafney, Fire Rescue's district chief, said.

"That's one of the things we're working on with the Heroin Task Force," Gafney said, noting that the rescue office is expanding.

A social worker was recently hired to reach out to residents who need it the most.

"We can't continue to run the same calls on the same people, bring them to the hospital, because they just go right back into the system," Gafney said. "They have other needs and that's what we're trying to bridge."

Although the number of calls increased, Gafney said response times got better in Lake Worth, dropping 13 seconds.

"That's the best time in the past five years," Gafney said. "It's something we're seeing across the board." [kthompson@pbpost.com](mailto:kthompson@pbpost.com)

**Twitter: @KevinDThompson1**

## POST COVERAGE SOBER HOMES

# Sober-home doctor pleads guilty to fraud

## Dr. Donald Willems was accused of assisting in drug treatment scam.

*By Lawrence Mower Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

The drug treatment industry, Palm Beach County's fourth-largest, is beset by fraud, drawing federal and state probes, and has contributed to a rising death toll, including 216 people in 2015 from heroin-related overdoses. The Post explored the lives of everyone who died here that year. To see their stories and more, go to [myPalmBeachPost.com/generationheroin/](http://myPalmBeachPost.com/generationheroin/)



Dr. Donald Willems faces up to 10 years in prison in test scam.

WEST PALM BEACH — One of the three doctors accused of helping notorious drug treatment operator Kenneth "Kenny" Chatman commit millions of dollars in fraud pleaded guilty Thursday.

Dr. Donald Willems, who was out on bond until he was caught last week prescribing drugs to himself, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit health care fraud. He could spend up to 10 years in prison. Sentencing is scheduled for June 7.

Willems, 41, looked bedraggled, appearing in a blue jumpsuit with a scratchy beard. He admitted to essentially being a doctor in name only for Chatman's Reflections Treatment Center in central Broward County, according to his plea.

AsitsmedicaldirectorfromOctober 2015 to May 2016, he was supposed to be seeing patients, prescribing treatment and monitoring drug tests.

In reality, Chatman was the one ordering patients' tests, according to the plea.

Willems signed off on the tests afterward, and he allowed "medically unnecessary" DNA and allergy testing for patients.

Patients never found out the results of those tests. And Willems didn't follow up to see whether patients passed their drug tests.

"If Willems had, in fact, monitored the drug test results, he would have realized that most of the patients at Reflections were continuing to abuse drugs, and that urine and saliva samples from other people were being substituted for the patients' urine and saliva samples," his plea states.

Willems also wasn't allowed to be issuing opioids — he'd given up his DEA license in 2012, after he was arrested by the Broward County Sheriff's Office for his

involvement in a pill mill operation. That case is still open, and Willems still has a clear and active medical license with Florida's Department of Health.

To get around the DEA restriction, he used other doctors' DEA numbers and prescriptions with another doctor's forged signature, according to the plea. Chatman, whose behavior was first exposed in a 2015 Palm Beach Post article, pleaded guilty March 15 to conspiracies to commit money laundering, health care fraud and sex trafficking.

He admitted to turning patients into prostitutes, pimping them out on the websites [craigslist.org](http://craigslist.org) and [Backpage.com](http://Backpage.com). He faces up to life in prison.

Two other Reflections doctors also have been arrested. Dr. Barry Gregory has pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit health care fraud and knowingly falsifying a matter involving health care programs. Dr. Joaquin Mendez has been charged with conspiracy to commit health care fraud and money laundering. He has pleaded not guilty.

Willems was arrested in December and released on \$100,000 bond. But after he got out, federal prosecutors said he violated the conditions of his release: He contacted witnesses in the case, continued to treat people in sober homes and prescribed drugs to patients — and himself — using other doctors' DEA numbers.

He was arrested again last week. [lmower@pbpost.com](mailto:lmower@pbpost.com)

## CRIME

# Boca man accused of suburban Delray home invasion, assault

*By Jorge Milian Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Barreto faces home-invasion, other charges.

A 20-year-old suburban Boca Raton man was arrested Sunday after he allegedly broke into a suburban Del-ray Beach home armed with a knife and attempted to drag a resident out of the house, according to an arrest report.

Marco Barreto is facing charges of home invasion with a weapon, aggravated assault with a weapon and battery. Because Barreto was on probation, he is being held in the Palm Beach County Jail without bond.

Police say Barreto was joined in the home invasion by two other men, who had not been arrested as of late Thursday.

The three men allegedly walked through an unlocked door of a residence west of Florida's Turnpike and were confronted by the victim, the report said. One of the men with Barreto threatened the victim with the knife, then twice punched him in the face, bloodying his nose.

Barreto and the two men grabbed the resident and tried to drag him out of the house, the report said. The victim's friends managed to pull him back in.

The ex-girlfriends of Barreto and the knife-wielding man told deputies the men went to the victim's home because their former boyfriends didn't want them there "with other boys," the report said.

Barreto was sentenced to probation after being convicted in July of several charges including burglary and trafficking in stolen property. He was scheduled to be on probation until Jan. 29, 2018. [jmilian@pbpost.com](mailto:jmilian@pbpost.com) [Twitter: @jorgemilian1](https://twitter.com/jorgemilian1)

## CRIME

# Police: Man stomped woman, 60, on head over cigarette pickup

*By Jorge Milian Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Kory Richards, 30, is being held on a battery charge.

A suburban Lake Worth man is being held at the Palm Beach County Jail on \$100,000 bail after he allegedly stomped a 60-year-old woman unconscious.

The woman was picking cigarettes off her alleged attacker's front yard when she was beaten, a Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office report shows.

Kory Richards, 30, is facing a charge of aggravated battery causing bodily harm or disability.

The woman remains at St. Mary's Medical Center in West Palm Beach after sustaining serious brain and head injuries and a broken nose, the report said.

The woman was assaulted March 15 on the 4400 block of Davis Road, south of Lake Worth Road and west of Palm Beach State College's main campus, deputies said.

One witness told deputies he saw Richards "emphatically" stomp the woman's head six times. The witness also saw Richards throw an object on the woman's chest, the report said.

After his arrest, Richards told deputies that he had gotten into an argument with the woman because she was picking up cigarettes on his property. Richards said the woman scratched him in the eye and hit him with her purse, and he responded by punching the woman in the face, then kicking her three times in the arm. Richards did not sustain any injuries.

The injured woman is 5-foot-3 and 125 pounds, the report said. Richards is 5-foot-10 and 165 pounds. [jmilian@pbpost.com](mailto:jmilian@pbpost.com) Twitter: [@jorgemilian1](https://twitter.com/jorgemilian1)



## POST ON GROWTH INDIAN TRAILS GROVE

# Initial OK given to nearly 5,000 homes near Acreage

*By Wayne Washington Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Palm Beach County Commissioner Melissa McKinlay (left) pushed back against Loxahatchee resident Alex Larson who complained the Mayor's Ball is being sponsored by GL Homes, which requested the new zoning framework.



WEST PALM BEACH — Palm Beach County commissioners approved a new zoning framework Thursday, smoothing the path for a pair of development projects that would add a combined 4,930 homes in the booming west-central corridor of the county.

Approval of the new framework, which creates something called the Western Communities Residential Overlay, disappointed environmentalists and preservationists, who have argued that large-scale development projects in the area threaten the environment, devour open space and intensify traffic congestion.

"The commission is reluctant to stop this development, but I really think long term it's going to cost you a lot of money if you don't vote no on this," said Drew Martin, conservation chairman of the Loxahatchee Group of the Sierra Club.

Commissioners didn't vote no. The new framework was approved on a 6-0 vote, with Commissioner Dave Kerner absent.

Commissioners argued that approving the new framework isn't the same as giving final approval to the intensely debated projects — the 3,900-unit Indian Trails Grove project and the 1,030-unit Iota Carol project, also known as Delray Linton Groves even though it lies west of The Acreage in the north end of the county whereas Delray Beach is at the south end.

"We are not approving any zoning today," Commissioner Melissa McKinlay said. Commissioners already voted in favor of comprehensive plan changes for Indian Trails Grove, a GL Homes project. Those changes have been reviewed by state government officials and received final approval by the county.

The county's Zoning Commission and then the County Commission will consider requests associated with the project next month.

Iota Carol is behind Indian Trails Grove in the approval process, and its fate is less certain.

In October, commissioners gave initial approval to comprehensive plan changes for Iota Carol. But in January, with two of the commissioners who voted in favor of those changes succeeded by others more wary of the project, commissioners postponed a final vote.

McKinlay, whose district includes the Iota Carol site, said in October that she is concerned about the combined impacts of Iota Carol and another nearby development project, Westlake.

"This part of the district, it needs time to breathe," McKinlay said then.

Iota Carol's comprehensive plan changes and then its zoning requests would have to get final approval before the project could move forward.

Some environmentalists and preservationists worry that the new zoning framework presages final approval for Iota Carol and Indian Trails Grove.

"Obviously, we oppose these projects," Martin said. "Wouldn't it be great not to approve this? And then you can't approve these developments."

Martin then answered his earlier question.

"It seems to me that Palm Beach County is heading down a path of no return, and that's a continued move west," he said.

Alex Larson, a Loxahatchee resident and frequent critic of the county, fired away.

"This is a horrible thing for our county," she said.

Larson noted that the Mayor's Ball, a charity event scheduled for April 1 at the Palm Beach County Convention Center, is being sponsored by GL Homes, which requested the new zoning framework.

"That makes me sick to my stomach," she said.

The ball raises money to help the county's homeless population, which McKinlay noted in pushing back against Larson's insinuation of an inappropriate connection between GL Homes and the event.

"It's hard to beat us up when we're trying to raise money for the homeless," she said. Commissioner Mary Lou Berger mentioned a story in The Palm Beach Post about continued growth in the county.

U.S. Census Bureau figures show the county picked up nearly 22,000 new residents from July 2015 to July 2016.

Commissioners have often cited that growth and the scarcity of affordable housing as reasons to approve new housing development projects. [wwashington@pbpost.com](mailto:wwashington@pbpost.com)

## DRUG ABUSE

# Some of the youngest opioid victims are curious toddlers

*By Gretchen Ehlke Associated Press*



Helen Jackson releases balloons at a Milwaukee cemetery with her children, Romaine and Raniah Ricks, and boyfriend, Ralph Riner, for what would have been her daughter Cataleya Tamekia-Damiah Wimberly's second birthday. AP

MILWAUKEE—Curious toddlers find the drugs in a mother's purse or accidentally dropped on the floor. Sometimes a parent fails to secure the child-resistant cap on a bottle of painkillers.

No matter how it happens, if a 35-pound toddler grabs just one opioid pill, chews it and releases the full concentration of a time-released adult drug into their small bodies, death can come swiftly.

These are some of the youngest victims of the nation's opioid epidemic — children under age 5 who die after swallowing opioids. The number of children's deaths is still small relative to the overall toll from opioids, but toddler fatalities have climbed steadily over the last 10 years.

In 2000, 14 children in the U.S. under age 5 died after ingesting opioids. By 2015, that number climbed to 51, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Each family who loses a toddler to opioids confronts a death that probably could have been prevented.

### **Energetic birthday girl**

Cataleya Tamekia-Damiah Wimberly couldn't sit still. She spent most of her first birthday party in Milwaukee dancing and diving into the cake. But her first birthday party was also her last. Nearly three weeks later, she was found dead of a cause her mother never suspected — a methadone overdose.

Helen Jackson, 24, was styling her older daughter's hair when she got a call from Cataleya's father, who shared custody of the little girl. He sobbed on the phone as he explained how he found their daughter unresponsive the morning of Feb. 16, 2016.

"I screamed so hard and so loud," Jackson said. "The screams that came out of me took all my strength, all my wind. It was just terrible."

Police were puzzled. They looked into whether the toddler was smothered while co-sleeping with her father and his girlfriend. They also investigated carbon monoxide poisoning. Toxicology tests eventually revealed the methadone in her system.

Jackson said her daughter, while in the care of her father, was at a relative's house when she swallowed the methadone that took her life.

Police are still investigating how Cataleya got the methadone. The case could be referred to the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office for consideration of criminal charges, said Sgt. Timothy Gauerke.

Since Cataleya's death, friends and family have commented on what they perceive as Jackson's strength in dealing with her loss. In reality, she said, she feels fragile.

"I don't know when I'm going to fall apart," she said. "I don't know when I'm going to explode. It's all still in there."

### **Mother's prescription**

At just 2 years old, Londyn Raine Robinson Sack was protective of her baby brother, Liam.

"She thought she was his mother," said Londyn's grandmother, Shauna Etheredge. "She liked to be the boss of her little brother."

Londyn's own mother was convicted of second-degree manslaughter and risk of injury to a child in connection with the Oct. 19, 2014, death of her daughter, who ingested an opioid known as Suboxone that was packaged in the form of a dissolving strip.

Prosecutors in New Britain, Connecticut, said the drug was obtained illegally by her mother and was dispensed in a box, not a child-resistant container.

Rebekah Robinson entered a plea in which she did not accept or deny responsibility for the charges but agreed to accept punishment. In June 2016, she was sentenced to 10 years in prison and 10 years of probation.

Robinson apparently knew Londyn had ingested the opioid but did not call for medical help, according to prosecutors. It was an older sibling who called 911 to say her little sister was not breathing.

The Connecticut Department of Children and Families was cited in a 2015 report for failing to adequately identify risks to Londyn and Robinson's three other children, given her history of mental health, substance abuse and child-welfare complaints. Besides her protective nature, Londyn loved making people laugh, Etheredge said. "She would put underwear on her head and act goofy and silly," her grandmother said. "She loved to explore."

Etheredge, of Indian Trail, North Carolina, said one of her lasting memories of her grandchild was a visit to the local park.

"The last time I saw her, she was running around and trying to catch up with the birds," she said.

### **Uncle stands accused**

Curious and energetic, Reginald Kendall Harris Jr. would hold conversations beyond those of a typical toddler.

"If he was talking to his mom, you would think he was 5 or 6 years old," said his great-uncle Calvin Harris, of Portland, Oregon. "If you would talk to him, you would engage in a full conversation. It was hilarious for his age," Harris said.

The boy died on Oct. 10, 2016, after swallowing methadone. Portland police soon issued a warning, saying the case was a reminder to keep all prescription drugs away from children.

Reginald's uncle, Willie Lee Harris Jr., is behind bars, accused of leaving methadone in a place accessible to his nephew. He has pleaded not guilty to second-degree manslaughter

## TRUMP IN PALM BEACH

# Trump will not be coming to Palm Beach this weekend

*By Kristina Webb Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

President Donald Trump will not return to Palm Beach this weekend.

White House press secretary Sean Spicer said in his Thursday briefing that the president plans to stay in Washington, shutting down speculation on whether Trump would return Friday for a sixth weekend in office at his Mar-a-Lago Club.

An organizer of a Friday evening event at Mara-Lago said he's been told not to expect Trump will be in town.

"We heard that the president is going to be in Washington this weekend," said Michael Barnett, chairman of the Republican Party of Palm Beach County, which will have its Lincoln Day Dinner this evening at what the president has called his "southern White House." Asked if Trump will record a video to show at the event, Barnett said they've requested either that or a letter. "They're working on it," he added.

With Gov. Rick Scott slated to be honored as statesman of the year and the possibility of a presidential appearance, the event sold out two months ago, the organization said on its Facebook page.

The evening's keynote speakers will be Diamond and Silk, internet personalities whose videos supporting Trump have gone viral. U.S. Rep. Brian Mast, whose district includes much of northern Palm Beach County, will attend. Barnett also said there will be "a few surprises" at the dinner, tickets for which cost \$300 each.

Advisories issued by the Federal Aviation Administration — which have signaled his previous visits — have not been posted. Ahead of each of the president's trips to Palm Beach, the FAA had released an advisory and notice of temporary flight restrictions by this point.

Trump has spent five of his nine weekends as president at Mar-a-Lago, prompting some concerns at the federal level of security at the private club, and complaints locally as officials face mounting costs as Palm Beach County sheriff's deputies work overtime when the president is in town.

Members of the Palm Beach County Commission have offered possible ways to pay for the increase in local costs, including using bed tax money or implementing a special taxing district around Mar-a-Lago.

At the county's general aviation airport just west of Lantana, businesses may be breathing a sigh of relief: When the flight restrictions that accompany Trump's visits are in effect, the airport effectively is shut down because it sits inside a 10 nautical



mile radius where private planes are banned from flying unless they first travel to a gateway airport for screening.

The businesses housed at the airport have estimated they lose a collective \$15,000 a day when Trump is in town. Some county and state lawmakers have reached out to Scott's office, the White House and the Secret Service—which mandates that restrictions be put in place — asking for some relief for the airport.

After a recent meeting between the Secret Service and county and federal officials, including U.S. Reps. Lois Frankel and Ted Deutch, the agency said it would not change the restrictions. Still, members of the Palm Beach County airport advisory board said they will continue to push for changes. [kwebb@pbpost.com](mailto:kwebb@pbpost.com)

## ANTI-SEMITISM

### **Bomb threat suspect's identity confounds**

### **Jewish community Jewish Israeli teen's arrest**

### **further roils people on the edge.** *By Rachel Zoll Associated Press*

NEW YORK — Jewish groups had pointed to scores of bomb threats against their communities as the most dramatic example of what they considered a surge in anti-Semitism. Some blamed a far right emboldened by President Donald Trump. Now that picture has been complicated by the arrest of an Israeli Jewish hacker who authorities say is responsible for the harassment.

Israeli police said the motive behind the threats was unclear. An attorney for the 19-year-old man, who was arrested Thursday, said her client had a "very serious medical condition" that might have affected his behavior. Earlier this month, U.S. law enforcement had arrested a former journalist in St. Louis, Juan Thompson, on charges he threatened Jewish organizations as part of a bizarre campaign to harass his ex-girlfriend. But Israeli police say the Jewish teen is the primary suspect in the more than 150 bomb threats in North America since early January.

Previously, Jonathan Greenblatt, chief executive of the Anti-Defamation League, which fights anti-Semitism and monitors extremism, had partly blamed Trump for creating an atmosphere that fueled the bomb threats and vandalism of Jewish cemeteries, among other recent harassment. "His well-documented reluctance to address rising anti-Semitism helped to create an environment in which extremists felt emboldened," Greenblatt wrote last month.

On Feb. 28, in a meeting with state attorneys general, Trump had suggested the phoned-in bomb threats may have been designed to make "others look bad,"

according to Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro. The remark raised concerns that Trump was downplaying bigotry.

That same night, Trump opened his address to Congress with a strong condemnation of the threats and vandalism of Jewish cemeteries, which occurred in suburban St. Louis, Philadelphia and elsewhere.

In a phone interview Thursday from Washington, where Greenblatt was discussing anti-Semitism with members of Congress, he said, "It's not the identity of the culprit that's the issue," but the outcome of threats themselves, which terrified Jews and disrupted Jewish life.

He said anti-Semitism remained a serious concern, pointing to other recent incidents around the country. Swastikas were drawn throughout a New York City subway car with messages such as "Jews belong in the oven." In South Carolina, a white supremacist with felony convictions was charged with plotting an attack on a synagogue that officials said was inspired by the massacre at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston. A Seattle synagogue was vandalized with a spray-painted message, "The Holocaust is fake history."

Steven Goldstein, executive director of the Anne Frank Center for Mutual Respect, a civil rights and social justice group based in New York, said the arrest in Israel doesn't change Trump's record of being slow and insufficiently forceful in condemning anti-Jewish prejudice and bigotry in general. The center had repeatedly pointed to the bomb threats as evidence of "a national emergency of anti-Semitism" and accused Trump of failing to recognize the "real evidence" behind the problem. "Nobody has said that Donald Trump himself has spray-painted swastikas or tipped over gravestones or that he picked up the phone and made bomb threats," Goldstein said. "What we were condemning was the silence. Organizations had to shame Donald Trump into responding."

The White House has not commented.

Melissa Plotkin, director of community engagement and diversity at the York Jewish Community Center in Pennsylvania, which was the target of a bomb threat last month, said it was "troubling" to find out the suspect was Jewish. "I'm trying to make sense of it and wonder what was going through the mind of the person when they were carrying this out," Plotkin said. The Jewish Federations of North America called the case "heartbreaking."

Rabbi Joshua Hammerman of Temple Beth El in Stamford, Conn., said the case was an uncomfortable reminder of what he had been through. In 1999, medical waste marked with swastikas was left in his synagogue parking lot. The incident prompted an outpouring of support from religious leaders and others in the community. But

then police charged a member of his congregation, an outcome Hammerman described as "difficult."

The rabbi expressed concern that the arrest of the Israeli-American teen would fuel denial of anti-Semitism and the Holocaust. Goldstein said his office had received emails Thursday claiming all reports of anti-Semitism were "fake news."

Rehfield worried that efforts to combat anti-Semitism would be undermined not only by the identity of the bomb threat suspect, but also the partisan prism through which such incidents are viewed.

## BOYNTON BEACH DRUG OVERDOSES

### Police: Couple OD with kids in car So far this year, 121 people have overdosed in Boynton Beach. *By*

*Alexandra Seltzer Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Tapper



Anderson

BOYNTON BEACH — Tiffany Tapper and Matthew Anderson were on their way to the home of Tapper's parent Thursday night with their two toddlers in the backseat when the couple passed out from drugs with Tapper at the wheel, police say.

A passer-by spotted Tapper and Anderson unconscious in the car at Interstate 95 and Gateway Boulevard.

Anderson, 27, told police he passed out from taking suboxone, a drug he's using to help ween himself off heroin and that Tapper, 25, also took the drug.

But police said when they searched the car — finding cockroaches and the children's diapers soiled — they found a bag of white powder they identified as heroin and fentanyl, a much more potent and deadly drug, in Anderson's wallet.

The two survived, and authorities placed the children with a grandparent, according to a police report.

The call was one of 16 in Boynton Beach that police and paramedics responded to since Monday, records show.

While officers usually don't arrest drug users for overdosing, Florida Highway Patrol did so in this case. Both face charges of child neglect. Tapper also faces a DUI charge, and Anderson drug possession charges.

The state Department of Children and Families is investigating the incident, a spokeswoman said.

While alarming, the number of overdoses this week is consistent with what Boynton officers have seen this year, police spokeswoman Stephanie Slater said.

So far this year, 121 people have overdosed in Boynton Beach. That's about triple the amount of the 42 overdoses in the same time period last year. Nine have died in 2017, compared with one in the same time frame last year, Slater said.

The overdoses aren't happening only in Boynton — the problem is countywide and nationwide.

On Tuesday, Palm Beach County Fire Rescue said the number of opioid-related and overdose calls in Lake Worth increased from 442 in 2015 to 644 in 2016.

Hearing about the overdoses has become a daily occurrence. And while not as common, authorities in the state and nation are reporting more adults found overdosed in cars with their children inside.

In January, a couple in Florida's Sarasota County were found unconscious in their car at a gas station with their two children in the backseat. And in September, police in Ohio released a photo that went viral of a similar call. The photo showed two adults in the driver and passenger seats with a young boy in the back seat with his face blurred out.

Of the 16 calls in Boynton this week, two happened at the same Buttonwood Lane address, according to police reports.

The first one happened at about 4 p.m., Thursday. A woman was found unconscious from an overdose on the living room floor and was taken to JFK Hospital. When she returned to the house about seven hours later, the woman found her boyfriend unconscious in the bathroom surrounded by heroin

paraphernalia. [aseltzer@pbpost.com](mailto:aseltzer@pbpost.com) **ON FACEBOOK** Keep up with The Post's complete coverage of Boynton Beach on its Facebook page dedicated to the city. On Facebook, search for Post on Boynton Beach.

Sun Sentinel

# A plea for help on unsolved murders

## Families seek leads in deaths of 2 Boca-area women

*By Brooke Baitinger Staff writer*



BROOKE BAITTINGER/ STAFF

Idey Elias, mother of Randi Gorenberg, speaks at a memorial held for the 10-year anniversary of Gorenberg's murder as detective William Springer looks on.



BROOKE BAITTINGER /STAFF

Cynthia Moffet's sisters, from left, Patti Shrum and Julie Moffet Coker, and lead detective Jeff Weissman speak about the unsolved murder of Cynthia.

The heartbreak of not having answers in the killings of two Boca-area women united two families Thursday.

Cynthia Moffett was found dead 11 years ago, and Randi Gorenberg was found slain on the same day 10 years ago. On the anniversary of the murders, the women's relatives joined Palm Beach sheriff's investigators to urge the public for help solving the cases.

"It never gets easier," said Moffett's sister, Julie Moffett Coker, during a news conference at the Sheriff's Office, "but we're never giving up hope."

Even though the killings happened on the same day a year apart, investigators don't think the murders are related.

Moffett was found shot dead near the Lake Worth golf course where she worked on March 23, 2006. Gorenberg's body was found at a park in West Delray in 2007.

Investigators and the women's relatives marked the passing of another year with leads but no answers. "I know somebody out there knows something," said Detective William Springer, the lead investigator on Gorenberg's case. "Come forward and do the right thing."

Moffett, a 52-year-old from Boca Raton, was found dead just outside the Forest Oaks Golf Club, at 144 Lucerne Lakes Boulevard in Lake Worth.

She was killed in what deputies believe was an armed robbery at the golf club. The killer or killers got away with \$300 in rolled coins.

Patti Shrum, one of Moffett's younger sisters, said she still feels her sister's presence sometimes, like when "You're Beautiful" by James Blunt plays on the radio. She said



it was one of Moffett's favorite songs. "She was a lot of fun," she said Thursday. "I really miss laughing with her."

Moffett's relatives haven't given up hope, they said. One of her sisters, Debbie Moffett Muller, said she goes to sleep every night wondering if someone might come forward with information the following day.

"Our family is steadfast and we have confidence and faith in the Sheriff's Office," Julie Moffett Coker said.

On March 23, 2007, authorities found Gorenberg's body at Governor Lawton Chiles Memorial Park, on Jog Road south of Linton Boulevard in West Delray Beach.

Deputies determined Gorenberg, a 52-year-old mother who lived in West Boca, was at the Town Center at Boca Raton mall about 30 minutes earlier before a witness saw her being shoved out of her car at the park.

Her Mercedes-Benz was found abandoned at a Home Depot two miles north of the park at Jog Road and Atlantic Avenue.

Springer said he can assume Gorenberg was a victim of a carjacking gone bad.

Gorenberg's mother, Idey Elias, spoke Thursday and begged someone to come forward.

"She was everything," she said. "She was the best thing that ever happened to me, and we were best friends."

Elias is convinced that someone had to have seen her daughter get into her SUV that Friday.

"Anybody that remembers anything, please, clear your conscience," she said.

Springer and the lead investigator on Moffett's case, Detective Jeff Weissman, said they have followed up on numerous leads in the past 10 and 11 years. But what they are missing is a name, Springer said.

Rewards are offered for information that leads to the killers: \$25,000 in Moffett's case and \$15,000 in Gorenberg's.

"You have a murderer out there walking among you," Springer said. "He could be at the Town Center Mall, or he could be standing next to you. You never know who his next target might be." [bbaitinger@sun-sentinel.com](mailto:bbaitinger@sun-sentinel.com) or 561-243-6648

# No Trump at Mar-a-Lago this weekend

*By Anthony Man Staff writer*

South Florida supporters of President Donald Trump, protesters who revile the president, and police who've been racking up lots of overtime are getting the weekend off.

There won't be any Trump duty this weekend in Palm Beach.

White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer confirmed Thursday that the president won't be visiting his favorite getaway, his Mar-a-Lago Club, this weekend. Instead, he'll stay in Washington.

"The president intends to be here this weekend," Spicer said during a White House news briefing. "As we have updates on the president's weekend plans, we'll let you know."

Trump's been in Palm Beach five weekends since his Jan. 20 inauguration.

He's expected back soon. It's been widely reported that Trump will meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Palm Beach on April 6-7.

People who read the tea leaves concerning Trump travel to South Florida had guessed he wouldn't be in town this weekend. Trips to Mar-a-Lago are generally preceded by warnings to pilots early in the week about no-fly zones around the resort. No such advisory was issued this week.

And there's pressing business going on in Washington — the planned vote on repealing Obamacare — that could have a major impact on the future of Trump's presidency. He's been heavily involved in drumming up support for the plan critics have dubbed Trumpcare.

His decision could be a relief to organizers of the 32nd annual Palm Beach International Boat Show, which runs through Sunday. Though it's in West Palm Beach mostly north of the most direct route between Palm Beach International Airport and Mar-a-Lago, it's a major event that draws many people to the city. His decision is sure to disappoint others, especially leading Palm Beach County Republicans and donors to the party and its candidates. The county party is having its annual Lincoln Day at Mar-a-Lago — as it's done for several years — and a drop in by Trump would have been a triumph for local Republican leaders.

Chairman Michael Barnett, for example, was a supporter of Trump long before he became the odds-on favorite for the 2016 presidential nomination.

The party has big-name Trump supporters attending the Mar-a-Lago dinner: Diamond and Silk, the sensational internet duo. Lynnette Hardaway and Rochelle

Richardson are known for their quirky and over-the-top videos supporting all things Trump.

The Republican Party program also includes Gov. Rick Scott, a likely candidate for U.S. Senate in 2018, and Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam, an all-but-declared candidate for governor next year. [aman@sunsentinel.com](mailto:aman@sunsentinel.com), 954-356-4550

The president has been in Palm Beach five weekends since his Jan. 20 inauguration.

## Teen arrested in threats on US Jewish centers

*By Josef Federman Associated Press*



NIR KEIDAR/AP

A 19-year-old dual U.S.-Israeli citizen covers his face as he is brought to court in Rishon Lezion, Israel, on Thursday.

JERUSALEM — Israeli police on Thursday arrested a 19-year-old hacker who they said was the main suspect in a wave of bomb threats against Jewish community centers in the United States, appearing to crack a case that has sent a chill through the American Jewish community.

The surprising arrest of the Jewish man, who holds dual Israeli and American citizenship, came after a trans-Atlantic investigation with the FBI and other international law enforcement agencies. U.S. Jewish groups welcomed the

breakthrough in the case, which had raised concerns of rising anti-Semitism and drawn condemnation from President Donald Trump.

Israeli police described the suspect as a hacker, but said his motives were still unclear.

"He's the guy who was behind the JCC threats," police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said, referring to the scores of anonymous threats phoned in to Jewish community centers in the U.S. over the past two months.

There were several incidents in South Florida, including scares at the Jewish Community Center in Davie, Palm Beach Gardens and several in Miami-Dade County.

FBI officials handling the arrest declined on Thursday to provide any information about whether the man in custody is suspected of making the South Florida threats. Police banned publication of his name, but said he was a dual citizen and would remain in custody until at least March 30. During the arrest raid, they said he tried to grab an officer's gun but was stopped by another officer.

The young man appeared briefly in court in the central Israeli city of Rishon Letzion. He wore khaki pants and a blue sweater that he used to cover his face as he walked past reporters. He made no comment.

His lawyer, Galit Bash, said her client had a "very serious medical condition" that might have affected his behavior. She said the condition had prevented him from attending elementary school, high school or enlisting in the army, which is compulsory for most Jewish men.

"That's why the medical condition can actually affect the investigation," she said.

"This is one of the things the judge told the police to check, to talk to his doctors, to get more documents and to investigate him according to his medical situation."

Channel 10 TV said the condition was a brain tumor. It also showed images of a large antenna outside the suspect's house in the southern Israeli city of Ashkelon.

Police said the suspect's father was also detained, apparently because of the equipment. Late Thursday, police said the father's detention had been extended by eight days.

In Washington, the FBI confirmed the arrest of the main suspect.

U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions said the Justice Department "will not tolerate the targeting of any community in the country on the basis of their religious beliefs." He called work by the FBI and Israeli police "outstanding."

Since Jan. 9, there have been more than 150 bomb threats against Jewish community centers and day schools in 37 U.S. states and two Canadian provinces, according to the Anti-Defamation League, a Jewish group that battles anti-Semitism.

The threats led to evacuations, sent a chill through local Jewish communities and raised fears of rising anti-Semitism. Acts of vandalism on Jewish targets, including cemeteries, have added to those concerns.

As the number of threats grew, Trump was criticized for not speaking out. Then, late last month, he opened a speech to Congress by denouncing anti-Semitism. There was no immediate reaction from the White House to Thursday's arrest.

The ADL, JCC Association of America and Jewish Federations of North America all welcomed news of the arrest.

But Jonathan Greenblatt, chief executive of the ADL, said anti-Semitism in the U.S. remains a "very serious concern."

"JCCs and other institutions should not relax security measures or become less vigilant," he said.

Karen Dombey, whose child attends the David Posnack Jewish Community Center in Davie, which was evacuated when it received threats Feb. 27 and March 7, said she was surprised that the suspect is an Israeli-American. About 500 students from kindergarten through high school attend classes at the center, where armed guards stood at its entrances on Thursday.

"I hope it doesn't happen again. I hope it stops. But the fact that it happened raises awareness that we are targeted even when we think we are not," Dombey said.

U.S. authorities have also arrested a former journalist from St. Louis, Juan Thompson, for allegedly threatening Jewish organizations and charged him with one count of cyberstalking.

But Israeli police described the local man as the primary suspect in the wave of threats.

Police said he used sophisticated "camouflage technologies" to disguise his voice and mask his location. They said a search of the teen's home uncovered antennas and satellite equipment.

"In sophisticated cyber activity that I cannot detail, we obtained what we obtained and of course exposed him and his equipment," national Police Chief Roni Alsheich told reporters. "This does not bring honor to the state of Israel of course. But I think it does bring respect to Israel's police."

Police said the threats had caused panic, "significant economic damage" and disrupted public order at locations around the world.

The man is also suspected of placing threatening phone calls to Australia, New Zealand and within Israel. They also said he had disrupted a Delta Air Lines flight at New York's JFK airport in early 2015.

Harel Menashri, a former cyber expert with Israel's Shin Bet internal security agency, said it was not "too complicated" for the suspect to do what he did.

He said it appeared the suspect had penetrated neighbors' Wi-Fi systems to create multiple computer addresses.

"One of the things that helped him evade capture was he apparently took control over additional computers on the way and created a kind of computer chain," he said.

Nimrod Vax, a co-founder of the U.S.-Israeli cybersecurity firm BigID, said catching the suspect was a more complicated task.

He said authorities would have had to sift through "billions, if not trillions" of pieces of data, including phone records, routing logs and IP connections.

Ron Hosko, a retired FBI assistant director, said such investigations require massive personnel to solve.

Investigating a bomb threat by phone normally means getting a subpoena for a phone company and getting subscriber information to identify the incoming call. But the suspect used computer software, such as Tor, to obfuscate his whereabouts.

The software "puts you in a cloud of IP addresses" that link to different computers and make it extremely difficult to trace, he said.

*Staff writer Paula*

*McMahon and Associated Press writers Eric Tucker, Sadie Gurman, Josh*

*Cornfield and Terry Spencer contributed to this report.*

Galit Bash, the suspect's lawyer, said he had a "very serious medical condition" that may have affected his behavior.



# Booze bill moves ahead

## Grocery stores would be able to sell hard liquor

*By Dan Sweeney Staff writer*

## Bill to kill red-light cameras advances



The bill passed the House Thursday, despite proponents who say the law leads to safer roads. Critics, however, called the measure simply a revenue-generator.

TALLAHASSEE — The wall between liquor and the rest of the grocery store is close to coming down.

On Thursday morning, the Florida Senate passed a bill allowing stores to sell liquor in grocery store aisles by a narrow 21-17 vote.

The bill cleared its final House committee, 15-13, on Wednesday. The bill now awaits a vote from the full House before going on to Gov. Rick Scott for a signature.

Independent liquor stores and Publix lobbied against the bill, while big box stores such as Target and Wal-Mart lobbied for it.

Publix was against the bill because it has already spent so much money under the current law to keep its liquor stores separate.

The bill's sponsor, state Sen. Anitere Flores, R-Miami, called the current setup "an antiquated law that forced retailers to treat the sale of one type of alcohol, that would be beer and wine, different than another type of alcohol, that would be spirits."

The current law goes back to immediately after the Prohibition era, as liquor was slowly eased back into society.

"That happened 80 years ago," Flores said. "A lot has changed in 80 years."

The bill does not require grocery stores to make the change and gives them five years to transition to liquor sales in the regular grocery aisles.

In defending the current law, state Sen. Frank Artiles, R-Miami, pointed to potential negative effects on independent liquor stores, saying the bill would "decimate small businesses, and unfortunately a lot of Floridians will lose their jobs."

# House OKs red-light camera ban

*By Dan Sweeney Staff writer* TALLAHASSEE — Drivers who run red lights could get a free pass starting in July 2020 after the Florida House voted Thursday to ban red-light cameras statewide.

The bill next moves to the Senate, where a similar proposal was rejected in a tie committee vote.

Boynton Beach, the last city to have red-light cameras in Palm Beach County, ended its program last year. Just four cities in Broward — Davie, Sunrise, Tamarac and West Park — still operate cameras. Sixteen cities in Miami-Dade County still have them. Florida's red-light camera law has been controversial since its passage in 2010, and it is in legal jeopardy whatever the Legislature decides.

A 2014 state appeals court ruled the law unconstitutional, leading dozens of municipalities around the state to end their programs. A separate appeals court ruling ruled in favor of the cameras, which could send the question to the Florida Supreme Court.

Support for getting rid of red-light cameras crossed party lines in the Florida House. State Rep. Al Jacquet, D-Delray Beach, said the law "was intended to limit accidents and injuries. What we've seen is not only an increase in rear-ending accidents but a negative fiscal impact on our citizens in Florida. ... It is a revenue-generating program, not a safety program."

Those criticisms were echoed by the bill's Republican sponsor, state Rep. Bryan Avila of Hialeah, who said the red-light camera law "has turned out to be more of a financial proposal for those local jurisdictions" that place cameras at high-traffic intersections.

Avila cited news reports about a red-light camera placed outside an emergency room entrance to a Tamarac hospital, where cars running the light in emergency situations were ticketed.

"It costs three quarters of a million dollars to have those intersections protected by officers," said state Rep. Bill Hager, R-Boca Ra-ton. "It costs a hundred dollars to have those intersections protected better by cameras."

Red-light cameras change drivers' behavior, said state Rep. Joe Geller, D-Aventura. "Ask yourself what you do when you come up to a yellow light and there's a red-light camera looking at you."

# Red-light camera tickets Boynton might stop pursuing fees

*By Brooke Baitinger Staff writer*

Motorists who haven't yet paid red-light camera ticket fees in Boynton Beach might be off the hook.

City officials recently discussed whether it's worth it to keep pursuing court cases against drivers accused of running red lights who failed to pay the \$158 fine. The hourly rate for the city's legal services, which includes taking tickets to court, is \$195, according to city documents.

There are some red-light-camera tickets that remain unpaid after the city shut down its program on Jan. 1. The city has racked up more than \$5,000 in legal costs related to red-light camera tickets in February alone, according to city documents.

Mayor Steven Grant at a city meeting Tuesday asked the city's legal staff to determine how many tickets are left outstanding so officials can "make a business decision" whether to pursue or dismiss the cases.

"I don't want to be spending the city's money on more attorney's fees than what we can get from the red light tickets," he said.

Grant asked legal staff to run the numbers by the end of March.

The number of outstanding unpaid tickets and the legal fees will start to dwindle in the upcoming months, city legal staff said.

City Attorney James Cherof said during Tuesday's meeting there are still court cases pending, but because tickets are no longer being written, the number of cases will drop "and then disappear completely" as more are settled out of court.

However, he said, a federal case remains that will continue to incur legal expenses until it's settled. The federal lawsuit involves folks who received red-light tickets in nearly 100 Florida cities and are now seeking a refund, he said.

"Everything that the city has collected, in theory, would have to be paid back" if the case is successful, he said.

Cherof didn't specify whether the refunds would encompass all tickets written since the start of the program in 2011, or if it would be for a shorter period of time. He couldn't be reached for comment after the meeting.

The lawsuit is currently on hold pending two Supreme Court cases, said Assistant City Attorney Shana Bridgeman.

On Thursday, the Florida House voted to ban red-light cameras statewide. If the Senate supports the bill, the ban would start in July 2020.

Red-light programs remain operating in four Broward County cities and 16 in Miami-Dade County.

When Boynton shut down its 15 cameras at seven intersections on Dec. 31 at 11:59 p.m., after five years of using them, it effectively killed the program in Palm Beach County. Boynton Beach had been the last city in the county using the cameras.

**From:** [Anderson, Cassandra L](#)  
**Subject:** News Clips 3/27/2017  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 28, 2017 3:29:52 PM  
**Attachments:** [News Clips.docx](#)

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# **News Clip 3/27/2017**

## **Palm Beach Post**

**POST COVERAGE WEST PALM HOMICIDE**

### **West Palm man facing murder charge says, 'It was me. I'm sorry'**

*By Jorge Milian Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Randy Herman Jr. is accused of killing a woman in Lake Belvedere Estates.



Randy Herman Jr. makes his first appearance in court Sunday. The 24-year-old faces a charge of first-degree murder, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office said.

BRUCE R. BENNETT / THE PALM BEACH POST

Longtime residents of Lake Belvedere Estates in suburban West Palm Beach say their neighborhood of single-family homes is safe and that crime is rare.

But that sense of tranquility was turned upside down Saturday after a 21-year-old woman was found murdered inside a house at 813 Sarazen Drive, south of Belvedere Road and west of Haver-hill Road.

Randy Allen Herman Jr., 24, was arrested early Sunday morning and is facing a count of first-degree murder in the death of Brooke Preston. Herman made a court

appearance Sunday but did not say a word as Judge Louis Delgado ordered him held without bail and as members of Preston's family wept inside the courtroom. A neighbor said that Herman and Preston were roommates, but not romantically involved. Herman, Preston and Preston's older sister had been renting the home for about six months, the neighbor said.

Herman allegedly admitted to the murder during a call to a 911 dispatcher Saturday about 9 a.m.

"Someone's been murdered," Herman told the dispatcher.

"I'm at Haverhill Park," Herman continued. "Just send the police. It was me. I'm sorry." Herman then hung up the phone.

When deputies arrived at Haverhill Park, at 5470 Belvedere Road and about a half-mile from the murder scene, they found Herman covered in blood, according to the PBSO. Herman told deputies to hurry to 813 Sarazen Drive because someone was seriously hurt.

Upon arriving at the home, deputies noticed a trail of blood drops leading into the residence. Inside they found Preston under a blanket, the sheriff's office said. She was already dead.

During an interview with PBSO detectives, Herman said that he and Preston were the only ones inside the home and so he "must have done it."

Residents next to the home said that Preston and Herman hadn't lived in the area long but were considered friendly and normally waved and chit-chatted with their neighbors. Neighbors said they had no indication of what was about to take place. One neighbor said that Preston and Herman occasionally threw parties, but were never loud and made sure to take things inside once it got late.

"We're dumbfounded how this could have happened," said a woman, who has lived on Sarazen Drive for more than 15 years. "Brooke was a sweet, beautiful girl.

(Herman) talked to my husband every now and then and seemed like a good guy. We couldn't sleep last night thinking about it. It's hard to believe."

Preston's family attended Herman's court appearance Sunday, but left in tears and declined comment. No one could be reached at the home Sunday afternoon.

Brooke Preston was originally from Wyalusing, Pa., a borough in the northeastern part of the state with fewer than 600 residents, according to her Facebook page.

Records show that Herman was living in Pennsylvania in July 2013 when he was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of a controlled substance — both misdemeanors. He pleaded guilty to possession of drug paraphernalia in August 2013. It's unclear whether Herman served any jail time.



Four days after making that guilty plea, Herman was arrested on suspicion of several driving offenses including DUI by a minor, careless driving and purchase of alcohol by a minor.

Herman showed up for his court appearance Sunday with his left wrist wrapped in a gauze bandage. The cause of his injuries is unknown. A police report detailing the circumstances of the alleged crime is expected to be released today. [jmilian@pbpost.com](mailto:jmilian@pbpost.com) [Twitter: @jorgemilian1](https://twitter.com/jorgemilian1)

## **WEST PALM BEACH KIDNAPPING RUSE **Deputies: Mom lied about child being kidnapped Authorities say woman was so drunk she lost track of her daughter.****

*By Jorge Milian Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Maria Irias, 29, faces charges of child neglect, making a false police report.

A West Palm Beach mother whom deputies say was so drunk she lost track of her 6-year-old daughter's whereabouts is being held after the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office said she lied about the incident.

Deputies say the woman told them the girl had been kidnapped, causing PBSO to issue an Amber Alert and begin a search to find the child.

Maria Irias, 29, is facing two charges of child neglect without great bodily harm and making a false police report. She is being held at the Palm Beach County Jail in lieu of \$3,000 bail.

Nataly Irias, the missing girl, was found Saturday night with family, PBSO said.

Maria Irias first told deputies that she was at El Bodegon supermarket at 4704 Forest Hill Blvd. with her daughter on Saturday night when she accepted a ride from a man to her home on the 2400 block of Avenida Madrid Este in Tavares Cove Mobile Home Park.

Irias said she got out of the vehicle but before she could open the back door to retrieve her daughter, the man sped off at a high rate of speed, the sheriff's office said.

Irias went so far as to describe the alleged kidnapper and the getaway vehicle in detail.

After further investigation, Irias admitted that the child was not kidnapped, but that she had been drinking most of the day and she "simply can't remember where her daughter is," according to the PBSO.

Irias said she had last seen Nataly about 3:30 to 4 p.m., more than five hours before she spoke to the PBSO. [jmilian@pbpost.com](mailto:jmilian@pbpost.com) [Twitter: @jorgemilian1](#)

## **PALM BEACH COUNTY BEELINE FATAL CRASH**

### **Canal Point couple ID'd as victims in fatal crash Investigators say SUV hit back of a tractor-trailer on Beeline Highway.**

*By Alexandra Seltzer, Andrew Marra and Jonathan Tully Palm Beach Post Staff Writers*

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office identified the two people killed in a crash with a tractor-trailer on the Beeline Highway on Saturday.

Dennis Wagner, 65, died at the scene, while Diane Blackwell Wagner, 63, died later at St. Mary's Medical Center in West Palm Beach. The two lived in Canal Point, according to the sheriff's office.

The pair's Kia Sportage SUV was heading southbound in the inside lane of Beeline Highway, as was the tractor-trailer, which was carrying liquid oxygen, said sheriff's spokeswoman Teri Barbera. The truck had just finished filling its tanks with the chemical.

The SUV passed another car at a high rate of speed, according to a witness, then collided with the rear of the tractor-trailer violently, becoming attached. The tractor-trailer traveled another 100 feet before stopping.

The driver of the tractor-trailer, Ray Chatman from Texas, was uninjured, and no charges were filed in the crash, according to the sheriff's office.

The wreck, which occurred at about 2:40 p.m. west of Pratt Whitney Road, shut down traffic on the Beeline for more than an hour Saturday. The backup stretched past the intersection of Pratt Whitney and Innovation Drive.

The crash was the second fatal incident along the Beeline Highway in the past month. On March 16, two burned bodies were found in a brush fire along a remote stretch of the road. Identification of the bodies has not been released and the sheriff's office is investigating that incident as a

homicide. [aseltzer@pbpost.com](mailto:aseltzer@pbpost.com) [Twitter:](#)

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## BOCA RATON

### **Cops: Nurse got pills by 'doctor shopping'** *By*

*Julius Whigham II Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

A suburban Boca Raton nurse fraudulently obtained large amounts of sleeping pills and painkillers by "doctor shopping," the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office said in arresting her Thursday.

Authorities say Michelle Gutches, 46, sought treatment from at least 10 doctors at the same time and filled 87 prescriptions, obtaining large amounts of controlled substances, primarily Ambien tablets but also hydrocodone.

An analysis of her prescription-drug profile in March found that the pills approved for her under those prescriptions totaled 4,465, according to a police report. She filled prescriptions at six pharmacies in Palm Beach County and one in Broward County, the sheriff's office said. day following an investigation that began in 2015. According to investigators, she was a registered nurse at West Boca Medical Center. The hospital said Gutches is no longer employed there.

One doctor told investigators that Gutches filled a prescription that he did not authorize.

Gutches was released from custody Thursday after posting \$24,000 bail. It was not immediately clear what ailment she sought treatment for from the doctors. [jwhigham@pbpost.com](mailto:jwhigham@pbpost.com)

## PALM BEACH COUNTY HOMELESS

### **More young adults, retirees homeless West Palm Beach sees 47 percent surge in overall homelessness.**

*By Julius Whigham II Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

WEST PALM BEACH — More people in Palm Beach County are homeless, although fewer of them are veterans and people who are "chronically" without a place to live, a recent county count shows.

The county identified 1,607 homeless people during its recent "point-in-time" count conducted during a 24-hour period in late January, an 11.5 percent increase from a similar count taken two years ago.

The count is mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Development and is tied to state and federal money used to assist those in need.

Central Palm Beach County saw the largest surge. West Palm Beach had the county's largest homeless population increase at 47 percent, followed by Lake Worth with 14 percent, officials said.

A rise in homelessness among both young adults and retirees is fueling much of that increase, authorities said. Part of it also stems from HUD officials allowing changes to the way the homeless are counted.

A person on the street suspected of being homeless could be included, even if that person denied being homeless, said Wendy Tippet, the director of the county's Division of Human and Veterans Services.

It is difficult to get accurate numbers as some homeless populations have become harder to find, said Diana Stanley, CEO of the Lord's Place in West Palm Beach and one of those participating in the count, which was conducted by 240 people who went into wooded areas, searched abandoned buildings and alleyways and traveled through parks in an effort to count homeless people.

"They're not as visible anymore," she said. "People are staying longer in the woods. They're staying longer in their tents."

Officials say there has been a 73 percent increase for youth ages 18 to 24, and a 32 percent increase in homelessness among people age 60 and older.

Stanley said older people might find it more difficult to find work, while younger people typically become homeless after leaving bad family situations.

"We're seeing the two ends of the spectrum," she said. "You're seeing so many families with so many issues that the children actually flee, they actually leave."

**'(The homeless are) not as visible anymore. People are staying longer in the woods. They're staying longer in their tents.'**

Diana Stanley

Lord's Place CEO

That whole aging out of foster care is a really big (issue). They're leaving at 18; where are they really going? Who is taking care of them?"

Despite the overall increase, the county has seen a decrease of 62 percent in homelessness among veterans and of 49 percent in chronic homelessness, described by HUD as a situation where a person with a disabling condition has either been continuously homeless for year or more, or has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years.

"We have really (focused on) chronic homeless individuals as well as vets," Tippet said, noting that department has changed its focus in recent years from providing emergency shelter to providing permanent housing.

Tippet said the county is working with the Area Agency on Aging on services for seniors.

The county is also working on a program that, through a grant, would provide housing for homeless young parents.

"We are being proactive in regards to those populations," Tippet said. [jwhigham@pbpost.com](mailto:jwhigham@pbpost.com) Twitter: [@JuliusWhigham](https://twitter.com/JuliusWhigham)

## TRUMP PRESIDENCY ANALYSIS

# Trump has spent nearly a third of time in office at his properties He has made 13 visits to his own golf courses in that time.

*By Philip Bump Washington Post*



President Donald Trump has announced that he plans to host the Chinese president at Mar-a-Lago next month. His press secretary said Trump's visits to his golf courses didn't necessarily mean he was playing golf. MEGHAN MCCARTHY / PALM BEACH DAILY NEWS

For the eighth weekend in a row, President Donald Trump has visited a property that bears his name. He has done so on 21 of the 66 days he has been in office, meaning that for the equivalent of three full weeks of his just-over-nine weeks as commander in chief, he has spent all or part of a day at a Trump property — earning that property mentions in the media and the ability to tell potential clients that they might be able to interact with the president.

And, despite his insistence on the campaign trail that he would avoid the links — "I'm going to be working for you. I'm not going to have time to go play golf," he said in August — he has made 13 visits to his own golf courses since becoming president, likely playing golf on at least 12 of those occasions.

Trump's properties include:

- Trump International Hotel in Washington, D.C.
- Trump National Golf Club in Potomac Falls, Virginia.
- Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach.
- Trump International Golf Club in West Palm Beach.

Trump has announced that he plans to host the Chinese president at Mar-a-Lago next month.

The one occasion on which he went to a golf course but clearly didn't play golf came Sunday, when he made a relatively short visit to Trump National during which, his team says, he held three meetings.

Last week, press secretary Sean Spicer said Trump's visits to golf courses didn't necessarily mean he was playing golf.

"Just because you go somewhere doesn't necessarily mean you did it," Spicer told reporters. "So, on a couple of occasions, he's actually conducted meetings there, he's actually had phone calls."

On every occasion, save the visit Sunday, Trump has spent multiple hours at the club, usually out of view of the media. On some occasions, such as Saturday, social media posts emerge showing him on the course.

It's not clear who was included in Trump's three meetings at Trump National. A post on Instagram tagged at the club on Sunday appears to show Trump and two other people watching television in the course's clubhouse.

If Trump traveled to Trump National for meetings, it raises another question: Couldn't those meetings have been held at the White House?



## PALM BEACH COUNTY HOMELESS

# More young adults, retirees homeless

## West Palm Beach sees 47 percent surge in overall

**homelessness.** *By Julius Whigham II Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

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## NEGLECT SUSPECTED

# Police: Mom's report was false

— *Mike Clary*

A 29-year-old Palm Beach County woman has been charged with child neglect after authorities said she falsely reported her daughter had been kidnapped from a Greenacres market.

Maria Irias was booked into the Palm Beach County jail Sunday after admitting to detectives that she made up the story because she "had been drinking most of the day and she simply can't remember where her daughter" was, according to the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office.

She last remembered seeing her 6-year-old daughter about 3:30 or 4 p.m. Saturday, deputies said.

Irias has also been charged with making a false report of a crime, deputies said.

On Saturday, Irias told deputies that she was with her daughter at El Bodegon, at Forest Hill Boulevard and Jog Road, when she accepted a stranger's offer of a ride home. Irias said that after arriving at her residence in the Tavaras Cove Mobile Home Park, near Green-acres, the driver sped off with the girl.

Authorities issued an Amber Alert on Saturday to ask for the public's assistance in finding the girl.

The child was found unharmed, deputies said.

## SUSPECT ARRESTED

# Man charged in woman's death

— WPEC-Ch. 12

A man from Palm Beach County has been arrested in connection with the death of a woman whose body was found Saturday morning inside a home.

Randy Allen Herman Jr., 24, appeared in court Sunday. He is charged with first degree murder in the death of 21-year-old Brooke Preston.

Herman did not speak, and his lawyers did not request bond.

Deputies say about 9 a.m. Saturday, Herman called 911 and told the dispatcher that "someone's been murdered."

When the dispatcher asked for more details, deputies say Herman replied, "I'm at Haverhill Park. Just send the police, it was me, I'm sorry," before hanging up.

Deputies say when they arrived, Herman had blood on his shirt, pants, arms and legs. Investigators say there were drops of blood leading into the house. Inside, under a blanket, they found Preston's body.

# Gun-law bills face hurdles in Florida

*By Gray Rohrer Staff writer*

TALLAHASSEE — Concerned about mass shootings at Orlando's Pulse nightclub and the Fort Lauderdale airport, some Republican lawmakers said they'd push to allow guns in more public places this year.

But three weeks into the legislative session, bills to permit guns on college campuses, at airport terminals and in government meetings have stalled.

One major reason why is Sen. Anitere Flores, R-Miami, who has declared she wouldn't support far-reaching gun bills earlier this month.

"I do not support having guns on campus. I do not support having guns in airports. I don't support having guns in school zones. I don't support those things," she said.

Flores is a top lieutenant to Senate President Joe Negron, making her a potential deciding vote on the Senate Justice Committee, a key hurdle that most gun bills must overcome.

Democrats and gun control activists give another reason for the lack of action on gun bills.

They say the Pulse and Fort Lauderdale shootings have brought more pressure on moderate Republicans to oppose bills that ease gun laws. The June 12 nightclub

shooting left 49 slain and scores wounded, while the Jan. 6 airport attack left five dead.

"The conversation around guns is changing in the Capitol, finally," said Rep. Carlos Guillermo Smith, D-Orlando. "It's no longer a one-sided conversation that's totally dictated by the gun lobby and the NRA."

But Sen. Greg Steube, R-Sarasota, says the shootings are evidence that Florida needs fewer gun-free zones. Bans on guns in public places create soft targets for mass shooters, he argues, places where a licensed gun owner could thwart a would-be attacker.

"There's no reason to have gun-free zones in Florida unless every single person is going through a metal detector and there's law enforcement on the scene," he said. Steube originally filed one bill to expand gun rights but was forced to split it up to gain support. Although he chairs the Senate Justice Committee, the GOP only has a 5-4 edge over Democrats on the panel.

Steube has pledged to bring many of his bills forward for an up-or-down vote during the legislative session. His measures would allow concealed weapons-permit holders to openly carry firearms and to carry guns into local government meetings, legislative meetings, airport terminals and career centers.

The National Rifle Association isn't giving up on the gun bills, either. Marion Hammer, longtime NRA lobbyist, said the campus and airport bills weren't requested by the NRA, but the gun rights group supports them.

"Nothing's dead until the hankie drops," she said, referring to the ceremonial drop of the handkerchief by House and Senate sergeants that ends the session, scheduled for May 5.

Hammer said she's pushing two top priorities. One would expand the "Stand Your Ground" law to make it easier to claim self-defense in pre-trial hearings, which has already passed the Senate. The other is a bill to allow weapons permit holders to sue businesses that ban guns on their property if they are attacked on company grounds. That bill, though, hasn't received a hearing in either chamber.

Some more narrowly focused gun bills have progressed in the Legislature this year. Bills to allow gun owners to check their firearms in lockers when they enter courthouses and to carry guns on the grounds of private schools connected to religious institutions have been approved by legislative panels. And Steube said he's working with Flores to relax penalties for concealed-carry permit holders who inadvertently show their weapons.

Even those smaller measures are drawing criticism from gun-control groups.

"These policies would put more guns in more places for no reason, including into our private K-12 schools and colleges, further putting our children and communities

at risk," said Michelle Gajda of the Florida chapter of Moms Demand Action Now, a national gun control advocacy group.

Steube said it isn't pressure from gun control activists that is halting the more aggressive gun rights bills but heat from other detractors that makes it harder to gain consensus.

"When you have, say, a campus carry bill, it's more than just the Moms Demand Action Now groups," he said. "[It's] college presidents, certain police chiefs and a different crowd of people that you have."

Smith is glad to see gun rights bills have a more difficult time in the Legislature, even if his own bills pushing for gun control measures, such as a ban on assault weapons sales, have no chance in the GOP-dominated Legislature. But he's not convinced the Pulse and airport massacres have led to a sea change among Republicans on gun issues.

"The politics around gun bills is very sensitive given everything that's happened. But I would not rule out the possibility that maybe they just want to wait a year," he said.

Hammer is pressing ahead with support for all gun rights measures, but she also knows it can take some time to get bills passed.

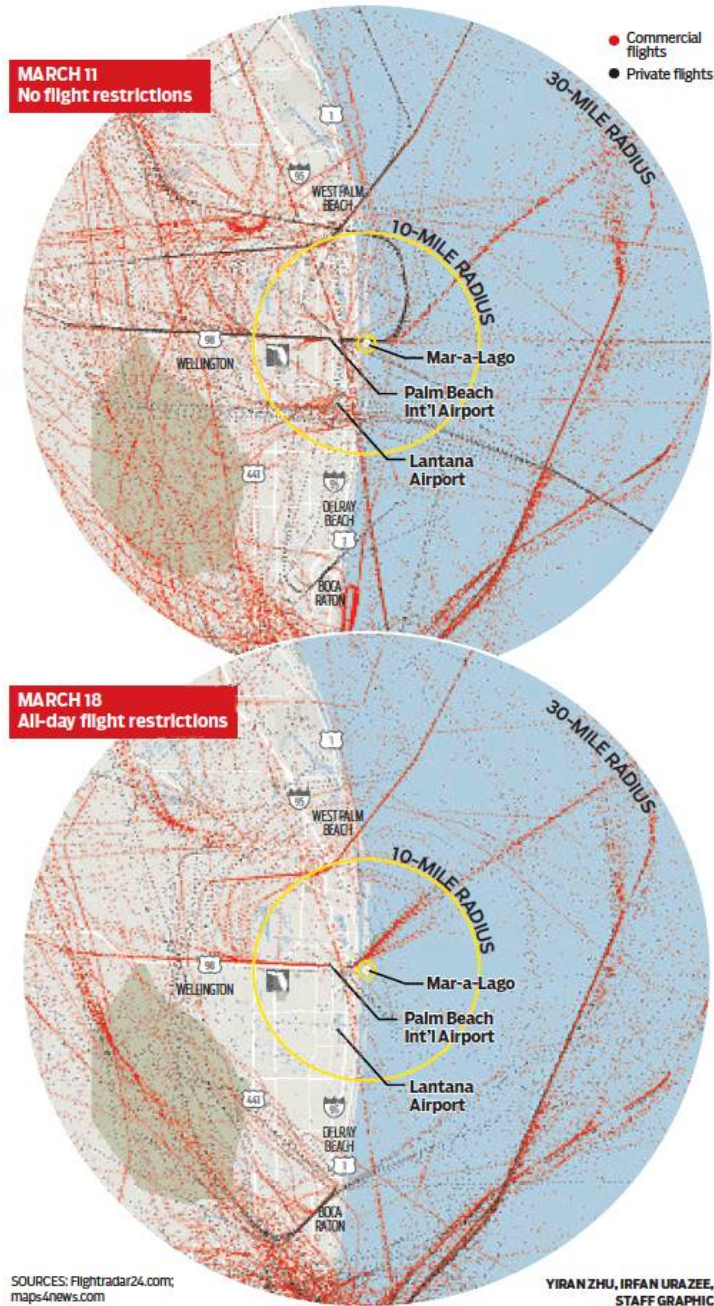
"Will they keep coming back? I guarantee you they'll keep coming back," she said.

"They'll keep coming back until they pass."



# TRUMP VISITS AFFECT FLIGHTS

By Irfan Uraizee and Yiran Zhu | Staff writers



YIRAN ZHU, IRFAN URAZEE, STAFF GRAPHIC SOURCES: [Flightradar24.com](https://www.flightradar24.com); [maps4news.com](https://maps4news.com)

The blue skies over Palm Beach County are crowded with busy lanes of air travel in and out of the region's airports. But when Donald Trump is at his Mar-a-Lago estate, the lanes clear dramatically to accommodate restrictions imposed to protect the airspace over the president.

A Sun Sentinel analysis of flight data from two consecutive Saturdays — March 11 when Trump was not at Mar-a-Lago and March 18 when he was — shows the dramatic change in flight paths into, out of and around Palm Beach International Airport and nearby airports. The data shows minute-by-minute positions of aircraft in the air, as tracked by the flight-tracking website Flightradar24.

The FAA-imposed flight restrictions in the Palm Beach area affect different types of aircraft depending on their distance from Trump's oceanfront estate: no flights within a mile; only commercial aircraft and TSA-cleared private flights within 10 miles; and wide-ranging restrictions on private flights within 30 miles.

**From:** [Anderson, Cassandra L](#)  
**Subject:** News Clips 3/28/2017  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 28, 2017 3:52:41 PM  
**Attachments:** [News Clips.docx](#)

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# *News Clip 3/28/2017*

## Palm Beach Post

CRIME UNSOLVED SLAYING

### Slain man's family seeks help in finding killer



Thomas Altman's family asks for help in Lake Worth on Monday in his 2016 unsolved slaying. Appearing at the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office are mother Sandy Altman (from left), Detective Amanda Pfeifle, sister Cindy Altman and father Jeff Altman. RICHARD GRAULICH / THE PALM BEACH POST

# Police: Man stabbed woman as she was saying goodbye

*By Jorge Milian Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Randy Herman Jr. faces a first-degree murder charge in Saturday slaying.

Brooke Preston was preparing to leave town and saying goodbye to her former roommate when the man inexplicably stabbed her repeatedly Saturday morning in a home in unincorporated West Palm Beach, according to an arrest report released Monday.

Randy Herman Jr., 24, is facing a first-degree murder charge and is being held without bail at the Palm Beach County Jail in connection with Preston's death.

The report states that Herman and Preston, 21, had been roommates at the home at 813 Sarazen Drive. Preston had recently moved out and planned to return to Pennsylvania, where she grew up.

On Saturday, Preston went to the home to say goodbye to Herman, the report said.

Herman, who is also from Pennsylvania, was hugged by Preston then gave her a memorial T-shirt commemorating a mutual friend who had died, the report said.

That's when Herman allegedly stabbed Preston with a hunting knife, the report said.

Preston sustained a dozen stab wounds to her back as well as others to her throat and abdomen. The report notes the woman also suffered defensive cuts to her left hand.

"Herman told me that all he could remember after giving Preston the T-shirt was blood," a Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office detective wrote in the arrest report.

Herman then drove Preston's vehicle to Haverhill Park, about a half-mile away, where he phoned

911.

"Someone's been murdered," Herman told the dispatcher. "I'm at Haverhill Park. Just send the police. It was me. I'm sorry."

A friend of Preston's told PBSO the woman had spent part of Friday night with Herman but left the home because Herman was acting weird and was drunk, the report said. Preston told the friend she didn't feel comfortable spending the night at the house with Herman.

Preston returned with a friend the next morning about 7:30 a.m. to retrieve belongings she had left at the home. She went to breakfast with the friend then dropped the person off

before returning to the house a final time to say goodbye to Herman, according to the report.

Herman made his call to 911 at 9:04 a.m.

While waiting for deputies to arrive at the park, Herman texted his mother and said he loved her, the report said. When deputies arrived, Herman urged them to go to his home because, he said, someone there was hurt really bad.

Herman was covered in blood and had sustained a cut to the webbing between his left thumb and pointer finger that was consistent with his hand slipping on a wet — presumably bloody — knife, the detective wrote in the report.

Herman also had several scratch marks on his chest, authorities said.

During questioning, Herman cried and apologized several times. He told detectives that he and Preston were the only ones in the house so he must have done it, the report said.

Neighbors said that Herman and Preston were not romantically linked. There is nothing in the arrest report to indicate the pair were anything more than friends. A Pennsylvania television station reported that Herman and Preston went to high school together.

Herman's father, Randy Herman Sr., was accused of killing his girlfriend in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, on Feb. 11, 2015, according to media reports in Pennsylvania.

Gail Monahan, 50, was found shot to death in the home she shared with Herman Sr., 53.

About two months later, Herman Sr. was found dead inside a pickup truck in Alabama as law enforcement closed in on him. Authorities ruled he had died of a self-inflicted gunshot to the head. [jmilian@pbpost.com](mailto:jmilian@pbpost.com) Twitter: [@jorgemilian1](https://twitter.com/jorgemilian1)



# Prison lieutenant gets three years

Erik Boe convicted of extorting inmate at work release center.

*By Daphne Duret Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



In addition to prison, Erik Boe to serve two years' probation.

A former Florida Department of Corrections lieutenant was sentenced to three years in prison and two years' probation Monday, weeks after a jury convicted him of shaking down an inmate suspected of selling prescription drugs at a work release center.

Erik Boe, 36, was convicted of one count each of threats or extortion and unlawful compensation or reward for official behavior in a February 2013 case where he and another corrections officer showed up at the work release job of inmate Ryan Anderson.

According to arrest reports, Boe and corrections officer Leon Brown confronted Anderson with drug-selling allegations, then asked him to let them inspect his toolbox at the Lake Park mechanic's shop where he worked. Anderson at the time was in the work release program and spent every night at the West Palm Beach Correctional Center as part of a sentence for dealing in stolen property.

"The correctional officers told Anderson that he would go into confinement if he did not give them cash at that time," Florida Department of Law Enforcement Agent James O. Born wrote in a criminal complaint.

Anderson later told authorities he gave the corrections officers \$90, and got his manager at the mechanic's shop to give him another \$280, for a total of \$370. Boe accepted the money, Anderson said, but told him he'd be back at the mechanic's shop the next week to collect an additional \$500.

A surveillance video from the shop showed the two officers on that day did come to the shop, which they had visited two or three times for routine checks in the nine months Anderson had worked there. The video shows Brown was holding something in his hand as he left, but authorities could not confirm what it was.

That afternoon, Anderson called Palm Beach County sheriff's deputies and told them about the corrections officers' visit.

Diego Anteo, the manager of the auto body shop, later told investigators that although he did not overhear the encounter, Anderson did ask him for money and told him that Boe and

Brown were extorting him. Anderson's girlfriend and mother said he also told them about the incident the same day.

Anderson told investigators that he spent the weekend at the corrections center with no other interaction with either of the officers. But when he left the facility the next Monday morning to board a bus to take him to work, he said, Boe and Brown were waiting with a corrections department van and told him they would drive him to work.

When they arrived, Anderson's co-worker later told investigators, Anderson told the colleague to immediately call 911 because "these guys are trying to shake me down." He said he gave Anderson his phone, and Anderson locked himself in a car and called 911.

The same co-worker said that Boe later told him that he'd taken money from Anderson to put into Anderson's corrections account so he wouldn't be forced to arrest him.

The early morning ride, meanwhile, had put the officers a step ahead of investigators, who said they'd planned to set up surveillance at the auto body shop to catch the extortion attempt. Instead, they found the officers and Anderson were already there when they arrived.

The new 911 call brought a sheriff's deputy to the shop, but by then investigators had made contact with Anteo, who failed in an attempt to implicate Boe when Anteo offered Boe some money at the investigators' behest and Boe declined to take it.

The deputy allowed Boe and Brown to drive Anderson back to the corrections facility, but investigators drove over there too and confronted them with the allegations. Boe said he and Brown drove Anderson to work to search his belongings there because of the drug selling allegations. Boe told the investigators Anderson tried to bribe them, but they declined the offer.

The men's supervisors said they knew nothing of the allegations.

Boe's case went to trial earlier this month before Palm Beach County Circuit Judge Cheryl Caracuzzo, who ordered Boe taken into custody after the jury convicted him.

Caracuzzo sentenced Boe Wednesday after rejecting defense attorneys Michael and Greg Salnick's request for a new trial.

Brown is still awaiting trial. [dduret@pbpost.com](mailto:dduret@pbpost.com)

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LAKE WORTH

## Trump immigration ban likely topic of forum

Since President Donald Trump was elected, the immigration issue has been in the news frequently, making Palm Beach State College's upcoming discussion more timely than ever. On Thursday, the college is scheduled to host "Immigration & Civil Liberties in a New Era" on the campus west of Lake Worth, 4200 S. Congress Ave.

There will be three speakers: Nancy Abudu, director of legal operations at the Florida American Civil Liberties Union; John DeLeon, attorney and past president of the Miami-Dade ACLU and Wilfredo Ruiz, communications director at the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

The discussion starts at 6 p.m. and will be held at the Public Safety Building, room 108.

— KEVIN D. THOMPSON

## BOCA RATON No bond for suspect in slaying of Jupiter man

*By Chelsea Todaro Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Matthew Lewis faces second-degree murder charge.

A suspect in a fatal 2016 shooting twice refused to appear Monday before Judge Caroline Shepherd, and will continue to be held without bond in the Palm Beach County Jail.

Matthew Lewis, 23, has been charged with second-degree murder with a firearm in the June 2016 death of Jacob Walsh, 25, in Boca Raton. Lewis was booked into the county jail Saturday.

On June 7, 2016, Walsh, a Jupiter resident, was shot to death at the San Marco Apartments along North Military Trail near Yamato Road during what authorities have determined was a drug deal. A neighbor found Walsh at her front door and tried to help put pressure on his wounds before he was transported to Delray Medical Center, where he died.

According to a newly released police report about the 2016 shooting, video surveillance at the area of the drug deal showed a white Jeep pulling into a parking spot and a passenger stepping out of the vehicle. A short time later Walsh is seen walking toward the passenger

door and the man who previously exited the vehicle “rushes” Walsh and shows him a pistol. “A struggle ensues,” the report states.

A flash is visible, which appears to be a gunshot, and Walsh is seen running away from the Jeep. The suspect with the gun then enters the Jeep and flees the scene.

Investigators said Walsh was in contact with Lewis, and messaged Lewis about three minutes before Walsh called 911. Lewis also contacted Walsh the day before the shooting, according to the report.

Lewis, from Jensen Beach, was in prison in the Panhandle serving a five-year sentence for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, shooting into a building and discharging a firearm in public, court records show. Jupiter police said Lewis shot a rifle from his car at the Average Joe’s Pub on Indiantown Road in September 2015.

Another suspect in the murder, Jonah Horne, also has been charged with second-degree murder but is in Northern Ireland pending extradition. The Belfast Telegraph reports that Horne is fighting extradition and has denied the charges. [ctodaro@pbpost.com](mailto:ctodaro@pbpost.com)

POST IN-DEPTH TRUMP EXPENSES

## Local leaders seek \$5.8M in Trump costs

Muoio sees big spending ahead; Frankel suggests visits to Camp

David. *By George Bennett Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



U.S. Rep. Lois Frankel (left) and West Palm Beach Mayor Jeri Muoio stand on Bingham Island, near Mar-a-Lago, as they urge the president to help local taxpayers recover costs. GEORGE BENNETT / THE PALM BEACH POST

PALM BEACH — Standing within sight of President Donald Trump's weekend White House at Mar-a-Lago, U.S. Rep. Lois Frankel, D-West Palm Beach, urged Trump on Monday to "step up" and help Palm Beach County taxpayers recover as much as \$5.8 million in expenses associated with the president's frequent visits here.

Frankel was joined by West Palm Beach Mayor Jeri Muoio, who said cyberattacks and other threats related to Trump's visits will require \$4.7 million in new annual spending by her city as well as \$4.3 million worth of "specialized equipment to handle a critical incident."

The nearly \$15 million in local costs come on top of the estimated \$2 million to \$3 million in federal expenditures every weekend Trump visits Mar-a-Lago. Trump has visited Palm Beach on five of the 10 weekends of his presidency. He's expected to return next week with Chinese President Xi Jinping, which Frankel said will cost county taxpayers another \$280,000.

The sheriff's office has already racked up about \$1.7 million in costs for helping the Secret Service provide security for Trump and the total could range from \$3.3 million to \$5.8 million for the year, Frankel said. She and Muoio held a news conference on Bingham Island, a spot just west of Mar-a-Lago along Southern Boulevard where Trump supporters and opponents often gather when the president is in town.

Frankel also said business losses could hit \$1 million at the county's Lantana airport, which is forced to shut down because of flight restrictions when the president visits.

Frankel said it's "not likely" that federal money can be secured to offset those losses. A spokeswoman for Republican Sen. Marco Rubio said Rubio's office has contacted the Federal Aviation Administration and Secret Service about "accommodations" for businesses hurt by the flight restrictions.

Rubio, Democratic Sen. Bill Nelson and U.S. House members from Palm Beach County asked the federal government in December for help defraying local Trump-related costs.

While the county's concerns have been raised in the past, Monday was the first time Muoio has outlined the massive spending increases she says are needed in West Palm Beach. She said the city has faced "increased threats, particularly to our IT systems" and also mentioned potential threats to the city's waterfront and water supply.

Muoio wants \$4.3 million a year to hire about 40 emergency response personnel in the police and fire departments, city spokeswoman Kathleen Walter said afterward. The mayor also said \$400,000 a year is needed to "harden" the city's information technology system. Asked about the increased information technology costs and how it relates to Trump, Muoio said, "I can't go into it too deeply but we've been working with the FBI on attempted hacks. ... I think because we are in the spotlight and because people think of Palm Beach and West Palm Beach when they think of the president, it brings more attention to us."

The city would not reveal details of the \$4.3 million in “specialized equipment” that Muoio says is needed, with Walter citing an exemption in Florida’s public records law that covers a “security system plan.”

Frankel and Reps. Ted Deutch, D-Boca Raton, and Alcee Hastings, D-Del-ray Beach, sent a letter to Trump this past week asking for his help securing federal money.

“If compensation is not assured of being forthcoming, we respectfully ask that you curtail your visits until such time as that matter is resolved favorably to our area,” the letter says.

“It would be very unfair if help doesn’t come from Washington and if help doesn’t come from this president because the president can make choices,” Frankel said Monday. “He has very nice secure, safe, lovely places he could be even though we live in paradise. But certainly he could save the White House — he could go to Camp David, he can make that choice to limit the expense on our area. ... This is really a request to the White House to say, listen, step up to the plate and help us get this money.”

Assistant Palm Beach County Administrator Todd Bonlarron also attended the news conference and tried to strike a balance between welcoming Trump and seeking federal money.

“It has real impacts to our county’s budget. The other side of it, too, is we see some real economic benefits as well,” Bonlarron said. “So we do enjoy when the president is here. We like that he’s made this the winter White House. We think it’s a great selection, Palm Beach County, and we encourage more people to keep coming out, heads in beds, people in restaurants. But those dollars don’t always equate to dollars that are coming to the county budget to pay for some of the security and costs to pay for those visits.” [gbennett@pbpost.com](mailto:gbennett@pbpost.com) Twitter: [@gbennettpost](https://twitter.com/gbennettpost)



# Sun Sentinel

## Woman killed after car hits tree

A Boynton Beach woman died Sunday when she lost control of her car and hit a tree, according to a Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office.

Maria Martindale, 54, died in the crash that happened about 11:30 a.m. Sunday.

It happened as Martin-dale drove a 2005 Buick Lacrosse west on Hypoluxo Road near Lantern Key Drive in West Boynton and hit the raised center median. Her car turned clockwise and hit a tree.

Palm Beach County Fire Rescue found Martindale dead at the scene.

The cause of the crash remains under investigation.

— *Adam Sacasa*

## Trump visits prompt concern

### West Palm mayor says computers were targeted

*By Skyler Swisher Staff writer*



MANDEL NGAN/AFP

President Donald Trump, his son Barron and wife Melania step off Air Force One upon arriving at Palm Beach International Airport on March 17 on their way to Mar-a-Lago.



PRECIOUS MOMENTS PHOTOGRAPHY/COURTESY

West Palm Beach Mayor Jeri Muoio fears the city could be at risk.

Hackers have attempted to breach West Palm Beach's computers, and President Donald Trump's visits to the Weekend White House could continue to make the city a target, Mayor Jeri Muoio said Monday.

The FBI is investigating, and more than \$150,000 has been spent on the city's information technology system so far in response to the attempted breaches, she said.

"We have had unknown entities attempting to breach our system, which has been very concerning," Muoio said.

FBI spokesman Jim Marshall would neither confirm nor deny the existence of an investigation, and Muoio declined to release specifics about the attempted breaches.

But she said she fears Trump's regular presence at his oceanfront estate Mar-a-Lago — less than a mile from West Palm Beach — could put her city at a greater risk for cyberattacks and terrorism.

"Because we are in the spotlight ... it brings more attention to us," she said.

City officials want to dedicate \$400,000 annually to improve cybersecurity. In addition, the city is considering budgeting \$4.3 million annually to hire about 40 police and fire personnel to monitor security threats and, if necessary, respond to a "critical incident," said Kathleen Walter, a city spokeswoman.

In particular, the city wants to strengthen protection of its waterfront and water supply, Muoio said. The city also wants to spend about \$4.5 million on "specialized equipment," but the mayor's office declined to release details, citing security concerns.

Muoio, along with U.S. Rep. Lois Frankel, D-West Palm Beach, is pushing for the federal government to reimburse local governments for tax dollars being spent to protect the president. They held a news conference Monday within eyesight of Mar-a-Lago, which is in the town of Palm Beach just across the Intra-coastal Waterway from West Palm Beach.

Trump has made five weekend visits to the estate since his inauguration Jan.

Frankel sent a letter Monday to the White House that was signed by herself and U.S. Reps. Ted Deutch, D-West Boca, and Alcee Hastings, D-West Delray.

“We’ve asked for cooperation in getting this reimbursement, and, if he’s unable to do that, to consider curtailing his travel here,” Frankel said.

Palm Beach County estimates it has spent \$1.7 million in added overtime expenses and other costs assisting the Secret Service, a figure county officials project could reach as high as nearly \$6 million by the end of the year.

The county estimates it could spend \$280,000 when Trump hosts Chinese President Xi Jinping at Mar-a-Lago next week, Frankel said.

The visits also affect businesses based at the Lantana Airport, which cannot operate because of flight restrictions imposed when Trump visits.

It’s projected businesses based at that airport have lost \$720,000 in revenue, Frankel said. [sswisher@sunsentinel.com](mailto:sswisher@sunsentinel.com), 561-243-6634 or @SkylerSwisher

**From:** [Anderson, Cassandra L](#)  
**Subject:** News Clips 3/31/2017  
**Date:** Friday, March 31, 2017 11:25:57 AM  
**Attachments:** [News Clips.docx](#)

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# **News Clip 3/31/2017**

## **Palm Beach Post**

### **Bicyclist dies after being struck by car**

A bicyclist hit by a car Monday afternoon has died from his injuries, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office said.

Darrel Smith, 66, of Pahokee, was on a bicycle trying to cross west through the northbound lanes of traffic on Forest Hill Boulevard, just south of Wellington Trace. A 2015 Chrysler 200 hit the bicyclist, and the man was thrown onto the hood of the car, the sheriff's office said.

Smith died at a hospital two days later.

The driver, Bernice Alcebo, 55, of Wellington, stopped at the scene. It is unclear whether she will face charges. Alcebo was taken to Wellington Regional Medical Center with minor injuries, the sheriff's office said.

— OLIVIA HITCHCOCK

### **WEST PALM BEACH CRIME**

## **Bail denied for man charged in shootings**

*By Hannah Winston Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Kenneth Gessesse Hawthorne enters court Thursday.

WEST PALM BEACH — Walter Oshea Granger said by it was by "the grace of God," that his son survived a shooting Wednesday afternoon. Despite 11 gunshot wounds, including one that grazed his scalp, Abiade Granger was able to make it out of the apartment and call 911, his father said. Two of his friends didn't. His other friend, the alleged shooter, fled from the scene.

Kenneth Hawthorne, 22, of West Palm Beach will remain at the Palm Beach County Jail without bail until his next court date.

He appeared before Judge Karen Miller on Thursday morning. Hawthorne has no previous criminal history.

Cortney Lowery Jr., 21, of Riviera Beach was pronounced dead at the scene and Isaiah Hyndman, 21, of West Palm Beach died on the way to St. Mary's Medical Center.

Abiade Granger also called his father after the shooting, and he was able to take him to St. Mary's. He remained there overnight, went through several surgeries and is recovering, according to his father.

Walter Granger, who is the senior pastor at Mount Calvary Baptist Church in West Palm Beach, said the men were friends and just hanging out before the shooting Wednesday. According to the report, Granger and Hawthorne lived in the Caribbean Villas apartment.

"This was not a drug-related case. This was not a gang-related case," Walter Granger said of the shooting. "I'm just convinced that it was a young man that had some untreated mental illness."

In court Thursday, neither Hawthorne's lawyer nor the judge mentioned anything about mental illness.

Just after 1 p.m. Wednesday, police were called to a shooting at a unit in the Caribbean Villas apartment complex off Haverhill Road. The neighborhood is north of 45th Street, about a mile north of the new Ballpark of the Palm Beaches.

Abiade Granger told dispatchers that he, Lowery, Hyndman and Hawthorne were playing video games when Hawthorne walked out of the room.

When he came back in, he shot at the group of friends several times and Granger ran from the scene.

Granger told dispatchers Hawthorne fled the scene in a silver Jeep Liberty. The car is registered to Hawthorne's father, who lives on Embassy Drive. When police surrounded the residence on that street, the silver Jeep driven by Hawthorne approached the area. When they detained the 22-year-old, a silver and black 9 mm gun fell to the ground. At the crime scene, 9 mm shell casings were found.

Police did not disclose a motive for the shootings Thursday.

Since Monday, there have been three shootings in West Palm Beach, which have resulted a total of three homicides.

On Monday, one man was shot after a confrontation on 13th Street and Tamarind Avenue. The unidentified man was expected to survive his injuries. It's unclear if charges will be filed in the case.



On Tuesday, 29-year-old Andre Upperman was killed just west of Tamarind Avenue on Grant Street. A second man injured in the shooting was taken to the hospital and was expected to survive. No one has been arrested.

In 2017, 29 people have been killed in Palm Beach County, including 12 in March, according to a Palm Beach Post database. That's the bloodiest month since November 2015, when 14 were killed.

In West Palm Beach, there have been nine homicides this year. In all of 2016, there were 10 homicides in the city. [hwinston@pbpost.com](mailto:hwinston@pbpost.com)

[Twitter: @hannahwinston](#)

## COURTS DUI CRASH

# Husband gets 5 years for fatal DUI

## Judge tells Loxahatchee man he 'failed his wife' after her death in crash.

*By Daphne Duret Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Matthew Notebaert looks back at family members in the courtroom as he stands with his attorney Steven Bell on Thursday.

LANNIS WATERS / THE PALM BEACH POST

WEST PALM BEACH — Calling it one of “the most senseless, tragic acts” she’s ever come across, a Palm Beach County judge sentenced a 33-year-old Loxahatchee husband and father to five years in prison Wednesday for a 2014 wreck that killed his wife as they had sex while he drove drunk.

The sentence for Matthew Notebaert came just over three years after the death of his wife, Amanda, in a crash that left their two children without a mother and caused a deep rift between the couple’s families that even on Wednesday had her closest friends and relatives split into two camps.

Some, like Amanda Notebaert's parents and grandmother, said her husband was to blame not just for the crash but for "taking bad advice" in the aftermath and alienating the couple's two children from the loved ones of the woman he called his best friend.

Others, like the 31-year-old's aunt and her closest friends, said the couple were madly in love until the moment Amanda Notebaert died, and she wouldn't have wanted him to go to jail.

"I miss her more than words can express," Matthew Notebaert said of his wife during a tearful plea to Circuit Judge Laura Johnson.

Through his tears, Notebaert explained that he'd given his wife tickets to a concert as a Valentine's Day present. The March 8, 2014, event had marked her first official night back out on the town after giving birth to their second child, a daughter they named Stacey in honor of the family name she proudly embraced from her adopted father.

They'd began drinking from a small flask of Crown Royal they sneaked into the concert in her purse, he said, and as they headed back to the area of their Loxahatchee home, they called friends looking to hang out but at one point pulled over and became intimate.

By the time he drove on Southern Boulevard, Notebaert said, his wife was sitting in his lap, and his next memory after a turn of the wheel was waking up in a crashed car next to her body.

Investigators say Notebaert turned onto East Stallion Drive at about 12:30 a.m. and drove the couple's Chevrolet Equinox at 55 mph in a 30 mph zone, blowing past three red posted signs on the dirt road warning of a canal ahead.

The couple's car hit the canal bank so hard, according to arrest reports, the SUV went airborne for 30 feet and came to rest on the opposite bank of the canal. Amanda Notebaert's head hit the dashboard and windshield. She died at the scene. A toxicology report from after the crash placed Matthew Notebaert's blood alcohol content at nearly twice the level at which Florida drivers are presumed impaired.

Investigators said he also had marijuana in his system.

Relatives on Wednesday described Amanda Notebaert as a loving wife, mother, friend, niece, daughter and granddaughter who lived to celebrate holidays like Easter and Halloween between vacations with her family.

Her grandmother remembered their time-honored pastime of "doing lunch" in Boca Raton, a heartfelt tradition they started when Amanda was a little girl. An aunt, who testified on Matthew Notebaert's behalf because she felt that's what his wife would have wanted, said she remembered her 8-year-old niece calling 911 in hopes of reaching her after the little girl learned she worked in law enforcement.

Lisa and Mike Stacey expressed pain and anger at Notebaert for restricting their time with their grandchildren since their daughter died.

"You had a responsibility to get your wife home safely," Amanda's father, Mike Stacey, told Notebaert before asking Johnson to give his son-in-law the "maximum allowable sentence."

But even prosecutors said under the circumstances, the 10-year minimum recommended sentence under sentencing guidelines was too harsh.

Notebaert's attorney, Steven Bell, asked for no jail time at all, hoping Johnson would award Notebaert a probation sentence and keep him with the couple's now 12-year-old son and 3-year-old daughter.

Assistant State Attorney Danielle Sherriff, on the other hand, echoed Stacey's sentiments and said Notebaert bears the blame because he was driving. Sherriff said a prison sentence was necessary and asked for a seven-year term.

Johnson cited Notebaert's criminal history, saying he had been accused of reckless driving and leaving the scene of a crash. Notebaert's list of prior cases also includes five felonies, Johnson said, and a prosecutor at his May 2014 bail hearing listed previous charges that included cocaine possession, burglary and grand theft.

"This isn't your first chance. You've been to jail before, you've been on probation," Johnson said, adding: "You failed your wife, you failed your children and you failed all your family that is here today." [dduret@pbpost.com](mailto:dduret@pbpost.com)

POST ON COURTS OLD SHOOTING CASE

## Judge upholds death in 1988 officer killing

### West Palm Beach officer Brian Chappell was shot dead during traffic stop. *By Eliot Kleinberg Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Active duty and retired West Palm Beach police officers fill the courtroom Thursday for the hearing on Norberto "Spiderman" Pietri's plea to get off death row. ALLEN EYESTONE / THE PALM BEACH POST



Norberto "Spiderman" Pietri was sentenced to death by a jury's 8-4 vote.



Officer Brian Chappell, 31, was in his sixth year as a West Palm Beach officer when he was killed in 1988. Chappell "knew there were dangers," his father would say later. CONTRIBUTED  
WEST PALM BEACH — Three decades after the 1988 murder of West Palm Beach police officer Brian Chappell, the lawyers of his killer, Norberto "Spider-man" Pietri, cited a 15-month-old U.S. Supreme Court ruling to try to get Pietri off death row. It didn't work.

At the end of a hearing that lasted only about a half hour, Palm Beach County Circuit Judge John Kastrenakes rattled off how Pietri escaped prison, killed Chappell — who "didn't even get his gun out" — and continued to commit violent crimes until he was recaptured. Kastrenakes said he was convinced Pietri's death sentence "was absolutely appropriate."

William M. Hennis III, attorney for the state agency that defends death row inmates, said the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision requiring unanimous jury votes to invoke the death penalty should apply to Pietri, whom a jury had sentenced to death by an 8-4 vote. Kastrenakes noted that the jury unanimously found Pietri guilty of escape, burglary and murder of a law enforcement officer, aggravating factors that he said rightly triggered the death penalty.

Assistant Attorney General Leslie Campbell told the judge that courts have ruled no cases decided before 2002 should be revisited in light of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling.

But Hennis argued that the "unanimous" standard really should apply to all cases retroactively. He said after the hearing that whether the 2002 cutoff "will stand up to federal scrutiny remains to be seen."



Hennis also said after the hearing he wasn't surprised by Kastrenakes' ruling but would appeal to the Florida Supreme Court.

Pietri, who turned 54 this month, was not in the courtroom Thursday. But dozens of police officers — active duty and retired — were. They filled virtually every seat and some stood against the wall. Some had been kids — or not even born — on Aug. 22, 1988.

Some had been there that day, and still remember it with pain.

"All I can say is the judge knew his law," said John Conklin, now retired, who was the lead detective.

Chappell, 31, and in his sixth year as a West Palm Beach officer, had initiated a traffic stop on Dixie Highway just south of Southern Boulevard and followed the car as it turned onto a side street, Nottingham Boulevard. As Chappell walked to the driver side window, Pietri, then 25 and nicknamed "Spiderman" for the 3-inch spider tattoo on his neck, fired once with a 9mm semiautomatic pistol.

"I grabbed the gun, stuck my head out the window and shot," Pietri later testified. The bullet tore through Chappell's chest. He staggered back, grabbed his portable radio and spoke his last four words: "Officer shot. Officer shot."

Chappell is the last West Palm Beach officer slain in the line of duty.

Pietri had walked away four days earlier from the since-closed minimum-security Lantana Community Correctional Center. And he was caught two days later, the day before Chappell was buried.

Pietri was sentenced to death row on March 15, 1990.

Leaving the courtroom Thursday, West Palm Beach Police Chief Sarah Mooney called Kastrenakes' ruling "right on the money."

At the time of the shooting, Mooney was starting college, although her future husband was on the force.

"It's way too long that the family and the guys who used to work with him have to still keep revisiting this," she said Thursday.

For years, Chappell's parents came to hearings for Pietri. Tom Chappell said in 2006 that the loss of his son "is something we think about every day." Asked if he could forgive his son's killer, Chappell said, "I would forgive him if he would bring my son back."

The elder Chappell feared his son's murderer would outlive him, and Pietri did. Tom Chappell died at 94 in October 2014.

Pietri is one of 372 people on Florida's death row and one of seven there who were convicted for Palm Beach County murders. He is ranked 69th of the 372 in terms of longevity. The oldest death penalty tenure is 42 years.

On Thursday, Kastrenakes put the long Chappell-Pietri saga in perspective right at the start of the hearing.

"Here we find ourselves 30 years after officer Chap-pell was murdered, and still discussing whether Mr. Pietri should be subject to the death penalty or not," the judge said. "These cases never seem to end." [ekleinberg@pbpost.com](mailto:ekleinberg@pbpost.com)

[Twitter: @eliotkpbp](#)

## COURTS

# Warrant issued for woman in 'Sandy Hook' case She is accused of threatening parent of massacre

**victim.** *By Jorge Milian Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

A federal judge Wednesday morning issued a warrant for the arrest of a Brandon woman accused of threatening the father of a child who died in the Sandy Hook shooting after she did not show up in court.

Lucy Richards, 57, was expected to plead guilty Wednesday to one count of transmitting threats through interstate communication and had an agreement in place to receive house arrest and probation that her court-appointed attorney said was "very generous."

After Richards failed to appear in court, U.S. District Judge James Cohn issued a warrant for her arrest and ordered her held without bond when U.S. marshals take her into custody.

"It was her choice not to show up," said Robert Berube, Richards' attorney. Asked why she failed to do so, Berube answered, "Who knows?"

Richards is facing four counts of sending threats with a maximum penalty of five years in prison on each count. With her decision not to appear in court Wednesday, Richards' plea agreement is likely off the table and the unemployed former waitress could be facing a prison sentence.

Berube said he was under the impression that Richards would appear in court Wednesday before she called the public defender's office Wednesday morning and told Berube's assistant she would be a no-show.

Does Richards understand the consequences of not attending the sentencing hearing? "Yes, she does," Berube said.

In December, Richards pleaded guilty to threatening Lenny Pozner, a one-time Boca Raton resident whose 6-year-old son Noah was killed along with 19 other children and



six adults in 2012 in New-town, Conn. She was freed on \$25,000 bond and barred from websites that push conspiracy theories.

Richards is accused of sending voice-mail and email threats to Pozner. Among those messages, according to a federal indictment, was one that read: "Death is coming to you real soon and nothing you can do about it."

During her court appearance in January, Richards got around on a walker and told a judge she has been on disability since 2004. Her only source of income, Richards said, was government aid totaling about \$500 a month.

Conspiracy theorists have long promoted the idea that the shootings were a hoax, part of a government plot to impose gun control. Some have gone out of their way to harass and troll the parents of Sandy Hook's youngest victims online, accusing them of staging the massacre or demanding documentation of their children's deaths.

A former Florida Atlantic University professor, James Tracy, gained notoriety in 2015 for claims that the Sandy Hook mass shooting was staged by the Obama administration to usher in stricter regulations on guns. The university fired the tenured professor in January 2016.

Richards' next court date will be scheduled after she is arrested.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

# **Pedestrian deaths spiked in 2016; distraction cited**

*By Joan Lowy Associated Press*



A woman walks through a Manhattan intersection Thursday in New York City. According to new figures released by the Governors Highway Safety Association, pedestrian deaths on American roads are climbing faster than motorist fatalities and reached nearly 6,000 deaths last year. This number, partly attributed to phone distractions and an increasing number of walkers, is the highest total in more than two decades. Pedestrian deaths climbed 25 percent from 2010 to 2015. SPENCER PLATT / GETTY IMAGES

# WORST AND BEST

Highest rates of pedestrians deaths:

- Delaware • Florida • Arizona
  - Lowest rates: • North Dakota • South Dakota
  - Wyoming
- Source: Governors Highway Safety Association

WASHINGTON — Pedestrian deaths are climbing faster than motorist fatalities, reaching nearly 6,000 deaths last year — the highest total in more than two decades, according to an analysis of preliminary state data released Thursday.

Increased driving due to an improved economy, lower gas prices and more walking for exercise and environmental factors are some of the likely reasons behind the estimated 11 percent spike in pedestrian fatalities in 2016. The figures were prepared for the Governors Highway Safety Association, which represents state highway safety offices.

But researchers say they think the biggest factor may be more drivers and walkers distracted by cellphones and other electronic devices, although that's hard to confirm.

Walking and miles driven are up only a few percentage points, and are unlikely to account for most of the surge in pedestrian deaths, said Richard Retting, safety director for Sam Schwartz Transportation Consultants and the author of the report. Meanwhile, texting and use of wireless devices have exploded, he said.

"It's the only factor that seems to indicate a dramatic change in how people behave," Retting said.

The report is based on data from all states and the District of Columbia for the first six months of 2016 and extrapolated for the rest of the year. It shows the largest annual increase in both the number and percentage of pedestrian fatalities in the more than 40 years those national records on such deaths have been kept, with the second-largest increase occurring in 2015. Pedestrian deaths as a share of total motor vehicle crash deaths increased from 11 percent in 2006 to 15 percent in 2015. "This latest data shows that the U.S. isn't meeting the mark on keeping pedestrians safe on our roadways," said Jonathan Adkins, the safety association's executive director. "Every one of these lives represents a loved one not coming home tonight, which is absolutely unacceptable."

Traffic fatalities overall jumped 6 percent last year, pushing deaths on U.S. roads to their highest level in nearly a decade and erasing improvements made during the Great Recession and economic recovery, according to data released last month by the National Safety Council, a leading safety organization. The council estimates there were more than 40,200 traffic deaths in 2016. The last time there were more

than 40,000 fatalities in a single year was in 2007, just before the economy tanked. There were 41,000 deaths that year.

But pedestrian deaths are sharply outpacing fatalities overall, climbing 25 percent from 2010 to 2015, according to Retting's research. Total traffic deaths increased about 6 percent over the same period.

"We cannot look at distracted driving solely as an in-vehicle issue," said Kelly Nantel, a spokeswoman for the safety council. "That discounts the impact distraction could have on pedestrians.

"Just as we need drivers to be alert, pedestrians have to be, too."

## POST IN-DEPTH SCOTT ON ZIKA, OPIOID CRISIS

### **Scott pondering opioid response Governor comments on mounting requests for emergency declaration.** *By Pat Beall Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Gov. Rick Scott came to Palm Beach County to discuss the Zika virus Thursday.

## WHAT THE POST REPORTED

In November, The Post told the story of the 216 people who died from heroin-related overdoses in Palm Beach County in 2015. Read the stories [myPalmBeachPost.com/generationheroin](http://myPalmBeachPost.com/generationheroin).

WEST PALM BEACH — Florida Gov. Rick Scott on Thursday said he has not ruled out declaring a public health emergency over the opioid epidemic now burning through Florida.

"I'm still reviewing it," said Scott, who had not previously spoken publicly about the mounting number of requests for such a declaration.

The governor made his comment at the Palm Beach County Health Department, where he joined local health officials discussing progress against Zika, a virus that prompted Scott to declare a public health emergency in February of last year.

The virus can cause serious neurological birth defects, and as of this date more than 2,000 cases have been recorded in Florida.

It has not, however, resulted in fatalities. By contrast, in 2015, the most recent year for which statewide numbers are available, opioid overdoses claimed 3,896 Florida lives.

Hospital charges for heroin-related illnesses topped \$1 billion in the first nine months of that year — \$4.1 million a day — much of it billed to Florida's cash-strapped Medicaid insurance program, The Palm Beach Post found.

"The potential effects of Zika on pregnant women and newborns is definitely critical, and as we come into summertime, we need to be cognizant," said Palm Beach County Commissioner Melissa McKinlay, who made the first formal request to Scott for a public health emergency declaration.

But, she said in a Thursday morning Facebook post, "To come into Palm Beach County on this and not opioids is a slap in the face to those families that have been pleading for help."

Scott is not ignoring the opioid crisis, Scott spokeswoman Lauren Schenone stressed. "Gov. Scott understands this is an important national issue and has spoken to the Trump administration about it," she said.

And speaking with reporters Thursday, Scott characterized addiction as "devastating" to families, citing the case of one of his own family members who has struggled with drugs.

Getting a grip on the epidemic will be hard, he said, and while the state has a role, Scott said it would take a concerted effort at all levels of government — not just Tallahassee.

However, Tallahassee's efforts with Zika yielded dramatic results.

### **Money and media**

The governor's full-court press on the virus began in February 2016. After nine confirmed cases, he directed the state surgeon general to declare a public health emergency in four counties. He called on the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for advice and assistance. A Zika hotline was created. Lab testing capacity was expanded.

In a series of high-profile demands, Scott repeatedly pushed Washington for more money, and when it was not immediately forthcoming, he used his emergency powers to release more than \$61 million from the state's general revenue fund for research, prevention and response. Washington is reimbursing the state millions of dollars.

Information on preventing Zika was included in curricula from kindergarten through 12th grade. Mailers were sent out in multiple languages.

In December, Scott was able to stand in South Beach, the epicenter of mosquito transmission of the virus, and report that the immediate danger had passed. The CDC lifted an advisory against pregnant women traveling to South Beach.

Thursday's Health Department meeting was called in part to reinforce the prevention message and identify successes, such as cutting the amount of time it takes a pregnant woman to get test results on whether she carries the virus. Lab testing capacity has been expanded. Grants have been handed out, including money to help create a vaccine.

### **Broad powers**

There's a precedent for the same focused approach targeting an opioid drug. In 2011, when the OxyContin "pill mill" epidemic was at its peak, Scott declared a public health emergency.

Virginia in 2016 and Massachusetts in 2014 declared public health emergencies after heroin deaths rose sharply in those states. On March 1, Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan also declared a public health emergency.

In Florida, as in many other states, the declarations can give governors the ability to tap state revenue for treatment, now seen as crucial.

More than 7,000 beds are available for substance abuse treatment in Florida.

But the number is deceptively large. Many are in for-profit treatment centers, where a 30-day stay can run up a \$20,000 bill. For those without insurance or cash, some stretches of the state are treatment deserts.

In Palm Beach County, where it's estimated more than 600 people died from opioid overdoses last year, there are just 24 publicly funded beds where a person without money or insurance can detoxify from the drug. There are waiting lists. And sometimes people die while waiting.

Air-conditioning serviceman Michael Driscoll was waiting for a bed at the publicly funded Palm Beach County Comprehensive Alcoholism Rehabilitation Program, or CARP, in 2015; so was Nicholas Ricciardi, a carpenter who had struggled with addiction since his mid-teens. CARP abruptly closed amid financial irregularities.

Both men fatally overdosed before they could find another means of treatment.

In a recent study commissioned by Palm Beach County, only about 8 percent of all locals 17 or older who needed substance abuse treatment actually got it in 2015-16.

And while more than 24,000 uninsured people in the county would be expected to need detoxification and residential treatment, just 2,206 received such treatment.

It's not a South Florida problem. Manatee County, for instance, has been especially hard hit. Even small Panhandle hospitals are facing a wave of opioid cases.

But the steady stream of requests for the governor to act is coming locally. On Wednesday the governing board of the Palm Beach County League of Cities,

representing all 39 Palm Beach County towns and cities, unanimously approved a resolution asking Scott to declare a public health emergency. The village of Wellington, the Martin County Commission and the Florida Senate Democratic Caucus have all done the same.

The League's resolution was passed just one day after Palm Beach County Chief Circuit Judge Jeffrey Colbath also called on Scott to declare a public health emergency, writing that "It's just the right thing to do."

Staff writer Joe Capozzi contributed to this story. [pbeall@pbpost.com](mailto:pbeall@pbpost.com)

There are waiting lists. And sometimes people die while waiting.

**VIDEO ONLINE** See Gov. Rick Scott speak about the state's opioid epidemic at [pbpo.st/govscott](http://pbpo.st/govscott).

## TRUMP IN PALM BEACH

# Trump-Xi summit set for Mar-a-Lago Palm Beach estate seen as relaxed setting for presidents to confer. *By George Bennett Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Chinese President Xi Jinping will come to South Florida after visiting Finland.

**PALM BEACH** — The U.S.-China summit at Mar-a-Lago is official.

The White House and Chinese officials formally announced Thursday that President Donald Trump will host Chinese President Xi Jinping at Trump's tropical White House at Mar-a-Lago on April 6 and 7. The visit will include a dinner hosted by the president and first lady Melania Trump on April 6.

Xi will come to Palm Beach from a state visit to Finland that begins Tuesday. Xi and the Chinese delegation are expected to stay in Manalapan at the Eau Palm Beach Resort and Spa, about 7 miles south of Mar-a-Lago.

Holding the summit at Mar-a-Lago rather than in Washington offers a relaxed setting for the leaders to get to know each other — but perhaps more informal than China wanted, one expert said.

Then-President Barack Obama used a similar approach in 2013, shortly after Xi became China's president, by meeting with him for the first time at the Sunnylands retreat in Rancho Mirage, Calif.

"This is an opportunity for President Trump to develop a relationship in person with President Xi," White House press secretary Sean Spicer said Thursday. "He's spoken to him on the phone a few times. But we have big problems, and — I mean, everything from the South China Sea, to trade, to North Korea. There are big issues of national and economic security that need to get addressed, and I think there's going to be a lot on the table when it comes to that over the two days that they will talk."

Nicholas Hope, a senior scholar specializing in China and East Asia at the Stanford Center for International Development, said meeting at Mar-a-Lago is a positive sign. "I think the best thing that could happen in the summit would be if the two leaders develop some type of rapport," Hope said. "In a more relaxed environment, President Xi can be made to feel more welcome. ... It would be terrific if we came away with a sense that these guys have met each other and can get along with each other."

Trump hosted Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at Mar-a-Lago in February and played golf with him at Trump National Golf Club in Jupiter. China expert Scott Kennedy, of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said Abe's visit may be a reason the U.S. is also hosting Xi at Mar-a-Lago.

"The Chinese would have preferred this to be at the White House," said Kennedy, who said China wants the pomp and formal signs of respect associated with a Washington visit. "The U.S. probably doesn't want to have, symbolically, a higher visit with the Chinese leader than with the Japanese counterpart."

Spicer, asked about the selection of Mar-a-Lago on Thursday, said: "I'm not going to get into the back and forth. I would just suggest to you that both sides discussed various locations and topics and agendas and length, et cetera, and aspects to the trip. And this is what we've arrived at."

While Mar-a-Lago will be the setting for both the Abe and Xi visits, don't expect golf to be part of next week's summit. Chinese communists since Mao have criticized golf as a sport for wealthy capitalists, and Xi has conducted a "war on golf" that has included the shutting down of more than 100 courses in China.

A Federal Aviation Administration notice released Thursday announced flight restrictions for the Palm Beach area for April 6-9, suggesting Trump will remain at Mar-a-Lago for two days after Xi departs.

Trump has spent five of the first 10 weekends of his presidency at Mar-a-Lago. [gbennett@pbpost.com](mailto:gbennett@pbpost.com) [Twitter: @gbennettpost](https://twitter.com/gbennettpost) **TRUMP NEWS ONLINE**  
Read The Post's latest coverage of President Trump, [myPalmBeachPost.com/donaldtrump](http://myPalmBeachPost.com/donaldtrump).



# Sun Sentinel

## **WOMAN MISSING Grandmother gone 3 months**

— WPEC-CBS12

The family of a Boca Raton woman who vanished more than three months ago is seeking the public's help to find her.

They want to know why Loraine Pino, 47, a grandmother with two grandchildren, disappeared.

"It's a living nightmare," said her sister, Rosannie Feliciano.

Pino had no medical condition or illness and relatives say she would not suddenly leave town. She vanished just a week before Christmas.

"There has to be someone who has seen or heard something," Feliciano said. "It's really important that our family has closure. It's been a really long three and a half months."

The Sheriff's Office says the agency has her disappearance listed as a missing-person case. She was last seen leaving her home in the 9000 block of Southwest First Street in Boca Raton on Dec. 19, driving a gray 2011 Toyota RAV4.

"These past three months, it's just pretty much felt empty without her being there," said Pino's son, Jonathon Otero.

Relatives describe Pino as a very loving, giving person, always involved in charities and fundraisers and feeding the homeless.

"We just need someone to be honest and come forward," Feliciano said.

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office has searched by helicopter, looking for her or her vehicle. They've also checked nearby canals. There has been no trace of her and no activity on her bank account.

The Sheriff's Office asks anyone with information to call the agency at 561-688-3400, or to notify the nearest law enforcement agency.

# Students sickened by drug-laced gummies

*By Linda Trischitta Staff writer*

Four Coconut Creek middle school students were sickened by candies laced with THC, a chemical derived from marijuana, investigators said Thursday.

Police and paramedics were called Tuesday to Lyons Creek Middle School, where a 15-year-old girl was feeling nauseous, acting aggressively toward teachers and fading in and out of consciousness, court records said.

The teen told police she'd eaten two gummies laced with THC

(tetrahydrocannabinols) before feeling unwell. The drug is not legal in Florida.

Margate-Coconut Creek Fire Rescue took her and another student to Northwest Medical Center for treatment, police said.

"Within the past several years, the potency of THC has increased tremendously," said U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration Special Agent Anne-Judith Lambert. "Putting it into edibles is dangerous because it alters the state of mind, especially when packaged as lollipops or other shapes that may appeal to children."

Two other children said they felt ill after eating the candies shaped like hearts and gingerbread men, police said. Paramedics treated them at the school, at 4333 Sol Press Blvd., west of Florida's Turnpike.

Coconut Creek police took two students into custody. A 13-year-old was arrested on suspicion of possession with intent to sell after being found with five foil packages with a set of gummies in each, police say. The teen was released to the custody of a parent, police said.

A 14-year-old also was accused of the same offense and of selling THC within 1,000 feet of a school. That student had a half-dozen sealed packs of gummies in a backpack and was taken to a juvenile detention center, according to a police report. The Sun Sentinel is not naming the teenagers because they are minors.

Also arrested was Christine Lidia Arguelles on suspicion of possessing THC with intent to sell/manufacture/deliver; two counts of child neglect without great bodily harm and three counts of contributing to the delinquency or dependency of a child. Arguelles, 33, of Coconut Creek, was taken into custody Wednesday and is being held in a Broward County jail on a \$117,500 bond. According to an arrest report, her home refrigerator held 86 packs of gummies.

The Broward County school district said it made sure the affected students received immediate medical attention and their parents were notified. Officials said they are working with police and their own investigators on the case, and that students who have such items will be disciplined.

Coconut Creek Police said parents or children seeking more information can call the department at 954-973-6700. [ljtrischitta@sunsentinel.com](mailto:ljtrischitta@sunsentinel.com) or 954-356-4233

# Trump to host China leader at Mar-a-Lago

*By Brett Clarkson Staff writer*

The White House confirmed Thursday that President Donald Trump will host Chinese President Xi Jinping at Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate on April 6 and 7.

The summit will be the first between Trump and his Chinese counterpart. A White House statement said the leaders will "discuss global, regional and bilateral issues of mutual concern."

Asked in a news briefing Thursday how Mar-a-Lago was chosen as the venue, White House spokesman Sean Spicer would say only that the two countries negotiated the planning of the talks over several weeks.

"I'm not going to get into the back and forth," Spicer said. "I would just suggest to you that both sides discussed various locations and topics and agendas and length, et cetera, and aspects to the trip. And this is what we've arrived at."

Spicer was also asked whether the Trump administration was eyeing a particular vision of the U.S.-China relationship in the Trump era — and whether such a framework could be summed up like the Obama administration's "pivot" to Asia.

"We'll see," Spicer said. "I'm not — if you have any hashtags, let me know. But I think right now we're not worried so much about slogans as much as progress."

Spicer added that some of the priority issues up for discussion will be trade, North Korea and territorial disputes in the South China Sea.

Xi is expected to stay at the Eau Palm Beach Resort and Spa in Manalapan, according to media reports, though the hotel would not confirm those reports.

"Regrettably, I can't comment," said Nick Gold, a spokesman for the hotel. He did add that the resort was sold out the nights of April 6 and 7.

The luxury resort, formerly the Ritz Carlton, is about 7 miles south of Mar-a-Lago, or about a 15-minute drive down A1A, according to Google Maps.

President Barack Obama stayed at what was then the Ritz Carlton while campaigning for re-election in July 2012, and Vice-President Joe Biden responded to the Colorado movie-theater mass shooting in a speech to a law enforcement conference at the same hotel days later.

President Trump and first lady Melania Trump will also host President Xi and his wife, Peng Liyuan, at a dinner on April 6.

It will be Trump's sixth visit to Palm Beach since taking office and his second that would include a meeting with a foreign leader.

In February, Trump hosted the Japanese prime minister, Shinzo Abe, at Mar-a-Lago. Photos were posted to social media by other members of the Trump-owned estate and social club who watched as the two leaders and their aides huddled to discuss then-emerging reports that North Korea had just conducted a missile test.

Trump's visits to Mar-a-Lago have drawn criticism over the cost of securing the property while the president is in town, while other businesses, including local airports, have complained about the adverse impact of flight restrictions that accompany each Trump visit.

## Pedestrian deaths spiked in 2016, distraction cited

*By Joan Lowy Associated Press*



SPENCER PLATT/GETTY Pedestrian deaths in the United States are on the rise, increasing 11 percent in 2016, researchers found.

WASHINGTON — Pedestrian deaths are climbing faster than motorist fatalities, reaching nearly 6,000 deaths last year — the highest total in more than two decades, according to an analysis of preliminary state data released Thursday.

Increased driving due to an improved economy, lower gas prices and more walking for exercise and environmental factors are some of the likely reasons behind the estimated 11 percent spike in pedestrian fatalities in 2016. The figures were prepared for the Governors Highway Safety Association, which represents state highway safety offices.

But researchers say they think the biggest factor may be more drivers and walkers distracted by cellphones and other electronic devices, although that's hard to confirm.

Walking and miles driven are up only a few percentage points, and are unlikely to account for most of the surge in pedestrian deaths, said Richard Retting, of Sam Schwartz Transportation Consultants and the author of the report. Meanwhile, use of wireless devices have exploded, he said.

"It's the only factor that that seems to indicate a dramatic change in how people behave," Retting said.

The report is based on data from all states and the District of Columbia for the first six months of 2016 and extrapolated for the rest of the year. It shows the largest annual increase in both the number and percentage of pedestrian fatalities in the more than 40 years those national records on such deaths have been kept, with the second largest increase occurring in 2015. Pedestrian deaths as a share of total motor vehicle crash deaths increased from 11 percent in 2006 to 15 percent in 2015.

## Is the lady in the vault at fault?

### \$6M diamond switcheroo falls through; suspect arrested

*By Adam Sacasa | Staff writer*



COURTESY PHOTO Surveillance video shows the suspect and jeweler Vladislav "Bobby" Yampolsky.



CARLINE JEAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Vladislav "Bobby" Yampolsky of ECJ Luxe Collection in Boca Raton leaves the vault where he locked in the woman.





HANDOUT/COURTESY



CARLINE JEAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER This diamond ring was among the \$6 million in gems.



Fatima Milanovic, above, tried to switch a package of fake diamonds for real ones, investigators say. Vladislav "Bobby" Yampolsky, top, grew wary and locked her in the vault.

Jeweler Vladislav "Bobby" Yampolsky sensed something was wrong about the woman trying to buy more than \$6 million in diamonds from his store in Boca Raton. She claimed to represent a potential diamond buyer, but didn't carry any tools of the trade to inspect the jewels.

Then she tried to distract Yampolsky several times while the diamonds sat on a table, police said.

Yampolsky wasn't falling for it. He swiftly locked the woman in a vault and called police.

Fatima Milanovic, 46, was booked into the Palm Beach County Jail on charges of grand theft and organized fraud.

She had arrived at the Mizner Park business, ECJ Luxe Collection, 332 Plaza Real, on March 18 representing a potential buyer in a deal that had been in the works for weeks, store owner Yampolsky told Sun Sentinel news partner WPEC-CBS12.

The deal was for 11 stones worth \$6.7 million, according to a police report.

Yampolsky told police he became suspicious shortly after Milanovic arrived, especially after he took her to a secure vault room where large transactions are handled so she could inspect the diamonds.

"She came here to inspect stones without bringing any tools, no magnifying glass, no diamond dealer's loupe, nothing, so it was obvious she was about to pull something," Yampolsky said.

After looking at the diamonds, Milanovic agreed to the deal but insisted on wrapping the items inside her own packing material, police said.

She had a similar package inside her bag and tried to switch the two, investigators said

"That's how she tried to scam us," Yampolsky said. "She brought her own materials, wrapped it herself with her own tape and tried to pull the switch because she had the identical package in her bag, pre-made." The diamonds in that package were fake, Yampolsky told investigators.

That's when Yampolsky left and locked Milanovic inside the vault room.

According to the arrest report, surveillance video from inside the room shows Milanovic making a phone call and then "she starts to rip up and attempt to destroy the pre-made package that was already in her purse."

Police gave no address for Milanovic, but said she carried a French passport. She was released from jail on \$50,000 bond. [asacasa@sun-sentinel.com](mailto:asacasa@sun-sentinel.com) 561-243-6607



# Mental health and security critical to student

**success** *By Norm Tripp*



University of West Florida student Timothy Jones stood in front of legislators, students, university officials and journalists at Florida's Capitol on Wednesday, and told them about his time in the military and his resulting struggles with post-traumatic stress disorder. Without the university counseling centers, said the senior communications major, he might not be on the path to graduate this spring. Timothy's story, told during a news conference highlighting the State University System budget requests, represents one of more than 24,700 cases annually in which university counseling centers were a critical factor in student success. In fact, Florida's 12 universities have seen a 55 percent increase in the number of clients and a 65 percent increase in the number of counseling sessions provided since 2008-2009, and the demand has far outpaced the ability of universities to keep up. That need is why the State University System is working to keep the issue front-and-center this year as we advocate for \$14 million for university mental health and security. The funding would help add 137 mental health staff and 150 police officers to Florida's universities and bring them up to minimum national recommended ratios in both areas.

The law enforcement component of the request can be explained simply. Mass shootings have called for a different kind of policing in recent years, and that requires more staff and better equipment. But the country's mental health crisis (and it is, indeed, a crisis) has snuck up quietly, and the solutions are complex.

A national survey of student counseling centers found that 41 percent of students are seeking individual or group counseling, up from 9 percent in 2006. Of those student clients, 52 percent had serious psychological issues and 26 percent were on psychiatric medication. Another national survey of students found that 57 percent were experiencing overwhelming anxiety and 35 percent said they were so depressed it was "difficult to function."

Meanwhile, the demand for services in Florida continues to rise at an alarming rate. Between the 2014-15 and 2015-16 academic years, the number of emergency or crisis visits more than doubled from 4,200 to 9,100, mostly due to severe depression,

acute anxiety, and suicidal ideation. Over the same span, the number of involuntary Baker Act hospitalizations rose from 300 to 440 students. Mental health professionals have asserted various reasons for the spike in recent years, including higher levels of anxiety and depression resulting from information and technology overload, increased financial stress, and inadequate community mental health programs. Additionally, an increasing number of students are arriving on campus with pre-existing emotional and behavioral health issues.

To address the volume of students seeking help, universities have expanded initiatives to identify and monitor students with serious mental or behavioral problems and implemented measures that promote campus safety while also impacting student retention and success. But as resources are redirected to meet the needs of the soaring number of students seeking mental health counseling, those programs are struggling.

To optimize student success and safety, we must acknowledge that mental health services and law enforcement officers are areas of critical importance. That's the only way to keep our campuses secure and our students like Timothy and so many others on the path to healthy, successful lives.

*Norm Tripp is a member of the Board of Governors, which oversees the State University System of Florida, and chair of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee.*

Between the 2014-15 and 2015-16 academic years, the number of emergency or crisis visits more than doubled from 4,200 to 9,100, mostly due to severe depression, acute anxiety, and suicidal ideation.

# **Town Crier**

## **Keeping Wellington Safe Is A Community Effort**

By Julie Unger at March 24, 2017 | 12:05 am |



*ABOVE: PBSO Lt. Eli Shaivitz, Wellington Community Services Director Paulette Edwards and PBCFR Battalion Chief Michael Arena.*

Wellington is a safe place, but there's always room for improvement" was the general tone as Wellington's Public Safety Committee met Wednesday, March 22.

A village-wide Neighborhood Watch meeting, Community Services Director Paulette Edwards said, will take place Wednesday, April 19 at 6 p.m. at the Wellington Community Center.

Neighborhood Watch Captain John Schwiner, of Greenview Shores 1, provided a background on the value of neighborhood watch groups and CrimeStoppers. He explained the importance of the programs, and the advantages of letting the community know to report what they see, but not get involved in anything that seems suspicious. Residents who observe something should call the PBSO's non-emergency number, (561) 688-3400.

Palm Beach County Fire-Rescue District Chief Michael Arena said that there has been a slight increase in response times year over year.

"We're monitoring that closely," he said.

However, the increase does not always follow when broken down on a month-to-month basis.

Arena compared the data. In December 2015, there were 452 calls with a response time of 6 minutes and 51 seconds, whereas in December 2016, there were 488 calls with a response time of 6 minutes and 51 seconds.

“It was the same, even though the call load increased a little bit,” he said.

January 2016 had 438 calls with a response time of 6 minutes and 43 seconds, while January 2017 had 476 calls with a response time of 6 minutes and 39 seconds. The calls increased, yet the response time decreased, Arena noted.

“Even though we’ve seen a noticeable trend in increase in calls, it’s not like that every month,” he said.

For example, in February 2016, there were 465 calls, and in February 2017 there were 435 calls, yet the response time only changed by one second, from 6 minutes and 52 seconds in 2016 to 6 minutes and 53 seconds in 2017.

“We’re constantly looking at ways to improve it,” Arena said of the average response times.

The times Arena mentioned include the dispatch handling time, the time it takes for the firefighters to get the call and get the truck moving, and the travel time to the destination. As the population density increased, Arena explained, it does take longer to get through the roads.

Committee Member Matt Kurit asked Arena if there was anything the committee could do, or suggest as a recommendation to the council, to help Palm Beach County Fire-Rescue.

“One of the things that can always help is getting the word out to the people when they hear the sirens, whether it is for us or the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office, to get out of the way. It seems, in this age of distracted driving, the public sometimes, they’re just not paying attention,” Arena said.

Lt. Eli Shaivitz of the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office District 8 substation in Wellington reported that from October 2015 to September 2016, last year’s fiscal year, crimes against persons were up from 461 to 471 and crimes against property were down from 1,724 to 1,422. Vehicle burglaries and residential burglaries, he explained, are cyclical. Though the numbers may be up this year, they were down last year.

During season, he said, there is a larger population, and therefore more crashes.

“Generally speaking, if you average it out, we have about 100 crashes a month in the village,” Shaivitz said.

During the year, the PBSO participates in programs such as Shop with a Cop, food drives, toy drives, bike to school day, backpack giveaways and other events.

When Kurit asked if there was anything that the committee could do to help, Shaivitz said that the Wellington Village Council, along with management and staff, have been good to the PBSO in making sure that the local substation has all the tools it needs.

# **Protect Yourself: Tax Time Is Also High Time For Identity Theft**

By Town-Crier Editor at March 24, 2017 | 12:02 am

Identity theft: the scourge of modern America, where criminals use our technological conveniences against us to steal money, steal credit and use our own information against us.

It's estimated that 15.4 million consumers were hit with some kind of identity theft in 2016, according to Javelin Strategy & Research, up from 13.1 million the year before. And with tax filing season in full swing, you can expect millions of tax filers to be targeted between now and mid-April. Stolen refund checks are among the top targets of identity theft thieves.

For 2017, the Internal Revenue Service has joined with representatives of the software industry, tax preparation firms, payroll and tax financial product processors, and state tax administrators to combat identity theft refund fraud to protect the nation's taxpayers. These include new log-on standards if you file your taxes electronically.

Regardless of what the IRS is doing to protect your identity, all individuals should be aware of what they can do to reduce the chance of being a victim. Security measures that individuals can take include:

- Always use security software with firewall and anti-virus protections.
- Use strong passwords for all online accounts, including both lowercase and uppercase letters, numbers and symbols.
- Recognize and avoid "phishing" e-mails, as well as threatening calls and texts from thieves posing as legitimate organizations such as your bank, credit card companies and even the IRS.
- Don't click on e-mail hyperlinks or download attachments from unknown or suspicious e-mails.
- Protect your personal data, by ensuring that your tax records are secure, and do not routinely carry your Social Security card.

Even following these precautions do not guarantee absolute safety. If someone wants to hack into your background and steal your identity, they will definitely work multiple ways to gain access.

If you are a victim of identity theft, the Federal Trade Commission recommends these steps:

- File a complaint with the FTC at [www.identitytheft.gov](http://www.identitytheft.gov).
- Contact one of the three major credit bureaus to place a "fraud alert" on your credit records: Equifax, Experian or TransUnion.
- Contact your financial institutions and close any financial or credit accounts opened without your permission or tampered with by identity thieves.
- If your Social Security Number has been compromised, and you know or suspect you are a victim of tax-related identity theft, the IRS urges you to contact them immediately, either by phone at (800) 829-1040 or online at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). You can also go to [www.irs.gov/individuals/identity-protection](http://www.irs.gov/individuals/identity-protection) for more specialized information on dealing with identity theft.

But remember, it's not just your tax refunds that might be targeted. The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office has identified several areas of identity theft concern, including if your monthly credit card and bank statements suddenly stop arriving, you are denied credit for no apparent

reason, you start getting bills from companies you do not recognize or credit collection agencies try to collect on debts that do not belong to you.

If you do become a victim, be sure to report the crime to the Federal Trade Commission. The FTC collects complaints about identity theft from consumers and stores them in a secure online database available to law enforcement agencies worldwide. The FTC provides information on ways to resolve problems resulting from identity theft and refers individuals to various private and government agencies for further action. Learn more at [www.consumer.gov/scams](http://www.consumer.gov/scams).

## **The Sun**

### **Pahokee man charged with 1989 cold case murder**

Special to The Sun PAHOKEE — Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Cold Case Detectives recently got an indictment from the Grand Jury, bringing a 1989 open homicide case to fruition. On March 23 detectives obtained an indictment charging Clarence Butler, 62, of Pahokee, with First Degree Murder in connection with the death of Simmie Harris.

Simmie Harris was stabbed multiple times in his apartment between July 4, 1989 and July 5, 1989, according to the PBSO report.

Butler was located, arrested

and booked into the Palm Beach County jail. Butler's first court appearance was March 24 when Judge Dina Keever-Agrama denied his request for bond. The judge also ordered that Butler have no contact with the victim's family.



**Clarence Butler**



## Crime Stoppers

Special to The Sun PALM BEACH COUNTY – Crime Stoppers of Palm Beach County needs your help locating Anthony Woods, 33, black male, 5'6" tall, 140 lbs., black hair, brown eyes and has multiple tattoos. Woods last known address was South Jordan Boulevard in Pahokee.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-458-TIPS (8477) or you can remain anonymous by downloading

our new app "Connect & Protect", "See Something Say Something" for your Apple or Android Smart Phone.



**Anthony Woods**

## Crime Stoppers needs your help locating Silver Bean

Mar 30th, 2017 · by [Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office](#), [Special to The Sun](#) · Comments: 0

PALM BEACH COUNTY – Crime Stoppers of Palm Beach County needs your help locating Silver Bean, 36, black female, 5'2" tall, 150 lbs., black hair and brown eyes.

Bean's last known address was Azucana Road in South Bay.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-458-TIPS (8477) or you can remain anonymous by downloading our new app "Connect & Protect", "See Something Say Something" for your Apple or Android Smart Phone.

**From:** [Anderson, Cassandra L](#)  
**Subject:** News Clips 4/2/2017  
**Date:** Monday, April 03, 2017 2:57:18 PM  
**Attachments:** [News Clips.docx](#)

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## **News Clip 4/2/2017**

### **Palm Beach Post**

# **Plane that crashed in 2015, killing 2, too damaged to determine cause A Lake Worth and Jupiter man were killed in the crash.**

*By Mike Stucka Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Too much of this airplane was shattered and burned away to determine why it crashed in March 2015, killing David Whitney of Lake Worth and William Mahn of Jupiter. NTSB

A plane that crashed into a central Palm Beach County swamp, killing two in March 2015, was so burned away that it's impossible to determine what caused the wreck, a federal agency says.

The final report from the National Transportation Safety Board says the crash was caused by "an in-flight loss of control for reasons that could not be determined based on the available evidence." The airplane crashed into the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee Wildlife Refuge in March 2015, killing veteran airline pilot David Whitney, 64, of Lake Worth and William Mahn, 66, of Jupiter.

Witnesses fishing a half-mile from the crash site reported hearing the airplane sputter, then rev up. They heard a loud boom 30 seconds later and saw smoke coming from the wreckage.

The NTSB says the Colyaer Freedom airplane "was in a steep descent when it impacted a swamp," with a crash scene that suggests a loss of control followed by an uncontrolled descent.

The fire that came with the crash burned away evidence that might have revealed why the airplane crashed. The intense fire burned away most of the airplane's fuselage, scorched a wing, and wrecked many of the engine components.

The report offers few clues about what might have gone wrong. Whitney had been trying to sell the airplane for \$119,000, saying he hadn't been flying it as much as he'd wanted to; he advertised it in "Like New" condition. The airplane itself had been inspected two weeks before the crash.

One potential buyer thought there was a vibration; a manufacturer inspected the airplane the day of the crash and said it could have been from a poorly balanced engine or propeller. The mechanic reportedly could not remember if he'd balanced the propeller, and the NTSB found a propeller extension shaft was about twice as long as the manufacturer recommended.

Whitney had severe coronary artery disease and was taking several allergy medicines that can cause drowsiness. He cleared a medical exam just a month earlier. He'd been flying for American Airlines since 1979, and before that flew refueling aircraft for the U.S. Air Force.

A memory chip recovered from a GPS unit that was partially melted away shows the airplane leaving the Lantana airport and maneuvering over the wildlife refuge. The plane crashed somewhere past the end of Boynton Beach Boulevard.

The airplane wasn't particularly high-performance. The GPS chip showed it was traveling at highway speeds no more than a half-mile above the ground. It was amphibious, and the pilots planned to fly to an Okeechobee airport for lunch and then return to their hangar at Lake Osborne.

Mahn was a student pilot who'd taken lessons from two companies and was studying to get a private pilot license. His wife said she didn't think Whitney, a friend, would have let him fly the plane. [mstucka@pbpost.com](mailto:mstucka@pbpost.com)

### ACREAGE **Northlake closed due to brush fires in Acreage**

Several agencies battled a 60-acre fire near The Acreage on Friday. The fire closed North-lake Boulevard between Coconut Boulevard and 140th Avenue North until after 10 p.m. as crews fought the fire, but it did not threaten any homes, Palm Beach County Fire Rescue said. Helicopters dropped water on fire spots throughout the area, according to the Florida Fire Service.

— HANNAH WINSTON

CRIME STOPPERS These suspects were wanted as of Thursday:

**Dominique McFarlane**, 29, is accused of possession of cocaine and drug paraphernalia, burglary, grand theft and dealing in stolen property. Born June 15, 1987, she is 5 feet 5 inches and 130 pounds, with black hair, brown eyes and multiple tattoos. Her last known address was on Miramar Avenue in Royal Palm Beach.

**Lonnorris Noble**, 25, is accused of robbery and aggravated assault with a firearm. Born Nov. 8, 1991, he is 5 feet 11 inches and 150 pounds, with black hair, brown eyes and multiple tattoos.

Call Crime Stoppers at 800-458-TIPS (8477).



McFarlane



Noble

## Ex-deputy sentenced for pretending to still be law enforcer

## After month in jail, Adam Shockey gets 3 years' probation.

*By Daphne Duret Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Shockey

With a full beard covering noticeably paler skin, former Palm Beach County sheriff's Deputy Adam Shockey shuffled into a courtroom from a holding cell Friday and stood shackled next to his former colleagues, who were ready to take him back to jail if it came to that.

After a brief hearing, however, Circuit Judge John Kastrenakes decided that 39 days in jail — 36 served in solitary confinement — was enough time behind bars for a January 2016 incident where Shockey pretended he was still a deputy even though he'd left the sheriff's office nearly five years earlier.

"I regret the entire incident your honor," Shockey told the judge. "I'm actually very embarrassed to be here. I've worked with everyone here, and seeing my mom cry, it's. ..."

Shockey shook his head and choked back tears, unable to finish his thought.

Kastrenakes sentenced Shockey to three years of probation after some harsh words for what he described as the "retired" deputy whose sheriff's office career ended in 2011 after 14 years.

The sentence comes more than a month after a Palm Beach County jury convicted him of impersonating a police officer in a case in which jurors were forced to choose whether Shockey had broken the law or merely been a good Samaritan.

Shockey broke up an argument between a young man and an older woman over a chair at the Florida Atlantic University library, according to testimony.

Shockey said he never identified himself as a deputy, but student Michael Lugo said Shockey flashed a badge, told him he was a cop and demanded he hand over his identification before he copied Lugo's personal information into his phone.

His attorney, Assistant Public Defender Allie Menegakis, told jurors that Shockey was helping the woman he watched Lugo assault and taking down his information to have it in case Lugo harmed someone later.

Assistant State Attorney Victoria Goldberg on Friday told Kastrenakes that even if Shockey's version of events were true, he still behaved inappropriately and his actions showed problems with "day-to-day" decision-making capabilities.

Shockey's mother, Darlene Norman, simply asked Kastrenakes for her son to come home, saying she didn't think he could handle spending more time in solitary

confinement. Shockey had been free until his conviction in late February, and although Kastrenakes immediately ordered him to jail, he asked deputies to keep him away from the general population because of his former job. Since then, Shockey told the judge, he has been on lockdown 24 hours a day, taking his meals in his cell.

Kastrenakes rejected Menegakis' request that he withhold a finding of guilt, a move that would have allowed Shockey to keep his law enforcement certificates to work in corrections by keeping a felony conviction off his record.

The judge called Shockey a "good man" and acknowledged that he'd never before been in trouble with the law, but said his actions made it harder for the former colleagues standing next to them to do their jobs.

As part of Shockey's sentence, Kastrenakes ordered him Friday to turn over any remaining badges he has. [dduret@pbpost.com](mailto:dduret@pbpost.com)

## TRUMP IN PALM BEACH

# Trump wary, China hopeful on visit Presidents to meet Thursday, Friday at Mar-a-Lago against backdrop of Trump's past harsh rhetoric.

*By George Bennett Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

## PRESIDENTS' WEEK IN PALM BEACH COUNTY

- Latest details on the presidential visit
- How tiny Lantana is bracing for Chinese president's visit
- The luxurious hotel where Xi is expected to stay [mypalmbeachpost.com/donaldtrump](https://www.mypalmbeachpost.com/donaldtrump)



President Donald Trump tweeted that his summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping "will be a very difficult one."





President Donald Trump will meet Chinese President Xi Jinping this week at Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach. "We're going to get down to some very serious business" at the summit, Trump said Friday as he signed a pair of executive orders aimed at cracking down on trade infractions by China and others. RICHARD GRAULICH / THE PALM BEACH POST 2009

PALM BEACH — President Donald Trump normally exudes bravado, but he's been uncharacteristically cautious in setting expectations for his upcoming summit at Mar-a-Lago with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Trump, who regularly slammed China on trade and other issues during the 2016 presidential campaign, will meet with Xi for the first time on Thursday and Friday. "The meeting next week with China will be a very difficult one in that we can no longer have massive trade deficits and job losses. American companies must be prepared to look at other alternatives," Trump told his Twitter followers on Thursday. "We're going to get down to some very serious business" at the Palm Beach summit, Trump said Friday as he signed a pair of executive orders aimed at cracking down on trade infractions by China and others.

State-run Chinese media, meanwhile, has been downplaying Trump's past criticism of China and putting a hopeful spin on the summit.

"The upcoming face-to-face meeting between the two presidents is a good opportunity to deepen their personal understanding of each other and to strengthen mutual trust," said a Friday commentary on the Chinese site XinhuaNet. "A strong personal relationship between heads of state often plays a critical and sometimes even indispensable role in helping promote the relations between their countries." A recent commentary in People's Daily, an official organ of the Chinese Communist Party, said U.S.-China relations "seem to have found a good rhythm" after "earlier inappropriate words and actions from the U.S. new administration."

Along with his criticism of Mexican “rapists” and shots at “Crooked” Hillary Clinton, some of Trump’s harshest rhetoric as a candidate was directed at China.

“We can’t continue to allow China to rape our country, and that’s what they’re doing. It’s the greatest theft in the history of the world,” Trump said of China’s trade policies during a May 1 campaign rally in Indiana.

He frequently accused China of artificially lowering the value of its currency to promote its exports and hurt U.S. jobs and businesses. He threatened to slap a 45 percent tariff on Chinese imports. He accused China of not doing enough to rein in North Korean nuclear proliferation and of “overreach” in the South China Sea, where the Chinese are creating islands in disputed waters for apparent military use.

After winning the election in November, Trump appointed China critic Peter Navarro — author of books called “Death By China” and “The Coming China Wars” — to be director of the White House National Trade Council.

Trump also riled the Chinese in December by taking a congratulatory phone call from Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen. Taiwan split from mainland communist China in 1949 and the U.S. severed formal relations with the island in 1979; the call was seen as casting doubt on America’s longstanding “One China” policy of recognizing only mainland China.

When some suggested Trump should have cleared the Taiwanese conversation with China, Trump tweeted: “Did China ask us if it was OK to devalue their currency (making it hard for our companies to compete), heavily tax our products going into their country (the U.S. doesn’t tax them) or to build a massive military complex in the middle of the South China Sea? I don’t think so!”

Trump has walked back some of his tough talk since taking office. Despite his defiant Twitter stance on the Taiwan call, Trump reaffirmed U.S. support for the One China policy during a Feb. 9 phone call with Xi that the White House described as “extremely cordial.”

And Trump did not act on his campaign pledge to label China a “currency manipulator” on his first day in office. Asked about that Friday, White House press secretary Sean Spicer said, “I’m sure there will be a lot of discussions about our economic relationship” at the Mar-a-Lago summit.

One of the few aspects of China that Trump hasn’t criticized is its human rights record. The nonprofit Human Rights Watch calls China “a one-party authoritarian state that systemically curbs fundamental rights.”

As he sought the Republican nomination in early 2016, Trump drew fire for a 1990 Playboy magazine interview in which he noted the “strength” with which the Chinese government cracked down on protesters a year earlier in Tiananmen Square.

"When the students poured into Tiananmen Square, the Chinese government almost blew it. Then they were vicious, they were horrible, but they put it down with strength. That shows you the power of strength. Our country is right now perceived as weak ... as being spit on by the rest of the world," Trump said in 1990.

Asked about his Tiananmen Square remarks during a March 2016 GOP debate in Miami, Trump said: "I was not endorsing it. I said that is a strong, powerful government that put it down with strength. And then they kept down the riot. It was a horrible thing. It doesn't mean at all I was endorsing it."

Florida Republican Sen. Marco Rubio last week urged Trump to bring up China's human rights record during the summit with Xi.

"It is imperative that the president raise the plight of political prisoners and human rights activists by name in his discussions with Chinese President Xi Jinping, and press for their immediate and unconditional release," Rubio said in a statement Thursday after The Palm Beach Post asked for his thoughts on the Trump-Xi meeting.

"As those being persecuted have said, this kind of pressure often results in improved conditions and shorter sentences, not to mention the incalculable hope that comes from knowing they have not been forgotten by the United States of America," Rubio said. [gbennett@pbpost.com](mailto:gbennett@pbpost.com) [Twitter: @gbennettpost](https://twitter.com/gbennettpost)

## **POINT OF VIEW TEXTING WHILE DRIVING**

### **Drivers' texting is nothing to 'LOL' about**

It happens on a regular basis. While driving through traffic, a car drifts into your lane, stops short ahead of you, or is driving erratically. Moments later, you get a look at the driver and see his eyes affixed to a cellphone in front of the steering wheel.

Texting while driving has become a nationwide epidemic leading to documented, tragic consequences. Traffic fatalities in Florida are on the rise — increasing by 18 percent from 2014 to 2015 — as are the number of crashes caused by distracted driving. In 2011, distracted drivers were responsible for 21 deaths. By 2015, that number spiked to 216 deaths, with an underlying 45,740 distracted driving crashes across the state.

While texting and driving may sound more innocent than, say, drunken driving, it is far more dangerous. A study by the Transport Research Laboratory found that a texting driver's reaction time was delayed by 37 percent, compared to 13 percent for a drunken driver.

Florida has historically imposed tough DUI laws to crack down on drunken driving, but has neglected to act against the more perilous issue of texting while driving. Unfortunately, the Legislature has been soft in regulating texting while driving. Florida is just one of five states that make the practice a "secondary offense." That means that even when a police officer witnesses a driver on his phone, he does not have the authority to stop that car unless he observes the driver committing a separate offense. As it stands, the law hamstring's law enforcement's ability to keep the roads safe from a danger surpassing drunken driving. To put this in perspective, imagine that DUI was a secondary offense, and that a police officer who positively knew a driver was above the legal limit lacked authority to stop that driver until he commits a traffic offense, or worse, takes a life.

Despite a failed attempt last year by lawmakers to make texting while driving a primary offense, the Legislature is back at it with new bills aimed at controlling the deadly practice. One bill (HB 47) would finally bring Florida in line with most of the nation by making texting while driving a "primary offense," meaning that a police officer could pull over a motorist upon observing him on his phone.

Another bill (HB 69) seeks only to make texting while driving a primary offense for those under

18. Hardly a solution and more of a fake, this bill ignores the reality that people of all ages use their phones while driving and puts police officers in the impossible position of having to guess a driver's age before enforcing the law. However, the main problem with HB 69 is that it sanctions texting while driving by treating it as a skill that can be honed with age. Applying HB 69's logic to our DUI laws, an overwhelming number of drivers could drive drunk with impunity. If public safety is truly the Legislature's objective, it must make texting while driving a primary offense and give police the ability to protect Floridians from a known, deadly threat. Anything less assures more carnage and destruction on Florida's roads.

**IRA H. LEESFIELD AND ADAM T. ROSE**, MIAMI Editor's note: Ira H. Leesfield is founder and managing partner, and Adam T. Rose is an associate at Leesfield Sclaro.



WEST BOCA

## Sobering message Mock DUI crash warns students to drive safely

*By Marci Shatzman Staff writer*



PHOTOS BY SUSAN STOCKER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Top, Lukrecija Rimkute, Preston Rambharose, Dario Mendoza Llor and fellow medical academy students at West Boca High participate in a Dori Saves Lives Foundation Shattered Dreams crash re-enactment to educate classmates on the dangers of distracted and impaired driving. Middle, Palm Beach County Fire Rescue personnel join in the simulation



Above, the county Health Care District's Trauma Hawk team receives a mock crash victim. The teen who landed on the car hood didn't make it, but Trauma Hawk arrived to take a hurt passenger to the hospital. Luckily the scene was from "Shattered Dreams," a crash re-enactment for West Boca High School's student body, that played out on the athletic field March 14 to warn against drinking and driving, especially during prom season. After a black sedan crashed into a tow truck, the female driver was given a sobriety test, handcuffed and driven away by Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office deputies. The passenger who landed on the hood was pronounced dead, zipped into a body bag and left the field in a Babione Funeral Home hearse. The Trauma Hawk was alerted to a severe injury and landed on the field for a possible rescue to Delray Medical Center.

"It leaves a lasting impression," said "Shattered Dreams" narrator David Summers, trauma nurse outreach coordinator, Health Care District Palm Beach County: Trauma Agency. "They take this message from high school to college and into adulthood." Some 2,500 crashes a year in Palm Beach County involve teen drivers, he added. "We feel something like this changes people's behavior," said Rebecca Lough, Dori Saves Lives spokeswoman.

Irv Slosberg, CEO of the public service organization dedicated to traffic safety, told the students how his daughter Dori died in a crash that killed five teens on Palmetto Park Road in 1996.

"Fire Rescue used a pry bar and electric saws and sledgehammers and popped the door off," said Nancy Shore, president of the West Boca High PTSA that assisted in the event.

Students in the school's Medical Academy played the driver and passengers.

"They took the severely injured kid and put him on the grass and an EMT was there trying to do CPR," Shore said of Palm Beach County Fire Rescue and paramedics.

The scared straight program has been around for 22 years.

"We usually do five to seven for prom or homecoming, and this year we're doing eight," Summers said. "I find it works. It's far more effective to see a live re-enactment of what happens if you're in a horrible accident. Telling kids is one thing, but actually showing... was extremely effective. If we can save one kid by this, that's all we need."

A program is planned at Olympic Heights High School April

6. [mshatzman@tronc.com](mailto:mshatzman@tronc.com)



# Fighting national opioid epidemic will take united front

*By Pam Bondi*



Our nation is in the grip of a deadly opioid epidemic.

An estimated 144 Americans die each day from drug overdoses. Many of them are Floridians.

The statistics are staggering. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that in 2015 more than 33,000 people in the United States died from opioid overdoses. More than 3,000 of those deaths occurred in Florida.

This epidemic must stop.

Running for attorney general in 2010, I heard countless stories from parents of deceased teens who overdosed and died after taking prescription drugs.

By the time I took office in 2011, the state was in a full-blown pill mill crisis. Ninety-eight of the top 100 oxycodone dispensers lived in Florida. Our state was known nationwide as the pill mill capital of the country.

Something had to be done.

I fought to bring together law enforcement, lawmakers and public health leaders. We passed legislation banning doctor shopping, implemented a prescription drug monitoring database and ultimately shutdown pain clinics handing out painkillers like candy.

Florida has since shed the title of pill mill capital, and today none of the top oxycodone dispensers live in Florida.

I also learned babies were being born drug exposed and immediately worked with the state Legislature to assemble the Prescription Drug Abuse and Newborn Task Force.

Chairing the task force, I worked with the Legislature to secure millions of recurring dollars to treat expectant mothers addicted to drugs. Since then, more than 8,000 mothers and their babies have received some form of treatment through this recurring appropriation.

During these crises, I also signed emergency orders banning many chemical compounds used to produce deadly synthetic opioids. Now 136 compounds are permanently illegal.

This session, I am supporting legislation to add Fentanyl to Florida's drug trafficking statute. Drug dealers now commonly mix Fentanyl with heroin—and users are unaware of what they are taking and sometimes think they are buying a Xanax or an over-the-counter pill—often resulting in instant addiction or even death.

My Office of Statewide Prosecution works tirelessly to prosecute drug traffickers shipping opioids throughout Florida. Since 2014, we have charged 148 people with charges related to trafficking heroin.

During a recent bust with the Drug Enforcement Administration and local law enforcement, we seized more than a million dollars' worth of heroin and arrested seven individuals on drug charges. We continue our work daily to investigate and dismantle major drug trafficking rings.

While all these actions are saving lives — Florida and our nation face an unprecedented threat from opioids flooding into our communities.

Heroin, mixed with deadly synthetic opioids from East Asia and illicitly produced Fentanyl from China, is entering our country often through the traditional smuggling route of Mexico. It makes its way to small American towns and big cities alike. Fentanyl and Carfentanil, both many times more potent than morphine, are being added to other illicit drugs like heroin and sold to unsuspecting users.

One dose of these dangerous opioid cocktails can kill instantly.

That is why Florida law enforcement alone cannot stop this national epidemic and I am deeply encouraged by President Donald Trump's creation of the Opioid and Drug Abuse Commission.

The commission is chaired by Governor Chris Christie and includes other leaders who will fight to reduce drug abuse. I am honored to work alongside these experts to help improve our nation's fight against drug abuse and trafficking, save lives and heal broken people.

*Pam Bondi is Florida attorney general.*

Today none of the top oxycodone dispensers live in Florida.

# Trump visits boost Boca airport traffic

*By Andy Reid Staff writer*



RANDY VAZQUEZ/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Boca Raton Airport traffic doubles on the weekends when President Donald Trump flies into town as pilots divert from the security zone.

When Air Force One lands in West Palm Beach, a parade of private jets descends on Boca Raton.

Boca Raton Airport is outside the reach of temporary security restrictions that kick in during presidential visits, temporarily grounding or delaying private flights at Palm Beach International Airport.

Now many pilots of private jets and other planes looking for alternatives during President Donald Trump's frequent visits to Palm Beach are instead heading to Boca Raton's small airfield near I-95.

Boca Raton Airport gets about 400 landings and takeoffs per weekend when the president is at his Mar-a-Lago estate. That's double the typical 200 per weekend, according to Executive Director Clara Bennett.

Small airports near Fort Lauderdale and in Stuart also report spikes in private jet traffic and other flights during Trump's visits to his Weekend White House.

The increase in travelers to those airports delivers an economic boost that can range from increased fuel sales at the airport to more customers at nearby hotels, restaurants and shops.

It takes careful flight scheduling and sometimes temporary parking on runways at Boca Raton Airport to accommodate all of the aircraft during Trump visits, Bennett said.

"We are seeing a doubling of activity," Bennett said. "It can be a little tricky."

The president has already made five weekend visits to Palm Beach since taking office Jan. 20 and is scheduled to be back next week, hosting Chinese President Xi Jinping on Thursday and Friday. Each presidential visit triggers temporary security restrictions intended to keep drivers, boaters and fliers away from Trump's oceanfront, 18-acre Mar-a-Lago estate.

Non-emergency aircraft are required to stay at least a mile away from Mar-a-Lago. Trump's part-time home in Palm Beach is less than three miles from the airport in West Palm Beach.

While commercial airline flights remain steady at Palm Beach International Airport during presidential visits, those temporary restrictions were likely to blame for a nearly 14 percent drop in private, general aviation flights during the month of February, according to the Palm Beach County Department of Airports.

Flight training, airplane rentals and sightseeing flights, like those coming from the county's nearby Lantana airport, are not allowed within 30 nautical miles of Mar-a-Lago when Trump is there.

Those flight restrictions have shut down much of the businesses at the Lantana airport during presidential visits. The weekends, when the president often visits, are usually the busiest times for flight training, advertisement banner pulling planes and other services that businesses there provide.

Local officials have so far failed to persuade the Secret Service to tweak flight restrictions to help the Lantana airport businesses, which have been left to suffer the economic losses or look for other places to fly.

Corporate jets and other private flights that want to land at Palm Beach International Airport when the president is in town first have to fly through the Secret Service's designated "gateway airports," where they go through a TSA security check.

Florida gateway airports include Orlando International Airport and Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport. Pilots can also opt to first stop at out-of-state gateway airports such as Dulles International Airport near Washington, D.C., and Teterboro Airport in New Jersey.

Pilots seeking to avoid that extra stop and security delay can fly straight to Boca Raton.

Boca Raton-based pilot Charles Brady, who flies corporate jets, said his clients have preferred to bypass Palm Beach International when the president is in town.

"The reason why people fly private is convenience," said Brady, who also owns a flight school at Boca Raton Airport. "Their time is much more valuable. ... They are looking to go nonstop and only get out once."

The influx of flights to Boca Raton Airport during Trump's second post-inauguration visit, over Presidents Day weekend, was one of the busiest in the airport's history,

Bennett said. So far this year, the North Perry Airport in Pembroke Pines has handled about 1,100 more flights than normal.

While avoiding flight restrictions could be one reason for the spike in traffic, better weather this year during the peak tourism season could also get some of the credit, said Greg Meyer, Broward County Aviation Department spokesman.

"A lot of things affect flight activity," Meyer said. "Is it attributable to the weather or is it attributable to Air Force One being 50 miles to the north?"

Martin County's Witham Field Airport in Stuart saw a big spike in air traffic during the "initial panic" from fliers when the presidential flight restrictions in West Palm Beach started, Airport Manager George Stokus said.

Even as more pilots start to adjust their flights to account for presidential visits, an increase in flights to Stuart has continued, he said.

During February, the airport in Stuart saw a nearly 40 percent increase in jet traffic compared with last year. The airport also sold almost twice as much fuel in February than normal, Stokus said.

"We are pumping more fuel. We are seeing more traffic come in," Stokus said. "The businesses are doing well. ... The hotels are loving [booking rooms at] the top season rates."

The big spikes and drops in private aircraft traffic during presidential visits are expected to become less dramatic as more pilots adjust to the new rules, according to local aviation officials.

While there has been a "noticeable decline" in private jet traffic and other general aviation flights at Palm Beach International Airport when temporary security restrictions are in place, more of those types of flights have started shifting to the days prior to and after the president is in town, Laura Beebe, deputy director of airport business affairs, wrote in an email to county officials.

The airport in Stuart, benefiting now from Trump's visits, had to endure flight restrictions that included its airspace when President Barack Obama used to visit Martin County, Stokus said.

While Trump's predecessor didn't fly in as often, his stays still "almost broke our businesses," Stokus said.

Also, there is a downside to the increase in business for Boca Raton Airport and the other airports getting an increase in customers during presidential visits.

The boost in flights means more noisy planes passing over Boca Raton neighborhoods not used to the intrusion. That has triggered complaints from residents not used to life in such a busy flight path.

"Boca Raton serves a densely populated area," Bennett said. "Communities that don't see aircraft as a rule are now getting [aircraft] and more of them."

Noise complaints to the airport in Stuart also increase along with the increased flight arrivals during Trump's visits to Palm Beach. "There's positives and negatives," Stokus said about the callers asking about the increased noise. "We just have to say, 'The president is in town.' "

*Staff writer Aric Chokey contributed to this report.*

**From:** [Anderson, Cassandra L](#)  
**Subject:** News Clips 4/3/2017  
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# **News Clip 4/3/2017**

## **Palm Beach Post**

**TRUMP IN PALM BEACH**

### **Lantana in limelight for Trump-Xi summit** Town to feel effects of Chinese leader's **visit** *By Alexandra Seltzer Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Dune Deck's Mimosa Café in Lantana overlooks the ocean and sits right next to the Eau Palm Beach Resort and Spa, where Chinese President Xi Jinping will be staying. Owner John Calomiris expects Xi's stay to disrupt his business, but says "it's exciting, too." LIBBY VOLGYES / SPECIAL TO THE PALM BEACH POST 2013



Secretary of State Rex Tillerson (left) shakes hands with Chinese President Xi Jinping last month before their meeting in Beijing at the Great Hall of the People.

LINTAO ZHANG / GETTY IMAGES

## **PRESIDENTS' WEEK IN PALM BEACH COUNTY**

- Latest details on the presidential visit
- How tiny Lantana is bracing for Chinese president's visit
- The luxurious hotel where Xi is expected to stay [myPalmBeachPost.com/donaldtrump](http://myPalmBeachPost.com/donaldtrump)



President Donald Trump arrives at the Mar-a-Lago Club on Palm Beach for the Gateway for Cancer Research St. Patrick's Day party. Trump will host Chinese President Xi Jinping at the estate Thursday and Friday. MEGHAN MCCARTHY / PALM BEACH DAILY NEWS

LANTANA — The tiny town of Lantana is preparing for what is likely its biggest happening in its nearly 100-year history.

In a historic event itself, President Donald Trump will meet this week with Chinese President Xi Jinping, who is expected to stay at the Eau Palm Beach Resort and Spa in Manalapan on Thursday and Friday. The hotel is just on the other side of the Intra-coastal Waterway from Lantana, adjacent to the town's beach and public parking. Security is expected to be so tight that it will shut down almost an entire portion of the town — nearly all of public beach parking. Police predict a "traffic nightmare" for residents and any brave visitors. All roads will be open, but traffic is expected to be "bumper to bumper."

"In a nutshell, I would pack up and go home now, go north as far as you can," Lantana Police Chief Sean Scheller told residents and the Town Council last week. David Stewart, Lantana's mayor of 17 years, said previous presidential visits didn't cause this much commotion.

"I remember when the president of Finland was here, and when our President George Bush was here, and when our President Gerald Ford was here. It was never any of those types of problems," he said. "It's amazing that, I mean, they weren't taking over anything."

The meetings between Trump and Xi are expected to take place at Mar-a-Lago, which is in Palm Beach, about 7 miles north of the Eau.

But with the Chinese president's presence comes a tremendous amount of additional security, separate even from what Trump brings to the area on his frequent visits. Those in Trump's arrival and departure path know what to expect: closed roads and airways and snarled traffic.

Authorities are expecting 40 Greyhound buses to drop people off near Lantana's beach with about 80 percent of the parking slotted by the Secret Service.

If there are too many protesters, the Secret Service might close the Lantana bridge. And some type of barrier will be set up Tuesday along a portion of Ocean Avenue and on Ocean Boulevard that will make that area look like an "impound."

But with all the chaos comes a benefit: a spot in the limelight.

"I think it's wonderful. I think it's great for the economy, and Florida, and right here for Lantana," said Boca Raton resident Carol Shiffman, who also lives in Connecticut. "It's the biggest thing to happen in the area. It's very special."

Lantana's mayor admits there are pros and cons.

"It's going to be a temporary inconvenience for security reasons if he does stay there, but it's just temporary and you have to look at the pluses that come with a visit by a president of a large country," Stewart said. "All the support staff it takes and all the additional business that local businesses will probably receive from that." Some business owners think the security will stop potential customers.



Across the street from the Eau is Plaza del Mar, which hosts an outdoor green market every Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Debbie Khan sells vegetables and fruits at the market, and is concerned her business will suffer.

"Don't shut down the minority or small local businesses," she said.

John Calomiris owns Dune Deck's Mimosa Café, a restaurant that sits next to the Eau atop the beach. Calomiris already is expecting the visit to slow his business. He's worried about customers being able to get to the restaurant, and if the bridge is closed, even his staff members. On average, he feeds between 300 and 400 people per day.

"It's a big loss for us, but it's exciting, too," Calomiris said.

Calomiris isn't moved by the Chinese president's stay, but smiles while wondering aloud if Trump might come to see Xi at the Eau.

"Maybe he wants to come here. Bring the president here," Calomiris said.

Dune Deck isn't planning anything different in case the presidents visit, but Calomiris said if Trump requests a particular dish, he'll make it. [aseltzer@pbpost.com](mailto:aseltzer@pbpost.com)

[Twitter: @alexseltzer](#)

## POST COVERAGE XI VISIT'S TOURISM IMPACT

# Tourism officials welcome global exposure Chinese president's stay may help attract international visitors.

*By Jennifer Sorentrue Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



The Eau Palm Beach Resort and Spa boasts ocean views and lush gardens. Tourism officials hope coverage of the Chinese leader's stay will help raise the county's profile. EAU PALM BEACH RESORT AND SPA



Last year the Eau was named the best resort on the state's Atlantic Coast in Conde Nast Traveler's annual readers' choice awards. EAU PALM BEACH RESORT AND SPA MANALAPAN — When Chinese President Xi Jinping comes to town this week to meet with President Donald Trump, he'll be staying at one of South Florida's most luxurious vacation spots — the beachfront Eau Palm Beach Resort and Spa in Manalapan.

The two-day visit is expected to again put the international spotlight on Palm Beach County's tourism industry, as media outlets from across the globe gather here to cover the summit.

Local tourism officials are hoping the coverage will help raise the county's profile as a destination for international visitors — particularly for those from China, which has become a key travel market for the United States in recent years. Chinese tourists are among the country's fastest-growing and highest-spending travel groups, according to the U.S. Travel Association.

The Eau resort hasn't confirmed Xi's visit, but Lantana Police Chief Sean Scheller has told town officials the Chinese president will be staying at the beachfront retreat while meeting with Trump at Mar-a-Lago on Thursday and Friday.

"Eau Palm Beach Resort and Spa is a Forbes Five-Star resort, and as a result the privacy of our guests is our number one priority," Nick Gold, the Eau's director of public relations, said in a statement released by the resort. "It is our policy not to comment on guests who may or may not be staying with us."

The Eau, located on a 7-acre site with ocean views and lush tropical gardens, underwent a major transformation in 2013 — dropping the Ritz-Carlton name and rebranding itself as a beach-front getaway for out-of-town guests and locals looking for a beachfront retreat.

Its amenities include an award-winning spa, four restaurants and lounges, three Har-Tru clay tennis courts, two pools, children and teen clubs, and more than 30,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor event space.

Xi's visit will mark the second time in five years that a president has stayed at the property.

Former President Barack Obama spent a night at the resort while on the campaign trail in 2012. The property was still operating under the Ritz-Carlton brand during Obama's stay.

County tourism officials say this week's summit has already drawn the attention of Chinese media.

"Since the announcement of President Xi's visit to Palm Beach, we've received increased interest from Chinese media to learn more about the destination from a tourism perspective," said Ashley Svarney, director of public relations and communications for Discover The Palm Beaches, the county's official tourism marketing corporation. "We believe that the global exposure will highlight the Palm Beaches even more to potential visitors from China."

Chinese journalists have specifically requested information about things to do in the Palm Beaches, luxury accommodations, shopping and golfing, Svarney said.

China was the third-largest overseas inbound travel market to the U.S. in 2015, and is projected to be the largest by 2021, according to a report released last year by the U.S. Travel Association. In 2015, roughly 2.6 million Chinese travelers visited the U.S., spending an average of \$7,201 during their trip — more than visitors from any other country, the association said.

Roughly 312,000 Chinese tourists traveled to Florida in 2016, a 7 percent increase from 2015's level, tourism officials said. Palm Beach County tourism officials hope Xi's visit will help draw more of those visitors here, Svarney said.

"Though this opportunity, we aim to inspire more Chinese visitors to travel here, to this part of Florida," Svarney said. "Every time a journalist broadcasts or shares photos from The Palm Beaches, a global audience sees a taste of this slice of paradise."

The Eau isn't the only posh retreat on the county's coast. Within fewer than 10 miles, Palm Beach sports three luxury hotels — the Eau, The Four Seasons and The Breakers — arguably the most concentrated area of high-profile resorts in Florida.

The three hotels are consistently ranked among the best in the state.

Last year, the Eau was named the best resort on the state's Atlantic Coast in Condé Nast Traveler's annual readers' choice awards. The Four Seasons and The Breakers ranked in the Top 20.

The Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Awards are considered to be among the most prestigious in the tourism industry. It marked the second year in a row the beachfront resort made the list. More than 300,000 readers cast votes to determine last year's winners.



The Eau and The Four Seasons have also earned top marks from Forbes Travel Guide. In February, Forbes awarded both properties its Five-Star hotel designation — the highest ranking awarded by travel guide. It marked the second year in a row the Eau had received the top honor.

Eau Palm Beach was also awarded the Five-Star designation for its spa — marking the third consecutive year the Eau Spa has received the top designation. [jsorenttrue@pbpost.com](mailto:jsorenttrue@pbpost.com) Twitter: @sorenttruepbp

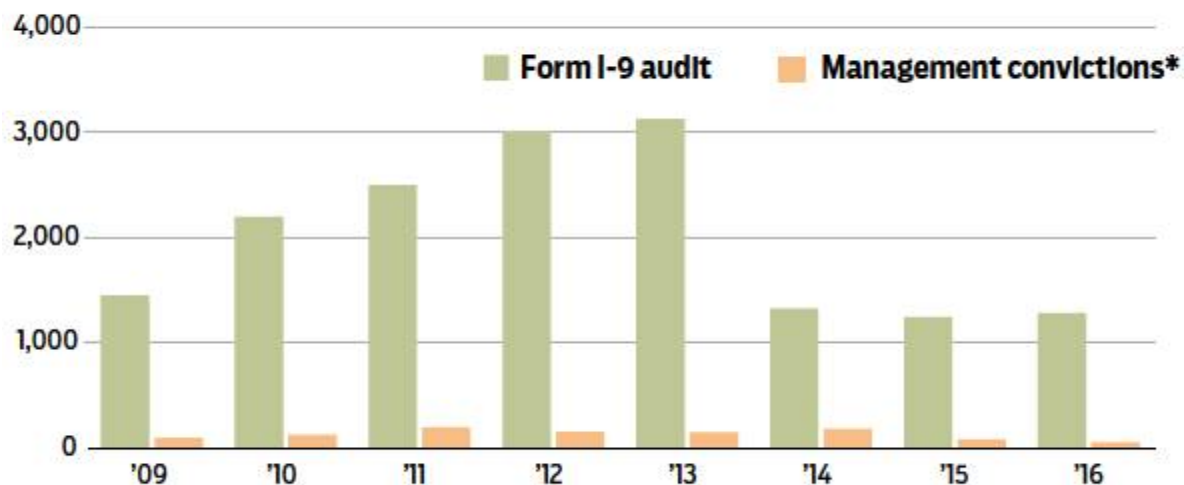
## IMMIGRATION

# Few businesses punished for illegally hiring workers

By Cindy Carcamo Los Angeles Times

## Employer Inspections

Immigration officials inspect I-9 forms at businesses to uncover the hiring of workers in the country illegally. Few convictions result.



\*For offenses such as illegal hiring, tax evasion and money laundering.

Source: Immigration and Customs Enforcement

TNS

Nearly 20 years ago, Mark Reed, then a top boss for the Immigration and Naturalization Service, sent agents into Nebraska to crack down on meatpackers hiring immigrants who were in the country illegally.

Agents pored over records to ferret out forged documents or fake Social Security numbers, and thousands of workers, fearful of being caught without papers, fled the state.

Reed thought the effort, Operation Vanguard, could become a national model to shut down a magnet for illegal immigration, and he said as much to Rep. Lamar

Smith, R-San Antonio, during a congressional hearing on immigration while Vanguard was underway.

"The neon light is on. It has been for decades, and that neon light is driven by jobs," Reed testified. "As long as those jobs are available, those people are going to come in."

Smith thought otherwise. "Deportation is the strongest deterrent to illegal immigration," he said.

Soon after that 1999 hearing, political blowback prompted the agency to halt Operation Vanguard, and officials turned their focus to apprehending immigrants and militarizing the Southwest border.

In the years since, the government's strategy hasn't much changed.

In the never-ending political and rhetorical war over illegal immigration, immigrants usually have received most of the blame, while businesses have gotten a relative pass — from enforcement and vitriol alike.

"If you take hypocrisy and then put in a good dose of unintended consequences, you can see why we are in such a mess," Reed, now semi-retired, said of immigration enforcement.

For all President Donald Trump's tough talk on deportations and building a wall on the Mexican border, his executive orders on immigration so far make no mention of targeting employers. Nor did he mention employers when, in his first address to a joint session of Congress, he renewed his pledge to build the border wall.

Though Trump's rhetoric on illegal immigration is unusual compared to previous presidents, his basic approach to enforcement is not.

In fiscal years 2009 through 2016, immigration officials deported more than 2.5 million people. During that same time, officials arrested 1,337 managers of businesses on charges that included illegal hiring, tax evasion and money laundering.

"It's always been easier to go after the workers," said Doris Meissner, a former INS commissioner. "But is that any more than just counting numbers? Does that actually change the basic magnet effect of the jobs? No."

For years, federal law did not bar the hiring of people in the country without legal status.

That changed in 1986, when President Ronald Reagan signed the Immigration Reform and Control Act. The law, commonly called IRCA, granted residency to about 3 million people who were in the country without legal status, bolstered border enforcement and for the first time established penalties for hiring people who were in the country illegally.

But to win the support of industry, including the powerful U.S. Chamber of Commerce and agricultural delegations from the Midwest, the employer sanctions were watered down, said Peter Brownell, research director for the Center on Policy Initiatives in San Diego, who has studied the issue.

## **PALM BEACH COUNTY STATE ROAD 7 EXTENSION**

# **County hopes SR 7 plan back on track Judge on Friday ruled against West Palm in fight over extension.**

*By Wayne Washington Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

Palm Beach County officials are hoping an administrative law judge's recommended order means the long-planned extension of State Road 7 from Okeechobee Boulevard to Northlake Boulevard is back on track.

West Palm Beach has spent millions fighting the extension, arguing that it would threaten the Grassy Waters Preserve, a 24-square-mile marsh that serves as the source of the city's drinking water. The city filed a petition to block the issuance of an environmental resource permit the South Florida Water Management District sought in connection with the project.

On Friday, Administrative Law Judge Bram Canter recommended a ruling against the city.

"The project would not adversely impact public health, safety and welfare associated with the city's public water supply in the water catchment area because the project would have no effect on the city's water supply operations," Canter wrote. "In addition, there are reasonable protective measures to prevent a spill from entering the city's public water supply."

Canter's ruling was hailed by county officials, who say the extension has been needed for years.

"The necessity for this project isn't related to new development," said County Commissioner Melissa McKinlay, who represents residents who use State Road 7 and Northlake Boulevard regularly. "The current residents have needed this reliever road for decades."

"The South Florida Water Management District stands behind the fair, accurate and transparent evaluation of all permit applications received," said spokesman Randy Smith.

All parties have until mid-April to file a petition to the Water Management District pointing out legal errors they believe Canter made in his recommendation. They have until the end of the month to file a motion to review the recommendation.

Informing county officials of the ruling, Assistant County Attorney Kim Pham made clear that overturning Canter's recommendation won't be easy.

"An agency's ability to reject any portion of the recommended order is very limited to conclusions of law and interpretation of administrative rules," Pham wrote. "Also, the agency may not reject or modify the findings of fact unless it was not based on competent substantial evidence or the proceedings did not comply with essential requirements of law."

A spokeswoman for the city said officials there are still reviewing the recommended order.

**West Palm Beach has spent millions fighting the extension, arguing that it would threaten the Grassy Waters Preserve.**

An analysis by The Palm Beach Post in February found that the city had spent \$2.1 million fighting the extension plan. Most of the money, about \$1.4 million, went to lawyers.

West Palm Beach Mayor Jeri Muoio said the city was doing everything it could to protect Grassy Waters.

"For us, it's just critical," Muoio said. "We are very opposed to putting that water in any sort of danger. The threat is significant, from runoff, construction and spills from trucks that might be on the road. It's not a risk we're willing to take, and it's something we're willing to spend money on to protect."

Canter, however, specifically rejected the city's argument that the extension project threatened the city's water supply, finding that "the project would not cause or contribute to a water quality violation in Grassy Waters."

Growth in north-central portions of Palm Beach County will put thousands more motorists on the road in the years ahead, but McKinlay said roads in the area already are over-burdened.

"In the last week, North-lake Boulevard was shut down for a brush fire, a car accident and a police manhunt," she said. "Traffic backups in The Acreage were horrendous." The extension project does face other challenges.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hasn't decided whether it will issue a permit for the project, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is waiting on the Corps to clarify questions it has about it.

Still, Canter's ruling was welcomed by those who see the extension of State Road 7 as a critical factor in relieving roadway congestion.

"The judge's ruling allows this project to move one step closer to putting shovels in the ground," McKinlay said. [wwashington@pbpost.com](mailto:wwashington@pbpost.com)

## LANTANA JETS AT AIRPORT

# FAA gives green light to small jets at Lantana airport Former commercial pilot lobbied federal authorities to end ban. *By Eliot Kleinberg Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



The Lantana airport, officially named the Palm Beach County Park Airport, is the subject of a 1973 agreement in which the FAA gave the county authority to ban jets. RICHARD GRAULICH / THE PALM BEACH POST 2013



STEVE LOPEZ/STAFF





Retired commercial pilot Errol Forman, who complained a year ago to federal authorities about the 44-year-old ban on jets at the Lantana airport, flies a 1983 Cessna Citation I/SP jet aircraft similar to this one. Forman declined to have a photograph taken of himself or his airplane.

#### TEXTRON AVIATION

The 44-year ban on jets at Lantana airport is over.

The Federal Aviation Administration wrote Palm Beach County this month to say small jets now can land at the airport — the only one in Florida that had formally banned jets — though they're limited to one of its three runways.

The agency "has concluded that permitting jet aircraft operations" on the one runway "will not affect safety or efficiency at LNA (Lantana) or surrounding airports," airport compliance specialist Deandra Brooks said in a March 17 letter to the lawyer for 76-year-old retired Eastern Airlines pilot Errol Forman of Hypoluxo.

Lantana, just some 7 air miles from Palm Beach International Airport and officially named Palm Beach County Park Airport, is the subject of a 1973 agreement in which the FAA gave the county authority to forbid jets.

Forman had protested in April 2016 to the feds, arguing that the rule is archaic and was instituted when small jets were far noisier than they are now.

"It looks like the FAA made a reasonable decision," Forman said.

"They didn't have a leg to stand on, truthfully, other than emotion," Forman said of the county. "The jet is safer than anything else I flew in there."

The FAA's letter said the county can file a legal challenge to the ruling.

"Our attorneys are still reviewing the letter and we'll decide what we do after that," Palm Beach County Airports Director Bruce Pelly said Tuesday.

Forman, who first flew at age 16 and piloted for Eastern from 1966 until it shut down in 1991, has said the 1983 Cessna Citation I/SP he bought for \$400,000 in March 2016 has a different engine design and is much quieter than earlier jet planes.

In June, Forman stopped landing at the airport after Pelly threatened him with 60 days in jail and a \$500 fine. Forman said at the time that the county was infringing on his right to fly at an airport paid for with federal money and open to the public.



Forman said Monday he doesn't believe the ruling will mean numerous jets will be landing in Lantana. And, he said, "I don't think it's going to hurt the neighborhood or the airport. It's going to enhance the people that have businesses at the airport."

Those businesses are in need of whatever help they can get.

The Lantana airport is effectively shut down when President Donald Trump is at his Palm Beach estate because it sits inside a 10-nautical-mile radius where private planes are banned from flying unless they first travel to a gateway airport for screening by the Transportation Security Administration.

Firms at the airport have estimated they lose a collective \$15,000 a day when Trump is in town.

The FAA had hinted it would rule for Forman in December when it told the county eight months of studying the pilot's complaint had concluded the embargo "may be unjustly discriminatory and not consistent with the county's federal obligations."

The Lantana airport — which is home base for about 300 aircraft and has no tower — is designated as a "reliever" airport to divert small private planes away from busy PBIA. From 1982 to 2016, the FAA has said, the county received \$6.35 million in federal grants for the Lantana airport.

The Dec. 6 letter from FAA specialist Brooks said the FAA could not find any documentation or analysis showing "why previous FAA reviewers believed this discriminatory restriction was just or reasonable." It said the ban "denied a class of aeronautical users the benefits of federal-funded improvements" at Lantana.

The county runs four airports: PBIA, Lantana, North County General Aviation Airport near Palm Beach Gardens and Palm Beach Glades Airport in Pahokee. Boca Raton Airport is operated by an authority created by the state, the Belle Glade airport is run by the city, and some fly-in communities have their own airstrips.

All of them, if they were physically able, could handle jets, except Lantana. The FAA says it's the only one in Florida with a blanket ban on all

jets. [ekleinberg@pbpost.com](mailto:ekleinberg@pbpost.com) Twitter: [@eliotkpbp](https://twitter.com/eliotkpbp)

## PERSONAL FINANCE

# It's tax season, and that means the scammers are out in force *By Valerie Rind [GOBankingRates.com](http://GOBankingRates.com)*

Thousands of people have lost millions of dollars to tax scams in recent years, according to the IRS. Scam artists routinely spring into action around tax filing season. Don't be a victim of a tax scam — familiarize yourself with five common ways criminals might try to take your money, so you can be prepared if it does happen to you. And if you do become a victim of tax fraud, take immediate steps to clear your name before too much damage occurs.

**Phishing scams** Tax scam phishing happens when criminals send fake IRS emails to try and get you to share personal information such as website passwords and credit card numbers. During the 2016 tax season, there was nearly a 400 percent increase in phishing incidents, according to the IRS.

The IRS sends letters and notices only — its agents do not call, text or use social media to gather or confirm your financial or personal information. Report any suspicious email to the IRS at [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov).

**Phone scams** You might receive a phone call from someone pretending to be an IRS agent asking for your personal information. He might threaten you with a lawsuit if you don't comply, or tell you that you have a refund due.

New phone schemes are constantly emerging. For example, the U.S. Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration warns that telephone scammers impersonating IRS tax collectors might demand payment for your "tax debt" from a prepaid debit card, wire transfer or iTunes gift card.

From April through September 2016, more than 9,000 victims were tricked by an IRS impersonator through a scam phone call. These victims turned over more than \$49 million to scammers.

Hang up on any scam phone calls immediately. Remember, the IRS does not call people as the first point of contact.

**Tax-related ID theft** Criminals steal your personal information to file a phony tax return in your name and snag a big refund. When you file your legitimate return, it might get rejected as a duplicate filing.

The Security Summit — a collaborative group consisting of the IRS, state tax agencies and tax professionals — has helped reduce the number of taxpayers who reported identity theft in 2016 on their federal tax returns.

If you've been the victim of ID theft, report it to the Federal Trade Commission.

## Lowering the death toll

### Officials to consider allocating \$3 million to combat heroin crisis *By Skyler Swisher Staff writer*

Facing an opioid crisis that killed more than 500 people last year, Palm Beach County is considering devoting \$3 million over the next two years to help lower the death toll.

The Palm Beach County Commission will discuss Tuesday a 68-page plan for dealing with the overdose crisis that has worsened with the introduction of heroin laced with powerful synthetic opioids, some of which are 10,000 times more potent than morphine.

The plan calls for immediately appropriating \$1 million to hire a drug czar to lead the response and add two new positions to the medical examiner's office.

Additional funds would be used to expand treatment and address critical needs that will be determined during community meetings, according to the county's plan. Next budget year, \$2 million would be appropriated.

"It's a big priority here," Commissioner Mary Lou Berger said. "It's a burden on the system. It's a burden on families. This needs to be at the top of the list."

A new county-commissioned report describes the extent of the opioid epidemic in Palm Beach County.

Opioid overdose deaths more than tripled in the past five years, going from 143 in 2012 to 569 in 2016. The rate of death from heroin and the powerful painkiller fentanyl was higher than Miami-Dade and Broward counties.

"We need to immediately bolster our medical examiner's office," Commissioner Steven Abrams said. "They are overwhelmed. We've established that it's a huge issue in Palm Beach County, as well as Florida and the country."

Opioids are also placing a strain on first-responders and hospitals, according to the report. Spending on the overdose reversal drug naloxone by Palm Beach County Fire Rescue increased from about \$18,000 in 2012 to \$205,000 in 2015.

Fire Rescue administered naloxone 420 times in 2015. That number jumped to 2,598 last year.

People who have taken near-fatal doses have swamped hospital emergency rooms. During the last three months of 2015, JFK Medical Center in Atlantis recorded 90 overdoses in 91 days, according to the most recent numbers available.

Using data from the Agency for Health Care Administration, the county estimates the cost of hospital admissions for alcohol and substance issues in 2015 was \$42.7 million.

The report found several challenges to effort to reduce opioid overdoses. Only 24 publicly funded detox beds are available in Palm Beach County. Only two of the county's 25 law enforcement agencies, Boynton Beach and Delray Beach, carry the drug that can prevent overdose deaths.

Among the report's recommendations:

- Develop educational programs for schools to reach children at an early age;
- Expand the availability of medication-assisted treatment, using the drug Suboxone, which helps to alleviate withdrawal symptoms during detox;
- Increase funding for publicly funded treatment beds;
- Make it easier to obtain naloxone, a drug that can prevent overdose deaths;
- Heighten oversight and regulation of drug recovery residences known as sober homes;
- Collaborate with the University of Miami to expand a clean needle exchange program into Palm Beach County.

## **Florida's legislators have a lot left to do**

### **Halfway through session, major issues remain to be decided**

*By Dan Sweeney | Staff writer*

TALLAHASSEE – Wednesday marks the halfway point in the 60-day session and, by any measure, the Legislature is not where it needs to be.

Few bills have passed, House priorities are not moving in the Senate, and vice versa. The big issues of the session — medical marijuana, gambling, workers compensation — remain largely undealt with.

But there are signs of life as the session begins the slow march toward its conclusion. Here's a look at what the Legislature has passed so far, what appears to be dead and what the Legislature still has to do to make the 2017 session a successful one.

#### **What's passed**

So far, 10 bills have passed both chambers and been sent on to the governor. But seven of those are bills that are passed every session to update Florida law — they get rid of redundancies, update the year listed in Florida statutes from 2016 to 2017, and so on.

Two of the passed bills simply kept in place two laws, both involving the military and veterans, that would have ended this year without action by the Legislature.

The last of the 10 bills updated Florida's death penalty law, which had been found unconstitutional by the Florida Supreme Court. The bill, which was signed by the governor, puts the death penalty back on track after a year in limbo.

It may seem like the Legislature hasn't accomplished much.

But in the first half of the session, bills are still going through committee hearings. A lot more legislation will get to the governor's desk by the end of the session. The Legislature passes about 250 to 300 bills each year, though the number has generally been falling over the past decade.

A few bills already are close to being sent to Gov. Rick Scott.

They include a measure to protect student-led prayer in public schools, an end to the wall separating liquor from the rest of the grocery store aisles, and a plan to protect South Florida's coral reefs.

### **What's dead**

Last week was the final week for House subcommittees to meet. That means any bills that haven't had their first committee hearing in the House are, at this point, probably dead.

Among them: Expansion of gun rights, a controversial alimony bill, a repeal of Florida's red light camera law and a statewide ban on fracking.

On rare occasions, a bill that has not been heard in one chamber can be revived if it is a top priority of the other chamber.

For example, House Speaker Richard Corcoran, R-Land O'Lakes, is pushing to do away with the economic development agency Enterprise Florida. The House passed that bill but the Senate companion never had a hearing.

And Senate President Joe Negron, R-Stuart, has an ambitious plan to build a \$2.4 billion reservoir south of Lake Okeechobee to help clean polluted lake water. It's moving in the Senate, but not in the House.

Other bills are suffering a similar fate, especially moves against local governments that have enjoyed some popularity in the House, but not the Senate. That includes a crackdown on so-called sanctuary cities, and another bill that would prevent local governments from passing any business regulation not expressly approved in state law.

### **What still needs to happen**

First and foremost, the Legislature must pass a budget. But initial drafts out of both chambers show a \$2 billion difference between the plans, with the Senate coming in at \$83.2 billion and the House at \$81.2 billion.

That discrepancy has added further fuel to speculation that this session is doomed to finish late, or require a special session in which legislators return to Tallahassee to complete the work of passing a budget, as they had to do two years ago.

The House plan cuts higher education funding, but greater funding for higher ed is a priority in the Senate. The House budget also slashes funding for local projects, which are often derisively referred to as pork.

The Senate version funds the state's tourism marketing agency, Visit Florida, at \$76 million, three times as much as the House, where the agency has been the subject of much scrutiny. And the Senate plan has more than \$80 million for Enterprise Florida, a business development agency that the House is trying to kill outright.

Aside from its obligation to pass a budget, there are three major issues that the Legislature cannot afford to kick down the road.

- **Gambling:** The Senate passed its gambling bill last week, the House will pass its this week, and then the two sides will go into conference to iron out their differences, which are many. Without a new agreement with the Seminoles, several court cases could severely restrict the amount of money the state receives from the tribe.

- **Medical marijuana:** The House gave its medical marijuana bill a hearing last week, but none of the Senate's five plans on the issue has had a hearing. The voter-approved constitutional amendment on medical marijuana requires the Florida Department of Health to come up with rules governing the industry by July. So if the Legislature intends to help craft these rules, this is its only chance to do so.

- **Workers' compensation:** Two Florida Supreme Court decisions on this issue helped contribute to a 14.5 percent increase in the cost of businesses' workers' compensation insurance. Bills addressing the issue are just now making their way through, with a House bill still needing one committee hearing and a Senate bill set to have its first hearing Monday.

Just two years ago, Scott found himself at war with the Senate over Medicaid expansion. This year, he finds himself at war with the House as he tries to save Visit Florida and Enterprise Florida.

After the Senate battle, some senators complained that their projects in the budget suffered disproportionately from Scott's veto pen. This year, there's an assumption that many House members could suffer the same fate.

And while the Legislature will approve many more bills in the second half of the session, the slow start of the first 30 days makes the recent trend of fewer bills passed seem inevitable. [dsweeney@SunSentinel.com](mailto:dsweeney@SunSentinel.com), 954-356-4605 or [@Daniel Sweeney](https://twitter.com/DanielSweeney)



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# **News Clip 4/4/2017**

## **Palm Beach Post**

### **CRIME Murder suspect charged with 2nd slaying Man in Broward jail accused of earlier Boynton shooting.** *By Olivia Hitchcock Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Jonathan Schuler, 32, is charged in the deaths of two men.

A 32-year-old is facing his second murder charge in less than a month, records show — this time it's a first-degree murder charge in the February killing of a suburban Boynton Beach man.

Jonathan Schuler is accused of intentionally shooting Junior Petit-Bien, 34, at about 7:30 a.m. Feb. 3 at a home west of Boynton where the two resided. Petit-Bien had just moved into the home on the 7200 block of Willow Spring Circle North where multiple tenants, including Schuler, lived, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office officials said.

County officials obtained an arrest warrant for Schuler on Friday.

Schuler has been in the Broward County Jail on an unrelated murder charge since last month.

In that case, Schuler is accused of hitting a man in the back of his head with a metal crowbar March 8 on the second floor of a construction site in Deerfield Beach.

The victim's name is redacted from court records; media reports identify the man as Arcenio Alvarez, 32, of Lake Worth.

Seven of the men's co-workers told Deerfield police that Schuler, unprovoked, hit the man. Schuler ran, diving head-first down a trash chute, witnesses said. Several of his co-workers detained him until police arrived.

Schuler will remain in Broward County until that murder charge is settled, then he will be extradited to Palm Beach County, officials said.

Petit-Bien's killing was the first homicide south of Hypoluxo Road since a Palm Beach Post database began tracking confirmed killings in 2009. [ohitchcock@pbpost.com](mailto:ohitchcock@pbpost.com)

## PALM BEACH GARDENS

# 1 killed, another wounded in shooting along Beeline Highway

*By Olivia Hitchcock Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Palm Gardens Police investigate Monday the scene of a fatal shooting along Beeline Highway on Sunday night. Dan Keshawn Johnson III of Belle Glade was pronounced dead at the scene. A second victim was also wounded. LANNIS WATERS / THE PALM BEACH POST

A 20-year-old man was identified as the victim of a fatal shooting Sunday night along the Beeline Highway.

Dan Keshawn Johnson III of Belle Glade was pronounced dead at the scene, according to Palm Beach Gardens Police officials.

A second person was injured and is expected to survive, according to Gardens police spokesman Paul Rogers.

The incident shut down Beeline Highway for several hours between PGA Boulevard and Northlake Boulevard after 8 p.m., when police initially responded.

According to police, shots were fired into a car, and at the time, a trauma alert was issued.

Roads finally reopened early Monday morning.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Palm Beach Gardens Police Department at 561-799-4445 or Crimes Stoppers of Palm Beach County at 800-458-TIPS(8477).

The slaying was the latest in a series of incidents involving Beeline Highway in Palm Beach County.

Last week, Martin County deputies chased an armed robbery suspect into Palm Beach County. After the chase was joined by Palm Beach County deputies, the suspect ran his car into a ditch along Northlake Boulevard just west of Beeline. The suspect, later identified as Victor Peel, took off on foot into nearby alligator-infested

water before he was captured hours later. Deputies and West Palm police used a drone and airboats to help catch Peel.

On March 25, a crash that killed two people blocked a section of Beeline Highway near Pratt Whitney Road. A car violently hit a tractor-trailer from behind, becoming attached.

On March 17, two bodies were discovered along Beeline Highway across from the North County Airport. They were later identified as Brandon and Brian Allen, twin brothers from West Palm Beach. Two men, Julian Cathirell and Darin Byrd, were charged with first-degree murder in the case.

Staff writer Wayne Washington contributed to this story. [ohitchcock@pbpost.com](mailto:ohitchcock@pbpost.com)

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## CRIME **Woman who threatened Sandy Hook parent arrested**

*By Jorge Milian Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Police arrested Lucy Richards, 57, in Tampa.

