



WFLX-TV

QUARTERLY REPORTS/PUBLIC AFFAIRS

January – March 31, 2024

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PROBLEMS AND NEEDS

2024 COMMUNITY AFFAIRS ISSUES

FIRST QUARTER 2024

The following issues were identified as significant and addressed by WFLX to serve the community and act in the public interest set forth by the Federal Communications Commission.

1. Economy/Housing
2. Crime
3. Environment
4. Healthcare
5. Minorities
6. Education

WFLX-TV PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMMING

QUARTERLY LIST OF PROGRAMMING PROVIDING THE MOST SIGNIFICANT TREATMENT OF COMMUNITY ISSUES

QUARTLERY LIST OF PROGRAMMING PROVIDING THE MOST SIGNIFICANT TREATMENT OF COMMUNITY ISSUES

FIRST QUARTER 2024

WFLX COMMUNITY AFAIRS PROGRAMMING

PROGRAM	DAY	TIME
WFLX Fox 29 Morning News	Monday – Friday	7:00-9:00AM
FOX 29 News at 6:30pm	Monday – Friday	6:30-7:00PM
WFLX Ten O’Clock News	Monday – Friday	10:00-11:00PM
Public Affairs Announcements	Any Day	Any Time
FOX News Sunday	Sunday	9:00-10:00AM
Investigate TV	Sunday	11:00-11:30PM

FOX 29 Morning News (120 minutes, 5 days per week. M-F)

This locally produced program presents a mix of news, weather, sports and issue related feature stories, issue responsive reports, segments and multipart series that are usually one to three minutes in duration.

FOX 29 News at 6:30pm (30 minutes, 5 days per week. M-F)

This locally produced program presents a mix of news, weather, sports, and issue related feature stories, issue responsive reports, segments and multipart series that are usually one to three minutes in duration.

FOX29 Ten O’Clock News (60 minutes, 7 days per week. M-Su)

This locally produced program presents a mix of news, weather, sports and issue related feature stories, issue responsive reports, segments and multipart series that are usually one to three minutes in duration.

FOX News Sunday (60 minutes, 1 day per week. Su)

This national news program covers political issues in Washington DC. The panels of guests are usually political experts and journalists discussing their opinions on the topic of the day.

Investigate TV (30 minutes, 1 day per week. Su)

This Gray-produces news program features host Lee Zurik making in depth investigations into news stories and issues affecting the nation. The regular show time period is Sunday night at 11:00pm. It may air later due to sports overruns.

Public Service Announcements (any day, any time)

WFLX broadcasts local and non-local public service announcements of various lengths throughout its broadcast schedule.

QUARTERLY LIST OF PROGRAMMING PROVIDING THE MOST SIGNIFICANT TREATMENT OF COMMUNITY ISSUES

WFLX FIRST QUARTER 2024

Economy & Housing

Including business development, infrastructure, small business development, consumer issues and visitor attractions.

FOX 29 Morning News

01/05/2024 7-9AM

MORTGAGE RATES ARE WIDELY EXPECTED TO FALL THIS YEAR ... WHICH WOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR POTENTIAL HOMEBUYERS. BUT RENTERS ARE ALSO LIKELY TO FEEL SOME MUCH-NEEDED RELIEF, AFTER GRAPPLING WITH YEARS OF sky-high increases. THE SENTIMENT WAS STRONG EVERYWHERE IN 2023... "When I say rent to... y'all say high. Rent too, high." SINCE THE PANDEMIC TOOK HOLD IN 2020 – Redfin's "RENT"-DOT-COM SAYS YEAR-OVER-YEAR RENT ROSE FOR THIRTY-SEVEN MONTHS. MEDIAN ASKING RENTS GREW MORE THAN TWENTY PERCENT OVER THREE YEARS – SPIKING TO MORE THAN \$2,000 DOLLARS A MONTH TWICE IN THE PAST TWO YEARS – BEFORE FINALLY STARTING TO DROP this past fall. IN DECEMBER, RENTAL PLATFORM "ZUMPER" FOUND RENT PRICES DROPPED IN FIFTY-FIVE CITIES IN 2023... WITH PRICES STAYING FLAT IN 17 OTHER locales. EXPERTS PREDICT MEDIAN RENT PRICES WILL KEEP DROPPING THROUGH THE FIRST HALF OF 20-24 AS CONSTRUCTION BOOMS. THE REAL ESTATE FIRM – C-B-R-E – SAYS NEARLY A MILLION MULTI-FAMILY HOMES ARE UNDER CONSTRUCTION – AND MORE SUPPLY MEANS LOWER PRICES FOR RENTERS. C-B-R-E PREDICTS AN EXPENSIVE HOMEBUYING MARKET WILL ALSO FUEL MORE LEASING, WITH MONTHLY MORTGAGE PAYMENTS FOR A NEW HOME...SITTING THIRTY-FIVE-PERCENT HIGHER THAN AVERAGE MONTHLY RENTS IN 2024. "we've heard from property managers that they're giving more concessions today than they were a year ago. That could mean anything from a free month of rent to paid utilities, access to luxury amenities or even discounts on local restaurants or retailers." KATE TERHUNE – THE DIRECTOR OF BRAND FOR "RENT"– SAYS median RENTAL PRICES HAVE DROPPED THREE MONTHS IN A ROW... AND BELIEVES IT'S A SIGN OF BRIGHT TIMES AHEAD FOR THE ECONOMY. BIANCA FACCHINEI, SCRIPPS NEWS, WASHINGTON.

01/05/2024 7-9AM

Kristalina Georgieva/International Monetary Fund Managing Director: "That is, for all Americans, good news. You have a job, and prices are finally starting to moderate." NEW REPORTS SHOWS THE U-S MIGHT PULL OFF THAT ILLUSIVE "SOFT LANDING" -- CURTAILING INFLATION WITHOUT A RECESSION. TODAY'S JOBS UPDATE IS ANOTHER DATA POINT IN THE BIG PICTURE. BUT, MANY AMERICANS SAY THEY JUST DON'T FEEL IT. Mark Zandi/Chief Economist, Moody's Analytics: "The typical American household has to spend over a thousand dollars more a month to buy the same goods and services as they did three years ago because of inflation, and that bugs people." Kristalina Georgieva/International Monetary Fund Managing Director: "For decades, we got accustomed to very low inflation. We forgot what it is for inflation to go up. " POLITICIANS ARE PAYING ATTENTION TO THAT CONTRAST BETWEEN FACTS AND FEELINGS. Rep. Nancy Pelosi/(D) California: "What's important is what matters to the American people and their families at that kitchen table." // "And the economy is big, a kitchen table issue." STILL -- THE NUMBERS ARE THERE.

FREDDIE MAC SAYS MORTGAGE RATES HAVE TICKED UP A BIT -- BUT THAT'S AFTER NINE WEEKS OF DECLINES. MEANWHILE, A NEW REPORT SHOWS RECORD E-COMMERCE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON. Mark Zandi/Chief Economist, Moody's Analytics: "I think you and I as consumers, we'll keep spending as long as we have a job." THE FEDERAL RESERVE SEEMS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE. IT'S HINTING IT'LL START CUTTING RATES IN THE COMING MONTHS. Mark Zandi/Chief Economist, Moody's Analytics: "I do think by this time next year people will be feeling a lot better."

01/16/2024 7-9AM

BUBBLING UNDER THE SURFACE OFF FLORIDA'S COASTLINE - COULD BE SOLUTIONS TO SOME OF OUR BIGGEST PROBLEMS AND STATE REPRESENTATIVE KELLY SKIDMORE WANTS TO PUT A PRICE ON IT. (Rep Skidmore)
"The Blue Economy is an effort to make sure that the water around us - it's economic health is protected."
FROM STUDIES ON A MARINE SPONGE (FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY) - AS A POSSIBLE TREATMENT FOR BACTERIA INFECTIONS. FINDING NEW FOOD SOURCES (INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE) - AND PREDICTING POWERFUL HURRICANES FASTER (NOVA SOUTHEASTERN)....BLUE ECONOMY BOILS DOWN TO WHAT MANY RESEARCH GROUPS AND SCHOOLS LIKE F-A-U HARBOR BRANCH IN FORT PIERCE ARE ALREADY DOING....LENDING THEIR SPACE AND EXPERTISE TO OUTSIDE COMPANIES THAT ARE TRYING TO DEVELOP THE NEXT BIG THING. AN EXAMPLE? UNDERWATER WIND FARMS - THAT SOME BELIEVE COULD ONE DAY BE A CHEAPER FORM OF ELECTRICITY. Gabriel Alsenas/FAU Harbor Branch
"Eventually we hope that there will be turbines offshore, with the Gulfstream turning them, bringing power back to our communities at large scale." NATS OF SKIDMORE... REPRESENTATIVE SKIDMORE SAYS BY ESTABLISHING AN OFFICIAL OFFICE OR ENTITY IN CHARGE OF SHOWCASING FLORIDA'S BLUE WATER, WE LEVERAGE ONE OF OUR BEST ASSETS BETTER - AND CAN CREATE MORE JOBS - SIMPLY BY TAPPING INTO - (NATS OF BUBBLING WATER) WHAT'S UNDER THE SURFACE (Rep Skidmore) "It's just that no one is connecting the dots of all those - the power that we have in the university system in the state of Florida, in the research, in entrepreneurship, in spinoff, we're not commercializing or monetizing what we're doing best. "

01/31/2024 7-9AM

THE PRESIDENT HAS SINCE COME AND GONE FROM JUPITER AND I'M TOLD HIS VISIT IS EXPECTED TO LEAVE A LONG-TERM IMPACT WHICH PEOPLE SAY COULD BE BOTH GOOD... AND BAD FOR JUPITER. NATS - Hi table for how many? HAVING DRINKS AT SCHOONERS IN JUPITER... "When I heard, the president was coming to Jupiter, I said why would he possibly come to Jupiter?" "I'm thrilled though." PEOPLE ARE WINDING DOWN - Reporter "Did you get caught in the traffic? Were you delayed?" "Yeah, yeah everyone I know was delayed." AFTER PRESIDENT BIDEN HELD A CAMPAIGN FUNDRAISER JUST DOWN THE ROAD "I think Jupiter is already like a popular place, but I feel like now it's more put on the map." THE EXPOSURE... "We're trying to hide Jupiter to be honest with you...ha-ha." A CON FOR LOCALS LIKE DAVE JONES Reporter "Why do you think they're trying to hide Jupiter?" "Cause it's a special place, a little piece of paradise down here." BUT FOR BUSINESSES LIKE BLUELINE SURF AND PADDLE Reporter- "Were you hoping that Biden would've made a stop here?" "Yeah, you know we would love to get him out on the water, put him in a kayak showcase everything." HE SAYS THE EXPOSURE IS A LIFELINE KEEPING BUSINESSES LIKE THEIRS AFLOAT "It was pretty impressive, there were a bunch of people walking by checking it all out so it's always great." TOURISM AGENCY, DISCOVER THE PALM BEACHES SAYS TOURISM BRINGS IN APPROXIMATELY 10-BILLION DOLLARS TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY... SUPPORTING MORE THAN 85-THOUSAND JOBS. Reporter "How quickly can we start seeing the effects from the visit today?" "So certainly, it will bring a component in terms of visitation, human resources, the need for transportation the need for rooms and other services that will impact the county immediately. " THEY SAY TODAY'S GREAT WEATHER AND THE ABILITY TO HOST A SITTING PRESIDENT WILL PAY OFF LONG TERM. "This type of publicity always helps to bring top of mind your name at this moment in which a lot of people are considering in where to go and spend a few days now in winter and perhaps summer." DISCOVER THE PALM BEACHES SAYS EVENTS LIKE TODAY ENCOURAGES OTHER BUSINESSES AND CONVENTIONS TO HOST THEIR EVENTS LOCALLY DURING THE OFF SEASON WHEN THEY SAY TOURISM TENDS TO BE THE SLOWEST.