A woman charged with sending death threats to a former Palm Beach County man whose 6-year-old son was murdered in the Sandy Hook Elementary School shootings was arrested Saturday in Tampa, jail records show.

Lucy Richards, 57, was expected in U.S. federal court in Fort Lauderdale on March 29 to plead guilty to four counts of transmitting threats through interstate communication, but failed to appear for the hearing.

An arrest warrant was then issued by a judge, and she was arrested by Tampa police. No further details were available.

Richards was expected to plead guilty and be sentenced to house arrest and probation by prosecutors before failing to appear in court. Robert Berube, Richards' attorney, said last week that the deal with prosecutors is now likely off the table.

Richards is accused of making the threats against Len Pozner, whose son Noah was one of 19 children and six adults killed by Adam Lanza in 2012 in Newtown, Connecticut.

Before the arrest warrant, Richards was free on \$25,000 bond and barred from websites that push conspiracy theories. [jmilian@pbpost.com](mailto:jmilian@pbpost.com)

[Twitter: @jorgemilian1](#)

# Aggressive efforts to stop Zika continue

*Associated Press*

Florida officials say they are continuing aggressive efforts to stop the spread of the Zika virus.

Gov. Rick Scott met Monday with Miami-Dade County officials to discuss Zika preparedness ahead of Florida's rainy season, when mosquitoes are most prevalent. Officials said fewer travel-related cases are being reported in Florida so far this year, compared with last spring.

Officials also said state labs and Miami-Dade mosquito control operations added staff since last year's Zika outbreak. Counseling also is available for families affected by the virus.

Florida has reported two locally acquired Zika infections in 2017. Health officials said both patients likely contracted the virus last year in Miami-Dade County.

## PALM BEACH COUNTY VICTIMS' RIGHTS

# Mom of slain daughter offers hope to families

*By Mike Stucka Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Sandi Cooper speaks Monday at a National Crime Victims' Rights Week event. Her daughter, Sheri Carter, was killed in 2011. "You can choose to just lay down and then let this world pass you by, or you can get up, you can stand up, and you can function as a human being," Cooper said. DAMON HIGGINS / THE PALM BEACH POST

Sandi Cooper doesn't like to talk to strangers about what happened to her daughter. She'll normally fib, describing Sheri Carter as a 35-year-old free spirit.

But on Monday, Cooper told the full truth — that Carter was murdered at age 29, an act that rent asunder Cooper's life. She's still picking up the pieces.

Cooper said she agreed to speak to the Palm Beach Victims' Rights Coalition to help other victims.

"If I could give a family that hope, it's worth it," Cooper said after the opening ceremony to National Crime Victims' Rights Week at the West Palm Beach Police Department. "Because at the beginning, you cannot function, you have no hope and you don't believe in the justice system."

Cooper still counts the days since her daughter died four days after being shot twice. She thinks about a wedding and grandchildren that were in a future that will never be. She thinks about the buzz of her life after Carter's death, of dropping out of the workforce to seek justice for her daughter. She'd be on the phone at 7 o'clock on a Friday night with Adrienne Ellis, the prosecutor of her daughter's killer. She said she can still call Annette Andrea, a victim's rights advocate, or Chris Crawford, the now-retired Boynton Beach detective. She never missed a status hearing or a pretrial motion with their support.

"There is no other option. You cannot by any means do this alone.... It took three years to get to trial, and it was three endless years of almost nonfunctioning life," Cooper said. "You can choose to just lay down and then let this world pass you by, or you can get up, you can stand up, and you can function as a human being."

Former Florida Atlantic University police officer Jimmy Dac Ho received two consecutive life terms for the murder and kidnapping of Carter, whom Cooper said was studying to take law school admission tests.

Ellis, now chief assistant state attorney, said Cooper's strength and resilience helped her pursue justice for her daughter.

Also Monday, Palm Beach County Victims Services named Detective Brent Joseph of the Boynton Beach Police Department as its officer of the year. Joseph, who taught elementary school before working with sexual assault victims, offered a succinct speech: "I was definitely not expecting this. I love this award. It's heavier than it looks. Team effort. Thank you very much."

The Federal Bureau of Investigation honored FBI agent Peter Angell and North Palm Police Detective Zachary Aldridge for their efforts to get justice for a 16-year-old forced into prostitution in three states.

Other events in the week include the "How not to be a victim" seminar at 9 a.m. today at the Del-ray Beach Public Library, and the Walk For Victims' Rights at 8 a.m. Saturday at Currie Park in West Palm Beach. [mstucka@pbpost.com](mailto:mstucka@pbpost.com)

**GAVEL TO GAVEL** Get news from Palm Beach County courtrooms at [postoncourts.blog.palmbeachpost.com](http://postoncourts.blog.palmbeachpost.com).



## TRUMP IN PALM BEACH

# Trump arriving after 2 p.m. Thursday

## President won't pick up cost of Mar-a-Lago visits, spokesman says.

*By George Bennett Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



President Donald Trump's motorcade travels Southern Boulevard en route to the airport in February. BRUCE R. BENNETT / THE PALM BEACH POST

PALM BEACH — President Donald Trump should arrive sometime after 2 p.m. Thursday for his summit at Mar-a-Lago with Chinese President Xi Jinping, according to a new Federal Aviation Administration advisory.

Xi, who is in Finland, will be arriving separately Thursday for the first in-person meeting between the leaders. Their schedule includes a Thursday night dinner at Mar-a-Lago and talks Friday. A time for Xi's arrival has not been announced.

The FAA issued an advisory Monday announcing flight restrictions for "VIP movement" in the Palm Beach area from 2 p.m. Thursday to 10:30 p.m. Sunday. Trump, who as a presidential candidate frequently criticized China for its policies on trade and North Korea, has predicted a "very difficult" meeting to discuss "very serious business." State-run Chinese media has generally put an optimistic spin on the summit.

Trump's visit — his sixth trip to his southern White House since taking office Jan. 20 — will push local taxpayer costs to about \$2 million for Palm Beach County sheriff's deputies and other personnel who assist the Secret Service when the president is in town.

A reporter at Monday's White House press briefing asked press secretary Sean Spicer if Trump would consider digging into his own pockets to help defray the costs. Spicer rejected the idea and noted Trump had just donated his first-quarter salary — \$78,333 — to the National Park Service.

"This is a day that the president just donated a significant amount of money of his salary back to the federal government," Spicer said. "So respectfully, it's like, at what point does he do enough? He just gave a very sizable donation."

U.S. Reps. Lois Frankel, D-West Palm Beach, and Ted Deutch, D-Boca Raton, have stepped up calls for Trump to help secure federal money to reimburse local governments for their costs associated with Trump's visits.

"I don't think the taxpayers of Palm Beach County should be forced to shoulder 100 percent of the burden of having the president come down here to play golf," Deutch told host Jim DeFede on Sunday's edition of CBS Miami's "Facing South Florida."

Frankel drafted a March 23 letter to Trump asking him to help with federal reimbursement of local costs or "curtail your visits until such time as that matter is resolved favorably to our area."

At Monday's press briefing, Spicer defended Trump's upcoming trip to Mar-a-Lago and the general security needs of presidential travel.

"The request to go to Mar-a-Lago was something that was negotiated with the Chinese. I think this is a very high-level visit that really has a huge impact on our both economic and national security," Spicer said.

Spicer mentioned trips by former President Barack Obama to Hawaii and former President George W. Bush to his ranch in Crawford, Texas, and said: "This is not something that you can control. There is a security aspect that the Secret Service determines when the president and the family travels. That's not dictated by the president of the United States." [gbennett@pbpost.com](mailto:gbennett@pbpost.com) [Twitter: @gbennettpost](https://twitter.com/gbennettpost)

**MORE NEWS ONLINE** For complete Donald Trump coverage see [myPalmBeachPost.com/donaldtrump](http://myPalmBeachPost.com/donaldtrump).

## Man accused in second murder

*By Adam Sacasa Staff writer*

A man accused of killing a coworker with a crowbar faces new charges in the fatal shooting of his roommate.

The Palm Beach Sheriff's Office announced the arrest of Jonathan Schuler, 32, of West Palm Beach, on Monday.

Schuler, who is already booked into Broward County Jail, is accused of fatally shooting his roommate, Junior Petit-Bien, 34, in their home near Boynton Beach on Feb. 3.

Investigators said Schuler had recently moved into the home in the 7200 block of Willow Spring Circle when he shot Petit Bien. It's unclear what led to the shooting. Schuler was arrested in March and charged with the killing of Arcenio Alvarez, 32, of Lake Worth, at a construction site at 700 W. Hillsboro Blvd. in Deerfield Beach. Broward Sheriff's investigators describe that killing as a "seemingly unprovoked attack." Schuler told detectives he was only defending himself when he beat the other man to death with a crowbar, authorities said.

A cousin of Petit-Bien, Marco Petit, 28, of Boynton Beach, described his cousin as a very quiet guy who kept to himself and wasn't aggressive.

Marco Petit was upset Schuler had been free and allowed to kill again.

Sheriff's spokeswoman Teri Barbera said detectives couldn't charge Schuler until they had enough probable cause to arrest him.

Schuler will be extradited from the Broward County Jail to Palm Beach County Jail to face a first-degree murder charge. [asacasa@sunsentinel.com](mailto:asacasa@sunsentinel.com), 561-243-6607 or [Twitter@adamsacasa](https://twitter.com/adamsacasa)

# Cyclist on way to visit friend killed in hit-and-run

By Adam Sacasa Staff writer



COURTESY

Donald Flinn would "give you his last dollar," Megan Flinn said of her father.

Donald Eugene Flinn hopped on his bike Sunday to visit a friend in West Boca. A quick trip to a store was planned next, but on the way, he was hit and killed by a driver who fled the scene.

"I'm devastated," said Flinn's daughter, Megan Flinn. "You don't think someone is going to hit your dad and leave him there to die."

Now the family is pleading for help to find the person who hit Flinn, 55, who died shortly after the crash about 9 p.m. Sunday near Sandalfoot Boulevard and Inlet Circle.

Flinn was riding west in the center turn lane on Sandalfoot Drive when a driver headed east struck him, according to a Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office report. Flinn was thrown from his bicycle and, according to his daughter, hit the hood and windshield of the vehicle that struck him. Debris from the vehicle that was found at the scene was not detailed enough for investigators to determine the make and model of the vehicle that struck her father, Megan Flinn said.

Donald Flinn died about 30 minutes later, the Sheriff's Office said.

"My dad was caring and he didn't have a lot of things to offer, but he'd give you his last dollar," Megan Flinn said.

She said her father, who formerly lived in Tamarac, did tile work on homes but hadn't worked lately due to health problems.

He is survived by a son, two daughters and a 4-year-old grandson, Megan Flinn said.

The sheriff's office asks anyone with information to call investigator Kurt Kloepping at 561-681-5630 or Crime Stoppers of Palm Beach County at 800-458-

8477. [asacasa@sunsentinel.com](mailto:asacasa@sunsentinel.com), 561-243-6607, [Twitter@adamsacasa](https://twitter.com/adamsacasa) or

Instagram @adamsacasa

# Death threat suspect arrested

*By Paula McMahon Staff writer*



Richards

The woman accused of sending death threats to a Palm Beach County man whose 6-year-old son was murdered in the Sandy Hook school mass shooting has been arrested in the Tampa Bay area, jail records show.

A judge issued an arrest warrant for Lucy Richards, 57, of Brandon, near Tampa, last Wednesday after she failed to show up in federal court in Fort Lauderdale for a change-of-plea hearing and sentencing.

Richards was arrested on the federal warrant by the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office on Saturday afternoon at Brandon Regional Hospital, FBI Special Agent Michael Leverock said Monday.

Richards' next court hearing has not yet been scheduled. Jail records show she was turned over to the FBI after a brief appearance Monday in federal court in Tampa. She is being transferred to the Broward County jail system and is expected to appear in federal court in Fort Lauderdale in the next few days, authorities said.

Richards told court officials in Tampa that "she wanted to go to trial and she does not want her future to be in one person's [the judge's] hands," according to court records. She also said that she had mental health and general health problems.

Prosecutors asked the magistrate judge to keep her locked up because of the trial judge's order, her nonappearance for a scheduled court hearing and because they said she is a danger to the community and herself.

Richards had been expected to plead guilty last week to one charge related to making death threats. The prosecution and defense were going to recommend that she be sentenced to house arrest and probation, authorities said.

But early that morning, Richards called the Federal Public Defender's Office to say she would not be appearing in court. She gave no further explanation, Assistant Federal Public Defender Robert Berube told the judge.

Senior U.S. District Judge James Cohn immediately issued an arrest warrant for Richards and revoked her bond.

She had been free on \$25,000 bond since she surrendered in court in December. She pleaded not guilty to four federal charges she sent threatening email and voicemails

to Lenny Pozner in January 2016. Each of the charges carries a maximum punishment of five years in federal prison.

Richards could now face a federal prison term because she failed to show up and prosecutors could withdraw the plea agreement offer.

Richards, a former waitress who is receiving Social Security disability payments, told investigators she sent an email and left several voicemails after she became angry. She said she had been browsing websites that promote false conspiracy theories about mass shootings, prosecutors said.

Pozner's 6-year-old son, Noah, was killed in the 2012 mass shooting in New-town, Conn.

"You gonna die, death is coming to you real soon," was one of the voicemail messages left for Pozner, according to court records. [pmcmahon@sunsentinel.com](mailto:pmcmahon@sunsentinel.com), 954-356-4533 or [Twitter @SentinelPaula](https://twitter.com/SentinelPaula)

## Senate panel approval Medical pot plan includes ideas from other bills *By Dan Sweeney Staff writer*

TALLAHASSEE — With more dispensaries and more options for actually consuming cannabis, the plan approved by a Senate panel Monday could be more in line with Florida's medical marijuana constitutional amendment than the far more restrictive House plan.

The bill sponsor, state Sen. Rob Bradley, R-Fleming Island, said his bill "fully implements the will of the voters and does so without playing games or being cute." But getting the House and Senate to come together and agree on a single version will be difficult. Even getting the Senate to a single version wasn't easy.

Five senators filed bills to regulate Florida's medical marijuana industry, but Bradley's bill, approved unanimously by the Senate Health Policy Committee, incorporated many ideas from the other bills in a flurry of amendments.

"He kind of met in the middle ... on the number of licenses, and I'm really glad he put in the robust and independent lab testing from [state Sen. Frank] Artiles' bill," said Ben Pollara, the campaign manager of the group behind the medical marijuana constitutional amendment and one of the amendment's co-authors.

Along with Artiles' requirement for independent testing of marijuana, the Bradley bill also now creates a new medical marijuana research group at the Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa.

That's a major step because, due to marijuana's status as a controlled substance, research on the plant is scant.



The bill also now allows nonresidents to get medical marijuana, as long as they qualify under state law and are approved to get medical marijuana in their home state.

Minors are now barred from buying marijuana even if they qualify; the pot must be purchased by a parent, guardian or other caregiver.

But the bill also expands the supply medical marijuana patients could receive. The limit for a supply was increased from 45 to 90 days at the committee hearing, but doctors could go above the 90-day limit if they believe it's necessary and the patient will use the dosage as recommended.

The Senate plan also allows more dispensaries now, with five more to be approved by Oct. 3, 2017, and another four for every 75,000 medical marijuana patients.

Finally, a new tracking system is to be adopted that would allow the state to see in real time where growers' plants are in the process, from seed to harvest, with growers required to provide data to the state.

Anti-drug advocates pushed for the tracking system and ban on purchases by minors. Medical marijuana activists supported allowing nonresidents to get their marijuana in the state.

Still, the differences between the House and Senate versions are substantial. While both bills ban smoking marijuana, the House version also bans vaping and edibles. And the House version would result in fewer grower/dispensers around the state. It calls for five more when there are 200,000 medical marijuana patients and three more for every 100,000 after that.

But the bills have a few things in common as well, such as the requirement that growers also process and dispense the marijuana, rather than having separate growers and retail shops, and the tracking system that was added to Bradley's bill in the committee hearing.

Whether the two chambers can iron out their differences will determine whether a bill gets to Gov. Rick Scott's desk. [dsweeney@sunsentinel.com](mailto:dsweeney@sunsentinel.com), 954-356-4605 or [Twitter@Daniel Sweeney](https://twitter.com/Daniel_Sweeney)

Five senators filed bills to regulate Florida's medical marijuana industry, but Bradley's bill, approved unanimously by the Senate Health Policy Committee, incorporated many ideas from the other bills in a flurry of amendments.

**From:** [Anderson, Cassandra L](#)  
**Subject:** News Clips 4/5/2017  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 05, 2017 9:42:28 AM  
**Attachments:** [News Clips.docx](#)

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## *News Clip 4/5/2017*

### Palm Beach Post

#### COURTS STARVATION TRIAL

## Jury selection set for January in girl's starvation murder case



Alejandro Aleman is led from court after a hearing Tuesday in West Palm Beach. He faces charges of first-degree murder, aggravated child abuse and animal cruelty. He and Kristen Meyer-Alemam are accused of starving their 13-month-old to death. Jury selection will begin Jan. 11. **Story, [B2](#)** LANNIS WATERS / THE PALM BEACH POST

## COURTS

# Trial date set in girl's starvation murder case

## The state is seeking the death penalty against the

**parents.** *By Olivia Hitchcock Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

WEST PALM BEACH — The first-degree murder trial for the Loxahatchee parents accused of starving their young daughter to death has been scheduled for January. Jury selection will begin Jan. 11. Attorneys for Alejandro Aleman and Kristen Meyer-Aleman told Judge Charles Burton they'd prefer the parents have separate trials. State Attorney Terri Skiles, however, indicated she planned on trying the couple together.

The state is seeking the death penalty against the parents for the death of their 13-month-old daughter, Tayla Aleman. They face first-degree murder, child abuse and animal cruelty charges.

Aleman, 39, and Meyer-Aleman, 43, were arrested in late September in Tayla's death. The little girl — who at the time was the youngest of the couple's 10 children — died April 1, 2016, weighing 7 pounds, two fewer than when she was born. An emergency room doctor called Tayla's starvation death the worst he'd ever seen.

Burton appointed Michael Salnick as Aleman's attorney in mid-October because of conflicts of interests with representation in the Public Defenders' Office and the state Office of Regional Counsel. The offices represent Tayla's mother, Meyer-Aleman, in a criminal and civil case, respectively.

Palm Beach County Jail inmates learned the nature of Aleman's charges from media coverage of the October hearing. They started to threaten him, records show.

Following the threats, Aleman was moved to a protective cell Oct. 21 and placed on "deadlock status" 24 hours a day. In December, records show that officials moved Aleman to the West Detention Center in Belle Glade, a decision that sparked multiple handwritten letters from Aleman to sheriff's officials.

"I don't feel safe here," Aleman wrote. "The guards walk by and look at my picture and name and know who I am because my case is a high-profile case that's been all over the news and newspaper all the time."

His requests were denied.

The Palm Beach County Medical Examiner ruled Tayla's official cause of death "inanition due to neglect." Simply put, she died of exhaustion. Officials found multiple strains of influenza, E. coli, the start of pneumonia and bacteria known to cause skin infections in the little girl's tiny, frail body.

Tayla's 10 siblings — one of whom was born after her death — are in the state's care, according to the Florida Department of Children and Families. [ohitchcock@pbpost.com](mailto:ohitchcock@pbpost.com) Twitter: [@ohitchcock](https://twitter.com/ohitchcock)

## WEST PALM BEACH PEACE ASSEMBLY

# Activist group's gathering tackles homeless, juveniles County commissioners joined discussion of pressing local issues. *By Hannah Winston Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



County commissioners and other local officials take part Monday night in a meeting at the Palm Beach Convention Center held by the PEACE social justice group. BRUCE R. BENNETT / THE PALM BEACH POST



The Rev. Gerald Kisner of Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church in West Palm Beach speaks Monday at the PEACE assembly. He talked about the rights of undocumented immigrants in the area. BRUCE R. BENNETT / THE PALM BEACH POST

WEST PALM BEACH — The Rev. John D'Mello of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Palm Beach Gardens asked the thousands in the crowd to stand up from their seats if they had ever done some of these things as a child.

Run through a parking lot trying to get home late at night? A handful stood up. Steal a candy bar? A few dozen rose from their seats, some elderly attendees giggling at the memory.

Fought with a sibling? Nearly everyone in the Palm Beach Convention Center stood. "If you had done those same things today, you all may have been arrested," he said. "Children make mistakes. It's part of growing up. What they don't need is an arrest."

The issue was one of three highlighted by the People Engaged in Active Community Efforts, or PEACE, during the Action Assembly on Monday evening. The assembly focused on solutions for juvenile arrests, homelessness and alternative identification cards for undocumented residents. The grass-roots organization is made up of congregations throughout the county.

Those in attendance included several Palm Beach County commissioners and representatives from the offices of West Palm Beach Mayor Jeri Muoio and the Palm Beach County State Attorney's office.

The group proposed that juveniles charged with misdemeanors should receive civil citations instead of arrests. In Palm Beach County, only the first misdemeanor charge can be a civil citation. The group hopes to expand it to three misdemeanors. The Rev. Robert Rease of St. John First Missionary Baptist in Belle Glade said during their



research they found children, some as young as 8, were being arrested on domestic battery charges for throwing shoes or french fries at a sibling.

Another issue PEACE hopes to address in the county is homelessness. County officials say that since 2015, the homeless population in Palm Beach County is up 11.5 percent. Most who spoke agreed the major issue came down to funding. Their proposed solution is to add a designated person to the county government to address the issue and add 300 new beds a year, starting in 2018.

While most county commissioners agreed to do so, Palm Beach County Mayor Paulette Burdick said that as officials figure out the budget for the year, she doesn't know if she can promise to do that as they also look for solutions with the opioid epidemic in the county.

"There are homeless boys and girls," she said, acknowledging the issue. "But there are people dying every day (from overdoses)."

After success working with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office to accept consular identification in place of a driver's license, PEACE hopes to help thousands in the county whose native countries do not have consular IDs by making county identification cards. To do this, they said they must get approval from law enforcement to accept the cards and then have someone make them.

The Rev. Nestor Rodriguez said accepting these IDs will help ease the minds of those who are afraid of either getting arrested or deported for not having proper identification. He said this is added fear on top of "recent immigration changes coming from Washington."

The Rev. Gerald Kisner of Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church in West Palm Beach said it's one thing for people to preach or read or complain about injustices, but it's their duty to come together and fight for them.

"Our undocumented brothers and sisters deserve to live without fear and everyone is entitled to a roof over their heads," he said. "We know the problems in this community as tears, not just statistics." [hwinston@pbpost.com](mailto:hwinston@pbpost.com)

**Twitter: @hannahwinston**

## POST IN-DEPTH OPIOID CRISIS

# County to tackle heroin epidemic Plan creates opioid czar, spends \$3M in next two years.

*By Wayne Washington Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

## WHAT THE POST REPORTED

In November, The Post told the story of the 216 people who died from heroin-related overdoses in Palm Beach County in 2015. Read the stories [myPalmBeachPost.com/generationheroin](http://myPalmBeachPost.com/generationheroin).



Palm Beach County Mayor Paulette Burdick and Commissioner Mary Lou Berger absorb an opioid crisis report at Tuesday's Palm Beach County commissioners meeting in West Palm Beach. The commission OK'd an action plan. BRUCE R. BENNETT / THE PALM BEACH POST  
WEST PALM BEACH — Palm Beach County commissioners unanimously approved an action plan Tuesday to address the opioid epidemic roaring through the county and across the state.

That plan calls for the hiring of three new staff members — two in the county's swamped Medical Examiner's Office and a senior-level opioid czar — and the expenditure of \$3 million over the next two years that would largely be used to pay for treatment efforts. The first \$1 million will come from the county's reserves and will be used to help pay for the new staff members.

Commissioners would have to approve the final \$2 million through their regular budget process.

"This is a strong plan that we can begin implementing immediately," Deputy County Administrator Jon Van Arnham said.

For 2½ hours, commissioners got a stark look at the deadly details of the epidemic from a packed panel of experts, including the county's medical examiner, its health

director, the chief circuit judge and representatives from Palm Beach County Fire Rescue and the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office.

They all said, in one way or another, that the scale of the epidemic is unprecedented, that the county is, at the moment, ill-equipped to cope with it and that it is getting worse.

"I've been doing this for 38 years," said Alton Taylor, executive director of the Drug Abuse Foundation of Palm Beach County. "I've seen a lot during that time, but I've never seen anything like this. Its lethality is unprecedented."

Even after extensive coverage of the epidemic, which was the subject of a Palm Beach Post special section in November, some commissioners seemed floored by its massive scale of misery and death, which was hammered home during comments from the experts assembled before them.

County Mayor Paulette Burdick pleaded with someone to tell her that researchers were close to finding drugs that can counteract or block the effects of opioids.

"Please tell me that they are close to clinical trials somewhere," she said.

Dr. Alina Alonso, the county's health director, told her what she didn't want to hear.

"There's a lot of research, but I don't know of anyone close to clinical trials just yet," Alonso said.

The county's 72-page action plan is full of shocking facts, including that there were 1,700 opioid-related calls to PBSO for service in 2016 and that, from 2011 to 2016, heroin-related jail bookings soared by a mind-boggling 2,803 percent.

The area's drug treatment industry draws addicts from throughout the country, many of whom relapse and overdose in Palm Beach County. Stories in The Post have drawn attention to the problem, and a recent law enforcement crackdown on industry practices and questionable operators has netted more than two dozen arrests.

Dr. Michael Bell, Palm Beach County's medical examiner, said part of the problem is that addicts are using a deadly combination of opioids, mixing such drugs as heroin, cocaine, fentanyl and carfentanil, which is 10,000 times more potent than morphine and is used as an anesthetic for elephants.

"It becomes a real challenge to determine what drugs are the real problem and where they are coming from," Bell said.

After being told that carfentanil is manufactured in China, where it recently has been banned, Commissioner Mack Bernard expressed some hope that Chinese President Xi Jinping's upcoming visit with President Donald Trump in Palm Beach County will present something of an opportunity.

"I would hope that our president would have a conversation with him about this epidemic that is plaguing our county," Bernard said.

Trump and other political leaders have talked about the opioid crisis. Commissioner Melissa McKinlay has asked Gov. Rick Scott to declare a public health emergency, which would give him expanded authority and resources.

She wrote Scott a letter in February asking for the public health emergency, but the governor has not issued one. The commissioner asked her colleagues Tuesday to sign a new letter to the governor repeating that call for an emergency declaration. After the overdose death of a daughter of a former aide, McKinlay took the lead in calling for more action to combat the crisis.

She praised panelists Tuesday and asked for applause for two reporters for The Post, Joe Capozzi and Christine Stapleton, who are part of the team of investigative reporters covering the crisis.

Palm Beach County Chief Circuit Judge Jeffrey Colbath joined McKinlay's call to Scott for an emergency declaration, writing to the governor last week with what he described as "deep and growing concern over the deadly impact the opioid epidemic is having on our state."

Colbath sat on the panel that laid out the scope of the problem for commissioners. But commissioners seemed most moved by comments from ordinary citizens like Rick Molt, a plumber in West Palm Beach, who described his fight against heroin addiction and urged commissioners to take action.

"I would watch you drive to work and wanted to be like you so bad, but I couldn't," Molt said. "There was a hole inside of me."

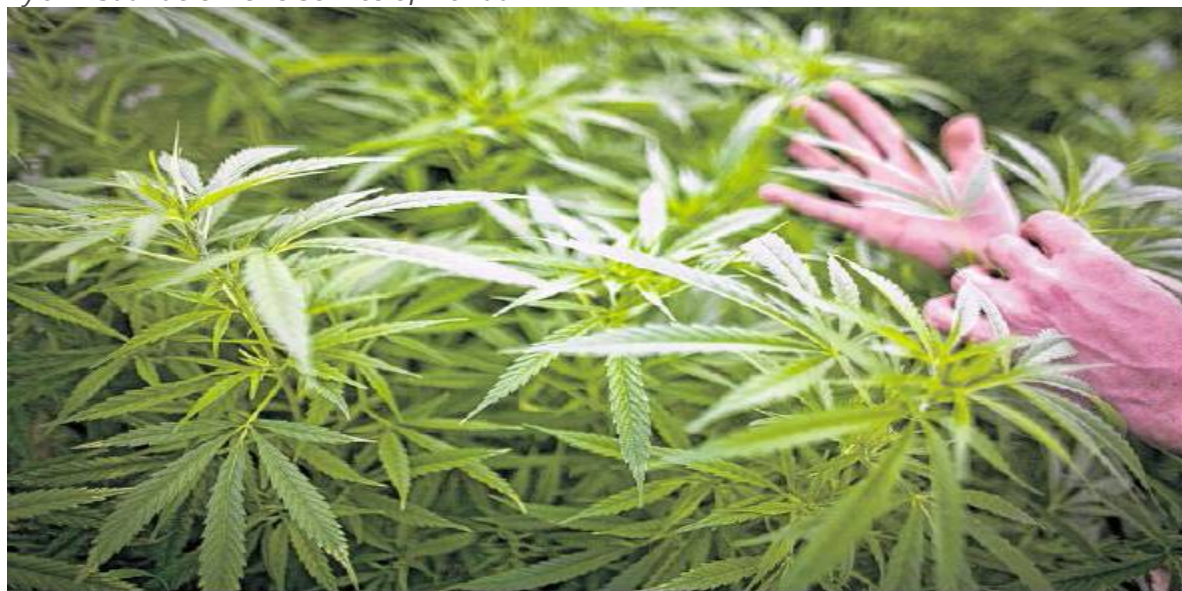
Phillip Causey, an addiction counselor who told commissioners that he and members of his family have fought addiction, said not enough has been done to help families.

"The families have been ignored," he said. "We've been dismissed. It's time we look at the families." [wwashington@pbpost.com](mailto:wwashington@pbpost.com)

LEGISLATURE 2017

## Senate panel approves measure adding licenses for medical pot Five additional businesses could get industry entry.

*By Jim Saunders News Service of Florida*



The medical marijuana constitutional amendment passed by Florida voters in November is likely to dramatically expand the industry. URIEL SINAI / GETTY IMAGES

TALLAHASSEE — With the bill sponsor saying it “faithfully” carries out a constitutional amendment that voters passed in November, a Senate committee Monday approved a bill that would revamp Florida’s medical-marijuana laws. “It fully realizes the intent of the voters in passing that amendment,” bill sponsor Rob Bradley, R-Fleming Island, said. “It does so without playing games or being cute.” The Senate Health Policy Committee voted unanimously to approve the measure (SB 406) after debate that primarily focused on the number of businesses that should be able to receive licenses to grow, process and sell cannabis. Lawmakers in 2014 and 2016 passed laws that allowed medical marijuana for limited numbers of patients, including a measure last year that allowed it for people who are terminally ill. Under that system, seven “dispensing organizations” have received licenses to be on the ground floor of the industry. But voters in November overwhelmingly passed a constitutional amendment that will make cannabis available to a broad swath of patients with conditions ranging from cancer to post-traumatic stress disorder. As legislators work on carrying out the amendment, the potential for a dramatically expanded industry has led to heavy



lobbying about licenses for what Bradley's bill calls "medical marijuana treatment centers."

The Health Policy Committee approved a series of amendments Monday, including a proposal that would add five businesses that could get licenses by Oct. 3.

It also would allow more licenses in the future based on increasing numbers of patients.

David Custin, a lobbyist for Eureka Vapor Inc., and Kay-cha Holdings LLC, said his clients are the "have-nots" who do not have licenses. He called the amendment on adding licenses "movement in the right direction."

"This Legislature should not be concerned with the seven existing license-holders," Custin said. "They are going to do just fine."

But Sen. Bill Montford, D-Tallahassee, expressed concerns about adding more licenses. He said the existing licensees invested money under the current requirements and moved forward in "good faith."

"I think we should be concerned about the seven that we've already licensed," Montford said.

The Senate bill still needs to clear two other committees before it can reach the Senate floor. But a bigger challenge might be reaching agreement with the House on issues such as the number of licenses.

A House bill (HB 1397), sponsored by Majority Leader Ray Rodrigues, R-Estero, would provide fewer additional licenses for purveyors of medical marijuana than a Senate plan would allow.

The proposal, approved last week by a House panel, would require the Department of Health to grant another five licenses once the patient population reaches 200,000, and another three licenses for every additional 100,000 patients registered in a state database.

The House bill also needs to clear two more committees before it can go to the House floor.



## POST IN-DEPTH SALES TAX SPENDING

# **\$50.4M sales tax spending plan OK'd**

**Projects include park improvements, housing, public safety buildings.** *By Eliot Kleinberg Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

## **OTHER ACTION TAKEN BY THE COMMISSION**

The Palm Beach County Commission did the following Tuesday: Energy: Adopted the Property Assessed Clean Energy program, which helps residential or commercial property owners voluntarily finance energy-efficient improvements to their property and repay through a non-property tax assessment that is repaid through their annual tax bill. The vote was 6-1; Mack Bernard was opposed.

Visit Florida: Passed a resolution supporting Visit Florida, Enterprise Florida and the Office of Film and Entertainment. The state offices, which help bring businesses to Florida, have come under fire from some state legislators who want to abolish them.

Crime: Approved a plan by the Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission to use \$50,000 from two county sources to cover a shortfall for its Law Enforcement Exchange database. The state had nixed a grant, saying the exchange was redundant.

Palm Tran: Ratified the bargaining agreement reached with the union for Palm Tran drivers and mechanics.

Tax breaks: Approved a \$496,000 tax break for Pratt & Whitney, previously identified only as Project Blink, which would create 110 jobs; and \$40,000 for the as-yet-unrevealed Project Blue Heron, considering adding 50 jobs.

Ordinances: Adopted an updated Equal Employment ordinance and, in the first of two votes, an updated Affordable Housing ordinance.

Human trafficking: Approved training for county staff and community partners to recognize and combat human trafficking.

**WEST PALM BEACH** — Palm Beach County commissioners Tuesday approved \$50.4 million for the first year of projects to be paid for by the 1-cent sales tax surcharge that voters approved in November.

The projects they agreed to use the money for include park improvements, housing and public safety buildings.

On Jan. 1, the tax went from 6 cents on the dollar to 7 cents. The extra penny is expected to generate \$2.7 billion over the next decade for upgrades to parks, roads, schools and county buildings.

Half of the money, about \$1.3 billion, will go to the School District, which says most of it would repair and upgrade school campuses. Of the other half, 30 percent goes to county government and 20 percent to the 39 cities and towns.

In March 2016, commissioners approved a \$695 million list for the decadelong life of the extra penny tax. That number since has been amended to \$709.4 million and will continue to be tweaked.

The county is assembling a 19-person committee to oversee spending. And in February, it selected Dallas-based Jacobs Project Management to track the projects. The estimated \$50.4 million for 2017 breaks down to: **Engineering:** \$11.7 million.

**Sheriff:** \$7.4 million. **Facilities:** \$16.2 million, which includes \$2.55 million for housing for homeless and low-income residents. **Parks:** \$14.8 million. **Consultants:** \$270,000.

Some of the projects:

- \$4 million toward a \$6 million project to replace the pool complex at Lake Lytal Park; \$1.5 million toward \$2.4 million to renovate play fields at Buttonwood Park, west of Lantana; and \$2 million for fields at West Boynton Park.
- \$1 million toward a \$5 million project to stabilize a canal bank on State Road 880 in the Glades; \$1.5 million toward a \$6 million fix of the Florida East Coast Railway bridge over Palm Beach Lakes Boulevard; and \$1 million to resurface Woolbright Road from Military Trail to Lawrence Road.
- \$2.55 million toward \$25.5 million in new homeless and low-income housing.
- \$1.3 million toward a \$13 million renovation of electronic security systems at the Palm Beach County courthouse complex.
- \$1.6 million toward a \$32.7 million overhaul of the sheriff's headquarters; \$4.4 million toward \$21.3 million to replace the sheriff's evidence building; and \$5.6 million toward \$10.3 million to redo electronics at the county jail.

In making picks for 2017, County Administrator Verdenia Baker told the commission Tuesday, her team "looked at safety and security first," followed by priorities of quality and level of service, and then the most pressing remaining projects.

Commissioner Dave Kerner told Baker that while "we want this to play out organically and in terms of necessity," he did anticipate tinkering with wish lists in future years. Baker stressed that the commission Tuesday was approving only the first year and would have to separately approve each year's projects.

Mayor Paulette Burdick bemoaned that "some of my neighborhoods, they are park deserts. There are no places for children to go. And they'll still have to wait." But, she acknowledged, "I feel for you, Verdenia, with all of us wanting to make all of this happen."

Commissioner Steven Abrams, whose southern Palm Beach County district contains 12 cities, the most of any district, asked County Engineer George Webb about the county and the cities coordinating road projects near each other.

"We want to be fluid," Webb said, quipping, "heaven forbid we should apply common sense." He said he hasn't seen the city's road lists but that his office will "want to coordinate as best we can."

Burdick also reiterated she hopes the county uses local businesses and workers as much as possible, with a special effort to employ people who are out of work or underemployed.

"These are locally raised dollars, and we want our local people and businesses to benefit," Burdick said.

"That's our mission," Baker said. She said the county will host workshops to encourage businesses to seek contracts. The first is 4 p.m. April 12 at the Vista Center, at 2300 N. Jog Road in West Palm Beach. [ekleinberg@pbpost.com](mailto:ekleinberg@pbpost.com)

[Twitter: @eliotkpbp](#)

## TRUMP IN PALM BEACH

# Trade, North Korea subjects for summit Trump sees Mar-a-Lago as relaxed venue for leaders' first meeting, top aide says.

*By George Bennett Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Palm Beach County sheriff's deputies set up security equipment Tuesday on top of the BB&T bank building, which is across from Eau Palm Beach Resort and Spa in Manalapan. Chinese President Xi Jinping and his delegation are expected to stay at the resort Thursday. DAMON HIGGINS / THE PALM BEACH POST

## PRESIDENTS' WEEK IN PALM BEACH COUNTY

- Latest details on the presidential visit
- How tiny Lantana is bracing for Chinese president's visit
- The luxurious hotel where Xi is expected to

stay [myPalmBeachPost.com/donaldtrump](https://www.myPalmBeachPost.com/donaldtrump)

PALM BEACH — The leaders of the world's two largest economies will discuss trade, North Korean nuclear weapons and other issues here because President Donald Trump believes that Mar-a-Lago is a better place than the White House to get to know Chinese President Xi Jinping, a senior administration official said Tuesday. Trump and Xi will meet face-to-face for the first time Thursday afternoon in Palm Beach and continue their summit through Friday afternoon. While trade has long been a priority for Trump, the president and his administration have also made it clear that North Korea is a growing concern.

Trump wanted his first meeting with Xi to be at Mar-a-Lago, the historic estate he purchased in the 1980s, because "it's a place where he feels comfortable and at home and where he can break the ice with Xi Jinping without the formality" of

Washington, the senior administration official told reporters during a background briefing on the summit.

Trump also hosted Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at Mar-a-Lago in February and the pair spent hours on one of Trump's golf courses in Jupiter. Xi, however, has continued in the tradition of Chinese communist icon Mao Zedong and condemned golf.

"I think it's safe to say there's not going to be any golf," the administration official told reporters Tuesday.

Criticism of China's trade policies and its alleged unfair trade practices was a key component of Trump's 2016 campaign. Trump also has accused China of not doing enough to rein in North Korea and its development of nuclear weapons. And the president has taken issue with China's territorial claims in the South China Sea.

Trump last week predicted a "very difficult" meeting with Xi.

At the same time, the president hopes to "chart a way forward" and establish "a first step toward building a positive and results-oriented relationship" with Xi, the administration official said.

First lady Melania Trump and Xi's wife, Peng Liyuan, will also be at Mar-a-Lago. The Chinese delegation is not staying at the estate but is expected to spend Thursday night at the Eau Palm Beach Resort and Spa in Manalapan.

On trade, the administration official said, "the key premise of our economic relationship is that bilateral trade should be mutually beneficial. ... President Trump is very concerned about how the imbalance in our economic relationship affects American workers and wants to discuss these concerns."

On North Korea, another official said, the U.S. wants China "to begin exerting its considerable economic leverage to bring about a peaceful resolution to that problem."

Trump, in a recent interview with The Financial Times, said the U.S. is prepared to deal unilaterally with North Korea if China doesn't help.

"China has great influence over North Korea. And China will either decide to help us with North Korea, or they won't," Trump said. "If they do, that will be very good for China, and if they don't, it won't be good for anyone."

He added: "Well if China is not going to solve North Korea, we will. That is all I am telling you."

In Tuesday's briefing, the administration official said of North Korea: "The clock has run out and all options are on the table for us." [gbennett@pbpost.com](mailto:gbennett@pbpost.com)

**Twitter: @gbennettpost VIDEO ONLINE** George Bennett previews the Trump-Xi summit at [myPalmBeachPost.com](http://myPalmBeachPost.com).

## POST ON WEATHER HURRICANE MATTHEW

# Matthew report: 165 mph hurricane shocked forecasters

*By Kimberly Miller Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

**Check local conditions, see live radar and keep up with reporter Kimberly Miller's** weather updates. The free PBPost Weather app is available on iTunes and at Google Play. Search for Palm Beach Post WeatherPlus.



Waves caused by Hurricane Matthew pound the Jacksonville Pier, which was damaged by the October 2016 storm. A post-storm analysis shows that hurricane models did not predict that Matthew would intensify as quickly as it did.

MARK WILSON / GETTY IMAGES 2016

Hurricane Matthew's explosive intensification to a dangerous Category 5 storm was not predicted by any National Hurricane Center models and shocked forecasters who watched its winds grow to 165 mph in a day.

A nearly 100-page report released Tuesday by the hurricane center said the October storm's surprise escalation occurred in an area where forecasters thought heavy wind shear would allow for "only slow or no strengthening."

Matthew, which gave South Florida its first real scare from a tropical cyclone since 2005's Hurricane Wilma, instead experienced a "remarkable" intensification marked by an unusually high number of lightning strikes and a dramatic eye-wall contraction from 34 miles across to about 6 miles.

The peak wind speed of 165 mph that is listed in the report is 5 mph higher than the original forecast.

"I have never seen a storm intensify this much in the path of what we would consider to be adverse conditions," said NHC senior hurricane specialist Stacy Stewart, who



wrote the report on Hurricane Matthew. "We are fortunate this occurred over the open Caribbean because if it happened over the Gulf Stream, and suddenly you have a Category 4 or 5, it's going to make a big difference if people aren't prepared." The storm was about 90 miles north of Punta Gallinas, Colombia, when it experienced the unexpected rapid intensification, with the strongest winds no threat to land.

The National Hurricane Center conducts a post-storm analysis at the end of each hurricane season. Matthew was the last of 16 reports for the Atlantic basin's 2016 hurricane season, which was the most active since 2012. Seven hurricanes, eight tropical storms and one tropical depression formed in 2016.

The hurricane season runs June 1 through November.

Stewart said besides the inability of the models to predict Matthew's rapid intensification, there was little that was a surprise in the reanalysis. The track forecast that kept the storm off the east coast of Florida was better than the five-year average.

Matthew brushed by Palm Beach County as a Category 4 storm on Oct. 6 with no hurricane-force winds recorded on land. Palm Beach International Airport measured sustained winds of 33 mph with gusts of 50 mph during the storm. Sustained tropical storm-force winds of 56 mph were measured in Jupiter with gusts up to 66 mph.

The storm made landfall as a Category 1 hurricane just south of McClellanville, S.C., on Oct. 8.

While Matthew caused widespread damage to roofs, trees and power lines from Florida to North Carolina, it devastated Haiti, killing more than 500 people and either destroying or damaging more than 200,000 homes.

In the U.S., 34 deaths were directly attributed to Matthew, including two in Florida. The number of people killed made Matthew the deadliest hurricane since 2005's Hurricane Stan.

Matthew was also the southernmost Category 5 hurricane in the Atlantic basin on record, surpassing Hurricane Ivan in 2004.

But it was the 24-hour deepening to a Category 5 storm that was the most remarkable aspect climatologically. That kind of growth has only "been exceeded a few times in Atlantic historical record."

"It's extremely unusual, and there are only a few hurricanes that intensified faster than that," said Weather Underground co-founder Jeff Masters. "Hurricane Wilma did 90 knots (103 mph) in 24 hours, but it's rare."

In 2015, the Pacific basin's Hurricane Patricia ramped up from a Category 1 storm to 207 mph in just 24 hours. Also that year, Hurricane Joaquin grew from a tropical storm to a Category 3 hurricane in 24 hours.

While forecasting intensity has improved, it is still a challenge, and Stewart said what caused Matthew's rapid growth remains a mystery.

Even though recalculations in the analysis resulted in lower wind-shear speeds to tear at the storm, they were still moderately high at up to 17 mph.

"Either the models were wrong or the data going into the models was wrong or something else occurred internally that allowed it to intensify," Stewart said. "Our worst-case scenario as forecasters is to have a storm go through an explosive intensification and not be forecast." [kmiller@pbpost.com](mailto:kmiller@pbpost.com) **Twitter:**

[@kmillerweather](#)

## LEGISLATURE 2017

# House panel OKs \$3.75M to settle Barahona case

*News Service of Florida*



Barahona

TALLAHASSEE — A House committee Tuesday approved paying \$3.75 million as part of the settlement of a high-profile case in which a 10-year-old girl was found dead in the bed of a pickup along Interstate 95 in West Palm Beach and her twin brother was found with severe injuries from abuse.

The bill (HB 6523), approved by the House Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee, would carry out a settlement reached by the Florida Department of Children and Families in the 2011 death of Nubia Barahona and injuries to her brother, Victor. The twins were placed as foster children in the home of Jorge and Carmen Barahona and were later adopted by the couple.

Nubia Barahona's decomposing body was found in February 2011 in the bed of her father's pickup truck on Interstate 95 in West Palm Beach. Victor Barahona was convulsing in the truck, as both children had been doused with toxic chemicals, authorities said.

The Department of Children and Families agreed to pay \$5 million to the estate of Nubia Barahona and to Victor Barahona. It paid \$1.25 million but needs legislative approval of a "claim" bill to pay the remaining \$3.75 million.

"God bless our children," bill sponsor Jose Felix Diaz, R-Miami, said Tuesday. "May this never happen again."

A special master's report recommending approval of the claim bill pinned blame on the Florida Department of Children and Families for not helping prevent abuse of the children.

"In sum, the cumulative effect of the evidence shows that DCF should have known the twins were being abused and failed to prevent the situation from continuing," Special Master Parker Aziz wrote. "DCF employees performed their tasks in a mere perfunctory fashion, filling out forms and bubbling in boxes without adequate critical thinking and analysis of the data they were collecting. The department and its employees had a duty and breached that duty."

A similar Senate bill (SB 18), filed by Sen. Anitere Flores, R-Miami, has been unanimously approved by two Senate panels and is expected to be heard this week by the Appropriations Committee

## LAKE WORTH

### **\$3,500 given to family after girl wrote thief** *By*

*Kevin D. Thompson Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

LAKE WORTH — The parents of Wendy Chay Son are receiving a \$3,500 check from a [gofundme.com](https://www.gofundme.com) campaign, money raised after a bandit broke into their South D Street home in February, stealing two computers, two tablets, jewelry and money stashed in a piggy bank.

Instead of being angry, Wendy, an 8-year-old Barton Elementary School second-grader, wrote a letter to the thief, asking the person to "just be nice." She taped the letter to the window in hopes the burglar would see it.

"We are sad that you have been steeling (sic) in this house. You are not the only one that has feelings (sic) We all do," the letter said.

In the margins of her letter, which Wendy said took about five minutes to write, she added, "I hope you will change and be good. God will forgive you."

Wendy said she wrote the letter hoping it could help the person who robbed her house change his or her ways.

"I want them to stop stealing," Wendy said. "What if they hurt somebody?"

This past month, Wendy read the letter at a candidate forum hosted by the Genesis Neighborhood Association.

## TERRORISM CHARGE

# Second PBC man pleads guilty in plot to help

**ISIS** *By Jane Musgrave Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Jackson

WEST PALM BEACH — A Royal Palm Beach man on Tuesday became the second Palm Beach County man in less than a week to plead guilty in connection with a failed plot to provide aid to the Islamic State.

Darren Arness Jackson, 51, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization. He faces a possible 20-year prison sentence.

As she did last week when Dayne Christian, 32, pleaded guilty to the same charge, along with a charge of being a felon in possession of a firearm, U.S. District Judge Robin Rosenberg didn't set a sentencing date for Jackson.

Gregory Hubbard, a 52-year-old homeless West Palm Beach man who FBI agents say was also involved in the plot, is still fighting the charges. It is likely that both Jackson and Christian would testify against him in hopes of getting their sentences reduced.

The three were arrested in July after Hubbard, along with a confidential FBI informant, tried to board a plane bound for Germany at Miami International Airport. From there, Hubbard planned to catch a flight to Syria, agents said. Jackson drove Hubbard, a self-taught artist, to the airport.

The confidential informant, posing as a supporter of the terrorist group ISIL, also known as ISIS, recorded 200 hours of conversations among the three men, according to court records. The three talked about their support of ISIL and radical clerics and practiced using high-powered rifles, agents said.

At one point, Hubbard said, there were only two types of people: "Those who were with ISIS and those who were against ISIS." [jmusgrave@pbpost.com](mailto:jmusgrave@pbpost.com)

## BEST OF OUR BLOGS

# 9 sentenced in huge medical fraud scheme



Nine people were sentenced in a \$175 million fraud scheme based in Palm Beach County. Nine people received sentences up to 15 years in a “massive” \$175 million fraud scheme based in Palm Beach County that paid illegal kickbacks to doctors and misled insurers about cream medications costing up to \$31,000 a tube, U.S. prosecutors said Friday.

U.S. District Judge Daniel T. K. Hurley imposed the following sentences: Clifford Carroll, 36, of Boca Raton, 180 months’ imprisonment; Todd Stephens, 52, of West Palm Beach, 120 months; Joel McDermott, 41, of Boca Raton, 72 months; Michael Kenna, 30, of Delray Beach, 60 months.

Also sentenced were Todd Hanson, 47, of Zephyr Cove, NV, 96 months; Christopher Mucha, 30, of Davie, 30 months; Ian Flaster, 34, of Delray Beach, 36 months; William Earl, 73, of Boca Raton, 24 months; and Dr. Peter Williams, 56, of New Port Richey, 60 months.

The operations of NuMedCare LLC of Boca Raton and related firms reached across the country and racked up big charges for medications compounded, or specially mixed, in pharmacies, with little regard for the actual needs of patients, according to prosecutors.

AsThePalmBeachPostreported, the two-year scheme included call centers to solicit potential patients including veterans, “corrupt co-conspirator physicians” and “test billing” of insurance companies to see what would work.

— CHARLES ELMORE, PROTECTING YOUR POCKET

## Father of dead man criticizes release of shooter at keg party

*By Marc Freeman Staff writer*



Dorsey

Johnay Makaylah Dorsey is turning 10 on Thursday and one of her biggest wishes is for her daddy to be released from prison for the first time in her life.

"Little does she know," her older half-sister, Bianca Filiponi, said Tuesday, "she's getting the birthday wish she's always wanted."

John Thomas Dorsey — Johnay's father and a man originally sentenced in 2009 to life in prison on two murder convictions — is to be a free man, following two successful appeals, a favorable ruling on a "stand your ground claim" and a court order this week.

The dream present for Dorsey's fourth-grade daughter means more heartache for the families of the two young men shot to death on Aug. 25, 2006, during a violent encounter with Dorsey outside of a Loxahatchee keg party.

Dorsey's "got a trial waiting for him when he gives up his spirit," said Stephen Bunting, father of Stephen Beau Bunting, who died at age 20. "When (Dorsey) dies he's gotta stand before God and the two boys he killed."

John Lott, 19, was the other man who lost his life.

As much as it pained Bunting, the new order setting Dorsey free was fully expected, he said.

"It was one of these hokey deals," the Gainesville-area man said of the long legal odyssey that included convictions at two trials and two successful appeals by Dorsey. Circuit Judge John Kastrenakes re-sentenced Dorsey, 30, on two weapons charges filed along with the original murder counts that have since been wiped out. So instead of remaining locked up to complete a 15-year prison term for the two gun charges, Dorsey was sentenced Monday to time served, or nearly 11 years.



At Dorsey's first trial, he was convicted of two second-degree murder charges; but an appellate court tossed them in 2011 and ordered a second trial on manslaughter charges. The following year

Dorsey was convicted and sentenced to 45 years in prison.

But the Fourth District Court of Appeal tossed those guilty verdicts too, ruling a mistake was made at Dorsey's retrial when the jury was not allowed to consider a "stand your ground" defense.

"Stand your ground" means people don't have to retreat and can legally use deadly force, if the person reasonably believes doing so is necessary "to prevent imminent death."

In 2015, Dorsey testified that he drove to the party in his SUV with a gun stored in the glove box. Then 19, he joined about 50 to 75 teenagers at the party, where there was keg and bottled beer and bottles of alcohol, court records show.

At one point, Dorsey had decided to go back to his truck to arm himself, in case he needed to defend a friend who had been involved in an incident. Dorsey said later he was outside sitting alone on the hood of his SUV when a half-dozen males walked up and surrounded him.

One man punched Dorsey, knocking him back onto the hood of his SUV, and another man grabbed his legs. Dorsey then rose up, pulled the gun out of his pocket and fired at those closest to him. Lott and Bunting were fatally hit, according to court records.

Dorsey, formerly of North Palm Beach, said he feared he would be "kicked to sleep" by the "hostile" attendees at the house party.

In his order dismissing the manslaughter charges, then-Judge Barry Cohen wrote that Dorsey "feared the very real possibility of broken bones, internal injuries and head injuries given the number of assailants."

The judge did not act on the charges of felon in possession of firearm or ammunition citation and carrying a concealed firearm.

Dorsey was a felon at the time of the shootings, because a year earlier he was charged with two forgery-related counts: He and a friend tried to pass off a fake \$20 bill.

In a 2015 interview, John Lott's fiancée, Patricia Papa, said she was outraged about Dorsey's handling by the criminal justice system. She feels sadness for son, John, who was born 17 days after his father died. He's now 10.

"My son never got to meet his dad," Papa said. "How do you get off on a double murder?" [mjfreeman@sun-sentinel.com](mailto:mjfreeman@sun-sentinel.com), 561-243-6642

or [Twitter @marcjfreeman](https://twitter.com/marcjfreeman)

# Officials OK \$1M to fight epidemic

## County asking for emergency status

*By Skyler Swisher Staff writer*

Palm Beach County is putting \$1 million into the fight against the heroin epidemic, which killed more than 500 residents in the past year.

Officials say more needs to be done to increase the availability of treatment and implement a response to a drug problem that has surpassed car crashes as a cause of death nationally.

"It's the tip of the iceberg from what we've heard today," Commissioner Steven Abrams said.

County commissioners will send a letter to Gov. Rick Scott asking him to declare opioid abuse a statewide public health emergency, adding their support to a letter Commissioner Melissa McKinlay sent on her behalf earlier this year.

During a visit to Palm Beach County this past week, Scott told reporters he has not ruled out declaring a public health emergency and is reviewing the matter.

The county will immediately take \$1 million from its reserves to devote toward the crisis. Some of those funds will be used to hire a "high-level employee" who will oversee the county's response, as well as add two new positions to the medical examiner's office.

Another \$2 million is planned for next budget year as part of a 68-page response plan approved Tuesday.

The new funding will be used to start implementing recommendations in the county's response plan.

The county's action plan calls for increasing the number of treatment beds, creating a clean-needle exchange program and expanding youth drug education programs. The county will also study creating a centralized detox facility where addicts could go to get help.

Alton Taylor, executive director of the Drug Abuse Foundation of Palm Beach County, said the county has not recovered from funding cuts made during the Great Recession that sharply reduced the number of publicly funded treatment beds. Ten years ago, more than 200 publicly funded treatment beds were available, Taylor said.

That's down to about 60, he said.

Taylor said this is the worst drug epidemic he has experienced in his nearly four-decade career.

"I've never seen anything like this," he said. "Its lethality is virtually unprecedented."

Opioid overdose deaths more than tripled in the past five years, going from 143 in 2012 to 592 in 2016. Palm Beach County had the most fatal opioid overdoses in the state in 2015, officials said.

During their meeting Tuesday, county commissioners heard from first-responders overwhelmed with overdose calls, community members who lost loved ones to addiction and others on the front lines of the crisis.

Rick Molt, 62, a plumber from West Palm Beach, told commissioners he struggled with a heroin addiction for 25 years before getting clean.

He said the community shouldn't expect instant results.

"Unfortunately, there is not a silver bullet for addiction," he

said. [sswisher@sunsentinel.com](mailto:sswisher@sunsentinel.com), 561-243-6634 or @SkylerSwisher

**From:** [Anderson, Cassandra L](#)  
**Subject:** News Clips 4/6/2017  
**Date:** Thursday, April 06, 2017 9:47:02 AM  
**Attachments:** [News Clips.docx](#)

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## **News Clip 4/6/2017**

### **Palm Beach Post**

# **Sheriff: We won't tolerate 'any civil disobedience' Authorities' manpower at hurricane strength for arrival of world leaders.**

*By George Bennett Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Security ramps up Wednesday at Eau Palm Beach Resort & Spa in Manalapan for the arrival of Chinese President Xi Jinping. Barriers have been installed to keep crowds out of the streets and away from the hotel. ALLEN EYESTONE / THE PALM BEACH POST

## **PRESIDENTS' WEEK IN PALM BEACH COUNTY**

Keep up with the latest details on the presidential visit:

- Find out what museum is in the spotlight ahead of the summit.



- See what's closed, what's open today and Friday.
- Check out photo galleries of Mar-a-Lago and President Trump's previous visits at [myPalmBeachPost.com/donaldtrump](http://myPalmBeachPost.com/donaldtrump).

FOLLOW OUR TEAM OF REPORTERS George Bennett at @gbennettpost Kristina Webb at @kristinawebb Alexandra Seltzer at @alexsseltzer Eleanor Roy at @elroy\_says Watch the arrival of the heads of state this afternoon at The Palm Beach Post's Facebook page.



Demonstrators gather Wednesday outside Eau Palm Beach Resort & Spa in Manalapan to bring attention to Falun Gong, a group that cites persecution by former Chinese Communist Party leader Jiang Zemin. ALLEN EYESTONE / THE PALM BEACH POST



Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw (center) uses a map to point out areas around Eau Palm Beach Resort & Spa that will be blocked off during the Chinese president's visit. DAMON HIGGINS / THE PALM BEACH POST



The international summit in Palm Beach between President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping is being treated like an approaching hurricane by local law enforcement, Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw said Wednesday.

Trump and Xi are scheduled to arrive separately today at Palm Beach International Airport for meetings at Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate that will continue through Friday. Trump, as usual, will stay at Mar-a-Lago while Xi and the Chinese delegation will take over most of the Eau Palm Beach Resort & Spa about 7 miles south in Manalapan. Bradshaw said there will be a "significant law enforcement presence" around the presidents. With potentially hundreds of protesters and supporters of Xi expected to gather in Manalapan, barriers and fencing have been installed there to keep crowds out of the streets and away from the hotel where the Chinese leader is staying. Parking lots on Bingham Island — a popular spot along Southern Boulevard for Trump supporters and critics as well as the media to gather just west of Mar-a-Lago — will also be closed. People will be able to walk to the island from West Palm Beach.

"I cannot give you the (manpower) numbers, that's an operational issue, but we have gone to the same type of shifts that we have during a natural disaster, which is 12-hour shifts, and canceled vacations. And we're going to use all of our manpower that we have at our fingertips," Bradshaw told reporters at a briefing at the county Emergency Operations Center. The sheriff was joined by police chiefs from South Palm Beach and Lantana and an assistant chief from Palm Beach.

The sheriff's office, which typically spends \$60,000 to \$70,000 a day on overtime to assist the Secret Service when Trump visits, will spend double that amount with a second world leader in the county, said Bradshaw, who said he's confident local taxpayers will eventually be reimbursed by the federal government.

In addition to deputies and Secret Service, Bradshaw said an unspecified number of Chinese security personnel will accompany Xi and "their authorization is to work with us and protect him around his personal space."

Bradshaw said law enforcement will respond quickly to any protests that are deemed threatening.

"We are not going to tolerate any civil disobedience, throwing of objects, or any other type of disorderly conduct whatsoever. At the first sign of that, it will be dealt with," said Bradshaw, who said "mobile jails" will be in place near Mar-a-Lago and the Eau Palm Beach.

"People can come there, express their opinions, hold up all the signs they want to all day long, but when it turns to something other than that, then we are fully ready and capable to make sure that it doesn't get out of hand," Bradshaw said.

Including time Trump spent in Palm Beach as president-elect and five trips to Mar-a-Lago as president, Bradshaw estimates the sheriff's office has spent about \$1.7 million on overtime before the upcoming visit. Local members of Congress have asked Trump to help secure federal money to reimburse local taxpayers. Bradshaw also spoke to Trump about it during a face-to-face meeting at Mar-a-Lago.

"I had a personal conversation with the president in February. He understands that. There's a system like everything else and unfortunately, the system involves Congress.... I'm sure they'll get around to it," Bradshaw said.

Bradshaw, a former West Palm Beach police chief who's now in his fourth term as sheriff, said the Trump-Xi summit is the largest security undertaking of his career.

"That's huge when you have two people like that in the same place," Bradshaw said of Trump and Xi. "You actually are running two security details along with the Secret Service, two motorcades and getting those people to and from where they need to be." [gbennett@pbpost.com](mailto:gbennett@pbpost.com)

## TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

# FDA nominee tells panel opioid crisis is his top priority But doctor faces questions about his Big Pharma ties.

*By Lauran Neergaard Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The doctor nominated to head the powerful Food and Drug Administration told senators Wednesday that his first priority would be tackling the opioid crisis, and he pledged that science will prevail at the agency despite his extensive financial ties to medical companies it regulates.

Dr. Scott Gottlieb is a physician-turned-health consultant who has criticized many FDA regulations as unnecessary and has what opponents call unprecedented financial entanglements.

But Gottlieb told a Senate health committee that as a cancer survivor, he knows firsthand the importance of "what the FDA does for every one of us" and promised to "lead the FDA as an impartial and passionate advocate for public health."

He stressed the balance between speeding new products to market and making sure that good science continues to guide the FDA's decisions.

"We should reject a false dichotomy that it all boils down to a choice between speed and safety," Gottlieb said.

At the same time, "we need to make sure we're getting the most bang for our regulatory buck," he added.

Gottlieb said opioid addiction is “the biggest crisis facing the agency” and as serious a public health challenge — for the entire government, not just FDA — as infectious diseases like Ebola or Zika. He said tackling the crisis would be his first priority and will “require dramatic action,” including finding ways to spur development of non-addictive alternative painkillers as well as addiction treatments.

Gottlieb, 44, is no stranger to the FDA, which regulates products that affect about a quarter of all consumer spending .

He was a deputy commissioner under President George W. Bush.

But critics have focused on Gottlieb’s finances, citing government data showing he received hundreds of thousands of dollars in consulting or other fees from several FDA-regulated companies in recent years, on top of income from positions in a venture capital firm and investment bank that also fund health companies.

In ethics documents filed last week, Gottlieb said that if confirmed as FDA’s commissioner he would recuse himself for a year from decisions involving about 20 companies, including drug giant GlaxoSmithKline, and would resign positions including as a board member or consultant with nine other health-related companies.

But Sen. Patty Murray of Washington, the committee’s senior Democrat, questioned whether recusals are enough to erase the bias of being a pharmaceutical industry insider when dozens of drugs being developed by those companies could come before the FDA.

“What I’m concerned about is how your involvement with so many companies shapes your priorities,” she said.

Gottlieb responded, “I get it. I understand how important the impartiality of this agency is so people continue to have trust in the decisions FDA makes.”

“I want to earn and keep the public’s trust,” he said.

## IMMIGRATION

# DHS chief backtracks on splitting families

Previous statements cited separation as a possible deterrent. *By Alicia A. Caldwell Associated Press*

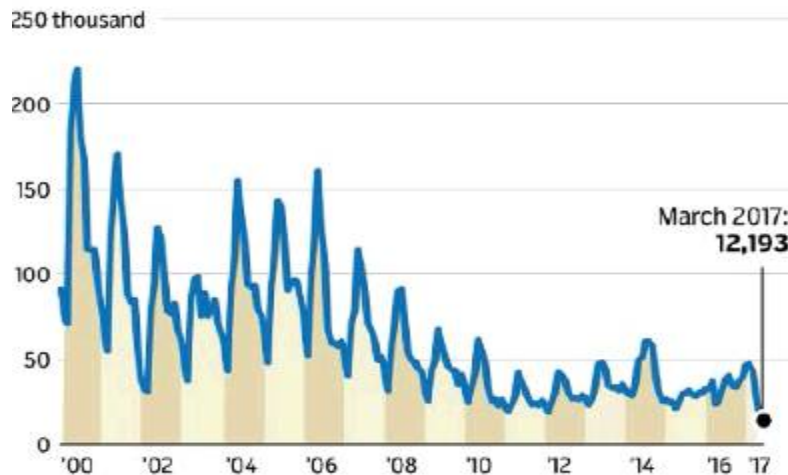


Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly tells the Senate Homeland Security panel Wednesday that, "The start point is illegal status and then go to the priorities."

J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE / ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Southwest border arrests drop

Apprehensions at the U.S.-Mexico border fell to less than 12,500 in March, according to the latest figures from Customs and Border Protection.



Note: Dates are for fiscal years which run Sept. 1-Oct. 30.

Source: Department of Homeland Security

AP

WASHINGTON — Parents and children caught crossing the Mexican border into the United States illegally generally can remain together, Homeland Security chief John Kelly said Wednesday, in a partial reversal of previous comments.

Kelly also made clear that just about any immigrant in the United State illegally is a priority for immigration enforcement.

"The start point is illegal status and then go to the priorities," Kelly told members of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Oversight Committee. "They can go after an individual, under the law, if they are on the list because they are illegal." Kelly has previously said that young immigrants who took advantage of an Obama administration program that protects them from deportation and allows them to work legally in the United States won't be targeted for deportation unless they let that protection lapse or commit a crime. He did not address that group during his testimony Wednesday.

During the nearly two-hour back-and-forth with senators, Kelly said families caught crossing the border illegally generally would not be separated unless the "situation at the time requires it." He gave as examples the mother being sick or addicted to drugs. But he said separation would not be routine.

Kelly's comment contrasted with earlier statements that his agency was considering separation as a deterrent to would-be border crossers, mostly from Central America. Last month 1,125 people traveling as families were caught trying to cross the Mexican border into the United States illegally, according to Customs and Border Protection.

Immigrant families and children traveling alone have accounted for hundreds of thousands of arrests at the border in recent years, at times overwhelming federal authorities.

Kelly said he has not issued a written directive outlining the policy to border agents, but has told employees that he must approve any such separations. In a somewhat tense exchange with Sen. Kamala Harris, D-Calif., Kelly said border agents don't need a written policy because he's given the order verbally.

The retired four-star Marine general said his subordinates know that his orders are to be followed even if they aren't written down. And he told lawmakers his leadership style has already improved morale within the agency, where a government survey showed morale was among the lowest in the government.

"The greatest impact in raising the morale in the last 90 days is the workforce is now allowed to do their job," Kelly said.

He also told lawmakers that a sharp decline in people crossing the southern border illegally was due in part to Trump's immigration policies and widely publicized arrests of immigrants living in the United States illegally. Smugglers have also raised prices to bring would-be immigrants from Central America through Mexico and to the border, he said.

Kelly took some credit himself, saying his direct plea to government officials in Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala along with conversations with church leaders and others in the region have helped curb the number of people trying to sneak into the United States.

Customs and Border Protection said 12,193 people were caught trying to enter the United States illegally from Mexico in March. It was the second straight decline in arrests at the border, a likely signal that fewer people are trying to come into the United States illegally, and the fewest arrests in a month in at least the last 17 years. Kelly said that decline in the number of people trying to enter the United States illegally won't continue unless his agency gets the resources needed to secure the border.

"It won't last ... unless we do something, again, to secure the border," Kelly said. "The wall. A physical barrier. All we know is that physical barriers do work if they are put in the right places."

Kelly said the wall won't be from "sea to shining sea," but in places where border agents say it would be most effective.

In response to a question from Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., Kelly said the wall could extend beyond a physical barrier and include a mix of technology including drones. The prospects for the wall and securing the billions of dollars to pay for it appear dim this year, Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., made clear Wednesday morning.

"The majority of Senate ... is not going to sign a blank check for a wall we know is never going to be built," McCaskill said.



## LAKE WORTH GUATEMALAN CONSULATE

# Guatemalan leader to visit Lake

**Worth President Morales to attend opening of new consulate today.** *By Kevin D. Thompson Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Jimmy Morales will be one of three presidents in Palm Beach County today.

LAKE WORTH — Talk about a hat trick: three presidents will be in Palm Beach County today.

Perhaps you've heard of the first two — President Donald Trump is scheduled to meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the swanky Mar-a-Lago to discuss what Trump has said will be "very serious business."

Meanwhile, on the other side of town that's not as swanky, Guatemala's President Jimmy Morales will be in Lake Worth at 6 p.m. for an invitation-only event to celebrate the opening of the Guatemalan Consulate on 10th Avenue North.

Morales will be joined by Carlos Raul Morales Moscoso of Guatemala's Ministry of Foreign Relations.

More than 100 invites went out, including to city and Palm Beach County officials.

Mayor Pam Triolo is expected to attend and speak.

"This is historic," said Aileen Josephs, an immigration attorney in Palm Beach County for more than 20 years who is also honorary consul of Guatemala for the county.

"This consulate will help the community a lot."

Lake Worth has a sizable Guatemalan population, and whenever a resident needed a passport, identification or to register a birth, they were forced to drive to the consulate in Miami.

Guatemalan leaders have been requesting a consulate in Palm Beach County for years, Josephs said.

Last year, Morales was in Jupiter and Lantana, and heard residents' pleas, said Rosa Maria Merida de Mora, consul general of Guatemala in Miami.

De Mora was charged with finding a site.

Lake Worth was always a strong candidate, de Mora said.

She found a vacant, 5,000-square-foot space at 1926 10th Ave., just west of Interstate

95. Monthly rent is \$6,000, which will be paid by the Guatemalan government, de Mora said.

Josephs said the consulate is important to the community.

"This can be a place where Guatemalans go, a place where workshops can be held," she said.

As for having three presidents in the county at the same time, Josephs said it's a good sign.

"It just shows that it's very important to build bridges in our worlds between different people and different countries," she said. [kthompson@pbpost.com](mailto:kthompson@pbpost.com)

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## BOYNTON BEACH

# Passenger in fleeing car sues city, officers

*By Alexandra Seltzer Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

BOYNTON BEACH — After nearly three years, the city of Boynton Beach's litigation with Byron Harris recently came to an end with a guilty plea in a criminal case and a \$600,000 settlement in a civil case.

Now, it's his ex-girlfriend's turn.

Ashley Hill, 21, sat in the backseat of her mother's car in August 2014 while Harris drove and led Boynton police on a high-speed chase, seriously injuring one officer. Harris then was beaten while taken into custody, and subsequently sued the city and several police officers, accusing them of excessive force and violating his civil rights. Hill claims officers also beat her excessively and violated her civil rights, according to the federal lawsuit she filed last week. Through her attorney Linnes Finney, Hill filed the suit against the city, Boynton officer Matthew Medeiros and former officer Alfred Martinez.

After the police chase, Hill was arrested on a charge of resisting arrest without violence, but her attorney says she did not resist, according to the lawsuit.

"Despite having no control over what the driver did, and all the while showing her open hands up to demonstrate no weapon, no resistance and surrender, Plaintiff Hill was brutally and unnecessarily punched in the face by Defendant Medeiros, beaten and tased by Defendant Martinez, while these officers, and other officers watched without intervening," it reads.

Hill pleaded guilty to the resisting charge in October 2014, court records show. The lawsuit says she is no longer dating Harris.

Finney, who also represented Harris, did not return a request for comment Monday. Neither did police spokeswoman Stephanie Slater, though the department usually does not comment on pending litigation.

Boynton's City Commission recently decided to settle Harris' lawsuit, but only to save taxpayers from potentially having to front a jury's order of payment if the case went to trial.

In the encounter with police, officers started to follow Harris after he ran a stop sign. Police saw him drop a bag of white powder outside the car. Harris led police up Interstate 95 to West Palm Beach and down to Lake Worth, where the chase ended. During the chase, Officer Jeffrey Williams was severely injured. Police say Harris hit Williams with his car, and Williams said he was also hit by a fellow officer chasing Harris while he put out stop sticks.

A Palm Beach County Sheriff's helicopter pilot flew above the scene when the officers took Harris and his passengers into custody. The video showed officers punching, kicking and using a Taser on Harris, Hill and a second passenger, Jeffrey Braswell.

For Harris, a criminal case and a civil case both developed from the encounter. In the criminal case, Harris pleaded guilty March 2 to aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and fleeing or attempting to elude, both third-degree felonies. The Palm Beach County State Attorney's Office decided not to prosecute him on charges of leaving the scene of a crash involving an injury and attempted second-degree murder while in possession of a weapon, court records show.

Harris filed a civil case against the city and several Boynton police officers involved in his arrest, which the City Commission decided in November to settle. Boynton's commissioners said if the case were taken to trial the taxpayers could be held responsible for all costs. With the settlement, the money is paid by the city's insurance company.

Meanwhile, the FBI is still working to determine if the officers' use of force was acceptable, a request made by Chief Jeffrey Katz. [aseltzer@pbpost.com](mailto:aseltzer@pbpost.com)

### **GREENACRES Woman considered to be missing endangered**

A 66-year-old woman was last seen more than a year ago, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office said Wednesday.

Donna Harary is considered a missing endangered adult due to physical and mental illnesses, the sheriff's office said. Her case was transferred from the Greenacres Department of Public Safety to the sheriff's office when the departments merged in February 2016.

Anyone with information about Harary is asked to contact the sheriff's office dispatch at 561-688-3400 or the nearest law enforcement agency.

— OLIVIA HITCHCOCK



Harris

### **ACREAGE Man accused of allowing minors to drink at party**

An Acreage man was arrested Saturday after he held a party at his home in which he allegedly charged admission to juveniles who were seen by Palm Beach County sheriff's deputies drinking alcohol and smoking marijuana, according to an arrest report.

Christian Jose Sanchez, 25, is facing a charge of contributing to the delinquency of a minor. He was released Sunday from the Palm Beach County Jail on his own recognizance.

Deputies responded to the home on the 15400 block of 66th North Court, south of Orange Boulevard and east of Seminole Pratt Whitney Road, at about 10 p.m. and found a man outside the residence's front gate charging \$5 to enter, the report said. There were between 100 and 150 juveniles at the party when PBSO arrived, the report said.

When deputies arrived, they saw two juveniles drop alcoholic beverages and run away, the report said. — JORGE MILIAN

## CRIME

# Suspect denied bond in shooting at home

*By Olivia Hitchcock Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



David Bott, 27, was arrested Tuesday on multiple charges.

WEST PALM BEACH — A man was shot three times early Sunday after he stopped at his West Palm Beach home to let out his dog and was greeted by a robber, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office records state.

The robber pistol-whipped the resident and demanded to be let into the home, which lies within the city limits. The armed man ordered the resident to hand over money and open a safe. When the resident refused, the man shot him in the groin area. The robber shot the man twice more as he fled the home, records state.

David Bott, 27, was arrested Tuesday afternoon on charges of attempted homicide, home invasion and armed carjacking. The 16-time convicted felon faces an additional charge of possessing a weapon as a convicted felon. State records show the West Palm-area man was in and out of prison from 2008 through 2015 for burglary and car theft. He finished his most recent prison sentence in December 2015.

Judge Dina Keever-Agrama on Wednesday ordered Bott held without bond at the Palm Beach County Jail on the new charges.

Sheriff's officials met the injured man early Sunday on Okeechobee Boulevard, just west of the city limits and east of the intersection with North Military Trail. His friends drove him about 4 miles south from his home toward a hospital, but the man was afraid he would bleed out before they made it, so they called 911 for help. The man was rushed to St. Mary's Medical Center for the gunshot wounds to his lower leg and groin area, records state.

The injured man told officials he went to several parties Saturday. At about 1 a.m. Sunday he left a party near Loxahatchee to let out his dog and meet up with other friends.

He stopped his car outside his home and told the woman inside he'd be right back. Another friend planned to meet them at the house.

The man barely made it to the front door before he was attacked by a man his friends knew as "D J." Sheriff's officials say that man was Bott.

The man's two friends saw him run from his home. Bott reportedly fired multiple rounds at the man, hitting him twice in the lower leg. Bott took off with the man's car.

Officials found a trail of blood leading out of the home, which had been ransacked. It was not immediately known whether anything was stolen from the home. [ohitchcock@pbpost.com](mailto:ohitchcock@pbpost.com) [Twitter: @ohitchcock](https://twitter.com/ohitchcock)

## Teen faces attempted murder charges

*By Jorge Milian Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Samuels

LANTANA — A suburban Boynton Beach man is facing two counts of attempted first-degree murder and other felonies after he allegedly fired his gun at two men following a bogus drug deal, according to an arrest report.

Ecclesiastes Ebenezer Samuels, 19, is also facing charges of robbery with a firearm and kidnapping and is being held in the Palm Beach County Jail without bond.

A man told Lantana police that he went to a home on the 600 block of Minnesota Street, south of Lantana Road and west of Federal Highway, to buy marijuana. A deal was arranged and a car containing three males, including Samuels, showed up at the home, the report said.

Samuels and his alleged accomplices got the man to get inside their car, then robbed him at gunpoint once the vehicle sped away, the report said. Samuels reached into the victim's shorts and allegedly stole about \$2,000.

The victim later told police he had just cashed his tax return.

Around North Broadway, the victim was told to get out of the car. Another man who had been with the victim got into his car and chased the vehicle in which Samuels was riding. He picked up the robbery victim on North Broadway, spotted Samuels' vehicle and pursued it along West Ocean Avenue, police said.

When the vehicle carrying the victim got close, someone in the front seat of the other car fired two or three gunshots, the report said.

Another shot was fired after the chase turned onto South Dixie Highway. The victim's car then collided with the second vehicle, causing it to strike a third vehicle in the oncoming lane, the report said.



Samuels and a juvenile were arrested around the 200 block of South Dixie Highway, south of the Ocean Avenue Bridge. The third man managed to escape, the report said. The victim identified Samuels as the gunman.

Samuels denied taking part in the shooting or robbery, but the juvenile told police he and the others had planned to rob the victim. [jmilian@pbpost.com](mailto:jmilian@pbpost.com) [Twitter: @jorgemilian1](#)

## **POLICE BLOTTER** WEST PALM BEACH POLICE **THEFT Under**

**the watchful eyes** of a loss prevention officer, a customer at a store in the 1700 block of Palm Beach Lakes Boulevard stuffed five pillows into two plastic bags, then walked to the customer service counter to return them for a refund. His credit card was credited \$149.49. As he left the store, he was apprehended. A background check showed he is on probation for grand theft auto and grand theft charges. Also, an outstanding warrant for his arrest was found from North Carolina.

**A loss prevention officer** at a store in the 4200 block of 45th Street noticed a known shoplifter in the store. He watched the man as he took two watches priced at \$39.92 and stuffed them into a \$14.88 backpack. The man headed out the door without paying for the merchandise and was detained. Police arrested the man and released him with a notice to appear in court.

**A woman was stopped** as she walked out of a store in the 1700 block of Palm Beach Lakes Boulevard with merchandise hidden in her backpack. The items, including bras and sneakers, totaled \$73.55. She was arrested and released with a notice to appear in court.

**CRIMINAL MISCHIEF Police were called** to the 900 block of 38th Street in connection with a criminal mischief incident that had just occurred. The officer responding observed a vehicle in the driveway with about \$700 in damages. A man exited the residence followed by his girlfriend, who is the owner of the damaged vehicle. They explained that the man's ex-girlfriend came N2 to the home and caused a disturbance about their dating. They refused to open the door to her. They saw the ex-girlfriend damage the car, then disappear into the backyard. She broke a window on the residence, then returned to the front yard. The couple decided not to prosecute.

**SHERIFF'S OFFICE, LAKE WORTH THEFT Two locked bicycles** were stolen from the front porch of a residence in the 700 block of South Lakeside Drive.

**A locked bike was taken** from outside a store in the 200 block of North Dixie Highway.

**A woman left a bag** containing personal belongings outside a store in the 2100 block of 10th Avenue North. When she returned to retrieve it, the bag was gone. Items inside included clothing, state ID cards, Social Security cards and a birth certificate.

**TRESPASSING A woman in the 200 block** of South B Street complained that her intoxicated neighbor had walked onto her patio and refused to leave. She told a deputy that the neighbor, a former friend, always comes onto her property when she's drunk. The deputy spoke to the neighbor and noted her slurred speech. He told the neighbor she was receiving a trespass warning and would be arrested if she came on the property again.

**CRIMINAL MISCHIEF A woman found a fresh scratch** on her vehicle after leaving it unattended for four minutes outside her residence in the 1100 block of 18th Avenue North. Before she noticed the damage, she saw her neighbor walking away. A deputy came to the scene to inspect the damage, whereupon the neighbor came out of his residence and began yelling, "I didn't do that." The woman told the deputy she and the neighbor got into an argument a few days earlier, and she believed he was the culprit.

LANTANA POLICE **AUTO THEFT A valet at an establishment** saw a man sitting in the outside patio smoking. The man said he was waiting for his wife. The valet left to retrieve a vehicle for a customer, and when he returned he realized a set of keys was missing from the valet stand. The missing keys belonged to a blue Ford Fusion, which the valet saw leaving the parking lot. The owner of the stolen vehicle was located and informed of the theft. She said there were two iPhone chargers, an iPod charger and sunglasses in her vehicle, with a total value of \$350.

**VEHICLE BURGLARY A window was smashed** on a truck parked in the 1300 block of West Lantana Road. Items from the owner's backpack were scattered inside the vehicle. A 9 mm handgun and two fully loaded magazines were missing from a lock box under the front seat. The owner told police he left the keys in his vehicle.

**Loose change was taken** from an unlocked vehicle in the 600 block of West Perry Street.

**Door locks and security cameras** were stolen from a truck in the 1300 block of West Lantana Road.

**A backpack full of** high school textbooks was stolen from a truck parked in the 100 block of North Ocean Boulevard. The book thief smashed a window on the vehicle.

**THEFT A woman locked her bike** on a rack in the 400 block of East Ocean Avenue. As she was returning to her bike, she saw a man placing it into the bed of white pickup and driving off. The value of the bike was set at \$1,380.

**BATTERY A man at a motel** in the 1200 block of Hypoluxo Road told police his roommate had punched him in the mouth during an argument. The roommate left before police arrived, and the man did not have information on him, as they had met only two days earlier. An officer spoke to someone at the front desk who said the roommate was not a registered guest at the motel. The man was given a trespass warning from the premises at the request of motel management, as he had an unregistered guest in his room. The man, who said he did not want to press charges and became uncooperative, left the area.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE, ROYAL PALM BEACH **SUSPICIOUS INCIDENT An employee of a business** in the 500 block of North State Road 7 reported that a customer tried to steal makeup, but she was able to get it back from the woman before she left the store.

**DISTURBANCE A man causing a disturbance** in an apartment complex parking lot in the 200 block of Sweetwater Bend was told by a deputy not to return to the property for one year. A woman in the neighborhood told the deputy that the man had come to her residence at all times of the night, bothering her.

**THEFT A woman left her wallet** on the counter of a store in the 9900 block of Belvedere Road. Security video showed that another customer took the wallet and left the store. A copy of the video was given to a deputy.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE, WELLINGTON **THEFT A guest at a residence** in the 12700 block of Timber Pine Trail discovered a pair of jeans, his Social Security card, passport, green card and \$800 missing. The jeans were in his bedroom, and the other items in the closet. His host's daughter was in the house with her child when the man awoke. The daughter drove him to a fast food eatery in the area, but he waited in her car about 10 minutes before they left, while she was inside the home. A deputy spoke to the host, who suspected his daughter took his guest's items, as she has a sketchy past. The deputy spoke to the daughter, who was upset at being accused and denied involvement.

**An orchid valued at \$75** was stolen from the front lawn of a residence in the 1800 block of Barn-stable Road. The incident was caught on surveillance video.

**SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE A deputy went to the** 15500 block of Take Off Place to investigate a suspicious vehicle. He found a couple in the car, parked in front of a "No Trespassing" sign. Neither was a resident of the community. A background check revealed that the man had an extensive criminal history. He and his companion told the deputy

N3 they were watching aircraft land. The deputy suggested they go to a commercial airport to do that, as they were on private property. Both were given trespass warnings and sent on their way.

**TRESPASSING** A trespass warning was issued to an employee of a business in the 10300 block of Forest Hill Boulevard, who had come to work intoxicated. It was noted that the 24-year-old had caused a disturbance in the shopping area the previous night.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE, LOXAHATCHEE/ACREAGE **THEFT** A man in the 13800 block of 40th Street reported the theft of his sprinkler and well pumps. The pumps are valued at \$700 each.

**A man in the 17000 block** of 92nd Lane North told a deputy he had been drinking and lost his gun. He was unsure if he had misplaced the Smith & Wesson 40-caliber gun or if it were stolen. He said he keeps the gun on his hip or in his work bag.

**SUSPICIOUS INCIDENT** A woman in the 2200 block of B Road called the Sheriff's Office to report shots fired in the area and said a bullet had whizzed by her head. When a deputy arrived at the residence, she told him she heard about 10 shots, and a bullet had flown over her home. A few seconds later she saw two vehicles speed by, she added. When asked about her initial claim that the bullet had flown by her head, the woman seemed confused. She told the deputy she was familiar with the sound of traveling bullets, as she had lived in West Palm Beach. Her husband said he had heard a bullet travel above the roof of his home. Deputies searched the area but found no evidence of gunfire.

**A man in the 16200 block** of 62nd Road North told a deputy he has found the door to his storage shed open and blowing in the wind on two recent occasions. Nothing appeared missing in the shed. The deputy checked the lock and it appeared that it was not fully engaged. There was no sign of forced entry.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE, GREENACRES **THEFT** A woman in the 6200 block of Silver Moon Lane reported the theft of cash and jewelry totalling \$3,000. There were no signs of a break-in. She said her ex-roommate and her boyfriend had access to her bedroom.

**A woman's wallet was stolen** while she was shopping in the 6700 block of Forest Hill Boulevard. When she went to cancel her credit cards, she learned that someone had made more than \$500 in charges at two area stores. The manager of the store where the theft occurred said surveillance video would be available after the woman reported the theft to the Sheriff's Office.

**Emblems were removed** from a car parked in the 100 block of Island Shores Drive.

**BATTERY** Someone in a white, four-door vehicle shot a BB gun at a residence in the 4400 block of Empire Way, striking a teen and damaging a window on a vehicle and two windows on the house. The victim was treated at the scene by the EMS.

Compiled by Sy O'Neill from area law enforcement records.

## BOYNTON BEACH

# Skimmers found at gas stations

— *Adam Sacasa*

Another bunch of skimmers found at South Florida gas pumps has police urging people to check their credit and debit card statements.

Five skimmers were found during the past month at five gas stations in Boynton Beach, according to police: Exxon Mobil, 290 N. Congress Ave.; Chevron, 645 W. Boynton Beach Blvd.; Sunoco, 2403 S. Federal Highway; Shell, 111 E. Woolbright Road; and 7-Eleven, 7044 Lawrence Road.

Police were notified of the skimmers by gas station owners and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, police spokeswoman Stephanie Slater said.

The small electronic devices can be hard to detect. Some are placed inside gas pumps as thieves use wireless communications to transmit card data to nearby collection equipment.

Earlier this week the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office put out an alert after being notified by state officials that a skimmer had been found at a Mobil gas station in the 6000 block of South Jog Road near Lake Worth on March 30.

State officials and police encourage people to either go into a gas station to pay or to make sure the pump they are using has a security sticker on it.

# Red-light camera cases going to court

*By Brooke Baitinger Staff writer*

Boynton Beach will keep taking red-light camera cases to court until further notice, officials decided Tuesday.

After the city shut down its red-light camera program on Jan. 1, some red-light-camera tickets have remained unpaid. At a recent city meeting, Mayor Steven Grant asked city legal staff to review how many tickets were left outstanding by the end of March so the city can determine whether it's worth it to keep pursuing cases in court.

He was concerned about spending taxpayer money on legal fees to defend the tickets in court, he said.

But taxpayers don't pay for attorney fees, said City Attorney James Cherof on Tuesday. Red-light runners do, he said.

"One hundred percent of the fees paid to prosecute and defend the red-light camera system is paid by the individuals who run red lights," he said. "There is no money coming out of the city's general fund for those attorney fees."

Legal costs have already started dwindling as the tickets are worked out of the court system, he said. In February, the net revenue of the traffic program was \$111,175, and attorney fees were \$5,769, he said.

Revenue generated by the tickets exceeds legal costs associated with defending the tickets in court, according to the report. Sixty one percent of red-light runners pay the violation without contesting it, Cherof said.

"I assume that's because they recognize they've made the violation, or they're not familiar with the process for appealing it," he said.



# Deputies to double up during presidents' visit

*By Andy Reid and Larry Barszewski Staff writers*



JIM RASSOL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

"You have a lot of different factions. ... Tempers could flare," Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw said of possible protests during the presidents' visit to Mar-a-Lago.

Broward County reinforcements are being called in to help Palm Beach County with increased security demands expected from President Donald Trump's visit today and Friday with the president of China.

For the first time since Trump took office, Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw has requested assistance from Broward Sheriff Scott Israel to help provide security while the president visits his Palm Beach estate.

A Chinese contingent that could range from 200 to 2,000 people, along with Trump's entourage and an expected influx of protesters, have the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office preparing as if it were readying for a hurricane, Bradshaw said Wednesday.

"They're expecting all kinds of protesting," Israel said. "There's going to be a massive response from the Broward Sheriff's Office."

Bradshaw said having the leaders of the United States and China in the same area at the same time is the largest security undertaking Palm Beach County has faced since he took office in 2005.

Palm Beach County deputies have been put on 12-hour shifts, with Broward deputies being brought in as backup if needed, Bradshaw said.

Road closures are planned near Trump's Mara-Lago estate; fences and barricades are in place around the resort in Manalapan where Chinese President Xi Jinping is staying.

Bradshaw said temporary jails are being readied for protesters or anyone else who crosses security lines.

The goal is to minimize road closings and ensure that the historic meeting "comes off very peacefully," Bradshaw said.

"You will see a significant law enforcement presence," Bradshaw said. "We are not going to tolerate any civil disobedience. ... At the first sign of that, it will be dealt with."

This will be Trump's sixth visit to his Palm Beach estate since taking office Jan. 20. Trump in February hosted Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at Mar-a-Lago.

The security restrictions that have come with the Trump's frequent visits — which can create traffic jams, flight delays and other hassles for local residents and businesses — could be even more intrusive with two presidents in town.

Trump is expected to arrive between 2 and 3 p.m. today, with the Chinese president arriving between 4 and 5 p.m., though the arrival times — like much of the schedule for the summit — are subject to change, Bradshaw said.

The Chinese president is staying at the Eau Palm Beach Resort and Spa, about 7 miles away from Mar-a-Lago, according to the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office. Trump and Xi are scheduled to have informal meetings and a dinner together today, followed by a day of meetings Friday at Mar-a-Lago.

Xi is expected to leave Friday evening, with Trump potentially staying through the weekend.

With two world leaders on the island, residents and businesses are bracing for traffic jams that could reach farther and last longer than those during Trump's other visits. A parade of about 40 buses is expected to transport the Chinese contingent during the visit, according to the Town of Palm Beach.

In Palm Beach, road closures begin at 8 a.m. today and are expected to last until Sunday evening.

South Ocean Boulevard is being closed between South County Road and Southern Boulevard to keep drivers, bikers and any other travelers off the road that passes in front of Mar-a-Lago. That restriction even reaches across the beach to the ocean.

The Secret Service has also prohibited commercial vehicles — considered anything larger than a passenger van — from driving into Palm Beach near Mara-Lago during the presidential visit, according to the town.

In Manalapan, South Ocean Boulevard and other roads near the Chinese president's hotel will be temporarily closed at times when Xi and his contingent are coming and going from the hotel, Bradshaw said.

"We are going to keep the road closures as minimal as we can," Bradshaw said.

Expecting heavy traffic, the Town of Palm Beach has issued a notice that "strongly advises" residents to avoid traveling during rush-hour periods today and Friday.

"It poses an additional challenge, two days during the height of traffic," Kirk Bouin, Palm Beach's director of public safety, said of the presidential summit's occurrence on weekdays, instead of Trump's usual weekend visits.

The timing of the presidential summit could bring delays for commuters off the island as well.

Traffic can grind to a halt when the president flies in and out of West Palm Beach as his motorcade makes the drive along Southern Boulevard between Palm Beach International Airport and Mar-a-Lago.

A newly built helipad at Trump's estate could allow the presidents to fly to and from the airport, but there would still be large presidential entourages on the roads.

Bradshaw said the helipad is primarily for emergency use and that he expects the two presidents to travel to and from the airport by motorcade.

Kreusler Park and Phipps Ocean Park, as well as the Phipps Tennis Center, will be closed today and Friday so they can be used for equipment and personnel related to the Chinese president's visit. Also, public access to the beach through the parking lots there will not be allowed during the Chinese presidential visit, according to the town.

Bradshaw said he expects protesters to gather across the street from the Chinese president's oceanfront hotel.

To counter the protesters, the Chinese government is expected to bring in "greeters" to show support for Xi, Bradshaw said.

"You have a lot of different factions. ... Tempers could flare," Bradshaw said. "We are not going to put up with people throwing things [or] going in the roads."

Trump's latest visit comes amid scrutiny about the public costs of his frequent trips to Palm Beach, which some media reports have estimated could cost up to \$3 million per visit.

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office has estimated that it costs about \$60,000 a day in overtime to provide security for the president when he visits.

Bradshaw said he expects that \$60,000-per-day overtime cost to be doubled during the visit by Trump and the Chinese president. And that doesn't include the cost of setting up temporary barriers and other security measures, he said.

Bradshaw and the Broward Sheriff's Office, citing security concerns, wouldn't discuss how many local law enforcement officers would be involved in protecting the presidential summit.

Israel said he wants the federal government to pitch in to help with the increased security costs that are threatening local law enforcement budgets.

The Broward Sheriff's Office is used to added security that comes with election-year campaigning, but "now we're told we're going to have continued local visits from the president and the vice president," Israel said.

Palm Beach County officials have called for the federal government to start reimbursing local security costs.

Bradshaw said he has talked to Trump about getting federal reimbursement, which Bradshaw said he expects to eventually come — once approved by Congress. "It's a cost to us," he said about the visits. [abreid@sunsentinel.com](mailto:abreid@sunsentinel.com),

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## Grim map shows toll of opioids

### Broward overdose sites marked in stark depiction of drug issue *By Adam Sacasa Staff writer*

#### BY THE NUMBER

582 2016 overdose deaths in Broward, up from 322 in 2015

199 Deaths in first half of 2016

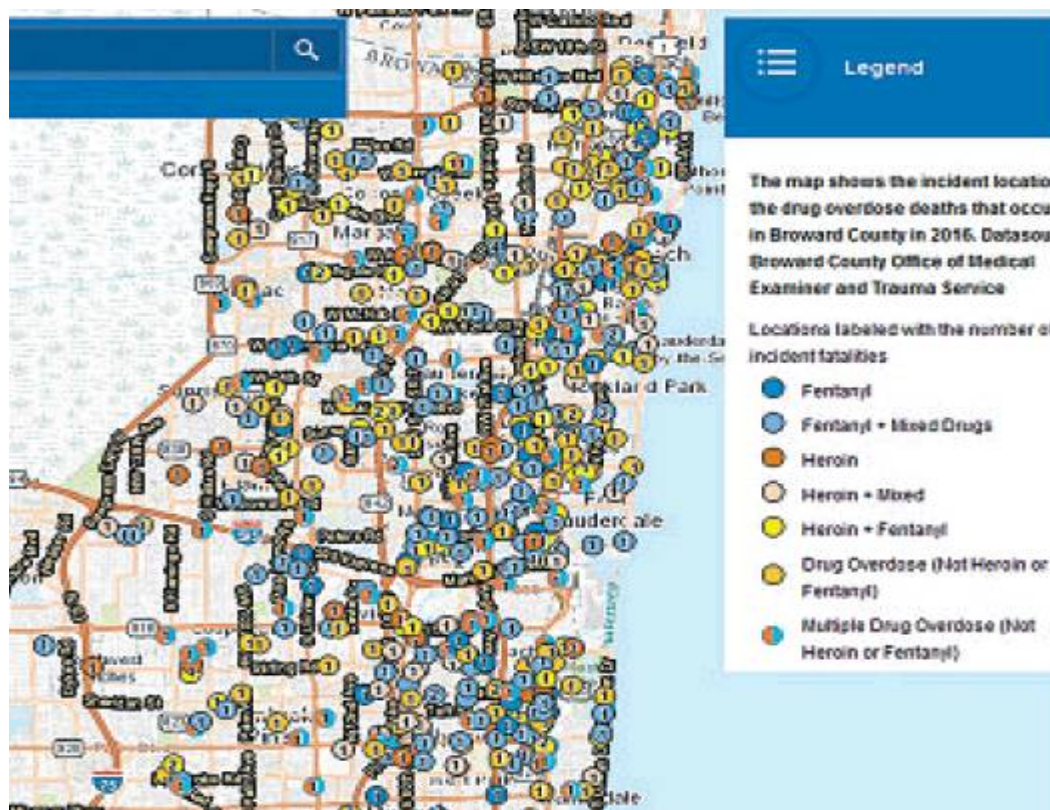
383 Deaths in the second half

30 Deaths involving heroin alone

156 Deaths involving fentanyl mixed with other drugs

592 2016 overdose deaths in Palm Beach County, up from 307 in 2015





See Broward County's new map, and videos and graphics on the opioid epidemic, at [SunSentinel.com/overdose](http://SunSentinel.com/overdose)

A detailed map showing every overdose location in Broward County offers a hard look at how devastating the opioid epidemic has been in South Florida.

The map, prepared and made public by Broward County on Wednesday, is meant to show how widespread the problem has become in the community.

"The public gets a visual of just how serious this is," said Dr. Craig Mallak, Broward County's medical examiner. "They hear about it and just see numbers. This really brings it home to your neighborhood."

(See the map, plus videos and graphics on the opioid epidemic, at [SunSentinel.com/overdose](http://SunSentinel.com/overdose))

The opioid epidemic has affected all parts of the United States, including South Florida, where hundreds died last year in each county. Palm Beach County recorded 592 deaths from opioid overdoses last year. That's up from 307 in 2015.

In Broward, 582 died from overdoses in 2016. And the map shows every overdose location, illustrating that just about no part of the county is spared.

Among the people represented on the map:

- a 23-year-old man who died of fentanyl use in Weston;
- a 40-year-old man in Coral Springs who died from mixing fentanyl with other drugs;
- a 34-year-old woman who died from fentanyl and heroin use in Pompano Beach;

- a 25-year-old woman in Hollywood who died from using fentanyl and other drugs. The data, compiled by the county's Geographical Information Systems Department, which specializes in mapping, also may prove useful for police and paramedics, Mallak said.

He expects the map to help show which parts of the county need extra attention, and help first responders combat overdoses.

"It's another layer of information in their fight to stop the epidemic," Mallak said.

"These are the kinds of things that we want to do instead of just doing autopsies. Go out into the community and be part of the solution."

Broward County Commissioner Dale Holness said he hopes the map will direct help to where it's needed the most. He said he wants additional resources to reduce wait times for beds at drug treatment facilities.

"We all are tied together in our community, and we have to put resources where they're needed to strengthen every part," Holness said.

In the first six months of 2016, 199 drug overdoses were reported in Broward. But by the second half of the year, fentanyl and other drug use became so prevalent that the number of deaths soared by another 383, the medical examiner's office said.

"We thought we were going to cruise through the year with a little increase," Mallak said. "But in May, it was all hands on deck trying to stay up with [the rising number of deaths]."

The group that made up the largest segment of fatal overdoses was men ages 25 to 39.

Mallak said two powerful drugs are contributing to the deaths: fentanyl, an opioid that is many times stronger than heroin, and carfentanil, which can be 100 to 1,000 times more potent than heroin.

Mallak said the potency of the drugs has created a hazardous environment for performing autopsies. He's concerned his staff might be exposed to the drugs; Narcan, an opioid overdose antidote, is kept available as a precaution.

"We find bags of powder on the bodies, and I'm afraid someone here is going to get hurt," Mallak said.

His office currently has six people performing autopsies but because of the increased caseload, he's expecting a seventh person to join the staff around mid-May.

Mallak said that in addition to the new map, he hopes to do more projects to help educate people about the problem in the community.

"I hope that it brings more attention to this epidemic and perhaps saves a few lives," he said.



# Trump's FDA pick puts opioid crisis first

By Lauran Neergaard Associated Press



Gottlieb

WASHINGTON — The doctor nominated to head the powerful Food and Drug Administration told senators Wednesday that his first priority would be tackling the opioid crisis, and he pledged that science will prevail at the agency despite his extensive financial ties to medical companies it regulates.

Dr. Scott Gottlieb is a physician-turned-health consultant who has criticized many FDA regulations as unnecessary and has what opponents call unprecedented financial entanglements.

But Gottlieb told a Senate health committee that as a cancer survivor, he knows firsthand the importance of “what the FDA does for every one of us” and promised to “lead the FDA as an impartial and passionate advocate for public health.”

He stressed the balance between speeding new products to market and making sure that good science continues to guide the FDA’s decisions.

“We should reject a false dichotomy that it all boils down to a choice between speed and safety,” Gottlieb said. At the same time, “we need to make sure we’re getting the most bang for our regulatory buck,” he added.

Gottlieb said opioid addiction is “the biggest crisis facing the agency” and as serious a public health challenge as infectious diseases such as Ebola or Zika.

Gottlieb, 44, is no stranger to the FDA, which regulates products that affect about a quarter of all consumer spending. He was a deputy commissioner under President George W. Bush.

Critics have focused on Gottlieb’s finances, citing government data showing he received hundreds of thousands of dollars in consulting or other fees from several FDA-regulated companies in recent years, on top of income from positions in a venture capital firm and investment bank that also fund health companies.

In ethics documents filed last week, Gottlieb said that if confirmed as FDA’s commissioner he would recuse himself for a year from decisions involving about 20 companies, including drug giant GlaxoSmithKline, and would resign positions including as a board member or consultant with nine other health-related

companies. Gottlieb also is a resident fellow at the conservative American Enterprise Institute, from which he said he also would resign.

But Sen. Patty Murray of Washington, the committee's senior Democrat, questioned whether recusals are enough to erase the bias of being a pharmaceutical industry insider.

**From:** [Anderson, Cassandra L](#)  
**Subject:** News Clips 4/7/2017  
**Date:** Friday, April 07, 2017 9:01:32 AM  
**Attachments:** [News Clips.docx](#)

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# **News Clip 4/7/2017**

## **Palm Beach Post**

### **COURTS VEHICULAR HOMICIDE**

## **Teen gets 20 years in fatal Boca crash**

*By Daphne Duret Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Wesley Brown was 15 when he sped through a red light and caused a fatal accident.

WEST PALM BEACH — If John Aceves had one wish, aside from bringing his wife back to life, it would be for Wesley Brown to have her face tattooed on his forehead so he could see it every time he looked into a mirror.

"That way, every day, you could see the life you took, and know what you've done to our family," Aceves said Thursday, choking back tears in a Palm Beach County courtroom.

Aceves told Circuit Judge Charles Burton that he wished the judge could give Brown the death penalty, or at least a life sentence, for causing the November 2015 Boca Raton crash that killed Wendy Harris-Aceves.

Instead, Burton sentenced the 16-year-old to 20 years in prison on charges of vehicular homicide and fleeing and eluding.

The sentence Thursday came in spite of an issue that marked what could have been a second delay in a sentencing hearing that began last month.

The Deerfield Beach teen was just 15 when he sped in what turned out to be a stolen Ford Mustang through a red light on Palmetto Park Road and slammed into Harris-Aceves' Honda Pilot.

Harris-Aceves was on her way to pick up her daughter, Ciara, from her high school homecoming dance.

Before Burton handed out the sentence, Public Defender Carey Haughwout tried unsuccessfully to get Burton to move the case back to juvenile court, saying prosecutors had no authority to charge him as an adult. But Burton said that after

two trials — one that ended in a hung jury and a second one in February that resulted in his conviction — the defense's objection was too late.

Burton also rejected a request to sentence Brown as a youthful offender, which would have capped his sentence at six years.

Though Harris-Aceves' family said Brown never showed that he was sorry for killing her, he turned and addressed them in a short speech.

"I know I don't show remorse, but I think about it every day in my cell," Brown said. [dduret@pbpost.com](mailto:dduret@pbpost.com)

## WELLINGTON

# Deputies say man pulled gun on shoppers *By*

*Hannah Winston Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Lanciani

WELLINGTON — A former Mall at Wellington Green employee attempted to rob two people at gunpoint in the mall parking lot last month, according to the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office.

Jorge Lanciani, 20, faces charges of attempted armed robbery and remained in the Palm Beach County Jail early Wednesday on \$100,000 bail. The Wellington man was arrested April 3, according to jail records.

On March 22, two people were leaving the mall and getting into a car just before 8 p.m., according to a sheriff's office report. As the driver sat in his seat and attempted to close the car door, a man later identified as Lanciani held the door open. Lanciani demanded the man give up a laptop he had just purchased at the mall's Apple Store. The passenger took the laptop so Lanciani couldn't get to it, deputies said. That's when Lanciani pulled out a semi-automatic handgun, according to the report. As Lanciani continued to demand the laptop, a witness came by and shouted at Lanciani, so he ran, investigators said.

Surveillance video from the food court of the mall later showed Lanciani speaking with someone at one of the restaurants, according to the report. The unidentified person watched the footage and said the man appeared to be a former employee of the restaurant.

Lanciani does not appear to have any previous criminal record. [hwinston@pbpost.com](mailto:hwinston@pbpost.com) [Twitter: @hannahwinston](#)

# Escaped prisoner accused of robbery, attempted carjacking

*By Jorge Milian Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

An escaped prisoner from West Palm Beach robbed two people, one at gunpoint, and attempted to carjack a security guard before he was arrested, according to a police report.

Michael Coleman, 31, is being held without bond at the Palm Beach County Jail and is facing various felony charges including armed burglary, carjacking and burglary with assault or battery.

Coleman escaped from a work-release program and had a warrant out for his arrest when he broke into a woman's West Palm Beach home Feb. 17 by punching out a window, the report said. Coleman and the woman had known each other for about a year, the report said.

Coleman allegedly struck again March 23 in Riviera Beach. He asked a man for a cigarette, then barged into the victim's home after the man went inside his residence in the 1500 block of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, the report said.

On March 25, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office tracked Coleman down to a hotel on Northlake Boulevard, the report said. After he emerged and drove away, PBSO attempted a traffic stop.

Coleman took off in a chase that began in the 4000 block of North Military Trail in unincorporated West Palm Beach and ended in a Riviera Beach parking lot at 2051 MLK Blvd., PBSO said.

Coleman then attempted to carjack a security guard, the report said. [jmilian@pbpost.com](mailto:jmilian@pbpost.com)



PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIME VICTIMS WEEK

# Crime victims share their struggles and healing



Former crime victim Bridget Stoffer, 34, of Delray Beach, gets a hug Thursday after her moving message of hope and healing during Palm Beach County Victims' Services sixth annual Ceremony in the Garden at Mounts Botanical Garden. About 60 people attended. **Story, B7** DAMON HIGGINS / THE PALM BEACH POST

## CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

# Victims recall pain but still are able to celebrate healing Annual ceremony brings together sharing of struggles.

*By Mike Stucka Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



People participate in Palm Beach County Victims' Services sixth annual Ceremony in the Garden on Thursday at Mounts Botanical Garden. DAMON HIGGINS / THE PALM BEACH POST  
WEST PALM BEACH — After a childhood of abuse was followed by a rape, Bridgit Stoffer has accepted she'll never be the person she was. But she still has hope, the Palm Beach State College art professor said at a Thursday ceremony for crime victims.

"Some days I feel completely broken and wonder if I'm worth fixing. I'm haunted by memories no one should have to think about, much less re-live," she said at the seventh Ceremony in the Garden. But she offered a thought: "If we believe tomorrow will be better, we can bear today."

Later, she told a reporter, "I will always be changed. I don't know that it will get better, but I can be better." And from volunteer work, becoming an art professor and drafting her memoirs, Stoffer, 34, of Delray Beach, is finding ways to better herself and rebuild her life.

Thursday's annual event, part of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, melded falling blossoms from trees at Mounts Botanical Garden just west of the city with the

comfort of therapy dogs and guided relaxation lessons. Boxes of tissues were scattered among the audience of about 60.

A survivor of domestic violence who asked to be identified only as Christine from of southern Palm Beach County said, "My ex-husband was very very sick, and was dangerous," when she sought help at a police station for herself and a child. People around her didn't believe her story because her husband concealed his alcoholism. "True strength is keeping it all together when everyone around you would understand if it all fell apart," she said. She said she learned to take life day by day when she had to. Sometimes, it became hour by hour and even minute by minute. Angela Johnson, whose son was gunned down in South Bay one morning as he walked his dog two years ago, realized she only talked about Harry Johnson, 35, if she was talking about his murder. She'd never thought of herself as a victim until someone referred her to Palm Beach County's victim services department, which helped her.

"When I need to cry, I cry. But I choose to live," said Johnson, whose voice broke as she described finding her son's body at the crime scene. "... You are stronger than you think. You are stronger than you know."

"Those messages can help other victims," said Nicole Bishop, director of the county's victim services department, which helps about 3,600 people a year.

"Some hope can come from sharing those stories," she said.

The organization offers advocacy, therapy, support groups, help with restraining orders, and other services. People needing help can call a 24-hour hotline at 561-833-7273.

Other local events in National Crime Victims' Rights Week include a Walk For Victims' Rights, with registration beginning at 8 a.m. Saturday at Currie Park, 2400 N. Flagler Drive in West Palm Beach. People can learn more at [www.sa15.org](http://www.sa15.org) online. [mstucka@pbpost.com](mailto:mstucka@pbpost.com)



## COURTS

# 2 could get new trials in 2008 Delray attack Inmate's attempted murder convictions tossed by high court.

*By Jane Musgrave Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Calvin Weatherspoon (left) and Tharod Bell were convicted in an armed robbery at a Dunkin' Donuts.

WEST PALM BEACH — Two Broward County men, who are serving multiple life terms in a connection with a brutal 2008 armed robbery at a Dunkin' Donuts in Delray Beach that left four people with gunshot wounds, could get new trials as a result of a Florida Supreme Court decision on Thursday.

In a unanimous ruling, the Florida Supreme Court threw out two attempted murder convictions of 28-year-old Calvin Weatherspoon, saying state prosecutors didn't file the right charges against him. It is likely that 31-year-old Tharod Bell, who was tried with Weatherspoon but convicted by a separate jury, will also benefit from the decision, said attorney Ira Karmelin, who represented Weatherspoon in the appeal. But, Karmelin said, it is unclear whether their convictions and separate life sentences on armed robbery charges will stand. "I believe we should get a second trial on the robbery charges as well," he said.

If the armed robbery charges aren't thrown out when their cases are returned to the 4th District Court of Appeal for further proceedings, the high court's decision turns into purely a moral victory, he said.

Since both Weatherspoon and Bell are also serving multiple life sentences for armed robbery in connection with the attack, they would "win on the legal point and lose on the practicalities," Karmelin said.

As a practical matter, the two aren't going anywhere soon. Bell is serving a separate 50-year sentence and Weatherspoon is serving a 15-year term in connection with two other violent 2008 robberies at Dunkin' Donuts shops in Broward County.

Two others — James Herard and Charles Faustin — were also convicted in connection with the same string of Dunkin' Donut robberies. They were tried separately for their roles in the Del-ray Beach attack and their convictions were upheld. Described by Broward police as "cold-blooded thugs," all four were members of the notorious Crips gang.

The four shot three people inside the Delray Beach restaurant, shattering an elderly man's jaw. As they were leaving, they shot a man through the windshield of his car, blinding him. During their 2012 trial, both Weatherspoon and Bell insisted Herard was the shooter. He received the death penalty for killing a man in one of the robberies in Broward County.

In throwing out Weather-spoon's conviction on two attempted murder charges, the high court said prosecutors erred by not charging him with felony attempted murder along with attempted premeditated murder, which are separate crimes.

The failure to do so made it impossible for him to adequately prepare his defense and confused the jury, it wrote. [jmusgrave@pbpost.com](mailto:jmusgrave@pbpost.com)

## Protesters, supporters greet presidents as summit begins

*By Eliot Kleinberg, Alexandra Seltzer and Jorge Milian Palm Beach Post Staff Writers*



An anti-Chinese government protester wears a giant head in the likeness of Chinese President Xi Jinping on the street outside Eau Palm Beach Resort and Spa in Manalapan on Thursday. Xi is in town for talks with President Donald Trump at Mar-a-Lago. LANNIS WATERS / THE PALM BEACH POST

MANALAPAN — Pomp, protests, arrests and traffic jams greeted the leaders of the United States and China Thursday in Palm Beach County.

As Chinese President Xi Jinping arrived Thursday afternoon for meetings with President Donald Trump, three people were arrested on obstruction charges when they tried to run into, or in front of, the motorcade bringing Xi from Palm Beach International Airport to the Eau Palm Beach Resort and Spa in Manalapan, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office said.

The arrests came as Chinese in Manalapan protested that government's treatment of religious minorities, and nearby, Vietnamese denounced China's influence in that country.

Authorities did not report any issues when Air Force One landed a short time later and Trump traveled to his Palm Beach Mar-a-Lago compound, where he was to dine with Xi on Thursday night and hold additional talks today before Xi departs. Trump is to leave for Washington on Sunday.

Both motorcades Thursday had traveled east on Southern Boulevard to State Road A1A in Palm Beach before Xi headed south to Manalapan. Palm Beach police reported no incidents, although they did confiscate some gasoline and a generator that protesters were using to power their sound system.

The sheriff's office arrested five individuals on charges ranging from obstruction of a roadway to resisting arrest. They are Kuo Jia, 34; Jianbin Yuan, 49, of California; Young Tian Ma, 52; Weixue Zhang, 63; and Haihan Yang, 34. Hometowns for all five were not available Thursday evening. It's unclear whether all were arrested at the same location.

One of the protesters was Li Huanjun, a human rights activist in China who was arrested in 2013 in Beijing and who fled to Washington in 2015, according to reports. Before Xi arrived, Li had said through interpreters that she planned to stand in front of Xi's car, something she said she has done in the past. A colleague of hers was twice detained by authorities at the scene on Thursday. Li was not among the five arrested, according to the sheriff's office.

On Thursday morning, outside the Eau resort, the east end of East Ocean Avenue was a sea of bright colors. Hundreds formed at the Plaza Del Mar on East Ocean before 8 a.m., waving banners and shouting through bullhorns. Welcomers of the Chinese leader wore red shirts, protesters yellow. Hands held both the Stars and Stripes and red Chinese flags.

Some of the red T-shirts read "USA China 4-6-2017." Protesters' signs read: "Free all political prisoners now," "Falun Dafa is good," "Free Tibet now," and "the Chinese communist party is gangsters, mafia and evil!"



As crowds grew, so did the contingent of deputies, from Palm Beach and on loan from Broward to help with the overwhelming logistics of hosting two world leaders. Deputies did move some demonstrators to the sidewalk after businesses at Plaza Del Mar complained.

Winnie Xing, who moved about 15 years ago from the southeast China city of Shenyang, and who owns Sterling Nails in Fort Lauderdale, shut down her shop and brought her employees to welcome Xi.

"For us, it's very exciting and we're really looking forward to see our president. We love our country," she said.

Many protesters were associated with Falun Gong, or Falun Dafa, a religious group that claims the Chinese government is persecuting it in that country.

Mixed in with the Chinese: opponents and supporters of the president.

One motorist westbound on Ocean Avenue stopped her car right in traffic, threw open her driver's door, and whipped out her cellphone to record the unusual scene. Milton Baum, 97, a World War II veteran who lives in the Carlisle senior living center just west of A1A, had come outside to watch.

"I think it's wonderful. I think we should be very, very good friends with the Chinese," he said.

Leslie Dreier, who lives just north of the Eau on A1A, has lived off and on in Palm Beach County since the 1960s. He remembers a side street in Palm Beach where, in the early 1960s, a fellow named John Kennedy often stayed in a family compound. The security — and mystique — was much lower then, he said.

"That was more like your neighbor happens to have a job; he's president."

Earlier, on the West Palm Beach mainland, pro-China demonstrators tussled with ethnic Vietnamese protesting what they called China's "bullying" of that country and its expansion in Southeast Asia, along with what they called a poor record on both human rights and the environment.

About 10 a.m., hundreds of Vietnamese nationals had begun gathering in front of the Publix on Southern Boulevard west of Dixie Highway; they later marched east, stopping on Flagler Drive. About 11 a.m., nearly 40 Xi supporters arrived, sparking shouting and jostling. One Vietnamese woman stood inches from Chinese supporters, using a megaphone to shout "Red China, go to hell," and remarks far stronger. At one point, Vietnamese protesters brought in a loudspeaker in an attempt to drown out the Chinese.

Tien Nguyen, of Tampa, who escaped from Vietnam by boat when he was 15, said he was upset to see the "Chinese sympathizers." He said his father, a former South Vietnamese soldier, was imprisoned by the North Vietnamese, and seeing the flag of their ally, China, "brings back a lot of bad memories."

At Bingham Island, a few hundred yards west of Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate, a line of cars stretched west on Southern; many would be turned around. Also on Bingham, numerous people whose shirts read "Falun Dafa" sat in lotus positions, their hands raised.

Staff writers George Bennett and Kristina Webb, staff photographer Lannis Waters and Palm Beach Daily News staff writer Eleanor Roy contributed. [ekleinberg@pbpost.com](mailto:ekleinberg@pbpost.com) **Twitter:**

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'We're really looking forward to see our president. We love our country.'

Winnie Xing

Fort Lauderdale business owner, formerly of Shenyang, China

## WEATHER HURRICANE FORECAST

# Prediction: Fewer hurricanes in '17

**Early forecast based on consensus that El Niño is expected to reappear.** *By Kimberly Miller Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

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An early hurricane forecast from Colorado State University calls for a below-average 2017 storm season, but was released on a day when the atmosphere reminded Florida of its impulsive and destructive nature.

A line of thunderstorms ahead of a cold front spawned a possible tornado in Okeechobee County on Thursday morning that destroyed two homes, damaged up to 16 structures and injured one person who was trapped briefly under a car that flipped over in the high winds.

Four recreational vehicles were also destroyed in the Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park, said Okeechobee County sheriff spokeswoman Michele Bell.

"These homes are leveled and devastated," Okeechobee County Sheriff Noel Stephen said during a news conference Thursday as damages were still being assessed.

The National Weather Service office in Melbourne is sending a team to investigate the area today to determine whether there was a tornado. Forecasters had issued a tornado warning at 9:52 a.m. that lasted until 10:45 a.m.

The damage wrought in Okeechobee County underscores a postscript hurricane forecasters add to their predictions every year — that even in a slow season, it takes only one storm to wipe out a community.

"I think there are a lot of people in Florida that have not experienced a full-blown hurricane and need to understand that you always prepare for the worst," said AccuWeather hurricane expert Dan Kottowski.

AccuWeather released its 2017 hurricane forecast Wednesday, which also called for a below-average storm season. Hurricane season runs June 1 through November.

Both AccuWeather and CSU are basing their forecasts on early predictions that El Niño may reappear this year. The global climate pattern, marked by a warming of the equatorial Pacific Ocean, works against hurricanes. Its west-to-east wind pattern can shred storms as they develop in the Atlantic basin.

Led by hurricane researcher Phil Klotzbach, CSU is predicting 11 named storms, four hurricanes and two major hurricanes of Category 3 strength or higher.

AccuWeather's forecast includes 10 named storms, five hurricanes and three major hurricanes.

An average hurricane season based on 30 years of climatology consists of 12 named storms, six hurricanes and two major hurricanes.

Klotzbach said early forecasts are always difficult, but that this year is especially tricky because of the El Niño wild card.

"April predictions are never super-confident, but this year I'm a little less confident given the El Niño issue," said Klotzbach, who released the report at the National Tropical Weather Conference in South Padre Island, Texas. "If El Niño does ramp up, that will make for a more quiet hurricane season."

Computer models have hinted at an El Niño since at least December, but its appearance would be unusual because it would be on the heels of the strong El Niño that occurred in 2015-2016.

"We really shouldn't be getting another one already," Klotzbach said.

And there's something else strange about the developing El Niño. It's evolving in an east-to-west pattern in the Pacific when it usually moves from west to east, sending warm water from Indonesia toward South America, Klotzbach said.

"There is some consensus that this will be a weak-to-moderate, El Niño and if that works out, it will be a lower-than-normal season," Kottlowski said.

"But because we still have warm water in the Gulf of Mexico and parts of the Atlantic, that will still give us enough support for development," he said.

CSU's forecast also considers the probabilities of at least one major hurricane making landfall in the U.S. The chances for a hurricane to hit the East Coast, including the Florida peninsula, are 24 percent this season, below the average for the last century of 31 percent.

For the Gulf Coast, including the Florida Panhandle, the chances are 24 percent, below the average of 30 percent.

The 2017 hurricane season was the most active since 2012 with 15 named storms and seven hurricanes, including Category 1 Hurricane Hermine, which broke a more than decade-long hurricane drought in Florida when it made landfall in the Panhandle in September.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Center is scheduled to release its 2017 hurricane forecast May 25. [kmiller@pbpost.com](mailto:kmiller@pbpost.com)

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## Sun Sentinel

# Teen gets 20 years in woman's crash death

*By Brooke Baitinger | Staff writer*



MARC FREEMAN/STAFF

Public Defender Carey Haughwout, left, argued that Wesley Brown, 16, should be treated as a juvenile.

A Deerfield Beach teenager on Thursday apologized to the family of the Boca Raton woman he killed in 2015. Wearing an orange jail jumpsuit and chains around his arms, Wesley Brown stood to face Wendy Harris-Aceves' family in the courtroom. In 2015, he raced from police in a stolen new Ford Mustang convertible, resulting in the fatal collision.

"I want to say I'm sorry to the family," the 17-year-old said. "I know I don't show remorse, but I think about it every day in my cell."

Brown also apologized to his own family before Palm Beach County Circuit Judge Charles Burton sentenced him to 20 years in prison for his "reckless and willful conduct."

When Brown was 15, he crashed the Mustang at 95 mph into Harris-Aceves' Honda Pilot, police said.

Brown was prosecuted as an adult and convicted in February of vehicular homicide, fleeing and driving without a license. He faced a maximum of 25 years in prison.

Harris-Aceves' relatives testified. Her mother, Judy Harris, and Harris-Aceves' husband, John Aceves, both spoke to Brown directly and asked Burton to deliver the maximum punishment.

John Aceves said he didn't believe Brown was remorseful.

"Generally, when you look at someone, you can tell that they're hurt by something they've done," he said after the sentencing. "I didn't see a thing."

Aceves said his family is exhausted from the trial, and now all they can do is try to move on.

"It doesn't change anything," he said through tears. "It won't bring her back."

Harris-Aceves, a 46-year-old mother of two, was killed instantly on Nov. 1, 2015, as she was driving her Honda eastbound on Palmetto Park Road. She was on her way to pick up her daughter from a school dance.

Brown, then driving the Mustang southbound on Northwest Second Avenue, ran a red light and crashed into the Pilot while fleeing Boca Raton police at even greater speeds, according to investigators.

The last time Judy Harris saw her daughter was hours before her death, she said at the hearing. Harris-Aceves was helping her own daughter, Sierra, get ready for the homecoming dance, she said.

"Wendy was putting Sierra's beautiful curls up into a ponytail," she said. Then they took pictures in the front yard. "It was a time I will hold onto," she said as she broke down in tears.

"Who knew in just six hours, my special darling Wendy would be dead," she said.

Brown chose to do wrong, she told Burton. "With a lot of thought and prayer, I strongly believe he should be punished as an adult. I request you give Wesley Brown the most severe consequences that you and your wise judgment can deliver."

At the beginning of the sentencing last week, Burton heard testimony from several close relatives of Brown.



By age 15, Brown had moved and switched schools frequently, saw an older brother get a lengthy prison term for armed robbery, and never got the help he needed despite one arrest after another for grand theft auto, burglary, battery and other juvenile offenses, according to court testimony.

Public Defender Carey Haughwout argued at Thursday's hearing he should be treated as a juvenile rather than an adult.

"He was still a child when this happened," she said outside the courtroom after the hearing. "We're disappointed but we're still not done. We intend to appeal."

Part of the basis of the appeal will be that she could not find another case of someone being convicted as an adult on vehicular homicide charges at his age, she said.

Brown testified in his own defense at his first trial in January, which ended with a hung jury, and his retrial in February, which produced a guilty verdict.

In both trials, Brown testified that he had blacked out from an asthma attack just before the crash. He said he was speeding because his older passenger, Jacquan Strowbridge, had threatened to kill him if he stopped for the cops.

He testified that he started to have difficulty breathing and took his hands off the steering wheel to look for an inhaler, prescribed to treat asthma.

He said he then "blacked out" and doesn't remember the crash.

Assistant State Attorneys Laura Laurie and Danielle Sherriff urged the jury not to treat Brown differently because of his age. They argued Brown acted intentionally and there was no proof that Strowbridge was armed.

This was a tragic case on many levels, said Judge Burton.

"The Harris family lost a wife, a mother, a sister, not because of illness or poor life choices, but rather because of the reckless and willful conduct of a 15-year-old," he said. "Nothing the court does today will bring Harris back." [bbaitinger@sun-sentinel.com](mailto:bbaitinger@sun-sentinel.com), 561-243-6648 or [Twitter: @BaitingerBrooke](https://twitter.com/BaitingerBrooke)

# Developing a friendship

## Trump welcomes Chinese president, wife to Palm Beach

*By Andy Reid Staff writer*



JIM RASSOL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER China supporters gather to greet President Xi Jinping along State Road A1A outside the Eau Palm Beach Resort & Spa.



JIM WATSON/GETTY IMAGES President Donald Trump speaks with Chinese President Xi Jinping at Mar-a-Lago on Thursday afternoon.



JIM RASSOL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER President Trump's motorcade goes down Southern Boulevard on the way to Mar-a-Lago. Demonstrators protesting China's treatment of Vietnam greeted the president.

PALM BEACH – President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping met in Palm Beach on Thursday for the start of a summit to tackle topics ranging from trade disputes to North Korea security threats.

At Mar-a-Lago, Trump told reporters: "It is a great honor to have the president of China and his incredibly talented wife, a great, great celebrity in China, a great singer. It's a honor to have you in the United States."

He said of the Chinese president: "We have developed a friendship. I can see that. I think, long term, we are going to have a very, very great relationship and I look very much forward to it."

While the two world leaders get to know each other during meetings stretching through Friday afternoon at Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate, Palm Beach County residents and businesses are feeling the repercussions of hosting two world leaders at once.

Beefed-up security on Palm Beach island, backed-up traffic extending from the coast to I-95 and an influx of demonstrators from across the country are among the consequences of the meeting.

Xi and the Chinese delegation are staying at Eau Palm Beach resort in Manalapan, about seven miles south of Mar-a-Lago.

Hours before the two presidents arrived, traffic was already backed up on Ocean Boulevard on Thursday morning as drivers were redirected away from Mar-a-Lago.

The Secret Service was not allowing commercial vehicles to come onto the island from Southern Boulevard, which passes by Trump's Palm Beach home.

Just before 5 p.m., the Chinese contingent driving from the Manalapan resort to Trump's estate for dinner bogged down rush-hour traffic on I-95.

It's a scene expected to be repeated this morning when Xi returns to Trump's home for a day of meetings and a working lunch before flying out in the late afternoon or evening.

Security was tight Thursday morning as demonstrators marched within view of Mar-a-Lago.

Demonstrators from as far away as New York and California converged on Palm Beach in buses, some to show condemnation of the Chinese president and others to voice support during his first meetings with Trump.

Falun Gong supporters gathered on Bingham Island, near Mar-a-Lago, holding banners objecting to persecution of practitioners of the spiritual discipline.

Nearby on the west side of the Intracoastal Waterway, dozens of people waving the South Vietnamese flag converged on the corner of Southern Boulevard and Flagler Avenue in West Palm Beach to speak out and wave signs critical of China's spreading influence in Southeast Asia.

"The Chinese people want to dominate Vietnam," said Vincent Nguyen, 63, of Orlando, who is originally from Vietnam. "They are our enemy. When they are on U.S. soil, we want to let them know we are against them."



Territorial disputes between Vietnam and China and the rising threat of North Korea are among the issues demonstrators said they hope Trump will address with Xi.

"Our goal here is to let President Trump and the people of America know about how dangerous China is," said Khoa Nguyen, 44, of Fort Lauderdale. "They are taking over Southeast Asia."

The anti-China protesters jockeyed for position along the roadway with red-shirt-wearing, pro-China demonstrators. They waved American and Chinese flags and blared Chinese songs aimed at drowning out the protesters.

The Chinese government often encourages, and sometimes helps pay for, scores of these so-called "greeters" to come to sites where the Chinese president is visiting.

The crowd of red shirts and Chinese flags was even larger near the Chinese president's hotel in Manalapan.

Chinese supporters outnumbered protesters on the route through Lantana and onto Palm Beach island taken by Xi's motorcade Thursday afternoon.

"I love my country, I love our president [and] I love Donald Trump," said Ting Ting Turner, 34, who said she traveled from Orlando with a Chinese American association to show support for the Chinese president.

Jackie Yuan, 31, also with the group from Orlando, said she wanted to be there to show her support for China's leader, who she credits for creating jobs in her country.

"In China, a lot of people love him," Yuan said.

Jimmy Liu, 30, who is originally from China and now lives in California, said it wasn't the Chinese government who paid for his trip to Palm Beach. He said he wanted to be here for Trump's first meeting with Xi.

"He can make a good deal for both countries," Liu said about Trump.

About a dozen Chinese immigrants protesting along the Chinese president's motorcade route drew extra attention from police and the sheriff's office.

Just before the motorcade arrived, officers on motorcycles used their bikes as shields to move the group off the sidewalk and into the grass. Motorcycle officers were then

called in, parking wheel to wheel to create another barrier between protesters and the roadway.

David Hang of New York said the group was there to protest the Chinese government bulldozing their homes to build luxury apartments. He said that when Xi comes to the U.S., they show up to protest — hoping to give him documents explaining how their homes had been wrongly taken.

“Our homes were illegally and forcibly demolished,” said Hang, who emigrated from China. “We follow him. ... We want him to hear us, to see us.”

Three people were arrested for allegedly attempting to block the Chinese president’s motorcade about 2:45 p.m. near the Eau Palm Beach resort, the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office said.

“They were arrested for obstruction of traffic after they attempted to go around barricades and enter the roadway; they were stopped before they could do so,” said Teri Barbera, spokeswoman for the Sheriff’s Office.

Metal barriers and fences along with other screening blocked access to the resort where Xi is staying.

*Staff writer Brian Ballou contributed to this report.*

## **In D.C, legislators seek cash for Zika**

### **Floridians lead bipartisan push**

*By Anthony Man Staff writer*

As mosquito season gets underway, Florida Democrats and Republicans are joining in Washington, D.C., to call for a stepped-up response to the Zika virus.

U.S. Sens. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., and Marco Rubio, R-Fla., introduced legislation Wednesday to bolster efforts to curb the spread of the virus. Their measure would authorize an extra \$130 million a year in grant funding for local mosquito-control efforts to eliminate the mosquitoes responsible for spreading the virus. It would also authorize additional funding for lab testing and require a study of mosquito-control efforts.



U.S. Reps. Ted Deutch, a Democrat who represents most of Broward and southeast Palm Beach County, and U.S. Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart, a Miami-Dade County Republican — along with Nelson and Rubio — led a bipartisan group of lawmakers imploring President Donald Trump on Wednesday to ensure the federal government does everything it can to respond.

They emphasized that the threat is all but guaranteed to recur in Florida as mosquito season hits its summer peak. "As summer approaches, Florida's mosquito population is going to rise," Nelson said in a statement. Expect Zika to make a comeback, Diaz-Balart said.

"The worst of the Zika season is almost here ... Families are worried about their kids and local businesses are concerned about tourism," Deutch said in a statement.

He warned against complacency as the immediate threat seemed to diminish over the winter. "Zika may have faded from the headlines, but South Florida urgently needs federal resources to be dedicated to preventing infection, understanding the risks of birth defects and the discovery of a vaccine."

It's only a matter of time, Deutch said, "before Florida hits the warm, wet months that will reinvigorate Zika-carrying mosquito populations and put our communities at greater risk."

The Centers for Disease Control report 5,182 Zika cases in the U.S. from Jan. 2, 2015, through March 29, 2017. The vast majority occurred in travelers returning from affected areas. Another 222 were transmitted by mosquitoes in the U.S., with 216 from Florida and six from Texas. The problem was much worse in Puerto Rico, with 37,174 cases.

The most widely known and serious problem from Zika is an increased risk of birth defects. Tuesday, the CDC reported that about 1 in 10 pregnancies in which the mother was infected with Zika resulted in a birth defect.

For women infected during the first trimester of pregnancy, the risk of birth defects was even higher, at 15 percent.

Researchers have also warned Zika infection may produce neurological, eye and heart problems in adults.

Last year, the Zika issue turned into a contentious, monthslong political fight in Congress before politicians ultimately agreed to appropriate \$1.1 billion to respond to the issue. Wednesday's letter to Trump from Nelson, Rubio, Deutch and Diaz-Balart had signatures from both parties.

The letter was signed by 47 senators and representatives, including South Florida Democrats Alcee Hastings, Debbie Wasserman Schultz and Frederica Wilson, and Republicans Carlos Curbelo and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen.

It said federal support for mosquito control, testing and public awareness and education is "critical to stopping the spread of the virus.

A robust response to this threat will be especially important to the health and safety of Americans living in regions with large mosquito populations."

Rubio, in a statement about the proposed spending, said "it is extremely important that states and localities have the tools they need to combat Zika and other illnesses spread by mosquitoes." [aman@sunsentinel.com](mailto:aman@sunsentinel.com)

## El Niño might help tame this year's storms

*By Brett Clarkson Staff writer*

It's not hurricane season yet, but it's the season for forecasting the hurricane season.

This year, a potential El Niño could mean a less active hurricane season on average, two sets of storm experts are predicting.

Forecasters at AccuWeather, which released its 2017 hurricane season outlook Wednesday, anticipate 10 named storms. Of those 10, five will be hurricanes, three of which will become major hurricanes (Category 3 or higher). They anticipate that three named storms will make landfall in the U.S.

That's compared with 2016's above-average total of 15 named storms, seven hurricanes and three major hurricanes — Matthew being the most destructive.

The average number of named storms per season is 12. Of those, six become hurricanes, while three become major hurricanes, according to the National Hurricane Center.

An outlook from experts at Colorado State University, released Thursday, is similar to AccuWeather's prognostication.

The Colorado State authors also expect less activity, citing the possibility of "weak or moderate El Niño conditions by the peak of the Atlantic hurricane season."

El Niño is known for warmer-than-usual temperatures in the equatorial Pacific Ocean and stronger winds in the tropical Atlantic. Those stronger winds thwart the development of tropical storms.

Authored by Philip J. Klotzbach, a research scientist, and Michael M. Bell, an associate professor, the Colorado forecast calls for 11 named storms, four hurricanes and two major hurricanes.

Meanwhile, federal government experts will release an outlook for the 2017 Atlantic hurricane season on May 25. The outlook will come from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Center in Maryland.

Dennis Feltgen, a meteorologist and spokesman for the National Hurricane Center, said none of the long-term outlooks should determine how a household prepares for storm season.

"It is very important to remember that a seasonal outlook does not forecast where/when storms will form, let alone if/where they will make landfall and what the impacts would be," Feltgen said in an email. "That's why it should never be used as a guide for preparation."

"It only takes one," Klotzbach said.

The obvious example is the 1992 season, which was relatively slow — with the exception of Hurricane Andrew.

Hurricane season begins June 1 and runs until Nov. 30.

This year, a potential El Niño could mean a less active hurricane season on average, two sets of storm experts are predicting.

## Town Crier

# **Aronberg: Opiate Problem A Crisis, Not Just Here, But Across The State**

By Julie Unger at April 7, 2017 | 12:05 am |



*State Attorney Dave Aronberg discusses the opioid epidemic*

Palm Beach County State Attorney Dave Aronberg was the guest speaker at the Wellington Chamber of Commerce's installation luncheon held Wednesday, March 29 at the International Polo Club Palm Beach.

Aside from delivering remarks, Aronberg also installed the chamber's board for 2017-18.

Aronberg described the heroin/opioid epidemic, along with shady sober home operators, as "the No. 1 criminal justice issue facing Palm Beach County and, in my opinion, the State of Florida." Prescription drug deaths have increased dramatically in recent years, he said.

"This situation is where it is because of federal and state laws," he said. "The government enabled this to happen. It can be fixed. This was not inevitable. It was preventable. But well-intended federal laws created this mess. State laws were so weak. So you have a combination of powerful, well-intended federal laws that have been exploited by bad people to create this, combined with very weak state laws with a legislature that has been indifferent toward this crisis."

The problem, Aronberg said, is a Florida phenomenon, not just a Palm Beach County problem. Because of the task force that has been created, Palm Beach County is a leader in the fight against sober home and treatment center abuses, he said, citing 21 arrests.

“We’ve been cleaning up this industry, but we still have a ways to go,” he said. “But we are a leader in this fight. If it wasn’t a statewide problem then, it is a statewide problem now.” As those abusing the system are forced out of Palm Beach County, Aronberg explained, they will go to another county or quit the business, which is unlikely.

“The legislature needs to be prepared, and they need to look at us as a role model,” he said. Aronberg traces the current problem to a gateway drug that got many people addicted to opioids. When Oxycontin first came out, he explained, it was sold as though it was Advil.

“This was preventable,” Aronberg said. “A company flooded the market with this new opiate that got people hooked, innocently, and then they started dying in record numbers.”

In 2010, there were 1,516 deaths from oxycodone, the generic form of Oxycontin, alone. Benzodiazepines accounted for 1,304 deaths, methadone accounted for 694 deaths, alcohol accounted for 572 deaths and cocaine accounted for 561 deaths in 2010.

Heroin use, however, was dropping. But, Aronberg explained, if Oxycontin decreased, heroin use would increase. “In 2010, Oxycodone was the No. 1 drug killer,” he said.

At that time, Aronberg discovered that there were more “pain clinics” in Florida than McDonald’s franchises. Newly elected Attorney General Pam Bondi reached out to Aronberg to help combat the pill mill epidemic that was supplying the Oxycontin.

During the first six months of 2010, Florida practitioners purchased 41,285,772 Oxycodone pills. For reference, Ohio, the next highest state, had just over a million pills purchased. All of the other states, not including Florida, purchased just under 5 million pills.

Bondi was able to persuade the legislature to pass prescription drug monitoring, and Oxycodone deaths began to steadily decrease.

“All it took was government action. All it took was one year for it to drop,” Aronberg said. “As we’re seeing this drop, I kept warning people, ‘Watch heroin.’”

Heroin is a substitute for opiate pills and is 33 times more powerful than morphine.

“Heroin has now far surpassed Oxycodone in Palm Beach County,” Aronberg said. “Every day in Palm Beach County, there are 25 people who are overdosing.”

In 2015, there were 372 opioid deaths: 13 from hydrocodone, 16 from methadone, 47 from oxycodone, 48 from morphine, 90 from fentanyl and 158 from heroin.

In 2016 alone, there were more than 5,000 calls to Palm Beach County Fire-Rescue where the anti-overdose drug Narcan was administered. In just the first three weeks of November, one hospital reported more than 300 overdose visits.

The problem with sober homes is three-pronged: no registration, certification or qualifications are necessary, Aronberg explained. Someone purchases a home or rents it, and calls it a sober home. What is illegal is when money changes hands between marketers, labs, substance use disorder patients, detox and inpatient treatments, sober homes and outpatient treatments. Sober homes offering free rent and other amenities are getting kickbacks that far outweigh what they could charge for rent.

Once a patient is sober, the person no longer has the treatment, home and support, and it is incredibly easy, and convenient, to become a substance use disorder patient, causing a never-ending cycle.

“Under federal law, you cannot be denied for a preexisting condition. There is no limitation on how many times you can go through this. Federal law does not incentivize recovery. This is supposed to be a recovery model; it is a relapse model,” he said. “The incentive is to relapse... And so the cycle continues until the person leaves South Florida in a body bag.”

With sober homes across the state, and increasing deaths from overdose, there is an undeniable problem — and Tallahassee needs to step in to help solve it, Aronberg said.

In other business:

- Executive Director Michela Green introduced the new executive board, which was installed by Aronberg: President Debbie Crompton, President-Elect Michael Ferreira, Vice President Stuart Hack, Secretary Blanca Greenstein and Treasurer Dale Grimm. The board of directors includes Lisa Banionis, Scott Harris, Dr. Andrew Savin, Roxanne Stein and Kathryn Walton.
- Green pinned Henry Mosley of HNM Menswear, welcoming him to the President's Circle.
- The next chamber event is the Flavors Wellington Food + Wine Festival, which returns to the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center on Friday, April 7 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. For more info., visit [www.wellingtonchamber.com](http://www.wellingtonchamber.com).

## **Aronberg On Human Trafficking Council**

By Town-Crier Editor at April 7, 2017 | 12:03 am |

Palm Beach County State Attorney Dave Aronberg has been appointed by Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi to the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking.

The 15-member council was created by the Florida Legislature in 2014 to coordinate and enhance efforts to combat human trafficking and support its victims.

Human trafficking, understood as modern-day slavery for labor and/or sex, is so pervasive that the International Labour Organization estimates approximately 21 million victims of trafficking worldwide.

The U.S. Department of Justice found that 83 percent of sex trafficking victims in the United States are U.S. citizens.

Members of the task force include law enforcement officers, legislators, and experts in the fields of health, education and social services. Aronberg was named to the task force to represent Florida's prosecutors and is the only member from Palm Beach County.

Aronberg, who created a local strike force to investigate and prosecute human trafficking in Palm Beach County, said that it is an honor to join the council.

"I appreciate the chance to work with Attorney General Bondi and the other members to root out this scourge of modern day slavery," he said.



**From:** [Anderson, Cassandra L](#)  
**Subject:** News Clips 4/16/2017  
**Date:** Monday, April 17, 2017 2:37:59 PM  
**Attachments:** [News Clips.docx](#)

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# **News Clip 4/16/2017**

## **Palm Beach Post**

**LANTANA**

### **Second teen charged in robbery, shooting**

*By Olivia Hitchcock Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Jelani Nembhard, 17, appears in court Thursday. He faces kidnapping, attempted homicide and armed robbery charges. LANNIS WATERS / THE PALM BEACH POST

LANTANA — A second teenager faces felony charges in a shooting this month after a drug deal turned into an armed robbery, police records state.

Jelani Nembhard, 17, was booked into Palm Beach County's adult jail Wednesday afternoon. He is being held there without bond on kidnapping, attempted homicide and armed robbery charges.

Nembhard was taken into custody April 1 along with Ecclesiastes Ebenezer Samuels, 19, who reportedly shot at two men on South Dixie Highway. Samuels is being held on a \$310,000 bond in the county jail. Judge Marni Bryson ordered the teens not have contact with each other.

A man told Lantana police he went to a home on Minnesota Street, south of Lantana Road and west of Federal Highway, to buy marijuana. A deal was arranged and a car

containing three males, including Samuels, showed up at the home, according to police records.

Samuels, Nembhard and a third male — who managed to flee from police — convinced the man to enter their car, then robbed him at gunpoint as the vehicle sped away, records state. Samuels, who allegedly wielded the gun, then reached into the victim's shorts and stole about \$2,000 in cash.

The victim told police he had so much money on him because he'd just cashed in his income-tax return.

Around North Broadway, the victim was pushed out of the car.

Another man who had been with the victim before the robbery watched him tumble from the car and into the roadway, records state. He picked up the robbery victim and followed the suspects' car along West Ocean Avenue.

When the vehicle carrying the victim got close, someone in the front seat of the other car, reportedly Samuels, fired two or three gunshots.

Another gunshot was fired after the chase turned onto South Dixie Highway. The victim's car collided with the suspect's vehicle, causing it to strike a third vehicle, police said.

After the second wreck, the three males in the suspect vehicle fled, records state.

Samuels and Nembhard were arrested near the 200 block of South Dixie Highway, south of the Ocean Avenue Bridge. The third male escaped.

Samuels denied taking part in the shooting, robbery or kidnapping, but Nembhard told police he and the others had planned to rob the victim.

Records — and their tattoos — indicate the teens are part of the Hypoluxo Boys, which Lantana police called a "neighborhood clique." Both live in suburban Boynton Beach.

Staff writer Jorge Milian contributed to this story. [ohitchcock@pbpost.com](mailto:ohitchcock@pbpost.com)

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## POST IN-DEPTH FUGITIVE TEACHER

# Fugitive teacher shoots, kills self

**Corey Perry, wanted on federal child porn charges, was tracked down by FBI agents in Tennessee.**

*By Hannah Winston Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Corey Perry, 33, taught at H.L. Watkins Middle School in Palm Beach Gardens.

The once-admired Palm Beach Gardens middle school teacher wanted on federal child pornography charges shot and killed himself in a Nashville, Tenn., hotel Friday afternoon after weeks on the run, according to authorities.

Corey Perry, 33, was approached by Federal Bureau of Investigation agents for questioning at the Delux Inn when he shot himself in the head, according to the Metro Nashville Police Department and the FBI.

Perry later died at Skyline Medical Center, police said. Police will continue to investigate the "apparent suicide."

Perry, a teacher at Howell L. Watkins Middle School in Palm Beach Gardens, was wanted for producing child pornography that might have included some of his students, the FBI said. On March 24, the school told Perry he was not allowed to return because of the investigation. The same day, FBI agents searched his West Palm Beach home.

Perry was last seen March 26 in Fort Lauderdale. Officials asked parents who thought their children might have been contacted by Perry, either through social media or on the phone, to come forward.

On Thursday, the teacher's abandoned rental car was found in Fort Lauderdale with the doors unlocked and the keys in the ignition. Investigators said they believed Perry had left the area and might have been headed to Nashville, where he grew up. In addition to the findings, the FBI offered a \$25,000 reward for any information leading to his capture.

As of Friday night, it was unclear how investigators found Perry at the hotel in east Nashville, about 3 miles northeast of the city's downtown. Neither the FBI nor the Palm Beach County School District would say what triggered the investigation. West Palm Beach police and the Palm Beach County State Attorney's Office also were involved.

Perry, a graduate of Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, was a well-regarded teacher in the county.

He was recognized by Florida Gov. Rick Scott for his work in the engineering lab at Watkins and was called "very engaging with the students" by Beverly Ann Barton, the former principal at Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School in Riviera Beach, where Perry started his teaching career in the county.

"All the students loved him," she previously told The Palm Beach Post.

Perry was nominated this year for a William T. Dwyer Award, given to the district's top teachers.

Perry taught computer science and was a basketball coach at Watkins and in other recreational youth leagues in the county. Schools Superintendent Robert Avossa said Perry might have met some of his alleged victims through sports.

Avossa said he did not know if any of the alleged victims were Watkins students, but said they might be from other schools. Perry has taught in the district since 2005 and has worked at Watkins since 2010, according to records. He has no record of complaints and earned top ratings at the middle school, according to district records.

Perry's district computers were searched for explicit materials, but none were found, according to Avossa.

"As a lifelong educator, I am disgusted at what I have learned. He has hurt innocent children," Avossa said in the days after Perry went on the run. "He broke a sacred and professional code and I cannot and will not forgive him for that." [hwinston@pbpost.com](mailto:hwinston@pbpost.com) [Twitter: @hannahwinston](https://twitter.com/hannahwinston)

## **PALM BEACH GARDENS HIGH INVESTIGATION**

# **Gardens teacher is subject of sex probe** **Well-known athletic director removed, put on** **alternate assignment.**

*By Andrew Marra, Olivia Hitchcock and Jodie Wagner Palm Beach Post Staff Writers*



Bill Weed, a school district employee for more than 20 years, has not been arrested.

**PALM BEACH GARDENS** — Palm Beach Gardens High School's longtime athletic director has been removed from the school after becoming a subject of a child sexual-exploitation investigation, according to school district officials and court records.

Bill Weed — a teacher, cross-country coach and the school's athletic director since 2006 — was pulled from campus more than a month ago as city police launched a criminal probe targeting Weed, officials say.

Court records show that Palm Beach Gardens police searched Weed's home at PGA National this past month as part of an investigation into suspected video voyeurism and possession either of images or electronic depictions of a minor engaged in sexual activity, court records show. Both crimes are felonies.

Weed, a school district employee for more than 20 years, has not been arrested or charged with a crime. Multiple attempts to reach him for comment Friday were unsuccessful.

A Palm Beach Gardens police spokesman confirmed that Weed, 50, was the subject of an active investigation but declined to elaborate on the allegations against him, saying the probe was incomplete.

The veteran track and cross country coach has been placed on alternate assignment but remains employed as the investigation continues, a school district spokeswoman said.

A county circuit judge approved a warrant March 7 to search Weed's residence, a rental home in a gated community in PGA National, and seize computers and electronic devices belonging to him. Police retrieved photos, videos and cellphone applications, court records show.



School district spokeswoman Kathy Burstein declined to say when Weed was removed from the school, but a coach at the school told The Palm Beach Post that he vanished from campus in late February.

School administrators appointed a new acting athletic director, Karen Hart, at that time but provided no explanation for the sudden change.

"This is pretty shocking to me," the coach said.

Weed also taught math and was a prominent figure on campus, one who used to work as an announcer for the school's football games.

Principal Larry Clawson confirmed that Weed had been removed from the school but declined to comment further. He made a pre-recorded telephone call to parents Friday morning, saying that an unidentified staff member was involved in an off-campus situation and a law-enforcement investigation was taking place.

Clawson stressed to parents that the person was no longer at Palm Beach Gardens High or at any other county school.

Staff writer Julius Whigham II contributed to this story. [amarra@pbpost.com](mailto:amarra@pbpost.com)

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## TRUMP IN PALM BEACH

# First lady visits group home; president golfs Visit called 'touching'; marchers today to seek release of tax returns. *By George Bennett Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



President Donald Trump's motorcade departs Trump International Golf Club on Friday afternoon. Trump spent four hours at the club in unincorporated West Palm Beach. BRUCE R. BENNETT / THE PALM BEACH POST

Follow Post reporters George Bennett and Kristina Webb's live coverage of President Trump in Palm Beach during Easter weekend on The Post's Facebook page, at [postonpolitics.com](https://www.postonpolitics.com) and on Twitter @gbennettpost and @KristinaWebb.



A U.S. Coast Guard boat patrols near Mar-a-Lago on Friday. This is the president's seventh visit to his estate since taking office. BRUCE R. BENNETT / THE PALM BEACH POST

PALM BEACH — President Donald Trump began his Easter weekend with a visit to his golf club on Friday while first lady Melania Trump visited a group home for abused girls near Lake Worth.

Trump, who arrived Thursday, is making his seventh visit to his Mar-a-Lago estate since becoming president.

The president spent four hours at nearby Trump International Golf Club in unincorporated West Palm Beach, arriving about 10 a.m. and leaving about 2 p.m. The White House didn't reveal Trump's activities, but it appeared to be his 15th time playing golf in 12 weeks as president.

Melania Trump made an unannounced visit to seven girls at a group home for victims of abuse and domestic violence operated by HomeSafe just outside Lake Worth.

"This is a day that the girls will never forget," said Matthew Ladika, the HomeSafe chief executive officer.

The first lady arrived at about 10:15 a.m. and spent about 45 minutes talking with a group of girls between the ages of 12 and 17, Ladika said.

The girls were all removed from their families by court orders and placed in HomeSafe's residential program, the agency said.

"It was extra special and touching. ... She asked them what their interests are," Ladika said.

Melania Trump brought the girls gifts and brought Easter baskets and stuffed bunnies for other children at other HomeSafe residences. HomeSafe has capacity for 40 boys and eight girls at its residences.

Ladika said the Secret Service visited the Lake Worth residence on Thursday to check it out before Melania Trump's visit.

"I had a wonderful time visiting @HomeSafeFla today! The young ladies I spoke with hold so much promise for the future," said a tweet on the first lady's official Twitter account later in the day.

As Trump's latest weekend in Palm Beach continues, anti-Trump demonstrators plan to march locally and across the nation today to demand he release his income-tax returns.

The West Palm Beach march, one of 12 scheduled in Florida, begins outside Trump Plaza on Flagler Drive at noon and is scheduled to go more than 3 miles to Mar-a-Lago.

The tax march was chosen for the nation's traditional April 15 deadline to file taxes, even though Tax Day this year actually is Tuesday, April 18.

Star Fae, who helped organize an anti-Trump march that drew about 5,000 in January, said she expects about 2,000 people for today's protest.

Presidents are not required to release their tax returns, but every president since Jimmy Carter has done so.

In another blow for transparency advocates, the White House announced Friday that it will no longer release logs of visitors to the White House.

After some litigation, former President Barack Obama's administration began releasing visitor records in 2009.

White House lawyers also deleted names for national security and other reasons before the logs were made public, meaning the records provided an incomplete picture of exactly who entered and left the gates of 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

As incomplete as the Obama documents were, his administration ultimately released nearly 6 million records.

"Given the grave national security risks and privacy concerns of the hundreds of thousands of visitors annually, the White House Office will disclose Secret Service logs as outlined under the Freedom of Information Act, a position the Obama White House successfully defended in federal court," said White House Communications Director Michael Dubke.

The conservative group Judicial Watch was among those slamming the Trump administration's decision.

"This new secrecy policy undermines the rule of law and suggests this White House doesn't want to be accountable to the American people," Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton said Friday.

The Associated Press contributed to this story. [gbennett@pbpost.com](mailto:gbennett@pbpost.com)

**Twitter: @gbennettpost**

CHINA

## Details emerge on 6 who protested China's Xi Some claim Chinese government entities stole their land.

*By Eliot Kleinberg Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Ma Yong Tian was taken down April 6 in Lantana after she and others ran into the street as the motorcade carrying Chinese President Xi Jinping and his staff headed west from the Eau Palm Beach Resort & Spa. INITIATIVES FOR CHINA



Jia Kuo



Yuan Jianbin



Yang Halhan





Zhang Weixue



Wang Chun Yan



Ma Yong Tian

WEST PALM BEACH — At least three of the six people charged with trying to block motorcades this past week during China's president's visit to Palm Beach County claim that Chinese government entities stole their land, according to a Washington, D.C.-based Chinese human rights group.

"Initiatives for China" office director Daniel Gong said from Washington that he accompanied four of the protesters April 6-7 to Manalapan, where Chinese President Xi Jinping stayed at the Eau Palm Beach Resort & Spa for summits with President Donald Trump at his Mar-a-Lago club in Palm Beach.

Before Xi's arrival, Gong said, his group issued a statement saying the four, and two more protesters also there but not arrested, would try to hand Xi a petition "seeking justice and solution to their eviction and land-grabbing cases." It added that "we pledge to continue our petition until it is solved by the Chinese Government."

Gong said Thursday from Washington that it's "ancient practice" in China to block vehicles — even, long ago, carriages — to confront leaders about grievances. He said one of those arrested this month in Lantana, Ma Yong Tian, blocked Xi's vehicle in 2015 when the leader visited the State Department in Washington, D.C. He said Xi directed a staffer to later receive her petition but "nothing happened."

The Palm Beach Post's efforts Thursday and Friday to call and email the Chinese Embassy in Washington were unsuccessful.

Chinese leaders have been subject to demonstrations, both for and against, across the world. This past month, a Palm Beach Post reporter on vacation in Australia found several blocks of downtown Sydney lined with demonstrators as China's number two, Premier Li Keqiang, visited for talks with Australian Prime Minister



Malcolm Turnbull. And in 2008, protests blocked the iconic Olympic torch as it made its way through Asia en route to the games in Beijing.

For years, government seizure of lands has been a major cause of demonstrations and even riots in China, June Teufel Dreyer, a China scholar and a professor of political science at the University of Miami, said Thursday.

"The government will decide they need to build a dam, or divert some water, and people are just forced off their land," Dreyer said from Coral Gables.

Most famously, construction of the Three Gorges Dam is believed to have forced the abandonment of more than 1,000 cities and towns and displaced as many as 1.2 million people.

Dreyer said she doubts this month's confrontations will have a significant effect on Xi or his government. But, she said, "at least they (protesters) have shown some people in Palm Beach County this is a problem. The more you draw attention to something, the more you hope it's going to do something."

Dreyer also provided The Post documents, in Chinese, that she says indicate pro-China demonstrators in Palm Beach County this past week were recruited by Chinese government officials, who provided banners and chartered a bus to the county.

The six who were arrested this past week by Palm Beach County sheriff's deputies were not pro-government. The sheriff's office and Initiatives for China identified them as:

- Jia Kuo, 34, of New York. Initiative's Gong said he believes Jia's father is in prison.
- Yuan Jianbin, 49, of Hacienda Heights, Calif. Gong does not have information about him.
- Ma Yong Tian, 52 , of Rockville, Md. Gong says Ma's factory and home in the Jilin Province were seized in 2001 by the Changchun city government and she won a lawsuit but was denied compensation. Her husband and a son also were under house arrest for a while and are forbidden to leave China.
- Yang Haihan, 34, of Rowland Heights, Calif. Another son of Ma's, according to Gong.
- Zhang Weixue, 65, of New York. Gong says Zhang, from Hunan Province, invested in a hotel at Zhangjiajie, but a Chinese local government demolished it without compensation.
- Wang Chun Yan, 53. Sheriff's reports listed no address. Gong said he believes Wang lives in the Washington area but did not have other information about her.

The first five were arrested April 6 and Wang the next day.

According to the sheriff's office, as the motorcade carrying Xi and his staff headed west from the Eau hotel about 2:30 p.m. April 6, Jia and Yuan tried to step onto Ocean Avenue in Manalapan. Deputies warned them not to go into the road, but

they advanced, and deputies pushed Yuan out of the way of the motorcade, reports said.

Around 5:30 p.m. April 6, in Lantana, as the motorcade traveled west on Lantana Road near the shopping center just east of Interstate 95, Ma, Yang and Zhang ran into the street, reports said. Ma pointed a "dark object" and sheriff's Maj. Jeffrey Calise struck her hand with his baton, knocking the object away, a report says. The report doesn't identify the item but says Calise took Ma to the ground, where she "began to kick and push away" and Calise again struck her in the leg. She then was dragged from traffic, reports said.

Video provided by Daniel Gong shows Yang and Zhang running into traffic and cars swerving. It also shows Calise striking Ma and dragging her off. Photos provided by Gong show the two men in traffic and Ma being taken down to the roadway and later sitting handcuffed on a sidewalk.

About 10:45 a.m. Friday, Wang stepped into Southern Boulevard at Lake Avenue in West Palm Beach as a motorcade transporting Madame Peng Liyuan and first lady Melania Trump to Mar-a-Lago after a visit to the Bak Middle School of the Arts in West Palm Beach. As John O'Keefe, a Jupiter police officer on loan for the detail, called for her to get out of the road, some of the vehicles in the motorcade had to swerve around her, the report said.

Ma, Yang and Zhang are charged with obstruction of a roadway and resisting arrest without violence. Jia and Yuan are charged with resisting arrest without violence.

Wang is charged with obstruction of a roadway.

Each of the counts is a misdemeanor, punishable by up to a year in prison and a \$1,000 fine. Because all six were from out of town, rather than receiving a "notice to appear," they were booked into the Palm Beach County Jail, where all were released either on their own recognizance or after paying small

bails. [ekleinberg@pbpost.com](mailto:ekleinberg@pbpost.com) Twitter: [@eliotkpbp](https://twitter.com/eliotkpbp)

## Trump gets in the swing of things

### **Golf outing part of seventh trip** *By Andy Reid Staff writer*

President Donald Trump might want a mulligan (that's a do-over, for all you non-golfers) after all those Obama-golfing jabs he made during the campaign.

Trump's latest Palm Beach visit included another golf outing Friday, which is becoming the routine for his White House getaways to Mar-a-Lago.

This is Trump's seventh trip to Palm Beach since his inauguration. And amid hosting world leaders and meeting with federal officials, many of Trump's local visits also include stops at Trump golf clubs in West Palm Beach or Jupiter.

Trump as president has already spent more than 63 hours at golf clubs, prior to his Friday golf course outing, according to The Associated Press. The time Trump spends on the golf course has drawn criticism about whether presidential trips to Palm Beach and other taxpayer-funded travel are a worthwhile investment.

After criticizing President Obama for using Air Force One as an "Uber" to go golfing, the conservative government watchdog group Judicial Watch is encouraging Trump to be sensitive to public costs for his golf-related travel, President Tom Fitton said. "I don't frankly care about how much the president golfs," Fitton said Friday. "I care about the costs associated."

On Friday, Trump arrived at Trump International Golf Club in West Palm Beach at 9:54 a.m. He headed back to Mar-a-Lago about four hours later.

The White House on Friday afternoon didn't disclose what the president was doing at the golf club and has been shy in the past about specifying how much time Trump spends playing golf.

While the White House has been reluctant to disclose how often Trump golfs when he visits clubs owned by his family's business, Trump as a candidate last year wasn't shy about criticizing President Obama's frequent golfing.

Trump in May 2016 tweeted, "While our wonderful president was out playing golf all day, the TSA is falling apart, just like our government!"

These days, Trump has tweaked his criticism of Obama's golfing to say that his predecessor tended to golf with friends, while he uses golf for deal-making and other efforts to help the country.

For example, Trump golfed with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe during their February visit to Palm Beach.

Yet Trump's golf course diplomacy and frequent trips to his Palm Beach County golf clubs can affect local residents.

The president's motorcade taking Trump from Mar-a-Lago to his namesake golf courses temporarily blocks roads and adds to traffic tie-ups that come during presidential visits.

In addition, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office has estimated that Trump's visits since being elected have cost South Florida law enforcement agencies about \$3.5 million for helping provide beefed-up security.

Palm Beach County taxpayers shouldn't have to shoulder those kinds of costs for Trump's visits, said former County Commissioner Burt Aaronson, a staunch Democrat.

"He's supposed to be our president, not our resident golf pro," Aaronson said.

Whether at a golf club or Mara-Lago, Trump is working during his visits to Palm Beach, said former Palm Beach County Republican Party leader Sid Dinerstein.

Hosting the president, and the attention it brings the area, is worth the local security costs, Dinerstein said.

"The guy plays golf on the weekends," Dinerstein said. "Those golf outings are wrapped around a whole lot of business meetings. ... These are not vacations."

Aside from the growing political back-and-forth about Trump's golfing and frequent travel, Palm Beach County tourism officials are hoping the media attention translates to more visitors.

Those who can't get into a Trump golf club have more than 160 other nearby courses to choose from, said Glenn Jergensen, executive director of the county's Tourist Development Council.

"To have the president playing golf in Palm Beach County, I think it's a great thing," Jergensen said.

*The Associated Press contributed to this report.*

# Police inquiry ongoing

## Athletic director suspected in child sexual exploitation

*By Wells Dusenbury and Teri Berg Staff writers*



Weed

Palm Beach Gardens High School athletic director Bill Weed is under police investigation for suspected child sexual exploitation that involves secretly videotaping a minor, according to Palm Beach Gardens police and court documents. Weed is suspected of video voyeurism and having video and/or other visual images of a minor engaged in sexual activity, the documents say. Both are felony violations. No arrest has been made and no charges have been filed.

Confirming an active criminal investigation, Michael B. Edmondson, a spokesman for State Attorney Dave Aronberg in West Palm Beach, on Friday said no time frame has been set in the case.

Edmondson declined further comment.

Weed, 50, of Palm Beach Gardens, has been placed on administrative reassignment by Palm Beach County Schools, according to district officials. District spokesman Willie Williams, acknowledging an ongoing criminal investigation, last week said Weed is under review by the district's personnel office.

Palm Beach Gardens principal Larry Clawson on Friday told parents the police probe was related to "an off-campus incident."

Clawson, in a robocall alerting parents of media reports about Weed early Friday, said, "I want to assure you that this individual is not working on our campus or on any other school campus at this time."

Weed began at Palm Beach Gardens as a cross country and track coach in 1998 and became athletic director in 2006. The girls lacrosse coach since the team's inception in 2014, Weed was not present for the Gators' March 6 game at Jupiter High.

Gardens' season ended on March 31 at Cardinal Newman in West Palm Beach — a game he also missed.

According to police logs, a Palm Beach Gardens patrol officer and an investigator went to Weed's home first on Feb. 19 and confiscated two unspecified items.

Further visits by police over the next five days resulted in the seizure of more than 40 items allegedly belonging to Weed that authorities believe are relevant to the investigation.

Court records show at least four digital cameras were confiscated by investigators, along with multiple computers and tablets, 11 cell phones and more than a dozen digital storage devices.

Weed could not be reached for comment. Calls to his phone prompted a message saying the number could not accept incoming calls. Attempts to reach Weed via email also were unsuccessful.

Under Florida law, video voyeurism involving a minor carries a maximum five-year prison term and \$5,000 fine, while possessing images, video or visual depictions of a minor involved in sexual activity could result in 15 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.



**From:** [Anderson, Cassandra L](#)  
**Subject:** News Clips 4/16/2017  
**Date:** Monday, April 17, 2017 2:00:49 PM  
**Attachments:** [News Clips.docx](#)

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# **News Clip 4/16/2017**

## **Palm Beach Post**

**PALM BEACH COUNTY**

### **Newspaper ad 16 years ago leads to career — and honors PBSO communication supervisor Pritchard earns top award.**

*By Olivia Hitchcock Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Mark Gish presents the 2017 Communication Officer of the Year Award to Regina Pritchard, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office communications supervisor. PHOTOS BY DAMON HIGGINS / THE PALM BEACH POST



Regina Pritchard receives a hug after the award ceremony on Wednesday. The mother of three says, "It means a lot to be honored. I didn't really think it would, though, it's just what you do every day."

After nearly 16 years of answering oftentimes incoherent calls for help, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Communication Supervisor Regina Pritchard can tell when something is off.

And when Broward County Sheriff's officials asked Pritchard to help with a welfare check at two locations in the southern part of Palm Beach County, she knew something wasn't right.

Turns out the woman's mother had been killed, and officials weren't sure whether the daughter was another victim or a suspect.

Pritchard's cautious hesitation helped earn her the sheriff's office's 2017 Communication Officer of the Year Award. At a ceremony this past week, Pritchard shied from the attention while expressing gratitude toward the coworkers she has come to regard as family.

Pritchard, a mother of three, spotted an ad in a newspaper years ago advertising a job with the sheriff's office. It was with the communication office, and she thought she'd give it a try.

July will be 16 years in the job, answering desperate calls from mothers whose children have committed suicide or haven't been seen in days and calming panicked shooting witnesses enough to gather information.

"Behind the phone, the only help we can give is calling a deputy, or calling an ambulance," she said. "And once deputies arrive, we're done. We're on to the next call ... the next screaming mother."

Sometimes Pritchard will sneak in a call to Teri Barbera, public information officer at the sheriff's office, to find out how calls end.

"It means a lot to be honored," Pritchard said. "I didn't really think it would, though, it's just what you do every day." [ohitchcock@pbpost.com](mailto:ohitchcock@pbpost.com) Twitter: [@ohitchcock](https://twitter.com/ohitchcock)

## CRIME STOPPERS

These suspects were wanted as of Thursday:

**Jonathan Jablonski**, 28, on charges of violation of probation for possession of heroin. He was born Oct. 1, 1988, has brown hair and green eyes, and is 6 foot, 190 pounds.

**James Young**, 31, on charges of possession of marijuana in excess of 20 grams, aggravated battery with a firearm and felon in possession of firearm/ammunition. He was born Jan. 30, 1986, has black hair and brown eyes and is 5 foot, 6 inches and 170 pounds. Call Crime Stoppers at 800-458-TIPS (8477).



Jablonski



Young

## TECHNOLOGY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

# Police adding drones, but not the armed variety

*By Justin Bachman Bloomberg*



An Inspire 1 Pro drone flies at maker DJI's headquarters in Shenzhen, China. Most public safety drones now in use in the U.S. are made by DJI. OILAI SHEN / BLOOMBERG 2016

In small unmanned aerial drones, police and firefighters have discovered a useful new tool, with at least 347 agencies in 43 states now flying them.

Drone deployment by law enforcement and municipalities began more than a decade ago when it was just an emerging technology with extremely limited use. But those days are over: Last year, more public agencies acquired drones than in all previous years combined, with at least 167 departments fielding the flying robots in 2016, according to a study released April 6 by Bard College's Center for the Study of the Drone.

Texas and California agencies lead the public safety acquisitions, with 28 and 23, respectively, followed by Alabama (20); Wisconsin (18); and Ohio and Pennsylvania (13). All but seven states have at least one unmanned aerial vehicle operated by police, sheriffs, emergency response, or fire departments, the report found.

But before you get too paranoid, remember that it's not just the cops who have the ability to hover over your house. The Federal Aviation Administration estimated last month that the consumer market will more than triple by 2021, with 3.5 million drones in use, up from about 1.1 million currently. Commercially, about 420,000 professional drones are likely to be flying at any one time, 10 times the current fleet count.



In most law enforcement scenarios, drones are being flown for traffic management or crime-scene photography, according to the study. They're also used for search and rescue, hazardous material spills, mass evacuations, and aerial viewing of fires or tracking fire personnel in dangerous settings. "We'll see more use cases in the coming years," predicts Dan Gettinger, the report's author, who is also founder and co-director of the Bard center.

Many Americans first became aware of police use of unmanned vehicles last July, following a shooting spree in which a dozen Dallas police officers were shot by a sniper, five fatally. Faced with a heavily armed suspect who refused to surrender, the department sent a bomb squad robot armed with C4 explosive to detonate inside a downtown community college, killing him.

That drone's weaponization — the first known U.S. police robot killing — sparked a brief public debate on the ethics and efficacy of nonmilitary deployment of technology to kill.

The robot shielded officers from further danger and ended a tense stalemate, an outcome police commanders view as defensible.

Extending that same logic to armed aerial drones, however, is fraught on constitutional grounds, and it's one area where police have shown little inclination (at least publicly) to explore.

Legislators in Connecticut, however, want police to have the option.

A bill meant to ban weaponized drones there includes an exception for police, a move that's sparked outrage in the somewhat progressive New England state. At least one expert observer said the cost of police drone weaponization would outweigh any potential benefit.

"The attorneys who represent municipalities drive defensively — they don't want to take that bold step," said Michael Geary, a retired New York City police sergeant, attorney, and associate professor in criminal justice who has written extensively on police drone use.

"For day-to-day patrol, I can't see it. I don't think it's necessary," he said. "Why expose yourself to that civil liability? The amounts that would have to be paid for even a couple of claims would probably negate its use and shut it down very quickly."

In guidelines for unmanned drone use issued in 2015, the International Association of Chiefs of Police prohibits "weapons of any kind," a proscription carried over from the group's initial policy recommendation three years earlier that "strongly discouraged" arming drones. The Airborne Law Enforcement Association, which conducts drone training courses nationwide, has likewise seen no efforts to fly armed drones, said Don Roby, training program manager.



"You have to do a very detailed risk analysis," Roby said. "I'm not sure that many agencies will take that risk."

Law enforcement already faces significant public skepticism about government drones, given the enormous potential for privacy invasion, plus the loss of accountability that comes with a police officer's physical presence. Several states have already enacted laws to protect people from drone snooping, and law enforcement is required to obtain search warrants for many of their drone surveillance activities.

Given the public's existing fear of an Orwellian state, adding drones that can kill would likely amp up the paranoia significantly.

"I think there's a lot of sensitivity still among police and sometimes controversy around police acquisition and use of drones, mostly around the surveillance issue," Gettinger said. "That sort of puts a damper on any attempt to experiment."

In 2015, an online video of an armed drone firing a handgun drew national attention (and federal authorities) and showed how the technique is possible. The Supreme Court has concluded that an exercise of force must be "objectively reasonable" under the circumstances to be legal, said Geary, who teaches at Albertus Magnus College in New Haven.

The court has also found that police cannot (in most circumstances) use deadly force against a suspect who is fleeing.

"You don't have that same level of immediate force confronting an officer," said Geary, who has written articles on drone use for Police Chief Magazine. "They have less likelihood of being able to show the use of force was reasonable under the circumstances." In this situation, the drone operator becomes akin to a police sniper, Geary wrote in a 2015 article, authorized to fire only if an officer or civilian faces an imminent lethal threat. The "remoteness severely hampers their ability to justify using any kind of force."

The vast majority of public safety drones in use are manufactured by DJI, a company in Shenzhen, China, with an 80 percent share of the current deployments in Bard's study, led by the consumer Phantom and Inspire models.

In recent weeks, DJI has launched a new professional drone platform, the eight-pound M200, which will be sold only through dealers. The M200 is being marketed as a tool for bridge, wind turbine, oil rig, and power line inspections, as well as search and rescue, construction site mapping, and crop surveys.

"Public safety has been an early adopter, and it started out with people trying out a lot of different consumer drones," DJI spokesman Adam Lisberg said. "We count at least 59 lives that have been saved by people using drones."

DJI has collected “a ton of feedback” from police in Europe and the U.S. on what they need from a drone, he said. Next steps include new software and communications abilities to help police coordinate their drone flights. But DJI has no plans to design drones with weapons, Lisberg said, calling that topic “a nonstarter for us.”

For law enforcement drone use, Geary predicts that government lawyers will deliver a simple caveat: “You don’t want to be that test case that shows up at the Supreme Court.”

At least 347 agencies now field the flying robots, and all but seven states have at least one unmanned vehicle operated by police, sheriffs, emergency crews or firefighters.

## **TRUMP IN PALM BEACH President bypasses tax-return protest Trump motorcade takes alternate route from golf club as hundreds near Mar-a-Lago demand more transparency.** *By George Bennett and John Pacenti Palm Beach Post Staff Writers*

### **KEEP UP WITH THE PRESIDENT**

Follow our team of reporters and photographers as they cover President Trump’s Easter weekend visit to Palm Beach at [myPalmBeachPost.com/donaldtrump](https://www.mypalmbeachpost.com/donaldtrump). On Twitter: George Bennett at @gbennettpost Pat Beall at @beall1 Kristina Webb at @kristinawebb Aleese Kopf at @aleesekopf



Protesters on Bingham Island on Saturday call on President Donald Trump to release his tax returns, but Trump’s motorcade took a different route to Mar-a-Lago. CARLA TRIVINO / PALM BEACH DAILY NEWS



Trump supporters in West Palm Beach on Saturday jeer marchers calling on the president to release his federal tax returns. ALLEN EYESTONE / THE PALM BEACH POST

PALM BEACH — Several hundred protesters got within sight — and perhaps earshot — of Mar-a-Lago on Saturday afternoon to demand President Donald Trump release his income tax returns as anti-Trump demonstrators participated in a series of nationwide marches.

Trump, whose Easter weekend visit is the seventh Palm Beach trip of his presidency, stayed clear of the demonstration outside his “tropical White House.”

After spending about 4½ hours at his nearby Trump International Golf Club in unincorporated West Palm Beach, the president’s motorcade did not return to Mar-a-Lago via its customary route along Southern Boulevard, where protesters were chanting and waving signs on Bingham Island.

Instead, Trump’s motorcade crossed into Palm Beach farther north, then went south on Ocean Boulevard to ferry him to Mar-a-Lago at 1:50 p.m.

“We’re very disappointed,” Sharon Adams of West Palm Beach said as it became apparent the president wouldn’t see the protest. “He’s scared. He’s avoiding everybody. He is avoiding taking responsibility.”

Adams and her friend Paula Ferrari of Jupiter said they plan to show up today to catch the president’s motorcade to Palm Beach International Airport when he leaves town.

“He’ll see us. He’ll see our signs,” Adams vowed.

Saturday’s nationwide “tax marches” were scheduled to coincide with the traditional April 15 deadline for filing federal income taxes, though this year’s deadline is Tuesday. There were more than 150 Tax Day rallies and marches planned nationwide for Saturday.

Dueling pro- and anti-Trump rallies in Berkeley, Calif., turned violent Saturday as numerous fistfights broke out and protesters fired pepper spray into a crowd. Police

arrested more than a dozen people and requested aid from other law enforcement agencies.

The West Palm Beach demonstration began outside the Trump Plaza towers on South Flagler Boulevard — buildings Trump hasn't owned for more than 20 years but that still bear his name.

Trump supporters in a "Trumpmobile" made from two Mercedes Benz station wagons drove by the protesters a few times, drawing boos as the march began.

"No more secrets, no more lies. Show us your taxes, show us your ties," demonstrators chanted near the beginning of the march.

"He needs to be transparent in his business dealings. We want to know what his conflicts really are," said Kathleen Norris of Stuart. "I think there are dealings with foreign governments he needs to come clean with."

While Trump's tax returns were the stated cause of Saturday's rallies, protesters aired a wide array of grievances.

"I have a litany of issues with this administration, and showing his taxes is just one," said Joan Friedenberg of Boynton Beach.

She mentioned Trump's Cabinet picks, his opposition to federal funding for Planned Parenthood, his pledge to repeal the Affordable Care Act, his stance on immigration and his campaign vow to temporarily ban Muslims from entering the country.

"While he is out on the golf course, we are trying to demonstrate and make ourselves heard," said Ed Hertz-berg, 88, of Boynton Beach. "The tax issue is one thing, but his whole outlook — it is 18th century thinking."

Diane Rice of Wellington and Al Scharnitz of Palm Beach Gardens helped carry a sign protesting the Sabal Trail natural gas pipeline. Mitzi Kaitz of Delray Beach carried a "Where is Marco?" sign to criticize Sen. Marco Rubio for avoiding town hall meetings with constituents.

Trump arrived Thursday without top White House aides and did not have public events on his schedule Friday or Saturday.

The president golfed at Trump International on Friday, and while the White House did not reveal what he was doing there Saturday, a heavy security presence on the course appeared consistent with presidential time on the course. Saturday's outing appeared to be the 16th time Trump has played golf since taking office— a rate of once every 5.4 days.

Former President Barack Obama, whose golf habits were frequently criticized by Trump, played an estimated 333 rounds of golf as president — a rate of once every 8.8 days he was in office.

The Associated Press contributed to this story. [gbennett@pbpost.com](mailto:gbennett@pbpost.com)

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## POST WATCHDOG TEXTING AND DRIVING

# Study: 92% of U.S. drivers use phone as car moves Only Louisiana scores worse than Florida, new study indicates. *By Charles Elmore Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



EverDrive, which says its goal is to encourage safer habits by making drivers more self-aware, might be doing just that: Its 92 percent figure for phone use was lower than last year's 96 percent. NICK GRAHAM / DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Florida gets the nation's worst grade after Louisiana in a new study for phone use while driving.

Never mind what most of us say. A sobering 92 percent of U.S. motorists have texted, posted, dialed or otherwise used a cellphone while driving a moving vehicle, according to research using a phone app that tracks driver behavior.

"It's pretty insane," said Ryan Ruffing, director of communications at EverQuote Inc., the company behind the study. "Most people consider themselves good drivers, but they are not aware of how often they are using their phones behind the wheel."

An app called EverDrive collected data on more than 2.7 million vehicle trips and 230 million miles driven, according to the company. By sensing motion and other factors, the app assigns drivers a score on everything from phone use to hard braking, speeding, risky acceleration and hard turns.

"I'm not surprised by the results of the study," said state Rep. Emily Slosberg, D-Boca Raton. "We're one of four states that don't make texting while driving a primary offense."

That means police don't cite drivers for texting on cellphones unless they pull those drivers over for something else, such as speeding.

Slosberg and others have sponsored legislation to beef up penalties, but it is not clear those measures will get through committees in time to pass before the legislative session ends in early May.

The EverDrive technology does not count hands-free devices, but aims rather to detect active hand-held phone use such as unlocking a phone while the vehicle is moving, Ruffing said. Use can include texting and talking.

EverDrive, a privately held firm founded in 2011 and based in Cambridge, Mass., calls itself an online insurance marketplace matching U.S. drivers with insurance providers based on price and coverage needs. The company insists it does not share individual driver data with insurance companies without permission, Ruffing said, but its goal is to encourage safer habits by making drivers more self-aware.

Is it working? Company officials say there is evidence it might be. That 92 percent figure for phone use may sound high, but it was higher last year at 96 percent. Southerners, including Floridians, have the highest phone usage rate while driving — on 41 percent of trips. Other regions used the phone on 34 percent to 37 percent of trips.

Last year EverQuote calculated Americans were on the phone about half a mile for every 11 miles driven.

Insurance companies such as Progressive have invited customers to use plug-in devices to measure many driving behaviors, if not necessarily phone use. Despite initial advertising claims, the gizmos can raise premiums as well as lower them, The Palm Beach Post found. Drivers may not realize the technology cannot always distinguish between inattentive driving and, say, a hard stop to avoid a neighbor's dog. Also often penalized: Driving after midnight, even if you work the night shift. Still, just about everyone acknowledges phone use behind the wheel represents a big and growing safety issue.

"We hope this data sheds light on actual driving habits versus people's perception of their driving skills," said Seth Birnbaum, CEO of EverQuote. "Our goal is to empower drivers to use their scores to improve their driving skills and ultimately make the roads safer for themselves and the 214 million drivers on the roads across the U.S."

AT&T officials said they commissioned research showing 57 percent of people are more likely to stop driving while distracted if a friend or passenger brings it up.

AT&T spokeswoman Kelly Starling in North Palm Beach said, "That means half of people are just waiting for someone to tell them to stop."

For Distracted Driving Awareness Month, AT&T said it has launched the #TagYourHalf social media campaign to "encourage the public to join the conversation on Twitter." [celmore@pbpost.com](mailto:celmore@pbpost.com) [Twitter: @Elmorepbp](https://twitter.com/Elmorepbp)

**PROTECTING YOUR POCKET** Check for updates on consumer news at [PalmBeachPost.com/protectingyourpocket](http://PalmBeachPost.com/protectingyourpocket).



## **PALM BEACH GARDENS FUGITIVE TEACHER**

# **Avossa: 'Those impacted' by child-porn case to get facts Superintendent offers sympathies of district leadership via Twitter.**

*By Olivia Hitchcock and Tom Elia Palm Beach Post Staff Writers*



Corey Perry taught science and coached basketball at Watkins Middle School.



Palm Beach County Schools Superintendent Robert Avossa (left) and school police Chief Lawrence Leon give a news conference on Corey Perry on March 29 as the manhunt was starting. LANNIS WATERS / THE PALM BEACH POST

The thoughts of Palm Beach County school leaders "are with all those impacted" by the case of Corey Perry, a once-admired teacher who killed himself Friday in the wake of child pornography allegations, Superintendent Robert Avossa said.

"I'm sure the facts will be brought to life soon ..." Avossa said in a statement published on his Twitter page late Friday, a few hours after Perry was found dead at a motel in Nashville, Tenn., near where he was raised.

Perry, a teacher at Howell L. Watkins Middle School in Palm Beach Gardens, was wanted on charges of producing child pornography that may have included some of his students, the FBI said. On March 24, the school told him he was barred from campus, on MacArthur Boulevard north of Northlake Boulevard, because of the investigation. The same day, FBI agents searched his West Palm Beach home.

Perry was last seen March 26 in Fort Lauderdale. The FBI set a \$25,000 reward for his capture on Thursday, one day before Perry killed himself. Investigators tracked him to the Delux Inn about five miles northeast of downtown Nashville, where Tennessee TV stations said he had checked in Wednesday.

The 33-year-old West Palm Beach resident and graduate of Florida A&M University taught science and coached basketball at Watkins. He had been recognized by Gov. Rick Scott for his work in the school's engineering lab, which is known for its robotics program, and was nominated this year for a Dwyer award, given to the district's top teachers.

Investigators have been told that Perry at times would pose as a girl when reaching out to young males, sending them nude photos of a young female and asking them to share similar photos of themselves. Authorities have not publicly commented on this allegation.

District officials have asked parents who thought their children may have been contacted by Perry either through social media or over the phone to come forward. Perry also coached youth basketball in recreational programs in Palm Beach County and could have come into contact with youths there.

Avossa had strong comments in the days after the FBI announced it was looking for Perry, saying he was "disgusted at what I have learned."

"He has hurt innocent children," Avossa said at the time. "He broke a sacred and professional code."

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## Attorney on run for 20 years caught in Delray Scott Wolas accused of fraud in N.Y., Massachusetts.

*By John Pacenti Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Wolas

DELRAY BEACH — In January, the Patriot Ledger — a newspaper in Quincy, Mass. - asked in a headline: "Where is Scott Wolas and what is he up to?" wondering whatever happened to the disbarred lawyer wanted for 20 years for scamming people through various enterprises.

"We have no idea where he is," Quincy police Capt. John Dougan told the Ledger. Well, where else but Palm Beach County? Wolas, who went by many names, was arrested in Delray Beach last week, ending two decades on the lam. He is charged with wire fraud and aggravated identity theft. He appeared in federal court in West Palm Beach on Friday and is expected to return to Massachusetts.

Authorities say Wolas took more than \$100 million from investors in New York in the 1990s using a liquor-trading Ponzi scheme. He ripped off about 16 people in Massachusetts of \$1.7 million — including an ex-girlfriend. He was also active in Florida, specializing in false identities.

The alleged scam included the redevelopment of the Beachcomber, a longtime bar and music venue on Wollaston Beach in the Boston suburb of Quincy, into condominiums and a “boutique” restaurant.

Wolas, then posing as Eugene Grathwohl, raised more than \$1.5 million from 19 investors for that project. After months of extensions, he failed to show up at the closing in September, disappearing with the money.

“I’m so happy that he got caught,” Ben Porter, who lost \$50,000 in the alleged scheme, told Boston CBS affiliate WBZ-TV. “He’s going to now be accountable for what he did.”

Wolas used \$98,000 to purchase stamp books and other collectible items. He also spent \$50,000 dining out at restaurants and withdrew more than \$600,000 in cash for unknown purposes, according to court documents.

Besides Grathwohl, Wolas went by Frank Amolsch, Drew Prescott, Allen Lee Hengst and Robert Francis McDowell, police say. He told his girlfriend he needed to change his identity frequently because he once was in a “secret service” and was now in the witness protection program, according to a federal criminal complaint.

The real Grathwohl presently lives in Delray Beach, the criminal complaint said. He told the FBI that he knew Wolas as the ex-husband of a friend of his and had even met the man who assumed his identity, according to the FBI. Efforts to reach him Saturday were unsuccessful.

Hengst — who in real life roomed with Wolas at Georgetown University, federal officials said — was the name Wolas used during his first foray into Florida, which took place after he fled New York in the 1990s but before he was indicted there in 1997.

While in the state, Wolas used Hengst’s name in obtaining a license to sell securities, and his activities drew the attention of the FBI’s Tampa office in 2001.

The aliases that Wolas was using just before his arrest were Endicott Asquith and Cameron Sturge, the complaint said.