02/05/2024 7-9AM

THE HEAD OF THE NATION'S FEDERAL BANKING SYSTEM BRINGS SOME GOOD NEWS ON INTEREST RATES FOR THIS YEAR. JEROME POWELL, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SAID THE RESERVE IS ON A PATH TO CUT INTEREST RATES THREE TIMES THIS YEAR. POWELL ALSO SAID THE ECONOMY LOOKS HEALTHY AND THAT THERE'S NO SIGN OF A RECESSION IN THE NEAR FUTURE. POWELL ADDED THE RATE CUTS WON'T HAPPEN IN MARCH BUT ECONOMISTS THINK IT COULD BEGIN IN MAY.

02/13/2024 7-9AM

Sen. Mike Lee/(R) Utah: "Our economy is our business." SO -- HOW IS THAT BUSINESS DOING? A KEY INFLATION GAUGE OUT TODAY HELPS ANSWER THAT QUESTION. THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX LOOKS AT A COLLECTION OF TYPICAL HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND SERVICES --AND HOW THEIR PRICES CHANGE OVER TIME. IT'S FACING UPWARD PRESSURES LIKE RECENT GAS PRICES INCHING HIGHER --AND MIDEAST UNREST ENDANGERING THE GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN. BUT -- THE C-P-I'S OVERALL TREND FOR THE PAST YEAR OR SO IS LARGELY DOWN. ON THE BUSINESS SIDE -- THAT'S ALSO TRUE FOR THE PRODUCER PRICE INDEX. DATA LIKE THAT HAS SOME ECONOMISTS FEELING OPTIMISTIC. Kristalina Georgieva/IMF Managing Director: "The world economy is now poised for this soft landing we have been dreaming for." THE CONSUMER CONFIDENCE SURVEY SHOWS AMERICANS ARE STARTING TO BELIEVE IN THAT SOFT LANDING. ANOTHER SIGN OF OPTIMISM IS THE DOW JONES SETTING A NEW RECORD HIGH YESTERDAY. PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN IS TRUMPETING THE POSITIVE TRENDS -- PROCLAIMING THAT THE ECONOMY IS DOING WELL. Biden: "I've kept my commitment to leave no one behind, rebuilding the economy from the middle out and the bottom up." BUT LIFE ISN'T THE SAME AS BEFORE THE PANDEMIC. PRICES ARE STILL HISTORICALLY HIGH --AND CONSUMER CONFIDENCE HAS YET TO REBOUND COMPLETELY. MANY POLITICAL CHALLENGERS ARE EMPHASIZING THAT. Nikki Haley/(R) Presidential Candidate: "This is the time that we need to be sober and start realizing what we need to do to fix things."

02/27/2024 7-9AM

THE CONSUMER CONFIDENCE INDEX IS OUT TODAY. BUT A SIMPLER MEASURE OF HOW AMERICANS FEEL ABOUT THE ECONOMY --MIGHT BE A TRIP TO THE SUPERMARKET. Sen. Mitch McConnell/(R) Minority Leader: "Families still have to put food on the table in the face of a food price surge." WAGE GROWTH ISN'T MAKING UP FOR HISTORICALLY HIGH PRICES COMPLETELY. A NEW REPORT SHOWS RECORD U-S CREDIT CARD DEBT IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF LAST YEAR. IT'S NOT AS BAD WHEN ADJUSTED FOR INFLATION -- AND THAT INFLATION IS COOLING. BUT IN THE MEANTIME -- KELLOGG'S IS NOW ADVERTISING CEREAL AS A DINNER FOOD. Gary Pilnick/WK Kellogg CEO (CNBC): "If you think about the cost of cereal for a family versus what they might otherwise do, that's gonna be much more affordable." AND, WITH A LAWSUIT FILED YESTERDAY --THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION IS TRYING TO BLOCK THE LARGEST SUPERMARKET MERGER IN AMERICAN HISTORY. KROGER AND ALBERTSONS SAY UNITING WOULD OFFSET THE COST OF THEIR UNIONIZED WORKFORCES. THE F-T-C ARGUES THE DEAL WOULD REDUCE COMPETITION AND RAISE FOOD PRICES. ITS SUIT COULD BE A FOLLOW UP A CAMPAIGN PROMISE. Biden: "There are still too many corporations in America ripping people off: price gouging, junk fees, greedflation, shrinkflation."

03/02/2024 7-9AM

THE COGNIZANT CLASSIC, FORMERLY THE HONDA CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT, IS ONCE AGAIN IN FULL SWING IN PALM BEACH GARDENS. THE GOLFING EVENT BRINGS THOUSANDS OF SPECTATORS AND WORLD CLASS GOLFERS TO THE AREA, BUT BESIDES THE FUN, THERE'S ALSO AN IMPORTANT CHARITABLE ASPECT TO THINK ABOUT. MANY DIFFERENT NON-PROFITS AND ORGANIZATIONS BENEFIT... INCLUDING JUPITER MEDICAL CENTER -- THROUGH A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NICKLAUS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AND THE NICKLAUS CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION...OVER THE YEARS -- JUPITER MEDICAL CENTER HAS RECEIVED ROUGHLY \$12 MILLION DOLLARS BECAUSE OF THIS TOURNAMENT... AND BESIDES CHARITY... THE TOURNAMENT ALSO BOOSTS OUR LOCAL ECONOMY HERE IN

SOUTH FLORIDA. Milton Segarra- President & CEO of Discover The Palm Beaches: "The reason why we are here there's a legacy of golf in the Palm Beaches." LAST YEAR, THIS TOURNAMENT BROUGHT IN 40 MILLION DOLLARS TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY.

03/07/2024 7-9AM

THOSE LOOKING TO BUY A HOME ARE FINDING THEY HAVE TO DIG DEEPER AND DEEPER TO MAKE IT HAPPEN. RACHEL BINGHAM, WHO IS LOOKING FOR HER FIRST HOME IN COLORADO, HAS BEEN IN THE MARKET FOR THREE YEARS. Rachael Bingham, first time homebuyer "I would love to buy a house but, you know, due to my you know, income, you know, it's just, yeah, I'm limited to, you know, a specific market or town home. Honestly, town, a town home condo is kind of, you know, my budget and I, again, I have a great salary. I work in tech, but this is just kind of where this inflated economy has put me." THE REAL ESTATE MARKETING COMPANY ZILLOW SAYS THE MONTHLY MORTGAGE ON A TYPICAL HOME IS NEARLY DOUBLE THAN IT WAS IN JANUARY OF 2020...NOW AROUND \$2,200. Rachel DiMatteo Realtor "So, you really have to be strategic in, in buying. So you, you know, as opposed to four years ago, maybe even 10 years ago, you can buy your first home and it's, it's a lot easier and so today it's a lot harder, especially, you know, with the wages kind of just creeping up but not to exactly where they need to be." MORTGAGE RATES HAVE FLUCTUATED SINCE 2020...NOW AROUND 6.9 PERCENT FOR A 30-YEAR-FIXED....THAT'S A TWO MONTH HIGH SAYS FREDDIE MAC. -- MEANWHILE, HOME VALUES HAVE RISEN ABOUT 42 PERCENT IN THAT TIME. AND ZILLOW SAYS HOUSEHOLD EARNINGS HAVE NOT KEPT UP WITH THE INCREASING COST OF GETTING A HOME. THE COMPANY SAYS YOU NEED AN INCOME OF AROUND \$106,500 TO AFFORD THE MORTGAGE ON A TYPICAL HOME. SO, HOW ARE FIRST TIME HOME BUYERS DOING IT? ZILLOW SAYS HALF OF FIRST TIME HOME BUYERS SAY THEY GOT AT LEAST PART OF THEIR DOWN PAYMENT AS A GIFT OR A LOAN FROM FAMILY OR FRIENDS. Rachel DiMatteo-Realtor: "So, you know, you don't have to, especially as a first-time home buyer, you don't have to have 20% down. But you have to, you can have anywhere between 2 to 5% down. Rachel DiMatteo -Realtor: "Another thing you can do is ask help, ask the seller for help. So, you can say, hey, I'm interested in this home and here's my offer and also here's we'd like to ask for some concessions to help for the down payment on the home." IT ALSO DEPENDS ON WHERE YOU LIVE. LOOKING FOR A GOOD DEAL? PLACES LIKE PITTSBURGH, CLEVELAND AND MEMPHIS REQUIRE LESS THAN 6 FIGURE INCOMES TO COMFORTABLE AFFORD A HOME. IT'LL TAKE MUCH MORE IN THE WEST...IN PLACES LIKE SAN JOSE, SAN FRANCISCO, AND SAN DIEGO – IT'S SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 330 TO 450 THOUSAND DOLLARS A YEAR. Rachael Bingham, first time homebuyer "So, I, you know, wanna develop and establish my roots here and even, you know, being a native, I would like to own a home and, you know, continue to build that equity and hopefully, you know, build a bigger home or purchase a larger home. But they always say you kind of gotta start somewhere." REALTORS LIKE DI MATTEO SAY THAT BUYING A FIRST HOME IS STILL WORTH CONSIDERING....AS THEY BELIEVE PRICES WILL CONTINUE TO RISE IN THE FUTURE.