In late March, Wolas told a witness who knew him as Asquith that he planned to “come clean.” Through a photo provided by the witness, authorities who had earlier determined Grathwohl was Wolas determined that Asquith was Wolas as well, according to the complaint. [jpacenti@pbpost.com](mailto:jpacenti@pbpost.com)

Staff writer Olivia Hitchcock contributed to this story.

# Drug-sale complaint leads to two arrests in Boynton

*By Tom Elia Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

BOYNTON BEACH — City police Friday accused two men of drug possession and child neglect, saying they caught them driving around a neighborhood with heroin, fentanyl, guns, knives and a 4-year-old boy in their car.

A resident's tip about people selling drugs from a green Chrysler 300 led to the arrests of Tony Rah-ming, 28, of Boynton Beach on drug-possession charges and William Randall, 25, of Greenacres on a child-neglect charge, city police said in a post on their Face-book page. Both men were booked into the Palm Beach County Jail. Rahming was released late Friday after posting a \$66,750 bond, jail records show. Randall remained in custody with his bail set at \$3,000.

The complaint told police of loitering and drug sales on the 400 block of Northwest 11th Avenue, north of Boynton Beach Boulevard and west of Seacrest Boulevard, near Sara Sims Park. Officers said they spotted the car and pulled it over.

Police said that inside the car, they found 23 pills containing a mixture of heroin and fentanyl, 1.7 grams of crack cocaine, 0.9 grams of fake Xanax, 1.2 grams of marijuana and \$787 in cash. They said Randall also had a loaded Glock 23 handgun in his possession, with 25 rounds of ammunition, including hollow-point bullets. Three throwing knives were found under the backseat, according to the post.

On that seat sat the boy, who was not in a proper child's car seat, police said in the post. He was turned over to his mother. The Florida Department of Children and Families was notified. [telia@pbpost.com](mailto:telia@pbpost.com)

**Twitter: @TEliaPBPost**

## OUR VIEWS GUN RIGHTS **Lawmakers misfire with 'stand your ground' bill**



State Sen. Anitere Flores, a Republican from Miami, has said she and some of her colleagues are "a little gun-bill fatigued" in the current legislative session in Tallahassee.

STEVE CANNON / ASSOCIATED PRESS 2015

Less than a year after the Pulse nightclub massacre in Orlando, you'd think that the Florida Legislature would be striving to clamp down on the easy access to guns that allowed an unbalanced 29-year-old who pledged allegiance to the Islamic State to effortlessly acquire the armaments to kill 49 people.

That's not happening. Gun control is nowhere on the agenda. But neither is the Legislature as eager as in past years to wildly expand the rights of gun owners.

"I think the members — not just myself, but some others — we're a little gun-bill fatigued," says Sen. Anitere Flores, a Republican from Miami who deserves credit for helping cool the usual "Gun-shine State" fervor.

Florida already has the largest number of concealed-weapon permit holders at 1.7 million, roughly one for every 10 adult residents. It was the first state in the union to pass a "stand your ground" law. It is also a state where, with 2,559 firearm deaths in 2015, homicide is the most distinctive cause of death, according to an analysis of 2014 data from the U.S. Centers of Disease Control and Prevention.

On April 5, the state House passed a bill intended to shift a key burden of proof in "stand your ground" cases from defendants to prosecutors in pretrial hearings. The Senate approved the bill on March 15, but with a difference over how convincing the prosecution's case must be.

It's one of the few pro-gun-rights bills likely to pass this year.

The proposal is in reaction to a Florida Supreme Court ruling in 2015 that said it's up to defendants to prove they should be shielded from prosecution under "stand your ground." Critics including the National Rifle Association complain the court undercut the purpose of the law, which says people can use deadly force, with no duty to retreat, if they think it is necessary to prevent death or great bodily harm.

"Stand your ground" is billed as a measure to empower people who feel under threat, but it seems more like a license to kill. Since it was enacted in Florida in 2005, Florida's monthly homicide rate has increased 24.4 percent and the homicide by firearm rate jumped 31.6 percent, according to a study published in January in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Even more disturbing, a new report showing the number of road rage incidents involving guns is on the rise highlighted Florida as having the most in the country over a two-year period, with 146 incidents. The report released April 11 by The Trace, an independent nonprofit news organization that covers gun issues, said there were at least 620 gun-involved road rage incidents in 2016 — more than double from two years earlier.

Those findings are bolstered by another study, released in 2013 by a Texas A&M University researcher, which found an average 8 percent increase in homicides in states that passed "stand your ground" laws, with "no evidence of any deterrence effect" that the laws prevent crime.

"These laws lower the cost of using lethal force," said the researcher, economist Mark Hoekstra. "Our study finds that, as a result, you get more of it."

Facts like these, unfortunately, seem to have no deterrent effect on legislators who are hell-bent on loosening gun restrictions. Again, on April 5, the House approved a measure that would allow people with concealed-weapons licenses to bring guns to churches and other religious institutions.

Thankfully, however, an array of other bad ideas is going nowhere. That includes a bill allowing concealed weapons on college campuses. And another letting people openly carry guns in public.

Many of the pro-gun bills are sponsored by state Sen. Greg Steube, a Sarasota Republican, who argues that places such as airports and schools would be safer if people carried guns around them.

The inanity of that argument was encapsulated by Mark Barden, the father of 7-year-old Daniel Barden, one of the 20 children killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012. The still-grieving father said it perfectly last week on a visit to Sarasota.

"If more guns made us safer," he said, "we should be the safest country in the world." Surprisingly, it is one of the few pro-gun-rights bills likely to pass this year.



## Protesters use Easter visit for tax return push

*By Andy Reid Staff writer*

Hundreds of protesters marched from West Palm Beach toward President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate Saturday afternoon, renewing the call for him to release his tax records.

While Trump was at a nearby golf club, protesters used Tuesday's deadline for filing federal taxes as a reminder that the president has yet to disclose more about how much he has paid in taxes through the years.

"Here is somebody that is proposing tax changes, and we don't know if those changes will personally benefit him or his friends or his family," said Bruce Brown, 59, of Lake Worth. "That's almost (the) definition of corruption."

The crowd, estimated at nearly 700 people by West Palm Beach police, was one of the largest local anti-Trump protests since he took office. Police said there were no arrests during the demonstration.

Protesters — chanting "Dump Trump" and waving signs that asked, "What are you hiding?" — marched about 3 miles along Flagler Drive and over the Southern Boulevard bridge to Bingham Island, within view of Mar-a-Lago.

About a dozen Trump supporters gathered at the corner of Flagler and Southern waving signs and flags in support of the president. Others drove along Flagler Drive honking and waving pro-Trump signs.

"I haven't marched since Vietnam," protester Marshall Brass, 70, of West Palm Beach said. "This one moved me.... We have a disgraceful man sitting in the White House." The Town of Palm Beach Police Department had blocked off parking on Bingham Island, a favorite gathering spot for Trump protesters and supporters alike near Mar-a-Lago. That left demonstrators with long walks back to their cars in West Palm Beach.

Trump has faced criticism since the campaign for failing to release his tax returns, as his predecessors had, which would show more about his financial history.

With ongoing federal investigations into Russian influence on the presidential election, protesters say there is an even greater need for the public to know more about Trump's tax history.

"It will show us what his (financial) history is, who he owes money to," said Joyce Brown, 73, of Lake Worth. "Whether he is as corrupt as we think he is."

Trump's taxes may have been the focus of Saturday's demonstration, but protesters also sounded off about everything from the president's push to build a border wall to his past derogatory comments about women.

"People feel they need a voice," said Don Pray, 69, of Jupiter.

Trump's motorcade bypassed Southern Boulevard, and the sign-waving, chanting protesters, as the president traveled from Trump International Golf Club to Mar-a-Lago, arriving at 1:50 p.m.

This is Trump's seventh trip to Palm Beach since his inauguration.

The president arrived Thursday evening in Palm Beach for a four-day, Easter holiday visit to Mar-a-Lago.

By Friday morning he was at his namesake golf course, where he stayed for about four hours. Trump returned to the private club just before 9 a.m. Saturday and stayed about 4 1/2 hours.

The amount of time Trump spends on golf courses during his taxpayer-funded travel is gaining more scrutiny from his critics.

Before this trip, Trump as president had already spent more than 63 hours at golf clubs, according to the Associated Press.

On Friday, the conservative government watchdog group Judicial Watch questioned the cost to taxpayers of Trump's golf-related travel. Organization president Tom Fitton, who has also criticized President Barack Obama's golf trips, called for Trump to "be sensitive" to the taxpayer costs that come from his travel.

"He has a right to golf, but the ... concern is the cost of travel," Fitton said.

The White House hadn't clarified Saturday afternoon whether Trump actually played golf during his golf club visits during this trip to Palm Beach.

Trump and his supporters have said that presidential work is getting done during his trips to Palm Beach, including the golf outings.

Trump holds meetings and hosts other world leaders at Mar-a-Lago. He golfed with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe during their February trip to Palm Beach.

"He puts himself full time into the (presidency)," said Trump supporter John Edwards, 66, of West Palm Beach. Edwards, who waited outside Trump International Golf Club on Saturday morning for the chance to wave at the president. "The media is trying to take it in a negative direction, but there are millions of supporters for this man."

The White House by Saturday evening hadn't announced details about Trump's activities in Palm Beach this weekend.

Last year, Trump attended Easter services at The Episcopal Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea in Palm Beach. That's where he and the first lady, Melania Trump, were married in 2005.

Church representatives wouldn't confirm whether they have been told that Trump will be attending one of their Sunday services. But they are already preparing for an influx of media on Sunday, and they are recommending that worshipers arrive early. "For over 125 years, Bethesda has welcomed everyone who walks through our doors for worship: famous and unknown, rich and poor, liberal and conservative," the Rev. James Harlan said in a statement released by the church. "We are confident that any possible security arrangements will not make attending our beautiful Easter worship services any more challenging for those attending."

*The Associated Press contributed to this report. [abreid@sunsentinel.com](mailto:abreid@sunsentinel.com), 561-228-5504 or [Twitter @abreidnews](https://twitter.com/abreidnews)*

## Lawmakers approve bill to grant murder witnesses confidentiality

— *News Service of Florida*

A bill is headed to Gov. Rick Scott that would keep confidential the identities of murder witnesses for two years after they observe the crimes.

The Senate voted 34-3 on Thursday to approve the bill (HB 111), which earlier passed the House.

The bill would create a public-records exemption for identifying information about witnesses.

Supporters of the bill contend the exemption will make witnesses more willing to provide information to police. They say many witnesses now fear retaliation for cooperating with authorities.

"This is one of those bills that will help the law enforcement officers find the perpetrators of these senseless acts," Senate Minority Leader Oscar Braynon, D-Miami Gardens, said. Casting the dissenting votes Thursday were Sen. Rob Bradley, R-Fleming Island, Sen. Jeff Brandes, R-St. Petersburg, and Sen. Jeff Clemens, D-Lake Worth.

**From:** [Anderson, Cassandra L](#)  
**Subject:** News Clips 4/17/2017  
**Date:** Monday, April 17, 2017 12:28:23 PM  
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## **News Clip 4/17/2017**

### **Palm Beach Post**

# **PBSO: Baby on board as heroin user crashes Pickup truck was found still running, driver passed out.** *By Olivia Hitchcock Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

A 4-month-old baby was in the backseat of a pickup Wednesday afternoon when the driver, high on heroin, crashed into a parked car at Downtown at the Gardens, city police records state.

Officials reportedly found William Millas, 32, of Port St. Lucie, passed out on the steering wheel in a parking lot on Lake Victoria Gardens Avenue. The truck was still running.

Millas told Palm Beach Gardens Fire Rescue crews that he had consumed a dose of heroin earlier. Officials found needles tucked into the pocket of the driver-side door and heroin nearby, records state.

The baby — whose relation to Millas is redacted in the report — appeared unharmed. Someone was called to care for the child.

Police spoke with Millas at a hospital. He admitted to shooting up heroin and offered to turn in his dealers in exchange for not being sent to jail.

Officers declined, and he was booked that evening into the Palm Beach County Jail on child neglect, drug paraphernalia and heroin charges. He was being held there Sunday afternoon on \$3,000 bail. [ohitchcock@pbpost.com](mailto:ohitchcock@pbpost.com) [Twitter: @ohitchcock](https://twitter.com/ohitchcock)

# Masked robber apologizes, then steals iPhones

Video shows suspect, robber in store on consecutive days. *By Olivia Hitchcock Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Anestal

A masked man apologized to a Boost Mobile store employee last month before robbing the store, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office records state.

Rick Anestal, 26, of Coco-is accused of stealing multiple iPhone 7s the morning of March 31 from the phone store foot Plaza west of Boca Raton. He reportedly walked into the store at about 10:30 that morning and approached an employee behind the counter.

"I'm sorry, but I am going to take a few phones and I am not gonna hurt you," he reportedly told the woman.

The tall masked man allegedly followed the employee to the back of the store and forced her to open a safe. He took several iPhones and placed them in a plastic bag. He then tied the woman's hands behind her back with clear packing tape and made her sit in a chair. She told officials she was afraid for her life so she followed his orders and waited until she heard him leave the store before moving.

A store manager noted a man matching the suspect's description had come into the store the day before asking about iPhone 7s.

The employee told the man, who police say was Anestal, he qualified for an upgrade and could switch to an iPhone 7 for \$574. He told the employee he would return with money for the new phone but never did.

Surveillance footage shows Anestal enter and exit the store March 30. Video also captured the masked man in the store the next day.

Records show that Anestal changed his phone number April 1 and activated one of the iPhones that was stolen the previous day.

Anestal was arrested April 11 on robbery and false imprisonment charges.

He is being held in the Palm Beach County Jail on \$50,000

bail. [ohitchcock@pbpost.com](mailto:ohitchcock@pbpost.com) Twitter: [@ohitchcock](https://twitter.com/ohitchcock)



## IN FOCUS: LAKE WORTH **AROUND TOWN**

**SOBER HOMES DISCUSSION** City Commissioner **Andy Amoroso**, who is on the Sober Home Task Force, and **Shanon Materio** of the Proviso Sober Home Task Force are scheduled to speak at today's Parrot Cove Neighborhood Association meeting.

Both groups were created by State Attorney **Dave Aronberg** to address the pressing issue.

Amoroso and Materio will give an update on recent efforts at the local, county, state and federal levels on the issue and what other plans are in the works.

The meeting starts at 7 p.m. and will be held at The Beach Club on The Lake Worth Golf Course, 1 7th Ave.

**PBSO UPDATE** Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Capt. **Todd Baer** is scheduled to give his quarterly update at Tuesday's City Commission meeting at City Hall, 6 p.m. Baer's presentation will cover 2016 crime data, overdose cases in the city, camera projects and goals for this year.

## LAKE PARK FLASHDANCE SLAYING

# A year after shooting, slain man's family awaits answers, feels his spirit Austin Bryant, 20, was shot at intersection of Military, Purdy Lane.

*By Hannah Winston Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Austin Bryant, pictured with his mother, Kristina Bryant, was fatally shot on April 16, 2016, outside the Flashdance strip club on the outskirts of Palm Springs by an unknown assailant.

CONTRIBUTED

No arrest has been made in the April 16, 2016, fatal shooting of Austin Bryant. Crime Stoppers of Palm Beach County is offering a \$1,000 reward for information in the case. Those with information are asked to call 800-458-TIPS (8477).

LAKE PARK — At 26, Ali Bryant is still scared of the dark. Her brother, Austin Bryant, knew that.

The night before he was killed, he was in her room being the little brother older sisters tend to have: annoying. He'd grab at her feet as she slept to frighten her, or put his feet in her face just to mess with her.

Ali smiled at the thought.

Today, her brother's ashes rest in a red metallic urn on the dresser across from the foot of her bed as she sleeps.

"Sometimes I feel a breeze of wind blow past me or someone messing with my foot and I know it's my brother. And I'll be like, 'OK, Austin. I get it,'" she said, laughing.

"It's just things like that that let me know (he's there)."

Sunday marked one year since 20-year-old Austin Bryant was shot and killed by the intersection of Military Trail and Purdy Lane near Flashdance, according to the Palm

Beach County Sheriff's Office. Investigators say a fight broke out during the early hours of April 16, someone pulled a gun and shot Austin outside the strip club. He was found dead at the scene.

No arrest has been made. Crime Stoppers of Palm Beach County is offering a \$1,000 reward for information in the case. Those with information are asked to call 800-458-TIPS (8477).

For Ali, a year later means less pain, more anger. Why did they shoot her brother? Why do they get to go home to their family and sleep at night? When does Austin get justice?

"No one deserves to die like that. No one," she said. "Someone knows who did this. They need to come forward."

For Austin's mother, Kristina Bryant, there's still a lot of pain.

She misses her son's calls during the day and still waits for his 6-foot frame to fill the doorway of his grandmother's home just north of Lake Park where she and her daughter live.

She can smile at those thoughts now. But in those first few months after her son was killed, she didn't stop crying. She lost her job as a nurse and couldn't go outside most days.

"The loss of a child doesn't come with a handbook. You just try to do what you think is right," she said. "I brought two kids into this world, and now when I wake up, there's one. It just doesn't seem natural. It doesn't seem right."

In the past few months, she started going through boxes of his things and found a shirt that smelled just like Austin. She couldn't believe it. There he was with her again.

"Well, he had a smell," her daughter chimes in and they both laugh.

In the past year, Kristina said she's thankful for her son's friends who always check in, her daughter to lean on and for the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office detective working the case.

She said the detective keeps in contact with her constantly, even if new evidence or news comes few and far between. But she still has hope.

"I'll never forget. She sat in that chair," she said pointing to the leather recliner her daughter sat in by the door, "And said, 'I promise, no matter what I will not quit working on this case until it's solved.' We just keep hoping and praying that some kind of miracle will happen." [hwinston@pbpost.com](mailto:hwinston@pbpost.com) **Twitter:** [@hannahwinston](https://twitter.com/hannahwinston)

## LAKE WORTH CODE ENFORCEMENT

# Lake Worth's code division struggles

Unit hit hard after ex-official deemed it low priority, gutted it. *By Kevin D. Thompson Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Lake Worth's code compliance division, responsible for ridding the city of such eyesores as this abandoned truck, has been under fire for years since the department was gutted in 2012.

CONTRIBUTED



Abandoned properties in Lake Worth such as this one are subject to code compliance violations, but the city's division suffers from staffing problems. CONTRIBUTED

LAKE WORTH — This past year, Aino Lautsio, a Lake Worth homeowner for nearly 30 years, became the poster child for everything that is wrong with the city's beleaguered code compliance division.

On May 9, Lautsio, who takes meticulous care of the two-bedroom home she owns on Bryn Mawr Drive, was issued a yellow courtesy notice because much of her grass died in the winter, leaving a patch of unsightly sand.

"I respect what code enforcement does, but I never thought I would be a violator," a visibly upset Lautsio told city commissioners at a special work session this past year to discuss ways to fix the division. "I think we need to look at our priorities."

At another special session Tuesday at City Hall on the same topic, Mayor Pam Triolo referenced Lautsio's encounter.

"That's not who we want to be (as a division)," Triolo said.

It's the worst-kept secret in Lake Worth that the city's code division suffers from an image problem and that it has been dogged for years by residents and city officials who tell horror stories about it.

"Code enforcement has been an issue for as long as I've been here," said City Manager Michael Bornstein, hired in 2012. "And many years before that. A lot of good things have happened, but that's not good enough and we all recognize that." Commissioner Omari Hardy said no one has a good experience with the division.

"Everyone has something to complain about," he said.

Mark Woods, the city's code compliance manager the past three years, recently resigned, taking a position in Boynton Beach as the city's director of community standards.

He told The Palm Beach Post in February that while it was a challenge working in the city, the division had made "great strides" during his tenure.

Code compliance, charged with improving neighborhoods by enforcing building, zoning and housing codes, has been under fire since former City Manager Susan Stanton gutted the division in 2012, saying it wasn't a priority. A year later, Kenneth Oakes, the city's former internal auditor, in a special report, criticized the division for poor attendance, falsification of inspection results and having inexperienced workers. The division was in "complete and utter disarray" when William Waters, the city's community sustainability director, was hired in January 2011.

"When 20 percent of the city is in foreclosure, abandoned or is being neglected it will take a while to turn it around," Waters said at Tuesday's meeting. "We are economically challenged. Code is an issue in every community and it's more pervasive in Lake Worth."



Code compliance also suffers from a high turnover rate, with workers leaving for better opportunities, performance issues or because they're simply burned out, Waters said.

"Only three people have been in their positions for more than a year," he noted. "It's very difficult to move forward progressively and proactively when you're spending a lot of time training people."

Vice Mayor Scott Maxwell offered several suggestions on how to repair the division. He said the division needs to perform more community outreach.

Lautsio, who wasn't at the session, told The Palm Beach Post in a telephone interview that would have helped her.

"It would have been helpful to have a face-to-face conversation with a code enforcement officer who could have explained the basis of any perceived problem instead of leaving a violation notice on my door with unreasonable deadlines and the threat of penalties," she said.

Information packets with a list of resources should be handed out to those who have been cited to help them through the process, Maxwell added.

A class that could be held quarterly or semi-annually on how homeowners can better maintain their property or deal with a troubled tenant could also be beneficial, he said.

Maxwell said the city should be more aggressive in staying ahead of those who flip properties and who continually "beat the system." Lake Worth should also go after a property owner's assets — car, boat, bank accounts — or shame them, like Maxwell said is done in Milwaukee by putting their name and contact information on a public sign for all to see on a derelict property.

"There's a lot of talk about tools and what's in our tool box," Maxwell said. "Let's identify all the tools that are available to us and lay them out there."

Hardy said Lake Worth should investigate rotating code enforcement officers, something he said is done in West Palm Beach.

Lori Milano, the city's newly hired assistant director of operations for the community sustainability department, said it's important to do that, there is a fear that an officer will get burned out if he or she is working in a rough neighborhood.

"Some neighborhoods can be challenging," said Milano, who has more than 20 years of code experience while working in Fort Lauderdale. "The only problem (with rotation) is that you're trying to establish relationships and once they get to know you, you're rotated out."

Commissioner Herman Robinson said the division needs to do better.

"I see violations written up and nothing is being done. Abandoned cars are still out there," he said. "Training is important, but the results are important."



Understaffed for many years, Waters said the division has a full compliment of officers — seven regular officers and two compliance officers.

The division has a total of 16 workers, up from six in 2011, Waters said.

Triolo said the city has been through it all with the division.

"We still have a long way to go," she said. [kthompson@pbpost.com](mailto:kthompson@pbpost.com)

[Twitter: @KevinDThompson1](#)

The division was in 'complete and utter disarray' when William Waters, the city's community sustainability director, was hired in January 2011.

## POST WATCHDOG HEROIN CRISIS

# Scott's opioid listening tour generates skepticism Some call four, 90-minute sessions inadequate; governor says it's a start.

*By Joe Capozzi Palm Beach Post Staff Writer* **OPIOID LISTENING TOUR**

State officials have set aside six hours in four communities to hear concerns about the heroin and opioid epidemic sweeping the state. Here's where and when:

May 1, 3-4:30 p.m., West Palm Beach police headquarters, 600 Banyan Blvd., West Palm Beach.

May 2, 9-10:30 a.m., Bradenton Area Convention Center, 1 Haben Blvd., Palmetto.

May 2, 3-4:30 p.m., Orange County Commission Chambers, 201 S. Rosalind Ave., Orlando.

May 3, 9-10:30 a.m., Jacksonville City Hall, St. James Building, 117 W. Duval St., Jacksonville.



Scott

State officials dispatched by Gov. Rick Scott on a statewide listening tour to seek solutions to the opioid epidemic will devote just six hours in four stops to an issue causing thousands of deaths in Florida and nationwide.

As other governors declare a state of emergency and increase spending on treatment, Scott has called for four 90-minute sessions, including one May 1 in West Palm Beach.

The timing is an issue as well. The workshops in the first week of May take place at the same time as the final week of the annual legislative session, casting doubt on whether some key officials will attend.

One key official who is planning to attend is Dr. Celeste Philip, Florida's surgeon general, said Tim O'Connor, spokesman for the Palm Beach County Health Department.

Still, Scott's approach left some recovery advocates and family members wondering whether it's even worth attending.

Some say they're skeptical that 90 minutes is enough time to hear their concerns, much less allow state officials to provide them with information and spell out best practices, as a state news release suggests.

"Is (Scott) in an alternative world to think that he can only spare 90 minutes on this big of a problem that has taken so many lives? That's a shame," said Maureen Sperling, of Delray Beach, whose son died of an overdose in 2012.

"This sounds horrible but (a workshop) seems pointless," said Dana Finegan, whose son died in a Delray Beach apartment in October after overdosing on heroin laced with carfentanil. Her son, Anthony Russo, was among nearly 600 people who died in Palm Beach County in 2016 from an opioid overdose, twice the number from 2015.

"At this point I just don't know if I will go because I'm just so frustrated," she said.

"You can only talk until you are blue in the face unless you take action."

Finegan and other families say a more effective solution for Scott would be to declare a public health emergency, a move that would direct immediate spending to the problem.

Virginia in 2016 and Massachusetts in 2014 declared public health emergencies after heroin deaths rose sharply in those states. On March 1, Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan also declared a public health emergency.

Town halls, workshops and heroin task force meetings have been held locally nearly every month during the past year, generating recommendations that already have been sent to the governor's office, said Gaynelle Gosselin of Southeast Florida Recovery Advocates.

She also pointed out the Palm Beach County State Attorney's Office convened a grand jury that wrote a 37-page report with recommendations.

"I am deeply disappointed by your continued failure to recognize the opioid crisis for what it is, a public health emergency," she wrote in a letter to Scott.

"As we experience mass casualties, you and Attorney General (Pam) Bondi suggest 'opioid workshops.' That is not an acceptable response given the magnitude of the problem. You have the power to declare this an emergency. Why do you choose not to use it? The workshops have been held already."

Palm Beach County will be the site of the first workshop hosted by the departments of health, children and families, and law enforcement.

State officials, as directed last week by Scott and Bondi, will hold 90-minute workshops May 2 in Manatee and Orange counties and May 3 in Duval County.

"Community workshops will provide important opportunities for DCF, DOH and FDLE to directly hear the specific needs of affected communities as well as provide information on existing resources, best practices and grant opportunities," DCF Secretary Mike Carroll said in an email to local officials.

In announcing his strategy Tuesday at a news conference in Tallahassee, Scott said the workshops are a start.

"We're going to have these workshops, and we're going to see if there's ideas that we can put forth that might have an impact," he said. "We're going to see what we can learn, but all of us have to understand that we all have to be involved with this." Many families and advocates, however, say they've been involved with the epidemic since they first started trying to get help for their addicted loved ones.

"We have the statistics. We need detox beds. How much louder do we have to scream?" said Katrin O'Leary, an addiction treatment advocate. She pointed out that she believes JFK Medical Center in Atlantis treated at least 20 overdose patients Tuesday, the day of Scott's news conference.

"What does it take for them to look out the door and see what we have going on here right now?"

Hours after Scott's news conference, Palm Beach County Commissioner Melissa McKinlay tweeted with a photo of a Boeing 747: "Enough people died of opioid/heroin overdoses in Palm Beach County to fill up two of these. #itsacrisis" While McKinlay is disappointed with Scott's response, she also hopes families will consider it the start of a dialogue that could lead to better solutions.

"The bottom line is that the governor stood up and publicly acknowledged this as a national epidemic for the first time. We laid it out there. He heard us, and he responded," she said.

"If we are going to take a positive out of this, it's that he is listening to us now." Other families say it's still important to attend the workshops because it's a chance to speak directly to Scott's representatives.

"I have to go," said Frank Oddo of Delray Beach, who lost a son to an overdose last October. "I clearly understand why people are frustrated, but I think we need for our voices to be heard." [jcapozzi@pbpost.com](mailto:jcapozzi@pbpost.com) [Twitter: @jcapozzipbpost](https://twitter.com/jcapozzipbpost)

**TRUMP IN PALM BEACH EASTER SUNDAY**

## **President adds to pomp of local Easter services Trump's Sunday includes early tweeting, then church, brunch and egg hunt before D.C. flight.**

*By Pat Beall and George Bennett Palm Beach Post Staff Writers*



Deborah Fairchild, of West Palm Beach, was among the 700 or so protesters who marched to Bingham Island on Saturday.

PHOTOS BY ALLEN EYESTONE / THE PALM BEACH POST



President Donald Trump waves as he exits Bethesda-by-the-Sea Episcopal Church in Palm Beach on Sunday after attending Easter services. Most of the congregation appeared not to be distracted by the president sitting in the pews.





Trump's motorcade left Mar-a-Lago around 3:50 p.m. Sunday, headed to Palm Beach International Airport for the return to Washington. MELANIE BELL / PALM BEACH DAILY NEWS  
PALM BEACH — The president came to pray.

But nothing about Donald Trump's visits to Palm Beach are simple, and neither was his attendance at Easter service Sunday morning at The Episcopal Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea during Trump's seventh presidential visit to his Mar-a-Lago estate.

A line of worshippers in Easter florals and wide-brimmed hats snaked outside the front door before the 11 a.m. service, waiting for searches of purses and hoping for seats. Metal detectors were on-site, as were Secret Service agents in bulletproof vests. A double line of motorcycle cops parked on a side street. Traffic slowed in front of the church at 141 S. County Road, then was stopped entirely just prior to the presidential motorcade's arrival at the church.

Across the street, longtime Trump supporter Lina Lindroos, of Hypoluxo, stood on the hood of the Trumpmobile, a high-profile homage on wheels to the president, an object of international attention cobbled together from three different cars. Standing nearby was her husband, Karl, a part of the Lantana Finnish community, which supported Trump.

Just around the corner from both, a Palm Beach resident in a pink hat and dress, held up a hand-lettered sign with the message, "Palm Beach is powered by immigrants."

"I wouldn't want to detract from the president's Easter," she said. "I pray for him as a person and as a president."

But, she said, "I think it's important to remember our immigrants here in Palm Beach, who prepare our meals, care for our young and our elderly."

As she stood on the corner with her sign, a woman walked past, turned on her heels and came back, wagging her finger.

"Let me tell you something. I am Mexican, I am legal, I pay taxes and we need a wall!" she said angrily before walking away.

It's doubtful the Trump entourage saw either the sign or the Trumpmobile.

A block away, the president, first lady Melania Trump and their son, Barron; Trump's daughter, Tiffany; and the first lady's parents entered the church through a series of tents erected to give the family privacy.

The Rev. James Harlan, the church's rector, gave a welcome message before the service with instructions on receiving communion — and turning off cellphones and cameras.

Most of congregation appeared not to be distracted by the president sitting in the pews, though some said Trump's presence was significant.

"I think it does give a special meaning to the service to have the president here," said Jim Beasley, a member at Bethesda. "I think it's an old custom for presidents to go to church on Sunday, certainly on Easter and Christmas especially. It's just a matter of where he chooses to go. I think it's very impressive that he's here, not just at Bethesda but here in Palm Beach."

London resident Arthur McCalmont, who sat two rows away from the president, was relieved politics had been left outside the church doors. The service was "very nonpolitical, very noncontroversial," he said.

Trump left after taking communion.

The president was active on his Twitter account before church — wishing "Happy Easter to everyone!" and also tweeting about relations with China, his desire to strengthen the U.S. military and his apparent annoyance with Saturday's anti-Trump rallies near Mar-a-Lago and nationwide.

"I did what was an almost an impossible thing to do for a Republican-easily won the Electoral College! Now Tax Returns are brought up again?" Trump tweeted. Later, he added: "Someone should look into who paid for the small organized rallies yesterday. The election is over!"

The first family planned to brunch at Mar-a-Lago with Trump's sons Eric and Donald Jr., then hold an afternoon Easter egg hunt.

It was the first time in seven presidential Sundays at Mar-a-Lago that Trump did not visit his nearby Trump International Golf Club in unincorporated West Palm Beach.

The president did get time on the course Friday and Saturday, however.

Trump's motorcade left Mar-a-Lago around 3:50 p.m. Sunday to head to Palm Beach International Airport to return to Washington on Air Force One.



Several dozen people watched at the foot of the Southern Boulevard bridge as the motorcade made its way to the airport. Some were there to show support while others were just unexpectedly caught in traffic.

Regina Taylor, of Houston, said she is in West Palm Beach visiting family for Easter weekend and wanted to wish the president well.

"I just struck it at the right time that I was here when the president came in," she said, holding an American flag. "It's a wonderful experience for me."

Trump stuck his head close to the window of his black SUV and waved to supporters as the Secret Service drove him by. The cars were only a few feet from onlookers, and Trump was easily visible.

"I feel privileged," Taylor said of the sighting. "I'm going to go back and tell all my friends. I just feel happy that I had this experience and I wish everyone would have it."

The motorcade arrived at the airport about 4 p.m., and the Trumps climbed the stairs of Air Force One together, followed by Donald Jr. and Eric and their families. The plane took off about 4:15 p.m.

Palm Beach Daily News staff writer Aleese Kopf contributed to this story. [pbeall@pbpost.com](mailto:pbeall@pbpost.com) [gbennett@pbpost.com](mailto:gbennett@pbpost.com) Twitter: [@gbennettpost](https://twitter.com/gbennettpost)

# Trump attends Easter service in Palm Beach

*By Stephen Hobbs Staff writer*



JOE CAVARETTA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

President Trump, accompanied by first lady Melania Trump, waves to onlookers as he enters Bethesda-by-the-Sea Church.

Eager congregants craned their necks to see and stopped to talk with President Donald Trump and his family Sunday morning at an Easter church service in Palm Beach.

Trump sat adjacent to the aisle in a pew near the altar of the Episcopal Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea, with U.S. Secret Service officers hovering nearby. He was accompanied by first lady Melania Trump, daughter Tiffany, and son Barron. Melania Trump's parents were also there.

Trump started his day at the Weekend White House, tweeting "Happy Easter to everyone!"

Palm Beach is no stranger to presidential Easter visits. President John F. Kennedy spent his last Easter at his family's estate in 1963. Kennedy attended Mass at St. Edward Catholic Church.

Trump's church visit came after hundreds of people Saturday afternoon marched from West Palm Beach toward Mar-a-Lago, calling for the president to release his tax returns.

Sunday morning, the president answered in two tweets: "I did what was an almost an impossible thing to do for a Republican-easily won the Electoral College! Now Tax Returns are brought up again?"

In a separate tweet, Trump questioned who sponsored the rallies nationwide: "Someone should look into who paid for the small organized rallies yesterday. The election is over!"

He also sent tweets regarding China and North Korea and the military.

At Bethesda-by-the-Sea, attendees went through metal detectors to get inside. But Trump's sudden entrance five minutes before the 11 a.m. service seemed to surprise many of those inside. People took photos, despite the urging of church staff not to, and held up young children to help them see.

The president gave a thumbs up to onlookers before sitting down for the service. Many in attendance lined up to say hello during a peace greeting, and some were turned away, or leaned down to talk with him while waiting for communion.

The church was the site of the president and first lady's wedding in 2005. Trump attended Christmas and Easter services last year at the Palm Beach church.

Trump and his family left the church about 12:15 p.m., after communion and before the service ended. People waved from their pews as Rev. James R. Harlan walked with them toward a side exit.

The Trumps headed back to Mar-a-Lago after the church service to have their annual brunch and Easter egg hunt with Trump's older sons Eric and Don Jr., and their families.

Donald Trump Jr. and his family strolled through the lot toward the red carpet. A few minutes later, Eric and Lara Trump walked in through a back entrance.

Guests at Mar-a-Lago wore and drove their Sunday best. A cavalcade of luxury vehicles was on the club grounds, including Rolls Royce, Bentley, Ferrari, Maserati, Mercedes-Benz, Audi, BMW, Porsche, Land Rover, Jaguar, Tesla, Cadillac and an off-white 1959 Rolls Royce convertible with whitewall tires.

Trump, his wife and other family members left on Air Force One to return to Washington, D.C., shortly after 4 p.m. Sunday. Donald Trump Jr. posted on Instagram that it was his first flight on Air Force One.

The president and first lady will host the annual Easter Egg Roll at the White House on Monday.

This was Trump's seventh trip to Palm Beach since his inauguration in January.

The president arrived Thursday evening in Palm Beach for a four-day, Easter holiday visit to Mar-a-Lago.

Trump visited his West Palm Beach property, the Trump International Golf Club, on Friday and Saturday. [shobbs@sun-sentinel.com](mailto:shobbs@sun-sentinel.com), 954-356-4520 or @bystephenhobbs

**From:** [Anderson, Cassandra L](#)  
**Subject:** News Clips 4/18/2017  
**Date:** Thursday, April 20, 2017 9:14:30 AM  
**Attachments:** [News Clips.docx](#)

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# **News Clip 4/18/2017**

## **Palm Beach Post**

### **Cops: Man pushed woman out of car, tried to take truck The traffic incidents last week began with an argument.** *By Julius Whigham II Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Javin Jackson, 34, faces a charge of carjacking.

A suburban West Palm Beach man is facing multiple charges after he allegedly attacked a woman in her car last week and tried to carjack a tow-truck driver that same day.

Authorities say Javin Jackson's crime spree began at about 9 a.m. Tuesday in the area of Okeechobee Boulevard and Indian Road just west of the West Palm Beach limits. A woman told police investigators that she and Jackson were stopped at a traffic light when they began arguing. Jackson, 34, punched her in the face and pushed her out of the driver's seat of a Ford Expedition, according to Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office reports.

He reportedly jumped into the driver's seat and took off west on Okeechobee Boulevard, then crashed the vehicle in the area of Okeechobee and Biscayne Bay boulevards.

Moments later, Jackson approached a tow truck near the crash scene and climbed into the passenger seat, police say, and tried to force the driver to get out, without success.

Deputies responding to the crash located Jackson and pulled him from the truck. While taking him into custody, deputies found Ecstasy pills in his possession, the report said.

Jackson is charged with carjacking, domestic battery and drug possession.

He was being held at the county jail Monday on \$15,000

bail. [jwhigham@pbpost.com](mailto:jwhigham@pbpost.com) Twitter: [@JuliusWhigham](https://twitter.com/JuliusWhigham)

## POST IN-DEPTH AIR RESTRICTIONS

# FAA: Five aircraft violated Mar-a-Lago air restrictions Military reports no interceptions during Trump's Easter stay.

*By Eliot Kleinberg Palm Beach Post Staff Writer* **AIR VIOLATIONS**

Violations of temporary flight restrictions during Palm Beach weekend visits by President Trump:

- Feb. 3-5: 10
- Feb. 10-12: 3
- Feb. 17-20: 14
- March 3-5: 4
- March 17-19: 7
- April 6-9: 9
- April 13-16: 5

SOURCE: FEDERAL AVIATION  
ADMINISTRATION

WEST PALM BEACH — Five aircraft violated air restrictions during President Donald Trump's four-day Easter weekend stay at the Mar-a-Lago Club in Palm Beach, the Federal Aviation Administration said Monday. It did not immediately provide details. "The FAA will investigate each incident and will take appropriate enforcement action. The FAA does not release details of open investigations," the agency said Monday in a statement.

The North American Aerospace Defense Command reports no interceptions this past weekend.

The totals bring to 45 the number of times aircraft have violated restricted airspace since President Trump began his visits to his part-time Palm Beach home.

Nine violations were reported April 6-9, when Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping met. And during Trump's March 18-19 stay, seven pilots crossed into restricted airspace; one, a small Cessna plane that wasn't in radio contact, was intercepted by two F-15E aircraft and a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter, NORAD said. There's no word yet on whether the president will be down this coming weekend. For the president's visits — on seven of the 13 weekends he has been president so far — costs by local agencies to protect him already are approaching \$3.7 million. Most of that was paid by the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, but Sheriff Ric



Bradshaw remains confident that the federal government will reimburse some or all of that. Other local officials are skeptical about federal reimbursement. County leaders have suggested using Palm Beach County "bed tax" money to help pay for security and roadway management during Trump's visits, or even assessing the owner of Mar-a-Lago a special tax. Neither plan has shown movement. The county plans later this year to finish a study to get a better understanding of the costs and benefits of Trump's visits. Palm Beach County tourism and convention groups say they had not compiled numbers on direct economic impact from the reporters, government entourages and protesters who patronize Palm Beach County hotels, restaurants, gas stations and retail outlets every time Trump is in town. But they say there's also an indirect impact from the world spotlight on the county. [ekleinberg@pbpost.com](mailto:ekleinberg@pbpost.com) [Twitter: @eliotkpbp](https://twitter.com/eliotkpbp)

## POINT OF VIEW HEALTH CARE **Optometry bill would endanger patients, worsen opioid crisis**



Membreno

As a doctor of medicine who has taken a solemn oath to do no harm, I am extremely troubled by a bill sponsored by state Rep. Manny Diaz, R-Hialeah, that would allow optometrists — practitioners who do not go to medical school — to use scalpels and lasers to perform surgery on the human eye.

While this is an extremely dangerous component of House Bill 1037, there is another portion that is just as dangerous. The bill would enable optometrists to prescribe virtually all oral medications in the Physician Desk Reference, including opioids and other habit-forming narcotics. In fact, the bill authorizes the state Board of Optometry to allow optometrists to prescribe some of the most addictive narcotics such as hydrocodone (Vicodin) and oxycodone (OxyContin).

Florida is the epicenter of our nation's opioid addiction epidemic. The Washington Post reported earlier this week that "180,000 lives have been lost" due to opioid addiction since 2000. And The Palm Beach Post has reported that the opioid epidemic cost Florida hospitals over \$1.1 billion in the first nine months of 2015, and contributed to nearly 600 overdose deaths in 2016.

As a medical doctor who treats thousands of patients with eye diseases each year, I've prescribed pain medications to only a handful of my patients. To combat this public health crisis, the last thing the state of Florida should do is issue new prescribing pads to 4,000 nonmedical professionals.

I'm not naïve. I fully understand that the optometrists have funneled millions of dollars into the legislative process. It's no shock to me that they would seek something in return. I am shocked, however, that lawmakers are being misled into giving them something that would endanger patients and exacerbate the opioid addiction epidemic that scourges our state.

The right thing to do is for Diaz to pull his bill. Do it for the patients. Do it for those who are addicted, and do it for their kids. Do it to protect the people who elected him to serve on their behalf.

**JAIME MEMBRENO**, ORLANDO Editor's note: Dr. Jaime Membreno is legislative chairman of the Florida Society of Ophthalmology.

**WEST PALM BEACH MARCH**

## No one paid us, says leader of tax protest she dismisses president's tweets about local march.

*By Eliot Kleinberg Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Alex Newell Taylor, shown lighting a candle during the Women's March protest in West Palm Beach in March, says she has "better things to do with my time" than respond to President Donald Trump's tweets about a weekend protest demanding that he release his tax returns.  
DAMON HIGGINS / THE PALM BEACH POST

WEST PALM BEACH — One of the leaders of a weekend protest in Palm Beach County, which demanded that President Donald Trump release his income tax returns, scoffed Monday at tweets by the president suggesting that operatives bankrolled the march.

On Saturday, Trump — who was at his Mar-a-Lago club for the seventh of 13 weekends he has been in office — detoured around a demonstration that took place on both sides of the Intracoastal Waterway.

While Trump didn't encounter the protesters, he did tweet about them Sunday, saying, "I did what was an almost an (sic) impossible thing to do for a Republican - easily won the Electoral College! Now Tax Returns are brought up again?" And later, "Someone should look into who paid for the small organized rallies yesterday. The election is over."

The tweets don't specify whether they refer specifically to the Palm Beach County protests or other "tax marches" held nationwide to coincide with the traditional April 15 deadline for filing federal income taxes, though this year's deadline is today.

No one paid for Saturday's march except the marchers themselves, local organizer Alex Newell Taylor insisted Monday.

"There's nothing to fund," Taylor said. "It's just people who show up with handmade signs."

Taylor said her group spreads the word via Face-book and email and doesn't print or mail flyers or use web pages such as Craigslist to recruit people.

She said she and colleague Star Fae, who started organizing women's marches the day after Trump's Jan. 20 inauguration, don't need to recruit.

"I have 1,500 members in my local chapter; Star has 5,000 in hers. We have 27,000 members of Woman's March Florida," she said. "We don't need to use Craigslist."

Taylor did say her group printed and sold a few dozen T-shirts and raised about \$200; it used half to buy pizza for a training session for march "marshals" and donated the rest to Emergency Medical Assistance, a local group that provides reproductive medical help.

"Our protests are funded purely by the people's disapproval of his (Trump's) presidency," Taylor said. "And that's all we need."

She also said one participant provided bottled water and first aid with his own money.

The Palm Beach County Tea Party, meanwhile, plans a rally at 4 p.m. today to support Trump's tax reforms. A flyer urged people to come to PGA Boulevard and Military Trail in Palm Beach Gardens from 4 to 6 p.m. It encouraged them to bring signs but said the party also would provide signs. Tea Party representatives could not be reached for comment Monday.

The demonstrators Saturday marched from Trump Plaza in downtown West Palm Beach, along the lake-front Flagler Drive and over to Palm Beach.

After spending about 4½ hours at his nearby Trump International Golf Club, just outside West Palm Beach, the president did not return to Mar-a-Lago via the customary route along Southern Boulevard, where some 700 protesters chanted and waved signs on Bingham Island. Instead, the motorcade traveled north and east and then south down Ocean Boulevard.

Taylor, the Saturday protest organizer, moved to Palm Beach County from Southern California in September and works for a national nonprofit group she did not identify. She said her group will continue to organize marches.

"I have better things to do with my time" than respond to Trump's tweets, Taylor said. "He's not reading it anyway." [ekleinberg@pbpost.com](mailto:ekleinberg@pbpost.com) [Twitter: @eliotkpbp](https://twitter.com/eliotkpbp)

## Sun Sentinel

# Man's busy day included robbing a bank, feds say

*By Paula McMahon Staff writer*



FBI/COURTESY The FBI released surveillance photos they say show George Murillo robbing a bank. Murillo was arrested after a tracking device hidden in stolen money led police and FBI agents to his car.



Murillo

On George Murillo's day off from his job with the U.S. Postal Service, investigators said he had a lot planned: Pick up his girlfriend's son from high school, take his girlfriend's daughter to lunch, and oh yes, rob a bank.

Murillo, 40, confessed and told FBI agents that he committed the armed bank robbery in Palm Beach County because he was in a "desperate financial situation" due to his failed marriage and his new relationship, according to court records. He told agents he was "under a tremendous amount of stress" because he was the sole provider for two families — his ex-wife, his current girlfriend and a total of five children.

Murillo said his ex-wife told him during a phone conversation in the early afternoon of April 4 that she and their three children would be evicted if he didn't promptly pay the rent. Murillo had recently bought his girlfriend a black Chevrolet Impala and a gun, according to court records.

After he hung up, Murillo said he pawned some of his personal belongings, asked some friends for loans and even sold his car. But he was still coming up short and told agents he felt his only option was to commit a bank robbery. He settled on holding up a Bank of America branch in the 1700 block of South Congress Avenue in Palm Springs, investigators said.

"He admitted he chose the Bank of America ... because it was close to his work at the post office and he had been there before to make deposits," FBI Agent Paul Hollinger wrote in court records.

By 2:15 p.m., Murillo had borrowed a gun from a friend, donned his work gloves from the postal service and a military mask from his prior career in the U.S. Army, and was already robbing the bank, according to his confession.

Murillo's girlfriend was out of town attending a funeral so he drove her car and parked it, with the engine still running, across the street from the bank, he said. As he walked into the bank, he used a doormat to prop open the door and pulled what he said was an unloaded pistol from his pocket.

"When he entered the bank he realized everyone was calm and nobody really noticed him so he placed the gun back into his pocket," agents wrote in court records. "He then jumped over the counter and told the two ... female employees not to hit the alarm and to place the money in the backpack."

He stole more than \$10,000, authorities said.

"Following the robbery, he ran back to the car and went to pick up the [girlfriend's] kids. Murillo had intended to make a quick stop at home but didn't have time," agents wrote.

Murillo picked up his girlfriend's son, a senior at Palm Beach Gardens High School, and then picked up his girlfriend's daughter from her job at a nearby preschool. Murillo didn't realize that a GPS tracking device had been hidden in the cash he took from the bank. Palm Beach Gardens police, the Palm Beach Sheriff's Office and FBI arrested him after an officer pulled him over near the intersection of Military Trail and Burns Road.

Murillo's girlfriend's children told agents Murillo had told them it was a "great day" when he picked them up. They said they had known him for about seven months. After viewing photographs of the robber, they said some items of clothing the robber wore were similar to or matched some of the clothing Murillo was wearing when he was arrested.

Murillo also identified himself in the photos from the robbery, apologized and expressed remorse for making bad decisions, agents said.

In a court order filed Monday, U.S. Magistrate Judge Dave Lee Brannon ruled that Murillo, of Palm Beach Gardens, will remain jailed because he is a potential danger to the community.

Murillo, who was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder last August, was a soldier in the Army from 1997 to 2012. Specializing in convoy security and mechanics, he served six deployments in Iraq between 2003 and 2012 before being honorably discharged, according to the judge's order.

Postal service officials were not immediately able to provide Murillo's job status, salary and other information late Monday. [pmcmahon@sunsentinel.com](mailto:pmcmahon@sunsentinel.com), 954-356-4533 or [Twitter @SentinelPaula](https://twitter.com/SentinelPaula)



# Cops make arrest in targeted shooting in Boynton Beach

*By Brian Ballou Staff writer*

An arrest has been made in the brazen targeted shooting of a woman outside a food store in Boynton Beach on April 5, according to authorities.

Roderick A. Taylor, 24, of Lake Worth, was taken into custody Monday morning on a warrant for attempted first-degree murder, his arrest based on surveillance video and numerous tips identifying the shooter by the moniker "Rat Mike."

Boynton Beach Police were already familiar with Taylor and his nickname because of previous run-ins. At the time of his arrest, Taylor had a warrant out for failing to appear on a drug charge, according to the report.

The 26-year-old victim was in critical condition, after being shot in the neck, chest and legs. When police arrived at the Z Food Meat Market on Seacrest Boulevard, they rendered "life-saving" medical attention to the woman, according to the report. The woman remains hospitalized.

Taylor had arrived at the store with an unidentified man late in the night, and the two walked around the parking lot before closing in on the victim, police said.

The unidentified man shook hands with several people outside, as Taylor, wearing a dark shirt and shorts and a bandanna that concealed the lower half of his face, stood nearby, according to the report.

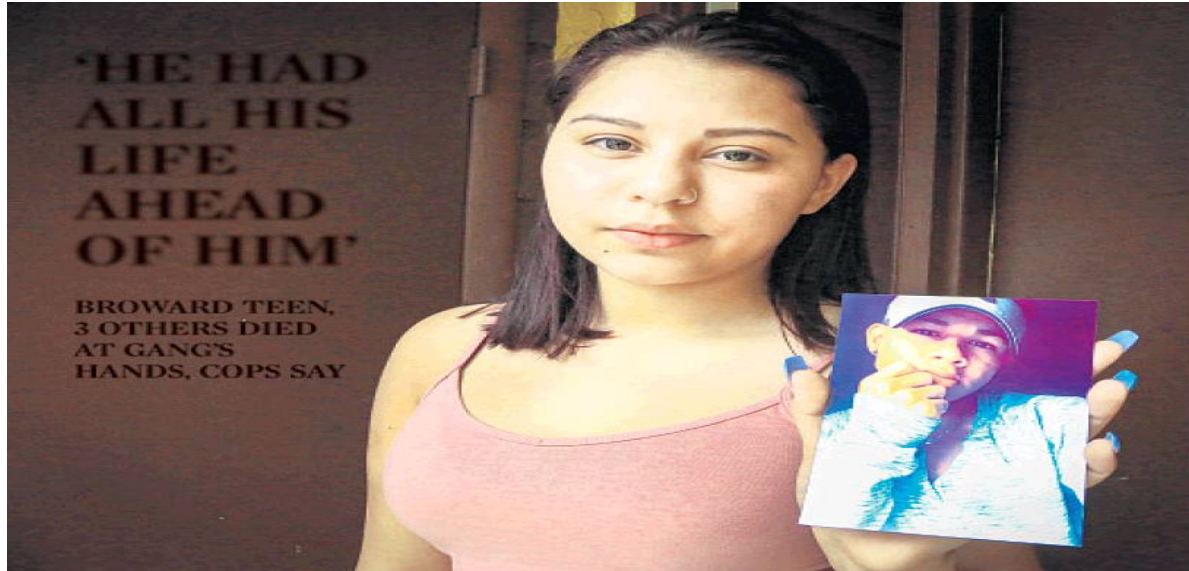
The unidentified man then walked into the store while Taylor waited just outside the front door. Soon after the unidentified man walked out and appeared to make eye contact with Taylor and then nod at the victim, who was walking past Taylor.

Taylor pulled out a handgun and shot the victim "at point blank range," according to the report. Both men then fled on foot out of camera range.

The investigation remains active and Boynton Beach Police are asking anyone with information to contact detectives at 561-732-8116 or Crime Stoppers of Palm Beach County at 800-458-TIPS (8477). [bballou@sunsentinel.com](mailto:bballou@sunsentinel.com), 954-356-4188

# **'HE HAD ALL HIS LIFE AHEAD OF HIM' BROWARD TEEN, 3 OTHERS DIED AT GANG'S HANDS, COPS SAY**

*By Mike Clary Staff writer*



CARLINE JEAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Keydy Chirinos, 20, of Deerfield Beach, holds a photo of her friend, former Deerfield High School soccer player Jefferson Villalobos.



SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES Suffolk County Police Commissioner Timothy Sini holds up a notice offering a reward for information that leads to an arrest in the case.

Former Deerfield Beach High School soccer player Jefferson Villalobos was looking forward to an Easter week vacation with family in New York, far from his South Florida home and farther still from violence that once surrounded him in his native Honduras.

But the family holiday turned to tragedy Wednesday night. Villalobos was among four men savagely murdered near a wooded Long Island City park in what authorities said has all the earmarks of the gang-related brutality the 18-year-old hoped to leave behind three years ago in Central America.

"He was such a loving, caring person," said Keydy Chirinos, 20, one of his closest friends and a former classmate.

She said Villalobos left school in his senior year to take a construction job but still dreamed of going to college.

"He was so young. He had all his life ahead of him," she said. "It's just sad."

Despite a \$25,000 cash reward for information in the case, a police spokeswoman said Monday there have been no arrests made in connection with the investigation, which the FBI has joined.

"At this point, all indications are that this was the work of MS-13," said Suffolk County Police Commissioner Timothy Sini, at a news conference Friday in Bay Shore, N.Y.

***"MS-13, part of their trademark, is to prey on recent immigrants."***

*Suffolk County Police Commissioner* **Timothy Sini**

MS-13 is the street gang Mara Salvatrucha, believed responsible for a spate of recent bloody slayings on Long Island. The barbaric nature of the slayings appeared consistent with MS-13's methods, Sini said.

"MS-13, part of their trademark, throughout the country and not just here, is to prey on recent immigrants," Sini said. "That is because many times, recent immigrant families are in vulnerable positions."

Also slain were Long Island residents Justin Llivicura, 16, of East Patchogue; Jorge Tigre, 18, of Bellport; and Michael Lopez Bane-gas, 20, of Brentwood, identified by relatives as Villalobos' cousin.

Chirinos said she was also close to Banegas, whom she met during a visit to Long Island in October. They texted daily, she said.

Ana Villalobos, Jefferson Villalobos' mother, said Sunday she was too distraught to discuss her son's slaying.

Earlier in the week, Villalobos' cousin, Yensy Fuentes, told New York's NBC television affiliate that he came to Long Island with his grandmother to visit family in Brentwood.

Fuentes said her cousin's face had been mutilated, and that he was identified in part by a tattoo on his arm.

"My uncle, as soon as he saw it, he knew it was him," Fuentes told the television station. The tattoo depicts two hands wrapped around a rosary with the inscription "In God's hands."

Formed in Los Angeles in the 1980s by immigrants from El Salvador escaping civil war, MS-13 took root in Central America and then bounced back to the United States, according to José Miguel Cruz, director of research at the Latin American and Caribbean Center at Florida International University in Miami.

South Florida has been largely spared MS-13-style violence, in part because of the large and diverse Latino community here, Cruz theorized.

"South Florida is more supportive of new arrivals, so immigrants may not feel so isolated," he said.

But gangs such as MS-13 and others have flourished in parts of Virginia, for example, and in Long Island, Cruz said.

Last year, MS-13 was believed to have been responsible for 11 deaths in Suffolk County. Among them were two teenage girls from Brentwood who were murdered with machetes and baseball bats, police said.

Those killings led to the discovery of the skeletal remains of three other teenagers, and the eventual arrest of scores of gang members, police said.

*Staff researcher Barbara Hijek contributed to this report. [mwclary@sunsentinel.com](mailto:mwclary@sunsentinel.com)*

# Immigration arrests surge under Trump

## Apprehension of those with no criminal record more than doubles

*By Maria Sacchetti The Washington Post*



CHARLES REED/U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT ICE agents have stepped up arrests of immigrants living in the country illegally.

Immigration arrests rose 32.6 percent in the first weeks of the Trump administration, with newly empowered federal agents intensifying their pursuit of not just immigrants with criminal records, but also thousands of immigrants who have been otherwise law-abiding.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrested 21,362 immigrants, mostly convicted criminals, from January through mid-March, compared with 16,104 during the same period last year, according to statistics requested by The Washington Post. Arrests of immigrants with no criminal records more than doubled to 5,441, the clearest sign yet that President Donald Trump has ditched his predecessor's protective stance toward most of the 11 million immigrants living in the United States illegally.

Advocates for immigrants say the unbridled enforcement has led to a sharp drop in reports from Latinos of sexual assaults and other crimes in Houston and Los Angeles and has terrified immigrant communities across the United States. A prosecutor said the presence of immigration agents in state and local courthouses, which advocates say has increased under the Trump administration, makes it harder to prosecute crime.



"My sense is that ICE is emboldened in a way that I have never seen," Dan Satterberg, the top prosecutor in Washington state's King County, which includes Seattle, said Thursday. "The federal government, in really just a couple of months, has undone decades of work that we have done to build this trust."

A spokeswoman for ICE said her agency "remains sensitive" to victims and witnesses and helps them obtain visas or stays of deportation in some cases. But she said anyone in the United States illegally could be deported.

ICE "focuses its enforcement resources on individuals who pose a threat to national security, public safety and border security," spokeswoman Jennifer Elzea said in a statement. "However, as (Homeland Security) Secretary (John) Kelly has made clear, ICE will no longer exempt classes or categories of removable aliens from potential enforcement."

Nearly three-quarters of the immigrants arrested from Jan. 20 to March 13 had criminal convictions, an increase of 15 percent over the same period last year. But the biggest spike is the arrest of immigrants with no criminal records, with immigration field offices in New York, Boston and other places doubling or tripling their numbers from last year.

ICE's Atlanta office arrested the most immigrants who had never committed any crimes, with nearly 700 arrests, up from 137 the prior year.

The ICE field offices with the largest total number of arrests — more than 2,000 each — were in Dallas, which covers North Texas and Oklahoma; Atlanta, which includes Georgia and the Carolinas; and Houston, which spans Southeast Texas.

Immigration detainers — voluntary requests from ICE to law enforcement agencies to hold those arrested beyond their normal release so that agents can take them into custody and deport them — also rose, to 22,161. That was a 75 percent jump from the year before. But many were issued in areas that do not necessarily comply with ICE requests.

Overall, deportations are down by 1.2 percent, to 54,741 in January, February and March, compared with the same period last year. Elzea said it can take time to remove someone from the United States, but the number of noncriminals deported is higher this year, while the number of criminals who were deported fell.

Despite his pledge to send criminals packing, Trump has struggled to get countries such as China to take their citizens back.

Some say criticism of Trump's policies seems politically charged, noting that President Barack Obama deported thousands of immigrants without criminal records. And arrests this year are lower than Obama's first weeks in 2014, when agents arrested 29,238 immigrants, including 7,483 noncriminal ones.



The mayor of Miami-Dade County said in a recent interview that he has fielded more protests over the city's immigration policies this year than under Obama.

"It's all got to do with the president," said Mayor Carlos Gimenez, a Republican who said he voted for Democrat Hillary Clinton in the presidential election. "Most of it has to do with politics. It's sad."

Advocates for immigrants say they also criticized Obama as the "deporter in chief" and waged a national campaign to create sanctuary cities to shield immigrants from deportation

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# **News Clip 4/19/2017**

## **Palm Beach Post**

### **PAHOKEE SHOOTING**

# **Man arrested in Sunday shooting held without bond** Stray shots fired from a car went into a child's window.

*By Olivia Hitchcock Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Donelle Johnson enters court on Tuesday, charged with attempted murder and weapon offenses. The 24-year-old man reportedly fired multiple shots Sunday evening; some of them went through a child's bedroom window at a Pahokee home. LANNIS WATERS / THE PALM BEACH POST

PAHOKEE — A 24-year-old man reportedly fired multiple shots Sunday evening into a child's bedroom window at a Pahokee home, according to Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office records.

Donelle Johnson, 24, faces an attempted murder and numerous weapon offense charges. Johnson, who lives outside the West Palm Beach city limits, is being held without bond in the Palm Beach County Jail. State records show he was released from prison in February 2015 after serving six years for aggravated assault.

A person watched Johnson, known as "Blackie," slowly drive at about 7:30 p.m. Sunday through a field on Amaryllis Drive, north of McClure Drive, in a red-colored Chrysler 200, according to a probable-cause affidavit report made public Tuesday. Johnson reportedly rolled down the rear passenger window and fired about five shots in that person's direction.

Two of the bullets went through a child's bedroom window, records state. Three people were inside the home. Records do not indicate whether anyone was injured. The person tried to follow the shooter but eventually lost sight of the car and returned to where the shooting had occurred. Several people said the shooter was "Blackie," who sheriff's officials are "extremely familiar with," records state.

Officials showed the witness a photo lineup, and the person immediately selected Johnson as the shooter, according to records.

Johnson has a red Chrysler 200 registered in his name, sheriff's officials learned.

A 22-year-old man was killed Sunday night less than a quarter mile away from where Johnson reportedly fired the shots. Sheriff's officials did not say whether the shootings are related. [ohitchcock@pbpost.com](mailto:ohitchcock@pbpost.com) [Twitter: @ohitchcock](https://twitter.com/ohitchcock)

Witness picked suspect out of a photo lineup.

# Man, 83, faces DUI charge after erratic driving

*By Julius Whigham II Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Edward M. Contay was arrested in Royal Palm Beach on Friday.

An 83-year-year Acreage resident was arrested last week on charges that he drove under the influence of alcohol.

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office said Edward M. Contay on Friday night was driving 70 mph in a 45 mph zone on Okeechobee Boulevard near State Road 7, swerving out of his lane and nearly striking other vehicles.

Contay is facing one count of DUI following his arrest in Royal Palm Beach. He was released Saturday from the Palm Beach County Jail on his own recognizance.

His arrest came following a traffic stop at about 8:30 p.m. Friday near Belvedere Road and State Road 7. According to a Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office arrest report, Contay was traveling west on Okeechobee Boulevard and making a turn onto State Road 7 when a Palm Beach Gardens police officer spotted him driving erratically.

Contay's speech was slurred, his eyes were bloodshot and he struggled to complete roadside sobriety tests, the report said.

Breath test results showed that Contay had blood alcohol levels of .114 and .117.

Contay told deputies he takes a couple types of medication.

The Palm Beach Gardens Officer pulled Contay's car over and waited for sheriff's deputies to arrive. Contay reportedly told the police officer he'd had too much to drink. [jwhigham@pbpost.com](mailto:jwhigham@pbpost.com)

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# Man charged after crashing near Air Force One

*By Eliot Kleinberg Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Bryan E. Hewey-Garcia is charged with DUI.

A suburban Lake Worth man charged with driving drunk appeared to have picked the wrong time to drive his vehicle through a fence near Palm Beach International Airport.

It was early Sunday, and Air Force One was parked on the other side of PBIA, and pretty soon the crash had brought in not just Palm Beach County Sheriff's deputies but also the Secret Service, frantically searching for a possible threat to the President of the United States — a threat authorities soon determined didn't exist, according to a report.

Bryan E. Hewey-Garcia, 24, fled the crash site, then called in a fake carjacking, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's alleges.

Hewey-Garcia was booked Sunday morning into the Palm Beach County Jail, charged with DUI, filing a false crime report, and leaving the scene of a crash. He later was released on his own supervision, records show.

Hewey-Garcia had no comment, his mother said Monday. His father also declined to comment.

According to a Palm Beach County Sheriff's report, around 2 a.m. Sunday, Hewey-Garcia lost control as he drove west on Belvedere Road where it jogs around PBIA's northwest runway, a short distance east of Military Trail and just across from the Wal-Mart. The report said the vehicle — it doesn't specify what kind — was found angled on an embankment about 300 feet south of the security fence. Deputies traced its path and determined it missed the curve, came up on the sidewalk, and tore through the fencing.

Arriving deputies found a woman still in the car and being treated by county Fire-Rescue paramedics. She identified Hewey-Garcia as the driver but didn't know where he was, the report said.

Around 2:30 a.m., the report said, Hewey-Garcia called 911 to say he was at the Wal-Mart and that, a short time earlier, he'd been carjacked.



Because President Donald Trump was spending the weekend at the Mar-a-Lago Club in Palm Beach, and Air Force One was parked on the south side of the airport, deputies alerted the Secret Service, the report said.

When a deputy arrived at Wal-Mart, the report continued, Hewey-Garcia — who said he'd hurt his ankle — had bloodshot eyes and breath smelling of alcohol. He told the deputy he'd been stopped around Belvedere Road and Australian Avenue, near the airport's east entrance, when a man who was unarmed but acting aggressive had ordered him and his girlfriend out of the car, then fled in it.

After Hewey-Garcia signed a stolen car affidavit, the deputy said he knew there'd been no carjacking and that Hewey-Garcia had crashed his car and fled. A witness who said he watched the vehicle leave the road also had identified Hewey-Garcia as the driver, the report said. It said Hewey-Garcia later failed several aspects of a field sobriety test and twice refused to give a breathalyzer sample. [ekleinberg@pbpost.com](mailto:ekleinberg@pbpost.com) Twitter: [@eliotkpbp](https://twitter.com/eliotkpbp)

## POLICE

# Woman arrested for repeated theft of car, retaliation

*By Julius Whigham II Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Byanca Evans is jailed in lieu of \$23,000 bail.

GREENACRES — Just weeks after she was arrested for allegedly stealing an older woman's car from a residence in Greenacres, Byanca Evans returned to the same woman's home Thursday, this time armed with a broomstick, according to authorities.

Evans, 22, of Boynton Beach is accused of beating her 78-year-old accuser in retaliation for being arrested in late March. She also took the woman's car again, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office said.

Evans was arrested Friday and remained at the Palm Beach County Jail Tuesday to face charges that include retaliation against a witness, carjacking and burglary. Her bail is set at \$23,000.

Authorities say Evans has an extensive history of burglary and auto theft and recently have charged her in other crimes, including an alleged break-in in February at a home in suburban Lake Worth.

Evans' previous arrest occurred on March 25, days after she reportedly went to a home on Broward Avenue in Greenacres and stole a 78-year-old woman's 2007 Ford Fusion. Troopers from the Florida Highway Patrol pulled her over at the southbound exit ramp from Interstate 95 to Atlantic Avenue. Evans told troopers she had visited an older relative's home in Greenacres and was returning home to Delray Beach. Troopers discovered the car had been reported stolen and arrested her. The vehicle was returned to its owner. Once at the jail, Evans reportedly told deputies her cousin came up with the idea to steal a car and offered to pay her \$500.

Shortly after her arrest, a judge issued a 30-day court order for Evans to avoid contact with the other woman. On April 7, Evans was released under supervision for evaluation at a southern Palm Beach County medical facility. Upon her release, Evans made her way 14 miles back to the older woman's home in Greenacres, the sheriff's office said.

The 78-year-old woman told investigators the attack occurred when she returned home from a shopping trip Thursday. The woman went inside and noticed a torn screen flapping in the wind. When the woman moved closer to inspect a window, Evans confronted her and began to beat her with the broomstick, the sheriff's arrest report said.

During the attack, Evans grabbed the woman's purse, took the car keys off a table and stole the car again, the sheriff's office said.

Evans eventually was arrested near Ira Van Bullock Park, less than a mile from her accuser's home. [jwhigham@pbpost.com](mailto:jwhigham@pbpost.com) [Twitter: @JuliusWhigham](https://twitter.com/JuliusWhigham)

# Woman shot near Boynton market dies; 1 held

*By Julius Whigham II and Olivia Hitchcock Palm Beach Post Staff Writers*



Roderick Taylor enters court Tuesday to face charges in the shooting of a woman.

LANNIS WATERS/ THE PALM

BOYNTONBEACH— A 26-year-old woman targeted in a shooting outside a food market nearly two weeks ago died Monday, the same day a man was arrested in the slaying, city police said Tuesday.

The woman, identified as Curtisia Courtney Smith, died at Delray Medical Center, where she was taken immediately after the April 5 incident at the Z Food Meat Market on North Seacrest Boulevard.

On Tuesday, Judge Dina Keever-Agrama denied bond for Roderick Taylor, 24, of suburban Lake Worth, who faced a charge of attempted first-degree murder before Smith's death. The Palm Beach State Attorney's Office will review the case and decide whether the charge will be upgraded.

Police are still searching for a second suspect. Surveillance video showed that person wearing a light-colored bandanna over his face, covering his nose and mouth, police said.

Police spokeswoman Stephanie Slater said Tuesday that there was no information regarding the second suspect that investigators can disclose.

According to a police arrest report, Taylor briefly walked into the store while his accomplice waited outside. About a minute later, he walked out of the store and looked in the direction where Smith was standing. Taylor motioned his head to signal his accomplice as Smith began walking. The other man pulled out a gun and fired what appeared to be five shots, police said.

Both men fled from the scene carrying guns, police said. Witnesses told investigators that a person known by the name "Rat Mike" was involved in the shooting. Police knew from previous encounters that Taylor used that name, the report said.

They confirmed his identity after reviewing the surveillance footage. Taylor has twice served time in state prison, the State Attorney's Office said at a hearing Tuesday at the Palm Beach County Jail. Former charges against him include robbery, fleeing and eluding and burglary. Most recently, he was released in 2016. "He is a danger to the community," an assistant state attorney said in court Tuesday. [jwhigham@pbpost.com](mailto:jwhigham@pbpost.com) [@JuliusWhigham](https://twitter.com/JuliusWhigham) [ohitchcock@pbpost.com](mailto:ohitchcock@pbpost.com) [Twitter: @ohitchcock](https://twitter.com/ohitchcock)

## TEQUESTA FORMER POLICE CHIEF ARRESTED

# Ex-police chief in Tequesta accused of kicking woman Pitocchelli arrested, placed on supervised release by judge.

*By Olivia Hitchcock Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Gerald "Pete" Pitocchelli, former Tequesta police chief, appears before Judge Dina Keever-Agrama at a hearing Tuesday morning at the Palm Beach County Jail. LANNIS WATERS / THE PALM BEACH POST

A former Tequesta police chief was arrested Monday evening after reportedly kicking a woman at a home west of the city, Palm Beach County Jail records indicate. Gerald "Pete" Pitocchelli, 59, was placed on supervised release Tuesday morning during a hearing before Judge Dina Keever-Agrama at the Palm Beach County Jail.

Pitocchelli must receive anger management counseling and have no contact with either the woman or a juvenile who was present in the home and who reportedly called 911 when the fight broke out Sunday night.

"He's not a violent person. He has agreed that he needs anger management and alcohol counseling," the woman told Keever-Agrama. "Take away the alcohol and he's perfect."

The argument started over his family and cleaning, the woman told sheriff's officials. Pitocchelli reportedly slammed dishes. She yelled at him and he left to sit in the garage, records state.

She followed him and told him to stop screaming. He then kicked the woman in her breast, records state. She slapped him across the face.

The two then moved the argument into the kitchen, where the juvenile saw Pitocchelli pinning the woman to the countertop, records state. The woman called for the juvenile, and the juvenile separated the two.

Pitocchelli reportedly left the home before deputies arrived.

A Tequesta police dispatcher sued Pitocchelli on allegations he harassed her, then blocked her efforts to be promoted. In August, a jury awarded the woman more than \$400,000. That was four times as much as the woman's attorney said she deserved for her treatment by the former chief.

Pitocchelli, a longtime Delray Beach police officer, resigned in 2012 after a year as Tequesta police chief, citing health reasons. He was rehired as a lieutenant and resigned again in 2014. [ohitchcock@pbpost.com](mailto:ohitchcock@pbpost.com) [Twitter: @ohitchcock](#)

## POST ON SCHOOLS IMMIGRATION

# School board sides with children of immigrants

*By Sonja Isgar Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



As an immigrant from Italy, Palm Beach County Schools Superintendent Robert Avossa said he is attuned to fears that children of immigrants face and wants to support students.

LANNIS WATERS / THE PALM BEACH POST

The Palm Beach County School District is poised to go on the record in its stance that it won't open campus doors to help federal authorities round up immigrants unless it is forced to by the courts.

Any law enforcement agents knocking on a school's door or seeking confidential student records would be directed to the district lawyers or school police.

Superintendent Robert Avossa and the district's lawyers are quick to say the resolution they are putting before the School Board tonight is not a declaration of "sanctuary" — a designation that has rapidly become a political target.

Indeed, the stance is one the district is forced to take by law, Avossa said. And the rest of the two-page resolution reflects the district's intent to make sure its employees understand the law and work toward supporting the students and their families.

But advocates for immigration rights say the resolution they've collaborated on for months would spell out protections and cautions that have never been articulated before — and in doing so will give these families a greater sense of security.

"It certainly will make families feel better, more comfortable sending their children to school," said Candy Herrera, an organizer with the Palm Beach County Coalition for Immigrant Rights.

"This is just a public way to provide support and instill confidence," Avossa said Tuesday. The resolution follows a letter home to immigrants just a few months ago aimed at stilling fears in the immigrant community that school was no longer a safe place to be.



"If someone shows up at the school with a legal document to arrest someone, we have no other legal option than to work with that agency," Avossa said. "But it can't be a fishing expedition. Some of the fears in the community were that someone would show up and say, 'Show me the names of all the students in your English language learners program.' That can't happen."

As an immigrant himself from Italy, Avossa said he is attuned to the fears that children face. "This is about the kids. It's not about the adults or entering a political fight because of what I believe in."

The "Resolution to Promote Welcoming and Inclusive Schools for all Students and Families" is two pages long and in some ways resembles resolutions passed recently in Miami-Dade and Broward counties.

So-called "sanctuary" cities, counties and states have been born in reaction to President Donald Trump's calls to track down and deport illegal residents. They promise a safe haven by limiting their cooperation with authorities enforcing federal immigration laws.

But they also have fallen in the political cross hairs of both the Trump administration and, in Florida, some state legislators who have vowed to punish these governments financially by either withholding money or hitting them with fines.

The nation's school districts, however, operate under other mandates that include keeping children, regardless of their immigration status, safe.

The Palm Beach County resolution, for example, notes that the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act forbids schools from sharing a student's educational records with outside agencies unless his or her parent consents or the agency has a court order or a subpoena.

In addition to directing staff to check in with school police or district lawyers before allowing federal agents on campus, the resolution also:

- Says it will offer training for staff regarding the rights of those who don't speak English and the importance of supporting immigrant students and their families.
- Directs school police to "continue to exercise discretion and limit the referral of all students to the criminal justice system only as a last resort or when mandated by law."
- Says the Superintendent will designate staff to work with community organizations to create what are often called "Safety Plans" — a what-to-do list for students in the event their parent is detained or deported.

This information would go out to parents and guardians via phone calls and emails and be posted on the district's website and social media accounts in five languages. [sisger@pbpost.com](mailto:sisger@pbpost.com) Twitter: [@sonjaisger](https://twitter.com/sonjaisger)

## OUR VIEWS WEST PALM BEACH

# City should stop fighting needed SR 7 road addition



The water district is expected to grant a permit for the construction of the SR 7 extension along the Grassy Waters Preserve. TONY

DORIS / PALM BEACH POST

We know it would difficult for West Palm Beach officials to stop their years-long effort to prevent an extension of State Road 7 from being built along the edge of the Grassy Waters Preserve.

After all, Mayor Jeri Muoio has called the fight "critical" to protecting the city's drinking water.

No surprise, then, that city officials are casting aside a Florida administrative law judge's March 31 ruling in favor of the extension, and instead continuing a costly legal battle against building the crucial link between Okeechobee and Northlake boulevards.

But state and county traffic engineers have also called the SR 7 extension a "critical priority." The proposed 4.1-mile piece of road is increasingly vital to relieving traffic on roads in the fast-growing central-western communities.

The only question is whether that need outweighs any "potential" risk to Grassy Waters. More and more, it seems the answer is "yes." The latest comes from Administrative Law Judge Bram Canter, whose 51-page analysis sides against West Palm Beach's environmental arguments and recommends that the South Florida Water Management District approve the road project.

"The project would not adversely impact public health, safety and welfare associated with the city's public water supply in the water catchment area because the project would have no effect on the city's water supply operations," Canter wrote. "In

addition, there are reasonable protective measures to prevent a spill from entering the city's public water supply."

Next comes a ruling on the city's objections from the water district's executive director with regard to permitting the project. And we expect that a more development-friendly water district will do just that by May 15. After that, the project would need only U.S. Army Corps of Engineers approval — and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency questions answered — to be under construction by summer, according to Sunday's story by Post staffer Tony Doris.

Meanwhile, the city's meter continues to run well past \$2.1 million.

For years, West Palm Beach has fought construction of the SR 7 extension.

Opponents, including residents of the Ibis Golf and Country Club development, have argued everything from the preserve's historic significance to the project's threat to the endangered snail kite.

The primary concern has always been the risk to West Palm Beach's water supply, however. In public forums and lawsuits, city officials have propagated the fear that a giant truck filled with toxic chemicals will crash and destroy the 23-square-mile Water Catchment Area west of the city.

Trucks also pass daily between Clear Lake and Lake Mangonia on Okeechobee Boulevard. Both reservoirs are West Palm Beach's main water supplies.

And, as Doris reported last month, West Palm Beach's lawyers said in court filings that herbicide- and fertilizer-laden runoff from Ibis is already contaminating parts of Grassy Waters and causing unwanted vegetation to grow near the outfall.

Of course, no one can guarantee that an accident won't happen on any stretch of road in Palm Beach County. But that shouldn't be the goal here. Traffic and road engineers should do everything possible to mitigate the damage if any such accident were to occur.

That, unfortunately, has not been enough to assuage West Palm Beach officials who refuse to see past their own needs.

Yes, Grassy Waters is crucial to the city's future growth, as water needs will likely grow with a big push for in-fill development in the east.

But completing the SR 7 extension shouldn't hamper that growth.

And Palm Beach County engineers point to even bigger pressures out west as thousands of new residents move into such already approved developments as Westlake and Avenir over the next several years. Not to mention the traffic that now winds its way through Royal Palm Beach on a daily basis from Loxahatchee Groves and The Acreage.

West Palm Beach officials, in a statement issued last Friday, said, "All options on the table are being evaluated."

Those options must include working with the Water Management District to finally put an end to this costly fight.

The proposed 4.1-mile piece of road is increasingly vital to relieving traffic on roads in the fast-growing western communities.

## **POINT OF VIEW HEALTHY FAMILIES FLORIDA**

### **State program helps block child abuse**



Ohlsen

Parenting is an awesome responsibility and a tremendous privilege. It's rewarding to watch our children learn, grow and thrive. Most parents work hard to give their children the best opportunities and ensure they feel safe and loved.

But parenting can be a tough job, even under the best of circumstances. Tension and conflict often increase when parents encounter stressful circumstances such as raising children alone, facing unemployment or homelessness, or suffering from substance addiction or poor mental health. Sometimes parents need extra help to create loving homes where children can thrive.

April is recognized in Florida and throughout the nation as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Gov. Rick Scott and first lady Ann Scott, state legislators, community leaders, child welfare professionals and child advocates participate in activities and outreach to share the message that everyone plays a role in preventing child abuse and neglect. This is a good time to assess the well-being of the children around us and consider our efforts to help children and their families succeed. A community can take action to prevent child abuse and neglect by supporting activities that strengthen families. One community-based program that successfully strengthens families while preventing child abuse and neglect is Healthy Families Florida.

In 1998, the Florida Legislature created Healthy Families Florida, a voluntary program for expectant parents and parents of newborns experiencing stressful life situations. Family support workers are invited into families' homes and provide guidance on parenting techniques, independent living skills and healthy child development. Parents learn to recognize and respond to their babies' developmental needs, use positive discipline techniques and cope with the stress of parenting.

Families in all 67 Florida counties have access to Healthy Families Florida services. Last year more than 17,400 children in 9,600 families benefited from the program. Backed by decades of research and founded on strict quality standards, the program has proven to be highly successful in preventing child abuse and neglect. In fact, 98 percent of children are free of abuse and neglect while enrolled in Healthy Families Florida and 95 percent remain free of abuse and neglect three years following completion of the program.

Building on these successful outcomes for families, we continuously seek ways to improve and offer more assistance. Targeted Healthy Families sites now offer mental health services and coordinate behavioral health care for families experiencing substance abuse, domestic violence, mental health concerns or other challenges threatening their ability to succeed.

Investing in programs proven to prevent child abuse and neglect is far less costly than treating the consequences of child abuse after it occurs. The annual cost of providing services in response to child abuse — child welfare, hospitalization, juvenile justice and special education — exceeds \$105,000 per child, whereas Healthy Families effectively prevents child abuse and neglect for an average of \$2,100 per child. Prevention services are a sound investment in our families that pay dividends for generations.

**JENNIFER OHLSEN**, TALLAHASSEE Editor's note: Jennifer Ohlsen is the executive director of Healthy Families Florida.

## **Medical pot deal likely won't allow smoking Neither House nor Senate committees favor smoking.**

*By Dara Kam News Service of Florida*



Florida could become one of the largest marijuana markets in the country when lawmakers fully implement the amendment that was approved by more than 70 percent of voters last fall. GETTY IMAGES

TALLAHASSEE — Florida patients may be able to vape or munch on medical-marijuana products, but they almost certainly won't be allowed to light up joints or take bong hits, under a compromise being worked on by House and Senate leaders. Lawmakers are trying to reach consensus on a proposal to carry out a constitutional amendment, overwhelmingly approved by more than 70 percent of voters last fall, that legalized medical marijuana for patients with a broad swath of conditions. House and Senate committees on Tuesday approved two different approaches to the amendment, which could make Florida one of the largest marijuana markets in the country when fully implemented.

But neither side has any intention of allowing the marijuana products to be smoked, despite repeated demands from numerous patients, caregivers and others who insisted that smoking provides some people with the best type of treatment.

Lawyer Michael Minardi accused the House Appropriations Committee of thwarting the will of voters who supported the constitutional change and, he said, supported smoking marijuana products.

"These are veterans. These are the elderly. These are seniors, and people with ALS or PTSD, who benefit and use cannabis in a smoked form. What you are doing here, by creating this legislation when 71 percent of the people support it, is going against their will," said Minardi.

But Sen. Rob Bradley, a Fleming Island Republican who has shepherded marijuana-related legislation, said that smoking is off the table.

"There is agreement between the majority of the House and Senate that the smoking of cannabis is not an act that is consistent with a healthy life and not consistent with consuming medicine," Bradley said.

Bradley moved the two chambers' proposals farther apart late Tuesday when he allowed an amendment, sponsored by Miami Republican Frank Artiles, to be tacked onto his bill (SB 406) that would cap at three the number of dispensaries each medical-marijuana licensee could operate.

"If there are no limits on the number of dispensaries, it would be very challenging, if ever, for there to be other entities to enter the market," Senate Health and Human Services Appropriations Chairwoman Anitere Flores, R-Miami, said.

But Jim McKee, a lobbyist for San Felasco Nurseries — one of seven current medical-marijuana license-holders in the state — argued that capping the number of dispensaries could have a negative impact on rural patients.



Sun Sentinel

# Judge orders November trial in fatal hate crime

*By Marc Freeman Staff writer*



Taggart



Harris



MARC FREEMAN/STAFF David Harris, 21, talks to his attorney, Franklin Prince, in a Palm Beach County Courtroom on Tuesday. Harris is one of three men charged in the 2015 murder of Onesimo Marcelino Lopez-Ramos, 18, in Jupiter, which police say was a hate crime. A judge Tuesday ordered the trial to start Nov. 27.

Exactly two years after Onesimo Marcelino Lopez-Ramos was beaten to death outside a Jupiter home, a judge on Tuesday scheduled a trial later this year for the three men accused in what authorities say was a hate crime against the 18-year-old victim.

Jesse Harris, 20, and his brother, David Harris and Austin Taggart, both 21, sat several chairs apart and did not look at one another in a Palm Beach County courtroom as their lawyers and prosecutor Jill Richstone discussed plans for the high-profile case.

Circuit Judge

Samantha Schosberg Feuer asked the attorneys to prepare for jury selection to begin Nov. 27, the first Monday after Thanksgiving.

But by a pretrial hearing set for a month earlier, it should be known whether at least one of the defendants will be tried at another time.

Tom Weiss, court-appointed attorney for Jesse Harris, told the judge he expects a request will be made to hold separate trials.

While the majority of interviews with potential witnesses already have been completed, the lawyers are still waiting for some transcripts before pretrial pleadings can be filed.

David Harris is represented by court-appointed local attorney Franklin Prince, while Taggart has hired Colleen Glenn and Jake Grollman of Sarasota to handle his defense.

All three defendants have been held at the Palm Beach County Jail without bond since their arrests, one week after the April 18, 2015, killing.

They are charged with first-degree murder and battery while committing evidence of prejudice.

Police say Lopez-Ramos' assailants were "hunting" for Guatemalans before the violence erupted at 1:36 a.m. in the 300 block of Fourth Street.

"They specifically targeted members of our Hispanic community," Jupiter Police Chief Frank Kitzerow said at news conference announcing the arrests. "They sought them out, and this young man was ultimately killed as this crime unfolded."

According to a police report, Taggart told officers that David Harris planned a robbery and said he was going to seek out Guatemalans to rob and harass, laughing as he used a derogatory term.

Lopez-Ramos, his brother and a friend were listening to music and drinking outside a house when they were approached by several men, witnesses said.

Almost instantly one of the men grabbed a rock and bashed the back of Lopez-Ramos' head and his face, the report states. Investigators later found a "bloody white rock" on the ground near the victim.

His brother was able to get away and call 911, but by the time he came back to check on his brother, he was already dead, police said.

The murder inspired community leaders to create the One Jupiter Coalition, with the aim of spreading a message of unity.

About an eighth of Jupiter's population is Hispanic, including almost 1,400 Guatemalans, records show.

"After the killing, it became apparent that we had to invest our time and resources in educating the community and showcasing Guatemalan culture, to keep something like this from happening again," said David Urieta, spokesman for El Sol, a nonprofit center that offers English classes, day care, meals, and other services, to its predominantly Guatemalan clients.

Before Lopez-Ramos was killed, he was working to provide for his family, his relatives said.

He and his family emigrated from Guatemala years ago in pursuit of better job and school opportunities in South Florida. His sister, Micaela Lopez, was the first to move to the U.S., in 2001. Lopez-Ramos, the youngest brother, was the last to arrive, in 2013.

The friendly, outgoing teen became a Jupiter High student, but eventually stopped attending and took on jobs at an Italian restaurant. He told relatives he was planning an eventual return to his native country to help his parents.

Staff writer Adam Sacasa contributed to this report. [mjfreeman@sun-sentinel.com](mailto:mjfreeman@sun-sentinel.com), 561-243-6642 or Twitter @marcjfreeman

# Hearing set toay for woman accused of sending death threats to Sandy Hook dad *By*

*Paula McMahon Staff writer*



Richards

The woman accused of sending death threats to a Palm Beach County man whose 6-year-old son died in the Sandy Hook school mass shooting is due back in federal court in Fort Lauderdale on Wednesday, court records show.

Lucy Richards, 57, has been jailed on the west coast of Florida since April 1, shortly after she was a no-show for a scheduled change-of-plea and sentencing hearing in Fort Lauderdale.

Richards had previously pleaded not guilty to four federal charges of sending threatening email and voicemail messages to Lenny Pozner. Pozner's son, Noah, was murdered in the 2012 mass shooting.

Under the terms of a tentative plea agreement with federal prosecutors, Richards had been scheduled to plead guilty to one count on March 29.

Both sides had planned to recommend that she would be sentenced to house arrest and probation. It's unclear if that plea offer is still on the table.

A judge revoked her \$25,000 bond and issued an arrest warrant after her attorney reported she had phoned to say that she was not coming to court. She was arrested in a hospital near her Brandon home in the Tampa Bay area.

Richards, a former waitress who is receiving Social Security disability payments, told court officials in Tampa that "she wanted to go to trial and she does not want her future to be in one person's [the judge's] hands," according to court records.

Richards was transferred from the Pinellas County jail to the Broward County jail on Tuesday, according to state records. *pmcmahon@ \sunsentinel.com, or 954-356-4533*

# Trump officials: To get tough on MS-13 and other cartels

*By Joseph Tanfani Washington Bureau*



MANUEL BALCE CENETA/AP Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly offered few details Tuesday.

WASHINGTON — Led by President Donald Trump, top administration officials on Tuesday blamed what they called lax immigration enforcement for the rise of MS-13, the bloody crime cartel spawned in the streets and jails of Los Angeles, and promised a stronger federal response.

Tweeting before dawn, Trump called his predecessor weak on illegal immigration and said, without evidence, that the Obama administration “allowed” the Mara Salvatrucha gang, also known as MS-13, to form in the U.S.

“The weak illegal immigration policies of the Obama Admin. allowed bad MS 13 gangs to form in cities across U.S. We are removing them fast!” the president wrote on Twitter about 5:40 a.m.

MS-13 was founded in Los Angeles in the 1980s by immigrants fleeing a civil war in their native El Salvador, and it has expanded in scope and violence ever since. An FBI task force has investigated the transnational crime group since 2007, partnering with law enforcement in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. In 2008, before Obama was elected, the FBI said MS-13 was active in at least 42 states.

In separate speeches Tuesday, Attorney General Jeff Sessions and Secretary of Homeland Security John Kelly both vowed a tougher approach to the cartels but offered few details.

Sessions said MS-13 had expanded because of a porous Southwest border and “sanctuary cities” that refuse to cooperate with immigration agents.

The Justice Department meeting was supposed to kick off an effort to find new strategies to battle the cartels.

Kelly told an audience at George Washington University that MS-13 was “one of the greatest hazards” facing the country. [joseph.tanfani@latimes.com](mailto:joseph.tanfani@latimes.com)

## SUN SENTINEL EDITORIAL

# Extend protection for Haitian immigrants

Some 50,000 Haitians who have enjoyed a reprieve from deportation since 2010 are about to find out if President Donald Trump's tough talk on immigration is sincere. No doubt they are hoping his campaign rhetoric on immigration is as constant as his stance on NATO, Russia, Chinese currency manipulation, Syria interest rates and globalism.

The Haitians in question had the good fortune to be in the United States when a massive earthquake struck the impoverished island nation on Jan. 12, 2010. In a humanitarian gesture, the Department of Homeland Security invited Haitians living in the U.S. to apply for Temporary Protected Status, or TPS in the department's jargon.

The TPS program was invented to help people in precisely this set of circumstances, 18 months at a time.

Haiti's 18-month reprieve has been extended several times over the past seven years, each time because conditions on the island had barely improved. On the contrary. A devastating hurricane, a cholera epidemic unwittingly introduced by U.N. peacekeepers, a sexual abuse scandal involving those peacekeepers and Haiti's perennial political turmoil compounded the earthquake's ravages.

While former President Obama routinely extended TPS each time it was up for renewal, he failed to do so in the waning days of his tenure. The current extension expires on July 22 of this year. Since its inception in 2010, the program has enjoyed broad bipartisan support.

Advocating for the latest extension are Republicans Marco Rubio and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and Democrats Alcee Hastings and Chuck Schumer, among many others. Proponents argue that denying the extension will create significant hardship for the 50,000 in the U.S. and greater hardship yet for the 500,000 or so Haitians on the island who rely on cash gifts from their TPS-protected relatives.

Further complicating the equation: The children. During the past seven years, many were born as U.S. citizens. They face the prospect of being left behind while their parents are shipped back to Haiti or wrenched from their U.S. lives for an alien one back "home."

Life-altering as it is for those involved, the TPS debate is just a fragment of the larger, more complicated immigration debate playing out across the country daily. Refugees have been coming to America since the Mayflower, either fleeing an old life or seeking a new one. They came in waves, sometimes welcomed, more often scorned, always left on their own to find a place in a strange new land.



Periodically the debate over where they fit grows sharper. Nativist sentiment runs rampant. The immigrant is rejected.

America, indeed the world, seems to be going through one of those fearful times when the immigrant is seen as an enemy of the prevailing culture. Donald Trump got elected, in part, on the strength of that fear.

It is that fear that has stood in the way of comprehensive immigration reform. Whom do we welcome? How do we “protect our borders?” What do we do about the 10 million undocumented people living here illegally? What about the children, Americans by birth?

More immediately, what of the 50,000 Haitians whose fate is on the near horizon and in the hands of President Trump? It has become common wisdom that the president is learning every day that the world’s problems are more complicated than they seem.

This one seems simple by comparison. Extend Temporary Protective Status for the 50,000. They — and their children — deserve it.

*Editorials are the opinion of the Sun Sentinel Editorial Board and written by one of its members or a designee. The Editorial Board consists of Editorial Page Editor Rosemary O'Hara, Andrew Abramson, Elana Simms, Gary Stein and Editor-in-Chief Howard Saltz.*

## Finding the courage to run

### After an attack, women take steps needed to feel safe

By James Fell Chicago Tribune



BLOOMS TO BREW MARATHON 2016 Kelly Herron, running with her mother, Nancy, in a half-marathon in Woodland, Wash., in April 2016, was attacked during a run in March 2017.



LISA CARROLL PHOTO

Lisa Carroll, with her husband, Randy, and their daughters, Josie, left, and Willa, adopted their dog Logan after she was attacked running near her home in Monroe, N.C.

I'm a man, and I run. I occasionally worry about dogs and cars. That's it. For a woman, it's different.

"Women have to deal with something that most men just don't," said Brian Pinero, vice president of victim services at Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN). Street harassment is a pervasive reality for women. He said 65 percent of women experience it in the U.S.

A 2016 survey of 2,533 women and 2,137 men published in Runner's World found that 43 percent of women were harassed while running, whereas only 4 percent of men were.

Pinero said the level of harassment is an added challenge for women who are deciding whether to start running. Now imagine the fear of returning to running after having been attacked during a run?

Kelly Herron, who had been training for a June marathon, began running again shortly after her attack in Golden Gardens Park in Seattle.

In March, the 37-year-old runner took a restroom break and was attacked by a registered sex offender hiding in a stall. Herron had attended a self-defense class offered by her company a few weeks earlier and used all that she learned to fight off the man. With the help of a passerby, they locked the assailant in a bathroom stall until police arrived.

"Two days after the attack, I met with a local women's running group, and it was very supportive and encouraging," Herron said.

"They made Chuck Norris jokes about me, and it helped." Herron then used Facebook to find a running group that matched her desired pace and distance.

Herron said she loves running because it gives her a chance to think about the things she appreciates in life. "It's meditative," she said.

But it's been different since the attack.

"I'm not yet back in my Zen," said Herron, who is in therapy to help deal with the trauma of the attack. She hopes that once she crosses the finish line in June, "this is going to mostly go away."

But for now, she's focused on controlling her fear.

"I had an amazing 8-mile run with my mom 10 days after the attack," she said.

"That's when I felt like I was starting to heal."

She just recently finished her first run alone since the March 5 attack.

"I was looking over my shoulder every 20 seconds," said Herron, who now carries a Kubotan, a hard, blunt instrument the size of a marker pen designed for striking. She also is considering taking more self-defense classes.

Pinero said that whatever you need to do to reassert some control after an attack, you do it.

"The victim needs to know what their options are and what they can do to minimize the loss of control they feel," he said, adding that society needs to do a better job of letting potential perpetrators know this is egregious, unacceptable behavior.

"Your normalcy has changed, and how you cope is for you to decide," Pinero said. If a weapon or self-defense training helps, that's fine.

Sometimes, the answer has four legs. It's what got Lisa Carroll, of Monroe, N.C., back outside.

After she was attacked while running near her home in 2006, Carroll's husband, a police officer, bought her a treadmill so she could run indoors.

But she missed the outdoors.

Carroll ended up cutting her hair really short — her attacker had dragged her by her ponytail — and adopting a pit bull-mastiff mix. She said the "big, intimidating dog" became her running partner for the next 10 years. She said her dog's presence did not initially take away all of her fear.

"The attack was on my usual route," she said. "The first few times I went through that area, it was really hard. The dog wasn't a magic bullet."

She also began taking self-defense classes, studying Krav Maga and Brazilian jiu-jitsu to be able to better defend herself.

When her first dog died, Carroll immediately got another big dog. She said she won't run without one.

Pinero said dealing with an attack is a "long-term approach."

"It's about getting to the point where you're most comfortable," he said.

"People can't tell you how to do it," Pinero said. "You do what you must to feel safe."

For some, it means talking to a therapist, running with a group of friends or a dog, taking self-defense classes, carrying a weapon, or even buying a treadmill and running indoors.

*James Fell is a freelance writer and certified strength and conditioning specialist.*

## Keys bomb plotter gets life in prison

*By Gwen Fiolsa Keynoter.com*



COURTESY

A federal jury has convicted Harlem Suarez of a plot to detonate a nail-filled backpack bomb on a Keys beach, an act that prosecutors said was inspired by the Islamic State extremist group. Harlem Suarez, the 25-year-old convicted of buying a bomb and plotting to blow up a Florida Keys beach in allegiance to the Islamic state, deserves to spend the rest of his life in prison, a federal judge ruled Tuesday.

"The offense is such a serious offense that people need to know that you can't do that," Judge Jose Martinez said in U.S. District Court in Key West after an hour-long sentencing hearing. "He was talking the talk. He was walking the walk and was in possession of what he thought was a weapon of mass destruction."

Suarez has the right to appeal but the federal system has no option of parole. Suarez was sentenced to life for attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction and an additional 20 years, to be served at the same time, for "providing material support to a designated foreign terrorist organization."

After declaring Suarez "inept" and not even a decent speaker of his native Spanish language, Martinez called the young man's actions in buying what he thought was a bomb after amassing two handguns and an AR-15 rifle "just nutty."

"It's too much," Martinez said as Suarez sat quietly beside two language interpreters and his parents watched from the back of the courtroom.



"I do think he could have done this," the judge said after saying he had considered giving Suarez 50 years in prison.

In July 2015, Suarez, who lived with his parents in a Stock Island apartment just north of Key West, met with undercover federal agents he believed were ISIS sympathizers and purchased a backpack bomb. The bomb was inert but Suarez didn't know that, prosecutors pointed out. A jury took 47 minutes to find him guilty earlier this year.

"He posted a ton of pro-ISIS propaganda including graphic videos and photographs," Assistant U.S. Attorney Marc Anton said during the hearing. "When told the shrapnel would rip through people faster than bullets, he smiled and said, 'Great, great.' This defendant has shown no remorse, he has demonstrated no sense of responsibility."

Defense attorney Richard Della Fera, who was not court appointed, argued Suarez wouldn't have had the aptitude nor the nerve to detonate a bomb in public among innocent beachgoers.

Instead, Della Fera said, Suarez was swayed by the undercover agents and goaded into following through with his talk of buying a bomb.

## House, Senate panels pass medical marijuana bills *By Dan Sweeney Staff writer*

TALLAHASSEE — Another in a long line of patients, caregivers and advocates had just stepped up to the podium to call for greater access to medical marijuana when a scream erupted across the room.

Six rows back, an epileptic man cried out, staring at the ceiling, hands curled into claws.

"Sergeant. Sergeant!" state Sen. Anitere Flores, R-Miami, said. She chaired the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, and the nature of the interruption was hard to tell at first.

A group quickly surrounded the man.

"Is there a doctor?" Flores asked into her microphone.

One was already standing over the man.

"Does anybody have any CBD oil?" someone called out, asking for the noneuphoric marijuana that had been legalized in Florida in 2014.

Eventually, the sergeant arrived with a wheelchair, and the man was slowly pushed out of the room.

His wife stood up and said he had been here to ask for greater access to medical marijuana.

"He can't get the only medicine that works," she said.

Dozens of people had driven from across the state to speak at the committee hearing. Because of the medical emergency, they were unable to.

But their point had already been made.

The committee passed the bill with only one "no" vote.

"What happened today is another reminder, along with the many people that I've met over the last several years who are suffering from epileptic seizures and other serious conditions, that what we're dealing with is people's lives and we need to be compassionate." said bill sponsor state Sen. Rob Bradley, R-Fleming Island.

The Senate bill, which now goes to a final committee hearing before heading to a floor vote, features many differences from the House bill. The House version bans smoking, vaping and edibles; the Senate bans only smoking. The House version would result in fewer licenses to grow marijuana. The Senate version would offer more licenses, but, after an amendment today, would limit the amount of retail shops a single grower can have to three.

That would mean just a couple dozen dispensaries statewide, but backers of the constitutional amendment legalizing medical marijuana supported the change, saying it would force the state to issue more licenses and break the hold of the few growers in the state who already have licenses to grow medical marijuana.

Advocates of the constitutional amendment continue to support the more expansive Senate plan. Their mood was far different earlier in the day, when the House plan got its second committee hearing, where it passed along a party line vote with all Democrats in opposition.

Activists lined up to speak, one after the other decrying two provisions of the bill.

First, they are against the ban on smoking, vaping and edibles, which left many patients and caregivers wondering how marijuana was supposed to be consumed.

State Rep. Ray Rodrigues, R-Estero, who sponsored the bill, said that vaping and eating marijuana were open for debate.

"If we can get proper labeling on vaping and edibles done, that is one of the subjects of our negotiation with the Senate," he said.

Rodrigues said that reciprocity — agreements with other medical marijuana states to allow patients to get marijuana in either state — was also the subject of negotiations with the Senate but would not say what other issues were being debated.

Medical marijuana supporters are particularly concerned about the 90-day rule in the House bill.



It says patients must have a 90-day relationship with a doctor before that doctor can recommend marijuana. The rule originated with Florida's 2014 law allowing noneuphoric strains of marijuana for epilepsy and cancer. In the wake of the pill mill crisis, it was designed to prevent doctor shopping.

But one of the sponsors of the 2014 law, state Rep. Katie Edwards, D-Plantation, warned Rodrigues that keeping it was a mistake. She tearfully told her fellow committee members that her cousin's infant son developed a rare form of cancer.

"I'm the lawmaker that has to defend the 90-day waiting period and I can't keep apologizing for that anymore. To tell a loved one, my own cousin, and have to rationalize the irrational, we can't do that," she said. "Don't make the same mistake I made on some of these issues and have to be the one to look back and tell a relative, I'm sorry."

Parents in the audience also spoke against the waiting period.

"If someone in my son's condition, where we didn't know whether he was going to have to live through Sunday night, had to wait 90 days, Christ, what is wrong?" said Dennis Deckerhoff, a Tallahassee resident whose son has severe epilepsy.

The House Appropriations Committee added almost \$25 million in funding to the bill.

**From:** [Anderson, Cassandra L](#)  
**Subject:** News Clips 4/20/2017  
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## **News Clip 4/20/2017**

### **Palm Beach Post**

**PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

## **Sheriff's deputy answers colleague's 911 with kidney Both women doing well after organ donation surgery.**

*By Jorge Milian Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Michele Shaffer (center left), a K-9 deputy with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, donated a kidney to her colleague Heidi Grob (center right) at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami. PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

As a 911 communications supervisor for the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, Heidi Grob is an old pro at responding to pleas for help.

But it was Grob who recently had her own emergency answered.

Kidney failure caused by radiation and chemotherapy treatments for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma when she was a child left Grob needing an organ transplant.

An internal sheriff's office email alerting employees to Grob's situation caught the eye of Deputy Michele Shaffer, according to a You-Tube video created by the law enforcement agency.

"I felt bad," said Shaffer, a K-9 deputy based at Palm Beach International Airport and Grob's former colleague in the communications department. "I'm like, 'I bet you I can give up a kidney. I know I'm healthy. I don't drink. I don't smoke.' I figured my filters have got to be clean.

"So I said, 'I'll give it a try and see what happens.'"

On April 10, Grob received Shaffer's left kidney at Jackson Memorial Hospital.

Shaffer, 46, is recuperating at home. Grob, 52, also has been released but is required to make frequent visits to the hospital, sheriff's spokeswoman Teri Barbera said.

"They're both doing well," Barbera said.

So why did Shaffer do it?

"The body has things we don't need," Shaffer explains in the video. "It has a spare kidney. And if I can save somebody's life, then I'm going to try."

Grob, who will mark her 25th anniversary at the sheriff's office in May, said Shaffer's compassion left her wondering if she was deserving of such a gift.

"How do you thank somebody who has given up an organ for you?" Grob said. "But I will be eternally grateful to Michele for giving up a kidney for me."

Before the transplant surgery, Grob said she couldn't see Shaffer walk into a room without breaking down.

"I'm real good for a minute, then I start thinking about what she's done for me. The tears just stream." [jmilian@pbpost.com](mailto:jmilian@pbpost.com) [Twitter: @jorgemilian1](https://twitter.com/jorgemilian1)

LAKE WORTH

# Man accused of stealing money from woman, 93

*By Jorge Milian Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Matheny

A man is facing charges that he stole more than \$4,000 from a 93-year-old relative who lives in Lake Worth and suffers from Parkinson's disease and other cognitive issues, according to an arrest report.

Colby Matheny, 23, allegedly convinced the woman to write checks in his name totaling \$4,381 during the final three months of 2015.

A Palm Beach County sheriff's detective who spoke to the alleged victim wrote in the report that the woman appeared "confused" during an interview and could not name either the year or how many children she had.

The report states that Matheny had the woman write 10 checks ranging from \$50 to \$1,000 between Oct. 30 and Dec. 18, 2015.

Matheny is facing a charge of exploitation of the elderly of less than \$10,000 and was released from the Palm Beach County Jail on Monday after posting a \$3,000 bond. The report does not indicate why Matheny, a Lake Worth resident, was not arrested until Monday.

Records show that Matheny was sentenced to nearly five years of probation after being convicted in August 2014 of grand theft and drug charges. Matheny's probation runs through March 25, 2020.

A relative of Matheny's told PBSO the man has a history of drug problems. [jmilian@pbpost.com](mailto:jmilian@pbpost.com) [Twitter: @jorgemilian1](https://twitter.com/jorgemilian1)

## FLORIDA SUPREME COURT

# Goodman again asks justices to reject blood-drawing rules

*By Daphne Duret Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



John Goodman was convicted twice in a DUI death.

A Florida Supreme Court fight over blood samples in John Goodman's DUI manslaughter case continued this week, as lawyers for the imprisoned polo club founder again have asked the high court to reverse an appellate court ruling and declare a state agency's blood-drawing rules invalid.

In a 21-page brief filed Tuesday, Goodman's attorneys said both Florida's 4th District Court of Appeal and Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi's office have either ignored or failed to answer key arguments Goodman has raised over issues such as the size of the needles used in blood draws, the uses of tourniquets and screening to eliminate bad samples.

The response comes nearly eight months after the appellate court rejected Goodman's appeal, but asked Florida's Supreme Court to rule on whether the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's current rules failed to sufficiently regulate procedures for blood draws in cases like Goodman's, and whether they were wrong for not specifically regulating the work of analysts screening the samples.

West Palm Beach attorney Jane Kreusler-Walsh, arguing on Goodman's behalf, wrote Tuesday that because the current rules don't outline specifics on what needle size should be used to draw blood, whether or not a tourniquet should be used and how samples are mixed, there's no way to be sure the subsequent scientific testing of the blood is valid.

She also said a lack of specific requirements on how analysts screen blood samples runs afoul of laws for testing drivers like Goodman, who was suspected — and ultimately convicted twice — of driving drunk in the Feb. 12, 2010, Wellington crash that killed Scott Patrick Wilson.

"They do not ensure reliable test results," Kreusler-Walsh wrote of the testing, adding: "These rules are inadequate and should be declared invalid."

After his first conviction, Goodman argued the court should throw out his case because blood test results that placed his blood-alcohol content at more than twice



the level at which drivers are presumed impaired came from a blood draw where a nurse used a smaller needle than what is normally used in such cases. Goodman's defense team argued that the too-small needle could have skewed his results higher. Ultimately, however, his first conviction was overturned because of juror misconduct. His legal team continued its fight on the blood issue, however, and pursued a chance for another overturned conviction based on those grounds after a second jury convicted Goodman in 2014.

Goodman's legal team is also appealing his conviction on other matters in the case, specifically prosecutors' decision to release Goodman's Bentley to his insurance company after his first conviction.

In May 2016, the 4th DCA rejected Goodman's appeal based on the blood issue. But three months later, it approved a request from Goodman's legal team to ask the state's high court to review rules that dictate how blood is gathered and tested when someone is suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol.

Goodman's attorneys filed an initial brief in December, arguing that Florida rules on blood draws in cases like Goodman's are inadequate because blood-drawing procedures are insufficiently regulated, fail to outline a process to "cure" clotted samples and don't have clear guidelines for the work of those who analyze samples. In a response to that initial filing last month, Deputy Solicitor General Rachel Nordby wrote the current rules are adequate and notes "no other state appears to regulate needle gauge or tourniquet usage during blood draws."

Nordby also wrote that the Attorney General's Office agreed with the 4th DCA's explanation that if the FDLE tried to regulate screenings and documentation, as Goodman's attorney suggested, it "would run the risk of locking in today's current scientific methodology, preventing the evolution and improvement of the system." In Tuesday's response, Kreusler-Walsh disputed Nordby's claims, saying that the regulations would instead ensure criminal defendants' right to a fair test.

"Requiring screening, documenting and rejection of unfit samples does not tell the analyst how to do his or her job," Kreusler-Walsh wrote. "Adding these requirements will not affect the scientific methodology, but they will ensure that a criminal defendant will know when his or her sample is clotted or otherwise irregular." [dduret@pbpost.com](mailto:dduret@pbpost.com)

## **POLICE BLOTTER** WEST PALM BEACH POLICE **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF**

**Someone damaged the rear** windshield of a vehicle parked in the 800 block of 21st Street.

**VEHICLE BURGLARY Multiple vehicle burglaries** were reported in the area around a club in the 600 block of Eighth Street. One woman told police a window was smashed on her vehicle, which was parked on North Rosemary Avenue. The interior was ransacked, but nothing was missing. Another woman reported a similar incident on the same street. A couple told police a window was smashed and two bottles of perfume were stolen from their vehicle, parked on North Rosemary Avenue. Windows were smashed on two vehicles parked in the 600 block of Ninth Street. Nothing was taken from either vehicle. A passerby gave police the name of a person she heard was involved in the break-ins. She said she saw him leaving the scene when officers arrived.

**SUSPICIOUS INCIDENT Police were notified** of a disturbance in the 200 block of South Tamarind Avenue. A security officer said two men were fighting near a bus. Then one fled, with the second man chasing after him. A passerby told the security officer that one man claimed the other had stolen money out of his pocket. Police located the victim in a field at the corner of Tamarind Avenue and Banyan Boulevard. The man, who smelled of an alcoholic beverage, said he was on the bus when an unknown male grabbed

N2 \$200 from his pocket. Upon further questioning by police, the victim increased the amount stolen to more than \$1,000, and claimed two men had accosted him. He also said a firearm was involved. A witness and the security officer told police there was no sign of a gun. An officer assisted the victim in obtaining a bus ticket back to Lake Worth. A backpack the suspect was wearing was recovered on Datura Street at Tamarind Avenue and was placed in evidence.

**SHERIFF'S OFFICE, LAKE WORTH THEFT Someone cut the chain** to a bicycle locked to a pool fence at an apartment complex in the 1500 block of South Federal Highway. The stolen bike was a light blue Huffy brand. Two other bicycles were reported stolen from the same area. The pair of bikes had been locked together.

**CRIMINAL MISCHIEF Someone shot a BB gun** at a vehicle in the 600 block of South M Street.

**A window was broken** on the front of a house in the 600 block of South N Street. Three of the resident's neighbors also said they had damage to their homes and vehicles, apparently caused by a BB gun. A group of juveniles in the neighborhood identified a youth who was seen running around with a BB gun and shooting randomly. A deputy attempted to locate the youth, but no one answered the door at his last known address.

**A man threw a brick** through a sliding glass door of a residence 300 block of South A Street. A woman in the home turned on a light when she heard the noise, and the man fled.

**UNWANTED GUEST The manager of a store** in the 200 block of North Dixie Highway encountered a man using the store's electrical outlets. When he told the man to unplug and leave the premises, the man became irate. He began screaming and spit at the manager. The manager was not struck by the spittle, but he asked a deputy to give the man a trespass warning from the property. The deputy informed the man, who had been detained outside, that he was no longer welcome at the store.

**DISTURBANCE A deputy went to investigate** a disturbance between a man and woman in the 700 block of Second Avenue South. He first encountered the man, who had a small cut on his finger. The man said the woman had pulled his glasses, and the ear piece had cut his finger. He told the deputy he used to live at the residence, and the woman had "gone crazy." The deputy next talked to the woman, who said she never dated the man, as he had claimed. She said he is homeless and lives in his vehicle, and she and her friends once allowed him to spend a few days at the apartment. She said that when she and her friends arrived home on this date, they found him sleeping in her bed. She believes he made a copy of her apartment key. The deputy asked the man to leave the area, and he complied.

**LANTANA POLICE VEHICLE BURGLARY A couple was awakened** by a man knocking on the doors of their home in the 200 block of East Lake Worth Avenue. The man told them he was out running and came across the woman's purse. The woman looked in the purse and discovered \$200 was missing. She also found a cellphone that was not hers, and she gave it to the man. After he left, the couple checked the woman's vehicle and saw it had been ransacked. Nothing appeared to be missing. She told police she had left the vehicle unlocked. Police spoke to the man who found the purse to get his version of the incident. He turned over the phone to officers at that time.

**A woman in the 400 block** of North Eighth Street was loading her vehicle with her belongings, assisted by a local man. Feeling ill, the woman asked the man to retrieve her cellphone, which was charging in her vehicle. He told her he could not find it. The woman searched her vehicle and noticed her GPS also was missing. The woman told police she never quizzed the man about the missing electronics, and he continued to help her load her vehicle. She said she later decided the man must have taken the items, but she had no contact information for him. She said she did not report the theft right away, as she had heard the man was recently released from prison and has a history of violence. Police were able to identify the man, but they

were unable to make further contact with the woman, who did not respond to voice-mail messages.

**VEHICLE THEFT A man went to a gas station** in the 1300 block of Hypoluxo Road to meet up with a woman with whom he had been talking for about a week. He introduced himself to her, then left her sitting in his car with the keys in it while he went to buy cigarettes. When he came out of the store, his car and the woman were gone. He told police his iPad was in his vehicle, and he tracked it to a parking lot on Palm Beach Lakes Boulevard in West Palm Beach. Someone then turned off the iPad, and he was not able to track it further. The following day his vehicle was recovered by the Miami Police Department. In custody in Miami were two women and a man. The trio was being uncooperative, so police did not have details on the case.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE, ROYAL PALM BEACH **THEFT A potential student was taking** an aptitude test at a facility in the 500 block of Royal Palm Beach Boulevard. He turned over his iPhone to an administrator while taking the test. Two females came into the school to make inquiries and were in the administrator's office. They left abruptly without filling out any paperwork. After they left, the administrator noticed the iPhone was missing.

**SUSPICIOUS PERSONS The owner of a business** in the 9200 block of Belvedere Road reported that surveillance video showed two men with a flashlight at the rear of her business around 11:30 p.m. She told a deputy that she has seen the pair on other occasions via surveillance video.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE, WELLINGTON **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF A woman found scratches** on her vehicle, which was parked in a lot in a shopping area in the 10300 block of Forest Hill Boulevard. A note left on her windshield said, "Next time, learn how to park, get a handicap sticker." Damage was estimated at \$2,000.

**Someone slashed a tire** on a vehicle in the 1600 block of Hawthorne Place and made deep scratches in the paint. The rear window wiper was removed and broken.

**Two mailboxes were broken** in the 4100 block of Bahia Isle Circle.

**DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE A deputy went to a residence** in the 9000 block of Alexandra Circle to investigate a disturbance. He heard two people arguing inside when he knocked on the door. The deputy spoke to the couple, who said they were having a disagreement. The husband said he was in the bathroom for a long time, when his wife came banging on the door and threatening him with divorce. The wife told a similar story, explaining that the family had plans for an outing that day, and her husband was taking a long time in the bathroom. The husband decided to take their daughter out for several hours, and the wife said she had paperwork to do at home.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE, LOXAHATCHEE/ACREAGE **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF Someone broke a pipe** to a water well at a home in the 17100 block of North 31st Road.

**DOMESTIC DISPUTE An engaged couple got into** an argument in the 14800 block of Northlake Boulevard. A deputy interviewed the pair and learned the dust-up was over the man's plan to go to Ohio but not take his fiancée because he did not want to pay for her flight. There was no physical altercation, and the couple calmed down and decided to head home.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE, GREENACRES **THEFT A candidate for political office** reported the theft of signs from locations throughout the city. Value of the missing signs was estimated at \$590.

**A man's wallet was stolen** from his desk in his office in the 3900 block of Woodlake Boulevard. Contents included debit and credit cards, his driver's license and Social Security card, and \$100. The man said he was out of his office on three occasions, checking the mail or using the restroom. The property manager was reviewing surveillance video to see who entered the building.

**COUNTERFEIT MONEY A cashier at a restaurant** in the 6500 block of Forest Hill Boulevard called the manager over to the register to inspect a \$100 bill a customer had tendered. The manager held both ends of the bill in his hands and snapped it; the bill split in two. The customer quickly walked out of the store, leaving his order behind. The incident was caught on surveillance video, which was reviewed by a deputy.

**SUSPICIOUS INCIDENT A man told police** he had a video showing an unknown man walking up to the door of his residence in the 1300 block of Olive Tree Circle and checking the handle. He said he would email the video to a deputy. [soneill@pbpost.com](mailto:soneill@pbpost.com)

## TRUMP IN PALM BEACH

# Signs suggest no visit by Trump this weekend

*By Kristina Webb Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

It appears President Donald Trump will not return to Palm Beach this weekend. Though the White House has not confirmed the president's weekend plans, the Federal Aviation Administration had released notices of flight restrictions for a presidential trip by this time in the week ahead of each of Trump's past visits. The lack of such notification at midweek signals it's unlikely the president will fly back into town for an eighth weekend here.

When the president has come to town in the past, the FAA typically posts an advisory on Monday notifying pilots that temporary flight restrictions are forthcoming for the airspace over Palm Beach. That advisory usually is followed the next day by the flight restrictions themselves.

Also absent: the massive Air Force cargo planes that land at Palm Beach International Airport and have heralded Trump's arrival in the past.

Because no details have been released about how Trump will spend his weekend, the president still could make the nearly two-hour flight from Washington, D.C., to Palm Beach International Airport to spend the weekend at his Mar-a-Lago Club.

He also could opt to stay at the White House, as he has on six of the 13 weekends since he took office in January. On each of those weekends, the president has visited one of his properties in the area: either his Trump International Golf Club in Sterling, Va., or Trump International Hotel in Washington, D.C.

Trump has come under fire for the frequency and costs of his trips to Mar-a-Lago, with U.S. Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, saying this week that it is "bothering" her. "I do wish he would spend more time in Washington," she told a town-hall crowd.

Before Trump's seventh visit to Mar-a-Lago this past weekend, a Palm Beach Post analysis found that Palm Beach County agencies had spent nearly \$3.7 million protecting the president. Of that, about \$3.5 million is from the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office alone, the Post reported.

Trump wrapped up his most recent trip to town on Sunday, after arriving April 13 to spend a long Easter weekend with his family. The president traveled on Friday and Saturday to Trump International Golf Club in suburban West Palm Beach, and attended an Easter service at The Episcopal Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea. [kwebb@pbpost.com](mailto:kwebb@pbpost.com)



## SCHOOLS IMMIGRATION

# School board resolves to shield immigrant students

Federal authorities won't be allowed entry without court order.

*By Sonja Isgar Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Parent Victoria Mesa-Estrada addresses the Palm Beach County School Board at district headquarters in West Palm Beach on Wednesday night: "We need to send a message to the entire county that ... all of our children are going to be protected." RICHARD GRAULICH / THE PALM BEACH POST



Avossa

WESTPALM BEACH — The hope for shelter, comfort and certainty for the county's immigrant students and their families was pinned to a two-page resolution adopted by a unanimous Palm Beach County School Board Wednesday night.

The resolution is yet another voice in a growing chorus of Florida school districts announcing that schools will protect their students' rights to safety and privacy as federal policy seeks to deport more and more people living in the country illegally. "This is a chance for the School Board to send a message to immigrants and their families that they are valued," said Tim Gamwell, assistant executive director of the Guatemalan-Maya Center.

The resolution doesn't create new policy, but it does declare the district's position that it won't allow federal authorities on campus or give them confidential student information unless they come with a court order.

Before board members cast their votes, nearly a dozen parents, students, teachers, a pediatrician, a guidance counselor and others stepped to the microphone to applaud the resolution and share their stories of fear and stress.

"I would like to speak on behalf of Palm Beach County mothers, many of whom have a lot of fear," mother of five Natividad Jimenez said with Gamwell interpreting.

"When we go to leave our children at school, we don't know if immigration will be waiting in the corners. ... Help us and support us and support our children. Even our children who are born here are afraid their parents will be deported and they'll be left here alone. For this reason we're asking your support."

The resolution's preamble notes that the district operates under long-standing laws and court decisions that demand that even students in the country illegally be educated and have their privacy protected.

But that protection isn't common knowledge in the immigrant community, or even sometime the front office staff, Superintendent Robert Avossa said.

The resolution is a way to spell out the protections to parents and residents as well as the district's 24,000 employees, Avossa said.

So, any requests from federal agents to gather confidential student information or to walk onto school property should be directed to the district's lawyers and school police.

The district will train staff on student rights, particularly of students who are learning English, and also on how to support the needs of immigrant students and their families.

The school police will "continue to exercise discretion and limit the referral of all students to the criminal justice system only as a last resort or when mandated by law."

In this time of heightened immigration enforcement, bullying that targets a student's status has cropped up and the resolution acknowledges the need for prevention programs to address that.

It also seeks to help students, be it counselors making sure students know what college and career opportunities await regardless of immigration status to working with organizations to help families create Safety Plans should a parent be deported.

"We need to send a message to the entire county, to parents of all races, that we're not going to tolerate hate or accept the bigotry ... all of our children are going to be protected," said Victoria Mesa-Estrada, representing South Olive Elementary School's advisory council.

The resolution also clears any uncertainty school administrators may have when an organization seeks to host events such as "Know Your Rights" workshops for parents and families, Gamwell said.

Boardmembers applauded the resolution. Board member Marcia Andrews said she wanted to see what more schools and staff can do to "make sure students and their families are protected."

Board Chairman Chuck Shaw said he was pleased that the discussion did not become politically heated. "You focused 100 percent on the children of this county." [sisger@pbpost.com](mailto:sisger@pbpost.com) [Twitter: @sonjaisger](https://twitter.com/sonjaisger)

## POST IN-DEPTH HERNANDEZ DEATH

# County played role in Hernandez's descent Ex-NFL star, found dead in apparent jail suicide, had skirmishes here.

*By Eliot Kleinberg Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Former New England Patriots star Aaron Hernandez, blowing a kiss to his daughter last week, was acquitted of two murders. He was found dead in jail Wednesday of an apparent suicide.

KEITH BEDFORD / BOSTON GLOBE





University of Florida Gators tight end Aaron Hernandez (left) pulls the ball from a Florida Atlantic University defender for a touchdown in November 2007. Hernandez allegedly punched a Gainesville bar manager earlier that year. ALLEN EYESTONE / THE PALM BEACH POST 2007



A photo of shooting victim Odin Lloyd is held by an observer after Aaron Hernandez was convicted of murder in Lloyd's death in a Fall River, Mass., court in April 2015. Hernandez was sentenced to life in prison without parole. DOMINICK REUTER / ASSOCIATED PRESS 2015

The rise and fall of Aaron Hernandez peaked amid the glory of the NFL and ended in a New England jail cell, where authorities found the former University of Florida and New England Patriots football standout, and convicted murderer, dead Wednesday morning of an apparent suicide.

Hernandez's circuitous route passed through Palm Beach County, a place authorities allege is tied to three separate, but related, acts of violence.

Authorities have said Hernandez moved through a world of crime, strip clubs and murder even as he shone in front of screaming sports fans. He made All-America, was named the best tight end in college football, and was an NFL Pro Bowler with a \$40 million contract.

His double life came crashing down when authorities alleged that on June 15, 2013, he pumped six bullets into Odin Lloyd, a 27-year-old landscaper and amateur

weekend football player who was dating the sister of Hernandez's fiancée, and left his body at an industrial park near Hernandez's home south of Boston. Prosecutors suggested Lloyd knew about Hernandez's role in an earlier double shooting.

Tossed off the Patriots within hours of his arrest, Hernandez would be convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison without parole. The term was shorter than most expected.

In April 2007, the then-17-yearold University of Florida football star allegedly refused to pay for two drinks at a popular Gainesville bar and then punched the manager, who said later he declined to press charges after speaking with UF officials.

Hernandez's teammate, quarterback Tim Tebow — who later would win a Heisman Trophy — had tried unsuccessfully to head off the confrontation by paying the tab and walking Hernandez out.

The Connecticut native would leave UF in 2010 and be a fourth-round pick of the Patriots. Trouble would follow.

In the early hours of July 16, 2012, prosecutors allege, Hernandez pulled up next to a car in South Boston and fatally shot Daniel de Abreu and Safiro Furtado. Prosecutors would say Abreu had accidentally bumped into Hernandez near a bar's dance floor and hadn't apologized.

Alleged to have been in Hernandez's car that night: Alexander Bradley, who later would say in court documents that he was in the front seat.

Months later, in February 2013, prosecutors allege, Hernandez and Bradley started the night at a high-end strip club in Miami Gardens, but after Bradley let on that Hernandez had shot and killed the two men in South Boston, the two were driving north through Palm Beach County when Hernandez turned off and into the parking lot of an industrial park just outside Riviera Beach.

Two men working nearby heard a shot and found Bradley, who survived but lost an eye. He would not cooperate with Palm Beach County sheriff's deputies, but in June 2013 would file a federal lawsuit claiming Hernandez shot him over his knowledge of the South Boston double murder.

Aaron Hernandez's Palm Beach County ties weren't done. Oscar Hernandez Jr. of Belle Glade — no relation — was accused of shipping guns to Aaron Hernandez prior to the slaying of Odin Lloyd. Oscar later would plead guilty to lying to a grand jury, obstruction of justice, witness tampering and delivering weapons to a nonresident and would be sentenced to two years in prison.

On Feb. 3, 2013, Super Bowl Sunday, Hernandez had shown up at Oscar's home, according to Oscar's mother, who said the two might have met while her son attended Santa Fe Community College in Gainesville.

Soon after, in April 2013, Aaron Hernandez deposited \$15,000 into a bank account for Oscar, who bought a Toyota Camry.

About the same time, investigators allege, associates of Aaron Hernandez bought a rifle and two handguns; the weapons, and the Toyota, were shipped to New England. Later, one firearm was found in the Camry sitting in Aaron Hernandez's garage in his North Attleborough, Mass., home; one in woods near Odin Lloyd's body; and one in Rhode Island near where a New York Jets fan taunted Aaron Hernandez.

On Oct. 27, 2013, in about as disconnected a scene as any couch potato could envision, as Miami Dolphins center Mike Pouncey walked to the team bus at Gillette Stadium, following his team's 27-17 loss to the Patriots, Massachusetts authorities handed him a summons to testify before a grand jury investigating his old Gator teammate, Aaron Hernandez.

Pouncey later would get into hot water for wearing a cap that read, "Free Hernandez." It didn't work.

Hernandez did have a rare victory Friday, when a jury acquitted him in the South Boston slayings. Just days later, Hernandez was dead.

"To my friend my brother! Through thick and thin right or wrong we never left each other's side," Pouncey said in an Instagram posting that featured a Hernandez photo and was posted hours after Hernandez's death. "Today my heart hurts as I got the worse (sic) news I could have imagined. It was just a day ago we shared our last (conversation). I will forever miss you and love you bro. we will meet again rest easy!"

**This story was compiled from Palm Beach Post research and Post and wire service COURTS**



# South Florida man who tried to recruit IS fighters gets life

## Harlem Suarez also was convicted of a weapons charge.

*By Hannah Winston Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Harlem Suarez, 26, said in a video that IS “would raise our black flag on top of your White House.”

PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE

A 26-year-old South Florida man will spend the rest of his life in prison after he was convicted of attempting to recruit people for Islamic State and make weapons of mass destruction.

U.S. District Judge Jose E. Martinez sentenced Harlem Suarez on Tuesday at federal court in Key West. The Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office was one of several agencies, including Key West police, that helped during the investigation.

Authorities said Suarez reached out to at least one person on Facebook, trying to persuade the individual to join IS. The person contacted authorities and they investigated Suarez.

During the investigation, undercover FBI sources and agents met with Suarez, discussing how to make bombs and plan an attack between April and July 2015. Suarez said he wanted to make a bomb to detonate July 4 in Miami or one of the Florida Keys, according to court documents. Investigators said Suarez had been trying to reach IS members in Syria but he said he wasn’t having any luck. He made a recruitment video as well, authorities said.

“We will destroy America and divide it in two. We will raise our black flag on top of your White House,” he said in the video, according to court documents. “We are everywhere and we are not going to stop.”

Suarez was arrested in July and remained in jail through his trial this year. He was convicted in February, according to court records. [hwinston@pbpost.com](mailto:hwinston@pbpost.com)

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# Sun Sentinel

## DUI CHARGES FILED

### Car crashed near Air Force One

*Associated Press*

A Florida man is facing drunk-driving charges after crashing into a fence at Palm Beach International Airport with Air Force One parked nearby.

Local media outlets report that the early Sunday crash had the Secret Service investigating any potential threat to the Boeing 747 used by President Donald Trump.

The president was at his Mar-a-Lago resort last weekend. No threat was identified. Charged in the case is 24-year-old Bryan Hewey-Garcia, who investigators said fled the crash and reported a fake carjacking to authorities.

In addition to DUI, Hewey-Garcia is charged with filing a false crime report and leaving the scene of a crash.

Palm Beach County sheriff's records show he was released on his own supervision.

## ***NEAR MAR-A-LAGO, A NO-GO ZONE***

**Residents across water from Trump tire of protests, media, motorcades** *By Andy Reid Staff writer*



Demonstrators protesting President Trump begin a 2.5 mile waterfront march south from the Trump Plaza condominiums on South Flagler Drive in West Palm Beach toward Southern Boulevard on their way toward Mar-a-Lago in February.





PHOTOS BY JIM RASSOL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Security personnel trail President Trump's motorcade on April 5 as it heads down Southern Boulevard on its way to Mar-a-Lago amid demonstrators protesting a visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping.



JIM RASSOL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Trump protesters gather on Southern Boulevard near Mar-a-Lago in February.

Life with a front-row view of President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate offers a peek at history, but also creates hassles for residents across the water in West Palm Beach.

South Flagler Drive, which parallels the Intracoastal Waterway, has long appealed to homeowners, bike riders, joggers, dog walkers, fishermen and others looking for a waterfront view.

The president's frequent visits are also attracting a parade of demonstrators, swarms of media and other people angling for a spot to look across the water and see Mar-a-Lago's tower and its billowing American flag.

Crowds periodically gather on private property near the intersection of South Flagler Drive and Southern Boulevard — adding to traffic and parking woes exacerbated by security for presidential motorcades that pass nearby.

"When Trump comes to town, everybody lines up on Flagler and Southern, residents know Trump's motorcade is soon to follow — and time is running out to avoid a presidential traffic jam.

"We know if we need to go somewhere, we need to go now," said Ken Spratt, who lives at the Southbridge Condominiums at the intersection of Flagler and Southern. Security roadblocks during the president's travels to and from the airport, as well as the Trump golf clubs he frequents, temporarily bring traffic to a stop on Southern Boulevard and other roads on the route near Mar-a-Lago.

During presidential visits, that intersection on the west side of the bridge that leads to Palm Beach becomes a magnet for Trump protesters and supporters alike to wave signs and chant within sight of Mar-a-Lago.

In addition to making a lot of noise, the crowds have been trampling grass, occupying resident-only spaces in condominium parking lots and leaving trash cans brimming with protest signs, water bottles and other demonstration discards.

On Saturday, nearly 700 anti-Trump protesters marched along Flagler Drive and over the Southern Boulevard bridge into Palm Beach.

During Trump's summit with the president of China at Mar-a-Lago on April 6 and 7, protesters targeting the Chinese leader as well as his red-shirt-wearing supporters flocked to the intersection of Flagler Drive and Southern Boulevard.

The crowd at times spilled over into the parking lot at the Southbridge Condominiums at the northwestern corner of the intersection.

Residents tried to chase away demonstrators who attempted to park there. West Palm Beach police stopped protesters in the parking lot from lighting a Chinese flag doused with lighter fluid, saying the attempted flag burning near the motorcade route posed a safety risk.

"It got loud. Bullhorns and all that kind of got old," Spratt, a Trump supporter, said about demonstrations during the Chinese president's meetings with Trump. "We got some laughs out of it too. ... How many people get the opportunity to see the president drive by on a regular basis?"

West Palm Beach police say there hasn't been a big boost in arrests or parking there," said Ben Brody, who handles leasing of property at one of the condominiums along Flagler Drive. "That's a pretty decent spot [and] a couple years ago, it didn't matter."

Trump since taking office has made seven trips to his weekend White House in Palm Beach, most recently a four-day stay for the Easter holiday.

When bomb-sniffing dogs show up to check cars parked near the intersection tickets and other citations because of the spike in crowds attracted to South Flagler Drive, near Southern Boulevard.

Yet, "No Trespassing" signs and areas staked off with caution tape have started to pop up to keep demonstrators and others from taking over narrow, waterfront properties on the east side of Flagler Drive.

Members of the media have been setting up cameras, lights and other equipment on strips of land along the sea wall to broadcast with Trump's Weekend White House in the background across the water.

Much of that land is owned by condominiums and other homeowners on the other side of the road who use it to access docks and boats.

"They were parking on the grass, breaking the sprinklers and breaking electrical lines," said Bobby Castellano, who owns a small apartment building on Flagler Drive, scheduled to be torn down and replaced with condominiums.

Castellano blamed the media for creating "most of the mess" on properties along Flagler Drive, while he said the demonstrators have been "no big deal."

"It's a couple hours and then they go away," Castellano said about protesters. "It's been amusing."

Brody represents the owner of one of the larger plots of land between Flagler and the Intracoastal Waterway. He has put up a sign offering the property for rent — trying to tempt media outlets looking for a view directly across from Mar-a-Lago. Brody said he has been getting "tons" of inquiries from media about using the land but is often greeted with "gasps" when he says they would have to pay. Most end up parking a little farther down the road, while others use the property without seeking permission, he said.

"They are calling, but I haven't gotten any takers," Brody said. "The media, notoriously, doesn't want to spend for anything." [abreid@sunsentinel.com](mailto:abreid@sunsentinel.com)  
561-228-5504 or [Twitter@abreidnews](https://twitter.com/abreidnews)

# Missed court date keeps suspect in jail

## Sandy Hook dad received death threats

*By Paula McMahon Staff writer*



Richards

The woman accused of sending death threats to a Palm Beach County man whose 6-year-old son was killed in the Sandy Hook school mass shooting will remain jailed in Broward County while she figures out whether she still wants to plead guilty or go to trial.

Lucy Richards, 57, looked disheveled and used a wheelchair for her brief appearance Wednesday in federal court in Fort Lauderdale.

She admitted she had violated the terms of her pretrial release on bond when she decided not to show up for a scheduled change-of-plea and sentencing hearing March 29.

Richards was arrested a few days later, on April 1, in a hospital near her home in Brandon, near Tampa. She was transferred to Broward from the Pinellas County jail Tuesday.

Richards has pleaded not guilty to four federal charges of sending threatening email and voice-mail messages to Lenny Pozner. Pozner's son, Noah, was murdered in the 2012 massacre.

Richards had been expected to plead guilty to one count on March 29. Federal prosecutors had planned to recommend that she would avoid any prison time and would be sentenced to house arrest and probation.

But Richards balked and phoned her attorney's office that morning. She said she was not coming to court that day.

A judge revoked her \$25,000 bond and issued an arrest warrant.

Prosecutors have not said if the original plea agreement and sentencing recommendation are still on the table for her.

In court Wednesday, Richards spoke only to ask questions about the timing of her case and whether Assistant Federal Public Defender Robert Berube will still represent her.



"The next time I go to court, it takes how long? Is it months, weeks ...?" she asked U.S. Magistrate Judge Barry Seltzer.

The judge told her he anticipated the judge assigned to her case, Senior U.S. District Judge James Cohn, would promptly schedule her next court hearing.

Richards, a former waitress who is receiving Social Security disability payments, told court officials in Tampa after her arrest that she wanted to go to trial and did not want her fate to lie in the hands of a judge, court records show.

Prosecutors said Richards told investigators she got angry and sent the death threats to Pozner after she read online conspiracy theories about the Sandy Hook shootings. Though Richards could have avoided serving any jail time, her admitted violation of the terms of her release on bond have caused her to spend close to three weeks in jail and she will likely remain locked up for at least several more weeks. [pmmcMahon@sunsentinel.com](mailto:pmmcMahon@sunsentinel.com), 954-356-4533 or [Twitter @SentinelPaula](https://twitter.com/SentinelPaula)

## Marijuana cultivator opens first storefront in S. Florida

*By Joey Flechas and David Smiley Miami Herald*

It was a grand opening in a modest setting that marked a major step in a budding industry.

Trulieve, one of seven cultivators licensed to grow and distribute marijuana in the state, opened its first South Florida storefront on Wednesday.

The new location, the company's fifth in Florida, launched inside a nondescript building in the industrial zone just east of Miami International Airport. The company has already been delivering medical marijuana to patients from other locations.

Another grower, Modern Health Concepts, quietly distributes its products to patients in a limited pre-Amendment 2 program from its undisclosed headquarter facility in Redland.

But following November's vote in which 6.5 million Floridians approved expanding medical marijuana access, this is the first retail setting in Miami where patients with appropriate recommendations from their doctors can walk in and walk out with medical pot.

Even after months of planning, Wednesday's opening was a bit of a rush job, said CEO Kim Rivers.

The company received its certificate of occupancy from Miami-Dade County abruptly on Tuesday, she said, and wanted to open as quickly as possible. The county's laws

regulating medicinal marijuana retail outlets also require that companies open their stores within a specific timeframe, she said, so Trulieve was racing against the clock. "We were hustling to get it open as quickly as we could to meet the required deadlines," she said.

The facility, at 4020 NW 26th St., is white with green trim and situated among rental warehouses that host car rental and signmaking businesses.

But inside, it looks like any slick new medical office. Only the television screen on the wall behind the check-in counter indicates the product being sold when rows of cannabis plants in a laboratory are displayed.

Once an employee verifies that a patient is registered to have access to medical marijuana, doors on the side open to the actual dispensary. At a glass counter, patient consultants are available to explain a range of products that include oils, "flower" that can be vaporized and a topical cream. The products are boxed, bottled and labeled like typical prescribed medicine. The strength of the product sold to each customer is based on the recommendation from the patient's doctor.

## Hernandez: Troubles, tears in South Florida

*Associated Press*



AP FILE Aaron Hernandez, right, in court Friday, was found hanged in his cell Wednesday. He died at the hospital.



GETTY IMAGES FILE

Tight end Aaron Hernandez, right, was instrumental in the success of the Florida Gators football program during the Tim Tebow era of the late 2000s.

Former University of Florida football star Aaron Hernandez, who was found dead in his jail cell Wednesday, left a trail of blood, lawsuits and, in the end, mourning in South Florida.

And thanks to an obscure Massachusetts law, he may be cleared in the crime of which he was convicted, authorities said Wednesday.

Miami Dolphins center Mike Pouncey, a college roommate, teammate and good friend of the ex-New England Patriots player, posted an Instagram message Wednesday about Hernandez, who prison officials said hung himself inside his jail cell in Massachusetts.

"To my friend my brother! Through thick and thin right or wrong we never left each other's side. Today my heart hurts as I got the worse news I could have imagined. It was just a day ago we shared our last convo.

"I will forever miss you and love you bro. we will meet again rest easy!," Pouncey wrote on Instagram.

Hernandez, 27, who played for the Gators with Pouncey, was serving a life sentence with no possibility of parole for a 2013 murder. Hernandez was acquitted of a double murder last week.

Pouncey and his twin brother Maurkice, a center for the Pittsburgh Steelers, infamously wore baseball caps with the words "Free Hernandez" written on them at their birthday celebration in July 2013. He later apologized.

Hernandez was part of a BCS National Championship team and was recognized as an All-American. He was initially drafted by the Patriots in the fourth round of the 2010 NFL Draft.

An official with the Massachusetts Department of Corrections says Hernandez was found hanged in his cell just after 3 a.m. Wednesday. Authorities tried to revive

Hernandez, who was pronounced dead at UMass Memorial — HealthAlliance Hospital in Leominster at 4:07 a.m.

Prison officials say Hernandez was in a single cell in a general population housing unit at the Souza Baranowski Correctional Center in Shirley, Mass. They say he hanged himself using a bed sheet that he attached to a cell window.

Authorities say he tried to block the cell door from the inside by jamming the door with various items.

Hernandez, who was serving a life sentence for the 2013 murder, was acquitted Friday in a 2012 double slaying prosecutors said was fueled by his anger over a drink spilled at a nightclub.

Under a long-standing Massachusetts legal principle, courts customarily vacate the convictions of defendants who die before their appeals are heard.

Hernandez was sentenced to life in prison for the 2013 murder of Odin Lloyd, a semi-professional football player who was dating the sister of Hernandez's fiancée. A third suspect in the high-profile case turned up in Miramar in June 2013.

Ernest Wallace, 41, who was sought by Massachusetts State Police and was considered armed and dangerous, walked into the lobby of the Miramar Police Department and peacefully surrendered.

Hernandez's attorneys can move to have the conviction in the Lloyd case erased, said Martin Healy, chief legal counsel for the Massachusetts Bar Association.

"For all practical purposes, Aaron Hernandez will die an innocent man, but the court of public opinion may think differently," said Healy.

The legal principle, "abatement ab initio," holds that it is unfair to the defendant or to his or her survivors if a conviction is allowed to stand before they had a chance to clear their names on appeal, in case some kind of error or other injustice was determined to have occurred at trial, Healy said.

"It's a surprising result for the public to understand," he said.

Hernandez's appeal had not yet been heard by the state's high court.

Gregg Miliote, a spokesman for the district attorney's office which prosecuted the Lloyd case, would not comment on the possibility of the conviction being vacated.

Last year, a federal lawsuit against Hernandez was settled after he was accused of shooting a friend in the face at Tootsie's nightclub in Miami. Hernandez and associate Alexander Bradley got into an argument once they got to Palm Beach County. Bradley lost his right eye, according to the civil suit. Terms were not disclosed under the settlement.

*Staff writer Chris Perkins contributed to this report.*

# Key dates in the Hernandez case

**June 8, 2010:** Hernandez, drafted from the University of Florida, signs a four-year contract with the New England Patriots.

**Jan. 1, 2012:** He sets a career best with 138 receiving yards in a win over Buffalo.

**July 16, 2012:** Two men, Daniel de Abreu and Safiro Furtado, are shot to death in their car as they wait at a red light in Boston's South End neighborhood.

**Aug. 27, 2012:** Hernandez signs a five-year, \$40 million contract with the Patriots.

**February 2013:** An associate, Alexander Bradley, is shot in the face in Florida. Bradley files a lawsuit alleging an argument at Tootsie's, a Miami strip club, led to Hernandez shooting him after they headed to Palm Beach County. Federal courts show the lawsuit was settled last year, and documents in the case were sealed.

**June 17, 2013:** The body of Odin Lloyd, a semi-professional football player who was dating the sister of Hernandez's fiancée, is found about a mile from Hernandez's mansion in North Attleborough, Mass.

**June 26, 2013:** Hernandez is arrested on a murder charge in Lloyd's slaying and taken from his home in handcuffs. He pleads not guilty. The Patriots release him hours after his arrest.

**May 15, 2014:** Hernandez is indicted on two counts of first-degree murder and other charges in connection with the shootings of de Abreu and Furtado. His lawyers say he is innocent.

**May 28, 2014:** Hernandez pleads not guilty to charges in connection with the deaths of de Abreu and Furtado. A prosecutor says Hernandez was angry because de Abreu accidentally bumped into him at a nightclub while dancing, spilling his drink.

**Jan. 9, 2015:** Hernandez goes on trial for murder in Lloyd's killing.

**April 7, 2015:** Prosecutors and Hernandez's lawyers present their closing statements and the case goes to the jury.

**April 15, 2015:** Hernandez is convicted of first-degree murder; carries a mandatory sentence of life imprisonment.

**Feb. 14, 2017:** Hernandez goes on trial for murder in the killings of de Abreu and Furtado.

**April 6, 2017:** Prosecutors and Hernandez's lawyers present their closing arguments.

**April 7, 2017:** The jury begins deliberating.

**April 14, 2017:** Hernandez acquitted of murder in the killings of de Abreu and Furtado.

**April 19, 2017:** Hernandez found hanging by a bed sheet in his prison cell, dies at hospital.

# Getting smart on the drug crisis: Education's key to winning this fight

*By Justin L. Miller*



As we confront the epidemic of prescription opioid misuse and heroin use that is sweeping the nation, the Drug Enforcement Administration is aggressively pursuing the cartel kingpins, neighborhood gangs, rogue doctors, drug peddlers — all of those responsible for pushing the pills, powder, and poison in our communities and fueling violence on the streets.

But we have long recognized that enforcement is only part of the solution, and this holds true now more than ever as this drug crisis is unlike any previous ones. It is driven, in part, by legal drugs, as people get addicted to prescription painkillers and then turn to heroin as a cheaper alternative. We hear countless stories of overdose victims whose opiate addiction started with pills that can be found in medicine cabinets.

We are also confronted with new drugs, new markets, and new suppliers that are, to some extent, changing the face of the illicit drug business. Unscrupulous dealers are mixing fentanyl (two milligrams is lethal), carfentanil (an elephant tranquilizer), or other fentanyl-related substances into heroin products or pressing them into counterfeit pills, often without the users' awareness. There are now synthetic drugs and research chemicals popping up in our neighborhoods that our chemists have never seen before. Moreover, dealers and users are increasingly acquiring narcotics via online markets that ship right to your doorstep. Indeed, the emergence of cyber markets on the "dark web" is making it much easier to get dangerous drugs onto the streets and into our homes.

We need to have conversations about the true nature of this drug epidemic. We need to increase education on how opioids affect the body and the brain. We need to reach our youth — nearly one in five teens nationwide say they have used prescription medicine at least once in their lifetime to get high.



And as opioid-related fatalities skyrocketed in Florida over the past two years, more than half of the heroin decedents (and over two-thirds of heroin addiction treatment clients) were below the age of 35.

Just recently, the Drug Enforcement Administration has joined forces with Discovery Education, the leading provider of digital content and professional development for K-12 classrooms, to launch Operation Prevention ([operationprevention.com](http://operationprevention.com)). This is an educational program for middle and high school classrooms that aims to educate students, using science, about the impact of opioids. The program also offers toolkits for parents to identify warning signs of opioid misuse.

Additionally, we will be participating in a series of upcoming educational forums with local partners in South Florida. This includes a discussion and screening of the documentary "Chasing the Dragon: The Life of an Opiate Addict," featuring heart-wrenching testimonies of young addicts and their family members, today at Florida Atlantic University's Davie campus.

Education is the most powerful weapon we have to combat this crisis. It is imperative that we provide students with the tools to make smart, informed choices, and empower families to take action.

*Justin L. Miller leads the DEA Intelligence Program throughout the state of Florida. He serves as the field intelligence manager for the Drug Enforcement Administration's Miami division.*

We need to reach our youth — nearly one in five teens nationwide say they have used prescription medicine at least once in their lifetime to get high.

## **Immigrants' fears addressed**

### **PB School Board resolution calls for safety plans**

*By Lois K. Solomon Staff writer*

If immigration authorities arrive at a Palm Beach County school seeking confidential information about a student, school staff will be instructed : Don't cooperate.

The Palm Beach County School Board unanimously approved a resolution on Wednesday ordering the staff to send the request to the school district's lawyer or police department.

It's one of several directives in the resolution, some of which are more of a reminder of policies that have been in place for many years, Superintendent Robert Avossa said.

The resolution comes at a time when many Palm Beach County families are feeling the stress of knowing their families could be forced to leave the United States because they lack proper documentation.

Several parents, who came to the school board meeting to support the resolution, expressed the fears they see or feel at schools with large populations of immigrants.

"We don't know if immigration will be waiting in the corners where we go to drop our children off," said Natividad Jimenez, a parent at Santaluces High School in Lantana whose Spanish was translated for the board. "Even our children who were born here are afraid that their parents will be deported and they will be left alone." The children are becoming increasingly anxious, said Johana Castillo, a parent and volunteer at North Grade Elementary in West Palm Beach.

"A lot of them are not sleeping at night," Castillo said. "Palm Beach County schools have become second homes for these children."

Hispanics now comprise 33 percent of the school system's 190,240 students, more than whites, who make up 32 percent, and blacks who make up 28 percent.

This is a marked difference from the Palm Beach County adult population, which is 60 percent white.

Hispanic school enrollment is greatest in central Palm Beach County schools, especially in West Palm Beach, Greenacres and Lake Worth.

The largest number of students come from Guatemala, followed by Cuba, Mexico, Honduras, Brazil and Colombia.

School district Police Chief Lawrence Leon said the district has never been asked by federal authorities to enforce a deportation order, related to a child in school or families.

The resolution calls for creating Safety Plans for students whose families could be deported, which would include a plan for where a student would live if his parents had to leave the country.

The district wants guidance counselors and other support staff to be trained in how to advise families in these situations. [Lsolomon@sunsentinel.com](mailto:Lsolomon@sunsentinel.com)

**From:** [Anderson, Cassandra L](#)  
**Subject:** News Clips 4/23-24/2017  
**Date:** Monday, April 24, 2017 2:50:29 PM  
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# **News Clip 4/23-24/2017**

## **Palm Beach Post**

### **PBSO seeking man in jewelry pawning case**

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office is looking for a watch repairman who allegedly pawned his customers' jewelry after shutting down his business.

Roger Overbey ran Overbey & Son Watch & Jewelry Repair at the Big Apple Shopping Bazaar in the 5200 block of West Atlantic Avenue until closing the business in December 2016.

Overbey, 63, allegedly took all of his customers' jewelry, watches and other items and began pawning them around Palm Beach County, PBSO said.

PBSO Detective John Wikse would like to speak to anyone who has had business dealings with Overbey. Wikse can be reached at 561-688-4774.

— JORGE MILIAN



Overbey

**CRIME STOPPERS** These suspects were wanted as of Thursday:

**Chelsea Blaze**, 26, on charges of organized scheme to defraud and grand theft. She was born on Feb. 2, 1991, has blonde hair and blue eyes and is 5 foot, 2 inches and 100 pounds. Her last known address was SW Fourth Court, Boca Raton.

**Sandra Phillips**, 50, on charges of violation of supervised own recognizance for aggravated battery with a deadly weapon. She was born on Sept. 27, 1966, has black hair and brown eyes and is 5 foot, 7 inches and 170 pounds. Her last known address was Ninth Street, Riviera Beach. Call Crime Stoppers at 800-458-TIPS (8477).



Blaze



Phillips

## POST IN-DEPTH OPIOID CRISIS

# Area program offers addicts ray of hope Pilot project combines medicine, counseling and compassion. *By Joe Capozzi Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Shawn Walker would shoot heroin six times day. That changed March 12 when he volunteered to be part of a pilot program run by the Palm Beach County Heroin Task Force aimed at using Suboxone to ween addicts off heroin. Walker has been clean ever since. ALLEN EYESTONE / THE PALM BEACH POST



Shawn Walker holds Suboxone pills he gets from the Palm Beach County Health Care District. He takes one a day as part of a pilot program to help heroin addicts kick their habit. JOE CAPOZZI / THE PALM BEACH POST

Six weeks ago, Shawn Walker was shooting heroin at least once a day, feeding a two-year addiction that he supported by pawning and selling whatever he stole from family and stores.

"Heroin was my girlfriend. It was my everything," he said. "I was in a messed up, co-dependent relationship with that drug."

Now the Lake Worth man has been clean since March 13. He works in construction, attends daily support meetings and encourages other addicts to seek help.

Walker, 34, has taken only the first steps on a fragile, lifelong road to recovery. But he is off to a promising start because of a pilot project that aims to wean addicts off opioids through a combination of medicine, counseling and compassion.

"It's crazy. I went from being a monster to being a normal person," he said of the Medication Assisted Treatment Program, launched in early March by a collaboration by agencies from the Palm Beach County Heroin Task Force.

"I went from being dead to being alive. That program saved my life. I can't even explain how much hope it has given me."

At a time when few governments are doing anything, the program is one attempt to stem the rising death toll from opiates. And it's a tiny step made possible only through a web of cooperating public agencies, private sector help and addicts who volunteer to participate in the program.

The program treats them with Suboxone, a form of the withdrawal-reversal drug buprenorphine, as soon as they arrive in the emergency room after an overdose.

### **Daily visits, daily support**

Instead of just releasing them back onto the street, the program embraces the patients with continued treatment from daily and weekly follow-up visits at home and at clinics operated by the Palm Beach County Health Care District, the taxpayer-financed district that provides health care to the poor and uninsured.

It's too early to assess the long-term success of Palm Beach County's program, which is confined for now to the jurisdiction of Palm Beach County Fire Rescue. But organizers are encouraged because 16 of the first 18 patients have stayed with the program since they started participating.

"In almost 30 years of EMS work, this is by far the most rewarding thing I've ever seen in my career," said Fire Rescue Capt. Houston Park, who suggested the program.

"Seeing somebody who is at their lowest level reach out and get help and within a few days their physical appearance changes, their attitude changes, their behavior changes, it has been amazing."

Relapse rates for heroin addicts trying to get clean through abstinence can be as high as 90 percent but the "success rates" for addicts receiving Suboxone and daily counseling are about 50 percent, said Dr. Marc Schlosser, a Boca Raton doctor who prescribes buprenorphine for the pilot program.



"It's not just the medicine by any means," Schlosser said. "That's just part of the program. Intensive therapy and counseling are important to the greater long-term success."

Palm Beach County Judge Caroline Shepherd, who presides over adult drug court, said the early results are "the first glimmer of hope" to tackling an epidemic that killed nearly 600 people in the county in 2016.

"All we are doing is what medicine is supposed to do, which is care for patients," said Dr. Kenneth Scheppke, Fire Rescue's medical director.

By taking Suboxone, addicts "are not looking to get high. They just feel normal. The anxiety of 'Where am I going to get my next fix?' is gone. Now it's, 'How can I improve my life?' " he said.

### **How it works**

The program, modeled after a similar program at Yale-New Haven Hospital in Connecticut, works like this:

1. When an overdose patient arrives at the JFK Medical Center emergency room, which averages 10 to 15 overdoses a day, hospital staff alert Park and his fire rescue staff.
2. Park, another of his paramedics and a "peer counselor" — a recovering addict working with the program — come to the hospital to explain the program and offer the patient a chance to participate.
3. Each addict who agrees to participate is given two doses of Suboxone on the first day in the hospital. The patient is also offered a thorough checkup and counseling.
4. After that first day, the addict goes home. For each of the next eight days, Park and paramedics visit the patient at home, where they administer a daily dose of Suboxone. They also take vitals and discuss withdrawal symptoms.
5. After the eighth day, the daily home visits end and the addict becomes a patient of the Health Care District. A long-term plan is drawn up to meet the patient's specific needs, relying on the addict to return to the district's Lantana clinic for daily or twice-a-week follow-up appointments.

Although some addicts have been known to abuse Suboxone, patients in the program get only a few doses between appointments, Schlosser said.

The district offers medical treatment for infectious diseases, diabetes or other ailments as well as follow-up appointments for counseling. The addicts also are required to attend daily 12-step meetings, therapy sessions or other related treatment.

"We are a one-stop shop for them," said Dr. Belma Andric, the health district's chief medical officer. "We are their safety net."

### **Peer counselors key**

How long the patient stays in the program and continues using Suboxone is up to the doctor. Schlosser said medical studies have indicated it can take six months to a year on Suboxone to repair the damage caused by drugs to an addict's brain. Program officials know all too well how some sober homes boot addicts who relapse, sending them to the streets where they fall back into old habits and sometimes die.

But if addicts in the program relapse or their urine tests positive for drugs while they are enrolled, they are encouraged to stick with the program.

"We are not punitive," he said. "It's really important to be completely supportive."

Because the pilot program uses an existing clinic and staff, the bulk of the costs are for the medication, at less than \$2 per dose.

The pilot program will end once 30 people enroll, a number expected to be reached by May. The results will be studied by the University of Miami, but officials already want to expand the program in other hospitals and fire-rescue jurisdictions here.

"We have to expand beyond Health Care District clinics because the need is so huge," Dr. Andric said.

A key component is the so-called "peer counselors" — recovering addicts working for Rebel Recovery, a private advocacy group involved in the program through the Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network.

Rebel Recovery's counselors help addicts gain trust to work with Fire Rescue and health district staff.

Many addicts who arrive in the emergency room "are not very receptive to any authoritative presentation" by rescue workers or law enforcement, said Park.

"But when we go in with a peer counselor who is in some stage of recovery, they speak the same language. They break all of the barriers down."

In one week in March, JFK treated 100 overdose patients, but just two volunteered for the program.

### **A knock on the door**

Walker admitted he was suspicious, too, when he arrived at JFK on March 12 — after he had pawned his mother's iPhone to score a hit of heroin — and was asked if he wanted to participate in the program.

"I remember saying, 'You're telling me you're going to give me Suboxone for free?' I didn't believe it," he recalled.

Walker said he decided to volunteer because he didn't want to wind up in jail or dead.

"I'm tired. I'm tired of killing myself. I'm tired of hurting the people I love," he said.

The morning after Walker was released from the hospital, he heard a knock on his door. It was Park, another paramedic and Nancy McConnell, a peer counselor from Rebel Recovery.

"They said they'd be there at 7:15. They were there at 7:15," Walker said, recalling his surprise.

They gave him his daily dose of Suboxone and talked for 15 minutes. They returned to his house again for each of the next seven mornings.

Walker's mother and brother are hopeful about his progress, but they were skeptical that first week.

"My other son said to me, 'What's it going to be like when they stop coming? Is he going to run off somewhere?' " recalled Pamela Walker, who said she installed a lock on her bedroom door months ago to prevent Shawn from stealing her things.

But more than a month after he volunteered to participate, Walker has kept his appointments with health district doctors and therapists. He also attends daily support meetings with Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous.

"It was like he made a total about-face," his mom said. "When he heard about this program he just felt like there was hope."

Sitting in a coffee shop recently, Walker opened his wallet and showed a small wad of cash from his job as a landscaper.

"A few weeks ago, all of that would have went to heroin," he said. "Last week I went shopping and bought \$200 worth of clothing. I haven't bought new clothes in two years."

Walker will stay in the program at least five more months, maybe longer.

He said he is taking it one day at a time.

His only long-term goal is to be reunited with his 11-year-old son, who is living with relatives.

"For me to tell you I'm going to be clean in six months or a year is unfathomable to me," said Walker, who has used drugs most of his adult life.

"But I can tell you this. I'm not going to get high today and I'm pretty sure I'm not going to get high tomorrow. Every day is a gift." [jcapozzi@pbpost.com](mailto:jcapozzi@pbpost.com)

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## PUBLIC SAFETY AVIATION INDUSTRY

# Pilot's death shines light on drug testing Nation's largest pilots union opposes proposal hailed by safety groups. *By Will Garbe Dayton Daily News*



The Air Line Pilots Association is against expanding the Department of Transportation's testing program to screen for four opioid drugs. ASSOCIATED PRESS 2016



Montgomery County Ohio Coroner's Office Director Ken Betz said the deaths of Spirit Airlines Capt. Brian Halye, 36, and his wife, Courtney, 34, who lived at this home in Centerville, Ohio, may be related to fentanyl overdose. Safety agencies and pilots unions continue to spar over drug testing for pilots. JAROD THRUSH / DAYTON (OHIO) DAILY NEWS

The nation's largest airline pilots union is fighting a drug testing proposal that safety groups hail as a major advance in the country's efforts to fight misuse of addictive opioid painkillers.

A Dayton Daily News examination launched after the death of Spirit Airlines Capt. Brian Halye revealed that pilots responsible for thousands of airline passengers can go years without a drug or alcohol test, even as testing requirements have increased over the years.

The Air Line Pilots Association, which represents more than 55,000 pilots at 32 airlines, has cited privacy issues and raised questions about the accuracy and expense of the tests. It also advocates redirecting resources into treatment programs for pilots with chemical dependency problems.

The union's latest stand is against expanding the U.S. Department of Transportation's testing program to screen for four opioid drugs, including frequently abused prescription painkillers. The union's position is contrary to that of the airlines and the National Transportation Safety Board, the investigative body tasked by Congress with making safety recommendations.

"I think the underlying issue is opiate use, misuse and addiction is a huge societal problem in the United States, and unfortunately airline pilots are part of that and are not immune to the problem," NTSB Chief Medical Officer Mary Pat McKay told the Dayton Daily News.

The union announced its opposition to testing for opioids a week after Halye's children found him and his wife dead last month in their Centerville, Ohio, home. The coroner said it suspects fentanyl — heroin's much-stronger cousin — is a factor in Halye's death, and it has been found to be responsible for an increasing number of deaths both locally and nationally.

But even if the Transportation Department includes the four opioids in its drug panel over the union's concerns, the screen still would not test for fentanyl. McKay told the newspaper that the NTSB would likely be supportive of adding fentanyl to the agency's panel under certain conditions.

The Air Line Pilots Association has long maintained that random drug screens do little more than destroy the careers of pilots.

"Pilot unions have long engaged in measures both subtly and overtly that would suggest they are not in favor of drug testing," said Dr. Ashley Nunes, a regulatory analyst with the MIT Center for Transportation & Logistics. "The idea, essentially, is they are there to do as much for their members as they possibly can. If that helps the traveling public, that's great; but if it doesn't, tough luck."

The International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations, of which the Air Line Pilots Association is the largest member, maintains random testing doesn't work as a deterrent.

In a briefing paper posted on the website for the group, which bills itself as the "global voice of pilots," the federation says the workplace quite often "is one of the last places where substance abuse is noticed. Family members, friends and colleagues most often will have noticed the problem during leisure time before it becomes evident in the work environment. At this stage peer intervention programs are an effective means of intervention and prevention as opposed to the problematic

substance-use testing programs in the workplace. Testing programs introduced as a reaction to political pressure create the false perception that such testing improves safety," the paper says.

The FAA in 2002 proposed that employees selected for random drug screens stop performing safety-sensitive work and report to the test site "as soon as possible."

The Air Line Pilots Association proposed changing the time requirement to "as soon as is practicable," which triggered debate over how pilots should respond to testing notices from the cockpit.

The FAA denied the union's proposal, saying pilots shouldn't be getting advanced warnings through the in-cockpit messaging system, called ACARS.

Another fight ensued in 2010 after the Transportation Department proposed lowering the cut-off threshold for detecting cocaine and amphetamines in initial and confirmatory tests. The union called the proposal "premature and ill-advised" and argued it would increase the risk of false positive tests.

The federal agency implemented the change over the union objection.

The latest proposals, which call for expanding the number of drugs included in testing panels, have also drawn union objections.

The Transportation Department currently tests for marijuana, cocaine, opiates, phencyclidine (PCP) and amphetamines. The department hopes to add four opioid prescription medications — hydrocodone, hydromorphone, oxycodone and oxymorphone — for inclusion in its drug-testing panel later this year.

Each of these opioid prescription drugs carry warnings about operating vehicles or machinery because of their psychoactive and sedative effects, according to the NTSB, which supports the change.

But in a 23-page response to the government, the Air Line Pilots Association argues the proposal has several flaws. The proposal could violate due process, according to the union, and has "unduly low" testing cutoffs that put compliant pilots at risk. The union says the test should be designed to differentiate between those who use the drug legally and those who abuse drugs.

"People say, well, they don't have anything to fear if they just produce a prescription for the substance," said Shawn Pruchnicki, a pharmacist and former Comair pilot who lectures at the Ohio State University Center for Aviation Studies. "But with these levels being so low, it could very well look like an individual took a dose seven hours before flying."

The union also maintains random drug screens are "exorbitantly expensive with very little return."

The airlines, however, see the issue differently.



The “benefits of deterring safety-sensitive employees from taking these four prescription drugs without a legitimate prescription outweighs the costs associated with this proposal,” said Airlines for America, which represents nine carriers including American, United and Southwest.

Contact this reporter at [Will.Garbe@coxinc.com](mailto:Will.Garbe@coxinc.com).

## **PALM BEACH COUNTY HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

### **County focuses on human trafficking Workers will receive training on how to spot victims of the crime.**

*By Julius Whigham II Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

Palm Beach County’s transit workers, parks and recreation employees and youth services workers will be among those helping it to combat human trafficking.

The Palm Beach County Commission this month approved additional training for several groups of its employees to spot signs of the crime, which has been described as modern-day slavery.

Employees who are in the field — code enforcement, youth services and parks and recreation workers, for example — will be among those receiving the training, as well as new county employees.

“Primarily, what we’re going to be doing is an education outreach,” said County Commissioner Melissa McKinlay, who coordinated a free community training day on the problem in February. “Oftentimes, local government is the first line of entry (to help human trafficking victims).”

Among other signs, victims of trafficking might exhibit poor health, show signs of physical abuse or restraint, and lack control over personal documents or the ability to speak for themselves, authorities said.

Human trafficking occurs when a person uses force, fraud or coercion to control another for purpose of engaging in commercial sex acts, labor or other services against their will.

Florida has had the third-highest number of calls to the national trafficking hotline. Between Oct. 1, 2015 and Sept. 30, 2016, there were 19 verified reports of human trafficking calls in Palm Beach County to the Florida Abuse Hotline.

“Human trafficking is one of the most heinous crimes imaginable,” McKinlay said. “By maximizing our existing county resources and partnerships, we are going to build upon our ongoing effort to eradicate it.”

This past year, the county became the first in the state to require adult entertainment and massage establishments to display human trafficking public awareness signs in conspicuous places.

In February, the county, in partnership with Homeland Security Investigations, held a training session for operators of adult entertainment establishments to help them recognize, report and rescue potential victims.

"It's becoming a bit more of a creative industry, so we've got to try do more to stop it," McKinlay said.

Local law-enforcement officials have also taken steps recently to combat human trafficking.

In February, a task force involving the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, Catholic Charities, Barry University in northern Miami-Dade County and federal, state and local agencies was formed to address the issue.

PBSO and Catholic Charities will share a \$1.5 million grant during three years from the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate the problem locally.

This month, Palm Beach State Attorney Dave Aron-berg was appointed to the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking.

He was named to represent Florida's prosecutors and is the only member from Palm Beach County. [jwhigham@pbpost.com](mailto:jwhigham@pbpost.com) [Twitter: @JuliusWhigham](https://twitter.com/JuliusWhigham)

## **Lantana man faces latest charge of inhaling chemical**

*By Jorge Milian Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

A Lantana man who has been arrested seven times in the past year for inhaling — or "huffing" — dangerous chemicals was taken into custody Thursday after Lantana police found him with two bottles of a solvent in his possession, according to an arrest report.

Joe David Salinas admitted to police he had toluene, and said he was using it to get high, the report said.

Salinas, 32, is facing a charge of inhaling or ingesting dangerous chemicals and was released from the Palm Beach County Jail on his own recognizance.

Police were called to the Lantana Recreational Center on South Dixie Highway after Salinas allegedly offered marijuana to a woman. They found several paper towels soaked in the solvent.

Records show Salinas has been arrested at least 15 times since 2005 in Palm Beach County for inhalants. [jmilian@pbpost.com](mailto:jmilian@pbpost.com)

## Trump's Palm Beach visits may cool this summer

*By Andy Reid | Staff writer*



ALEX BRANDON/AP

Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach can be seen from the window of Air Force One while flying from Palm Beach International Airport in West Palm Beach.

As balmy spring turns into scorching summer, Palm Beach's migration of Bentleys and Rolls-Royces toward the Hamptons and other northern climates has already begun.

Now many of those who remain are wondering whether the Snowbird in Chief will follow — forgoing frequent visits to his Palm Beach estate until temperatures cool and the town's social season resumes in the fall.

President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago Club, which has become his Weekend White House, typically closes when Palm Beach's population thins over the summer.

The town of Palm Beach is anticipating fewer presidential visits during the next few months — but that doesn't mean Air Force One will stay away all summer.

"I'm not expecting any visits [but] only President Trump would know that," said Kirk Blouin, the town's director of public safety.

Most of Palm Beach's seasonal residents leave town by the end of April. The Palm Beach Civic Association holds its annual meeting and end-of-season celebration today at the Flagler Museum.

It features a speech by the mayor, awards and a mimosa-infused party that is considered the send-off to a season of parties.

"We have already noticed a big change in traffic," association spokesman Mike Brown said. "It's much more dramatic here than in other parts of the county. ... This place, you could almost turn off the traffic lights."

The Secret Service directed questions about the president's summer travel plans to the White House, which didn't respond to requests for comment.

The Trump Organization, which controls Trump properties, also didn't respond to requests for comment.

Trump spent last summer campaigning, including at events in Doral and Sunrise while crisscrossing Florida.

This summer, Trump has northern alternatives to Mar-a-Lago for White House getaways, including his Manhattan penthouse and his Bedford, N.Y., estate.

And outside of Florida, there are 14 other Trump golf courses spread around the world, including two in New Jersey and three in New York — not far from the northeastern destinations where many Palm Beachers spend their summers.

Since taking office, Trump has made seven trips to Palm Beach for weekend stays that included hosting world leaders, meeting with federal officials, playing golf, attracting droves of demonstrators and even authorizing a missile attack.

The presidential visits, and security restrictions that come with them, have snarled local traffic from Palm Beach to Interstate 95, kept boats and beach-goers away from areas near Trump's waterfront estate and hurt nearby aviation businesses — blocked from flying through presidential airspace.

"We are totally grounded," Marian Smith, owner of Palm Beach Flight Training at Lantana Airport said about presidential visits. "We are [usually] very busy during the season on weekends. Not this year."

Businesses closer to Mar-a-Lago have suffered from temporary, Secret Service road closures that they say can keep customers away from Palm Beach boutiques and restaurants normally bustling on the weekends.

Traffic tie-ups during a Trump visit just before Valentine's Day and over the Easter holiday hurt candy sales at Peterbrooke Chocolatier in Palm Beach, according to store manager Julia Artemyeva.

"It was insane to get on and off the island," Artemyeva said about security checkpoints and detours. "People don't even want to bother to come here."

Traffic was particularly bad during Trump's February visits, during the peak of season, which made Palm Beach drivers "pretty ornery," said Patrick Poupart, owner of the Top Cycle bike shop.

"People were honking their horns and yelling. Very uncharacteristic of Palm Beach," he said.

An increased police presence to help direct traffic, as well as more Palm Beachers heading north as the season winds down, have lessened the town's traffic crunch, according to Poupart.

Even with the initial presidential traffic woes, Poupart said business hasn't suffered at his bike shop.

Poupart said he sold a bike to the president's daughter-in-law, Lara Trump (shopping with a Secret Service escort). He also expects the bike rental portion of his business to pick up now that more tourists are stopping by to ask how to get to Mar-a-Lago.

Despite the disruptions presidential security can bring, Palm Beach County business leaders are expecting a long-term economic benefit. They are counting on a tourism boost from the media exposure that comes during presidential visits.

"Certainly it's putting the Palm Beaches on the world stage," said Glenn Jergensen, executive director of the county's Tourist Development Council.

Crowds and media attention aren't always welcome in the Town of Palm Beach, where some of the country's wealthiest residents — living in luxury behind hedges and gates — prize privacy.

Trump's post-inauguration visits started at the peak of Palm Beach's social season, which lasts from about Thanksgiving to just after Easter.

Palm Beach's season features months of glitzy parties at Mar-a-Lago and other resorts that play host to balls and galas raising money for everything from saving the Everglades to fighting cancer.

Trump during his first post-election trip to Palm Beach attended a black-tie fundraiser for the Red Cross held at Mar-a-Lago.

Throughout his trips, Trump has rubbed shoulders with club members at Mar-a-Lago, where membership fees have doubled to \$200,000.

Trump also has hosted gatherings and attended dinners at Trump International Golf Club in West Palm Beach, a short drive from Mar-a-Lago in West Palm Beach.

During one of Trump's early visits, the addition of metal detectors were the tip-off to diners at Trump International that they were getting a presidential visit.

"Then I realized who was coming to dinner," said Sid Dinerstein, former Palm Beach County Republican Party chairman. "We are so blessed that the president of the United States wants to spend so much time here."

The prestige of hosting the president has come with a cost to local taxpayers. The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office estimates that it has cost about \$3.7 million for South Florida law enforcement agencies to help provide security for Trump's visits since his election. County leaders are trying to get the federal government to reimburse those costs.

The Town of Palm Beach's traffic warnings and collaborations with Secret Service and the Sheriff's Office are part of efforts to maintain the "privacy, safety and security" of the president and island residents alike, Palm Beach Mayor Gail Coniglio said.

The difficulty of planning far ahead for presidential visits is that the town doesn't usually know for sure that Trump is coming until close to his actual arrival.

"What the president of the United States does [is] entirely in his purview," Coniglio said. *The Associated Press contributed to this report.* [abreid@sunsentinel.com](mailto:abreid@sunsentinel.com), 561-228-5504 or [Twitter@abreidnews](https://twitter.com/abreidnews)

## Major US airports unprepared for mass panic

*By David Fleshler, Stephen Hobbs and Megan O'Matz Staff writers*

Even before the Fort Lauderdale shooting, mass evacuations at major U.S. airports had exposed gaps in airport security and planning.

At Los Angeles International Airport in 2013, passengers ran from several terminals as a gunman stalked Transportation Security Administration officers, leaving one dead and three wounded, including one passenger.

At John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York City, on Aug. 14, 2016, a crowd watching an Olympic track event generated enough noise to be mistaken for gunfire, with panic spreading to two other terminals.

Two weeks later, in another incident at LAX, a man dressed as Zorro and carrying a plastic sword ignited a similar panic, with erroneous reports of gunfire and passengers running out of terminals.

Although airports have long been concerned with the risk of terrorism, the mass shootings that have plagued the United States in recent years have added a new level of jumpiness, making passengers more likely to mistake loud noises for gunshots.

Those incidents exposed systemic problems that would recur in Fort Lauderdale. In the 2013 Los Angeles shooting, incompatible radio systems made it difficult for the multitude of agencies involved to coordinate their response. At both JFK and LAX, the difficulties were compounded by the absence of a full-time unified command center.

The absence of effective public notification systems prevented the airports from communicating with stranded passengers, which added to passenger anxiety and ran the risk that vital information could not be disseminated.

The airports were ill-prepared to handle the spontaneous evacuations of several terminals, due partly to a lack of employees trained in assisting passengers. A report after the Los Angeles shooting recommended the recruitment of airport staff as



volunteer floor wardens, who would take responsibility for passengers in an evacuation. Fort Lauderdale does not have floor wardens, airport spokesman Greg Meyer told the Sun Sentinel in an email.

Even when a shooting does take place, experts say false reports of additional shooters often follow.

"It happens very, very frequently," said Mike Clumpner, president of Threat Suppression Inc., which provides active-shooter training to first responders.

"Universally when we train responders, we tell them there's a few things they can always expect. One is a report of multiple shooters. You always have a proverbial shooter on the roof."

Law enforcement officers are forced to check on these reports, he said. And even if the reports are unsubstantiated, as they were in Fort Lauderdale, that can delay the all-clear and leave thousands of people in limbo.

"They can't put out anything until their officers come back and say there is no threat here," he said. "And in an airport that obviously takes a lot of time — hundreds of thousands of square feet, who's good, who's bad. It takes quite a while."

A modest effort at reform took place after the 2013 Los Angeles airport shooting. Congress passed the Gerardo Hernandez Airport Security Act of 2015, named for the TSA officer killed in the attack. The law required airports to maintain plans for responding to security incidents, such as active shooters.

But in one respect, the law was toothless. Although it set out the issues that a security plan should address, it stopped short of mandating them, saying only that they "may" be included in the security plan. Among these are recommendations that could have directly addressed some of the deficiencies experienced by passengers in Fort Lauderdale, including a plan for caring for people stranded outside the airport, including those with disabilities; a plan for a unified law enforcement command; and a method for communicating with travelers stranded outside the airport.

"I remember when the act passed, and somebody called me up and said, 'Well what did it do?' and I said, 'Really not much,' " said Jeffrey Price, former director of Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport and lead author of "Practical Aviation Security: Predicting and Preventing Future Threats."

U.S. Rep. Bennie Thompson of Mississippi, the top ranking Democrat on the House Committee on Homeland Security, said the act did not require that airports include specific elements in their security plans because Congress did not want to impose costly requirements on local airports without providing the money to implement them.

"I think the reluctance for a mandate is solely based on the fact there were no resources to support the mandate," he said. "And state and local jurisdictions would

see that as another federal effort to shift a burden on them that some of them feel should be a federal responsibility." [dfleshler@sunsentinel.com](mailto:dfleshler@sunsentinel.com); [shobbs@sunsentinel.com](mailto:shobbs@sunsentinel.com); [momatz@sunsentinel.com](mailto:momatz@sunsentinel.com);

## THEN CHAOS RE-IGNITED THE SHOOTING AT FORT LAUDERDALE AIRPORT WAS LONG OVER

*By Megan O'Matz, David Fleshler and Stephen Hobbs Staff writers*



ALAN DIAZ/AP Thousands of passengers waited on the tarmac at Fort Lauderdale's airport for hours.





PHOTOS BY STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER MIKE STOCKER (TOP, BOTTOM RIGHT); WILFREDO LEE/AP (MIDDLE RIGHT); JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES (MIDDLE LEFT, BOTTOM LEFT)

**7 minutes** What went wrong, as heard in the police radio traffic, and seen in photos and video. [SunSentinel.com/7minutes](http://SunSentinel.com/7minutes)



MARC IRAOLA/COURTESY A plainclothes law enforcement officer brandishing a gun was seen in Terminal 1. Police in civilian clothes confused some passengers, adding to the chaos.





AL DIAZ/AP FILE People wait on the tarmac at Fort Lauderdale's airport for hours after the deadly shooting in Terminal 2 and later reports of more gunmen, with no beverages, food or facilities.



JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES FILE People flee onto the tarmac, trying to escape and seek cover after unconfirmed reports of multiple gunmen.



JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES FILE First responders secure the area outside the airport after the reports of gunfire.



CARLINE JEAN/STAFF FILE PHOTO Sheriff Scott Israel told the Sun Sentinel in a later interview that his focus was "to make sure nobody else died that day."



WILFREDO LEE/AP FILE A man outside the terminal speaks with law enforcement officers after the shooting.

The 12 hours of turmoil that engulfed Fort Lauderdale's airport after a gunman slaughtered five travelers in January was sparked by false reports of gunshots and aggravated by authorities who struggled to manage the crisis.

Security screeners abandoned their posts and ran; a swarm of police officers terrified passengers and jammed the emergency radio system; and airport leaders were unable or unprepared to assist thousands of stranded travelers, a Sun Sentinel investigation found.

It took just 90 seconds for sheriff's deputies to capture the lone gunman in the deadliest airport shooting in U.S. history. But nearly an hour and a half later, the uneasy calm that had returned was shattered when the false-gunfire reports swept through the airport's four terminals.

Some of the earliest reports came from law enforcement officers.

*"Didn't you hear that?" a U.S. Customs officer said as he ran through the airport.*

*"Didn't you hear shots fired?"*

It was one in a series of missteps that sent a controlled tragedy spiraling into pandemonium, the Sun Sentinel found.

Panicked passengers dove for cover in the terminals, sprinted down jetways onto planes and poured out of emergency exits onto airport tarmacs. In the escape from the initial shooter and the later stampede, at least 53 people were taken to the hospital for heat stroke, chest pains, panic attacks, low blood sugar, trouble breathing and broken bones. Some had been trampled.

"I got pushed down to the floor, and everybody was running on my back," said Aurica Skukan, 58, of Hollywood, a Silver Airways customer service agent who was hospitalized after the later panic.

The Sun Sentinel's investigation revealed that deficiencies in training, communications and passenger support made a challenging and terrifying situation worse.

Through documents, interviews with witnesses and an exhaustive review of radio transmissions, reporters were able to piece together an analysis of the day's tumult. They found:

- Law enforcement officers inadvertently fueled the reports of additional gunfire. At least three shouted into their radios that they heard shots long after the gunman had been subdued.
- Transportation Security Administration agents abandoned their posts and ran or hid. It's what they are trained to do — but it shocked passengers who looked to them for help.
- Plainclothes officers panicked travelers who saw people in street clothes running with guns.
- The crush of police who flooded the airport overwhelmed the county's antiquated radio system, hampering communications.
- As the hours wore on, authorities failed to guide or inform terrified passengers about what was happening or when they would get help.
- Evacuation plans were inadequate. Even after the Sheriff's Office declared the airport safe that evening, people were stranded until the early morning. About 700 ended up spending the night at a makeshift rescue center at Port Everglades, some sleeping on a concrete floor.

Destructive as those lapses were, they could have been anticipated, the Sun Sentinel found.

Airport leaders say the mass exodus of an entire airport filled with 12,000 travelers was unprecedented. But as recently as August, at two larger airports, false gunfire reports sent people running onto tarmacs from multiple terminals.



And in 2013, in Los Angeles, panicked passengers and airport employees fled onto the tarmac after a gunman strolled through, squeezing off shots, killing a TSA agent and wounding three others.

Officials who studied those panics predicted that others would occur as travelers grew more fearful of terrorism and mass shootings. Some experts have called for a new model of airport security to deal with this new reality at American airports.

Many key reforms recommended after those events — including guidelines on the handling of evacuations, crowd control, communications and worker training — were either not adequate or not in place in Fort Lauderdale on Jan. 6, nor at most other airports across the country.

Congress had a chance to mandate reforms in 2015, when it passed a law requiring airports to devise active shooter security plans. But while the law recommended plans for evacuations and caring for travelers, none of those steps were required. All might have alleviated the hardships in Fort Lauderdale.

"Nobody knew anything," said Gary Bryant, a Canadian tourist who was stranded on the Fort Lauderdale tarmac and in a hangar for more than 10 hours.

"These are enormous facilities that are designed to funnel thousands of people through them," he said in an interview. "Yet nobody had any idea what they were doing. Somebody's got to be responsible for this."

No one has taken responsibility yet. The TSA says its employees are trained to run or hide in active shooter situations and only as a last resort fight off an attacker. The county government, which operates the airport, says Broward Sheriff Scott Israel was in charge.

Israel told the Sun Sentinel his focus was "to make sure nobody else died that day." Law enforcement's primary focus was making sure no other shooters lurked in the airport, he said.

"Everything was done excellently," Israel said, although he acknowledged that "quite a lot of confusion" took place. He described the situation as "controlled chaos."

### **From calm to crisis**

The terror unleashed on Jan. 6 began when a mentally disturbed man, Esteban Santiago, 27, bought a one-way ticket from Anchorage to Fort Lauderdale. He checked just one bag: a case carrying a semiautomatic handgun and two magazines of 9 mm bullets.

Upon arrival in Terminal 2 at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, he collected the case from a baggage claim carousel, went into a restroom to load the gun and returned to the baggage claim area. There, in clear view of a security camera, he coolly started firing, killing five passengers and wounding six before throwing down his gun and lying on the floor in surrender about 1 p.m.

Law enforcement officers secured the crime scene and herded hundreds of passengers displaced by the shooting in Terminal 2. In the airport's three other terminals, it remained business as usual, as people watched accounts of the shooting on TV but remained calm.

Then, at 2:20 p.m., a report of additional gunshots crackled over a county fire rescue radio. Within 40 seconds, another radio transmission discounted the report as false, but the possibility of another shooter had already spread and more reports of gunfire quickly followed.

Radio transmissions archived by the audio streaming website Broadcastify show how officers contributed to the unsubstantiated reports of gunshots as people fled for safety. Like so many of the travelers that day, police were convinced they heard gunfire.

*"I heard the shooting from inside the garage. Across from Terminal 4," an officer said at 2:23 p.m. over a police radio.*

*"Shots fired, shots fired. Terminal 4," an officer said at 2:25 p.m., with screaming in the background.*

*"Terminal 1. Shots fired," another officer said seconds later.*

*"Active shooter, 50 Terminal Drive, Southwest Airlines," a dispatcher reported.*

Within seven minutes, terrified passengers and employees in all four terminals were on the run.

At 2:27 p.m., the Broward Sheriff's Office put out a call for backup, summoning deputies from all regions of the county.

*"Strip out the districts. Send everybody to the airport."*

What began as a tragic shooting now appeared to be a full-blown disaster.

*"There's multiple shots fired, multiple shooters, multiple locations," a dispatcher reported at 2:30 p.m.*

Israel said concerns escalated when a woman near Terminal 1 was found on the ground bleeding, though it turned out she had been bitten by a police dog as she dove into a sheriff's van for cover.

A Sun Sentinel survey determined that at least 840 officers from local, state and federal agencies responded to the airport that day. The number is surely conservative; it does not include personnel from multiple departments and agencies such as the FBI that refused to say how many people they sent.

The airport's security director, Frank Capello, said he was told that as many as 2,400 officers answered the sheriff's call. He did not have specifics or confirmation, and the Sheriff's Office would not comment. If true, that number would be four times as many as responded to the 2013 Los Angeles airport shooting.

The crush of law enforcement officers overloaded the county's aged public safety radio system, delaying communications and keeping some officers from accessing it, said Jose DeZayas, who manages the county's system. Some police could hear but not talk.

Armed officers in civilian clothes frightened Fort Lauderdale travelers who thought they might be gunmen.

Frank Meyers of Columbus, Ohio, a traveler in Terminal 1, told the Sun Sentinel that he saw a man with a pistol, in civilian clothes, running toward his daughter. Although someone quickly said the man was a police officer, Meyers said, "He scared the hell out of everybody."

Another traveler posted video online of a man in a sweatshirt, jeans, ball cap and backpack, running in a terminal, gun in hand. The Broward Sheriff's Office told the Sun Sentinel the man on the video is a law enforcement officer. One witness told the Sun Sentinel he had a badge around his neck. Seen from behind in the video, he is not recognizable as law enforcement.

Even police seemed confused. Police surrounded a man in a white T-shirt who may have been one of their own. They noted on the radio that he "possibly has a badge." Confusion and misinformation also arose after the shooting at Los Angeles International Airport in 2013. Congressional representatives blamed it on delays in establishing a single command post, which is essential to coordination and communication in a crisis.

U.S. Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, whose district includes the Fort Lauderdale airport, said the same problem occurred here.