03/19/2024 7-9AM

THE FEDERAL RESERVE BEGINS ITS TWO-DAY POLICY MEETING TODAY. WHILE WE'RE NOT EXPECTING THE FED TO REDUCE ITS KEY INTEREST RATE --- IT'S SET TO RELEASE NEW FORECASTS FOR THE ECONOMY, INFLATION, AND INTEREST RATES. THE MEETING COMES ON THE HEELS OF CAPITOL HILL TESTIMONY- FROM THE FED CHAIR JEROME POWELL LESS THAN TWO WEEKS AGO. THERE HE TOLD LAWMAKERS- THE POLICY RATE HAS LIKELY PEAKED... AND CUTS ARE EXPECTED TO BEGIN AT SOME POINT THIS YEAR. THE FUTURE OF INTEREST RATES. THE INTEREST RATE PERHAPS ON YOUR CREDIT CARD WILL BE IMPACTED BY A BIG FEDERAL RESERVE MEETING THAT BEGINS TODAY. THE TWO-DAY MEETING WILL CONCLUDE WEDNESDAY WHERE FEDERAL RESERVE CHAIRMAN JEROME POWELL WILL ANNOUNCE WHETHER THE FEDERAL RESERVE HAS DECIDED TO CUT INTEREST RATES OR KEEP THEM THE SAME. THERE IS NO EXPECTATION OF AN INTEREST RATE HIKE. THIS TIME. ECONOMISTS ON WALL STREET ARE PREDICTING NO CHANGE IN INTEREST RATES. THAT'S BECAUSE CORE INFLATION DATA FROM JANUARY AND FEBRUARY STILL HAD INFLATION RUNNING A BIT HOTTER THAN THE FED WOULD TYPICALLY LIKE. REMEMBER THE GOAL OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE IS INFLATION TO BE AROUND 2% YEAR OVER YEAR AND THE ECONOMY IS NOT QUITE THERE YET. THE FEDERAL RESERVE RAISED INTEREST RATES INITIALLY TO COMBAT AND BRING DOWN INFLATION. ONE THING TO WATCH THIS

WEEK, WHAT DOES THE FEDERAL RESERVE SAY ABOUT THEIR FUTURE PLANS FOR CUTTING INTEREST RATES PREVIOUSLY? THEY SAID MULTIPLE CUTS SHOULD BE EXPECTED BY THE END OF THIS YEAR. IS THIS STILL CASE? IS THERE ANY TROUBLE SPOTS IN THE AMERICAN ECONOMY? AGAIN? WE'LL LEARN MORE. WEDNESDAY. THE AVERAGE 30-YEAR MORTGAGE RATE IS HOVERING AROUND 7.4% IN THIS COUNTRY, SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER THAN 3%. 4% INTEREST RATES FROM A FEW YEARS BACK. AND THAT IS IMPACTING THE PURCHASING POWER OF MILLIONS OF POTENTIAL HOME BUYERS IN THE UNITED STATES. JOE ST. GEORGE SCRIPPS NEWS WASHINGTON.

FOX 29 News 6:30PM

01/02/2024 630PM

SOME GOOD NEWS FOR FUTURE HOUSING AVAILABILITY. CONSTRUCTION SPENDING WENT UP AGAIN IN NOVEMBER... MARKING 11 MONTHS IN A ROW OF INCREASES. SPENDING ON PROJECTS CLIMBED POINT-FOUR PERCENT... TO JUST OVER TWO TRILLION DOLLARS. FROM HOUSING TO HIGHWAYS -- THE NUMBERS SHOW HOW MUCH BOTH GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE COMPANIES ARE SPENDING ON CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS. WHAT YOU CAN TAKE AWAY FROM ALL OF THIS IN SIMPLE TERMS- HIGHER NUMBERS ARE ALWAYS A GOOD SIGN FOR THE ECONOMY.

01/04/2024 630PM

The battle to live here at the WH is intensifying this month and while Republicans will get most of the attention In January with the Iowa caucuses and NH primary taking place, President Biden is campaigning too. And while his campaign is focused on issues like the economy, it's clear the president will increasingly focus on 2024 being about preserving democracy. "9/28/23 what will we do to maintain our democracy" Throughout his presidency, President Joe Biden has made a point to speak about democracy. A lot. "9/1/2022 Too much of what happening in the country today is not normal" From speeches in Arizona to Pennsylvania, the White House has made the issue a priority for years, And with election day around 11 months away. Democracy is expected to be talked about even more on the campaign trail. On Saturday, President Biden will deliver a campaign speech from Valley Forge in Pennsylvania, the site where George Washington nearly lost to the British. Scripps News spoke with Biden campaign spokesman Kevin Munoz about why the president has identified this issue as a top one in the campaign... "we view it as our moral duty to really show the American people especially with January 6th coming up that our democracy is on the line here and we have to vote like our lives depend on it."Of course, many Americans disagree that 2024 is about the future of Democracy. Bob Vander Plaats is a conservative faith leader in Iowa. He has been a critic of former President Trump and recently decided to endorse Ron DeSantis for president instead, but even he disagrees that democracy is really on the line this year. "Do you worry at all about the future of democracy with Trump as the republican nominee?" "I think our country is stronger than that. I think America has been put through a lot of tests." According to the polls though, Democracy doesn't appear to be the top issue on voters' minds as the year begins. A recent poll by Emerson College found that 39% of Americans believe the economy is the most important issue facing the United States. Only 12% believe "threats to democracy" is number one. Joe St. George, Scripps News, Washington.

02/02/2024 6:30PM

JOB GROWTH POSTED A SURPRISE INCREASE IN JANUARY. ACCORDING TO THE LABOR DEPARTMENT, 353-THOUSAND JOBS WERE ADDED LAST MONTH. THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE HELD STEADY AT 3-POINT-7 PERCENT. HOURLY WAGES ALSO SHOWED GROWTH - UP DOUBLE THE MONTHLY ESTIMATE. EXPERTS SAY WHILE THE REPORT SHOWS THE RESILIENCE OF THE U-S ECONOMY. IT COULD ALSO RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW SOON THE FEDERAL RESERVE WILL BE ABLE TO LOWER INTEREST RATES.

02/06/2024 630PM

KRISTEN GUIZANI NEVER IMAGINED THIS LIFE FOR HERSELF. "Being a stay-at-home mom was never my dream or something that I felt like I wanted to do full time." KRISTEN AND HER HUSBAND WERE LIVING IN LOS ANGELES WHEN SHE FIRST GOT PREGNANT. SHE WAS WORKING AS A PARALEGAL AND HAD PLANS OF GOING TO LAW SCHOOL. BUT THAT ALL CHANGED AFTER HER FIRST CHILD WAS BORN. "We weren't able to afford childcare out in Los Angeles." THAT LEFT ONLY ONE OPTION. KRISTEN LEFT HER JOB – AND THEY MOVED TO VIRGINIA TO BE CLOSER TO FAMILY. "What do you think the hardest part about your journey has been?" "Finances for sure. So, I know we're so fortunate compared to a lot of families, but it has been absolutely tough." + "It's hard out here right now. The economy, it's really rough and we have to make every penny count, and we have to budget and make the most for our kids when we're trying to decide what do we really need or not, and what do we want to save for to invest in their future." IT'S A DILEMMA THAT EXPERTS SAY A GROWING NUMBER OF PARENTS ARE FACING: CAREER OR FAMILY. BOTH IS NOT AN OPTION. "It can also look like one of the parents scaling back work hours or turning down promotions or taking lower paying jobs that are just more flexible so they can meet their childcare demands." THE AVERAGE CHILDCARE PAYMENT SHOT UP 32 PERCENT SINCE 2019, ACCORDING TO DATA FROM THE BANK OF AMERICA INSTITUTE – PUTTING UNIQUE PRESSURE ON WORKING WOMEN. THE FEMALE LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE RECOVERED IT'S LOSSES FROM THE PANDEMIC. BUT EXPERTS SAY THE HIGH COST OF CHILDCARE COULD LEAD TO A SIMILAR RETREAT FROM THE WORKFORCE. IT'S AN ISSUE THE WHITE HOUSE IS TRYING TO GET AHEAD OF. "Once the ARP stabilization funds ran out, we did see that there's some indication that the labor market participation rate reverted back down to the levels that we saw before." THE WHITE HOUSE IS VYING TO EXTEND THAT PANDEMIC-ERA AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN... or A-R-P FUNDING – WITH ANOTHER \$16 BILLION DOLLARS – TO CHILDCARE CENTERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY. THE CURRENT STATUS OF IT IS UNCERTAIN, THOUGH. "Childcare is something that we think about sometimes as being about kids, but also it matters a lot for the economy writ large." NOW A MOM OF THREE, KRISTEN SPENDS HER TIME ON VILLA – A MOTHERHOOD ADVOCACY GROUP SHE FOUNDED. "It's not okay that we don't have the support, but we're here. We're going to provide it to each other." BIANCA FACCHINEI, SCRIPPS NEWS, WASHINGTON.

02/14/2024 630PM

IN THE LAST TWO MONTHS, THE U.S. ADDED NEARLY 700 THOUSAND JOBS, A SIGNAL OF A STRONG ECONOMY, YET COMPANIES ARE NOT FINISHED WITH LAYOFFS. FARR says: "I actually just joined a company that did layoffs a few months ago, but, I feel pretty confident that my job will be safe when I start there.... I feel like it's just that time to kind of clean house." A LOT OF COMPANIES SAY IT COMES DOWN TO RESTRUCTURING. THAT'S THE CASE AT SNAPCHAT, CISCO AND GOOGLE, BUT IT'S NOT JUST TECH COMPANIES MAKING CUTS. DATA FROM RESUME-BUILDER FINDS 38 PERCENT OF COMPANIES ARE LIKELY TO FOLLOW SUIT THIS YEAR... TOOTHACRE says: "We're seeing them across the board in a lot of cases. it's not necessarily targeted to certain areas. It's, you know, 10 percent across the organization." ...BUT WITH OVER NINE MILLION JOB OPENINGS IN THE U-S, JOB SEEKERS HAVE PLENTY TO CHOOSE FROM. THEY MIGHT JUST HAVE TO MANAGE THEIR EXPECTATIONS. WILSON says: "I had to take a job making half as much just so I could work." AND CAREER STRATEGISTS WARN U.S. WORKERS OF ALL STRIPES -- BLUE COLLAR AND WHITE COLLAR -- NEED TO BE AWARE OF A-I AND HOW IT COULD TAKEOVER THEIR INDUSTRY. TOOTHACRE says: "You want to know how it works and how it could impact your position and make sure that you're on top of it and you're an expert as much as you can be." EVEN WITH THE LAYOFFS, THE NATION'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IS CLOSE TO ITS LOWEST IN DECADES AND WAGES ARE FINALLY PULLING AHEAD OF INFLATION. IN WASHINGTON, REBEKAH CASTOR, FOX NEWS.

03/05/2024 630PM

SHRINKFLATION. IT'S WHEN COMPANIES PUT LESS PRODUCT IN THEIR PACKAGING -- BUT STILL CHARGE THE SAME PRICE. WELL APPARENTLY -- SHRINKFLATION -- HAS COME TO SESAME STREET. AND THERE'S ONE CHARACTER -- WHO'S NOT HAPPY ABOUT IT. COOKIE MONSTER -- TAKING TO SOCIAL MEDIA -- TO COMPLAIN ABOUT THE SIZE OF HIS FAVORITE SNACK! AND THE NUMBERS BACK IT UP! ACCORDING TO THE U.S. LABOR DEPARTMENT -- OREO COOKIES HAVE SHRUNK BY ABOUT SIX PERCENT. AND A REPORT FROM THE COMPANY "GLASS DOOR" FOUND COOKIE PRICES

ARE UP 28 PERCENT SINCE THE PANDEMIC. FOR NOW -- COOKIE MONSTER SAYS HE'LL JUST HAVE TO EAT DOUBLE THE COOKIES TO KEEP UP.