While the initial chaos unfolded, the airport lacked a single command center, leaving uncoordinated responses from police and firefighters, she said. "When they all began functioning out of the airport's Emergency Operations Center, and actually went there and activated it," she said, "they were coordinating more."

Wasserman Schultz said she's heard from police and rescue workers nationally that they need "better coordination, better interoperability, better ability to communicate while an event is unfolding."

After a shooting scare at John F. Kennedy International Airport in August, state and federal experts found that police may have worsened the situation by drawing their weapons. And TSA agents, seeing police with guns drawn, began to run, stoking fear among the public.

### **'TSA skedaddled'**

Passengers in Fort Lauderdale said they were surprised by how TSA officers reacted to reports of gunshots.

"TSA skedaddled," said Meyers, the Ohio man. "All the uniformed people in there ran. They all ran just like everybody else."

A Maryland couple told the county that TSA and airport security personnel "pushed people aside." A BritishColumbia couple, Cam and Linda Vallee, said a TSA worker used their daughter's back "as a stepping stool to get over her and ahead of the screaming crowd."

TSA spokeswoman Sari Koshetz said the agency investigated two complaints and, after reviewing airport surveillance video, found them to be baseless.

She said some TSA agents risked their own safety to help passengers. "TSA employees — like so many others that day — were heroic in their efforts to protect and shelter others," she said.

TSA agents are not law enforcement officers. They are unarmed, and if there's an active shooter nearby, they are taught to run and hide. Only as a last resort are they supposed to fight.

Charity Wilson, legislative representative for the American Federation of Government Employees, which represents TSA workers nationwide, said training is insufficient.

"They should have a level of training that includes how to interact with others at the airport, whether law enforcement or the general public," she said.

Like TSA agents, airport workers in Fort Lauderdale are instructed how to take care of themselves, not how to help travelers.

To get their security badges, airport workers must watch a video, "Surviving an Active Shooter," which is not specific to airports. It is nine minutes of grisly violence, with men armed with pistols or shotguns shooting people at a college and a workplace storage area.

The training is inadequate, said Sharon Pringle, who works at the airport's Delta Sky Club and as a checkpoint agent in front of the security screening area.

"That video is nothing," she said. "They give you little tips, but it's not like a literal training."

On Jan. 6, she was in the Delta Sky Club at Terminal 2 when she heard the screams from the baggage area from the actual shooting. She huddled with a crowd being guarded by a sheriff's deputy.

As the hours stretched on, passengers kept asking her what was happening, assuming from her uniform and airport security badge that she had information. But she had nothing to tell them.

"We, the airport workers, are in many ways responsible for these passengers' lives," she said. "I feel training topics should at least include procedures in how to respond to emergencies, like instructions on how to assist the elderly and the disabled passengers."

Helene O'Brien, state director of the Service Employees International Union that represents airport workers, said employees didn't know what to tell passengers who turned to anyone in uniform for help.

"There was just mass confusion and panic after the mythical second shooting," O'Brien said.

"We've spoken to workers. None of them have been through any significant drills or training for what to do."

Capello, the airport security director, disagreed that workers were unprepared. "I can assure you that the employees that work here at Fort Lauderdale airport are very aware of what's going to happen after, or during, an active shooter event at this airport. There should be no surprise to anyone what occurred that day here."

The airport conducts annual training exercises in which law enforcers, airport leaders, airline representatives and the TSA sit at a table and role-play how to respond in emergencies. The 2015 exercise dealt specifically with what to do after a shooter has been "neutralized," but according to meeting minutes, the exercise did not envision later reports of gunfire and passengers spontaneously running from every terminal.

"Almost every event has reports of more than one shooter, even though we see almost all the events are single shooters," said Pete Blair, a professor of criminal justice at Texas State University.

Capello said the airport offers voluntary security awareness training in addition to the video Pringle saw, and the instructions differ based on a person's role in an emergency — from law enforcement to paramedics to airline ticket takers.

"You don't teach the barista at Starbucks how to take out an active shooter."

### **'No water, no sitting, no restrooms'**

At 3:26 p.m., 2½ hours after the actual shooting and one hour after the false reports of gunshots began to erupt, Sheriff Israel went on TV to say that investigators had found no other shooters or shots fired, but people could not leave the airport.

"They'll be no movement in or about the airport until our SWAT teams give me real-time information that it's safe. Right now, as we're talking, this scene is considered fluid and active."

Told little of what was going on, passengers remained on sidewalks, on the tarmac and on planes for hours more.

Airline attendants and ground crews gave out bottled water sporadically. Seating was sparse.



**MIKE STOCKER/STAFF FILE PHOTO** Passengers who returned to the airport the day after the shooting wait in line at Terminal 4 to resume their travel.



**JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGESFILE** Traffic in and around the airport was stopped shortly after the shooting in Terminal 2.

"No water, no sitting, no restrooms," said Philip Dubois, chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, who wrote to the Broward County Commission to complain after he and his wife fled Terminal 3 and found themselves on the tarmac for hours. "I think the most important thing was that there was just no information. Nobody really was there to say, 'Folks, for a while you'll be here, then you'll be there.' Or, 'We've had this happen at the airport, and we've been asked by the FBI to keep you all here.' Nothing like that."

After the shooting, a message was broadcast on the public address system in Terminal 2: "There has been a report of an emergency. Proceed calmly to the nearest exit and leave the building immediately." An alarm sounded as pandemonium broke out.

But passengers said they were left in the dark for most of the day after that. Many wondered why the airport did not use microphones or bullhorns after reports of additional shots swept through all four terminals.

Frank Biancucci, of Ontario, Canada, a retired deputy fire chief, spent seven hours on the tarmac and five more on a sidewalk. He wrote to the county frustrated about the



lack of information about security on the tarmac, plans for leaving the airport and ways to obtain food and water.

"The lunacy of this is that in our area there were thousands of people that desperately wanted information on what was happening, and I can tell you from the time that we were on the tarmac, a collective voice of leadership or direction was absent."

For some, this period was an especially agonizing and painful wait. Calls to 911 for medical help included a 2-year-old described as lethargic, a heart patient with no medication, an elderly woman suffering from Parkinson's disease in distress, an 8-year-old vomiting, and an 88-year-old woman who had collapsed.

Airport spokesman Greg Meyer said information was limited deliberately. "We didn't know who the good guys were and who the bad guys were," he said.

Authorities said they could not release people from the airport sooner because they were not sure whether an accomplice to accused shooter Santiago was quietly milling around or trying to escape detection, on the tarmac or elsewhere.

Some passengers had their pictures taken, their ID cards scrutinized, police reports say. Police detained others for questioning, patted them down, drew guns on them. Assistant County Administrator Alan Cohen said airport managers were not in charge and could not release people from the airport if they wanted to.

"The sheriff was the incident commander," he said. "He was in control of everything going on with the passengers."

Cohen said he was not trying to deflect blame but emergency protocol dictates that in a crime scene, the sheriff is in charge. "The airport personnel could not do anything without the sheriff giving direction," he said.

Meyer, the airport spokesman, said law enforcement prevented airport personnel from moving about the airfield to distribute provisions to passengers. "We were told to shelter in place until law enforcement searched the entire airport."

He said it was not feasible for the airport's team to provide water and food to passengers stranded on the tarmac with reports of an active threat.

Israel told the Sun Sentinel that, with the possibility of another gunman, he didn't want anyone to be shot while bringing water to passengers. "We didn't want people moving."

It's not clear what role if any the FBI played in locking down the airport, but Israel said once federal authorities thought terrorism might be involved, the FBI took command. He said he did not remember what time that occurred, and the FBI would not comment.

The Red Cross tried to reach passengers with food and water but were initially prevented from entering the airport by law enforcement officials. They were allowed

in later, but only to areas that had been cleared, according to a Red Cross spokesman.

Spokesman Roberto Baltodano declined to elaborate, including when the Red Cross got aid to passengers, and directed questions to the Sheriff's Office.

Capello, the airport security chief, said the actions taken by officials Jan. 6 were done "to protect the public and employees at this airport."

What occurred Jan. 6, he said, was a self-evacuation beyond the airport's control.

"I'm very comfortable with the decisions that were made that day," Capello said.

Some airport security experts agree that the panic in Fort Lauderdale would have been unmanageable.

"We'd all like to think it's going to be some orderly evacuation like we all learned in elementary school when the fire alarm went off," said Jeffrey Price, a former director at Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport and lead author of "Practical Aviation Security: Predicting and Preventing Future Threats."

"It's hard to direct a bunch of people who are running for their lives and give them evacuation orders when they're trampling over you and through any exit door they can find."

### **Gridlock**

The Broward Sheriff's Office did not give the all-clear until just before 7 p.m., freeing passengers to leave the airport.

Fort Lauderdale airport policies call for an organized, supervised exit.

An evacuation plan, obtained by the Sun Sentinel through a public records request, spells out the responsibilities of the airport, airlines and Sheriff's Office after an emergency such as a fire, explosion or imminent threat. It details where personnel should report and who should direct passengers.

Fort Lauderdale airport officials have refused to release a separate plan, which addresses active shooter situations, citing security concerns.

The evacuation plan says after a threat is cleared, TSA employees are to be allowed back into the building first, followed by airlines and concessions workers and then customers.

The keys to a successful evacuation, the plan says, are remaining calm, leading people to safety and maintaining an orderly exit from the airport.

The evacuation after the all-clear on Jan. 6 was anything but orderly.

Roads around the airport had been shut down for hours, and dozens of buses sent to take people to a relief center set up at Port Everglades got stuck in traffic and needed police escorts to get through.

It took the rest of the night to move about 7,000 passengers to the port, where most arranged for rides to hotels or their homes with family, friends and transportation services, said airport spokesman Allan Siegel.

That traffic further clogged roads around the port. "We were gridlocked," said Broward Mayor Barbara Sharief.

The logjam left Darla and James Eberly, of Ohio, stranded on a plane on the tarmac for about six hours before they were let into the airport. After going to baggage claim, they joined thousands of other people on a curb waiting for buses.

They waited there for five more hours, she said.

Some exhausted people were pushing each other and running in front of full buses to stop them as they were driving by, she said. "It was getting crazy and you couldn't get answers from anybody."

Once at the port, Eberly, who has multiple sclerosis, was given a bottle of water, a bag of chips, a pillow and blanket. She slept on the floor.

In an interview with the Sun Sentinel, she said the lack of sleep and food aggravated her illness.

"This has been a costly, frustrating experience," she said, "and the only way I can describe it is we felt like we were treated like criminals and held like hostages."

The last buses filled with passengers didn't leave the airport until about 1 a.m., 12 hours after Santiago had been taken into custody.

*Staff writers Brooke*

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Sun Sentinel investigates Sun Sentinel investigates Sun Sentinel investigates

*"These are enormous facilities that are designed to funnel thousands of people through them. Yet nobody had any idea what they were doing. Somebody's got to be responsible for this." Gary Bryant, a Canadian tourist*

## **HOW THE SUN SENTINEL INVESTIGATED**

The image was striking: thousands of passengers running across the tarmac at Fort Lauderdale airport.

Why did the panic unfold nearly 90 minutes after a gunman was in custody?

How well did authorities handle the evacuation of thousands of passengers and workers?

The Sun Sentinel's three-month investigation into the 12 hours of turmoil that followed the Jan. 6 shooting relied on local, state and federal public records, emergency radio recordings and the use of social media to track down witnesses. Reporters had to overcome significant issues to get the story. The FBI and Broward Sheriff's Office declined many of the newspaper's requests for information, citing the federal case against airport shooting suspect Esteban Santiago and a pending Sheriff's Office report assessing the department's response.

To piece together the events, Sun Sentinel reporters reviewed nearly 26 hours of county police and fire rescue radio communications and more than 100 calls to 911. They used audio archived by the website Broadcastify, an online communications streaming service, after the Sheriff's Office blocked the newspaper's request for law enforcement radio transmissions, saying the FBI had not authorized their release. Reporters reviewed emails and letters to Broward County commissioners, Airport Director Mark Gale and Florida Gov. Rick Scott; Fort Lauderdale airport security and training documents; and reports analyzing mass panics at other airports.

The Sheriff's Office would not say how many law enforcement officers responded to the airport that day, so reporters contacted 50 federal, state and local law enforcement agencies directly and used police reports to fill in gaps when some refused.

Reporters also scoured social media accounts, such as Face-book, Instagram and Twitter, to track down witnesses and video. Reporters conducted more than 100 interviews with passengers, airport employees on duty that day, union representatives, former airport officials, and experts on airport security and the handling of active-shooter situations.

# Want to prevent child abuse? Strengthen Florida's families

*By Jennifer Ohlsen*



Parenting is an awesome responsibility and a tremendous privilege. It's rewarding to watch our children learn, grow and thrive. Most parents work hard to give their children the best opportunities and ensure they feel safe and loved.

But parenting can be a tough job, even under the best of circumstances. Tension and conflict often increase when parents encounter stressful circumstances such as raising children alone, facing unemployment or homelessness, or suffering from substance addiction or poor mental health. Sometimes parents need extra help to create loving homes where children can thrive.

April is recognized in Florida and throughout the nation as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Governor Rick and first lady Scott, state legislators, community leaders, child welfare professionals and child advocates participate in activities and outreach to share the message that everyone plays a role in preventing child abuse and neglect.

This is a good time to assess the well-being of the children around us and consider our efforts to help children and their families succeed. A community can take action to prevent child abuse and neglect by supporting activities that strengthen families. One community-based program that successfully strengthens families while preventing child abuse and neglect is Healthy Families Florida.

In 1998, the Florida Legislature created Healthy Families Florida, a voluntary program for expectant parents and parents of newborns experiencing stressful life situations.

Family support workers are invited into families' homes and provide guidance on parenting techniques, independent living skills and healthy child development. Parents learn to recognize and respond to their babies' developmental needs, use positive discipline techniques and cope with the stress of parenting.

Families in all 67 Florida counties have access to Healthy Families Florida services.

Last year more than 17,400 children in 9,600 families benefited from the program.

Backed by decades of research and founded on strict quality standards, the program has proven to be highly successful in preventing child abuse and neglect. In fact, 98 percent of children are free of abuse and neglect while enrolled in Healthy Families

Florida and 95 percent remain free of abuse and neglect three years following completion of the program.

Building on these successful outcomes for families, we continuously seek ways to improve and offer more assistance. Targeted Healthy Families sites now offer mental health services and coordinate behavioral health care for families experiencing substance abuse, domestic violence, mental health concerns or other challenges threatening their ability to succeed.

Investing in programs proven to prevent child abuse and neglect is far less costly than treating the consequences of child abuse after it occurs. The annual cost of providing services in response to child abuse — child welfare, hospitalization, juvenile justice and special education — exceeds \$105,000 per child, whereas Healthy Families effectively prevents child abuse and neglect for an average of \$2,100 per child. Prevention services are a sound investment in our families that pays dividends for generations.

Everyone can take action to prevent child abuse and neglect. To find out how you can help, contact the Healthy Families program in your community. Find your local contact at [www.healthyfamiliesfla.org](http://www.healthyfamiliesfla.org).

*Jennifer Ohlsen is the executive director of Healthy Families Florida, based in Tallahassee.*

Prevention services are a sound investment in our families that pays dividends for generations.

## Why some caregivers kill Needs of ailing spouse too much to bear *By Brooke Baitinger Staff writer*



Kruspe

### Where to find help

- Alzheimer's Association, Alzheimer's and Dementia Caregiver Center 24/7 Helpline: 800-272-3900 or [alz.org/care](http://alz.org/care) • Alzheimer's Community Care: 561-683-2700; 24/7 Crisis Line: 800-394-1771 or [alzcare.org](http://alzcare.org)
- Alzheimer's Care Resource Center: 877-760-9199; 24/7 Helpline: 855-476-7600 or [alzheimerscareresourcecenter.com](http://alzheimerscareresourcecenter.com)



- Alzheimer's Foundation of America: 866-232-8484 or [alzfdn.org](http://alzfdn.org)
- Alzheimer's Disease Education and Referral Center: 800-438-4380 or [nia.nih.gov/alzheimers](http://nia.nih.gov/alzheimers)

Caregivers who kill their ill spouses often don't do so out of love, experts say. They may be reluctant to seek help for themselves, although they're utterly drained by the demands of tending to their significant others.

Despair drives them to kill, the experts say.

The killings aren't "a malicious, intentional act of hurting another human being," said Donna Cohen, a professor at the University of South Florida who has studied family caregiving, dementia, mercy killings and murder-suicide pacts. "It's done out of depression and desperation."

Caregiver killings are uncommon, experts say. South Florida saw its most recent case on March 27 when, according to police, a Lake Worth man killed his wife who was stricken with dementia.

Stephen Kruspe signed Pamela, his wife of 42 years, out of her assisted-living facility in Boynton Beach to take her to dinner on a Monday afternoon, police said. Less than three hours later, he shot her in the chest and called 911, police said.

He told a dispatcher she "was beyond help," according to police records.

While no agency keeps statistics, at least a dozen such caregiver-killing cases have happened statewide in the past seven years, according to Cohen, who recently completed a study on family caregiver homicides.

Kruspe, 62, a father of three who served in the U.S. Marine Corps and a former schoolteacher in Broward, remains in jail without bond on a first-degree murder charge.

Before the shooting, he was being treated for symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, according to his attorney, Jonathan Kaplan.

"He's got what I perceive on a professional level [to be] a lot of mental-health issues," he said. "Certainly from the [shooting], but also from his combat."

Kruspe is currently receiving treatment in a mental health unit, he said.

He also has received dozens of supportive emails from past ROTC students he taught during his seven years as a teacher in Deerfield Beach and from former Marines who served with him, Kaplan said.

But Kruspe can't talk to or see his three children, after a judge ordered he have no contact with any descendants of Pamela Kruspe.

"He's very old school in the sense that morality is black-and-white to him, but now he's entered this gray area that's foreign to him," Kaplan said. "That adds to his anxiety. It's a difficult situation all around."

Some defendants in caregiver-killings once had regimented lifestyles from their backgrounds in the military or law enforcement service, Cohen said.

"They're used to order and control," she said. "They sometimes feel a sense of responsibility over the patient and a desire to control the situation that has overwhelmed them."

Women in their 60s are about twice as likely as men to develop dementia-related diseases, so men often end up in the role of caregiving, according to the Alzheimer's Association, an organization specializing in Alzheimer's care, support and research. And because this extra responsibility is new to the caregivers, they're overwhelmed by it, Cohen said.

Men also tend to isolate themselves and assume sole responsibility over a problem, unlike women, who are more likely to reach out for help from friends or family, she said.

The Kruspes' next-door neighbor, Jaclyn Tittsworth, said the couple were inseparable. "They were crazy about each other," she said. "They'd run together, rode their bikes together. If one was at the mailbox, the other was at the end of the driveway, waiting."

Cohen's study examined 116 cases of family-caregiver homicides across the U.S. between 2010 and 2015. One finding: About two-thirds of caregivers who kill their spouses subsequently kill themselves.

In 2013, Roy Boldt, 81, walked into a Tequesta assisted-living facility and shot and killed his wife, Virginia, before turning the gun on himself. Both were ill and Virginia had reportedly begun a descent into dementia.

Among the other cases in Florida:

- In Ormond Beach in 2014, John Poucher, 89, called 911 to alert police that he had killed his wife, 86-year-old Barbara Poucher, and that she had Alzheimer's. When deputies arrived at their home, both had died of gunshot wounds.
- In Orange City in 2013, Gary Bowers, 75, checked his 83-year-old wife, Mary Bowers, into an assisted-living facility. She had Alzheimer's, and he was ill and worried about being able to care for her. He reportedly called multiple times a day to check on her, and later that month he shot her in the head and then killed himself.
- In Port Orange in 2003, James Wilson, 66, killed his wife, Luzie Wilson, 67, and then turned the gun on himself in their home. Both suffered health problems, said their son, and a stroke had taken much of Luzie Wilson's memory.

Michael Brannon has worked on caregiver homicide-suicide cases in his 20 years as a forensic psychologist. He also serves on the Broward County Guardianship Association, where he helps caregivers and dementia patients sort out legal matters between families.

He has seen stressed caregivers at their wits' end, and he has seen families torn apart by the pressure, he said.

"They feel trapped," he said. "They feel killing their spouse is the most compassionate thing they can do for them, and killing themselves is the only way out because they're a burden to the family."

It's rarely done out of anger or an unwillingness to care for them, he said, but rather out of a rationalization that their loved one will no longer be in pain. Those who don't kill themselves are willing to give up everything and face whatever consequences arise from their decision, he said.

Caregivers who live to face a trial typically are convicted of second-degree murder and may be sentenced to life in prison, Cohen said.

That's what happened in the case of Roswell Gilbert, who in 1985 shot and killed his wife of 51 years, Emily Gilbert, in their Lauderdale-by-the-Sea home. Emily had Alzheimer's and osteoporosis, and Gilbert said he did what he needed to do to relieve her of her pain.

He was sentenced to life in prison, with a minimum of 25 years on a first-degree murder charge, which the 75-year-old may not have outlived. He spent 5 1/2 years in a Lake Butler prison before he was granted clemency in 1990 by then-Gov. Bob Martinez; his sentence was commuted the same year.

Kelly Hancock, the former prosecutor on the case, met with Gilbert in prison, and saw his failing health. He then argued Gilbert's clemency.

"It was a very harsh sentence," Hancock said.

Throughout Gilbert's trial and after his release, he remained steadfast that shooting his wife was the most merciful way to deal with her anguish, and the only option open to him then.

"I think about it a lot, and I ask myself, what else could I have done?" he said in a December 1993 interview at the same Sea Ranch Lakes condominium that he once shared with his wife. "It kept getting worse," Gilbert recalled at the time. "Finally, at the end, she just fell apart. So I committed the indiscretion of killing her."

In a 1990 interview, he said he did have some regret. "I shouldn't have killed my wife, now I know that," Gilbert said at the time. "I loved her dearly. I truly did."

Gilbert died four years after he was pardoned, at age 85.

Caregiver-killing cases must be looked at on a case-by-case basis, because they're so nuanced, Hancock said.

Hancock, who was in his 30s during Gilbert's trial, said he now knows how difficult it is to see a loved one in the grip of dementia. In the years since the trial, Hancock said he has had family members who developed dementia.

"As life goes on, you realize how sad and tragic some of these diseases can be, not only for the victim, but more importantly for the family that goes through it." But killing is the wrong choice, he said. "It doesn't justify a person to take another's life," he said.

There are other options for desperate caregivers, said Mary Barnes, president of the Alzheimer's Community Care Agency in West Palm Beach.

Family caregivers must have a plan in place before the disease progresses, she said. Because the disease can last between 10 and 20 years, reaching out to doctors or legal professionals early can solidify financial and medical plans before the caregiver becomes overwhelmed, she said.

Asking for help, whether it's asking a doctor or a family member or friend, can mean an earlier diagnosis.

Going to support groups also is tremendously helpful, she said.

Even neighbors or a couple's children can help by asking caregivers if they've ever thought about their spouse's death, or about killing them. Most of the time, they have but don't feel they can share that information, she said.

"You can't dismiss it as the musings of a sad caregiver," she said. "A conversation can make the difference between life and death."

**From:** [Anderson, Cassandra L](#)  
**Subject:** News Clips 4/30/2017  
**Date:** Monday, May 01, 2017 3:22:33 PM  
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## **News Clip 4/30/2017**

### **Palm Beach Post**

# **Slain duo were known as inseparable friends**

## **Young men were shot in parking lot of Greenacres park.**

*By Jorge Milian Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Charlene Makarits speaks Friday at the vigil where her son Matthew and his friend Marcus Stukes were killed a day earlier. PHOTOS BY RICHARD GRAULICH / THE PALM BEACH POST



Greenacres City Council Member Lisa Rivera (left) hugs Marcus Stuke's aunt, Takesha Harrell, during Friday's vigil.

**GREENACRES** — Matthew Makarits and Marcus Stukes became inseparable friends at John I. Leonard High School. If you saw one, you saw the other.



On Thursday afternoon, the two young men died together after they were shot to death in a parking lot at Bowman Park on Haverhill Road in Greenacres. A vigil in honor of Makarits and Stukes was held Friday night at the very spot where they were killed.

"Matt loved his cars and Marcus was his co-pilot," Charlene Makarits, Matthew's mom, said to about 50 or 60 people at the vigil. "You can't remember one without the other. They were brothers."

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office said Friday that the men were targeted. Charlene Makarits said she's been told that surveillance cameras around the park were operating and said she was confident the "cowards" who murdered her son and Stukes will be found.

Makarits, 22, and Stukes, 21, may have been as close as twins, but family and friends say they were completely different.

Makarits, who was studying to become a certified mechanic, did most of the talking for the two and was full of energy with a brash streak. His Facebook page is littered with poses depicting gang signs, but his mother said that was just a front.

"He tried to create a persona, but that wasn't him," Charlene Makarits said. "Behind all that was a deep, sensitive human being."

Stukes was quiet and perpetually calm.

"He was a good child," said Takesha Harrell, Stukes' aunt. "It's hard to believe this happened. Just in the wrong place at the wrong time."

Though no one had been arrested as of Saturday evening, the Sheriff's Office stressed there is no immediate threat to the public.

Authorities have not released any information about either a suspect or a motive in the slayings.

The deaths were the the first homicides in Greenacres since Nov. 19, 2015, when two men were stabbed in their home on Chickasaw Circle.

On Thursday Lisa Rivera, the Greenacres city councilwoman for the district that includes Bowman Park, said the neighborhood of single-story duplexes on cul-de-sacs north of Lake Worth Road has for years dealt with crime, trash, debris and code violations. Other council members cited vandalism and fights at the park.

"Nothing has changed," Rivera told The Palm Beach Post. [jmilian@pbpost.com](mailto:jmilian@pbpost.com)

**Twitter: @jorgemilian1** Palm Beach Post staff writer Olivia Hitchcock contributed to this story.




## POST WATCHDOG OPIOID CRISIS

# Opioid protesters will make point with photographs Officials at Monday workshops will see faces of the fallen.

*By Joe Capozzi Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

**Rally to SAVE LIVES!**

**PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY!**



**Monday – May 1, 2017**

**1:00-3:00 PM**

**Location:** In front of the WPB Police Department | 600 Banyan Blvd. | West Palm Beach

*Prior to Governor Rick Scott's Opioid "Listening" Tour/Workshop that begins at 3:00PM*

**Location:** WPB Police Station | 600 Banyan Blvd. | West Palm Beach | Community Room

Stay on the sidewalk, no bullhorns, park in "public" street parking or garage, do not block pedestrian/patient access, do not block traffic. Bring your signs, food/water supply.

**Please join us! Southeast Florida Recovery Advocates (SEFRA)**

For information: 564-629-5264 | 305-978-2207 | 703-586-9084

Organizers of a rally calling for action to combat the state's opioid crisis posted this notice on Facebook spelling out the demonstration's time and place. Protesters have called for Gov. Rick Scott to declare a public health emergency. CONTRIBUTED

WEST PALM BEACH — If protesters get their way, state officials arriving in West Palm Beach on Monday to get ideas for fighting the opioid crisis will walk past dozens of names and faces of people who have died in the epidemic.

"We want to make this epidemic personal," said Maureen Mulroy Kielian, a recovery advocate and leader of Southeast Florida Recovery Advocates.

"We want the visual to show that these are human lives, and every day that we talk, we lose more. That is not acceptable."

The opioid workshop, the first of four sessions this week in Florida organized by Gov. Rick Scott and Attorney General Pam Bondi, will start at 3 p.m. at the West Palm Beach Police Department and is scheduled to last 90 minutes.

But Scott and Bondi are not scheduled to attend the workshops, which continue Tuesday in Manatee and Orange counties and on Wednesday in Duval County.

Some local recovery advocates have criticized the idea of the “listening tours,” saying the workshops are not the most effective response to an epidemic that killed nearly 600 in Palm Beach County last year and more than 2,500 Floridians in 2015.

They point out that local leaders have already held workshops over the past year and many local officials — from Chief Circuit Judge Jeffrey Colbath to the Palm Beach County Commission — have sent letters asking Scott to declare a public health emergency.

So, they’re planning to make their statement with photographs.

At 1 p.m. Monday, they plan to gather at the corner of Banyan Boulevard and Rosemary Avenue near the police station’s main entrance. They say they will hold banners and poster-board displays showing names and faces of local people who have died of opioid overdoses.

And they hope state officials will walk through the displays on their way in to the police station.

“We are their welcoming committee,” said Katrin O’Leary, an addiction treatment advocate. She said the goal of the display is to “definitely try and ruffle some feathers. We are beyond talking. We need some solutions.”

Two top Cabinet officials will attend Monday’s workshop: Dr. Celeste Philip, Florida’s surgeon general; and Mike Carroll, secretary of the Department of Children and Families. Representing the Florida Department of Law Enforcement will be Assistant Commissioner Don Ladner.

“Community workshops will provide important opportunities for DCF, DOH and FDLE to directly hear the specific needs of affected communities as well as provide information on existing resources, best practices and grant opportunities,” Carroll said in an email to local officials this month.

Kielian said she is hoping dozens of families who have lost relatives and friends to overdoses will bring photographs to the protest and speak at the workshop.

“We need to show them that this is real. These are real people. These are lives that apparently our state officials still do not consider as a health crisis or emergency,” she said.

“We need urgency. We are tired of talking. We need action from our elected officials, particularly from the Department of Health and the surgeon general.”

Philip will be accompanied by Dr. Alina Alonso, director of the Palm Beach County Health Department, and Becki Poston, staff director of the Statewide Drug Policy Advisory Council.

Other DCF officials who will attend: Assistant Secretary for Substance Abuse and Mental Health John Bryant; Overdose Prevention Coordinator Amanda Muller;

Southeast Region Substance Abuse and Mental Health Director Valerie Allen; and Circuit 15 Community Development Administrator Clay Walker.

Troy Walker, special agent in charge of the FDLE's southern region, is also scheduled to attend.

Protest organizers plan to meet Sunday to create the banners and poster-board displays.

"We are going to give a visual of the human injustices that continue to happen within the addiction arena, from the ongoing narcotic overprescribing to the back-end sober home crisis, both of which are orchestrated and controlled by Florida-licensed physicians," Kielian said. [jcapozzi@pbpost.com](mailto:jcapozzi@pbpost.com) Twitter: [@jcapozzipbpost](https://twitter.com/jcapozzipbpost)

## POST IN-DEPTH PRESIDENT TRUMP 100 DAYS

# 19 of Trump's first 100 were Fla. days

**President has shunned Camp David, where his predecessors decompressed, for Mar-a-Lago estate.**

*By George Bennett Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



President Donald Trump waves April 16 as he travels down Southern Boulevard to Palm Beach International Airport after spending Easter weekend in Palm Beach. ALLEN EYESTONE / THE PALM BEACH POST





Robert Kraft (center), owner of the New England Patriots, talks April 7 with President Donald Trump at the Mar-a-Lago Club. Trump has spent 19 of his first 100 days traveling to or staying in Florida. SHANNON DONNELLY / PALM BEACH DAILY NEWS



President Trump and his national security team meet April 6 at Mar-a-Lago as Trump receives a briefing on the missile strike he ordered on a Syrian airbase. The mixing of work and relaxation is typical for commanders-in-chiefs. "A president must always be on the job," said U.S. Naval Academy professor Brendan Doherty. WHITE HOUSE / VIA AP

## YOUR LOCAL TRUMP REPORTER



Post veteran politics reporter George Bennett has covered President Donald Trump on the campaign trail, at his inauguration, in Palm Beach and, most recently, at the NRA convention in Atlanta. Follow Bennett at [myPalmBeachPost.com](http://myPalmBeachPost.com), [PostonPolitics.com](http://PostonPolitics.com) and on Twitter @gbennettpost.

PALM BEACH — President Donald Trump has put a distinctive Florida stamp on his first 100 days in office by making seven trips to his Mar-a-Lago estate that have mixed golf, statecraft and controversy.

Trump has spent more time on presidential getaways than Barack Obama did in his first 100 days but not as much time away from Washington as George W. Bush did at the beginning of his presidency. Much of the time Bush and Obama spent away from the White House in their first 100 days was at Camp David, the presidential retreat in Maryland that's a short helicopter ride from Washington. Trump has yet to visit Camp David.

Presidents routinely take breaks from Washington, but University of Virginia political scientist Larry Sabato says Trump's early treks to Florida are different.

"Here's what's unusual about it — it's that he's had such a concentrated period of travel in total during the first 100 days. Most presidents stick very close to the White House during that time. If they go anywhere, they go to Camp David," Sabato said. Trump as president has logged 419¼ hours — about 17½ days — in Palm Beach County, primarily at Mar-a-Lago and his nearby Trump International Golf Club in unincorporated West Palm Beach, according to an analysis by The Palm Beach Post. Counting side trips to Tampa, Melbourne and Orlando and time aboard Air Force One, Trump has spent about 19 days either in Florida or traveling to or from the Sunshine State.

Trump's Palm Beach visits have included drop-ins on society balls at Mar-a-Lago and an estimated 14 golf outings. But they have also included summit meetings with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, final approval for missile strikes on Syria, selection of a national security adviser and other official business.

It's part of a long tradition of commanders-in-chief blending leisure and business away from the White House. Those who study presidential travel tend to balk at the word "vacation" to describe presidential trips.

"A U.S. president is never really on 'vacation.' The responsibilities and duties of the job go with him wherever he is," says veteran CBS News White House correspondent Mark Knoller, widely seen as the foremost expert on presidential schedules over the last four decades.

U.S. Naval Academy political science professor Brendan Doherty, in a study on presidential travel for the nonpartisan White House Transition Project, writes that "a president is never truly on vacation. No matter where he or she goes, a president must always be on the job, tending to critical affairs of state, whether it be at the White House, on Air Force One, at Camp David, at a second home, or in another location, taking a break from some but not all of the duties of the job."



Trump's critics note that his Florida visits haven't merely been to a private residence, but to his own businesses where dues-paying members get access to the president. U.S. Rep. Ted Deutch, D-Boca Raton, points to Mar-a-Lago doubling its initiation fee to \$200,000 after Trump was elected to argue that Trump is using the presidency to boost the Trump brand.

"These constant visits to Mar-a-Lago have had a direct impact on the success of Mar-a-Lago," Deutch said. "By hosting world leaders and treating the Mar-a-Lago dining area as a country club situation room, he's benefiting his family directly."

When a State Department website ran an article saying Trump was "fulfilling the dream" of original Mar-a-Lago owner Marjorie Merriweather Post by using it as a winter White House, Karen Hobert Flynn of the liberal watchdog group Common Cause filed a complaint with the Office of Government Ethics. She said the State Department was improperly using public resources to promote a private business. Tom Fitton of the conservative watchdog Judicial Watch dismisses concerns about Trump promoting his businesses.

"I think it's pretty weak tea. He's president of the United States. He stays at Mar-a-Lago. That's life. ... We elected a billionaire with this type of business interests to the presidency," he said.

But Fitton expressed some concern about the costs of the repeated trips, which he estimates cost federal taxpayers about \$1 million a weekend. His estimate includes about four hours of round-trip flying time for Air Force One at \$142,380 per flight hour and Secret Service expenses.

Others have estimated the costs at as much as \$3 million per weekend visit.

Aside from the Air Force One costs, first lady Melania Trump has flown separately to or from Palm Beach International Airport on several occasions on a variety of aircraft, but those planes have much lower costs than Air Force One.

"If he continues to travel like he's doing, it's going to continue to create issues for him," Fitton said.

In addition to the federal costs, Palm Beach County taxpayers have spent nearly \$4 million on visits by Trump as president-elect and president, mainly for sheriff's deputies who assist the Secret Service. Local officials are trying to get the federal government to reimburse local taxpayers. Deutch has suggested the Mar-a-Lago Club be on the hook for the local costs.

While Trump's presidential time in and around Mar-a-Lago has added up to 17½ days, the trips have covered at least some portion of 25 days. That's the way Knoller of CBS has measured presidential travel for decades.

By Knoller's count, Trump has spent all or a portion of 25 days at Mar-a-Lago, compared with the 33 full or partial days that Bush spent away from the White

House during his first 100 days. Bush spent at least a portion of 12 days at his ranch in Crawford, Texas, and 21 days at Camp David during that span.

Obama's first 100 days included 13 full or partial days away from the White House — nine at Camp David and a four-day weekend in Chicago, according to Knoller's records.

It's not unusual for presidents to spend significant amounts of time away from the White House.

- Franklin Roosevelt made regular trips to Warm Springs in Georgia and died there during an April 1945 visit.
- Harry Truman spent all or part of 193 days — about 15 percent of his presidency — in Key West at a U.S. Naval facility that became known as the "Little White House."
- America's first Palm Beach president, John F. Kennedy, spent at least 96 full or partial days in Palm Beach while he was in office, according to records from the Kennedy Library.
- Lyndon Johnson spent 20 percent of his presidency at the LBJ Ranch in Texas, according to the LBJ Presidential Library.
- Richard Nixon spent considerable time at his San Clemente estate in California, hosting Soviet Union leader Leonid Brezhnev and other world leaders there.
- In his single term, Jimmy Carter spent all or part of 376 days at Camp David, by Knoller's count. The Carter Administration counted 6,647½ hours, or 277 days, at Camp David. Camp David is where Carter brokered the 1978 peace accord between Egypt and Israel and where he fine-tuned his infamous "malaise" speech of 1979.
- Ronald Reagan spent all or part of 349 days at his ranch in Santa Barbara, Calif., another 41 days in Palm Springs, Calif., and 517 days at Camp David, according to Knoller's records. That's nearly one-third of his presidency.
- George H.W. Bush's single term included 65 days at Camp David and 174 days at the Bush family compound in Kennebunkport, Maine, according to estimates Doherty obtained from the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library.
- Bill Clinton spent 173 full or partial days at Camp David and 174 days at other getaways, including six trips to Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts, according to Doherty's research.
- Knoller said George W. Bush spent all or part of 490 days at his Texas ranch, 43 days at the Bush family compound in Kennebunkport, Maine, and 487 full or partial days at Camp David. Bush hosted world leaders 20 times at his ranch and 19 times at Camp David.
- Obama spent all or part of 235 days on getaway trips, primarily to Hawaii or Martha's Vineyard, as well as 93 full or partial days at Camp David, Knoller said. [gbennett@pbpost.com](mailto:gbennett@pbpost.com) Twitter: @gbennettpost

# **PALM BEACH CLIMATE MARCH 500 march to Mar-a-Lago with climate message** Protesters are upset with President Trump's environmental stance. *By*

*William Kelly Palm Beach Daily News*



Hundreds of demonstrators participate in the People's Climate March in Palm Beach on Saturday. The march began in West Palm Beach and then circled past Mar-a-Lago, ending on Bingham Island in Palm Beach. PHOTOS BY MEGHAN MCCARTHY / THE PALM BEACH POST



The protest was part of the People's Climate March, which originated in New York in 2014. Tens of thousands also marched in Washington, D.C., on Saturday.

**PALM BEACH** — An estimated 500 people marched to the edge of President Donald Trump's Mara-Lago Club on Saturday, hoping to turn up the heat on a president they say has turned his back on the threat of climate change.

"The time for denial is over," said Patrick Ferguson, an event organizer. "The time for climate solutions is now."

Protesters gathered at George S. Petty Park in West Palm Beach, walked along Flagler Drive and crossed the Southern Boulevard Bridge into Palm Beach around noon. Toting signs and chanting slogans, they marched down to the Southern Boulevard roundabout, circling it and back toward the bridge and out of town. Trump is not in town this weekend.

"Sea level rise affects us all, especially in South Florida, and that includes Mar-a-Lago," said Ferguson, a representative of the Sierra Club Florida.

The protest was part of the People's Climate March, which originated with a massive demonstration in New York in September 2014. Tens of thousands of people gathered in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, enduring sweltering temperatures while protesting Trump's rollbacks of environmental protections and Barack Obama's climate policies.

At the Palm Beach event, Alex Newell Taylor of the Women's March said environmental justice is very much a women's issue. "As a woman, I want clean water to drink, I want clean air to breathe and I want to see our beautiful planet protected," she said.

The climate denial problem is bigger than Trump, she said. "We have too many people in power who put profits and corporate interests over the health of our planet and its people."

David Gibson, an event organizer and Coconut Creek resident, said embracing climate change solutions means "devoting resources to climate change mitigation, and no more resources to war and fossil fuel extraction."

Robert Lewis of Lake Worth carried a sign reading, "Make America think again." Lewis said Trump is bowing to the interests of big oil and big coal while gambling that the nation's elite will be able to ride out a climate-driven catastrophe. Left behind will be "all those people who will be displaced, who won't be able to grow food, whose economy will be ruined, whose water will be tainted," he said.

"Don't stop being outraged" read the sign toted by Dave Haglund of Tequesta, who said he's participated in several demonstrations in the 100 days since Trump took office. This is not a time for complacency, he said.

"This involves everyone, and we're running out of time," Haglund said.

Palm Beach police were on hand for crowd control and safety.

The Palm Beach portion of the march, which lasted about an hour, was peaceful and was conducted without incident, Sgt. Scott Duquette said.

Last weekend, demonstrators came to the island as part of the March for Science protest. [wkelly@pbdailynews.com](mailto:wkelly@pbdailynews.com)

Robert Lewis of Lake Worth carried a sign reading, 'Make America think again.'

# House, Senate closer on medical marijuana

*By Dara Kam News Service of Florida*

TALLAHASSEE — Eligible patients would not have to wait 90 days to get medical marijuana if doctors recommend the treatment, under a compromise measure ready for a House vote just days before Friday's end of the annual legislative session. The measure, proposed by House Majority Leader Ray Rodrigues, brings the House closer in line with the Senate's approach to carrying out a November constitutional amendment that legalized marijuana for patients with a broad swath of debilitating medical conditions.

The House modified the bill (HB 1397) on Friday, doing away with the 90-day requirement and allowing vaporizing and edibles as methods of consuming pot products, something proponents of the constitutional amendment had pushed. A House vote could come as soon as Tuesday.

Rodrigues said he made the changes based on testimony provided during committee hearings on the legislation.

"We have listened, and we have worked hard to create a patient-centered process," Rodrigues, R-Estero said.

The House also backed down on requiring doctors to re-certify patients every three months, and instead would allow patients to obtain 30-week supplies of marijuana products. The Senate would only require patients to get re-certified annually.

The House and Senate remain divided on how many medical marijuana operators should be added to the state's seven "dispensing organizations" now licensed to grow, process and dispense cannabis products in Florida.



## CRIME STOPPERS

### **These suspects were wanted as of Thursday:**

**Travis Matthews**, 28, on charges of failure to appear, felon in possession of a firearm or ammunition; failure to appear, carry concealed firearm, aggravated assault with a firearm, armed burglary, felon in possession of firearm or ammo, battery; and violation of supervised own recognizance. He was born on March 19, 1989, has black hair and brown eyes and is 5 feet 9 inches and 140 pounds. His last known address was Centrepark Drive, West Palm Beach.

**Tony Dupree**, 71, on charges of stalking while evidencing prejudice. He was born on Sept. 23, 1945, has gray hair and blue eyes and is 6 feet 170 pounds. His last known address was Lake Shore Drive, West Palm Beach.

Call Crime Stoppers at 800-458-TIPS (8477).



Matthews



Dupree



## Airport security under review

### Lawmakers respond to series on shooting crisis

*By Megan O'Matz, David Fleshler and Stephen Hobbs Staff writers*



## Investigation

What went wrong in the aftermath of the airport shooting?

[SunSentinel.com](http://SunSentinel.com) /7minutes

FORT LAUDERDALE — A South Florida congresswoman plans to introduce legislation to improve airport emergency procedures in an attempt to prevent a repeat of the chaos that followed January's mass-shooting at Fort Lauderdale airport.

U.S. Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, in an interview with the Sun Sentinel, said she will address the failings in worker training, evacuation planning and communications that contributed to the crisis.

A Sun Sentinel investigation published this month found that missteps in emergency planning and response fueled the panic that consumed the airport long after the lone gunman was captured.

False reports of gunfire spread through every terminal, and some of those earliest reports came from police. Baggage screeners fled their posts, as they are trained to do, but their behavior further frightened passengers. More than 840 officers from throughout South Florida raced to the airport, overloading Broward County's emergency radio system. Thousands of passengers were held for hours on the tarmac with little or no information. And once the airport was declared safe, many were still trapped by the gridlock surrounding the scene.

Fort Lauderdale's day of turmoil marked the third time in less than a year that false reports of gunfire sparked widespread panic at a U.S. airport. And it marked the second time in less than three years that a gunman shot multiple people inside a U.S. airport, but outside the secure areas of that airport.

The U.S. Transportation Security Administration is conducting multiple reviews of its policies in light of these incidents and other assaults on airports here and abroad, including reviewing how to improve security measures in vulnerable public areas,

such as baggage claim, where the Fort Lauderdale gunman killed five and wounded six.

Wasserman Schultz, a Democrat whose district includes the airport, outlined her plans in broad terms, saying she is still gathering information and consulting with security experts and regulators.

"I want to prevent this tragedy from ever happening again, here or in any other airport in America," Wasserman Schultz said. "There are clear gaps that we must work together to fill so that we can continuously strengthen our airport security systems."

Another South Florida congresswoman threw her support behind efforts to strengthen the laws surrounding airport security and emergency response.

"No one plans for these incidents, but adequate preparation and training would have likely diminished the turmoil experienced by airport personnel and travelers alike," said U.S. Rep. Frederica Wilson, a Miami Democrat whose district includes part of Hollywood, south of the airport.

"Legislation to address some of the issues that arose on that terrible day is absolutely needed and as a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I am eager to contribute to and support efforts to mandate active shooter security plans."

A key focus, Wasserman Schultz said, is to require that airports nationwide have mass evacuation plans. "Many of them don't," she said.

The congresswoman said the plans, while allowing for "orderly chaos," should ensure that people are kept safe and that the time people are held is kept to a minimum.

"It's clear that across the country airports that have experienced either a false alarm ... [or] a partial or full mass evacuation have not had adequate plans in place to make sure that evacuation was orderly," she said.

Experts say proper evacuation plans include proven methods for agency coordination, public communications, traffic control, sheltering and mass care, shelter in place strategies, and cooperation with the Red Cross and other support organizations.

Wasserman Schultz said she expects to address communication problems that arose at the airport. Passengers told the Sun Sentinel they struggled throughout the 12-hour ordeal to get information on what the threat was, what authorities were doing to address it, or how long they might be stranded.

Many told the Sun Sentinel that airport workers they approached were equally uninformed and could provide little to no useful information.

Wasserman Schultz said she would also push the Congress to insist on comprehensive training for airport workers. "Training now seems to be rather

cursor or almost none at all," she said. Workers should learn how to keep themselves safe and how to help guide and inform passengers.

Rep. Wilson agreed that revised training is necessary for TSA workers and others at the airport.

TSA agents wear uniforms that can be mistaken for law enforcement, but they are not armed and are instructed to run or hide when confronted with a possible shooter.

"While it is true that TSA officers are not members of law enforcement, I think it's safe to assume that most passengers would expect them, as well as other airport and airline personnel, to provide some sort of guidance during a crisis and try to help create calm," Wilson said in an email to the Sun Sentinel.

A TSA spokeswoman said in a statement to the Sun Sentinel on Friday: "TSA continues to review policies on an ongoing basis."

TSA and representatives of the airlines have formed a working group to review the Fort Lauderdale shooting and discuss ways to better manage such emergencies at airports nationwide.

That would include how to get passengers off aircraft quickly, even if an airport is shut down. Some in Fort Lauderdale were held on planes for six hours waiting for the all-clear. A briefing report from the working group is expected in the fall, TSA spokeswoman Sari Koshetz said.

In addition, TSA has been holding regular meetings since September with industry executives, law enforcement and aviation security experts on how to improve safety in public areas of the airport that are outside the screening checkpoint. This would include the ticket counter and baggage claim area.

Wasserman Schultz said she is working to find the best way to ensure that a passenger with a firearm in a checked bag is not able to have access to his ammunition in a crowded airport terminal.

Esteban Santiago, the accused gunman in Fort Lauderdale, flew one-way from Alaska, checking only his semi-automatic pistol and ammunition. He then allegedly retrieved the gun from the baggage carousel, loaded it in a bathroom, and came out and killed five tourists.

U.S. Rep. Ted Deutch, a Democrat who represents much of Broward and Palm Beach counties, said policymakers should focus on enacting sensible gun control measures. He said the reason people are so quick to panic now is "because the threat is so real."

"The reason the threat is so real is, all these years after [the Sandy Hook elementary school massacre at] Newtown, we haven't even been able to discuss ways to prevent school shootings."

Broward County, which runs the Fort Lauderdale airport, has hired the consulting firm Ross & Baruzzini Inc. to do an after-action report, looking at the handling of the shooting and its aftermath. The report is expected to be completed in July.

County Mayor Barbara Sharief said she would not comment on potential changes in airport policies until seeing the report. Vice Mayor Beam Furr agreed.

"It's too early," he said. "I think we want to wait for the after-action report. We'll take a good look at it and see our strengths, weaknesses and what needs to be addressed." [momatz@sunsentinel.com](mailto:momatz@sunsentinel.com) or 954-356-4518

"Most passengers would expect [TSA officers]... to provide some sort of guidance."

U.S. Rep. Frederica Wilson

## Former child talent scout avoids prison

*By Marc Freeman Staff writer*

For his job as a South Florida children's talent scout earlier this decade, Anthony Carlton Fonseca helped to recruit underage boys for photo shoots at various locations. But it was all a front for child pornography.

Shaking and weeping, the 47-year-old Jupiter man apologized Friday before Palm Beach County Circuit Judge Laura Johnson imposed a punishment that locks him up for three years but still keeps him out of state prison.

"There is no excuse for what I was involved in and for that I am truly sorry," Fonseca said, adding later, "I am honestly ashamed."

Fonseca, who early last year pleaded guilty to 15 felony counts, was ordered to serve three consecutive terms of one year in Palm Beach County Jail.

That will be followed by 12 years of sex offender probation. The first year of probation must be served on house arrest, Johnson ordered.

Prosecutor Justin Hoover had requested a five-year prison sentence and a decade of sex offender probation, suggesting a penalty that was less than the minimum term of nearly 10 years in prison under state sentencing guidelines.

But the judge agreed to a recommendation from defense attorneys Michael Salnick and Jack Fuchs — and the urging of Fonseca and his elderly parents from Pittsburgh — to keep Fonseca away from an arguably more dangerous setting in prison.

Johnson said she decided to give Fonseca a break primarily because of his cooperation with state and federal authorities in the 2015 arrest of a Vermont fashion photographer for distributing hundreds of pornographic images of children.

Fonseca was credited with being instrumental in helping investigators bring a case against Richard Emerich, 54. Fonseca said he was naïve and had succumbed to Emerich's pressure to find local teens and pre-teens to photograph for both nude and clothed images.

"It was stupid, foolish and irresponsible of me to allow that to happen," Fonseca testified, explaining that he's been bullied and taken advantage of by other people his entire life.

After his 2013 arrest, Fonseca followed instructions from law enforcement agents to help nab Emerich. Fonseca persuaded the photographer to mail him a hard drive containing the images of underage boys, agents said.

As a result, Emerich last year was sentenced to about six years in federal prison, while Fonseca also helped officials with at least two other investigations, Salnick told the judge.

Hoover agreed Fonseca deserved a break in his sentencing because he was instrumental in taking a "dangerous child predator" off the streets.

Judge Johnson, citing the harm caused by Fonseca, warned him the probation requirements are severe, and any violations could subject him again to the maximum possible prison term of 115 years.

Fonseca was convicted of 10 counts of possessing child porn; four counts of promoting sexual performance by a child; and one count of online solicitation of a minor.

In exchange for the guilty plea, the State Attorney's Office dropped 20 counts of possession of child porn, and three extortion counts that were tied to an allegation that Fonseca at times had used Facebook to threaten boys who sent him photos and videos of themselves.

The judge Friday also pointed out that Fonseca was not a first-time offender. In 2008, he pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor voyeurism charge. He allegedly stood on a toilet and spied on a teenage boy in the bathroom of a Delray Beach movie theater.

# Workshop to combat opioid use scheduled for Monday

*By Ryan Van Velzer Staff writer*

South Floridians will be the first to tell multiple agencies holding workshops across the state how opioid addiction has devastated their communities.

With overdoses on the rise, Gov. Rick Scott directed state agencies to meet with those affected. The first of the four workshops, open to the public, will be from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Monday at the West Palm Beach Police Department at 600 Banyan Blvd. "Opioid abuse is happening across our nation, and it is crucial that we hear what our local communities are doing to fight the rising use of opioids and how we as the state can continue to help," Scott said.

Scott announced the workshops in early April during a news conference with Attorney General Pam Bondi.

The Florida departments of health, children and families and law enforcement are hosting the workshops in four counties. The Office of the Attorney General also will send drug policy and law enforcement experts, said Whitney Ray, a spokesperson for the office.

Each agency plans to provide an overview of what they are doing to combat the crisis, according to a meeting agenda. They'll speak with local law enforcement, government officials, treatment providers and others to learn more about community needs.

The agencies also plan to provide information on existing state resources and grant opportunities.

At the end of the agenda, workshop officials will have a public comment session. South Florida has been hit hard by the crisis. Palm Beach County saw 592 overdoses in 2016, while Broward County saw 582, according to officials in both counties. A combination of heroin and fentanyl — a powerful, cheap synthetic painkiller — have largely driven the increase.

A single dose of the overdose reversal drug known as naloxone used to be enough to save a person. Now, emergency responders say they are regularly giving multiple doses of the drug as treatment.

Palm Beach County State Attorney Dave Aronberg said he's encouraged by the recent actions of the governor and Legislature.

"Anything that raises awareness of this crisis is a positive that can help save lives," Aronberg said.



"Many legislators used to think that this was solely a Palm Beach County problem, when it is clearly a statewide epidemic."

Presenting the workshop is "better than nothing," said Palm Beach County Commissioner Melissa McKinlay. "I wish we had an emergency declaration in place. I would be more satisfied if that were happening, but at least this is a step in the right direction and he's (Scott) paying attention."

Maureen Kielian's 26-year-old son got addicted to prescription opiates nearly a decade ago, she said. Today, he's in long-term recovery, and Kielian remains active in the drug-treatment community.

Kielian, a member of the Palm Beach County Sober Homes Task Force, plans to hold a welcoming rally for officials ahead of the meeting to let them know the "epidemic is personal, is real," she said.

Additional meetings will be held in Manatee and Orange counties on Tuesday and Duval County on Wednesday.

## Demo shows students the danger of drinking, driving

*By Adam Sacasa Staff writer*



ADAM SACASA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Broward Sheriff Fire Rescue firefighters present a drunken-driving demonstration at Deerfield Beach High School on Friday.

With prom just around the corner, firefighters are trying to convince seniors at Deerfield Beach High School how easily a bad decision can ruin their lives. Students watched from bleachers Friday as firefighters sawed the roofs off two smashed cars in a mock crash.

Broward Sheriff Fire Rescue Battalion Chief Kyle Van Buskirk didn't want to lecture the students during the agency's 19th annual drunken-driving demonstration. Instead, he wanted to tell them about ways to stay safe.

"Although we call them teenagers, basically they're adults at this point. They're driving cars, they have jobs, cellphones, car payments," he said. "They have all this responsibility."

Adjusting to those responsibilities can be a challenge for some teenagers, he said. "It only takes one poor decision to cost your life or the life of a friend," Van Buskirk said. "In some scenarios, people are being charged with manslaughter and they're ending up in jail for 10 years, just for texting and driving."

Three of his friends died when he was a student at the high school, he said. He doesn't want to see the same thing happen again.

Speed, not recognizing hazards and distracted driving are the three main factors in teen crashes, Van Buskirk said.

Van Buskirk's dad, former Deer-field Beach Fire Rescue Battalion Chief Chuck Van Buskirk, helped start the demonstration. He started the program to help students make better choices.

"Especially around the prom time, these seniors and juniors, they're running on little or no sleep," Chuck Van Buskirk said. "They've got all sorts of activities going on, from future colleges to jobs they're trying to figure out. Then they fall asleep at the wheel."

For Alaynah Senneker, hearing the statistics about how many people died was eye opening.

The senior said she sometimes uses Snapchat while driving but after seeing the demonstration, she's reconsidering.

Fellow senior Lea Hynds thought about how easily she or her friends could become the seven victims other students portrayed.

She urges people to not only worry about themselves but to pay attention to the road.

"It's really scary because it can happen to anyone," she said. "I just hope it never happens to my class."

Outside of the students in the stands, Leticia Marques wears a blue prom dress, playing the role of one of the victims killed in the crash. It's all pretend but last year, she said she learned first-hand what it's like to lose someone in a crash.

In February 2016, her friend Gabriella Sette Heiderick slammed into a tree in West Boca and died.

Palm Beach Sheriff's investigators said Heiderick wasn't under the influence of alcohol but speed played a role in the crash.

"It was a young life, she was only 16 and she's not here anymore," Marques said. "It's not only hard on her friends but also her family, who have to live with that for the rest of their lives."

**From:** [Anderson, Cassandra L](#)  
**Subject:** News Clips 5/2/17  
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**Attachments:** [News Clips.docx](#)

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## **News Clip 5/2/2017**

### **Palm Beach Post**

**POST IN-DEPTH OPIOID CRISIS**

## **Opioid meeting draws standing-room crowd** State officials say they hear 'sense of urgency' as 250 demand action.

*By Joe Capozzi Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



A standing-room crowd attends a "listening tour" workshop planned by the governor and attorney general on the opioid epidemic Monday at the West Palm Beach Police Department. DAMON HIGGINS / THE PALM BEACH POST

### **WHAT THE POST REPORTED**



The addiction treatment industry is Palm Beach County's fourth-largest, generating \$1 billion in revenue every year. It is now the focus of an FBI task force. To read previous stories and materials related to this story, go to [myPalmBeachPost.com/s/soberhomes/](https://myPalmBeachPost.com/s/soberhomes/)



Debbie Melgaard of Weston holds a framed photo of her son, Daniel, who died at age 27 of a heroin overdose in April 2016, outside of Monday's meeting. "This is an epidemic," she said. "Kids are dying every single day." PHOTOS BY DAMON HIGGINS / THE PALM BEACH POST



Justin Junzelman, a former drug addict and CEO of Rebel Recovery Florida, speaks during the workshop. Many speakers noted the lack of public treatment beds, which forces many addicts to sleep on the streets.

WEST PALM BEACH — In a loud cry for help, more than 250 people — some shouting curse words and others holding photographs of dead loved ones —

jammed into a conference room Monday to demand action from state officials to curb the opioid epidemic.

"I'm (expletive) tired of it. I'm tired of losing my friends," Jordan Meyers, a recovering addict from Boca Raton, said at the first of four workshops planned this week by Gov. Rick Scott and Attorney General Pam Bondi to seek solutions to the crisis. Scott and Bondi didn't attend Monday — and their absences were noted by protesters before the so-called "listening tour" workshop and by catcalls from the crowd during the two-hour meeting inside the West Palm Beach Police Department's Community Room.

But two top administration members didn't rule out what many local leaders have been seeking since February — for Scott to declare a public health emergency to free up more money for treatment beds and other help.

"You said we came here to listen and we have heard you loud and clear regarding your asks for a public health emergency. I promise you that I will take that back with me and you will hear our plan soon," said Dr. Celeste Philip, the state surgeon general.

Mike Carroll, secretary for the Department of Children and Families, told the standing-room-only crowd: "I hear the frustrations in the room and I hear the sense of urgency to put action into place and we will take that back (to Tallahassee) with us."

Carroll, who stopped to chat with protesters before the meeting, including mothers who lost kids to opioid overdoses, also told the crowd he understands their concerns because the epidemic has touched his own family.

He told The Post that his brother is a recovering heroin addict who has been clean for 10 years and his dad has been in recovery for 44 years. He also said he has given eulogies over the past four years at the funerals for the sons of two close friends.

"I will say this, coming from a family that was so impacted by addiction, there is life after addiction," Carroll said. "There is hope. The answer is in the treatment."

But one argument echoed by many people during the workshop is the lack of public treatment beds, which forces many addicts to sleep on the streets while they wait for a bed to become available.

"The public shame we have as a community is we have a governor who says there's plenty of money for tourism in this state but we can't get detox beds," said Joe Considine, a West Palm Beach attorney.

"We as a people have to make a moral decision about what we are going to do. Are we going to save these kids?"

Scott's most vocal critic Monday was Palm Beach County Vice Mayor Melissa McKinlay, who was among 23 local and state officials at a U-shaped workshop table.



"I'm angry and I'm not going to hold back because I have an opportunity to not hold back," she said before reminding participants that she and other local leaders offered ideas to Bondi at a news conference about the epidemic earlier this year in Tallahassee.

"While I certainly appreciate all of us sitting around the table and having this conversation, we just did this in January in Tallahassee. We laid out of a plan of what was needed. Nothing was done."

McKinlay also pointed out that Scott declared a health emergency over the Zika virus, which has killed no one in Florida, but he has ignored multiple requests for help with the opioid epidemic, which killed more than 2,500 Floridians in 2015.

"If we were able to move that quickly on (the Zika) issue, why can't we move more quickly on this (heroin) issue?" she asked, prompting the crowd to erupt in applause. From the back of the room, Considine noted the lack of a reply to McKinlay's question from state officials sitting near her, yelling out: "No one answered, no one answered. Where is the governor?"

Maureen Kielian, of Southeast Florida Recovery Advocates, offered 10 recommendations, including mandatory student and parent education on the dangers of legally prescribed drugs and the AMA defined disease of addiction integrated into health curriculum.

She said school officials have another challenge — "a new generation entering our public schools who are parentless. Their parents are in recovery and not available or their parents have died."

West Palm Beach Police Chief Sarah Mooney, who sat at the workshop table, said the epidemic is taking an emotional "strain" on her young officers.

"That we have young officers going to calls where they have to deal with dead bodies day in and day out for things that are completely preventable is crazy and to expect them to move on to the next call is taxing," she said.

Before the workshop, Mooney chatted with protesters outside the police station and urged them to be careful as they tiptoed on the top of a wall to erect posters and pieces of purple ribbon representing dead loved ones.

Some posters included the front page of The Post's Generation Heroin special section featuring the faces of all 216 people who died in the county in 2015 of heroin-related overdoses.

"This listening tour is a joke. Thousands of people are dying but they just want to listen?" said Neill Timmons of Boynton Beach.

Debbie Melgaard of Weston held a large framed photo of her son, Daniel, who died of a heroin overdose in April 2016 at age 27.

"I took it off the living room wall and brought it here," she said as she stood outside the police station. "This is an epidemic. Kids are dying every single day."

Sandy Harding of Boynton Beach held a photo of her son, Elliot Bonura, who died of a heroin overdose in 2012.

"The body count is there," she said. "And it's just getting worse."

The tour continues today with workshops in Manatee and Orange counties. It concludes Wednesday after a meeting in Duval County. The crowds are expected to be as large as Monday's.

"Seeing all of these people in this room is inspiring," Philip said, "because it will take all of us working together." [jcapozzi@pbpost.com](mailto:jcapozzi@pbpost.com)

## TRUMP IN PALM BEACH

# Budget pays back local Trump costs

## Congress' spending plan reimburses law enforcement expenses.

*By George Bennett Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

PALMBEACH— Palm Beach County taxpayers stand to get reimbursed by the federal government for helping protect President Donald Trump when he visits Mara-Lago under a bipartisan congressional budget deal reached Sunday night.

The 1,665-page bill includes \$61 million for local law enforcement expenses to protect Trump, who has residences in Palm Beach, New York City and Bedminster, N.J., which he is expected to begin visiting this weekend. The money is included in a \$1 trillion agreement congressional negotiators reached to finance the federal government through Sept. 30. The full House and Senate are expected to vote on it this week.

Trump's two stays at Mar-a-Lago as president-elect and seven visits since taking office have cost Palm Beach County taxpayers nearly \$4 million — primarily for sheriff's deputies who assist the Secret Service when the president is in town. Sheriff Ric Bradshaw talked to Trump personally about the issue in February.

If approved by Congress and signed by the president, local governments could submit expenses to the federal government for reimbursement.

"There should be enough money," said U.S. Rep. Lois Frankel, D-West Palm Beach, whose district includes Mara-Lago. Frankel called a news conference in March to plead for federal help with the local costs.

Frankel said New York has already racked up about \$30 million in local costs for protecting Trump Tower while Trump was there as president-elect and while first lady Melania Trump has lived there during her husband's presidency.

The first lady is expected to move to the White House this summer.

The new bill before Congress includes \$20 million for "extraordinary law enforcement and related costs ... that a State or local agency can document as being over and above normal law enforcement operations" from Nov. 9 through the inauguration Jan. 20. Earlier legislation included \$7 million for pre-inauguration reimbursements.

A second section includes \$41 million for expenses since Trump took office. The reimbursements are "extraordinary law enforcement personnel costs for protection activities directly and demonstrably associated with any residence of the President that is designated or identified to be secured by the United States Secret Service."

Members of Palm Beach County's congressional delegation praised the agreement. "Relief is finally on the way for local law enforcement agencies that have provided protection for the President," Frankel said.

"Since I was elected, I've been working to secure money to ensure that Palm Beach County taxpayers are not left footing the bill for President Trump's security costs," said Rep. Brian Mast, R-Palm City. "With this bipartisan agreement, we were able to secure tens of millions of dollars to reimburse Palm Beach County, in addition to increasing funding for medical research, strengthening border security, boosting funding for our Armed Forces and more."

Rep. Ted Deutch, D-Boca Raton, called the reimbursement money "a huge victory for Palm Beach County taxpayers, who should never have been on the hook for President Trump's weekend getaways."

But in the future, Deutch said, federal taxpayers shouldn't have to pay for Trump's visits, either.

"(I)f the President is going to continue to use Mar-a-Lago or any of his other resorts as weekend vacation spots throughout the year, then President Trump should pay the costs himself," Deutch said. "The American taxpayers shouldn't have to pay tens of millions of dollars for Trump to golf on the weekends at his branded properties. The President still needs to address the remaining issues that come from using his private golf club as a weekend White House, including the obvious conflicts of interest and serious national security concerns."

Palm Beach County Mayor Paulette Burdick said she is "pleased that the federal government has included a line item in the budget to reimburse Palm Beach County for our costs to provide security for our president. ... The money in the budget is certainly in the right direction." [gbennett@pbpost.com](mailto:gbennett@pbpost.com) [Twitter: @gbennettpost](https://twitter.com/gbennettpost)

MAY DAY

# Protests across U.S. take aim at Trump

## Marches, boycotts champion migrant contribution to U.S.

*By Steve Peoples and Amy Taxin Associated Press*



Thousands of protesters march Monday in a May Day demonstration over the 110 Freeway in Los Angeles. It was one of many national protests. JAE C. HONG / ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Thousands of people chanted, picketed and marched on cities across America on Monday as May Day demonstrations raged against President Donald Trump's immigration policies.

Protesters flooded streets in Chicago. They demanded "Donald Trump has got to go!" at the White House gates. And they sparked at least four arrests after creating a human chain to block a county building in Oakland, Calif., where demonstrators demanded that county law enforcement refuse to collaborate with federal immigration agents.

Despite the California clash, the initial rounds of nationwide protests were largely peaceful as immigrants, union members and their allies staged a series of strikes, boycotts and marches to highlight the contributions of immigrants in the United States.

"It is sad to see that now being an immigrant is equivalent to almost being a criminal," said Mary Quezada, a 58-year-old North Carolina woman who joined those marching on Washington.

She offered a pointed message to Trump: "Stop bullying immigrants."

The demonstrations on May Day, celebrated as International Workers' Day, follow similar actions worldwide in which protesters from the Philippines to Paris demanded better working conditions. But the widespread protests in the United States were aimed directly at the new Republican president, who has followed aggressive anti-immigrant rhetoric on the campaign trail with aggressive action in the White House.

Trump has intensified immigration enforcement, including executive orders for a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border and a ban on travelers from six predominantly Muslim countries. The government has arrested thousands of immigrants in the country illegally and threatened to withhold funding from jurisdictions that limit cooperation between local and federal immigration authorities. The travel ban and sanctuary cities orders were temporarily halted by legal challenges.

In Chicago, 28-year-old Brenda Burciaga was among thousands of marchers.

"Everyone deserves dignity," said Burciaga, whose mother is set to be deported after living in the U.S. for about 20 years. "I hope at least they listen. We are hardworking people."

Teachers working without contracts opened the day by picketing outside schools in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. Activists in Phoenix petitioned state legislators to support immigrant families. And in a Los Angeles park, several thousand people waved American flags and signs reading "love not hate."



## **PALM BEACH COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

# **Half-cent sales tax hike suggested**

## **Money would help county plug anticipated losses in property taxes.**

*By Wayne Washington Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

The Florida Senate passed a measure Monday that could allow voters to expand the homestead exemption in 2018, frightening Palm Beach County officials, who say the move would cost them millions of dollars in property tax revenue.

In anticipation of the Senate's passage of the joint resolution — the House of Representatives approved its version last week — Palm Beach County Commissioner Melissa McKinlay wrote a memo to her colleagues asking them to consider a half-cent sales tax increase whose proceeds would be used to help plug the gap left by the loss of property tax revenue.

The sales tax in the county is now 7 percent. Increasing it by a half cent would raise it to 7.5 percent. But under McKinlay's proposal, the county would reduce property taxes collected for fire rescue by the same amount as collected through the proposed sales tax increase.

Firefighters pushed that "tax swap" plan last year as a way to reduce reliance upon property tax revenue, but county officials worried voters would not agree to both the tax swap and a one-cent sales tax increase aimed at getting more money to repair roads, bridges, schools and county-owned buildings. The one-cent sales tax hike was approved by voters.

McKinlay says she now wants county staff to research the idea of the tax swap, which could be placed before voters in November 2018 — the same time the expanded homestead exemption could be on the ballot.

The "emergency services" tax swap idea is expected to be discussed when the County Commission meets today.

"While I am concerned with the impacts this will have on all of our services, I am most concerned with the impacts to Palm Beach County Fire Rescue and the emergency services they provide," McKinlay wrote to her fellow commissioners. "The overdose crisis we are facing in our county is already straining our limited resources and the proposed revenue losses associated with an additional homestead exemption will only exacerbate the situation."

Assistant County Administrator Todd Bonlarron said the county, its cities and other taxing entities could lose a combined \$62.7 million if the expanded homestead exemption is ultimately approved by voters. Estimates of the impact have shifted as



the joint resolution, once thought to be on shaky ground, sprang back to life in the waning days of this year's legislative session.

As is necessary for joint resolutions that would change the state constitution, the homestead exemption resolution (HJR 7105) cleared the three-fifths hurdle in the House and Senate. But because it was amended in the Senate, the House would have to pass it again before the session ends Friday, and 60 percent of voters then would have to approve it before it goes into effect on Jan. 1, 2019.

The resolution calls for the homestead exemption to be expanded to \$75,000 from \$50,000 for homes worth at least \$100,000.

County officials held out little hope Monday that the resolution won't be placed before voters, and they weren't hopeful about convincing voters to turn down an opportunity to reduce their property taxes.

"If the question is, 'Do you want to cut your taxes?', the default answer is 'Oh, yeah!'" Bonlarron said.

"There is no way to beat this," said Richard Radcliffe, executive director of the Palm Beach County League of Cities. "If I give you a chance to pay less money, there are not a lot of voters who are not going to vote for that."

The proposed constitutional amendment gives state lawmakers an opportunity to say they've given voters a chance to cut their taxes, nectar for any politician.

For county and municipal officials, however, there is no sweetness in a Tallahassee-inspired property tax reduction. They say they face a difficult choice imposed upon them by state lawmakers: Raise local taxes to maintain current levels of service or cut those services.

"It makes a routine budget year very difficult," Commissioner Steven Abrams said. Commissioner Hal Valeche said he'd normally be happy about voters having a chance to reduce their property taxes.

"I'm a little bit torn," Valeche said. "I've been in favor of lower taxes. But in this instance, I think what the Legislature has done is put an additional burden on local government."

Local government officials find it especially galling that, while state lawmakers are not limited in ways to reduce local revenue, local officials are limited by state law in setting property tax rates.

The county uses about half of its taxing authority, but some cities in the county — a group Radcliffe says includes Lake Park, Mangonia Park, Lake Worth and Lake Clark Shores among others — are at or close to their statutory taxing limits. Such cities may not have the option of raising property tax rates to make up for the property tax revenue loss and could, instead, be forced to cut services.

"It's going to be horrible," Radcliffe said. "This is not good."

Backers of the resolution had a different view.

Sen. Tom Lee, a Republican home builder from Thonotosassa who sponsored the bill, said expanding the exemption could help people afford homes. Also, he said it could boost such things as documentary-stamp taxes, which stem from real-estate transactions.

"Making homes more affordable, we're going to allow people to move from rental units back into homes," Lee said. "And in doing so, it's going to give us the ability to generate revenue for doc stamps, the tangible tax and a whole host of other things that go along with home ownership."

The News Service of Florida contributed to this story. [wwashington@pbpost.com](mailto:wwashington@pbpost.com)  
**LEGISLATURE 2017** Get The Post's complete coverage of the Florida Legislature's 2017 session, [PalmBeachPost.com/ legislature](http://PalmBeachPost.com/legislature).

## LAKE WORTH MAY DAY PROTEST

# 150 march in Lake Worth against immigration policy

Protesters in cities nationwide send message to Trump.

By Kevin D. Thompson Palm Beach Post Staff Writer



Protesters march through Lake Worth in opposition to President Donald Trump's immigration policies on Monday. The rally was part of May Day — also known as International Workers' Day — during which protests and marches were held around the globe. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ARES / THE PALM BEACH POST



Romeo Ortiz of Lake Worth speaks to a crowd of anti-Trump protesters outside of Lake Worth City Hall on Monday. More than 40 cities around the country participated, according to the Florida Immigration Coalition.





Protesters gather in Lake Worth in opposition of President Donald Trump's immigration policies on Monday. MICHAEL ARES / THE PALM BEACH POST

LAKE WORTH — Like many immigrants, Anne Pierre, at age 19, left her homeland in Haiti in desperate search of the American Dream.

"It wasn't easy leaving my entire family to start all over again," said Pierre, now a 52-year-old community organizer who is married with two children in Palm Beach County. "We as immigrants contribute a lot to the economy. We are taxpayers. We are homeowners. We are not a burden to America."

That is the message more than 150 marchers aimed to deliver to President Donald Trump on Monday afternoon at a rally through downtown Lake Worth to protest the commander-in-chief's pledge to crack down on immigration and immigrants' rights. Carrying signs that read, "More Bridges, No Walls," "We Will Not Be Silent" and chanting "Donald Trump let's be clear, refugees are welcome here," the three-hour rally started at Bryant Park, with protesters marching to City Hall, then to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church on North Palmway.

"Immigrants are not taking jobs, they're not raping people, they're working hard every day," said Maria Torres-Lopez, an organizer with Women's March Florida.

"Trump's policies are too aggressive and are targeting people who shouldn't be targeted."

The rally was part of May Day — also known as International Workers' Day — during which protests and marches were held around the globe. The event has spawned protests worldwide that highlights workers' rights.

More than 40 cities around the country participated, according to the Florida Immigration Coalition. New York, Los Angeles, even Homestead in Miami-Dade County, where farmworkers were striking for the day, held rallies.

The Lake Worth rally was organized by several groups, including South Florida Activism and the Palm Beach County Coalition of Immigrant Rights.

Harvey Rosenfeld of West Palm Beach came dressed like Uncle Sam, sporting a red, white and blue top hat and patriotic shades.

"The United States is a nation of immigrants," said Rosenfeld,

67. "The greatness of America is based on the multitude of people and diverse population. The current administration seems to feel those who are the true Americans and those who aren't here, seek to come here or who are thinking about coming here, don't have a rightful claim to becoming an American."

Javier Almazan of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, said the United States needs immigration reform, but not the kind Trump is proposing.

"It has to be realistic," Almazan said. "Building a wall is not ... going to stop somebody from getting into this country."

The president wants to build a wall at the Mexican border to keep immigrants out, but it's still not clear how the project will be financed.

At 8, Jessica Perez of Lake Worth was one of the youngest protesters. The Barton Elementary third-grader, whose parents are from Guatemala, had her own opinion of the president.

"He's not very good," she said. [kthompson@pbpost.com](mailto:kthompson@pbpost.com)

**MORE TRUMP NEWS** For complete Donald Trump coverage see [mypalmbeachpost.com/ donaldtrump](https://www.mypalmbeachpost.com/donaldtrump).

## Families tell of pain caused by opioid epidemic

*By Ryan Van Velzer Staff writer*

State officials held their first opioid workshop in a county where the ravages of drug addiction were on full display Monday: Grieving parents, friends and family shared their frustration, grief and pain.

Jay Blogg, 56, of Boynton Beach, lost his 24-year-old daughter Rebecca to an opioid overdose last year. Victoria Ghraieb, 21, of West Palm Beach, lost her 25-year-old brother in early April. Jordan Meyers, 25, lost two friends this week, he said.

All of them attended Monday's workshop to share their stories. With overdoses on the rise, Gov. Rick Scott directed multiple state agencies to meet with those affected. People began gathering outside the West Palm Beach Police Department in the early afternoon, waving signs and welcoming officials ahead of the meeting.

Althea Adolphy, 51, of Boynton Beach, was one of several residents asking the state to declare the opioid crisis a health emergency.

For the past 20 years, she has worked as a nurse, she said. Recently, she asked to be switched out of emergency care because she couldn't take all the overdoses, Adolphy said.

South Florida has been hard-hit by the crisis, including Palm Beach County, which saw 592 overdoses in 2016, according to county officials.

Inside the police station, two dozen state and local officials sat for a round-table discussion surrounded by residents. The room was so full people sat on the floor, stood in the back and spilled out the double doors to listen.

Department of Children and Families Secretary Mike Carroll began the workshop by offering condolences.

"My heart goes out to any family who has lost a loved one to addiction," Carroll said. "So that's why we're here, to see if we can turn the page on that."

Officials devoted two-thirds of the workshop to explaining what the state, county and local government are doing to combat the epidemic, leaving the last 45 minutes for public comment.

Representatives from the Department of Health, the Attorney General's Office, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and other agencies outlined what the state is already doing to address the crisis, including:



- \$17 million in new grant funding to expand medication-assisted substance abuse treatment, said John Bryant, assistant secretary of substance abuse and mental health treatment at the Department of Children and Families.
- 2,400 kits of naloxone, the overdose reversal drug, distributed for free, to groups including treatment providers — resulting in 13 lives saved, said Ann Berner, CEO of Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network.
- 1,000 people trained on overdose prevention in Florida since August, Berner said.

Palm Beach County State Attorney Dave Aronberg described authorities' efforts to go after unscrupulous sober home operators who exploit drug users.

Palm Beach County Mayor Paulette Burdick — among other officials — talked of seeking additional funding to help those in treatment.

Palm Beach County Commissioner Melissa McKinlay vented about state officials she said have not done enough to help resolve the crisis.

"I'm angry today," McKinlay said. "While I certainly appreciate all of us sitting around the table and having this conversation, we just did this in January in Tallahassee. We held this press conference with the attorney general. ... We laid out a plan and nothing was done."

Residents, too, shared their frustrations during the public comments.

Many who attended the workshop said they would like to see the governor declare the opioid epidemic a public health emergency. Others asked for more publicly funded treatment beds.

At the end of the workshop, several people interviewed expressed gratitude for local officials and frustration that the state hasn't done more to help. Local officials seem to be working hard to combat the epidemic, said Meyers, a recovering addict.

"What I take away from it is that there are a lot of upset, angry and hurting people," he said after the workshop ended.

Additional meetings will be held in Manatee and Orange counties on Tuesday and Duval County on Wednesday.

# Homeowners likely to vote on tax cuts

*By Gray Rohrer, Steven Lemongello and Dan Sweeney Staff writers*

TALLAHASSEE – Florida homeowners will likely get the chance to vote next year on whether to cut their property taxes by an average of about \$275 a year.

The Senate on Monday approved HJR 7105, which would put on the 2018 ballot an additional \$25,000 homestead exemption.

Voters must approve it with 60 percent of the vote for it to take effect in 2019. If passed, it could save homeowners \$644 million per year.

Governments in South Florida are already fretting over the potential impact of the cuts.

Broward County, its cities and special taxing districts could lose \$73.5 million a year, the Florida Association of Counties estimates. The county itself accounts for \$32 million of that, the county administrator said.

Palm Beach County governments could lose \$62.7 million per year; while Miami-Dade stands to lose \$70.3 million.

The plan is a top priority of House Speaker Richard Corcoran, R-Land O'Lakes, so it's almost certain to pass his chamber later this week.

The bill is part of a broad deal on the \$83 billion budget between Corcoran and Senate President Joe Negron, R-Stuart, who earlier this week agreed to environmental projects and higher education funding.

Other budget areas such as health care remain unresolved, however, as lawmakers are facing a Tuesday deadline to finish the budget and meet the required three-day "cooling off" period before they vote on it and adjourn on time on Friday.

Meanwhile, the Senate Appropriation Committee severely scaled back a nearly \$300 million House tax-cut package to provide just \$75 million to \$80 million in breaks.

The bill would include a three-day back-to-school tax holiday and permanent elimination of sales taxes on tampons and other feminine hygiene products.

The vote was largely partisan, with Democrats opposed and Republicans in favor, although six Democrats voted in favor. One Republican, Sen. Jack Latvala, R-Clearwater, voted no.

Opponents of the proposal said it would overburden local governments, whose revenues are still recovering from the Great Recession. Some Democrats also said the cuts would go to more well-off property owners, leaving lower-income renters to take on more of the tax burden.

"This bill will hurt renters," said Sen. Jeff Clemens, D-Lake Worth. Landlords, who would not get the new tax cut, "are going to raise rents — that's just going to happen."

Republicans, however, said providing tax relief was important as home values continue to climb, and that voters are savvy enough to make their own decisions. Lee said the cuts would spur growth that would soften the effects of projected lost revenues on local governments.

"I think you're going to see construction growth and I think you're going to see people moving in from rentals into homes," Lee said.

State Sen. Perry Thurston, D-Fort Lauderdale, disagreed that voters will carefully weigh the decision to cut their own taxes.

"When you give red meat to animals, they'll take it. If you give baby candy to babies, they'll take it. This is gonna pass if we approve it, but who is it going to hurt?" he said.

Thurston said the cuts would come down hardest on the people who can least afford them.

"We're not gonna take that from law enforcement, we're not gonna take that from our first responders. We're gonna take it from services — libraries, parks, buses," he said. "The sort of stuff that poor people utilize." [dsweeney@SunSentinel.com](mailto:dsweeney@SunSentinel.com), 954-356-4605 or [Twitter@Daniel Sweeney](https://twitter.com/DanielSweeney)

## Trump expected to trade Palm Beach for New Jersey *By Andy Reid Staff writer*



CAROLYN KASTER/AP Bedminster is home to The Trump National Golf Club, which stretches across 600 acres. It is 40 minutes from Manhattan, according to the club website.

Palm Beach appears to be getting another reprieve this weekend from road closings, flight delays and other presidential security hassles.

That's because, Bedminster Township, N.J., is expected to get a turn hosting one of President Donald Trump's White House getaways.

Friday through Sunday, Bedminster is scheduled to have temporary security restrictions that come with presidential travel, according to a notice issued Monday by the Federal Aviation Administration.

Bedminster is home to The Trump National Golf Club, which stretches across 600 acres just 40 minutes from Manhattan, according to the club website.

Since taking office, Trump has made seven visits to his Mar-a-Lago Club in Palm Beach. His most recent visit to Palm Beach was a four-day stay, from April 13-16, for the Easter holiday.

But Mar-a-Lago usually closes for the summer, when many seasonal Palm Beach residents head to vacation homes in the Hamptons and other northern locations.

Now Palm Beach officials are expecting to see less of Trump until the town's social season resumes in the fall.

A Manhattan penthouse and an estate in Bedford, N.Y., are among Trump's northern alternatives to Mar-a-Lago during Florida's sweltering summer. Trump also has three golf clubs in New York and two in New Jersey, including the club in Bedminster.

Even with a New Jersey trip this weekend and the Mar-a-Lago Club due to close as Palm Beach's peak season passes, Trump could still decide to make summertime stops at what he dubbed his Southern White House.

Trump has already used Mar-a-Lago to host meetings with the leaders of Japan and China, while also attending parties and spending time at nearby Trump golf clubs in Jupiter and West Palm Beach during his Palm Beach stays.

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office estimates that Trump's visits since being elected have cost South Florida law enforcement agencies nearly \$4 million for helping provide security.

Along with droves of demonstrators and a host of international media attention, the presidential visits trigger security measures that can affect everyone from commuters to beach-goers.

Presidential motorcades temporarily close roads and block traffic as Trump moves to and from Mar-a-Lago, creating traffic jams from the island to I-95.

Throughout his visits, drivers, pedestrians and bike riders alike are blocked from using South Ocean Boulevard in front of Mar-a-Lago, which hampers traffic flow in Palm Beach.

Commercial vehicles, including anything larger than a passenger van, aren't allowed to use the Southern Boulevard bridge, near Mar-a-Lago during Trump's stays.

Also, much of the beach is also off-limits in front of the presidential estate and the Coast Guard keeps fishermen and other boaters away from the shoreline. The president flying in and out of West Palm Beach can create delays for commercial flights while he is at Palm Beach International Airport and private jets have started flying to Boca Ra-ton and other nearby alternatives to avoid security delays. In addition, local aviation businesses have been disrupted because flight training, airplane rentals and sightseeing flights are not allowed within 30 nautical miles of Mar-a-Lago during presidential visits. [abreid@sunsentinel.com](mailto:abreid@sunsentinel.com), 561-228-5504 or [Twitter@abreidnews](https://twitter.com/abreidnews)

## Tab for Trump will be shared

### Taxpayers nationwide to help pay security costs

*By Anthony Man and Andy Reid Staff writers*

Palm Beach County taxpayers won't have to bear the full burden of the growing local security costs of President Donald Trump's frequent visits to his Mar-a-Lago Club. Under a federal budget deal struck over the weekend, the cost will be covered by taxpayers across the country.

The spending agreement includes \$61 million from the federal government to defray those security costs. There are catches, however.

- The money isn't just for Palm Beach County. New York, where Trump spent most of his time as president-elect, is also in line to get its local security expenses reimbursed.
- The allocation runs through Sept 30. Whether it's actually enough to cover Trump-related security costs incurred by local governments depends on how much travel Trump does in coming months.

Still, U.S. Reps. Ted Deutch and Lois Frankel hailed the allocation. Deutch and Frankel, both Democrats who represent parts of Palm Beach County, have pushed for the federal government to cover the security costs incurred — paid until now by local taxpayers — whenever Trump visits. Most of that cost has been incurred by the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, which is funded largely through local property taxes.

"The citizens of South Florida shouldn't be on the hook every time the president comes down here," Deutch said Monday after a news conference in Dania Beach on other issues.

Frankel, in a telephone interview, said as a matter of fairness local taxpayers shouldn't have to pick up the tab for security costs every time Trump visits.

"Taxpayers are still paying for it, but spread over a bigger population," she said. "If the president comes to town, he's got to be protected."

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office estimates that it has cost about \$3.7 million to help provide security during Trump's visits since he was elected. That includes expenses for the Sheriff's Office and other local law enforcement agencies.

The Palm Beach Police Department estimates that it has racked up about \$115,000 in personnel expenses related to presidential visits.

Sheriff Ric Bradshaw, who coordinates the local law enforcement response with the Secret Service, was out of the office Monday but has said he raised the issue with the president during one of Trump's visits.

The Sheriff's Office declined to comment on the proposed federal funding, "until all the logistics get resolved," spokeswoman Teri Barbera said.

"We understand that a lot has to be considered before the costs can be reimbursed," Barbera said.

Getting congressional approval was expected to be the difficulty. The proposal unveiled Monday could deliver that money, though the check isn't in the mail yet. Congressional votes to approve the proposed spending deal could come by the end of the week.

"It was bipartisan, so hopefully we can count on those dollars," County Administrator Verdenia Baker said. "We will be hoping that this goes through."

Concerns about growing costs from presidential visits have prompted county officials to suggest dipping into taxes on tourists or even creating a special tax on Mar-a-Lago to help cover the expenses.

The bipartisan federal spending deal struck over the weekend by congressional leaders contains two allocations of money — one for \$20 million and one for \$41million — aimed at defraying Trump security costs incurred by local communities since Trump was elected president. Congress is expected to vote on the agreement, which covers federal spending for the rest of the federal fiscal year, this week.

The spending measure contains \$20 million for costs incurred by local governments spent protecting Trump when he was president-elect. That amount is in addition to \$7 million allocated in earlier spending legislation for pre-inauguration costs. That money will be funneled through the U.S. Department of Justice, Deutch said.

The new measure calls for \$41 million to reimburse communities for the costs of security after Trump was inaugurated on Jan. 20, Frankel and Deutch said

Deutch said the money covering post-inaugural security costs will come through the Secret Service, which handles presidential protection. Frankel said the language of the provision allows for reimbursement of extraordinary law enforcement personnel



costs directly attributable to activities requested by the director of the Secret Service. It doesn't allow for hiring of new personnel, she said.

U.S. Rep. Brian Mast, a Republican who represents northern Palm Beach, Martin and St. Lucie counties, said the spending legislation is a positive step because it is bipartisan.

Frankel said the Florida and New York congressional delegations joined to push for the appropriation. Trump spent most of his time before the inauguration at Trump Tower in New York and elsewhere in the city, which incurred its own security costs. Deutch said a distribution formula hasn't yet been worked out, so it's unclear how much other jurisdictions might be able to tap into the pot of money. With the social season ending in Palm Beach, Trump might spend some of his off time at other properties he owns, including a golf course in New Jersey.

Frankel said other jurisdictions where Trump spends time would be able to tap into the money. She said she thinks the appropriation is sufficient to cover the remaining months of the federal fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30

"We're trying to figure out how many places will have the opportunity to claim some of the money. The one thing that's clear is that the president traveled to Florida — he was in Florida seven times, a quarter of the first 100 days of his presidency, practically — so going forward we'll see where he winds up going," Deutch said. While Deutch welcomed the federal aid, he said no American taxpayer should have to subsidize weekends the president spends golfing at properties branded with his name. Deutch said Trump should pay for the security costs himself if he's going to continue to use his own properties as his weekend vacation spots.

He also said he's concerned about the conflicts of interest presented by Trump's activities. "When you come to Mar-a-Lago on a regular basis knowing that it's driving up the value of the club that the president still owns, it raises ethical issues," Deutch said.

He also said national security issues need to be addressed, citing the widely reported incident in which Trump discussed a response to a North Korean missile launch in the open on a Mar-a-Lago terrace with the prime minister of Japan.

Frankel said there are still local hardships that haven't been addressed. There isn't any money to cover the losses for businesses at the Lantana Airport that must shut down because of security-related flight restrictions imposed when Trump is at Mar-a-Lago. [aman@sunsentinel.com](mailto:aman@sunsentinel.com), 954-356-4550

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# ***News Clip 5/8/2017***

## **Palm Beach Post**

### **POST EXCLUSIVE STRIP CLUBS**

## **Strip clubs keep local law enforcers busy**

**There were 309 service calls at the 14 adult businesses in unincorporated Palm Beach County from Nov. 11-**

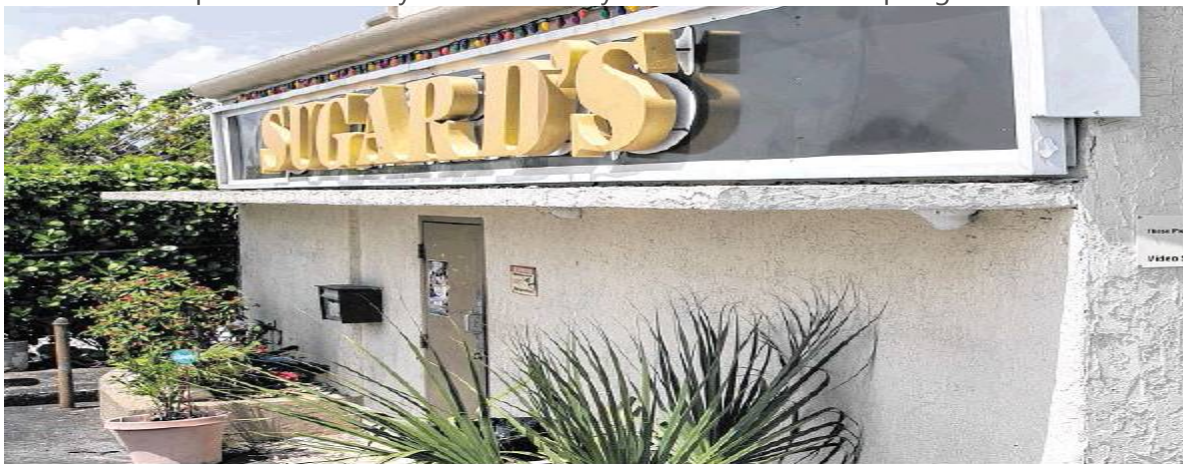
**March 11.** *By Wayne Washington Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Double Dee's Ranch and Saloon, on Southern Boulevard west of West Palm Beach, generated 33 calls for service from the sheriff's office between Nov. 11 and March 11. DAMON HIGGINS / THE PALM BEACH POST



Austin Bryant, shown with his mother Kristina, was fatally shot April 16, 2016, outside the Flashdance strip club at Military Trail and Purdy Lane outside Palm Springs. FAMILY PHOTO



Above: Darryl Randolph, 55, was killed in what was described an accidental shooting April 21 at Sugar Daddy's Cabaret on Military Trail in suburban West Palm Beach.

ALLEN EYESTONE / THE PALM BEACH POST



Left: Greg Bryant Jr., 21, was shot and killed while in a car on southbound Interstate 95 a year ago. He and his passenger had just left Sugar Daddy's.

Booze. Strippers. And men. It's a combination that loosens wallets and lights up law enforcement switchboards.

There were 309 calls for service at the 14 adult businesses in unincorporated Palm Beach County from Nov. 11 through March 11, according to public records provided by the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office.

Some of those calls were generated by deputies making their rounds and simply reporting their location. But other calls were for crimes like theft or assault.

Residents opposed to last year's opening of Double Dee's Ranch and Saloon on Southern Boulevard west of Florida's Turnpike argued that the strip club would be a magnet for crime. To test that argument, The Palm Beach Post asked the sheriff's office for its call-for-service records for Double Dee's and the other 13 adult businesses operating in the unincorporated parts of the county for the first four months that Double Dee's was in business.

There were 33 calls for service to Double Dee's, the records show. An attempt to reach Double Dee's owner, Scott Lizza, were unsuccessful.

Double Dee's did not generate the most calls from November to March.

That distinction belongs to Flashdance on Purdy Lane west of Palm Springs, where records show there were 92 calls from Nov. 11 to March 11.

Emperor Gentleman's Club on Resource Road near Lake Park had 31 calls for service, the same number as Spearmint Rhino on Zip Code Place just off Okeechobee Boulevard west of West Palm Beach.

An attempt to reach Imtiaz Ahmed, listed as the president of the firm that owns Flashdance, was unsuccessful. A man was shot and paralyzed outside of Flashdance in December 2013, and a club manager opened fire on two robbers in 2005.

Kristina Bryant, the mother of a 20-year old killed outside of Flashdance in April 2016, filed suit against the club in January, alleging that the club failed to provide adequate security given the amount of criminal activity in and around the club.

The suit, filed in January, claims more than 900 calls referring to the Flashdance location were made to 911 in the five years before her son was killed.

Kristina Bryant, said the death of her son, Austin Bryant, remains vividly painful.

"The loss of a child doesn't come with a handbook," she said. "You just try to do what you think is right. I brought two kids into this world, and now when I wake up, there's one. It just doesn't seem natural. It doesn't seem right."

The accidental shooting of 55-year old Darryl Rudolph at Sugar Daddy's Adult Cabaret on April 21 has stirred officials' fresh frustrations with adult businesses in the county.

Rudolph — a handyman whose son, Travis, is a former Cardinal Newman High and Florida State University football standout — died a day after he was accidentally shot



doing repair work at Sugar Daddy's on Military Trail west of West Palm Beach. A part-owner of the club, 36-year old Paul Senat of Lantana, has been arrested on a manslaughter charge in Rudolph's death.

Authorities said Senat was "grossly careless" and demonstrated "a reckless disregard for human life" in picking up an AK-47-style rifle, which discharged. Senat told sheriff's investigators he kept the rifle in the club for protection.

In the wake of the shooting, Palm Beach County Mayor Paulette Burdick made it clear what she'd like to see happen at Sugar Daddy's.

"I think the business should close," Burdick said.

Strip clubs have federal protection as a form of expression. An attorney for the county said federal law recognizes that there is a "secondary effect" like crime near strip clubs. That's why local governments can limit where strip clubs are allowed to operate. But governments risk legal challenge if they attempt to ban strip clubs in total.

"It goes to the standard of who gets to decide which businesses are OK," Burdick said, adding that she sympathizes with those who argue that strip clubs are unwelcome crime hot spots. "I don't want them in the county, either, but we have to comply with federal law. It is difficult, and I grit my teeth."

Sugar Daddy's owner David Fiore said Rudolph's death was "a complete tragedy, a freak accident."

There were 72 calls for service at Sugar Daddy's from Nov. 11 to March 11. Only Flashdance generated more calls during that time.

Fiore said the number of calls at Sugar Daddy's does not indicate that the business is a crime hot spot.

"Most of our calls are just girls arguing with their boyfriends," he said. "It's stupid things, not anything serious like aggravated assault. I don't believe a strip club generates any more calls than any other type of business."

Strip clubs often get blamed, Fiore said, for the actions of individual people or for things that take place outside of the business.

Last year, Greg Bryant Jr., a 21-year-old former American Heritage High football standout, was shot to death as he drove home from Sugar Daddy's. (No relation to Austin Bryant.)

"He had the best time of his life before he left with the wrong people," Fiore said.

Burdick said code enforcement also is often a problem at strip clubs.

County code enforcement records show Sugar Daddy's has been cited for several violations, including illegal signage and construction without a permit. The club has been assessed a daily fine of \$100 since April 17 from one set of violations, while fines from another are in collections.



Fiore said he inherited the code violations from the previous owner.

"We've been addressing all of our code violations," Fiore

said. [wwashington@pbpost.com](mailto:wwashington@pbpost.com) **MORE ONLINE** Get more news about Palm Beach County at [eyeonpbc.blog.PalmBeachPost.com](http://eyeonpbc.blog.PalmBeachPost.com)

### BOYNTON BEACH **Lake Worth man jailed in car burglaries**

A Lake Worth man on probation is being held at the Palm Beach County Jail after he was caught breaking into vehicles in Boynton Beach, according to an arrest report.

Among the items allegedly found in Jervaughn Ewell's possession following his arrest by Boynton Beach police were brass knuckles and a stun gun.

Ewell is facing charges of armed burglary, unarmed burglary, resisting an officer without violence and possessing a concealed weapon.

Ewell, 20, was scheduled for bond hearings on Saturday and Sunday but refused to appear in court, records show. He is due again in court today.

Ewell was sentenced to two years' probation Dec. 20 after being convicted of burglary in Broward County. His probation was scheduled to run until Dec. 19, 2018.

Ewell was spotted Thursday morning by a witness breaking into several vehicles on the 600 block of Northeast Sixth Court, the report said.

A Boynton Beach police officer saw Ewell on a bicycle in the area of Northeast Eighth Avenue and North Federal Highway and took him into custody after a short foot chase, the report said.

### WEST PALM BEACH **Man slain in parking lot of Foster's Shak bar**

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office is investigating a homicide that took place early Sunday morning near Palm Beach International Airport.

PBSO responded around 12:30 a.m. to reports of a shooting at Foster's Shak at 2225 Belvedere Road in suburban West Palm Beach across from the airport. Deputies found Mansor Harris, 39, in the bar's parking lot. He had been shot and killed, a PBSO spokesman said.

The suspect fled. The spokesman did not provide any details on the shooter.

A bar employee declined comment.

The killing is the 45th homicide recorded in Palm Beach County this year, according to the Palm Beach Post's homicide tracker.

Anyone with information is asked to call CrimeStoppers at 800-458-TIPS (8477).

## LAKE WORTH **Deputy hospitalized after two-car crash**

A Palm Beach County Sheriff's deputy was hospitalized with non-life-threatening injuries following a two-car crash Sunday.

The driver of a white Nissan was also taken to an unidentified hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

The crash took place at the intersection of South Dixie Highway and Eighth Avenue South and shut down South Dixie Highway in both directions for more than an hour. The sheriff's office patrol vehicle sustained extensive damage to the driver's side as well as damage to its front end after it hit a wall after being struck by the Nissan.

— JORGE MILIAN

## LAKE WORTH

### **City sets out to remove abandoned vehicles Owners have five days to move vehicles after they're tagged.** *By Kevin D. Thompson Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



This abandoned pickup on South K Street was tagged by the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office and removed. CONTRIBUTED

If you own an abandoned, inoperable or derelict vehicle that's been left on a public right-of-way, Lake Worth wants you to move it ... or it will.

In an initiative that started Tuesday and will last the next two weeks, the city's code compliance division, in partnership with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, will begin red tagging those vehicles, giving owners five days to move them.

If that doesn't happen, on the sixth day, your vehicle could be gone.

"We're using all our zone officers," Lori Milano, an assistant director of operations for the city's community sustainability department told city commissioners Tuesday.

"We're saying two weeks, but we're not quite sure if it will take that long. We'll be working closely with PBSO and using their officers so we can light the city in red."

Mayor Pam Triolo noted how there are certain communities Palm Beach County Fire-Rescue has difficulty getting to because so many cars are lined up.

According to a Florida statute, only a law enforcement officer, not a code compliance officer, can red tag a vehicle, Milano said.

Once that's done, Milano said the code officer will notify the owner and take pictures of the vehicle.

If the owner doesn't comply, the city will have the vehicle towed.

City Attorney Glen Torcivia told The Palm Beach Post the vehicle owner will be billed for the towing fees.

City fees will also be assessed, William Waters, the city's community sustainability director, said.

"They are blight in the neighborhoods and sometimes hamper vehicular traffic on some streets," Waters said in an email to The Palm Beach Post. "They have been and are a major source of citizen complaints."

City Commissioner Andy Amoroso said the division should also address commercial vehicles that are parked overnight in neighborhoods and that are taking up large chunks of real estate.

"I get a lot of calls on that," Amoroso said.

Milano said once the city wraps its arms around the derelict, abandoned and inoperable vehicles, it can address that issue. [kthompson@pbpost.com](mailto:kthompson@pbpost.com)

**[Twitter: @KevinDThompson1](#)**

Mayor Pam Triolo noted how there are certain communities Palm Beach County Fire-Rescue has difficulty getting to because so many cars are lined up.

# GOVERNOR SCOTT ORDERS STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO OPIOID EPIDEMIC



There is no more denying the current opioid crisis in Florida. On May 3, 2017, Governor Rick Scott signed Executive Order 17-146 directing a Public Health Emergency across the state of Florida due to the opioid epidemic. Governor Scott's order came after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention declared a national opioid epidemic.

The Emergency Order Governor Scott signed will allow the state to immediately draw down more than \$27 million in federal grant funding from the United States Department of Health and Human Services Opioid State Targeted Response Grant which was awarded to Florida on April 21. The funding will be used to provide prevention, treatment and recovery support services.

Governor Scott said, "Today, I issued an executive order which allows the state to immediately draw down more than \$27 million in federal grant funding which will immediately be distributed to communities across the state to deal with the opioid epidemic. HHS Secretary Dr. Tom Price awarded the Opioid State Targeted Response Grant to Florida and I want to thank the Trump Administration for their focus on this national epidemic. I have also directed State Surgeon General Dr. Celeste Philip to declare a Public Health Emergency and issue a standing order for Naloxone in response to the opioid epidemic in Florida.

Palm Beach County Commissioner Melissa McKinley stated, "I am proud to report that Governor Scott issued Executive Order 17-146 today declaring the opioid epidemic in Florida to be a public health crisis. Thank you from the bottom of my

heart to each and every one of you who has helped to sound the alarm on the devastating effect the opioid epidemic continues to have on our community.” To help educate our community about this opioid epidemic, the Central Palm Beach County Chamber of Commerce and their Medical Board of Governors will be focusing their June Economic Luncheon on the “Economics of Addiction” with Presenting Sponsor Retreat Premier Addiction Treatment Centers Palm Beach. The luncheon, which will be held on June 8th from 11am - 1pm at Breakers West Country Club, will feature State Attorney Dave Aronberg as the Keynote Speaker. To learn more about this event or to reserve your seat, please visit [www.cpbchamber.com](http://www.cpbchamber.com).

## LEGISLATURE 2017 DISTRACTED DRIVING

# Measures toughening distracted-driving laws never received hearings

*By Jorge Milian Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



In Florida, 216 people were killed during 2015 in crashes involving distracted driving, the state Division of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles reported. PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY THOMAS CORDY / THE PALM BEACH POST 2013

Tired of sharing roads with drivers busily texting on their cellphones?

Better get used to it for, at least, another year.

Several bills in the Florida Legislature that would have toughened laws about distracted driving never had a chance, getting shelved without a hearing before the session wound down Friday.

Texting while driving in school zones might seem like a bad idea to most people, but legislation — House Bill 47 — co-introduced by state Rep. Emily Slosberg, D-Boca

Raton, to give police the authority to ticket those individuals didn't get out of the gate.

A similar fate befell a second proposal from Slosberg that would have allowed law-enforcement to pull over drivers 18 years old and under caught texting behind the wheel.

"They never made it out of the drawer," Slosberg said.

In Florida, texting while driving is considered a secondary offense. That means police must witness a driver committing a primary traffic infraction — such as speeding, running a stop sign — before a citation can be issued for texting. The fine is \$30. Attempts to beef up texting laws in recent years have all been snuffed out before they could get to the floor in either chamber.

"It would be hard for anybody to vote against these laws, so they don't give it a hearing," Slosberg said. "It's like they're saying, 'We want there to be texting while driving.' "

Conservative opponents of stricter laws say they impinge on personal freedoms. Meanwhile, some groups fear giving police more discretion to pull over minority drivers.

What's not open to argument is that distracted driving is a growing killer.

Fatalities in the U.S. caused by distracted drivers increased 8.8 percent in 2015 from the previous year, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. In Florida, 216 people were killed during 2015 in crashes involving distracted driving, the state Division of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles reported.

That's a dramatic increase from 2011 when only 21 deaths were attributed to distraction.

The problem could be even worse. Officers normally rely on a driver's admission of texting as the cause of a crash.

Enforcement of the state's current texting law is sporadic at best. The DMV reports that only 3,488 distracted driving citations were issued from Oct. 1, 2013 to Dec. 31, 2015.

Because texting and driving is a secondary offense in Florida, the law lacks teeth, critics say.

"A driver can be doing everything else right, but he's texting," said Anthony Green, director of public policy for Safe Kids Worldwide, a Washington, D.C.-based organization that tracks children safety issues. "Well, a police officer cannot stop them. The driver knows that. And that's a problem."

Florida is one of a handful of states that doesn't classify texting while driving as a primary offense.



But a sampling of comments on Delray Raw, a Face-book page devoted to Delray Beach, indicated that many people have the impression that police have the power to ticket texting motorists absent other traffic infractions.

"I thought texting while driving was illegal in Florida," wrote AnnMarie Lynch. "I don't do it. Too many people have died because of it."

Traffic safety issues strike close to home for Slosberg. She sustained serious injuries and her 14-year-old twin sister, Dori, was one of five teenagers killed after the car they were passengers in crashed on Palmetto Park Road on Feb. 23, 1996. None of the seven occupants in the car was wearing a seat belt.

Irv Slosberg, Emily's father, got into politics as a result of the crash and pushed through legislation in 2009 that made it mandatory for Floridians to wear seat belts. Prior to that, not buckling up was a secondary violation.

Since taking over her father's political seat this past year, Emily Slosberg has followed his footsteps by championing traffic safety.

"We're trying to make our roads safer so nobody else has to go through what we went through," Slosberg said.

"It's been incredibly frustrating," Slosberg said. "But I'm hopeful."

That optimism comes from a study ordered by state lawmakers this past month that could lead to legislative recommendations resulting in tougher texting laws beginning as soon as 2018.

Slosberg hails the initiative but wonders if any more data is necessary to convince skeptics that something must be done to curb texting motorists.

"I don't think we need a study," Slosberg said. [jmilian@pbpost.com](mailto:jmilian@pbpost.com)

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## ONLINE TRANSACTIONS

# Police offer safe havens to close online transactions Departments invite marketplace app users to stations to seal deals.

*By Julius Whigham II Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



The lobby of the Boynton Beach Police Department is marked as a designated place where people who use online marketplaces can complete their transactions safely. ALEXANDRA SELTZER / THE PALM BEACH POST

Looking to sell your old iPhone or buy that new tablet online?

There's an app — and a safe place — for that.

Several local police departments are encouraging residents using online marketplace apps such as Offer Up and Let Go to use the police station's lobbies or parking lots to complete their transactions.

Boynton Beach police issued a reminder about the dangers of online transactions last month when a woman who tried to sell an iPhone through the OfferUp mobile app reportedly fell victim to a strong-arm robbery. According to police, the woman exchanged text messages with 19-year-old Christopher Gomez of South Bay, who expressed interest in buying her phone.

The two arranged to meet April 17 near the woman's place of employment. When Gomez arrived, he took the woman's phone and sped away without paying, police said.

He was later arrested after police tracked him down. Police say three people attempting to sell iPhones in January fell victim to similar crimes.

"Our lobby is a safe place to conduct transactions," Boynton Beach police spokeswoman Stephanie Slater said.

Port St. Lucie police recently put up "Meetup Spot" signs donated by OfferUp. The signs are on the east side of the police department parking lot in a spot that's covered by around-the-clock video recording. The transactions can also be done in the police department's lobby, Sgt. Frank Sabol, the department's spokesman said.

Sabol said conducting transactions at the police department provides a safer alternative to meeting an unknown person in an unknown place.

"If they try to convince somebody to go somewhere else, or they don't want to go to the police department, then you know they have nefarious(intentions)," Sabol said.

In years past, police departments — among them Boynton Beach, Del-ray Beach, Jupiter and West Palm Beach — have invited residents selling and buying items through Craigslist and similar websites to use police headquarters to complete the transactions.

"To be honest, that's what I've done when I've sold something. I don't want a stranger going to my house," West Palm Beach Police spokesman Sgt. Dave Lefont said. "The reason you'd want to do it at a police station is it alleviates the concern for both sides."

Sheriff's spokeswoman Teri Barbera said residents can use the parking lot at the sheriff's headquarters or one of its substations, but noted that some locations are only staffed during regular business hours.

Residents with a concern about a meeting location should call the sheriff's office for assistance, she said. [jwhigham@pbpost.com](mailto:jwhigham@pbpost.com) Twitter: [@JuliusWhigham](https://twitter.com/JuliusWhigham)

# Legislature 2017: All over but the budget

## House speaker's fight with Scott was central to session.

*By Brandon Larrabee News Service of Florida*



Sen. Tom Lee, R- Brandon (right), talks with Speaker of the House Richard Corcoran, R-Land O' Lakes, on the House floor during late negotiations Friday at the Capitol in Tallahassee. By the end of the day, the House and Senate had passed 231 bills for the session, a tie for the lowest number in a session this century. MARK WALLHEISER / AP

TALLAHASSEE — To the extent that any legislative session is remembered, the 2017 edition might be remembered as much for what lawmakers didn't do as for what they did.

Supposedly must-pass bills on workers' compensation and medical marijuana turned out not to be as must-pass as originally thought. A gambling bill that lawmakers said was closer to becoming law than ever before? Dead long before lawmakers stopped work Friday night on most issues.

And, most prominently, the nearly \$83 billion spending plan for the year that begins July 1 remains unapproved. The Legislature will return today to vote on the budget and a package of related bills.

Even if all that legislation is approved, though, this Legislature will not be able to avoid being one of the least active in terms of bills passed since at least 1998, as far back as online records go.

By the end of Friday, the House and Senate had passed 231 bills. That's the same number approved by lawmakers during the 2015 regular session, which blew up with the House going home three days early. No other session since 1998 has passed fewer than 264 bills.

Not everyone is dismayed by that turn of events. House Speaker Richard Corcoran, R-Land O' Lakes, said Friday night that passing a small amount of legislation could be a good thing.

"What we do way too much of is all this other stuff on the periphery that really doesn't have any kind of a dramatic effect on people's lives. ... We come up here and work deals for the special interests and we pass all the special-interest bills. So, yeah, I think when you constrain the number of bills, I think it says that the focus was on doing the people's will and not the special interests' will," Corcoran said.

And some of what lawmakers did pass could still be undone by Gov. Rick Scott. The governor's budget priorities were almost universally rejected in the final agreement, leading to speculation he might veto the entire budget — an extraordinarily rare move. And even if he signs the overall spending plan, Scott could use his line-item veto to strike specific projects dear to top lawmakers, or wield his veto pen against policy bills.

A legislature that did historically little could end the year with even fewer concrete accomplishments.

### **Kill bills**

Despite Corcoran's attempts to portray the failed bills as little more than the checklists of powerful interests, at least one measure watched outside the Tallahassee bubble died on the last day: a bill to implement the medical marijuana constitutional amendment approved by voters last year.

Even that, though, was undermined by a fight in the shadows over control of the state's potentially lucrative marijuana industry.

The key fight: how many pot dispensaries the state should have. The final House version of the legislation (HB 1397) would have imposed a cap of 100 retail outlets for each of the state's medical marijuana operators — down from an unlimited number in an earlier bill. The Senate had proposed a cap of 10, at least for the time being.

With the failure of the House and Senate to reach agreement, state health officials will be responsible for putting the amendment in place, but those officials have been harshly criticized by legislators, patients, vendors — and judges — for their handling of the state's current medical marijuana regulations.

Lawmakers also couldn't bridge a gap Friday night on closely watched legislation aimed at holding down workers' compensation insurance rates. A cap was at issue in that case, as well; this time, it was a limit on attorney fees.

But critics said a limit on attorney fees in the House bill could have prevented injured workers from having adequate legal representation in disputes with insurance companies.

Lawmakers were trying to address a pair of Florida Supreme Court rulings that played a key role in state regulators later approving a 14.5 percent increase in workers' compensation insurance rates. That hike started taking effect in December.

The House proposed capping attorney fees at a maximum of \$150 an hour, while the Senate proposed \$250 an hour. In a last-ditch bid for an agreement, the House upped its proposal to \$180 an hour, but the Senate adjourned Friday night without considering it.

By the time those proposals collapsed on Friday, House and Senate leaders had already given up on overcoming an impasse on slot machines that bedeviled an attempt to pass sweeping gambling legislation.

The two chambers were divided over whether to allow slots at pari-mutuels in eight counties where voters have approved the machines.

The legislation centered on trying to reach an agreement, called a compact, with the Seminole Tribe and resolving a series of gambling-related court decisions affecting the deal with the tribe.

"We thought this was going to be the year, as opposed to the other years where we've come close," said lobbyist Nick Iarossi, who represents pari-mutuel facilities in Melbourne and Jacksonville that want to add slots.

Asked whether the legislature's failure to pass a gambling bill weakens the state's position to negotiate with the tribe over a future compact, lead House negotiator Jose Felix Diaz, R-Miami, said there were no talks with the tribe ongoing.

"We're not any weaker or stronger. We just are nowhere.," he said.

### **Chaos theory**

Lawmakers attempting to move big legislative projects were hampered by problems large and small, some well out of the control of the Legislature and some created by the actions of individuals.

Education policy at times became bogged down because of an unforeseeable personal challenge: Sen. Dorothy Hukill, the Port Orange Republican chosen to chair the Senate Education Committee, missed the entire legislative session as she was treated for cancer.

House members said that slowed down work on issue-by-issue legislation — several of those measures were eventually folded into a massive budget conforming bill expected to be approved today.

"We sent several single bills over there, and they didn't have a chance to get heard," said Rep. Manny Diaz Jr., R-Hialeah.

Other disruptions were choices. Corcoran, for his part, never made a secret of his intention to shake up Tallahassee. He held fewer discussions with reporters than his recent predecessors, but when Corcoran did hold court, it was hard to skip. Anyone could become the target of a verbal bomb.

In his session-opening address, Corcoran shrugged off rumors of a special session as no big deal, then added: "anyone waiting for us to slow down, to drop the big ideas,



to stop trying to shake up the system, to cower in the face of attacks, or to cave to the demands of special interests, here's our message to you: We will not."

The House speaker became perhaps the central character of the legislative session. His feud with Scott over economic development incentives and tourism marketing turned increasingly hostile and at times personal.

Corcoran's hard-charging negotiating style frustrated some of the senators who worked with him on the budget, but it was ultimately effective.

Several Capitol insiders gave the House a pronounced advantage on the deals that were struck, and Corcoran got a coveted victory: no economic development incentives were included in the budget, and the state's tourism marketing agency was severely reduced.

## Sun Sentinel

# Bridge work cuts access to president

*By Andy Reid | Staff writer*



SOURCE: Google Earth

CATIE PETERSON/STAFF ARTIS

Space for sign waving and speeches is shrinking on what has turned into Protest Island near President Donald Trump's Palm Beach estate.

Fences and police barricades are closing off territory on tiny Bingham Island, just east of the Southern Boulevard bridge, near Trump's Mar-a-Lago Club.

The island has become a magnet for Trump protesters and supporters alike since Election Day, because it offers one of the few public gathering spaces available amid the mansions, private clubs and other prized real estate surrounding Mar-a-Lago.

But barriers erected in recent weeks have closed most of the parking and the grassy areas where hundreds of demonstrators had been gathering to spread their message close to what the president calls his Southern White House.

"It's as close as you can get to Mar-a-Lago when he's in town," said Trump protest organizer David Gibson, of Peace, Justice, Sustainability Florida. "A piece at a time, they keep taking areas away from us."

Those hurdles to public access aren't expected to disappear anytime soon.

Newly added chain link fences have gone up around construction staging sites for a long-scheduled Southern Boulevard bridge replacement expected to last three years. That would make most of the island off limits for large demonstrations until almost the end of Trump's four-year term.

The public can still use slender strips of beach rimming the island and a narrow area between the fenced-off construction zones.

But that's not enough room for the hundreds of demonstrators who at times have marched from West Palm Beach over the bridge to Bingham Island.

"There's no place closer or better to hold rallies," said Patrick Ferguson of the Sierra Club, who led a climate change protest march to Bingham Island on April 29. "It's very important to have a public speaking space that close."

The town of Palm Beach maintains that the new squeeze on public space available at Bingham Island wasn't an effort to curtail demonstrations during Trump's visits to Mar-a-Lago. The bridge replacement was in the works long before demonstrators started flocking to Bingham Island, according to town and state representatives.

"These plans have been in place since before President Trump was even running," Palm Beach Police Capt. Curtis Krauel said.

Bingham Island is a small stretch of land between two bridges, less than a mile long, that link Palm Beach to the mainland.

South of Southern Boulevard, much of the island is a bird sanctuary.

North of Southern Boulevard, the island features a narrow beach, a parking lot and grassy right-of-way area, which have become a rallying site for demonstrators seeking to make their voices heard while waving signs and flags within sight of Mar-a-Lago.

Space for demonstrators started to shrink in Bingham Island during Trump's April 6 and 7 summit with the president of China, when an army of local law enforcement agencies helping provide security claimed more space on the island.

Likewise, on April 15 the parking lot on the north side of Bingham Island was blocked off by police when nearly 700 protesters marched from West Palm Beach toward Mar-a-Lago, renewing the call for Trump to release his federal tax records.

Then on April 29, environmental advocates marching to raise awareness about climate change were surprised to find fences blocking them from using the area on Bingham Island where they had planned to hold their rally.

Protest organizers had coordinated with Palm Beach police to hold their rally between the road and the beach, but the fences for bridge construction went up sooner than expected.

"They gave us the little area in between [the fences], but it wasn't anywhere near big enough to hold the rally," Ferguson said.

When the climate-change demonstrators found they didn't have room to gather on Bingham Island, police allowed them to march along Southern Boulevard to the roundabout beside Mar-a-Lago before heading back over the bridge to West Palm Beach.

But that was only allowed because the president wasn't in Palm Beach that day, according to Palm Beach police. When the president is in Mar-a-Lago, the Secret Service doesn't allow people to gather that close to Trump's estate.

In addition, South Ocean Drive in front of Mar-a-Lago as well as the beach bordering it are closed to the public.

Demonstrators can use sidewalks, parks and other public areas in the town of Palm Beach — as long as they don't block traffic — but there aren't many of those near Mar-a-Lago, according to the police department.

"It's in a residential community," Krauel said about the president's 18-acre estate, which he turned into a private club. "This isn't a government park or a business district."

Bingham Island, without bathrooms or electrical hookups and limited parking, was already a less-than-ideal site to host a crowd.

Now, the fencing for the Southern Boulevard bridge construction project has closed off much of the prime real estate near Mar-a-Lago that still made it appealing as a protest destination.

The \$93 million Southern Boulevard Bridge construction has long been scheduled to follow work on another bridge to Palm Beach, the Flagler Memorial Bridge, which is nearing completion, according to Florida Department of Transportation spokeswoman Barbara Kelleher.

Work crews have already been moving water lines and other utilities along Southern Boulevard. Now, workers are creating space to bring in materials to be used to build the temporary bridge that must be constructed before replacing the old bridge.

The goal is to be done by November 2020, but the work could stretch into early 2021, Kelleher said.

When it's done, the 6-foot-wide sidewalks and 7-foot-wide bike lane will make it easier for future demonstrators and others to get to Bingham Island.

Until then, Palm Beach police and demonstration organizers say they expect more protest rallies to be held in West Palm Beach. Dreher Park along Southern Boulevard borders Trump's motorcade route and George Petty Park, near Flagler Drive, is just across the Intracoastal Waterway from Mar-a-Lago.

"We are going to march wherever we can and get as close as we can," Gibson said. [abreid@sunsentinel.com](mailto:abreid@sunsentinel.com), 561-228-5504 or [Twitter@abreidnews](https://twitter.com/abreidnews)

## Florida punts again on texting law



*By Scott Maxwell*

Texting while driving is a deadly epidemic in this country. Nearly nine people die every day as a result of distracted driving, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The numbers for accidents in general are even higher — about one every minute. That means that, in just the time it took you to read this far in this column — CRASH!! — another life was probably affected, maybe ended. It's a problem more prevalent than drunken driving. For all those reasons, most states — 42 of them — have banned texting while driving. And for all those reasons, safe-driving advocates and victims of past crashes hoped Florida would join them this year. But we did not. As legislators once again held countless hearings on issues the booze lobby, pot lobby, gun lobby and insurance lobby wanted them to consider, the bill to ban texting while driving simply collected dust. "We didn't even get a hearing — not one hearing — in the transportation committee," said Rep. Emily Slosberg, the South Florida Democrat who sponsored the bill. "It's just not a priority because there aren't lobbyists up here pushing it." CRASH!! (Another minute passed.) Technically, Florida does have a ban on texting and driving. But, unlike those other 42 states, it's what's called a "secondary offense," meaning cops can't stop drivers unless the officers see the drivers committing some other infraction. As Slosberg noted: "Every other infraction, including not wearing seat belts, is a primary offense." The inconsistency makes little sense to law-enforcement leaders. "I just don't understand why we haven't followed the other states," said Orlando Police Chief John Mina. It's not about making more arrests, Mina said. It's about changing

behavior. "I think it would stop the vast majority of law-abiding people who will decide: OK, now it's a law." Orange County Sheriff Jerry Demings agreed, noting that such laws wouldn't just protect other drivers, but pedestrians as well. CRASH!! That was the last sound WKMG-Channel 6 anchor Matt Austin heard before he blacked out last year. Austin regained his senses in the middle of an intersection with something wet running down his neck. It was blood. The child safety seat in his back of his car had flown forward when a texting driver rammed into his car, ripping off the back of Austin's scalp. During his recovery in the week that followed - much of it in dark room where he couldn't read or even watch his own TV station - Austin decided to do something he hadn't ever done before: actively lobby to get a law changed. "I never wanted to blur this line," Austin said. "But this isn't a partisan issue. It's something the public overwhelmingly supports. I've been contacted by people with stories about moms dying, kids dying. something needs to change." So Austin, a father of three, took his own story to the airwaves and started interviewing legislators, asking why they wouldn't change the law. Few of them actually seemed opposed to the idea. It was just that few of them seemed very passionate about championing it, either. "They finally realized: It's not that there's money pushing them not to do this," Austin said. "It's that there's not money pushing them to do this." That became extra clear during a trip to Tallahassee when Austin stood outside a legislative chamber with the father of a child killed by a distracted driver as lawmakers debated a tweak in the state's liquor laws ... for six hours. The grieving dad was incensed. He couldn't even get legislators to hold a hearing on the texting law. But the lobbyists for Wal-Mart, Target and the liquor stores — all fighting over their right to the public's booze money — scored undivided attention. CRASH!! Slosberg said she will try again next year. She has a bipartisan coalition of co-sponsors. And in a ray of hope, she said legislative leaders have agreed to hold a workshop on the matter this fall. There is a contingent opposed to texting laws on the grounds that texting is a civil liberty. But that argument doesn't take much thought to refute. Drinking beer is a liberty, too. But you don't have the right to do it while driving. Quite simply, you don't have the liberty to engage in behavior likely to kill people. There are details that need fleshing out; rules about checking phones at stoplights or for GPS purposes, the amount of the fines, etc. But the important thing is to have the discussion — something most states have already done, but which Florida has not. Meanwhile, as every day passes CRASH!! To find contact info for your legislator, visit [www.leg.state.fl.us](http://www.leg.state.fl.us). Scott Maxwell is a columnist at the Orlando Sentinel. Email him at [smaxwell@orlandosentinel.com](mailto:smaxwell@orlandosentinel.com). Drinking beer is a liberty, too. But you don't have the right to do it while driving.

**From:** [Anderson, Cassandra L](#)  
**Subject:** News Clips 5/14/2017  
**Date:** Monday, May 15, 2017 12:39:24 PM  
**Attachments:** [News Clips.docx](#)

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# **News Clip 5/14/2017**

## **Palm Beach Post**

**CRIME DEPUTY-INVOLVED SHOOTING**

### **Family: Drugs led man to fatal shootout** Suspect wasn't violent, grandmother says, but feared returning to jail.

*By Susan Salisbury Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



O'Shea



Palm Beach County Sheriff Rick Bradshaw confers with other officials at the shooting scene in Jupiter on Friday. BRUCE R. BENNETT / THE PALM BEACH POST

WESTPALMBEACH— When friends and family see news stories about the fatal shooting of Phillip O'Shea by a Palm Beach County sheriff's deputy in Jupiter on Friday evening, they can't believe it's him.

The O'Shea they knew was affectionate, fun-loving and likable, his grandmother Doris Edwards of West Palm Beach told The Palm Beach Post on Saturday. Now they have learned he had a hidden drug addiction and that he committed crimes to pay for drugs.

"When they put violence on the news, I say, 'Are they talking about Phillip?' He wasn't violent," Edwards said. "It was definitely a drug thing that caused all of this. He was two people. He really was."

Friday's fatal shooting took place in a parking lot near the Wood Duck apartments on Military Trail south of Toney Penna Drive. Three deputies have been placed on administrative leave following the shooting, Sheriff Ric Bradshaw said at the scene Friday night.

The PBSO has not released their names or the details of what happened in the parking lot. None of the deputies was injured, but a K9 named Casper was shot and had surgery Friday night.

Sheriff's officials say O'Shea, 46, was the gunman involved in a shootout with deputies about 12 hours earlier at a suburban West Palm Beach industrial park, off Okeechobee Boulevard just west of Interstate 95.

Deputies had chased O'Shea there following a robbery attempt at about 4 a.m. at Duggan's Bar and Grill at Okeechobee and Haverhill Road. The PBSO says O'Shea sped east and crashed his car at the industrial park, on Church Street, and came out firing. A fourth unidentified deputy was injured avoiding the gunfire and was treated at a hospital for minor injuries.

The incident began a day-long search for O'Shea that at one point had helicopters in the skies over West Palm Beach and sent robocalls to people who live near the industrial park telling them a manhunt was taking place in the area.

Bradshaw said O'Shea fled from the West Palm Beach area by carjacking a woman and traveling to Jupiter, where deputies tracked him prior to the shootout.

O'Shea served time in state prison from May 1996 to March 1999 for crimes committed in Palm Beach County in 1994, including two counts of aggravated assault and one of robbery with a gun or deadly weapon, online court records show. He was also in prison from June through November 2013 following a 2012 grand theft conviction that was also a Palm Beach County case, according to online records of the Florida Department of Corrections.

In 1991, O'Shea was charged with two counts of attempting homicide with a car, stealing a car and burglary from an incident in suburban West Palm Beach, according to Palm Beach County court records.

North Carolina Department of Public Safety records indicate that O'Shea served time on a 2015 driving while intoxicated charge as well.

Edwards said her grandson had recently told his mother that if police found him for a robbery he committed in North Carolina, he didn't want to go back to jail. He told her he would rather die than return to prison, Edwards said.

Authorities in Wake County, N.C., issued a warrant for O'Shea's arrest following a May 2 robbery at a Super 8 motel in Raleigh. O'Shea and an accomplice are accused of stealing \$750, according to documents provided by the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office.

His grandmother said that must have driven O'Shea's actions Friday night.

"He knew as soon as he shot that bullet, the police would kill him. He chose to die," Doris Edwards said. "He shot low and hit the dog. They killed him. That was his choice. He told his mother beforehand.

"He had just come down from North Carolina. He went for several jobs, and they said there was no work. He said, 'Grams, I am going to try to make you happy.' He went to two or three places."

No one would hire him because of his record, Edwards said. He came from a good family, but things didn't go well in his life, she said. He had a marriage that didn't work.

Edwards said the family knew her West Palm Beach-born grandson had used marijuana starting around age 16, but they didn't know the extent of his drug problem until now. O'Shea had even told his grandmother that drugs were rampant in prison, but that he knew better than to use them.

Now she said she has learned that O'Shea became even more addicted in prison, and she is waiting for autopsy results to tell her more.

"We never suspected," Edwards said. "They are very good actors."

O'Shea's uncle, Patrick O'Shea, said his nephew attended John I. Leonard High School in Greenacres and was a giving, caring person who was happy when he stayed with the family.

"Anyone can look bad on paper," O'Shea said. [ssalisbury@pbpost.com](mailto:ssalisbury@pbpost.com)

# Hobe Sound storage center hit by thieves

*By Julius Whigham II Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

HOBE SOUND — A Hobe Sound storage center is the latest one thieves have targeted in Palm Beach County and the Treasure Coast.

At least one person cut the locks off several interior units last week at Storage Rentals of America at Federal Highway and Osprey Street, the Martin County Sheriff's Office said.

The sheriff's report does not specify how many units were broken into, but notes the facility's north and south interior buildings were affected. Deputies were patrolling an industrial stretch of Southeast Suzanne Drive about 3:30 a.m. Monday when they noticed several suspicious items lying on the southwest corner of the storage facility. The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office warned this month that storage facilities throughout the county have been targeted by thieves.

Anyone with information about the burglary is asked to call the Martin County Sheriff's Office at 772-220-7000. [jwhigham@pbpost.com](mailto:jwhigham@pbpost.com)

## CRIME STOPPERS These suspects were wanted as of Friday:

**Nicholas Charneco**, 33, on charges of failure to appear for grand theft. He was born on May 3, 1984, has brown hair and brown eyes and is 5 feet 9 inches, 160 pounds. His last known address was NW 20th Street, Boca Raton.

**Brandyn Ash**, 24, on charges of dealing in stolen property, false verification of ownership, grand theft and violation of probation for dealing in stolen property, false verification of ownership and fleeing or attempting to elude marked police car. He was born on April 2, 1993, has brown hair and brown eyes and is 6 feet 160 pounds. His last known address was South Swinton Avenue, Del-ray Beach. Call Crime Stoppers at 800-458-TIPS (8477).



Charneco



Ash

# **K-9 wounded in Friday shooting goes home Casper recovering after surgery for bullet wound suffered in deadly police shootout.**

*By Andrew Marra Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

WEST PALM BEACH — Dazed but healthy, Casper the wounded sheriff's office K9 walked out of a suburban West Palm Beach animal hospital Saturday after successful surgery to remove a bullet that struck him during a deadly police shootout Friday in Jupiter.

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office dog survived a shootout Friday evening that claimed the life of Philip O'Shea, 46, who deputies had been pursuing since a bar robbery that morning.

Deputies had pursued O'Shea to Jupiter following a shootout off Okeechobee Boulevard early Friday in which a deputy was injured diving for cover.

Details of the final shootout were scant, but deputies say it took place in a parking lot near the Wood Duck apartments on Military Trail south of Toney Penna Drive. During the encounter, Casper was struck in the left hip by gunfire. The bullet missed his vital organs, and it was removed by surgery at Palm Beach Veterinary Specialists, according to a video posted on Twitter by the sheriff's office.

By Saturday afternoon, the bullet was out and Casper had recovered from anesthesia.

The video showed him walking out of the clinic with relative ease.

"He's on antibiotics and is walking fairly well, all things considered," said Michele Tucker, the veterinary center's managing director of patient services, on the video. [amarra@pbpost.com](mailto:amarra@pbpost.com) **Twitter: @AMarraPBPost**

POST IN-DEPTH SOBER HOME CONVICTION

# Victims' moms have messages for Chatman They will speak at the sentencing for corrupt sober home operator.

*By Lawrence Mower Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Kenneth Chatman pleaded guilty to turning his female patients into prostitutes and withholding meds. RICHARD GRAULICH / THE PALM BEACH POST **WHAT THE POST REPORTED** Citing police reports, The Post exposed Kenneth "Kenny" Chatman as a sober home owner who kept women "in a state of impairment in order to 'pimp' them out." The December 2015 story also detailed the drug overdose death of a 27-year-old man in a Chatman sober home. Read the coverage at [MyPalmBeachPost.com](http://MyPalmBeachPost.com)



Ryan Pekar, 27, died of a heroin overdose in one of Kenneth Chatman's sober homes. CONTRIBUTED





Alison Flory, 24, attended Reflections. She overdosed and died Oct.

14. CONTRIBUTED



Mikaya Feucht, 24, died in July from a carfentanil overdose. She

had two sons. CONTRIBUTED

After her 27-year-old son, Ryan, overdosed and died in one of Kenny Chatman's sober homes in 2014, Tina Pekar called Chat-man looking for answers.

"Ryan who?" was his response.

On Wednesday, before Chat-man learns how many years he'll spend behind bars, Pekar will have a chance to confront him for the first time.

"I'll ask, 'Now do you remember who Ryan is? I bet you'll never forget him for the rest of your life,'" she said last week.

Chatman, who built up a corrupt multimillion-dollar drug treatment operation in just three years, faces up to life in federal prison after pleading guilty to conspiracies to commit money laundering, health care fraud and sex trafficking. He and his wife, Laura, who is facing up to 10 years in prison for lying on official paperwork, will be sentenced Wednesday at the federal courthouse in downtown West Palm Beach. But for the families whose loved ones died in his care, the sentence, no matter what it is, will be bittersweet: Chatman is not being held directly responsible for their deaths, and nothing will bring them back. The Post interviewed several who will be speaking during the sentencing.

"Kenny was feeding them drugs and holding their meds from them," said Michelle Curran, whose daughter, Mikaya Feucht, overdosed and died in a Boynton Beach motel while attending Chat-man's Reflections Treatment Center in Broward County last year. "So in a sense, yeah, Kenny didn't put the needle in their arm, but he in a way contributed to each and every one of those deaths."

Curran, who is flying in from Ohio for the sentencing, praised prosecutors but says she regrets that he won't be facing murder charges.

She wants to tell Chatman, "You still get to see your children. My daughter doesn't get to see her children again."

"There's no good resolution," said Susan Ramsey, a lawyer who is representing some of the families. "For me, as a parent myself, I would want him to go to jail, but it wouldn't fill the hole."

### **Sister backs Chatman**

Chatman and his lawyers will try to convince Judge Donald Middlebrooks on Wednesday that he deserves a lesser sentence — 12 to 15 years in prison.

Although he pleaded guilty to turning his female patients into prostitutes and controlled others by withholding their medications, Chatman's lawyers wrote to the court last week that the crimes didn't reflect "the man friends and family describe as being consistently compassionate, caring, giving, kind and loving."

Several of Chatman's family members wrote letters to the court attesting to his character, including a brother-in-law who is a New York City corrections officer.

Chatman and his wife have four children between the ages of 7 and 20.

"Is Kenneth Chatman perfect? No," wrote his younger sister, Tahisha. "Is he a monster? Absolutely not."

But the stories surrounding Chatman are so shocking that the probation officers who evaluated him are recommending a life sentence, according to court papers. That punishment took into account the fact that several people died while under Chatman's care.

He admitted to pimping out some patients on the websites [Craiglist.org](https://www.craigslist.org) and [Backpage.com](https://www.backpage.com), using drugs to induce them. One woman told FBI agents that he kept her and other women in a home in Mangonia Park, the windows screwed shut.

When Curran's daughter and boyfriend overdosed in Chatman's company, he dumped the pair in the front lawn of their sober home and took off; they were revived by someone in the home, Curran said.

Pekar said that after her son died, Chatman shipped his belongings back in a cardboard box — including his needles.

"Chatman was one of the worst actors in a virtually industry-wide scheme to defraud insurance companies at the expense of patient health and safety," prosecutors wrote last week.

### **Arrested years later**

Part of Pekar's frustration comes from the fact that Chatman had long been on law enforcement's radar, but he wasn't seriously investigated until The Palm Beach Post first exposed him in December 2015.

In 2013, Palm Beach police first alerted the FBI that two women told them they were allowed to do drugs at one of Chatman's West Palm Beach sober homes.

In April 2015, a woman told agents that Chatman was keeping women high "in order to pimp them out." In July 2015, a woman made headlines after she ran away from the Mangonia Park home and was reported missing.

The Post, citing those reports and interviews with former patients and employees, revealed that year that his sober homes were really "flop houses" where patients were allowed to do drugs, and Chatman himself repeatedly lied, denying ever owning or operating sober homes even though he was named in 17 different Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office reports for incidents at his sober homes.

Even after The Post's story, his treatment center thrived, and the Department of Children and Families even allowed him to expand to a second treatment center in Lake Worth last year.

But court papers showed the FBI ramped up its investigation, doing most of their interviews in the last half of 2016. Chatman was arrested in December, along with his wife and six associates. All but one have taken plea deals, and Chatman's treatment centers and sober homes have closed.

### **Charges too late**

The charges came too late for some of his patients.

Alison Flory, 24, overdosed and died Oct. 14. And Kaitlyn Cruea, 23, overdosed and died Feb. 26, 2016.

Cruea's mother, Sandy Hinkle, said she's "very angry" that Chatman isn't being charged for her death.

"He'll never face enough justice for me," she said. "Her son, she'll never see him graduate high school, get married, have kids. He's taken that from Katie. He's taken that from her son."

She last saw her daughter over Christmas 2015, and her daughter begged to stay in Ohio.

"I just feel that I'm never going to see you again," her daughter told her. But Hinkle insisted she go back to Palm Beach County to continue her treatment.

The night before Cruea died, she called her mom and told her she was dancing at a strip club again.

"She said, 'Please don't be mad at me; I just want you to know in case anything happens to me,'" Hinkle said.

Hinkle said she still received bills from Reflections two months after her daughter died.

Curran, whose 24-year-old daughter died in July from a carfentanil overdose — an opioid powerful enough to tranquilize elephants — said Chatman racked up more than \$600,000 in charges to her insurance.

Her daughter “was funny, a typical blonde,” Curran laughed. “Kid was smart as a whip, but not a stitch of common sense.”

Her daughter, Feucht, had two boys, and she remembers her daughter feeling tortured over her addiction.

“I can remember her sitting in the garage crying to God, ‘Why me? Why did God choose me to be a heroin addict?’” she said.

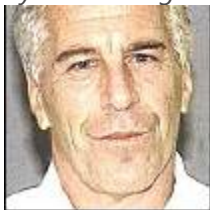
Hinkle wonders how Chatman could have been so indifferent to the deaths.

“We’re coming up on Mother’s Day, and they’re so difficult,” Hinkle said last week, referencing her 6-year-old grandson. “He wants to tell his mommy things, and we go to the cemetery and tell her.” [lmower@pbpost.com](mailto:lmower@pbpost.com)

## POST ON COURTS JEFFREY EPSTEIN CASE

# Will Trump become witness at billionaire’s sex-offender trial?

*By Jane Musgrave Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



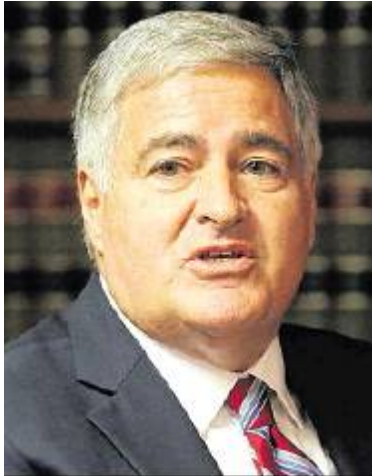
(left) meeting one of his dozens of teenage victims.



According to court records, President Donald Trump’s Mar-a-Lago was the backdrop for sex offender Jeffrey Epstein



President Donald Trump waves to supporters as he heads to the airport from Mar-a-Lago on April 9. Trump is on the witness list for Jeffrey Epstein's trial. MELANIE BELL / PALM BEACH DAILY NEWS



Attorney Jack Scarola put then-candidate Donald Trump on the witness list last August.





Attorney Spencer Kuvn says he found Trump's 2002 defense of Jeffrey Epstein in an interview to be curious.



Nationally known attorney and Harvard law professor Alan Dershowitz is representing Epstein.

PALM BEACH — President Donald Trump is a shadowy, but ever-present, figure in the never-ending saga of billionaire sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

Mar-a-Lago, the commander-in-chief's private-club-turned-southern-White-House in Palm Beach, was the backdrop for Epstein's introduction to one of his dozens of teenage victims, according to court records.

In a short-lived lawsuit that Trump decried as "categorically false," a California woman last year sued Trump and Epstein in federal court in New York City, claiming the two business tycoons raped her when she was 13 years old.

And Trump is on a star-studded witness list for an upcoming trial in Palm Beach County Circuit Court that attorney Jack Scarola promises will be the first public airing of Epstein's lurid lifestyle.

But, Scarola acknowledges, it is unlikely the president will be part of what Scarola promises will be a salacious trial. Scarola claims Epstein sued attorney Brad Edwards in an effort to intimidate and punish the lawyer for representing some of Epstein's victims. While Epstein dropped his lawsuit against Edwards, who has also



represented clients in a lawsuit against Trump, the malicious prosecution suit against Epstein will likely go to trial in the fall, Scarola said.

When Scarola put Trump on the witness list in August, he said he never imagined the business scion and former television star would soon occupy the Oval Office. The legal battle he would have to launch to get a sitting president to testify simply isn't worth it, Scarola said.

Moreover, while there is a lot of smoke around Trump's relationship with Epstein, there appears to be little fire, so far, Scarola said.

"Based on all available public records, Trump's involvement is peripheral," he said. While Trump has recently distanced himself from Epstein, a 64-year-old financier, it wasn't always that way.

"I've known Jeff for fifteen years. Terrific guy," Trump said of Epstein during a 2002 interview with New York magazine. "He's a lot of fun to be with. It is even said that he likes beautiful women as much as I do, and many of them are on the younger side."

Attorney Spencer Kuvin, one of dozens of lawyers who successfully sued Epstein on behalf of roughly 30 women who claimed he lured them to his Palm Beach mansion for sexually-charged massages when they were as young as 14, said he always found the comment curious.

"How would he know that?" he said of Trump's acknowledgment of Epstein's penchant for young women. The interview came nearly six years before Epstein's secret sex life exploded into public view when the money manager pleaded guilty to Florida charges of procuring and soliciting a minor for prostitution. "Why would he make a joke like that?" the West Palm Beach attorney asked.

Further, Kuvin and others say they can't believe it is purely coincidental that former South Florida U.S. Attorney Alex Acosta, who signed off on a non-prosecution agreement that kept Epstein from spending years behind bars, was tapped by Trump to be U.S. Labor Secretary.

During his confirmation hearings in March, Acosta said it was "awful" that convicted sex offender Epstein was allowed to leave the Palm Beach County Jail to work during his 13-month jail sentence. But he insisted that without the involvement of his office, Epstein would have received far less punishment and his victims wouldn't have recovered any money from him. As a result of the conviction, Epstein also is on Florida's registered sex offender list.

Scarola, who has represented several of Epstein's victims in civil lawsuits, scoffed at Acosta's claims. The evidence that Epstein sexually abused young girls was "overwhelming," he said.

The answer to the many questions that still swirl around Epstein and his high-placed friends are the subject of roughly a half-dozen lawsuits that are pending in both Palm Beach County and New York. Some of the nation's top attorneys have represented Epstein and some of his victims.

But like many of the past lawsuits spawned by Epstein's behavior, most of the remaining ones are expected to be settled. And even public court records don't tell the full story — because many documents have been sealed or are heavily redacted. For example, a defamation lawsuit against one of Epstein's close friends was scheduled to go to trial in U.S. District Court in New York this coming Monday. But both sides agreed to a delay last week, often a signal that a settlement could be in the works.

The suit was filed by Virginia Roberts Giuffre against British-born socialite and longtime Epstein friend Ghislaine Maxwell. In a 2009 lawsuit that Epstein settled for an undisclosed amount, Giuffre claimed she was 15 when Maxwell recruited her from her \$9-an-hour job in the locker room at Mar-a-Lago, where her father had a job as a maintenance worker. Giuffre claims in court records that Maxwell introduced her to Epstein and that Epstein turned her into his international sex slave.

Maxwell wasn't sued as part of the lawsuit Giuffre filed against Epstein. But, in court papers filed by Giuffre, Maxwell was accused of grooming Giuffre to be Epstein's sexual toy.

Maxwell ignored the allegations until Giuffre raised them again in December 2014 and Maxwell began publicly disputing Giuffre's claims. Famed attorney David Boies then filed a defamation lawsuit on Giuffre's behalf, claiming Maxwell "undertook a concerted and malicious campaign to discredit Giuffre." In media interviews, Maxwell called Giuffre's claims "obvious lies," Boies wrote.

The trial promised to provide scurrilous details about Giuffre's widely publicized contention in court records that Epstein not only used her but loaned her to his rich and powerful friends, including such notables as Prince Andrew and former President Bill Clinton. Similar claims against nationally known attorney Alan Dershowitz, who represents Epstein, were withdrawn when the Harvard law professor and Giuffre's attorneys reached a confidential settlement in dueling defamation lawsuits they filed against each other over the allegations.

Flight logs from Epstein's private jet show Clinton was a frequent flyer, taking Secret Service agents along with him on trips with Epstein around the globe. Clinton has publicly ignored Giuffre's allegations, but an independent investigation launched by Dershowitz raised questions about their veracity.

One of Epstein's longtime servants testified that Prince Andrew was a regular guest at Epstein's house and received massages during the visits. But house manager Juan

Alessi acknowledged in a sworn deposition that older women and men offered Swedish massages to Epstein's guest. It is unclear who gave the British prince the massages or what was included. The prince has vehemently denied Giuffre's allegations.

Alessi also testified that Trump visited Epstein's home when both were in Palm Beach. "He would come, have dinner. He never sat at the table," said Alessi, who described himself as Epstein's majordomo. "He eat with me in the kitchen."

But, Alessi said, unlike other visitors, Trump didn't avail himself of massages. "No," he said. "Because he's got his own spa."

While Giuffre's defamation lawsuit appears headed for what will likely be a confidential settlement, Scarola said his case against Epstein is going to trial even though Trump won't be called as a witness.

"We can prove our case without Donald Trump's testimony," he said of malicious prosecution lawsuit he filed against Epstein for suing Edwards, the attorney who has represented Giuffre and several of Epstein's other victims.

Edwards has also been leading a separate charge to prove Acosta's office violated the federal Crime Victims' Rights Act when it signed off on the non-prosecution agreement without notifying the women. That suit, which has stalled in federal court after many of the documents were sealed, could eventually reveal why Epstein got what many call a "sweetheart deal," Scarola said.

Edwards also represented 65 members of Trump National Golf Club Jupiter, who won \$5.8 million in February when a federal judge ruled that Trump improperly kept their deposits when he took over the club on Donald Ross Road in Jupiter in 2012.

Trump is appealing the decision. [jmusgrave@pbpost.com](mailto:jmusgrave@pbpost.com)

# Deputy injured in shootout

— *Adam Sacasa*

A chase and shootout early Friday between Palm Beach Sheriff's deputies and armed robbery suspects left a deputy with minor injuries, according to the sheriff's office. It started about 4 a.m. when deputies went to Duggans Pub near Haverill Road and Okeechobee Boulevard in West Palm Beach after a report of a robbery.

Deputies started chasing the suspects, who then started shooting at the deputies, the sheriff's office said.

The attempted getaway ended shortly after when the suspected robbers crashed a car, then started shooting at deputies again, deputies said.

The suspects got away and a deputy was hospitalized with minor injuries.

# Police dog who took bullet to save handler goes home after surgery

*By Brooke Baitinger Staff writer*

A police dog who took a bullet to save his K-9 handler returned home wearing a cone Saturday after undergoing surgery the night before.

Palm Beach Sheriff's Office K-9 officer Casper was hit in the hindquarters during a Friday shootout in Jupiter between deputies and a suspect authorities described as "very dangerous."

The bullet did not puncture any of Casper's internal organs, and veterinarians were able to remove it during surgery, according to a video posted on Twitter by the sheriff's office.

He recovered from anesthesia and is now on antibiotics. He is walking well considering the circumstances, the video stated.

The suspect, Phillip Oshea, was killed in the Friday gunfire. He was involved in a bar robbery earlier that day and had many outstanding warrants in North Carolina, according to Sheriff Ric Bradshaw.

# Insanity defense planned for gunman

## Incident was a result of his addiction to drugs, man says

*By Marc Freeman Staff writer*



Dillon

Timothy Dillon took a swig of scotch, held a revolver to his head and said he was ready to die. A friend called 911 as Dillon fired rounds in the floor of his West Boynton home on the afternoon of Aug. 17, 2013.

There was a long standoff with a SWAT team, until Dillon stepped outside his front door, allegedly pointed his gun at two sheriff's deputies and taunted them to "get this over with." Seconds later, a deputy fired four rounds from his rifle, hitting Dillon once in the right shoulder and dropping him to the ground.

Today Dillon says he's thankful to be alive but continues to face three felony charges and a trial. The 47-year-old businessman's defense: Temporary insanity caused the "suicide by cop" incident and his use of firearms.

This so-called "brief psychotic disorder" came about as a result of Dillon's struggle to be free of an addiction to painkillers, which included a reliance on marijuana, his lawyers say.

A married father of two, Dillon already has managed to avoid prison on a federal weapons possession charge tied to the episode.

Senior U.S. District Judge Kenneth Ryskamp last year concluded Dillon shouldn't be locked up because he had no criminal history and was "totally out of his mind" during the violence.

"I don't see anything about this case that warrants incarceration," the judge said, acknowledging that Dillon was using marijuana only as an alternative to the "far more dangerous" addictive drugs.

While Dillon cried with relief — he expected to be sent away to prison for years — the operator of a wholesale poultry company in Boynton Beach now must fight the state charges punishable by up to 45 years in prison.

Dillon's attorneys say he should be acquitted because his actions were a result of delusions caused by a "rage-based depression."

In pleadings, the attorneys explained Dillon's anger and despair was over a doctor's refusal to help him withdraw from an addiction to prescription narcotics — drugs he was taking because of pain from car accident injuries.

Dillon "believed he had no alternative but to kill himself," attorney Richard Lubin wrote to the court, revealing plans to call a Fort Lauderdale psychologist to explain it to a jury.

Because of the forthcoming insanity defense, prosecutors want their own expert to render an opinion. So Dillon will be examined, under court order, by a Coral Springs psychologist at the state's expense.

This is not an argument over whether Dillon is mentally competent to stand trial — he is. It's about whether he was insane at the time the crimes were committed, providing a legal justification for the offenses.

Circuit Judge Glenn Kelley on Wednesday pushed back the start of the trial from this month to September. Dillon faces two counts of aggravated assault with a firearm on a law enforcement officer, and one count of shooting into a building.

Prosecutors, citing a policy of not speaking about active cases, would not comment. But former Broward prosecutor-turned-criminal defense attorney Michael D. Leader said the insanity defense is always a difficult undertaking because it carries high standards.

"The insanity defense is incredibly difficult to use effectively," Leader said.

"Essentially, the defendant would have to admit to the crime, and his or her criminal attorney would have to prove that the defendant was insane at the time."

Under state law, defense attorneys have the burden of proving to the jury with "clear and convincing evidence" that the defendant wasn't sane when the crime happened. This follows the "M'Naghten" rule, named after a delusional man who tried to assassinate England's prime minister in 1843.

Florida law says everyone is presumed to be sane. So to prove insanity, the defendant must have had a "mental infirmity, disease, or defect" and as a result didn't know "what he or she was doing or its consequences" — or the defendant knew what he or she was doing but didn't know it was wrong.

"This ultimately comes down to a battle of experts," said Leader, who is not connected to the Dillon case but has used the defense for clients.

Dillon also faces a charge of resisting an officer with violence over an incident that allegedly happened at the Palm Beach County Jail five days after his arrest.

He's accused of trying to bite a corrections deputy and refusing orders to enter his cell after a visit to the jail infirmary, according to a report. Dillon's lawyers say he was beaten by the officers, and the episode was recorded on surveillance video.



While both cases are pending, Dillon is serving a federal sentence of three years of probation after pleading guilty to one count of possessing a firearm while being an addict or unlawful user of a controlled substance.

After the shooting, a blood sample taken from Dillon at the hospital showed the chemicals found in marijuana and cocaine, along with a blood-alcohol level more than three times the legal driving limit.

At a Feb. 5, 2016 hearing, Dillon told Judge Ryskamp that he had tried to wean himself off the pain pills by smoking marijuana daily and drinking heavily.

Citing the “very unusual circumstances” of the case, the judge rejected prosecutors’ recommendation for nearly five years in prison. He imposed the probation term, and ordered Dillon to undergo mental health and substance abuse treatment, and pay a \$10,000 fine.

The judge also noted Dillon legally owned his firearms, including antiques from the Civil War and World War II, which were in the home during the confrontation with the deputies.

Dillon has since given up the arsenal. Records show state prosecutors last year agreed to a defense request for the sheriff’s office to release 41 weapons — confiscated from Dillon — to a Delray Beach gun store for sale or auction.

Dillon also has said he no longer abuses drugs and instead practices yoga to manage his chronic pain.

His ordeal began after road crashes in 2008 and 2010 left him with back and neck injuries. After surgery failed to help, he became addicted to oxycodone and other pain pills. And when that didn’t help he said he turned to pot and boozing, but hated the feeling of failing his loved ones and friends.

It all came to a head on the day nearly four years ago when Dillon paced the floor of his bedroom with a gun and appeared suicidal. His wife then alerted Dillon’s best friend, who came to the home in the Bristol Lakes development.

With his finger on the trigger, Dillon reportedly said, “it’s time to check out.”

The friend was able to get the gun away, but soon Dillon was holding a second handgun and firing it into the floor, records show. A neighbor arrived and the friend called 911 and was able to remove the second gun.

But Dillon then opened a safe and took out a third gun, prompting the friend and neighbor to leave the home and greet deputies outside.

Over the next five hours, authorities evacuated nearby homes on the 7000 block of Brunswick Circle and tried to negotiate with Dillon. At one point, Dillon emerged, shot a pickup truck in his driveway, and again barricaded himself inside. Deputies also reported hearing numerous gunshots from inside the home.

Dillon's attorneys have said recordings of the negotiations between deputies and Dillon reveal he repeatedly begged them to kill him.

After Dillon was shot, he berated the deputies for failing to "get the job done."

At his federal sentencing hearing, Dillon told Judge Ryskamp he felt "foolish and humiliated" about what he did.

Dillon denied intentionally pointing his gun at the deputies, and said he was grateful that no one else was hurt in the ordeal.

"It could have been so much worse," Dillon testified. "Had it been otherwise, I would never have forgiven myself."

Staff writer Paula McMahon contributed to this report. [mjfreeman@sunsentinel.com](mailto:mjfreeman@sunsentinel.com), 561-243-6642 or [Twitter@marcjfreeman](https://twitter.com/marcjfreeman)

# One sober home per block?

## Delray considers new rules for group housing

*By Ryan Van Velzer Staff writer*

DELRAY BEACH — Delray Beach would largely prohibit new sober homes from opening on a city block where one already exists. That's one of the key features of regulations being drafted to address the proliferation of sober homes across the city, according to a new city-commissioned report.

The rules would be the first of their kind in Florida, officials say.

The regulations will be based on a report released last week from a zoning attorney the city hired in January for about \$15,000. City officials are still working out the details, but the ordinance should come up for a vote later this summer, they said.

For years, neighbors and Delray officials have been at odds with a recovery industry that has thrived in the "village by the sea." Just last month, Mayor Cary Glickstein said the city doesn't want to be seen as the "recovery capital of the U.S."

Glickstein says the new report and its recommendations provide the legal foundation for regulating sober homes in a way that protects those in recovery and, in turn, protects surrounding neighborhoods.

"I think when you see the ordinance, you are going to see things that have not been done before in Florida," he said.

The report's author, Daniel Lauber, has drafted similar legislation across the country. He revised similar rules in Prescott, Ariz., that contributed to a 50 percent decline in sober homes after two years, he said.

But Delray has a "large and intense concentration" of community housing that Lauber has rarely seen in his 40-plus years in the business, he wrote in the report.

Lauber found:

- At least 183 verified sober homes in the city.
- At least 64 more suspected sober homes based on information from the police department, according to the report.
- The highest concentration of sober homes exists east of Interstate 95 between George Bush Boulevard and Southwest 10th Street, according to the report.

Sober homes are a type of community housing for people recovering from alcohol or drug addiction. Federal rules, primarily in the Fair Housing Act, allow sober homes in neighborhoods and protect recovering addicts from discrimination.

Lauber and city officials say municipalities have leeway under the act to adopt spacing requirements between sober homes, based on a November 2016 joint statement from the Department of Justice and the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

But not all attorneys agree with that interpretation. Palm Beach County State Attorney Dave Aronberg said the statement did not give “effective guidance” to local and state officials.

The same joint statement also says some courts have found spacing requirements violate the Fair Housing Act because “they deny persons with disabilities an equal opportunity to choose where they will live.”

The purpose of sober homes — and any community housing for people with disabilities — is to allow recovering addicts to live in a familylike environment that slowly reintroduces them into a normal life, the report said. Part of that is integrating them into the community.

The problem with having too many sober homes in one place is that it creates “de facto social service districts,” Lauber said in the report.

To fix that, Lauber recommends each new community residence of four or more people should be at least 660 feet — about one city block — from one another. To move closer, they would need a city-issued permit.

The rule only would apply to new sober homes and would likely not be imposed on existing ones, Lauber said.

“You can’t go imposing the spacing on existing group homes,” he said. “How can you possibly do that fairly?”

The second piece of the puzzle would require all community residences to have a license, certification or accreditation from a regulatory body like the Florida Association of Recovery Residences. If one isn’t available, the community residence could again seek a permit from the city.

Lauber said he believes his recommendations would be fair to everyone while weeding out the city’s unscrupulous operators.

"The licensing requirements should put the scam artists out of business," he said. Opponents say the report was written to justify driving out and shutting down sober homes in the city.

Steven Polin, fair housing expert and general counsel for Oxford House, described the report as a blueprint for pushing out the recovery community. The spacing requirements would make housing unavailable, and therefore exclude vulnerable groups, he said.

Polin said an ordinance based off the report may be discriminatory, and would not hold up in court.

"There is only so much residential housing," Polin said. "This is for the health and safety of all the residents in Delray who don't want [sober-home] residents in their neighborhoods."

Delray has nearly two decades of history attempting to regulate sober homes. In 2002, the U.S. Department of Justice wrote a letter advising Delray Beach against an ordinance banning sober homes. The letter warned the ordinance would violate the Fair Housing Act.

In 2012, Delray Beach was sued for discrimination when the city denied a nonprofit agency a permit to open a sober home at a mansion near the beach. The court found the associated city ordinance likely discriminated against the agency and prevented Del-ray from enforcing it.

This time around city officials are treading carefully. While cities like Boynton Beach have temporary moratoriums on any new community housing, Delray Beach is acting more methodically to ensure any ordinance will benefit those in recovery and the neighborhoods they reside in, Glickstein said.

"While we may have been formerly known as the recovery capital of the U.S., I think that we will be seen as one of the first cities that has used state, federal and local tools, to craft rules that in the end, protect everybody," said

Glickstein. [rvanvelzer@sunsentinel.com](mailto:rvanvelzer@sunsentinel.com), 561-243-6544, or on [Twitter](#)

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**A rough draft** To hear more, go to [SunSentinel.com /delraysober](http://SunSentinel.com/delraysober)

# Deadly opioid epidemic gripping Broward, panelists say

*By Brian Ballou Staff writer*

Hard on the heels of the successful war against the designer drug flakka, an opioid epidemic is gripping Broward County.

Last year, opioids killed 582 people, almost two a day, in Broward. Craig Mallak, the county's chief medical examiner, says that figure will likely exceed 1,000 in 2017.

"It's just been a nightmare," Mallak said. He was one of several panelists who spoke Saturday afternoon at a town hall-style meeting in Pompano Beach organized by the Broward Sheriff's Office to address the crisis.

Mallak said he is further troubled by a growing number of cases of "polysubstance abuse," in which victims are using a variety of drugs, from heroin to synthetic marijuana, vaping alcohol, and a cornucopia of ever-morphing synthetic drugs that have become more potent and dangerous.

Pompano Beach has been hit harder than any other community in the county, according to the panelists.

"My drug detectives and deputies are working at a feverish pace," said John Hale, Pompano's police chief. He said overdose victims are being found in alleys, fast-food restaurants and hotels, and that deputies are actively investigating suspected drug houses and dealers.

Many of the same agencies that were able to make a substantial dent in the flakka epidemic have come together for this war. The Community Action Team is led by the United Way of Broward, the Broward Sheriff's Office, Broward County Public Schools and several hospital organizations.

At times, the town hall meeting at the E. Pat Larkins Community Center seemed more like a chemistry class, as experts described how designer drugs have been manipulated to stay one step ahead of the law in the country of origin — China. One tweak of a molecule and a new drug is created.

When the flakka crisis was full-blown, a team of law enforcement officials and others flew to China to lobby the Chinese government to crack down on the labs creating those drugs.

The new effort will focus on drug education and prevention in schools and lobbying in Tallahassee to get more money for anti-drug programs.

Heather Davidson, the director of public policy and advocacy for the United Way of Broward County, said the action plan includes working with students and school

staff, from bus drivers to cafeteria workers to teachers, to make them better aware of the signs of drug abuse.

Nora Rupert, a Broward School Board member, said the epidemic has affected her family personally. Last Thanksgiving morning, her daughter's best friend overdosed. "It's an insidious epidemic ... not one more child or one more person in Broward needs to die," she said.

Linda Taylor, who attended the meeting, said she used illegal drugs for more than two decades, primarily crack cocaine. She was arrested and went to prison multiple times. She stopped using on May 24, 2000, after hallucinating and running down a busy street and almost getting hit in traffic.

"You lose everything," said Taylor, 53. "I was on the brink of losing my mind, but I held on for one reason: to talk to these kids to get them off it. I'm an advocate for Pompano." [bballou@sunsentinel.com](mailto:bballou@sunsentinel.com) or 954-356-4188

## Uber driver on leave Foster care agency awaiting outcome of kidnapping and sexual assault charges

*By Lisa J. Huriash Staff writer*



Kitchings

An Uber driver accused of raping his passenger last weekend in Jupiter is no longer with the foster care agency where he worked, the agency says.

Authorities on Monday arrested Gary Kitchings, 57, of West Palm Beach, on charges of kidnapping, sexual assault and burglary. He had been an Uber driver for six months, but Uber removed him as a driver after his arrest.

He lost his job as a foster care provider, too. Place of Hope, which provides emergency shelter and foster care, released a new statement last week, stating that "Mr. Kitchings is no longer employed by Place of Hope."

Earlier in the week, Place of Hope had said it was placing him on leave pending the outcome of the case.



Kitchings was a "house parent" at Place of Hope's KidSanctuary campus, said Place of Hope spokeswoman Michelle Brown.

The KidSanctuary Campus "brings in expert, professional foster parents who raise the children living in our homes," according to its website. The children remain in the homes until they are adopted or reunited with their birth parents.

Brown declined to provide more details about Kitchings' dismissal.

Kitchings' accuser told police early Sunday she called the ride-hailing service to go home after SunFest in West Palm Beach.

The woman told police Kitchings flirted with her inside his car, and she wanted to jump out of the Nissan, but the doors were locked.

She told authorities he told her he had a gun under the seat, and that she was sexually assaulted in his car.

When they reached her apartment in Jupiter, he pushed his way inside her home, she told police. He told her he would "kill her and her dogs if she didn't shut up," and he raped her in her bedroom, a police report said.

Kitchings told the South Florida Times newspaper in 2015 that he and his wife were foster parents for more than 19 years at the time, sometimes to 10 to 12 children at once.

A spokeswoman for Florida Department of Children and Families told the Sun Sentinel on Tuesday that it has opened an investigation to ensure no children were harmed at Place of Hope.

Kitchings' public defender, Stephen Arbuzow, declined to comment Friday.

One of Kitchings' relatives said she's standing by him. Maggie Carbone, who said she is Kitchings' niece, called him "a wonderful human being."

"Nothing that is being said about him is at all in his character. At all!" she said. "He is a hero to many, including myself. A loving father, and husband, a man that has given his life to help others. He has always been an example person to me.

"We are all — his friends and family — shocked at these charges against him."

Kitchings remained jailed without bond Friday. [lhuriash@sunsentinel.com](mailto:lhuriash@sunsentinel.com), 954-572-2008 or [Twitter @LisaHuriash](https://twitter.com/LisaHuriash)

# Gun control groups claim victory in Florida

*By Gray Rohrer Staff writer*

TALLAHASSEE – When lawmakers ended the legislative session last week without passing any major expansion of gun rights, gun control groups cheered the news. But nearly one year after the Pulse nightclub shooting that left 49 dead, the gun control debate in Tallahassee is anything but settled.

“What happened in Florida this legislative session is evidence that positive results can be achieved when concerned citizens come together and demand that their lawmakers take action to protect our communities,” said Peter Ambler, executive director of Americans for Responsible Solutions, a national group founded by former U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, D-Ariz., who was shot by a gunman in 2011.

But the National Rifle Association says the celebration is unwarranted. Marion Hammer, longtime Tallahassee lobbyist for the NRA and the United Sportsmen of Florida, sent an email to supporters on Wednesday pointing out that gun control bills weren’t even heard in committee and vows to push for more legislation expanding gun rights.

“Regardless of who defeated what, we’d say it was a great session for protecting the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens,” Hammer wrote. “And the ‘victories’ claimed by . . . anti-gun groups will be short lived because bills to restore Second Amendment rights to law-abiding people will be back ... until they pass.”

Legislation backed by the NRA to allow guns in airports, on college campuses, in government meetings and allowing for the open carrying of guns for those with concealed carry weapons permits all died this year.

But thwarting bills expanding gun rights is one thing — passing gun control measures is another.

Gun control bills filed by Democrats that would have banned sales of assault weapons and expanded background checks to private sales also died. Unlike many of the gun rights bills, they failed to get a hearing in the GOP-controlled Legislature. Patti Brigham, co-chair of the Florida Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence, said that didn’t surprise her, but she’ll keep up the pressure for gun control measures.

“The coalition knew that those bills would probably not even be heard — which they weren’t — but we do plan to bring them back every year until they do pass,” Brigham said. “We’re very committed to that.”

After the Pulse nightclub shooting last June, left-leaning groups in Florida became re-energized over the issue of guns, and national gun control groups such as Moms

Demand Action and Everytown for Gun Safety also took an interest in the Sunshine State.

Democrats took a renewed focus, too, calling for a special session to pass a law that would've banned gun sales to individuals on the FBI's terror watch list and the federal no fly list. Omar Mateen, the Pulse shooter, was previously questioned by the FBI and placed on their terror watch list. Only three Republicans joined Democrats in calling for the session, however, and the push for the law fizzled.

One of those Republicans was Sen. Anitere Flores of Miami, who single-handedly halted many of the gun rights bills this year. Most bills were referenced first to the Senate Judiciary Committee, where Republicans held a 5-4 advantage over Democrats, and Flores was the key vote that prevented the bills from being heard because they would have failed.

But Sen. Greg Steube, R-Sarasota, who sponsored many of the bills, said it's only a matter of time before some of those measures pass.

Republicans overwhelmingly control the House, outnumbering Democrats 79-41, and have a healthy 24-15 edge in the Senate. Bills allowing guns on college campuses and even open carry laws for those with concealed weapons permits would have passed the floor of the Senate, Steube said, if they had gained traction. Though the tragedies of Pulse and the Fort Lauderdale airport shooting in January that left five dead may have shifted the debate over guns in Tallahassee somewhat, Brigham admitted she'll have to get Republican support for proactive gun control bills to gain traction in the Legislature.

"We do hope eventually that our fight will become bipartisan, that we'll have members of the Republican Party who will join us because we are non-partisan and we do want to work across the aisle," Brigham said.

Yet Brigham stressed that her Coalition, which is made up of 120 groups around the state, is non-partisan and their efforts are restricted to advocacy, not taking part in legislative races, where the fate of much legislation is won and lost.

"We believe that this is really not about the Second Amendment, it's about public safety," Brigham said. "It's about what we saw at Pulse and what we saw at the Fort Lauderdale airport, I think that message is starting to resonate." [grohrer@orlandosentinel.com](mailto:grohrer@orlandosentinel.com)

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## *News Clip 5/15/2017*

### Palm Beach Post

#### PUBLIC SAFETY DRAG RACING

## Dragsters fray nerves west of Boynton Recent crackdown by deputies results in 152 tickets, pleasing residents who hear roars at night.

*By Alexandra Seltzer Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Source: maps4news.com/©HERE

STAFF

On the hunt for street racers west of Boynton Beach, a Palm Beach County sheriff's deputy spotted a blue Saturn Ion heading west at more than 20 miles above the 45 mph speed limit.

Behind the wheel, Jeremiah Doerr crept up next to another car on Hypoluxo Road near Military Trail. The two drivers took off, accelerating from 25 mph to about 65, according to a police report.

The deputy says Doerr admitted to racing a friend, earning the 22-year-old a ticket for racing on a roadway. Doerr says he was simply speeding.

"We were both going at a high rate of speed. He saw two cars going down the road and assumed it was racing," Doerr told The Palm Beach Post. According to court records, prosecutors decided not to pursue the case and the ticket was dropped. But Doerr admitted drivers do race in the area, typically on U.S. 441 and Florida's Turnpike. The roads are prime for the hobby, he said, because they are straight and provide the necessary space to race.

It's become a problem with the neighbors — those living west of Boynton mainly near Hypoluxo, Lantana and Lyons roads and U.S. 441.

"It's dangerous. Very dangerous," said Barbara Roth. "I don't want to see these kids hurt."

And the revving of the engines and the loud screeches keeps residents awake at night, complaining to one another and to the sheriff's office.

"You can almost time how long it takes them to zip down Hypoluxo, go out to 441, do the big turn around, come around Lantana, come down Lyons and then come around Hypoluxo," she said.

She isn't alone.

"I would often be in bed and remark to my husband, 'How is this OK? How does nobody else hear this?'" said Chelsea Greenwood Lassman, who lives just east of Military Trail.

Five times between February and March, sheriff's deputies positioned themselves in the area — on Lyons Road and 441 between Boynton Beach Boulevard and Lake Worth Road — to crack down on the racing. The initiative resulted in 152 tickets, 70 written warnings, 10 criminal tickets, five arrests and three verbal warnings.

The racing mostly happened on Tuesdays and Saturdays between about 10 p.m. and 1 a.m., said sheriff's spokeswoman Teri Barbera.

Residents say the sheriff's effort has quieted the races for now.

Street racing is not new. Dating to the 1950s, it was a way to show off cars and settle bets or disputes. It's where the term "racing for pink slips" originated — where the winner keeps the loser's car. It was the primary wager in "The Fast and the Furious" movies.



It's a hobby that attracts men and women of all ages and with all types of cars, said Jacob Stout, the supervisor of events at Palm Beach International Raceway. It proves who has the best car, and the best driving control. The raceway offers drag racing every Friday night. On average, about 150 cars are raced, and he's seen drivers from age 9 to 80-something.

But safety is key, he said.

The raceway requires any driver who can run the car to the finish line in under 10 seconds have a roll cage in case the car crashes or flips over. Any car that goes up to 150 miles per hour must have a parachute, and the driver of a car that hits the end point under 14 seconds must wear a helmet.

"Some people have been killed doing it and it's just not a smart thing to do to race on the streets in an uncontrolled environment," Stout said. "At least if you're going to crash at the drag strip it's contained and we have medical crews here that can help immediately to keep you safe."

Despite his warning, Stout knows not everyone listens. He's heard of drag racers on Okeechobee Boulevard and Boynton resident Mike Wilson said he can hear it happening on Congress Avenue and Boynton Beach Boulevard.

While Roth hasn't been disturbed lately by the noise, she's worried the races will start up again soon.

"It probably will pick up again when the kids are done with school," she said. [aseltzer@pbpost.com](mailto:aseltzer@pbpost.com) [Twitter: @alexseltzer](https://twitter.com/alexseltzer)

**MORE ONLINE** Get more news every day about Boynton Beach and other southern communities at the Community Post blog. [spbc.blog.PalmBeachPost.com](http://spbc.blog.PalmBeachPost.com)

## POST ON CRIME UBER ASSAULT CASE

# Is Uber safe? Report of assault raises questions

*By Hannah Winston Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

In the days after an Uber driver was charged in the alleged rape of his rider in Jupiter, many have had questions about the service's safety.

On May 7, Jupiter police arrested Gary Kitchings, 57, on charges of kidnapping, burglary and sexual battery after a 37-year-old woman reported he assaulted her in a ride from SunFest.

The woman was seated in the car in a front seat when he made advances to her, according to police. He then forced her to perform a sex act, threatening her by saying he had a gun underneath his seat, investigators said. When he dropped her

off at her residence in Jupiter, she said, he followed her in and raped her in her bedroom.

Kitchings is the father of an adopted child and was a "house parent" at the KidSafe Sanctuary in suburban West Palm Beach.

To drive for Uber, drivers need clean motor vehicle and criminal records. Kitchings had no prior criminal history, court records show.

His lack of a criminal history may have been the reason there were no flags to the Florida Department of Children and Families, either.

"While Mr. Kitchings was not licensed by DCF as a foster parent, his employment as house parent was under Place of Hope's group home license provided by DCF," according to a statement released on behalf of Kid-Safe Sanctuary, a subsidiary of Palm Beach Gardens-based Place of Hope.

For Jeannie Gaddis of Jupiter, the story was all-around disturbing.

"Freaks me out what happened to that woman!" she wrote to The Palm Beach Post.

"What a horrifying nightmare."

She said she uses Uber but never goes alone. She said she normally feels safe as long as she's with her husband or friends, but has had her own incident with a driver. She said that a few weeks ago she was in the front seat of an Uber vehicle waiting for a friend when the driver pulled out a pocketknife. The driver told her not to panic and that he only pulled it out to grab a business card in his pocket.

"I played it off but I was uncomfortable," she said. "Needless to say, I will never ride in the front again or wait for anyone by myself."

Across social media, people said they were shocked by the Jupiter incident and would never ride alone. Others said they had nothing but positive experiences with Uber and other ride-sharing apps.

Under the safety section of its website, Uber tells customers that when they ask for a ride, the app automatically finds the user's location and blindly matches their request to a driver, based on the nearest available one. Before and after a ride, users are able to see the driver's profile, which has their name, photo, rating and license plate number. The woman who was attacked by Kitchings was able to identify him and his vehicle to police because of this feature.

Uber did not respond to an email asking if it tracks sexual-assault incidents involving drivers or what it has done company-wide after similar cases and lawsuits.

Nicole Bishop, the director of Palm Beach County Victim Services, said while her office has seen assault cases associated with ride-sharing services, she said there's nothing to say riding an Uber is any less safe than a cab.

"It certainly makes you think twice when taking an Uber or cab," she said.

Bishop said the department encourages those who are using services to use the buddy system, let someone know when they are picked up and when they get to their destination safely and to make sure they are getting in the car with the driver they were paired with by the app.

"Imagine a night out on Clematis and you're waiting for an Uber," she said. "There are people that will pull up and they might not even be an Uber driver." [hwinston@pbpost.com](mailto:hwinston@pbpost.com) [Twitter: @hannahwinston](https://twitter.com/hannahwinston)

» **Palm Beach County Victim Services 24-Hour Crisis Hotline:** 866-891-7273

## JUPITER

# Report finds heroin-tied ODs up 163% in Jupiter

*By Bill DiPaolo Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

## HEROIN-RELATED DEATHS IN JUPITER SINCE 2014

- Officers conducted 17 death investigations that were heroin related since 2014
- 82%, or 14 of the 17 reported deaths were between the ages of 25 and 44
- 94% were white, non-Hispanic (16 of 17), 6%, white – Hispanic (one)
- 71% were male (12 of 17)
- 29% were female (5 of 17)

The latest news and numbers about heroin-related overdoses is bad in Jupiter — and getting worse, according to a report released from the Jupiter Police Department:

- Seventeen Jupiter residents died since 2014, including three this year.
- The youngest was 18. The oldest was 50. Twelve were men. Five were women.
- Overdoses this year are up 163 percent compared to the first three months of this past year.

"This is a growing problem. We are doing community outreach, talking to students and meeting with county officials. We work closely with fire rescue on emergency response," Police Chief Frank Kitzerow said.

Heroin-related overdoses in Jupiter spiked in 2016, with a total of 50 incidents. There were nine in 2015.

Jupiter's fast-increasing rates of overdose echo state numbers.

Fentanyl is killing more Floridians than any other single drug, according to a state report.

Palm Beach County led the state in deaths caused by heroin, according to the Florida Medical Examiner Commission's annual interim report on drugs found in deceased

people — a report released just two days after Gov. Rick Scott declared a public health emergency on May 3 to fight the opioid epidemic.

Training Jupiter officers to administer Narcan, as well as hiring more officers to handle the growing addiction problem, should be considered, said Councilman Ilan Kaufer. Hiring more police officers is another option, he said.

Jupiter police do not carry Narcan, lifesaving heroin-overdose antidote that revives a dying addict, but fire-rescue officials in north county administer the drug.

Delray Beach police this past year became the first department to train police officers to administer the drug.

"We can't just sit on our hands," Kaufer said.

About \$54 million in federal grants are available for Florida communities to provide prevention, treatment and recovery-support services now that Gov. Rick Scott has declared the prescription drug epidemic a state of emergency.

That money should be sought for Jupiter anti-addiction programs, Jupiter officials said.

"Jupiter cannot provide those education and prevention services — not only to addicts but their families — on it's own," said Vice Mayor Wayne Posner.

Palm Beach County had 156 deaths caused by fentanyl in the first half of this past year, accounting for about one-fifth of the fentanyl deaths across Florida. The county's young people were hit hard: 90 of those deaths were between the ages of 18 and 34.

*Heroin addicts have flocked to Palm Beach County for treatment, where an industry beset by fraud has exacted a toll in lives. As the heroin epidemic swept the nation, The Post told the stories of the 216 people who died here in 2015 from heroin-related overdoses. See the coverage at [MyPalmBeachPost.com](http://MyPalmBeachPost.com) [bdipaolo@pbpost.com](mailto:bdipaolo@pbpost.com)*

# Man held without bail in fatal Riviera shooting Jose Chacon is accused of killing Alfonzo Rodriguez.

*By Gregory Cox Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

WEST PALM BEACH — Jose Chacon stayed silent on Sunday morning as a judge listed three charges — one for premeditated first-degree murder and two for aggravated assault.

Chacon was arrested late Saturday in connection with the death of Alfonzo Rodriguez in Riviera Beach on Saturday morning.

Circuit Court Judge Bradley Harper ordered Chacon to remain in Palm Beach County Jail with no bail.

According to Riviera Beach Police Chief Clarence Williams, the fatal shooting happened at about 7:30 a.m. in the 700 block of West Seventh Street. Officers were called there in response to an argument between two men, one of whom was said to be armed with a handgun.

The argument escalated and ended when Chacon shot Rodriguez, Williams said.

When officers arrived on the scene, they found Rodriguez on the floor of a home. He was pronounced dead at the scene west of President Barack Obama Highway and south of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

Williams said the investigation remains open. Anyone with information is asked to contact Riviera Beach police at 561-845-4123 or Crime Stoppers of Palm Beach County at 800-458-TIPS (8477).

Rodriguez's death was the 49th homicide in Palm Beach County in 2017. It is the eighth homicide so far within Riviera city limits. [gcox@pbdailynews.com](mailto:gcox@pbdailynews.com)

# Trump travel, security costs reach **\$30M** Big family, many homes cited

*By Barbara Demick Los Angeles Times and Andy Reid Staff writer*

NEW YORK — On the Thursday evening before Easter, photographers staking out Palm Beach International Airport awaiting President Trump were surprised to see not one, but two, Air Force planes arriving within minutes of each other.

Shortly before the president landed, Melania Trump arrived on a Boeing C-32 — a military version of a 757 — with their 11-year-old son, Barron, and other family members to spend the holiday at Mar-a-Lago. Her one-way trip from New York, where she lives separately from her husband so their son can finish the school year, cost taxpayers more than \$110,000.

Nobody questions that the safety of the president and his family is of vital national interest, or that the costs of first family travel and protection have soared in the age of terrorism.

There is no standard methodology to tally travel and protection costs, but based on publicly available information reviewed by The Los Angeles Times, the total for Trump's first 100 days was at least \$30 million. By comparison, the conservative think tank Judicial Watch found that costs for President Obama and his much smaller family averaged \$12 million a year.

Congress recently allocated the Secret Service an additional \$13 million to cover unanticipated overtime for its agents. It also set aside an extra \$61 million to reimburse New York and Palm Beach for some of their expenses incurred since the election to protect the first family.

The jump in costs is largely due to the fact that Trump has used three separate residences — the White House, Trump Tower and Mar-a-Lago. Last weekend, he added a fourth: the Bedminster, N.J., golf club where the family has traditionally spent summer weekends.

In addition to protecting the president and first lady, the Secret Service guards five children, their three spouses and eight grandchildren — 16 people in all. Since the election, Secret Service agents have accompanied the president's two adult sons on business trips to Dubai, Uruguay, the Dominican Republic, Canada, Ireland and Scotland. Each "protectee" — as they are called by the Secret Service — gets his or her own security detail even when traveling together.



When Melania Trump, Barron and the president's younger daughter, Tiffany, recently visited Chelsea Piers, a sporting complex in Manhattan, 14 Secret Service vehicles waited outside.

And when Donald Trump Jr., wife Vanessa and their five children; Ivanka Trump and her three children; and Eric Trump, wife Lara and their two beagles went to Aspen, Colo., for spring break, they were accompanied by up to 100 Secret Service agents. Ski rentals for agents cost taxpayers \$12,208, according to a government invoice uncovered by NBC News.

The most expensive property to protect is Trump Tower, the 58-story skyscraper in midtown Manhattan where Melania Trump and Barron live in a penthouse and Donald Jr. and Eric have their offices.

The New York Police Department wrote in a letter to Congress that it was spending \$127,000 to \$146,000 a day to secure the building, in addition to the \$4.5 million that the Fire Department expects to spend this year on security there. The costs are expected to decline after Melania Trump moves to Washington this summer.

Jonathan Wackrow, a former Secret Service agent who had been assigned to former First lady Michelle Obama, says the costs are justified because the security of the first lady has a direct bearing on the president's ability to function.

Even so, Wackrow said: "It's an astronomical expense. You have to set up a massive security structure for the first lady to operate outside of Washington with everything that support the detail, from cars to communications."

"New York is a very complicated environment," he added. "It's not like you're working in Billings, Mont."

On a weekday afternoon, cool and drizzling with nary a protester in sight — what should pass as a quiet day at Trump Tower — the building is a veritable fortress girded by at least 30 uniformed NYPD officers and at least that many Secret Service agents in bulletproof vests inspecting bags or guarding the elevators and doors. There also is a fleet of two dozen armored SUVs, mobile police stations, police cars and other vehicles, including a strategically placed garbage truck that blocks the private garage through which members of the Trump family enter and leave the building. More security forces are tucked away in the surrounding high-rises.

Mar-a-Lago is another big expense.

Helping provide security during Trump's visits to Mar-a-Lago since the election has cost local taxpayers about \$4.5 million, according to the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office.

The bulk of those expenses are for Sheriff's Office overtime and equipment. It also includes the costs of reinforcements from other South Florida law enforcement agencies, according to the Sheriff's Office.

The Palm Beach Police Department estimates that crowd control and help with Mar-a-Lago security during presidential visits have cost the department about \$115,000 in personnel expenses.

Overtime for extra officers brought in for protests during Trump's visits have cost the nearby West Palm Beach Police Department about \$50,000, department spokesman Sgt. David Lefont said.

Sheriff Ric Bradshaw, who coordinates the local law enforcement response with the Secret Service, has been out of town since congressional leaders agreed to a budget deal proposed to reimburse Florida communities for presidential security costs.

In his absence, the Sheriff's Office has declined to comment on whether the proposed federal funding would be enough.

Palm Beach County leaders have been lobbying to get federal reimbursement for presidential security costs.

"Not until the check is sent will I be comfortable that Palm Beach County will be reimbursed," County Mayor Paulette Burdick said.

The county has suggested turning Mar-a-Lago into a special taxing district to recoup the money being spent on Trump.

Since taking office, Trump has spent seven weekends at the resort, each trip costing at least \$1 million, with some estimates running up to \$3.6 million. The biggest chunk of that is the \$142,000 an hour it costs to fly Air Force One.

Melania Trump has flown separately on five occasions either to or from Palm Beach. Public accounts of her appearances show she has also made at least eight round-trip flights to Washington, D.C., since the inauguration.

The Air Force said it could not immediately provide her flight records but each hour of flying on the Boeing C-32 — the largest and most expensive of the three planes she uses — costs \$38,922.

"It is all about security," Wackrow said. "The first lady needs to be in constant communication with the president and she has no ability to do that on a nonmilitary aircraft."

More controversial is the foreign travel of Donald Jr. and Eric, who make frequent trips to Trump-branded properties.

"You have people with not only heavy travel schedules, but heavy business schedules with enormous public profiles," said Dan Bongino, a former Secret Service agent who is now active in Republican politics in Florida. "Donald Trump Jr. is like a brand in and of itself."

Fireworks lit the sky over Dubai in mid-February when the Trump brothers hosted a private party for 1,500 people to open the Trump International Golf Club, events that were guarded at the expense of U.S. taxpayers. The costs have not yet been made

public, but a shorter trip by Eric Trump to promote a Trump Tower in Punta Del Este, Uruguay, ran up \$97,830 in hotel bills for Secret Service agents, State Department personnel and local law enforcement officials, according to government records found by the Washington Post.

"You don't want a family member of the president to go unprotected, but what you really have here are ... taxpayers subsidizing Trump's business activity," said Norman Eisen, who served as ethics czar under Obama and now heads the watchdog group Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington.

The cost of protecting Obama and his family during the previous administration drew the ire of Republican columnists and politicians, including Trump. "President @BarackObama's vacation is costing taxpayers millions of dollars — Unbelievable!" he tweeted in January 2012 while the Obama family was visiting Hawaii.

Judicial Watch frequently skewered Obama for travel and security spending, estimating that each winter vacation in Hawaii cost taxpayers about \$4 million.

"The Obamas' notorious abuse of presidential travel perks wasted military resources and stressed the Secret Service," the watchdog's president, Tom Fitton, said in a press statement in December. "... President-elect Trump can immediately save taxpayers money by reforming presidential travel."

Now Fitton says his group has filed requests under the Freedom of Information Act for an exact accounting of spending under Trump and will sue agencies that fail to comply.

He defended Trump's right to visit his home on weekends, especially because the president is working. But he encouraged Trump to play golf closer to home — on the Virginia golf course he owns, for example — or to follow the lead of past presidents and make Camp David in Maryland his main retreat.

"There should be some sensitivity on his part," Fitton said. "He owns planes so he knows what it costs to fly one."

# Tax break prompts concern

## **Governments fear revenue loss** *By Larry Barszewski Staff writer*

Voters will get a chance to give themselves a property tax break next year, and local governments are bracing for the financial hit.

The state Legislature is placing an increased homestead exemption on the November 2018 ballot. South Florida officials are under no illusion that voters will turn down the chance to save money.

The proposed increase will provide the average homeowner a savings of about \$240 a year, officials said, while Broward, Palm Beach and Miami-Dade governments can expect to see their revenues decreased by more than \$200 million.

Government leaders say they are only now getting back to the services provided from before the Great Recession. The cuts will mean less money to deal with pressing issues such as reducing the opioid crisis, providing affordable housing and getting the homeless off the streets and into housing. The tax reduction could affect every aspect of government, from the police on the streets and the upkeep of parks to how vigilant code officers can be in catching neighborhood eyesores.

The effects of the proposed tax reduction vary, from a couple of thousand dollars in small towns like Pembroke Park and Mangonia Park, to about \$2.5 million for cities like Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach. Broward County officials say they face a \$32 million cut, while Palm Beach County officials have been anticipating a \$28 million reduction in property tax revenue and Miami-Dade County is looking at closer to \$50 million loss, according to preliminary projections.

The loss in Broward County, would be less than 4 percent of the property taxes it budgeted this year and less than 2 percent of this year's total operating revenues. While South Florida officials have begun looking at how they will deal with the projected cuts, which won't be felt for two more years, Broward commissioners are also talking about challenging the referendum in court. Some commissioners have suggested encouraging a lawsuit through a statewide organization like the Florida Association of Counties, but Mayor Barbara Sharief is willing for the county to go it alone even though she admitted legislators "structured [the] package in a way that it will make it even more difficult to prevail."

Cragin Mosteller, spokeswoman for the Florida Association of Counties, said the association's members will probably consider the issue later this year.

"At this point, we're simply analyzing the impacts of the bill and what options, if any, are available to the membership," Mosteller said.

The state already has two homestead exemptions, one on the first \$25,000 of a home's property value, and a second \$25,000 exemption on a home's value between

\$50,000 and \$75,000. The proposed exemption would give eligible homeowners a third \$25,000 break, on the value of their home between \$100,000 and \$125,000. Broward Commissioner Steve Geller said he plans to get the word out about the devastating effect the ballot item will have on local governments.

"I will be actively campaigning against this constitutional amendment," Geller said. But Palm Beach County Commissioner Melissa McKinlay, no fan of the ballot issue, said that won't be her approach.

"My approach is not going to be 'Vote yes' or 'Vote no' on this. It's just going to be, this is what's going to happen," McKinlay said. "When you're talking almost \$30 million, it's going to be hard to avoid cuts in services."

Palm Beach commissioners have discussed the possibility of asking voters to approve an additional half-cent sales tax to pay for emergency services, but McKinlay said that won't have an effect on the lost tax revenue from an increased homestead exemption.

In Miami-Dade County, officials are considering privatizing 14 low-ridership bus routes, which could save about \$12 million a year, said Mike Hernandez, spokesman for Mayor Carlos Gimenez. Finding similar cost efficiencies are key to meeting the challenge, he said. The county also will be looking for savings in new employee labor agreements that take effect Oct. 1, he said.

"It doesn't hurt to prepare. Whether or not it's approved, you still have to be prepared," Hernandez said. "We are being impacted. We do not plan on increasing taxes."

Bertha Henry, Broward's county administrator, told the same thing to the county's constitutional officers — including the sheriff and property appraiser — about the budgets they submit.

Those leaders say it's too early to be forcing cuts.

"It is premature and overly reactive to make any budget cuts to public safety and other vital services before all the facts are known," Sheriff Scott Israel said in response to Henry's request.

Property Appraiser Marty Kiar also questioned the 4.9 percent budget increase the county has suggested for the upcoming fiscal year, given that another robust increase in property values is expected. Kiar said the county is looking at about a 9 percent increase in values this year.

The increase should provide an extra \$75 million in property taxes for the county, Kiar said, far more than what is expected to be lost by an increased homestead exemption.

Hernandez said Miami-Dade County is looking at a similar increase in property value this year, which will soften the future blow of any lost taxes.

"It's not quite as drastic until a recession hits," Hernandez said.

The Legislature took steps to protect 29 financially constrained counties that have small populations, that are already near their maximum taxing capacity and that would be severely affected by a property tax reduction. Under a separate bill approved this year, the state would provide money to those counties to offset the losses.

While that may help poor counties, it does nothing for poor cities that are part of larger counties, McKinlay said.

"They carved out the fiscally constrained counties, but there's no consideration for fiscally constrained cities," McKinlay said. "I've got three of the four poorest cities in the state of Florida in my district," she said, referring to Belle Glade, Pahokee and South Bay. [lbarszewski@SunSentinel.com](mailto:lbarszewski@SunSentinel.com), 954-356-4556 or [Twitter @lbarszewski](https://twitter.com/lbarszewski)

## Town Crier

### **Lox Groves Considering More PBSO Patrols... But It Comes At A Cost**

By [Ron Bukley](#) at Ma 5, 2017 | 12:05 am |

Loxahatchee Groves Town Manager Bill Underwood reported Tuesday that a proposed new contract with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office would add a full-time deputy dedicated to the town, but more than double the town's annual contract cost — a cost that will need to be passed on to property owners.

"We received a contract," Underwood said. "We've been working with the sheriff for two or three months now trying to work through the process. This is a significant change. This actually will put a police officer in the Town of Loxahatchee Groves, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It is a 10-year contract. This first contract will take us from roughly \$294,000 up to \$610,000." The contract would raise the town's property tax rate to 2.788 mills, an increase of 1.3162 mills. "I do have [PBSO] Major [Tony] Araujo here if you have any particular questions," Underwood said, adding that he wanted council input on the contract. "Hopefully, you can give us some input tonight relative to anything you do or don't like in the contract besides the price. I'd always like a reduced price, but he started out at a much higher number."

Vice Mayor Ron Jarriel said that if the contract is approved with a full-time deputy, he would prefer four-wheel-drive pickup trucks rather than squad cars due to the rough terrain in the town. Araujo said he had spoken with the sheriff and every officer assigned full-time to the town would have a pickup truck.

"Once that contract comes into play, I can't get them right away," he said. "I have to order them, but it will be done."



Councilman Dave DeMarois said he appreciated Araujo working with Underwood to get the price down some.

“It’s going to be a very hard year,” DeMarois said. “We have a lot of things going on here.”

“I have a very sharp pencil because the money has got to come from somewhere, but we got it down a little bit more,” Araujo said.

Mayor Dave Browning said he hoped that the increase in cost was not due to the Palm Beach County Commission saying it would not pay any more for the PBSO.

“I think when you go to the county commission, they try to beat you down every time,”

Browning said, adding that he did not want those costs passed on to municipalities.

Araujo said the county asks tough questions, as they should, since almost half of its budget goes to the PBSO.

“We have to legitimize every dollar we ask for, but as far as the cities and the county, it’s not an apple to an apple,” he said. “If you are a municipality, then we’re a contractual provider to you. If not, you’d have to have your own police department.”

He added that the PBSO provides much more than the patrol vehicles seen on the streets. The town also gets helicopter services, the bomb squad, SWAT, homeland security and other special tactical units.

Councilman Todd McLendon said the price increase is difficult for him to swallow because he did not see how the service would be different, since the patrols are provided now.

“We’re getting double taxation the way I see it,” McLendon said. “We’re paying it through the county, and we’re paying it directly. What are our choices? I don’t know, because I don’t think the Florida Highway Patrol is going to do it.”

Browning said that when deputies write tickets, he has been told that they need to write

“Loxahatchee Groves” so the fines will come back to the town, rather than just “Loxahatchee,” which tends to get lost with The Acreage, which is unincorporated.

Jarriel said the contract change will amount to five deputies who will get to know the community and its residents.

“They’re going to get to know where our problems lie,” he said. “Most of you in the audience know that the crime is getting worse in Loxahatchee Groves, especially stealing. It’s happening at night, and the residents have to decide if it’s worth \$300,000 to have a dedicated police officer here 24/7. I personally think it’s worth it.”

Jarriel said that since the town incorporated and contracted with the PBSO, he has seen the difference.

“They do things here that we should be paying for,” he said, citing PBSO enforcement of the reduced speed limit on Okeechobee Blvd. as an example. “We weren’t paying them for that extra. I think we need somebody dedicated to look out for our community.”

Jarriel said that if the town does increase taxes to pay for the additional patrols, the council could find ways to give back to the people.

“We don’t want to give it back to the commercial enterprises in this town,” he said. “When we raise the taxes, we’re going to get more from the developers, the businesses and the stuff like that. We do not have to cut their garbage costs. As far as our residents, we have been looking out for them. If we had a tax increase, we’d cut garbage [fees] \$100,000 or \$120,000. There’s no reason we can’t continue to do that.”

Jarriel encouraged residents to call him and indicate whether increased law enforcement is worth a tax increase or not.

Araujo added that if the town chooses to start its own police department, the PBSO would help them with the process.

**From:** [Anderson, Cassandra L](#)  
**Subject:** News Clips 5/21/2017  
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# **News Clip 5/21/2017**

## **Palm Beach Post**

**POST IN-DEPTH ALEMAN CASE**

### **Why did 1-year-old starve to death?**

**Officials reported 10 near-feral children living with their parents in a filthy Loxahatchee home in 2016.**

*By John Pacenti and Olivia Hitchcock Palm Beach Post Staff Writers*



Alejandro Aleman and Kristen Meyer-Aleman may be in court as soon as this week, fighting to keep their parental rights.



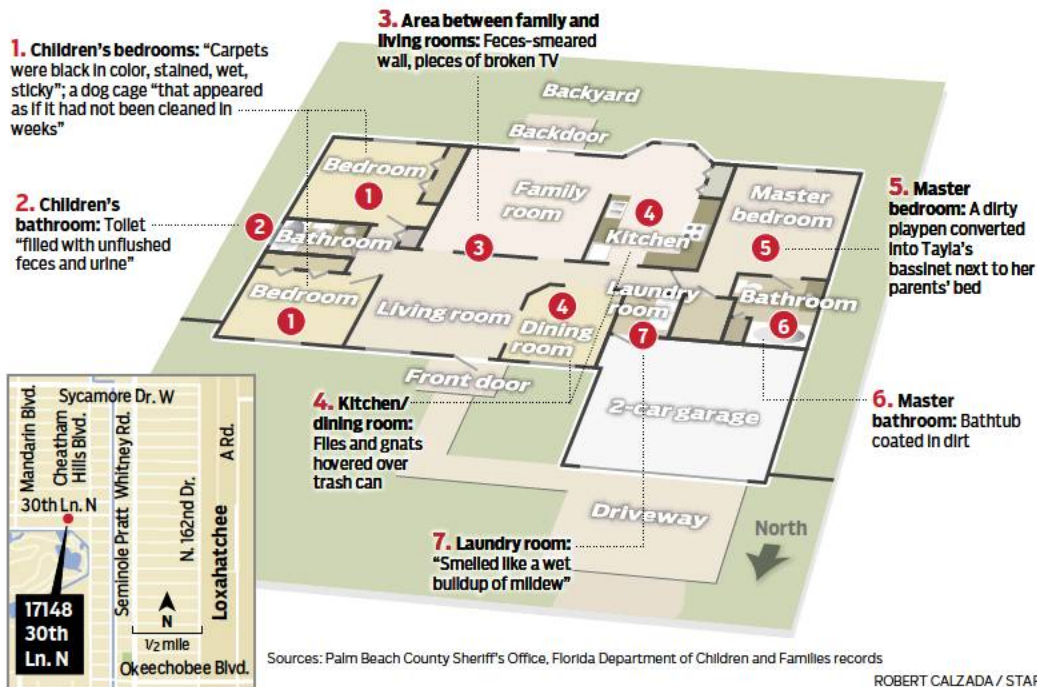
This is the Loxahatchee home where Tayla Aleman starved to death. DCF arrived at the home several times. OLIVIA HITCHCOCK / THE PALM BEACH POST



Michael Salnick is the attorney for Alejandro Aleman in the criminal case only. "I would hope that this is ultimately not a death penalty case given many things I have learned," he said. BRUCE R. BENNETT / THE PALM BEACH POST

## Where a 1-year-old girl starved to death

State officials found filthy conditions throughout the home on 30th Lane North, where the Aleman family was living when Tayla, the youngest child at the time, died April 1, 2016



LOXAHATCHEE — With 10 children, the Aleman family couldn't be missed on the little Loxahatchee block, nestled among the slash and Australian pines. Dirty, shoeless and hungry, many of the children, ages 2-15 at the time, played outside almost daily, no adults around, when others their age were either in school or at daycare. Sometimes they banged on the door of their home, but no one would let them in.

Neighbors described to sheriff's investigators a near-feral clan of children during the Ale-mans' stay at the rental property. The kids rummaged through the neighbors' trash. They could be heard at 3 a.m. Some of the younger boys communicated only through "grunting sounds."

All are now in state custody. Their parents, Alejandro Aleman and Kristen Meyer-Aleman, are expected to be in court as soon as this week, fighting to keep their parental rights.

When they do, they'll be in shackles. The couple, being held without bail, face first-degree murder and aggravated child abuse charges in the April 2016 starvation death of the littlest one — their 13-month daughter, Tayla.

Tayla weighed 7 pounds at death, 9 pounds at birth. On the gurney at the emergency room, she wore a pink onesie made for a 3-month-old.

Instead of a pudgy toddler, Tayla looked gaunt, old. Her skin was loose and wrinkled. The hair on her tiny head was thinning and falling out, but her body was covered in hair — which can be a telltale sign of starvation, nutrition experts say, when the body reacts to the feeling of cold caused by lack of nutrition.

The baby couldn't crawl. She had no teeth. Her tiny body was wracked with influenza, streptococcus, E. coli, pneumonia — found in the baby's blood and in her lungs, detectives told her mother. She was severely dehydrated. Tayla was covered with raw sores and a rash on her genitals that was so red it resembled a burn.

She died of exhaustion from lack of nutrition as a result of neglect.

The parents face the death penalty in a trial slated for January.

### **Food stamps, \$40,000 truck**

Sheriff's detectives were stunned when they didn't get answers from the Ale-mans during separate interviews after their arrest in September, where both defended but contradicted one another.

Alejandro Aleman, 39, was terse, giving detectives little information, saying he didn't even pick up the child or bathe her. "I didn't pay attention to that," he said.

In a three-hour interrogation, Tayla's mother was combative, insisting that she fed her child regularly. She disputed the report that her child had a severe rash or that her baby was even sick.

Meyer-Aleman, 44, told detectives her heart is broken by Tayla's death, but repeatedly blamed the condition of her feces-laden home on the landlord, the plumbing, the dogs, even the kids.

"Excuse me, you have more excuses than someone writing a bad check," Detective William Vaughan told Meyer-Aleman. "You need to give your daughter some dignity. You need to take responsibility for what you did for your daughter."

The detectives repeatedly asked the mother how the household could get so out of control, how a child could starve to death. Was she overwhelmed? Could little Tayla be a victim of poverty? Could the Alemans simply not afford to feed their children?

The Alemans received \$1,000 a month in food stamps. But Alejandro Aleman bought a "huge show truck," a 2007 Ford Super Duty F-250 valued at \$40,000, in October 2015, according to a Palm Beach County sheriff's report. He told a neighbor that the extravagant purchase was going to anger his wife: "She's going to kill me because I spent what we had in the savings account."

And the father kept himself fed as the neighbors knew he frequented a Cuban sandwich shop.

#### **4 DCF complaints**

Meyer-Aleman, though, reacted as any mother would when Tayla stopped breathing on April 1, 2016. Her 12-year-old son said he was in the front yard when he heard her scream. "They all ran inside where he said he saw his mommy crying and calling 911," according to a sheriff's report.

Also, tucked away in voluminous sheriff reports is a statement from the landlord of the Loxahatchee house.

Victor Hijuelos told investigators that while cleaning up his wrecked rental property after the Alemans' arrest, he found burned spoons and syringe needles. The Alemans deny drug use. "I don't even smoke cigarettes," Meyer-Aleman said.

Since the couple's arrest, the Alemans' family and friends have remained closed-mouthed. The couple migrated from the Chicago suburb of Naperville. They were vagabonds in Florida, evicted from homes in St. Lucie and Orange counties and Royal Palm Beach before landing in a distant section of Loxahatchee just north of Lion Country Safari.

DCF followed in pursuit — four investigations — but the results were a dead child. After the Alemans' arrest, a DCF staffer involved in the case ended up arrested herself after police said she left her young children in a car and unsupervised while she ran inside a drug store.

The first DCF contact with the Alemans was in September 2013 at a location redacted in DCF records. The next contact was in January 2015 in Orange County. Both complaints were for "inadequate supervision." The third report in May 2015 found the family in Martin County, where a neighbor reported, among other things, one of the children playing with a machete.

The Alemans contended the children were home-schooled but a regular source of complaints to the agency was from neighbors who worried the children were not in



class. One of the children told sheriff investigators his mother taught him lessons from an electronic tablet.

The last time DCF investigated before Tayla's death, in October 2015, court documents show the agency was easily outmaneuvered by Alejandro Aleman — a repo man with a temper so nasty his own parents tried to take out a restraining order against him. One neighbor said she confronted him once about the children throwing rocks and told sheriff's investigators that Aleman was so belligerent she stayed away from him after that.

His mother, Josefina Ale-man, wrote in a petition for protection from domestic violence that her son was so abusive she was afraid to go to her home in Greenacres. Alejandro and family moved there in June 2015, saying they needed a place to live for a few days. In early July, his parents went to court to evict them. The complaint was voluntarily dismissed by the parents.

She said in the domestic violence petition that her son "threatened to kill my husband and me. We want to report him to child protection but he says he will hurt us. He doesn't take care of our children. He refused to leave our home."

Alejandro Aleman told the court in a neatly hand-written letter, "no one ever threatened bodily harm to anyone" and that it was a matter that should be left up to the extended family to resolve.

### **Closed hearing**

What happened inside the ranch-style home in Loxahatchee — as well as DCF's role in letting it fester — likely will be revealed in the parental rights hearing in front of Palm Beach County Circuit Judge Daliah Weiss.

But the public and the media are prohibited from attending, according to court administration.

"They certainly don't want to lose their children," said Michael Salnick, the attorney for Alejandro Aleman in the criminal case only. "I would hope that this is ultimately not a death penalty case given many things I have learned."

Seeking the ultimate penalty is often a means to an end for the prosecution, said Stephen K. Harper, a former Miami-Dade assistant public defender who has handled death penalty cases.

"Threatening somebody with the possibility of execution is an often-used technique to get a plea or a person to flip," said Harper, now a visiting law professor at Florida International University.

Dr. Nancy Kellogg, professor of pediatrics at the University of Texas, co-authored a study in 2005 about children who've been starved at home ranging in age from 2 months to 13 years old. She declined to be interviewed for this story but spoke to The Seattle Times.

"This is one of the worst forms of child abuse we see," Kellogg said. "The physical and emotional agony a child goes through is very severe and long-lasting." She said children who are starved, at least the ones who live, are worse off than prisoners of war because they are singled out from the family and are "brainwashed" into believing they did something to deserve punishment.

So what would motivate a parent to the depraved act of starving their own child? Kellogg found one case in her studies in which a woman refused to feed her 8-year-old stepdaughter because the woman was jealous of her husband's former wife. In another case, a 4-year-old boy was starved to death by his grandmother because he reminded her of her son.

### **Impression of a church-going family**

Daniel Ingram leased his home to the Alemans in Royal Palm Beach and filed for eviction within three months. He said they came off at first as a "going-to-church family" but learned it was "a front, an act" and left the home "filthy."

"The neighbors wanted me to evict them sooner," he said. "I realized real quick what they were. I was afraid that I was renting to monsters."

Alejandro Aleman rebuffed DCF, refusing to allow a state child protective investigator, responding to a complaint, inside the Loxahatchee house in October 2015 and demanding to see a supervisor. The investigator was responding to a complaint that the children were not clean, the landlord suspected drug use and that "the father had a gun without a permit and got a DUI but it is unknown if he still has his gun," according to court documents.

The investigator came back almost a week later with a sheriff's deputy and the father again refused to let them see the children or go in the house. "Mr. Aleman was upset and he told her he was tired of people calling DCF on him and he wanted her to obtain a warrant in order to give her access to the home," the DCF staffer told deputies, according to the offense report.

Richard Wexler, executive director of the National Coalition for Child Protection, said DCF workers have tremendous amounts of power and discretion to enter the house if they suspect child abuse. "Why these particular DCF workers were intimidated I don't know," he said.

Armed with a motion to compel from a local judge, DCF returned to the Aleman home for the third time and found the children and the house clean, according to the sheriff's report. All the beds were made. One of the older boys sat on a bed with an open book as if he was reading. After Tayla's death, neighbors told deputies that many of the children couldn't even write their name.

During the DCF visit, Meyer-Aleman was dutifully changing Tayla's diaper and there was food in the refrigerator. Alejandro Aleman stuck with the workers during the

visit, moving them quickly through the home and at one time refusing to open a locked door, according to a DCF report.

DCF noted the mother did not appear to be in fear. "She was confident in her answers," the report reads. She told neighbors she helped run her husband's roofing and pressure cleaning businesses. Alejandro Aleman said he also worked repossessing vehicles.

DCF suspected the house had been cleaned in expectation for the visit. Wexler said evidently the Alemans from their previous interaction with DCF learned the agency's penchant for seizing on messy homes.

"There is not a field I know where the phrase, 'Cleanliness is next to Godliness,' is taken more literally and does more damage," Wexler said.

Alejandro Aleman "may have just had an instinct that by making everything neat and clean that it would ward off suspicion, which apparently it did."

When DCF investigators interviewed the children, they discovered not all of them were verbal, instead making "grunting noises and weird sounds" to their questions.

"Even the movements or gestures the children would make in an attempt to answer their questions did not make sense," the investigator recalled in the offense report. Still, DCF closed the case.

Meyer-Aleman didn't find anything wrong with her children's speech, the sheriff report states. She told them she is from Chicago and speaks fast and that her children would grow out of their speech difficulties.

Her husband dismissed detectives' concerns. "Oh those kids speak fine," he said.

"Sir, those children could not even say their names," a detective countered. "What color are you wearing? Your son's response was 'uh.' He couldn't even speak."

### **House of filth**

The condition of the Ale-man household was very different from DCF's visit after Tayla was pronounced dead at Palms West Hospital.

The description of the Aleman home at 17148 30th Lane North surprised even the most hardened sheriff detective.

"There were flies, gnats and what appeared to may have been fleas swarming the house," the sheriff's report states. "There were piles of clothing located on the floor entrance of the foyer. The living room walls had what appeared to be feces smeared on them," one investigator wrote.

There were no working toilets. Urine-soaked, mildewed clothes were piled so high, investigators had trouble opening doors.

The stench of urine and feces was so powerful it could be smelled from their driveway.

The children were discovered lethargic on couches, lying under piles of clothing. "All that could be seen were the bottom of their little feet," one detective noted.

Other investigators noticed the children were covered in bug bites and were very hard to wake up, "as if they were completely exhausted."

An American bulldog named Achilles was emaciated in a rusted cage filled with the animal's feces, his fur so matted it couldn't be cleaned.

Animal Care and Control said Achilles — his hips and ribs clearly visible — had been confined in the cage for two months and was "terrified of almost every person that walked toward him."

### **11th child born**

Still, the Alemans called 911 when their daughter became unresponsive. Meyer-Aleman couldn't perform CPR as instructed by the 911 operator, telling investigators later she was worried she would hurt her frail daughter. She said her daughter was a "perfectly healthy baby" until she became unresponsive.

Meyer-Aleman also refused to get into the ambulance with her dead or dying daughter for travel to the hospital, insisting that she wait for her husband, the sheriff's report said.

They drove to the hospital together and left the other children home with the oldest teen.

At the hospital, the mother spoke to investigators, saying she knew her daughter was underweight but so were all her children when they were babies. She said Tayla drank at least 8 ounces of formula every three or four hours daily.

Meyer-Aleman said she took Tayla in December 2015 to a pediatrician in St. Lucie County. The doctor, she said, told her to give her baby extra formula to put on weight. However, investigators found no evidence the baby was ever seen by the pediatrician.

The mother is represented by the Public Defender's Office, which did not return a phone call for comment.

Five years older than her husband, Meyer-Aleman graduated with a business degree from Northern Illinois University and married Aleman 22 years ago. Her first son was born 15 years ago in Illinois before the family moved to Florida.

It wasn't until after Tayla's death that authorities learned that Meyer-Aleman was pregnant again. She gave birth to a healthy boy before her arrest in September, her 11th child.

By all indications, there was seldom a time that she was not pregnant. All of her children's names started with the letter "T" and were ages 15, 13, 11, 8, 7, 6, 5, 3, 2 at the time of Tayla's death.

The scene at the hospital was chaotic. Alejandro Aleman screamed at hospital staff and took pictures of them when they wouldn't allow the parents into the room where doctors were trying to revive Tayla.

In the hospital's bereavement room, he put his attorney on speaker phone when detectives tried to talk to him but didn't ask the lawyer to speak for his wife.

He contacted his neighbor, Luke Bush, telling him a parasite had killed Tayla and bemoaning the police inquiry, the sheriff report stated. "This is why people throw their babies in dumpsters because they harass you like this when accidents happen," Bush said the father told him.

Bush also said Aleman told him to let him know if anybody tried to get into his home, yelling that he was going to sue the sheriff's office, according to the report. "Just make sure none of the kids go out and nobody goes inside," Aleman said.

### **A popcorn diet**

Bush and his wife, Deanna, had hosted the Alemans for drinks one night and reported to deputies that Meyer-Aleman said she didn't cook and was eating only popcorn to lose weight. "Mrs. Bush stated she asked Mrs. Aleman what did the kids eat and she never gave an answer," according to the sheriff's report.

The Bushes sometimes observed the children eating potato chips or "a piece of frozen pizza" outside the home.

The two older Aleman boys would come over to their home to play with their eldest son. They would ask repeatedly for food.

The couple told sheriff detectives that they wondered why they never saw anybody ever bringing groceries into the Alemans' home and that they often saw the children outside unsupervised. The children appeared locked out of the house.

During their interrogation, both parents denied anything was wrong before Tayla simply stopped breathing.

"I knew she was small. I didn't realize she was that small. She was eating good," Meyer-Aleman said. "She acted normal cooed and smiled. The night before all this happened my husband came home from work and was playing with her and she was fine. There was no sign anything was wrong."

Her husband saw himself as the victim.

"I know that nothing happened to my daughter at that house besides passing away and not knowing why. It sucked. It really sucks real bad and ... now I'm being accused of something." [jpacenti@pbpost.com](mailto:jpacenti@pbpost.com) [ohitchcock@pbpost.com](mailto:ohitchcock@pbpost.com)

**Twitter: @ohitchcock**

**HEAR THE PARENTS' INTERVIEWS ONLINE** Go to [pbpo.st/alemantapes](http://pbpo.st/alemantapes)

## OTHER STARVATION CASES

While rare, intentional starvation of a child by a parent or caregiver happens elsewhere:

**Des Moines, Iowa:** Nicole and Joseph Finn are facing first-degree murder charges in the October starvation death of their adoptive 16-year-old daughter, Natalie. She was found on the floor of her completely empty bedroom in only a diaper. The couple's children were the subject of numerous reports of child abuse for years by school officials and others.

**Dallas:** A mother was sentenced to life in prison in April for starving her 7½-month-old baby boy to death. A judge could not get an answer from Princess White and her family as to why they deprived the child of food. The baby was too weak to cry when he died.

**Fontanet, Ind.:** Four people were charged in February with neglect of Cameron Hoopingarner, a 9-year-old blind boy with cerebral palsy who starved to death. He weighed less than 10 pounds.

**Golden, Colo.:** Jason and Katie Barton were sentenced in December to 12 years for starving their adoptive 6-year-old, who weighed 25 pounds when brought to a hospital. The couple put padlocks on the refrigerator, the freezer and pantry. The mother would taunt the girl by drinking her favorite chocolate milk in front of her.



POST ON WEATHER STORM SHELTER SAFETY

# Drugs add strain to hurricane shelters

## Unique needs bring new challenges to massive storm emergency efforts.

*By Kimberly Miller Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

### CATCH UP, GET READY FOR STORM SEASON

Did you miss any of Kimberly Miller's coverage of last week's Governor's National Hurricane Conference? You can find it all at [pbpo.st/kmillerweather](http://pbpo.st/kmillerweather)



Boynton Beach residents check into a shelter at Park Vista High School in October as Hurricane Matthew closed in on Florida. County staff members are going through more training this year to run shelters, which can become hectic hubs of calamity with unprepared, hungry and unhappy people. DAMON HIGGINS / THE PALM BEACH POST 2016

WEST PALM BEACH — Nearly 16,000 people in nine counties from Indian River to Miami-Dade evacuated to shelters during Hurricane Matthew, toting typical sleepover accessories — and their own personal demons.

Six evacuees who sought refuge at Atlantic High School in Delray Beach overdosed on drugs as the dangerous Category 4 cyclone approached South Florida.

In another county, a bus full of teenagers from a residential addiction-treatment center was left at an American Red Cross-run shelter without adult oversight.

"Many of the people from sober homes came with supervision, but some came and were just dropped off," said Delray Beach Fire Rescue Capt. Kevin Saxton, who

confirmed the six overdoses at Atlantic. "There were witnesses seeing people shoot up."

Concerns about drug-related activity at shelters — and caring for people with other medical and mental health needs — were raised during the Governor's Hurricane Conference last week in West Palm Beach.

Hurricane Matthew was the first large-scale evacuation in Florida since 2005's Hurricane Wilma. Dozens of shelters in coastal communities opened statewide during the early October storm, with tens of thousands of people fleeing to the safety they offered.

But emergency managers and American Red Cross officials said the massive effort came with new challenges.

In Brevard County, emergency managers said people went to pet-friendly shelters — a relatively new concept in sheltering — with no pet food, no crates and no way to clean up after their pets.

As winds tapered off Friday night in Volusia County, evacuees left shelters while it was still dark outside, even though they were asked to stay by officials wary of downed power lines, debris and broken street lights.

"People wanted out of the shelter, and we couldn't put a gun to them," said James Judge, Volusia County emergency-management director.

At one shelter, two teenagers were brought in by law enforcement after they were found on the street skateboarding during the storm. The Red Cross will not take unaccompanied minors and directed them to law enforcement who "deemed they were not baby sitters," said Charles Parker, senior disaster program manager for the American Red Cross in South Florida.

"It was like every exercise I have ever done in sheltering," Parker said. "There is a wide spectrum of people who will come through the doors. I want our people to know this is going to be your potential group of clients, so don't be surprised."

Florida's counties handle shelters differently. Some rely mostly on Red Cross volunteers while others use county employees to staff shelters, which are usually in public schools. Palm Beach County has a mix of both and is training more county staff members to run what can become hectic hubs of calamity with unprepared, hungry and unhappy people.

Parker said one of the biggest problems during Matthew was miscommunication between the Red Cross and government officials about what shelters were opening and when. Complicating things further — it was an election year.

"There would be a demand that a shelter be open even if there was no specific need other than a political need," Parker said.

It should be no surprise with the number of sober homes in Palm Beach County that their residents would go to a public shelter, but they present a unique challenge.

Hospitals, nursing homes, and health care facilities are required by law to have their evacuation plans approved by county emergency managers so first responders know where those special-needs clients are going during the storm.

Sober homes have no such requirement, said Bill Johnson, director of Palm Beach County's Emergency Operations Center.

"It is my understanding that some of the sober homes encouraged their clients to go to one of our shelters," Johnson said. "A shelter is not equipped to be a rehab center. We don't have that kind of skill set."

About 7,100 people stayed in Palm Beach County's 13 shelters during Hurricane Matthew. Bags brought by evacuees are not searched because of the urgency of getting people checked in and the heap of supplies people bring – pillows, blankets, food.

There were four EMTs at Atlantic High School, Saxton said. Palm Beach County School District police are also on site.

According to a school district police report, on Oct. 6 at about 5:30 p.m., a 38-year-old man was found in the school gymnasium bathroom and taken to Delray Medical Center for treatment of a possible drug overdose.

At the time, Category 4 Hurricane Matthew was 90 miles east-southeast of West Palm Beach.

Saxton said some of the evacuees from sober homes were placed in an area away from the general population. And while at least one was taken to the hospital, others were treated at the school if paramedics could "maintain their airway" until the drug wore off.

"It's problematic that the sober homes aren't regulated, so there's no established communication," Johnson said. "That kind of communication with hospitals and nursing homes is beneficial, but with sober homes, we are missing that entire piece." [kmiller@pbpost.com](mailto:kmiller@pbpost.com) **Twitter: @kmillerweather**

POST EXCLUSIVE CRIME

# The final day of Byron O'Shea

**A life marred by drugs and crime ends at 46 in a shootout with police.** *By Eliot Kleinberg Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Palm Beach Sheriff's Office deputies block Church Street at Okeechobee Boulevard early May 12 after a confrontation with Byron O'Shea, who had robbed a nearby bar at 4 a.m. Deputies caught up with O'Shea that evening. LANNIS WATERS / THE PALM BEACH POST



Phillip Byron O'Shea was an intelligent man who earned GED and paralegal degrees in prison. But drugs got the better of him, his sister said. FAMILY PHOTO



WEST PALM BEACH — Byron O'Shea adjusted his hoodie and sunglasses and stepped into the dimly lighted pub. It was about 4 a.m. on May 12.

"This is a robbery. Not a homicide," he announced, his handgun aimed at the head of one of two bartenders. Some two dozen patrons watched, frozen.

Soon, hundreds of dollars were stuffed in O'Shea's pocket and he was out the door and in his car. As he raced east down Okeechobee Boulevard, he likely saw the flashing red lights coming up on him, and fast.

His day would go downhill from there.

About 13 hours later, the 46-year-old would be dead, shot by Palm Beach County sheriff's deputies in a volley that left a slug from his gun in the haunch of a police dog. In between, authorities say, he'd lead a chase, crash his car, shoot at police and hijack another car. Moments before his death, his family would say, he'd told his mother he'd rather die than go back to the lockup.

**'This is what my brother wanted. He was ready to go.'**

### **Stacey Reilley**

Sister of Byron O'Shea, pictured above

Local and state authorities still won't release some details, saying either that they don't want to reveal their investigative ways or that they're barred by the unfinished investigation into those last few minutes when O'Shea died.

What has filtered out, along with information from documents and from O'Shea's relatives and others, paints a picture of a man who loved the ocean, fishing and family but who, early on, was driven by alcohol and drugs to a dark place from which he never climbed out.

His sister says she'd feared for a while that his life would end the way it did, in what the family believes was a "suicide by cop."

To get the drugs he craved, O'Shea "was just going to keep on going, whether he carjacked cars, robbed businesses or robbed citizens. So this is a very dangerous individual who now is off the street," Sheriff Ric Bradshaw said that Friday, after O'Shea was killed in the parking lot of an apartment complex in Jupiter.

O'Shea's family "100 percent do not hold the (sheriff's office) in any way responsible. This is what my brother wanted. He was ready to go," his sister, Stacey Reilley, told The Palm Beach Post on Wednesday.

She said her brother was "an amazing writer and highly intelligent" and would earn a GED and a paralegal degree in prison. But, she said, in prison he didn't lose access to drugs. On the contrary, she said. They were as easy for him to get as cigarettes and playing cards.

"My brother has done horrible things to keep feeding his addiction. He never wanted to hurt anyone," Reilley said. "There was a wonderful, loving, compassionate side of him. The drugs were just consuming him. And drugs came first."

### **Long history of crime**

Just before 8 p.m. that Friday, TV cameras zoomed in on Phillip Byron O'Shea's face, looking out from a printout in the hand of the sheriff.

Had the photo shown O'Shea's entire body, it would have displayed an anchor and clover on his chest. A left arm emblazoned with faces and a spiderweb and the word "sick." A right arm showing playing cards and a lady with a gun and flames and the phrase "all in." And a back displaying a demon, a lion, a skull and the man's name: "O'Shea."

By contrast, a well-groomed 17-year-old Phillip Byron O'Shea — his sister says everyone called him by his middle name — gives a tight-lipped, shy smile in the sophomores section of the 1988 John I. Leonard High School yearbook. The black-and-white photo from 1988 doesn't show the West Palm Beach native's brown hair and green eyes.

By the 1989 yearbook for the Greenacres school, his name does not appear in the index. His sister says he'd slipped into drug use and dropped out.

"When he was 16, it was weed," Stacey Reilley said. "My brother was addicted since then."

In March 1990, at 19, he suffered a head injury when his motorcycle and a car collided, and he later was hit with a lien from Good Samaritan Hospital in West Palm Beach for an unpaid \$1,132 bill. Records don't show how that was resolved.

The next year, his sister says, his fiancée was killed in a car wreck, and "he took a turn for the worse."

In January 1991, he was convicted of burglary of a dwelling.

Then, in July 1991, he made the newspaper.

Palm Beach County sheriff's deputies said he robbed a house, and as he tried to flee in an owner's car, a friend of the victim tried to block O'Shea's way and O'Shea struck the man. O'Shea later was convicted on several counts of aggravated battery, burglary of a structure, grand theft and dealing in stolen property.

Three years later, O'Shea was convicted of DUI.

Then, in November 1994, while living in an apartment in Palm Beach, he was arrested for armed robbery, grand theft and two counts of aggravated assault, including aggravated assault with a firearm on a law enforcement officer. West Palm Beach police said he followed three men from Club Diamonds on Congress Avenue to a nearby Waffle House, then robbed one of them at gunpoint of a Rolex watch and



the keys to his Mercedes. Authorities said he fired at one of the witnesses and pointed his pistol at officers.

A year later, in September 1995, a federal judge sentenced him to 16½ years after he pleaded guilty to possession of a firearm by a felon.

In May 1996, he transferred to state prison to finish serving the state convictions. In the three years he was in South Bay Correctional Institution in Belle Glade, he was cited for fighting and alcohol use.

On Sept. 23, 1997, he married Bonnie Jean Rock at South Bay. A prison chaplain officiated. He and Bonnie would divorce in 2002. She couldn't be reached by The Post for comment.

"He wanted her to go (on) with her life," Reilly said. "He loved her enough to let her go."

The divorce decree gives O'Shea's address as a federal lockup in north-central Florida. He'd gone there from South Bay to finish the rest of his federal firearms sentence.

In January 2010, now out of prison and living west of Boynton Beach, he was arrested for battery, aggravated assault and kidnapping. A Palm Beach County sheriff's report says he threw a beer bottle at his live-in girlfriend and threw her down as she tried to leave.

Prosecutors later declined to file charges. Then a federal court in Fort Lauderdale ruled O'Shea had violated the conditions of his release in the federal firearms conviction, and he was sent back to the federal lockup for 14 months, followed by another two years of supervised release.

In April 2012, the sheriff's office said, he and another man were charged with robbing an acquaintance of a Rolex watch and a gold necklace, valued at a total of \$15,000. A report said the two alleged robbers "are known personal friends with known drug addictions."

O'Shea went back to state prison from June to November 2013. When he got out, grandmother Doris Edwards said, "he went for several jobs, and they said there was no work." She said no one would hire a felon.

So Byron went to North Carolina.

His sister says his mother had a service business with clients in the Raleigh area, and he headed to the capital city to do work for her. But things soon went sour there as well.

Twice in 2014, on Aug. 22 and on Christmas Day, Phillip was arrested in nearby Cary, N.C., for driving while impaired. In July 2015, he was booked in Raleigh on a similar charge. He later was convicted of aggravated DUI in the Raleigh arrest and began

what would be a seven-month sentence. In March 2016, he was busted again, in Raleigh, for resisting an officer.

At some point after that, he fell in with Kyle Robert Fedus. The 29-year-old also was a familiar face at North Carolina county and state lockups. On May 2, police allege, the two took \$570 from Hitesh Patel at the Super 8 motel that Patel owns in Raleigh. Patel said Monday he did not want to comment except to say he was not hurt. Wake County, N.C., authorities issued a warrant for O'Shea and his pal Fedus. Records show Fedus was arrested and charged with robbery with a dangerous weapon. But where was Phillip O'Shea?

A few days later, everyone would find out.

### **That Friday morning**

At 4 a.m. Friday, the late-night crowd was winding down at Duggan's Pub & Grill, a neighborhood hangout at Okeechobee Boulevard and Haverhill Road in suburban West Palm Beach.

Within an hour, the bar was set to do its nightly two-hour closing to clean up. The owner would say later she'd been there seven years and never had trouble.

Then, authorities said, Byron O'Shea walked in.

Moments later, he was gone, but not before a patron had run after him and got enough details about his car to describe it to deputies. Almost simultaneously, bartenders had dialed 911. The sheriff's office said a patrol car was nearby and soon spotted O'Shea's fleeing car, a red, 4-door Mercury owned by his grandmother. Deputies say O'Shea raced the red car down Okeechobee for about 2 miles, then turned right on Church Street into an industrial park about a half-mile west of Interstate 95 and just south of the West Palm Beach city limits.

More sheriff's cars joined the chase. It lasted a matter of minutes. They said his car flipped and slammed into a fence and he came out shooting.

Three deputies shot back: Robert Jacques, on the force since 2015, and Dustin Sullivan and Jorge Gomez, hired in 2016. Sullivan hurt his shoulder diving for cover. Local media would incorrectly report he'd been shot, but he escaped serious injury and by 8 a.m. was out of a hospital; the sheriff's office won't say which one.

Deputies blocked off the Church Street entrance from Okeechobee as they swarmed the labyrinth of warehouses, alleys and side streets that stretches nearly all the way to Palm Beach International Airport. Some parked cruisers sideways and stood in front of them, rifles cradled in arms, turning away workers who'd arrived to load up produce for area diners or auto parts for awaiting dealerships, or to finish buffing the bumper of that luxury car.

As the workers stewed, people in nearby neighborhoods heard helicopters buzz overhead and were rattled around 6:30 a.m. by telephone "robocalls" telling them to stay inside because a dangerous person was on the loose.

By then, O'Shea might well have been long gone.

Two hours after the chase, the sheriff's office says, he relieved a woman of her car at gunpoint near Palm Beach International Airport. The agency won't identify the woman, who was not hurt, or describe the car.

### **The final scene**

And deputies, citing investigative practices, would not say what led them to O'Shea, or what occurred in the several hours between then and when deputies encountered him in the parking lot near the Wood Duck apartments, a low-income complex on Military Trail south of Toney Penna Drive.

Nor has the sheriff's office said what happened next, about 5:10 p.m. Except that three deputies and O'Shea traded fire — O'Shea fired first — and at least one bullet struck the haunch of a police dog named Casper.

The three deputies were tactical agents Nicholas Lentini, hired in 2003, and Todd Romagnoli, who joined in 1999, and K-9 deputy Charles Hardy, at the department since 2000.

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement has been brought in to investigate the deputies' actions. That agency will not provide any information at this time.

The sheriff's office says it is looking into whether O'Shea committed other crimes in the area.

"Looked to me like he (O'Shea) was involved in robberies (and) using that money to buy narcotics," Bradshaw told reporters that night. "He obviously was not going to be taken alive."

Reilley said his mother was on the phone with O'Shea, who told her he'd been awake for several days, and who said he was not going back to jail. The family says he told his mother goodbye, and she then heard shots.

"He knew as soon as he shot that bullet, the police would kill him. He chose to die," grandmother Doris Edwards said. "He shot low and hit the dog. They killed him. That was his choice."

All six deputies were placed on administrative leave, as part of sheriff's office policy following shootings involving its officers. Casper went under the knife at Palm Beach Veterinary Specialists in suburban West Palm Beach and went home the next day.

Phillip Byron O'Shea's funeral was set for Saturday.

"My brother is at peace now," Reilley said, "and no longer has to fight the demons that controlled him."

Staff writer Melanie Mena contributed to this story. [ekleinberg@pbpost.com](mailto:ekleinberg@pbpost.com)

# Sun Sentinel

## WEST BOCA

# PBSO: Rise in burglary of vehicles

*By Marci Shatzman Staff writer*

Residential burglaries are down almost 30 percent and robberies 25 down percent. That's the good news, said Capt. David Moss, commander of District 7 that covers West Boca for the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office.

On the other hand, vehicle burglaries are up over 50 percent, Moss told the West Boca Community Council at the May 9 meeting in Boca Lago Country Club.

Daytime crimes are usually not locals who smash car windows and grab items.

Suspects come in from Broward County, then jump back onto Interstate 95 or Florida's Turnpike, he said.

Nighttime car crimes are different.

"Young adults walk through HOAs and gated communities and check car handles overnight," Moss said about homeowner associations. "There were seven in Boca Chase, all unlocked vehicles. One left the keys in the car and the whole car was taken.

"Don't leave anything out in the open," especially devices like iPads or computers, added Moss, who updates council members at each meeting.

Palm Beach County State Attorney Dave Aronberg, the main speaker, called the proliferation of "rogue sober homes the No. 1 criminal justice issue facing all of Florida."

Aronberg cited "a huge boost" from a bill by Reps. Bill Hager and Jeff Clemens that passed in this legislative session to crack down on sober homes and help prosecute illegal patient brokering. That's the practice of offering kickbacks, bribes or any financial incentive to refer an addict needing treatment to outpatient programs and so-called sober homes, often for "free" room and board.

"Well-intentioned federal laws give generous benefits and incentives for relapse," Aronberg said. People come in from out of state and "insurance will pay for 28 days of treatment" that turns into a revolving door.

"People get a free airplane ticket and the telemarketers get paid," for each referral. Treatment centers can charge \$600 to \$1,000 for a \$25 drug test, "so they're happy to kick back \$500," he said. "They're getting rich and people are dying."

The billion-dollar industry often misuses the Americans With Disabilities Act to get around local housing laws, he said.

Aronberg said his task force made 21 arrests since July in Boca Raton, Delray Beach and Boynton Beach.

"We started to clamp down on them; free benefits are illegal," said Chief Assistant State Attorney Al Johnson, in charge of the task force. He and Aronberg asked members to report illegal sober homes through the hotline at 844-324-5463.

West Boca Community Council is on summer hiatus until September, but council President Sheri Scarborough asked for support for the July Fourth fireworks and event they help sponsor in Burt Aaronson South County Regional Park. [mshatzman@tronc.com](mailto:mshatzman@tronc.com)

## **SHE'S MOM TO 1,148 When U.S. agents take away undocumented parents, she takes the children** *By Caitlin R. McGlade | Staff writer*



MIKE STOCKER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Norita Sandigo holds 3-month-old Elizabeth Xareni at a home in Homestead.



Sandigo is the mother of over 1,100 children whose parents signed power of attorney to her in case they are deported.





Norita Sandigo shops for families at Sedanos Supermarket before heading to Homestead. She brings care packages regularly to immigrant families all over South Florida.



PHOTOS BY MIKE STOCKER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Norita Sandigo is greeted by, left to right: Karina Coc Choc, 8; Kelly Ramirez, 8; Nathan Sic, 11-months; and Anna Ramirez, 5, as she arrives at a home in Homestead to deliver groceries and clothing to immigrant families in need.

In November, she had 900. Today: 1,148. That's how many children consider Nora Sandigo their other mom.

Some live as far away as California; others, within her Miami home. They have one thing in common: They are the children of undocumented parents. Afraid of deportation, their parents give Sandigo legal authority to care for them if immigration officials come knocking.

And they are coming now at a greatly increasing rate. The families of about 250 kids have sought Sandigo's help after President Donald Trump's call for widespread deportations. Her attorney, Alfonso Oviedo, said he's not aware of any law that would limit the number of kids she could accept.

"We have no choice. We have to say yes to people," said Sandigo, 51, who fled her home in war-torn Nicaragua in the 1980s. "If this were my case, and no one said yes, I would be dead."

Sandigo, a mother of two who owns a nursing home business and a plant nursery, does far more than just be there in case a parent is detained. She delivers food to



roughly 200 families on a regular basis. She drives kids to doctor appointments and signs school documents. And she invites dozens of them at a time for dinner that she cooks at home.

Sometimes, the parents entrust their children to Sandigo even though they haven't met her. And sometimes she's not sure where the money will come from to help the families she already serves. Nevertheless, she makes room. She keeps an expanding database that tracks each child: who they are, date of birth, address, phone numbers, where to go to pick them up.

The kids, she said, are ready to call her if something happens to their parents. So she must be ready at any time to make them a bed in her six-bedroom house or in one of the few open rooms in her nursing home business. It's a moral commitment, she says, to provide for the children she calls her own.

"When you go there and you open the fridge, there is nothing. Then you understand there is a real need," she said. "It doesn't matter where they are from, who they are, how they look, what they think, if they are thankful or not. I think there is no need to think about that."

### **Fleeing war in Nicaragua**

Sandigo and her husband, Reymundo Otero, grew up in Nicaragua, in the throes of war.

Otero, 49, was 13 years old and playing basketball with friends when some men forced them into trucks. They drove the kids up to the mountains, handed them AK-47s and demanded the kids guard the coffee plants. The kids slept on wet, muddy floors. They ate small rations. One of his friends accidentally shot and killed two of the other kids.

About the same time, in Otero's hometown, Sandigo was watching her classmates disappear. One of them, she said, didn't show up to a meeting with the Sandinistas, a U.S.-backed rebel group. So they killed him, she said.

One night, they'd heard that the group was going door to door to take men to fight their cause. Her father sent her brothers to work on a farm far away and told her to leave the country. She went to Managua, where the international embassies were. All were closed, but Venezuela's door was cracked open so she ran inside and sought asylum.

Sandigo moved to Venezuela, France and then Miami in the late 1980s. She worked for a United Nations organization that helped other immigrants with their documentation.

Several years later, Sandigo was the lead plaintiff in a class-action lawsuit aimed at getting the U.S. to grant asylum to Nicaraguans. In response, Congress passed a law

allowing in immigrants from several countries, including Nicaragua. And Sandigo got noticed.

A Peruvian mother called from a detention center, asking Sandigo to take legal authority of her two children. Sandigo said yes. And so it began.

### **An epic grocery stop**

On a Friday this month, Sandigo pulled up to a house in Homestead, her minivan packed with enough food to stock the shelves of the 15 waiting families.

As soon as she popped open the door, a young girl ran to her arms and a barrage of kids surrounded her, wrapping their arms around her knees. More than 30 children came to the house that day. And any one of them could come live with her — maybe temporarily, maybe permanently — if their parents get detained.

But for now, she's the mother who brings food, toys, clothes and candy — following an epic grocery stop. She and Ritibh Kumar, who lives with her because his parents were deported, went to the supermarket in Kendall and cleared shelves of cookies, coffee and soda.

Kumar bagged five tomatoes, stashed them in his cart and then repeated it 10 times. Sandigo slid dozens of chicken breast packages onto the bottom rack of her cart. A gallon of milk for each family, eggs, corn flour, the essentials. When one cart filled up, it was time to get another. In the end, the bill totaled about \$450, and the food was jammed into five different carts. Sometimes she feeds 50 families at once, and these trips cost her \$2,000.

She does this between trips to Washington, D.C., to meet with lawmakers in an attempt to sway them toward an immigration policy that leaves families intact. And while working with attorneys on another class-action lawsuit that seeks to end the deportation of parents of U.S.-born children and establish a path to legal status for them.

Sometimes, she asks herself why she does this. Sometimes, she asks Otero how all of these families have come to rely on her for so much. So many agencies, priests, churches or politicians could do what she does, she says. "And yet they come to me," she said. "And I have no power."

### **No promises**

Desperation. That's what brings them to her, she says.

As in the case of Dora, who gave Sandigo legal power to care for her four children after her husband was deported to El Salvador. When he was taken, they lost a huge portion of their income. So they stopped renting the whole house and now rent one bedroom in that house.

Or in the case of Valerie and Matthew Travi, whose family was deported to Colombia. Their mother had never met Sandigo — she had seen her on CNN —

when she called and asked whether her Florida-born children could return to the U.S. and stay with her. They had been threatened with kidnapping in their new land. Or in the case of Erica, a high school student in Miami-Dade County. Her mother, a Mexican immigrant, contacted Sandigo after Trump was elected because her husband has traffic violations on his record and she fears he could get deported if he gets stopped again.

Sandigo insists she doesn't promise anything. She can't. Her organization, the Nora Sandigo Foundation, operates largely off volunteer hours, supply donations and worldwide monetary donations — last month from a Moroccan princess.

But when the coffers are low, she must dip into her family's own wallet. Sometimes she has to bring the families less than usual.

"At least they know that if something happens in their family they would have a place to have a roof, a prayer for them," she said.

### **Keeping families together**

It's not clear precisely how many American-born children have lost their parents to deportation, but the most recent report available stated that Immigration and Customs deported about 5,450 immigrants claiming U.S.-born children in the second half of 2015.

That was under President Barack Obama's administration, when agents targeted a narrower group for deportation than today. Trump has issued executive orders that call for immigration officers to find and deport a broader pool of those in the country illegally. Those targeted include anyone who has committed an action that could be considered criminal, misrepresented themselves before a government agency or, "in the judgment of an immigration officer, otherwise poses a risk to public safety or national security."

Within Trump's first 100 days of presidency, officials arrested more than 10,800 non-criminals. During the same period last year, they arrested about 4,200, according to Immigration and Customs officials.

People commonly are getting detained when police stop them on the road and arrest them for driving without a license, said Victoria Mesa-Estrada, an attorney with Florida Legal Services. Undocumented immigrants cannot get Florida driver's licenses and can only use their original driver's license for a short period of time.

So more families are making plans for what to do if mom or dad get detained, she said. If they have relatives or friends willing to take on the responsibility, they can sign power of attorney over to them. If they have no one to look after their children in their absence, they could risk losing their kids to the foster care system, Mesa-Estrada said.

Immigration agents rarely refer children to the state at the scene of an arrest, said Mark Moore, field office director of ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations. Instead, they will help the detainee get in touch with a family member or friend to take their child, Moore said. If both parents are undocumented, the agent may opt to take only one parent so the other is there for the children, he said.

### **Have you ever been hungry?**

Sandigo and Otero have had up to 20 people living with them at once because of deportations.

Sandigo's phones are constantly ringing. Someone needs a bed. Someone needs a drive to the hospital. Someone needs her to connect them with an attorney.

But she makes time simply to do what mothers do: comfort her loved ones.

She brings diapers and prayers to a new mother in Pompano Beach whose husband was deported and soon killed in Honduras. And she welcomes to her home a teenager, whose parents were deported, by buying him Cuban coffee, placing an American flag on his bed and making juice for him from fruit he had just picked.

Otero said he doesn't remember the last time the couple took a vacation. Sandigo's time is constantly taken by one of the hundreds of people she helps. But Otero said the kids need all the help they can give them.

"Have you ever been hungry — truly hungry?" he asks.

Sandigo has many volunteers but doesn't always have consistent help. She says she doesn't know how she could take on even one more child. But then she reflects about how she had no one when she moved to America. How she cried for her father, her mother. How she doesn't want the kids to suffer like "little Norita."

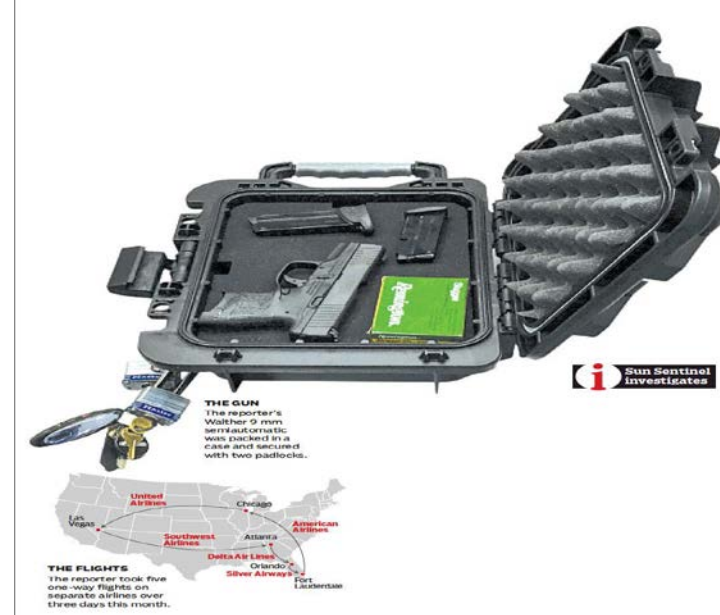
"Everyone has dreams exactly like us," she said. "Sometimes they can't fulfill their dreams." [cmcglade@sun-sentinel.com](mailto:cmcglade@sun-sentinel.com), 954-356-4528 or [Twitter@caitmclade](https://twitter.com/caitmclade)

**Video** Watch more about Norita Sandigo and her kids. [SunSentinel.com/Norita](https://www.sun-sentinel.com/Norita)

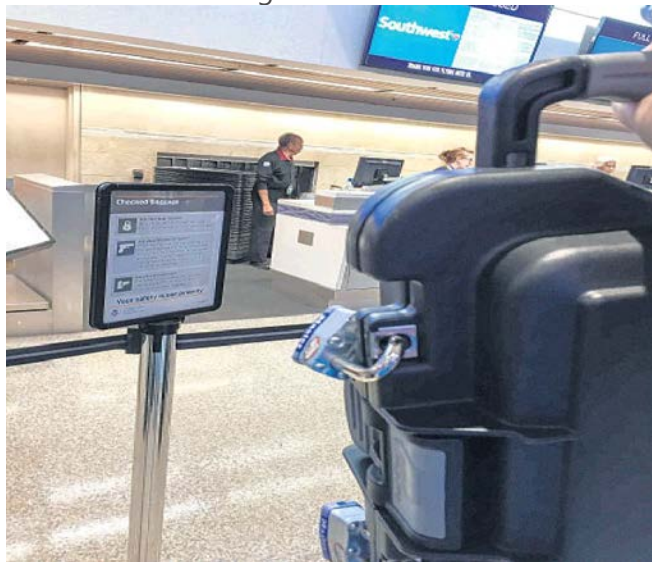
# We found out.

## Flying with guns. Anyone can do it. How easy is it?

By Dave Hyde Staff writer



Sun Sentinel investigates



DAVE HYDE/STAFF For the Las Vegas-to-Atlanta flight, our reporter checked only the locked gun case holding the unloaded gun and ammunition, instead of placing the case inside luggage.



Dave Hyde was licensed to carry a concealed handgun.



At the end of the trip, left, the locked gun case sits by itself on the baggage claim carousel at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport.

**FIREARM(S) DECLARATION**

I understand that the carriage of a loaded weapon is a violation of federal regulations. I therefore declare the following regarding the firearm(s) contained in my luggage:

1. The firearm(s) chambers are free of ammunition and the magazine clip has been removed (when applicable).
2. Loaded magazines or clips are packaged to prevent accidental activation of the primer.
3. The unloaded firearm(s) is inside a hard-sided locked container and I alone am in possession of the key or combination.
4. My total allowance of checked luggage contains no more than 11 pounds of ammunition and it is securely packaged in an appropriate container.

I also understand that state laws vary regarding registration, possession, and carriage of weapons. I acknowledge that I am responsible for knowing and following the firearm laws of the state(s) to and through which I will be traveling.

*[Handwritten Signature]*

**CUSTOMER SIGNATURE**

PHOTOS BY DAVE HYDE/STAFF At each airport, our reporter was required to sign a written declaration for the gun, such as the form above for his Southwest Airlines flight from Las Vegas to Atlanta.

Fort Lauderdale airport shooter Esteban Santiago checked nothing but a gun on his one-way flight from Alaska. Four months later, our reporter traveled to five cities using one-way tickets and packing the same gun and some ammo. No one, anywhere, seemed to notice.



**It** started with a normal exchange at a common check-in counter before a typical flight at Fort Lauderdale's airport: "I have an unloaded firearm in a locked case to declare," I said.

The ticket agent matter-of-factly asked for identification and typed on her computer. "To Chicago," she said.

And so began a trip to five cities on five airlines using five one-way tickets. It ended three days and 4,274 miles later with the same padlocked case, containing the same unloaded handgun, sitting on a stopped luggage carousel at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport. And sitting. With no one around. For anyone to take.

This is a story about flying around America legally with a Walther 9 mm semiautomatic handgun, the same kind of gun Esteban Santiago checked in a similarly locked case on a one-way flight into Fort Lauderdale in January, before he killed five people and wounded six in the airport after retrieving his gun upon landing.

I set out to see how Santiago got onto the plane. How easy was it for him to check a gun — with no other luggage — and fly across the country? And did the Fort Lauderdale shooting bring any change in how it's done?

In taking the Second Amendment for a test flight, I found:

- Two of the five airlines I flew returned the gun case to me by leaving it in the luggage area, untended and unnoticed — fully in line with the law. Airlines are free to follow starkly different policies on how they handle firearms.
- No one questioned that I was flying on only one-way tickets with only a gun, just as no one questioned Esteban Santiago.
- Although I was traveling with a concealed-carry permit, no one asked to see it.
- Exactly how many people check guns on planes is a secret to the public. The Transportation Security Administration says it doesn't track the number. Only the airlines know, and they won't divulge it.

In short, flying with guns is as much a part of travel as mileage points and middle seats. No one flinches if everything is in order. Anyone in your airport could be flying with a gun just as Santiago did.

This time, it was me.

### **Fort Lauderdale to Chicago, American Airlines**

"May 10th already — where's the time gone?" the ticket agent at American Airlines said as she wrote on a form for me to sign stating that the gun was unloaded and separated from the small box of ammunition in the locked case.

Each airline has a similar form. I had to place it inside my luggage, which I used on this first day of flying to carry the padlocked case containing the gun and box of ammunition.

The ticket agent took the luggage and, per American Airlines policy, set it on the conveyor belt behind the ticket desk where other bags went.

And that was that. Four minutes and I was off. The same as checking any bag. The luggage was sent to the TSA checkpoint, which would inspect the bag, ensure that the hard case and two padlocks were legal, and scan it to guarantee that the gun was unloaded.

It was only after walking through the passengers' security checkpoint with my small carry-on bag that this nothing-to-it normalness was interrupted by a first stab of panic: I'd left the keys in the padlocks to the gun box, and the ticket agent had let it go. It was a rookie move for a guy who had never owned a gun before. By law, the keys must be taken by the owner. That assures only the owner can access the case. Now what? What if someone opened the box? What if the gun disappeared? Or what if TSA saw this as a breach of protocol and refused to put it on the plane? I returned to the American ticket desk and explained the situation.

"No problem, let me find your luggage," the same agent said.

Ten minutes later, she reappeared with it. I took the keys to the box's two padlocks. "Have a nice trip," she said.

Despite the misstep, everything on this trip was done to duplicate Santiago's flight. And to follow the law that enabled him to take it.

To arm myself with knowledge — and my first gun — I began by buying the Walther 9 mm PPS within 17 minutes of entering the Shoot Straight shop in Fort Lauderdale and completing the legal paperwork. Five business days later, I walked out with the unloaded gun in its box.

Over the following weeks I took a five-hour gun-safety class for a concealed-weapons license; fired a gun for the first time; researched the laws of various states and protocols of various airlines; talked with travel and legal officials; and talked with Sun Sentinel lawyers — then talked with them again. And again.

All to cover concerns about flying with a gun that, looking back, seem like driving down Interstate 95 at 55 mph, wondering whether anything would go wrong.

I now know that gun owners like Santiago can check their weapons as easily as their suitcases or golf clubs. That's not to say it was all smooth flying on my trip. At Chicago's O'Hare airport, for instance, the luggage — containing the gun — didn't show up on the conveyor belt with other bags as I'd expected.

One by one, the other passengers picked up their luggage. The conveyor belt was empty, and I had no bag. Was it lost? Had I done something wrong? I went to American Airlines' baggage-claim office.

"Oh, it's special handling," the agent said after looking up my baggage-claim number. "Just a minute."

She disappeared and, waiting, I saw four rifle cases released in an oversized baggage area. I've flown plenty for three decades. I've flown to five continents. I've spent more than 100 days traveling some years. I'm not George Clooney from "Up in the Air," but I've been around. Still, I'd never noticed a firearm in an airport until this trip. You notice what you know to notice, it seems.

The American agent appeared with my bag after a few minutes, checked my driver's license for identification and then handed over the luggage. The locked gun box, similar to Santiago's, was inside. The handgun was inside that, as clean as the day I bought it. It had never been fired — the two ammunition cartridges never even loaded.

The only gun I had fired was an instructor's Glock handgun to end a class with a dozen other people for the concealed-weapons permit. I also had to fill out forms at the Department of Agriculture and get fingerprinted at its Doral office.

"How many licenses do you process a day?" I asked the official.

"Maybe 100," she said.

Three weeks after applying, my license came in the mail. I now was one of 1.7 million Floridians with an active concealed-weapons license — about 8 percent of the state's population — according to the Department of Agriculture.

### **Chicago to Las Vegas, United Airlines**

So now I walked through Chicago's O'Hare airport with that license and the padlocked gun box for a six-hour wait for a flight to Las Vegas.

Three hours before the flight, I checked the bag. The ticket agent, unlike at American, then accompanied me to hand-deliver the luggage to a TSA inspector, talking of her twin boys and impending trip to Greece.

Once the hand-off to TSA was made, I walked to the passengers' security checkpoint, which is where most issues with guns and airports intersect. TSA regional spokesman Mark Howell said 3,391 guns were confiscated nationwide at these checkpoints in 2016 (43 at Fort Lauderdale's airport).

That's up 25 percent from 2015, in good part because travel is up. Passengers forget they have a gun in their bag in most cases. But local law enforcement is called to measure the legality of the situation, and TSA can fine the passenger from \$200 to \$11,000 depending on the severity of it, Howell said.

Four hours of flying later, the luggage came up on the conveyor belt at Las Vegas' McCarran airport with every other passenger's baggage. That's United's policy for delivering handguns, as a company spokesman confirmed.

### **Las Vegas to Atlanta, Southwest Airlines**

After two flights and no difficulty, circumstances changed abruptly the next morning. But the problem was more common to flying: My Spirit Airlines flight to Atlanta was canceled, one of hundreds of Spirit flights canceled during a contract dispute with pilots.

The ticket agent, then her supervisor, offered only to put me on a flight the following day from Las Vegas to Detroit to Fort Lauderdale and into Atlanta at midnight. Nice. The headache in flying with a gun, I soon realized, isn't flying with a gun. It's simply flying. It's squeezing shampoo into a 3.4-ounce bottle, stripping down at a checkpoint and subjecting yourself to X-rays. It's the terminal noise, the chair in front of you reclined into your knees and, yes, flight cancellations. Checking a gun? That's easy.

I bought a Southwest ticket at a \$150 loss and sat in the airport six more hours, for the next flight to Atlanta.

I'd made a change, too. The first day of flying, I placed the locked gun box inside luggage in the manner most fliers do. For the second and third days, I ditched the luggage to follow Santiago's method of checking only the locked gun case holding the unloaded gun and ammunition. Again, all legal.

"I need you to unlock it," the Southwest ticket agent said after having me sign the declaration card.

The card had to be set inside the locked box atop the 9 mm handgun and box of five shotgun shells. The gun and shells didn't match on purpose. That way if something went wrong on this trip, nothing could go too wrong.

The gun box was locked again and put on the luggage belt behind the ticket desk, just as American Airlines did. The Southwest agent then pointed to the nearby TSA door and told me to wait there.

"If no one comes for you in 20 minutes, you're fine," she said.

After 20 minutes, I left for the gate. Eight hours and a change of planes in Denver later, the gun box didn't emerge in Atlanta's Hartsfield airport on the carousel with the rest of the flight's luggage. I talked to a Southwest agent, who pointed to a corner where such baggage was put.



#### **DAVE HYDE/STAFF**

In Atlanta's airport, the gun case did not appear on the carousel with the rest of the flight's luggage, but rather in a separate location.

There was the padlocked case, sitting unattended on a counter, with no official around. No airline agent. No security. Another passenger was picking up two pieces of luggage sitting there. I took the gun case, looked around and saw no one was interested in what I was doing. I opened the box, checked that the unloaded gun was there and walked outside.

**'The headache in flying with a gun, I soon realized, isn't flying with a gun. It's simply flying. It's squeezing shampoo into a 3.4-ounce bottle, stripping down at a checkpoint and subjecting yourself to X-rays. It's the terminal noise, the chair in front of you reclined into your knees and, yes, flight cancellations. Checking a gun? That's easy.'**

#### **Atlanta to Orlando, Delta Air Lines**

Ten hours later, I was back for a Delta flight to Orlando. I tried to use curbside check-in but was told a firearm had to be checked inside. Delta even has a check-in counter, No. 35, set up for handguns at Hartsfield, the busiest airport in the country. The Delta agent then gave directions to take the gun case to a TSA luggage inspection room. The official took me inside, had me open the box, then swabbed it inside and out to test for "foreign materials," she said, without explaining what those might be. Test done, the card was put back in and the re-locked case sent on its way. All of this was a new step for Delta since the Fort Lauderdale shooting, an agent said. So was what happened upon arriving in Orlando, the agent there said. The gun box, which had to be claimed with identification at Delta's baggage office, was wrapped with a heavy plastic tie band.

The tie band was supposed to ensure that the case couldn't be opened immediately, the way Santiago did in Fort Lauderdale before he loaded his gun in a restroom near baggage claim, then opened fire. The band was a temporary obstacle, though.

I went to an airport gift store and bought a bottle of water.

"Can I have your scissors to cut this tie band?" I said.

"I can't give you scissors," the cashier said. "But I can cut it myself."

### **Orlando to Fort Lauderdale, Silver Airways**

That done, I had just over two hours before the fifth and final leg of the trip: Silver Airways to Fort Lauderdale. The ticket agent checked in the locked box, put the legal card inside, then carried it as I accompanied him through the airport to a TSA office. There, as with Delta, I was asked to open the locks so the TSA agent could inspect the box before it was approved to fly. But all of that hands-on security changed after the short flight into Fort Lauderdale.

Walking through the Terminal 1 concourse, searching for the flight's luggage carousel, I noticed the locked gun box already sitting on a stopped carousel along with a few other bags from the flight.

A few months ago, I wouldn't have recognized a locked gun box from Samsonite luggage. A few days before, I wouldn't have thought about the various ways airlines have passengers retrieve handguns: American and Delta required identification at baggage claims offices; United put it on the carousel with other luggage; Southwest put it aside, but unattended; Silver left it unattended on the luggage carousel.

I stared at it a minute. After five flights on five airlines with five one-way tickets, I knew what I wanted to do. It's what most passengers want at this point of a trip. I wanted to get home.

I picked up the gun case and, uninterrupted, walked out the airport doors. [dhyde@sun-sentinel.com](mailto:dhyde@sun-sentinel.com)

## **SUN SENTINEL EDITORIAL Flying with a gun still too easy**

Have we learned anything from the slaughter wrought by a gunman at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport in January?

Apparently not.

Because four months after this preventable tragedy, Sun Sentinel columnist Dave Hyde reports it remains easy to fly below the radar of suspicion while flying on a one-way ticket with a gun and ammunition in checked luggage.

Remember, this is how Esteban Santiago presented himself at Anchorage International Airport the day that marked the worst airport shooting in our nation's history.

After collecting his gun case at baggage claim, officials say Santiago ducked into the restroom, loaded his gun, then came out and shot 11 people, killing five.

In the aftermath, Fort Lauderdale airport security officials told us the Anchorage airline agent should have been more suspicious and flagged someone in security to have a chat with Santiago. We were told that at big airports, agents regularly flag



security agents about travelers who present in eyebrow-raising ways. And we were told airport personnel are trained that if they “see something, say something.” Again, apparently not.

To see how easy it was for Santiago to do what he did, Hyde took five one-way flights through five big airports across the country, checking a locked case that contained a semi-automatic handgun and ammunition.

And he found no one batted an eye.

While the Broward Sheriff’s Office stepped up airport security after the shooting, the federal government is responsible for screening passengers and the airlines handle the check-in and collection of luggage.

And after reading Hyde’s report, it’s clear that what happened in January could easily happen again today.

After the shooting, BSO began an after-action analysis report of its response.

Broward County government has commissioned a report, too. Once she sees those reports, Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, whose district includes the airport, has said she expects to file legislation. One bill might involve how travelers are reunited with their ammunition. Another might address airport evacuation planning.

Meanwhile, the house is on fire.

There’s a hole in the dam.

And Rome is burning.

Something needs to be done now, pronto, as in yesterday.

Does no one remember the number of 9/11 terrorists who flew on one-way tickets with ill intent in mind?

How is it possible that someone flying on a one-way ticket — with no luggage, but for a gun — fails to strike airline agents as suspicious?

Something needs to be done about the disparate airline policies that allowed Hyde to travel in the same fashion as Santiago without tripping alarm bells.

For starters, the federal government should assume greater authority for the safety of airline travel, rather than delegate so much to the airlines. Yes, the Transportation Security Administration requires firearms to be checked in a locked case, but airlines have their own policies for how people check and collect their weapons.

We checked the policies of the five airlines that Hyde flew. Only one — Delta, the airline flown by Santiago — now requires bags containing weapons to be secured with a zip tie and marked with a special tag. The tie alerts handlers to send the case to a service agent, not the baggage claim carousel. Owners retrieve their bags from agents after showing identification.

Hyde flew Delta from Atlanta to Orlando and found the new system worked. Delta even has a special check-in counter for handguns at Hartsfield International Airport, the nation's busiest airport.

Hyde tried to check the gun curbside, but was told he must check it inside. The Delta agent then directed him to a TSA luggage-inspection room. There, after opening the box, the agent swabbed it inside and out for "foreign materials." The case was then re-locked.

At other airports, however, Hyde found his padlocked gun case sitting on a luggage carousel, where anyone could have taken it.

At the Fort Lauderdale airport where he started the trip, the gun case was put on the conveyor belt behind the American ticket desk, no questions asked. He then realized he'd left the keys in the padlock. The law says the owner must keep the keys. He returned to the ticket desk and the same agent found his luggage, then returned the keys.

In Las Vegas, when Hyde went to retrieve his case at Southwest Airlines, he found the padlocked case sitting unattended on a counter, with no airline agent or security around.

It's time the federal government standardized the rules for checking and retrieving weapons at all airlines. Guns and ammo should be retrieved at a safe place, with security on hand. Proper identification should be shown. And agents should be better trained, not only on enforcing the rules, but in spotting red flags.

Hyde's real-time report shows serious lapses remain in airport security. Let us not wait for another tragedy to address them.

*Editorials are the opinion of the Sun Sentinel Editorial Board and written by one of its members or a designee. The Editorial Board consists of Editorial Page Editor Rosemary O'Hara, Andrew Abramson, Elana Simms, Gary Stein and Editor-in-Chief Howard Saltz.*

Does no one remember the number of 9/11 terrorists who flew on one-way tickets with ill intent in mind? How is it possible that someone flying on a one-way ticket — with no luggage, but for a gun — fails to strike airline agents as suspicious?

# Trump visits yet to boost tourism 2017 tax revenues see slight decline

By Andy Reid Staff writer



JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES Despite a slow start, local leaders say there should be a long-term tourism boost from the international media attention that President Trump's visits to Mar-a-Lago Resort attract.

Free worldwide publicity from President Donald Trump's frequent Palm Beach visits so far hasn't delivered a *huuuuge* boost in local tourism, according to 2017 tax revenues.

Money from tourist taxes on Palm Beach County hotel stays declined from the prior year by 2 percent to 3 percent during February and March, as Trump made his first few post-inauguration visits to Mar-a-Lago.

That's about \$300,000 less in tax revenues used to pay for everything from advertising local tourist attractions to refurbishing eroded beaches.

"We couldn't buy that kind of media attention," Palm Beach County Mayor Paulette Burdick said about the presidential visits. "But time will tell if any true benefits will be measured."

Palm Beach County hotels have reported a slight uptick in occupancy rates since the start of the year, though the average room prices dipped a bit, according to STR, a Tennessee-based hotel industry tracker.

Part of the reason for the mixed results could be that the army of White House staffers, Secret Service and other government employees who follow the president to Palm Beach are exempt from paying those taxes on hotel stays.

They sometimes also receive reduced-price, government room rates.

Despite a slow start, local leaders say there should be a longterm tourism boost from the international media attention that Trump's visits attract.

April hotel data, which wasn't yet available, could show more signs of improvement, according to the county's Tourist Development Council.

"It's a little harder to put a value to it," Glenn Jergensen, executive director of the Tourist Development Council, said about the effects of presidential publicity. "We might not see the benefits of that for two to three years."

Trump has made seven trips to Mar-a-Lago since becoming president — attracting a media contingent broadcasting images of Palm Beach County's beaches, blue skies and golf courses to potential visitors around the world.

The entourage of staffers, Secret Service officers, Air Force One crew members, the media and others who tag along on presidential visits is estimated to use about 250 rooms per night.

During a three- or four-day trip, that can equate to up to 1,000 rooms directly tied to Trump's visits.

That number was amplified during Trump's two-day summit at Mar-a-Lago in April with the president of China.

President Xi Jinping brought busloads of government officials and security officers as well as thousands of red-shirt-wearing, flag-waving supporters. Much of the Chinese contingent stayed at the Eau Palm Beach Resort and Spa.

Since the summit, the luxury resort has been inundated with reservation requests from Chinese travelers, said Nick Gold, Eau's public relations director.

"It did create a sensation for us, in a good way," Gold said. "Our name was plastered all over the world."

Yet, Trump's trips to Mar-a-Lago came at the peak of Palm Beach County's tourist season — when many of the hotel rooms filled by the presidential entourage could have otherwise been taken by other travelers.

In February, Palm Beach County lost out on about \$258,000 in tourist tax revenues due to hotel guests who qualified for exemptions to the 6 percent tax on hotel stays. That was about \$90,000 more than the previous year, according to the Tourist Development Council.

In March, the revenue loss to tourist tax exemptions increased to \$264,000, though that was nearly the same as the previous March, according to the Tourist Development Council.

That's not all due to government employees tagging along on Trump trips, Jergensen said. Government employees and consultants, as well as full-time students, are among those who can qualify for exemptions, which are common throughout the year, he said.

While tourist tax revenues slumped at the beginning of the year, local officials say the number of visitors is on the rise.

During the first three months of the year, Palm Beach County had 2.3 million visitors. That was a 7 percent spike over the same period in 2016, according to Discover the Palm Beaches, the county's tourism marketing arm.

That includes a 14 percent increase this year in visitors from Washington, D.C. There was also a 24 percent increase in hotel bookings for people from the nation's capital, according to Discover the Palm Beaches.

Palm Beach County's almost 84 percent hotel occupancy during the first three months of 2017 was about 1 percent more than the same time last year, according to STR.

Even as occupancy rose, average daily room rates have been down a little so far this year. The county has averaged a \$231.66 average daily rate, a less than 1 percent decline.

While declining room rates appeal to travelers, they can be a bad sign for the health of the tourism industry.

One explanation for the "flattening" of Palm Beach County's room rates is the construction of more hotel rooms, which creates more competition for customers, said David Semadeni, of the Palm Beach County Hotel and Lodging Association.

"If you have more hotels, you can't push your rates," Semadeni said.

Even though the county's average daily room rates have dipped a little this year, they remain among the highest in the state, according to STR.

Though hard to estimate, ongoing publicity from Trump's visits to Mar-a-Lago could fuel more Palm Beach County tourism, said Jan Freitag, STR senior vice president.

"The 'Southern White House' has a certain cachet," he said.

While that "cachet" could eventually lead to a local tourism boost, hosting the president's weekend getaways has already increased law enforcement costs for Palm Beach County taxpayers.

Helping provide security during Trump's visits to Mar-a-Lago since the election has cost about \$4.5 million, according to the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office. Local leaders are lobbying for federal reimbursement.

In the town of Palm Beach, where island residents and businesses are the closest to the Trump media spotlight, "it's still to be determined" if presidential visits will end up being good for business, according to Laurel Baker, Palm Beach Chamber of Commerce executive director.

Security around Mar-a-Lago when Trump was in town blocked traffic that made it harder for customers to get to some Palm Beach shops and restaurants.

At other times, visitors who come to the island for a glimpse at the presidential estate don't tend to stop and shop or eat at nearby businesses, Baker said.

Also, much of the free publicity from the media following the president to Mar-a-Lago has focused on his luxurious, private club — not the shops, restaurants and cultural attractions Palm Beach has to offer.

"I don't think, frankly, [Palm Beach] was put in its best light," Baker said. "It was all tied to Mara-Lago, but there is so much more here." [abreid@sunsentinel.com](mailto:abreid@sunsentinel.com), 561-228-5504 or [Twitter@abreidnews](https://twitter.com/abreidnews)

## Officials worry about overdoses at hurricane shelters *Associated Press*

WEST PALM BEACH — Some Florida officials are raising concerns about drug use at hurricane shelters, saying they aren't equipped to care for addicts, unaccompanied minors and others with other medical needs.

Nearly 16,000 people in nine counties from Indian River to Miami-Dade evacuated to shelters during Hurricane Matthew. Six evacuees seeking refuge at a Delray Beach high school during Hurricane Matthew overdosed on drugs as the dangerous storm approached South Florida. Bags brought to shelters by evacuees are typically not searched.

In another county, a bus full of teenagers from a residential addiction-treatment center was left at an American Red Cross-run shelter without adult oversight.

"Many of the people from sober homes came with supervision, but some came and were just dropped off," Delray Beach Fire Rescue Capt. Kevin Saxton told the Palm Beach Post. "There were witnesses seeing people shoot up."

The concerns were raised during the Governor's Hurricane Conference last week in West Palm Beach. Hurricane Matthew was the state's first large-scale evacuation since Hurricane Wilma in 2005.

Saxton said some evacuees from sober homes were placed in an area away from the general population. One was taken to the hospital, but others were treated at the school if paramedics could "maintain their airway" until the drug wore off.

In Volusia County, evacuees left shelters while it was still dark outside, even though they were asked to stay by officials wary of downed power lines and broken street lights.

"People wanted out of the shelter, and we couldn't put a gun to them," said James Judge, Volusia County emergency-management director.

At one shelter, authorities nabbed two teenagers after finding them on the street skateboarding during the storm. The Red Cross will not take unaccompanied minors and directed them to law enforcement who "deemed they were not baby sitters,"



said Charles Parker, senior disaster program manager for the American Red Cross in South Florida.

Florida's counties handle staffing at shelters differently. Some rely on Red Cross volunteers while others use county employees.

Parker said one of the biggest problems during Matthew was miscommunication between the Red Cross and government officials about what shelters were opening and when.

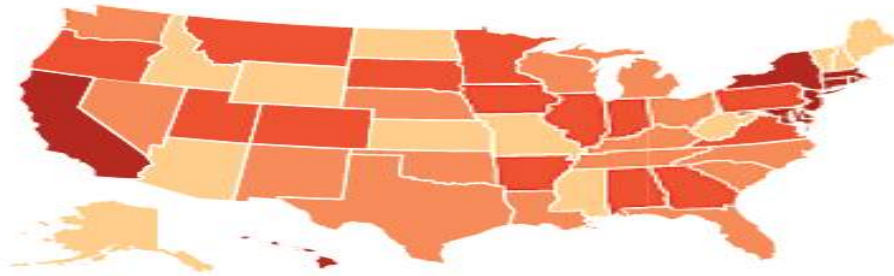
Hospitals, nursing homes and health care facilities are legally required to have their evacuation plans approved by county emergency managers so first responders know where those special-needs clients are going during the storm. But sober homes aren't under the same requirement.

# Gun laws across the U.S.

BY IRFAN URAIZEE AND JOHN MAINES | Staff writers

Every state allows gun owners to carry concealed weapons, but permitting policies vary dramatically state by state. In 10 states, gun owners can carry concealed weapons without a permit, but a permit is required in every other state and the District of Columbia.

## Concealed-carry policies by state



**Most strict** A permit is required to carry a concealed handgun in these states, and law enforcement has discretion to issue permits based on strict guidelines. Applicants in these states must prove they are of good moral character and have good cause for carrying a concealed weapon. Even if these requirements are met, law enforcement is not required to issue a permit.

**Limited discretion** Law enforcement has some discretion to deny a permit if authorities believe the applicant could pose a danger to themselves or others.

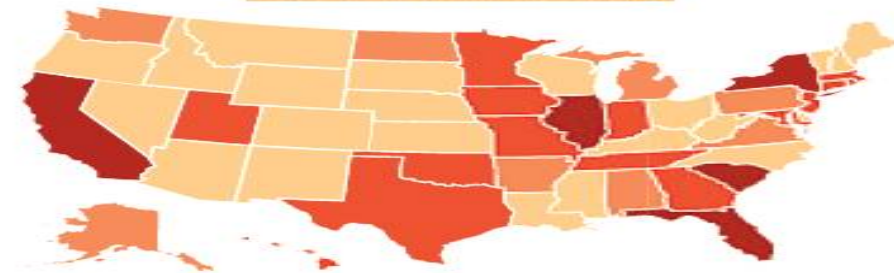
**No discretion** Local authorities are required to issue a permit to anyone who meets minimum statutory requirements. Applicants are not required to prove good moral character or good cause. Florida is one of these states.

**Unrestricted** No permit is required to carry a concealed handgun in these states. Residents in Alaska, Arizona, Idaho, Kansas, Maine, Mississippi, Montana, West Virginia and Wyoming can obtain a permit upon request if needed for other purposes such as travel. However, Vermont does not issue concealed-carry weapons permits in any form.

## Open carry policies by state

Five states, including Florida, and the District of Columbia prohibit the open carry of handguns.

**Illegal**   **Legal with a permit**  
**Legal with certain restrictions**  
**Legal, no permit necessary**



Laws in individual cities may differ from state laws. Do not use this guide as advice about gun ownership. Consult a lawyer or government agencies.

SOURCE: Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence

## DELRAY BEACH Coping in a crisis Tide of drug deaths weighs on responders *By Joanie Cox-Henry Staff writer*

With the opioid crisis in Delray Beach raging on, drug overdose is the leading cause of accidental death in the United States, with 52,404 lethal drug overdoses in 2015, according to the American Society of Addiction Medicine. Habitually tending to overdose victims is taking a toll on some first responders in Delray Beach. Interim City Manager Neal de Jesus, who also has served as the city's fire chief, wants to make sure first responders are getting the support they need to cope with the epidemic.

"I'm in my 24th year of fire service and I've seen countless deaths, but it should never become the norm to see more kids die in your first year of employment than some of us have seen in our entire career," he said. "I started asking questions and I didn't like what I was seeing. Some have had a dismissive attitude toward death and others have had no emotion at all."

Although a Critical Incident Stress Management team has always been in place, de Jesus said services like that are rarely utilized by personnel. He decided to bring in a counselor and make it mandatory for first responders on all shifts to attend.

"Firefighters have the fastest rising rate of suicide," he said. "We are trained to cope and cope. A lot of people don't seek counseling or help because they don't want to be seen as the weak link."

De Jesus brought in a national speaker to talk to firefighters on suicide prevention and plans to make it a recurring practice.

Delray Beach firefighters and police officers also have access to the Employee Assistance Programs in which they can seek free counseling.

Assistant Chief of Police Mary Santos-Olsen said she has had many discussions with Police Chief Jeff Goldman and fellow officers about being exposed to the climbing number of overdose cases and what it's doing to their psyche. The Delray Beach Police Department has been working with Healthier Delray Beach, Delray Beach Drug Task Force and other organizations to help first responders and civilians deal with the ongoing overdose issue.

"Starting in February, we had Dr. Revital Goodman talk about how the brain processes trauma and we got as many officers to attend as possible, as well as civilians," Santos-Olsen said.

She said she encourages all supervisors and first responders to keep a check on each other.

"Later this year, we'll be coordinating a stress management workshop with Dr. Goodman," Santos-Olsen said. [jkcox@tronc.com](mailto:jkcox@tronc.com)

**From:** [Anderson, Cassandra L](#)  
**Subject:** News Clips 5/25/2017  
**Date:** Thursday, May 25, 2017 1:05:10 PM  
**Attachments:** [News Clips.docx](#)

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# **News Clip 5/25/2017**

## **Palm Beach Post**

### **SHERIFF'S OFFICE DIVERS RESCUED**

## **Divers saved by PBSO after drifting from boat off Jupiter They got separated from commercial dive boat in late morning.**

*By Julius Whigham II Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

Seven divers who were reported missing 5 miles east of Jupiter Inlet on Wednesday morning were rescued by the sheriff's office.

The divers had become separated from a commercial dive boat late in the morning. An orange and white Coast Guard helicopter was seen circling just east of Jupiter Inlet about 11 a.m., said Matt Martin, who was standing on the walkover at Jupiter Beach Park.

"The helicopter circled for about five minutes," said Martin, a Jupiter resident.

A Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office boat left the inlet at about the same time, said James Lacey, a Jupiter resident who was also at Jupiter Beach Park.

PBSO said the seven divers separated from the dive boat out of Jupiter about 10 a.m. Two of the divers were immediately located and transported back to the marina, while the other five were found a few miles away by a PBSO pilot, according to PBSO.

The pilot led the sheriff's marine unit to the divers. A short time later, the dive boat arrived, and all five re-entered the boat. [jwhigham@pbpost.com](mailto:jwhigham@pbpost.com)

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# Man accused of assaulting three prostitutes

*By Jorge Milian Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Auvern Wilbon faces sexual assault charges.

WEST PALM BEACH — A Pahokee man is being held on \$900,000 bail at the Palm Beach County Jail and is accused of sexually assaulting three prostitutes, according to multiple arrest reports.

Two of the women were picked up around Lake Worth and West Palm Beach, assaulted and then dumped off and stranded in western Palm Beach County.

Auvern Wilbon, 55, is facing three counts each of sexual assault and false imprisonment.

A woman told the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office that Wilbon picked her up March 14, 2015 on Dixie Highway and 14th Street in West Palm Beach. Wilbon then poked her in the ribs with what he said was a gun inside his jacket and forced the woman to perform a sexual act, the report said.

The woman was driven to Belle Glade, where she was made by Wilbon to get out of the car.

Another woman told PBSO that Wilbon picked her up in Lake Worth on March 31, 2015 and attempted to rape her at knife point.

The 44-year-old woman said she managed to jump out of the car in the area of Canal Point and escaped the assault.

The third alleged victim said that Wilbon attempted to rape her March 10. The woman told a PBSO detective that Wilbon offered her drugs and a place to sleep so she got into his car.

After questioning where they were headed, the woman was told by Wilbon, "All you girls are the same. ... Y'all are always so scared."

Wilbon forced the woman to commit a sexual act, the report said. At one point, Wilbon threatened he would "choke you and throw you in the water" if the woman did not continue the sexual acts.

The woman managed to jump out of Wilbon's vehicle after it ran out of gas, and she flagged down a passing motorist.

During an interview with PBSO detectives, Wilbon admitted to picking up females in the Lake Worth area, then driving them in the direction of Belle Glade and Pahokee. Wilbon said he picked up the prostitutes because he and his girlfriend did not have sex, but denied raping the woman, the report said.



Wilbon told the detectives the women accused him of sexual assault because they were mad at being dropped off far away from where they were picked up. "Auvern stated he knows he is wrong for leaving the girls stranded but he just doesn't want to drive them back to Lake Worth," according to the report. Wilbon is facing charges of assaulting three women but indicated to detectives that a fourth woman might have been raped. DNA from the sexual assault on March 14, 2015 linked Wilbon to the alleged victim, the report said. [jmilian@pbpost.com](mailto:jmilian@pbpost.com) Twitter: [@jorgemilian1](https://twitter.com/jorgemilian1)

## Boca-area man accused of calling 911 to learn if woman tattled on him

*By Julius Whigham II Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Sean Boyce has a history of similar charges, records say.

BOCA RATON — Sean Boyce feared that a woman might have been calling 911 dispatchers to make false accusations against him. So the 39-year-old suburban Boca Raton man decided to call them himself early Saturday, authorities said. The woman "made a bogus call to 911 and I want to make sure she did not say anything about me," an arrest report made public Monday quotes him telling police. Deputies responded at about 4:30 a.m. to the 1000 block of Buena Ventura Drive, in the Mission Bay community west of State Road 7 and north of Glades Road, to investigate a 911 hangup. Boyce explained that he was the one who called 911. When asked what his emergency was, he explained that he was concerned the woman and his sister were conspiring against him. Deputies determined the call was not an emergency and arrested him on a charge of misuse of the 911 system. Boyce has a history of similar charges over the past two years, court records show. His last arrest was a little more than a year ago. A judge withheld adjudication on that offense after Boyce pleaded guilty. He was released from jail Saturday on his own recognizance. At the time of his arrest, Boyce appeared intoxicated, deputies said. He reportedly told deputies he consumed alcoholic beverages that night, the report said. The report does not indicate whether the woman did call 911. [jwhigham@pbpost.com](mailto:jwhigham@pbpost.com)

## **COURTS Dunkin' Donuts armed robber's life term upheld 2008 attack left four patrons with gunshot wounds.** *By Jane Musgrave Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

WESTPALMBEACH—A month after two men involved in a brutal 2008 armed robbery at Dunkin' Donuts in Delray Beach persuaded the Florida Supreme Court to throw out their convictions on charges of attempted murder, an appeals court threw ice Wednesday on any celebration they may have been planning.

The 4th District Court of Appeal, based in West Palm Beach, refused to throw out Calvin Weatherspoon's conviction on a charge of armed robbery in the attack, which left four patrons injured with gunshot wounds. Since he is serving a life sentence on that charge, the Supreme Court's decision to throw out the attempted murder charge was simply a moral victory, said attorney Ira Karmelin, who represented Weather-spoon, 28, in the appeal.

While the rulings didn't mention Tharod Bell, court papers show the 31-year-old is in the same predicament. State prosecutors acknowledged that he benefited from last month's Supreme Court decision in Weatherspoon's case. But it is expected his armed robbery conviction and life sentence on that charge will be upheld as well.

Palm Beach County Assistant State Attorney Jill Rich-stone said there is no reason to retry the men since both are serving life sentences.

In throwing out Weather-spoon's conviction on two charges of attempted murder, the Supreme Court said prosecutors should have instead charged him with attempted felony murder, which is a separate crime. The failure to do so made it impossible for him to adequately prepare his defense and confused the jury, the justices wrote.

Weatherspoon and Bell were among four members of a violent Broward County gang, known as the Crips, that committed a string of violent armed robberies at Dunkin' Donuts shops in Broward and Palm Beach counties. Described by Broward sheriff's deputies as "coldblooded thugs," three are serving life sentences in connection with the attacks, including the Del-ray one. One received the death penalty for killing a man during one of the robberies in Broward County. [jmusgrave@pbpost.com](mailto:jmusgrave@pbpost.com)

## WELLINGTON

# Suspect stays jailed after woman, 77, robbed at gunpoint

*By Jorge Milian Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



James T. Steinbach, 21, refused to appear for a bond hearing.

A Wellington man remained in the Palm Beach County Jail on Monday after he robbed an elderly woman at gunpoint, then tried to escape by running into the sober home where he lives, according to an arrest report.

The gun used turned out to be a toy, but James T. Steinbach is still facing a charge of robbery with a firearm. Steinbach, 21, refused to appear in court Friday morning for a bond hearing.

The 77-year-old victim was sitting inside her car in the parking lot at the Wellington Marketplace shopping center at Wellington Trace and Green-view Shores Boulevard when Steinbach approached her and asked if she had change for a \$20 bill, the report said.

When the woman said she didn't have change, Steinbach pulled up his shirt, revealing a black handgun, and ordered the victim to give up any money she had in her purse, the report said. The woman gave Steinbach a \$50 bill.

Steinbach fled on foot and was seen by witnesses running into a sober home on Hyacinth Place, northeast of the shopping center, the report said.

One of the residents handed a Palm Beach County sheriff's deputy a handgun that Steinbach allegedly carried into the home.

Deputies found a \$50 bill in Steinbach's possession, the report said. [jmilian@pbpost.com](mailto:jmilian@pbpost.com) [Twitter: @jorgemilian1](https://twitter.com/jorgemilian1)

## CRIME

# Nurse at JFK accused of selling drugs she stole

*By Julius Whigham II Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Amanda Ingersoll faces several drug charges.

An intensive care nurse at JFK Medical Center in West Palm Beach has been arrested for selling prescription pills she stole from the hospital, the St. Lucie Sheriff's Office said Wednesday.

Amanda E. Ingersoll, 36, of Port St. Lucie, is facing two counts of selling or distributing opium, two counts of dispensing drugs without a prescription, one count of possessing a controlled substance without a prescription and one count of possession of drug paraphernalia.

She was released from the St. Lucie County Jail on Wednesday after posting a \$53,250 bond.

"We believe that she stole the drugs from her employer and then sold them in various forms and quantities," Sheriff Ken Mascara said.

Hospital administrators released a brief statement Wednesday evening regarding Ingersoll's arrest.

"We are conducting an internal review and assisting police with their investigation of this individual, who currently is not actively working at our hospital," the statement said.

According to the sheriff's office, Ingersoll recently sold two morphine pills of 100 mg to a confidential informant for \$60. She told the informant she worked in a hospital intensive care unit and was taking medications from there in order to sell them. [jwhigham@pbpost.com](mailto:jwhigham@pbpost.com) Twitter: [@JuliusWhigham](https://twitter.com/JuliusWhigham)

## HOMELAND SECURITY

# TSA to add screening of electronic devices

## Testing at several airports will include Fort Lauderdale.

*Ron Nixon ©2017 The New York Times*



A Transportation Security Administration employee checks documents of passengers at Logan Airport in Boston, one of several airports where the TSA will screen electronic devices. JOSH REYNOLDS / ASSOCIATED PRESS 2010

WASHINGTON — The Transportation Security Administration is testing new procedures at nearly a dozen U.S. airports that will require passengers to place electronic items larger than a cellphone in a separate bin for X-ray screening, the agency announced Wednesday.

The new screening tests come amid heightened security at airports around the world and fears that terrorist groups are developing plans to attack flights heading to the United States or Europe.

In March, U.S. and British officials announced a ban on electronic items larger than a cellphone aboard certain direct inbound flights after intelligence reports surfaced showing that the Islamic State had developed — or would soon be able to develop — the technology to build a bomb that could be hidden in a laptop.

That ban applied to 10 predominantly Muslim countries stretching from North Africa to the Middle East, including some airports in Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

A similar ban is under consideration for inbound flights from Europe, Homeland Security Department officials said.

There is no timetable for a final decision on the expanded ban, said David Lapan, a spokesman for the department.

Passengers at the airports where the tests are occurring — including Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International — are asked to place items like e-readers and tablets in a separate bin, similar to the way laptops are screened.

Officials said the new screening procedures had been in the works for nearly two years and were not in response to an imminent threat but were rather part of continuing counterterrorism efforts.

"TSA's top priority is to protect the traveling public, and every policy and security procedure in place is designed to mitigate threats to passengers and the aviation sector — which we know our adversaries continue to target," said Darby LaJoye, the transportation agency's assistant administrator for security operations.

Officials said that while the new screening would lead to more bag checks, the agency was testing quicker and more targeted procedures, which should keep security lines from becoming backed up. The screening will not apply to all lanes at the airports and will not be used for PreCheck, the expedited screening lanes.

TSA officers will be available in front of X-ray machines to guide passengers through the screening process and advise what items will need to be removed from carry-on baggage and placed in a bin for separate X-ray screening, the agency said.

The agency said it had no immediate plans to roll out the new screening procedures at all airports.

The test locations include airports of varying sizes, the agency said. The airports include midsize ones in Colorado Springs, Colo., and Boise, Idaho, as well as Lubbock Preston Smith International Airport in Texas.

In addition to Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International, larger airports include Detroit Metropolitan; Logan International in Boston; Los Angeles International; Luis Muñoz Marín International in San Juan, Puerto Rico; and McCarran International in Las Vegas.

E-readers and tablets will have to be placed in a separate bin.



## ACCIDENTAL SHOOTINGS

# Accidental shootings of kids vary in handling In Florida, charges can be dramatically different, study finds. *Associated Press*



Thomas Chambers is fingerprinted after pleading guilty to manslaughter in the shooting death of his 3-year-old daughter, Zuri, in 2014. Chambers was sentenced to 10 years' probation. GREG LOVETT / THE PALM BEACH POST 2014

TALLAHASSEE — Across the nation, 152 children under 12 were accidentally shot and killed, by either self-inflicted gunshot wounds or by another child, from 2014 through 2016.

Seven of those cases were in Florida.

The Associated Press and USA Today researched the accidental shootings nationwide and found a difference in how law enforcement handles the cases, from no charges filed at all, to prison time for people who leave guns in places where children could access them. The same scenario has unfolded in Florida, where one sheriff said the death of the child was punishment enough, while others faced felony charges.

In Florida, it is illegal to store a loaded gun in a place where someone can reasonably expect a minor to gain access to it without a parent or guardian's knowledge. The law requires loaded weapons be stored in a locked box or have a trigger lock.

Here's a look at the Florida cases:

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3-year-old Zuri Chambers shot herself between the eyes with the Kel-Tech 9mm handgun her father, Thomas, 41, left on a living room table in their Lake Worth home as he was getting ready for work in February 2014. He told officers he hadn't

thought the girl was strong enough to pull the trigger, which requires 10 pounds of pressure. Chambers and his wife also told investigators the girl was found playing with the gun on two other occasions, including once when her mother woke to find the girl pointing the gun at her. Thomas Chambers was sentenced to 10 years' probation after pleading guilty to manslaughter.

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2-year-old Sheldon Salter Jr. accidentally killed himself with his father's Glock handgun, which he found under his parents' mattress after they sent him into the bedroom to get a diaper while they watched television in March 2014. The 28-year-old father was charged with culpable negligence for allowing a minor access to a gun resulting in death. He was sentenced to a year in jail and three years' probation.

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3-year-old Robert Gaines Jr. shot himself in the face with his uncle's gun while visiting his grandmother in Tallahassee in December 2014. Jaleel Taylor, 20, was sentenced to three years in prison on various charges, including culpable negligence for leaving a loaded firearm within access of a minor. The .380-caliber semi-automatic pistol had its serial number scratched off.

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2-year-old Kaleb Ahles shot himself in the middle of the chest after finding his father's loaded .380-caliber handgun in the glove compartment of his parents' car as they were moving out of their home in January 2015. The parents weren't charged; Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri said losing their child was punishment enough.

- 

8-year-old Christopher Scurry Jr. was killed when his 12-year-old brother accidentally shot him while visiting their grandparents in Port Orange in July 2015. The older brother found the gun in an unlocked filing cabinet in the garage while the grandparents were out of town for the weekend, local media reported. The grandparents, Robert and Sabrina Potter, are charged with culpable negligence by leaving a loaded firearm within access to a minor, a felony. Investigators said the gun was reported stolen years earlier. The case is ongoing.

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4-year-old Amirra Jacques shot herself in the head with a .40-caliber Glock semi-automatic handgun she found on a bed in September 2016. Her uncle, Nathaniel Lowe, 26, and a 16-year-old were charged with culpable negligence by leaving a loaded firearm within access to a minor. Lowe also is charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm, grand theft of a firearm and tampering with evidence. The teenager is charged with perjury and tampering with evidence after hiding the gun, police records show. The case is ongoing.

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A 3-year-old girl was fatally shot by her 8-year-old brother with a .22-caliber rifle in their parents' closet in Pensacola in December 2016. Deputies found two other long guns, ammunition in a cloth basket that also held toys, and a multitude of drugs and drug paraphernalia. The state attorney's office decided against charging the parents in the girl's death and is still investigating the drug case, the Pensacola News-Journal reported. The newspaper withheld their identities because no one has been charged.

## POLICE BLOTTER

### WEST PALM BEACH POLICE

**THEFT Two customers using** the self-checkout at a store in the 1500 block of Palm Beach Lakes Boulevard decided to place a few items in a bag without scanning them. One man took the bag and walked out of the store. He was stopped by a loss prevention officer. The items, worth \$65, were recovered. One man was arrested, and both were given trespass warnings from the property.

**A woman was caught stealing** locks from a store in the 1500 block of Palm Beach Lakes Boulevard. She was charged with retail theft and issued a notice to appear in court.

**HOME BURGLARY Someone climbed into** a home in the 700 block of 46th Street through a bedroom window and ransacked the residence. The victim told police that two laptop computers and a computer tablet were missing.

**ROBBERY An unknown man snatched** a cellphone from another man's pocket clip and ran off with it in the 5900 block of South Dixie Highway. The Samsung Galaxy S7 Edge was valued at \$1,000.

**Two men pushed a woman** to the ground and stole her purse in the area of Fifth Street and Rosemary Avenue. Contents of her purse included her wallet, sunglasses, cellphone, bus pass and \$75.

**CRIMINAL MISCHIEF Someone shot a BB** into a residence in the 1300 block of 11th Street, causing \$200 in damage to a window. The victim told police his neighbors behind him stand on their roof and shoot a BB gun. Police spoke to one of the neighbors, who said he and his friends were on his roof recently, shooting at small birds. He said he was unaware his shooting caused any damage to someone's home, until his neighbor confronted him recently.

**AFFRAY A report of two men fighting** brought police to the 200 block of Clematis Street. One man, a taxi driver, told police his customer complained about the cost of the ride and threatened to hurt or kill him. The driver said he reacted to this by stopping his cab and getting out, armed with a metal pipe for self-defense. Although the men fought with words and then fists, the metal pipe was never used the cab

driver said. The customer told a different story. Although he admitted he argued about the fare, the customer said the driver tried to lock him in the cab. He said the driver was the aggressor in the incident. The customer also said he tried to pay his fare with a \$100 bill, but the driver would not accept it. The customer paid the cabbie \$62.20, then the men went their separate ways.

**PROSTITUTION In an operation to curb** prostitution in the city, police arrested a woman who agreed to provide sexual services for \$400 to an undercover officer in the 1900 block of Palm Beach Lakes Boulevard. The woman was arrested and issued a notice to appear in court.

#### **SHERIFF'S OFFICE, LAKE WORTH**

**THEFT Someone stole three** Christmas cactus plants from the side yard of a residence in the 800 block of North J Street. The victim told a deputy the plants have sentimental value to him and his wife.

**A woman reported the theft** of her husband's tools from the front patio. The value of the tools was \$500.

**ROBBERY A man was enjoying** an alcoholic beverage in front of his residence in the 500 block of North D Street when a stranger came up to him, grabbed him by the throat and threw him to the ground. The stranger went through his pockets and stole his wallet and cellphone, then ran off.

**CITY ORDINANCE VIOLATION A deputy encountered** a man sleeping in front of a store in the 500 block of Lucerne Avenue. He offered to arrange shelter for the man, who replied, "You guys are being cocky. I'm going to make a citizen's arrest." He declined homeless services. Because the man was in violation of a city ordinance prohibiting lodging in public areas, the deputy arrested him and took him to the county jail.

#### **LANTANA POLICE**

**CRIMINAL MISCHIEF A bicycle left locked** at a park in the 1200 block of West Drew Street was damaged. The tires were slashed, and the lock was damaged and would not open.

**A window punch was used** on a vehicle parked in the 700 block of South 12th Street, causing \$300 in damage.

**VEHICLE BURGLARY Someone smashed a window** on a truck parked in the 1300 block of West Lantana Road and stole a power drill from within.

**Gucci flip-flops and belts,** 10 Versace ties and a duffel bag were missing from a vehicle in the 700 block of South 12th Street. A window on the vehicle was smashed. The bag was found under a vehicle in the 700 block of South 11th Street. Only the flip-flops were missing.

**Tools were missing** from two work trucks in the 600 block of Hillbrath Drive. A fence on the property was cut, and damage was estimated at \$500. Surveillance video showed there were two people involved in the theft.

**THEFT A fisherman fell asleep** in a park in the 300 block of East Ocean Avenue. When he awoke, he discovered his wallet missing from his backpack. Contents included debit cards, a driver's license and passport card.

**A woman told police** she got off a bus in the area of South Federal Highway and Miner Road in Hypoluxo. Because she felt dizzy, she sat down on a nearby bench. She placed her purse next to her. She said a man stopped in a car and offered her some orange juice. She drank it, and the man left. As she was getting up, she realized her purse was gone.

**A woman fishing** in the 300 block of East Ocean Avenue turned away momentarily and someone stole her purse that was next to her.

**BATTERY Police were notified** of a woman outside an establishment in the 200 block of North Third Street who was claiming she had been attacked. An officer found the woman, who had blood on her hand. She told him she was a "working girl" and had just been attacked by a customer. She said she was in the man's red minivan in a parking lot, and had already been paid to perform a sexual act when she had a change of heart. She offered to refund his money, but the man got upset and grabbed her. She took out a pocketknife, she said, brandished it and exited the vehicle. She said she accidentally cut herself during the incident. As the officer questioned her, the woman decided she did not wish to cooperate with an investigation.

#### **SHERIFF'S OFFICE, ROYAL PALM BEACH**

**CRIMINAL MISCHIEF A gray, pasty substance** was found splattered on the hood, windshield, roof and trunk of a vehicle parked in the 100 block of Bobwhite Road. The vehicle's owner was able to wash off some of the material, and there was no damage. A deputy spoke to a neighbor who said large ducks had flown overhead, and they were responsible for the mystery substance.

**TRESPASSING A deputy went to the** 10000 block of Belvedere Road to investigate complaints about a man running around the plaza and acting strangely. The man was going into businesses and yelling, scaring customers inside. The deputy noted that the man was constantly high on drugs, which caused him to be combative and aggressive. The deputy located the man and advised him he would be arrested if he returned to the plaza.

**DISTURBANCE A woman working in the 1100 block** of Royal Palm Beach Boulevard got into an argument with a coworker. She said he became aggressive, and she feared violence. She was afraid he might follow her home. Her parents

spoke to the manager, who witnessed the interaction between their daughter and the coworker. They believe he may be fired, and there was concern he might retaliate. The report was made for documentation.

**THEFT An employee of a business** in the 1000 block of North State Road 7 reported the theft of her purse. She told a deputy a man came into the business and claimed he was waiting for his friends. She left her purse unattended on a table, and when she came back to retrieve it, the purse was gone. Surveillance video showed the man take the purse and run out.

#### **SHERIFF'S OFFICE, WELLINGTON**

**SUSPICIOUS INCIDENT A window was found broken** on a residence in the 11600 block of Turnstone Drive.

**TRESPASSING An intoxicated woman** creating a disturbance at an establishment in the 13800 block of Wellington Trace was given a trespass warning. The woman claimed that an arcade machine took money from her when it malfunctioned. She also said she paid \$60 and never received the food she ordered. The manager told the a deputy the woman's accusations were false. He said she became intoxicated and irate after consuming several drinks, so he refused her service and told her to leave the bar.

**THEFT A woman's iPhone** in a Louis Vuitton case was stolen while she was at a facility in the 14400 block of Pierson Road.

#### **SHERIFF'S OFFICE, GREENACRES**

**THEFT Lug nut covers** were stolen from a vehicle in the 6800 block of Lake Worth Road.

**While a woman was away** for the weekend, her brother had a party in their apartment in the 200 block of Foxtail Drive. A number of items disappeared after the festivities, including a \$300 pearl necklace, headphones and vodka. A deputy spoke to some of the partygoers, who gave conflicting stories on what they witnessed at the apartment.

**CRIMINAL MISCHIEF Someone scratched a vehicle** parked in the 700 block of Sunny Sky Way. Damage was estimated at \$500.

**A window was smashed** on a vehicle in the 1200 block of Parkway Court.

**UNWANTED GUEST A man who was observed** trying to steal CDs was given a trespass warning from a store in the 6200 block of Forest Hill Boulevard.

**DISTURBANCE An unhappy customer** at a business in the 6300 block of Forest Hill Boulevard commented, "I understand why people shoot up office buildings." He did not brandish a firearm and soon left. The business contacted the sheriff's office to document the incident. A deputy spoke to the customer, who said he did not threaten the staff. He was advised not to return to the business.



**SHOTS FIRED A shooting incident** in the 200 block of Jackson Avenue caused damage to a vehicle and nearby residence. The rear window of a woman's vehicle was shattered. She also found a bullet hole in the window of her residence. The stray bullet went through the blinds, curtains and into a wall. Damages to the woman's vehicle and residence were estimated at \$500.

Compiled by Sy O'Neill from area law enforcement records.

## **TALLAHASSEE GOVERNOR**

### **Scott vetoes bill on 'liquor wall' Governor cites his concerns about hurting small businesses.**

*By Jim Turner News Service of Florida*

TALLAHASSEE — Pointing to concerns about preserving small-business jobs, Gov. Rick Scott on Wednesday vetoed a heavily debated and lobbied measure that supporters said would repeal a relic of the nation's emergence from Prohibition. The so called "liquor wall" law, which requires hard spirits to be sold in separate facilities from most retail goods, will remain in place after Scott's veto of the repeal bill. The veto was a victory for independent liquor-store owners, ABC Fine Wine & Spirits and Publix Super Markets, which fought the bill during the legislative session that ended May 8.

Scott's decision on the proposal (SB 106) also ends for now the noisy legislative battles about the issue. Supporters of eliminating the law, including retailers Target, Costco and Wal-Mart, argued that a repeal would promote free markets and customer convenience.

"We have made tremendous progress in the last four years, and there is a clear momentum in Florida for this common-sense approach to liquor sales," said Michael Williams, a spokesman for the group Floridians for Fair Business Practices, which supported the repeal. "While Governor Scott ultimately chose to veto Senate Bill 106, we look forward to working with state leaders in the future to finally put an end to this outdated, Prohibition-era law."

Scott, in a letter accompanying his first vetoed bill of the year, said the proposal's impact on small businesses outweighed his desire to further cut regulations.

"I carefully reviewed this bill and I have met with stakeholders on both sides," Scott said. "I listened closely to what they had to say and I understand that both positions have merit. Nevertheless, I have heard concerns as to how this bill could affect many small businesses across Florida. I was a small-business owner and many locally

owned businesses have told me how this bill will impact their families and their ability to create jobs.”

Opponents of the bill argued that a repeal would hurt small liquor stores, eliminate jobs, result in a greater ability for minors to get liquor and lead to more impulse-buying of alcohol.

“We applaud Governor Scott for saving hundreds of Florida small businesses that employ thousands of Floridians, while at the same time keeping safeguards in place for minors,” ABC Fine Wine & Spirits Chief Executive Officer and President Charles Bailes said in a prepared statement.

Along with the independent liquor stores, Publix has been involved because it operates stand-alone liquor stores in many of the same shopping centers as its grocery stores.

Meanwhile, retailers such as Target and Wal-Mart — battling online sales — have been looking to sell liquor in the same stores where shoppers pick up groceries and other goods.

The bill was highly controversial, passing the Senate in a 21-17 vote and the House by a 58-57 margin.

Members of the Florida Independent Spirits Association, which also opposed the repeal, mobilized after the bill received final legislative approval April 26.

“More than 1,000 letters and 3,000 petitions from around the state were delivered to the governor with the message that vetoing this bill would save our Florida small retailers and jobs that help our local economies,” Florida Independent Spirits Association President Rory Eggers said in a release thanking Scott.

In addition to repealing the Depression-era law, the bill would have prohibited new package stores from being licensed within 1,000 feet of schools; required small bottles, 6.8 ounces or less, to be displayed only behind the counter; and required that checkout clerks under the age of 18 be supervised by people 18 or older when alcohol is purchased.

## Former 'pill mill' operator gets six years in prison

*By Paula McMahon Staff writer*



Gervasio

A South Florida man whose attorneys said made "exceptional" efforts to atone for his crimes was sentenced to six years in federal prison on Wednesday for his role in operating a \$13 million network of pill mills.

Pasquale Gervasio, 41, of Parkland, previously pleaded guilty to a federal money-laundering conspiracy and admitted he helped to run pain clinics, including several in Broward and Palm Beach counties, that were raided in 2011.

The clinics distributed more than two million doses of the highly addictive painkiller oxycodone between March 2010 and June 2011 when they closed after being raided by law enforcement.

Gervasio had been facing 10 years in federal prison but state and federal prosecutors recommended his punishment should be reduced to six years. They said Gervasio, who also has ties to Trenton, N.J., provided significant help to investigators, which helped them convict other people involved in the illegal drug trade.

Senior U.S. District Judge Daniel T.K. Hurley followed prosecutors' recommendation when he sentenced Gervasio on Wednesday in federal court in West Palm Beach. Gervasio testified against his former business partner Richard McMillan earlier this year in McMillan's trial on state charges in Palm Beach Circuit Court. Mc-Millan is now serving 35 years in state prison for drug-trafficking and racketeering convictions.

Gervasio and McMillan operated six so-called pain clinics, which were known most recently as Total Medical Express of Margate, Boca Raton, Palm Springs, Boynton Beach, Orlando and Orange Park.

In court records, state prosecutors wrote that Gervasio "was the most important witness" in the trial and "owned his greed," which gave him more credibility with jurors in the state case.

He also provided information that helped law enforcement make other arrests and obtain convictions of other people linked to the illegal sales of oxycodone, authorities said.

Gervasio also agreed he owed restitution of approximately \$1.6 million and has already turned over more than \$600,000 to authorities, according to court records. [pmmahon@sunsentinel.com](mailto:pmmahon@sunsentinel.com), 954-356-4533 or

## Proposal takes aim at Trump travel

### tab Bill would limit tax money for Mar-a-Lago visits

*By Skyler Swisher Staff writer*

A South Florida Democrat wants Congress to send the president the message he's being Trumped.

U.S. Rep. Alcee Hastings, D-West Delray, filed legislation Wednesday that seeks to cut off tax dollars for President Donald Trump's visits to his oceanfront mansion Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach.

"His constant use of his own property is padding his own pockets with taxpayer money, while significantly harming local businesses and straining primary law enforcement agencies to the brink," Hastings said in a prepared statement.

Officially, the bill is titled the Taxpayers Require Urgent Mandatory Protection from Egregious Debt Act of 2017.

The bill has little chance of succeeding in the Republican-controlled Congress, but it expresses the growing frustration of South Florida Democrats. U.S. Reps. Lois Frankel, D-West Palm Beach, and Ted Deutch, Boca Raton, joined Hastings earlier this year in sending a letter to Trump asking him to curtail his travel to Mar-a-Lago. Mar-a-Lago is not only a residence for the president and his family, but it is also a for-profit social club that charges \$200,000 a year in dues to members.

Hastings' bill would allow local governments to file a "civil action" to recover funds from the president if he spends more than 24 hours at a property in which he has an ownership interest. Local businesses adversely affected by the travel could also seek to recover money.

Palm Beach County estimates it has spent nearly \$4 million protecting Trump during nine visits he made to Mar-a-Lago after being elected president. Businesses owners

at the Lantana Airport near Mar-a-Lago say they have lost thousands in revenue because of flight restrictions when the president visits.

Trump's last visit came during the Easter weekend. He also spent time in New York City after being elected president and is expected to visit his home in Bedminster, N.J., over the summer.

Money could be on the way. Congress appropriated \$61 million to reimburse communities, such as Palm Beach County and New York City, that have incurred "extraordinary law enforcement personnel costs" protecting the president as part of \$1.1 trillion budget deal. The money is for costs incurred through Sept. 30.

New York City has put its costs at about \$30 million

In White House press briefings, spokesman Sean Spicer has defended the president's travel, saying Trump works when he is at Mar-a-Lago and historically presidents have spent time away from Washington.

Democrats in Congress have also introduced the "Making Access Records Available to Lead American Government Openness Act," or the MAR-A-LAGO Act.

That legislation would require visitor logs for the White House and other places where the president does business, such as Mar-a-Lago, be made public.

*Information from The Associated Press was used in this report.*

*Staff writer Anthony Man contributed to this report. [sswisher@sunsentinel.com](mailto:sswisher@sunsentinel.com), 561-243-6634 or @SkylerSwisher*

## Scott vetoes 'liquor wall' bill

### Governor cites concerns of small business owners

*By Gray Rohrer | Staff writer*

TALLAHASSEE – Florida's so-called "liquor wall" won't be coming down after all.

Gov. Rick Scott vetoed a bill late Wednesday that would have removed a Prohibition-era law requiring liquor to be sold in separate stores from groceries and other retail items.

Twenty-nine other states have similar laws allowing spirits in the grocery aisles, but the bill gained stiff opposition from social conservatives concerned it would lead to increased alcohol consumption, alcoholism and underage drinking.

Yet it wasn't those concerns that swayed Scott. It was the pleas of independent liquor store owners and workers that led to Scott's veto.

"I have heard concerns as to how this bill could affect many small businesses across Florida," Scott wrote in his veto letter. "I was a small business owner and many locally owned businesses have told me how this bill will impact their families and their ability to create jobs."

Scott gave few clues in the lead-in to his decision.

"I've had family members that have had the challenge of alcoholism and it concerns me," Scott told reporters Tuesday. "So as I review the bill, I take all those things into consideration."

Knowing his father and brother battled alcoholism is something Scott acknowledged gave him pause over a bill that opponents said would lead to impulse buys and increased consumption of liquor.

Big box retailers like Wal-Mart and Target pushed for the bill the past four years, but don't appear to be giving up on the idea.

"There is a clear momentum in Florida for this common-sense approach to liquor sales," said Michael Williams, spokesman for Floridians for Fair Business Practices, an advocacy group backed by Wal-Mart and Target. "We look forward to working with state leaders in the future to finally put an end to this outdated, Prohibition-era law." The bill was one of the most heavily lobbied pieces of legislation this year.

Independent liquor stores and ABC Fine Wine & Spirits fought against it. Publix, which has gone to the expense of setting up liquor stores next door to their grocery stores, also opposed the bill.

Wal-Mart and Target have 30 registered lobbyists combined, and Publix and ABC have seven. Michael Corcoran, brother to House Speaker Richard Corcoran, R-Land O'Lakes, is a Wal-Mart lobbyist.

The bill only passed the House last month by one vote, 58-57, and five members didn't vote. The vote in the Senate was 21-17.

The lobbying came after Wal-Mart, Target, Publix and ABC all gave generously to both major parties and elected officials during the 2016 campaign and in the lead-up to the legislative session.

Wal-Mart gave \$50,000 to the Republican Party of Florida on March 6, the day before the start of the legislative session, and \$7,500 to the Florida Democratic Party in September. It has also given \$10,000 to Florida Round-table, Corcoran's political committee, and \$204,000 to the Florida Senatorial Campaign Committee, led by Senate President Joe Negron, R-Stuart, since 2015. Scott's political committee, Let's Get to Work, has received \$110,000 from Wal-Mart since December 2015.

Publix gave \$50,000 to Scott's committee in January, and ABC gave \$25,000 to the Florida Democratic Party during the 2016 campaign cycle.



Scott had separate teleconference meetings with Walmart's U.S. president Greg Foran and ABC CEO Charles Bailes on Tuesday.

Scott's office also received 969 phone calls, emails and letters supporting the bill, and 6,751 calls, emails and petitions opposing the measure as of Monday.

The bill wouldn't have taken effect until next year, and would have been phased in, allowing retailers that sell groceries would be allowed to sell spirits in 25 percent of their stores in Florida starting July 1, 2018, rising to half their stores in 2019 and 75 percent in 2020.

Gas stations with more than 10,000 square feet could have also offered liquor under the bill.

## Outlaws have eye on biker clubs, police say

*By Jason Ruiter Staff writer*



Marrero



Knotts

LEESBURG — Motorcyclist David "Gutter" in town for the Leesburg Bikefest, went to a Circle K gas station to buy cigarettes, but when he walked out, he had a knife to his throat, arrest reports released Wednesday show.

Outlaws Motorcycle Club members forced him to kneel down and shot Donovan several times in the back April 29 after he refused to take off his Kingsmen Motorcycle Club jacket, the report said. Donovan, 41, died two weeks later.

"The 'Outlaws' had been challenging several motorcycle clubs throughout Florida to either join their ranks or submit to their authority," according to a report that sheds light on the shooting.

In what police called a coordinated attack, a group of about 15 Outlaws members spread out "at strategic points" at the Circle K at 3300 W. Main St., about 3 miles from where Bikefest was taking place in downtown Leesburg. Then they told several Kingsmen to strip off their "cut," meaning their cutoff vests and club insignias, the report says.

Two suspects were arrested last week in a multi-agency operation. Marc "Knott Head" Knotts, 48, and Jesus Alberto Marrero, 35, were charged with conspiracy to commit murder and kidnapping. Two other suspects, identified as Gregory "Stinky" Umphress, 32, and Miquel Angel Torres, 37, remain at large.

Police also are looking for the shooter, who has not been identified.

"The investigation is ongoing, and updates will be provided when and if they become available," Lees-burg Police Lt. Joe Iozzi said.

Members of the two clubs immediately recognized one another at the Circle K that Saturday night, according to police interviews with Kings-men. The bikers told police they didn't feel in danger because they weren't affiliated with any of the Outlaws' rivals and went inside Circle K to buy cigarettes.

The Outlaws then gathered briefly in a circle before spreading out "in what appeared to be an orchestrated and deliberate manner to secure the perimeter," sending a small group after the Kingsmen inside Circle K, according to investigators' review of surveillance footage.

Police said Outlaws members told Kingsmen members to surrender their insignias, put a knife to Donovan's throat and directed him to the outside corner of the business below a mounted security camera.

It is a spot that police think was "preselected" by the Outlaws to conceal the incident. When Donovan refused to take off his jacket, citing club loyalty, Knotts told the Outlaws to "shoot that mother-[expletive]," the report said.

The other Kingsmen ran inside the convenience store and hid behind a shelf, telling the store clerk to call 911, the report said. One member told police he opened the door and shot in the direction of the Outlaws, leaving Knotts with a bullet wound in the shoulder and thigh. Another bullet was prevented from penetrating his lower back because Kevlar was attached to his riding vest.

In a review of the surveillance footage, police said Outlaws appeared to be unhurried while escaping on their motorcycles.

"Some members remained in place in what is perceived as a measure of security of high-ranking members making their escape," the report said.

Knotts was found lying beside his Harley-Davidson with a .22-caliber pistol, 110 feet from Donovan. He was flown to a hospital and later recovered from his wounds.

Knotts was arrested May 17 outside the Outlaws' clubhouse in Ocala. A Leesburg detective met with Knotts at the perimeter of the clubhouse, which is fortified with walls and surveillance cameras, Iozzi said.

He asked the detective for "10 minutes to make a phone call, put boots on," and soon after surrendered himself, Iozzi said.

Kingsmen told police they were aware of an Outlaws decree that all clubs either join them or disband but "wrongly believed that they would be able to escape this movement."

Transcripts of the 911 calls and the store's surveillance video cannot be released because the investigation is continuing, police said. [jruiter@orlandosentinel.com](mailto:jruiter@orlandosentinel.com) or 352-742-5927

**From:** [Anderson, Cassandra L](#)  
**Subject:** News Clips 6/4/2017  
**Date:** Monday, June 05, 2017 10:02:20 AM  
**Attachments:** [News Clips.docx](#)

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## **News Clip 6/4/2017**

### **Palm Beach Post**

**6-4-2017 POST IN-DEPTH TIGER WOODS DUI ARREST**

## **Arrest highlights national surge in drugged driving Many impaired drivers think if they have a legal prescription, it's not DUI.**

*By Jorge Milian and John Pacenti Palm Beach Post Staff Writers*



Tiger Woods, in a still photograph from a Jupiter Police Department dashcam video, when he was arrested Monday after failing a field sobriety test on Military Trail in Jupiter. JUPITER POLICE DEPARTMENT



Gregg Lerman

Attorney Gregg Lerman is seeing more prescription drug DUI clients; Dr. Alina Alonso, of the state health department, says doctors need to talk with patients.



Alina Alonso

JUPITER — The scourge of the road for decades remained the drunk driver, but now there's competition as more Americans turn to prescription painkillers and tranquilizers: the drugged driver.

The recent arrest of Tiger Woods — the golfing legend and Jupiter Island resident — revealed a startling statistical fact: Drugged drivers may, in fact, be more deadly than their drunk counterparts.

Jupiter police found Woods, 41, asleep behind the wheel of a damaged and idling Mercedes-Benz on Military Trail.

After his arrest on a DUI charge, Woods blamed the incident on a bad reaction to prescription medications and stressed that "alcohol was not involved."

But is driving under the influence of drugs, even doctor-prescribed meds, any more acceptable than being impaired by alcohol?

Nottopolicewhoaredealingwith a growing wave of drug-fueled drivers navigating the nation's roads.

"People say, 'But I have a prescription for this,'" said Sgt. Todd Schimelfanick, who oversees the five-person DUI unit for the Martin County Sheriff's Office. "And maybe the guy had surgery and is taking something for pain. But just because you have a legal prescription doesn't give you the right to operate a motor vehicle if you are under the influence."

His DUI unit made 608 arrests in 2016, with up to 20 percent of those involving drugged drivers, according to the agency.

The shocking numbers don't lie on the rise of painkillers use in the U.S.

Since 1999, the number of opioid painkillers prescribed in the U.S., a category that includes Vicodin and OxyContin, nearly quadrupled. In fact, U.S. patients buy and take 80 percent of the world's prescription painkillers.

As far back as 2013, nearly a quarter of a billion opioid prescriptions were written in this country— enough to provide every American with their own bottle of pills,



according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In 2015, that number grew to a reported 300 million prescriptions.

And the result on the road?

According to a 2015 study released by the Governors Highway Safety Association, about 43 percent of fatally injured drivers were found to have either prescription or illegal drugs in their system, compared with 37 percent of drivers who had consumed alcohol. In 2005, only 27 percent of fatally injured drivers showed evidence of drug use.

The American Automobile Association reports that "prescription drugs are the most prevalent of all drugs" found in fatally injured drivers (46.5 percent).

Though the presence of a painkiller in the deceased driver doesn't always mean it was the cause of the automobile accident, Jim Hedlund, who authored the 2015 GHSA study, says: "There are a lot of folks driving around with drugs in their system. It's an increasing problem."

Fueling this danger is that many of these motorists are unaware they are doing anything wrong by driving drugged.

"They simply don't understand what the red label means on their bottle that says don't operate heavy machinery," West Palm Beach attorney Greg Lerman said.

"People will say to me they can't be DUI because they have a prescription. Just because you have a prescription for medication does not excuse you. "

Lerman said that defending clients charged with DUI for being intoxicated because of prescription pills has become more common in his practice.

"I've certainly seen more of them over the last few years," Lerman said.

Drivers suspected of DUI are put through a roadside sobriety test that includes four elements: walk and turn, one-leg stand, finger to nose and reciting the alphabet.

Woods performed miserably, failing to maintain a starting position on the walk and turn, placing his foot down several times during the one-leg stand and repeatedly being unable to comprehend the instructions he was given, according to the arrest report and a dashboard-camera video released by police. He managed to complete the alphabet after being given instructions several times.

Based on his performance and observing Woods, Jupiter officers decided they had enough evidence to arrest the golfer for DUI, no matter the results of toxicology screens. Woods registered a 0.000 Breathalyzer reading after his arrest, supporting his assertion that he hadn't been drinking. The results of his drug screening were not available.

Unlike alcohol's legal limit of 0.08, there is no similar threshold for prescription or illegal drugs.

Woods agreed to breath and urine tests following his arrest.

The golfer, who had back surgery in April, told police he was taking several prescription medications, including Vicodin. According to the Vicodin website, the drug can have several side effects including drowsiness, anxiety and "mental clouding" and warns users not to "drive or operate heavy machinery, until you know how Vicodin affects you."

William Fagan, pharmacy director at Delray Medical Center, said people react differently to strong painkilling medications based on a variety of factors.

"With alcohol, there's a strong correlation between impairment and blood-alcohol level," Fagan said. "With medications, there's really not. People who have been on medications for a long time, they develop tolerance and take super-high doses that, if you or I took them, would probably kill us. Yet they are walking around functioning like normal human beings."

David Kubiliun, a criminal lawyer in Miami, said he expects Woods to use an "involuntary intoxication" defense if his case goes to trial. Woods already hinted in that direction by blaming the incident on an "unexpected reaction" to his medication, the attorney pointed out. Douglas Duncan, a West Palm Beach attorney representing Woods, confirmed Thursday he will represent the golfer in the case but declined further comment.

"That defense is no slam dunk because the prosecutors are going to say the warnings on the medication bottles say you shouldn't be operating a vehicle," Kubiliun said. "They're going to say he should have known better."

The problem can be addressed if doctors step up when it comes to prescribing painkillers and tranquilizers, said Dr. Alina Alonso, director of the Florida Department of Health for Palm Beach County.

"It's important physicians have that conversation when they write these prescriptions to make patients aware that these medications will make them impaired," Alonso said. "They are not going to know. You are giving them this medication and they think it is safe because a doctor gave it to them." [jmilian@pbpost.com](mailto:jmilian@pbpost.com)

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Find the latest on the Tiger Woods case at [pbpo.st/woodsupdate](http://pbpo.st/woodsupdate)

6-4-2017 POST INVESTIGATION CHILD SAFETY

## Baby's death exposes flaws in care system

### Removed from home, 11-month-old Brayden died months later.

*By Olivia Hitchcock Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Brayden Howard, 11 months, was on life support for eight days after he was found whimpering in his crib at a home in Fort Lauderdale in which Broward County Sheriff's Office caseworkers had placed him. At 6 months, he was taken from his mother, Savannah. He died March 1. PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY SAVANNAH HOWARD



Savannah Howard did not know she was pregnant until she was five months along. Her son was removed from her home after drug paraphernalia was found.



In September, at age 6 months, Brayden Howard (above with mother Savannah) was removed to a family friend's home in Fort Lauderdale. It was later discovered the friend had a history of 11 abuse allegations from 1999 to 2014. CONTRIBUTED BY SAVANNAH HOWARD

JUPITER FARMS — Brayden Howard was alive Sept. 20 when a caseworker, alarmed by drug paraphernalia found in his family's Jupiter Farms home, strapped the 5-month-old in her car and headed south to the home of an "aunt."

By March, he was dead — about eight days after he was found whimpering in his crib, a blanket wrapped around his neck. Fort Lauderdale police have opened a criminal investigation, but autopsy results are not final, and there is no determination of whether his death involved wrongdoing. No one has been charged in the 11-month-old's death.

Regardless, it has raised questions about how state and Broward County Sheriff's Office caseworkers failed to protect him. A Florida Department of Children and Families review of the case found caseworkers violated even basic policies.

They placed him in the home of a woman with 11 abuse allegations and a misdemeanor drug conviction. They mistakenly believed she was a relative. She wasn't. Brayden's great uncle, a convicted drug trafficker, did live in the home but had made it clear to caseworkers that he would not take care of the infant.

The caseworker's assessment of the home "contained inaccurate information, was incomplete and did not provide a thorough assessment of the home environment," DCF concluded in its review that sharply criticized child welfare workers involved in the case.

"This is an incredibly tragic case that weighs heavily on our hearts," Department Secretary Mike Carroll said in a statement to The Palm Beach Post. "We are even more saddened to learn of the shortcomings by DCF and the Broward Sheriff's Office child protective investigators that were brought to light by this report."

Brayden's mother, Savannah Howard, puts the loss of her son in plainer language. "We had our whole life together, and now I have nothing but a teddy bear," she said.

**Brayden's 11-month life** Three times in the first months of his life, Palm Beach County deputies were called to the Jupiter Farms home where Brayden lived with his mother, grandmother and great-grandparents. Each time, they found Brayden healthy and unharmed.

Even during deputies' final visit to the home, when they found drug paraphernalia under a bathroom sink and decided to remove Brayden, the little boy looked like any other happy, healthy infant, sheriff's records indicate.

Brayden Lee William Howard was born March 30, 2016, into a family whose history was intermittently rocked by drugs and alleged involvement in high-profile crimes. He spent his first days of life in St. Mary's Medical Center's neonatal intensive care unit with drug withdrawal symptoms, records show. The newborn tested positive for benzodiazepines, opiates, marijuana and buprenorphine, which is used to treat opioid addiction. There wasn't enough of a sample, though, to confirm those results, sheriff's records state.

First-time mother Savannah Howard, 22, didn't learn she was pregnant until she was five months and two weeks along, she told The Post. She explained to sheriff's authorities in April 2016 that she'd tried to kick a drug habit, but rehabilitation centers turned her away because she was pregnant.

Local drug treatment options for pregnant women are limited. The cost of caring for their drug-addicted infants, though, is high. In 2015, Florida's Medicaid program was billed nearly \$1billion for the care of drug-addicted newborns.

Brayden's mother managed to stay clean for the last month of her pregnancy, though, and was allowed to take home her newborn.

In May, sheriff's deputies were at the Jupiter Farms home Howard shared with her mother and grandparents. Her grandmother had called deputies after an argument with Howard over whether she should take the baby out for a walk. The older woman told deputies: "I'm sorry. I'm old and I worry. I shouldn't have called you guys."

Brayden, the deputy wrote, was fine.

Two weeks later, Howard was caught stealing Pampers diapers and wipes, as well as food and baby formula, from the Jupiter Walmart. She told Jupiter police she was short on cash and suffering from postpartum depression. She got pretrial diversion for the retail theft charge.

In June, Howard's grandfather called deputies to their home after Howard reportedly threatened to harm herself.

Howard told deputies who took her to Jupiter Medical Center, "I really appreciate you guys helping me out. I'm going to clean myself up and do this for my little baby."



DCF's investigation after Brayden's death concluded the baby should have been taken from his mother then. But sheriff's records again found that the baby, who was being fed a bottle by his grandmother, appeared fine.

Three months later, while Howard fed her nearly 6-month-old son lunch, a DCF investigator and Palm Beach County sheriff's deputy knocked on the door. They were acting on a tip that Howard was using drugs, according to the police report. They headed toward a bathroom sink connected to the room Howard shared with her son. There they found pieces of aluminum foil, cut-up pen and razor, and a Brillo pad, which could be taken as signs of crack cocaine use, sheriff's records state.

The condition of the cluttered home and drug paraphernalia prompted the DCF investigator to take Brayden immediately.

A tearful Howard offered to move out of the house if Brayden could be left in the home with his relatives. But DCF's concerns that someone else in the home could possibly be using drugs meant Brayden couldn't stay.

No one faces criminal charges in that case, according to sheriff's records.

The investigator drove the baby to Safe Place, an emergency intake and assessment center, while authorities investigated whether a relative's Fort Lauderdale home would be a good temporary placement.

**Overworked caseworker** Howard suggested her young son stay with an "aunt" in Fort Lauderdale. Tatrisha Williams, who was dating Howard's uncle, was familiar with the child welfare system, as she'd recently gained custody of her grandson. Howard figured Williams' would be a good temporary home for the baby.

The Palm Beach County child protective investigator who took Brayden from his Jupiter Farms home ran Williams' name through the state's abuse information system. But the investigator had the wrong identifying information for Williams. Consequently, crucial information was not found: The 39-year-old woman who would take care of Brayden had 11 abuse allegations from 1999 to 2014.

DCF declined to comment on those allegations, citing a state statute that keeps abuse allegations from public view. Williams told The Post the allegations were unfounded. Some, she said, stemmed from a messy break-up. And there is no record of any criminal case being filed in any abuse allegation.

"Any caretaker history in the child welfare system is an important factor to consider in determining appropriate child placement," DCF spokeswoman Jessica Sims said.

DCF did not realize the allegations against Williams, though. As a result, that information was not included in a required safety assessment of Brayden's new temporary home.

Because Williams lived in Broward County, the Palm Beach investigator requested a Broward County Sheriff's Office child-protective investigator complete the study.



Broward County child welfare investigators are part of the county sheriff's office. Though they are subject to the same training, laws and procedures as state investigators, DCF does not have authority to govern or oversee their operations. State guidelines, which Broward County investigators follow, recommend a child welfare investigator juggle no more than 15 cases at once.

Brayden's, however, was the third case the Broward County investigator was assigned that day.

She had 37 open cases at the start of September and picked up 20 more, including Brayden's, throughout the month.

The number of open cases investigators handle fluctuates day-to-day. Broward County sheriff's authorities emphasized in an emailed statement to The Post that the 15 open cases at one time suggestion is just that, a recommendation.

"The (investigator's) workload may have impacted her ability to complete a thorough home study," DCF's review concluded.

That study had major flaws. For one thing, the relationship of Williams to Brayden "was completely inaccurate," the agency found. She was the girlfriend of Brayden's great-uncle, not enough to be considered a relative by DCF standards.

State records show that in 2004 Williams pleaded guilty to marijuana possession and was sentenced to one year probation. The next year, she pleaded guilty to driving with a suspended license.

Williams' brushes with the law "could have implications for child safety," DCF concluded in its report. None, though, disqualified her from caring for Brayden, and the child welfare investigator assigned to Brayden's case wrote that, "there were no concerns with the caregiver's ability to care for the child."

Brayden's great-uncle also lived in the home. However, he declined to be Brayden's primary caregiver, DCF records state.

As a result, any concerns over his more serious criminal convictions, which included federal drug crimes, were not a factor in placing Brayden. Regardless, state law only considers drug convictions from within the last five years as disqualifications for a potential caregiver.

**Family history** John Timothy Armstrong's first stint in federal prison came in the 1980s for his role in a marijuana smuggling operation and for possessing cocaine. Armstrong's stepfather, Brayden's great-grandfather, was a third generation Palm Beach police officer who allegedly tipped off his stepson to the federal investigation into the younger man's drug activity, authorities said at the time. By the early 1980s George Drowne had risen to the rank of lieutenant, which Armstrong reportedly bragged about.

Drowne and his wife, Joan — Brayden's great-grandparents — watched with Armstrong as the U.S. Coast Guard towed Armstrong's fishing boat to shore, laughing, a confidential information told federal authorities, "because the Coast Guard did not realize they were towing bales of marijuana."

Drowne was fired from the island's police force after a July 1981 SWAT team raid of his Jupiter-area home turned up dozens of guns, including Soviet-made AK-47 assault rifles, as well as marijuana and hashish. Weapon and drugs charges against Drowne and his wife, however, were thrown out.

In the 1990s, Armstrong would be back in federal court for his role in cocaine smuggling operations in South Florida that had ties to the Medellín cartel.

Armstrong was among a group of men accused of bringing drugs into South Florida on water scooters.

He served 11 years in federal prison on a dozen cocaine-related convictions.

Armstrong would have another run-in with the law in 2010 when he was picked up by Fort Lauderdale police on grand theft and burglary charges. He was found guilty and sentenced to 2½ years probation. He was arrested again in 2014 for violating probation by failing to pay restitution to his probation officer.

**Delayed information** It took roughly six weeks and repeated emails sent by Palm Beach County child welfare authorities before the Broward County investigator sent the signed home study and completed background checks. Brayden had already lived in the home a month by the time the investigator requested fingerprint scans for each of the adults in the home.

When an investigator checked in on Williams and Brayden in December, the woman appeared overwhelmed, though DCF records don't specify exactly how.

But no one discussed whether Brayden should continue to live in the Fort Lauderdale home or move back in with his mother.

"There was a lack of attempts to engage the mother and to reconcile self-reported information such as her participation in substance-abuse treatment," the DCF review found.

A completed home study wasn't filed with the courts until Feb. 23 — two days after Williams found Brayden whimpering in his crib, a blanket around his neck.

Machines kept Brayden alive for eight days. On March 1, a month shy of his first birthday, he died.

Williams declined to talk about Brayden's death while the Fort Lauderdale police investigate.

As of late May, the Palm Beach County Medical Examiner's Office hasn't determined a cause of death. But Brayden had symptoms of bronchitis before he was found in his crib, his mother told The Post.

Marsha Guthrie, an officer in Palm Beach County Children's Services Council, said respiratory illnesses in particular can cause complications for children as they sleep, and that even children who can roll over and stand up in their cribs can become tangled in loose items, such as blankets.

Sleep-related circumstances were the most common cause of children's deaths last year in Florida, DCF's child fatality database shows.

DCF's internal review into Brayden's case concluded there wasn't enough evidence to link the child welfare investigators' involvement with Brayden directly to the circumstances of his death.

And any inaccuracies in the home study were not made intentionally, Broward County sheriff's authorities said Friday morning in a statement to The Post. Neither the investigator nor her supervisor was disciplined regarding the case. The sheriff's office did not respond to The Post's request for the employees' names and personnel files by press time.

Records indicate that caseworkers wanted to keep Brayden out of "licensed care," meaning a foster home or shelter. Caseworkers first look to relatives to house children as part of the state's emphasis on "engaging families in constructive, supportive and non-adversarial relationships."

John Walsh, supervising attorney for Palm Beach County's Juvenile Advocacy Project, called it a money-driven policy that doesn't always put children's best interests first. "I can say with almost certainty that if the child had an attorney, we would have objected to the placement," Walsh said.

Emergency home studies, like the one conducted on the Fort Lauderdale home, often aren't thorough enough to ensure a child's safety, Walsh said.

**Baby's death brings changes** Brayden's death and the shortcomings pointed out in the review prompted change in the Broward County Sheriff's Office Child Protective Investigations Section. Six investigators and one supervisor now handle Broward County's "out of town inquiries," with the idea of funneling all out-of-county requests through one unit.

Brayden's mother said she looks at pictures of her baby every day. Some days, she said, they make her smile. Other days, all she can do is cry.

Change in child welfare needs to occur, Howard said, "for other little babies like Brayden."

Staff researcher Melanie Mena contributed to this story. [ohitchcock@pbpost.com](mailto:ohitchcock@pbpost.com)  
**Twitter: @ohitchcock** 'This is an incredibly tragic case that weighs heavily on our hearts.' Mike Carroll Department of Children and Families, in a statement to The Palm Beach Post

6-4-2017 POST WATCHDOG SOBER HOMES

## Treatment center owner considered suit against Post Kenny Chatman hired lawyer after story that outlined corruption.

*By Lawrence Mower Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Kenneth Chatman, who never filed suit, received a 27-year term. RICHARD GRAULICH / THE PALM BEACH POST

### WHAT THE POST REPORTED

The Post pieced together police reports and witness testimony in December 2015 to expose Kenneth "Kenny" Chatman as an operator who allowed drug use in his sober homes and forced addicts into prostitution. One year later, a federal investigation led to his arrest and prosecution. Read the coverage at [myPalmBeachPost.com](http://myPalmBeachPost.com).

When The Palm Beach Post first wrote about corrupt drug treatment center owner Kenny Chatman — a year before his arrest — the story exposed Chatman as a liar, fraud and potential sex trafficker.

Apparently, Chatman didn't like it.

Court files show that Chatman hired lawyer Jeffrey Cohen of the Florida Healthcare Law Firm to investigate whether to sue The Palm Beach Post for defamation. Cohen billed Chatman about \$5,000 but ultimately Chatman did not sue.

As part of his research, Cohen had a fellow lawyer pull the police records The Post cited in its story. He also called four different South Florida lawyers who specialize in defamation cases to try to get them on board.

"Teleconference with Benny Lebdecker (sic) re meeting to discuss possible lawsuit against Palm Beach Post," reads one entry in Cohen's list of billable hours.

"Discussions with attorney Bruce Rogow re Palm Beach Post article and retention of his services," reads another.

Chatman and his treatment center's medical director, Barry Gregory, teleconferenced with Cohen multiple times between December 2015, when The Post's article ran, and January 2016, the records show.

Ultimately, Chatman never pursued a lawsuit against The Post, and in December, he was arrested by the FBI. He pleaded guilty to conspiracies to commit sex trafficking, money laundering and health care fraud, and on May 17 was sentenced to 27 years in federal prison and forced to register as a sex offender.

Gregory pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit mail fraud and false statements regarding health care matters and was sentenced to five years in prison.

Normally, such billable hours are rarely made public, especially if a case doesn't go to trial. So how did The Post find out about it?

Chatman racked up more than \$5,000 in legal fees with Cohen, a relative pittance considering Chatman built his fraudulent treatment centers into multimillion-dollar operations.

But Chatman never paid the bills, and last year, Cohen sued him over it. The billable hours were included in the lawsuit. After the suit was filed, Chatman quickly paid up. When asked about it in March, after Chatman pleaded guilty, Cohen said he couldn't talk about it, since Chatman was a former client.

Cohen has taken a contrarian view on some of the issues surrounding the addiction treatment industry. He's been one of the few people to publicly criticize the efforts of the Palm Beach County Sober Home Task Force, which has arrested more than two dozen people in the industry on fraud charges and recommended widespread legislative reforms.

"They're trying to kill cockroaches with shotguns," he told The Post in March. "The way in which they're going about it, sometimes, is eyebrow-raising."

He's also been critical of The Post's extensive coverage of South Florida's drug treatment industry, calling it "a story in search of a villain."

By Jan. 25, 2016, just a month after the story ran, Chatman's legal team appeared resigned to the fact that a case against The Post would be difficult. The second-to-last entry in Cohen's billable hours: "Teleconference with Kenny Chatman and legal team re decision on continuing with defamation actions."

For the 24-minute meeting, Chatman was charged \$200. But no suit was filed. [lmower@pbpost.com](mailto:lmower@pbpost.com)

Chatman and his treatment center's medical director, Barry Gregory, teleconferenced with Cohen multiple times between December 2015, when The Post's article ran, and January 2016, the records show.

## 6-4-2017 Police carry drug kits to save K-9s from opioids

*By Denise Lavoie Associated Press*



A Massachusetts State Police Trooper displays a dosage of naloxone with his K-9 Drako in Revere, Mass. During raids, police dogs literally follow their noses to sniff out narcotics. AP BOSTON — Police dogs simply follow their noses to sniff out narcotics. But inhaling powerful opioids can be deadly, so officers have a new tool to protect their four-legged partners: naloxone, a drug that has already been used for years to reverse overdoses in humans.

Law enforcement officers have started carrying naloxone with them on drug raids, when K-9s are often sent into houses or cars to find narcotics. Three police dogs in Florida were rushed to an animal hospital last year when they ingested fentanyl, a powerful painkiller that is often mixed with street heroin but 50 times more potent. Massachusetts State Police started carrying naloxone for their K-9s in March. Police in Hartford, Conn., started in January.

Even just a small amount of powdered fentanyl can sicken police officers, so dogs are even more at risk, said Brian Foley, deputy chief in Hartford, where 11 members of a SWAT team were sent to a hospital after they were exposed to a mix of heroin and fentanyl during a raid in September.

"Dogs are not looking for drugs with their eyes and feeling with their fingers; they're literally breathing it in and inhaling it," Foley said.



"Our officers wanted it for their dogs' safety," he said. "They love their dogs like family and they want to protect them. They know they're putting them in the line of serious risk of overdose."

The drug blocks the effects of opioids and reverses overdoses with few side effects. It has long been used by doctors and ambulance crews and more recently has been handed out to police, firefighters and even to people with addictions and their families.

For both humans and dogs, naloxone can be administered through an injection or a nasal spray. With a prescription from a veterinarian for specific police dogs, the Food and Drug Administration says, human naloxone can be used on them.

Last year, the Drug Enforcement Administration released a video warning officers a very small amount of fentanyl ingested or absorbed through the skin can be lethal. In the video, Deputy Administrator Jack Riley urged police to avoid testing suspected fentanyl in the field.

Riley also had a warning about police dogs.

"Fentanyl can kill our canine companions and partners just as easy as it can humans, so please take precautions for their safety, too," he said.

Andy Weiman, a detective who trains dogs for the Broward County, Fla., Sheriff's Office, said a German short-haired pointer named Primus became listless after a search inside a suspected drug house in October.

Primus and two other dogs were rushed to the vet. All three were given naloxone and recovered quickly.

Weiman believes the dogs touched or inhaled a tiny amount of fentanyl — the same drug that killed the musician Prince — on a table or the floor. The drug can be absorbed through paws.

"It's such a small amount that it would take to overdose the dog — like two or three granules of sand," he said.

Massachusetts Trooper Stephen Barnes said he and his colleagues are trained not to deploy dogs where loose drugs are observed.

"It's just become a more critical issue now because a much smaller amount of drugs can kill the dogs," he said.

Symptoms of opioid exposure in dogs, as with humans, include sedation, pinpoint pupils, vomiting, stumbling and a slow respiratory rate, said Dr. Martha Smith-Blackmore, a veterinarian and adjunct professor at Tufts University.

Deputy sheriffs in Greenville County, S.C., in February received training in how to administer nasal naloxone, sold under the brand name Narcan, to their dogs, said Sgt. Douglas Wannemacher, the K-9 supervisor and training coordinator.

## 6-4-2017 **Cops: Man shot father of girlfriend's child Johnny Davis, 48, charged with attempted murder,** *By Paige Fry Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Davis

A Riviera Beach man is accused of shooting the father of his girlfriend's child in the back late last year, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office said. Johnny Davis, 48, was arrested on Thursday on charges of attempted first-degree murder, according to a sheriff's report made public Friday. On Dec. 26, Davis' girlfriend picked up her child from the man's house on West 33rd Street.

Davis arrived at the house after her and shot the man once in the back, according to a police report.

Judge Caroline Shepherd on Friday morning set Davis' bail at \$525,000.

Davis and the man he shot had been involved in a dispute, according to the police report.

The gunshot victim was taken to St. Mary's Medical Center in West Palm Beach in critical condition.

Davis' girlfriend said the man had gone outside the residence to bring her some items, the report said.

She then heard a loud noise and saw him on the ground but didn't see anything else.

She told police she thought the victim was "playing with her in order to get her attention and affection," the report said.

She told police she drove away and said she didn't know the victim was shot until a family member told her.

A witness who lived with the injured man said he was inside the residence when he heard the gunshot, the report said.

He then went outside and saw the victim on the ground. The witness said he also saw Davis with a revolver in his hand.

Davis pointed the gun at him, but police said the witness closed the door and stayed inside. [pfry@pbpost.com](mailto:pfry@pbpost.com)

Johnny Davis and the man he reportedly shot had been involved in a dispute, according to the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office.

6-4-2017 PALM BEACH

## Rain limits but does not stop morning march to Mar-a-Lago Protesters call for Russia investigation, release of tax returns.

*By Carla Trivino Palm Beach Daily News*



Protesters march from Worth Avenue to Mar-A-Lago along South Ocean Boulevard on Saturday morning. Robert Hudson of Jupiter carries a flag as the rain falls. PHOTOS BY MELANIE BELL / PALM BEACH DAILY NEWS



Elisabeth Anderson makes sure the United States flag does not touch the ground after walking with the protestors to Mar-a-Lago. President Donald Trump was not in residence.

Mar-a-Lago may be closed, with no signs of President Donald Trump around, but that didn't stop about 60 protesters from gathering outside of the club on Saturday. Organized by United Against Trump Pence and Pop Up Protest South Florida, the demonstration was part of a nationwide March for Truth to call for an independent investigation into Russian interference with the presidential election and ties Trump

may have with Russia, and for Trump to release his tax returns. Trump was expected to spend the weekend at his Bedminster, N.J., golf club.

The Palm Beach police reported no incidents or arrests.

Demonstrators gathered at 11 a.m. by the clock tower on Worth Avenue, where people took turns speaking on the megaphone and voicing their concerns.

"We're gonna go down south, and storm the gates of hell of Mar-a-Lago," said protest organizer Mark Offerman.

Rain and wind didn't stop the protesters from marching 1.7 miles along South Ocean Boulevard toward the club. The weather did decrease the expected turnout by nearly half, however. On the Facebook event page, 111 people said they would be participating while 229 said they were interested in attending.

The rain stopped by the time the protesters arrived at Mar-a-Lago, where they stood overlooking a closed club with shutters over its windows.

"This is what impeachment looks like," protesters chanted as they waved at cars driving by on South Ocean Boulevard.

Evelyn Walker of Boynton Beach said she has been a part of all the protests in Palm Beach since Trump's inauguration. She's concerned with health care, the state of education and environmental issues.

"I'm fed up," she said. "I'm worried about the way this country is going."

After leaving Mar-a-Lago, the group decided to walk along the same route back to the clock tower instead of taking Southern Bridge out of the island as planned.

Offerman said he was surprised with the outcome. He thought the rain and wind would deter anyone from showing up.

"We've got a good group of people in the community," he said, adding that he would like to see future attendance numbers in the thousands. [ctrivino@pbdailynews.com](mailto:ctrivino@pbdailynews.com)

6-4-2017 BUDGET TRAVEL ARTHUR FROMMER

## With weaponization threat, should laptops be banned from all flights?



With terrorists apparently perfecting turning laptops into an explosive devices with enough force to potentially bring down a plane, should they be banned on all flights?

TRAVEL COLLECTOR/FLICKR

Among travel professionals, and especially among members of the airline industry, a debate currently is raging about a proposal that will greatly affect the usefulness and/or pleasure of an airline flight. The topic of debate is whether the Department of Homeland Security will prohibit passengers from bringing a laptop computer, iPad or similar large electronic device into the cabin of a passenger airplane.

In other words, passengers carrying such devices may have to give them up to airline personnel, to be stored in the separate freight compartments of a plane. That requirement was recently imposed on passengers from 10 Muslim-majority, Middle Eastern and North African nations flying to the United States. Photos recently have been released that show such devices being placed in specially designed cardboard boxes and checked aboard as freight. Owners of the devices are then directed to a special holding area in the destination airport, after landing, to retrieve the cardboard box carrying their laptop or other large electronic device.

The need to do so recently was cited by an official of Emirates Airline as one of the reasons for its loss of profit. The Department of Homeland Security is now actively considering extending this ban to all flights from Europe to the United States. When boarding a flight going from London to New York, for instance, all passengers would have to give up their laptop or similar device, and make the trip without ever having the chance to read or compose business tactics or plans on those devices. Business travelers, as you can imagine, have vigorously attacked the proposed prohibition.



What has caused this sudden fear of laptops and the like? Apparently, intelligence agencies recently have learned that terrorist groups are perfecting the replacement of the batteries found in such electronic devices with similarly sized bricks of explosives. These, once activated by a cellphone carried elsewhere, apparently can cause an explosion capable of bringing down a plane - or are capable of causing a fire, having a similar effect.

At least two questions arise: If explosives can be artfully concealed within a laptop or iPad, why permit them anywhere on a plane? Why prohibit them just in passenger areas, but not in the freight areas of a plane's underbelly?

Second, if laptops containing explosives can bring down planes making trans-Atlantic flights, why not prohibit them from domestic flights? After all, the terrorists who emerged on Sept. 11 were not from overseas - they had lived in the United States for over a year, and committed their acts of destruction from flights originating in New England.

Is it possible that the prohibition proposed by the Department of Homeland Security ultimately will be extended to all flights anywhere? These questions need to be answered, and much attention should be paid to this problem. Is there, perhaps, a better means of protecting us from the lethal laptop?

Arthur Frommer is the pioneering founder of the Frommer's Travel Guide book series. Find more destinations online and read Arthur Frommer's blog at [frommers.com](http://frommers.com).



Sun Sentinel investigates

## **BSO cites own flaws in airport shooting**

### **Aviation officials get key blame in report**

*By Stephen Hobbs and Megan O'Matz Staff writers*

## **Death at an airport**

Read our investigation into the response to the deadly airport shooting, and our reporter's experience traveling the states with a gun on one-way flights.

[SunSentinel.com/AirportShooting](http://SunSentinel.com/AirportShooting)



JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES FILE The Broward Sheriff's Office draft report said the aviation department left travelers — including the infirm — stranded for up to 10 hours without food, water or shelter. It also said the aviation department failed to follow its own evacuation plan.



MARC IRAOLA/COURTESY FILE The report said plainclothes officers, some wearing ski masks, ran through the terminals with weapons drawn, terrifying passengers and putting themselves at risk of being shot by other officers.



WILFREDO LEE/AP FILE The Broward Sheriff's report said the crime scene became overrun with police responding from across South Florida. "Their presence, in many cases, obstructed the containment and control of the scene."

The Broward Sheriff's Office failed to seize control and set up an effective command system after the deadly mass shooting at the Fort Lauderdale airport, leading to a cascade of mistakes — some involving the most basic police work, according to the agency's own draft review of the incident.

Confusion about who was in charge created a free-for-all as more than 2,000 law enforcement officers descended on the airport, their abandoned cars blocking evacuation routes.

The 99-page draft report, written by sheriff's officials, describes how the agency erred from the very beginning in controlling the shooting scene in the baggage claim area of Terminal 2 at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, where

five people died and six others were wounded. The initial failures were compounded as false reports of more gunshots 90 minutes later sent travelers stampeding to the exits and onto the tarmac.

"During the events, the absence of a clearly defined [incident command] created unnecessary entanglements and unclear responsibilities," the review found.

In addition to the leadership failures, the report chronicles how the county's aging radio system buckled under the strain as users spiked from 1,800 to over 3,000 in the minutes immediately after the shooting.

The radio breakdowns were so severe that police missed words and whole phrases of transmissions, and dangerously so. In one example, a request to "confirm shots fired" was heard as a declaration: "shots fired."

Police were forced to improvise, communicating with hand signals, runners and cellphones.

The report found the lack of leadership hindered the initial response and led to later problems, including:

- The crime scene became overrun with police responding from across South Florida. "Their presence, in many cases, obstructed the containment and control of the scene."
- Witnesses to the shootings were held in a place where they could see the bodies, exposing them to prolonged trauma. They were allowed to discuss the attack, potentially tainting their recollections of what they saw.
- SWAT teams arriving from other agencies did not know where to land their helicopters.
- Some deputies were unfamiliar with the airport's layout, which caused delays responding to several emergencies.
- Plainclothes and undercover officers, some wearing ski masks, ran through the terminals with their weapons drawn, terrifying passengers and putting themselves at risk of being shot by other officers.
- With so many agencies on scene, it wasn't clear who was in control.
- Clashes occurred between the Sheriff's Office and Broward County aviation officials, who, the report suggests, disregarded or delayed Sheriff's Office requests or decisions.

The critical report, obtained after a public records request by the Sun Sentinel, underscores the findings of a Sun Sentinel investigation published in April about the response.

In addition to noting its own failings, the Sheriff's Office reserved some of its harshest criticisms for the aviation department. Among the findings in the report:

- The aviation department “did not immediately understand its role was to support the BSO” incident command.
- The airport failed to follow its own evacuation plan, resulting in a breach of the secure areas in every terminal.
- The aviation department denied access to airport blueprints to SWAT teams trying to sweep and secure the terminals.
- Airport staff moved luggage from Terminal 2 before it was screened for bombs and evidence.
- Travelers stranded for up to 10 hours, including the sickly, were not given food, water or shelter. Challenges in getting county buses to the scene “resulted in extreme delays and medical emergencies.”

Frank Capello, airport security director, said Friday he would not comment on the draft report and was waiting for the aviation department’s own review by an outside consultant.

Sheriff Scott Israel declined to comment through his spokeswoman Veda Coleman-Wright. She said in an email that he had not reviewed the draft and would be briefed once the report is finalized.

In an interview with the Sun Sentinel in April, Israel said: “Everything was done excellently.” He described the situation as “controlled chaos.”

### **The shooting**

The shooting occurred just before 1p.m. Jan. 6, after police say Esteban Santiago, then 26, picked up a gun in a case that he checked on a one-way flight from Alaska to Fort Lauderdale. Santiago collected the case at a Delta service office, according to the report, before loading the gun in a nearby bathroom. (Initial information from law enforcement in the days after the shooting indicated he retrieved the gun from the baggage claim carousel.)

As Santiago walked from the bathroom through the baggage claim area, he fired 14 rounds. Deputies stationed at the airport raced toward the gunfire and within 85 seconds had weapons pointed at him, rapidly ending the threat. Santiago surrendered.

But by the agency’s own admission, its actions immediately after that — from securing the crime scene to communicating with other agencies as they responded — were marked by disarray.

The report also strongly criticizes the aviation department’s refusal to stop operations in Terminal 2 after the mass shooting, saying authorities “always assume a second attack.” It suggests that aviation officials prioritized revenues over lives. “Decision-makers must understand the priorities of life vs. the business mindset of revenue loss,” the report says.

## **Stampede, new wave of panic**

Police were in the process of containing the crime scene just as claims of more gunshots — first reported by a U.S. Customs officer — reverberated through all four airport terminals and two parking garages.

Crime scene investigators at the site of the attack were unprepared for this second wave of chaos. A stream of travelers, airport workers and journalists soon overran the area and compromised the crime scene again.

The lack of a well-defined command continued to hamper law enforcement's effectiveness and laid bare the weaknesses of the disorganized response.

In some cases, officers arriving at the airport didn't know where to go, so they made decisions on their own. The report again points to the failure to set up a "unified command structure" as well as the poor radio communications.

The flood of officers ditching their cars as they sprinted to the airport also made an "impassible 'parking lot' of vehicles" that created obstacles for other officers.

The agency's 44-foot mobile command vehicle, with radio-patching technology and cell and satellite backup systems, was trapped by the hastily parked police cars. The mobile post, which is key to controlling a scene, lost internet and phone access and couldn't move to a better location.

## **Going forward**

The report notes that despite the communication problems and high tension that lasted longer than 12 hours, law enforcement remained vigilant for additional threats and prevented any further loss of life.

SWAT teams methodically swept through garages, stairwells and terminals, looking for areas that could conceal a second shooter. They found frightened people hiding under cars, in closets and underneath the concourses, patted them down and eventually restored order. Also, authorities worked hard to prevent theft of the many items left behind as passengers ran.

The report's conclusion strikes almost a humble tone underscored with resolve to do better if this happens again.

"The confusion, chaos and magnitude of the event tested all involved," the report says. "Mistakes were made, lessons were learned and the self-effacement of key role players carries on, but the path to success always involves a degree of discomfort."

The reviewers promised that the Jan. 6 shooting would lead to a new era in protecting the Fort Lauderdale airport from a similar threat.

In future events, the Sheriff's Office should immediately declare itself as the commanding agency for all operations, the review says. It also calls for a formal team of police, fire rescue and emergency management officials to be assigned full-time to the airport to plan for and respond to another attack.

It notes that airport leaders and local, state and federal law enforcement were not prepared for such a large-scale incident and must do so in the future. It cites a 2013 shooting at the Los Angeles International Airport as an event that should have led to change but did not.

"Unfortunately, tragic events become forgotten with time," the report says. "The sense of urgency to react only becomes real when it lands squarely on one's lap." [shobbs@sun-sentinel.com](mailto:shobbs@sun-sentinel.com), 954-356-4520 or

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## SUN SENTINEL EDITORIAL **Resolve medical marijuana law this week, too**

For a moment on Friday, as Florida leaders announced plans for this week's special legislative session, it was believed medical marijuana would be added to the list of contentious issues on tap for resolution.

After all, if cooler heads could compromise on the year's biggest fight — money for economic development under Enterprise Florida — surely they could agree on the rules that will guide the growth of Florida's budding medical marijuana industry. Unfortunately, it didn't happen.

Rather, the Florida House and Senate remain deadlocked over how to regulate what's expected to become the nation's largest medical marijuana marketplace. It shouldn't be so difficult to implement the will of 71 percent of Florida voters, who last November approved a state constitutional amendment that legalizes the use of medical marijuana by people with debilitating conditions. The amendment says the implementing rules must be written by July 3. If lawmakers fail to do their job, the state Department of Health will take over. And history says we don't want that. To be clear, medical marijuana needs government regulation, despite the bad name given government regulations. This is a medicine, after all. It is either ingested or inhaled. It affects behavior and body chemistry. It is more like alcohol and tobacco than retail consumer goods, and should be regulated as such. On this, everyone agrees.

But as always, the devil is in the details.

Here's our take on the differences, and how to bridge the divide:

**Caps on dispensaries:** Seven companies currently hold licenses to cultivate, distribute and dispense medical marijuana in Florida. They were chosen a couple years back after lawmakers legalized a non-euphoric strain of marijuana, called Charlotte's Web.



The state health department wrote the implementing rules and gave the licenses to five nurseries — one in each of five regions of Florida. To be considered, a nursery had to have been in business for 30 years and have an inventory of 400,000 plants. Later, two other licenses were awarded to companies that successfully challenged the process. A recent court ruling might mean two more companies get licensed, too.

Incredibly, these licenses aren't limited to cultivating marijuana, a new product for growers who previously specialized in trees, shrubs and house plants. Rather, they give these nurseries exclusive control of the supply chain — from "seed to store" — no matter their lack of experience in manufacturing, prescribing or dispensing drugs. The winning nurseries quickly teamed up with companies that filled in the gaps. Still, the health department's monopolistic rules created the foundation for today's standoff.

When the legislative session ended on May 8, the House — under Speaker Richard Corcoran — wanted to award another 10 licenses by next July and cap at 100 the number of dispensaries a company could open around the state.

The Senate — under President Joe Negron — also wanted another 10 licenses awarded, but by October, reducing the head-start of the first seven companies, which are busy scooping up investors and securing prime storefront locations. More importantly, the Senate wanted to cap at 15 the number of dispensaries each company could own.

"The House version, with the caps and the timing of new licenses, would give a gigantic advantage to the existing license-holders," says Ben Pollara, who along with Orlando trial attorney John Morgan, led the constitutional amendment drive. By capping a company's retail outlets and giving more companies access to the marketplace, he believes the Senate took the more free-market approach, a value trumpeted by the Republicans who control Tallahassee.

Morgan holds the opposite view. "To me, Negron is the problem. He's the most unfree-market Republican I have ever met. ... It's like telling Walgreens you can have five stores in Florida. There's how many counties in Florida? 67?"

Morgan agrees the House proposal "would keep monopolies. It would. But do we care about that? There would be 17 to begin with and other licenses would come with demand. Isn't 17 better than seven?"

Negotiations fell apart on the session's last day after the Senate proposed capping dispensaries at 15, up from 10, but far beyond its starting point of three, then five.

The House countered with 50, down from

100. When the counteroffer was quickly rejected, the House amended its bill back to 100. And that was that.

Absent the legalization of recreational marijuana, no one expects today's patient pool — estimated at about 500,000 — will support 17 license-holders with 100 stores. And in the 27 states that have legalized medical or recreational marijuana, no company has more than 25 outlets.

But money-wise, the cap means a great deal to the value of these nursery conglomerates. The Miami Herald recently discovered one company's pitch to investors. It said it expects to gross \$138 million in sales by 2021— based on the premise of opening 55 retail outlets. The brochure also said Florida's medical marijuana marketplace is forecast to generate \$2 billion a year.

We don't know where the cap should be set, though somewhere around 25 sounds like middle ground — not a free market, but not a closed monopoly, either.

We also agree that 17 is better than seven, and awarding these licenses sooner than later would better allow more companies to compete on product, price and service, which best serves patients.

A few other issues:

**Franchises:** Both chambers would preserve the "vertical integration" that gives nursery conglomerates control of the supply chain from seed to store. However, the Senate would let these companies subcontract or franchise opportunities. The House would ban subcontracting for any part of the business that touches marijuana, leaving only things like janitorial, security and professional services.

Morgan suggests franchises are the future and companies will make their real money by selling product to them. At issue is who would approve potential franchisees — the company or the state? This doesn't seem an insurmountable obstacle. If franchises help mom-and-pops open businesses and grow jobs, unshackle the chains.

**No Smoking:** Both the House and Senate would ban people from smoking medical marijuana, a position sure to draw a lawsuit from Morgan. Given that the constitutional amendment says smoking medical marijuana in public places doesn't have to be accommodated, voters clearly anticipated that patients would be able to smoke medical marijuana. Plus, cancer patients have reported greater relief from smoking marijuana than the pill derivative. Lawmakers should avoid committing taxpayers to a lawsuit they're sure to lose. Kill the "no smoking" provision. Let doctors decide the best administration method.

**90-day rule:** The House proposed making patients wait 90 days before they could get treatment. It's an arbitrary timeframe with no business in law. Again, let doctors decide how best to treat their patients.

**Debilitating conditions, including pain:** The amendment says doctors may prescribe medical marijuana for patients with debilitating conditions, including

cancer, epilepsy, glaucoma, HIV, AIDS, post-traumatic stress disorder, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Crohn's disease, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis and "other debilitating medical conditions of the same kind or class."

That last clause is the door-opener. The House proposed that to treat any patient with an unlisted condition, doctors must submit a great deal of justification to the Florida Board of Medicine, a step too far.

However, the House would allow doctors to prescribe medical marijuana for chronic pain. The Senate would not. Rather, the upper chamber said pain must be tied to one of the listed conditions.

Experience elsewhere suggests medical marijuana could help curb the opioid epidemic, which is largely fueled by people taking prescription or illicit drugs for chronic pain. More research is clearly needed. Again, in the interim, lawmakers should trust doctors to do what's best.

Will some doctors violate standards and will some patients misrepresent their conditions? Yes, they will. But by allowing doctors to prescribe medical marijuana for chronic pain, researchers will get a better handle on whether it works. And if it doesn't, changes can be made.

**Research:** Both chambers want Florida to be a leader in data, analysis and research on medical marijuana. As in other states, patient names will be entered into a registry accessible only to doctors, dispensaries and law enforcement. The research that comes from this registry should help policymakers better understand the landscape and whether changes are needed.

In the final analysis, the two chambers aren't light years apart.

Rather than let bureaucrats write more flawed rules, legislative leaders should commit this week to passing a law that provides proper direction to Florida's new medical marijuana industry.

Award the 10 new licenses this fall. Meet in the lower middle on dispensary caps, maybe 25. And implement the will of the people, who seem to have gotten lost in the debate.

*Editorials are the opinion of the Sun Sentinel Editorial Board and written by one of its members or a designee. The Editorial Board consists of Editorial Page Editor Rosemary O'Hara, Andrew Abramson, Elana Simms, Gary Stein and Editor-in-Chief Howard Saltz.*

If lawmakers fail to do their job, the state Department of Health will take over. And history says we don't want that.

**From:** [Anderson, Cassandra L](#)  
**Subject:** News Clips 6/12-13/2017  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 14, 2017 12:19:16 PM  
**Attachments:** [News Clips.docx](#)

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# **News Clip 6/12-13/2017**

## **Palm Beach Post**

6-12-17 POST WATCHDOG PUBLIC SAFETY

### **Driver faces only fines in fatal crash**

**While Raymond Kelly reportedly showed signs of DUI, he had been treated with a painkiller.**

*By Eliot Kleinberg Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Palm Beach County sheriff's deputies investigate the scene of a crash in which two people were killed in 2016. RICHARD GRAULICH / THE PALM BEACH POST



Lucas Brito displays a tattoo on his finger of the date his parents, Andre and Vivian Brito, were killed in an automobile accident. DAMON HIGGINS / THE PALM BEACH POST



Above: Andre and Vivian Brito



At right: Lucas Brito

DELRAY BEACH — Relatives of Andre and Vivian Brito, killed in 2016 west of Delray Beach, say they're "disappointed" that authorities did not criminally charge the driver but instead issued just three traffic violations totaling at most \$600 in fines.

A 202-page Palm Beach County sheriff's report says investigators found in Raymond Joseph Kelly's vehicle envelopes and vials containing more than 300 tablets of medications. And he showed signs of being under the influence of narcotic painkillers, according to the report.

Kelly had been taken for treatment to Delray Medical Center, the hospital where he worked as a registered nurse, and where he reportedly had finished a shift hours earlier. The report says members of Delray's medical staff told investigators Kelly told them he had left work and could not remember the crash, "telling them that he fell asleep at some point."

But by the time sheriff's investigators arrived, the report said, the badly hurt Kelly already had been administered medication, and because of that, a sheriff's forensic expert later "could not say with any certainty" if Kelly was impaired at the time of the collision.

"By the time the drug recognition expert got there, he (Kelly) had already been administered fentanyl," Adam Langino, an attorney for the Brito family, said Thursday. "So there was no way to distinguish perhaps what was being caused by the fentanyl administered by the nurses."

Fentanyl is an opioid 100 times more powerful than morphine that can be prescribed for severe pain.

"I don't fault the medical professionals. They have their job to do. I'm not here to second-guess them," Langino said.

Witnesses told investigators Kelly cut into a right-turn-only lane and ran a red light just before his car slammed into Andre Brito, 41, and Vivian Leal Brito, 39, who lived west of Lake Worth.



Kelly, now 67, of Royal Palm Beach, is set to go to Palm Beach County Court on July 22 on charges of failing to use a designated lane, running a red light and careless driving, court records show. The three are non-criminal "moving violations"; a court official said their combined penalty would be up to \$596.

The Palm Beach County State Attorney's Office confirmed Thursday that the sheriff's office did not submit the report to prosecutors for consideration of any criminal charges.

The crash made orphans of brothers Rafael Brito, then 11, a sixth-grader at Lake Worth Christian School, and Lucas, then 17, who would graduate three months later from Park Vista High School in suburban Boynton Beach.

Langino said relatives asked reporters not contact them. Vivian Brito's sister did tell The Palm Beach Post last month that the family hopes additional witnesses come forward. And Patricia Silva said Thursday through Langino, "we are disappointed with the decision not to pursue criminal charges and still have questions as to why the defendant was in the state that he was in when he killed Andre and Vivian."

Langino said that's a question he'll pursue if he ends up filing a wrongful death lawsuit.

On Wednesday, both Kelly's wife, Margarette Fleury, and Douglas Duncan, his attorney, said they had no comment. State records show Kelly's nursing license is active and shows no discipline, and he continues to work at Delray Medical Center. According to the sheriff's report, at about 8 a.m. March 1, 2016, the Britos were driving on Atlantic Avenue near Hagen Ranch Road, west of the Delray Beach city limits, when an SUV barreled through the intersection. Several witnesses told investigators they saw it run the red light in a right-turn-only lane of westbound Atlantic at what one called "a high rate of speed," and slam into the driver's side of the Britos' vehicle as Andre Brito, the driver, turned left onto eastbound Atlantic from Hagen Ranch.

According to the report, found in Kelly's car were three envelopes containing a total of 111 orange pills labeled Advil; a vial of 86 pills labeled with a name the report redacted; and six bottles containing a total of 123 pills whose names also were blocked out. It did not say if the pills were prescription medications, except to say one of the six vials showed a prescription for Kelly's wife. The sheriff's office said it blacked out the pills' names because of medical privacy rules.

About an hour and 40 minutes after the 8 a.m. crash, the report said, sheriff's investigator Troy Snelgrove talked to Kelly at the hospital and "could see signs of impairment which consisted of not being able to keep his eyes open, slurred speech, and an estimated pupil size of 2.0 mm which was consistent with the use of a narcotic analgesic."

But the report said Snelgrove could not determine whether the impairment was from before the crash or had taken hold since he'd been treated at the hospital for his injuries.

The report said Snelgrove did ask Kelly to submit to a blood test, but he said he wanted to wait until his wife arrived "because he did not want to do anything he would "regret." It said members of the hospital staff already had drawn blood at 8:43 a.m., but that workers also had given Kelly some sort of medication; likely the fentanyl that Langino described. The report blacked out its identity, again citing a medical privacy exemption.

A request, filed with a judge, for a formal search warrant to collect the blood-test results says the investigator "has good reason to believe" the evidence "is relevant to the commission of a felony" and to proving allegations of DUI manslaughter, DUI with property damage, or vehicular homicide.

The parts of the report that give the specific readings from tests conducted on Kelly were blacked out; the sheriff's office yet again cited medical privacy rules.

But the report did say Xiaoquin Shan, a senior forensic scientist for the sheriff's office, referring to Kelly as driver number 1, "could not state with any certainty that D-1 was impaired at the time of the collision. She stated that looking at D-1's prescription history, his (redacted), and the substances identified in his system, she cannot determine if he was impaired by the medications listed."

The Britos were Brazilian nationals who later became U.S. citizens along with their children, eldest son Lucas told The Post in May 2016. That morning, Lucas said, Vivian didn't feel well. Andre, who ran his own tiling outfit, offered to drive her to work.

"When I was told, I cried for literally 30 seconds and then I had to say, 'What's the next move?'" said Lucas, who would have tattooed onto his middle finger his parents' initials and the date they died. Lucas continued his schooling and graduated with his class.

Staff writers Sonja Isgar and Hannah Winston contributed to this story. [ekleinberg@pbpost.com](mailto:ekleinberg@pbpost.com) Twitter: [@eliotkpbp](https://twitter.com/eliotkpbp)

## 6-12-17 LAKE PARK DETOX CENTERS

# Lake Park limiting detox centers

**For now, new ones can't open and existing ones can't expand.** *By Sarah Peters Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

LAKE PARK — No detox centers will be allowed to open in Lake Park after officials approved a moratorium this past week.

The six substance-abuse treatment centers in the town licensed by the Department of Children and Families can continue operations but not expand, town Attorney Tom Baird said. Lake Park will not accept applications for new detox or rehab centers.

Mayor Michael O'Rourke said the measure equates to holding the line.

"This is just a moratorium until we can get a better handle on what's going on in our town as it relates to treatment facilities and sober homes," he said.

Lake Park, a town of 2.3 square miles and 8,568 residents, has six rehabs and 40 sober homes, according to a staff report.

Rehabs, where addicts get clean, are regulated by the state. The changes will not have any effect on sober homes, which are not licensed and are largely unregulated. Sober homes are where recovering addicts and alcoholics live when they get out of rehab. No treatment is supposed to occur at a sober home.

Lake Park's ordinance removes substance abuse treatment centers, or rehabs, as a use allowed by special exception in all Lake Park's zoning districts. The Commission unanimously passed the ordinance at its meeting Wednesday.

West Palm Beach Attorney James K. Green, who has successfully challenged housing regulations in Boca Raton's city code that affected sober homes, said if a legal challenge arises, the town will have a difficult time defending the zoning ordinance. Moratoria for land uses are generally allowed under Florida law, unless they target people with disabilities, he said.

"It's an exclusion. Whether you call it a moratorium or you call it a future ban on new substance-abuse treatment facilities, doesn't matter," Green said. "It targets people who are in recovery who are considered qualified persons with disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act."

Lake Park cannot isolate itself from uses that are protected under federal discrimination law, Green said.

The town was sued in 2009 by Women of Dignity, which operates three residential facilities, for not allowing more than three unrelated people with addictions living

together as a family. It settled the lawsuit by creating a procedure for people who want to do so to request reasonable accommodations.

Baird, who is a member of Palm Beach County State Attorney Dave Aronberg's Sober Homes Task Force, said the town is on solid legal ground removing treatment facilities from its zoning, just as other towns have removed other uses.

Lake Park deleted substance-abuse treatment facilities as a use because the town has more than enough to serve its existing population, he said — not because they serve people with addictions. If one of the six current facilities leaves the location, there's a six-month period where a new facility could move to the same location. Additionally, there are 24 treatment facilities within roughly 2 miles, in the three neighboring municipalities of Palm Beach Gardens, North Palm Beach and Riviera Beach, Baird said.

"It would seem that for a town with a population of about 9,000 residents that six substance-abuse treatment facilities is sufficient to accommodate the needs of the residents of the town, should they need those facilities," he said. [speters@pbpost.com](mailto:speters@pbpost.com) **Twitter: @Speters09**

## 6-12-17 AROUND TOWN **PANHANDLING**

Lake Worth commissioners last week on a second first reading unanimously passed a new ordinance that would make it illegal for anyone to panhandle at several busy intersections.

After initially being passed last month on first reading, the ordinance was brought back on first reading again after a few tweaks were suggested by the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office attorney, according to City Attorney Glen Torcivia.

**6-12-17 MARTIN COUNTY**

## **ODs rising in Martin after earlier dip**

*By Julius Whigham II Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

After seeing a sharp decrease to begin the year, drug overdoses in Martin County are on the rise again, authorities said this past week.

The Martin County Sheriff's Office reported Thursday five overdose calls in a three-day period, one resulting in a death on June

3. The ages of those who overdosed ranged from 27 to 50.

The office reported an average of fewer than 10 overdose calls between December and February. The office reports 34 overdoses for the year, noting an "alarming increase" in recent weeks.

Deputies said the recent death involved a 39-year-old Stuart man, who was found unresponsive in his home. It was the third fatality of 2017, the sheriff's office said.

By comparison, Palm Beach County — with nearly 10 times Martin's population — had more than 270 drug-related deaths through late May, up from 238 at the same point this past year, the county's medical examiner said.

Heroin and other opioids have been a factor in many Martin County overdose cases, a sheriff's spokeswoman said. [jwhigham@pbpost.com](mailto:jwhigham@pbpost.com) Twitter: [@JuliusWhigham](https://twitter.com/JuliusWhigham)

6-13-17 POST EXCLUSIVE PBIA WALL

# Trump to get wall — at PBIA

**Line of buses gives way to concrete, steel barrier along Southern Blvd.** *By Kristina Webb Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Air Force One brings President Donald Trump on visits to Mar-a-Lago.



Air Force One at Palm Beach International Airport on April 6. A new barrier will protect the president's jet on future visits to PBIA. RICHARD GRAULICH / THE PALM BEACH POST  
President Donald Trump might be getting a wall.

The barrier line of yellow school buses is gone from Palm Beach International Airport, and plans are in motion to have something more permanent in place ahead of Trump's next visit to his Mara-Lago Club.

The buses served as a temporary shield for Air Force One when it was parked on the south side of PBIA off Southern Boulevard during Trump's visits. But they were never supposed to be "a permanent solution" to presidential aircraft security concerns, said Jerry Allen, deputy director of planning and development for Palm Beach County's airports department.

"You get a request from the Secret Service, 'Can you screen this area off?' and you react as quickly as you can," Allen said.

That quick reaction resulted in the bumper-to-bumper school bus setup seen for the past several months just east of the Atlantic Aviation terminal at PBIA. Most of those



buses were removed this past weekend, and Allen said the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office is working on an alternative with contractor TCP Security Solutions of Tampa.

The same company worked with PBSO to place reinforced barriers along roads near the Eau Palm Beach Resort & Spa in Manalapan during the April visit to Palm Beach by China's President Xi Jinping, who stayed at the resort with his delegation as he and Trump held a summit at Mar-a-Lago.

For that visit, officials relied on TCP's BarrierGuard 800, 8-foot-tall panels of steel fence that were placed on 2-foot-tall concrete walls along South Ocean Boulevard and East Ocean Avenue, according to a video TCP Security Solutions manager Casey Wasielewski posted recently to YouTube.

"The beauty of this product is it is the only temporary barrier that is a roadway barrier as well as a security barrier," Wasielewski said in the video, noting that it is the only barrier in the United States that has both of those ratings.

The Palm Beach Post has reached out to Wasielewski and PBSO for comment. Allen said he did not know what the cost would be to build the barrier, or when it is expected to be in place.

It might be possible for the county to apply for reimbursement to cover the barrier's cost, under the federal budget deal approved in May.

That bill included \$61 million — out of the total \$1 trillion — for local law enforcement agencies who provide security for Trump when he visits his residences, including Mar-a-Lago, from Election Day through Oct. 1, when next year's budget is slated to take effect.