03/06/2024 6:30PM

WE'VE BEEN DEALING WITH HIGH INTEREST RATES FOR MONTHS AS THE FEDERAL RESERVE WORKS TO BRING DOWN INFLATION. THE FEDERAL RESERVE CHAIR SAYS TODAY THAT RATE CUTS ARE LIKELY THIS YEAR... BUT THAT THE FED NEEDS MORE EVIDENCE FIRST THAT INFLATION IS UNDER CONTROL. HE SAYS INFLATION HAS GONE DOWN NOTABLY OVER THE PAST YEAR... EVEN THOUGH IT'S STILL ABOVE THE FED'S 2-PERCENT TARGET. BUT HE SAYS THE FED IS BALANCING CUTTING RATES TOO SOON... WHICH COULD REVERSE THE PROGRESS IN REDUCING INFLATION. OR CUTTING THEM TOO LATE OR TOO LITTLE WHICH COULD WEAKEN THE ECONOMY AND HIRING.

03/13/2024 630PM

THE STATE OF FLORIDA IS INVESTING A MILLION DOLLARS TO HELP FIGHT MOSQUITOS. THE FUNDING -- APPROVED BY LAWMAKERS DURING THE LATEST LEGISLATIVE SESSION. THE FUNDING WILL BENEFIT 67 MOSQUITO CONTROL PROGRAMS AROUND THE STATE. IT COMES FROM THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. THE DEPARTMENT SAYS CONTROLLING MOSQUITOS IS VITAL FOR RESIDENTS, VISITORS AND OUR ECONOMY. IT'S UNCLEAR AT THIS POINT HOW THE FUNDING WILL BE USED.

03/20/2024 630PM

COMMUTERS TO AND FROM WEST PALM BEACH BE PREPARED. THERE WILL BE SEVERAL ROAD CLOSURES IN DOWNTOWN WEST PALM - AS BOATS OF ALL SHAPES AND SIZES SAIL INTO TOWN FOR THE PALM BEACH INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW. THE ANNUAL EVENT BEGINS TOMORROW -- WITH A RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY ON BOARD A MEGA YACHT! THAT KICKS OFF FOUR DAYS OF EXCITEMENT ALONG FLAGLER DRIVE AND THE INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY. ORGANIZERS ESTIMATE THE BOAT SHOW HAS A BILLION DOLLAR IMPACT ON THE FLORIDA ECONOMY - AND BRINGS ABOUT 50-THOUSAND VISITORS EACH YEAR.

FOX 29 10 O'Clock News

01/04/2024 10PM

MORTGAGE RATES ARE WIDELY EXPECTED TO FALL THIS YEAR ... WHICH WOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR POTENTIAL HOMEBUYERS. BUT RENTERS ARE ALSO LIKELY TO FEEL SOME MUCH-NEEDED RELIEF, AFTER GRAPPLING WITH YEARS OF SKY-HIGH INCREASES. THE SENTIMENT WAS STRONG EVERYWHERE IN 2023..."When I say rent to... y'all say high. Rent too, high." SINCE THE PANDEMIC TOOK HOLD IN 2020 – REDFIN'S "RENT"-DOT-COM SAYS YEAR-OVER-YEAR RENT ROSE FOR THIRTY-SEVEN MONTHS. MEDIAN ASKING RENTS GREW MORE THAN TWENTY PERCENT OVER THREE YEARS – SPIKING TO MORE THAN \$2,000 DOLLARS A MONTH TWICE IN THE PAST TWO YEARS – BEFORE FINALLY STARTING TO DROP THIS PAST FALL. IN DECEMBER, RENTAL PLATFORM "ZUMPER" FOUND RENT PRICES DROPPED IN FIFTY-FIVE CITIES IN 2023... WITH PRICES STAYING FLAT IN 17 OTHER LOCALES. EXPERTS PREDICT median RENT PRICES WILL KEEP DROPPING THROUGH THE FIRST HALF OF 20-24 AS CONSTRUCTION BOOMS. THE REAL ESTATE FIRM – C-B-R-E – SAYS NEARLY A MILLION MULTI-FAMILY HOMES ARE UNDER CONSTRUCTION – AND MORE SUPPLY MEANS LOWER PRICES FOR RENTERS. C-B-R-E PREDICTS AN EXPENSIVE HOMEBUYING MARKET WILL ALSO FUEL MORE LEASING, WITH MONTHLY MORTGAGE PAYMENTS FOR A NEW HOME...SITTING THIRTY-FIVE-PERCENT HIGHER THAN AVERAGE MONTHLY RENTS IN 2024. "We've heard from property managers that they're giving more concessions today than they were a year ago. That could mean anything from a free month of rent to paid utilities, access to luxury amenities or even discounts on local restaurants or retailers." KATE TERHUNE – THE DIRECTOR OF BRAND FOR "RENT" – SAYS MEDIAN

RENTAL PRICES HAVE DROPPED THREE MONTHS IN A ROW... AND BELIEVES IT'S A SIGN OF BRIGHT TIMES AHEAD FOR THE ECONOMY. BIANCA FACCHINEI, SCRIPPS NEWS, WASHINGTON.