To qualify for reimbursement, county officials would have to show that the price of building the barrier was "in excess of the costs of normal and typical law enforcement operations," and that it was directly related to protecting the president and requested by the director of the Secret Service.

County officials estimate about \$4 million has been spent on security related to Trump's seven visits to Palm Beach since taking office and two as president-elect. The steel fences put up ahead of Jinping's visit took a few days both to erect and disassemble, potentially an appealing trait for a security team that might have to contend with, at times, several presidential weekend visits in a row as Trump is expected to begin visiting Mar-a-Lago again when Palm Beach's social season resumes in the fall.

Officials have some time to determine the best option.

"We don't anticipate him (Trump) coming back for a while," Allen said. [kwebb@pbpost.com](mailto:kwebb@pbpost.com)

6-13-17 WEST PALM BEACH

# Teen accused of being wheelman in May carjacking

*By Conner Mitchell Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Latarian Milton, 16, is being charged as an adult .

WEST PALM BEACH — A 16-year-old Riviera Beach resident is the latest juvenile in Palm Beach County to be charged as an adult for armed carjacking, according to a sheriff's report.

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office said Latarian Milton was the getaway driver for a group of people accused in a May carjacking of a driver from the Lyft ride-hailing service in suburban West Palm Beach.

He was booked into the Palm Beach County Jail on Friday and charged with carjacking with a firearm, burglary and committing a felony while possessing a firearm. He remained in custody early Monday and is being held without bail on the burglary charge.

Milton is the 11th juvenile arrested and charged as an adult in Palm Beach County since November on carjacking charges, according to county arrest records.

Authorities have said that juvenile-related carjackings are on the rise, and the presence of weapons is a factor in deciding whether to pursue adult charges.

Police say Milton, Victor Joseph, 22, of Royal Palm Beach, and Lorenzo Chat-man, 20, of Riviera Beach, were involved in the carjacking at an apartment com West Palm Beach on May 21.

The Lyft driver told police he picked up four men and a woman and took them to the woman's apartment complex. She got out of the vehicle, but the men asked to be driven to another location. Since they didn't make the request through the Lyft app, the driver told the men he couldn't fulfill their request.

Police say Joseph then put a gun to the driver's head and ordered him from the vehicle. He followed the driver out and stole his jacket, wallet and iPhone. Milton got in the driver's seat and drove the Lyft employee's 2017 Toyota Highlander away, according to the report.

Investigators traced a telephone number provided to the Lyft driver to Milton's Facebook account. He confessed to his involvement, authorities said. [cmitchell@pbpost.com](mailto:cmitchell@pbpost.com)

6-13-17 JUPITER TIGER WOODS ARREST

## Cops: Woods took Vicodin, Xanax

**Doctors say the drugs, when mixed, as in this case, can be dangerous.** *By Eliot Kleinberg Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

### COMPLETE COVERAGE ONLINE

Find the latest on the Tiger Woods case at [pbpo.st/woodsupdate](http://pbpo.st/woodsupdate).

JUPITER — Xanax, a strong drug used to combat anxiety, is the mystery medication that Jupiter police now say Tiger Woods told officers he had taken on top of the painkiller Vicodin when he was arrested May 29 on DUI charges, a report says. Doctors warn that Xanax and Vicodin can be especially dangerous when mixed, hindering an individual's ability to breathe. In an August 2016 advisory, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration warned of "serious risks and deaths" from combining benzodiazepines, such as Xanax, with opioid medicines, such as Vicodin. Opioids are powerful narcotic medicines used to treat severe pain.

At 2 a.m. on Memorial Day, Jupiter police have said they found Woods asleep at the wheel of his damaged Mercedes-Benz on Military Trail south of Indian Creek Parkway.

Woods, who had undergone his fourth back surgery in April, said he had not had anything to drink that night but did take prescribed medications including Vicodin, police wrote in their report.

Woods said later in an official statement to reporters that he had had an "unexpected reaction" to the drugs.

When the police report first was made public, Woods' answer is blacked out in two passages in which officers asked whether he had taken any medication. But a newly released version, which does not feature the redactions, reveals in both cases he said, "Xanax." It wasn't known Monday what prompted the change.

The drug — also known as alprazolam — is used to treat anxiety, insomnia and seizures, according to the FDA.

Woods' Breathalyzer results came back as 0.00. His urine sample results have not been revealed. It can take weeks to process toxicology tests.

Dr. Jeff Lewis, dean of the Gregory School of Pharmacy at Palm Beach Atlantic University, said patients often are prescribed both drugs, but "it has risks."

He added: "Drugs have varying effects on individuals. A little bit of drug might have little effect on one person and a lot on someone else." And, he said, "it's just necessary to understand the extent to which your body is affected by them so you know how to respond, how to react."

Lewis said he couldn't speak specifically to Woods' case. But asked if it was possible for mixing the two drugs to lead to the condition in which police say Woods was found, he said, "quite possible."

Neither Woods' publicist, Glenn Greenspan, nor his attorney on the DUI case, Douglas Duncan, responded Monday to requests for comment.

In dashboard footage released by Jupiter police, Woods is unsteady on his feet, attempts to tie his shoes — including one shoe that is already tied — several times and doesn't know where he is at times.

Later, just before taking a Breathalyzer test at the Palm Beach County Jail, he slurred his words and mumbled, kept his eyes closed, and struggled to maintain his balance, according to a video released by the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office.

Woods is scheduled for an arraignment hearing July 5 before Judge Sandra Bosso-Pardo in Palm Beach Gardens.

If the state goes forward with the DUI charges, Woods may qualify for a local DUI program for first-time offenders that would allow him to avoid any permanent criminal charges by taking classes and doing community service.

The golfer faces charges of driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol and improper stopping, standing or parking in an illegal place, according to court records. He was booked into the Palm Beach County Jail at about 7 a.m. May 29 and left four hours later on his own recognizance, meaning he did not have to post bail. [ekleinberg@pbpost.com](mailto:ekleinberg@pbpost.com)

6-13-17 DELRAY BEACH

# Man arrested on child-pornography charges

*By Paige Fry Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Alan Firestone had images on his computer, police say.

A suburban Delray Beach man is accused of having at least 30 images of child pornography stored on his computer, according to a probable-cause affidavit made public Monday.

State authorities had been investigating Alan Firestone, 47, since last fall and found him in possession of photos of both male and female children ages 6 to 15 years old, the affidavit said.

Firestone was arrested Thursday and charged with 20 counts of child pornography. His bail was set at \$140,000 Friday morning by Judge Diana Keever-Agrama. He remained at the Palm Beach County Jail early Monday.

Authorities began tracking Firestone after undercover state investigators on Oct. 12 found he had shared more than 50 files of child pornography, according to the affidavit. After monitoring him, the investigator obtained a warrant and searched his house June 5.

Firestone told authorities that he used peer-to-peer file sharing and a program called Shareaza to download pornography, according to the affidavit. A detective with the Boynton Beach Police Department searched Firestone's computer and found at least 30 images in a folder labeled "FAP."

At his court appearance Friday at the jail, the homeowners' association president of Firestone's community said Firestone has served as a secretary on the board and is well-liked by his neighbors.

Ray Heppner, board president at the Villages of Oriole Bonaire condominiums near Jog Road and Atlantic Avenue, said he considers Firestone a friend and that he has been an "integral part of the community." He said it was a shock to everyone that he was arrested.

"He was one of the most brilliant people I've ever met," he said. [pfry@pbpost.com](mailto:pfry@pbpost.com)

# Trump's visits cause fuss in New Jersey

*By Andy Reid Staff writer*

President Donald Trump's latest White House getaway is bringing more protesters, airport security hassles and police overtime — but now it's New Jersey getting the Palm Beach treatment.

With Trump's Mar-a-Lago Club shuttered for the summer, the Trump National Golf Club in Bedminster, N.J., is becoming the new presidential weekend escape destination.

Following seven trips to Palm Beach after taking office, Trump made his second post-inauguration visit to his exclusive New Jersey club this weekend.

Now, Bedminster is trying to learn from Palm Beach's sometimes rocky relationship with hosting the president.

New Jersey leaders are already following Palm Beach County's lead and angling for federal reimbursement of increased police security costs.

"We were really concerned about the impact on local taxpayers," Bedminster Mayor Steve Parker said. "We still don't know how many visits we are going to get."

Small airports near Bedminster — where aviation businesses have been grounded by presidential security rules during Trump visits — are joining the push from Palm Beach County's Lantana Airport to try to get the Secret Service to ease flight limits.

"We are completely shut down when he's in Bedminster," said Suzanne Nagle, one of the owners of Solberg Airport. "It's too early to tell what's going to happen because we don't know how often he is going to come."

Also, New Jersey protest groups have called their South Florida counterparts for tips on how to overcome difficulties demonstrating near the president — made difficult because he spends most of his time behind the gates at Trump properties.

New Jersey demonstrators driving decorated cars have been holding weekly protest parades — called The People's Motorcade — outside the gates to Trump's Bedminster Club ever since his last visit in early May.

"We honk our horns. People ride their bikes," said Analilia Mejia, of the group New Jersey Working Families. "It's been growing. ... We are not content to allow business as usual."



Palm Beach and Bedminster are both affluent towns with similar populations of over 8,000 people, though in Palm Beach that can swell by about 20,000 seasonal residents during the fall and winter.

While Palm Beach features oceanfront luxury and ritzy Worth Avenue shopping, Bedminster's upscale neighborhoods are spread over central New Jersey horse farm country, about 50 miles from Manhattan.

During Palm Beach visits, Trump's motorcade typically shuttles him between Mar-a-Lago and his golf courses in West Palm Beach and Jupiter. But in New Jersey, the president can stay put at his Bedminster club, where he has two golf courses and a residence.

"He remained on the golf course. It was pretty quiet," Parker said about Trump's visit in May. "It's not like he was going downtown to have a pizza."

Trump's 535-acre golf club in Bedminster is the town's second biggest property taxpayer.

Even if the president stays put at the club during his Bedminster trips, the small community police department with 18 officers faces a growing overtime expense, the mayor said.

That translates to about \$42,000 in overtime costs per presidential visit, Parker said. That would add up to nearly \$300,000 if the president makes seven trips to Bedminster, like he did to Palm Beach. Over four years, the costs could top \$1 million.

By comparison, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office estimates that Trump's visits to Palm Beach since the election — which included Trump hosting the leaders of Japan and China — already have cost local taxpayers more than \$4 million in increased security costs.

Both Bedminster and Palm Beach County are counting on about \$61 million included in a congressional budget deal reimbursing those and future presidential security costs.

That federal money doesn't include help for aviation businesses that have to temporarily shut down during presidential visits in Palm Beach County and near Bedminster.

Flight training, airplane rentals and sightseeing companies at the Lantana airport in Palm Beach County have had to turn away customers during Trump's visits because of rules against flying near Mar-a-Lago.

Now businesses at Somerset Airport and Solberg Airport near Trump's Bedminster club face similar restrictions, at a time when Nagle said they are usually their busiest. "Sixty percent of our business is on the weekend, and most of our business is during the summer months," Nagle said. "They are taking away our business."

Tourists, protesters and anyone else hoping for a peek at the president and his weekend retreat destination have a tougher time in Bedminster than they do in Palm Beach.

The mansion and 75-foot-tall tower at Mar-a-Lago are visible from across the water in West Palm Beach, but Trump's Bed-minster club is more isolated from public view. Buildings at Trump National Golf Club in Bedminster are almost a mile away from the guardhouse. And the entrance is off a narrow public road, with no sidewalks and shoulders for people to gather near the presidential estate.

To try to attract attention, protesters have used overpasses along Trump's motorcade route into town.

The limited public access near Trump's club is why demonstrators say they started the drive-by protests — using their horns, decorated cars and signs to criticize the president for everything from his tax returns to suspected connections between Trump or his associates and Russia.

The demonstration has ranged from about 15 cars on a rainy day to more than 35 when the weather cooperates, according to organizers.

"We are using what we have available to us, which is the roadway," said protester Jim Girvan, of Branchburg, N.J., near Bed-minster. He participates in the so-called People's Motorcade. "We are going to be going all summer long."

Trump is expected to resume weekend trips to his Southern White House when Mar-a-Lago reopens in the fall — when temperatures cool and the Palm Beach social season resumes.

But when Trump's White House days are through, Bedminster could end up winning the long-term distinction as Trump's primary residence — and maybe even his final resting place.

Trump likes his Bedminster estate so much that he convinced the township to allow Trump family grave-sites on the sprawling property. [abreid@sunsentinel.com](mailto:abreid@sunsentinel.com), 561-228-5504 or [Twitter@abreidnewss](https://twitter.com/abreidnewss)

# Physicians fighting opioid epidemic in the exam room

*By Timothy J. Stapleton*



The United States is in the midst of a public health crisis. Opioid addiction is taking mothers, fathers and children; destroying lives, breaking up families. The problem is particularly insidious in Florida, which has become a destination for rehabilitative services and sober home living. In the first part of 2016, approximately 2,600 people died from opioid overdoses in the state and the epidemic shows no sign of slowing. Gov. Rick Scott recently declared a public health emergency over this crisis, which frees up nearly \$30 million in federal funds to fight this battle for Floridians. State Surgeon General Celeste Philip, M.D., has been directed to keep a standing order of Narcan and Naloxone — drugs used to counteract overdoses — at the ready, and Attorney General Pam Bondi, who was appointed to President Donald Trump's Opioid and Drug Abuse Commission, has secured a deal for the two drugs to be purchased at a discounted rate.

The Florida Medical Association (FMA) represents more than 20,000 physicians in the state and provides them with access to expert advice, support and resources. As an advocate for the highest standards of medical care, we stand alongside our state's leaders as we work to reverse the destruction being caused by opioid addiction and overdose in our state.

It's up to all of us to come together as a community to fight this rampant problem at every level: education, prevention, treatment and recovery services. Physicians can effect positive change by staying educated on best practices and effectively communicating with their patients about treatment protocols for pain management. There is an inherent risk in prescribing highly addictive medications, particularly for patients suffering from severe chronic pain. Physicians have a duty to consider the risks versus clinical effectiveness of prescribing opioids and communicate those risks and benefits clearly and honestly to their patients.

The FMA recommends that physicians follow the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations for prescribing opioids. This includes starting "low

and slow” with dosages and prescribing no more than needed for acute and chronic pain. Physicians also have a responsibility to follow up with their patients, to ascertain effectiveness of treatment and, when necessary, include strategies to mitigate the risk of addiction or overdose.

Florida has established a state prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP) to access and review an individual’s history of controlled substance use before making any decisions on best course of treatment. PDMP data is used by prescribers to avoid dangerous drug combinations that would put a patient at high risk for potential addiction or overdose. This, along with urine drug testing to identify prescribed substances and undisclosed use, prevents pill-seeking patients from “doctor shopping.” The FMA encourages physicians to utilize the database, along with established protocols, protections and research, to ensure that they are able to make appropriate clinical decisions for their patients and prescribe treatments responsibly, safely and effectively.

Physicians have an obligation to educate their patients while developing treatment goals. Treatment does not end when a prescription is written: An open line of communication is necessary to make appropriate clinical decisions and detect signs of opioid dependence.

The FMA remains steadfast in our commitment to the people of Florida who entrust their health to physicians. We will do even more as we continue fighting to protect patients’ health and well-being by arming Florida physicians with the tools necessary to empower their patients. Irresponsible treatment plans and illegal distribution of opioids have no place in the medical field.

*Timothy J. Stapleton is CEO of the Florida Medical Association, a professional association dedicated to the service and assistance of doctors of medicine and doctors of osteopathic medicine in Florida.*

# New app allows citizens to report terrorism

*By Caitlin Doornbos Staff writer*

Recognizing the importance of tips in fighting domestic terrorism, law enforcement has made reporting suspicious activity as easy as pushing a button.

The National Sheriff's Association announced updates to their BlackBox Digital Reporting app in Orlando at the National Counter-Terrorism Conference hosted by the Orange County Sheriff's Office recently. The app allows users to share audio, video and GPS locations with local, state and federal law enforcement.

"[Users can] provide information to law enforcement so that we can mine the data and make a determination of whether or not it's useful, and we can turn it into something actionable," Orange County Sheriff Jerry Demings said.

The Sheriff's Association teamed up with the Department of Homeland Security and the National Fusion Center Association to develop the app. These agencies often use tips from the public to identify signs of terrorist activity, such as radicalization, Demings said.

"What they should be looking for is individuals who indicate that they've been self radicalized by the way they communicate with others either through social media, emails or other communications [and] by their behaviors sometime in their neighborhoods [and] statements that they make," Demings said.

The public should report suspicious activity on the app and directly to law enforcement, officials said. The app is not a substitute for calling 911 during emergencies, but NSA Executive Director and CEO Jonathan Thompson said it's an added tool to help users collect and send digital evidence to law enforcement.

"Combating the current threat of domestic terrorism from homegrown extremists ... requires [that] we work with our citizens and provide them with new tools to help in the fight against crime and to protect their families and schools," Thompson said.

But some, such as the American Civil Liberties Union, say promoting such tools can lead to racial discrimination and privacy invasion.

"Arab and Muslim or brown-skinned people [are] called into the police," ACLU Senior Policy Analyst Jay Stanley said. "That's a pattern that we've seen since 9/ 11, when report-your-neighbor programs were pushed by national authorities."

Wilfredo Ruiz, spokesman for the Council on American Islamic Relations in Florida, said the tool is "welcome," but he worries police will be flooded with tips on harmless Islamic activities, such as Muslims praying in public.

"It's the same concern we have with any report that could be stereotyped, it comes with any reporting tool," Ruiz said.

But he said law enforcement will likely be able to determine if investigation is warranted.

While Stanley said it's not bad to report serious suspicions, he thinks extra programs — such as the Black-Box app — simply aren't necessary.

"Obviously nobody objects to any citizens reporting something truly suspicious to authorities — but they always have. They don't need an app or a 'See Something, Say Something' campaign," Stanley said. "At their worst, these can resemble programs in authoritarian countries, where residents are encouraged to tattle on their neighbors."

The NSA first developed the app in 2013 for Neighborhood Watch programs, but after the mass shooting in San Bernardino, Calif., the National Sheriff's Association wanted to adapt the technology to help citizens report terrorism-related suspicions, NSA spokesman Patrick Royall said. [cdoornbos@orlandosentinel.com](mailto:cdoornbos@orlandosentinel.com)



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# **News Clip 6/25-26/2017**

## **Palm Beach Post**

**6-25-17 POST IN-DEPTH HOUSE PARTIES**

### **'Party gods' taking over mansions**

**Underground organizers create pop-up bashes at houses of absent owners. Neighbors aren't happy.**

*By Alexandra Seltzer Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



This house at 110 Clarendon Ave. in Palm Beach was the scene of a major house party in May after organizers spread the word on social media. ANDY FRAME / SOTHEBY'S



This house at 695 N.E. 15th Place in Boynton Beach was the site of the “Palmghanistan” mansion party earlier this month. About 500 people attended the bash before it was shut down by police after about 90 minutes. ALEXANDRA SELTZER / THE PALM BEACH POST

PALM BEACH — When Alfred and Jan Malley leave town for the summer, they count on their property manager to keep watch of their \$9.87 million mansion in the Estate Section of Palm Beach.

One day in May, the manager invited his family over. Then his children told their friends about the house. And they told their friends. They spread flyers on social media advertising a “Palm Beach Island Pool Banger Mansion Party — Wet and Wild Edition.”

Unknown to the Malleys, their home became the site of the latest out-of-control blowout in Palm Beach County.

House parties, sometimes called mansion parties, are popping up all over Palm Beach County and the nation. It’s not just about clubs or bars anymore, and it’s a way for underground organizers to make some fast cash at someone else’s expense. Some parties have ended with arrests, but that isn’t deterring organizers from quickly moving on to the next bash.

At the Malley family’s Palm Beach mansion — five bedrooms, 7.5 baths on Clarendon Avenue with a pool and beach access — a video of the party circulating on the internet documents drug use. The video shows women in bikini tops drinking alcohol straight from the bottle and men opening beer cans by smashing them on their heads and then chugging.

“Too many people showed up. The cops came, and I said ‘I don’t know these people,’ and we shut it down,” said the property manager, who declined to give his full name.

### **StephToTrill speaks**

Organizers are capitalizing on social media platforms — primarily Facebook, Snapchat and Instagram — to engage potential partyers.

A June 9 house party sprouted on Upland Road in West Palm Beach after flyers appeared advertising a D J and an entrance fee of \$5 for men until 10 p.m. Women got in free.

Some parties are held in homes available for rent through vacation websites. And despite neighbors’ frustrations, local governments can’t ban these rentals. In Boynton Beach, for example, the city’s code is silent on it.

The group that marketed the Palm Beach mansion party also promoted the “Palmghanistan” mansion party in Boynton Beach in June, according to social media accounts.

The owner of the Boynton waterfront home was in Germany and had the property rented through the HomeAway website. He believed an author was vacationing in the home with his family.

Instead, about 500 people took over the property on the cul-de-sac of Northeast 15th Place on the Intra-coastal Waterway.

Women were allowed in free and men paid \$5 before 10 p.m., and \$10 after.

That party was broken up by police after only 90 minutes, but the organizers had their cash.

"The parties happen maybe once a month," said one of the party organizers, known as StephToTrill.

StephToTrill, who did not want his full name used in this story, said each party he's involved in has two "party gods," a DJ and a person who secures the home. He said he is one of the "party gods." When the group rents a house, they usually throw the party at the end of their stay. He said they charge entry fees but insists no drugs or alcohol are sold.

How does he find the homes?

"I know Realtors. I know a couple people. I'm in the game for a while. We make it happen," he said.

The party organizers' Instagram accounts have been silent on when and where the next party will be, but "best believe there will be another one," he said.

### **'We tore up Lox'**

Steve Homrich said he might feel better about the rentals if his neighbor at the Boynton Beach home had a property manager on-site.

"You see 400 people walking down the street, it's scary," Homrich said.

But as in the Palm Beach situation, sometimes a property manager doesn't guarantee security.

"The underage drinking is definitely a problem, and it's just disrespectful," said Chloe Hall, who called the police in April about a house shindig on 66th Court North in Loxahatchee. "I think it needs to be controlled better because nobody's stopping it, really."

StephToTrill said he thinks he and his group are no longer welcome in Loxahatchee.

"We tore up Lox for the last four months," he said.

The party Hall called police about took place April 1 in a three-bedroom, two-bathroom home.

"I was getting annoyed because it was late and I was tired and it was not stopping.

There were cars all over the street. You could smell marijuana from my house. And it was loud and it was crazy," Hall said.

Palm Beach County sheriff's deputies were dispatched to the home and arrested 25-year-old Christian Sanchez on a charge of open house party. About 150 people were at the party — which charged a \$5 entrance fee — and a deputy spotted two people

under 21 drop alcohol and run. The deputy also smelled marijuana, according to a probable-cause affidavit.

That was one of many organized by a group including one man Hall's niece knew and followed on Snapchat.

"Over the last school year and this summer there were probably over a dozen parties," Hall said.

At one party in December on Valencia Boulevard in Loxahatchee, deputies arrested a 48-year-old woman for allowing the house party. Diana Irizarry was arrested on a charge of open house party. She stood by while a 21-year-old collected \$5 from each of the 300 to 400 attendees, according to court records.

A few months later at the Boynton Beach bash, Steph-ToTrill described the party as "the biggest house party Palm Beach County has ever seen."

Neighbors complained that strangers had taken over their cozy single-family home neighborhood.

Some partygoers parked in the lots on Federal Highway and walked down the street to where the home sits. Other vehicles were on neighbors' lawns. Neighbors could hear music and chanting orchestrated by the party's DJ through their hurricane-impact windows. The crowd topped out at about 500.

"We made a couple thousand. The party started at 9 and ended at 10:30," he said.

"We're making what people make in a month in an hour and a half."

Staff researcher Melanie

Mena contributed to this story. [aseltzer@pbpost.com](mailto:aseltzer@pbpost.com)

**Twitter: @alexseltzer**

At one party in December on Valencia Boulevard in Loxahatchee, deputies arrested a 48-year-old woman for allowing the house party.

## 6-25-17 FLORIDA LEGISLATURE

# Governor signs medical marijuana measure

## The ability to smoke cannabis still remains an issue. *By*

*Jim Saunders and Jim Turner News Service of Florida*

TALLAHASSEE — More than seven months after Floridians overwhelmingly backed the broad legalization of medical marijuana, Gov. Rick Scott on Friday signed a bill aimed at carrying out the voters' wishes.

Lawmakers passed the bill (SB 8-A) during a special session this month after struggling to reach agreement on an implementation plan for the medical-marijuana constitutional amendment, which 71 percent of voters approved in November. Scott's office sent out a news release after 5:30 p.m. Friday that said he had signed the marijuana bill, along with 37 others, but did not comment. He had indicated earlier he would approve the bill.

The constitutional amendment gave doctors the authority to order marijuana for potentially hundreds of thousands of patients who suffer from debilitating conditions, including cancer, epilepsy, glaucoma, HIV, AIDS, post-traumatic stress disorder, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), Crohn's disease, Parkinson's disease and multiple sclerosis.

But as is commonly the case, a plan still needed to be put in place to carry out the amendment. The bill resolves issues such as how many companies will receive marijuana licenses and how many retail outlets they can operate.

It appears likely, however, that Orlando lawyer John Morgan, who largely bankrolled the constitutional amendment, will challenge part of the bill that bars people from smoking medical marijuana. The bill would allow vaping and other methods of marijuana use.

Lawmakers who supported the smoking ban pointed to concerns about issues such as the health effects of smoking marijuana on people's lungs. But Morgan has vowed to file a lawsuit to try to overturn the ban, saying voters envisioned that patients would be able to smoke cannabis.

"(Smoking) clearly was called for in the amendment, and so what they've done for me is allowed me to step back up on my soapbox and go get what the people of Florida wanted when they passed this bill with 71 percent," Morgan said this month. The marijuana measure was the highest-profile bill signed Friday by Scott.

Among the others was a bill that would help wireless telecommunications companies in dealing with local government regulations.

The measure (HB 687) would limit the ability of local governments to regulate types of equipment known as "small wireless facilities" in public rights of ways. The equipment is for emerging 5G technology. The bill, which became law Saturday, drew objections from local governments, at least in part, because it would take away their authority.



6-26-17 POST ON TRUMP SECURITY

## Trump security zones to become permanent Coast Guard seeks input before implementing water rules. *By Kristina Webb Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



A U.S. Coast Guard vessel patrols the Intracoastal Waterway near Mar-a-Lago in March while President Donald Trump visited his Palm Beach island estate. BRUCE R. BENNETT / THE PALM BEACH POST **HOW TO SUBMIT FEEDBACK**

- Comments on the rule may be submitted to the Coast Guard until July 20 via [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). Search for docket number USCG-2017-0016 and click "Submit a Formal Comment."
- For more information, contact Petty Officer Mara Brown, Waterways Management Division, U.S. Coast Guard, 305-535-4317 or [maraj.brown@uscg.mil](mailto:maraj.brown@uscg.mil).



Coast Guard personnel already were working the Intracoastal in November, when Donald Trump was the president-elect. RICHARD GRAULICH / THE PALM BEACH POST 2016

PALM BEACH — The Coast Guard wants citizen and boater input on permanent security zones it plans to put in place in the waters around President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago Club.

For each of the president's Palm Beach visits since taking office in January, the Coast Guard has issued a notice with three temporary security areas: Boaters are barred from traveling in the Intracoastal waters just west of Trump's Palm Beach estate, and vessels are allowed to travel through but cannot stop in the Intracoastal closer to West Palm Beach, and in the Atlantic Ocean just east of the club.

"Due to the short notice given to the Coast Guard prior to these visits, the security zones were established without notice and without allowing for public comment," the Coast Guard said in a proposed rule posted Tuesday in the Federal Register. Under the rule, those temporary security zones would become permanent and go into effect when Trump, a member of the first family or another person under Secret Service protection visits the club.

Officials hope to have the rule in place before Trump resumes his seasonal Mar-a-Lago visits, expected to pick back up in the fall, the Coast Guard said.

"This action is necessary to protect the official party, the public, and the surrounding waterway from terrorist acts, sabotage or other subversive acts, accidents, or other causes of a similar nature," the Coast Guard said in the notice.

The proposed zones echo the temporary restricted areas put in place for Trump's previous visits as president:

- Zone 1: No vessels or person will be permitted to enter this zone consisting of the waters of the Lake Worth Lagoon from the southern tip of Everglades Island in the

north to approximately 1,000 yards from the south of the Southern Boulevard Bridge on the south and eastern shore line west of Fisherman Island.

- Zone 2: All vessels transiting the second zone shall maintain a steady speed and shall not slow or stop from waters of the Lake Worth Lagoon including the Intra-coastal Waterway from the southern tip of Everglades Island in the north to approximately 1,000 yards from the south of the bridge on the south and from the western shore line to the western edge of Fisherman Island in the east. Vessels needing to wait for the Southern Boulevard Bridge to open in Zone 2 are permitted to wait in this zone only for the drawbridge to raise for safe passage.
- Zone 3: All vessels transiting the third zone shall maintain a steady speed and shall not slow or stop from waters of the Atlantic Ocean from Banyan Road in the north to Ocean View Road in the south and from shore to approximately 1,000 yards east of the shoreline.

Those who violate the security zones would face a civil penalty of more than \$88,000, a criminal fine up to \$10,000 or a 12-year prison term.

As part of the rule-setting process, the agency is looking for public comments on any potential impacts, whether environmental or economic. In its notice, the Coast Guard said effects of the rule would not be significant. [kwebb@pbpost.com](mailto:kwebb@pbpost.com)

**COMPLETE COVERAGE** Read about President Donald Trump in Palm Beach at [myPalmBeachPost.com/donaldtrump](http://myPalmBeachPost.com/donaldtrump)

## 6-26-17 BOYNTON BEACH LIFESAVERS

# Man survives ODs, thanks rescuers Twice revived in 24 hours, Sundquist lets saviors use his story.

*By Alexandra Seltzer Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Sundquist on the day he visited his rescuers: "They don't get enough credit for the job that they do." CONTRIBUTED





Steve Sundquist lies on a hospital gurney after one of his two overdoses in Boynton Beach in March. CONTRIBUTED



On June 19, Steve Sundquist visited the Boynton Beach paramedics who saved his life in March after he had overdosed twice on heroin. Here Sundquist (center) stands with Firefighter 2 Monica Durango (from left), Lt. John Kilcooley, Lt. Joe Senseman and Stu Aaron. BOYNTON BEACH FIRE RESCUE

BOYNTONBEACH—While responding to drug-overdose calls several times a day, it's not unheard of for paramedics to save the life of one person only to revive that same person again after another overdose within 24 hours.

But it is rare for that person to get sober, and then want to meet the team that saved his life.

It happened with Steve Sundquist in Boynton Beach. One day in March he was found in a car and paramedics had to break a window to reach him and pump him with

Narcan, an anti-overdose drug. And later, he was found at home on his living room floor blue in the face and foaming at the mouth.

Heroin, both times, Sundquist said. Now, he said, he is clean — and full of gratitude. So he reached out to his rescuers at Boynton Beach Fire Rescue, a move that inspired them to share his story on Facebook.

"I felt like they deserve that," said Sundquist, 28. "There are so many people that they save their lives every day and they don't get enough credit for the job that they do. They deserve that from me. I think it gives them hope."

It started with a card. Sundquist sent a thank-you note to fire department administrators. Mike Landress, the department's emergency medical services coordinator, let the lieutenants know about it, and they contacted Sundquist. Sundquist visited the paramedics Monday.

After his two overdoses, Sundquist enrolled himself in a 75-day treatment program in Baton Rouge, La. He said he's been sober since then.

"I died. I never experienced an overdose in my life let alone two in the same day and it just freaked me the hell out," Sundquist said. "I knew I had to change something." Sundquist, originally from Tampa, started on prescription pain medicine after "Tommy John" elbow surgery for a baseball injury. When he couldn't get legal drugs anymore, he turned to heroin.

In South Florida for recovery, he struggled, unable to stick with a plan until his overdoses in March. Now, he says, he has a good support group and lives a healthy life.

Sundquist said reuniting with the paramedics brought tears to his eyes.

The paramedics also were touched.

"We run on so many overdoses down here every day now that it's our new norm.... So to have somebody come back and talk to you and tell you how appreciative they are and see how clean and sober they are, it means a lot," Lt. Joe Senseman said.

The reunion prompted Landress, the EMS coordinator, to share the story with the public. He posted on the department's Facebook page a photo of the paramedics and Sundquist with this message, describing a scene firefighters often confront:

"Curled up on a tousled bed in a tiny motel room, a gaunt, young male with grimy hair lies motionless. A syringe dangles from a lifeless arm as white froth oozes from blue lips. His boyish, but unkempt face is marred with acne and dark circles. Blood flow has ceased causing purple, blotchy patches to cover his cool, ashen skin. His clothes are soiled and the stench of urine envelopes the musty room. A veteran police officer rifles through a discarded wallet on the night stand searching for identification. A father, mother or close relative will soon receive a ghastly call.

"It is a vivid example of another young life lost —succumbed to the power of addiction via a lethal mixture of street heroin and fentanyl. Unfortunately, this situation has become all too familiar to our firefighter-paramedics and police officers. It is common for our department, like many other departments in South Florida, to respond to heroin overdoses on a daily basis. And, it is not unusual for us to respond to several during a 24-hour shift.

"It is simply the new norm.

"However, there is hope in the midst of this opioids epidemic." The post relates Sundquist's tale, continuing:

"After gaining nearly 40 pounds and celebrating over 100 days of sobriety, the young man now has a job and is truly grateful for every day as he works to build a new life. He wanted to personally thank our crew members who cared for him on that evening last March. The BBFRD would like to express its utmost gratitude to Steve for having the courage and strength to share his story and images of addiction with the hope it may help others."

Landress said he decided to share the story because Sundquist wanted people to know of his success.

"I give him all the kudos in the world for showing the courage and the strength to come forward like that and want his story out there," Landress said. "We helped him but he also helped us. Because it does such wonders for the firefighters'/ paramedics' morale when they see these success stories regarding addiction because they're very, very extremely rare."

After the reunion, the paramedics went back to work, only to find more of the same: one fatal drug overdose, two who survived.

Senseman said he thought of Sundquist while talking to one of the survivors. The man said he probably wouldn't change his habits and was depressed about his situation.

"I said there is hope. Me and the other medic ... let him know about Steve and said anybody can make a change, but they need help," Senseman said. [aseltzer@pbpost.com](mailto:aseltzer@pbpost.com) Twitter: [@alexseltzer](https://twitter.com/alexseltzer)



## 6-26-17 Aronberg talks about sober homes on NBC He said addicts are sent to Florida to get better, not die. *By Paige Fry Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Palm Beach County State Attorney Dave Aronberg.

Palm Beach County's State Attorney Dave Aronberg appeared on Megyn Kelly's new NBC show to discuss the county's "total scam" of sober homes and how it's worsening the opioid epidemic.

Aronberg appeared on "Sunday Night with Megyn Kelly" as the lead story. He said people across the country send their addicted loved ones to Florida to get better, not to die.

But cases of corruption and overdoses keep occurring where addicts are supposed to be receiving treatment, Aronberg said.

The Palm Beach Post has been following the opioid epidemic in the county — reporting arrests of sober home operators, owners, clinicians, managers and others. Most recently, on June 16, The Post reported a Boca Raton woman arrested by the Palm Beach County Sober Home Task Force on 35 counts of patient brokering. It was the 27th arrest by the task force since October. And there's "more to come," Aronberg said in the NBC interview.

"This is an entire industry that's been corrupted by easy money," Aronberg said.

"Unscrupulous actors have taken advantage of well-intended federal law, and a lack of any good law at the state level, to profit off people at the lowest stages of their lives."

He told NBC that treatment centers are a "total scam" run at taxpayers' expense.

"People are dying unnecessarily because of this," he added.

Sober homes don't require any regulations or supervision, he said, which allows addicts to use drugs freely as the treatment centers bill their insurance.

"This is not a case where a few bad apples spoil the whole bunch," he said. "This is a case where most of the apples are spoiled." [pfry@pbpost.com](mailto:pfry@pbpost.com)

## 6-26-17 7 nearly drown off Palm Beach County beaches Rip currents may be to blame for the

**incidents.** *By Paige Fry Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

Five people in Riviera Beach and two in Lake Worth were transported to hospitals Sunday after near-drownings in separate incidents.

Palm Beach County Fire Rescue crews responded at 5:16 p.m. to 10 South Ocean Ave. at Lake Worth Beach to a teenage male and a man nearly drowning, said Palm Beach County Fire Rescue spokesman Albert Borroto.

Ocean Rescue lifeguards rescued the swimmers. The victims were not identified, and their conditions are unknown.

In Riviera Beach, a male teenager was pulled from the water by lifeguards at Ocean Reef Park and transported to a hospital, city fire rescue spokesman DaWayne Watson said.

At various times throughout the day, four others were rescued near Singer Island. Watson said it's possible that rip currents were the cause of the near drownings. He warned beachgoers to check the lifeguard flags to determine water conditions and use common sense when going into the water. [pfry@pbpost.com](mailto:pfry@pbpost.com)

# Sun Sentinel

## 6-25-17 **Drug users are lured to S. Fla., then lost**

Report: Rehabs turn patients away after insurance runs out

By Skyler Swisher Staff writer

Drug users from around the country are streaming to South Florida, lured by promises of recovery in a paradise of sunshine and palm trees.

Many private treatment centers here are aggressively marketing in parts of the Northeast and Midwest ravaged by the opioid epidemic, law enforcement officials say.

One study found that three of four people in private treatment in Florida are from out of state. Providers entice people looking for a fresh start, then turn them away after exhausting their insurance benefits, according to a report commissioned in Palm Beach County.

Many of those people wind up on the streets of our communities, returning to drug use and overwhelming police and hospitals, the report says.

Paramedics in Palm Beach County, for example, dealt with 5,000 overdose calls last year. The county is hiring additional coroners to deal with the rising opioid death toll, which jumped from 143 in 2012 to 592 last year.

In Broward County, opioids killed 582 people last year, and Chief Medical Examiner Craig Mallak has said the figure is likely to exceed 1,000 in 2017.

Medical examiners in both counties say they are struggling to keep up with the bodies of people enticed here by a growing number of treatment centers.

Palm Beach County has the highest number of licensed drug treatment providers in the state at 217, compared with 134 in Broward County and 111 in Miami-Dade, according to a Sun Sentinel analysis of data from the Department of Children and Families.

In just two years, 76 new licenses were issued in Palm Beach County and 28 in Broward County, according to the analysis. Miami-Dade County saw its number of licensed providers fall by 11.

In the past, people who ran out of money or insurance could turn to publicly funded treatment programs, which must treat anyone regardless of ability to pay. But the opioid epidemic has overwhelmed the system, said Alton Taylor, CEO of the Drug Abuse Foundation, a publicly funded provider.

“We have fewer services and fewer options today,” Taylor said.

The number of publicly funded treatment beds in Palm Beach County fell from 467 a decade ago to 202 today, Taylor said. The number of detox beds — where a person gets clean before beginning longer-term treatment — has dropped from 50 to 24 in 10 years.

Broward County is in a slightly better situation with 34 detox beds at the Broward Addiction Recovery Center, said Silvia Quintana, CEO of the Broward Behavioral Health Coalition. Still, people without money or insurance — unable to get into private treatment — often wait weeks for a bed in a public facility, Taylor said. Some die before they can get help.

Kicked out of a halfway house and out of options, 30-year-old Patrick Graney went to the publicly funded Drug Abuse Foundation looking for help.

A marketer persuaded Graney to come to Florida from Massachusetts in late July to try to beat a 10-year addiction to opioids at a private center, said his mother, Maureen. When his insurance lapsed, he found himself on the streets with nowhere to go, she said. The Drug Abuse Foundation turned Graney away because there wasn't a bed, and he died of a drug overdose at a nearby hotel just hours later, according to a Delray Beach police report. "If he had gotten into that detox, he would have been on a bus home," Maureen Graney said. Staff writers Ryan Van Velzer and Caitlin McGlade contributed to this report. sswisher@sunsentinel.com, 561-243-6634 or @SkylerSwisher

## 6-22-17 **Scott signs medical marijuana bill**

By Gray Rohrer Tallahassee Bureau

TALLAHASSEE — Florida patients with certain debilitating diseases will have access to medical marijuana under a bill signed into law by Gov. Rick Scott on Friday.

The legislation formalizes an amendment to the state constitution approved by 71 percent of voters last fall that legalized medical marijuana, and sets up regulations for the new industry. Scott, who voted against the amendment, did not issue a statement upon signing the bill. He had earlier stated he would sign the bill.

Patients with cancer, epilepsy, glaucoma, HIV/AIDS, post-traumatic stress disorder, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease or other debilitating conditions are eligible to be prescribed cannabis products by a doctor.

Doctors, though, must go through two hours of training to be certified by the state before being authorized to issue prescriptions. And the state will set up a registry of eligible patients, which doctors must check before prescribing.

The law caps licenses to grow marijuana at 17, and each license holder is allowed up to 25 dispensaries. With each additional 100,000 new eligible patients added to the registry, another license will become available.

Advocates who pushed for the medical marijuana amendment approved by voters say the new law falls short of the amendment's intentions, putting in place overly restrictive regulations. For instance, the law bans smoking of the drug, although it allows for vaping, and for cannabis to be sold in the form of oils and edibles.

Orlando trial attorney John Morgan, who bankrolled the effort to put the amendment on the ballot and get it approved, has vowed to file a lawsuit over the no-smoking provision.

The marijuana measure was one of 38 bills Scott signed Friday.

Among the others was a bill that would help wireless telecommunications companies deal with local government regulations.

The measure (HB 687) would limit the ability of local governments to regulate types of equipment known as "small wireless facilities" in public rights of way.

Material from the News Service of Florida was used in this report.

## 6-26-17 Briefs

Crackdown on drunken boating The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will be increasing enforcement efforts to combat boating under the influence in the days leading up to the Fourth of July, according to an FWC news release. Operation Dry Water is expected to put more officers on the water from June 30 through July 2 and through Independence Day. It is illegal in Florida to operate a vessel w

ith a blood alcohol content of 0.08 percent or higher. Last year, 16 people died in accidents related to alcohol or drug use — 24 percent of fatalities — and July had more reportable accidents (96) and more fatal accidents (eight) than any other month.

Fish and Wildlife report The following is an edited report obtained from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

‡ A Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission officer spoke with high school students at a Florida Atlantic University criminal justice camp, teaching them about the FWC's mission.

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# **News Clip 7/3-4/2017**

## **Palm Beach Post**

**7-3-17 LAKE WORTH GANG ARRESTS**

### **Gang bust nets drugs, money, guns** **Operation targeted some of Lake Worth's worst crime areas.** *By Kevin D. Thompson Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Sheriff's deputies investigate an overnight shooting on Railroad Avenue in Lake Worth in June. A law enforcement operation was held recently to reduce the number of shootings, violent crimes and gang activity in the city. LANNIS WATERS / THE PALM BEACH POST

LAKE WORTH — Pistoleros. Exit 61. Spanish Cobras. Bloods.

Names of exotic drinks? Hardly.

All are gangs the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office says are directly tied to an increase in shootings and violent crimes in Lake Worth in recent months.

To deal with the issue, the sheriff's office's gang unit started Operation Perfect Storm, a 30-day operation that targeted some of the city's worst areas — Ninth

Avenue South, South G Street area, Washington Avenue area, 15th Avenue South, 19th Avenue North area and the Dixie Highway corridor.

The operation ran from mid-May to mid-June and consisted of two squads of gang detectives, the city's street crimes and community policing units, deputies from five PBSO districts and three assistant state attorney from the county's State Attorney's Office, according to the sheriff's office.

Here are some of the results:

- 186 arrests.
- 12 gang members arrested.
- Four weapons seized.
- 1,054 grams of marijuana; 37.1 grams of cocaine; 49.6 grams of crack cocaine; 54.5 grams of heroin seized.
- \$11,796 recovered.

"The operation was wildly successful," Lake Worth Commissioner Omari Hardy said.

"These were high-quality arrests. PBSO was looking to make an impact because there are people out there who are committing some serious crimes."

Commissioner Andy Amoroso said he would like to see more operations like Perfect Storm.

"We embrace anything that's going to clean up our issues," he said.

Commissioner Herman Robinson said he was surprised at what the operation accomplished.

"I don't like to think there's that much gang activity, but apparently there is," Robinson said. "I'm glad PBSO has that kind of resources to generate that type of teamwork."

The sheriff's office declined to talk about the specifics of the operation and would only say the directive was to reduce the number of shootings, violent crimes and gang activity in the city.

Capt. Todd Baer is expected to make a presentation on the operation to commissioners in July.

Hardy, who met with Baer shortly after the PBSO captain emailed all commissioners about Perfect Storm, said there have been about 30 shootings in the Ninth Avenue South/South G Street area in the past year.

"What was so disquieting about those shootings is that the casings (PBSO) was finding were not of handguns," Hardy said. "They were rifle caliber casings ... they really have no business being on the street."

A 46-year-old Hispanic man was shot and killed June 17 at 914 North F St. Two days later, in the city's south end, a man was shot near 15th Avenue South. That man was expected to live.

"(The shootings) are something we're noticing more of," Hardy said at a recent commission meeting.

Hardy said the feedback he's hearing from PBSO is the city doesn't have a gang problem, it has a heroin problem, a troubling concern that goes beyond Lake Worth and the county.

"The heroin problem is attracting all the gang activity," Hardy said. "They're looking at all this heroin being bought and sold in Lake Worth and the gangs have essentially moved their operation to take advantage."

The county leads the state in deaths caused by heroin, according to the Florida Medical Examiner Commission's annual interim report on drugs found in deceased people — a report released just two days after Gov. Rick Scott declared a public health emergency to fight the opioid epidemic.

Amoroso said many of the people involved in criminal activity aren't from the city. "They come to Lake Worth to do bad things," he said. "The bad guys wouldn't be here if somebody wasn't buying the drugs."

Hardy said he would like to see the sheriff's office start a Dixie Highway operation.

"We've added deputies to the beach and downtown when violent crimes have occurred in those areas," he said. "Clearly Dixie Highway is one of those areas where lots of crimes occur. But I know it takes resources and would be tough to do."

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement recently released figures that showed reported crime down 3.1 percent in 2015 compared with the previous year.

The city reported 2,388 crimes, down from 2,465.

Still, the city knows it has a ways to go.

"Perfect Storm may have ended, but there are some other operations going on,"

Amoroso said. "It's ongoing." [kthompson@pbpost.com](mailto:kthompson@pbpost.com)

**Twitter: @KevinDThompson1**

The sheriff's office declined to offer specifics of the operation.

7-3-17 POST WATCHDOG VACATION RENTALS

# Scammers target vacation rentals

**Owners can take precautions to avoid incidents like party that trashed Boynton home last month.**

*By Jennifer Sorentrue and Alexandra Seltzer Palm Beach Post Staff Writers*



This million-dollar Boynton Beach mansion was the site of a huge party thrown by a renter with a stolen credit card. ALEXANDRA SELTZER / THE PALM BEACH POST



Boynton Beach police investigate the scene of an unauthorized house party last month. Homeowner Thierry Chevrier said \$9,000 worth of damage was done to the property and nearly \$8,000 worth of items stolen during the party. CONTRIBUTED BY OZZIE LEAL



BOYNTONBEACH— BoyntonBeach homeowner Thierry Chevrier, who thought he was renting his \$1 million mansion to a vacationing family, learned the hard way about the risk of house parties and property damage.

As reported by The Palm Beach Post, the reservation was made through a popular travel website and paid for with a stolen credit card. An elaborate party in the home drew hundreds of guests and resulted in thousands of dollars in damage and missing belongings. Chevrier said that all told, there was \$9,000 in damage to the property and nearly \$8,000 worth of items stolen during the June 9 party.

House or mansion parties are popping up all over Palm Beach County and the nation. It's a way for underground organizers to make some fast cash at someone else's expense.

Industry experts say the growing popularity of vacation rentals has made property owners easy targets for these types of bashes. Booking websites like HomeAway and Airbnb allow property owners to rent out rooms, cottages and even large mansions almost instantly.

"There really are a lot of scams out there," said West Palm Beach resident Rick Rose, president of Palm Beach Vacation Rentals, a property management company that specializes in vacation rentals. "It is a real problem in the vacation rental industry."

Vacation rentals have been growing in popularity as more travelers look for alternatives to traditional hotels. Larger homes can be appealing and offer savings for families who might need multiple hotel rooms to accommodate everyone in their party. The homes' kitchens also allow families to save on food costs.

Rose said it is critical for homeowners to make sure they are licensed and insured before listing their property on sites such as HomeAway or Airbnb. He also recommends that homeowners who don't live in the area hire a management company to keep a close eye on the property and personally check in guests.

"An incident like that really goes to show you that you really want to be in a house that is locally managed, and you want to be properly licensed and insured," Rose said of the house party in Chevrier's home. "In the state of Florida, we have very lax laws. The owners can put it on a rental site and try to wing it on their own, and have a housekeeper clean it for them. With no local management, they are just totally exposing themselves to something like that."

State rules prevent local governments from deciding how often and how long single-family homes can be rented — something they were stripped of in 2011 because of the activism of vacation rental industry lobbyists. Local governments that had minimum-stay requirements in place before the state law was enacted were able to continue to enforce those rules.

Jordan Hoefar, a spokesman for HomeAway, the website that Chevrier used to put his home up for rent, said the company helps match travelers and property owners, but doesn't vet people making online bookings. It does allow users to review both travelers and properties — information that can be used to decide whether to book and rent properties, he said.

"We do our best to match owners and travelers, but we can't take credit for that process," Hoefar said.

Although HomeAway allows property owners to require renters to buy property protection insurance, the coverage is provided through an outside partner and applies only to accidental damage, not theft and other types of criminal behavior, Hoefar said.

In Chevrier's case, Hoefar said the insurance had been bought, but it was limited to \$1,000 in damage. However, the damage wasn't covered under the plan because it wasn't accidental and a stolen credit card was used to buy the insurance.

Hoefar said the company "feels horribly" for Chevrier and has offered to reimburse him \$1,000 for damages.

"Hopefully Mr. Chevrier will be covered by his homeowner's insurance," Hoefar said.

"Our team has reached out to reimburse him for \$1,000 — the equivalent of his damage deposit."

As for the stolen credit card, Hoefar said the company uses an outside vendor to process transactions and doesn't have any control over refunds that are requested as a result of fraudulent activity.

"We don't have control over what happens with the charge back," Hoefar said.

Ben Breit, a spokesman for Airbnb, said its bookings include a "Million Dollar Host Guarantee," which covers listings for up to \$1 million in damage and would protect against reservations made with stolen credit cards. The website also offers "Host Protection Insurance," which gives renters protection against third-party claims of property damage or bodily injury up to \$1 million.

"In addition, we do a number of things to try to prevent the use of stolen credit cards in the first place," Breit said.

Denis Hanks, executive director of the Florida Vacation Rental Managers Association, said stolen credit cards and other scams have become a big problem for the vacation rental and hotel industries.

"We have even heard that in the U.K. and some other European countries, there are manuals on how you can travel to hot spots like Florida and get things for free," Hanks said.



The global vacation rental market is expected to reach nearly \$170 billion by 2019, according to a report released last year by Research and Markets, a market research firm.

In Florida, vacation rentals are a \$31 billion-a-year industry, Hanks said. Nearly 113 million tourists visited the state last year, and half of them stayed in something other than a hotel, he said.

Florida accounts for roughly 25 percent of the vacation rental market in the United States, Hanks said.

Meanwhile, when making bookings, Rose said it is important for consumers to check whether the property is properly insured.

Rose also recommends that those looking to book a vacation rental stay away from classified listing sites such as Craigslist. Consider contacting the local management company directly when making a reservation, he said.

"There are all kinds of potential threats," Rose said. "One thing to avoid all of that is to purchase the vacation rental directly through the management company. You are reducing your risk that you are going to get scammed." [jsorenttrue@pbpost.com](mailto:jsorenttrue@pbpost.com)

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## 7-3-17 Protesters, counterprotesters air views on president on march to Mar-a-Lago

### Hundred against Trump make call for impeachment.

*By Paige Fry Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Protesters march down the road to Mar-a-Lago on Sunday afternoon while voicing their demands for the impeachment of President Donald Trump. PAIGE FRY / THE PALM BEACH POST  
PALM BEACH — To the gates of Mar-a-Lago, about 100 people walked along the road of the Palm Beach shoreline carrying their handmade signs and chanting rhymes calling for the impeachment of President Donald Trump.

The Impeachment March, a nationwide protest, made its mark on the steps of Trump's Palm Beach estate.

Two protest groups, United Against Trump Pence and Pop Up Protest South Florida, spent about two weeks planning the local march, said Mark Offerman, an organizer with Pop Up. Offerman, 43, of Wellington, led the single-file march at about 6:30 p.m. Sunday along the small strip of grass next to the road lined with mansions. But not too far behind the protesters, about half as many Trump supporters, some on their own, others with Zone 6 of the Three Percenters, yelled back at the chants against the president while carrying large Trump campaign and American flags. "We need a leader — not a creepy tweeter!" the protesters yelled, and, "No Donald Trump, no KKK, no racist USA!"

As the group marched for about 30 minutes to their destination, people drove by either giving a fist up in support and yelling back encouragement or angrily honking while giving a thumbs down.

Either way, the protesters yelled, "Park your car and join us!"

Offerman said it was important to bring the march to Palm Beach because "we have an offseason resident who treats this place as his own personal trash bin."

As long as Trump is in office, he said, he plans to resist him in any legal way possible.

He said he was happy with the turnout of protesters and Trump supporters alike.

"It's their right just as much as it's our right to protest," he said. "But we're confident that we're the ones in the right to defend our nation."

Kevin Haas, 46, of West Palm Beach, also stood at the front of the pack. Walking to Mar-a-Lago was going to a landmark, and they were coming arm-in-arm to send a message, he said. Every time Trump comes to Palm Beach County, it's a burden on the taxpayers.

Haas said he is tired of Trump lying — who would pay for the border wall, supporting the LGBT community and not touching the Affordable Care Act, he said, were examples.

"He's a con artist. He would make \$20 on his mother if he could," Haas said.

One of the youngest legal voters in the group, Ellie Brodrick, 18, of Greenacres, walked in the middle of the group with her mom.

She couldn't vote in the last election, but she's been showing up at protests and marches until she can cast her own vote.

"Your parents must be so proud!" one of the Trump supporters yelled at her.

"They are — my mom's right here," she laughed back at them.

"Change needs to happen," she said. "To do that, we have to speak up."

Wearing an army-green outfit and holding an American flag, Scott Jones, 47, of Fort Lauderdale, was the Three Percenters Zone 6 leader. He organized his group to show Palm Beach an opposition to the Impeachment March and respect for the president.

"What angers me is their hypocrisy," he said. "As for ending up in front of Mar-a-Lago, it's poetic justice." [pfry@pbpost.com](mailto:pfry@pbpost.com)

Mark Offerman, an organizer with Pop Up Protest South Florida, said it was important to bring the march to Palm Beach because 'we have an offseason resident who treats this place as his own personal trash bin.'

## 7-4-17 New ‘stand your ground’ law ruled unconstitutional

By Rafael Olmeda Staff writer

A new law that makes it easier for accused criminals to invoke Florida’s “stand your ground” self-defense claim was struck down by a Miami judge on Monday.

But the ruling does not apply anywhere else in the state — for now.

Miami-Dade Circuit Judge Milton Hirsch ruled the Florida Legislature overstepped its authority in crafting the law, which took effect when it was signed by Gov. Rick Scott on June 9. The law shifts the burden of proof in stand your ground claims from the defense to the prosecution.

Under the previous law, a defendant invoking the stand your ground defense was required to prove his case to a judge by a preponderance of the evidence, a legal standard that means there’s more evidence in favor of self-defense than there is against it.

If a judge decided the defendant did not prove his claim during a pre-trial hearing, the case would go to the jury. The defendant would still be allowed to argue self-defense, and prosecutors were allowed to tell jurors about testimony from the hearing.

The new law makes it the prosecution’s responsibility to prove by “clear and convincing evidence” that the charged crime was not an act of self-defense.

Hirsch ruled Monday the change is unconstitutional because the state Legislature does not have the authority to establish the kind of legal procedures that govern court proceedings.

“Because questions of burden of proof are procedural rather than substantive, I necessarily find the demised legislative changes to be unconstitutional,” Hirsch wrote.

Hirsch’s ruling would not apply to the rest of the state unless appeals courts, or the state Supreme Court, decides to uphold it. And supporters of the law predicted an appeal.

“I’d be surprised if this decision wasn’t overturned by the appellate court,” said Sen. Rob Bradley, R-Fleming Island, a former prosecutor who sponsored the legislation.

House Speaker Richard Corcoran, a lawyer, also predicted the circuit judge’s ruling would be overturned.

“It is the role of the Legislature to write the laws that govern how Floridians may exercise their statutory and constitutional rights,” Corcoran, R-Land O’ Lakes, said. “The Florida House will continue to stand with ordinary citizens who exercise their right to self-defense. We look forward to this decision being reversed on appeal.”

But Broward defense lawyers who have invoked the stand your ground law said while the new law would increase the odds their clients would walk, Hirsch’s interpretation of the state constitution was correct.

“It’s a classic separation of powers issue,” said Frank Maister, who has tried to use the “stand your ground” law to clear James Patrick Wonder of a manslaughter charge stemming from the 2008 shooting of a Customs and Border Protection agent in Pembroke Pines.

“The Legislature has invaded the province of the judiciary,” he said. “As defense lawyers, we would like the state to prove you’re not entitled to immunity by clear and convincing evidence. But we also fight every day to defend the constitution, and the separation of powers is one of the most important of principles.”

Attorney H. Dohn Williams said the law required prosecutors to prove what wasn't going through the defendant's mind at the time of the alleged crime.

Williams represented Nour Jarkas, Broward's first defendant to be granted immunity under the "stand your ground" law in 2011.

Both Williams and Maister said the new law effectively forces prosecutors to try the accused twice — once in front of a judge, and the second time in front of a jury.

"The statute works greatly in my favor," said Williams. "But I predict Hirsch's reasoning will probably be affirmed."

As a legal standard, "clear and convincing evidence" is a difficult burden to meet. Florida statutes define the standard as "evidence that is precise, explicit, lacking in confusion, and of such weight that it produces a firm belief or conviction, without hesitation, about the matter in issue."

Only two legal standards are stronger — "beyond a reasonable doubt," which is required to convict someone of a crime, and "proof evident; presumption great," which is a finding of certain guilt invoked to deny bail to defendants accused of capital crimes.

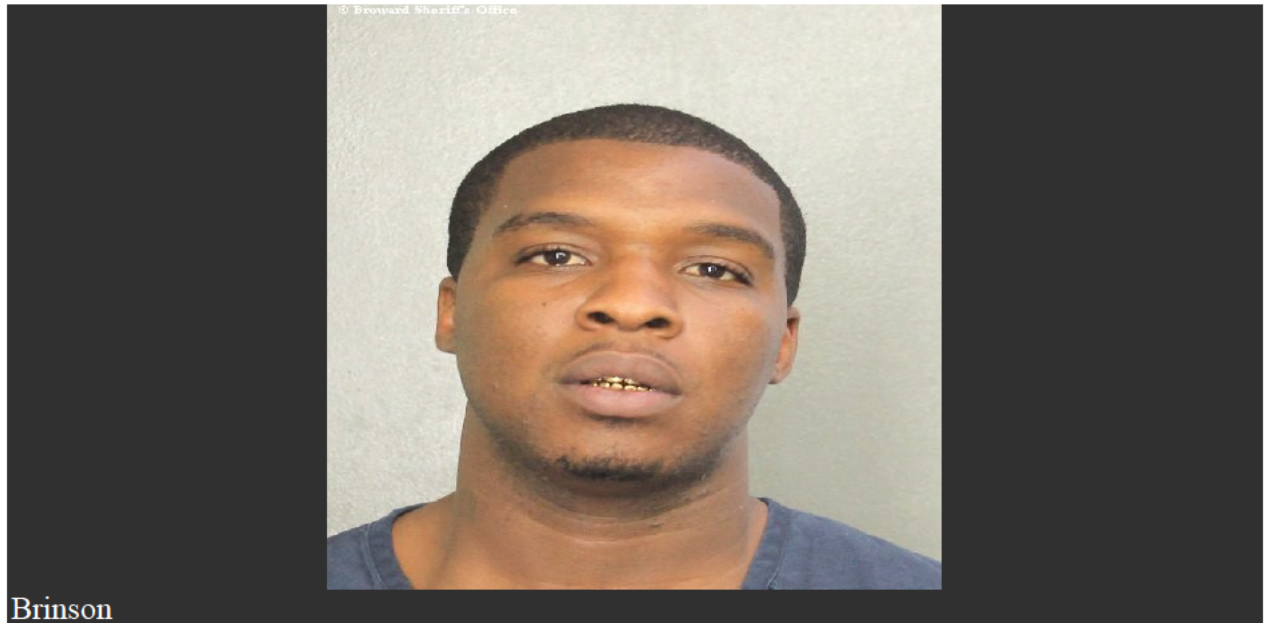
To win an acquittal, a defendant and his attorney need to convince a jury that there is reasonable doubt, which is an argument that the prosecution has failed to prove its case.

Williams said raising reasonable doubt is the easiest standard for a self-defense claim, but it's also the riskiest because if it fails, the client is convicted. The proposal was approved along party lines on the final day of the regular legislative session that ended early in May.

"Yet another ill-conceived law rammed thru the legislature by GOP is ruled unconstitutional," Rep. Carlos Guillermo Smith, an Orlando Democrat, tweeted shortly after Hirsch's Monday ruling.

Information from The News Service of Florida was used to supplement this report.

## 7-4-17 Robbery added to Facebook gun video charge



Brinson

By Paula McMahon Staff writer

A Broward man accused of waving a gun around while singing and dancing on Facebook Live earlier this year is now facing charges he also took part in a cross-dressing jewelry store robbery. Both crimes were captured on video: One was streamed live on Facebook from Fort Lauderdale on March 20 and the other was recorded by security cameras at the Port St. Lucie store on April 13.

Christopher Brinson was arrested April 21 on a federal charge of being a convicted felon in possession of a gun. He pleaded not guilty and is jailed without bond in Miami while that case is pending.

On Thursday, federal prosecutors filed new criminal charges against Brinson. He's now accused of robbery and using a gun during a crime of violence: the robbery of LSO Jewelers and Repair on St. Lucie West Boulevard.

If convicted in the Facebook Live case, Brinson would face a maximum punishment of 15 years to life in federal prison. The robbery-related charges carry a maximum penalty of 20 years to life in prison.

The investigation started when FBI agents saw the Facebook Live video, which features Brinson and a friend singing and dancing outside a convenience store in the 700 block of Northwest 22nd Road in Fort Lauderdale's Franklin Park neighborhood.

The Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco Firearms and Explosives, which generally investigates allegations of gun possession by convicted felons, took over the Facebook video case April 5. Convicted felons are banned from even touching a gun.

Brinson later acknowledged it was him on the video, which was posted publicly on his friend's Facebook page, but denied that he was brandishing a real gun. He insisted the gun, which was never found, was a realistic-looking replica that did not fire bullets and that he wasn't breaking the law.



Brinson pointed the gun so close to the cellphone camera that it was clear the weapon was a “genuine Glock pistol” with no inner barrel, according to a ballistics expert quoted in court records.

A judge ordered Brinson detained without bond.

Meanwhile, the ATF was investigating the jewelry store robbery in Port St. Lucie, which occurred one week before Brinson was arrested in the Facebook case.

Investigators said three men, wearing bright red lipstick, makeup and women’s clothing, walked into the jewelry store and said they were shopping for an engagement ring.

Staff in the store quickly realized the poorly disguised “women” were armed robbers with guns and a walkie-talkie, they told investigators.

The three robbers spent about 10 minutes in the store and grabbed nearly \$1 million worth of jewelry, investigators said. But when an accomplice outside radioed them that police had arrived, the robbers dropped the loot and ran out with just one Rolex watch.

Jerome Simmons, 29, of Fort Lauderdale, was arrested nearby as he crawled out of a bush, wearing only his underwear. Police said they found a pink sweatshirt and pants, a wig and shoes under a nearby vehicle.

Hardy, 33, also of Fort Lauderdale, was arrested in Orlando after spending nearly a month on the lam, authorities said.

Investigators said that after the robbery he fled to a nearby house where he kidnapped four adults at gunpoint and forced them to drive him south to Fort Lauderdale. The four victims were released, uninjured, after dropping him off, according to court records.

Hardy was linked to the crime by investigators, who said they found his fingerprints in the Port St. Lucie house and on a water bottle he dropped in the Fort Lauderdale parking lot.

The fourth suspect has not been publicly identified.

Simmons has pleaded not guilty to robbery and weapons charges. Hardy has pleaded not guilty to robbery, weapons, carjacking and kidnapping charges.

Brinson is due in court in the next few days to indicate if he will fight the robbery charges.

His trial on the Facebook weapon case is tentatively scheduled for later this month in Miami.

Trial in the robbery case is also tentatively scheduled for later this month in West Palm Beach.

**From:** [Anderson, Cassandra L](#)  
**Subject:** News Clips 7/5/17  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 05, 2017 11:01:48 AM  
**Attachments:** [News Clips.docx](#)

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# **News Clip 7/5/2017**

## **Palm Beach Post**

**7-5-17 BELLE GLADE**

### **Cops: Woman pepper-sprayed ex's girlfriend**

*By Paige Fry Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Donneisha McDermott, 18, is accused of battery, assault.

**BELLE GLADE** — An 18-year-old Belle Glade woman is accused of pepper-spraying her ex-boyfriend's new girlfriend, but the victim punched her in the face and gave her a black eye during the fight, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office said.

Donneisha McDermott is facing charges of aggravated battery and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon for the attack that occurred late June 20 at West Avenue A, according to a probable-cause affidavit. A judge set McDermott's bail at \$3,000 on June 21, and she remained in jail Monday.

The victim told deputies that her boyfriend had been receiving multiple calls from McDermott. Then the girlfriend said she also got a text from McDermott that told her to tell her boyfriend to come outside.

The boyfriend walked to the end of his apartment's balcony to get a better view of the street, and he heard a noise that sounded like someone hitting a vehicle window, the report said.

He walked to Southwest 10th Street, from where the noise appeared to have come, and saw McDermott near his brown 1997 Toyota Corolla, the report said. She had a knife file and pepper spray in her hands.

She then walked toward his girlfriend, who was still standing in front of the apartment building on West Avenue A. The girlfriend told McDermott that she didn't want to get into a fight over a man.

The report said McDermott then pepper-sprayed the woman in the face. The woman extended her arm to block the spray.

McDermott then raised the knife file to swing it at the woman, but the woman grabbed both of McDermott's arms.

The boyfriend then removed the knife file from McDermott's hand, the report said. The woman then pushed McDermott to the ground and began to punch her in the face.

According to the report, the woman said McDermott bit her twice during the fight. [pfry@pbpost.com](mailto:pfry@pbpost.com)

## 7-5-17 CRIME

# Man facing battery in woman's beating, cutting

*By Paige Fry Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Rivera

LAKE WORTH — A Lake Worth man is accused of breaking three of a woman's ribs and leaving her in need of 51 stitches to her forehead and near her right eye following an altercation last month, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office said. On June 18, the woman told authorities she only remembers drinking a bottle of red wine and arguing with James Rivera II, 39, whom she said is a "crack-head" and is "crazy and has mental issues," according to the affidavit showing probable cause for his arrest.

Rivera is accused of aggravated battery with a deadly weapon after a friend of the woman saw him punching and kicking her while screaming profanities. He was arrested on June 18 and a judge set his bail at \$5,000. He remained in custody Monday.

Rivera told deputies he only remembers drinking a 12-pack of beer while arguing with the woman. He left the house after they were arguing, and when he returned home, he noticed the tables were pushed everywhere and things were out of place. He said he started bleeding after punching the house's exterior wall.

A friend of the woman, who called authorities, told investigators she went to their home during the fight and became concerned when she noticed the woman had a black eye. According to the affidavit, she asked the woman to come to her house after Rivera began to threaten both of them. The woman walked to the friend's home but then insisted on going back to her own house.

The friend said she walked back to the house and saw Rivera standing over the woman in his red boxers, according to the affidavit. She told deputies she hid in the bushes and saw Rivera punching and kicking the woman. The friend then called 911.

According to the affidavit, once Rivera left the house, the friend ran back and found the woman on the bedroom floor, her forehead bleeding.

When deputies arrived, Rivera couldn't be found, the report said. The woman was taken to JFK Medical Center in Atlantis, the report said.

Later, a neighbor called authorities to inform them Rivera had returned home. He was then taken into custody. [pfry@pbpost.com](mailto:pfry@pbpost.com)

**7-5-17 PALM BEACH**

## Woman flees guards, fights cops at Mar-a-Lago grounds

*By Aleese Kopf Palm Beach Daily News*



Equi

PALM BEACH — A Lake Park woman was arrested Saturday in Palm Beach after running from security guards and fighting with police on President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago Club property, according to police records.

Courtney Elizabeth Equi, 27, was charged with resisting officers with violence, a felony, and loitering and prowling, a misdemeanor. She was booked into the Palm Beach County Jail early Saturday morning and released that night on a \$3,000 bond. Mar-a-Lago security guards waved down a Palm Beach County sheriff's deputy just after midnight Friday after they saw a woman standing in the middle of South Ocean Boulevard in front of the club, according to the report. Club security said they saw Equi jump into the bushes on Mar-a-Lago property and then found her hiding under a ramp on the beach leading to the Beach Club.

Palm Beach County officers said they saw Equi run from the security guards and jump into the ocean.

Equi resisted handcuffs, kicked officers and attempted to bite one officer and grab his stun gun. Police said she smelled of alcohol.

Officers said that Equi refused to give her name, but Palm Beach County correctional officers identified her using fingerprints.

About 100 people marched from Worth Avenue to the gates of Mar-a-Lago on Sunday night as part of the nationwide Impeachment March

protest. [akopf@pbdailynews.com](mailto:akopf@pbdailynews.com) Twitter: [@aleesekopf](https://twitter.com/aleesekopf)

7-5-17 POST EXCLUSIVE MEDICAL MARIJUANA

## **Expanded legal pot sales nearing**

### **Those with severe illnesses will be able to purchase medical marijuana, but they won't be smoking it.**

*By Jeff Ostrowski Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

Floridians with severe illnesses are just a few weeks and a few hundred dollars away from buying weed through the state's newly expanded medical marijuana program.

"You could probably go see a doctor today, and within a couple of weeks be purchasing marijuana," said Ben Pollara, executive director of Florida for Care, the group pushing politicians to set patient-friendly rules.

One caveat: Patients can't buy pot in the leafy green buds most commonly associated with the drug. Instead, cannabis is delivered through vaporizers, oral drops and nasal sprays.

Florida voters in November overwhelmingly passed Amendment 2, a measure that makes marijuana available to people with cancer, epilepsy, HIV, post-traumatic stress disorder and other ailments. Gov. Rick Scott on June 23 signed a bill that eliminates a 90-day waiting period for pot patients.

Scott also removed sales taxes from cannabis transactions. Before he signed the bill, patients paid county sales taxes — typically 7 percent — on medical marijuana.

Patients who want to try weed start by visiting one of the 800 or so doctors who are permitted by the Florida Department of Health to recommend cannabis. Prices vary, but the initial visit typically costs about \$200.

If the physician signs off, the patient applies to the Office of Medical Marijuana Use for a state ID card, which costs \$75.

Next, patients find a supplier. The state has licensed seven organizations to grow, distribute and sell medical marijuana.

For Palm Beach County residents, the nearest retail location is near Miami International Airport. But dispensaries are allowed to deliver weed, as long as the product is transported by their employees, and not by FedEx, UPS or another carrier. The delivery fee will set you back \$25.

Medical marijuana patient Karen Goldstein of Broward County said she has been in Florida's cannabis program since March. She declined to disclose the medical condition for which she is being treated. Even when Florida's 90-day wait was in effect, winning permission for legal pot was a straightforward process, Goldstein said.



"It's not difficult," said Goldstein, who's executive director of pro-pot group NORML of Florida.

Now, with no waiting period, it's even easier. Some 20,000 Floridians already have registered for the state's marijuana program, and proponents expect perhaps 500,000 patients to sign up in the coming years.

One quirk of Florida's regulatory scheme is that marijuana isn't sold in smoking form, so state-licensed dispensaries aren't offering joints and bongs. John Morgan, the Orlando attorney who bankrolled the Amendment 2 campaigns in 2014 and 2016, has vowed to sue to force the state to make marijuana that is smoked available. Goldstein said she uses a vaporizer pen to consume cannabis, which she prefers to prescription drugs.

"It is the safer alternative to most of what they're offering in pharmacies," Goldstein said. "It helps me sleep."

Florida's cannabis sales have ramped up so quickly after Amendment 2 passed because the state already had created a budding marijuana industry. Sales of so-called noneuphoric marijuana oil began in 2016 to patients with cancer, seizure disorders and other ailments.

That type of cannabis, also known as Charlotte's Web, is low in tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, which makes users feel high, but it's packed with another compound known as cannabidiol, or CBD. CBD is thought to ease convulsions, inflammation, anxiety and nausea.

Another measure enacted in Tallahassee in 2016 let patients with terminal illnesses use full-strength marijuana, so long as doctors certify they're likely to die within a year. The pot growers created to meet demand from those programs are allowed to sell cannabis under Amendment 2.

Marijuana has gone so mainstream that fully 71 percent of Floridians voted in favor of Amendment 2 in November, during the same election that saw Donald Trump easily win the state.

Despite the electorate's embrace of weed, pot remains a touchy political subject. Jeff Sessions, Trump's attorney general, has hinted at a crackdown in states such as Colorado and Washington, which allow the sale of recreational marijuana. Pot remains federally illegal, rendering it an all-cash business.

The Republican-dominated Legislature failed to pass a regulatory scheme during this year's regular session, waiting instead for a special session. And some 250 counties and municipalities in Florida have blocked pot shops from opening within their borders.

As a result, Pollara said, "It is available, but it's not widely available."

Compared with thriving cannabis industries in California and Colorado, Florida's product choices remain narrow, said Dr. Anthony Hall, a Lauderhill physician.

"It's still not a big marketplace," Hall said. "From the patient's perspective, there's limited choice."

That means it's hard to customize the ratio of THC to CBD in a patient's pot. What's more, Florida cannabis tends to cost 10 percent to 40 percent more than marijuana sold in other states, Hall said.

While Hall has embraced the therapeutic uses of cannabis, physicians remain generally skeptical of weed's usefulness. Dr. Barry Seidman of Delray Beach paid \$1,000 for an eight-hour course that certified him to recommend pot, but he said he has yet to see a patient who would benefit from weed.

"The list of diagnoses (in Amendment 2) are very few," Seidman said. "It's almost too much work for the doctor who's prescribing it."

While Seidman said he's trying to keep an open mind about cannabis, he's not convinced that it's really medicine.

"I have no strong liking for marijuana," Seidman said. "If it were illegal, I'd be fine with that, too."

Pot proponents say weed's stigma remains a stumbling block to the growth of the marijuana industry.

"We're really trying to move mindsets," said Monica Russell, spokeswoman for Surterra Wellness, which grows marijuana at locations in Tampa and Tallahassee.

"It's an all-natural, safe alternative to something like an opiate. This could help a lot of people with many different illnesses." [jostrowski@pbpost.com](mailto:jostrowski@pbpost.com)

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7-5-17 POST IN-DEPTH OPIOID CRISIS

# Scott adds another 60 days to opioid health emergency

*By Joe Capozzi Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

## WHAT THE POST REPORTED

A 2-year long investigation by The Palm Beach Post's Investigative Team exposed widespread corruption in the county's billion-dollar addiction treatment industry, including patient brokering and insurance fraud. In November, The Post told the story of the 216 people who died from heroin-related overdoses in Palm Beach County in 2015.



Scott

Gov. Rick Scott's public health emergency declaration in the fight against the opioid epidemic will be extended another 60 days.

Scott's original executive order, signed May 3, had been set to expire Monday. But he signed an order late this past week extending the declaration for two more months.

Scott's latest order comes two weeks after Palm Beach County Commissioner Melissa McKinlay sent a letter asking for the extension. Earlier this year, McKinlay was one of the first public officials to lobby Scott to issue the declaration.

"As this declaration nears the end of its initial 60-day authorization it is clear that the crisis is showing no signs of slowing down," she said in a June 14 letter to Scott.

"The statistics continue to paint a dire picture: In Palm Beach County alone, there have already been 311 overdoses through the first five months of 2017, compared to 258 over the same period last year."

The order allows the state to quickly draw from a two-year \$54 million federal grant awarded to Florida on April 21 to provide prevention, treatment and recovery-support services. Without the order, it would have taken months for the state to distribute the money to local communities.

The declaration also calls for Florida Surgeon General Celeste Philip to issue a standing order requiring pharmacists to have on hand for first responders the overdose reversal drug naloxone, also known by the brand name Narcan.

McKinlay said she wouldn't be surprised if Scott issues more extensions to the declaration later this year and possibly next year.

"The opioid epidemic continues to worsen in Florida and we need to do all we can to direct the proper resources towards our response efforts," she said. "Recognizing the emergency order can only be issued and extended for 60-day periods, I thank the governor for issuing the first of what may become many extensions."

This past week, McKinlay moderated a panel discussion on the opioid crisis at a Florida Association of Counties meeting at the county convention center.

McKinlay, in her June 14 letter, also asked Scott to make sure that treatment centers that receive money from the Department of Children and Families accept patients who use suboxone and other treatment programs.

As of now, the Palm Beach County Health Care District is the only local public treatment facility that uses such programs.

"I ask that you ensure that any facilities that receive funding through DCF follow these practices," McKinlay wrote. Doing so, she said, will help "ensure that individuals suffering from opioid addiction are being provided the best opportunity to sustain recovery." [jcapozzi@pbpost.com](mailto:jcapozzi@pbpost.com) [Twitter: @jcapozzipbpost](https://twitter.com/jcapozzipbpost)

## 7-5-17 COURTS

### **Judge halts rule change to 'stand your ground' Law bolsters rights of defendants; supporters predict an appeal.** *By Jim Turner News Service of Florida*

TALLAHASSEE — A Miami judge on Monday ruled that a change to the state's "stand your ground" self-defense law signed nearly a month ago by Gov. Rick Scott, intended to better protect the rights of defendants, is unconstitutional.

Supporters of the controversial law, approved by the GOP-dominated Legislature earlier this year, called the ruling "a notable setback" and predicted an appeal.

"I'd be surprised if this decision wasn't overturned by the appellate court," Fleming Island Republican Sen. Rob Bradley, a former prosecutor who sponsored the legislation, said after Monday's ruling by Miami-Dade Circuit Judge Milton Hirsch. In a 14-page order, Hirsch wrote that the Legislature overstepped its authority with the change, which involves pre-trial burden-of-proof.

The statutory change violates Florida's separation of powers doctrine because it amounts to a "procedural" revision, something that must be handled by the Florida Supreme Court, Hirsch wrote.

While the Legislature makes "substantive" law, the judiciary is in charge of procedural matters, the judge wrote.

The constitutional separation of powers bars the legislative, judicial and executive branches from exercising powers consigned to another branch, Hirsch explained. "It applies whether the purposes of the overreaching branch of government are benign or otherwise. It applies even when its application prevents a seemingly salutary change in law from becoming law. It applies in such cases because experience with government has shown that any momentary benefit expected from a change in law is usually outweighed by the lasting detriment resulting from a change in our constitutional system of checks and balances," he wrote.

The new law, the only major gun-related measure to advance this year, shifted the burden of proof from defendants to prosecutors in the pre-trial hearings.

In "stand your ground" cases, pre-trial evidentiary hearings are held to determine whether defendants should be immune from prosecution.

Critics argued, in part, that the change would lead to cases ending before all the facts are revealed.

Proponents of the bill, supported by groups such as the National Rifle Association, said shifting the burden of proof would better protect the rights of defendants.

NRA lobbyist Marion Hammer, a former president of the national organization, said it was difficult to comment on the ruling.

"It is so bad I'm at a loss for words," she said.

Bradley, who backed the change the past two sessions, said the law simply cleared up an ambiguity found in the original 2005 "stand your ground" law, the first of its kind in the nation.

Bradley said the legislation (SB

128) was drafted as a response to "clarify" what he called a misinterpretation of "stand your ground" by the state Supreme Court, in a case known as *Bretherick v. State*.

The Florida Supreme Court ruled in July 2015 that people who use the defense have the burden of showing they should be shielded from prosecution. In "stand your ground" cases, pre-trial evidentiary hearings are held to determine whether defendants are immune from prosecution.

Under the new law, which applies retroactively, the burden of proof is on prosecutors.

"Once the Legislature filled in the blanks, which is what we did, that certainly was an action that was within the appropriate purview of the Legislature," Bradley said.

House Speaker Richard Corcoran, a lawyer, also predicted that the circuit judge's ruling would be overturned.



"It is the role of the Legislature to write the laws that govern how Floridians may exercise their statutory and constitutional rights," Corcoran, R-Land O' Lakes, said in a statement.

Scott spokeswoman Kerri Wyland said Monday that the governor's office was reviewing the decision.

## 7-5-17 LAKE WORTH FILM FESTIVAL AND ART EXHIBIT

# Film and art festival raises addiction awareness, hope Three-day gathering offers works by people recovering from drugs.

*By Joe Capozzi Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Mark Sanchez (from left), Vic James, Manny Mendez, Richard Jackson and Isaac Rivera, all recovering addicts and artists, will be hosting a three-day Art of Recovery Film Festival and Art Exhibit in downtown Lake Worth. The festival begins Friday and runs through the weekend.

DAMON HIGGINS / THE PALM BEACH POST





An artwork called "Art for Hope," by Lake Worth artist Manny Mendez, includes images of area people who have died in the opioid epidemic. Art by recovering addicts will be on display at the Armory Art Center Annex this weekend. DAMON HIGGINS / THE PALM BEACH POST  
LAKE WORTH — Manny Mendez was in prison when he honed his drawing and painting skills.

"It was one of the only ways I could find peace in a place that didn't allow it," said Mendez, who has spent 11 years in Florida jails since age 17 for crimes related to his addiction to crack cocaine.

"It's funny, because I looked to art to quiet my mind when I was in chaos. Not only did I quiet my mind, I found my spirituality as well."

Now, Mendez and other recovering addicts with creative outlets are embarking on a project that none of them could have envisioned during their darkest days — they're hosting an art and film festival.

As its name suggests, the Art of Recovery Film Festival and Art Exhibit, set for Friday through Sunday in downtown Lake Worth, will feature paintings, documentary films, photographs and poetry about drugs and addiction.

And the artists are recovering addicts seeking to use their work to offer hope and inspiration for families affected by an epidemic killing thousands of people across Florida and the United States.

"It's about breaking the stigma and raising awareness," said co-host Vic James, a photographer and recovering addict who said he has been sober since his

**ON FACEBOOK**

Keep up with The Post's complete coverage of Lake Worth on its Facebook page dedicated to the city. On Facebook, search for Post on Lake Worth. dad died of a heroin overdose on Father's Day 2014.

Films will be shown at the Stonzek Theatre at the Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Artwork will be displayed a few blocks away at the Armory Art Center Annex, 1121 Lucerne Ave. Admission is free. Proceeds from the sale of food and artwork will go to charities that help addicts.

"This event is about sharing hope in a different platform other than the traditional ways. We just want to inspire and let them know there is a better way," said Mendez, 45, who is approaching six years of sobriety.

"Some people ask why would we do something to honor people who made some poor choices? I tell them that those people were folks, sons, daughters, my friends. This stigma that we are being labeled with, it's wrong."

The festival, he said, offers a chance for the general public to "look at living, recovering addicts doing some cool things."

The festival will feature work by 10 artists and three filmmakers, including Amanda Joan Quimper, a recovery advocate from Ohio who has hosted a series of awareness films called "Stripped Clean."

A guest speaker will be Leonard Buschel, a substance abuse counselor who co-founded the nonprofit recovery group Writers in Treatment in Hollywood, Calif., and who is executive director of the Reel Recovery Film Festival.

Mendez said some of the festival's artwork was inspired by The Palm Beach Post's special report, "Generation Heroin," which featured a front page made up of individual photographs of the 216 people in Palm Beach County who died in 2015 of overdoses.

Some of that artwork on display in Lake Worth will be taken to Washington, D.C., for the Fed Up Rally on Aug. 31, International Overdose Awareness Day.

The artists will consider the festival a success if it can offer hope to even one addict, said Mark Sanchez, another festival organizer.

"This is not a generation lost," he said. "This is a generation that is going to save another generation."

### **Art became 'solace'**

For Mendez, the art and film festival took root when he was a kid. He liked to dabble in drawing and sketching. "But drugs and alcohol became more important," he said.

"When I was in prison, art became my solace, my comfort."

He got out in 2000, but still struggled to stay clean. He said his sobriety started in 2012. "All I did was paint and go to (support) meetings."

Later that year, with six months clean, he collaborated with filmmaker Chris Bivins on a 20-minute documentary, mostly shot in Bryant Park, about addicts talking about their struggles with drugs.

In 2013, Mendez collaborated with filmmaker Richard Jackson of NYCEFlx, who started shooting short films of Mendez and James talking about how their artwork helped them over-

**The festival will be a success if it offers hope to even one addict.** come addiction. That blossomed into five documentaries about the journeys of recovering addicts.

A film about women in recovery, titled "For Reel: Women's Stories," was featured at the Reel Recovery Film Festival in Delray Beach in 2013. A year later, the film was screened at the Palm Beach International Film Festival.

In 2014, Mendez and James hosted the "Art of Recovery" exhibit, which was held at the Within Recovery Café and Bookstore in Lake Worth. Although that festival did not include films, Mendez said it got him thinking about hosting a film festival one day.

In 2015, he made a documentary of local children talking about what it was like to grow up with parents who were addicted to drugs. That film will be shown at this weekend's festival.

Also in 2015, Mendez, James and Jackson went to the Reel Recovery Film Festival in New York City, which featured a screening of their first 90-minute film about artists in recovery.

At first, the films were an outlet for Mendez's creativity. But he said he knew he was touching a larger audience when he started receiving phone calls from treatment centers asking him to show his films to their clients.

"Art has been instrumental in my recovery and in my journey in life. I've always wished to pass that on to (encourage) others to use their gifts to enhance their personal goal in life and in recovery," he said.

"What we'd really like to show people is no matter what you've been through, you don't know what direction life can take you. Sometimes art can take us places our voices can't." [jcapozzi@pbpost.com](mailto:jcapozzi@pbpost.com) [Twitter: @jcapozzipbpost](#)

## 7-5-17 AIRPORT SECURITY

# Loaded gun among prohibited items found at PBIA checkpoint

*By Eliot Kleinberg Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

WEST PALM BEACH — It wasn't bottle rockets or blasting caps federal agents found at a checkpoint at Palm Beach International Airport last month. Just a loaded .380-caliber handgun.

The Transportation Security Administration says it found the gun — loaded but with no bullet chambered — on June 21. It's part of 59 firearms that inspectors at checkpoints found nationwide in carry-on bags June 19-25.

In a blog posting Thursday, the TSA says 50 of the guns were loaded and 15 of those had a bullet in a chamber.

Firearm possession laws vary, but travelers bringing firearms to an airport checkpoint can be arrested and fined up to \$11,000, the TSA said. The blog did not say what action, if any, was taken against the owner of the handgun found at PBIA.

And with the Fourth of July holiday near, the agency said it also found across the nation all sorts of fireworks, including bottle rockets and smoke bombs, in both checked and carry-on bags. Fireworks and firecrackers are prohibited on planes altogether. The TSA even found a collection of blasting caps — explosives detonators — in a carry-on bag at Houston's George Bush airport.

The TSA also found knives in carry-on bags at 11 airports; PBIA wasn't one. Knives are allowed in checked baggage.

The agency said officers also regularly find gun parts, fake guns, BB and pellet guns, stun guns, batons and ammunition.

"Each time we find a dangerous item, the line is slowed down and a passenger that likely had no ill intent ends up with a citation or in some cases is even arrested," the TSA's Bob Burns said in the blog. "This is a friendly reminder to please leave these items at home. Just because we find a prohibited item on an individual does not mean they had bad intentions." [ekleinberg@pbpost.com](mailto:ekleinberg@pbpost.com) [Twitter: @eliotkpbp](#)



# **Sun Sentinel**

7-5-17 Aaron Rajman

## **MMA fighter killed in home**



Aaron Rajman, 25, was fatally shot Monday night in West Boca. (Kimberli DiMare/FPG )

MMA fighter Aaron Rajman was killed late Monday after several men entered the West Boca home he was in and fired at least one shot at him, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office said.

The men went into the home in the 22700 block of Southwest 65th Terrace about 10:24 p.m. Monday, argued with Rajman, shot him and then drove away, the Sheriff's Office said.

Rajman turned 25 last week.

The Sheriff's Office said it has no motive for the fatal shooting in the Sandalfoot Cove neighborhood.

"I'm just literally at a loss for words. Everyone I talked to is sickened," said Dave Zalewski, a fight promoter in Miami and a friend of Rajman. "He was the most humble guy around, he never talked bad about people."

He said Rajman had been training since he was around 16 with American Top Team and Rajman's teammates are also in shock.

Rabbi Zalman Bukiet, director of the Chabad of West Boca Raton, told WPTV-Ch. 5, "This was a special young man who had a heart of gold. It's a tragedy."

Rajamn's Jewish faith played a large role in his life, Zalewski said, explaining the fighter spent several years teaching kids at a Jewish community school.

According to [MixedMartialArts.com](http://MixedMartialArts.com), Rajman had a 8-1 win-loss record as an amateur and 2-2 record after going pro in 2014.

Wayne K. Roustan and Adam Sacasa



**From:** [Anderson, Cassandra L](#)  
**Subject:** News Clips 7/18/2017  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 18, 2017 8:22:23 AM  
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# **News Clip 7/18/2017**

## **Palm Beach Post**

**7/18/17 CRIME**

### **Arrest made in crash that killed Keiser student**

*By Olivia Hitchcock Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Deputies say Kevin Brown Jr. (left) was speeding when he hit Eric Tarmey.

WEST PALM BEACH — A West Palm Beach man has been arrested in the February crash that killed a 23-year-old Keiser University student near the school's campus, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office records show.

Kevin Brown Jr., 25, faces charges of vehicular homicide and reckless driving. He was booked Saturday into the Palm Beach County Jail and released later that day on a \$10,000 surety bond, according to jail records. As a condition of his release, Brown cannot drive, a judge ordered.

Eric Tarmey, of Lighthouse Point, was pronounced dead late Feb. 3 at the scene of the crash on Military Trail near Community Drive. Brown was seriously injured.

Brown was driving a 2010 Nissan at about 90 mph at 9:30 that night on Military Trail, sheriff's authorities said. The speed limit in that area is 45 mph.

Tarmey turned left into the northbound lanes of traffic on Military in a 2010 Volkswagen. Brown's Nissan slammed into the passenger's side of Tarmey's Volkswagen, causing both cars to spin out of control.

Tarmey appeared to have been turning into Keiser's campus.

In a Facebook post after the fatal crash, Keiser President Gary Vonk indicated Tarmey was a student at the university's flagship campus in West Palm Beach.

"It is with tremendous sadness and regret that I inform the Keiser University community of a tragic vehicle accident which claimed the life of Eric Tarmey," Vonk wrote. "With heavy hearts, we mourn the loss of Eric, a vibrant and promising young man."

Witnesses told authorities Brown was quickly weaving in and out of lanes before the crash. Brown admitted to speeding, estimating he was going "truthfully, around 65, 65, 70," sheriff's office records state. He thought the speed limit was 50 mph.

Records indicate Brown's driver license was suspended as of Aug. 22 for failing to pay a traffic fine.

His license was suspended again in October for another violation, likely related to insurance, sheriff's authorities wrote in the arrest report.

Brown, however, does not face a charge of driving with a suspended license, according to court documents.

An outpouring of social media posts after the crash described Tarmey as not just a standout on the Keiser soccer team but also a basketball player and a man of witty one-liners.

"This is some of the worst news I have ever had to wake up to, but I know you'd want us all to be strong," friend Kounty Price wrote in a Facebook post, later adding: "There was nobody like you ET. We love you man and we'll see you again one day." [ohitchcock@pbpost.com](mailto:ohitchcock@pbpost.com) **Twitter: @ohitchcock**

7/18/17 WEST PALM BEACH

# Income tax preparer accused of stealing from elderly couple

*By Jorge Milian Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Chimere Cooper, 37, faces charges of larceny and fraud.

WEST PALM BEACH — A West Palm Beach tax preparer remains in the Palm Beach County Jail after she allegedly used an elderly client's personal information to steal from his bank account.

Chimere Martina Cooper, 37, faces charges of larceny between \$300 and \$10,000, fraud and forgery and is being held without bail.

Cooper was working in 2015 for Jackson Hewitt, a tax preparation service, located inside the Walmart on Belvedere Road just west of the city limits when she helped file a 2014 tax return for a 75-year-old man with advanced Alzheimer's, authorities said.

Several weeks after filing the return, the man's 76-year-old wife told the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office that she had stopped receiving mail. At the post office, the woman was told that someone had forged a change-of-address form in her husband's name.

When the woman went to check on the bank account statements she had not received, she learned that several unauthorized withdrawals had been made by Cooper. The woman ran a computer search on Cooper's name and recognized her as the person who had filed her husband's tax return.

Cooper is accused of stealing \$3,974 from the couple. [jmilian@pbpost.com](mailto:jmilian@pbpost.com)

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**7/18/17 ROYAL PALM BEACH**

# **Photos posted of jewels taken in Royal Palm home invasion Aunt and niece were robbed and younger woman raped.**

*By Eliot Kleinberg Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

ROYALPALMBEACH—Authorities on Monday posted several photos of jewelry they said was taken during what they called a “heinous” July 6 home invasion in which an aunt and niece were reportedly robbed and assaulted and the younger woman raped.

The Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office last week posted grainy surveillance images of a vehicle it believes three men used to arrive at the home in the 200 block of Sandpiper Avenue, near Commons Park, at around 3 a.m.

A neighbor to whose home the women eventually fled at 5:30 a.m. told The Palm Beach Post the two told him their assailants bound them with wire to beds, stole several items and sexually battered the niece.

Investigators said the invaders loaded stolen items into their car and the alleged victim’s vehicle and drove off in both, abandoning the woman’s car a short distance away.

The Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office has not reported any arrests and has provided few details.

Last week, residents met with deputies to discuss their concerns following the incident.

A reward of up to \$10,000 is available via Crime Stoppers of Palm Beach County at 800-458-TIPS (8477).

The neighbor, Atte Gudrian Jr., told The Post the older woman’s son, who lives next door to her, recently had been badly injured, along with his girlfriend, when their motorcycle struck a car, and the couple still were hospitalized at the time of the invasion. He said the niece, who lives in Pennsylvania, came down to help the older woman, whose husband died about a decade ago.

He said the older woman was able to get loose and tried to climb out a window, but the men dragged her back in and tied her again. He said the niece later was able to free herself. He said the women told him they did not know their assailants.

The Palm Beach Post is not identifying the homeowner, who’s in her 90s, and the woman’s niece, who is in her 50s or 60s. No one has answered their phone since the assault. [ekleinberg@pbpost.com](mailto:ekleinberg@pbpost.com) [Twitter: @eliotkpbp](https://twitter.com/eliotkpbp)

**7/18/17 CRIME SUGAR DADDY'S FATAL SHOOTING**

# **Man facing manslaughter charge wins big at poker Paul Senat is accused of shooting the father of an FSU football star.**

*By Olivia Hitchcock Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Paul Senat, out on bond, won more than \$90,000 at the World Series of Poker. WEST PALM BEACH — Paul Senat, out on bond after firing an AK-47-style rifle through a wall at Sugar Daddy's Adult Cabaret in April, killing Darryl Rudolph, took home more than \$90,000 at the World Series of Poker tournament Sunday in Las Vegas.

The 37-year-old Lantana man was released April 26 from the Palm Beach County Jail on a \$35,000 surety bond, the day after he was arrested on a manslaughter charge, records show. He has pleaded not guilty to the charge. He last appeared in court June 16 for a case disposition.

During a bond hearing in April, a judge ordered that Senat have no contact with Rudolph's family or with Sugar Daddy's. He cannot have weapons. It was not immediately known whether Senat had travel restrictions as a condition of his release.

Senat was eliminated from the poker tournament Sunday, the sixth day of the main event, in 70th place, finishing among the top 1 percent of all players.

Tournament officials called Senat a "relatively unknown player." His earnings totaled \$101,444, but a \$10,000 buy-in fee will be deducted from those winnings, tournament officials said.

Senat told Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office authorities he took the AK-47-style gun from a shelf late on April 21 and didn't realize it had fired until he saw Rudolph, a handyman at the club and the father of Florida State University football standout Travis Rudolph, bleeding from the neck in the adjacent room.

The fatal shot went through a wall from an adjacent liquor-storage room and struck Rudolph either in the neck or the back as he changed a filter on an air conditioning unit.

Rudolph was rushed to St. Mary's Medical Center, authorities said, where he died the next afternoon.



Senat said he kept the gun in the club for protection.

Senat's attorney did not return The Post's request for comment Monday.

David Fiore, owner of Sugar Daddy's, told The Post after Senat's arrest that Senat owns a small piece of the club, where Rudolph had worked as a handyman for several years. Asked to comment on the arrest, Fiore would say only that authorities were "doing whatever they've got to do, based on whatever they think."

Palm Beach County Jail records show Senat was arrested six times between 1997 and 2007, all on misdemeanor or traffic charges. Palm Beach County court records also show three eviction filings, three foreclosures and one civil domestic violence case. Senat is scheduled to appear in court again Aug. 16 for a status check on the case, court records show. [ohitchcock@pbpost.com](mailto:ohitchcock@pbpost.com) [Twitter: @ohitchcock](https://twitter.com/ohitchcock)

**7/18/17 POST IN-DEPTH SEX TRAFFICKING**

## **Sex trade increases; county sixth in state More Florida children victims of exploitation in 2016, study finds.** *By Julius Whigham II Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

More children in Florida were victims of commercial sexual exploitation in 2016 compared to 2015, according to a recent state study.

Law-enforcement agencies across the state reported 356 cases of children being forced into the sex trade in 2016, compared to 264 cases in 2015, according to the state's Office of Program Policy Analysis & Government Accountability.

There were 17 verified cases in Palm Beach County in 2016, six in St. Lucie County and three in Martin County, the state's report shows. State officials say the number of verified cases might be because of increased public awareness about the issues of human trafficking, which some have described as modern-day slavery.

The National Human Trafficking Hotline received 2,387 reports of trafficking involving minors in 2016, including 169 from Florida.

The vast majority of commercially sexually exploited children in Florida — 91 percent, or about 325 cases — are between the ages of 14 and 17, the state's report says. Of the state's 356 verified findings in 2016, 93 percent — about 330 cases — were girls, the report said.

Bonnie Jo Daniels, the project director for Hope For Freedom, cautioned that trafficking statistics for boys tend to be underreported.

"Boys don't come forward as the easily as the girls," said Daniels, whose organization is the anti-human trafficking initiative based out of Christ Fellowship Church in Palm Beach Gardens. "There's a stronger shame factor when it comes to the boys."

Daniels said the organization, which runs a local safe house for girls, has seen its number of cases increase during the past year. She was not able Monday to specify how many.

Daniels said she believes increased awareness and efforts to shed light on human trafficking have contributed in part to more cases being reported.

Florida Department of Children and Families secretary Mike Carroll addressed the report's findings during a meeting of the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking Services and an Resource Committee on Thursday in Tallahassee. Carroll acknowledged that combating the trafficking of minors remains a significant challenge, but also said he believes the state has made progress in recent years.

"When I think about three years ago, there wasn't even a real good understanding of what human trafficking was in this state," Carroll said. "What the scale and scope of it was, what impacts it had. ... I think public awareness is up. I think this topic is pervasive now in all our agencies, including education and health."

According to state's report, Palm Beach County was sixth among Florida's 67 counties in the number of verified cases of commercial sexual exploitation involving children behind Broward at 52, Orange 41, Miami-Dade 40, Hillsborough 36 and Duval

26. The state report indicated that, among the cases where a child's living arrangement was known, 59 percent of reported victims lived with at least one parent. Daniels said that recent studies have shown that children living with family can be just as vulnerable to traffickers as those in foster care.

"We're seeing the trafficker is targeting both the community child and the child in foster care. It's becoming more of a community problem," she said.

Human trafficking has become a major concern for local law enforcement with at least 10 people in Palm Beach County, and one in Martin County, arrested on labor or sex trafficking charges.

Since the beginning of the year, at least 10 people in Palm Beach County and one person in Martin County have been arrested on charges of labor or sex trafficking. Three men have been accused of luring, or attempting to lure, teenage girls into prostitution.

In separate cases, authorities alleged that Marco Orrego of suburban Boynton Beach and Steven Snipe of suburban West Palm Beach used the website Backpage to advertise teenage girls for sexual services.

Orrego faces state and federal charges related to human trafficking. Snipe is facing lewd and lascivious and might face human trafficking charges pending evidence collected from a search warrant. Joel Bautista Trinidad of Lantana is accused of trying to lure a middle-school girl and her friends into prostitution.

Andre Benjamin of Riviera Beach was arrested in May for alleged labor trafficking after authorities accused him of using a teenage girl to sell drugs for him. [jwhigham@pbpost.com](mailto:jwhigham@pbpost.com)

**MORE ONLINE** Read The Post's complete coverage of human trafficking at [PalmBeachPost.com/humantrafficking](http://PalmBeachPost.com/humantrafficking).

**7/18/17 POST EXCLUSIVE DELAYED HOMICIDE**

## 59 years after bullet struck, recent death ruled homicide

*By Julius Whigham II Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



John Henry Barrett, 77, was a pastor and influential Pahokee resident.

PAHOKEE — John Henry Barrett once described it as the moment that changed his life. And the Palm Beach County Medical Examiner now is calling it the one that contributed to his recent death.

A playful fight with a friend nearly six decades ago in western Palm Beach County escalated into a more serious confrontation — and gunfire. At age 19, Barrett was left partially paralyzed for the remainder of his life when he was shot in the neck in 1958 and a bullet damaged his spinal cord.

The lifelong Pahokee resident died in May at age 77. He is counted as one of Palm Beach County's 63 homicide victims for 2017 after the medical examiner determined this past month that he died from an infection and complications related to the gunshot wound from all those years ago.

According to the medical examiner's report, the person responsible for the shooting was convicted and served time in prison.

The report does not identify the shooter, nor does it say how long of a sentence the person served.

Court and law enforcement officials said they were unable to find information about the suspect or the shooting in their records.

However, for those who knew him, Barrett's life was defined not by that fateful day, but by his many accomplishments in the years that followed.

"Healwaystoldmybrother and myself, no matter how dire your circumstances, your mind has the ability to overcome anything," Robert Lee, Barrett's great-nephew, said recently. "His life is an example."

For more than three decades, Barrett served as pastor for the New Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in Pahokee. An outspoken advocate for families in the city's public-housing communities, Barrett became the first African-American executive director of the Pahokee Housing Authority.

He did not speak often about the shooting, but used his circumstance to inspire others, family members said.

"He never wanted to be looked upon as (being disabled)," said Terrance Lee, Robert's younger brother. "He wanted to be looked up to as a normal person in society. That's the way he lived his life."

Barrett discussed how the shooting affected his life in a 1974 interview with The Miami Herald. Doctors warned that he might never walk again, but Barrett learned to walk with the help of a cane. However, the one-time farmworker could no longer work in the fields.

"I don't believe I'll ever completely recover," Barrett told the newspaper. "But if the accident hadn't happened, I would have spent all of my life as a farmworker."

Terrance Lee described Barrett as a father figure who often took care of him and his brother whenever their mother was on assignment working for the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office.

Barrett earned an associate's degree in business administration from what was then Palm Beach Junior College and was promoted several times within the housing authority.

Many of the brothers' memories were of listening to Barrett's sermons in church.

"His voice was very commanding," Robert Lee said. "He was handicapped. (But) if you close your eyes and you hear him speak, you wouldn't know that."

Said Terrance: "His voice, it commanded attention. All of his messages it seemed like it was catered specifically for you. That's how well he knew his audience."

In the days prior to his death, Barrett urged parishioners to continue building on the church's foundation and to help it grow, Lee said.

"He was a very, very positive individual," Robert Lee said. "He never let his situation or his circumstance determine his potential in life." Staff researcher Melanie Mena contributed to this story. [jwhigham@pbpost.com](mailto:jwhigham@pbpost.com) Twitter: [@JuliusWhigham](https://twitter.com/JuliusWhigham)

# Sun Sentinel

## **7/18/17 Sessions looks to crack down on traffickers' cash**

By Christopher Ingraham The Washington Post

Attorney General Jeff Sessions on Monday said he'd be issuing a new directive this week aimed at increasing police seizures of cash and property.

"We hope to issue this week a new directive on asset forfeiture — especially for drug traffickers," Sessions said in a speech to the National District Attorney's Association in Minneapolis. "With care and professionalism, we plan to develop policies to increase forfeitures. No criminal should be allowed to keep the proceeds of their crime."

Asset forfeiture is a highly controversial practice that allows law enforcement officials to permanently take money and goods from individuals suspected of crime. There is little disagreement among lawmakers, authorities, and criminal justice reformers that "no criminal should be allowed to keep the proceeds of their crime." But in many cases, neither a criminal conviction nor even a criminal charge is necessary — under forfeiture laws in most states and at the federal level, mere suspicion of wrongdoing is enough to allow police to seize items permanently.

Additionally, many states allow law enforcement agencies to keep cash that they seize, creating what critics characterize as a profit motive. The practice is widespread: In 2014, federal law enforcement officers took more property from citizens than burglars did. State and local authorities seized untold millions more.

Since 2007, the DEA alone has taken over \$3 billion in cash from people not charged with any crime, according to the Justice Department's Inspector General.

The practice is ripe for abuse. In 2016, Oklahoma police seized \$53,000 owned by a Christian band, an orphanage and a church after stopping a man on a highway for a broken taillight. A few years earlier, a Michigan drug task force raided the home of a self-described "soccer mom," suspecting she was not in compliance with the state's medical marijuana law. They proceeded to take "every belonging" from the family, including tools, a bicycle, and her daughter's birthday money.

In recent years, states have begun to clamp down on the practice.

"Thirteen states now allow forfeiture only in cases where there's been a criminal conviction," said Robert Everett Johnson of the Institute for Justice, a public interest law firm that represents forfeiture defendants.

In 2015, Eric Holder's Justice Department issued a memo sharply curtailing a particular type of forfeiture practice that allowed local police to share part of their forfeiture proceeds with federal authorities. Known as "adoptive" forfeiture, it allowed state and local authorities to sidestep sometimes stricter state laws, processing forfeiture cases under the more permissive federal statute.

These types of forfeitures amounted to a small total of assets seized by federal authorities, so the overall impact on forfeiture practices was relatively muted. Still, criminal justice reform groups on the left and the right cheered the move as a signal that the Obama administration was serious about curtailing forfeiture abuses.

## 7/18/17 Mar-a-Lago guest list

Judge orders release of list of Trump's visitors

By Skyler Swisher Staff writer

The public could soon get a glimpse of who is visiting President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach.

A federal judge ordered the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to release logs of visitors to Mar-a-Lago for presidential business by Sept. 8 in response to a lawsuit brought by three government watchdog groups.

"The public deserves to know who is coming to meet with the president and his staff," said Noah Bookbinder, executive director of the Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, one of the groups involved in the lawsuit.

Trump has hosted high-profile visits from Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Chinese President Xi Jinping at Mar-a-Lago, but many of his guests remain a mystery.

David Lapan, a spokesman for the Department of Homeland Security, declined to comment Monday.

Trump has visited Mar-a-Lago seven times since becoming president. He last visited for the Easter holiday, and he's expected to return when Palm Beach's social season resumes in the fall. The lawsuit also seeks the release of visitor logs for the White House in Washington and Trump Tower in New York City. Two other groups pushing for greater transparency in government — the National Security Archive and the Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University — are also involved.

In news briefings, White House officials have cited national security and the privacy concerns of visitors for not releasing the logs. Trump vowed transparency during his campaign, promising to "drain the swamp" and rid Washington of corruption.

The Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington also sued the Obama administration in pursuit of White House visitor logs. The Obama administration began voluntarily releasing visitor logs in 2009 as pressure from public interest groups mounted. Records before then had not been released.

The administration routinely removed names of visitors deemed to be involved in sensitive matters involving intelligence or national security.

In 2013, a federal appeals court ruled White House visitor logs could be kept secret, but the Obama administration continued to provide them with some names omitted.

Congressional Democrats have pressed Trump to release visitor information, introducing legislation titled the "Making Access Records Available to Lead American Government Openness Act," or the Mar-a-Lago Act.

Mar-a-Lago is a not only Trump's part-time residence, but it's also a private social club.

Membership fees for the club doubled to \$200,000 shortly after Trump was elected.

Charity events have also been held there for years — spanning from galas benefiting hospitals to fundraisers for the Republican Party of Palm Beach County.

In February, a guest snapped a photo in a dining room at Mar-a-Lago of Trump huddling with Japan's prime minister shortly after a North Korean ballistic missile test. The pictures, which were posted on social media, sparked concerns that the Trump team handled a sensitive national security issue in public.



White House spokesman Sean Spicer told reporters at the time no classified information was revealed at the table.

South Florida politicians have also been guests at Mar-a-Lago since Trump won the election, including Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw and U.S. Rep. Lois Frankel, D-West Palm Beach.

Frankel participated in a protest march against Trump in February and then mingled with Trump later that evening at a charity event benefiting the Red Cross.

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# **News Clip 7/19/17**

## **Palm Beach Post**

**7/19/17 BELLE GLADE**

### **Man, 18, charged in street shootout Deputies say bus spat led to gunfire; teen among 3 hurt.**

*By Olivia Hitchcock, Conner Mitchell and Hannah Winston Palm Beach Post Staff Writers*

BELLE GLADE — A Belle Glade teenager faces attempted homicide charges following a shooting Monday afternoon outside the Florida Department of Health building, according to a Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office report made public Tuesday. Randolph Jackson, 18, was booked into the Palm Beach County Jail early Tuesday. Court records indicate he faces one attempted homicide charge, although the sheriff's office said he will face four.

He was expected to appear before a judge at the jail Tuesday, but he remained at Del-ray Medical Center for treatment of injuries he sustained during the incident, a sheriff's office spokesman said. It was not immediately known when he would make his first appearance.

Deputies say Jackson was riding on a Palm Tran bus Monday afternoon, on his way home from a meeting in West Palm Beach with his probation officer. He started to argue with another passenger, and the disagreement continued after they arrived in Belle Glade.

According to the report, surveillance footage shows four people walking toward their cars on State Road 80, along South Main Street and north of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. Video then shows Jackson shooting at them and the people rushing for cover.

Jackson reportedly was near his mother's car while he was firing the shots. Two victims told sheriff's deputies that she was driving the silver SUV from which Jackson was shooting. Deputies interviewed Jackson's mother, who admitted to driving the car to pick up Jackson in the health building's parking lot and said someone began shooting, but she couldn't see who.

One of the four people Jackson shot at grabbed a licensed .45-caliber handgun from his car and returned gunfire in self-defense, deputies said. A bullet hit Jackson in the upper right thigh. His trail of blood indicated he was shot outside the C.L. Brumback

Health Center, but then rushed into it. Authorities found him near a 9 mm semiautomatic pistol.

He was taken to Delray Medical Center with non-life threatening injuries. One victim was shot in the left thigh and one was shot in the buttocks. Both were flown to a hospital with non-life threatening injuries. [ohitchcock@pbpost.com](mailto:ohitchcock@pbpost.com)

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## 7/9/17 COURTS

# Man linked to 2008 killing back in jail

## He is charged with aggravated battery with a firearm.

*By Conner Mitchell Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Willie Felton looks back toward his mother as a deputy moves him out of court at the end of a hearing Tuesday. Felton is charged with aggravated battery with a deadly weapon. LANNIS WATERS / THE PALM BEACH POST

WEST PALM BEACH — A Wellington man once linked to the slaying of a Pahokee football player appeared in Palm Beach County court Tuesday morning, charged with aggravated battery with a firearm.

Willie Felton, 24, is accused of knocking on a door in the Stonybrook Apartment Complex in Riviera Beach on Thursday and looking to “confront and fight” a woman who lived there, according to a Riviera Beach Police Department report made public Tuesday.

A woman who identified herself as Felton’s mother said that she was sick and on oxygen and needed Felton at home to take care of her. Judge Dina Keever-Agrama

noted the woman's concerns for the record, but denied Felton bond, citing his extensive history and the seriousness of the most recent charges. Felton is scheduled to appear in court again Aug. 16, according to Palm Beach County court records. Police say the woman was hiding in a friend's apartment at Stonybrook in case Felton came looking for her. Felton found the apartment where the woman was hiding, and when she refused to open the door, he left and came back with another man who was wielding a gun.

The other man got in the house and confronted the woman, pointing the gun at her and telling her to "put the knife down." The woman had a knife to protect herself from Felton, police said. After hitting the woman's brother in the head with the barrel of the gun, the man and Felton fled the scene.

The woman identified Felton as the man who knocked on the door and the other man, whose name was redacted from the report, as the man who pointed the gun at the woman. There is a warrant for the other man's arrest, according to the report. Felton was charged with shooting and killing Pahokee football player Norman "Pooh" Griffin in 2008, but investigators had to drop the charges against him permanently after they failed to produce sufficient evidence within the state-mandated 175-day timeline.

Following the murder charge dismissal, Felton served about two years of a six-year sentence in 2012 for selling cocaine within 1,000 feet of a church. Court records indicate he was given credit for three years of the sentence as part of the plea agreement. After he was released, however, he failed to report to his probation officer and was considered a fugitive for a period of time.

In 2014, Felton was charged with and convicted of structure burglary. He served around two years and was released from jail on June 22, according to the Florida Department of Corrections website. [cmitchell@pbpost.com](mailto:cmitchell@pbpost.com)

7/19/17 POST IN-DEPTH LYFT SUIT

## **Suit: Lyft minor pickup led to death**

### **Ride-hailing driver should have gotten parent's consent before taking girl to boy's house, it says.**

*By Eliot Kleinberg Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Karenine Saint Louis, 13, was killed early July 9 when a boy, 17, crashed a pickup she was in. Her mother, a nurse working an overnight shift, thought Karenine was home asleep. CONTRIBUTED

LANTANA — The ride-hailing company Lyft took a 13-year-old before dawn on July 9 to a 17-year-old boy's home, where she later got in his pickup and died when it slammed into two trees west of Lantana, a lawsuit filed this week contends.

Josie Saint Fleur still doesn't know what her daughter, high-honors student Karenine Saint Louis, was doing out at 5:30 a.m. with Jimmy Aguirre, a boy the mother didn't know. Saint Fleur, a nurse, has told The Palm Beach Post she was working an overnight shift and thought Karenine was home asleep. Lawyers said a grandmother was asleep in the home.

The lawsuit names as defendants Aguirre and his mother, as well as Lyft, and two Lyft drivers, one of whom is believed to have taken Saint Louis from her home west of Boynton Beach to Aguirre's home in Green-acres. Lawyers said they were able to narrow down drivers to two names and eventually expect to learn which of the two picked up Karenine.

The lawsuit, filed Monday in Palm Beach County Circuit Court, doesn't specify damages.

Lyft spokeswoman Alexandra LaManna, contacted late Tuesday, had not yet seen the suit.

State records show Aguirre does not have a regular driver license, but only a Class E learner's permit, which requires someone who's at least 21 be in the front seat when



he drives. The report on the crash says the two were the only ones in the 2002 Ford F-150 pickup when Aguirre lost control on a wet road west of Lantana.

No charges have been filed for now as the investigation continues, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office said Tuesday. The Post has been unable to make contact either with Jimmy Aguirre or his family.

The suit said the Lyft driver "had a duty to request ID for confirmation of her (St. Louis') age and to refuse transport after the driver would have learned that was under 18, and in fact 5 years younger than 18." It says the driver had a duty to get the parent's consent and to call Lyft's "Critical Response Line" for guidance.

"They took a vulnerable child out of the home," attorney Scott M. Fischer told The Post on Tuesday, "and drove her 9 miles into the hands of a 17-year-old male, which proceeded to cause her death, which we don't believe would have happened had Lyft acted responsibly." He said lawyers believe Karenine left her house at about 1 a.m.

According to Lyft's web page, children 17 and under are forbidden to ride alone.

Relatives and friends of Karenine created an online page July 13 to raise money for her funeral. By Tuesday afternoon, it had raised about half of the \$5,000 goal.

"Karenine's mother and family are in desperate need for your prayers, support and donations as she tries to piece together the circumstances of her daughter's passing of her soul," the page said. It said funeral details were incomplete.

The 1,700-student Somerset Canyons charter school in suburban Boynton Beach, the charter school Karenine attended, will plant a tree to honor her when students return for the fall, an assistant principal said this past week. Karenine was about to start her third year there and was to be in the eighth grade. She was in advanced classes in the school's medical program and wanted to be a

psychiatrist. [ekleinberg@pbpost.com](mailto:ekleinberg@pbpost.com)

**GAVEL TO GAVEL** Get news from Palm Beach County courtrooms at [postoncourts.blog.palmbeachpost.com](http://postoncourts.blog.palmbeachpost.com).

7/19/17 GREENACRES

# Tharp to replace Rivera

*By Kevin D. Thompson Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Tharp

GREENACRES — John Tharp is back.

Tharp was named city councilman for District I, replacing Lisa Rivera whom Gov. Rick Scott suspended last month after she was charged with stealing more than \$23,000 while she was a Boca Raton High School treasurer.

Rivera, who beat Tharp in the 2015 election, has denied the allegations.

Tharp served on the council for four years.

Tharp was appointed to the council four years ago after Richard Radcliffe resigned to become the executive director of the Palm Beach County League of Cities. Tharp was then elected in 2013.

Tharp, an account executive with a web hosting provider, questioned Rivera's motives for running two years ago.

"Make sure you're running for the right reasons and because you think you can make a difference, not because somebody on the council asked you to run because they want the majority vote," he told The Post in 2015.

Palm Beach County School District detectives say Rivera, 47, stole tens of thousands of dollars from Boca Raton High between 2013 and 2015 by pulling cash from deposits left in the school's safe and replacing the missing money with checks paid to the school but never registered.

Rivera was a veteran school treasurer who had worked for the School District since 1990. [kthompson@pbpost.com](mailto:kthompson@pbpost.com) [Twitter: @KevinDThompson1](https://twitter.com/KevinDThompson1)

## 7/19/17 3 ways to stop fake debt collectors

Florida-based debt collectors accused of pretending to be lawyers and threatening consumers with lawsuits or prison have been served a restraining order after collecting more than \$690,000, federal officials said this week.

The crackdown highlights several ways consumers can protect themselves against debt calls that may not be legitimate, according to the Federal Trade Commission.

### **Here are three:**

1. Jail threats are a red flag. "If a debt collector threatens you with jail time, hang up the phone. They're violating the law and you should report them to us," the FTC says.
2. Ask for a written "validation notice" that includes the amount of the debt, the name of the creditor and your rights under the federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, the FTC advises. Tell the caller you refuse to discuss the debt without this. Stop talking and do not give further information that can be used for identify theft or other purposes.
3. Ask the caller for his name, company, street address, and telephone number. "If a caller refuses to give you all of this information, do not pay!" the FTC says.

Among other precautions: If the debt may be legitimate but you suspect the caller is not, check independently with the original creditor.

But in many cases debts are just made up, federal officials said.

Many consumers pay by credit card over the phone "because they are afraid of the threatened repercussions of failing to pay," unsure if the callers might be legitimate or just wanting to make the harassment go away, FTC officials wrote in a complaint against Orlando-based defendants.

— CHARLES ELMORE, PROTECTING YOUR POCKET

**7/19/17 MIAMI**

## **Opioid suspected in 10-year-old boy's death**

### **How he came in contact with drug is still unclear.**

*By Jennifer Kay and Curt Anderson Associated Press*



This vial contains 2mg of fentanyl. Fentanyl is extremely potent. Exposure to just tiny amounts can be devastating. CLIFF OWEN / ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIAMI — A 10-year-old boy from a drug-ridden Miami neighborhood apparently died of a fentanyl overdose last month, becoming one of Florida's littlest victims of the opioid crisis, authorities said Tuesday. But how he came in contact with the powerful drug is unclear.

Fifth-grader Alton Banks died June 23 after a visit to the pool in the city's Over-town section. He began vomiting after coming home and was found unconscious that evening. Preliminary toxicology tests show he had fentanyl in his system, authorities said.

"We don't know where he got it. We don't believe he got it at his home," Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle said. "It could be as simple as touching it. It could have been a towel at the pool."

She added: "We just don't know."

The case has underscored how frighteningly prevalent fentanyl has become — and how potent it is. Exposure to just tiny amounts can be devastating.

Investigators said he may have been exposed to the drug on his walk home in Overtown, a poor, high-crime neighborhood where Assistant Miami Fire Chief Pete Gomez said has seen a spike in overdoses in the past year and where needles sometimes litter the streets

"There is an epidemic," Gomez said. "Overtown seems to have the highest percentage of where these incidents are occurring."

Detectives are still trying to piece together the boy's final day.

Rundle appealed to the public for information on how Alton came into contact with the drug.

"This is of such great importance. We need to solve this case. I believe this may be the youngest victim of this scourge in our community," she said.

The boy's mother, Shantell Banks, was informed of the preliminary findings last week. A distraught Banks told The Miami Herald that her son was a "fun kid" who wanted to become an engineer and loved the NFL's Carolina Panthers, especially Cam Newton.

Jessie Davis, who lives in an apartment house next to the building where the boy lived, said her grandchildren, ages 8, 9 and 10, regularly make the same walk as Alton to the nearby park with a swimming pool. She said she initially thought the pool water made Alton sick and was shocked by news reports that he had been exposed to fentanyl.

"Where would a 10-year-old baby get something like that?" Davis said.

Thinking about her own grandchildren going to the pool, Davis said, "I'm going to tell them, 'Don't touch nothing.' I don't know whether they think it's candy, but somebody needs to tell these kids something. I don't know how you just by touching contract it or whatever. We need to know more."

Fentanyl is a synthetic painkiller that has been in use for decades to treat cancer patients and others with severe pain, through use of a patch. But recently it has been front-and-center in the U.S. opioid abuse crisis.

Perhaps best known as the drug that killed pop star Prince, it is many times stronger than heroin and is often used by dealers to cut heroin.

"It's heroin laced with fentanyl, that's what is killing people," Palm Beach County State Attorney Dave Aron-berg said recently.

Fentanyl is so powerful that some police departments have warned officers about even touching the drug. Last year, three police dogs in Broward County got sick after sniffing the drug during a federal raid, officials said.

Gomez said his crews wear protective clothing, including long sleeves, coveralls, gloves and masks, while handling the drug.

"You never want to start reaching into people's pockets," he said, adding that crews often cut people's pockets open for fear of pricking themselves with needles during pat-downs.

The Florida Legislature addressed the epidemic, passing a law that imposes stiff minimum mandatory sentences on dealers caught with 0.14 ounces or more of fentanyl or its variants.

The law also makes it possible to charge dealers with murder if they provide a fatal dose of fentanyl or drugs mixed with fentanyl. The new law goes into effect Oct. 1.

**Nearly 300 overdose deaths in Miami-Dade County last year involved variants of fentanyl, according to the medical examiner's office. Statewide, fentanyl and its variants killed 853 people in the first half of 2016. Of those, only nine were under age 18.** BOYNTON BEACH HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION

## 7/19/17 Phones, Comcast bill seized from slain woman's home Some fear Facebook posts about her success made her a target.

*By Olivia Hitchcock Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Several people gather near the June 29 crime scene west of Boynton Beach where authorities say a masked suspect shot and killed Makeva Jenkins in her home. LANNIS WATERS / THE PALM BEACH POST

BOYNTON BEACH — When Palm Beach County sheriff's authorities searched a home just west of the city this month, they were looking for video cameras, recording devices or cellphones — anything that would tell them more about the killing of a 33-year-old mother of three there.



At about 2 a.m. June 29, a masked man knocked on the door to Makeva Jenkins' home on Plumbago Place near Santaluces High School, sheriff's authorities said. A fight broke out and Jenkins was shot. She died at a hospital later that day.

Sheriff's authorities searched her home July 4, the day after obtaining a warrant, records show. They took cellphones, two yellow envelopes with paperwork and a Comcast bill, according to records filed with the court July 6.

Records indicate the premise is "occupied by or under the control of" Jenkins' husband, Euri.

Jenkins' grandmother, Gloria Harold Willis, said Jenkins' husband and brother, along with her two young children, were in the home that morning. Jenkins' oldest daughter, 13, was in Tampa with her father, Harold Willis said.

The masked suspect drove off in one of the family's cars, according to sheriff's authorities. It was abandoned not far from the home.

Sheriff's authorities have not commented on whether Jenkins was the intended target, nor have they provided information about a possible suspect or motive. No one has been arrested in Jenkins' death.

Some of Jenkins' relatives fear that posts on her Facebook page about her financial successes may have fueled her murder.

"I'm in awe of how far I've come," reads one post, published barely two hours before she was killed. "Fast forward to now: We overcame being homeless in 2013/2014 to reaching my six figure mark in 2015 to now making multi six figures. No matter what the road looked like, I followed my heart and stuck with it growing my business. I'm saying this to say, anyone can do it. It takes determination and consistency."

Family gathered July 6 in Belle Glade, where Jenkins grew up, for a viewing. Another viewing was held July 7 in Lantana, and the next day loved ones held a celebration of life service also in Lantana. [ohitchcock@pbpost.com](mailto:ohitchcock@pbpost.com)

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**7/19/17 PALM BEACH TRUMP'S VISITS**

## **Leaders again seeking Trump security costs 6 members of Congress send letters to agencies citing millions spent.** *By Wayne Washington Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



President Donald Trump has visited Mar-a-Lago several times since election. The letters were full of the niceties one would expect in a letter from federal lawmakers to agencies of the U.S. government, but, bottom line, the message was this: Palm Beach County has shelled out millions protecting then president-elect and now President Donald Trump, and it wants its money back.

Six members of Congress, including four from Palm Beach County, signed a pair of letters Monday to the heads of the U.S. Justice Department and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, urging them to reimburse the county for security and roadway management costs associated with Trump's trips to his Mar-a-Lago mansion on Palm Beach since he was elected.

The letters do not specify how much the county wants, although they request "full and fair consideration" for Palm Beach County's requests for costs, including \$2.2 million in Sheriff's Office and Fire Rescue overtime for seven visits during Trump's presidency so far and \$1.5 million in overtime by the two agencies during Trump's holiday visits as president-elect. The letters also ask for consideration for expenses incurred by the Broward County Sheriff's Office and West Palm Beach and Palm Beach police departments, which loaned officers during these Trump visits as well. While the expenses mentioned in the two letters add up to \$3.7 million, sheriff's spokeswoman Teri Barbera said Tuesday that PBSO's Trump-related overtime costs now stand at \$4.5 million.

The letters are part of an ongoing — and so far unsuccessful — effort the county has mounted that has included previous letters, public comments, a one-on-one meeting between Trump and Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw and another meeting between the president and Gov. Rick Scott. Bradshaw and Scott said they have reminded Trump of the county's desire to be reimbursed.

Congress appropriated \$40 million to the Federal Emergency Management Agency to reimburse local governments for assisting the Secret Service with security as Trump travels to their jurisdictions. Another \$20 million was directed to a Justice

Department grant program to reimburse local governments that provided assistance during Trump's visits as president-elect.

"From inauguration to president, President Trump visited his Mar-a-Lago club in Palm Beach 7 separate times or 25 days," says the letter sent to Bob Fenton, the acting administrator of FEMA. "Palm Beach County Sheriff and Fire Rescue Department have spent over \$2.2 million just in overtime costs, not including additional costs of barricades, fencing, and other necessary expenses. The Town of Palm Beach, where Mar-a-Lago is located, the adjacent city of West Palm Beach, and the Broward County Sheriff's Department, who loaned officers in times of need, all incurred overtime costs while assisting the Secret Service in protection of the President. ... While protection of the President is paramount, the amount of overtime cost is detrimental to the local budgets and puts a strain on our local police forces." The letter sent to Attorney General Jeff Sessions notes that PBSO and Fire Rescue spent more than \$1.5 million in overtime costs protecting Trump when he spent the Thanksgiving and winter holidays at Mar-a-Lago.

The letters are signed by five Democrats — U.S. Reps. Lois Frankel, of West Palm Beach; Ted Deutch, of Boca Raton; Alcee Hastings, of Delray Beach; Debbie Wasserman Schultz, of Weston; and Frederica Wilson, of Miami — and one Republican, U.S. Rep. Brian Mast, of Palm City. Frankel, Deutch, Hastings and Mast represent parts of Palm Beach County. Wasserman Schultz and Wilson's districts include parts of Broward County.

Mar-a-Lago, described by the president as the "winter White House," also has emerged as a something of a political target.

Trump opponents say Trump and his family have used the presidency to enhance their properties to further enrich themselves, and what they've done with the exclusive private club in Palm Beach fits that pattern.

After Trump's election win in November, Mar-a-Lago increased its membership fee to \$200,000 — double the pre-election price. Besides the fee, members also must pay \$14,000 annually.

And applications to the club surged after Trump's November win, The New York Times reported in January. At that time Mar-a-Lago had 482 members, but was capped at 500 members, The Times reported.

Meanwhile, the allure of possibly seeing the president or world leaders at Mar-a-Lago caused a jump in ticket sales for charities hosting their big fundraisers this past season, insiders say. Some lucky members looked on in amazement earlier this year when Trump got on the phone at Mar-a-Lago to respond to a nuclear missile test by North Korea, but their cellphone pictures sparked anger among some that he was cavalierly handling the nation's foreign policy.

On Monday, nonprofit government watchdog group Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, or CREW, announced that the Department of Homeland Security will release Mar-a-Lago visitor logs to the group by Sept. 8. CREW, which sued to get access to the records, said it will make public the list of visitors. [wwashington@pbpost.com](mailto:wwashington@pbpost.com)

## 7/19/17 Handling of undocumented residents harsh in Riviera Beach *Frank Cerabino*



It's strange that Riviera Beach has become a focal point of discord over the handling of undocumented residents.

Of all the jurisdictions in Palm Beach County, you wouldn't expect that the one led by the area's most well-known civil rights advocate is where the most pressing civil rights issue of our time is being handled in the harshest way.

But it's true. Unlike the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office and the West Palm Beach Police Department, the Riviera Beach Police Department has been turning non-criminal service calls into immigration busts. Residents encountered by police in some instances have been asked to prove their citizenship, and if they're unable to provide proof, they're turned over to federal immigration officers, locked up and put on a path to deportation.

But when you talk about this to the mayor, Bishop Thomas Masters, here's what he says:

"I feel that anyone who calls the police for help shouldn't be the one that ends up getting in trouble," Masters said.

Masters is at a loss to explain why that's happening in his city, and he seems to be more wrapped up in his own lack of documentation issues, after a speeding ticket earlier this month showed he was driving without a valid license.

"It was just an untimely situation," he said.

Masters isn't only a local civil rights leader. He was a Hillary Clinton delegate to the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia last summer, where he and other delegates advocated handling undocumented residents in a very different way.

"We will promote best practices among local law enforcement, in terms of how they collaborate with federal authorities, to ensure that they maintain and build trust between local law enforcement and the communities they serve," the Democratic Party's convention document said.

But here's what has happened recently in Riviera Beach.

Police arrived at the scene of a traffic accident earlier this month to discover that one of the vehicles involved was driven by Gloriana Gonzalez, a 43-year-old Venezuelan woman who has a master's degree and has been living crime-free in America after her visa expired.

City police summoned Immigration and Customs Enforcement, who locked Gonzalez in a detention center in Pompano Beach, putting her on a path to deportation.

On another call two months earlier, Riviera Beach Police responded to a woman who said that her clothes had been stolen from a laundromat. When police arrived, they noticed the woman had a boyfriend, Milton Perez,

24. He was asked about his citizenship, and found to be an undocumented Guatemalan laborer with no criminal history.

Once again, police called ICE and he was locked up.

Deportations like this used to happen with regularity during the first years of the Obama administration. In 2013, a record number of more than 438,000 unauthorized immigrants across the country were deported. And these numbers include tens of thousands of undocumented parents who were separated from their American citizen children.

But late that year, President Barack Obama issued a directive to ease deportations of parents. And in an executive action the following year, ICE was instructed to prioritize deportations for criminals, and sparing undocumented residents from the fear of deportation if they've lived at least five years in this country and hadn't committed any crimes while here.

Last year's presidential election put immigration in the spotlight with then-candidate Donald Trump railing against "sanctuary cities" for illegal immigrants. And after winning the election, President Trump signed an executive order that would strip federal funding to any city that didn't fully cooperate with federal officials in singling out undocumented residents for deportation.

But that directive was quickly found to be unconstitutional in court challenges, and meanwhile, cities across America defiantly stood for the principal that local law enforcement officers better served their citizens when they weren't acting as an arm of federal immigration control.

One of those cities was West Palm Beach, which passed a "Welcoming City" resolution that proclaimed that city officers would not assist immigration officers in rounding up undocumented residents.

"We want to make sure people know that they are safe in West Palm Beach and this is a place where we want them to be," West Palm Beach Mayor Jeri Muoio said about the resolution.

By contrast, Riviera Beach's mayor has been silent — and confused.

"Is Riviera Beach a sanctuary city?" I asked Mayor Masters.

"I don't know," he said. "I'm not a strong mayor. That's the city manager's situation. It's up to him. I've asked him to look into it."

Immigrant rights attorney Aileen Josephs says a lot is at stake here.

"Riviera Beach, according to the census, is now home to about 34,244 Hispanics," she said. "Many of them I suppose are undocumented and it's very important to promote the trust between the immigrant community and law enforcement."

Josephs said she has a meeting with the city's police chief next week. Meanwhile, Masters said he has asked the city manager to get involved.

"We need to see if there needs to be some changes or modifications," he said.

It needs to be fixed, Josephs said.

"People are saying, don't call the police, they are against us," she said. [fcerabino@pbpost.com](mailto:fcerabino@pbpost.com) Last year's presidential election put immigration in the spotlight.



## **7/19/17 Schools combat employee theft; remedy sought**

By Scott Travis Staff writer

More than \$100,000 belonging to sports teams, ROTC programs and other student activities disappeared from three Palm Beach County schools in recent years.

The cases led to the arrests in the past 14 months of former school treasurers at Palm Beach Gardens High, Bak Middle School of the Arts in West Palm Beach and Boca Raton High.

On Thursday, the district's Audit Committee will discuss ways to keep it from happening again.

Among the options: installing security cameras, no longer accepting cash at schools, switching from a paper to an electronic method of logging money and hiring three new employees to better monitor schools on financial matters.

"We're constantly trying to improve, but you have to balance the controls with what's practical," said Mike Burke, the district's chief financial officer. "You don't want to spend a million dollars to protect \$10,000."

He said the district has controls in place that helped catch the recent incidents.

"If you're in a cash business, you're going to have some level of theft," he said.

The string of incidents began in the 2015-16 school year at Palm Beach Gardens High, when the district's inspector general determined that credit cards belonging to the Junior ROTC program, as well as other accounts, were used to make more than \$13,000 in improper purchases.

A review determined that Terri Miller, the former treasurer at the school, had bought eggs, bread, sports drinks and other personal items at Sam's Club and Costco over five years. She was arrested in May 2016 but her fraud charges will be dropped if she meets the terms of a pre-trial diversion program.

The investigation also found that former Assistant Principal Richard Williams, 54, who is Miller's brother, made \$1,142 in unauthorized purchases, including vitamins and supplements, lobster tails, shrimp, scallops, salmon spread, crab cakes and other gourmet food items. Williams resigned in September but wasn't criminally charged.

Last year, district police asked the State Attorney's Office to charge Cathleen Spring, the former treasurer of Bak, with fraud after \$67,000 went missing. But the office said there were no security cameras or other proof that she took the missing money. Prosecutors decided in June to charge her with forgery, after school principal Sally Rozanski said Spring signed her name on checks without permission.

The school district began investigating Bak in February 2015 after the athletic director complained that money from concession sales and other fundraisers were not showing up in account records. The investigation found money was improperly being transferred from some school club accounts to others to pay for bills.

Police said \$10,000 in cash had been turned in and recorded on a log, but the record of the deposit was covered with white correction fluid. Other logs were missing. One was found in a shredder, the police report states.

In the most recent case, the Lisa Rivera, the former treasurer of Boca Raton High, was arrested on charges that she stole more than \$23,000 between 2013 and 2015. A police report accuses her of stealing money from a safe and replacing it with checks turned in by groups such as the

volleyball and wrestling teams. Her receipt of the checks was not documented on financial logs, the investigation determined.

Shredded collected-money reports were found in the trash in Rivera's office, the report said. The criminal cases against Rivera and Spring are pending. [stravis@sunsentinel.com](mailto:stravis@sunsentinel.com), 561-243-6637 or Twitter @smtravis

## 7/19/17 Conditions ripe for a busy hurricane season

Lack of El Nino is among the weather patterns that favor formation of numerous storms, forecasters say



A man tries to get to his car in Biloxi, Miss., last month after the area was pounded by Tropical Storm Cindy. (AP file)

By David Fleshler Staff writer

A busy start to this year's hurricane season could indicate that we're in for a stormy few months, with an increased risk of a hurricane striking South Florida.

The season has produced four tropical storms so far, well above the number usually seen by this date, according to the National Hurricane Center. In an average year, it takes until Aug. 23 for the season to produce this many storms.

None of them developed into hurricanes. And the formation of these weather systems is such a complex business that random weather events could generate a freakishly busy start to an otherwise inactive season. But in this case, hurricane experts say, the prevailing climate conditions are favorable to storm formation and likely to remain so for the next few months.

One factor is the absence of El Nino, the warming of the eastern Pacific Ocean that suppresses hurricanes by producing high altitude winds over the Atlantic that tear up storms before they can get organized. Another is the unusually high temperature of the Atlantic, since warm water provides the energy for hurricanes.

“We have increased our forecast and now believe that 2017 will have above-average activity,” states the July forecast update of Colorado State University, one of the world centers of hurricane science.

“The odds of a significant El Niño in 2017 have continued to diminish, and most of the tropical and subtropical Atlantic remains anomalously warm. With the increase in our forecast, the probability for major hurricanes making landfall along the United States coastline and in the Caribbean has increased as well.”

The university’s forecast calls for eight hurricanes this year, up from six predicted in its June 1 forecast.

Philip Klotzbach, research scientist for the university’s Tropical Meteorology Project, said in an interview that conditions conducive to hurricane formation are likely to prevail through the season.

“Once you get into July and August, there’s not much that’s going to change,” he said.

Dennis Feltgen, spokesman for the National Hurricane Center, also cited the absence of El Niño in accounting for an above-average start to the season. NOAA’s Climate Prediction Center will issue an updated outlook for the 2017 Atlantic hurricane season on Aug. 9, he said, and the current forecast is for an above-average season.

The Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 to Nov. 30, with the peak running from late August through mid-September.

Tropical Storm Arlene opened the season unusually early, forming in the middle of the Atlantic in mid-April and the falling apart without threatening land. Tropical Storm Bret formed in mid-June and brought heavy rains to Venezuela and to Trinidad and Tobago. Tropical Storm Cindy is the only one to strike the United States so far, making landfall in southwestern Louisiana on June 22 and killing two people.

The National Hurricane Center is currently watching Tropical Storm Don, which is heading toward the southeastern Caribbean Sea and northeast coast of South America. It is expected to weaken Wednesday as it reached an area of wind shear. The hurricane center is also monitoring a storm system in the Atlantic between Africa and South America that may strengthen but is expected to dissipate after that.

A busy start can indicate a busy season. The 2005 season was active from the beginning, with two tropical storms in June and three tropical storms and two hurricanes in July. The season continued with the catastrophic hurricanes Katrina and Wilma, ending as the most active hurricane season on record.

For South Florida, another ominous development this season has been the southerly course taken by most storms, said Jim Lushine, a retired forecaster and expert on South Florida weather. Storms typically veer north. And when they start out on a northerly track, this tendency takes them farther up the coast or into the open Atlantic, where they fall apart without ever striking land.

But the storms so far have taken a more southerly course, thanks to a high pressure system to the north that prevented them from moving north.

“The paths of many of the storms have been farther south this year than in other years, and that’s in general bad news for us,” Lushine said. “When storms come off that more northerly latitude they usually move up to the north before they reach South Florida. But when they come up from the south, that means they’re a little more likely to turn north just as they get in our vicinity.”

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## 7/19/17 New group home rules

Delray OKs law to curb treatment center trouble; Boynton to follow suit

By Brooke Baitinger and Ryan Van Velzer Staff writers

Delray Beach and Boynton Beach are ready to regulate sober homes and other types of community housing in response to the opioid crisis gripping South Florida and the rest of the country.

Delray on Tuesday night unanimously approved new rules for group homes, and Boynton was scheduled to do so in a Tuesday meeting. Both cities will require group homes to be licensed through a regulatory entity such as the Florida Association of Recovery Residences, a Boca Raton-based organization.

Sober homes, also known as recovery residences or halfway houses, shelter people recovering from alcohol or drug addiction. The new regulations aim to enact a regulatory system meant to help preserve the character of neighborhoods.

A Sun Sentinel investigation found hundreds of people in Delray Beach are overdosing on drugs just beyond the group homes that are supposed to help them recover. The vast majority of overdoses in Delray happen in neighborhoods where sober homes are concentrated, predominantly on the city's east side.

Some homes and treatment centers in South Florida, run by unscrupulous operators, have come under fire for luring people from other regions of the country with cash, gift cards and discounted rents, primarily to collect on their insurance policies, authorities say.

Many people wind up on the streets, returning to drug use, according to a report commissioned in Palm Beach County.

Paramedics handled 5,000 overdose calls in Palm Beach County last year. In Broward County, opioids killed 582 people last year.

Delray's new law would affect most community residences, including sober homes and other group homes for people with disabilities. Under the ordinance, each new community residence of four or more people should be at least 660 feet — about one city block — from one another. To move closer, they would need a city-issued permit.

The rule would apply only to new community residences and would not be imposed on existing ones.

"This legislation will save lives in this community," said Delray Beach Mayor Cary Glickstein.

The city will have to consider adding the necessary funding in upcoming budget cycles to enforce the ordinance, he said.

"While this is broadly based and broadly applied, we are not going to be able to implement with current staff," he said.

It also would require all community residences to have a license, certification or accreditation from a regulatory body like the Florida Association of Recovery Residences. If one isn't available, the community residence could again seek a permit from the city.

The ordinance is based on findings from a zoning study commissioned by the city to learn more about the impacts of community residences on Delray Beach.

"This is not a silver bullet, there is a lot more that we have to do and can do," said Commissioner Jim Chard.

Al Johnson, Chief Assistant State Attorney for Palm Beach County, supported the city's new rules.

“I think the city went about it in a compassionate and thoughtful way,” Johnson said. “They’ve come up with the right idea — the protection of residents as opposed to banning group homes that house people with disabilities.”

Boynton city officials drafted new rules during a six-month moratorium that temporarily halted processing for new group-home applications, which ended on June 4.

Boynton initially approved its new rules last month and Tuesday night’s vote would put them into effect.

Starting Wednesday, new sober homes in Boynton Beach that open up will have to register with Florida Association of Recovery Residences.

The new rules also include increasing parking requirements, preventing frontyards from being paved to accommodate more cars per home, and increasing the maximum number of residents in the homes from six to 10.

Boynton officials initially proposed a distance separation standard of 300 feet between all group homes, but decided to omit the rule because it is a weak point in the proposed standards due to a potentially arbitrary method of setting distance. It wasn’t supported legally, officials said.

In related business, Delray Commissioners on Tuesday night unanimously chose to take the next step in plans to sue drug manufacturers.

The city will enter into negotiations with San Diego-based law firm Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd, which wrote a memo to city commissioners saying it could use Florida’s consumer protection laws to argue drug manufacturers misled the public and omitted facts through their marketing.

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Visit our Sun Sentinel community pages at [facebook.com/BoyntonBeach](https://facebook.com/BoyntonBeach) and [facebook.com/DelrayBeach](https://facebook.com/DelrayBeach).



## 7/19/17 Politicians push to recover Trump security costs



Trump

By Anthony Man Staff writer

South Florida's congressional delegation is urging the Trump administration to get moving on providing federal reimbursement to local governments that incur extraordinary security expenses from presidential visits.

On Tuesday, U.S. Rep. Lois Frankel, a Democrat who represents most of Palm Beach County, said she and five other members of Congress from Broward and Palm Beach counties sent letters to Trump administration officials pressing for the money.

The biggest impact in the region is on Palm Beach County property taxpayers, who have been footing the bill for costs incurred by the Sheriff's Office when President Donald Trump visits his Mar-a-Lago Club in Palm Beach.

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office has estimated it has cost county taxpayers about \$4 million to help provide security during Trump's visits since he was elected.

Other reimbursements could go to the city of West Palm Beach, the town of Palm Beach and Broward County, whose taxpayers provided sheriff's deputies to supplement PBSO.

The Palm Beach Police Department estimated it has racked up about \$115,000 in personnel expenses related to presidential visits. And it anticipates spending nearly \$250,000 a year on extra police overtime, temporary fencing and other expenses stemming from hosting the president.

The federal appropriation covers only law enforcement personnel costs directly attributable to presidential visits.

In May, Congress approved budget legislation that included \$61 million from the federal government to help defray security costs of Trump visits between Election Day and his inauguration and between the inauguration and the end of the federal fiscal year Sept. 30.

The money isn't just for Palm Beach County. New York, where Trump spent most of his time as president-elect, is also in line to get its local security expenses reimbursed. And Trump has a golf resort in Bedminster, N.J., which he's been using as his summer weekend getaway after the end of the winter-spring social season in Palm Beach.



U.S. Rep. Ted Deutch, a Broward-Palm Beach county Democrat, said at the time it would take time to get rules written and a process established for disbursing the money.

This week, Frankel said, letters went to Attorney General Jeff Sessions and Bob Fenton, acting administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, calling for consideration of local costs. The letter to Sessions covers expenses since Trump became president. The letter to FEMA covers the period between the election and Trump's inauguration.

"We write to ask for full and fair consideration of requests by the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, as well as other South Florida law enforcement agencies," the letters state. "While protection of the president is paramount, the amount of overtime cost is detrimental to the local budgets and puts a strain on our local police forces."

Also signing the letters were Deutch, U.S. Rep. Brian Mast, the only Republican who represents any part of the two counties; and U.S. Rep. Alcee Hastings, a Democrat whose district includes part of Palm Beach County. U.S. Reps. Debbie Wasserman Schultz and Frederica Wilson, Democrats who represent parts of Broward and Miami-Dade counties, also signed.

## **7/19/17 Broward teen was brutally murdered by MS-13 gang in New York, feds say**



Villalobos

By Paula McMahon Staff writer

Though Jefferson Villalobos fled to South Florida to escape gang violence in his native Honduras, he was brutally murdered by the notorious MS-13 gang in April while visiting family in Long Island, investigators say.

Four people are facing federal charges they murdered Villalobos, 18, of Pompano Beach, his cousin Michael Lopez Banegas, 20, of Brentwood, N.Y., and two other young men in a vicious attack earlier this year, according to court records unsealed this week.

The suspects were motivated by their desire to join the gang or they were already members and were trying to maintain their position within the criminal organization, prosecutors said. Villalobos had lived in Broward County for about three years and played soccer for Deerfield Beach High School before dropping out to work in construction, friends said. Authorities said he was savagely murdered during an Easter week vacation with relatives in New York.

The bodies of the four victims, Villalobos, Lopez Banegas, Justin Llivicura, 16, of East Patchogue, N.Y., and Jorge Tigre, 18, of Bellport, N.Y., were found in a wooded area near a park in Central Islip. Investigators said they had been slashed with machetes.

Family members said Villalobos' face had been mutilated and he was identified, in part, by a tattoo on his arm. His tattoo depicted two hands wrapped around rosary beads with the words "In God's hands."

Arrested in New York and Virginia in the last several days were: Alexis Hernandez, Santos Leonel Ortiz-Flores and Omar Antonio Villalta, who is also known as "Anticristo" or the Antichrist. Their ages were not immediately available. The fourth suspect, a juvenile, was arrested but not publicly identified.

The suspects have all pleaded not guilty and are jailed pending trial, court records show. The four accused of the murder are among 21 people now facing gang conspiracy and other serious charges in a wide-ranging series of indictments filed against alleged members of the gang in the Eastern District of New York in the last 18 months. The charges involve about a dozen murders, several attempted murders, assaults, obstruction of justice, arson, conspiracy to distribute marijuana, firearms and other offenses.

MS-13 is the street gang La Mara Salvatrucha, a name derived from the slang words for gang, El Salvadorans and cunning, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

The gang's motto is "Kill, rape, control" and it is known for barbaric slayings and preying on recent immigrants to the U.S., according to experts.

In the U.S., the gang originated in Los Angeles, then spread to other states. It has a large presence in New York, Virginia and Washington, D.C., but is not considered prevalent in South Florida. It is believed to have about 30,000 members in the world, with more than 10,000 in the U.S., investigators said.

Efforts to contact Villalobos' parents and other relatives and friends for comment were unsuccessful Tuesday.

Staff researcher Barbara Hijek and staff writer Michael Clary contributed to this report. pmcmahon@sunsentinel.com, 954-356-4533 or Twitter @SentinelPaula

## 7/19/17 Boy had potent drug in his system, tests show

By David Ovalle Miami Herald

A 10-year-old Miami boy may be among the youngest victims of Florida's opioid crisis.

Preliminary toxicology tests show that Alton Banks had the potent painkiller fentanyl in his system when he collapsed at his Overtown home in June, authorities said on Monday.

The death comes against the backdrop of a staggering opioid crisis that has wreaked havoc across the country, with hundreds of South Florida drug users fatally overdosing in recent years. But illegal fentanyl and some of its synthetic cousins can be so powerful that just a speck, breathed in or absorbed through the skin, can fatally affect an unwitting victim.

Investigators believe Alton, a fifth-grader at Frederick Douglass Elementary, may be just such a victim.

On June 23, the boy began vomiting after returning home from an outing at a neighborhood pool. That evening, he was found unconscious. Paramedics rushed to his home on the 100 block of Northwest 13th Street that evening. Doctors pronounced him dead at Jackson Memorial Hospital. Miami detectives are still trying to piece together his final day.

There's no evidence to suggest that Alton came into contact with drugs at his home, authorities said. But Overtown, the hub of heroin and fentanyl sales, has been ground zero for Miami's opioid epidemic, and Alton could have unknowingly come into contact with the drug on the street.

"He was out playing, like we want all our children to do. It's unclear whether it was at the pool or on the walk home," said Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle. "We're anxiously hoping that someone comes forward to help us solve this horrific death."

The Miami-Dade Medical Examiner's Office is still doing more testing, and a final report is pending. Authorities don't generally disclose preliminary findings, but the Miami-Dade state attorney's office agreed to comment publicly because of the unusual nature of the death and the need for tips in finding out how the boy might have come into contact with the drugs.

Alton's mother, Shantell Banks, was informed of the preliminary findings late last week. She was too distraught to speak in depth on Monday but said her son was a "fun kid" who wanted to become an engineer and loved the Carolina Panthers.

"Cam Newtown was his favorite football player," Shantell Banks told the Miami Herald.

The effects of fentanyl and its variants have been widely chronicled, devastating communities across the nation and in Florida, where a crackdown on prescription painkillers such as Oxycodone is believed to have led to the spike in heroin and opioid abuse.

The drug is powerful enough that police departments have warned officers about even touching the drug. Last fall, three Broward police dogs got sick after sniffing the drug during a federal raid.

The scourge of opioid deaths led the Florida Legislature to pass a law imposing stiff minimum mandatory sentences on dealers caught with four grams or more of fentanyl or its analogs.

The new law also made it possible to charge dealers with murder if they provide a fatal dose of fentanyl or drugs mixed with fentanyl.

Even if investigators were able to figure out where the drugs that possibly killed Alton came from, putting together a murder case might prove difficult. The new law doesn't go into affect until Oct. 1.

While fentanyl is a legal painkiller generally prescribed in patch form, the version of the drug wreaking havoc on the streets is believed to be shipped illegally from clandestine labs in China. A federal commission in January blasted China's role in the opioid epidemic, while Miami-Dade county leaders recently wrapped up task-force meetings aimed at exploring the epidemic.

The dramatic spike in deaths — more people died of opioid abuse in Miami-Dade last year than there were homicides — has led to increased police probes of dealers, particularly in Overtown. Last month, Miami-Dade police arrested a man in what was billed as the largest fentanyl bust in county history.

According to the Miami-Dade medical examiner's office, there were nearly 300 overdose deaths involving variants of fentanyl last year.

Across Florida, in the first half of 2016, fentanyl and its analogs killed 853 people while contributing to 135 more deaths, state records show. Of those, only nine were under the age of 18.

Young victims — some curious toddlers who ingest the drugs by mistake — account for only a small amount of opioid victims. In 2015, there were 51 victims under the age of five, according to the U.S. Center for Disease Control, a number that is still an increase from over a decade ago.

**From:** [Anderson, Cassandra L](#)  
**Subject:** News Clips 7/29/17  
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## **News Clip 7/29/17**

### **Palm Beach Post**

**7/29/17 COURTS FATAL DUI SENTENCE**

## **Man gets 12 years in prison for crash**

**Young woman was killed when drunken driver blew**

**through stop sign and fled.** *By Jorge Milian Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Marielena Plaza, shown with her father, Tim Rosa, was killed in March 2016. "This pain will never go away," Rosa said. CONTRIBUTED



Calderon

WEST PALM BEACH — A Greenacres man was sentenced Friday to 12 years in prison for killing an 18-year-old woman while he drove drunk in a stolen car — a result that provided little solace to her grieving father.



Marielena Plaza was heading to the store with her mother and younger brother on March 23, 2016, to stock up for the family's "taco night" when Hector Calderon, then 19, blew through a stop sign in a stolen 2002 Toyota Camry at the intersection of Martin Avenue and First Street and smashed into the 2010 Honda SUV in which Plaza was traveling.

Plaza, an aspiring nurse, was ejected from the Honda and pronounced dead at St. Mary's Medical Center in West Palm Beach.

On Friday, Calderon pleaded guilty to DUI manslaughter, leaving the scene of a crash causing death and DUI with personal injury. Aside from the prison term, Calderon was sentenced to six years of probation and had his driver's license revoked for life.

"Twelve years is not going to bring my daughter back," Tim Rosa said by phone following Calderon's sentencing. "But 50 years — even a life sentence — wouldn't be enough because I lost my baby. This pain will never go away."

Rosa said he's most angry at Calderon for his actions after the crash. Calderon, who had a blood alcohol level of 0.235 that is nearly three times the legal limit, and a passenger, Marcelo Gabrielo, jumped out of the Toyota and attempted to run away before they were apprehended nearby by a witness and Palm Beach County sheriff's deputies.

"Maybe things would have been a little different if he had shown some consideration," Rosa said. "But he didn't care. He jumped out of the car while my daughter was dying on the side of the road and just ran. He didn't look back. I look at him as a coward."

Plaza's mother and 15-year-old brother were not injured. According to PBSO, the crash impact was centered on the SUV's passenger side door where Plaza was sitting. The crash took place about 150 feet from Plaza's home on Jennings Avenue near Lake Worth and Haverhill roads.

About a month before the crash, Plaza had moved to Florida from New Jersey and was attending Worthington High School, a charter school in West Palm Beach. Plaza was excited by the move, especially because it came shortly before her parents were married on Feb. 20. Plaza served in her mother's bridal party, helping her apply makeup before the ceremony, then carrying the wedding dress train as her mother walked down the aisle.

"She was beyond herself," Rosa said. "Marielena loved her family."

With Calderon's conviction, Rosa said his daughter "can rest in peace now that we got justice for her."

"She was an angel that was taken from us too soon," Rosa said. "I'm so angry and so hurt because she was a great kid with a wonderful future ahead of her. I just don't understand." [jmilian@pbpost.com](mailto:jmilian@pbpost.com)

**7/29/17 DELRAY BEACH TRI-RAIL SUICIDES**

# **Suicide tries on tracks spur Tri-Rail to raise awareness on aid**

*By Paige Fry Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



A Tri-Rail train is stopped on the tracks north of Lake Ida Road in Delray Beach after two people were hit Wednesday morning. They apparently were trying to commit suicide, officials said.

LANNIS WATERS / THE PALM BEACH POST

## **GETTING HELP**

- The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-TALK (8255) is a free 24/7 number with support, information and local resources.
- Lifeline Crisis Chat is a 24/7 online service to connect those in need with a chat specialist for emotional support, crisis intervention and suicide prevention services.
- 2-1-1 Helpline for Palm Beach County and Treasure Coast is a free 24/7 number for crisis intervention, suicide prevention and information.
- Crisis Text Line 741-741 is a 24/7 free text-message service to connect people in crisis with a crisis counselor for support.

DELRAY BEACH — Tri-Rail is launching a suicide prevention outreach and awareness program in the wake of two people sustaining critical injuries after hugging and lying down on the tracks in front of a train.

The man and woman survived being struck Wednesday near Lake Ida Road in Delray Beach — a rarity when a train hits a person, Tri-Rail spokeswoman Bonnie Arnold said Friday.

Palm Beach County is the site of most of the passenger rail line's cases of suicide and trains hitting people. At least five people have been struck during 2017, four of them

by Tri-Rail. The most recent death by a train crash in Palm Beach County was Monday, when a Brightline train hit and killed an 18-year-old woman in Boca Raton. The Wednesday crash is a reminder to Tri-Rail of the importance of education about suicide, Arnold said: "Unfortunately, suicide by train is a pretty sure thing. If someone wants to commit suicide, it's pretty hard to prevent it."

Tri-Rail plans to install crisis intervention signs in areas along its tracks where people have been hit. It hopes the signs will make people think twice about taking their own lives and warn train crews of the six problem spots along its 72 miles of track, which run between Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties.

The rail line also is working with the state and the 211 help line to launch a program about train safety and suicide. It's even considering using drones to monitor these areas to warn train crews if someone is on the tracks, Arnold said.

Brandon Weiner and Mary Ann Ortega, both 29 and homeless, were in one of these areas in Delray Beach when they were struck by the train Wednesday morning, Arnold said. They were in critical condition at Del-ray Medical Center on Friday, said Dani Moschella, Delray Beach police spokeswoman.

The train conductor saw the couple and attempted to stop the train, Moschella said. After they were hit, authorities found the two unresponsive but still alive.

Court records show Boynton Beach police arrested Weiner on July 11 on a drug charge. During the arrest, the couple told the officer they had fallen on hard times and were homeless. Weiner was released from the Palm Beach County Jail on July 17. He failed to show up in court for a status hearing Monday. He lived in Sunrise as recently as 2015, online records show.

Ortega has worked as a dog groomer and past employers have described her as talented. Angie Abdul, owner of Angie's Pet Spa and Boutique in Broward County, said Ortega worked in her boutique from February to March 2014. She said Ortega kept to herself and wouldn't talk much to the other groomers but was always respectful and came to work on time.

"She treated the dogs right, she was very patient, very loving," Abdul said. "I guess the dogs made her feel better. I felt like she was sad sometimes."

Ortega had worked this year at a Fort Lauderdale pet-grooming salon, said the owner, who asked not to give her name. She said Ortega only worked there for about three weeks in February, and then stopped coming.

During her time there, she said she lived with her boyfriend in Delray Beach, but the owner said she didn't recognize Weiner as the boyfriend. [pfry@pbpost.com](mailto:pfry@pbpost.com)

**ON FACEBOOK** Keep up with The Post's complete coverage of Delray Beach on its Facebook page dedicated to the city. On Facebook, search for Post on Delray Beach.

7/29/17 COURTS

# W. Palm man gets 40 years in fatal shooting

*By Daphne Duret Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



William Nunez Reyes, 41, fatally shot his friend's wife.



Ana Mejia, who was fatally shot in 2013 by William Nunez Reyes, is shown on the day she and her husband initially were awarded \$2.5 million in a medical malpractice case they filed over their son's deformities. RICHARD GRAULICH / THE PALM BEACH POST 2011

WEST PALM BEACH — The 2013 shooting of a friend's wife during William Nunez Reyes' birthday gathering resulted Friday in the 41-year-old Nunez Reyes being sentenced to 40 years in prison.

The virtual life sentence for Nunez Reyes comes more than two months after a Palm Beach County jury convicted him of second-degree murder in the shooting death of 31-year-old Ana Carolina Mejia.

Circuit Judge Samantha Schosberg Feuer could have sentenced Nunez Reyes to life in prison based on the conviction, but went with a lesser sentence. Even so, under current sentencing norms, the 40-year sentence means the West Palm Beach man

would be nearly 80 when he is released from prison even with time off for good behavior.

Nunez Reyes was celebrating his 38th birthday Nov. 2 at Mejia's Holly Road home in West Palm Beach with her husband, Rodolfo Santana Diaz.

According to arrest reports, Santana Diaz was playing pool with Nunez Reyes' brother Marlon when a disagreement broke out. William Nunez Reyes became angry when Santana Diaz asked him to step away from the pool table and scattered the balls to disrupt the game. Santana Diaz told sheriff's deputies Nunez Reyes punched him in the face. Nunez Reyes countered that Santana Diaz had a knife.

Santana Diaz told deputies he left the house, fearing Nunez Reyes would grab a gun. When he returned, he discovered his wife had been shot.

Nunez Reyes told deputies that Mejia was grabbing his arm and he accidentally shot her. She was rushed to JFK Medical Center in Atlantis, where she died.

Months after Mejia's death, an appeals court threw out a \$2.5 million verdict a Palm Beach County jury had awarded the couple in a lawsuit they had filed before Mejia's death. The jury had found that obstetrician Dr. Marie Morel and clinics where she practiced should have discovered the couple's son's deformities during numerous ultrasounds Mejia had before giving birth.

In the unusual 2011 trial, Mejia and Santana Diaz invoked a "wrongful birth" claim, telling the jury they would have terminated the pregnancy had they been properly warned of the physical problems their child would suffer. While both said they loved their child, they said they would have spared him the agony that life handed him.

After the verdict was thrown out by the 4th District Court of Appeal and Mejia was killed, Morel and OB/ GYN Specialists of the Palm Beaches and Perinatal Specialists of the Palm Beaches agreed to an out-of-court settlement. They agreed to pay Santana Diaz \$20,000 and to spend another \$322,000 to purchase an annuity for the couple's son, Bryan, who is now 8. [dduret@pbpost.com](mailto:dduret@pbpost.com)



7/29/17 TRUMP IN PALM BEACH

# Mar-a-Lago security cost Coast Guard \$6.6M

## Service ramped up Trump details amid straitened budget.

*By Drew Harwell Washington Post*



An aerial view of Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach, President Donald Trump's "Winter White House." Trump made seven weekend trips to the club this spring, for which the Coast Guard deployed personnel from around the country. GREG LOVETT / THE PALM BEACH POST

As the Trump administration threatened hefty budget cuts for the U.S. Coast Guard, the military service was spending more than \$6.6 million protecting the president's waterfront Mar-a-Lago Club during his seven weekend trips there this spring, documents show.

The Coast Guard deployed cutters, patrol boats, helicopters and anti-terror specialists from across the country to safeguard the luxury Palm Beach estate. The deployments came as Coast Guard leaders, bracing for possible budget cuts, have argued that the cash-strapped service has made painful sacrifices — letting some illegal drug shipments go and delaying certain repairs to its fleet.

The records, released in response to a Freedom of Information Act request, offer a glimpse into the intricate costs and demands for a military force tasked with defending the president during his frequent getaways to his private businesses. They also highlight how taxpayers have helped finance the unusually elaborate lifestyle of Trump and his family in ways that can also benefit his company. In this case, Mar-a-Lago, which Trump has dubbed a "Winter White House," is also a for-profit, members-only club.



The Coast Guard has provided security for past presidents alongside the U.S. Secret Service, including guarding former President Barack Obama during trips such as his annual family vacations to Hawaii, but officials could not immediately provide estimates for those costs.

When Obama spent a weekend in South Florida in 2013, the Coast Guard spent about \$586,000 to cover patrol, travel and lodging costs, according to a Government Accountability Office report last year.

The spending at Mar-a-Lago, which comes to close to \$1 million for each trip, appears to collide with the president's pledges of trimming government costs.

The Coast Guard spent more than \$17.8 million on presidential security costs between October and March, offering air and waterside patrols for high-level events during the Obama and Trump administrations. That cost was up from \$15.1 million in the same period ending in March 2016, and \$10.7 million for the period ending in March 2015, Coast Guard records show.

The Coast Guard is brought in to protect Trump at official events as well as recreational excursions, including patrolling the Potomac River when the president plays golf at his Trump National Golf Club in Sterling, Va.

The Secret Service requested Coast Guard protection for Trump's Mar-a-Lago visits, which are classified as "national special security events," Coast Guard officials said. The club has represented an expensive challenge for the service, which patrols the airspace above the estate as well as its two coastlines along the Atlantic Ocean and the Intra-coastal Waterway.

The Coast Guard's missions — including drug interdictions and port patrols — sit at the center of some of Trump's biggest campaign promises, including stricter immigration and homeland security. But leaders say the military branch has struggled to complete its mission while faced with a tightening budget and aging fleet.

The Coast Guard's commandant, Adm. Paul Zukunft, testified before a House subcommittee Tuesday that the branch was "deferring maintenance" and running cutters and aircraft long beyond their retirement age because it needs more funding. In a CBS interview that aired Tuesday, Zukunft added that the Coast Guard had not pursued hundreds of potential drug shipments last year because "we didn't have enough planes, we didn't have enough ships."

The Coast Guard's spending accounts for a fraction of the military security apparatus that has encircled Trump during journeys to his private clubs and golf courses.

Congress this year allocated roughly \$120 million in additional funding to help cover the Secret Service's presidential travel and protection, as well as "extraordinary law enforcement personnel costs" incurred by local governments during Trump's trips.

The White House did not respond to requests for comment. Officials have in the past defended the costs as necessary to safeguard the president's work, with White House spokeswoman Stephanie Grisham saying in February, "He is not vacationing when he goes to Mar-a-Lago. The president works nonstop every day of the week, no matter where he is."

Coast Guard service members, specialists, pilots and engineers spent thousands of hours on patrol or support duties around the time of the president's 25 days at Mar-a-Lago between February and April, records show.

Gun-mounted response boats manned by four-person tactical crews spent 1,866 hours on the water, or more than 77 full days, at a cost of about \$2.8 million, the documents show.

They were joined by larger watercraft, including an 87-foot Marine Protector-class patrol boat and a 154-foot fast-response cutter, which watched for threats and kept out recreational boaters in three nearby "security zones."

Back on land, teams of armory staff, mechanics and electronics specialists worked to keep the boats running and armed. Overhead, H-65 Dolphin helicopters, traditionally used for water rescues, flew for 135 hours to intercept low-and slow-flying aircraft, at a cost of about \$7,885 an hour.

Special anti-terror units, known as Maritime Safety and Security Teams, also deployed to Mar-a-Lago from Miami, New Orleans, Houston, Boston, New York and a naval submarine base in southeastern Georgia. Flights, mileage, lodging and other expenses for Coast Guard service members patrolling the seven Mar-a-Lago visits exceeded \$720,000.

Trump gave up day-to-day management of Mar-a-Lago but still owns the club, which took in \$37.2 million in resort-related revenue between January 2016 and April 2017, financial disclosures show.

The club, which hosts banquets and weddings and offers a spa and tennis courts, doubled its initiation fee to \$200,000 shortly after Trump won the election.

The White House in March proposed slashing the Coast Guard's budget by 14 percent, triggering alarms among military leaders, before promising that it would instead keep the branch's budget at "current funding levels."

The president's latest proposal, delivered to Congress in May, would cut the Coast Guard's budget by 2.4 percent, or about \$267 million. The Secret Service's \$2.1 billion budget is slated to grow less than 1 percent.

The Coast Guard, Zukunft said in April, has received no extra funding to help cover the costs of "protecting the approaches to Mar-a-Lago on both coasts ... (and) in the air." Service officials said the Presidential Protection Assistance Act restricts them

from seeking reimbursement for costs associated with supporting presidential security.

The Coast Guard is one of several tax-funded agencies involved in the protection of the president's private club. Palm Beach County officials said they spent more than \$60,000 a day toward costs such as deputy overtime when Trump was in town this past spring.

Trump's waterfront excursions have taxed the Coast Guard in other ways. The service walked back plans this week that forbid recreational paddlers and boaters from skimming two miles of the Potomac River near the Trump golf club when the president is playing there.

The Coast Guard did not respond to questions about whether it encountered any security intrusions during its Mar-a-Lago deployments. But the service's round-the-clock patrols did report some suspicious activity to the police, including a young couple having sex on a small nearby island in April.

**7/29/17 POST IN-DEPTH MARIJUANA SALE**

## **Licensed pot grower sold for \$40 million Canadian firm buys startup in Alachua**

**County with no stores.** *By Jeff Ostrowski Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

In the first big-dollar deal in Florida's budding marijuana industry, a Canadian company paid \$40 million for one of seven firms allowed to grow and sell cannabis in the state.

Liberty Health Sciences of Toronto this month bought Chestnut Hill Tree Farm of Alachua County, an operation that's still very much in startup mode. Chestnut Hill has yet to open a retail outlet, and Liberty Health Sciences Chief Executive George Scorsis acknowledges that the company remains in a "pre-revenue" phase.

Chestnut Hill's most valuable asset is its state license to produce medical marijuana. However, state officials have said they'll issue more licenses for cannabis cultivation as more patients join Florida's medical marijuana registry, so even the license could prove a depreciating asset.

"It's possible there could be some devaluation as the state issues more licenses, but we thought it was important for us to be one of the first entrants in the market," Scorsis said Friday.

Pot proponents pushed medical marijuana as a safe treatment for cancer, chronic pain and other ailments. The large sum paid for Chestnut Hill stoked concerns that the nascent industry quickly has shifted into a speculative mode.

"This is a completely immature company, and it's going at a big dollar value," said Ben Pollara, who led the campaign to legalize medical marijuana in Florida.

Florida voters in November overwhelmingly approved Amendment 2, which makes marijuana available to people with cancer, epilepsy, HIV, post-traumatic stress disorder and other ailments. They must get a doctor's permission to buy cannabis.

The Canadian company's arrival underscores just how hotly contested Florida's marijuana market could become. Most industry players expected half a million Floridians to sign up for the medical marijuana program, but Scorsis says the number could be higher.

"We always saw Florida as a tremendous opportunity because of the sheer population size," Scorsis said.

Before he took over Liberty Health Sciences, Scorsis ran Mettrum Health Corp., a cannabis cultivator in Canada. That company sold earlier this year for more than \$400 million.

Liberty Health Services is an offshoot of another Canadian cannabis company, and Scorsis said its hallmark is growing marijuana cheaply compared to its competitors.

"We are the lowest-cost producer in Canada, and we also will be the lowest-cost producer in Florida," Scorsis said. "We need to ensure that the product we produce is affordable."

So Liberty Health Services could bring price competition to Florida, where prices have proven higher than in California and Colorado.

"Right now, there's not much competition, and there aren't many patients to compete for," Pollara said.

As of July 12, there were 23,350 patients on the state's cannabis rolls, the Florida Department of Health said.

Now that Scorsis has taken over Chestnut Hill's operations, he aims to begin opening dispensaries. Scorsis said he's negotiating three leases in South Florida and one in Central Florida.

He said the stores will focus on explaining the effects of cannabis to patients.

"Our retail outlets will be a combination of education centers and retail outlets," Scorsis said.

While Liberty Health Services paid a hefty sum to get into Florida's marijuana market, Scorsis stressed the company's altruistic bent.

"Medical cannabis is there because patients need it," he said, "and we need to work backward from there."

Gov. Rick Scott on June 23 signed a bill that eliminated a 90-day waiting period for pot patients and removed sales taxes from cannabis transactions. One caveat: Patients can't buy pot in the leafy green buds most commonly associated with the drug. Instead, cannabis is delivered through vaporizers, oral drops and nasal sprays. Cannabis companies are allowed to deliver products to customers, so Floridians still can get marijuana in spite of the lack of storefronts. [jostrowski@pbpost.com](mailto:jostrowski@pbpost.com)

'It's possible there could be some devaluation as the state issues more licenses, but we thought it was important for us to be one of the first entrants in the market.'

George Scorsis Liberty Health Sciences chief executive

# Sun Sentinel

## **7/29/17 Police say man had 70 bags of drugs**

Also had 3 kids in car, report says

By Adam Sacasa Staff writer

A suspected drug dealer was nabbed while carrying 70 baggies of possible heroin, four grams of marijuana, six grams of cocaine, \$4,000 in cash — and had kids ages 1, 2 and 5 in his back seat, police say.

The multi-agency bust happened Tuesday afternoon after investigators got a tip that David Coleman Jr., 23, of Delray Beach, known on the street as “Boogie,” would be at Jaycee Park, 2600 South Federal Highway in Boynton Beach, with a large amount of drugs.

Officers watched as he pulled into the park, driving a 2012 Ford Edge with dark tinted windows. When Coleman wouldn’t unlock the SUV, agents moved in and smashed the tinted window.

And that’s when they noticed the children in the back seat, according to a Boynton Beach police arrest report.

A woman, who wasn’t identified in the report, and another man, Eric Griffin, 29, of Delray Beach, were also in the vehicle.

The relationship of the children to those inside the vehicle was not disclosed.

Inside the SUV, investigators found the drugs and money, according to the report.

“The amount and location of the suspect heroin was in reach of the children and if the children would have been exposed to the suspect heroin, the substance would most likely have caused great bodily harm or death,” the arrest report said.

Though Coleman said he was unemployed, police found that he was carrying more than \$4,000 cash, according to the report.

After Coleman and Griffin were jailed, police say they heard Coleman speaking to Griffin underneath a cell door.

“I should have punched it and ran, but they were on us too fast,” the report quoted him as saying. Coleman faces multiple drug charges.

He is also charged with child neglect. He is being held on bonds totaling \$295,000.

Griffin is charged with heroin possession, and is being held without bond because of a previous arrest.

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## 7/29/17 Pair accused of installing gas pump skimmer



Gonzalez-Enriquez (left) and Edgar Cespedes-Ferreira

By Adam SacasaStaff writer

A vigilant gas station clerk helped police nab two men trying to install a credit card skimmer on a gas pump, according to a Delray Beach Police arrest report.

It started around 11:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Shell gas station at 4525 West Atlantic Avenue when the clerk said a Chevy Tahoe pulled up to pump #2, according to a Delray Beach Police arrest report.

The driver, later identified as Robelkis Gonzalez-Enriquez, 33, of Miami, walked inside the convenience store to pay while a passenger stayed in the SUV. The clerk thought Gonzalez-Enriquez was trying to distract him when Gonzalez-Enriquez asked for \$5 worth of gas, then lingered around the store, the clerk told police.

The clerk looked outside to see the passenger, later identified as Edgar Cespedes-Ferreira, 32, of Hialeah, removing a tamper-proof seal from a gas pump. The clerk walked outside to investigate and both men got in the Tahoe and started to take off, according to the report.

Officers arrived and stopped the SUV as the two were about to head west on Atlantic Avenue, police said.

Inside the SUV, police found a laptop and credit cards with ZIP codes on them.

Gonzalez-Enriquez told police he went to the gas station to install the credit card skimmer and that he was “going through some financial hardships with his family, according to the report.

Cespedes-Ferreira told police he was at the gas station because he was left behind by friends and that Gonzalez-Enriquez came to pick him up, police said.

Both men face criminal mischief charges. They were booked into Palm Beach County Jail and released on their own recognizance.

# 7/29/17 State unveils new design for license, identity cards

By Amelia Cheatham Staff writer

Redesigned driver licenses and identification cards will soon make their way into Floridians' wallets, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles said.

Efforts to revamp the credentials began in 2014 and included discussions with stakeholders like law enforcement agencies, supervisors of elections and tax collectors, said Alexis Bakofsky, deputy communications director for the department.

"[It's] not quite as out-of-the-blue as some people think," she said.

She noted the decision was prompted by a desire to make the credentials "more secure," as new technologies and different security measures emerged in the years since the cards had last been altered in 2003.

With almost two times as many fraud protection measures as before, the new cards will be "the most secure over-the-counter credential on the market today," the department said. Specific security precautions include "redundant data" and details that glow under ultraviolet light. Featuring three images of the cardholder and the person's information, the front of the credential will be white with "a pastel-colored linear rendering of the Florida state seal and a large orange 'FL'," according to the agency.

The back of the card depicts the state map and name, as well as the date "1845," in blue with similarly-colored waves. The number is an homage to local history — Florida joined the union as the 27th state in 1845. A fourth picture of the cardholder and certain designations will also appear on the card's back, the department said.

Other changes to the card include different motorcycle endorsements and recognition of the owner's sexual predator or sexual offender status. In line with American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators stipulations, the new credentials will also have "data element numbers" next to cardholder information on the front, the department said.

Residents will receive the new cards at select service centers beginning Aug. 21, according to the department's website. Certain offices in Volusia, Okaloosa, Leon, Duval, Brevard, Manatee, Lee and Broward counties will be the first to carry the credentials.

Bakofsky said the cost of the new IDs will vary, depending on whether citizens choose to add certain designations to their IDs, like hunting or boating licenses or deaf/hard of hearing or developmentally disabled icons. However, the price of a basic license renewal will remain the same, she said.

The cards will be issued at all offices statewide and online before the end of December.

For those not ready to shred their familiarly designed credentials, no need to despair — there isn't a rush to replace your current Florida license or identification card. As long as they're unexpired and accurate, credentials will remain valid for now as the new design is rolled out

**From:** [Anderson, Cassandra L](#)  
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## **News Clip 7/30/17**

### **Palm Beach Post**

**7/30/17 GREENACRES FATAL ACCIDENT**

**Lake Worth man numb after wife dies She died after being struck by a minivan in a Publix parking lot.** *By Kevin D. Thompson Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Glenn Bogovich was married to Josephine for 10 years. "She was a great wife, a great human being," he said. They met in 2005. CONTRIBUTED

LAKE WORTH — Glenn Bogovich is alone.

He hates it. His somber face tells you. So do the dark shades that hide his misery-filled eyes.

His wife, Josephine, was killed earlier this month in a freak car accident at a Publix parking lot in Greenacres.

No more walks, tennis games or just laughing for the couple, married on Christmas Day 2007.

As Josephine, 48, was putting groceries in the trunk of the couple's 2011 BMW 335, she was hit and dragged under a 2001 Honda Odyssey that reversed into her car and

another in the lot on South Military Trail, according to the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office.

"I was in shock," said Glenn, sitting in the living room of his Lake Worth home his late dad built in 1960. "It was like being in the 'Twilight Zone.' I wanted to get her from underneath the car, but there was nothing I could do."

Glenn, 65, said he and his wife were in a few car wrecks. That might be the reason Josephine couldn't move away from the Honda.

"I think she had a phobia," Glenn said, shaking his head. "I tried getting a pulse on her ankle, but she was pinned, and that's the worst."

Josephine was pronounced dead at the scene. Officials are still investigating.

Glenn hired Gordon & Donner, a Palm Beach Gardens law firm, to investigate filing a lawsuit. "I don't know what they're looking at," he said.

At the moment, Glenn is trying to make sense of life without his wife, his best friend, his everything.

For him, every day is a struggle.

Glenn met Josephine, who was from the Philippines, about 2005.

"She was nice-looking, real pleasant and smart," Glenn said. "I taught her how to play tennis, and she became very good."

They got married two years later — the first for both, Glenn said.

"There were no arguments or screwing around," Glenn said. "She was my best friend. What am I going to do? I don't know."

Josephine worked in Singapore as a housekeeper, Glenn said. She also toiled as a housekeeper in Palm Beach for a time.

**'It was like being in the "Twilight Zone." I wanted to get her from underneath the car, but there was nothing I could do.'**

Glenn Bogovich

Husband of crash victim

She stopped working after getting married.

"We went to the gym in the morning and played tennis at night," Glenn said. "She was a world-class cook and she was on the internet a lot. There was no struggle being with her."

A Palm Beach County nurse who knew her called Josephine a gentle person. "She was someone who was always smiling," said the nurse who identified herself as Winsome but didn't want her last name used.

A week before she was killed, the Bogoviches went to Winsome's home after hearing her husband had been in a car accident.

"She came by to see how he was doing," Winsome said. "Her death is so tragic and shocking."

Gordon Mehl knew Josephine for about 10 years, calling her a fantastic woman. "Glenn has never been a ladies' man, but he finally found someone who touched him," Mehl said. "They did everything together."

The couple didn't have children.

Now, Glenn, who has suffered from depression and panic attacks, is concerned.

"It's a struggle just to take a shower," he said. "I hope I don't get back into severe depression I was able to overcome, but it's going to be super tough to get out of this."

He said he'll miss his wife's companionship the most.

"When you're with someone 24/7, then you're not with anyone, that's a big deal," he said.

Josephine gave Glenn a positive attitude, a far cry from when he was 7 and having panic attacks.

"My parents were pretty tough," said Glenn. "They confined me when my grades weren't good, and they would get angry. Parents back then were tough all the time."

These days, Glenn is retired.

He worked as a hairdresser in Palm Beach. He played tennis.

Now he's alone.

"I was used to being by myself, but it's tougher now because I relied on her on just being around," Glenn said. "She was a great wife, a great human being." [kthompson@pbpost.com](mailto:kthompson@pbpost.com) [Twitter: @KevinDThompson1](https://twitter.com/KevinDThompson1)

## **7/30/17 Feud believed behind Delray shooting spree There have been six shootings, one fatal, since July 18.** *By Jorge Milian Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

DELRAY BEACH — City police continue to employ increased patrols around an area of Delray Beach that has seen a spasm of violence, including the recent shooting death of a 19-year-old man.

Police believe the slaying is connected to a feud between two families and their associates that has led to dozens of shootings during the past few years.

That includes five new shootings since Branden Newman was fatally shot on the afternoon of July 18 in front of St. John Primitive Baptist Church at Northwest Sixth Avenue and Northwest First Street.

Two other people were shot with Newman, but not have been identified for their own protection, police said.



No one was hurt in the five other shootings and investigators are awaiting ballistic tests before they can definitively say the attacks are connected to the feuding groups.

But a link is "likely," Delray Beach police spokeswoman Dani Moschella said. Newman's killing was payback for the shooting death of Jarvis Collins, a city employee who was killed in February 2016 when he acted as a peacemaker during an altercation, according to Del-ray Beach Police Chief Jeff Goldman.

"Jarvis was killed by the group that Branden hangs out with," Goldman said last week.

Five hours after Newman was killed, police responded to another shooting near the church.

No one was hurt.

A third related shooting took place July 19 at Southwest Sixth Street and Southwest Seventh Avenue.

Again, no one was injured.

That's been followed by more shootings, the most recent taking place Wednesday just after 11 p.m. near Southwest Seventh Street and Southwest Fourth Avenue.

Shell casings recovered by officers are now being examined, Moschella said.

Goldman said last week the two groups — the James and Johnson families — began warring long ago following a bar fight over a woman.

"We have no idea why it's continuing," Goldman said. "The feud goes dormant every now and then, depending on who's in jail and who's not in jail. We know who is on what side."

Delray Beach police declined to specify the increase in patrols in the area north of Atlantic Avenue but said it includes both added officers and supervisors.

No arrests have been made in Newman's murder or the other recent shootings.

"My message to the community is that these individuals really don't stop," Goldman said. "They are going to continue to retaliate against each other. We need people to let us know if someone has a gun or is planning on going out and doing something crazy because these bullets don't have names on them."

Anyone with information on the shootings is asked to call Delray Beach police at 561-243-7800. [jmilian@pbpost.com](mailto:jmilian@pbpost.com) [Twitter: @jorgemilian1](https://twitter.com/jorgemilian1)

## 7/30/17 **CRIME STOPPERS**

These suspects were wanted as of Thursday:

**Joaquin Pineda Claros**, 21, on felony charges of lewd or lascivious behavior and failure to appear. He was born on Sept. 30, 1995, has brown hair and brown eyes and is 5 feet 10 inches and 160 pounds. His last known address was Northwest Eighth Avenue, Boynton Beach.

**Tonia Williams**, 49, (alias Tonia Solomon; Tonia Walker) on felony charges of obtaining property in return for a worthless check, draft or credit card. She was born on March 10, 1968, has black hair and brown eyes and is 4 feet 11 inches and 140 pounds. Her last known address was West Ninth Street, Riviera Beach.

Anyone with information on the two is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 800-458-TIPS (8477).



Pineda Claros



Williams

7/30/17 FROM THE EDITOR OF THE EDITORIAL PAGE

## Having Narcan on hand could save a child's life

*Rick Christie*



Alton Banks, 10, of Miami, died on June 23 after somehow coming into contact with the powerful opioid drug, fentanyl. Miami-Dade County authorities have not been able to pin down exactly how he was exposed. USA TODAY



Shaw

It's understandable that the tragic death last month of a Miami-Dade County fifth-grader who somehow came in contact with the powerful drug fentanyl has raised concerns among some Florida public school district officials about the health and safety of students.

A child is dead. Not an adult struggling with addiction. An innocent child. We can count Chuck Shaw among those concerned.

The Palm Beach County School Board chairman was careful, last week, not to outrightly condone stocking the lifesaving, anti-overdose drug Narcan (a brand name for naloxone) on public school campuses to counteract potential opioid overdose situations. But he was equally clear that doing so was worth discussion when considering the school district's responsibility to protect kids on those campuses.

I agree. The overdose deaths stemming from the county's opioid epidemic, chronicled exhaustively over the past year by The Palm Beach Post, have yet to show any signs of abating. It's no stretch to assume that this crisis would, at some point, spill onto our school campuses.

It would make sense then for school nurses — the front line of defense on health emergencies — to be prepared.

For Shaw, the opioid overdoses remind him of an incident he dealt with many years ago as a local school principal.

"A girl had come to school with a couple of vials of blood for a sort of show-and-tell," he recounted. "It turned out that her mom or sister was training to be a phlebotomist, and had drawn some of the girl's blood. The girl asked to take the vials to school to show her friends, and they said sure.

### **Schools could be exposed**

"That got me to thinking of all things that kids could be exposed to on a school campus," he continued, "and how much the use of opioids is spreading — not just in our community, but everywhere it seems."

And that got Shaw wondering whether school nurses were properly trained to handle a potential overdose situation. And then whether Narcan should be at their disposal.

The 46-year veteran of Palm Beach County schools is right to be concerned.

This plague is getting worse. Opioids, mainly fentanyl and heroin, have killed 2,664 people in Florida in the first six months of this year — an average of 14 people per day. At this rate, fatal overdoses will outpace last year's count by 36 percent.

In Palm Beach County alone, fatal overdoses spiked to 311 in the first five months of this year, 20 percent more than the first five months of 2016. And Palm Beach County's 590 opioid overdose deaths in 2016 were an all-time high for the county and nearly twice as many as in 2015, according to a Palm Beach Post analysis of records from the medical examiner.

Add to that terrible mix 10-year-old Alton Banks. Authorities believe that Alton, who lived in Miami's drug-ridden Over-town neighborhood, died on June 23 after coming into contact with fentanyl — but they are still trying to pin down how.

Alton died after a visit to the pool in Overtown. He began vomiting after coming home and was found unconscious that evening. Preliminary toxicology tests show he had fentanyl in his system.

"We don't know where he got it. We don't believe he got it at his home," Miami-Dade County State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle said last week. "It could be as simple as touching it. It could have been a towel at the pool."

She added: "We just don't know."

The case has underscored how frighteningly prevalent fentanyl has become — and how potent it is. Exposure to just tiny amounts can be devastating.

### **Stocking Narcan worth the risk?**

But where does a school district's responsibility begin? "You've got the bus stop ... the bus," Shaw mused. "Then, of course, you have the campus."

The answer, at first, may appear simple, especially since everyone wants to protect schoolkids.

There are some, however, who worry that having Narcan on hand can also become a crutch for drug-users and stop some people from taking personal responsibility.

Those arguments echo past opponents of setting up needle exchanges and distributing condoms to stop the spread of AIDS, who argued that such moves were just encouraging drug use and sex.

The point falls flat, however, for Matthew Davis, a professor of pediatrics at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine and head of general pediatrics at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago.

"Health care workers in hospitals and first responders in communities have had naloxone on hand for decades, but there is no evidence that having naloxone as an antidote has encouraged Americans to try street drugs and abuse prescription opioids," Davis wrote in an email to NBC News last week. "Similarly, we would not expect teens to abuse opioids because naloxone is available in their schools."

Naloxone, he wrote, must be "part of comprehensive drug use prevention programs in schools and communities, to try to reduce drug use among teens."

"Making naloxone available in junior high and high schools is smart public health policy, given what is known about teens' misuse of prescription opioid medicines and teens' use of heroin in the U.S. today," he added.

Having naloxone on hand "is just like putting a defibrillator on the gym wall for a heart attack, or having injections of epinephrine available for someone who can't breathe because of a severe allergic reaction," he wrote. "They are tools made available to save lives."

### **A responsibility to protect the kids**

To be sure, with 187 school district campuses, the financial cost of taking on this responsibility could be a factor as well. The price of Narcan for cities and counties around the country has risen commensurate with demand fueled by overdoses. Earlier this month, Martin County Commissioner Ed Fielding discussed the possibility of limiting the number of times Martin County Fire Rescue crews would use Narcan to revive a person who has overdosed on multiple occasions. Talking about the Fire Rescue budget, he said he'd gotten the idea from Palm Beach County State Attorney's Office representatives during their recent visit to Martin County to discuss the region's opioid epidemic.

But State Attorney's Office spokesman Mike Edmondson said Fielding's comments were not accurate, and that the agency has had no discussions about restricting the usage of Narcan.

Palm Beach County Commissioner Melissa McKinlay, who has been out front on the opioid epidemic, pushed back even harder.

"It's the most horrific, disgusting proposal I have ever heard in my life," she told the Post's Julius Whigham. "It's not our job to play God."

It is our job, however, to protect our children. And the question of whether to stock Narcan, and train professionals like police and school nurses in how to use it is not likely to go away anytime soon.

Not for municipalities. Not for counties. And, as fall creeps ever closer, not for school districts. [rchristie@pbpost.com](mailto:rchristie@pbpost.com) **Twitter: @rchristiebp**

'That got me to thinking of all things that kids could be exposed to on a school campus, and how much the use of opioids is spreading; not just in our community, but everywhere it seems.' Chuck Shaw School Board member



7/30/17 POST WATCHDOG DCF

# State child abuse staff overworked

**Expanding caseloads, duties lead to exodus of DCF first responders.** *By Olivia Hitchcock Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



DCF investigators were retrained after 1-year-old Tayla Aleman starved to death in her Loxahatchee home in 2016. The department had multiple interactions with her family, including parents Alejandro Aleman (above) and Kristen Meyer-Aleman, before her death. FILE PHOTOS



Public scrutiny after the death of 10-year-old Nubia Barahona at the hands of her adoptive parents in 2011 sparked change in how the DCF investigates abuse cases.

MIAMI-DADE STATE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE / AP



WEST PALM BEACH — The first people the state dispatches to the homes of potentially abused and neglected children in Palm Beach County are overworked and in some cases cutting corners, data show.

A dozen former and current Florida Department of Children and Families child-protective investigators in Palm Beach County tell The Post and its news partner WPTV NewsChannel 5 that an inundation of paperwork, an ever-expanding job description and a ballooning number of cases have led to what some are calling a “mass exodus” of investigators statewide.

“Out all night, up all day, you aren’t getting any sleep. How can you make a sound decision about a child’s safety?” a current investigator said.

The employees The Post and Contact 5 investigators spoke with asked not to be identified for fear of losing their jobs or facing retaliation.

At one time or another in 2016, nearly every investigator in Palm Beach County juggled more cases than state policy recommends they should, an analysis of data provided by the state shows. In fact, some investigators handled more than double the recommended caseload — 15 — at one point in 2016, according to data.

In a telephone interview with The Post and WPTV, Department Secretary Mike Carroll said child-protective investigators have the most critical function in the state’s child welfare system. That job, though, is an entry-level position with a starting salary of \$35,640.07 as of April 17, though there are opportunities for raises, a department spokeswoman said. The only specific qualification to apply is a bachelor’s degree. Those who have done the job told The Post and WPTV the lengthy job description can feel impossible.

“When you have a caseload of 20-25-30-35, you are bound to not just fail, but the families you are charged with overseeing and helping are going to fail,” said a former investigator. “Something has to change.”

**‘A 24/7 job’**

High caseloads lead to resignations. It's a fact cited in DCF's annual report and studied by the Child Welfare League of America.

The state's department considers 15 open cases the maximum any one investigator should be assigned. For each allegation of abuse or neglect, an investigator is required to look into the claims by interviewing numerous people — all within 60 days of receiving the case. Cases are assigned — when possible — based on proximity to an investigator's home or specialty.

An analysis of state data shows it was common for an investigator in Palm Beach County to manage between 15 and 20 cases a day last year.

Some handled significantly more.

In fact, a fifth of the county's investigators carried more than double the state's caseload limit at one time last year. Two investigators were assigned as many as 38. A review of data provided by the state indicates high caseloads aren't due to a particularly busy day or two. During nearly half of last year's workdays, the county's caseload average exceeded the recommended 15 cases per investigator.

Employees interviewed pointed to the Abuse Hotline's reluctance to throw out a complaint for the constant stream of new cases. The hotline takes calls, faxes and online submissions 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

"We can't shut off the hotline. It is what it is," Carroll said. "And as people call, we are mandated to get out there."

A former employee argued that investigators are assigned cases that have "absolutely 100 percent nothing to do at all with child safety." Some blame a "knee-jerk reaction" and a fear of having a child fall through the cracks for leading to the inundation of cases.

The department's 2016 annual review states that the total number of reports of abuse and neglect have decreased less than a percent since the last fiscal year. The number of cases deemed worthy of an investigation, though, increased more than 3 percent.

Even when investigators question whether a case involves a child's welfare, they are required to investigate — and fill out paperwork — as they would any other case.

"When you get two or three cases a day, you literally cannot do what you need to do to make sure that you're doing a good job. You can't do it," a former investigator said.

Employees call in sick just to finish reports. One investigator took a week's vacation to close cases, sources told The Post and WPTV.

A 2013 review of the department's investigations protocols cautioned the department to assess how much time is needed to properly complete reports. Those

reports were designed to be completed by an investigator with a maximum of 15 cases, not for those with nearly double.

Employees say a significant effort is placed on training investigators on using the methodology properly — partly because, statewide, three-quarters of investigators have fewer than two years of experience with the department, but also because of what some call a reactive system that changes when a child under the state's eye dies.

Intense public scrutiny following 10-year-old Nubia Barahona's horrific death at the hands of her adoptive parents in 2011 sparked statewide change in how the department investigates abuse cases. Nubia's body was found decomposing in a pesticide truck on the side of Interstate 95 in West Palm Beach. Her twin brother, Victor, was also in the truck, barely alive, doused in chemicals.

When Tayla Aleman starved to death in April in her Loxahatchee home after multiple department interactions with her family, investigators in the Southeast region of the department were retrained in how to handle cases, Carroll said.

But the constant training creates less time to actually complete the reports.

And less time to be investigators.

"There's no break," according to a former investigator. "And so you suffer emotionally, mentally, physically. Not just yourself but your own family that you are supposed to come home to at night."

Following the publication of the Post-WPTV report, DCF released a breakdown of the average caseloads for investigators statewide as of June 20.

The DCF breakdown divided Florida into six regions. The 12.2 average caseload per worker in the Southeast region, which includes Palm Beach County along with Broward, Martin, St. Lucie, Okeechobee and Indian River, was the third lowest in the state, above only Central Florida at 11.4 and the Southern region (Miami-Dade and Monroe) at 12.1.

The highest region was in the Northwest part of the state, in Florida's Panhandle, at 13.9 percent. The Suncoast region, which includes Gulf Coast counties from Collier to Hillsborough, had the second highest average at 13.5. Northeast Florida, along the Atlantic Coast from Daytona Beach to Jacksonville, had an average of 12.3 percent. Point-in-time data for the Southeast region saw a caseload average of 12.6 on July 13, 12.2 on July 20 and 11.8 on July 27. At no time on these dates did the caseload average in any region of the state exceed 14, DCF's data shows. The lowest total was 10.7 per Central Florida caseworker on July 27.

"The statewide average CPI caseload is currently less than 12 and in line with recommended standards. We remain committed to keeping workloads manageable

throughout the state to support those doing this important work and the families we serve," Carroll said.

The size of caseloads is set not by law, but following a department review in the fall of 2016 in which caseworkers told administrators about the issue, DCF said. The state in the 2014-2015 budget year gave DCF funding to add 27 full-time positions including child-protective investigators, as well as an extra \$8 million to support sheriff's offices like the one in Broward that conduct child-protective services investigations.

DCF's breakdown did not specify how many cases each investigator is handling, nor did it say how often caseloads exceed the recommended 15. DCF also did not provide the underlying data used to calculate the averages.

### **Coping with chaos**

Some quit. Others cut corners.

Thirty-seven of the county's 100 some investigators left the job last year, state records show, and 20 percent of the county's investigators quit within their first year in the job.

Turnover is to be expected, Carroll said, for a job with as much stress and as many demands as that of an investigator. It's emotionally exhausting.

"Eventually every (investigator), I don't care how good you are as (an investigator), will experience a case you have an outcome that's less than what you were striving for," Carroll said.

To make the job more bearable, Carroll said, he wants to make the workload more manageable.

"When I say make workload manageable it's not going to be easy, it's not going to be light, it's just not the nature of the work," he said. "But make it manageable and give them some semblance of a work-life balance, then I think we can reduce the turnover."

Some investigators said the only way to do the job is to falsify records.

In the past few months, two former Palm Beach County child protective investigators have been arrested for doing just that.

Ana Milagros Rubirosa of Boynton Beach said she faked reports because she was overwhelmed.

Authorities say Matthew James Wilcox of Lake Worth lied in a 2015 child-endangerment report. He never visited the medical center or spoke with the child at the center of the allegations, officials allege. Wilcox confessed to the allegations but said he did it because he felt it was his only choice. The documentation needed for each and every case, he said, was too much.



Both Wilcox and Rubirosa pleaded guilty to a charge of falsifying records and were sentenced to a year probation.

Neither is employed with the department.

Carroll had harsh words for investigators who cut corners.

"That makes me angry, because let me tell you, is workload an issue? Yes, but we have workers every day who bust their tail and do it the right way," Carroll said. "We are an agency that everything we do hinges on our personal credibility. ... If you give up your credibility, and I don't care why you give it up, there's no room for you in this agency. I'm sorry."

But multiple current and former investigators admitted they too have cut corners. They just haven't been caught.

"There's such an emphasis on hitting these performance measures that some individuals are willing to do whatever it is they need to do to make sure they hit that deadline," a former investigator said. "It becomes more about numbers and statistics than ensuring a child is safe." [ohitchcock@pbpost.com](mailto:ohitchcock@pbpost.com)

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## 7/30/17 Inmate wants off death row in killing of W. Palm woman

*By Jane Musgrave Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

WEST PALM BEACH — With an IQ hovering around 75, Leroy Pooler should be released from his decades-long home on Florida's death row and be allowed to spend the rest of his life in prison for the 1995 slaying of his ex-girlfriend in West Palm Beach, his attorney told a Palm Beach County judge Friday.

The issue of Pooler's mental capacity is among several that Circuit Judge Jeffrey Colbath will have to weigh as he decides whether the 69-year-old Vietnam veteran deserves a chance for a life sentence for fatally shooting 24-year-old Kim Wright Brown as she begged him not to kill her 22 years ago.

Like scores of other condemned inmates in Florida, Pooler is trying to take advantage of U.S. and Florida Supreme Court decisions that have forced the state to change the way the death penalty is meted out. In the last four months, two other men on death row for committing murders in Palm Beach County have sought similar relief. At least two others will be back in court in the next six months.

However, just as the brutality of the murders vary, so do their claims for relief.



Under current law, it doesn't appear Pooler would be entitled to a new sentencing hearing. When the Florida Supreme Court last year struck down the state's death penalty as unconstitutional because it didn't require unanimous jury verdicts, it decided that only some of the 361 inmates awaiting execution could take advantage of its ruling.

The high court ruled that June 24, 2002, is the magic date. Those sentenced to death after that date can ask for a new sentencing hearing if their juries didn't vote unanimously that they should be executed. Anyone sentenced to death before that date can't seek a life sentence based on the lack of an unanimous decision.

Pooler's death sentence became final on Oct. 5, 1998. So, even though a jury voted 9-3 for his execution, he is not entitled to a new sentencing hearing, said Florida Assistant Attorney General Leslie Campbell.

But Pooler's attorney Linda McDermott countered that Pooler raised many of the same issues that eventually led the U.S. Supreme Court in 2016 to throw out the state's death penalty as unconstitutional. "Mr. Pooler specifically challenged the Florida statute... so he should get the benefit from it," she told Colbath.

Campbell, however, argued that the Florida Supreme Court had a good reason for selecting the cut-off date. It was the date the nation's high court in a landmark case struck down Arizona's death penalty as unconstitutional. After *Ring vs. Arizona* was decided, Florida judges and lawmakers were on notice that its death penalty was flawed and changes should have been made.

But McDermott said there is evidence that the Florida Supreme Court may be reconsidering the cut-off date. She suggested that Colbath wait until the justices decide another case, which could extend relief to every inmate on death row.

Further, she reminded Colbath that it has been illegal to execute mentally disabled people since a 2002 U.S. Supreme Court decision. Tests done of Pooler, who struggled in school before dropping out, showed he had an I.Q. of 75, which signals he is mentally disabled, she said.

Campbell countered that Pooler's right to argue that he shouldn't be executed because of a mental disability expired in November 2004.

Calling the various constitutional issues "interesting," Colbath promised to make a decision within 30 days. [jmusgrave@pbpost.com](mailto:jmusgrave@pbpost.com)

# Sun Sentinel

## **7/30/17 Texting law about money, not lives**

Gary Stein

It is really disgusting that Emily Slosberg has to do what she's doing.

The Florida Legislature should be doing the heavy lifting here, making texting while driving a primary offense.

If you've seen the texting idiots on their beloved phones on South Florida roads — and if you have ever been in a car, you have seen them — you know this is a no-brainer.

Our lawmakers have the no-brain part down pat. Florida is one of only four states where texting while driving isn't considered a primary offense. That means you can't be pulled over if an officer sees you texting. Only if you are committing another violation can you also be nailed for texting while driving.

You see, our lawmakers don't figure there is a problem unless somebody is throwing money around (translation: the lobbyists are out in force).

You have liquor and anti-liquor lobbyists, You have tobacco lobbyists. God knows how many charter school and gun lobbyists you have slinking around Tallahassee.

Not so with texting while driving. There are no highly paid lobbyists.

That's where Emily Slosberg comes in. Thankfully.

A Democratic State Rep. from Boca Raton, Slosberg is essentially on a one-woman crusade to get members of the Legislature to open their eyes about the dangers of texting and driving.

Sure, thousands of teenagers and adults are killed and injured each year in auto accidents, with traffic fatalities in Florida increasing nearly 18 percent in 2015. One report said nearly nine people die every day nationally because of distracted driving. Texting and driving is not the only cause of the accidents, but studies have shown texting while driving is more dangerous than drunken driving.

But our legislators are too busy taking NRA campaign contributions to worry about texting and driving. So Slosberg has made it her mission to get to all 67 counties in Florida, hoping they'll pass local resolutions supporting a change to make texting while driving a primary offense. By doing this, she hopes fellow lawmakers take notice.

Slosberg has a personal reason for this, too. Her twin sister Dori was killed in a crash with a speeding driver in 1996. Emily sustained a punctured lung and several broken bones in the same crash.

Their father, former Rep. Irv Slosberg of Boca Raton, fought for tougher driving laws in Florida. Now it's Emily's turn.

I asked her why our legislators don't show more interest in penalizing those who text while driving.

"One reason it's not a priority is there's no money behind it. Legislators make it a priority when lobbyists are behind it," she said.

"Also, there are libertarians who say they don't want government riding in the car."

For years, we heard the same kind of arguments against seat belts in Florida, until they were made a primary offense in 2009.

And, as Emily explained, there is an important difference between seat belts and texting. If you don't use your seat belt, you are the one who can get injured or killed. When you text and drive, you have other people's lives in your hands.

"It's completely ridiculous (that texting and driving isn't a primary offense)," she said. She's right, of course. And you would like to think one of the primary duties of our lawmakers is to make sure the citizens of Florida are safe.

It's unfortunate that it might take one of their family members or friends to be in an accident involving texting before our legislators act. Better they should listen to Emily Slosberg and do the right thing.

Gary Stein can be reached at [gstein@sunsentinel.com](mailto:gstein@sunsentinel.com), or 954-356-4616. On Twitter @sseditorial.

## **7/30/17 Hang up on scam kidnap calls, police caution victims** Authorities say schemes using social media on rise

By Robert Jablon Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The caller who rang Valerie Sobel's cellphone had a horrifying message: "We have Simone's finger. Do you want to see the rest of her in a body bag?"

Then came the sound of her daughter, screaming in terror.

"She called me Mom (and said) 'I'm terrified, please help,' " Sobel recalled.

In the hours that followed, the kidnappers talked her into wiring \$4,000 for ransom. Only later did she find out there had been no kidnapping. It was a scam.

"I was in bad shape for days," she said.

Police and federal agents last week warned that so-called virtual kidnappings are on the rise, and dozens of people already have found themselves terrorized into giving money to con artists.

Los Angeles police alone have received more than 250 reports of such crimes in the past two years, and people have wired more than \$100,000, said Capt. William Hayes, who commands the Robbery Homicide Division.

By comparison, actual kidnappings for ransom are rare. Los Angeles police typically receive 10 to 15 cases a year, including kidnappings performed by other family members and acquaintances, Hayes said.

In the fake kidnappings, the callers demand that the victims remain on the phone, so they don't have a chance to call their loved ones, officials said.

"If you get a phone call like this, immediately hang up," Hayes said. "Contact that loved one."

The FBI began investigating a spurt of cases in 2013. A multiagency probe dubbed Operation Hotel Tango identified at least 80 people in several states who had received such calls, although not all sent money, said Gene Kowel, acting special agent in charge of the FBI's criminal division in Los Angeles.

But many of the crimes go unreported, he said.

A Texas woman recently became the first person in the nation to be indicted in connection with a virtual kidnapping scheme. Yanette Rodriguez Acosta, 34, of Houston is charged with wire fraud, conspiracy to commit wire fraud and conspiracy to launder money. She is facing up to 20 years in prison for each of 10 counts if convicted.

The indictment alleges that Acosta and her partners used Mexican telephone numbers to call people in Texas, California and Idaho. They allegedly fooled people into giving them tens of thousands of dollars either through money drops or wire transfers.

In some cases, the crooks may use social media to obtain names of children and other facts that can be used to frighten specific victims.

In Sobel's case, she thinks the phony kidnappers obtained her daughter's voice, perhaps from her voicemail, and then altered it.

"I was convinced that this was real," she said.

## 7/30/17 **Big rigs move migrants with no regard for safety** Texas tragedy shows how smugglers have found durable business model



A memorial sits in a Texas Walmart parking lot where authorities found a tractor-trailer packed with immigrants. (Eric Gay/AP )

By Elliot Spagat Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — When Thomas Homan, the acting director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, was awakened last week with news that migrants were found dead inside a sweltering tractor-trailer outside a San Antonio Walmart, his mind flashed back to 2003, when he stood at the back of a truck about 120 miles southeast of San Antonio that carried 19 dead migrants.

"It is sad that 14 years later people are still being smuggled in tractor-trailers," he said. "There still isn't water, there still isn't ventilation. These criminal organizations, they're all about making money."

The striking similarities of the Texas tragedies demonstrate how smugglers have found a durable business model carrying large groups — often in big rigs — through an elaborate network of foot guides, safe house operators and drivers.

A criminal complaint about the discovery that 10 were dead and dozens injured in the truck opens a window on their degree of sophistication and organizational muscle: passengers had color-coded tape to split into smaller groups; and six black SUVs awaited them at one transit point to bring them to their destinations.

Big rigs emerged as a popular smuggling method in the early 1990s amid a surge in U.S. border enforcement in San Diego and El Paso, Texas, which were then the busiest corridors for illegal crossings.

Before that, people paid small fees to mom-and-pop operators to get them across a largely unguarded border. As crossing became exponentially more difficult after the 2001 terror strikes in the U.S., migrants were led through more dangerous terrain and paid thousands of dollars more.

Guadalupe Correa-Cabrera, a political scientist who teaches at University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley, said migrants she interviewed last year in South Texas paid \$2,000 to \$3,000 more to ride in the crammed tractor-trailers, considering them more effective, faster and safer than walking through the desert to a pickup point far from the border.

Hundreds of border crossers perish each year in the desert, getting lost and dehydrated in extreme heat.

The growing use of trucks coincided with increased trade with Mexico under the North American Free Trade Agreement, allowing smugglers to more easily blend in with cargo, particularly on Interstate 35 from Laredo, Texas, to San Antonio, Correa-Cabrera said.

Walking in the open desert more easily exposes them to U.S. Border Patrol agents.

Women, some carrying children, think they are less likely to be raped on a truck than in the open desert because there are more witnesses, Correia-Cabrera said. Riding in a big rig, she said, is “the VIP treatment.”

For smugglers, the advantage of tractor-trailers boils down to scale.

“It’s like any other business: the more they move, the more profit they make,” Homan said.

“Rather than taking four in a car, the profit margin on tractor-trailers is a lot more.”

Alan Bersin, a former federal prosecutor who was President Bill Clinton’s “border czar” and a high-ranking Homeland Security official under President Barack Obama, said immigrant smugglers have taken a cue from groups that bring drugs from Mexico to the United States and guns and cash from drug sales to Mexico from the United States.

They break into small groups or loads to get across the border, lessening the chances of getting caught by inspectors and minimizing losses if they are discovered. Once they clear the border, they regroup.

Truck drivers are low-level cogs in a big machine, recruited in the U.S. at casinos and other places where smuggling organizations look for people who are down on their luck, desperate for quick cash and won’t ask questions.

James Matthew Bradley Jr., who has made an initial court appearance in San Antonio on smuggling charges, told authorities he was delivering what he thought was a sold vehicle from Schaller, Iowa, to Brownsville, Texas, and that he didn’t know what was inside, the complaint stated.

He said he was given no deadline or address to deliver the truck.

Other guides take migrants across Mexico by bus. Others join them on a raft across the Rio Grande or through the desert to a hideout or to a nearby house where they may wait days or weeks. Eventually smuggling organizations get them to major cities like Phoenix, Houston or San Antonio.

“Whatever reputation they lose from episodes like this, their profit margins are still high enough to make it work. Otherwise people wouldn’t pay,” said Adam Isacson of the Washington Office on Latin America, a human rights advocacy group.

## 7/30/17 Mar-a-Lago helipad's just a pad

Trump yet to chopper from airport to Palm Beach despite new addition of landing pad

By Andy Reid Staff writer

Allowing helicopter commutes for President Donald Trump may not deliver the traffic relief once expected during his Palm Beach visits.

Roadblocks for Trump's motorcade, driving to and from Palm Beach International Airport, create traffic tie-ups that reach from the coast to Interstate 95 — causing headaches for island drivers as well as mainland commuters.

Flying Trump over the Intracoastal Waterway was proposed as a way to ease traffic woes during his frequent visits, but the president has yet to put the new Mar-a-Lago helipad to use.

While the president routinely uses a helicopter when visiting his New Jersey estate, that hasn't been the case during his trips to Palm Beach. That isn't expected to change when his Mar-a-Lago visits likely resume this fall, according to local officials.

The White House and Secret Service wouldn't comment on why Trump is driven between the West Palm Beach airport and Mar-a-Lago instead of flying on Marine One — the large, green helicopter that shuttles the president to and from Air Force One when he travels to his New Jersey golf club.

The use of the helicopter that transports the president is “tasked by what the White House needs,” Marine Corps spokeswoman Sarah Burns said.

“He's the one who decides,” Burns said.

The Town of Palm Beach in January agreed to allow helicopter landings at Mar-a-Lago as a way to reduce the frequency of motorcades and the “local and regional traffic tie ups associated with movements of the President,” according to the measure the Town Council approved.

Now local officials say the Mar-a-Lago helipad is expected to be primarily used for emergencies and not as an alternative to the parade of limousines and security vehicles in the presidential motorcade.

“If they need to get him out of there in a big hurry, the best option may be the helicopter,” said Kirk Blouin, the town's director of public safety.

In March, concrete helicopter landing pad, 50 feet in diameter, was built at Mar-a-Lago, the private club that doubles as Trump's Palm Beach residence.

The landing site is located on the estate's western lawn along a service road that links two club parking lots.

Mar-a-Lago paid for the construction, said Rick Gonzalez, the architect who oversaw the helipad project. He has worked for Trump on past renovations of the 1920s-era estate that Trump acquired in 1985.

Gonzalez wouldn't say how much the helipad cost. The White House and the Trump Organization did not respond to questions about the cost and who paid.

Prior to the Mar-a-Lago helipad construction, emergency trips by the Trauma Hawk air ambulance were the only helicopter landings allowed in the town of Palm Beach, Blouin said.

Despite concerns from some Palm Beachers about the noise that could come from Trump choppering onto the island, the Town Council agreed to make a presidential exception to allow a Mar-a-Lago landing spot.



A floating landing site on the beach side of Mar-a-Lago could have kept the noise of take-offs and landings farther from Trump's neighbors. But weather, waves and other factors made that too risky of an option, Gonzalez said.

The town's approval limited use of the Mar-a-Lago helipad to flights for the president. It also enables the town to call for the helipad to be removed after Trump leaves office.

So far, the only known use of the Mar-a-Lago helipad came when one of Trump's private helicopters swooped in for a landing on April 9 during one of the president's visits to Palm Beach.

The Secret Service said Trump wasn't on that helicopter. The president is flown on Air Force One or Marine One for security reasons, according to the Secret Service.

Blouin said the town doesn't monitor flights to and from the property and doesn't know why Trump's private helicopter used the landing spot — or whether Marine One will begin using it during future Trump visits.

The Marine Corps, which handles the president's helicopter flights, wouldn't comment on whether distance is a factor in whether to use Marine One to transport the president, Burns said. Mar-a-Lago is just five miles from the airport in West Palm Beach, while Trump's New Jersey estate is about 30 miles from the airport where Air Force One lands and takes off.

It's a nearly 15-mile flight when Marine One takes off from the White House to transport the president to the air force base in Maryland where the president boards Air Force One.

Time and security are likely key factors in deciding whether to transport the president by helicopter instead of by motorcade, said Dan Sweet, spokesman for the Helicopters Association International.

For private VIP transportation, short trips by helicopter are not unusual, he said.

"That becomes a matter of economics," Sweet said. "If someone is willing to pay for the flight, it will happen."

If the president started commuting to Palm Beach by helicopter, flying to Mar-a-Lago wouldn't avoid all of the traffic jams that occur during presidential visits.

The Secret Service closes Ocean Boulevard in front of Mar-a-Lago throughout Trump's stay.

That blocks a vital north-south route in Palm Beach, forcing some drivers off the island — over one bridge into West Palm Beach and back across another — to get from one end of town to the other.

The Secret Service during Trump's visits has also blocked commercial vehicles from using the Southern Boulevard bridge, near Mar-a-Lago.

"Even if he traveled by helicopter, we are still going to have the impacts of the traffic," Blouin said.

Information from The Associated Press was used in this report.

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## **News Clip 7/31/17**

### **Palm Beach Post**

**7/31/17 IN FOCUS: LAKE WORTH**

## **What do Lake Worth residents say about new pot dispensaries?**



Kevin D. Thompson

**CONTACT US:** Have a Lake Worth issue you'd like The Post to tackle?

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In November, close to 75 percent of Palm Beach County voters approved medical marijuana, a landslide. But at the moment, there are no pot dispensaries in the area. That's about to change soon, as Lake Worth is close to opening two: one in a former bank branch at 1 S. Dixie Highway that is scheduled to open in August or September. The second is a 3,000-square-foot dispensary planned for a recently renovated building at 1125 N. Dixie Highway.

So what do Lake Worth residents think?

"I have no issue with medical marijuana, nor do I think it will be a source of crime or blight," said Chris Fleming, a senior broker with Strategic Realty Services. "The location is a major investment made in Lake Worth and is a positive in my opinion." Sarah Parr-Malega, vice president at The Zoo Gym, said she hasn't done enough research on the issue.

"It lies in the hands of our current commission," Parr-Malega said. "I do believe that my constituents have all the power to respond to residents' concerns."

Carrie Childs, co-owner of CarriEllie's Closet, said she's neutral.

Greg Rice, a marketing director for Hulett Environmental Services, said he has no worries.

"We all knew this was going to happen," he said. "The companies know what they are doing. I don't see this in any way, shape or form any different from a Walgreens or CVS opening."

Amendment 2 makes marijuana available to people with cancer, HIV, epilepsy, post-traumatic stress disorder and other ailments.

City Attorney Glen Torcivia is scheduled to make a presentation on medical marijuana dispensaries at Tuesday's city commission meeting.

"Those are the only two dispensaries that would be allowed to open in Lake Worth until the commission rescinds that moratorium (banning medical marijuana facilities), which they can do anytime up until March 31," Torcivia said.

Commissioner Andy Amoroso said two facilities are fine.

"Is two enough for Lake Worth?" Amoroso asked. "I think it is. We need to be able to do what's right for individual cities."

Although dispensaries have opened in Orlando, Tallahassee and Gainesville, there haven't been any in Palm Beach County, mostly because the county and municipalities have passed rules that temporarily banned them.

Scott Berman, who owns the site at 1125 N. Dixie Highway, recently told The Palm Beach Post his pot facility was going to be "the Starbucks of medical marijuana," with his company spending \$200,000 to \$300,000 on it.

Knox Medical, the Miami-based company planning the facility at 1 S. Dixie Highway, has already received a certificate of occupancy and should be open in August or September.

## **7/31/17 Florida grapples with rise in card skimmers**

By Lloyd Dunkelberger The News Service Of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — Credit-card skimming devices at Florida gas stations and stores are on a dramatic rise this year.

State figures show 315 skimmers had been discovered at Florida gas pumps through July 18, compared with 120 skimmers discovered through the first seven months of 2016.

That represents a 160 percent increase in the illegal devices used to collect consumers' credit- or debit-card information.

This year's seven-month total already far exceeds the 219 reported devices in all of 2016 and the 169 skimmers found in 2015, according to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

At a press conference in Orlando this month highlighting the problem, Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam noted that his inspectors and law-enforcement officers have documented a continued rise since 2015 in the devices, which are typically placed inside gas-pump cabinets.

"Since that time, we have seen a steady trend upward, an increase in the number of skimmers being found around the state on these gas pumps," Putnam said.

If undetected, each skimmer is capable of collecting credit- or debit-card data from 100 consumers, with each losing an average of \$1,000 to electronic theft, according to Putnam's agency.

Palm Beach County has the most reported skimmer locations this year with 58, followed by Broward County with 57, Miami-Dade County with 26 and Pinellas and Volusia counties, each reporting 12 devices.

In the majority of cases, one skimmer device was reported at each location. But some had multiple skimmers, including a New Smyrna Beach gas station where four skimmers were found. Putnam has been working with the Legislature, the Florida Retail Federation and the Florida Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association the past few years to curb the illegal activity.

In 2016, the Legislature passed a law that toughened penalties for credit-card fraud and required security devices on gas pumps, including the use of security tape to alert store employees and consumers about pump tampering.

This year, the Legislature passed another law making it illegal to possess skimmer-device equipment.

Putnam said the industry has taken steps to protect gas pumps from tampering, including moving away from a universal key system that allowed access to pumps in different locations. He said the newest stores and gas stations are deploying technology that will shut down pumps if they are opened without authorization.

But Putnam said skimmer criminals are growing more sophisticated, with some now using devices where credit-card data can be downloaded remotely, eliminating the need to retrieve skimmers from inside the pumps. "Unfortunately, like many forms of criminal activities, the bad guys continue to evolve just like the laws continue to evolve," Putnam said.

## 7/31/17 S. Fla. pot growers unhappy

State has licensed only one medical marijuana operation in region

By Dan Sweeney Staff writer

South Floridians could have to pay more than other Floridians for medical marijuana after the state awards five new grower licenses in the next week.

None of the new licenses are likely to be issued to South Florida, where many of the qualified patients live.

Zachary Davis, a lawyer for Keith St. Germain nursery in Homestead, said delivery costs mean South Florida could pay more for medical marijuana.

“You can transport it down here, but that’s gonna have a real cost,” he said. “And there’s security issues in transportation as well.”

The only grower located in the southeast region is Miami’s Costa Farms.

Right now, prices range from about \$74 to \$90 for a 600mg cartridge of marijuana extract meant to fit into a vape pen. Costs can vary depending on seller.

George Scorsis, CEO of Liberty Health Services, which has contracted to grow marijuana at Chestnut Hill Tree Farm in Alachua, counters that economies of scale will allow big growers elsewhere to drive down costs statewide.

“Our competitive advantage is that no one can grow at the cost structure we can grow,” he said.

“Yes, there’s a one time start-up cost in terms of our facilities, but all of us have built into our structure. As we scale up, you’ll continue to see cost structures remain stable, if not drop or reduce.”

Would-be marijuana growers in South Florida concede that, between delivery and growers’ ability to open dispensaries anywhere in the state, patient access won’t be an issue despite no new growers in the state’s most populous region. Thirty percent of Floridians live in Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties.

“Right from the get-go, we will have four dispensary-type models in the state,” Scorsis said.

“With those four alone, I will be able to service anyone in Florida within a 24-hour window because deliveries are permitted.”

It’s the job opportunities and potential transportation costs baked into the price of marijuana that supporters point to as reasons for the state to give another license to a grower in South Florida.

Rural areas here are “places that could definitely use a big production facility,” Davis said.

Florida currently has seven growers — five that came in under a 2014 law legalizing low-THC, non-euphoric medical marijuana, and two more that successfully sued the state over the selection process.

Under the medical marijuana law passed in this year’s legislative session, which implemented a constitutional amendment passed by voters in November, five new growers licenses are to be issued by the state by Aug. 1, another five in October and from then on another four for every 100,000 patients who qualify for medical marijuana.

But the five issued by August must be within one point on the five-point grading system that got the first five growers their licenses — a system that has already been successfully sued by other growers twice. And the five growers that are within a point of the original five winners are all from outside southeast Florida.



Liberty Health Services, a subsidiary of the Canadian medical marijuana giant Aphria, made the unusual move of buying up the complete medical marijuana operation of Chestnut Hill Tree Farm, one of the original five growers.

It will soon boast 400,000 square feet of marijuana plants, making Liberty the single largest producer of marijuana in the state, according to Scorsis.

“Once I have 400,000 square feet, I will be bringing 300 new jobs to the community, including those from science backgrounds, those from ag backgrounds, administrative — good paying jobs,” Scorsis said.

Keith St. Germain finished second in the southeast region when the Department of Health first gave out licenses. But because it did not finish within one point of the winner, Costa Farms, it likely won’t be considered when the new batch of licenses goes out in the next few days.

But Costa is one of the largest nurseries in the world. Keith St. Germain finished with a relatively good score despite finishing far behind Costa. And that means that nurseries in other areas of the state with lower scores will be getting grower licenses ahead of the Homestead nursery.

“It’s just beyond frustrating,” Davis said.

Still, with cost and employment arguments in place — and with an eye toward the potential profits that come with entering the marijuana industry — lawyers for Keith St. Germain have raised the possibility of suing the state over the issuance of licenses.

In a letter to Chrisitan Bax, the director of the Health Department’s Office of Medical Marijuana Use, dated June 22, they noted three public policy reasons for awarding a license in South Florida:

One of the largest regions in the state demographically should not have just one [grower].

More “shovel ready” [growing facilities] are good for patients.

Additional litigation should be avoided.

On that last point, the letter states, “While it is not the preference of [Keith St. Germain Nursery] to commence litigation, it remains committed to assessing and pursuing all available options in all appropriate venues to secure a [grower’s license] on August 1.”

“When it’s something that is local, you have more sense of ownership and loyalty and more trust in the product that gets produced in your back yard,” Davis said. “Keith St. Germain’s been there for 30 years, and he’s going to be an integral part of it.”

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## 7/31/17 Coast Guard spent \$6.6M protecting Mar-a-Lago

Trump visited 7 weekends By Drew Harwell Washington Post

As the Trump administration threatened hefty budget cuts for the U.S. Coast Guard, the military service was spending more than \$6.6 million protecting the president's waterfront Mar-a-Lago Club during his seven weekend trips there this spring, documents show.

The Coast Guard deployed cutters, patrol boats, helicopters and anti-terror specialists from across the country to safeguard the luxury Palm Beach estate.

The deployments came as Coast Guard leaders, bracing for possible budget cuts, have argued that the cash-strapped service has made painful sacrifices — letting some illegal drug shipments go and delaying certain repairs to its fleet.

The records, released last week to The Washington Post in response to a Freedom of Information Act request, offer a glimpse into the intricate costs and demands for a military force tasked with defending the president during his frequent getaways to his private businesses.

They also highlight how taxpayers have helped finance the unusually elaborate lifestyle of Trump and his family in ways that can also benefit his company. In this case, Mar-a-Lago, which Trump has dubbed a “Winter White House,” is also a for-profit, members-only club.

The Coast Guard has provided security for past presidents alongside the U.S. Secret Service, including guarding former President Barack Obama during trips such as his annual family vacations to Hawaii, but officials could not immediately provide estimates for those costs.

When Obama spent a weekend in South Florida in 2013, the Coast Guard spent about \$586,000 to cover patrol, travel and lodging costs, according to a Government Accountability Office report last year.

The spending at Mar-a-Lago, which comes to close to \$1 million for each trip, appears to collide with the president's pledges of trimming government costs.

The Coast Guard spent more than \$17.8 million on presidential security costs between October and March, offering air and waterside patrols for high-level events during the Obama and Trump administrations. That cost was up from \$15.1 million in the same period ending in March 2016, and \$10.7 million for the period ending in March 2015, Coast Guard records show.

The Coast Guard is brought in to protect Trump at official events as well as recreational excursions, including patrolling the Potomac River when the president plays golf at his Trump National Golf Club in Sterling, Virginia.

The Secret Service requested Coast Guard protection for Trump's Mar-a-Lago visits, which are classified as “national special security events,” Coast Guard officials said. The club has represented an expensive challenge for the service, which patrols the airspace above the estate as well as its two coastlines along the Atlantic Ocean and the Intracoastal Waterway. The Coast Guard's missions — including drug interdictions and port patrols — sit at the center of some of Trump's biggest campaign promises, including stricter immigration and homeland security. But leaders say the military branch has struggled to complete its mission while faced with a tightening budget and aging fleet.

The Coast Guard's commandant, Adm. Paul Zukunft, testified before a House subcommittee on Tuesday that the branch was “deferring maintenance” and running cutters and aircraft long beyond their retirement age because it needed more funding.

In a CBS interview that aired Tuesday, Zukunft added that the Coast Guard had not pursued hundreds of potential drug shipments last year because “we didn’t have enough planes, we didn’t have enough ships.”

The Coast Guard’s spending accounts for a fraction of the military security apparatus that has encircled Trump during journeys to his private clubs and golf courses. Congress this year allocated roughly \$120 million in additional funding to help cover the Secret Service’s presidential travel and protection, as well as “extraordinary law enforcement personnel costs” incurred by local governments during Trump’s trips.

The White House did not respond to requests for comment. Officials have in the past defended the costs as necessary to safeguard the president’s work, with White House spokeswoman Stephanie Grisham saying in February, “He is not vacationing when he goes to Mar-a-Lago. The president works nonstop every day of the week, no matter where he is.”

Coast Guard service members, specialists, pilots and engineers spent thousands of hours on patrol or support duties around the time of the president’s 25 days at Mar-a-Lago between February and April, records show.

Gun-mounted response boats manned by four-person tactical crews spent 1,866 hours on the water, or more than 77 full days, at a cost of about \$2.8 million, the documents show.

They were joined by larger watercraft, including an 87-foot Marine Protector-class patrol boat and a 154-foot fast-response cutter, which watched for threats and kept out recreational boaters in three nearby “security zones.”

Back on land, teams of armory staff, mechanics and electronics specialists worked to keep the boats running and armed. Overhead, H-65 Dolphin helicopters, traditionally used for water rescues, flew for 135 hours so as to intercept low- and slow-flying aircraft, at a cost of about \$7,885 an hour.

Special anti-terror units, known as Maritime Safety and Security Teams, also deployed to Mar-a-Lago from Miami, New Orleans, Houston, Boston, New York and a naval submarine base in southeastern Georgia. Flights, mileage, lodging and other expenses for Coast Guard service members patrolling the seven Mar-a-Lago visits exceeded \$720,000.

Trump gave up day-to-day management of Mar-a-Lago but still owns the private club, which took in \$37.2 million in resort-related revenue between January 2016 and April 2017, financial disclosures show.

The club, which hosts banquets and weddings and offers a spa and tennis courts, doubled its initiation fee to \$200,000 shortly after Trump won the election.

The White House in March proposed slashing the Coast Guard’s budget by 14 percent, triggering alarms among military leaders, before promising that it would instead keep the branch’s budget to “current funding levels.”

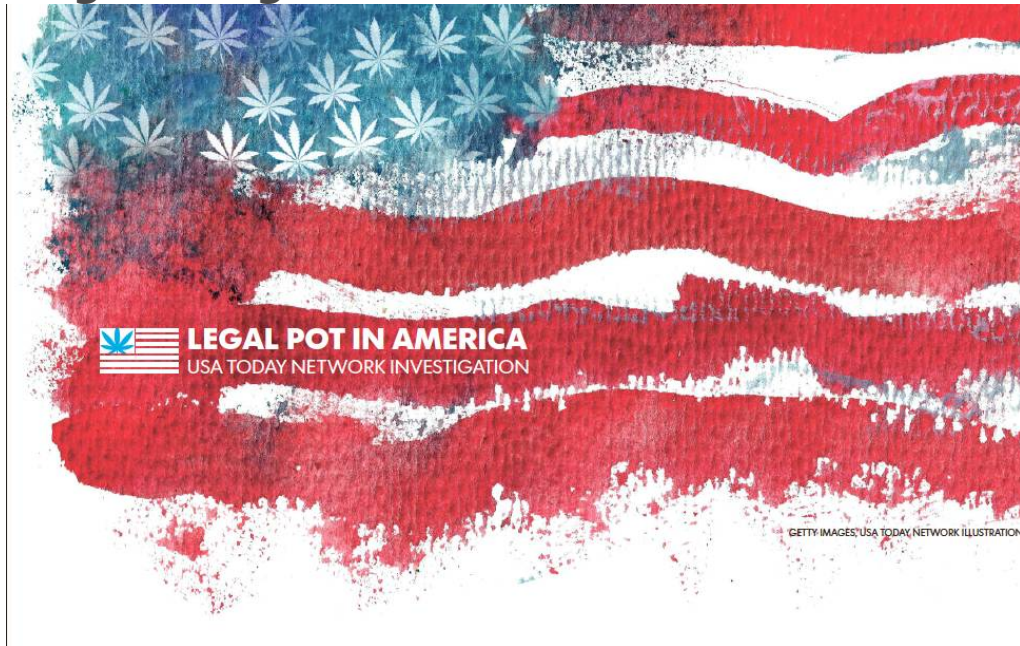
The president’s latest proposal, delivered to Congress in May, cuts the Coast Guard’s budget by 2.4 percent, or about \$267 million. The Secret Service’s \$2.1 billion budget is slated to grow less than 1 percent.

The Coast Guard, Zukunft said in April, has received no extra funding to help cover the costs of “protecting the approaches to Mar-a-Lago on both coasts ... (and) in the air.” Service officials said the Presidential Protection Assistance Act restricts them from seeking reimbursement for costs associated with supporting presidential security.

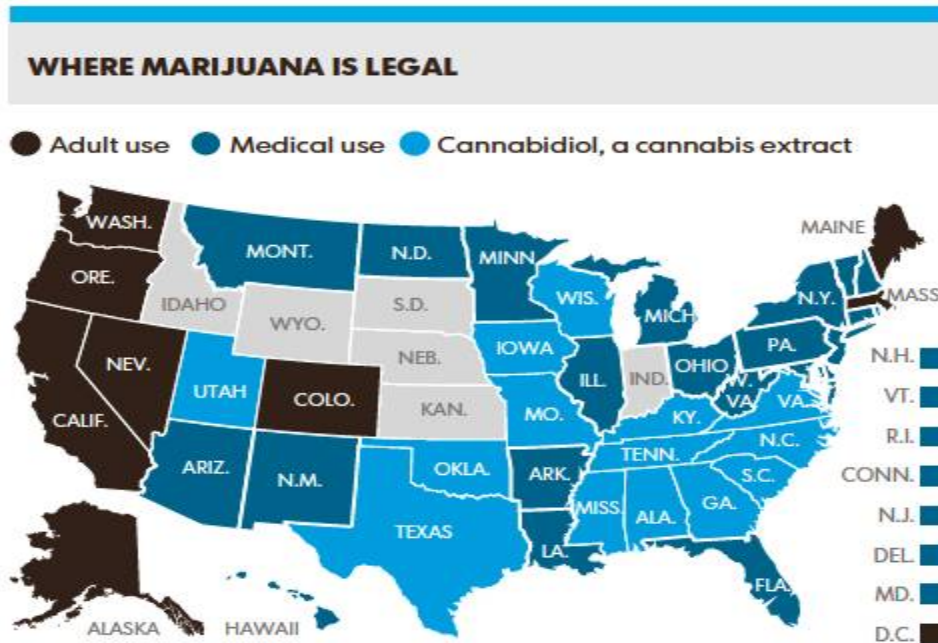
Palm Beach County officials said they spent more than \$60,000 a day toward costs such as deputy overtime when Trump was in town this past spring.

**USA Today**

# 7/31/17 **SMUGGLING PERSISTS DESPITE LEGALIZATION** Bigger profits in areas where pot is illegal lure growers *Trevor Hughes USA TODAY*



GETTY IMAGES, USA TODAY NETWORK ILLUSTRATION

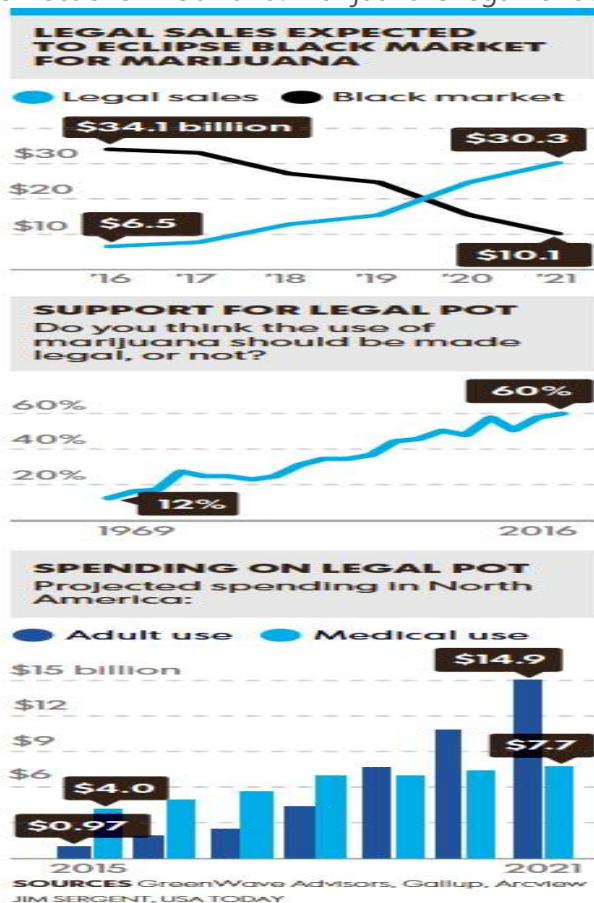


**SOURCE** Arcview  
JIM SERGENT, USA TODAY

**BY THE NUMBER** 65 million Number of Americans who live in a state where recreational marijuana sales are legal. More than \$1 billion Value of marijuana sold in Colorado's state-regulated and taxed stores last year.



TREVOR HUGHES, USA TODAY A worker crumbles dry hash to add to marijuana products at Kiva Confections in Oakland. Marijuana is legal for adult use in California.



Marijuana smugglers are growing and shipping vast quantities of illicit cannabis across the USA.



They're mailing it, driving it and, in at least one case, flying it around in skydiving planes. They're hiding it in truck beds and trunks and vacuum-sealing it to hide the smell as they pass police patrolling the interstates.

Many are starting in states where growing marijuana is legal, such as Colorado, and sending the drug elsewhere.

In June, Colorado prosecutors said they busted a 74-person operation producing 100 pounds of marijuana a month — enough to generate \$200,000 a month, tax-free, for more than four years.

Police seized 2 tons of cannabis from dozens of homes and warehouses in the Denver metro area. Tangled up in the scheme were fathers, sons and several former pro football players.

"Those of us in law enforcement kept saying: '(Legalization) will not stop crime. You're just making it easier for people who want to make money. What we've done is give them cover,' " Colorado Attorney General Cynthia Coffman said.

For decades, the black market was the only source of recreational marijuana in America. But in 2012, Colorado voters approved a ballot initiative to legalize the drug.

Seven states followed in 2014 and 2016. Now, nearly 65 million Americans live in states where adults can legally consume marijuana for any reason.

Legalization advocates have long argued that regulating marijuana forces the industry out into the public eye, where the drug can be taxed and the black market effectively eliminated.

But because marijuana remains illegal in so many states, smugglers can take advantage of the patchwork of laws. A pound of marijuana might sell for about \$2,000 in Colorado but could fetch three times as much in a large East Coast city. Less marijuana is crossing the U.S. border, according to the U.S. Border Patrol. The agency's marijuana seizures dropped by almost half from 2011 to 2016, from 2.5 million pounds to 1.3 million pounds.

Agents hesitated to speculate about what caused the drop, but during that time, American consumers increasingly began buying domestic pot.

"We've seen it peak in 2011. ... Obviously, that's been down in recent years, but that's never to say that it's not going to pick up at any point," said Justin Castrejon, a Border Patrol agent with the El Centro Sector in California.

**"You're starting to see the evidence that these programs are not reining in the black market and are potentially growing it."**

**Jeff Zinsmeister** of the anti-legalization group Smart Approaches to Marijuana The El Centro Sector seized 49,000 pounds of marijuana in 2011, Castrejon said. So far this year, sector officers have seized just 4,000 pounds of marijuana.



"The cartel's going to grow their marijuana in California because the risk is minimal," said Lt. Paul Bennett of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department in California. "We have immediately seen and began to experience an increase in these large-scale ... plantations where 10,000, 25,000 plants are just growing in the open on public lands."

Legalizing marijuana at a state level has made the logistics of drug trafficking easier for cartels, Bennett said. They face only misdemeanor penalties in California and no longer need to worry about getting the drug through border security.

In Oregon, an Oregon State Police draft assessment of the state's legal marketplace estimated that legal weed makes up just 30% of Oregon's entire marijuana market. Growers may be producing nearly 2 million more pounds annually than police know to be consumed in the state.

Legalization "has provided an effective means to launder cannabis products and proceeds, where in essence, actors can exploit legal mechanisms to obscure products' origin and conceal true profits, ... blurring the boundaries of the legal market and complicating enforcement efforts," the Oregon report concluded.

The flow of marijuana from Colorado already has prompted a lawsuit from attorneys general in Nebraska and Oklahoma, who say smugglers caught with Colorado pot are overwhelming their jails.

In 2016, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear the suit. But the situation has Colorado authorities defending the state on an issue neighbors griped about earlier: that legalization would foster more criminal activity.

Recreational marijuana remains illegal in every state surrounding Colorado, and law enforcement in those states are looking for it. The sheriff in Deuel County, Neb., has an evidence room piled high with confiscated Colorado marijuana.

While Colorado law makes growing and possessing small amounts of marijuana legal, it's illegal to grow mass quantities without state approval. And all sales are supposed to stay within the regulated marketplace.

Police in neighboring states say some people they catch with Colorado marijuana show a receipt to prove they bought it legally — apparently forgetting that it's illegal to take that pot across state borders.

Those people aren't the real problem, said Coffman, the Colorado attorney general. Instead, criminal organizations are buying houses in Colorado where they can grow marijuana, she said. Once crops are harvested, they ship the drug elsewhere.

Busting those organizations now that marijuana is legal takes more work than before 2012, when anyone caught with cannabis was breaking the law.

"Colorado describes it as ... the tip of the iceberg," said Bennett in Riverside County. "Just below the surface is the rest of the criminal enterprise, and it's the remainder of this huge, massive iceberg floating around."

According to projections from Green Wave Advisors, a cannabis-focused consulting firm, legal sales were 16% of total cannabis sales nationwide in 2016. In 2018, the firm predicts legal sales will reach a third of the market.

Only by 2020 do the consultants expect legal sales to surpass black-market sales.

"You're starting to see the evidence that these programs are not reining in the black market and are potentially growing it," said Jeff Zinsmeister, executive vice president of the anti-legalization group Smart Approaches to Marijuana.

Zinsmeister worked in Mexico and Central America with U.S. government anti-drug programs and argues that marijuana legalization is creating a new industry akin to Big Tobacco. His group believes that states should reduce or eliminate drug-possession penalties for marijuana users if they want to counteract the effects of the war on drugs, especially in minority communities that have faced disproportionate enforcement for decades.

But he doesn't think decriminalization requires legal sales.

"The discussion about the war on drugs isn't the same as widespread commercialization," Zinsmeister said. "We can keep people out of jail ... and still not have this industry."

Legalization advocates say that's a misguided approach, given that so many people already consume marijuana, whether or not it's legal. Make marijuana legal everywhere, and the black market is eliminated, they argue.

Sure, some people still make moonshine, but most buy legally made — and taxed — alcohol.

"These guys are on the wrong side of history," said Mason Tvert of the Marijuana Policy Project.

Colorado's state-regulated and -taxed stores told more than \$1 billion in marijuana last year.

"It's safe to say that there's less illegal activity taking place now than there was before," Tvert said. "We're looking at a billion-dollar market that's all now being produced and sold legally."

Colorado lawmakers this year invested a portion of the taxes collected from legal marijuana sellers into better black-market enforcement, and state officials are encouraging legitimate growers and sellers to turn in their illegal competitors.

"I honestly don't think you get rid of the black market by legalizing in all 50 states," Coffman said. "It's in existence because people are greedy."

**Contributing: Rosalie Murphy and Kristen Hwang, The (Palm Springs, Calif.) Desert Sun**

## Town Crier

# 7/28/17 RPB Takes Action To Curtail Medical Marijuana Retail Stores

By Jack Lowenstein July 28, 2017 Town Crier



The Royal Palm Beach Village Council approved the first reading of an ordinance Thursday, July 20 that bans medical marijuana treatments center dispensing facilities in the village.

The ordinance amends the definitions of marijuana, medical marijuana retail center and medical marijuana treatment center. It prohibits medical marijuana treatment center dispensing facilities in Royal Palm Beach, and it updates requirements for medical marijuana treatments centers, which complies with a recently amended section in the Florida Statutes.

Royal Palm Beach previously updated its regulations on medical marijuana in February, before the state took action on a constitutional amendment allowing the use of medical marijuana that passed in November 2016.

"We broke up the types of facilities that could be allowed in the village. We allowed the retail centers as a special exception use in our general commercial districts, and we allowed the treatment centers as a special exception use in our industrial general districts," Village Attorney Jennifer Ashton said. "In our ordinance, and this is very key to my recommendation tonight, we had very specific distance separation requirements between the facilities, and from the facilities to schools, to parks, to recreation facilities [and] to daycare centers." The state law changed the village's ability to impose those aspects of the previous ordinance.

"[The state legislature] did add in that these facilities cannot be within 500 feet of a school, unless there is a public hearing ahead of time, which I don't know why anyone would do that," Ashton said. "But there is this 500-foot requirement for the dispensing facilities."

The state defined two types of medical marijuana facilities. Medical marijuana treatment center dispensing facilities are a stand-alone retail component. The village can ban them by ordinance, but if the village does not ban them, then, with respect to zoning and permitting requirements, the village cannot treat the dispensing facilities any differently than it would pharmacies.

The village cannot completely ban the larger medical marijuana treatment centers. Ashton described them as a "farm-to-table experience," where marijuana is grown, processed, manufactured and sold, with the ability to be consumed on location. These facilities will be strictly regulated by the Florida Department of Health, with an initial 10 licenses granted statewide.

Gov. Rick Scott signed the new law passed by the legislature June 23.

"It eviscerated our [previous] ordinance," Ashton said, adding that state's previous rulings on medical marijuana left zoning authority with local governments. "Everyone thought that was going to continue. It has not."

Through the new state law, Ashton said that the village has two choices regarding medical marijuana dispensing facilities.

"One, you ban them outright," she said. "Or, two, you allow them in anywhere that you allow pharmacies."

If the council accepted them into the village, Ashton said there is about seven miles of space that dispensing facilities could occupy. Royal Palm Beach allows pharmacies in its commercial neighborhood and commercial general districts.

"We allow it as a matter of right," she said. "So, anywhere a Walgreens or a CVS can go, you could have a medical marijuana dispensing facility set up. We cannot limit the number, and we cannot limit the distance separation that we had previously."

In the new ordinance, staff recommended the acceptance of the larger medical marijuana treatment centers in industrial areas of the village. But, Ashton said, this is unlikely to occur soon.

"There is nowhere else that it would go, so our recommendation is that we just allow a treatment center as a matter of right in our IL [industrial limited] and IG [industrial general]. In reality, I don't think we're going to get one of these anytime soon," Ashton said. "These things are statewide, very large, regional operations. They usually operate out of abandoned citrus farms and old nurseries. We're talking about hundreds of plants."

Councilman Richard Valuntas noted that these new laws in the state regarding medical marijuana facilities are still illegal federally. Ashton confirmed this.

"And at any time, the feds could come in and shut it down without us saying or doing anything," Valuntas said.

Ashton mentioned local public concern about the village's new ordinance cutting off access to medical marijuana in the village. "I don't think that is accurate," she said.

From what Ashton understood, the treatments centers have state licenses and will offer "robust delivery services," so residents would still be able to have medical marijuana delivered to their home.

Mayor Fred Pinto wanted to make it clear that the village is compliant with the state law, as well as adhering to its staff recommendations.

Valuntas made a motion to approve the first reading of the new ordinance, which was seconded by Councilwoman Selena Smith and passed unanimously.

# 7/28/17 Sandpiper Residents Ask RPB Council To Implement Traffic Calming

By Jack Lowenstein July 28, 2017 Town Crier



Residents along Sandpiper Avenue asked the Royal Palm Beach Village Council on Thursday, July 20, to quickly implement its traffic-calming policy on the residential street.

Traffic calming on Sandpiper Avenue, which has come up several times over the past year, was discussed as a non-agenda item at the council meeting.

"We went through an exhaustive effort to create a policy in this village on how to appropriately address this problem," Mayor Fred Pinto said. "The whole objective is to make you go the [speed] limit you're supposed to go."

At least one resident was concerned that speed humps, which are a key part of the proposed Sandpiper plan, could actually create new problems for residents and potentially for law enforcement when traveling down the street. This question has come up before, and there appears to be a divide between Sandpiper residents who want speed humps and those who do not.

"We cleared this with our firefighters, and that was not an issue for them," Pinto said. "They told us they had no issues or problems accommodating the design that we offered."

Pinto said one of the most important aspects of the new traffic-calming policy is to gather resident input into the process of solving traffic issues in residential areas.

"We wanted to create a process where we would not ask the citizens to make a decision about something that's going to happen in their neighborhood in the blind," Pinto said. "We said we would go through the analysis and the process of



doing a specific design, and then tell the people in that neighborhood, 'Here is specifically what we are proposing for your neighborhood.'"

Some residents on Sandpiper conducted a survey to gather data on who wants the village to implement its traffic-calming policy and who doesn't. Resident Shawna Fryer spoke at the July 20 meeting.

"We walked door to door, starting Sunday until last night. As of 5 p.m. today, 79 voted yes, which is about 54 percent of Sandpiper, in that segment, all agreed," Fryer said.

Part of the survey was in order to find out if the majority of residents were going to vote yes to the mail ballot that the village previously sent out to Sandpiper residents on the traffic-calming policy. Fryer was concerned that the certified mail sent out by the village went to the homeowner, and not the renter currently residing in the home.

"One of them was seasonal and two were vacations. Seven renters didn't respond," Fryer said. "The first house on Sandpiper from Royal Palm [Beach Blvd.] said that the placement of the speed humps are farther down the road, and it wouldn't even affect him, so there's no point in voting."

Pinto asked Fryer if that resident received the certified letter, and Fryer confirmed he did.

"He should vote if he got the letter," Pinto said. "I commend you on your efforts to go out and talk to your neighbors to get them to be proactive on this."

The deadline for being postmarked in order for a resident's vote to count toward the Sandpiper Avenue traffic-calming measures balloting was 5 p.m. on Thursday, July 20.

Final approval by Sandpiper residents needs to come in at 60 percent for the vote to pass. The results are scheduled to be released by the village on Tuesday, Aug. 1.

At the council meeting, which was held shortly after the voting deadline, Pinto resisted calls for an early release of the raw numbers, saying they would need to wait to receive mail that was potentially postmarked by the deadline but had not yet arrived. He also said that if there are vacancies, then those homes may not be factored into the base, urging the residents that there still needs to be time for a review of the number of votes received.

"We do have what we call a remediation process to address the situation where we sent out the registered letter, and it was supposed to go to the owner, but the owner is not living there, and a renter is living there," Pinto said.

"Ultimately, that renter should vote on this. Or the owner can vote remotely, and they should get input from the renter."

Sandpiper resident Tim Woodcock said that speed humps are a solution to the traffic problem in the area.

"I know we are a few votes short, but I'm hoping that maybe they do come in," Woodcock said. "I did some work, too," Woodcock said. "The houses that I went to between 137 and 150 [Sandpiper], 90 percent of them said yes. Forty percent of the people didn't send the cards in because they either lost them, or they didn't know what it was all about. They threw them away."

Sandpiper resident Carl Sejba noted that there is a language barrier for some of the residents living along Sandpiper.

"They didn't understand what they had," Sejba said. "There were four people I talked to who said they were going to vote, but with the language barrier, I don't know if they fully understood."

Sejba noted that previously, the council discussed not counting non-voters in the final tally.

Pinto confirmed that he was clear on that from a previous council meeting.

"You have 79 people saying yes and 11 saying no," Sejba said. "So, obviously you have the majority who care, they want it."

Pinto said that the council members heard all the public comments regarding traffic calming on Sandpiper and other areas in the village. He said the goal is to provide something that is permanent, in order to create a change in behavior among drivers in the area.

"This is our first venture on this process that we created to do the analysis and do the design and then make that presentation," Pinto said. "This is a new policy. So, I'd very much like to see this have a successful conclusion."

**From:** [Anderson, Cassandra L](#)  
**Subject:** News Clips 8/5-6/2017  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 08, 2017 10:53:10 AM  
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## **News Clip 8/5-6/17**

### **Palm Beach Post**

**8/5/17 PALM BEACH TRUMP VISITS**

## **New Jersey set to pass Palm Beach for Trump stays** President has spent 171/2 days in Florida, but this break may go that long.

*By George Bennett Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



President Donald Trump left the White House on Friday for a “working vacation.”



President Donald Trump waves after arriving at Morristown Municipal Airport in Morristown, N.J. on Friday with his grandchildren Arabella Kushner (right) and Joseph Kushner to begin his summer vacation. EVAN VUCCI / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Move over, Mar-a-Lago.

The amount of time President Donald Trump has spent at his “winter White House” in Palm Beach since his inauguration is likely to be eclipsed this month by the time he’s spent at his Trump National Golf Club in Bedminster, N.J.

Trump embarked Friday on a “working vacation” at his Garden State retreat that could stretch for 17 days while the White House undergoes renovations to its George H.W. Bush-era heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system.

The Federal Aviation Administration has imposed flight restrictions on the area around Bedminster through Aug. 21.

By the end of the extended New Jersey stay, Trump will likely have logged more presidential time in Bedminster than Palm Beach.

Trump as president has spent 419¼ hours — about 17½ days — in Palm Beach County, primarily at Mar-a-Lago and his nearby Trump International Golf Club in unincorporated West Palm Beach, according to an analysis by The Palm Beach Post. Trump’s seven treks to Mara-Lago all took place within the first 100 days of his presidency, which coincided with the winter social season in Palm Beach.

Mark Knoller of CBS News, who is universally acknowledged as the foremost expert on presidential scheduling over the last four decades, calculates that Trump’s Mar-a-Lago visits covered at least some portion of 25 days.

(Using the Knoller method, which he has applied to presidents since Jimmy Carter, a Trump arrival at Palm Beach International Airport on a Friday afternoon and departure on Sunday afternoon counts as three days even though the visit itself lasts about 48 hours.)

By Knoller’s count, Trump had spent all or a portion of 14 days at Bedminster before Friday’s trip.

Trump’s combined 41 days of domestic travel — 25 days at Mar-a-Lago, 14 at Bedminster and 2 at Camp David — compare to 21 days for Barack Obama and 67 for George W. Bush at the same stage of their presidencies, according to Knoller’s figures.

White House spokeswoman Lindsay Walters said Trump is heading to Bedminster while the White House undergoes renovations that were approved under Obama. “The HVAC systems are 27 years old, but due to the 24/7, 365-day use a year, the estimated age of the system based off of usage is 81 years old,” Walters told reporters on Thursday.

She said the South Portico steps on the South Lawn will be repaired for the first time since Dwight D. Eisenhower’s first term. There will also be renovations to the White House information technology system, the Navy Mess kitchen, the West Wing lower lobby and “generic cosmetic upgrades,” Walters said. [gbennett@pbpost.com](mailto:gbennett@pbpost.com)

[Twitter: @gbennettpost](https://twitter.com/gbennettpost)

8/6/17 POST IN-DEPTH SGT. CHRIS REYKA

# 10 years after cop's slaying, 'everlasting' pain, resilience

By Tom D'Angelo Palm Beach Post Staff Writer



Broward County sheriff's Sgt. Chris Reyka was killed Aug. 10, 2007.



Broward County sheriff's deputy Sean Reyka, son of Sgt. Chris Reyka, stands with his mom, Kim, on Father's Day in June. Sean Reyka patrols some of the same streets his father did. REYKA FAMILY



Sheriff's Detective John Curcio has been working the Reyka case since 2010.





Curcio has Reyka's badge number tattooed on his wrist. PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Sean Reyka presents his sister Autumn, now a Palm Beach County sheriff's deputy, with her graduation certificate at the Palm Beach State College Criminal Justice Institute in July 2016.  
REYKA FAMILY





Kim Reyka and her son Spencer embrace on the day of Spencer's graduation from American Heritage High School. CONTRIBUTED

WELLINGTON — When Sgt. Marty Katz came to the aid of his fellow deputy, Sgt. Chris Reyka, he saw the bullet wounds and knew he was too late.

Katz remembers that night 10 years ago, remembers someone saying that the last thing that goes before you die is your hearing. So he got down on the asphalt and whispered into his friend's ear.

"I was saying things like, 'It's going to be OK. We'll help you. Don't worry, we'll get you to the hospital.'"

A decade has passed since Katz and Reyka were Broward County sheriff's deputies on the night shift in Pompano Beach. Ten years of graduations, weddings, grandchildren born. Ten years since Kim Reyka, his wife of 22 years, lost "the protector of my heart who was my partner and best friend."

Reyka, a 17-year law enforcement veteran who lived in Wellington, was known to be vigilant about checking license tags for stolen cars. That's exactly what he was doing in the early morning on Aug. 10, 2007. He'd spotted a car, learned the tags were stolen, then came across it in a Walgreens parking lot.

After he spotted that car, he was ambushed and shot five times. He later died at North Broward Medical Center.

Reyka was 51.

After years of tracking down leads and interviewing witnesses, investigators identified as a person of interest a man killed in a police shootout one month after Reyka was killed. Although it was a breakthrough, the case remains open.

It's one of the few unsolved cases in the country of a police officer being killed.

For the 10th anniversary of Reyka's death, The Palm Beach Post caught up with several people whose lives have been profoundly affected by this event, including his wife and four children.

Here's what they remember and how they're doing now.

KIM REYKA

**Widow perseveres: 'I continue what we started'**

Kim, Chris and their four children moved to Wellington in 1998. This was the home they would cherish as their children grew, finished schooling and began their careers.

The home in which Kim believed she and Chris would "grow old," become empty nesters.

But it all changed after one horrific act.

"The loss of Chris is felt on a daily basis," said Kim. "Some days the loss is felt as graduations, grandchildren, holidays, Eagle Scout achievement and Law Enforcement Academy graduations are embraced without Chris' presence. Other days the loss is the feeling from a shared memory or the loss of new memories that will never be."

The sadness, frustration, confusion and anger is "everlasting," she said. "I wasn't supposed to be the only parent and grandparent. But somehow no matter how hard the role is alone, the reward overshadows the effort and allows me to feel the connectedness with Chris as I did when he was here, and that brings me joy as I continue what we started."

With four grandchildren, Kim's family has doubled since losing her husband. She feels a responsibility to remain strong and carry on his legacy.

"Despite the circumstances, a feeling of hope somehow prevails," she said, "possibly from a strong faith, family and sense of community."

SEAN REYKA

**Emulating him on the beat and as a father**

Sean, 30, was in the Marines and stationed in Pensacola when his dad was killed. He had no intention of becoming a police officer until his contract expired and he opted not to re-enlist.

Sean's goal then was to follow in his dad's footsteps. He graduated from the Broward Police Academy in 2012 and immediately started with the Broward County Sheriff's Office. He now patrols the same streets as Chris Reyka did in Pompano Beach and is the senior deputy on his shift.

"A day doesn't go by without thinking about him, and I find that I most miss him when it comes to raising my son," said Sean, who has a 7-year-old, Christopher. "He was the best father anyone could have asked for, and I try to emulate him while raising my own son."

"It saddens me that he isn't here to watch his grandchildren grow up, to give them the steady and wise guidance he gave his own children. I count myself lucky to have had him as a father to begin with, even if for only a short amount of time."

AUTUMN REYKA

**Daughter, now a cop, misses his 'big, goofy smile'**

From the time Chris Reyka was killed, Autumn vowed to follow her father's career path.

"Losing my father at 15 was undoubtedly the most tragic event I could ever fathomed having to face," Autumn said. "But I find solace in knowing that he would be proud of where I am today, and I thank him for creating a strength within me that I don't know I would've discovered if it weren't for his sudden loss."

Autumn, 25, is a deputy for the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office. She, too, has a 7-year-old son named Christopher who lives with her.

"I will forever miss being the child that was always suckered into giving him foot massages because everyone else ran and hid," she said. "I will never forget the sound of his freight train snores. Yet despite all the memories, the biggest void in my world is not being able to be 'Daddy's girl' for a little while longer.

"Every now and then I wonder if he can see just how much his family has grown. If he can see how much his grandchildren light up his wife's life. It's been tough not being able to share birthdays, holidays, weddings and the like with him; but I imagine he's looking down, smiling his big, goofy smile that will forever be etched in my mind and heart until I see him again one day."

ASHLEY STEELE

**He wasn't there to walk her down the aisle**

Ashley Steele, 31, was entering her senior year at the University of Florida when her father died. Five months later, she started an internship in Broward County and her route took her along Powerline Road past the Walgreens where Chris Reyka was killed.

Ashley said it was therapeutic.

"I would stop there," she said. "They had a memorial set up and people had put so much stuff there. So I would stop every now and then to see that people cared."

That May, she graduated with a degree in health sciences before going on to receive her bachelor's degree in an accelerated nursing program. Ashley worked as an emergency room nurse while studying for her master's and became a board-certified nurse practitioner. She soon will be starting a job as a nurse practitioner in the emergency room.

In 2011, Ashley married Anthony Steele. They have two daughters. During their ceremony, Chris' image was attached to a candle that sat on the altar.

"I miss picking up the phone just to talk to him," Ashley said. "Getting married and him not there to walk me down the aisle, having kids, him not seeing his grandkids. "Not having him just to visit or even something simple as helping with house projects has left a large void in my life."

SPENCER REYKA

### **Son uses father's guidance as 'my moral compass'**

Spencer was just 13 when his dad was killed. He was home sleeping when the knock at the door came around 3 a.m. and his mother and sisters decided not to wake him. They would tell him in the morning.

Since then, Spencer has graduated from high school and then the University of Florida with a degree in computer science. He received his confirmation, became an Eagle Scout and started his first job in that field.

"It's as if the fabric of my life has been changed without me fully realizing it," said Spencer, 23. "I occasionally look back at events whether it was my graduation, my first car, or my 21st birthday and think, 'What if he was there for those things?' Ten years later, I still think about him often but I've come to accept that he is no longer here. But that also comes with the responsibility of constantly asking myself, 'Would he be proud of my actions and where I am?' And this constantly shapes my decisions, and acts as my moral compass."

JOHN CURCIO

### **Tip line still linked to detective's personal phone**

Curcio, 58, joined the Broward County Sheriff's Office in 2009 as a detective after working 29 years with the Fort Lauderdale Police Department. He was assigned Chris Reyka's case in 2010. He has followed up on the more than 3,150 tips that now fill 70 boxes and close to 100 books.

For several years, Curcio spent every Friday night in the Walgreens parking lot where Reyka was shot reading documents about the case.

"There's no logical reason why I would do it," he said. "I would just do it. Whether you want to say it was for inspiration or whatever, I just did it."

A tip line remains connected to Curcio's personal cellphone and still rings at all hours. He followed up on two tips this week.

"This case has been taken on by the entire community," Curcio said. "You work this case, you can never drive in traffic again without looking for the white car. I don't care if I'm 90 years old, when I pull up to a traffic light if there's a Crown Victoria or a Mercury Marquis in the intersection, I'm going to be thinking about Chris and this case."

Curcio's spirits are raised each time he sees Reyka's son Sean.



"You got to see him come from the Marine Corps, a fresh-faced little rookie following in his dad's footsteps," he said. "All the kids have done great, but for a kid to choose not only to follow in his dad's footsteps but to follow in the same city his dad worked in and cared about, you got to smile. That's something I'm sure Chris is proud of. We all are proud of him. When I get out there, I'm happy as can be to see him out there."

MARTY KATZ

**'I knew it was time for me to move on'**

Katz and Chris Reyka were sergeants on the midnight shift in Pompano Beach. Each night they would meet around 1:30 a.m. to discuss how the evening was progressing and plan for the rest of the shift. On Aug. 10, 2007, they planned to meet at a Dunkin' Donuts in the northeast section of the city. Katz arrived early. Then he heard the call.

"In my 34-year law enforcement career, I had never seen so many officers respond to a scene so quickly," Katz said. "I had been on the sites of other officers killed in the line of duty. This scene was different. This was my friend."

Katz had been thinking about retirement, and Chris Reyka's death left no doubt. That night would be the last time he wore a Broward County Sheriff's Office uniform on duty.

The only other time he donned that uniform was for Reyka's funeral.

"I called my wife at the first opportunity and informed her that tonight would be my last night," he said. "I knew it was time for me to move on."

Katz, 65, and his wife, Marla, now live in Kingston, N.H.

CAL CARLSTROM

**'No more talk about ... when we were young and invincible'**



Cal Carlstrom, 61, met Chris Reyka in the Marines. They remained close after Chris returned to Florida after his two-year stint and years later when Carlstrom returned to his hometown of Elizabeth, N.J., and enrolled at Montclair State.

Carlstrom spoke with Reyka about two weeks before his death. "He talked about wishing work was run more regimented and organized as our time together at Marine Barracks Washington D.C. and Camp David had been."

Carlstrom and his family had planned a trip to Disney World for later that summer and were going to surprise Chris and Kim Reyka with a visit.



"That early morning phone call changed things forever," Carlstrom said. "No more emails, no more Christmas card pictures with the family, no more dinners, no more talk about the way things were when we were young and invincible. No more talk about our futures. I miss him, but am glad I got to have him and his family as close friends."

KYLE CUMMINGS

**'My mother's best friend was taken far too soon,' nephew says**

Cummings, 29, is Chris Reyka's nephew and godson. He remembers the family outings that Chris and Kim Reyka organized with his parents, Chris' sister, Marcie, and her husband, Russell, and the life lessons he learned from his uncle.

"He wanted to be in our lives — as an influence, protector and friend. We were lucky to have his joy, selflessness and commitment to family and God help shape our upbringing," said Cummings, who lives in New York with his wife, Chiara.

"I've been stripped of making new memories with this person I looked up to for as long as I can remember, and I've fought countless tears on the days I'm reminded that my mother's best friend was taken far too soon. I'm not going to see Chris again — but I am a better person because of his care for me as his godson."



Broward County Sheriff's Sgt. Maria Polo Renner was assigned to the command post that fielded tips and phone calls after Sgt. Chris Reyka was fatally shot in 2007. More than 3,000 tips came in during her five years in the position. CONTRIBUTED

MARIA POLO RENNER

**Command post officer: 'Time introduced Sgt. Reyka to me'**

Maria Polo Renner never met Chris Reyka, but now has an everlasting connection to him and his family.

Polo Renner is a sergeant assigned at the executive office to the undersheriff at the Broward County Sheriff's Office. A 30-year-veteran at the sheriff's office, she was

promoted to sergeant in 2007 and assigned to the command post that fielded tips and phone calls immediately after Chris Reyka was shot.

"There were hundreds of deputies and local law enforcement standing by, desperate to help," she said. "There were local businesses offering to donate breakfast, lunch and dinner for the personnel assigned to the command post who spent countless hours without leaving their post."

Polo Renner then ran the command post when it was moved from Pompano Beach to the Public Safety Building in Fort Lauderdale. More than 3,000 tips were received during her five years at the post. "I knew I wanted all of my training and experience to be utilized in any way to do the most thorough and best work of my career," she said.

"Time introduced Sgt. Reyka to me, and he was no longer a stranger," she said. "Sgt. Reyka was very proactive, always looking to keep the community safe. He truly believed in protecting and serving the community."

"I know him now as a person that loved God, his family and country. He was good to people and truly cared about others. Sgt. Reyka inspires me and reminds me that serving our community may cause us to make the ultimate sacrifice, however this need is required and to answer the call is noble. Sgt. Reyka will live as long as we remember him."



Chris Reyka (far right) was scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 208 in July 2007. His assistant, John Begens, stands at left in back, wearing a white hat. CONTRIBUTED

## JOHN BEGENS **Boy Scouts fulfill scoutmaster Reyka's dream of Eagles**



Chris Reyka was the scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 208 in Wellington when he died. John Begens was his assistant and later became scoutmaster. When it came time for Spencer Reyka to become an Eagle Scout, Begens was leading the troop. "Chris had a goal: to help Scouts in our troop achieve the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in the Boy Scouts," said Begens, 59. "This became our focus" after Reyka's death.

Since Chris Reyka's death, 23 have gone on to become Eagle Scouts in Troop 208. With an average of 20 registered Scouts per year, that is more than 4½ times the national average.

"Chris would be proud of this achievement," Begens said. "The kids absolutely respected him. You are training boys to become young men, and they looked up to him for that. He had great leadership. Chris instilled upon them good morals and development." [tdangelo@pbpost.com](mailto:tdangelo@pbpost.com) [Twitter: @tomdangelo44](https://twitter.com/tomdangelo44)

**8/6/17 BOCA RATON**

## **Sale of iPhone through app ends with arrest**

A meeting to sell an iPhone 7 through the buying and selling app "Let It Go" left one woman with cuts and bruises and the other in jail.

Eboni Anderson, 18, of West Palm Beach, was arrested Thursday on charges of robbery and aggravated battery with a deadly weapon, according to a Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office probable-cause affidavit. During a brief court hearing at the Palm Beach County Jail on Friday, a judge set her bond at \$10,000, according to online court records. She was still in jail as of Saturday.

On July 28, the victim agreed to meet Anderson in front of an apartment complex on Boca Cove Circle in suburban Boca Raton to sell her iPhone she listed on the app "Let It Go," the affidavit said. Anderson arrived in a black Buick, and the two spoke for 15 minutes to determine the sale price of \$650. Anderson said she had to go to the bank to get the money.

Anderson returned 15 minutes later. Sitting in the driver's seat of her car, Anderson spoke with the victim, who was standing next to the car, for 20 minutes, the affidavit said. Then, Anderson asked to see the phone again, so the woman gave it to her. When the victim felt something wasn't right, she asked for the phone back, but as she held it, Anderson accelerated her car, dragging the woman about 15 feet until she let go.

The woman had scrapes on her wrist, arms and hip but denied medical treatment, the affidavit said. — PAIGE FRY

8/6/17 POST INVESTIGATION GUARDIANSHIP

# Verdict a win for guardianship

**reform \$16.4 million judgment against lawyers  
sends message to those who would prey on seniors.**

*By John Pacenti Palm Beach Post Staff Writer* **WHAT THE POST FOUND**

The savings of incapacitated seniors flowed into the household of former Palm Beach County Circuit Judge Martin Colin, courtesy of Colin's wife — professional guardian Elizabeth "Betsy" Savitt. Fees often were approved by a family friend. After "Guardianship: A Broken Trust" ran, Colin opted not to seek reelection and the circuit enacted reforms addressing many concerns raised in the stories.

Read the stories at [mypalmbeachpost.com/guardianships-colin-savitt/](http://mypalmbeachpost.com/guardianships-colin-savitt/)



O'Connell



Bivins Sr.

Advocates for guardianship reform clamored in vain for years that Florida's system failed to properly protect incapacitated seniors, that its primary purpose had been perverted to line the pockets of greedy attorneys and professional guardians with the hard-earned life savings of the elderly.

Now they can point to a new federal verdict awarding a whopping \$16.4 million in a lawsuit claiming that two West Palm Beach attorneys breached their fiduciary duties while running up "unnecessary and excessive fees" of \$1 million.

"It's really kind of a landmark case," said Julian Bivins, who brought the suit as the personal representative of the estate of his father, Oliver, a Texas oil man. "It sends a message to these unscrupulous lawyers and guardians that they are not going to be able to get away with it anymore."

The Bivins guardianship case emanates out of the court of Circuit Judge Martin Colin, the subject of an investigation by The Palm Beach Post into the judge's conflicts of interest because his wife is a professional guardian.



Colin in open court had heaped praise on the attorneys who lost the case and refused to hold a hearing to decide whether the attorneys had “secretly” kept money from the sale of one of Oliver Bivins’ properties in an escrow account for more than a year, according to court documents.

The Post’s award-winning series featuring Colin, *Guardianships: A Broken Trust*, resulted in an overhaul of guardianship rules in Palm Beach County. Colin retired last December after he was transferred from the Probate & Guardianship Division because of The Post’s reporting.

Weeks after The Post published, Julian Bivins filed a motion to disqualify Colin, saying his concerns about the “close-knit atmosphere of the Guardians, their attorneys” and Colin had been “glaringly brought to light” in the stories.

### **Held captive?**

The younger Bivins said he felt his father was “held captive” in South Florida by the guardianship so the attorneys could liquidate real estate assets — including a New York City Upper East Side mansion — and charge more fees. Colin granted an emergency order prohibiting the senior from returning to Texas.

The jury found on July 28 that attorneys Brian M. O’Connell and Ashley N. Crispin of the Ciklin, Lubitz & O’Connell firm not only breached their fiduciary duty but committed professional negligence.

The lawsuit claimed they failed to get appraisals on two high-end New York City properties being divided among family. They were not of equal value and as a result, Julian Bivins ended up with one that was worth millions less than other.

The jury’s decision to award \$16.4 million makes up the difference.

But the fight over the property is far less important to reform advocates than the fact that attorneys who carry out the wishes of professional guardians and are paid with the ward’s money were held accountable.

“This case in one of the longtime hotbeds of guardianship abuse is a tipping point,” said Sam Sugar, director of Americans Against Abusive Probate Guardianship.

“This first salvo sends a serious message not only to the predatory guardians and lawyers who have been exploiting families all over Florida for decades but especially to the probate judges without whose complicity these cases could never happen.”

Oliver Bivins died at age 97 in March 2015. He ended up in the court-ordered guardianship when he visited his condominium in Palm Beach in 2011 and a social worker became concerned about his well-being, according to court documents.

Oliver Bivins appeared to be coming to Florida for a weekend vacation, leaving his refrigerator in Texas fully stocked, plaintiff attorneys told the jury. His son said he often didn’t visit his Palm Beach condominium for years at a time.



The verdict takes a further step toward re-establishing that attorneys are supposed to represent the incapacitated ward, not the court-appointed professional guardian — a position many lawyers have argued in court to thwart families trying to rein in a fee frenzy.

"If it wasn't for me, they would have completely depleted my dad's estate," said Julian Bivins, who now lives in Palm Beach. "I've been fighting them from the beginning to just get him back to Texas. Finally, I got him back there 35 days before he passed away."

As with many family members who challenge the status quo in guardianship in Palm Beach County, Julian said he found himself relentlessly attacked in court. He was even sued by one of the guardians in the case, Curtis Rogers.

The biggest toll, he said, though, was his relationship with his father as Rogers told the elder Bivins that his son only wanted his money. "He turned my dad against me," Julian Bivins said. "I could never explain to my father how he was being held for ransom, how they wouldn't let him go."

The Ciklin firm said it is confident it can prevail on post-trial motions in front of U.S. District Court Judge Kenneth Marra.

"We think the verdict was not in keeping with the law or the facts and, in fact, was considerably more than the plaintiff even asked for," said Alan Ciklin, the firm's managing partner. "We feel pretty good about our ability to have this reduced dramatically."

Rogers, one of two professional guardians dismissed as defendants in the lawsuit, testified for more than two days at the trial. He told The Post he believes the younger Bivins financially took advantage of his father. "The verdict was a total shock to me," he said. "I anticipated there was no way that type of verdict could be made." It may come as a shock to Judge Colin, as well.

Colin during a Feb. 3, 2016, hearing in the guardianship case bristled at the suggestion that the Ciklin Lubitz firm was not acting as a good custodian of Bivins' assets. The senior's son questioned why the firm had failed to turn over \$472,000 from the sale of his father's commercial property in New York City, requesting Colin refer their actions to the Florida Bar or keep them from holding onto the money.

"The Ciklin Lubitz law firm has a well-earned reputation of honesty. And this is honesty," Colin said in court. "Not for a moment do I have any concern because their reputation is well-earned in this respect."

Colin denied Julian Bivins' request without hearing any evidence but ordered the firm to return about \$400,000.

An attorney for Julian Bivins filed a motion to disqualify Colin because of those statements, but the judge denied it.

"We never got anything done in his court," Julian said. "We complained about the amount of the fees and he (Colin) cut them down 25 percent, but then we had to pay their fees for them to defend those fees. So they just made it back."

### **Guardianship Catch-22**

It is in this Catch-22 that families often find themselves when trying to decide whether to fight unethical actions by a professional guardian: Either way they pay, and either way the lawyers' wallets grow fatter.

The guardianship issue is being looked at by a task force formed by Florida Supreme Court Justice Jorge Labarga. The state Legislature established the new Office of Public & Professional Guardianship as a result of lobbying by advocacy groups and others about lawyers and guardians siphoning off fees.

Attorney Greg Coleman, past president of The Florida Bar, wrote to the work group in June to alert it to "inappropriate, improper and illegal activities of a very small number of Florida attorneys" practicing in the guardianship arena.

"Unfortunately, the way guardianship statutes and rules are currently constituted allows for a window of exploitation by bad attorneys and bad guardians for their own personal monetary gain," said Coleman, who was not associated with the Bivins guardianship or any of the related litigation.

Coleman said everything is moving in the right direction for seniors. "The issue has the (Florida Supreme) Court's attention, I can tell you," he said. "It is not something that is being ignored or swept under the rug."

### **Dominoes falling?**

Sugar's grass-roots group based out of Hollywood was the force behind legislative reform last year. He said the verdict in Bivins' case is a sign "the dominoes are starting to fall."

Several years ago Sugar could barely get a conference with key Florida lawmakers. Now his group has spearheaded legislation and made guardianship an issue around the country. Sugar pointed to the recent federal indictment of a professional guardianship firm in New Mexico, charging the owners with stealing millions from seniors, as an example that justice could be done for these seniors.

Attorneys who represented the Bivins family — Charles D. Bivol and Ron Denman of The Bleakley Bivol law firm in Tampa — compared the trial to a climactic brawl from the movie "Rocky." The Ciklin defendants knocked out their expert witness and cited attorney-client privilege in refusing to turn over crucial emails between the Ciklin lawyers and the guardians. The son's testimony persuaded the jury, his lawyers said. "What the defendants did in this case was wrong," Denman told jurors. "It was legally wrong, what they did was ethically wrong, and what they did was morally wrong."

Bavol and Denman said the verdict builds off a 2015 state court appellate finding out of Palm Beach County, ruling that the guardianship attorneys' duty is to the incapacitated adult, not the professional guardian.

The 4th District Court of Appeal in recent years has reined in circuit courts in Palm Beach County that reform advocates say patently favor professional guardians and their attorneys. Still, advocates such as Sugar say they hear about abuses almost daily in the guardianship courts.

Bavol and Denman said the verdict underscores the need for accountability from guardians and their lawyers.

"Based on this significant jury verdict and the ongoing investigative journalism in Southern Florida concerning professional guardianships, the need for reform of the guardianship system to protect Florida's elderly citizens is again underscored," the lawyers said in a news release. [jpacenti@pbpost.com](mailto:jpacenti@pbpost.com)

A jury found on July 28 that attorneys Brian O'Connell and Ashley Crispin breached their fiduciary duty and committed professional negligence in the case of Oliver Bivins.

8/6/17 POST IN-DEPTH THE IMMIGRATION DIVIDE

# What immigration changes will come?

*By Wayne Washington Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Jimmy Chavez helps his mother, Maty Carrillo, in their family-owned tire shop in Jupiter last month. After attempting to get a work permit extended, Carrillo and her husband face deportation, part of more aggressive removal push since Trump became president RICHARD GRAULICH / THE PALM BEACH POST

## 'ILLEGAL' OR 'UNDOCUMENTED'?

What's in a name? When it comes to the immigration debate, quite a lot.

The terminology one chooses to use in describing people who have entered the country illegally or remained in it without proper documentation says a lot about where one comes down on things like border enforcement, deportations and a pathway to citizenship.

In general, those who favor more aggressive border enforcement, stepped up deportations and no pathway to citizenship (or a very costly, time-consuming one) tend to use the terms illegal immigrant or illegal alien.

Ira Mehlman, media director for the Federation for American Immigration Reform, explains why here:

"Illegal alien is a legal term. It doesn't mean you came from Mars. Illegal alien is the proper legal term. The advocates for illegal aliens have come up with all kinds of euphemisms to make what's been done sound kind of innocuous – undocumented

immigrant, undocumented worker. Those who are not in the country legally are illegal aliens.”

As Mehlman noted, those who back limited, prioritized deportations and an easier pathway to citizenship tend to use the terms undocumented immigrant, undocumented worker or undocumented resident.

Afifa Khaliq, a Palm Beach County immigration activist, explains why here:

“The logic behind that is if you get a speeding ticket or commit any other offense you are still a ‘legal’ human. When we use the term illegal we are effectively saying that the person’s very existence as a human is unlawful. ‘Illegal Immigrant’ was the term first used in 1939 by the British towards the Jews fleeing Nazis and entering Palestine without authorization. We ‘the activists’ believe that no human being is ‘illegal.’ The unauthorized residents just by overstaying or lack of documentation do not commit a criminal offense. They are subjected to deportation because of ‘civil administrative procedure,’ not because they have broken a law. The Supreme Court has also noted where Justice Anthony Kennedy, writing for the majority, said that, ‘As a general rule, it is not a crime for a removable alien to remain present in the United States.’ Justice Kennedy also noted that the removal of a person is a civil matter. So the activist community uses the word undocumented immigrants instead of the term illegal.”

In this story and the ones that will follow, The Palm Beach Post will use terms such as illegal immigrant and undocumented immigrant or unauthorized worker interchangeably where appropriate. The Post will not use the term “illegal alien” because while it may be a technical term used in legal documents, it is not common American parlance. The terminology used by The Post is not meant to convey support for one set of policies or another.

— WAYNE WASHINGTON, THE PALM BEACH POST

Immigration returned to the forefront of political discourse with the emergence of Donald Trump, who announced his bid for the presidency two years ago by saying he would build a wall between the United States and Mexico, which he accused of sending drugs and rapists into the U.S.

That wall has not yet materialized — Congress has so far refused to go along with funding for it — but the U.S. Supreme Court recently upheld portions of Trump’s travel ban, criticized by some as a discriminatory ban on Muslims.

And last week, the president and a pair of Republican members of the U.S. Senate touted a plan to dramatically alter the immigration system by slashing the number of legal immigrants allowed to enter the country over the next decade.

Trump’s tough talk, the travel ban and recent legislation aimed at punishing cities that provide sanctuary to illegal or undocumented residents has, again, focused

attention on an issue that has been held up as an example of American laxity, hypocrisy, cruelty and racism.

Immigration attorneys and foreign-born residents alike say a new, chilling climate has taken hold, one that raises the spectre of deportation for those in the country illegally even if they have not committed other crimes since their arrival.

Liberals talk of a system in need of a pathway to citizenship so undocumented residents no longer live in fear. Conservatives talk of one begging for enforcement — at the nation's southern border and within the country itself, where they say illegal immigrants commit crimes and depress the wages of American workers.

And yet for all of the talk, no sweeping action seems to be in the offing.

Reform efforts by successive presidents — George W. Bush and then Barack Obama — crashed and burned, and Trump's plans have been met by immediate opposition. Meanwhile, in Palm Beach County and elsewhere, the issue continues to fester, generating fear among those worried they might be deported, concern among farmers who don't have enough workers for their fields and anger among those who see illegal immigration as a threat to the nation's economy and safety.

Over the next several months, The Palm Beach Post will explore various aspects of the issue, attempting to bring clarity to a topic that has remained maddeningly muddy.

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There are no firm figures on how many undocumented people live in Palm Beach County.

Using U.S. Census data from 2014, the Pew Research Center estimated in February that 450,000 undocumented people live in the Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach area.

Two of Palm Beach County's signature industries — tourism and agriculture — rely heavily on foreign-born workers.

Even as Trump castigates undocumented residents and calls for a reduction of legal immigration, his businesses in Palm Beach County make extensive use of foreign-born workers.

The Trump Organization has asked the federal government for dozens of special visas for people who would serve as waiters, waitresses, cooks and maids at the Mara-Lago Club in Palm Beach and at Trump National Golf Club in Jupiter.

Every year, Trump hires dozens of foreign workers through the U.S. Department of Labor's H-2B visa program, which is similar to the H-2A program farmers use to staff their operations.

Foreign-born workers "definitely play a role in the makeup of the hospitality workforce here," said David Semadeni, secretary of the Palm Beach County Hotel and



Lodging Association. Exactly how much is difficult to say without doing an in-depth survey and I have not been able to do this."

For farmers, the visa program is critical and, they say, utterly insufficient.

There are several problems with the program, said Lisa Lochridge, public affairs director for the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association.

"It's very expensive," Lochridge said. "It's incredibly cumbersome, and it's not reliable."

Farmers have to estimate how many workers they will need months before knowing anything about their harvest, Lochridge said. And foreign-born workers often aren't processed on a time-line that corresponds with times farmers need them.

Flawed as it is, the program is still important, Lochridge said.

"More and more growers are using it because it's all we have," she said. "They realize it's one of the only tools in their toolbox"

Jobs offered through the H-2A program must first be made available to American workers. Lochridge said Americans aren't lining up for jobs that are temporary and physically demanding.

With the limitations of the H-2A program, farmers turn to another important labor supply — illegal or undocumented workers.

"The reality is that agriculture still relies on foreign-born workers who may not be documented," Lochridge said. "The stark reality is that these are jobs American workers will not do."

That doesn't have to be true, said Ira Mehlman, media director for the Federation for American Immigration Reform, a Washington, D.C.-based organization that supports better border management and lower overall levels of immigration.

Businesses want to hire undocumented workers so it can pay them less, Mehlman argued.

"Hiring illegal workers is basically a subsidy for these employers," he said, "and the rest of us are paying in other areas."

Those other areas include depressed wages and more demands on schools and law enforcement agencies, Mehlman said.

"You're not really getting anything cheaply," he said. "You're just padding the profit margins of these employers."

Several studies, however, indicate that undocumented workers have a net positive effect on the U.S. economy.

A study released in February by Florida International University's Center for Labor Research and Studies found that undocumented immigrants contribute \$437.4 million to the economy of the Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach metro area.

The precise impact of illegal or undocumented immigrants on education and law enforcement in Palm Beach County is difficult to discern.

Federal law prohibits the School District of Palm Beach County from asking students if they are here illegally. Aimed at protecting student privacy and preventing discrimination, the policy also makes it impossible to know how many students are not legal residents.

The district can and does track how many students speak English as a second language.

There were 17,196 English language learners in the district during the 2011-12 school year, the district reported. That figure dropped to 16,749 the next school year and stood at 16,895 in 2013-14.

The next three school years saw major upticks to 21,180 students in 2014-15, 22,441 in 2015-16 and 24,639 in 2016-17, the district reported.

Not all English language learners are in the country illegally, of course. Many are the children of foreign-born residents who are in the country legally and have moved to the county from some other location.

More than 322,000 of Palm Beach County's 1.4 million residents are foreign born, according to estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau.

As the immigration debate rages, high-profile crimes by undocumented residents have intensified calls for their deportation.

That was the case in May when Boynton Beach police say a truck driven by a 48-year-old Mexican citizen, Victor Villanueva Rivera, hit and killed Brandon Wesson of Palm Beach Gardens as Villanueva was turning from Hypoluxo Road north onto Lawrence Road.

Wesson, 21, was thrown from the motorcycle he was riding and was dead by the time Boynton Beach Fire Rescue personnel arrived.

Police said Villanueva, fearful of being caught driving without a license, kept going after he struck Wesson, dragging Wesson's motorcycle behind his truck for about 1,400 feet.

"This only proves Trump's point why we need the wall!" one Palm Beach Post reader wrote on Facebook.

There is no tally for how many crimes in Palm Beach County are committed by undocumented immigrants.

Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Teri Barbera said PBSO does not track crimes by illegal immigrants and therefore can't give a "factual response" about whether criminal activity by undocumented residents is a significant problem here.

But the number of people the PBSO detained for the U.S. Department of Immigration and Customs Enforcement was falling until this year.

The PBSO detained 658 people in 2012 and 669 in 2013. In July of 2014, the PBSO changed its policy, requiring a federal judge to sign off on the holds, which fell to 438 in 2014 and down to 168 in 2015 and 166 in 2016.

So far in 2017, the number of people detained for ICE stands at 258.

In July 2016, when he accepted the Republican Party's nomination for president, Trump said that "nearly 180,000 illegal immigrants with criminal records, ordered deported from our country, are tonight roaming free to threaten peaceful citizens."

Several studies, however, have shown that foreign-born residents — those here legally and illegally — are less likely than native-born Americans to commit crimes.

"With few exceptions, immigrants are less crime prone than natives or have no effect on crime rates," Alex Nowrasteh, an immigration policy analyst, wrote in 2015 for the Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank.

Immigrant advocates say undocumented residents, fearing deportation, are reluctant to report when they are victims of crimes.

That was the experience of Maty Carrillo, a Guatemalan citizen who owns a tire sales and auto repair shop in Jupiter with her husband, Victor Chavez.

Carrillo said a man attempted to sexually assault her not long after she entered the U.S. illegally. She said she did not report the man because she feared deportation.

After attempting to get a work permit extended in March, Carrillo and her husband now both face deportation, part of more aggressive removal push launched since Trump became president.

"It's a totally different culture with this administration," said William Cavanaugh, an immigration attorney in West Palm Beach. "It's very enforcement oriented."

The Obama administration focused its deportation efforts on undocumented residents who committed felonies after entering the country. The Trump administration has moved away from that focus, seeking instead to remove undocumented residents even if they have no criminal history beyond entering the country illegally.

"There are no changes in the law," Cavanaugh said. "It's just the application of it, a shift in priorities." [wwashington@pbpost.com](mailto:wwashington@pbpost.com)

**FIRST IN A SERIES** This is the first installment of The Palm Beach Post's continuing coverage of immigration in Palm Beach County.

## **8/5/17 Red-light cam firm dangles freebies**

Boynton Beach would get license-plate readers and video surveillance features

By Brooke Baitinger Staff writer

Red-light cameras in South Florida have been fizzling out in recent years, but one camera company is ready to bring them back with a bang.

And it's offering a sweet deal to get it done.

Before Boynton Beach decided Tuesday to reactivate its cameras, a representative of American Traffic Solutions offered the city several freebies worth thousands of dollars.

The company proposed equipping Boynton Beach police with license-plate readers. It also plans to let the city use its red-light cameras for video surveillance. The features would be added to the city's program at no cost, a company representative told city officials.

The Arizona-based company, whose red-light cameras are in many South Florida cities, plans to roll out such technology to all cities with whom it has contracts, and even cities with whom it doesn't yet do business, said Charles Territo, a company spokesman.

Territo did not say whether the company would consider offering freebies to other cities. He said the company has offered incentives like this before, but would not go into specifics.

American Traffic Solutions will offer the license-plate readers and surveillance video features to each city it services, as well as any other cities that may be considering renewing or establishing the system. The company would work with each city to determine how the benefits would fit into their contracts, he said.

Both technologies offered for free to Boynton Beach would otherwise amount to tens of thousands of dollars, which would be added onto a city's contract depending on how many devices the city needs, Territo said. For example, one of each device could cost a city a combined \$2,500, but most cities will need a bigger supply.

Several South Florida cities stopped their red-light camera programs after an appellate court ruled in 2014 that Hollywood, and therefore other cities, could not delegate ticket-writing to a third-party vendor. However, after that appellate ruling, a separate appellate court ruling found in favor of the camera systems.

It now goes to the Florida Supreme Court, which announced in May it would take up the case. A federal class-action suit demanding the return of fines paid by motorists is on hold pending that review.

Some city officials across South Florida have said the red-light cameras aren't about the money, but about public safety. Still, the cameras do bring in money for cities. In the first five years that Boynton had its red-light program, it drew more than \$3.5 million in revenue.

Boynton, the final holdout city with cameras in Palm Beach County, maintains that an officer reviews the infraction before the \$158 ticket is sent out, but abandoned the red-light camera program last year. Boynton's cameras in prior years had cost the city about \$71,000 a month to operate.

On Tuesday, the city brought back the issue of reactivating the cameras at the request of Commissioner Mack McCray, who said he had seen a change in driver behavior in the eight months since the cameras went dark.

Mayor Steven Grant and Vice Mayor Justin Katz supported the program all along, and voted in favor of renewing the city's contract with American Traffic Solutions until 2021.

Shana Bridgeman, Boynton's assistant city attorney, reminded commissioners that they couldn't yet vote on the freebies ATS was offering, and that Tuesday's vote only would affect the contract as it existed last year. But they can accept the incentives in the future, she said.

The features still will be offered to Boynton for free if and when the city accepts them, Territo said.

Boynton requested license-plate readers and video surveillance before the city ended its red-light camera contract last year, he said. "The city had been asking for that previously, but at the time we didn't yet have the ability to do live-view video from the cameras," he said.

Since the cameras were turned off, the Boynton Beach Police Department has requested footage from the cameras to assist in investigations on 17 occasions, including a fatal hit-and-run that killed 51-year-old Naborina Palacios while she was crossing Congress Avenue in June. It was unclear Friday whether any footage aided in the hit-run investigation.

Boynton residents can expect to see the cameras back on in the next few weeks, after ATS has checked all 15 for wear and tear, he said.

Chris Montague, 30, of Boynton, told the city he thinks the programs are invasive. "I ask you all to protect the privacy and rights of your citizens, and not allow private companies to monitor us," he told city commissioners. "I understand there may be some situations in which cameras are helpful, but this is just opening the door to constant surveillance and giving up more and more privacy."

He also told the city he disliked the incentives the company was offering. "The last thing I'll say, because there was some excitement about some freebies, is when something is free, you're the product," he said.

The camera equipment was kept up in Boynton at the request of Mayor Grant, but it isn't uncommon for cities to request that the hardware stays put, either for other uses or in case the city decides to restart the program, Territo said.

"We're optimistic that the city will recognize the benefits that the cameras provided and that newer technologies may also offer," he said.

Vice Mayor Justin Katz said the license-plate readers would be put to good use by the city's police department. A network of such devices would help law enforcement, at least to identify a perpetrator's vehicle, he said.

"The implementation of license-plate readers cannot be understated," he said. "We do have a crime issue in the city of Boynton Beach. Oftentimes, people commit crimes and then they disappear and our police force is left to figure out these situations and try to track people down." Pembroke Pines is also starting its program back up after four years without it, but with a different vendor. Tickets are set to be issued Aug. 25.

Boynton and Pembroke Pines join Davie, Sunrise, Tamarac and West Park. Sixteen cities in Miami-Dade County also still operate red-light camera systems.

"We still have a number of cities using the cameras, and we still have a very strong presence in Florida," Territo said. "As Florida cities continue to manage their challenges of both traffic safety and crime, we're looking to provide them with technology solutions to meet their needs."

Territo declined to comment on the pending Supreme Court decision, but said the company is optimistic.

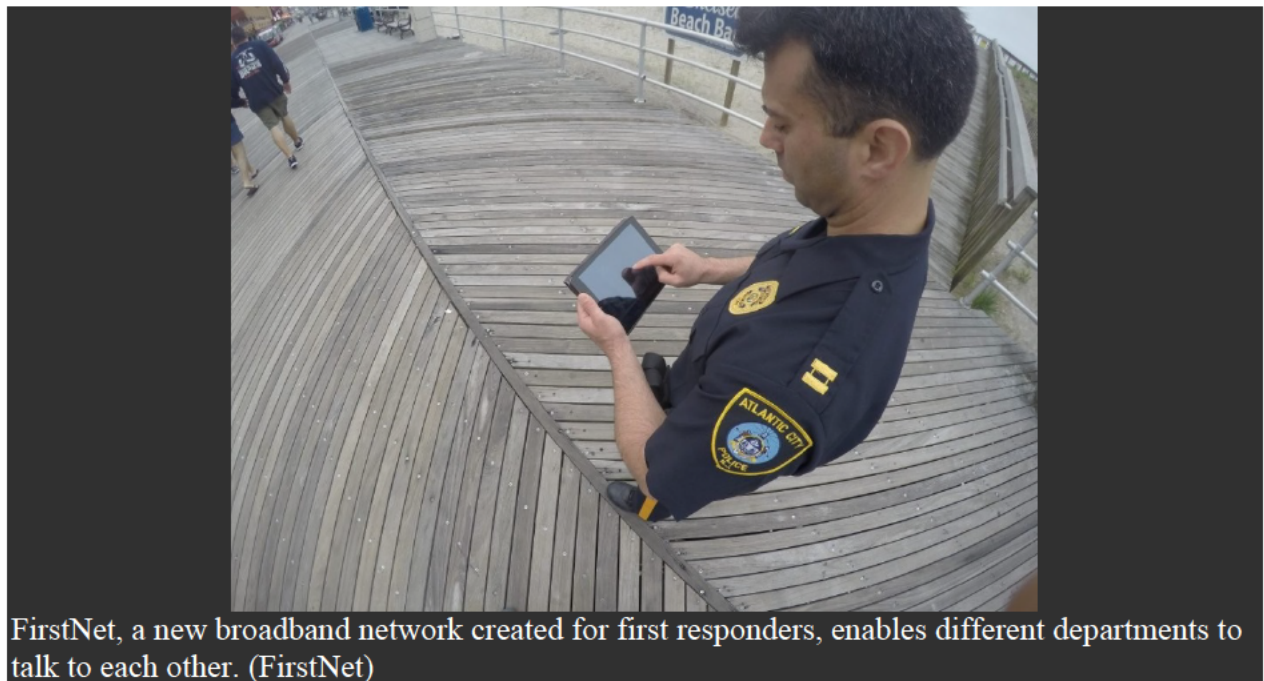
“We’re hopeful that as programs become more mature, and the benefits of the technology are seen, that the legislature will ultimately support the continuation of the programs,” he said.

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## 8/5/17 New cell network puts first responders

**first** FirstNet aims to connect police, firefighters and paramedics



FirstNet, a new broadband network created for first responders, enables different departments to talk to each other. (FirstNet)

By Tom Jackman The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — At a recent national gathering of police commanders and telecommunications executives, one executive lamented: “What company sends its employees into the field without a smartphone? Cops do. They give them to commanders, detectives, supervisors, but not officers.”

Many police officers, firefighters and paramedics carry their own smartphones to do the things their department-issued equipment can’t. But now, 16 years after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, exposed the inability of American first responders to talk to each other, a nationwide cellular network called “FirstNet” is launching to give public safety employees the ability to send data, video and text to each other. When a crisis hits and cell towers are overwhelmed, calls from first responders will pre-empt calls made by the public. FirstNet is expected to be operational by March.

Congress established the First Responder Network Authority after reports that firefighters and police officers were unable to communicate at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon after the Sept. 11 attacks. But the idea of placing all public safety agencies on one interoperable



broadband network took off after AT&T was awarded a wireless spectrum that will provide the bandwidth for the project and then committed to spending \$40 billion to build new facilities and provide security for it.

Each state, territory and the District of Columbia must opt in to the project individually so that their public service agencies can obtain the phones or SIM cards and wireless plans needed to access FirstNet. Individual plans for each state were rolled out last month, and seven states — Virginia, Arkansas, Kentucky, Iowa, New Jersey, West Virginia and Wyoming — have signed up.

“At the Pentagon on 9/11,” said Fairfax County, Va., fire chief Richard Bowers, “the only way we could talk to the incident commander was face-to-face. That was a lot of time wasted.”

Bowers said that having priority over civilian calls during an emergency is “huge. I’m able to talk to whoever I need to in order to provide critical operational information and direction.”

The LTE cell network is not meant to replace the radio dispatch systems long used by police and fire departments. “It’s simply “another tool that’s used in conjunction with land-based networks to give public safety tools they haven’t had before,” said Andrew Seybold, a wireless communications consultant who helped advise law enforcement on the legislation that established FirstNet.

There remains serious skepticism in some quarters of law enforcement, in part because of the cost. Many police and fire departments would have to purchase phones for their line officers and firefighters — FirstNet estimates roughly 70 percent of police officers don’t have department phones — and the departments will also have to pay for wireless subscription plans. AT&T has not yet released figures on how much it will charge agencies to access the network.

But T.J. Kennedy, the FirstNet president, said jurisdictions have always had to budget for communications expenses, and FirstNet should eliminate some costs for departments that have to maintain their own wireless systems.

“For FirstNet, AT&T is building an entirely new communications network,” said Chris Sambar, a senior vice president for AT&T. “We want this to be the most secure network on Earth. We’ll make sure it’s as close to bulletproof as possible,” with dedicated security centers monitoring it exclusively.

The possibilities for the new bandwidth get first responders excited. Paramedics in the back of an ambulance can send video ahead to an emergency room. Firefighters arriving on the scene of a critical incident can stream video to their commanders. Officers who aren’t near a computer can access criminal record databases. The system will also allow dispatchers and commanders to pinpoint the location of all their officers, paramedics and firefighters.

“I will have the ability to run criminal histories on individuals,” said former Salt Lake City police chief Chris Burbank. “I will now be able to see photos, to figure out if this guy is wanted — all this over a secure network, with priority and pre-emption, and have access even during a large-scale event.” Burbank equipped every Salt Lake City officer with a smartphone and was moving city officials toward creating their own LTE network until FirstNet was created.

“There’s high hopes in law enforcement,” said Sheriff Richard Stanek of Hennepin County, Minn. “We need something like this, there’s no question.”

Stanek said one of his deputies recently stopped a car with five people inside who couldn’t provide straight answers to the deputy’s questions. The deputy used his personal smartphone to snap a photo of the driver and then texted it to a detective at headquarters, who ran it through facial recognition software and determined the man was wanted on a federal warrant for terrorism.

“Before this,” Stanek said, “deputy would’ve interviewed him, and he would’ve been gone.” “I think these tools are going to change the way we do police work for the better,” FirstNet’s Kennedy said. He noted that in a weather emergency, real-time damage information will locate trouble spots and provide better routing information for emergency vehicles. “Today all that information has to be transferred by voice,” Kennedy said.

FirstNet has set a series of deadlines for states that began Friday, which was the cutoff to provide comments or ask questions. In mid-September, FirstNet will start a 90-day timer for states that haven’t made a decision, and mid-December is the deadline for states to opt in or out. AT&T expects to have the core network built by March.

Other countries are launching similar nationwide broadband networks for first responders, said John Rennie of technology consulting company NICE Public Safety, including England and Hong Kong. Rennie said the United States has created its own wrinkle by launching a federal program but delegating final decisions to the state.

FirstNet will be compatible with NextGen 911, a slowly developing program to improve 911 capacity beyond voice to text and data. Rennie said that when citizens can send video or data to emergency call-takers, that will create a whole new level of information, which FirstNet can then route to officers, paramedics and firefighters in the field.

## **8/6/17 More fliers showing up with guns**

Interceptions at S. Fla. airports part of record week across U.S.

By Rafael Olmeda Staff writer

Guns are first on the list of items you’re not supposed to bring onto a plane, but more and more passengers keep getting stopped at security checkpoints with firearms in their carry-ons. And the weapons are usually loaded.

“We don’t want another tragedy,” said Sari Koshetz, spokeswoman for the Transportation Security Administration. “You see the way some people fling their bags onto the X-ray belts in the checkpoints. One of those loaded guns could discharge with fatal results.”

The week of July 10-16 set a record for passengers nationwide trying to take loaded and unloaded guns onto planes in carry-on baggage, TSA reported. Eighty-nine weapons were collected, including three handguns at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport: an unloaded .45-caliber and a loaded .25-caliber and 9 mm.

The record might not stand for long if the past is any indication. The previous record, 82 guns in a week nationwide, was set in May.

And the long-term trends are almost surprising in their consistency, Koshetz said. The number has gone up every year since 2005, except one — in 2007 it dropped from 821 to 803.

The steady increase in intercepted weapons cannot be attributed to any improvements in the screening process, Koshetz said.

“We’ve always been very well-trained in identifying firearms,” she said. “We look for evolving threats. For example, firearms have gotten smaller.”

From 2012 to 2016, the number of passengers traveling through U.S. airports increased 16 percent. The number of guns collected at checkpoints more than doubled (from 1,556 to 3,391) in the same period.

There were 56 guns intercepted in Fort Lauderdale last year, 45 at Miami International Airport and 24 at Palm Beach International Airport.

More than four out of five recovered weapons were loaded.

Koshetz was not aware of anyone successfully sneaking a gun past airport security, but said if it happens, it's exceedingly rare.

It is legal to bring unloaded firearms onto a plane in checked baggage, and there are specific procedures for packing and handling them. Esteban Santiago legally brought a Walther 9 mm semi-automatic handgun to Fort Lauderdale on a flight that originated in Alaska on Jan. 6. When his plane landed, he retrieved the weapon from a baggage office, loaded it and went on a rampage, killing five and wounding six. He's been charged with murder, attempted murder and other crimes and is set to go to trial in federal court in January.

In May, a Sun Sentinel columnist checked an unloaded weapon in a locked case on five one-way flights without incident.

But only some federal law enforcement officers and military are allowed to carry guns onto planes with them.

So far this year at Fort Lauderdale, the TSA has stopped 47 passengers with guns; 43 of the firearms were loaded. In the same time period last year, 34 people were stopped.

Miami saw a similar increase, from 19 at this point last year to 26 so far in 2017. In Palm Beach County, the number has been steadier — 15 this year, 14 last year at this time.

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, the nation's busiest, was No. 1 last year for firearms, with 198 weapons intercepted at security. Orlando was sixth, with 86. Tampa was eighth, with 79, while Fort Lauderdale came in 16th with 56.

Miami International had fewer incidents than Fort Lauderdale this year and last year, even though it is the busier airport. In 2016, Miami saw 44.6 million passengers pass through its gates. Fort Lauderdale had 29.2 million. Koshetz said Miami's lower numbers are possibly due to a higher percentage of international travelers who are more aware of the restrictions against bringing weapons to other countries.

Palm Beach International consistently trails its neighbors in the number of incidents as well as in passengers — 6.3 million people went through the gates in 2016.

The most common reason passengers give screeners and law enforcement agents for having a firearm is that they made a mistake.

"The reason or excuse they give is always the same," said Broward Sheriff's Captain Roy Liddicott, district commander at the Fort Lauderdale airport. "I forgot. That's what they say. I forgot. I was at the gun range and I forgot. It's irresponsible gun ownership. If you're a responsible gun owner, you know where your gun is at all times."

The consequences for getting caught trying to bring a gun past airport security can be severe. The fine can reach \$12,000, depending on whether it's a first offense, whether the gun is loaded and other factors.

"When our officer detects a firearm in your carry-on, they freeze the operation in that lane," Koshetz said. "We call in law enforcement. And it's up to them to take control of the weapon and whether that individual will face arrest or not."

Arrests are typically for those who do not have concealed weapons permits. Four have been stopped at the Fort Lauderdale airport and charged with a felony this year, Liddicott said.

"The TSA and the airline industry could do gun owners a huge favor by letting concealed carry permit holders know that it does not allow them to bring the weapon on a plane," said Douglas

Kidd, executive director of the Virginia-based National Association of Airline Passengers. “I’d wager a campaign like that would eliminate more than half these incidents.”

In Fort Lauderdale this year, 43 people stopped with a gun had permits. They didn’t face criminal charges, but they were delayed and many missed their flights — the interrogation and background check process can take an hour or more.

“It’s no real concern of ours whether you make your flight or not,” Liddicott said.

Staff researcher Barbara Hijek contributed to this report.

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## 8/6/17 State resists tough law for texting on road

Foes: It might let cops stop drivers unfairly

By Lisa J. Huriash Staff writer

Almost anywhere in America, a cop can pull you over if you’re texting while driving. But not in Florida.

Here, you can be stopped for a broken taillight or an expired license plate, but you’re free to text and drive unless a police officer has another reason to stop you.

The Florida Legislature repeatedly has refused to toughen the law. Despite agreement that texting can be deadly on the road, legislators have bowed to concerns that a stricter law would chip away at drivers’ rights and give police the power to stop drivers unfairly.

State Rep. Emily Slosberg, D-Boca Raton, isn’t giving up. Slosberg — whose twin sister died in a car accident — plans to submit a bill in coming days to make texting while driving a primary offense, meaning police wouldn’t need to spot another violation to stop you.

That’s the law in every other state except Nebraska, Ohio and South Dakota.

If you text while driving, “you are putting other people’s lives at risk,” Slosberg said. “As a government our job is to protect the residents.” Tragedies that result from texting and driving are preventable, she said.

There’s no question texting while driving can be dangerous.

One of the most recent cases came in March, when a driver lost control of his car while texting, then struck and seriously injured a Florida Highway Patrol trooper, authorities said.

The trooper, Carlos Rosario, a 12-year FHP member, had stopped his patrol car on the side of the Dolphin Expressway to clock speeders. He was standing beside his car when Hugo Olivares hit the trooper and the cruiser at 35 mph, the Highway Patrol said.

The driver was arrested in May because “during the course of the investigation it was determined that Mr. Olivares was texting prior to the accident,” said FHP Lt. Yosdany Veloz.

Cellphone records show he was “actively engaging in a text-message conversation,” sending his fourth text within seven minutes at the time of the crash, authorities said. Police haven’t specified the content of the texts.

Olivares has pleaded not guilty to reckless driving, court records show.

Some of the pushback to enacting a Florida law on texting and driving has come from black legislators, who fear it could give police officers a reason to pull over black drivers unfairly — “even though we clearly understand it saves lives,” said Sen. Perry Thurston, D-Fort Lauderdale.

Thurston, the head of the Florida Legislative Black Caucus, points to a study by the American Civil Liberties Union that showed black drivers in Florida were stopped and given tickets for not wearing seat belts nearly twice as often as white drivers in 2014.

He said he fears making texting while driving a reason to be pulled over could give ammunition to “bad-apple” officers who racially profile.

“You should not text and drive; that’s a no-brainer,” Thurston said. “The problem comes in how the law is applied. [If police are] using it as a pretext to stop them, therein lies the problem.”

He points to a pending court case: Records show a black man was pulled over in June by the Palm Beach Sheriff’s Office for not wearing his seat belt. After the deputy asked for permission to search the car, he found a gun. The man was charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, records show.

Slosberg, in response to Thurston’s concerns, said her proposed bill would require police agencies “to adopt policies to prohibit the practice of racial profiling in enforcement.”

Slosberg’s efforts at a texting bill failed earlier this year when it didn’t get a hearing in the transportation committee.

In 2014, state Rep. Rick Stark, D-Weston, filed a bill to allow police to pull over and give drivers \$30 fines — the typical penalty for a nonmoving traffic violation — for texting and driving.

Worried it would fail, Slosberg’s father, former Rep. Irv Slosberg, D-Boca Raton, also filed a bill that would make texting while driving in a school zone a primary offense, but leave it a secondary in other locations.

Both bills failed, as did Stark’s efforts again in 2016.

Irv Slosberg blames it on several things. He thinks there’s little money supporting road safety.

“Lobbyists don’t pass money around for road safety,” he said. “It’s lobbyists who give all the money.”

Road-safety legislation also historically takes time to be approved, he said. He was behind Florida’s 2009 seat belt law, which made it possible for police to pull over drivers specifically for not wearing their seat belts. It took him 14 years to get the law passed.

“You have to take a little bite of the apple,” he said.

“Public safety should be our No. 1 priority. ... And that’s not how it is,” he said. “Something is wrong. The leadership in the state of Florida is way out of touch.”

In 2009, then-state Sen. Ted Deutch waged his own effort to enact a statewide ban in Florida.

Four years after becoming a congressman in 2010, he tried to lure Florida to join other states in cracking down on texting and driving, suggesting Florida could become eligible to share federal grant money.

That didn’t work, either. He said the issue now rests again with state lawmakers to join “virtually every other state capital in America.”

“This is common sense; it could help save lives and Florida should finally act,” Deutch said.

“When you tell people Florida is one of the only states in the country. ... They don’t understand why the state Legislature won’t take reasonable action to help save lives.”

For Nebraska, Omaha Sen. Rick Kolowski proposed a bill this past spring, but it failed. He said he’ll try again: “You’ve got to be patient. Pressure mounts from the public, and they want to be safe.”

Kolowski was opposed by the Nebraska Criminal Defense Attorneys Association, which said the bill would give too much discretion to police officers. He said he’ll study other recent laws to see how lawmakers pulled it off; Iowa made texting while driving a primary offense just last month.

In Florida, Emily Slosberg is picking up where other lawmakers haven't succeeded. This time, as part of her push to get the law passed, she is lobbying City Halls, asking them to support her efforts in Tallahassee.

Four counties — Manatee, Calhoun, Franklin and Marion — already have signed resolutions of support. Cities that have endorsed her efforts include Delray Beach, Boca Raton and Miami.

Traffic safety is important to Slosberg. Her twin sister, who wasn't wearing a seat belt and was a passenger in a speeding car, died in a 1996 crash along with four other teenagers.

"Not wearing your seat belt, you're putting your own life in jeopardy," Slosberg said. But texting while driving puts everybody else's lives at risk, she said.

Broward Sheriff Scott Israel supports efforts to try to stop texting behind the wheel. "If left up to me, I think texting while driving should be a primary offense," he said. "It causes horrific consequences, catastrophic accidents."

It's time for change in Florida, said Delray Beach Police Chief Jeff Goldman. "We've all seen too many drivers with their phones in their hands not paying attention to the road," he said.

"Distracted driving costs people their lives."

Staff Writers Ryan Van Velzer and Jayda Hall contributed to this report.

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## **News Clip 8/18/17**

### **Palm Beach Post**

8/18/17 PALM SPRINGS

## **Homeowner fatally stabs suspected invader in fight** Second resident is injured after being stabbed by intruder. *By Olivia Hitchcock Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Police investigate a home invasion and fatal stabbing early Thursday at a home on Pleasant Place in Palm Springs. The intruder was killed. LANNIS WATERS / THE PALM BEACH POST

PALMSPRINGS— A suspected home invader is dead after a homeowner stabbed him early Thursday, Palm Springs police said.

The homeowner and another resident had gone out late Wednesday to grab something to eat at a nearby fast-food restaurant, police said. When they returned to the home on Pleasant Place, an unknown male reportedly was entering the back of their home.

The three people began to argue, and one resident grabbed the intruder in a bear-hug. The intruder stabbed the resident in the arm, causing the man to let go, police said.

Meanwhile, the homeowner had grabbed an “edged” weapon — police did not specify the exact type — from another room.

After the intruder and resident separated, the homeowner stabbed the intruder, police said.

Palm Beach County Fire Rescue crews arrived at 12:43 a.m. Thursday and rushed the resident and the unknown male to St. Mary's Medical Center in West Palm Beach for their injuries.

The suspected home invader died from his injuries at the hospital.

The resident is expected to survive, according to police.

Anyone with information about the incident is urged to contact Detective Sean Grant at 561-304-4851. [ohitchcock@pbpost.com](mailto:ohitchcock@pbpost.com) [Twitter: @ohitchcock](https://twitter.com/ohitchcock)

**8/18/17 POST COVERAGE FATAL CRASH**

## **17-year-old killed after car stolen from Gardens crashes in Broward 4 other teens seriously hurt as car hits barrier at high rate of speed.**

*By Olivia Hitchcock Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



A 2016 Mazda — stolen from a gated community in Palm Beach Gardens — sits in a roadway after striking a concrete barrier on northbound Interstate 95 near the exit ramp at State Road 84, just west of Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport. NBC6-MIAMI

FORT LAUDERDALE — A 17-year-old died and four other teens were seriously injured just before midnight Wednesday in Florida's latest violent incident involving juveniles and stolen cars.

The blue 2016 Mazda was stolen overnight Monday from a gated community in Palm Beach Gardens.

Shortly before midnight Wednesday, it struck a concrete barrier at "a high rate of speed" about 60 miles to the south, on northbound Interstate 95 near the exit ramp at State Road 84, just west of Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport.

The driver — whom Fort Lauderdale police have not identified — failed to make a proper turn at the ramp. The force of the crash detached much of the car's front end. Latroy Martin, 17, was pronounced dead at the scene.

The four others, one reportedly as young as 14, were taken to Broward General Medical Center with serious injuries.

The owner of the car — who lives in Catalina Lakes off Alternate State Road A1A north of Burns Road — declined comment Thursday.

A man's wallet, driver's license, headphones and car seats were stolen as well, according to Palm Beach Gardens police records.

Martin's death comes amid a wave of crimes and crashes involving teenagers, many of whom are too young to have a driver's license.

- Since early November, the Palm Beach County State Attorney's Office has charged 12 juveniles as adults with armed carjacking. Two were as young as 14 at the time they were arrested.

- Three teenagers were killed Aug. 6 in a Pinellas County crash that followed a game of "cat and mouse" between two stolen cars at speeds that topped 100 mph. A total of six teen boys were in the cars; between them, they had already been arrested 126 times at the time of the wreck, the Tampa Bay Times reported.

- There have been multiple thefts of luxury cars in Palm Beach and the Treasure Coast this year, some of them by teens driving north from Broward and Miami-Dade counties. In one April case, six Fort Lauderdale teens — three of them 14 years old — drove more than 100 miles north to Hutchinson Island in St. Lucie County and stole a 2014 Porsche Cayman, a safe and two handguns. The car was recovered in Delray Beach two days later, and the teens are being charged as adults.

A Tampa Bay Times investigation this year highlighted Pinellas County's car theft epidemic, driven largely by juveniles, some as young as

10. It found that a juvenile crashed a stolen car every four days in the Gulf Coast county and that police in Pinellas in 2015 made 499 felony arrests for juvenile auto theft, the most of any county in Florida in years and more than the nation's populous counties.

"When you have 14-, 15-, 16-year-olds that are dying because of their actions, it needs to stop," Pinellas Sheriff Bob Gualtieri told the Times. "This is a deadly game."

Updates on the conditions of the other four juveniles wounded in the Fort Lauderdale crash were not available late Thursday.

Anyone with information about the Fort Lauderdale wreck is urged to contact investigator Jill Hirsch at 954-828-5753. [ohitchcock@pbpost.com](mailto:ohitchcock@pbpost.com) Twitter: [@ohitchcock](https://twitter.com/ohitchcock)



8/18/17 PUBLIC SAFETY

# Drugged driving rises as a menace in the U.S. Overdoses have been taking hold before drivers

arrive home. *By Mitch Stacy and Andrew Welsh-Huggins Associated Press*



Koriann Evans, a former drug addict, was hooked on heroin for over a decade until she overdosed while driving with her two children in the back of her car, after which she stopped using drugs. DAKE KANG / ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBUS, OHIO — An SUV crashed after all four occupants overdosed on heroin in North Carolina. The same day, a man in Williams-port, Pennsylvania, grabbed the steering wheel after his grandson lost consciousness while driving. Police in the city of 30,000 responded to 11 other overdose reports that day, including a woman who crashed her car just before a highway entrance.

The next day in Cleveland, a rescue squad found an unconscious 43-year-old man who had driven off the road and hit a pole. An overdose antidote brought him back around, police say. He was seriously hurt from the crash and was cited for driving under the influence.

Car crashes caused by overdosing drivers are becoming so commonplace, authorities say, that some rescue crews immediately administer the antidote, naloxone, to any unresponsive driver they find at an accident scene.

People who use heroin and related drugs are sometimes so eager to get high, or so sick from withdrawal, that they'll shoot up in the car as soon as they get their hands on more, police say. Often, they're back on the road before the overdose takes hold.

"There's no waiting period like we used to see with other drugs where you go buy it, then go home and get high, or go to a party and get high," said Scott Houston, a major with the sheriff's office in Pamlico County, North Carolina, where the SUV crashed June 29.

A man who shot up in a Kmart parking lot in Iowa City, Iowa, in March crashed his car and was revived with naloxone. Last month, according to police, he led them to the dealer who sold him heroin laced with the potent opioid acrylfentanyl.

In June 2016 in Kalamazoo, Michigan, Charles Pickett Jr. allegedly took a handful of pain pills and muscle relaxers and plowed his pickup truck into a group of bicyclists, killing five of them. Police at the scene said he was “completely out of it.”

Pickett’s attorney said he intends to use an insanity defense against charges that include second-degree murder. Pickett’s trial is set for Sept. 18. If convicted, he could face life in prison.

Two years ago, Koriann Evans had just picked up her 2-year-old son and 5-year-old daughter from her mother’s when her dealer reached out to her. She shot up in a parking lot in Fremont, Ohio, and then headed down the road.

Within a few minutes, she couldn’t breathe. With her children in the back, Evans managed to stop in the middle of the road with her foot on the brake before passing out. Nearby residents pulled her and her children from the car and called authorities. Rescuers told her she would have died quickly without the naloxone she was given.

Now more than two years sober, the 36-year-old Evans works in a vinyl siding factory while trying to become a substance abuse counselor. She lost custody of her children but sees them regularly.

“I knew from that point on that something had to change within me, because the reality is that my addiction, my use almost killed me, my two kids and possibly somebody else,” Evans said.

## 8/18/17 BOYNTON BEACH TEXTING WHILE DRIVING

# City joins tougher texting push Boynton latest entity to back Boca legislator in effort to strengthen law.

*By Alexandra Seltzer Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



State Rep. Emily Slosberg is picking up more support.

**BOYNTON BEACH** — After failing during the last legislative session to persuade colleagues to strengthen driving-while-texting laws, State Rep. Emily Slosberg is trying again — and she has south Palm Beach County’s leaders on her side.

The Boynton Beach City Commission this week joined other municipalities including Boca Raton, Delray Beach, Miami and Pembroke Pines in supporting Slosberg’s efforts to pass a law that would give police the authority to pull over a driver seen texting.



Florida is one of only four states in the country where texting while driving is a secondary offense, not a primary. That means a law enforcement officer can issue a ticket only if a driver has been pulled over for committing another traffic violation.

“This has become a culture on our roadways,” Slosberg, D-Boca Raton, said Tuesday.

“Injuries are increasing, fatalities are increasing, but our laws are not.”

Slosberg has sent letters to all commissioners in the state asking for support. That local support is what’s needed to sway state legislators, she said.

“I think going to Tallahassee with the amount of support statewide will be persuasive,” she said. “It’s important to allow our local elected officials and local residents of every part of the state weigh in on this issue.”

Boynton’s commission unanimously backed Slosberg at Tuesday’s commission meeting after initially discussing it this month.

“Everybody knows it’s bad,” Vice Mayor Justin Katz said at the Aug. 1 commission meeting. “Everybody does it to some degree. But hopefully most people, like myself, if I’m in the car and I see myself touching the phone, most of the time and I hope all the time in the future, I want to condition myself to not touch the phone because it’s not worth it.”

Boynton’s fire chief and police chief also support Slosberg’s efforts.

“I am an ardent supporter of legislation making texting and driving a primary offense,” Police Chief Jeffrey Katz said. “I always have been. Texting and driving is a deadly combination and these actions unquestionably threaten public safety.”

Texting is involved in 6 percent of U.S. accidents, and cellphone use including talking is a factor in 26 percent of crashes, the National Safety Council said in 2015.

Crashes in which a cellphone or other electronic communications device was cited increased 3 percent statewide to 3,866 and 20 percent to 302 in Palm Beach County, compared to 2015. The first city to back Slosberg was Boca Raton, her hometown. Traffic safety has been a key concern for Slosberg and her father Irv Slosberg, who held the seat before her. In 1996 at age 14, Slosberg and her twin sister, Dori, were in a car crash on Palmetto Park Road. Dori was one of five teens killed in the crash.

Seven of the nine people in the car were not wearing seat belts.

“It meant a lot that the city of Boca is on the team,” Slosberg said. [aseltzer@pbpost.com](mailto:aseltzer@pbpost.com)

**Twitter: @alexseltzer** **ON FACEBOOK** Keep up with The Post’s complete coverage of Boynton Beach on its Facebook page dedicated to the city. On Facebook, search for Boynton Beach News.

8/18/17 PALM BEACH

# Bridge openings to be reduced when Trump visits Coast Guard seeks public comments for seasonal plan.

*By Aleese Kopf Palm Beach Daily News*



The Royal Park (middle) Bridge, spanning from West Palm Beach to Palm Beach, is one of the three bridges to the island affected by the president's visits to Mar-a-Lago. FILE

The U.S. Coast Guard plans to limit Palm Beach bridge openings again this season when President Donald Trump is in town to stay at his Mar-a-Lago Club.

The Flagler Memorial Bridge and Royal Park Bridge openings will be reduced from twice an hour to once an hour during weekday afternoons from Sept. 1 to Feb. 27 when Trump visits the island, according to a document published Thursday on the Federal Register.

The Coast Guard will test the change for 180 days to determine whether it will become permanent while Trump is in office.

"This deviation is necessary to reduce traffic congestion and ensure the safety of the roadways, while meeting the needs of waterways users, whenever the President of the United States, members of the First Family, or other persons under the protection of the Secret Service are present or expected to be visiting Mar-a-Lago," the notice states.

The same changes were put in place last season following Trump's first two visits to Palm Beach, which caused major traffic jams on the island.

Mayor Gail Coniglio and town officials met with the Secret Service, Coast Guard and Florida Department of Transportation following those visits and asked for changes to bridge openings to help alleviate gridlock.

"This is an extension of the modified traffic plan with POTUS protocol that was established last spring," she said. "This is in essence just a continuation of that in preparation of the president. We look forward to maintaining traffic in the town of Palm Beach as efficiently and as smoothly as possible."

During Trump's nine visits last season, traffic regularly would back up on County Road, Coconut Row and Royal Palm Way as drivers made their way to the north and middle

bridges because the Southern Boulevard Bridge closes when the president's motorcade is in transit.

Drawbridge openings further delayed traffic.

The following openings scheduled to take effect:

- Flagler Memorial (north) Bridge: Openings once per hour on the quarter hour weekdays from 2:15 to 5:15 p.m. Regular quarter and three-quarter hour openings will resume at 6:15 p.m.
- Royal Park (middle) Bridge: Openings once an hour on the half hour weekdays between 2:30 and 5:30 p.m. Twice an hour openings on the hour and half hour will resume at 6:30 p.m.
- Southern Boulevard (south) Bridge: The bridge will close when the president is in transit but otherwise will keep normal drawbridge opening hours on the quarter and three-quarter hour.

Weekend hours are not affected on any of the bridges.

The Coast Guard is asking the public to weigh in on the temporary changes.

Comments must be submitted at [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) during a 60-day comment period that ends Oct. 16. Writers should include the docket number, which is USCG-2017-0273; should indicate the specific section of the document to which each comment applies; and should provide a reason for each suggestion or recommendation.

For more information, contact Eddie Lawrence at 305-415-6946 or by email

at [Eddie.H.Lawrence@uscg.mil](mailto:Eddie.H.Lawrence@uscg.mil). [akopf@pbdailynews.com](mailto:akopf@pbdailynews.com) Twitter: [@aleesekopf](https://twitter.com/aleesekopf)

8/18/17 TRUMP PRESIDENCY

## **FEMA takes grant requests for costs of Trump security Palm Beach County will apply for \$3.5M for Mar-a-Lago trips.**

*By Wayne Washington and George Bennett Palm Beach Post Staff Writers*

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is now accepting applications for grants to repay local government for costs associated with protecting President Donald Trump, and Palm Beach County is expected to make a pitch for \$3.5 million of that money.

“More relief is on the way for local law enforcement agencies that have provided protection for the president,” U.S. Rep. Lois Frankel, D-West Palm Beach, announced in a statement Thursday. “The FEMA grant announced today allows the Palm Beach County Sheriff and other law enforcement agencies that provided protection to apply for money to cover their costs.”

Since his inauguration, Trump has visited his Mar-a-Lago estate on Palm Beach seven separate times for a total of 25 days. On each visit, the sheriff’s office has assisted with road management and security.

Frankel’s statement noted that the sheriff’s office and Palm Beach County Fire Rescue have spent \$2.5 million in overtime costs alone, “not including additional costs for barricades, fencing, and other necessary expenses.”

Congress provided \$41 million to FEMA for local governments that protected Trump after he was sworn into office. The application period for that money began at 1 p.m. Thursday, and local governments have until 5 p.m., Oct. 31 to apply. Palm Beach County expects to apply for about \$3.5 million.

With some governments submitting their applications well in advance of that deadline, FEMA expects to dole out some grant money by Sept. 30, with other grants being awarded on a rolling basis through the rest of the year, Assistant County Administrator Todd Bonlarron said.

The county can apply for grant funding directly through FEMA or through the state Department of Emergency Management.

Congress also has appropriated \$20 million to the U.S. Department of Justice so it can reimburse local governments for pre-inauguration security costs.

Bonlarron said the county has already applied for \$963,054 of pre-inauguration money and hopes to learn how much of that it will get before this fiscal year ends on Sept.

30. [wwashington@pbpost.com](mailto:wwashington@pbpost.com) [gbennett@pbpost.com](mailto:gbennett@pbpost.com) Twitter: [@gbennettpost](https://twitter.com/gbennettpost)

8/18/17 FLORIDA PRISON SYSTEM

# Inmate threats prompt lockdown at state prisons Weekend visitations also canceled at all 148 prison facilities.

*By Jorge Milian Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

Getting into one of Florida's 148 prison facilities this weekend may be as impossible as getting out.

The Florida Department of Corrections imposed a partial lockdown to all of its prisons on Wednesday after receiving "credible intelligence indicating that small groups of inmates at several institutions may attempt to disrupt FDC operations and impact safety and security," according to spokeswoman Michelle Glady.

Glady said it has not been determined how long the lockdown will last but it will be in place, at least, through the weekend.

An advisory issued Wednesday announced the cancellation of weekend visitation statewide. "FDC looks forward to resuming normal visitation as soon as possible," the advisory states. Glady said inmates will continue to be allowed outside their cells, but activities that include recreational and educational programs have been canceled.

The state prison system housed 97,521 inmates as of March 31, 2016, according, the FDC's website.

Among the facilities included in the lockdown is the South Bay Correctional Center, which houses up to 1,948 inmates.

Seven prison guards were injured June 21 at the Gulf Correctional Institution, 25 miles east of Panama City, during an uprising involving gang members, according to news reports. [jmilian@pbpost.com](mailto:jmilian@pbpost.com) Twitter: [@jorgemilian1](https://twitter.com/jorgemilian1)

The lockdown will last at least through the weekend.

## **8/18/17 Skimming device found on gas pump**

By Adam Sacasa Staff writer

Authorities are urging customers of the 4 Points Market gas station in West Boynton to check their financial statements after a skimmer was found on a gas pump, according to the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office.

The credit card skimming device was found Tuesday during routine service to the pumps at the gas station near the intersection of Boynton Beach Boulevard and South State Road 7.

The pumps were last checked July 25, according to the Sheriff's Office.

The device is being investigated by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. [asacasa@sunsentinel.com](mailto:asacasa@sunsentinel.com), 561-243-6607 or Twitter @adamsacasa

## **8/18/17 Teen killed, 4 injured when car crashes, cops say**

By Linda Trischitta and Doug Phillips Staff writers

A fast ride in a stolen car ended in late-night tragedy when a young driver failed to make a turn on an Interstate 95 exit ramp, police said.

The speeding 2016 Mazda 6 sedan slammed into a concrete barrier wall at the State Road 84 exit ramp shortly before midnight Wednesday and flipped onto its roof, killing a 17-year-old boy and seriously injuring four other juveniles, police said.

Latroy Martin was found dead at the scene, police said Thursday. Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue took the surviving passengers to Broward Health Medical Center.

The Mazda was stolen from the 300 block of Salinas Drive in Palm Beach Gardens, according to a Palm Beach Gardens Police incident report.

The car's owner told police that his wallet, headphones and a laptop were in the car when it was stolen. The car and contents were valued at \$31,520.

Police have not yet said who was driving at the time of the wreck.

The investigation into the crash is continuing. Fort Lauderdale police ask anyone who may have witnessed it to contact Traffic Homicide Investigator Jill Hirsch, at 954-828-5753.

Correspondent Jim Donnelly contributed to this report.



## **8/18/17 Feds say money now available for Trump's Mar-a-Lago protection**

By Skyler Swisher Staff writer

The federal government notified Palm Beach County officials Thursday they can apply for reimbursement to offset law enforcement overtime costs incurred protecting President Donald Trump during his visits to Mar-a-Lago.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency plans to award \$41 million as early as Sept. 30 and no later than the end of the year, according to a memo from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Congress approved the money to reimburse state and local law enforcement agencies that incurred "extraordinary costs" protecting the president's residences in Florida, New Jersey and New York, according to federal officials.

Palm Beach County plans to apply for \$3.5 million, according to an email written by Todd Bonlarron, assistant county administrator.

County Commissioner Steven Abrams said he's pleased to learn the county will be able to recoup those dollars.

"It's a weight off our shoulders," he said. "The county taxpayers don't have to pay the cost of when the president comes to Palm Beach County."

County commissioners and South Florida congressional members wrote letters pleading for help with local costs associated with Trump's visits. At one point, U.S. Rep. Lois Frankel, D-West Palm Beach, held a press conference within eyesight of Mar-a-Lago to draw attention to the issue.

Trump made seven visits to Mar-a-Lago after taking office, which included summits with leaders of China and Japan. His last visit was during Easter weekend. He's expected to resume his trips to Mar-a-Lago when Palm Beach's social season picks up in the fall.

## **8/18/17 State prison visits canceled**

All inmates on lockdown

By Julie K. Brown Miami Herald

All of Florida's 97,000 state prison inmates are on lockdown — and will remain confined to their dorms at least through the weekend — in response to unspecified threats about potential rioting, officials from the Florida Department of Corrections confirmed Thursday.

All able-bodied officers, including new recruits, were ordered to report to work starting Thursday. Graduations have been postponed this weekend so that new officers can assist with staffing and help conduct searches for weapons and other contraband, FDC said. Probation officers, too, have been called in.

Weekend visitations have been canceled at all 50 major institutions, including private prisons, youthful offender facilities, as well as annexes, work camps and re-entry centers. Juvenile facilities have not been affected.

It appears to be the first time in memory that the Florida prison system has been locked down for an indefinite period of time.

The agency has not said specifically what led to the lockdown, other than that the department had received “credible intelligence” that “small groups” of inmates were planning to cause disturbances.

“Everything we are doing is based on the safety of the institutions, the staff and the inmates,” said Michelle Glady, FDC spokeswoman. She added that there was no cause for alarm.

“These steps are being taken out of an abundance of caution,” she said.

Ron McAndrew, a former Florida prison warden who now works as a consultant, said such drastic steps are rare.

“When it’s statewide — that is really serious business. They must have a verified threat of some kind to take that step,” he said.

Violence among inmates — especially those in gangs — is at an all-time high in Florida prisons. Corrections officers have been stabbed and beaten, and prisoners have been killed in several clashes over the past several months.

Staffing is stretched so thin that limits had already been placed on educational and vocational programming at many prisons.

Prison experts point out that recreation, family visits and training programs are often the first to go when staffing levels are low, and the combination of overworked correctional officers and idle inmates often leads to security breaches.

Staff shortages, gang violence and overcrowding is a nationwide crisis. Riots have happened in several states over the past few months. In February, inmates stormed a Delaware prison, killing an officer and seriously injuring several others during a 20-hour siege.

A report issued after the riot said the prison housed too many gang members together, there were not enough officers and the cancellation of privileges, like family visits and programs, had left too many frustrated inmates with time on their hands.

Florida inmates, their families and civil rights groups have long protested the state’s poor prison conditions. Over the past year, state Rep. David Richardson, a Miami Beach Democrat, has made unannounced visits to Florida prisons and found inmates — especially in the restrictive status known as confinement — without basic necessities, such as toilet paper, toothbrushes, toothpaste, pillows, sheets, shirts and soap.

The state has been forced to make some reforms as a result of costly civil lawsuits.

To retain and recruit more officers, state lawmakers recently approved the first raise for corrections officers in a decade, and the agency is offering signing bonuses for new officers at institutions with serious staff shortages.

Even with the raises, however, the base pay for a state corrections will be \$33,500 a year. — and many county and local law enforcement agencies pay an additional \$10,000 or more annually.

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# *News Clip 8/20-21/2017*

## Palm Beach Post

8/21/17 Lego cars are vehicles for PBSO anti-gang program



A Palm Beach County sheriff's deputy helps fifth-graders build Lego cars last year in the Breaking the Cycle of Gang Recruitment at South Grade Elementary School. THE PALM BEACH POST 2016

Breaking the Cycle of Gang Recruitment is in its fourth year and remains Todd Baer's favorite program at North and South Grade Elementary schools.

"The kids are having fun while they're learning lessons," the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office captain told Lake Worth commissioners at Tuesday's meeting. "We like to catch them before middle school because you have to chase the behavior and change their ways before middle school."

The program handpicks 20 at-risk students who work with law enforcement mentors for 10 weeks to build motorized Lego cars. The kids then go to Legoland Florida in Winter Haven to race the cars.

"These kids," Baer said, "some of them have never left their neighborhood. A girl came out of bathroom and said it was the nicest bathroom she's ever seen. It was a (Florida) Turnpike rest stop." — KEVIN D. THOMPSON

8/21/17 WEST PALM BEACH PROTESTS

# Mar-a-Lago draws protest; Confederate monument hit

Several dozen voice anger at Trump's club; others use vandalism. *By Elliott Wenzler Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Suzanne Reynolds, of Jupiter, holds a sign Sunday honoring Heather Heyer, who was killed in the course of clashes between protesters in Charlottesville, Va., last week. Reynolds joined others at Southern Boulevard and Flagler Drive to march to the Mar-a-Lago Club. MELANIE BELL THE PALM BEACH POST



Spray-paint graffiti defaces a memorial to Confederate soldiers in Woodlawn Cemetery in West Palm Beach. ANDRES LEIVA / THE PALM BEACH POST

**WEST PALM BEACH** — Backlash from the violent protests in Charlottesville, Va., a week ago hit home for President Donald Trump on Sunday as a Confederate monument in West Palm Beach was vandalized and a group of peaceful protesters marched on Mar-a-Lago. The monument in Woodlawn Cemetery just south of downtown was covered in red graffiti that read, "Antifa (expletive) Nazi and KKK."

Antifa, a left-wing group whose name is short for "anti-fascist," was written across the side of the monument. There was also noticeable damage to the stone of the monument.

Meanwhile, protesters gathered at the Southern Boulevard bridge between West Palm Beach and Palm Beach on Sunday afternoon and marched to the gates of Trump's Mar-a-Lago Club holding signs, some of which stated "No hate, no Nazis, no Klan" and "Heather sent me."

The reference was to Heather Heyer, who was killed last Saturday when a car plowed into a group of counterprotesters in Charlottesville.

The Woodlawn Cemetery statue, which was erected in 1941 by the Daughters of the Confederacy, has an etching of the Confederate flag on the front. It is the only Confederate monument in Palm Beach County, according to local historians.

While the statue is in a city-owned cemetery, city officials have said that the marker cannot be removed because it is privately maintained.

“People are just hurting and underneath that hurt is anger,” said Naomi Bellany, a resident of Lake Worth. “Vandalism might be the only way they know how to respond ... everybody understands vandalism.”

Controversy regarding Confederate monuments was re-energized throughout the country in the wake of the Charlottesville protest, which started as a demonstration against the removal of a statue of a Confederate general.

“I understand why people would want to (have it removed), but I think history is history,” Bellany, 22, said. “If you take down that, how many other monuments do we need to take down because someone feels a certain way towards them?”

Mayor Jeri Muoio told The Palm Beach Post’s news affiliate WPTV NewsChannel 5 that she expected the monument to be cleaned up today and that the city is looking into the vandalism. She also said the city has been in contact with the Daughters of the Confederacy concerning the future of the monument.

The monument was also vandalized a few weeks ago, said David Lefont, spokesman for the West Palm Beach Police Department.

Men and women from Martin and Palm Beach counties went to Mar-a-Lago for a protest unaffiliated with Antifa. Many of them said they felt they had to do something.

Pam Keith, a Democrat who is running for Republican Brian Mast’s seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, spoke at the rally and said the president “embarrassed and shamed us.”

“It is not your job to stand in the gap for Nazis and Klansmen,” Keith said, in remarks directed at the president. “When you think that somebody can find themselves standing next to a Nazi and call themselves a good person, I’ve got news for you, Donald, they’re not. And when you call them good people, you betray us.”

Leah Duckson and her mother said they had traveled from Martin County to attend their first protest Sunday. Concerns about safety had deterred them from protesting previously, but after last week’s events, they felt they had to step in, Duck-son said.

“We didn’t feel safe then, we still don’t feel safe,” Duck-son said.

Other protesters said they have attended many demonstrations in hopes of getting Trump’s attention.

“He has an obligation as president to rebuke all hate,” said Paula Albright from Martin County. “By not condemning them, he sends a message that it’s OK and acceptable.”

Organizers of the event made sure all 70 or so people in attendance knew that no violence would be accepted at the rally.

“Rule number one is we are peaceful protesters,” said Corryn Freeman, who works for the Keith campaign team. Freeman asked that any violation of that rule be reported.

The protesters dispersed at around 6 p.m. [ewenzler@pbpost.com](mailto:ewenzler@pbpost.com)



# 8/21/17 Man charged in 30-year-old murder

First PBC trial under new death penalty law begins



Opening statements in Rodney Clark's murder trial are set for today. (Marc Freeman/Staff)

By Marc Freeman Staff writer

Angela Fader Sampler turned 40 this year, but the milestone was bittersweet. It's now been 30 years since her mother was strangled to death near Lake Worth.

But the sad anniversary comes with a fresh hope for justice for Dana Fader's loved ones because her alleged killer, Rodney Clark, finally is set to stand trial. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty in a case that had gone cold for more than two decades.

"We're ready for some kind of closure," said Sampler, a southeast Tennessee resident speaking also for her younger brothers, Kolby and Johnny, who were 5 and 3 when their mom died.

"Whether it's life in prison, death, just to know he's going to pay for his crime."

It's the first death penalty case to be tried in Palm Beach County since Florida got a new death penalty law in March, and for more than three years before that. Unanimous jury votes are now required to impose a death sentence.

The case against the Mississippi man, 50, didn't emerge until 2012, and that was six years after detectives reopened the long cold case hoping for a DNA match to evidence collected from the crime scene.

Body found in car

On the morning of June 20, 1987, Fader's mother, Phyllis Manis, called police to report she was missing from the apartment Fader shared with her older brother, Joseph Bailey, and Fader's youngest child.

According to court records, Fader had been out the night before with her older sister Martha Bailey until about 2 a.m. Joseph Bailey told detectives that Fader, upon returning home, removed eggs and sausage from their refrigerator and also announced plans to visit her boyfriend in the same Willow Lakes Apartments complex.

Bailey said he went to sleep but awoke at 9 a.m. to the smell of sausage burning in a pan on the stove. Fader's purse was in the unit, but she was gone.

As deputies were talking to Fader's mother, her stepfather, Kenneth Manis, delivered the news that Fader's 1980 Ford Fairmont was parked on one side of the complex, on the corner of Florida Mango Road and 10th Avenue.

Detectives looked inside the car and found Fader's lifeless body on the back seat, with her head toward the rear driver's side and her feet bent slightly in the rear passenger seat. The keys were in the ignition.

Fader was still wearing the same tan dress as the night before, but it was pulled up around her waist, exposing her lower body without underwear, a police report said. A semen-stained pillowcase was partially covering her left leg, and her shoes were in the front floorboards of the car. Her belt was also in the front and a scarf and pantyhose in the back.

Investigators also discovered pieces of a rope inside and outside the car; Joseph Bailey said he had used the rope to tie up a bicycle. And a blanket was hanging from the right rear passenger window.

An autopsy concluded that Fader was strangled; finger imprint marks were on her neck, and the right side of her face was scratched. A "bite mark-like injury" was found on one nipple, a report said. The divorced mother of three and seamstress for a family business was 27.

Detectives make an arrest

In late 2012, investigators using a national DNA database matched Clark's DNA — he was by then a convicted sex offender — to a blood and semen stain found on Fader's dress. Clark also "could not be excluded" from the DNA from the pillowcase, according to a report.

Finally, Clark's palm print was matched to one taken from the outside right rear window of Fader's sedan.

Found in Jackson, Miss., Clark told detectives he lived in Palm Beach County in 1987 but denied ever knowing or coming in contact with Fader, having sexual relations with her or being in her car. Clark was arrested on the murder charge and extradited to South Florida in 2013.

Clark, who is disabled and uses a wheelchair, also said he wasn't concerned about the DNA, according to a statement that his legal team, led by Public Defender Carey Haughwout, had tried to keep out of the trial.

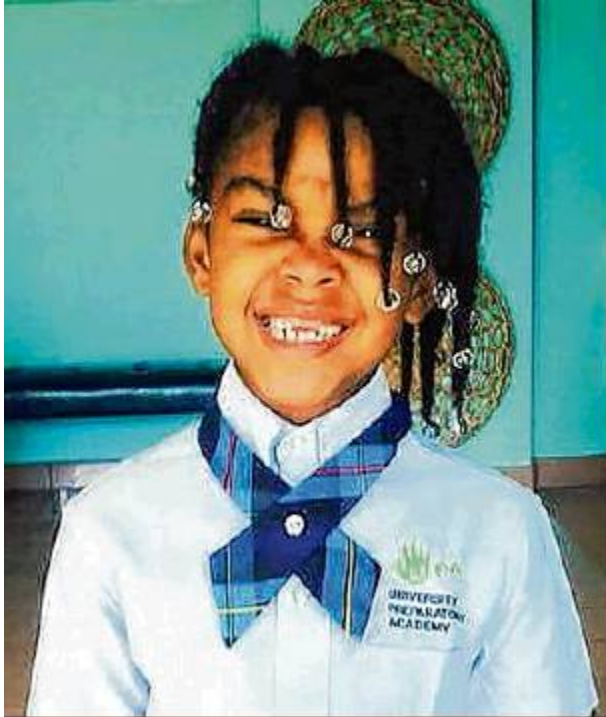
"They can have DNA," Clark said. "I ain't killed nobody. I don't give a damn what [they] got." And in a 2015 statement, Clark wrote to the court, "I am innocent of any crime committed against Dana Fader and I want to go to trial."

Seven days of jury selection wrapped up Friday afternoon, and opening statements are set for 9 a.m. today. Circuit Judge Charles Burton told the panel of a dozen jurors and two alternates to expect the trial to take two weeks.

Before they reach a potential sentencing phase, prosecutors Aleathea McRoberts and Reid Scott first need to obtain a first-degree murder conviction of Clark.

FROM THE EDITOR OF THE EDITORIAL PAGE

## 8/20/17 Girl's death reminds us: Every kid can find trouble



Ki'ari Pope, 8, of Boynton Beach, who was injured after drinking boiling water through a straw on a dare in March, died months later of breathing complications. FAMILY PHOTO



Marquisia Bonner talks about her daughter Ki'ari Pope, who died July 31.  
BRUCE R. BENNETT / THE PALM BEACH POST



*Rick Christie*

Kids can, and will do the darnedest, most dangerous things.

These things can make us laugh at how silly they are. That is, until a child is hurt.

And then there is an almost immediate reaction: “Well, that wouldn’t happen with my child.”

Sure it can. Especially in this day and age of internet accessibility, and kids — even those in elementary school — carrying smartphones.

Tell me. Why wouldn’t your inquisitive little third-grader — the one with the short attention span — use some of that available data on your family plan to tool around the internet looking for, well, stuff?

And let’s be honest. It’s not like they even need the internet. Kids provide plenty of heart-stopping incidents sans the World Wide Web.

The Super Glue crisis

Case in point: Our daughter, Taylor, nearly scared my wife and I to death when she was about 3 years old.

Taylor was painfully curious and precocious; gifted with a single dimple and an infectious laugh. We would always catch her getting into things she shouldn’t be, and then laughing it off with her afterward.

There was this one time, however, we didn’t laugh. And neither did she. I was finishing up cutting the lawn one Saturday afternoon when I saw Klemie standing at the kitchen window frantically waving. I stopped and turned off the lawnmower to hear her yelling, “Get in here! Hurry!”

I ran into the front of the house, back to the kitchen area to see Rachel, our then 6-year-old, to my right sitting on the family room floor crying. Klemie was to my left in the kitchen seemingly alternating between anger and fear.

Then I looked down to see Taylor standing and screaming. Her new gold turtleneck shirt was in tatters. Tatters that looked to be stuck to various parts of her torso.

Klemie calmed down enough to say, “your daughter” had gotten into the kitchen knickknack drawer (with a child-safety lock) and proceeded to open and play with a tube of Super Glue. The quick-drying glue had soaked through the shirt in some areas, adhering to her body. One area was on her wrist, which Taylor didn’t like. So she tried to pull it off, tearing her skin, and letting out a blood-curdling wail that brought her mom running.

Klemie began cutting the shirt off with some scissors where she could, but that still left the patches of material stuck to Taylor’s body.

That’s where I come in. After asking a couple of what surely now seem like dumb questions, we called Poison Control. After explaining our emergency, the dispatcher calmly asked whether Taylor had ingested the glue. She hadn’t.

The dispatcher then asked whether we had a bottle of Wesson oil in the house. We did. She said to “calmly” place Taylor in the sink, pour the oil all over her torso and slowly rub the areas where the patches of shirt were stuck to her until they came loose.

It worked.

Taylor calmed down, Rachel calmed down, Klemie calmed down. Crisis ended. And we had yet another Taylor “adventure” to tell.

Kids will be kids

It would be hard to find a parent that doesn't have a story like this; some more frightening than others.

Kids get into, and try things they shouldn't all the time. No family is immune to this, no matter your income or education level.

Because kids will be kids. That's why they need our protection.

I was reminded of all this by the sad, tragic death of Ki'ari Pope, the 8-year-old Boynton Beach girl who died last month from breathing complications months after playing a stupid and dangerous game.

The game: drinking boiling water out of a straw on a dare.

The Florida Department of Children and Families' Critical Incident Rapid Response Team is looking into the March incident. They said at least nine other allegations of either abuse or neglect have somehow involved the girl since her birth. But family members said Ki'ari and her siblings were never removed from the home, even after the boiling water incident.

You could get on your high horse and say, "well, that explains it ... this would never happen to my child." You could say that the kids should have known better. You could say that an adult should have been watching the kids.

Fine. And DCF should investigate fully to make sure that nothing nefarious contributed to Ki'ari's death.

We all know, however, that no matter how "good" they are, kids are kids. They do things like playing with wall outlets, jumping in pools, riding on ATVs without helmets, and on and on.

'Tell your kids'

According to her family, Ki'ari was a happy third-grader who loved school and basketball. She was also a strong-willed little girl.

The kind of kid who, if you dared her, wouldn't back down.

Small wonder then that on that fateful day in March, when her cousins dared her to try a "hot water challenge" they had all watched on YouTube, she didn't back down.

Ki'ari ended up hospitalized with a tracheotomy but seemed to recover before succumbing July 31.

Do a quick search of "Hot Water Challenge" and up pop numerous — often graphic — videos on You-Tube, some with millions of views.

You will also find stories about Ki'ari.

"Tell your kids about these challenges, these challenges are horrific," Ki'ari's aunt Diane Johnson said. "Parents, talk to your kids about these challenges. Don't just give them your phone and let them go by. Watch what they are doing."

Good advice. Many parents believe they are keeping their child safe these days by not letting them run loose outside.

The message from Ki'ari's aunt, however — and echoed by child safety experts — is that you have to be just as vigilant with them inside the home. Maybe even more so because of access to the internet.

Internet darknesses

Sadly, an 8-year-old reading at grade level can run rings around almost any adult on a computer. Whereas our minds are crammed with stuff like paying bills, their minds are like sponges absorbing information from every nook and cranny on the Web.

And some of these places are very dark.

We want to believe they know better. We feed, house and clothe them. We send them to good schools. We take them on family vacations.

But they still need our protection.

To be sure, not every tragedy like Ki'ari Pope's can be explained away this simply. There are some bad, selfish and inattentive adults out there. The state's overworked corps of child welfare investigators is a testament to that fact.

It's too early to say that about Ki'ari's case, however.

The fact that she allegedly didn't come from a "perfect" home makes it easy to pass judgment.

We should be careful. Even the best kids from the best homes will do things that make adults question their parenting skills.

And sometimes, we come to realize that we're just damn

lucky. [rchristie@pbpost.com](mailto:rchristie@pbpost.com) [Twitter: @rchristiepbp](https://twitter.com/rchristiepbp) Kids get into, and try things they shouldn't all the time. No family is immune to this, no matter your income or education level.

## 8/20/17 Bank scam targeting elderly reaches the county

### Fake employees tell victims their cards were comprised.

*By Jorge Milian Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

LANTANA — A scam making rounds across the country and targeting the elderly has reached Palm Beach County.

The scam works this way: A person identifying himself as a bank representative calls pretending to work at the potential victim's bank.

The alleged bank employee tells the victim of fraudulent activity on his or her debit or credit cards and advises that a bank representative will drop by to pick up the compromised cards.

While on the phone with the victim, the phony bank employee attempts to acquire the person's personal identification numbers or PINs. Fraudulent charges then begin piling up.

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office said it is searching for a man involved in a similar scam that took place June 16.

The man was captured on surveillance video at the Chase bank branch west of Lantana at Jog and Lantana roads.

The man allegedly withdrew more than \$1,000 from the victim's account.

Anyone with information about the suspect is asked to call Crime Stoppers of Palm Beach County at 800-458-TIPS (8477). [jmilian@pbpost.com](mailto:jmilian@pbpost.com) [Twitter: @jorgemilian1](https://twitter.com/jorgemilian1)



WEST PALM BEACH

## 8/20/17 Bike lane plan calls for safer 'Zebra' curbs on Lake Avenue

Separators are part of master plan featuring 100-mile lane network.

*By Tony Doris Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



West Palm Beach officials say the striped plastic Zebra curbs (shown at left) proposed for Lake Avenue would make getting to school safer for students at two schools. CITY OF WEST PALM BEACH

There'll be Zebras running up and down Lake Avenue.

The striped, intermittent Zebra curbs, to be installed on a mile of Lake Avenue, are cycle lane separators that will be part of West Palm Beach's plan to build the first protected bike lanes in Palm Beach County in the next few months. That, in turn, is part of a Bicycle Master Plan calling for a 100-mile network of bike lanes throughout the city, to emphasize health and de-emphasize car use.

City commissioners approved the design for the Lake Avenue lanes, which will stretch from Southern Boulevard in the south to Belvedere Road in the north.

The low-lying Zebras, made of sturdy, recycled plastic, are designed to keep cars away from bikes but are spaced out to allow bicyclists and rainwater to pass between them. City engineers say the Zebras, first bred in Spain in 2008, are in use in 13 countries, including France, England, Chile, New Zealand and Thailand.

That section of Lake Avenue has two schools, Belvedere Elementary and Conniston Middle. In addition to the Zebra safety feature, designating part of the road for bike lanes will have the effect of narrowing Lake's two car travel lanes, slowing traffic and making the street safer for students and other bicyclists and pedestrians, city officials said.

The city's Bicycle Master Plan, recently completed in draft form, is one of a number of transportation-related studies in progress, mostly to address anticipated growth and encourage exercise and alternatives to single-passenger car travel.

A consultant's mobility study, with a focus on congestion on Okeechobee Boulevard and elsewhere downtown, is due out later this summer but already has spelled out preliminary short-and long-term strategies. These include making crosswalks more visible, adding lighting and signs, and reconfiguring lanes to make traffic flow more freely and make crossing easier for walkers and bike riders. The long-term possibilities included depressing the CSX railroad tracks under Okeechobee, and putting Okeechobee itself underground for a block or so to allow a pedestrian plaza above it.

Other recent studies, focused on improving downtown's livability, recommended adding shade trees and designating bike lanes or at least shared lanes.

The Bike Master Plan will cover some of the same ground but detail recommendations on how to create an interconnected, citywide network of bike lanes, along the lines of what has been done successfully in Denmark and The Netherlands, said Scott Kelly, assistant city administrator. The city hopes to designate bike ways that link schools, parks and other places of interest.

Different kinds of bike facilities will be planned for different streets, depending on the context, he said.

On some streets, the city will use the Zebras. In others the city plans to build elevated bike lanes, essentially bike sidewalks. In other places, there'll simply be painted lanes and in still others, "sharrows" that designate areas that cars should be prepared to share with bicyclists.

In addition to the Lake Avenue project, at least two others of note are scheduled to start before the end of the year.

Flagler Drive will get a two-lane bicycle path along the waterfront.

Cumberland Drive, between Village Boulevard and Military Trail, also will get protected bike lanes, to make families in the residential area more comfortable about getting out despite the flow of cars. [tdoris@pbpost.com](mailto:tdoris@pbpost.com) Twitter: [@TonyDorisPBP](https://twitter.com/TonyDorisPBP)

## 8/20/17 Our Google searches are telling us revealing things about drug crisis

Among them: Interest in withdrawal, states doing most searches. *By Christopher Ingraham The Washington Post*



Nancy Spencer (left) and her daughter Elizabeth Weber are both recovering from addiction to heroin and other opioids. Data from Google shows search interest in topics related to drug withdrawal has roughly doubled over the past decade. Interest is highest at the start of the year. TAMMY LJUNGBLAD / KANSAS CITY STAR

The country's ongoing drug epidemic, which claimed more than 59,000 lives last year, has left its trace on just about every aspect of American life: politics, religion, family, justice, birth and death.

While most of us are familiar, by now, with the annual drumbeat of official statistics from places such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, online search data offers a window into facets of the epidemic that traditional numbers aren't great at catching.

One of those is drug withdrawal, the often extremely unpleasant symptoms experienced by people dependent on a substance — whether it's heroin, marijuana, alcohol or something else — when they try to stop using it.

Data from Google Trends shows that search interest in all topics related to drug withdrawal has roughly doubled over the past decade. Some unknown percentage of these searches are probably from curious people simply looking to learn more about what happens when a person stops using drugs. But several pieces of evidence suggest that these figures reflect a sizable number of searches from drug users themselves.

For starters, the searches are concentrated in the regions where we know, from mortality data, that the drug epidemic is raging most fiercely.

In 2015, for instance, the states where people were most likely to search for drug withdrawal on Google included West Virginia, Kentucky, New Hampshire and Ohio — the four states with the greatest incidence of overdose death that year, according to the CDC. Other drug-related search topics, such as substance abuse, addiction or even opioids, don't correlate nearly as well with the mortality data. That suggests that drug withdrawal searches are more closely linked to people actually using drugs.

Another piece of evidence suggesting the withdrawal searches track actual use patterns is their seasonal fluctuation.

Year after year, these searches follow a similar pattern. Interest in withdrawal is highest at the start of the year, perhaps due to drug-dependent individuals making resolutions to quit using.

But interest drops off sharply, inching up again slowly until it hits a secondary midsummer peak. Vacations, nice weather and a relative reprieve from the mental stressors that make life difficult may induce some users to try quitting when the days are long.

Interest in withdrawal declines through the end of the year, particularly crashing during the weeks of Christmas and Thanksgiving. The holidays are a well-known trigger for substance use in many people, and the lack of interest in withdrawal at the end of the year suggests that many people aren't mentally in a place to quit using while dealing with the memories, emotions and stresses of the holiday season.

If we accept that the Google withdrawal data track actual drug use, what are the implications? First, that the beginning of the year represents a crucial opportunity for friends and family members to offer support to loved ones trying to kick the habit.

Treatment providers, support groups and public health agencies may want to consider upping their outreach efforts at this time of year, the better to help people struggling with quitting who may not have otherwise have support at home.

Second, Google provides another potentially valuable tool for public health experts: real-time search data at the metropolitan area level. In a recent week, for instance, that data showed a spike in withdrawal searches centered around the town of Alpena, Mich.

Searches for "overdose" were spiking in Ohio and Maine.

What's happening this week in Alpena? Or Youngstown, Ohio? Or Presque Isle, Maine?

Public health researchers may be able to use these numbers to track drug outbreaks as they happen. Researchers in Europe, for instance, are experimenting with using Google data to predict methamphetamine-related crime.

Finally, along with the mortality figures from last year, the even more recent withdrawal interest numbers show absolutely no indication of abating. Seasonal patterns aside, the interest in drug withdrawal in July 2017 is currently the highest it's ever been in Google's 13-plus years of data. That suggests that we still may be far away from turning a corner on the current epidemic.

## 8/21/17 Six cities ban pot shops

More consider option despite voter approval

By Anne Geggis and John Maines Staff writers

Relief from pain may not be around the corner for those seeking pain relief with marijuana. Never mind that nearly three-fourths of Florida's voters agreed pot should be legal for medical use.

At least six South Florida cities have banned, or plan to ban, the dispensaries where legal marijuana can be procured.

"I don't understand it," says Arlene Owens 71, of Boca Raton, of cities' bans. She said she'd rather try medical marijuana than live with the pain pump that helps relieve her spinal compression and arthritis. "It would be such a blessing for the aging population in our city." Boca Raton is considering banning marijuana dispensaries, even though 76 percent of voters in the city agreed last November that medical pot should be legal.

City Council member Robert Weinroth thinks patients or their families can go to nearby cities for medical-marijuana dispensaries. Boynton Beach and Lake Worth are allowing them, and given those cities' proximity to Boca, "I don't think we're going to interfere with the rights of patients," Weinroth said.

Cities with bans on dispensaries include:

Lauderdale-By-the-Sea, which approved its ban Tuesday, despite the 73 percent of its voters who approved medical marijuana.

Royal Palm Beach, where 74 percent of voters said 'yes' on a medical marijuana amendment.

Sea Ranch Lakes, with 63 percent of voters in favor of legal medical pot.

Southwest Ranches, with 70 percent of voters in favor.

In an Aug. 10 resolution, Southwest Ranches Town Council justified its ban, citing the town's "fiscal inability to provide additional public safety personnel" to protect businesses and the public. It's in the best interest of the "health, safety and welfare" of residents, the town said.

Cities have several concerns about rules released by the state Legislature in June. For example, the state requires dispensaries to operate as cash-only businesses, raising the potential for thieves to target them, officials say.

Also, the state rules left cities with two options: Ban dispensaries outright, or regulate their locations to the same degree that pharmacies are regulated.

Boca wants more of a say over dispensaries than state law allows, Weinroth said. "I don't think that we're ready to embrace it at that level right now," Weinroth said.

Lobbyist John Wayne Smith said the state rules have put a lot of cities in an awkward position with what he calls "half-baked" laws. "This is probably an issue that is going to evolve and get tweaked over the next five to 10 years," Smith said.

Cities also aren't allowed to restrict the number of dispensaries, but they can limit them to where other retail businesses are.

Waiting for a firmer grasp on the changes, Coral Springs is among the cities extending moratoriums on dispensaries. The city, which had 76 percent of voters cast ballots in favor of medical marijuana, now may delay action on the issue to January 2018.

Delray Beach Mayor Cary Glickstein said he thinks extending his city's moratorium for another year might be the best thing, even if 78 percent of the voters there approved legalizing it.

After South Florida dealt with a scourge of so-called "pill mills" in the early 2000s, Delray is among the cities wrangling with a rising number of opioid overdoses. There's no sense in adding another drug-oriented hurdle, Glickstein said.

He said Florida has an abysmal record of keeping doctors from overprescribing pain medicine.

"There's a laundry list of unanswered questions regarding this legislation," Glickstein said.

Florida's law restricts cannabis prescriptions to those with cancer, epilepsy, glaucoma, HIV/AIDS, PTSD, ALS, Crohn's disease, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis or similar conditions.

But after hearing of other states' experiences with allowing medical and recreational pot, Glickstein said he thinks it'll be impossible to keep pot out of the hands of recreational users.

Hillsboro Beach's Town Commission plans to give final approval to a ban next month. It's a formality: The town already doesn't allow anything but residential uses in its one square mile.

Highland Beach also intends to approve a ban next month. Seventy-five percent of voters there approved a pro-marijuana measure in November.

Boca resident Katie Barr said she's in favor of medical marijuana after caring for relatives who lived into their 90s. "Access to this herb would have made their last days a lot more bearable," she said. But as far as allowing it in Boca, she's all for waiting. "I don't want to invite the abuse of any prescription medicine," she said.

Lauderhill and Deerfield Beach's city commissions are among the few cities where ban proposals have failed.

Deerfield Mayor Bill Ganz said after he wasn't worried about the city getting too many dispensaries.

On the campaign trail earlier this year, "there were a lot of people who spoke up about it — a lot of them elderly," he said. "We're not going to be the bad guy and shaft these people from something they really want."

Deerfield Commissioner Bernie Parness said two decades ago he baked illegal marijuana into his dying father's brownies to make his last six months with cancer more bearable.

It helped his dad keep food down, and he was more alert and cheerful as a result, he said. "Why make a senior citizen who has bone cancer, and is using a walker, have to travel to another town to get relief?" Parness asked.

Sun Sentinel staff writer Brittany Wallman and The News Service of Florida contributed to this report.



# 8/20/17 Teens defy Uber rules

Age policy not always followed



Emily Lieber, 14, and her brother Liam Lieber, 13, ran into a problem when using Uber. When the driver showed up, he told the Hollywood teens they were too young. (Mike Stocker/Staff Photographer)

By Susannah BryanStaff writer

Teenager Emily Lieber needed a ride home from the bus stop, so she did what her parents might do: She called Uber.

When the driver showed up, he told the Hollywood teen, then 13, that she was too young to ride. So she called another Uber. And off she went.

Emily is one of many teens who are turning to ride-hailing services like Uber and Lyft to help them meet their busy schedules, particularly as school starts back up. Some parents even use the services to get their children to school. The ride-hailing services are accessed, and paid for, through an app downloaded onto a smartphone.

It's against company policy — but it is not illegal — for drivers to pick up anyone under 18 unless they have an adult with them, but many drivers do it anyway and many parents don't know it violates the rules.

Teens who violate Uber's under-18 rule risk losing their account, said company spokeswoman Jodi Page. She said some underage riders have been removed from the app, but she declined to say how many.

Uber officials would neither explain the reason for the under-18 rule nor answer questions about how they are enforcing it. They also declined to say what happens to drivers who transport underage riders.

“Our terms and conditions and community guidelines specifically state that an account holder needs to be an adult [18 or older] to have an account,” Page said via email. “If not, a parent or guardian must be with them at all times. When riders sign up they agree to follow this policy.”

But some say Uber is well aware of the growing trend that bucks their own policy.

“They know what’s happening and are looking the other way,” said Harry Campbell, a Los Angeles-based blogger at The Rideshare Guy. “It’s kind of a mess for drivers because they’re getting tons of requests for rides from teens and Uber is not doing anything [to enforce its own rule].”

Lyft officials declined to answer any questions for this story.

Critics say parents who let their kids take Uber and Lyft are taking a risk because their drivers aren’t put through the same rigorous background checks applied to cab drivers.

“Just because an app makes it easy, doesn’t mean it’s safe — or wise,” said Dave Sutton, spokesman for WhosDrivingYou.org, a taxi industry group that is pushing for stricter screening rules for Uber and Lyft drivers.

“It’s important to screen out a bad driver ahead of time,” Sutton said. “Once you’re in the car, it’s too late.”

Yellow Cab President John Camillo says his company requires intensive background checks conducted by law enforcement.

“Every driver is fingerprinted,” he said. “If my driver does not use the proper name, you can’t fool the fingerprints. They are sent to the FBI and they do a national search. I think our background checks are infinitely better.”

All Uber drivers undergo a background check that includes a review of their driving record and criminal history, Page said. The screening is done by a background check service accredited by the National Association of Professional Background Screeners. Uber also provides live GPS tracking and a “Share My Trip” feature that lets customers share trip details in real time with family and friends, she said.

Still, some Uber drivers have been accused of crimes against their passengers, critics note.

A year ago, a Boca Raton man working as an Uber driver was arrested after three women accused him of rape in three separate incidents. And in May, an Uber driver in Kissimmee was accused of raping a 14-year-old customer traveling alone who had requested a ride to her aunt’s house.

Hollywood mom Rhonda Tescher has seen the headlines, but lets her 15-year-old daughter take Uber as long as she has two friends along.

“I never let her take it by herself,” she said.

Allyson Tomchin, Emily’s mom, had no clue about Uber’s “no unaccompanied minors” policy and neither did her children, who range in age from 13 to 17.

Tomchin says her kids started using Uber a couple of years ago because it’s convenient and cheap. To catch a ride, customers just download a free app and pay for rides using their smartphones.

Tomchin’s stepdaughter Emily, now 14, has taken Uber dozens of times and was denied a ride for being underage only that one time.

“It doesn’t surprise me the company has that rule, but it’s definitely not being enforced,” Tomchin said.

She said Uber has been a godsend for her and her husband, Rand Lieber.

“We have super busy schedules and so do the kids,” she said. “We’re all doing different things at different times. Uber helps us accommodate everyone’s schedule.”

She also thinks her kids will be safe as long as they Uber together.

“I know the name of the driver, the license plate and the route they’re driving,” she said.

But not every parent is a fan.

Jennifer Rosinski, a Cooper City mom with four kids, says she would never send any of them off on their own with an Uber driver.

“I don’t think it’s safe,” she said. “I’m just not comfortable putting my child in a car with someone I don’t know.”

Boca Raton dad Bruce Gipson says his 17-year-old daughter has taken Uber a few times to get to and from work — without his knowledge.

“I didn’t know she’d used it until I asked her how she got home,” he said. “I’m not real thrilled about it because you don’t know who’s picking you up.”

Gipson, a retired Miami Beach firefighter, says he had no idea about Uber’s ban on transporting minors.

Now, he said, he longer has to worry about it.

“I bought her a car in December,” he said.

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**From:** [Anderson, Cassandra L](#)  
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**Date:** Tuesday, September 19, 2017 1:55:28 PM  
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# News Clip 9/8/17

## Palm Beach Post

9/8/17 BOCA RATON

### **Items stolen from slain MMA fighter's home Authorities: Aaron Rajman's swords, drugs, money taken.** *By Olivia Hitchcock Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Church



Ortiz



Swinton

BOCA RATON — The three teens arrested in connection with Aaron Rajman's July 3 slaying also are accused of stealing swords, marijuana, a scale, narcotics and money from the mixed martial arts fighter's Boca Raton-area home, according to recently released indictments.

On Aug. 31, a grand jury indicted Summer Church, 16, Roberto Ortiz, 18, and Jace Swinton, 18, on a first-degree murder charge and two counts apiece of home invasion with either a firearm or other deadly weapon. They were booked Sept. 1 into the Palm Beach County Jail, where they are being held without bail.

According to the indictments, the teens robbed Rajman, 25, of swords, drugs and money and stole a cellphone from Autumn Matthews. The indictments don't offer any further information about Matthews, nor have Palm Beach County sheriff's authorities commented on Matthews' role that fatal night. A person close to Rajman declined to comment on the indictment.

Authorities have not elaborated on the teens' suspected roles in the murder and home invasion. Each of the three indictments reads about the same: The defendant "did unlawfully

from a premeditated design to effect the death of a human being, kill and murder Aaron Rajman, a human being, by shooting Aaron Rajman.”

It remains unclear which of the teens is accused of fatally shooting Rajman.

State laws keep grand jury presentments out of the public record, meaning authorities don't have to release the specifics of the crime until the case goes before a judge.

According to the Sheriff's Office, Rajman was shot after several men entered his home at about 10:30 p.m. July 3. A fight broke out, and Rajman was shot before the men fled. No mention was made by the sheriff's office of a female participating in the shooting when it first reported the murder.

“This was no random act of violence,” Palm Beach County State Attorney Dave Aronberg said in a statement issued Friday afternoon. “Mr. Rajman was targeted by these defendants, and we intend to seek justice for the victim and his family.”

Rajman, an Orthodox Jew, made his mixed martial arts debut in April 2014 and had a 2-2 record as a professional. He was born in New York and moved with his family to Florida as a preschooler. A family friend said his parents later divorced, and for the past few years, he shared a home west of Boca Raton with his mother, his mother's aunt and his younger brother.

According to the fight website Sherdog, Rajman was a 145-pound featherweight who trained at American Top Team in Coconut Creek and had an amateur record of 8-1. Another site, The Underground, also said he had an amateur record of 8-1.

Friends raised more than \$27,500 on a [GoFundMe.com](http://GoFundMe.com) account for Rajman's funeral.

“He was always smiling, never had a bad day,” Lamar Brown, a 27-year-old lightweight who trained alongside Rajman, said shortly after his death. “But as nice as he was outside the cage, he was just as tough inside it.” [ohitchcock@pbpost.com](mailto:ohitchcock@pbpost.com) [Twitter: @ohitchcock](https://twitter.com/ohitchcock)

## 9/8//17 SHELTER FROM THE STORM

### PBC emergency shelters gear up for record influx

*By Andrew Marra Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Silvia Mishanie of West Boca Raton sets up bedding at the West Boca High hurricane shelter in August 2006, when Tropical Storm Ernesto threatened. She and her husband, Bob, were at West Boca High for Hurricane Wilma in 2005. Emergency managers are opening 15 public shelters across the county beginning today at 10. UMA SANGHVI / THE PALM BEACH POST 2006

## SHELTER STAYS

Palm Beach County shelter stays by hurricane:

- 2016: Matthew, 7,990



- 2005: Wilma, 4,900
- 2004: Frances, 18,156
- 2004: Jeanne, 12,288

SOURCE: PALM BEACH  
COUNTY DIVISION OF  
EMERGENCY MANAGE-MENT

Tens of thousands of people are expected to seek refuge in Palm Beach County's emergency shelters as Hurricane Irma nears, an unprecedented test of the county's shelter system.

Emergency managers are opening 15 public shelters across the county beginning today at 10. The total capacity is about 47,000 people, and officials say they expect shelters to mostly fill up.

"We expect to be at or near capacity, but it's hard to project for sure," said Deputy County Administrator Jon Van Arnham. "We've got a very large, intense storm, and people have seen some of the destruction in Houston and other parts of the Gulf, so they may be more inclined to seek shelter."

If the number of shelter-seekers is anything close to the estimates, it will vastly exceed attendance during previous storms.

In advance of Hurricane Matthew last year, fewer than 8,000 people checked into shelters. In 2004, 18,000 stayed in shelters during Hurricane Frances, and 12,000 during Hurricane Jeanne.

But Irma's strength and north-south trajectory have prompted evacuations and hurricane forecasts across Florida, clogging highways, making hotel rooms hard to come by and giving people fewer good options for fleeing.

So far, 261,000 county residents have been asked to evacuate their homes, either because they live in mobile homes or in coastal or flood-prone neighborhoods, including the area around Lake Okeechobee.

Those factors combined poise the county for a record number of shelter-seekers. If it appears that existing shelters are reaching capacity, county officials say they can open five additional school sites to accommodate.

All of the shelters are built to withstand hurricane-force winds; all are equipped with generators; all will have police and medics on hand; and all will serve three meals a day. People who head to a shelter are advised to bring changes of clothes; snacks; blankets and pillows; any necessary medicine; chargers for personal electronic items; books, games or other entertainment.

For the first time, the shelters will no longer be operated by the Red Cross. After the nonprofit organization failed to deliver promised volunteers during Hurricane Matthew, county and School District officials said they decided to take over operation of the shelters this year, officials said.

"They told us they were ready, and then they just had a real shortage of volunteers at the last minute," Palm Beach County Schools Superintendent Robert Avossa said.

This time, each school shelter will be supervised by the school principal or another school administrator, in cooperation with county government officials.

Van Arnham said he encouraged anyone who feels unsafe at home to seek refuge at a county shelter, but he also asked people who have safe homes to consider other options first.

“If you have an alternative that’s safe and out of an evacuation area, that’s a preferable option,” he said.

Space in shelters is given on a first-come, first-served basis, and people are asked not to leave after checking into one. Pets are not allowed in any school-based shelter, but the county has set up a pet-friendly shelter at the West Boynton Recreational Center at 6000 Northtree Blvd., Lake Worth.

The county has also set up a special-needs shelter for evacuees with physical or mental disabilities, including people who use wheelchairs, depend on oxygen tanks or suffer from Alzheimer’s disease. The main shelter at the South Florida Fairgrounds has capacity for 850 people and has already received about 850 applications, said Lisa De La Rionda, the county government’s public affairs director.

But officials say that additional shelter-seekers with special needs can be accommodated at other sites.

School District staff delivered food to the cafeterias of each school shelter earlier this week, and school workers will prepare food once the shelters open. The county is still looking for volunteers, but officials say the preparations have them well-positioned to give refuge to anyone who needs it.

“We’re ready,” Avossa said. [amarra@pbpost.com](mailto:amarra@pbpost.com) **Twitter: @AMarraPBPost**

## **9/8/17 HURRICANE IRMA ‘DEVASTATING HIT’**

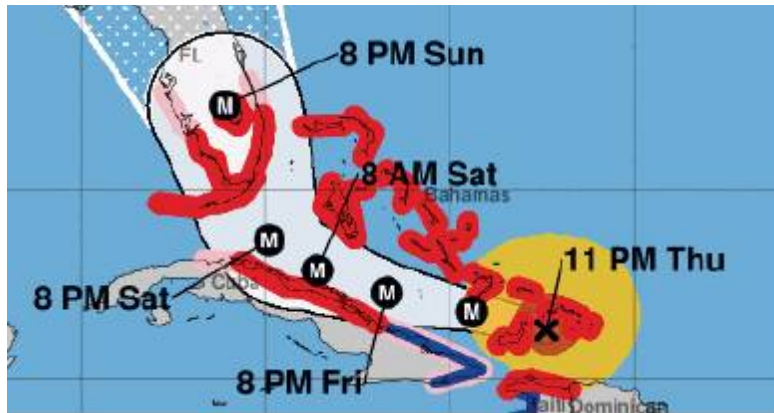
**Ferocious storm set to bring Category 4 winds, destruction to South Fla. Mandatory evacuations ordered for Palm Beach County mobile homes. Tropical storm-force winds arrive Saturday, hurricane here Sunday.**

*By Kimberly Miller Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

### **WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

- Shelters open at 10 a.m. today. Check [pbcgov.com](http://pbcgov.com) to find the closest one near you. Keep in mind: Once you’re in, you can’t leave, but they are first come, first served.
- Should you evacuate? Type your address in at [pbcgov.com/knowurzone](http://pbcgov.com/knowurzone). Officials strongly urge you to stay here in the county. Gas supplies are low and you don’t want to get stuck on the highway.
- Schools are closed today. See [PalmBeachPost.com](http://PalmBeachPost.com) for the word on Monday.
- Palm Beach County Emergency Information Center: 561-712-6400
- Feel anxious? There’s someone to talk to if you call 211.

### **TRACKING THE STORM**



IRMA Location: 21.3°N 72.4°W Wind speed: 165 mph

Direction: WNW at 16 mph As of 11 p.m. Thursday

Latest information: [PalmBeachPost.com](http://PalmBeachPost.com)

Hurricane Irma left little doubt Thursday it was coming for South Florida with Category 4 winds so formidable experts warned of complete destruction of mobile homes, killer storm surge, and widespread, long-term communication and power outages.

A slight shift to the west in the forecast track during the evening advisory from the National Hurricane Center put Florida in a worst-case scenario, with east coast cities facing the brunt of the most furious winds and Orlando also raked by Irma's lengthy reach.

While forecasters said there was still a small chance that Irma would wobble into a position more favorable for the Sunshine State, their message was one of a life-threatening storm with far-reaching destruction.

"We're talking about a devastating hit on Miami, Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach," said Shahid Hamid, director of Florida International University's Laboratory for Insurance and Economic Research at the Extreme Events Institute. "If it's coming for us, I'm leaving tonight."

Hamid, who rode out Hurricane Andrew under a mattress in his bathroom as his drywall vibrated to near disintegration, said a rough estimate of damages from Irma is \$100 billion. As of the 8 p.m. advisory from the hurricane center, Irma was a 175 mph powerhouse cyclone moving west-northwest at 16 mph. It was expected to scrape over the Turks and Caicos before heading to the Bahamas and South Florida.

The official forecast has it reaching the tip of the Florida peninsula Sunday morning as a high-end Category 4 storm with winds of about 155 mph.

Tropical storm-force winds will hit Palm Beach County on Saturday afternoon with hurricane force-winds beginning in the southern part of the county pre-dawn Sunday.

"Structural damage to sturdy buildings, numerous large trees snapped or uprooted, widespread power and communication outages," is how Miami meteorologist Kevin Scharfenberg described Irma's potential impacts. "We'd rather not focus on category because a Category 3 to 5 means real risk of life-threatening, destructive winds."

Irma's path takes the monster storm into a friendly environment of warmer water and light wind shear. It is being steered by the Bermuda High, charging along its underbelly and through the Caribbean. The upper-level trough that forecasters thought might grab Irma and take it to the east, either skimming Florida or heading more into the Atlantic, wasn't even mentioned in the evening hurricane-center discussion.

Hurricane-force winds extend out about 50 miles from Irma's center with tropical storm-force winds reaching outward 185 miles.

Jeff Masters, co-founder of Weather Underground, said "50 miles will make the difference between tens of billions of dollars in damages or a few billion."

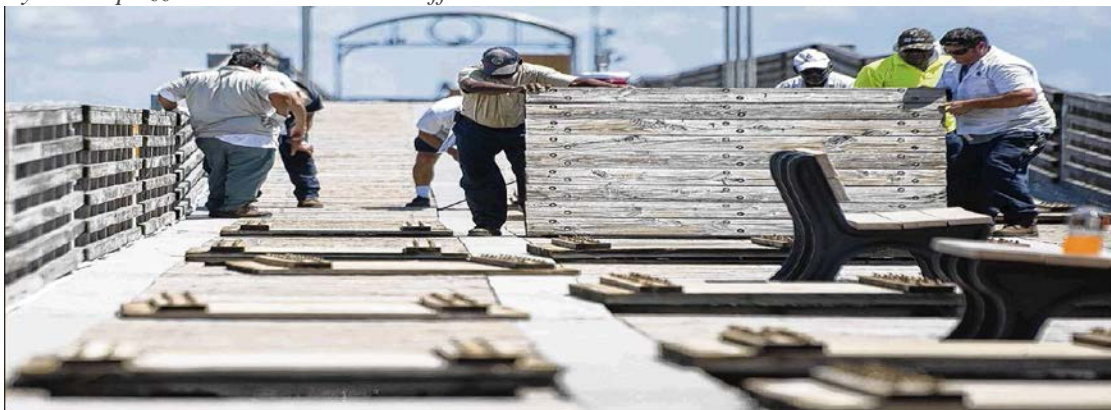
"The trough is moving across the U.S. and we just don't know exactly what its position or strength will be on Saturday," Masters said. "Small variations in the position and timing of that trough are crucial for where Irma goes." Hurricane and storm surge watches were issued for all of South Florida, with Palm Beach County emergency managers calling for mandatory evacuations of mobile homes, substandard housing and extreme coastal areas. A voluntary evacuation was called for Zone C, which includes areas between the Intracoastal Waterway and farther west. Storm surge heights could reach between 3 and 6 feet in areas from Juno Beach north. The familiar mantra of emergency managers was often repeated Thursday: "Hide from wind, run from water." Between 1963 and 2012, 49 percent of deaths directly related to Atlantic hurricanes were because of storm surge, according to a 2014 study.

Wind was responsible for just 8 percent of deaths. About 3 percent of deaths were caused by tornadoes. Jay Baker, an expert on hurricane evacuations and professor emeritus at Florida State University's Department of Geography, said to treat powerful hurricanes like tornadoes. "Get into the most interior room of the house and away from exterior walls," he said. Bryan Norcross, the meteorologist credited with saving lives during Hurricane Andrew, said in his book "My Hurricane Andrew Story," that the smartest things he told people during the storm were to get under a mattress in their hall or closet and move to a safe area in their home when he moved into a "bunker" at the television station where he worked.

"People combined those two ideas in their own homes across South Dade and survived as, in some cases, concrete-block houses came down on top of them," he wrote. [kmiller@pbpost.com](mailto:kmiller@pbpost.com) Twitter: [@kmillerweather](https://twitter.com/kmillerweather)

## **9/8/17 Army of road warriors flees Irma** **Hundreds of thousands leave South Florida, braving** **jampacked roads and cars full of restless children.**

*By Joe Capozzi Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



A grounds crew for the city of Lake Worth lifts decking off the Lake Worth Municipal Pier on Thursday. The pier closed at noon Thursday, and will remain closed until after Hurricane Irma has passed through.

ANDRES LEIVA / THE PALM BEACH POST





Shashanna Orellano snapped a photo Thursday morning in traffic near Gainesville. She and her family left Lantana around 3:30 a.m., with her sister and parents following in a separate car. It took them nearly nine hours to reach Gainesville.

SHASHANNA ORELLANO / CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

It was 3:30 a.m. when the Orellano family of Lantana piled into its Prius and headed off into the darkness away from the menacing path of Hurricane Irma.

“We just wanted to get the heck out of town,” Shashanna Orellano said.

They were hardly alone. On major highways and on two-lane back roads, hundreds of thousands of motorists Thursday continued a mass exodus from South Florida, accepting the tension of traffic backups and cars full of screaming kids in exchange for safety from an approaching Category 5 storm.

“It’s kind of like gambling. I’d rather risk leaving and taking forever on the roads than staying and getting hurt,” said Angie Pineda Clarke of Lake Worth, who also left at 3:30 a.m. on a journey to a relative’s house in Atlanta.

Clarke’s husband, Cody, drove their Ford Fusion while she tended to their two kids, ages 1 and 5, through stop-and-go traffic on Interstate

75. Her sister and parents followed them in a separate car. It took them nearly nine hours to reach Gainesville.

“The traffic comes in waves,” Angie said. “You get like 15 minutes of cars moving, and then you just stop for 15 minutes.”

Delays were reported Thursday northbound on Florida’s Turnpike between mile markers 85 and 101 in Palm Beach County, mile markers 123-143 in Martin County and 216-251 in Osceola County, according to the Florida Department of Transportation.

“Evacuations are not meant to be convenient. They’re meant to keep you safe,” Florida Gov. Rick Scott said Thursday during a visit to the Palm Beach County Emergency Operations Center.

Other delays have been reported near service plazas, where lines for fuel pumps sometimes stretched onto the turnpike’s far left lane leading to the entrance ramps. Florida Highway Patrol troopers and DOT crews are directing traffic at the plazas.

“It’s been fairly orderly, as orderly as it can be,” said Sgt. Mark Wysocky, an FHP spokesman, who said extra troopers, Road Rangers and wreckers have been added to help keep traffic flowing.

“I would just ask people to be cautious, especially as you approach service plazas in case traffic stretches out into the lanes.”

Only vehicles are allowed to fuel, meaning no one will be permitted to fill other containers. “The goal is to get drivers back on the road as soon as possible,” he said.

Troopers started working 12-hour shifts Thursday to help keep traffic flowing north ahead of a storm projected to roll the entire length of the Florida peninsula.

“It’s basically all hands on deck,” Wysocky said. “I know there were evacuations for (Hurricane) Andrew (in 1992), but I don’t think we’ve seen one like this, not to this point where (Irma) may go through the whole state.”

The mass exodus has led to a rise in disabled and abandoned vehicles, creating problems for emergency workers using the shoulders to reach crash victims and other roadway issues.

Troopers on Thursday started ordering crews to tow abandoned vehicles.

Drivers can call \*FHP on their cellphones if assistance is needed.

On limited sections of some Florida highways, DOT officials allow motorists to drive on the shoulders of roads instead of making all lanes one way, which is complicated, requires extra manpower and can be dangerous.

On the turnpike, all lanes could be converted to one-way from mile marker 88 in Boynton Beach to mile marker 254 near the Orlando area — because there are fewer access points along that stretch and less risk of danger. For now, there are no plans to convert the southbound lanes into additional northbound lanes, a decision that would be made by Scott. At 1:30 p.m., the Welch family arrived at its destination, a relative’s house in Hayesville, N.C., 20 hours after the family’s Honda Odyssey left home in Lake Worth.

It’s normally an 11-hour drive, Sue Welch said, but she wasn’t complaining.

“It was stop and go, but I expected that, and we’ve been exercising patience,” she said. “We got off the main road before Atlanta and drove on back roads because of the traffic, and it was more enjoyable on the winding roads.”

Many motorists like Clarke documented their highway journeys on social media, alerting friends about traffic conditions. Other motorists have been using websites like Florida 511 and apps like Waze to avoid traffic.

“We Wazed around two major delays, including one that detoured us in Port St. Lucie. We missed the traffic. Mission accomplished,” said Jesse Cohen, a Boca Raton attorney who drove his wife and son to St. Augustine.

Welch said it was an odd experience driving clogged northbound lanes while the southbound lanes were nearly empty except for handfuls of cars. “I did see flatbed semitrucks with plywood heading south,” she said.

Some motorists, frustrated with the slow pace and speeds rarely exceeding 35 mph, decided to turn west out of Florida toward destinations such as Mississippi. But other drivers said the experience hasn’t been terrible.

“There’s been periods of stop and go, but nothing really like parking lot situations,” said Orellano, whose husband, Gerardo, was driving the family to Atlanta. Their 2-year-old son, Aaron, has passed time greeting vehicles in other lanes.

“He keeps waving to people,” she said.

Laura Ammerman checked into a hotel in Alpharetta, Ga., to take a well-deserved nap after a 16-hour drive from Palm Beach County.

“There were parts that were pretty bad. Lots of slow traffic, but we were able to get off and go around it on back roads,” she said. “Honestly, it could have been a lot worse.”

Staff writer Jeff Ostrowski contributed to this story. [jcapozzi@pbpost.com](mailto:jcapozzi@pbpost.com)



## 9/8/17 Governor: ‘Do not ignore evacuation orders’ Residents on barrier islands, three Glades cities told to leave.

*By Jennifer Sorentroue Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Gov. Rick Scott, in Palm Beach County on Thursday, continued to spread his warning that Hurricane Irma could bring “deadly storm surge” and “life-threatening winds” to Florida’s east coast. MEGHAN MCCARTHY / THE PALM BEACH POST

More than 290,000 Palm Beach County residents were urged to evacuate their homes on barrier islands and in areas prone to storm surge starting at 10 a.m. today, as Gov. Rick Scott warned that Hurricane Irma could bring “deadly storm surge” and “life-threatening winds” to Florida’s east coast.

The mandatory evacuations were ordered for roughly 123,000 residents living in Zones A and B. Those evacuation zones include the barrier islands, land areas north and south of the Jupiter Inlet, mobile homes, low-lying areas prone to water intrusion, and other surge-vulnerable areas along the Intracoastal Waterway.

Late Thursday, the county extended the mandatory evacuations to the sections of Zone E that include the three Glades cities and other unincorporated pockets near Lake Okeechobee. The mandatory order does not apply to those living in portions of Zone E along the coast. County officials said the threat of high winds, not a dike breach, led to the evacuation order. Roughly 32,000 people live the Glades area.

Voluntary evacuations were issued for those living in Zone C. The evacuations apply only to residents who are not sure if their home is safe or whose homes are prone to excessive flooding. Zone C generally includes properties from the Intracoastal waterway west to U.S. 1 in the south and central part of the county, and areas in close proximity to the Loxahatchee River and the northern tip of the Lake Worth Lagoon. About 138,000 people live in those areas.

Scott urged state residents to heed the warning and leave their homes.

“Do not ignore evacuation orders,” Scott said. “You can rebuild your home. You cannot rebuild your life or your family.”

Scott said Irma has the potential to be more devastating than Hurricane Andrew, a Category 5 storm that hit the state in 1992 causing \$26.5 billion in damage.

“This is much worse and more devastating on its current path,” Scott warned.

Bill Johnson, head of the county's emergency management division, urged those planning to leave their homes to "stay within Palm Beach County."

"The roads are congested," he said. "The gas stations have long lines."

To determine if your home is in an evacuation zone, go to [readyPBC.com](http://readyPBC.com). County officials urged those who are not in an evacuation zone to shelter in place.

The county had planned to open 17 shelters today, including a special-needs shelter and a pet-friendly shelter, with the capacity to house as many as 47,000 people. But County Administrator Verdenia Baker said late Friday that two of the shelters in the Glades area were removed from the list because of the expanded evacuation order.

Baker said the county is working with school district officials to identify more shelter sites. Roughly 7,000 National Guard members will be deployed today to help with the storm, and 13 helicopters and more than 1,000 high-water vehicles are on standby, Scott said.

Scott said President Donald Trump has vowed to help secure resources and supplies for the state.

The state has requested tarps, water, baby food, search-and-rescue crews and equipment, military water craft and aircraft, with the ability to move fuel, Scott said.

## 9/8/17 PREPARING FOR IRMA

# Mobile-home park residents board up, seek safer ground

*By Julius Whigham II and Sarah Peters Palm Beach Post Staff Writers*



Mobile homes are boarded up in Monet Acres in Palm Beach Gardens on Thursday as Hurricane Irma approached. SARAH PETERS / THE PALM BEACH POST

**PALM BEACH GARDENS** — In mobile-home parks across Palm Beach County, windows were boarded and driveways empty Thursday as Hurricane Irma neared.

The parks are among the most vulnerable places amid the winds of any hurricane, let alone a Category 5 storm such as Irma. As such, most residents of Monet Acres, a 55-and-older community off RCA Boulevard in Palm Beach Gardens, had plans to stay with friends and family elsewhere in Palm Beach County until the storm clears.

When Hurricane Matthew threatened Palm Beach County in October, everyone huddled in the clubhouse for safety. This time, residents aren't taking any chances. One woman said she plans to stay with her friend in Palm Beach Country Estates, north of Donald Ross Road and west of Interstate 95. She has all impact-resistant windows and doors, and everything is well-anchored, she said.

"People all shutter-up really good here. It's been here for 50 years, and I expect it will be here for 50 more," she said of the park.

Residents take care of one another, she and another resident said. One man just had a mild stroke, and his wife had a heart attack, so the other neighbors closed up their house for them, a resident named Vivian said.

Staying really isn't an option. The police will come and make people leave if the storm is bad enough, she said.

Vivian's mobile home is tied down every 6 feet and built to withstand a Category 3 hurricane.

"You put up shutters, as you see, and you pray. It withstood all of them, and now we pray that it withstands Irma," she said. "It's in God's hands."

Residents of The Meadows mobile home park were still boarding up and bringing their possessions inside Thursday afternoon. The property managers were riding through the community on golf carts making sure residents removed any items that could fly around and become projectiles in hurricane-force winds.

Similar actions were taking place at the Bluegrass Mobile Home Park in West Palm Beach, which the city placed under a voluntary evacuation. Chris Miller said he stayed in his home during Hurricane Matthew but planned to leave this morning to stay with family in Alabama. Miller said he had a simple reason for leaving this time.

"Because it's a (Category) 5," he said. "(You have) 185 mph winds, and plus the video I'm seeing what it did to them little islands, it's crazy. I wish it wasn't coming, but I know it will destroy this trailer."

At Long Lake Village Mobile Home Park in suburban West Palm Beach, several homes were boarded up. Marty Jackson, one of its residents, said he is planning to stay with his daughter at her Boynton Beach condo.

"You pretty much have to (evacuate) living in a mobile home," he said. "I did stay one year, and I said, 'Hmm. After that I'll leave.'"

At The Meadows in Palm Beach Gardens, a young man was debating whether to ride out the hurricane in a mobile home he renovated and moved into in December. The home is on a lake, which was mostly drained, but close to the Intracoastal Waterway, he said. His other option is a friend's house in Jupiter.

He decided to forgo shutters or plywood because Home Depot was out of stock, and he figured that would do little to protect the house, especially if the hurricane takes the roof off. He is keeping a car parked at Palm Beach International Airport until the storm passes.

Another resident named MaryAnn was packing up for a house in Tequesta. Her son, a former contractor, was putting up her aluminum panel shutters.

She went through two hurricanes at a house in Jupiter with only damage to the carport roof, she said. Concrete block homes "are the best," she said. "This one's making me nervous."

She just moved into the mobile home in The Meadows this spring after a stint taking care of family in Connecticut and plans to ride out the hurricane at her daughter's house on Riverside Drive in Tequesta — along with dogs, cats, a parrot and a lizard.

Her grandson is a police officer who will be stationed on Singer Island during the storm. He lives behind her and finished getting his house ready before he went to work.

MaryAnn said she planned to take some clothes and personal items with her since she didn't know what she'd have to come back to. [jwhigham@pbpost.com](mailto:jwhigham@pbpost.com)

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## 9/8/17 SAFETY TIPS **Facts vs. fables about storms**

*By Eliot Kleinberg Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

Plenty of wisdom has been dispensed in the wait for Hurricane Irma, some of it sound and some of it silly. Here are some of the more common misconceptions — and a few assertions that, surprisingly, are correct.

### **Should I open a window to reduce pressure?**

NO! Leaving a window open will not relieve the pressure inside your house during a hurricane, and any openings in the house can lead to pressure actually building up inside and causing major damage — possibly even lifting off your roof. But the Institute for Business & Home Safety says you should close not only all your exterior openings but also interior doors. Tests this summer, the IBHS reports, showed wind entering the home through an open or broken window can create strong upward pressure on the roof, but closing interior doors “helps compartmentalize the pressure inside the home into smaller areas, reducing the overall force on the roof structure, which gives the roof a better chance of staying intact.”

### **Should I use masking or duct tape to cover windows?**

NO! Tape will not stop windows from breaking. And while it will limit the flying glass, by keeping windows from shattering completely, it may create large shards that can act as flying daggers. Also, tape will bake on your window. Use standard window coverings.

### **Can I operate my generator or barbecue grill inside the home?**

NO! Unless you want to die from carbon monoxide poisoning. It's deadly, odorless and colorless and can kill in minutes, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reports. Do not use generators or grills even in open garages or porches unless they are at least 20 feet from the home.

### **Can I connect my generator directly to my home's electrical system?**

NO! Don't plug a gasoline-powered generator into your household AC circuits. The electricity will travel outside your house to the downed power line. You could electrocute yourself or start a fire. Also, utility workers, believing the line is dead, could be electrocuted. Plug appliances directly into the generator.

### **Is it OK to store propane and gasoline in my garage during the storm?**

NO! There's a danger of both fumes and possible fire and explosion.

### **Is it OK to cut up downed power poles?**



NO! Florida Power & Light Co. urges you to stay away from any power poles. The line might still be electrified. And if a pole has been pulled down, the electrical line might have been pulled frighteningly taut; cutting up that pole could cause a fatal reaction.

**If the winds aren't too bad, is it OK for me to drive in the hurricane?**

Not really, and more importantly, why do you want to? Storms are not a time for sightseeing. Their winds are dangerous and unpredictable, especially if you're in a high-profile vehicle such as a truck or bus or driving a motorcycle, Florida Highway Patrol Lt. Tom Pikul said. And, he said, that doesn't even take into consideration the dangers of driving on flooded roads.

**Should I put important documents in my dishwasher or washing machine?**

According to the Florida Bar, the state organization for lawyers, there's no harm in that, and it is a secure enclosure, but don't forget and later turn the thing on! If possible, the Bar says, use a home safe, and if time permits, scan everything and get the originals to a safe place outside of the storm area.

**Will my home phone (land line) work without power?**

Yes and no. The phone lines into your home still will work because the system was built with just enough juice to keep phone lines operating even if power is lost. But most homes these days have cordless home phones — which of course need to be plugged in. What you need is an old-fashioned connect-to-the-wall phone. You might find one in a thrift shop or in some electronics stores.

**I want to hold a hurricane party. Is that OK?**

Consider this cautionary tale: In 1969, as Camille, one of only three Category 5 storms to strike North America in the 20th century, approached the Mississippi coast, a dozen people had gathered at the Richelieu Apartments, in the Gulf Coast town of Pass Christian, Miss. Stocked with food and drink, they were going to have a hurricane party. Another dozen Richelieu residents also opted to wait out the storm in their apartments. While everyone else had fled inland, the group was bent on a wild ride. Besides, most forecasts had the brunt of the storm striking 100 miles to the east in the Florida Panhandle. But Camille hit Pass Christian head-on. The next morning, there were no parties. One of the 24 was found alive, clinging to a tree five miles inland. And no Richelieu remained. Just a slab.

**Should I throw my lawn furniture in the pool to get it out of the wind?**

Not a good idea. It can scratch the finish, requiring costly repairs.

**Is someone offering free Wi-Fi hotspots?**

Comcast has opened its more than 137,000 Xfinity Wi-Fi hotspots across Florida to non-customers in an effort to help keep residents and emergency workers connected in advance of the storm.

**Does the PETS law mean all hotels must accept pets?**

No. The 2006 Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act has nothing to do with hotels. It requires only that governments include pets in emergency planning.

**Does the Zello app let me communicate without cell service?**

Zello's smartphone app is essentially a walkie-talkie. It functions much like a police dispatch system, with crucial information relayed from volunteers. It requires Internet access via Wi-Fi or a cellular data network.

**After the storm, should I try to ration my bottled drinking water?**

No. Drink your water as you normally would. Stay hydrated, stay healthy. More water will be available later.

**Can I use my tap water to wash my hands even if a boil-water order is in effect? Can I give it to my animal?**

The tap water will be safe for showering and washing hands. It is unsafe to ingest in any way, such as brushing teeth or drinking. Do not wash dishes in it. And it will make your animal sick.

**How do I know when to throw out food that was refrigerated or frozen?**

The rule of thumb is that most perishable refrigerated food held above 40 degrees for more than two hours must be discarded. When in doubt, throw it out!

Staff researcher Melanie Mena contributed to this story. [ekleinberg@pbpost.com](mailto:ekleinberg@pbpost.com)

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## 9/8/17 HEALTH CARE

# Hospitals open, prepared for storm

*By John Pacenti Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

Hospitals throughout Palm Beach County say they plan to be staffed and ready to assist the community before, during and after Hurricane Irma as it aims for the Florida Peninsula.

Kenita Gordon, a spokeswoman for the West Palm Beach Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Riviera Beach, said there are no plans to evacuate but the facility remains ready if it is necessary. She said the concern is that it is unknown which coast of Florida will be most affected by the hurricane.

"It's a little crazy right now," she said. "If we had to, we would move the patients to a neighboring VA medical center deep in the state of Florida or even past the state of Florida."

The VA sent out a news release Wednesday, saying its outpatient clinics will be closed today through Monday with the exception of those who need kidney dialysis.

The VA says veterans from storm-affected areas who require immediate assistance can contact its Health Resource Center Disaster Hotline at 1-800-507-4571.

The VA and hospitals were concerned that some residents might try to seek shelter at medical facilities. Hospitals are not shelters. Those with special needs must register with Palm Beach County to go to the special-needs shelter at the South Florida Fairgrounds. Check [outreadypb.org](http://outreadypb.org) to sign up.

The hospitals, though, are being staffed to take care of existing patients, emergencies and expectant mothers.

"We are here for our community," said Brian Altschuler, vice president for ancillary operations at Boca Regional Medical Center. "We are not closed. We are not evacuating. We have great plans in place."

The Health Care District of Palm Beach County has activated disaster preparedness plans for the Edward J. Healey Center, Lakeside Medical Center, aeromedical unit and pharmacy — though details of those plans weren't available. Its 10 primary care clinics are working to make patients aware they must register with Palm Beach County if they are in need of the Special Needs Shelter Program.

Jupiter Medical Center said it plans to stay open and functioning during Hurricane Irma, as well. It will even serve as a shelter for some expectant mothers.

It "has begun preparedness procedures to allow normal function of the Medical Center during and after a potential weather emergency," according to a news release.

Bethesda Hospital East and Bethesda Hospital West in Boynton Beach plan to have doctors, nurses and specialists riding out the storm at both facilities, working in shifts. Patients who are well enough will be discharged before Irma arrives sometime this weekend. [jpacenti@pbpost.com](mailto:jpacenti@pbpost.com)



**9/8/17 AIRPORTS**

## **Irma's arrival shutting down area's airports**

### **Lauderdale will close tonight, Key West already shut.**

*By Jorge Milian Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

The window for residents and visitors to fly out of town before the arrival of Hurricane Irma is quickly closing.

Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport announced Thursday it will close Friday night and American Airlines said that it will "wind down" operations at Palm Beach International and other South Florida airports Friday.

American Airlines canceled all flights for both Saturday and Sunday. Other carriers are likely to follow suit.

As of Thursday afternoon, FlightAware was showing 11 American flights canceled from PBIA on Friday and that number is expected to grow.

"Resumption of service will be based on airport and roadway conditions, including ability of our team members to get to work," according to an American Airlines statement.

Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood airport officials said the last flight out of a facility used by many Palm Beach County residents will take off Friday at 7:45 p.m. That's about four hours before tropical-force storm winds are expected in South Florida and allows employees to get home safely, airport spokesman Greg Meyer said.

When the last flight departs, there won't be a single airplane at an airport that sees more than 300 daily departures.

"It's very creepy," Meyer said of what it's like to see the airport plane-less. "The airlines do not want to their multimillion-dollar airplanes sitting in an airport during a hurricane."

Miami International Airport and PBIA have not announced when they will close.

Key West International Airport was set to close Thursday evening with the last plane out an Atlanta-bound Delta flight at 5:50 p.m., according to a city spokesperson.

The Twitter account for PBIA advised travelers to contact airlines regarding flight status. Another tweet warned customers not to plan on riding out Irma at the airport, a point reiterated Thursday by Bruce Pelly, director of the county's department of airports.

"The terminal is not a shelter," Pelly said. "We won't be open for that purpose."

Executive Jet Management, a Cincinnati-based company that charts about 100 aircraft based across the country, has seen an unprecedented demand for jets to take people out of South Florida in the past few days, a company employee said.

EJM planned to stop flying in and out of Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties as of noon Saturday. It planned to stop flying in and out of the Stuart-to-Orlando area as of 3 p.m. Saturday.

There are very few jets available to South Florida as of Thursday afternoon, the employee said. In some cases the owners don't want to risk damaging their planes because of the storm conditions.

Staff writers Jennifer Sorentrude and William Kelly contributed to this story. [jmilian@pbpost.com](mailto:jmilian@pbpost.com)

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9/8/17 HURRICANE IRMA

## Scott: Gas tankers getting police escorts

### Gas stations still having shortages, though lines were easing

**Thursday.** *By Jeff Ostrowski Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

Gov. Rick Scott says he is providing police escorts to whisk fuel tankers to parched petrol pumps, and he has asked federal officials to temporarily end rules that restrict flows of fuel into Florida as Hurricane Irma threatens.

"We are absolutely devoting every state resource to addressing this," Scott said Thursday during a visit to Palm Beach County's Emergency Operations Center. "While we are making progress, you will see lines or outages. I know this has to be very frustrating, and we will not stop working on this."

Irma looms as a potentially devastating storm, and motorists have flocked to pumps to fuel cars and generators. With demand running five times as high as typical levels, Florida gas stations continue to experience shortages.

"I've talked to FEMA, the Department of Energy, the Department of Transportation, the EPA and the White House about waiving federal rules and regulations to get as much fuel as possible into our state and into our ports," Scott said. Scott said he also has spoken with oil companies and gas retailers to find out how to increase the flow to pumps.

"I've asked them to tell me exactly what any of the bottlenecks are, and we'll do anything we can, locally, at the state and federally, to solve these bottlenecks," Scott said.

In Palm Beach County, the pumps at many gas stations are covered with plastic bags. At stations that have gas, lines are the rule — although West Palm Beach stations seemed to have shorter lines on Thursday than on Wednesday.

James Miller, spokesman for the Florida Petroleum Marketers Association, said Scott's moves could help speed the flow of fuel.

"We keep reminding residents that there is plenty of fuel, but getting enough of that fuel to those stations is the issue right now," Miller said. "And if police escorts can get those tanker trucks there faster and allow residents and visitors to evacuate quicker or reduce the level of panic and concern locally, then we fully support the governor's use of these resources."

While some motorists are fueling up so they can stay home and operate generators, others hope to leave the state altogether. On Thursday, Scott asked gas stations to extend their hours to accommodate the demand.

"Please stay open as long as possible so people can get out," Scott said. "We will arrange police escorts for your employees so they can get out safely."

Scott suggested using the GasBuddy app to find stations that are open. And he asked Floridians who plan to stay home or at nearby shelters not to buy gas.

"You don't need to fill your tank to the brim to stay in the county," Scott said. [jostrowski@pbpost.com](mailto:jostrowski@pbpost.com)

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9/8/17 STAYING PUT

## Residents who will stay put point to safety, affordability County's plea to those not in evacuation zones: 'Please shelter in place.'

By Wayne Washington Palm Beach Post Staff Writer



A Lake Worth home lists storm items — and a warning — on a plywood covering Thursday. Many residents will heed officials' calls and remain in their homes during the hurricane. BRUCE R. BENNETT / THE PALM BEACH POST

No retelling of hurricanes gone by is complete without the tale of someone who did not evacuate and lived to regret it — or didn't.

Government and public safety officials are urging coastal residents to evacuate as Hurricane Irma approaches.

Absent physical limitations, no sane person who wakes up to the sound of waves, who can see those waves from home or quickly bike to them, would choose to stick around when a major hurricane is on its way.

But for others not in an evacuation zone, there actually is — dare it be said — a case for staying.

First, despite the evacuation exhortations, political and emergency management officials don't want everyone jumping on the roads.

"If you do not live in an evacuation zone, please shelter in place," Palm Beach County Administrator Verdenia Baker said during an emergency management briefing Wednesday.

Freeways clogged with impatient, frightened motorists are, in a way, their own sort of disaster.

Think of the jammed roadways in South Carolina in 1999 when residents tried to flee Hurricane Floyd. Then there was what happened in Houston in 2005, when the snarled evacuation from Hurricane Rita killed more people than the storm.

Of course, by Thursday afternoon, there were already plenty of local tales of hourslong treks to spots beyond South Florida, where Irma is expected to make its unwelcome appearance on Sunday.

Refusing to join that endless line of vehicles out of town comes with other benefits, too. It means skipping those endless lines of vehicles, their drivers frantically trying to buy gasoline.

For many residents, however, staying is as much necessity as it is choice.

Chase Gregory said she and her cat will not evacuate from her duplex in Palm Beach Gardens.

"I can't afford to," Gregory said. "To get a hotel, drive ... I don't even know where it's safe. I'd be driving for three days."

Like many in South Florida, Gregory said she has watched news coverage of Irma with an increasing sense of dread and fear. She wants to stop watching so much of the coverage but hasn't been able to pull away from it.

Gregory said she is worried the windows of her unit won't withstand a strong storm.

But the prospect of getting on clogged roadways is too daunting.

"Those traffic jams, I don't want to be in that," she said.

For Cheryl Burton, a teacher who lives in Wellington, there are too many questions associated with leaving.

"If I leave, it might be a problem coming back," she said. "What if it's not as bad as they say? What if there is a gas shortage?"

Burton, a single mother of two teens, said she has a pair of backup plans if she feels the storm will pose too big a threat to her and her children.

"Worst-case scenario, I can go to a shelter," she said.

Her first choice would be to go to her fiancé's home in Palm Beach Gardens — if he gets his storm shutters up.

"If he gets them on, then we'll go there," she said. "If he doesn't, then we'll go to a shelter."

Like Gregory, Burton sees leaving as an unpalatable option.

"It's panicky enough as it is, you know?" she said.

Debra Robert lives much closer to the coast than Burton or Gregory, but she's not leaving, either.

The Lake Worth home she shares with her husband, a sound systems engineer, is just beyond the evacuation zone. Built in 1929, the house is rock solid and has hurricane windows her husband will nonetheless cover with shutters, Robert said.

Robert and her husband plan to ride out the storm in a central room in their home, away from the shuttered windows.

"That's where we'll be if it gets bad," she said.

Debbie Dalin, of Delray Beach, survived the godfather of Florida hurricanes, Andrew. Now retired, her husband, a hospital pharmacist, has to stay through Irma. So, she's staying, too.

Would she leave if he were free to do so?

"I might," she said. "He wouldn't. It's a really hard decision. You want to be there to protect your house.

You want to put something at the front door if you need to. You want to make sure your stuff is safe." [wwashington@pbpost.com](mailto:wwashington@pbpost.com)

**9/8/17 FPL PREPARATIONS**

## **FPL: Irma outages could top Wilma's**

**Official says repair won't be enough: 'It's about replacing, rebuilding.'** *By Susan Salisbury Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

## **WHERE TO REPORT POWER OUTAGES**

Florida Power & Light Co. says the easiest way to report an outage is on its app. Download it from an app store. Or, assuming you have a power supply to a laptop or other computer, report the outline online at [fpl.com](http://fpl.com).

WEST PALM BEACH — With Hurricane Irma aiming for South Florida's tri-county area, millions of people are expected to lose power to their homes and businesses in what could result in a major rebuilding of Florida Power & Light's infrastructure.

The storm has the potential to be the biggest disaster in FPL's, and Florida's, history. Hurricane Wilma in 2005 was the hurricane that to date resulted in the highest number of FPL customers without power — 3.2 million.

"This is not about repairing. It's about replacing and rebuilding," FPL President and CEO Eric Silagy said Thursday outside the company's command center built to withstand a Category 5 hurricane.

Irma's 185 mph winds are capable of snapping concrete power poles, Silagy said. The storm could spawn tornadoes, and bring floods and storm surge, as well, he said. Power outages could occur multiple times to the same property.

Rebuilding and an anticipated extensive restoration could take weeks and easily cost more than \$1 billion, Silagy estimated.

Irma is expected to hit Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties especially hard, and they're home to close to 8 million people, Silagy said. FPL has 5 million customer accounts representing 10 million people in 35 counties — half the state's population.

"Two-thirds of our customers are in those three counties," Silagy said. "We have the strongest grid in the U.S. We will just have to execute the plan."

Ninety percent of FPL's customers are within 20 miles of the coast, where winds are forecast to be the strongest.

Thursday, hundreds of FPL employees were working to prepare for power restoration after the storm makes landfall and on logistics needed to house and feed utility workers from outside Florida as well as to make sure they have the tools and trucks needed.

Silagy said: "My biggest challenge right now is getting additional crews in because of Hurricane Harvey and because every utility on the Eastern Seaboard is looking at being impacted by the storm. There is a prediction for a Cat 3 in the Carolinas after it hits Florida."

Workers are coming in from Wisconsin, throughout the Midwest, Texas, California and Canada, Silagy said. FPL expects to have 10,000 workers available before the storm makes landfall and expects to double that over the next week.

"We are swarming this and doing everything we can," Silagy said.

Crews cannot begin work until winds are below 35 mph and water has receded, FPL spokesman Rob Gould said Thursday at the command center.

An estimated 40 percent of FPL's customers have never experienced a hurricane, Gould said. Hurricane Matthew in October 2016 mostly affected areas north of West Palm Beach. So, there hasn't been a recent hurricane that would have taken out vegetation.

“Mother Nature has not done any housecleaning in South Florida to speak of, from West Palm south, so there’s going to be a tremendous amount of vegetation to come down,” Gould said. “We have a lot of electric equipment in that area. No matter how much you have made the system resilient and you have hardened the system, you are still subject to trees coming down that are not on our right of way. You are still subject to debris flying through.”

The outlook for Irma is that some homes will be damaged too badly for power to be restored because there will be nothing to restore power to, Gould said. Substations, power lines, transformers, poles and other infrastructure could also have to be replaced.

“You will have a situation after this storm likely, where we will be positioned to restore power, but the house or the facility will not be able to accept power,” Gould said.

Power can go out for a number of reasons, such as a tree or car taking out a pole, a branch hitting a wire or a transformer being struck by lightning or a tornado. Underground lines are not a guarantee that power will not go out because at some point, the lines go above ground to connect to the grid.

About 60 percent of FPL’s system is above ground, and about 40 percent is underground or hardened.

During the storm, FPL may cut off power to some customers. For example, if a substation is flooded or if flood monitors are going off, as a precaution the substation is taken offline to prevent more damage more costly repairs, Gould said.

FPL’s logistics manager, Barry Wilkinson said, “Logistics is all about preparation. We prepare all year long. We have been at this heavily for the last four days.”

While FPL is normally stocked up in case of a Cat 4 storm, it now has added enough transformers and other equipment to deal with a Cat 3 on top of that.

“We will be rebuilding. We already know that unless it takes a drastic turn,” Wilkinson said.

FPL has 22 staging sites where the workers will pick up equipment and trucks and be fed, and the number of sites will probably grow, Wilkinson said. Hotel rooms have been or are being reserved for the workers.

FPL has roughly \$100 million worth of equipment and materials on hand including 13,000 transformers, 15,000 miles of wire and 25,000 poles, and more is on the way.

Since 2006 FPL has spent close to \$3 billion on hardening its grids, including inspecting poles and replacing them as needed.

FPL says that since Wilma in 2005, it has much more technology at its disposal, including drones to survey for damage in hard-to-reach areas, smart meters and smart devices.

Silagy called for patience during and after the powerful storm takes its toll.

“It’s not going to be convenient,” Silagy said. “Let’s hope it does a Matthew on us and goes a little bit out to the right. Every mile makes a difference.” [ssalisbury@pbpost.com](mailto:ssalisbury@pbpost.com) [Twitter: @ssalisbury](#)

HURRICANE WINDOWS



# 9/8/17 Hurricane-impact windows to get critical test with Irma Even 2x4 tests don't replicate actual hurricane conditions.

*By Alexandra Clough Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

Will hurricane-resistant windows hold up to Hurricane Irma's winds, still rated as among the most powerful for a storm ever?

"It looks like we're going to find out," said Peter Dyga, president of the East Coast chapter of the Associated Builders and Contractors, the largest construction organization in the state.

Not since Hurricane Andrew in 1992 has Florida seen the potential for such a violent wind storm. After that historic catastrophe, which devastated Homestead and other parts of southern Miami-Dade County, building codes were tightened and new products created. Among the changes: The creation of hurricane-resistant windows, tested in labs with 2x4s hitting them at a force of 140 mph, Dyga said.

Dyga acknowledged that the force tested in a lab is not the steady, sustained wind of 140 mph or more that a hurricane can deliver. And the one or two blows fired at a window are not the same as what happens in a real-world storm when multiple objects come flying at windows, he added.

The bottom line?

"The windows are impact-resistant, not impact-proof," Dyga said. "It doesn't mean they can be bombarded for hours and are not going to break."

"The strongest building code in the world is not going to totally protect us from a natural power, a Category 5 hurricane, which is super strong," Dyga added. "The idea is to minimize hurricane damage as much as possible."

As of the Thursday 2 p.m. advisory, Irma is forecast to be a Category 4 storm here, with winds not as powerful as those that ripped through the eastern Caribbean.

One building that has the potential to emerge unscathed from a direct hit of 185 mph is the West Palm Beach emergency operations center on Congress Avenue, said Dave DeMay, a vice president of Kast Construction.

"That is engineered to withstand winds of up to 185 to 190 mph," he said.

Also bunker-like is the guardhouse at the Admirals Cove Country Club, which serves as a command center for the luxury community in Jupiter. "Some structural engineer had it in a program and that's what we designed for," DeMay said.

Damage from projectiles is the major risk to buildings, Dyga said.

That's why the most important steps residents and businesses can take is to eliminate any outside objects that can fly through the air and breach openings to homes, such as doors, windows and garage doors.

This means bringing items outside the home inside, Dyga said.

Minimizing projective risk is also the reason why contractors throughout South Florida spent the past couple of days cleaning up job sites, removing materials that could go flying.

In prior storms, construction companies waited until storms were a little closer before battening down sites.

“But this is such a significant storm, we wanted to give our guys plenty of time to clean the sites and do their homes, too,” DeMay said.

For example, on Wednesday, workers already were clearing Kast construction sites, DeMay said. The work included cleanup at an assisted living facility and a clubhouse at Alton, a new community in Palm Beach Gardens.

Crews were busy securing materials and removing trash. In addition, the boom on the crawler crane will be lowered, DeMay said.

In recent years, new adhesion methods for roofs and stronger garage doors have made homes safer from storms, Dyga said.

But Dyga urged people with hurricane-resistant windows and other strong construction features not to be lulled into a false sense of security. Don’t ignore government instructions to evacuate homes, if the orders are given.

“If you’re in an evacuation zone, you should get out, plain and simple,” Dyga said. [aclough@pbpost.com](mailto:aclough@pbpost.com) Twitter: [@acloughpbp](https://twitter.com/acloughpbp)

# **Sun Sentinel**

## **9/8/17 Millions expected to be without power after Irma**



FPL's Collins Substation in Fort Lauderdale has technology that helps monitor floodwaters and mitigate storm surge. This technology helps protect critical equipment during storm surges and speeds restoration. (Taimy Alvarez/Staff photographer)

By Marcia Heroux Pounds Staff writer

RIVIERA BEACH — Get ready to be hot and sweaty — even inside your house.

Millions of people can expect to be out of power for “weeks, if not more,” if Hurricane Irma remains on track through South Florida, Florida Power & Light Co. said Thursday.

“This is not about repairing. It’s about replacing,” said Eric Silagy, president and CEO of the electric utility, which provides power for about half the state. He said the cost could eventually be as high as \$1 billion to rebuild the company’s power grid. But after the storm, FPL will focus on getting power restored as soon as it can — grid improvements can come later.

“We’re going to get power up, get people’s lives back up and running,” he said.

As a potential Category 5 storm approaches with wind speeds ranging up to 185 mph, “the system will be under significant duress,” said FPL spokesman Rob Gould at a press conference at the company’s storm command center in Riviera Beach.

Even though FPL says it has “one of the strongest grids in America,” Gould said “no grid is designed to be able to withstand a Category 5 storm that has wind approaching 185 mph.”

FPL said it expects some houses and other buildings will be destroyed by the storm, precluding any reconnections.

“If a home is destroyed or in condition where it is uninhabitable, we simply can’t restore power to them,” Gould said. Those homes would have to be repaired and inspected first.

Flooding also would slow the restoration process.

FPL warned homeowners to keep generators far away from their houses, to stay away from deadly downed power lines after the storm, and to refrain from using power chargers on floors, which could be dangerous with potential flooding.

Customers should report their power outages by using FPL's mobile app or going to FPL.com. In restoring power, customers can check the app, online site or call 800-468-8243 for information through FPL's automated system.

FPL said it has 11,000 crew members available, including workers from utilities in California and Wisconsin. The company is still recruiting more, but some repair crews remain tied up repairing damage in Texas from Hurricane Harvey. Others are waiting to see if their states will suffer damage from Irma, or from hurricanes Jose and Katia.

For Hurricane Matthew last year, FPL had 15,000 crew members ready to restore power. Crews will be deployed to 22 staging sites around the state. FPL has mobilized thousands of employees and pieces of equipment in preparation for Hurricane Irma. The company began a 24-hour storm watch on Wednesday.

FPL also said it would power down its nuclear power plants at Turkey Point in Homestead and St. Lucie in Jensen Beach in advance of hurricane-force winds. Those plants won't be restarted until evacuation routes are safe and inspections are completed by the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

"Hurricane Andrew [in 1992], the eye of the storm came over the top of Turkey Point, and there was no damage to any of the nuclear components," Gould said. "Our St. Lucie plant, during 2004 with Frances and Jeanne, also was in path of the storm and didn't suffer any kind of damage." The utility has 5 million customer accounts that serve about 10 million people. And 90 percent of FPL's customers live or work in coastal areas.

FPL said that 40 percent of its distribution system now is underground or "hardened" to better weather hurricane winds. Concrete and even improved wooden utility poles can withstand up to 145 mph winds, the utility said.

FPL has stockpiled than \$100 million — or nearly double the equipment it normally stores for a Category 4 storm, according to Barry Wilkinson, a logistics manager.

After Hurricane Matthew brushed past South Florida last year, FPL was able to quickly restore power in less than a week in Broward, Palm Beach and Miami-Dade counties. In that storm, winds reached a maximum of 67 miles per hour in Palm Beach County only — less than a Category 1.

During Hurricane Wilma in 2005 — the last major storm to sweep through South Florida — about 2.5 million customers lost power. It took FPL 18 days to restore the majority of electricity, with some customers without power for as long as three weeks.

Gould said there was "significant rebuild" after Hurricane Andrew, the last category 5 hurricane to hit South Florida.

Since the spate of major hurricanes that hit the state in 2004 and 2005, FPL has upgraded much of its electric grid, investing \$3 billion since 2006.

The utility said it will post information on at Facebook.com/FPLConnect and Twitter.com/InsideFPL.

mpounds@sunsentinel.com, 561-243-6650, Twitter @marciabiz

## 9/8/17 Lauderdale airport to shut operations

Last flight out at 7:45 tonight, but tickets are scarce, officials say

By Arlene Satchell Staff writer

FORT LAUDERDALE — Tourists and residents seeking to flee South Florida ahead of Hurricane Irma found the odds of snagging airplane seats between slim and none as airlines and airports prepared to suspend operations before the end of today.

The last flight out of Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood Airport will be at 7:45 p.m. tonight, airport spokesman Greg Meyer said in a media briefing Thursday. In-bound flight activity will also cease as airlines take steps to fly planes out of the area.

Spirit Airlines, one of the busiest carriers at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood will wind down operations late today, spokesman Paul Berry said.

“We will be operating flights out of FLL until 7:30 p.m. tomorrow,” Berry said via email

Thursday. “We haven’t determined when we will stop operations at [Orlando International Airport] yet, but the airport is closing at 5 p.m. Saturday. So it will be sometime prior to that.”

Southwest Airlines will also cancel all flights starting this evening through Sunday to and from Fort Lauderdale, Fort Myers, and West Palm Beach. Service will resume when it’s safe to do so, the Dallas-based carrier said

Early Thursday afternoon, about 1,000 people without reservations appeared at American Airlines’ ticket counters at Miami International Airport trying to purchase tickets to leave town, a spokeswoman said.

“There are little to no tickets left to purchase out of MIA or [Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport],” said Alexis Coello, in an email encouraging travelers to seek other alternatives. “We don’t want our fellow South Floridians stuck at the airport and we want them to be safe.”

Earlier, American announced it would halt flight operations at South Florida’s three international airports and in Fort Myers this afternoon.

Miami International spokesman Greg Chin said other airlines operating there are expected to take similar steps.

American said flights that were scheduled to arrive today in Miami from Europe and South America were also canceled. The last American departure today from MIA is slated to be Flight 2213 departing at 3:39 p.m. for Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas.

In Orlando, American plans to continue operations through Saturday at 2 p.m. and cancel all flights for Sunday. The airline said it will evaluate operations at other Florida airports, including Sarasota and Tampa, and will make adjustments as needed.

Resumption of service will be based on airport and roadway conditions and the airline’s ability to get its employees to work., American said.

On Thursday, although all three South Florida airports and seaports were still open with the status likely to quickly change now that South Florida is under a hurricane watch.

By 3 p.m. Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood had 25 flight cancellations and 45 delays, Meyer said.

At Miami International, 96 flights were scrubbed because of Hurricane Irma by 4 p.m. , airport officials said.

Palm Beach International Airport had 56 delayed flights and two cancellations shortly after 4 p.m. according to flight tracking website FlightAware.com.

On Wednesday, JetBlue Airways, Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood's largest carrier, had canceled 130 flights in and out of destinations impacted by Irma's path. American and Delta were also adding extra flights to get people out of affected areas.

Airport and seaport officials continued to advise travelers to check with their respective carriers for availability and up-to-date travel information.

Port Everglades as well as PortMiami and Port of Palm Beach were placed under "Port Condition X-Ray" hurricane status as of noon Thursday. That means sustained gale force winds of 39-54 miles per hour are expected over the region within 48 hours.

Under this U.S. Coast Guard designation, most oceangoing commercial vessels must prepare to leave the ports as they prepare to suspend operations when stronger winds inch closer.

By 8 p.m. today, the seaports are expected to move to "Port Condition Zulu" status and all waterfront operations will be suspended until the storm passes, according to Coast Guard regulations.

In recent days, local tourism bureaus have been compiling lists of alternative accommodations to help travelers and residents that have to evacuate hotels and homes in high-risk areas or are stranded in South Florida.

The Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau has posted a list of available hotels in western Broward on its website [sunny.org](http://sunny.org). People can also search [Expedia.com/Florida](http://Expedia.com/Florida) for hotel availability and rates.

Palm Beach County's tourism marketer Discover The Palm Beaches, is also providing room availability and rate information.

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## 9/8/17 Use 911, not Twitter, for emergency calls

By Linda Trischitta Staff writer

During Hurricane Harvey, Texas residents needing help found the 911 system was overwhelmed and reported waiting hours to talk with a dispatcher or were disconnected.

Some people turned to social media to plead for help. But that may not bring police or firefighters right away, either, local experts say.

“People need to utilize the 911 system, because we are not going to be monitoring social media at all times,” said Timothy Heiser, deputy chief of Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue. “We can’t have people rely on social media to call for help.”

Bear in mind, too, that firefighters and police will not be responding to calls during the storm.

“After winds reach 55 mph, firetrucks will blow over and we have to take shelter,” Heiser said.

“We’ll be out as long as we can until it’s too dangerous to respond.”

He said during the storm, calls to 911 dispatchers will stack up.

“Once we get the all clear and can go out again, we’ll respond to those stacked calls,” he said. “If everybody loads up on social media, there is a danger of duplicate calls that could divert responders from emergencies.”

Mike Jachles, spokesman for Broward Sheriff Fire Rescue, asks folks who want to call 911 to consider whether their issue involves a potential loss of life and injuries.

“911 is for life and death emergencies and should be used for that only,” Jachles said. “You’re having a heart attack. You’re in your house, your shutters are up and there is a fire and you can’t get out. Those are life and death emergencies. If you have a sprained ankle, that’s not a life-threatening emergency.”

Jachles further explained the difference in types of calls.

“A non-emergency is you may see a tree down or on top of your car,” Jachles said. “We know it’s important. But unless there is an inherent danger to someone’s life, it is not life-threatening.”

Callers may contact the county’s non-emergency dispatch number, 954-764-4357, he said. Coral Springs and Plantation don’t use the Broward County 911 system. Residents of Coral Springs may call 954-344-1800 for non-emergencies; Plantation’s number is 954-797-2100.

In Palm Beach County, the non-emergency number is 561-688-3000.

If downed power lines cause a fire or someone gets shocked, call 911, and report the outage to Florida Power & Light, too, at 800-468-8243.

Twitter and Facebook are useful for following the storm’s progress and any damage it leaves behind. Nearly every South Florida police and fire department uses it, as do municipalities and officials.

Some, like Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue @FortLaudFire on Twitter and Broward Sheriff Fire Rescue @BSO\_Mike post breaking news and photos.

## 9/8/17 Keeping your pet safe during hurricane



When taking your pet with you to a shelter, register in advance of the storm. Be prepared to show proof you live in a mandatory evacuation zone or mobile home in the county. (Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

By Susannah Bryan  
Staff writer

To keep your pet safe in a hurricane, you have the following options: keep the animal inside if you stay home; bring it along if you evacuate; leave it with someone trustworthy or board it at a reputable kennel.

If you plan to stay at a pet-friendly shelter, make sure to preregister well ahead of time. Whatever you do, don't leave your pet behind.

If you stay home

Make sure all pets are wearing ID tags with your current contact information.

Consider getting a microchip, which can be registered for free at [foundanimals.org](http://foundanimals.org).

Keep your pets inside before, during and after the storm and make them as comfortable as possible.

Traveling

A portable pet emergency kit should include water, water bowls, pet food, medical records and medications.

Bring along a collar with identification, a favorite towel or blanket and a two-week supply of water and food.

Call hotels on your route to confirm they take pets.

Shelters

Register with a pet-friendly shelter well in advance of the storm. Be prepared to show proof you live in a mandatory evacuation zone or mobile home in the county.

Pet-friendly shelters do not accept exotic pets like reptiles or livestock. Pets must be current on their vaccinations and be registered with the county.

In Broward County/Tamarac/Lake Worth, the pet-friendly shelter is at Millennium Middle School, 5803 NW 94th Ave., . To preregister, call the Humane Society of Broward County at 954-989-3977.

In Palm Beach County, the pet-friendly shelter is at West Boynton Recreation Center, 6000 Northtree Blvd., . To preregister, call 561-233-1264 or go to [discover.pbcgov.org/publicsafety/animalcare/Pages/Hurricane.aspx](http://discover.pbcgov.org/publicsafety/animalcare/Pages/Hurricane.aspx).

In Broward County, large animal owners can register their pets at the Large Animal Registry at [broward.org/Hurricane/AtoZ/Pages/LargeAnimalRegistry.aspx](http://broward.org/Hurricane/AtoZ/Pages/LargeAnimalRegistry.aspx).

Use your best judgment and remove large animals from the area if their lives are in danger.

Recommended items for your pet survival kit include:

A crate or carrier large enough for the animal to stand and turn around in

Leashes and collars

Water and food

Emergency phone numbers for veterinarian, animal shelters and friends/relatives

Veterinary records with rabies certificate

Cleaning supplies. Remember, your dog will not be able to go outside during the storm.

A photo of you and your pet together (to help prove the pet is yours), and one with the pet by itself, showing any distinguishing marks that will help with identification.

## 9/8/17 Let kids help with storm preparation



Kids can help before and after the storm. (The Washington Post file)

By Jennifer Jhon Staff writer

Children add a whole new element to preparing for and riding out a storm. Here are some tips for keeping your youngest family members safe and entertained if a storm hits:

**Before the storm**

Let kids help to shutter your home. Children should not handle hurricane panels, but they can hold tools and gloves, or make a game of counting out the wing nuts needed for each panel and delivering them when needed.

Have them pack a fun bag or backpack for the storm. They should include their favorite toy, games, a deck of cards and spoons, books, a flashlight, extra batteries, battery-powered phone chargers, favorite snacks, and paper with markers, crayons or colored pencils.

Talk about the coming storm and make it a learning opportunity. Research online about what a hurricane is, storm effects and safety precautions, and show them how you have prepared. The more they know about the science of storms, the less likely they are to be afraid.

Put kids in charge of chores they can handle, such as clearing their toys from the back yard, washing all the laundry or cleaning all the dishes before a storm hits.

During the storm

Ride out the storm in a blanket fort to help kids feel safe and protected. Listening to the storm radio can help distract children from the noises outside if winds pick up and power goes out. Use flashlights to tell stories on the walls of your fort with shadow puppets. Read aloud to each other, or play card games that require concentration, such as spoons.

After the storm Keep children inside until you have checked the outside of your home for dangers, such as downed power lines, flooding and debris.

Don't use candles for illumination around children. Instead, get LED lanterns with long battery lives for each room. Debris cleanup can be dangerous. Make it fun by allowing the kids to clean up a safe space, such as a fenced backyard, and awarding prizes for the most debris gathered. Be sure the kids wear work gloves or gardening gloves.

Prepare for your kids to be outside for long periods if power is out. Stock up on rain boots, sunscreen and bug repellent before a storm, and take the kids on nature hikes to explore.

## **9/8/17 Keep home, and what's inside, safe**

By Brett Clarkson Staff writer

With a hurricane bearing down, there's no question you'll want to keep you and your family safe, not to mention your house — and what's inside it.

Here is how you can do that.

**Openings:** If your house doesn't have shutters or impact resistant windows, cover them with plywood. Garage doors should be reinforced from the inside, with wood studs or metal braces attached lengthwise.

**The roof:** Repair cracked or missing roof tiles or loose shingles. Inspect and replace any boards along the roof edges that show signs of decay. Check the hurricane straps, which hold the roof frame to the walls of the house, for any loose, rusting, or missing straps. Replace or repair any trusses or beams that have cracks, large knots or insect damage. To make temporary repairs, nail 8-foot-long (or longer) 2-by-4s on both sides of the damaged truss or beam.

**Outside the house:** Trim trees and shrubs, cut limbs or trees that could fall against the house. (Tree removal should be done well in advance, as you may need approval from your municipality.) Move inside anything that could become airborne in high winds. Move vehicles inside the garage, or away from where trees could potentially fall. If you have a boat, secure it, or place it in a safe harbor or at a marina or dock.

**Safe room, in-home shelter:** A safe room is a reinforced area inside your home, although it can also be built as an outside addition. It should have running water, a toilet and allow at least 10



square feet per person. Safe rooms shouldn't be built in evacuation zones because they wouldn't protect against rising water. If you don't have a reinforced in-home shelter, everybody in the home should go into the strongest interior room, preferably one without windows. For more information, check out [fema.gov](http://fema.gov) and [floridadisaster.org](http://floridadisaster.org).

**Guns:** Make sure all firearms are stored and locked in a safe that protects against flood and fire damage.

**Jewelry:** Store in a flood-proof safe, or if possible, in another location such as a bank safety deposit box.

**Important documents:** If you're evacuating, take along all important documents such as insurance policies, mortgage statements, birth certificates, Social Security cards, and passports. If you remain at home, keep them at the very least in a sealable plastic bag or a sealed, waterproof container. If you have a flood-proof safe, put the documents in there.

**Computers and cellphones:** Save important files on your computer to a cloud service. Make sure any computers or devices are stored in a place where they are less likely to be damaged by floodwaters. Unplug any devices and remove any cords or cables from the floor. With cellphones, write down each important phone number that you may need in case cell service or the ability to charge a phone with a dead battery isn't available.

**Propane tanks:** Never store a propane tank indoors, not even in the garage. Store it outside, ensuring it's secured so that it doesn't become a projectile in the storm's winds.

## **9/8/17 Protect cars and boats during storm**



Keep your vehicle inside a carport or garage, if possible. (AP file)

By Wayne K. Roustan Staff writer

Emergency managers advise most people to just hunker down at home when a hurricane threatens, but what about cars and boats?

Motor vehicles:

If you have a garage or carport, keep your vehicle inside.

Reinforce the garage door with 2x4 lumber, aluminum beams, or other hardware designed for hurricanes.

Take down tools, equipment and other heavy objects hanging from the ceiling or walls or on shelves and put them on the garage floor.

If you have no garage, park next to your home or a building that shields your vehicle from the wind. RVs, vans, trucks or other high-profile vehicles can be flipped over in high winds.

Do not park in narrow areas between two buildings because winds can become more intense as they funnel through these openings.

Remove all exterior attachments from vehicles such as antennas and magnets.

Cover your vehicle with blankets or padding and then a plastic sheet or waterproof tarp to protect it from airborne debris.

If you park near the beach, tape sheets or towels over the vehicle's windows so extreme winds don't sand-blast and pit or shatter the glass.

Do not put tape directly on the windows. It could leave a sticky residue that may obscure visibility.

Park away from trees and power lines that may damage your vehicle.

Gas up a day or two before the storm arrives. Pumps may not work afterward or there may be long lines if they do. Make sure you have cash on hand, too.

After the storm, have a mechanic inspect the engine for water damage, electrical problems and contaminated fluids.

If you have to drive:

Avoid going through standing water in flooded areas. They may conceal soft pavement, potholes, damaging debris, downed power lines and other hidden road hazards. One foot of flowing water can sweep a vehicle off the road.

Beware of broken or flashing traffic lights. Treat the intersection as a four-way stop.

Don't go sightseeing. Driving through devastated areas may hamper the recovery operations of emergency responders.

Keeping boats on land:

If your boat is less than 20 feet long and is kept at your house, store it upside down beside the home, if possible, or keep it on a trailer.

Put blocks around the trailer wheels to keep it from rolling.

Partially deflate the tires so stormwater can drain out of the back of the boat and not damage the trailer.

Tie down the boat and trailer with strong rope that won't chafe the boat or damage its cleats.

Attach the rope to sturdy ground anchors or trees with strong roots.

Do not store small boats between buildings to avoid wind funnel damage.

Boat equipment, motors and canvas should be removed and stored indoors.

If you store your boat at a marina, make sure your rental agreement spells out who is responsible for the boat during a storm.

A boat longer than 20 feet should be stored on a trailer in a garage or carport because high winds can move it, pick it up, or tip it over.

If left outside, remove all equipment, clean all boat drains and check all trailer springs.

Keeping boats in water:

Do not tie a boat to a dock when a storm is coming.



The boat should be at least 12-15 feet from the dock, anchored from the bow and stern, in deep water, with weighted lines that have enough slack to allow for a five-foot rise in the tide. Remove batteries and other water-sensitive equipment, and store boating records in watertight containers.

Clean all cockpit drains and tie down gear that can't be removed.

A boat should have enough fuel and its bilge pumps should work.

If tying up your boat in a canal, get permission from affected property owners. Use spring lines to keep the boat away from the docks.

Do not block a canal with lines that prevent other boats from seeking safety unless you remain on the boat to move the lines.

If several boats tie up with each other they must have fenders or tires between them.

Boats can tie up to trees but the trees must be alive and have strong, deep roots.

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## **9/8/17 A few details before storm**

By Larry Barszewski and Marc Freeman Staff writers

Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport will be closed this weekend, with the last plane expected to depart at 7:45 p.m. this morning, Broward Mayor Barbara Sharief said on Thursday. Sharief said garages at the airport are nearly full and travelers are not guaranteed a parking space. She warned that the airport and Port Everglades are not shelters, and their parking garages are not suitable for storing cars in the storm.

Many flights were already canceled or delayed Thursday.

In Palm Beach County, emergency officials ordered about 125,000 residents to evacuate beginning at 10 a.m. this morning, before the potential arrival of Hurricane Irma.

"Please evacuate as we are now telling you," County Administrator Verdenia Baker said, urging residents to go to shelters, or stay with a friend or loved one. "Evacuate miles — not hundreds of miles." The late afternoon announcement came nearly five hours after Florida Gov. Rick Scott visited the county's emergency operations center and warned residents not to ignore evacuation instructions with a Category 5 storm looming.

"This is serious and we cannot take chances," he said. "This is life-threatening ... we can't save you when the storm starts." Miguel Ascarrunz, Broward's emergency management director, continued to advise people evacuating to seek shelter with family or friends within the county outside the evacuation zones, or at one of the county-opened shelters. Broward County has ordered the evacuation of the barrier islands, people living east of U.S. 1, people in mobile homes and those living in low-lying areas. Ascarrunz said officials are concerned about too many people attempting to flee the county, clogging the roadways that can cause additional problems. "You have people running out of gas, medical conditions," Ascarrunz said.

Broward Sheriff Scott Israel said people should be thinking not just about preparations for the hurricane, but for what comes next. "It's very important to have a plan on how you're going to get back to your lives," Israel said. "Have your plan in place, finalize it today, and do everything

you can to stay safe.” Palm Beach County’s mandatory evacuations are for homes in Zone A and Zone B. A voluntary evacuation is being issued for those in Zone C.

Officials say Zone A includes mobile homes and low-lying areas prone to “water intrusion.”

Zone B generally includes the barrier islands, lands areas north and south of the Jupiter Inlet, and other areas along the Intracoastal Waterway that are vulnerable to storm surge.

President Donald Trump’s Mar-a-Lago estate and private club on Palm Beach is in the evacuation zone. The voluntary evacuation for Zone C is only for residents who are unsure of the safety of their home or if their home is prone to excessive flooding — people who have experienced water inside their homes in previous storms.

Zone C generally includes properties from the Intracoastal Waterway west to U.S. Highway 1 in South County and Central County, and areas in close proximity to the Loxahatchee River and the northern tip of the Lake Worth Lagoon. There are about 49,000 residents in Zone A and 74,000 residents in Zone B. Zone C has close to 138,000 residents.

To find out if your home is in a storm surge evacuation zone, go to [readyPBC.com](http://readyPBC.com) or download a free app called “PBC DART.” In his media briefing, the governor acknowledged major highways have significant traffic delays and he urged motorists to “be patient” if they are evacuating. He urged homeowners outside the Keys, which is under a full-scale evacuation, to “find shelters in your county.” Shelters Palm Beach County’s 17 shelters, including a pet shelter, are scheduled to open 10 a.m. today, the same time the evacuation orders take effect. There is capacity for 47,000 people, though in previous major storms they have not been filled up. Officials say volunteers are still needed to staff some of Palm Beach County’s shelters. If you would like to volunteer to help staff a shelter, call 561-712-6737 or call the United Way Volunteer Hotline at 561-375-6621. Callers to the Broward County’s 311 hurricane hotline is experiencing waits of up to 15 minutes, Sharief said. More than 6,400 storm-related calls had been answered by 311 operators as of noon Thursday, she said. Israel asked that people with hurricane questions use that number and not tie up 911. “911 lines are strictly for emergencies, as always,” Israel said. Sharief said once winds reach 45 mph, officers will not be able to respond to 911 calls. Gasoline A tanker at Port Everglades off-loaded 8.4 million gallons of gasoline Thursday afternoon. Deliveries to local gas stations from the port will continue through today, Sharief said. All ships will be required to leave the port this morning.

Despite problems some people have been having filling their cars with gas, Sharief said that “people have to be patient.” “Fuel supplies in Broward County are ample, but demand is high and there are delays and shortages at some stations,” Sharief said. The port supplies gasoline to 12 southern Florida counties. Deputy Port Director Glenn Wiltshire said enough fuel has to remain in port tanks to keep them in place during the hurricane. The companies also have to keep a “storm reserve” for after Irma is gone. Gov. Scott also announced efforts to get more fuel to gas stations across the state, and he urged gas stations to remain open as long as possible. “Our focus will continue to be getting fuel to Floridians quickly,” he said, explaining efforts are under way to bring more gasoline to the state. Bridges South Florida drawbridges will not open after noon today in preparation for Hurricane Irma, Broward’s director of highway and bridge maintenance said. People still will be able to drive over the bridges, but large boats will not be able to pass underneath. Director Anh Ton said the lockdown will make it easier for people who have not left the barrier islands by then to evacuate. It will also give time for workers to tie down the bridges and remove gate arms so they don’t become projectiles in the strong winds.

Also being locked down are bridges over the New River at Southeast Third Avenue, Andrews Avenue, Southwest Fourth/Southwest Seventh avenues and Davie Boulevard in Fort Lauderdale.

**Landfills** The Broward County landfill will remain open today, with extended hours until 6 p.m. “The landfill accepts vegetative and yard waste, construction and demolition waste and bulk waste,” Sharief said. The county’s three household hazardous waste drop-off sites will be closed Saturday. The north county residential drop-off center in Pompano Beach will accept only household hazardous waste from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. today. The center is open to residents of the Broward Municipal Services District, Dania Beach, Lighthouse Point, Margate, Parkland, Pembroke Park, Sea Ranch Lakes and Wilton Manors.

The Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County announced that today is the last day of garbage collection before the storm. All waste facilities and operations will be closed Saturday through Monday.

“After the storm passes, SWA facilities will be evaluated for damage so they can open and begin receiving garbage as soon as possible,” according to a news release.

Residents are welcome to bring garbage to the company’s landfill or a transfer station before 6 p.m. today.

## **9/8/17 Irma from A to Z: A guide to laughing in the face of adversity** Michael Mayo

Florida doesn’t have the friendliest history with hurricane names ending in A? Donna, Katrina, Wilma ... and now Irma? We’ve had so many calm years and a few overblown near misses lately to falsely believe Florida is coated in hurricane-proof Teflon. But every once in a while, a storm comes along that rattles longtime South Floridians to the core. Category 5 Irma is such a storm.

Hurricane Matthew threw us a scare last year but went wide right. Now, Hurricane Irma is at our doorstep, and we all have a queasy feeling. And I’m dropping my dining critic’s fork and going back to the world of hard news again for the storm’s duration.

I have lived in South Florida since 1989, have been through Andrew (1992) and Wilma (2005), and my advice is to greet Mother Nature’s fury with respect, awe and humor. All those computer model forecast strands covering the state look like spaghetti on a plate. To use another analogy: Irma is a spinning 180 mph bowling ball and Florida is the head pin. Strike?

Major hurricanes don’t know from forecast tracks and computer models. They often have minds of their own. Here is an A-to-Z guide to Irma:

A is for Andrew, still the mother of all South Florida hurricanes and the barometer by which others are judged. Here’s hoping it stays that way.

B is for Batteries, which have been sitting on my shelf for so long I pray they still work.

C is for Citizens, the state-run insurance company that has built up billions of dollars in reserves through many storm-free years. A few bad hours could wipe that all out. All those smaller private insurers that have scooped up so many Citizens policies this decade say they can handle a big storm. We shall see.

D is for Doughnuts, which I like to eat by the dozen when we’re in the Cone of Concern.

E is for Electricity, which we all take for granted until it's out for two weeks. FPL says it has hardened the grid since Wilma, which knocked out power to 98 percent of South Florida. Keep your flashlights handy. And don't count on your smartphones or social media feeds, either. A storm this furious could knock down cell towers.

F is for FEMA, the federal disaster agency. People who want to shrink government usually scream loudest when FEMA doesn't arrive quickly after a storm.

G is for Gamble, what homeowners such as me do when we don't install shutters.

H is for Hurricane Hysteria, the condition that strikes broadcasters when storm warnings are issued. For sanity's sake, don't watch too much TV too soon. But when the weather deteriorates, keep on top of information however you can (don't forget an old-fashioned battery-powered radio).

I is for Insurance, which is ridiculously expensive and often seems a waste. But not this week.

J is for Junk Food. Goes great with hurricane hysteria.

K is for Krispy Kremes, one of my favorite Cone of Concern comfort foods (see D).

L is for Lowe's, which has lines as long as Home Depot's when big storms threaten.

M is for Max Mayfield, the soothing former National Hurricane Center director who talks us down as WPLG-Ch. 10's lead storm expert. If a North Korean nuke were headed to the United States, I'd want to hear it from Mayfield.

N is for the National Hurricane Center in Doral, whose website is another essential:

NHC.NOAA.gov. On Wednesday, the site had so much traffic it slowed to a crawl loading and nearly crashed. I've never seen that before.

O is Oreos, another of my storm food favorites.

P is for Plywood, among the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse of pre-storm purchases, along with bottled water, ice and gasoline.

Q is for Quiet, the kind of weekend we'd like.

R is for Renters, the most carefree people around today (they're the ones planning hurricane parties).

S is for Storm Surge, serious business for those near the coast. If there are evacuation orders issued, heed them.

T is for Tums, which I chew by the bottle when my stomach is churning like the Atlantic.

U is for UKMET, one of the many computer models used to predict the course of hurricanes. If you can name more than three, you lived here during the crazy storm years of 2004-2005.

V is for Vancouver, which sounds like a nice place to be right now.

W is for Wilma, the last hurricane to hit South Florida, in October 2005. My daughter was still in the womb for that one. This time, she's hyperaware and more than a little concerned. "Is there such a thing as a Category 6 hurricane?" she asked the other night. "Only in 'This Is Spinal Tap,'" I said, explaining the comedy film that featured an amplifier that went to 11.

X is for Xanax, a prescription anti-anxiety drug. Used in a sentence: "Doctor, my heart is racing. May I please get some more Xanax?"

Y is for Yippee, the sound you make when a storm has passed and your roof is still attached.

Z is for Zello, a digital walkie-talkie that has become the hottest app around, even though it reportedly will not work when cellphone towers are down and WiFi is knocked out. Stay safe and good luck to all.

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# 9/8/17 Take care of this now

Here's your checklist of priorities

By David Fleshler Staff writer

Here is a checklist of what you should be doing as Hurricane Irma approaches.

Today

Make a visual record of your home and possessions using a still or video camera. This will help establish your insurance claim.

Protect your electronics, back up your data and load contact numbers into your cellphone. In addition, write them down on paper and keep the list in a sealed plastic bag.

Bring out a corded phone in your home if you have one. It will work if power goes out but phone lines remain open.

Six hours before storm hits

Turn your refrigerator and freezer to the coldest settings and keep them closed as much as possible. If you lose power, food will last longer.

Close your permanent storm shutters.

Charge your cell phone.

Make sure the gas is turned off.

Unplug unnecessary or sensitive electric equipment.

When it hits

Stay inside and stay calm. Everyone should go into the strongest interior room, preferably without windows.

Turn off electricity or circuit breakers if you've noticed leaks in the roof or windows of your home or if there is flooding.

In highrises, avoid the upper floors, where wind is strongest, and the ground floor, where flooding is likely.

Don't leave your shelter at any time unless you must deal with situations that could be fatal without your intervention.

# 9/8/17 Prescription restriction ends

30-day refill limit lifted for emergency

By Diane C. Lade Staff writer

State health officials recommend that Floridians have at least one month's supply of medications they take regularly as part of their hurricane planning.

Yet insurance limits refills on many prescriptions to once a month, meaning you can't stock up. No worries. Florida law allows for fast-tracked prescription refills once the governor has declared a state of emergency, or a hurricane warning has been issued. You can obtain a 30-day supply with no price increase, according to the Florida Department of Health, even if you recently refilled your prescription.

The law also allows pharmacists to dispense a 72-hour emergency supply of medication as long as the patient has refills available for that medication.

Bring these things with you to the pharmacy if you want an emergency refill: a photo ID; the pill bottle from the last refill that includes information about the pharmacy that dispensed it; the name, address and phone number of the prescribing physician; the original prescription, if possible; and information about your insurance provider, if appropriate.

Special arrangements must be made for controlled drugs such as oxycontin.

Veterans who receive their medications through the federal Department of Veterans Affairs health-care system also can receive emergency refills through local pharmacies. Veterans should take their VA benefits card and their pill bottle to a local drug store, and ask the pharmacist to call Heritage Health Solutions Customer Care Center at 866-265-0124.

For information about other storm-related healthcare matters, veterans can call the VA's hotline at 800-507-4571.



## 9/8/17 FPL on front line preparing for Irma



By Eric Silagy

With Hurricane Irma approaching, Florida Power & Light Company has activated its emergency response plan, and we urge our customers to finalize their plans. Despite the fact that last year, FPL customers in Central and North Florida were significantly impacted by Hurricanes Hermine and Matthew, we estimate that approximately half of the nearly 10 million people we serve have yet to experience a Florida hurricane.

At FPL, we plan and drill for this for this type of event year-round, and you have my commitment that we will work 24/7 to help restore power and get our communities back to normal.

Here's what we're doing now to prepare:

- As of Wednesday, we have several thousand workers dedicated to planning and preparing to respond to Irma and this number will continue to grow.
- We are working actively with other utilities across the country to secure and pre-position additional resources for Irma's projected landfall in our service area.
- We have activated backup suppliers and equipment vendors, as well as more than 20 staging sites, where restoration crews, trucks and equipment are stationed.

We know each hour counts, which is why we work so closely with our local, state and federal partners to ensure a closely coordinated response when you need us most.

Since 2006, we have invested more than \$3 billion to build a stronger, smarter electric grid, and we continue to leverage new technology to enhance our storm response. The investments we've made in recent years have placed FPL in the best possible position to restore power to our customers faster following a storm.

Even so, hurricanes are devastating forces of nature, and the winds, torrential rain and storm surge that Irma is forecast to bring are likely to cause widespread and prolonged outages.

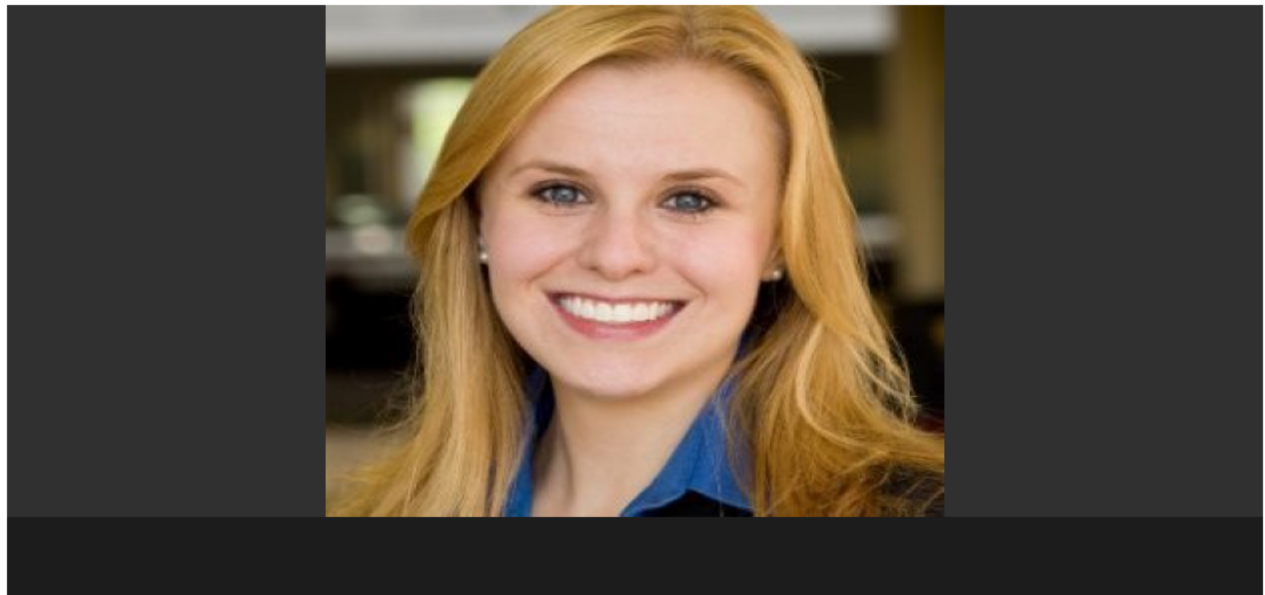
Additionally, should Irma's worst fears be realized, our crews will likely have to completely rebuild parts of our electric system. Restoring power through repairs is measured in days; rebuilding the electric system could be measured in weeks.

With Irma close to our doorstep, I want to emphasize keeping safety top-of-mind before, during and after the storm. We can help with safety and preparation tips at [FPL.com/storm](http://FPL.com/storm). We'll also post information at [Facebook.com/FPLConnect](https://Facebook.com/FPLConnect) and [Twitter.com/InsideFPL](https://Twitter.com/InsideFPL). In addition, customers can download the new FPL Mobile App for on-the-go, instant and secure access to their accounts.

Stay safe, heed the warnings of local, state and federal elected officials, and know that all of us at FPL won't stop working until everyone's power is up and running again.

Eric Silagy is president and chief executive officer of Florida Power & Light Company.

## **9/8/17 Anti-price gouging laws don't benefit consumers**



By Abigail Hall and Michael Coon

Florida governor Rick Scott has declared a state of emergency in anticipation of Hurricane Irma. Attorney General Pam Bondi has activated Florida's price gouging hotline. Florida consumers are to call and report instances of "gouging," or extreme price increases on goods like food, water, ice, gasoline, lumber, hotels, and other items. Violators of Florida laws against price gouging may be subject to penalties of \$1,000 per violation.

While this may sound like a good idea, these anti-price gouging laws will harm the very people they are intended to protect — Florida consumers. By not allowing sellers of essential goods to markedly increase their prices, the Attorney General will likely prevent thousands of people from obtaining the resources they would need following a hurricane and ultimately slow down recovery.

It may sound counter-intuitive, but it's simple economics.

When a disaster like a hurricane hits an area, one would expect the demand for many items to rise. This increased demand causes the prices of these goods to go up as well. These price changes serve two very important functions in the economic system.

First, these prices send signals to actors in the market. If the price of lumber rises producers and consumers will see that lumber is more valuable.

Second, prices offer strong incentives. If the price of lumber rises, consumers will economize and purchase only what they really need. If the lumber isn't really a necessity, a consumer may choose to forego his purchase all together, freeing up these resources to someone who is willing to pay the higher price. On the producer side, the higher price provides sellers the incentive to make and sell more of a particular good. The fact that they can sell a good for a higher price means they will make more money if they can bring additional units onto the market. This increases the supply of goods which helps to drive prices back down.

Anti price gouging laws disrupt these important mechanisms and lead to adverse consequences. Consider a simple example.

Let's say you sell generators in Georgia. After a hurricane hits further south, you notice that the price of generators in Florida is double what you can make at home. What might you do? It's reasonable that some suppliers will load up cars and trucks with generators and take them to Florida, offering Floridians the chance to buy the much sought-after product. Those consumers who really value the generators offer to pay the higher price, while those who do not refrain from buying them. Further, as more sellers come to the market with generators, they will have to compete with other suppliers, thus lowering the price of generators.

When anti-price gouging laws are in effect, however, buyers and sellers don't receive the important message that prices send. As a result, supply does not rise to meet demand. When this happens, several things occur.

First, consumers know that supplies will be limited, so they rush to get what they can before it's gone. This often results in long lines and waiting — time that could've been used to prepare or recover from a disaster.

Second, those at the head of the line will likely buy more than they need, fearing future shortages. Those stuck in the back lose out on these resources, while they sit unused in someone else's house.

Third, illegal markets appear. People in the front of line may sell products to people in the back at a huge markup. Consumers will still pay higher prices, but producers won't increase supply. This scenario has played out time and again. Take the recent effects of Hurricane Harvey in Texas. Like Florida, Texas laws prohibit price gouging. The recent hurricane has seen subsequent food shortages and even people fighting over limited supplies of gasoline. Many of these shortages, fights, and other possibly unsavory transactions could have been avoided were the price system allowed to do its job.

When it comes to natural disasters, people are quick to want to help those affected. This is certainly admirable. It is important, however, to make sure that policies are actually beneficial. Keeping prices low is pointless if there's nothing left to buy. In the case of anti-price gouging laws, these mandates are not just ineffective, they are counterproductive. They harm the very people they are intended to help.

Abigail Hall is an assistant professor of economics at the University of Tampa and a research fellow with the Independent Institute. Michael Coon is an assistant professor of economics at the University of Tampa.

# 9/8/17 Hurricane preparation tips you may not have thought of

By Phillip ValysStaff writer

As you prepare for Irma, here are a handful of do-it-yourself hurricane hacks that use common household items.

- Dishwashers are watertight. Double-bag your valuables, such as jewelry, in large freezer or garbage bags, then put these in the dishwasher for safekeeping. No dishwasher? The washing machine or dryer works in a pinch.
- Can't find water anywhere? Thoroughly clean a 5-gallon garbage bin, or any available trash receptacle, and fill it with water. If your home loses access to water, you'll be able to use this for drinking and hygiene and to flush your toilets.
- Need to know how long refrigerated food will last before spoiling after the power is knocked out? Grab a glass and fill it with water. Freeze it overnight, then place a penny atop the ice and leave the glass inside the freezer. When the ice fully melts and the penny rests at the bottom of the glass, it means refrigerated goods are likely spoiled.
- Here's a tip that has been shared on social media (but we haven't tried ourselves) to charge your smartphone with a battery: Take the coil from inside a pen and lace it through the metallic side of a USB car charger. Then, connect the coil from the charger to the wider metal mouth of a 9-volt battery. Finally, plug the metal nub of the car charger into the other hole of the 9-volt battery and connect the charger to your phone.
- Here's how to illuminate a room with one flashlight: Fill a clear, plastic gallon jug with water. Next, switch on your flashlight and balance it upside-down on the mouth of the jug. The container will function like a lantern.
- You can't walk your dogs in the middle of a hurricane, but you can try to trick your potty-trained pooches into using the bathroom safely indoors. Buy artificial turf from the pet store or take leftover pieces of sod and place them inside a kiddie pool. Then place the kiddie pool in your garage. Dogs will think it's a patch of grass and use it as a bathroom.
- Close all the doors in the home. If you lose your roof, the doors will keep the belongings inside each room and hopefully semi-protected, possibly against flying projectiles.
- If water seeps inside your home during the hurricane, protect furniture by resting chair and table legs atop disposable aluminum cooking pans. It won't help against major flooding, but it may minimize water damage.

And here are some last-minute reminders:

- Do your laundry ahead of the hurricane so you'll have clean clothes during an outage.
- Don't run your generator inside the house. Keep it at least 20 feet away from windows and doors.
- Make extra ice ahead of time by filling airtight plastic bottles and sandwich and freezer bags with water and storing these in the freezer now.
- Take plenty of pictures and video of the house before the storm in case you need to make an insurance claim due to hurricane damage. Take a visual inventory of items covered by your insurance policy, and shoot a video of the objects before the storm. Keep those photos and video stored in the cloud or email them to yourself.

pvalys@southflorida.com or 954-356-4364



## 9/8/17 Want out? Better go now



Fort Lauderdale International Airport was jammed earlier this week as tourists evacuated and residents sought to flee the monster hurricane. (Carline Jean/Staff photographer)

By Skyler Swisher, Wayne K. Rouston, Larry Barszewski and Lois K. SolomonStaff writers

Time is just about out for South Floridians trying to outrun Hurricane Irma.

Roads are clogged. Hotels are full. Gas pumps are dry. Flights are booked. Even trains out of town are sold out.

Freda Broderick, 55, drove from her home in Plantation with her husband and dog to stay with family near Daytona Beach. It was a tough decision.

"We've been through a lot of denial, grief, worry about losing our stuff," Broderick said. "You don't know when you close your door if it's the last time you will see your place."

Emergency managers are urging South Florida residents not to drive long distances to escape Hurricane Irma's wrath as hundreds of thousands have been ordered to evacuate in South Florida and elsewhere. Instead, they want South Florida residents living on barrier islands, or in mobile homes and low-lying coastal neighborhoods, to seek shelter with family and friends who are inland or go to an emergency shelter.

"You have people running out of gas," said Miguel Ascarrunz, Broward's emergency management director.

With the entire state in Irma's potential track, heading to Orlando might not take you out of hurricane-force winds.

Should you stay or go?

If you do want to leave, do it now, officials say.

"The roads will fill up quickly, so you need to go immediately," Gov. Rick Scott said.

Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties have ordered evacuations for barrier islands and low-lying coastal neighborhoods.

All residents of the Keys have been ordered to leave.

Evacuation zones are based on storm surge projections, which historically has been the biggest killer in hurricanes.

If you stay, Broward County has opened 14 shelters but at least one was already full. Palm Beach County shelters will open 15 shelters this morning.

Emergency managers have long feared that mass evacuations could lead to more deaths, and instead, they focus on only evacuating those most at risk, said Hugh Willoughby, a hurricane expert from Florida International University. Uncertainty of weather forecasts and the geography of Florida could also mean people will evacuate to a place that gets hit harder by the storm, he said. During Hurricane Floyd in 1999, almost 1.3 million people were told to evacuate but more than 2 million did so, jamming highways from Florida to the Carolinas. Some were trapped on the road for up to 21 hours. That storm was supposed to hit Jacksonville but ended up making landfall in North Carolina. In 2005, 3 million people fled Hurricane Rita when it appeared the storm would swamp Houston. Instead, the storm veered east, sparing the city. There were 137 people who died in the evacuation, many succumbing to heat exhaustion along traffic-jammed and gas-deprived highways. How can you get out? Heavy traffic was reported on Interstate 95 and Florida's Turnpike. Tolls have been waived. Gas stations at rest stops on the turnpike are fully fueled, officials said. The Florida Department of Transportation and the Florida Highway Patrol are coordinating traffic at the pumps. Drivers are being allowed to fill their cars but not portable gas containers. Drivers are not being allowed on the shoulder but should that become necessary it would be on designated evacuation routes that include: I-75 from Wildwood to the Georgia state line; I-10 from Jacksonville to I-75; I-4 from Tampa to Orlando; and I-75 Alligator Alley. Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., said he's suggested making interstates one-way out of Florida, but no decision has been made yet on whether that measure will be taken.

Two cellphone apps could help you find gas and get out. GasBuddy is tracking stations that have fuel. Waze provides information on road closures and traffic conditions.

Linda Weiss, 61, of Delray Beach, said she and her husband used Waze to travel back roads and avoid bottlenecks on the turnpike. Weiss said she was determined to stay in Palm Beach County but succumbed to pressure from relatives in Atlanta insisting she flee.

"My parents and family were driving me crazy," Weiss said. "Once we saw the storm was going to make a direct hit, we said, 'OK, we'll come.'" Officials are doing everything they can to get gas into the state, Scott said. JetBlue and American Airlines have capped prices on airline tickets. Many flights are sold out, but a few seats are available. And airports will be closing.

Fort Lauderdale-based JetSmarter, which offers shared and private charter flights, was offering flights to New York out of Florida on Friday for \$3,500 per person. Amtrak will begin suspending train service starting today. Where can you stay? The Orlando region has more than 120,000 hotel rooms. The timing of the storm — arriving in the week after the Labor Day holiday — and the exit of tourists escaping the potential wrath of the hurricane could mean more availability. Orlando's Rosen Hotels & Resorts have established "distress rates" in its seven resorts for Florida residents who are Irma evacuees. Those rates for the three Rosen Inns on Orlando's International Drive and the Clarion Inn Lake Buena Vista near Walt Disney World are \$59 per night. A \$79 per night rate applies to Rosen Plaza and to Rosen Centre, both on International Drive. A spokeswoman says the company has established a wait list and is filling it as cancellations come in. The Atlanta Motor Speedway has announced it will offer free camping in the infield for Irma evacuees. Home-sharing booking platform Airbnb has also activated its disaster-response program to enable hosts in northern Florida and southern Georgia communities to offer temporary housing to displaced residents, tourists, emergency responders and relief workers free of charge. Those accommodations would be offered through Sept. 28 through a link on its website, according to Airbnb. Staff writers Arlene Satchell and DeWayne Bevil contributed to this report.



## 9/8/17 Impact odds increase

Latest projections make South Florida a prime target

By David Fleshler Staff writer

Hurricane Irma increased the odds it will make landfall on the southern part of the Florida peninsula Sunday as a “dangerous major hurricane,” although it remains unclear where the main blow will fall, the National Hurricane Center said.

The hurricane maintained its 175-mph strength and is expected to remain a major hurricane for the next three days. A major hurricane is one of at least Category 3 strength, which means winds of at least 111 mph, capable of causing “devastating damage,” according to the hurricane center.

The forecast track shifted slightly to the west in the hurricane center’s 5 p.m.

Thursday advisory and held that course in the 8 p.m. advisory.

Although South Florida is no longer at dead center, it is just east of the

**From:** [Anderson, Cassandra L](#)  
**Subject:** News Clips 9/13/17  
**Date:** Thursday, September 14, 2017 8:58:01 AM  
**Attachments:** [News Clips.docx](#)

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# **News Clip 9/13/17**

## Palm Beach Post

9/13/17 CRIME

# Looting arrests made in West Palm, St. Lucie

*By Olivia Hitchcock Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Nixon



Thomas



Williams



Johnson



King

At least seven people were arrested in looting-related incidents at Palm Beach County and Treasure Coast businesses in the wake of Hurricane Irma, authorities said.

Among the foiled looters were two West Palm Beach-area men who allegedly burglarized a gun store, and a Riviera Beach man who reportedly stole instruments and music equipment from a pawn shop.

### **Gun store looting**

Undercover Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office deputies near Zip Code Place at the intersection of Okeechobee Boulevard and Military Trail spotted Cortney Nixon, 31, and John Barry Thomas, 27, in a truck without a license plate, the sheriff's office said. The men reportedly exited the truck wearing gloves, canvassed the area, then stepped back into the truck. When deputies pulled them over, they found a loaded handgun, gloves, crowbars, a bag of ammunition and two new bicycles with price tags still attached.

The sheriff's office didn't specify which gun store the men are suspected of burglarizing or from where the bikes were taken.

Nixon was arrested on fraud, weapon offense and moving traffic violation charges, and Thomas was picked up on marijuana and weapon-offense charges.

### **Pawn shop theft**

Early Monday, deputies saw a white Mercedes SUV parked on the north side of Value Pawn and Jewelry on North Australian Avenue in Mangonia Park.

The wooden hurricane shutters on the store had been removed from the business, deputies noted. Inside they found Lavonte Williams, 25, who appeared to be stealing instruments and music equipment.

The Riviera Beach man was arrested on grand theft, burglary and county ordinance violation charges.

### **Gas station burglary**

Three people, two of whom are juveniles, allegedly burglarized a suburban West Palm Beach gas station early Monday. Austin Johnson, 23, and the juveniles were found with cartons of cigarettes and packages of beer and cigars, according to investigators.

All three face charges of burglary to a business during a state of emergency and grand theft.

### **Hiding in**

#### **Port St. Lucie**

A Port St. Lucie man was found hiding behind a tree Monday night in a business district closed by Hurricane Irma. He had a flashlight, pliers, and a multi-tool and a locking utility knife with him, according to Port St. Lucie police.

Corey Fredrick King, 46, is facing charges of loitering or prowling, and possession of burglary tools.

Staff reporter Jorge Milian contributed to this report. [ohitchcock@pbpost.com](mailto:ohitchcock@pbpost.com)

**Twitter: @ohitchcock**

## 9/13/17 CURFEWS

# Palm Beach County shortens curfew; 100

**arrested** *By Jane Musgrave and Olivia Hitchcock*

### **CURFEW VIOLATION ARRESTS**

Monday morning-Tuesday  
morning: **43**

Sunday morning-Monday  
morning: **12**

Saturday-Sunday  
morning: **45**

**SOURCE: PALM BEACH COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Palm Beach Post Staff Writers

WEST PALM BEACH — Palm Beach County sheriff's deputies have arrested 100 people since Sunday for violating the county's Hurricane Irma curfew, according to numbers released Tuesday by the Sheriff's Office.

But people who have legitimate reasons to be on Palm Beach County roads — whether they are going to work or responding to a family emergency — have no reason to fear arrest if they are out during the county's 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew, a sheriff's official said Tuesday. "They don't have any reason to be worried," said Teri Barbera, a spokeswoman for Sheriff Ric Bradshaw. "We're not going to throw people in jail if they are out for a legitimate purpose." However, she said, people who are out after curfew should be prepared to be stopped by police. "We pulled over our own employees going to work at the jail last night," she said. The workers told deputies where they were going and they were sent on their way. Most of the 100 people who have been arrested for violating the curfew that went into effect on Saturday at 3 p.m. were up to no good, Barbera said. Of the total, 55 were arrested solely for violating the curfew while others were arrested on a variety of other charges as well. But, she said, while some may have been charged only with a curfew violation, it is likely they were stopped for other reasons. For instance, three people were charged with a curfew violation although they were suspected of trying to break into a Circle K in Lake Worth. "These are people in the wrong place, doing the wrong things," she said.

The initial county curfew was implemented at 3 p.m. Saturday in order "to protect Palm Beach County from looters and other individuals," County Administrator Verdenia Baker said. It was modified Tuesday after Baker consulted with the Sheriff's Office and municipal chiefs and they agreed that a dusk-to-dawn curfew was too restrictive.

Palm Beach County's revised curfew now runs from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. West Palm Beach also revised its curfew to the same hours, city police said Tuesday morning.

Another meeting later in the week will decide whether further modifications will be made or whether it will be lifted, Barbera said. Broward County also instituted a curfew on Saturday afternoon but lifted it at 10 a.m. Monday. "We all working together as a county to ensure our streets are safe," Barbera said. [jmusgrave@pbpost.com](mailto:jmusgrave@pbpost.com) [ohitchcock@pbpost.com](mailto:ohitchcock@pbpost.com)

## 9/13/17 HURRICANE IRMA AFTERMATH

# SIGNS OF RECOVERY

**Gas supplies begin to ramp up, though more shortages of fuel are possible. Palm Beach County schools to remain closed for the rest of this week. Most of east coast to have power soon; west coast not as lucky Life slowly returns to normal in wake of Hurricane Irma** *By Jane Musgrave Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Linemen from Springfield, Ill., and Lake Worth Utilities work to mend power lines on 12th Avenue South in Lake Worth on Tuesday. Cleanup will continue for several days following the tropical storm-force winds and several tornadoes spawned by Hurricane Irma in Palm Beach County on Sunday. THOMAS CORDY / THE PALM BEACH POST



A U.S. Postal Service truck plows through floodwaters outside the post office on Southern Boulevard in Loxahatchee on Tuesday. Mail is being delivered only in safe areas. ALLEN EYESTONE / THE PALM BEACH POST





Adrian Mendez of Lake Worth hauls away a log outside Advanced Auto and Exhaust Repair on Tuesday. Palm Beach County officials say Irma caused at least \$19 million worth of damage to the county.

THOMAS CORDY / THE PALM BEACH POST

The annoying and potentially dangerous game of who goes first at busy intersections throughout Palm Beach County is slowly coming to an end.

With nearly 1,000 traffic lights back working at some of the county's 1,200 most treacherous intersections, many motorists are no longer at the mercy of those who don't know the simple rule: Treat intersections without lights like a four-way stop.

Working traffic lights — along with the steady reopening of stores, restaurants and even the Wellington Mall — were among the most visible symbols on Tuesday that life was returning to normal two days after county officials said Hurricane Irma caused at least \$19 million in damage to homes, business and government buildings.

Now if the lights would just go back on, mountains of tree limbs would disappear and schools would reopen, life would be good.

But, while officials spoke optimistically that schools could reopen on Monday and power could be restored by Sunday to the estimated 340,000 Florida Power & Light Co. customers who remain dark, that was hardly welcome news to parents trying to entertain kids while sweating in dark homes without air-conditioning.

As for those ever-growing piles of tree limbs? Get used to the view. They could remain in place for weeks, said Solid Waste Authority officials.

"This was a major hurricane that impacted us," said Bill Johnson, director of the county's emergency management agency. "That's why it's taking so long to get services up and in order."

In a show of support — possibly empathy — for those dealing with Irma's path of destruction on both coasts, President Donald Trump is planning to visit the state Thursday, White House officials said. They declined to reveal if his visit will include a stop here where he could inspect Mar-A-Lago, his private club in Palm Beach, Trump International Golf Club near West Palm Beach and Trump National Golf Club in Jupiter.

Unofficial reports indicated that aside from downed trees and standing water, the 90-year-old Mar-A-Lago survived Irma's wrath. In contrast, Gov. Rick Scott has described the damage to the Florida's Keys, where Irma made landfall early Sunday, as "devastating."

Palm Beach County officials, who are still assessing the damage here, said the \$19 million price-tag placed on the damage is likely to rise. The initial assessment puts county residents and governments in line to get disaster assistance money from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, said County Administrator Verdenia Baker.

Individuals who suffered damage can make claims online at [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov) or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362).

Damage was spread throughout the county, Baker said. Poverty-wracked areas like the Glades were less able to withstand the additional hit, she said. But she said no one area took the brunt of the storm, the first since Hurricane Wilma made an unwelcome visit in 2005. To many people, getting their electrical power restored is their fondest hope. FPL officials said they assembled a crew of a record-setting 20,000 workers to make those dreams come true throughout its 35-county region. But they and officials at Lake Worth Utilities urged patience. Most of the power restoration involves the pain-staking task of finding tree limbs in individual neighborhoods that are responsible for interrupting service, they said.

In the meantime, health officials urged people to exercise caution when using generators. Already two families in West Palm Beach and one in both Delray Beach and Boca Raton have been treated at area hospitals for carbon monoxide poisoning, said Tim O'Connor, a spokesman for the Palm Beach County Health Department.

In both cases in West Palm Beach, the cause was from fumes from a generator running in a garage. The cause of the incidents in Delray and Boca is still under investigation, but generators are suspected, he said.

Just as traffic lights are beginning to work, so too are county workers and others who have been idled since Irma set Florida in its sights last week. While only the North County Courthouse in Palm Beach Gardens will be reopen for business today, all court employees are to report to work.

The main courthouse in West Palm Beach and satellites in Delray Beach and Belle Glade are expected to open to the public on Thursday along with other county offices.

Baker and Johnson both acknowledged that more work remains to be done, but both said the county has an obligation to help other communities with greater needs.

The Palm Beach County All-Hazards Incident Management Team and Palm Beach County firefighters are being sent to the Keys to help recovery efforts.

"We're doing a lot better than our neighbors to the south and southwest," Johnson said.

"They had to deal with the core of the storm. They have no water, no power. We're a lot better off than they are."

Staff writers Kristina Webb,

Pat Beall and George Bennett contributed to this story. [jmusgrave@pbpost.com](mailto:jmusgrave@pbpost.com)

**MORE COVERAGE ONLINE** Photo Extra: 2 pages of photos showing the aftermath of Irma's fury. Find this bonus section, only for subscribers, at [palmbeachpost.com/epaper](http://palmbeachpost.com/epaper).

#### 9/13/17 STORM FACTS

**PRESIDENTIAL VISIT:** President Donald Trump and his wife, Melania, will visit Florida on Thursday to survey storm damage.

**CURFEW:** The county curfew is in effect from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. until further notice.

#### **SCHOOLS, COLLEGES:**

- All Palm Beach County School District schools and offices are closed through Friday. Classes resume Monday.
- Classes at Florida Atlantic University, Palm Beach State College and Palm Beach Atlantic University have been canceled through Friday. Classes resume Monday.

**COUNTY OFFICES:** Palm Beach County government offices remain closed today; expected to reopen Thursday.

**COURTS:** North County Courthouse in Palm Beach Gardens reopens today; all others remain closed to the public though staff will report to work.

**TRI-RAIL/PALM TRAN:** Trains and shuttle buses are suspended until further notice. Daily Palm Tran service resumed Tuesday. Hours are 7 a.m.-7 p.m. only. Routes 41 and 94 are not operating until further notice.

**POSTAL SERVICE:** Mail is being delivered in areas that have been deemed safe.

**AIRPORTS:** Palm Beach International Airport reopened Monday with limited service; Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International reopened Tuesday with limited operations.

#### **ZOOS**

- Palm Beach Zoo is closed until further notice.
- Palm Beach Lion County Safari will reopen the drive-thru on Thursday; the walk-through amusement park will remain closed.

**MUSEUMS:** The Norton Museum of Art is closed until further notice.

9/13/17 POWER OUTAGES

## FPL: Most power back by weekend

Until then, some might regain power only to lose it again, utility warns. *By Pat Beall Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

## GET THE LATEST NEWS ON IRMA

» Updated projections on power restoration. » When will schools open?

» What's ahead this tropical storm season? At mypalm [beachpost.com](http://beachpost.com)



Mario Velasquez, 59, of Lake Worth holds a candle, his main source of light at night, inside his Orange Grove Mobile Home Park on Tuesday. "One feels bothered because nobody pays attention to us," Velasquez said. "Because we're poor." ANDRES LEIVA / THE PALM BEACH POST

## SAFETY MEASURES WHILE THE POWER IS OUT

Noting that most hurricane fatalities occur after the storm has passed, Florida Power and Light asked customers to take safety measures as the utility works to bring back power:

- Plug appliances directly into a generator, not into the home's electric system. That can create "backfeed" which is dangerous to repair workers.
- Do not use generators inside garages and do not place them near windows or doors.
- Beware of puddles. Small pools of water may be near a live wire.
- Treat downed wires as live wires.
- With traffic lights out, try to stay off roads. If driving, treat an intersection the same way you would treat a four way stop.

Power should be back by the end of the weekend for people on Florida's east coast, Florida Power & Light said Tuesday.

For west coast Floridians slammed by Hurricane Irma, though, it could be a long, hot, end-of-summer: Power isn't expected to be fully restored until Sept. 22.

And on both coasts, there is a caveat to those estimates. Tornado damage, severe flooding and damage to homes could all cause further delays.

As of 5 p.m. Tuesday, 353,850 FPL customers in Palm Beach County that Irma left without power were still unplugged. Another 326,940 have power back.

Statewide, 2.5 million FPL customers remained without power.

"At the end of the day, we will get the lights back on," said FPL Chief Communications Officer Rob Gould, who asked frustrated customers to "please be patient with us."

"We know it is going to be very uncomfortable."

It's not just FPL customers. On Sunday night, a crucial connection to FPL's grid went down, and all 27,000 customers of Lake Worth Utilities' electrical system went dark. Only a fraction of customers, 3,500, had power restored by 2 p.m. Tuesday.

But the number of people getting power back is growing by the hour.

In the roughly 30 minutes it took for Gould to brief reporters Tuesday, the number of FPL customers statewide without power had dropped from 2.8 million to 2.7 million.

Earlier that morning, the number of Palm Beach County customers without power dropped by 3,000 in two hours.

Still, Gould cautioned that people should not be fixated on numbers.

For one thing, some customers celebrating the return of electricity might temporarily lose it — again — in order for FPL crews to finish repairs.

Repairs are moving more quickly than in the wake of Hurricane Wilma in 2005. That might be partly due to the 20,000 workers from 30 states and Canada hammering away at getting FPL's system fully up and running.

Gould also credits FPL's \$3 billion initiative designed to harden its system. Wooden poles were replaced with cement ones, and more poles were added, shortening the length of lines vulnerable to debris.

Credit a bit of luck, too. Gould said much of Irma's damage stems from trees falling onto lines, not from damage to substations, which would have called for more extensive repairs. Some of the company's generators are offline, most notably the Turkey Point nuclear power plant, but none was shut down from storm damage, he said. Turkey Point will be reopened, though FPL will not provide a date. There was no damage to the nuclear reactor, said Gould, and he knew of no other damage that might be critical to the plant's operation.

Lake Worth's Public Information officer, Ben Kerr, was similarly optimistic.

“There’s going to be more of these big chunks happening over the next couple days,” he said, after several hundred residents in west Lake Worth got their power back Tuesday afternoon.

For the thousands in Palm Beach County still waiting, it can’t happen soon enough: On Wednesday, the heat index is expected to hit 106. [pbeall@pbpost.com](mailto:pbeall@pbpost.com)

9/13/17 UTILITIES

## Reactions are mixed after power loss in Lake Worth

*By Kevin D. Thompson Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

LAKEWORTH — Close to 25,000 Lake Worth Utilities customers have no power after Hurricane Irma hit the city Sunday, but they’re handling it well.

“This is not something we haven’t experienced before,” said Greg Rice. “It’s never fun, but we knew this was coming.”

Rice said he’s been concerned after reading Facebook postings on how some Lake Worth residents want to overthrow the government because of the power failure.

“It’s hot and miserable and we wish it was cooler, but we have to deal with it,” he said.

Maeva Renaud said she’s been going outside more to spend time with neighbors who are not on their iPads.

“We’re enjoying the breeze,” she said. “Being able to really engage with our neighbors and our community is something we don’t get to do often. This gives us an opportunity to slow down.”

Mayor Pam Triolo said the city has four out-of-state crews assessing the damage in Lake Worth.

“We’re going down each and every circuit to find out the damage,” Triolo said.

Some residents have been saying that the power could be out for a month.

The city’s goal, Triolo added, is to have most of the power back by the weekend.

“We’re only on Day 2 right now,” she said. “We’ll be working around the clock on this thing.”

That brings a smile to Rebecca Hinson’s face.

“I’m very grateful my house was unscathed,” she said. “It’s not fun dealing without power, but I’m not going to whine about roughing it for a few

weeks.” [kthompson@pbpost.com](mailto:kthompson@pbpost.com) [Twitter: @KevinDThompson1](https://twitter.com/KevinDThompson1)



9/13/17 ROADS

# Inoperable traffic lights may prove as dangerous as storm

*By Jorge Milian Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



A car makes a left turn at the intersection of Forest Hill Boulevard and South Congress Avenue in West Palm Beach where traffic lights were not working Tuesday. Police agencies reported a slew of accidents at intersections with nonfunctioning traffic lights. ANDRES LEIVA / THE PALM BEACH POST

Floridians already have a reputation as really bad drivers. And that's *with* functioning traffic lights.

Toss nonworking traffic signals into the mix and things really get interesting.

Palm Beach County motorists have been tested since Hurricane Irma barreled into the state last weekend, knocking out power to millions of residents and numerous stoplights.

That's turned some of the county's intersections — both big and small — into a game of chicken and has already resulted in a slew of crashes, according to local police agencies.

Boynton Beach police posted a photo on its Twitter account Tuesday morning showing a crash that took place at Woolbright Road and Federal Highway where the traffic signals were not working. The good news is that no one was hurt. The bad news is that the crash could have been easily avoided with some common sense and patience.

"Traffic lights out here," the tweet said, referring to the intersection. "If out, treat as 4-waystop. Drivewithcaution."

Seems simple enough.

"The person who got there first should go first," Florida Highway Patrol spokesman Sgt. Mark Wysocky said of intersections with either blinking or nonfunctioning signals. "If two vehicles get there at the same time, the one on the right has the right of way. That's all there is to it."

Or so one would think. Put into practice following an event as disruptive as Irma and all bets are off.

"I've seen people not even slow down and just blow right through it like it was a green light," Jillian Price Rodriguez posted on Del-ray Raw, a website devoted to the city.

"Frustrating!!!"

One Palm Beach Post staffer reported a chaotic situation Tuesday morning at Lantana Road and Congress Avenue, where there is a left-hand turning lane in each direction and multiple through lanes. It's a slog even when the lights are working and disaster waiting to happen when they're not.

In Delray Beach, police spokeswoman Dani Moschella said that Military Trail and Atlantic Avenue has been "an issue," as have been other areas in the city where stoplights are either blinking or not working.

Moschella said Tuesday afternoon that there have been multiple crashes in the city, but didn't have exact numbers because the department's traffic unit has been going nonstop dealing with incidents on the roadways.

Boynton Beach police spokeswoman Stephanie Slater said officers worked crashes all day on Tuesday.

"Nothing major, but there have been a bunch," Slater said.

Len Kaye, a driving instructor for the Safety Council of PalmBeachCounty,saidmany drivers are distracted, and not necessarily by the usual culprit — electronic gadgets.

"People are not focused on their driving skills," Kaye said. "They're focused on their house, taking the shutters down, cleaning up — things that are important to them."

While some drivers may just not be paying attention, other motorists create problems by trying to cheat at intersections. At a malfunctioning traffic light on westbound Boynton Beach Boulevard just before the Interstate 95 interchange on Monday, drivers were seen repeatedly tailgating vehicles in train-like fashion in order to drive through the intersection without stopping.

Police addressed that problem by placing mobile stop signs at the intersection.

"People try to take advantage," Kaye said. "Everybody is rushing to get nowhere fast."

Those who fail to heed the right of way can be ticketed, police point out.

"... It is not a rule, it is a law," West Palm Beach resident Paul Ryan posted on the website Engage West Palm. "People that don't know this law by now have no business holding a driver's license." [jmilian@pbpost.com](mailto:jmilian@pbpost.com) Twitter: [@caneswatch](https://twitter.com/caneswatch)

9/13/17 GAS AVAILABILITY

# Gas supplies flow, but more shortages possible

*By Jeff Ostrowski Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Cars are backed up Tuesday at the Wawa station on Belvedere Road in West Palm Beach. Outages, return of evacuees, closed ports add to strain at pump. LANNIS WATERS / THE PALM BEACH POST Before Hurricane Irma, gas stations ran out of fuel as frightened Floridians stocked up on petrol. After the storm, fuel shortages will shift from neighborhood stations to a new venue — gas pumps along Interstate 95, Interstate 75 and Florida's Turnpike.

Irma sparked the largest evacuation in state history, and now those who fled are returning en masse.

"We had almost 6 million people forced to evacuate their homes before Irma, which means we'll have 6 million people coming back into the state in the coming days," said James Miller, of the Florida Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association.

The reverse exodus is boosting demand for fuel, while two other factors squeeze supply. First, widespread power outages mean many gas stations can't pump gas. Second, fuel shipments into Florida's ports have been on hold for days.

"People aren't panic-pumping anymore," said AAA spokesman Mark Jenkins. "But a lot of people are coming back, and that puts a giant strain on supply."

The reopening of Port Everglades, Port Miami, Port of Tampa and Port Canaveral allowed new shipments to arrive at gas stations.

"We're starting to reach the point now where we should start to see some relief," Jenkins said. Before Irma made landfall, Gov. Rick Scott waived some trucking regulations and provided police escorts to petrol trucks. That experience should help ease fuel deliveries now, Miller said.

"The extensive coordination we did on the front end with Governor Scott, retailers and emergency management officials will help with efficiencies post-Irma," Miller said. [jostrowski@pbpost.com](mailto:jostrowski@pbpost.com) Twitter: @bio561

9/13/17 TECHNOLOGY

# Internet, cable, cell service all affected by power outages

*By Lawrence Mower Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Cell towers across the state have been cut off from the power grid and are relying on generators to keep going, two wireless carriers say. BILL INGRAM / THE PALM BEACH POST

Wi-Fi and cellphone coverage remains spotty throughout South Florida, and there's a simple reason: Like everyone else, the companies that provide it don't have power, thanks to Hurricane Irma.

Cell towers across the state have been cut off from the power grid and are relying on generators to keep going, spokespeople for two of the four major wireless carriers said. "The faster the power comes back on, the faster all telecommunication services can get back on," a T-Mobile spokeswoman said Tuesday. "The power outages are just everywhere. It's definitely causing a lot of effect across the board."

For Comcast, the main provider of Wi-Fi in Palm Beach County, it's a similar story.

"Many of our facilities in Palm Beach County, and virtually all of them in Broward County and further south in Miami-Dade, are functioning on generators due to the complete loss of commercial power," Com-cast spokeswoman Mindy Kramer said.

Physical damage to cell towers doesn't appear to be an issue. Towers are meant to withstand high winds.

"It's really rare to see a tower topple over," said Roni Singleton, a Sprint spokeswoman for Florida.

But because of the power outages, the lack of coverage right now is worse in South Florida, and — bizarrely — much worse than Houston recently experienced despite that city's massive flooding from Hurricane Harvey.

"There was really very little loss of mobile service in Houston, across all carriers," the T-Mobile spokeswoman said. "Houston was able to maintain power the entire time."

Cell towers are required to have batteries that provide eight to 12 hours of power for first responders, the T-Mobile spokeswoman said. After that, they rely on generators for power. But fallen trees and debris have made it difficult to refuel some of the generators, she said. Verizon said close to 90 percent of its facilities were working, with many running on backup generators.

"Massive refueling operations are underway to ensure those sites without commercial power continue in service for our customers and first responders," the company said in a statement.

Sprint and Comcast said they're sending satellite trucks and mobile platforms to South Florida to provide temporary coverage until power returns. AT&T said it was sending portable cell sites to the Keys, Miami and Tallahassee.

None of the companies would give a time frame for when full coverage would return, but T-Mobile and Sprint said coverage was getting better by the hour.

"I think by tomorrow, we'll see a huge improvement in the number of sites that are back up," Singleton said. [lmower@pbpost.com](mailto:lmower@pbpost.com)

9/13/17 OUR VIEWS HURRICANE IRMA AFTERMATH

## Hurricane Irma spared us its worst

We were lucky, Palm Beach County.

Hurricane Irma, after taunting us for days with its record-breaking size and power, spared us its worst.

It may not seem that way to some. Not if you're one of the roughly 300,000 residents still without power. Not if you're one of the thousands of residents of Delray Beach and unincorporated county who still can't flush their toilets. And not if you're the parent of one of the school district's 193,000 students who won't return to school until Monday — at the earliest.

But we were.

You see, dozens of people here weren't left dead in Irma's wake as in the Caribbean. A quarter of our homes here weren't made uninhabitable as they were in the Florida Keys.

There was no 10- or 15-foot storm surge here as was seen in tiny Goodland on Marco Island.

We are instead left with some trees down, spot flooding, long gas station lines and a chance to show some gratitude.

There are, of course, those who, ready to hurl the asinine "fake news" moniker, complaining that the media overhyped the storm. Really? Yes, we should be skeptical of hype — especially from dubious sources. But when the National Weather Service says the most powerful hurricane ever recorded in the Atlantic Ocean is headed in your direction, the prudent thing is to shutter the house, grab the kids and get the hell out of the way. As The Post's Kimberly Miller reported, "Mother Nature stepped in to tweak Irma's plan" to deliver a worst-case scenario for our county.

"By the grace of Cuba's northern coast, which was abraded by Irma before the strong Cat 4 hurricane reached the Florida Straits, and a tongue of dry air sucked into its massive, state-swallowing wind field, the storm weakened slightly and couldn't regain strength before making its first landfall Sunday morning at Cudjoe Key," Miller wrote.

Yes, the vast majority of us were damn lucky.

As good a time as any to show some gratitude, and volunteer to help those that weren't.



# Sun Sentinel

## 9/13/17 Dark, hot, powerless

FPL promises relief within a few days

By Rafael Olmeda, Craig Davis, Diane C. Lade and Lisa J. Huriash Staff writers

Power to all but the unluckiest few will be restored by the time the weekend is over. Florida Power & Light Co. made the bold promise Tuesday, leaving enough wiggle room to concede it may take a little longer for homes and businesses affected by tornadoes, flooding and other “severe damage.”

While pointing out that 2.3 million out of 5 million outages have already been restored by a force of 20,000 workers operating throughout the state, FPL spokesman Rob Gould said officials are aware how difficult it is for those who remain without power.

“We understand what it means to be in the dark, what it means to be hot and without air conditioning,” he said. “We want to get the lights back on as fast as possible.”

For more than half of South Florida, coping without power for a third straight day posed challenges ranging from trying to keep kids entertained without electronics to more dire risks associated with routine medical treatment intended to avoid emergencies.

If they could, they sought refuge at the beach, in bars and shopping plazas — or just in the shade. At the Praxis apartment complex in Deerfield Beach, Nancy Biglin, 83, and her 14-year-old pug Tootsie struggled to climb the stairs to Biglin’s fourth-floor apartment.

The elevator wasn’t working because the power still was out. Praxis, a 55-plus complex, has no back-up generator, despite the fact that many of its residents are disabled, infirm and on limited incomes.

The smelly concrete stairwell, with missing windows that had let in Irma’s rains, was stifling. Biglin and Tootsie both had to stop at every landing.

“It’s going to kill my dog, going up and down the stairs,” said Biglin, breathing heavily. She has had heart surgery and walking is difficult.

She and other residents were flattened when they heard FPL had said Sunday was the target date for full power restoration.

“We can’t wait until then,” said Biglin. “We’ll all be dead.”

The concern was similar at Century Village in Pembroke Pines.

“There’s no water for quite a while and no air-conditioning,” said resident Seymour Blyman, 90.

“There’s some very old people, including myself, who can hardly breathe in the apartments here.”

Blyman said he was reluctant to call for medical emergency assistance and hoped that FPL’s restoration priority list would deliver relief soon to the retirement community.

“They have a priority for hospitals first. These people in Century Village should be right after the hospitals,” he said. “I’m very weak, very tired. I can’t wait to get back to myself, and I don’t want to go to the hospital.

“If I get some air I’ll feel better.”

Non-emergency medical calls should be directed at 311, said Candy Sims, spokeswoman for the Florida Department of Health in Broward County.

Between Monday morning and Tuesday evening, FPL had restored power to 165,190 customers in Palm Beach, 189,960 in Broward and 191,380 in Miami-Dade — little comfort to the 1.4

million customers who were still waiting for the lights, air conditioners, televisions, internet and water heaters to kick back on.

For many, patience was a luxury in which they chose not to indulge.

“FPL, you have failed,” Delray Beach lawyer Jeff Kasky wrote on his Facebook page. Kasky complained that the power company told residents all day Monday not to report outages, only to reverse itself Tuesday and re-report the outage. When he tried to tell FPL he was still without power, he was unsuccessful using the company’s app, website and telephone hotline.

“I respect the fact that they’re out there working hard, but they were unprepared if, after two days, they’re telling me to re-report my outage, but they have no way of taking that report!” he said.

Mark Joseph, 60, of Tamarac, said he was frustrated to see nearby businesses like McDonald’s with their power restored. “Are they more important than people’s homes?” he asked.

Joseph’s 267-home community, Tamarac Lakes South, saw its power go out Sunday morning, come back Monday night and go out again Tuesday morning. He was unimpressed with FPL’s promise to bring power back by Sunday night.

“Five more days for people to sit and swelter?” he said. “Why did we give them all that money to upgrade the system after Hurricane Wilma [in 2005] only to have it fail when we needed it? They’d better not come around asking for more.”

Relief can’t come soon enough for Sharon Wilson, who returned home from work as a paramedic to her Davie condo on Tuesday. Fifteen minutes later, she left the stifling heat of her powerless home and headed to the Sawgrass Mills mall.

“I’d rather be at work with electricity, air conditioning and food,” Wilson said while her phone charged at a nearby electrical outlet. “It’s very inconvenient, very annoying.”

Two days after Nicole Fernandez lost power, the Sunrise woman’s patience was shot, and she and her husband headed to Sawgrass Mills to recharge their phones and search for food. “I couldn’t take it,” Martinez said. “It’s very, very hot; so humid.”

Sawgrass Mills was one of several malls to reopen Tuesday. The Aventura Mall in north Miami-Dade, Galleria mall in Fort Lauderdale, and the Mizner Park shopping center in Boca Raton all opened for business, providing climate-controlled refuge for the weary.

Broward Mayor Barbara Sharief said in a news conference Tuesday that “about half” of all traffic intersections remained without power, and to be careful while navigating the debris-strewn roads.

The advice led Pompano Beach resident Angie Martinez, who lost power Sunday morning, to stay home, where she dragged backyard sprinklers to her semi-shaded front yard and switched the water on full blast for her twin boys, 6-year-old Osiris and Odin.

She also laid out blankets in the shade and encouraged them to read a book. In between, the family is taking sporadic respite in their car to blast the air conditioning.

“It’s the only thing keeping us sane,” she said.

Jerry Schepps, who lost power in his Coral Springs home Sunday night, has tried to make do by letting his pets — including two dogs — cool off inside his car.

“They’re dying,” Schepps said.

On Tuesday, he found solace at a nearby Barnes and Noble, which was open despite boarded-up windows. He grabbed coffee and charged his phone.

“Maybe I’ll check out a book, which I never read in my life,” he joked. “I’m just killing time.”

Staff writers Phillip Valys and Susannah Bryan contributed to this report.

## 9/13/17 Keys residents return; 'It looks like a war zone'



Hurricane Irma's powerful winds sheared off the side of this Cudjoe Key home. (Taimy Alvarez/Staff photographer )

By Mike ClaryStaff writer

Hurricane Irma ripped through Cudjoe and Big Pine with end-of-the-world fury, destroying homes big and small.

Trailers were shredded, ocean waters rushed through the ground floor of beach-side houses and RVs were overturned, leaving much of the area ravaged almost beyond recognition.

"It's been a nightmare," said Mark Lum, 57, who rode out the powerful storm on Cudjoe Key, huddled with his dog Cruzan inside a concrete bunker-like bath house in the Venture Out development. "You live here in a resort, everything's nice and pretty, and the next day it's all gone."

Hurricane Irma has destroyed a quarter of the homes in the Florida Keys and badly damaged many more, federal officials said Tuesday.

"Basically every house in the Keys was impacted in some way or another," Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator Brock Long said.

The storm is blamed for 13 deaths in Florida, four in South Carolina, two in Georgia and at least 37 people in the Caribbean. It's still not clear how many casualties Irma caused on the Keys.

Lum, when asked what the storm sounded like on Sunday, said, "Death. That's what it sounded like to me. We were close to it. When the 150s hit us, then the 170s, [mph] I'm telling you I never want to experience that again."

Residents who live below Mile Marker 74 past Islamorada are still waiting to hear when the roadblock will be lifted for them.

The trickle of residents and business owners who were allowed back to the Upper Keys Tuesday found incalculable damage.

Debris was everywhere, swept from the Atlantic to the bayside. Much of U.S. 1 was littered with boats, refrigerators, abandoned cars, mattresses, propane tanks, campaign signs, tin from marina sheds, plastic toilets.

There is no electricity and no shade. The green canopy which moderated the searing summer heat is gone.

In Tavernier, Mariners Hospital was shuttered, the parking lot empty. A large door was blown off the covered dock facility at the Tavernier Creek Marina. At Marathon International Airport, one small plane was flipped over, the wheels of another broken off.

Docks at Bud & Mary's Marina in Islamorada were destroyed. At the Sunshine Key RV Resort and Marina in Big Pine Key, dozens of RVs lay on their sides. Others looked as if they had been exploded, their insides scattered.

Only a couple of convenience stores with generators were open Tuesday. Two gas stations south of Key Largo had gas, but lines were long and tensions high. Monroe County Sheriff's deputies had to be called in to direct traffic at the pumps after one deputy said fights broke out.

Those resorts which were not totally blasted were being used to house hundreds of first responders who have been trucked in to help out. Scores of power crews, tree services and heavy equipment operations continued to flow south from Florida City.

"This area was hit really hard," said Capt. Jeff Arnold, who headed a FEMA California Task Force 1 team that searched demolished houses in Cudjoe Key on Tuesday for victims who may have been killed or trapped inside. "But it looks like people did the right thing and got out."

At the Monroe County Emergency Operations Center, Julie Cheon said that more than half of the 17 million gallons of water a day pumped to the Keys from Miami-Dade County is being lost through leaks in broken pipes that branch off from the main line.

Karen Andrei and her husband Ron survived the storm by leaving their home on Cudjoe Key for shelter in the Glad Tidings Tabernacle in Key West.

When they returned to Cudjoe on Tuesday, Karen Andrei said, "It looks like a war zone."

Near the Andreis' street in Venture Out was a 30-foot boat that was tossed from a canal to teeter on a sea wall. Across the way was an oceanfront house that had been cleaved by the wind to provide a cutaway look at the inside. In a linen closet, the towels remained neatly folded.

"When you think that people lived here at one point, you can't believe it," said Ron Andrei, 58, a retired air traffic controller from the Midwest. "When I look around, emotion washes over me. I'm so grateful that we survived and there have been no fatalities of people we know."

# 9/13/17 It's a 'nightmare' of traffic for many returning home

By Bill Barrow Associated Press

ATLANTA — With Irma having weakened into inland rainstorms, Floridians are beginning a mass migration back to a battered, water-logged state where millions remain without power. But traffic maps, social media reports and gasoline trackers indicate it won't be an easy trip in the days ahead.

"As soon as we hit the state line, it was traffic jams and accidents," said Elizabeth Priore of Fort Lauderdale, as she continued her return drive Tuesday from Alpharetta, Ga.

Priore said she had managed to find gas and open restaurants along the way, and she said Interstate 95 south of Jacksonville was "moving well."

But traffic cameras elsewhere in the state, particularly along Interstate 75, showed gridlock.

"We were expecting a nightmare," Priore said, explaining that she decided it was better to brave it than to wait.

Other Floridians are opting to wait it out, fearing the congestion, lane closures, fender benders, shuttered restaurants and gas stations without fuel.

"We're not leaving until Thursday because of the gas situation," said Nick Westbrook, a Coral Gables resident who has settled in Knoxville, Tenn., with his wife and children.

Florida Gov. Rick Scott and other authorities are urging evacuees not to be in a rush to return, particularly those who live in the hardest-hit areas, from Key West and the southwest coastline near Naples to the flooded neighborhoods of Jacksonville in state's northeast corner.

As power crews dispersed Tuesday, an estimated 15 million Floridians were without electricity. Bridges were being inspected around the state, power outages left traffic signals inoperable on key surface roads, and some roadways remained closed due to standing water, downed power lines or debris.

## 9/13/17 S. Florida's three airports — but not all airlines — back to normal



Passengers check in at the Delta Air Lines counter at Fort Lauderdale Hollywood International Airport on Tuesday. (JOE CAVARETTA/Staff photographer )

By Wells DusenburyStaff writer

FORT LAUDERDALE – It wasn't the 17-day South Florida vacation they envisioned, so after being chased across the state and then hit by Hurricane Irma, John and Lynn Epert were more than happy to be flying back home to Nevada.

The married couple were among many travelers hitting the skies after Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport reopened on Tuesday morning after being closed more than three days because of the hurricane.

After reopening at 4 a.m., American Airlines Flight 525 from Charlotte, N.C., was the first to arrive on Tuesday, landing at 9:26 a.m. Broward aviation spokesman Greg Meyer said most of the airport's 16,000 employees were back at work as the facility resumed operations.

The three major airports in the tri-county area are operational again, with Palm Beach International resuming flights Monday and Miami International on Tuesday.

"We survived the hurricane very well," Meyer said. "We received very minimal damage and we're in good shape. "

The reopening of the airport was a welcome relief for travelers who were either marooned in South Florida or scattered across the country waiting to get here.

The Eperts, who live in Henderson, Nev., flew into Fort Lauderdale last Wednesday to celebrate John's 77th birthday. However, shortly after checking into their 18th-story room at the Marriott Beach Place, they were told they needed to evacuate. On Thursday, the couple drove a rental car to Lakeland, where they ended up getting hit by the storm anyway.

After driving back to Fort Lauderdale on Monday, they found their hotel without electricity on a roadway covered with sand. After a night at an Airbnb, they decided to cut their losses and fly back home.



Despite the adversity, the couple was in good spirits on Tuesday as they waited in the airport terminal.

“Great birthday vacation,” Lynn said with a laugh. “He met Irma!”

As of Tuesday afternoon, 356 flights had been canceled at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood for its opening day, or about 55 percent of the scheduled flights. Meyer estimated the airport sees an average of 700-800 flights on a normal day.

Miami International Airport is operating at 30 percent but hopes to return to full strength by the weekend. Palm Beach had just 59 flights scheduled on Tuesday — 24 arrivals and 35 departures — per its website.

Travelers at all three airports are encouraged to check with individual airlines regarding flights. Lisa Ivey, of Miramar, and her family were among the fliers returning home after FLL reopened. She and her husband drove their two children in a rental minivan to ride out the hurricane with family friends in Atlanta — only to see the storm come through there Monday.

The family initially planned to drive back Tuesday morning, but after checking road conditions, they elected to fly back and found a last-minute flight from Atlanta

“It took us about 15 hours to [drive to Atlanta] and it was a little nerve-racking. We didn’t want to chance getting on the road and not being able to fill [up on gas],” Ivey said. “We were able to find last-minute flights from Delta this morning.”

With the hurricane bearing down on South Florida, many people used the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood airport parking garages as shelter for their vehicles.

The airport has a capacity for roughly 12,500 cars, which Meyer said the facility exceeded.

While some double-parked their cars in the garages, Meyer said some drivers abandoned their vehicles at cell phone waiting areas and by curbside terminals. Those cars were towed.

“When people come to the airport, they have an expectation that they’ll find a parking spot, and we hope to provide that. Right now cars are starting to clear out a little bit,” Meyer said.

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# 9/13/17 Another FPL outage: Its own website

By Craig DavisStaff writer

Adding to the frustration of customers still without power in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma, Florida Power & Light Co.'s website crashed Tuesday afternoon.

Customers seeking an update on when their power may be restored on fpl.com were met with an alert that read: "Communication systems across Florida were impacted by Irma, causing issues with our systems. If our system displays you have power and you don't, please report it. We apologize for any issues you may experience."

Adding to the confusion is that FPL doesn't want customers to call or use the website or smartphone app to report an outage — except in certain situations.

Bill Orlove, a spokesman for FPL, said the problem with the website won't delay the restoration of anyone's power.

FPL's smart-grid technology is designed to identify when and where outages occur. Nonetheless, the utility's website and app provides the opportunity to report and get updates on outages. Neither was working correctly as of Tuesday evening, likely due to the high volume of traffic from customers seeking information.

"We are working on a solution to get it back up as soon as possible," Orlove said. "But what's important for customers to know is that we know where the outages are within our system.

We're trying to tell customers that they don't need to call us. If customers are calling us that they don't have power, we know they don't have power."

In addition, Orlove said to call if customers see that their neighbors are getting their lights back on and theirs' remain out. Those who call are supposed to encounter an automated menu that provides an option to leave a message linked to the address and phone number of their account.

The utility reported earlier Tuesday that 4.4 million customers had lost power due to Hurricane Irma and 1.1 million had been restored. More than 1.4 million were without in Broward, Palm Beach and Miami Dade counties, according to FPL's outage tracker.

"The important thing to know is that we're on it," Orlove said.

## 9/13/17 Scott praised for Irma response



Gov. Rick Scott flies over Jacksonville in a military helicopter on Tuesday, assessing damage from Hurricane Irma. (John Raoux/Associated Press)

By Gray RohrerStaff writer

TALLAHASSEE – It was hard to miss Gov. Rick Scott in the run-up to Hurricane Irma’s arrival as he zigzagged across the state ringing alarm bells about the need to be ready for the historic storm.

For that, the Republican governor has won praise, even from rival Democrats.

“No time for politics, all truth - @FLGovScott did a great job! He activated the state 911 plan, and he activated resources,” state Rep. Shevrin Jones, D-West Park, posted on Twitter.

But now Scott faces the toughest test of directing the recovery.

Just how quickly Florida returns to normal could decide Scott’s political future; the two-term governor is considering a run for U.S. Senate next year against incumbent Bill Nelson, D-Orlando.

“Getting this right will be remembered and will assist him should he run for the United States Senate,” said GOP consultant Mac Stipanovich, chief of staff to former Florida Gov. Bob Martinez. Getting it wrong, he said, could be “fatal.”

The process could be slow and the cost will be immense, as Irma affected nearly every part of the state, leaving millions without electricity and thousands of homes destroyed.

“There’s a lot of work left to do,” Scott said Tuesday. “This state has been hit by a ... gigantic storm, hurricane. The biggest thing we’ve got to do right now is we’ve got to get people their power back.”

Then there’s the prospect of getting gasoline to all corners of the state so evacuees can return and assess the damage. Port Tampa and Port Everglades, both of which reopened Tuesday, are critical so fuel tankers can reach gas stations, Scott said.

Throughout the preparation and response, Scott has kept a tight lid on information, refusing to allow reporters into daily briefings of the State Emergency Response Team, even though previous governors Jeb Bush and Charlie Crist did so, and reporters were allowed in briefings for Hurricanes Hermine and Matthew last year.

Press releases from Scott's office about response efforts don't include the number of deaths, which roads are blocked, areas still under curfew or where flooding has subsided.

Though calls for bipartisanship and unity are made after disasters, they can often turn into political blame games.

After Hurricane Hermine hit the Tallahassee area last year, Scott scolded Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum, a Democrat running to replace Scott next year, for not taking assistance from major electric utility companies when it took nearly a week to restore power in many areas. Scott brought it up again as Irma approached.

"I couldn't get [Tallahassee officials] to take resources or anything. Let me tell you, everyone wants my help now," Scott said.

Gillum didn't appreciate that jab, saying he's concentrating on his own city's recovery after Irma, which struck the capital city with tropical storm-force winds.

"My sole focus remains getting the power back on in Tallahassee – not on the Governor's political attacks," Gillum said in a statement.

Scott currently has vast powers because of the state of emergency order he issued last week for all 67 counties to prepare for the storm. He's used that power to direct response efforts statewide, working with local officials, and in some cases, overriding them.

Scott ordered all schools and universities in Florida closed on Thursday and Friday so they could be used as shelters, even as some districts, including Orange County, were planning to remain open another day. The shelter space was needed as nearly 7 million Floridians were in mandatory evacuation zones, clogging highways on their way north.

Because of Irma's size, its track up most of the state and its late shift to the west coast, Scott said he couldn't position as many utility workers and supplies in advance of the storm.

## **9/13/17 Fake FPL duo rip off woman, 95**

A 95-year-old woman welcomed two workers who came to restore power to her home after Hurricane Irma.

Instead, the unscrupulous pair stole the woman's jewelry and cash while one of them distracted her, Boynton Beach police said.

The scam happened in a home along Southwest 23rd Court while the woman sat in her living room with her front door open on Monday afternoon.

The men walked into her home and said they were checking light switches to get the power back on, said police spokeswoman. Stephanie Slater.

— Staff report

# 9/13/17 Dark traffic lights, debris make driving tough

Drivers disobeying 4-way stop cause accident



A traffic signal dangles in a traffic lane on westbound Copans Road at North Cypress Road in Pompano Beach on Tuesday. (Amy Beth Bennett/Staff photographer)

By Wayne K. Roustan Staff writer

Drivers, beware: It's an obstacle course out there.

Power failures are hampering efforts to get traffic signals working again and fallen trees are not being cleared quickly enough on some major roads.

More than half of the traffic lights in Broward were still not working Tuesday. Miami-Dade County reported half of its signals were still offline and Palm Beach County had about one quarter of its intersections without working traffic signals.

"We have had accidents because of people blowing through these [broken] traffic lights without stopping," said Miramar Police spokeswoman Tania Rues.

Even police are not immune. Miramar Sgt. Oscar Mendoza's marked SUV and another car were struck about 6 a.m. Tuesday by a third vehicle that failed to stop at the intersection of Palm Avenue and Pembroke Road.

Drivers are on their own because there aren't enough traffic cops to go around.

"It's impossible to have deputies and officers throughout the county at every intersection where lights are not working," said Broward Sheriff's spokeswoman Veda Coleman-Wright.

Delray Beach police were directing traffic and feeling overwhelmed by the number of drivers not obeying the mandatory four-way stop when traffic lights are out, said spokeswoman Dani Moschella.

"They were going crazy because there were only so many of them," she said, "and they were writing tickets."

Typically, traffic signals come back on as power is restored to neighborhoods. Florida Power and Light said electricity won't be back for more than a million customers in South Florida until perhaps Sunday.

Not everyone was waiting for FPL to fix their traffic signals.

The city of Plantation was using generators to power streetlights at major intersections.

The other problem: Road debris.

"We have some major road blockages throughout Broward County," said Mayor Barbara Sharief. "We're clearing them as fast as we can."

Road crews are working to clear debris off the main roadways first. But until they do, the debris is an accident waiting to happen.

“If debris sticks out two feet into a lane, it could cause a driver to suddenly slam on the brakes,” said Margaret Stapleton, Broward’s director of public communications. “It’s also causing people to suddenly veer into the adjacent lane.”

Enough debris had been cleared from major roadways to open access to barrier islands in Broward County but many side streets were still littered with trees, branches, leaves and the occasional power line.

Access to State Road A1A was still limited with much of the Fort Lauderdale beach-front drag covered in a layer of sand from Las Olas and Sunrise boulevards north.

Staff reporters Anthony Man and Marc J. Freeman contributed to this story.

wkroustan@sunsentinel.com, 954-356-4303 or Twitter @WayneRoustan

## **9/13/17 Curfews differ, but coming to an end**

By Marc Freeman Staff writer

Broward ended its countywide curfew Monday, and Miami-Dade did the same Tuesday. But Palm Beach County again imposed a modified curfew through 6 a.m. today.

Broward Mayor Barbara Sharief said Tuesday the safety precautions that were necessary during Hurricane Irma no longer apply to all 2 million residents.

Some cities are imposing their own curfews. Fort Lauderdale and Wilton Manors notified residents that city curfews were to continue Tuesday night from 10 p.m. until 5 a.m. A curfew for Hollywood was in effect from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. And Coral Springs’ curfew ran from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Also in Broward, access to the barrier island remains for residents with ID only.

North Miami’s curfew started again at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Florida City’s curfew began at 9 p.m., and Miami Beach’s curfew resumed at 11 p.m. All run until 7 a.m.

Broward officials are sticking with their decision not to keep the curfew going.

“People need to start getting back to normal,” Sharief said. “No curfew right now is necessary ... our goal is safety and protection of life, and we’ve done that.”

In Palm Beach County, officials cautioned the reduced curfew times “does not mean that all the roads are 100 percent clear and safe.” Hundreds of traffic signals remain inoperable and “many roads have debris, trees and downed power lines,” they said in announcing the continuing restrictions.

The Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office on Tuesday reported 100 people have been arrested for violating the curfews since Saturday. Of that total, 45 people received curfew violations in addition to other charges.

“These are people in the wrong place at the wrong time doing the wrong thing,” said sheriff’s office spokeswoman Teri Barbera.

Deputies have discretion on the roads and will not arrest people if they are out for a legitimate reason, such as driving for work.

“We pulled over our own employees going to the jail last night,” Barbera said.

People arrested for curfew violations are released from jail after the nightly curfew has been lifted.

Broward Sheriff’s spokeswoman Veda Coleman-Wright said statistics about curfew violators was not available Tuesday because of a computer network outage.

Staff writer Anthony Man contributed to this report.



**From:** [Thompson, Edward L.](#)  
**To:** [Fusion](#)  
**Subject:** News / Share from PostNOW App  
**Date:** Monday, August 21, 2017 6:31:37 AM

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JUST IN: Protesters march to Mar-a-Lago, denounce Trump comments

<http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/breaking-news/just-protesters-march-mar-lago-denounce-trump-comments/SvJn5Vs3pQwOI33fOsuCSI/>

Edward (Eddie) Thompson  
Section Manager  
Strategic Intelligence  
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Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office  
3228 Gun Club Road  
West Palm Beach, FL 33406  
Office: 561-688-3912  
Cell: 786-402-4059  
Thompsone@pbso.org

**From:** [Thompson, Edward L.](#)  
**To:** [Valor, Alicia M](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Here are the files  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 28, 2017 11:28:21 AM

---

Thank you

**Edward (Eddie) Thompson**  
**Section Manager**  
**Strategic Intelligence**  
**Homeland Security Bureau**  
**Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office**  
**3228 Gun Club Road**  
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**[thompsons@pbso.org](mailto:thompsons@pbso.org)**

---

**From:** Valor, Alicia M  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 28, 2017 11:16 AM  
**To:** Thompson, Edward L.  
**Subject:** Here are the files

I attached the one for PBIA, Eau Palm, and Mar-A-Lago

***Alicia M. Valor***  
Sr. Crime Analyst I  
Palm Beach S.O.  
Crime Analysis Unit  
(561) 688-4196 (Work)  
(561) 688-3527 (Fax)

**From:** Vassi Alina  
**To:** [PB Regional Fusion](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Mar-a-Lago Protest  
**Date:** Monday, July 03, 2017 11:55:29 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

---

Thank you for your prompt reply to my email.



**Alina Vassi**  
**Criminal Intelligence Analyst**  
North Palm Beach P.D.  
560 US Highway One  
North Palm Beach, FL 33408  
Desk: (561)841-1160 Fax: (561)881-4425

---

**From:** PB Regional Fusion [mailto:[PBRegionalFusion@pbso.org](mailto:PBRegionalFusion@pbso.org)]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 03, 2017 11:48 AM  
**To:** Vassi Alina  
**Cc:** PB Regional Fusion  
**Subject:** RE: Mar-a-Lago Protest

Good morning,

As for the state of the protest, the event occurred yesterday. The Palm Beach Regional Fusion Center does not have any other information regarding the event. If you have further questions, feel free to contact Analyst Lucy Rodriquez at the Palm Beach Police Department, [LRodriguez@PalmBeachPolice.com](mailto:LRodriguez@PalmBeachPolice.com).

Thank you,



**Palm Beach Regional Fusion Center**  
[PBRegionalFusion@pbso.org](mailto:PBRegionalFusion@pbso.org)  
**Phone:** 561-688-3700  
**FAX:** 561-688-3968

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**From:** Vassi Alina [<mailto:avassi@village-npb.org>]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 03, 2017 7:52 AM  
**To:** Fusion  
**Subject:** Mar-a-Lago Protest

**Good morning,**

**I wanted to share this article I read in the Palm Beach Post. [Protesters, counterprotesters air views on president on march to Mar-a-Lago](#)**

**Please give me an update on the state of the protest.**

**Thank you**



**Alina Vassi**  
**Criminal Intelligence Analyst**  
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560 US Highway One  
North Palm Beach, FL 33408  
Desk: (561)841-1160 Fax: (561)881-4425

**From:** [PB Regional Fusion](#)  
**To:** [PB Regional Fusion](#)  
**Subject:** Situational Awareness  
**Date:** Sunday, March 19, 2017 7:35:07 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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## Car and bomb claim at White House sets off security alert

<http://www.cnn.com/2017/03/19/politics/white-house-security-situation/>

**Washington (CNN)**The Secret Service detained a man who drove up to a White House checkpoint late Saturday night and claimed to have a bomb in his vehicle, two law enforcement officials told CNN.

There was no confirmation on whether there was any device in the vehicle, but [security at the White House](#) was immediately upgraded. The vehicle is being checked, the officials said.

The incident occurred at 11:05 p.m. at a security checkpoint, the Secret Service said. Four hours later, the checkpoint in question remained blocked, but streets re-opened, and bomb technicians and other additional security personnel left the area. The Secret Service described it as an "ongoing criminal investigation."

At the time of the incident, President Donald Trump was at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida, where he spends most of his weekends.

Read More

Earlier Saturday, another person was arrested after jumping over a bicycle rack in front of the White House. [The man, who never made it to the White House fence,](#) was carrying a document he wanted to deliver to the White House and did not have a weapon, a law enforcement official said.

[The incidents come a week after a man breached the White House grounds](#) — and was on the grounds for more than 15 minutes.



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**From:** [Thompson, Edward L.](#)  
**To:** [Garcia, Ricardo](#)  
**Subject:** Software keeps drones grounded when President Trump is in Palm Beach County  
**Date:** Thursday, February 23, 2017 1:29:30 PM

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<http://www.wptv.com/news/region-n-palm-beach-county/jupiter/software-keeps-drones-grounded-when-pres-trump-is-in-pbc>

Conditions on President's Day would have been perfect for Chris Leyden, a boat captain, to shoot some footage of his boat coming in and out of the Jupiter Inlet.

"It was a beautiful day. It was fantastic. Winds were calm and it was sunny," Leyden said. "I set up but I wasn't even able to take off."

A message popped up on his screen, informing him he was in a temporary no-fly zone because President Trump was 15 miles away from Jupiter Inlet, at Mar-a-Lago.

"I didn't know about the 30-mile radius," Leyden said. "I was only informed about the 10-mile radius."

Drones have software called geo-fencing which prohibits them from taking off when flight restrictions are in place.

"Smart controllers or intelligent controllers are embedded on higher grade equipment so you won't find geo-fencing on an \$80 drone you find at the hobby store," Shawn Holmgren with Palm Beach Drone said.

Cheaper drones are not equipped with geo-fencing software but they're also less of a possible threat.

"They're light weight they don't have the lifting capability, they don't have the distance, the range," Holmgren said. "An \$80 drone is only going to go 50 to 60 feet from the operator."

But even if a cheaper drone gets too close to the President, the Secret Service has ways to keep those drones on the ground as well.

"I know that they could, easily, deploy signal jamming devices," Holmgren said.

Although it would have been a picture perfect day to fly his drone, Leyden said he isn't complaining.

"I understand the rules and the reasons for them and I'm all about keeping the President safe," Leyden said.

**Edward (Eddie) Thompson**  
**Section Manager**  
**Strategic Intelligence**

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**From:** [Thompson, Edward L.](#)  
**To:** [Allen, Robert L.](#); [Voiret, Kenneth J](#)  
**Subject:** TECHNOLOGY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT/Police adding drones, but not the armed variety  
**Date:** Monday, April 17, 2017 2:20:17 PM  
**Attachments:** [News Clips.docx](#)

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## TECHNOLOGY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

### Police adding drones, but not the armed variety

By Justin Bachman Bloomberg

An Inspire 1 Pro drone flies at maker DJI's headquarters in Shenzhen, China. Most public safety drones now in use in the U.S. are made by DJI. OILAI SHEN / BLOOMBERG 2016

In small unmanned aerial drones, police and firefighters have discovered a useful new tool, with at least 347 agencies in 43 states now flying them.

Drone deployment by law enforcement and municipalities began more than a decade ago when it was just an emerging technology with extremely limited use. But those days are over: Last year, more public agencies acquired drones than in all previous years combined, with at least 167 departments fielding the flying robots in 2016, according to a study released April 6 by Bard College's Center for the Study of the Drone.

Texas and California agencies lead the public safety acquisitions, with 28 and 23, respectively, followed by Alabama (20); Wisconsin (18); and Ohio and Pennsylvania (13). All but seven states have at least one unmanned aerial vehicle operated by police, sheriffs, emergency response, or fire departments, the report found. But before you get too paranoid, remember that it's not just the cops who have the ability to hover over your house. The Federal Aviation Administration estimated last month that the consumer market will more than triple by 2021, with 3.5 million drones in use, up from about 1.1 million currently. Commercially, about 420,000 professional drones are likely to be flying at any one time, 10 times the current fleet count.

In most law enforcement scenarios, drones are being flown for traffic management or crime-scene photography, according to the study. They're also used for search and rescue, hazardous material spills, mass evacuations, and aerial viewing of fires or tracking fire personnel in dangerous settings. "We'll see more use cases in the coming years," predicts Dan Gettinger, the report's author, who is also founder and co-director of the Bard center.

Many Americans first became aware of police use of unmanned vehicles last July, following a shooting spree in which a dozen Dallas police officers were shot by a sniper, five fatally. Faced with a heavily armed suspect who refused to surrender, the department sent a bomb squad robot armed with C4 explosive to detonate inside a downtown community college, killing him. That drone's weaponization — the first known U.S. police robot killing — sparked a brief public debate on the ethics and efficacy of nonmilitary deployment of technology to kill. The robot shielded officers from further danger and ended a tense stalemate, an outcome police commanders view as defensible.

Extending that same logic to armed aerial drones, however, is fraught on constitutional grounds, and it's one area where police have shown little inclination (at least publicly) to explore.

Legislators in Connecticut, however, want police to have the option.

A bill meant to ban weaponized drones there includes an exception for police, a move that's sparked outrage in the somewhat progressive New England state. At least one expert observer said the cost of police drone weaponization would outweigh any potential benefit.

"The attorneys who represent municipalities drive defensively — they don't want to take that bold step," said Michael Geary, a retired New York City police sergeant, attorney, and associate professor in criminal justice who has written extensively on police drone use.

"For day-to-day patrol, I can't see it. I don't think it's necessary," he said. "Why expose yourself to that civil liability? The amounts that would have to be paid for even a couple of claims would probably negate its use and shut it down very quickly."

In guidelines for unmanned drone use issued in 2015, the International Association of Chiefs of Police prohibits "weapons of any kind," a proscription carried over from the group's initial policy recommendation three years earlier that "strongly discouraged" arming drones. The Airborne Law Enforcement Association, which conducts drone training courses nationwide, has likewise seen no efforts to fly armed drones, said Don Roby, training program manager.

"You have to do a very detailed risk analysis," Roby said. "I'm not sure that many agencies will take that risk."

Law enforcement already faces significant public skepticism about government drones, given the enormous potential for privacy invasion, plus the loss of accountability that comes with a police officer's physical presence. Several states have already enacted laws to protect people from drone snooping, and law enforcement is required to obtain search warrants for many of their drone surveillance activities.

Given the public's existing fear of an Orwellian state, adding drones that can kill would likely amp up the paranoia significantly.

"I think there's a lot of sensitivity still among police and sometimes controversy around police acquisition and use of drones, mostly around the surveillance issue," Gettinger said. "That sort of puts a damper on any attempt to experiment."

In 2015, an online video of an armed drone firing a handgun drew national attention (and federal authorities) and showed how the technique is possible. The Supreme Court has concluded that an exercise of force must be "objectively reasonable" under the circumstances to be legal, said Geary, who teaches at Albertus Magnus College in New Haven.

The court has also found that police cannot (in most circumstances) use deadly force against a suspect who is fleeing.

"You don't have that same level of immediate force confronting an officer," said Geary, who has written articles on drone use for Police Chief Magazine. "They have less likelihood of being able to show the use of force was reasonable under the circumstances." In this situation, the drone operator becomes akin to a police sniper, Geary wrote in a 2015 article, authorized to fire only if an officer or civilian faces an imminent lethal threat. The "remoteness severely hampers their ability to justify using any kind of force."

The vast majority of public safety drones in use are manufactured by DJI, a company in Shenzhen, China, with an 80 percent share of the current deployments in Bard's study, led by the consumer Phantom and Inspire models.

In recent weeks, DJI has launched a new professional drone platform, the eight-pound M200, which will be sold only through dealers. The M200 is being marketed as a tool for bridge, wind turbine, oil rig, and power line inspections, as well as search and rescue, construction site mapping, and crop surveys.

“Public safety has been an early adopter, and it started out with people trying out a lot of different consumer drones,” DJI spokesman Adam Lisberg said. “We count at least 59 lives that have been saved by people using drones.”

DJI has collected “a ton of feedback” from police in Europe and the U.S. on what they need from a drone, he said. Next steps include new software and communications abilities to help police coordinate their drone flights. But DJI has no plans to design drones with weapons, Lisberg said, calling that topic “a nonstarter for us.”

For law enforcement drone use, Geary predicts that government lawyers will deliver a simple caveat: “You don’t want to be that test case that shows up at the Supreme Court.”

At least 347 agencies now field the flying robots, and all but seven states have at least one unmanned vehicle operated by police, sheriffs, emergency crews or firefighters.

**Edward (Eddie) Thompson**  
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**Strategic Intelligence**  
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**From:** Anderson, Cassandra L  
**Sent:** Monday, April 17, 2017 2:01 PM  
**Subject:** News Clips 4/16/2017

# **News Clip 4/16/2017**

## **Palm Beach Post**

**PALM BEACH COUNTY**

### **Newspaper ad 16 years ago leads to career — and honors PBSO communication supervisor Pritchard earns top award.**

*By Olivia Hitchcock Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Mark Gish presents the 2017 Communication Officer of the Year Award to Regina Pritchard, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office communications supervisor. PHOTOS BY DAMON HIGGINS / THE PALM BEACH POST





Regina Pritchard receives a hug after the award ceremony on Wednesday. The mother of three says, "It means a lot to be honored. I didn't really think it would, though, it's just what you do every day."

After nearly 16 years of answering oftentimes incoherent calls for help, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Communication Supervisor Regina Pritchard can tell when something is off.

And when Broward County Sheriff's officials asked Pritchard to help with a welfare check at two locations in the southern part of Palm Beach County, she knew something wasn't right.

Turns out the woman's mother had been killed, and officials weren't sure whether the daughter was another victim or a suspect.

Pritchard's cautious hesitation helped earn her the sheriff's office's 2017 Communication Officer of the Year Award. At a ceremony this past week, Pritchard shied from the attention while expressing gratitude toward the coworkers she has come to regard as family.

Pritchard, a mother of three, spotted an ad in a newspaper years ago advertising a job with the sheriff's office. It was with the communication office, and she thought she'd give it a try.

July will be 16 years in the job, answering desperate calls from mothers whose children have committed suicide or haven't been seen in days and calming panicked shooting witnesses enough to gather information.

"Behind the phone, the only help we can give is calling a deputy, or calling an ambulance," she said. "And once deputies arrive, we're done. We're on to the next call ... the next screaming mother."

Sometimes Pritchard will sneak in a call to Teri Barbera, public information officer at the sheriff's office, to find out how calls end.

"It means a lot to be honored," Pritchard said. "I didn't really think it would, though, it's just what you do every day." [ohitchcock@pbpost.com](mailto:ohitchcock@pbpost.com) Twitter: [@ohitchcock](https://twitter.com/ohitchcock)

## CRIME STOPPERS

These suspects were wanted as of Thursday:

**Jonathan Jablonski**, 28, on charges of violation of probation for possession of heroin. He was born Oct. 1, 1988, has brown hair and green eyes, and is 6 foot, 190 pounds.

**James Young**, 31, on charges of possession of marijuana in excess of 20 grams, aggravated battery with a firearm and felon in possession of firearm/ammunition. He was born Jan. 30, 1986, has black hair and brown eyes and is 5 foot, 6 inches and 170 pounds. Call Crime Stoppers at 800-458-TIPS (8477).



Jablonski



Young

## TECHNOLOGY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

# Police adding drones, but not the armed variety

*By Justin Bachman Bloomberg*



An Inspire 1 Pro drone flies at maker DJI's headquarters in Shenzhen, China. Most public safety drones now in use in the U.S. are made by DJI. OILAI SHEN / BLOOMBERG 2016

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"You don't have that same level of immediate force confronting an officer," said Geary, who has written articles on drone use for Police Chief Magazine. "They have less likelihood of being able to show the use of force was reasonable under the circumstances." In this situation, the drone operator becomes akin to a police sniper, Geary wrote in a 2015 article, authorized to fire only if an officer or civilian faces an imminent lethal threat. The "remoteness severely hampers their ability to justify using any kind of force."

The vast majority of public safety drones in use are manufactured by DJI, a company in Shenzhen, China, with an 80 percent share of the current deployments in Bard's study, led by the consumer Phantom and Inspire models.

In recent weeks, DJI has launched a new professional drone platform, the eight-pound M200, which will be sold only through dealers. The M200 is being marketed as a tool for bridge, wind turbine, oil rig, and power line inspections, as well as search and rescue, construction site mapping, and crop surveys.

"Public safety has been an early adopter, and it started out with people trying out a lot of different consumer drones," DJI spokesman Adam Lisberg said. "We count at least 59 lives that have been saved by people using drones."



DJI has collected “a ton of feedback” from police in Europe and the U.S. on what they need from a drone, he said. Next steps include new software and communications abilities to help police coordinate their drone flights. But DJI has no plans to design drones with weapons, Lisberg said, calling that topic “a nonstarter for us.”

For law enforcement drone use, Geary predicts that government lawyers will deliver a simple caveat: “You don’t want to be that test case that shows up at the Supreme Court.”

At least 347 agencies now field the flying robots, and all but seven states have at least one unmanned vehicle operated by police, sheriffs, emergency crews or firefighters.

## **TRUMP IN PALM BEACH President bypasses tax-return protest Trump motorcade takes alternate route from golf club as hundreds near Mar-a-Lago demand more transparency.** *By George Bennett and John Pacenti Palm Beach Post Staff Writers*

### **KEEP UP WITH THE PRESIDENT**

Follow our team of reporters and photographers as they cover President Trump’s Easter weekend visit to Palm Beach at [myPalmBeachPost.com/donaldtrump](https://www.mypalmbeachpost.com/donaldtrump). On Twitter: George Bennett at @gbennettpost Pat Beall at @beall1 Kristina Webb at @kristinawebb Aleese Kopf at @aleesekopf



Protesters on Bingham Island on Saturday call on President Donald Trump to release his tax returns, but Trump’s motorcade took a different route to Mar-a-Lago. CARLA TRIVINO / PALM BEACH DAILY NEWS





Trump supporters in West Palm Beach on Saturday jeer marchers calling on the president to release his federal tax returns. ALLEN EYESTONE / THE PALM BEACH POST

PALM BEACH — Several hundred protesters got within sight — and perhaps earshot — of Mar-a-Lago on Saturday afternoon to demand President Donald Trump release his income tax returns as anti-Trump demonstrators participated in a series of nationwide marches.

Trump, whose Easter weekend visit is the seventh Palm Beach trip of his presidency, stayed clear of the demonstration outside his “tropical White House.”

After spending about 4½ hours at his nearby Trump International Golf Club in unincorporated West Palm Beach, the president’s motorcade did not return to Mar-a-Lago via its customary route along Southern Boulevard, where protesters were chanting and waving signs on Bingham Island.

Instead, Trump’s motorcade crossed into Palm Beach farther north, then went south on Ocean Boulevard to ferry him to Mar-a-Lago at 1:50 p.m.

“We’re very disappointed,” Sharon Adams of West Palm Beach said as it became apparent the president wouldn’t see the protest. “He’s scared. He’s avoiding everybody. He is avoiding taking responsibility.”

Adams and her friend Paula Ferrari of Jupiter said they plan to show up today to catch the president’s motorcade to Palm Beach International Airport when he leaves town.

“He’ll see us. He’ll see our signs,” Adams vowed.

Saturday’s nationwide “tax marches” were scheduled to coincide with the traditional April 15 deadline for filing federal income taxes, though this year’s deadline is Tuesday. There were more than 150 Tax Day rallies and marches planned nationwide for Saturday.

Dueling pro- and anti-Trump rallies in Berkeley, Calif., turned violent Saturday as numerous fistfights broke out and protesters fired pepper spray into a crowd. Police

arrested more than a dozen people and requested aid from other law enforcement agencies.

The West Palm Beach demonstration began outside the Trump Plaza towers on South Flagler Boulevard — buildings Trump hasn't owned for more than 20 years but that still bear his name.

Trump supporters in a "Trumpmobile" made from two Mercedes Benz station wagons drove by the protesters a few times, drawing boos as the march began.

"No more secrets, no more lies. Show us your taxes, show us your ties," demonstrators chanted near the beginning of the march.

"He needs to be transparent in his business dealings. We want to know what his conflicts really are," said Kathleen Norris of Stuart. "I think there are dealings with foreign governments he needs to come clean with."

While Trump's tax returns were the stated cause of Saturday's rallies, protesters aired a wide array of grievances.

"I have a litany of issues with this administration, and showing his taxes is just one," said Joan Friedenberg of Boynton Beach.

She mentioned Trump's Cabinet picks, his opposition to federal funding for Planned Parenthood, his pledge to repeal the Affordable Care Act, his stance on immigration and his campaign vow to temporarily ban Muslims from entering the country.

"While he is out on the golf course, we are trying to demonstrate and make ourselves heard," said Ed Hertz-berg, 88, of Boynton Beach. "The tax issue is one thing, but his whole outlook — it is 18th century thinking."

Diane Rice of Wellington and Al Scharnitz of Palm Beach Gardens helped carry a sign protesting the Sabal Trail natural gas pipeline. Mitzi Kaitz of Delray Beach carried a "Where is Marco?" sign to criticize Sen. Marco Rubio for avoiding town hall meetings with constituents.

Trump arrived Thursday without top White House aides and did not have public events on his schedule Friday or Saturday.

The president golfed at Trump International on Friday, and while the White House did not reveal what he was doing there Saturday, a heavy security presence on the course appeared consistent with presidential time on the course. Saturday's outing appeared to be the 16th time Trump has played golf since taking office— a rate of once every 5.4 days.

Former President Barack Obama, whose golf habits were frequently criticized by Trump, played an estimated 333 rounds of golf as president — a rate of once every 8.8 days he was in office.

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## POST WATCHDOG TEXTING AND DRIVING

# Study: 92% of U.S. drivers use phone as car moves Only Louisiana scores worse than Florida, new study indicates. *By Charles Elmore Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



EverDrive, which says its goal is to encourage safer habits by making drivers more self-aware, might be doing just that: Its 92 percent figure for phone use was lower than last year's 96 percent. NICK GRAHAM / DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Florida gets the nation's worst grade after Louisiana in a new study for phone use while driving.

Never mind what most of us say. A sobering 92 percent of U.S. motorists have texted, posted, dialed or otherwise used a cellphone while driving a moving vehicle, according to research using a phone app that tracks driver behavior.

"It's pretty insane," said Ryan Ruffing, director of communications at EverQuote Inc., the company behind the study. "Most people consider themselves good drivers, but they are not aware of how often they are using their phones behind the wheel."

An app called EverDrive collected data on more than 2.7 million vehicle trips and 230 million miles driven, according to the company. By sensing motion and other factors, the app assigns drivers a score on everything from phone use to hard braking, speeding, risky acceleration and hard turns.

"I'm not surprised by the results of the study," said state Rep. Emily Slosberg, D-Boca Raton. "We're one of four states that don't make texting while driving a primary offense."

That means police don't cite drivers for texting on cellphones unless they pull those drivers over for something else, such as speeding.

Slosberg and others have sponsored legislation to beef up penalties, but it is not clear those measures will get through committees in time to pass before the legislative session ends in early May.

The EverDrive technology does not count hands-free devices, but aims rather to detect active hand-held phone use such as unlocking a phone while the vehicle is moving, Ruffing said. Use can include texting and talking.

EverDrive, a privately held firm founded in 2011 and based in Cambridge, Mass., calls itself an online insurance marketplace matching U.S. drivers with insurance providers based on price and coverage needs. The company insists it does not share individual driver data with insurance companies without permission, Ruffing said, but its goal is to encourage safer habits by making drivers more self-aware.

Is it working? Company officials say there is evidence it might be. That 92 percent figure for phone use may sound high, but it was higher last year at 96 percent.

Southerners, including Floridians, have the highest phone usage rate while driving — on 41 percent of trips. Other regions used the phone on 34 percent to 37 percent of trips.

Last year EverQuote calculated Americans were on the phone about half a mile for every 11 miles driven.

Insurance companies such as Progressive have invited customers to use plug-in devices to measure many driving behaviors, if not necessarily phone use. Despite initial advertising claims, the gizmos can raise premiums as well as lower them, The Palm Beach Post found. Drivers may not realize the technology cannot always distinguish between inattentive driving and, say, a hard stop to avoid a neighbor's dog. Also often penalized: Driving after midnight, even if you work the night shift. Still, just about everyone acknowledges phone use behind the wheel represents a big and growing safety issue.

"We hope this data sheds light on actual driving habits versus people's perception of their driving skills," said Seth Birnbaum, CEO of EverQuote. "Our goal is to empower drivers to use their scores to improve their driving skills and ultimately make the roads safer for themselves and the 214 million drivers on the roads across the U.S."

AT&T officials said they commissioned research showing 57 percent of people are more likely to stop driving while distracted if a friend or passenger brings it up.

AT&T spokeswoman Kelly Starling in North Palm Beach said, "That means half of people are just waiting for someone to tell them to stop."

For Distracted Driving Awareness Month, AT&T said it has launched the #TagYourHalf social media campaign to "encourage the public to join the conversation on Twitter." [celmore@pbpost.com](mailto:celmore@pbpost.com) [Twitter: @Elmorepbp](https://twitter.com/Elmorepbp)

**PROTECTING YOUR POCKET** Check for updates on consumer news at [PalmBeachPost.com/protectingyourpocket](http://PalmBeachPost.com/protectingyourpocket).



## **PALM BEACH GARDENS FUGITIVE TEACHER**

# **Avossa: 'Those impacted' by child-porn case to get facts Superintendent offers sympathies of district leadership via Twitter.**

*By Olivia Hitchcock and Tom Elia Palm Beach Post Staff Writers*



Corey Perry taught science and coached basketball at Watkins Middle School.



Palm Beach County Schools Superintendent Robert Avossa (left) and school police Chief Lawrence Leon give a news conference on Corey Perry on March 29 as the manhunt was starting. LANNIS WATERS / THE PALM BEACH POST

The thoughts of Palm Beach County school leaders "are with all those impacted" by the case of Corey Perry, a once-admired teacher who killed himself Friday in the wake of child pornography allegations, Superintendent Robert Avossa said.

"I'm sure the facts will be brought to life soon ..." Avossa said in a statement published on his Twitter page late Friday, a few hours after Perry was found dead at a motel in Nashville, Tenn., near where he was raised.

Perry, a teacher at Howell L. Watkins Middle School in Palm Beach Gardens, was wanted on charges of producing child pornography that may have included some of his students, the FBI said. On March 24, the school told him he was barred from campus, on MacArthur Boulevard north of Northlake Boulevard, because of the investigation. The same day, FBI agents searched his West Palm Beach home.

Perry was last seen March 26 in Fort Lauderdale. The FBI set a \$25,000 reward for his capture on Thursday, one day before Perry killed himself. Investigators tracked him to the Delux Inn about five miles northeast of downtown Nashville, where Tennessee TV stations said he had checked in Wednesday.

The 33-year-old West Palm Beach resident and graduate of Florida A&M University taught science and coached basketball at Watkins. He had been recognized by Gov. Rick Scott for his work in the school's engineering lab, which is known for its robotics program, and was nominated this year for a Dwyer award, given to the district's top teachers.

Investigators have been told that Perry at times would pose as a girl when reaching out to young males, sending them nude photos of a young female and asking them to share similar photos of themselves. Authorities have not publicly commented on this allegation.

District officials have asked parents who thought their children may have been contacted by Perry either through social media or over the phone to come forward. Perry also coached youth basketball in recreational programs in Palm Beach County and could have come into contact with youths there.

Avossa had strong comments in the days after the FBI announced it was looking for Perry, saying he was "disgusted at what I have learned."

"He has hurt innocent children," Avossa said at the time. "He broke a sacred and professional code." [ohitchcock@pbpost.com](mailto:ohitchcock@pbpost.com) [Twitter:](#)

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## **Attorney on run for 20 years caught in Delray Scott Wolas accused of fraud in N.Y., Massachusetts.** *By John Pacenti Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*



Wolas

DELRAY BEACH — In January, the Patriot Ledger — a newspaper in Quincy, Mass. - asked in a headline: "Where is Scott Wolas and what is he up to?" wondering whatever happened to the disbarred lawyer wanted for 20 years for scamming people through various enterprises.

"We have no idea where he is," Quincy police Capt. John Dougan told the Ledger. Well, where else but Palm Beach County? Wolas, who went by many names, was arrested in Delray Beach last week, ending two decades on the lam. He is charged with wire fraud and aggravated identity theft. He appeared in federal court in West Palm Beach on Friday and is expected to return to Massachusetts.



Authorities say Wolas took more than \$100 million from investors in New York in the 1990s using a liquor-trading Ponzi scheme. He ripped off about 16 people in Massachusetts of \$1.7 million — including an ex-girlfriend. He was also active in Florida, specializing in false identities.

The alleged scam included the redevelopment of the Beachcomber, a longtime bar and music venue on Wollaston Beach in the Boston suburb of Quincy, into condominiums and a “boutique” restaurant.

Wolas, then posing as Eugene Grathwohl, raised more than \$1.5 million from 19 investors for that project. After months of extensions, he failed to show up at the closing in September, disappearing with the money.

“I’m so happy that he got caught,” Ben Porter, who lost \$50,000 in the alleged scheme, told Boston CBS affiliate WBZ-TV. “He’s going to now be accountable for what he did.”

Wolas used \$98,000 to purchase stamp books and other collectible items. He also spent \$50,000 dining out at restaurants and withdrew more than \$600,000 in cash for unknown purposes, according to court documents.

Besides Grathwohl, Wolas went by Frank Amolsch, Drew Prescott, Allen Lee Hengst and Robert Francis McDowell, police say. He told his girlfriend he needed to change his identity frequently because he once was in a “secret service” and was now in the witness protection program, according to a federal criminal complaint.

The real Grathwohl presently lives in Delray Beach, the criminal complaint said. He told the FBI that he knew Wolas as the ex-husband of a friend of his and had even met the man who assumed his identity, according to the FBI. Efforts to reach him Saturday were unsuccessful.

Hengst — who in real life roomed with Wolas at Georgetown University, federal officials said — was the name Wolas used during his first foray into Florida, which took place after he fled New York in the 1990s but before he was indicted there in 1997.

While in the state, Wolas used Hengst’s name in obtaining a license to sell securities, and his activities drew the attention of the FBI’s Tampa office in 2001.

The aliases that Wolas was using just before his arrest were Endicott Asquith and Cameron Sturge, the complaint said.

In late March, Wolas told a witness who knew him as Asquith that he planned to “come clean.” Through a photo provided by the witness, authorities who had earlier determined Grathwohl was Wolas determined that Asquith was Wolas as well, according to the complaint. [jpacenti@pbpost.com](mailto:jpacenti@pbpost.com)

Staff writer Olivia Hitchcock contributed to this story.

# Drug-sale complaint leads to two arrests in Boynton

*By Tom Elia Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

BOYNTON BEACH — City police Friday accused two men of drug possession and child neglect, saying they caught them driving around a neighborhood with heroin, fentanyl, guns, knives and a 4-year-old boy in their car.

A resident's tip about people selling drugs from a green Chrysler 300 led to the arrests of Tony Rah-ming, 28, of Boynton Beach on drug-possession charges and William Randall, 25, of Greenacres on a child-neglect charge, city police said in a post on their Face-book page. Both men were booked into the Palm Beach County Jail. Rahming was released late Friday after posting a \$66,750 bond, jail records show. Randall remained in custody with his bail set at \$3,000.

The complaint told police of loitering and drug sales on the 400 block of Northwest 11th Avenue, north of Boynton Beach Boulevard and west of Seacrest Boulevard, near Sara Sims Park. Officers said they spotted the car and pulled it over.

Police said that inside the car, they found 23 pills containing a mixture of heroin and fentanyl, 1.7 grams of crack cocaine, 0.9 grams of fake Xanax, 1.2 grams of marijuana and \$787 in cash. They said Randall also had a loaded Glock 23 handgun in his possession, with 25 rounds of ammunition, including hollow-point bullets. Three throwing knives were found under the backseat, according to the post.

On that seat sat the boy, who was not in a proper child's car seat, police said in the post. He was turned over to his mother. The Florida Department of Children and Families was notified. [telia@pbpost.com](mailto:telia@pbpost.com)

**Twitter: @TEliaPBPost**

## OUR VIEWS GUN RIGHTS **Lawmakers misfire with 'stand your ground' bill**



State Sen. Anitere Flores, a Republican from Miami, has said she and some of her colleagues are "a little gun-bill fatigued" in the current legislative session in Tallahassee.

STEVE CANNON / ASSOCIATED PRESS 2015

Less than a year after the Pulse nightclub massacre in Orlando, you'd think that the Florida Legislature would be striving to clamp down on the easy access to guns that allowed an unbalanced 29-year-old who pledged allegiance to the Islamic State to effortlessly acquire the armaments to kill 49 people.

That's not happening. Gun control is nowhere on the agenda. But neither is the Legislature as eager as in past years to wildly expand the rights of gun owners.

"I think the members — not just myself, but some others — we're a little gun-bill fatigued," says Sen. Anitere Flores, a Republican from Miami who deserves credit for helping cool the usual "Gun-shine State" fervor.

Florida already has the largest number of concealed-weapon permit holders at 1.7 million, roughly one for every 10 adult residents. It was the first state in the union to pass a "stand your ground" law. It is also a state where, with 2,559 firearm deaths in 2015, homicide is the most distinctive cause of death, according to an analysis of 2014 data from the U.S. Centers of Disease Control and Prevention.

On April 5, the state House passed a bill intended to shift a key burden of proof in "stand your ground" cases from defendants to prosecutors in pretrial hearings. The Senate approved the bill on March 15, but with a difference over how convincing the prosecution's case must be.

It's one of the few pro-gun-rights bills likely to pass this year.

The proposal is in reaction to a Florida Supreme Court ruling in 2015 that said it's up to defendants to prove they should be shielded from prosecution under "stand your ground." Critics including the National Rifle Association complain the court undercut the purpose of the law, which says people can use deadly force, with no duty to retreat, if they think it is necessary to prevent death or great bodily harm.

"Stand your ground" is billed as a measure to empower people who feel under threat, but it seems more like a license to kill. Since it was enacted in Florida in 2005, Florida's monthly homicide rate has increased 24.4 percent and the homicide by firearm rate jumped 31.6 percent, according to a study published in January in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Even more disturbing, a new report showing the number of road rage incidents involving guns is on the rise highlighted Florida as having the most in the country over a two-year period, with 146 incidents. The report released April 11 by The Trace, an independent nonprofit news organization that covers gun issues, said there were at least 620 gun-involved road rage incidents in 2016 — more than double from two years earlier.

Those findings are bolstered by another study, released in 2013 by a Texas A&M University researcher, which found an average 8 percent increase in homicides in states that passed "stand your ground" laws, with "no evidence of any deterrence effect" that the laws prevent crime.

"These laws lower the cost of using lethal force," said the researcher, economist Mark Hoekstra. "Our study finds that, as a result, you get more of it."

Facts like these, unfortunately, seem to have no deterrent effect on legislators who are hell-bent on loosening gun restrictions. Again, on April 5, the House approved a measure that would allow people with concealed-weapons licenses to bring guns to churches and other religious institutions.

Thankfully, however, an array of other bad ideas is going nowhere. That includes a bill allowing concealed weapons on college campuses. And another letting people openly carry guns in public.

Many of the pro-gun bills are sponsored by state Sen. Greg Steube, a Sarasota Republican, who argues that places such as airports and schools would be safer if people carried guns around them.

The inanity of that argument was encapsulated by Mark Barden, the father of 7-year-old Daniel Barden, one of the 20 children killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012. The still-grieving father said it perfectly last week on a visit to Sarasota.

"If more guns made us safer," he said, "we should be the safest country in the world." Surprisingly, it is one of the few pro-gun-rights bills likely to pass this year.

## Protesters use Easter visit for tax return push

*By Andy Reid Staff writer*

Hundreds of protesters marched from West Palm Beach toward President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate Saturday afternoon, renewing the call for him to release his tax records.

While Trump was at a nearby golf club, protesters used Tuesday's deadline for filing federal taxes as a reminder that the president has yet to disclose more about how much he has paid in taxes through the years.

"Here is somebody that is proposing tax changes, and we don't know if those changes will personally benefit him or his friends or his family," said Bruce Brown, 59, of Lake Worth. "That's almost (the) definition of corruption."

The crowd, estimated at nearly 700 people by West Palm Beach police, was one of the largest local anti-Trump protests since he took office. Police said there were no arrests during the demonstration.

Protesters — chanting "Dump Trump" and waving signs that asked, "What are you hiding?" — marched about 3 miles along Flagler Drive and over the Southern Boulevard bridge to Bingham Island, within view of Mar-a-Lago.

About a dozen Trump supporters gathered at the corner of Flagler and Southern waving signs and flags in support of the president. Others drove along Flagler Drive honking and waving pro-Trump signs.

"I haven't marched since Vietnam," protester Marshall Brass, 70, of West Palm Beach said. "This one moved me.... We have a disgraceful man sitting in the White House." The Town of Palm Beach Police Department had blocked off parking on Bingham Island, a favorite gathering spot for Trump protesters and supporters alike near Mar-a-Lago. That left demonstrators with long walks back to their cars in West Palm Beach.

Trump has faced criticism since the campaign for failing to release his tax returns, as his predecessors had, which would show more about his financial history.

With ongoing federal investigations into Russian influence on the presidential election, protesters say there is an even greater need for the public to know more about Trump's tax history.

"It will show us what his (financial) history is, who he owes money to," said Joyce Brown, 73, of Lake Worth. "Whether he is as corrupt as we think he is."

Trump's taxes may have been the focus of Saturday's demonstration, but protesters also sounded off about everything from the president's push to build a border wall to his past derogatory comments about women.

"People feel they need a voice," said Don Pray, 69, of Jupiter.

Trump's motorcade bypassed Southern Boulevard, and the sign-waving, chanting protesters, as the president traveled from Trump International Golf Club to Mar-a-Lago, arriving at 1:50 p.m.

This is Trump's seventh trip to Palm Beach since his inauguration.

The president arrived Thursday evening in Palm Beach for a four-day, Easter holiday visit to Mar-a-Lago.

By Friday morning he was at his namesake golf course, where he stayed for about four hours. Trump returned to the private club just before 9 a.m. Saturday and stayed about 4 1/2 hours.

The amount of time Trump spends on golf courses during his taxpayer-funded travel is gaining more scrutiny from his critics.

Before this trip, Trump as president had already spent more than 63 hours at golf clubs, according to the Associated Press.

On Friday, the conservative government watchdog group Judicial Watch questioned the cost to taxpayers of Trump's golf-related travel. Organization president Tom Fitton, who has also criticized President Barack Obama's golf trips, called for Trump to "be sensitive" to the taxpayer costs that come from his travel.

"He has a right to golf, but the ... concern is the cost of travel," Fitton said.

The White House hadn't clarified Saturday afternoon whether Trump actually played golf during his golf club visits during this trip to Palm Beach.

Trump and his supporters have said that presidential work is getting done during his trips to Palm Beach, including the golf outings.

Trump holds meetings and hosts other world leaders at Mar-a-Lago. He golfed with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe during their February trip to Palm Beach.

"He puts himself full time into the (presidency)," said Trump supporter John Edwards, 66, of West Palm Beach. Edwards, who waited outside Trump International Golf Club on Saturday morning for the chance to wave at the president. "The media is trying to take it in a negative direction, but there are millions of supporters for this man."

The White House by Saturday evening hadn't announced details about Trump's activities in Palm Beach this weekend.

Last year, Trump attended Easter services at The Episcopal Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea in Palm Beach. That's where he and the first lady, Melania Trump, were married in 2005.



Church representatives wouldn't confirm whether they have been told that Trump will be attending one of their Sunday services. But they are already preparing for an influx of media on Sunday, and they are recommending that worshipers arrive early. "For over 125 years, Bethesda has welcomed everyone who walks through our doors for worship: famous and unknown, rich and poor, liberal and conservative," the Rev. James Harlan said in a statement released by the church. "We are confident that any possible security arrangements will not make attending our beautiful Easter worship services any more challenging for those attending."

*The Associated Press contributed to this report. [abreid@sunsentinel.com](mailto:abreid@sunsentinel.com), 561-228-5504 or [Twitter @abreidnews](https://twitter.com/abreidnews)*

## Lawmakers approve bill to grant murder witnesses confidentiality

— *News Service of Florida*

A bill is headed to Gov. Rick Scott that would keep confidential the identities of murder witnesses for two years after they observe the crimes.

The Senate voted 34-3 on Thursday to approve the bill (HB 111), which earlier passed the House.

The bill would create a public-records exemption for identifying information about witnesses.

Supporters of the bill contend the exemption will make witnesses more willing to provide information to police. They say many witnesses now fear retaliation for cooperating with authorities.

"This is one of those bills that will help the law enforcement officers find the perpetrators of these senseless acts," Senate Minority Leader Oscar Braynon, D-Miami Gardens, said. Casting the dissenting votes Thursday were Sen. Rob Bradley, R-Fleming Island, Sen. Jeff Brandes, R-St. Petersburg, and Sen. Jeff Clemens, D-Lake Worth.

**From:** [Thompson, Edward L.](#)  
**To:** [Gerena, David A.](#); [Garcia, Ricardo](#); [Webb, Kayonne K.](#); [Giumenta, James](#); [Pajenski, Randi M](#); [Ward, Andrea L.](#); [Stanfill, Kevin L](#); [Intel](#)  
**Subject:** Trump's Palm Beach weekend to include side trip to Melbourne for rally  
**Date:** Thursday, February 16, 2017 6:49:20 AM

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## Trump's Palm Beach weekend to include side trip to Melbourne for rally

### Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

6:12 p.m Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2017 [Local News](#)

President Donald Trump intends to put a few more miles on Air Force One this weekend with a short side trip from Mar-a-Lago to Melbourne on Saturday for a rally.

The president announced the 5 p.m. rally with a tweet Wednesday afternoon that read, "Join me in Florida this Saturday at 5 p.m. for a rally at the Orlando-Melbourne International Airport!"

Tickets to the rally are free but [registration is required](#). A link that Trump included in the tweet to register for tickets takes readers to the Donald J. Trump for President Inc. website, which has been updated since his election and inauguration to explain why his campaign

committee remains active.

This Campaign will be a voice for all Americans, in every city near and far, who support a more prosperous, safe and strong America,” according to the website. “That’s why our Campaign cannot stop now — our Movement is just getting started

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Friday, when he flies to Charleston, S.C. There, he will attend Boeing’s unveiling of its first 787-10 jet.

Trump has been a harsh critic of Boeing. In [December](#) he described the cost estimates for the Air Force One replacement — more than \$4 billion — as “out of control” and hinted at canceling the project.

After meeting with the president at Mar-a-

Lago, Boeing CEO Dennis Muilenburg said the company would build two new presidential aircraft for less. Candidate Trump was also critical of Boeing's business and manufacturing facility in China.

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commercial and private aircraft from 2:30 p.m. Friday to 10:30 p.m. Sunday. On Saturday, he will travel to Orlando-Melbourne International Airport in Melbourne, where flight restrictions are in place from 4:30 to 7 p.m.

No posters, banners or signs will be allowed at the rally, according to the Trump campaign website. Also prohibited are professional cameras with detachable lenses, tripods, monopods, selfie-sticks or GoPros. Official Donald J. Trump for president gear is "only available inside the venue," according to the website.

It appears Trump will return to Washington from Palm Beach on Sunday night.

Two activists groups are planning a protest on Friday to demonstrate their opposition to Trump's policies. South Florida Activism and the West Palm Beach Chapter of the Women's March plan to gather at Dreher Park afternoon, near Southern Boulevard, where the president's motorcade has been traveling from PBIA to Palm Beach. An early press release said the protest was scheduled for 5 p.m., but a spokeswoman said Wednesday that was subject to change and the precise time would be released closer to the president's arrival date.

According to the press release, "As the

motorcade approaches, demonstrators will turn their backs to the street revealing the word “NO” on the back of their shirts. “NO” to Trump’s corporate cabinet of billionaire tycoons and donors. “NO” to the enactment of a Muslim ban. “NO” to attacks on sanctuary cities. “NO” to plans to repeal DACA and build a wall along our southern border. “NO” to the hatred and bigotry.”

The town of Palm Beach also updated its presidential road closure alert on Wednesday. According to the update, all forms of travel, including pedestrian foot traffic, will be prohibited from 8 a.m. Friday through Monday evening on South Ocean Boulevard from South County Road to Southern Boulevard.

<http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/local/trump-palm-beach-weekend-include-side-trip-melbourne-for-rally/pSZMLqT7PleEjpajrPUasN/>

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