01/05/2024 10PM

THE DECEMBER JOBS REPORT BEAT EXPECTATIONS. AND THAT'S GOOD FOR AMERICANS WHO ARE LOOKING FOR WORK TO START 2024 --WAGES ALSO GREW FASTER. BUT THAT ALSO MIGHT MEAN THE FEDERAL RESERVE HOLDS OFF ON INTEREST RATE CUTS -- IN THE EARLY MONTHS OF THE YEAR. U-S EMPLOYERS ADDED 216,000 JOBS TO THE ECONOMY DURING DECEMBER 2023 --ACCORDING TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S MONTHLY JOBS REPORT RELEASED FRIDAY. "Janet Yellen/Treasury Secretary: The labor market continues to fire on all cylinders." THE LABOR DEPARTMENT'S FINAL UNEMPLOYMENT READING OF 2023, CAME IN AT 3-POINT-7 PERCENT. "Nela Richardson/ ADP Chief Economist: Overall, it looks like a very solid picture for the labor market to underlie that continuous consumer spending that drives the US economy." AREAS LIKE GOVERNMENT, HEALTH CARE, AND CONSTRUCTION SAW GROWTH IN DECEMBER. TRANSPORTATION AND WAREHOUSING SAW LOSSES. LOOKING AHEAD INTO 20-24 -- ANDY CHALLENGER OF OUTPLACEMENT FIRM CHALLENGER, GRAY AND CHRISTMAS SAYS INDUSTRIES WHERE HIRING SPIKED DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC -- LIKE TECH -- WILL CONTINUE TO SHED JOBS AS THE LABOR MARKET COOLS. "Andy Challenger/ Challenger, Gray & Christmas Sr. Vice President: As the economy and the world has moved into a post COVID period -- those industries that saw the biggest spikes are also the ones seeing the biggest cuts now." AND WHILE OVERALL LABOR GROWTH EASED AMID THE FEDERAL RESERVE'S RATE HIKE CAMPAIGN TO TEMPER INFLATION --CHALLENGER SAYS JOB SEEKERS SHOULD FEEL COMFORTABLE LOOKING FOR NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN 2024. "Andy Challenger/ Challenger, Gray & Christmas Sr. Vice President: There are times when it is risky. This is a little bit more of a stable labor market that I think people can feel comfortable switching jobs." THE DECEMBER JOBS REPORT -- POINTING TO A RESILIENT JOB MARKET, IN THE FACE OF THE HIGHEST INTEREST RATES IN 22 YEARS. THE FED -- AIMING FOR THAT SO-CALLED "SOFT LANDING," -- THAT'S A SLOWDOWN IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY -- INCLUDING HIRING -- THAT BRINGS DOWN INFLATION BUT AVOIDS RAISING UNEMPLOYMENT -- OR TIPPING INTO A RECESSION. SO, THE MODERATE PULLBACK IN THESE NUMBERS OVER THE COURSE OF 2023 --THAT'S GOOD NEWS, TO THE FED. IN WASHINGTON, I'M KARIN CAIFA.

01/11/2024 10PM

THE LATEST READING ON INFLATION IS MIXED. THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX TICKED HIGHER LAST MONTH - UP 3-POINT-4 PERCENT ON AN ANNUAL BASIS. DESPITE FALLING GASOLINE PRICES, THE MONTHLY INCREASE FOR BOTH THE CPI AND CORE READING WERE UP 3-TENTHS OF A PERCENT, MORE THAN EXPECTED. IT'S THE SAME MONTHLY INCREASE AS NOVEMBER, AND SLIGHTLY FASTER THAN WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH THE FED'S LONG-TERM INFLATION TARGET OF 2-PERCENT. POMBOY says: "I think this progress of getting from three to two is going to prove much slower than the Fed or markets anticipate and we're seeing evidence of that today." OTHER PARTS OF THE DECEMBER CPI REPORT SHOW INFLATION IS CONTINUING TO RETREAT. EXCLUDING FOOD AND ENERGY, THE "CORE" CPI SLIPPED BELOW 4-PERCENT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MORE THAN TWO YEARS TO 3.9 PERCENT, A MODEST SLOWING FROM NOVEMBER'S 4-PERCENT ANNUAL INCREASE. MORE THAN HALF OF THE INCREASE IN THE CONSUMER PRICES IN DECEMBER WAS TIED TO SHELTER, INCLUDING RENTS AND HOTEL RATES. STILL, ON WEDNESDAY, TREASURY SECRETARY JANET YELLEN TOUTED THE ECONOMY UNDER PRESIDENT BIDEN. YELLEN says: "The typical middle class American household has now has more wealth, higher earnings and more purchasing power than before the pandemic." MEANWHILE JPMORGAN BOSS JAMIE DIMON TELLING FOX BUSINESS A SO-CALLED "GOLDILOCKS" ECONOMY — WITH GROWTH THAT'S NOT TOO HOT OR NOT TOO COLD — MAY NOT SAVE THE U-S FROM A RECESSION. DIMON says: "The good news is the consumer has jobs. Wages are going up finally more at the lower end. Home prices are up, which is good for their balance sheet. But I'm a little skeptical in this kind of Goldilocks kind of scenario. I still think the chance of it not being a soft landing are higher than other people. It doesn't -- that's not terrible. It might be a mild recession or heavy recession." FED OFFICIALS SEE THE RATE OF INFLATION SLOWING TO LESS THAN 2-AND-A- HALF PERCENT IN 2024, AND BACK TO THEIR 2-PERCENT TARGET BY 2026.

02/17/2024 10PM

A BOOM IN U-S PRODUCTIVITY MAY EXPLAIN HOW INFLATION SLOWED AMID A STRONG ECONOMY. PRODUCTIVITY IS MEASURED BY DIVIDING ALL THE GOODS AND SERVICES PRODUCED IN THE ECONOMY BY EVERY HOUR PEOPLE WORKED. IF IT'S STRONG - THEN THAT MEANS THE ECONOMY IS BEING MORE PRODUCTIVE. DATA FROM THE LABOR DEPARTMENT SHOWS THAT IT INCREASED TWO-POINT-SEVEN PERCENT IN THE FOURTH QUARTER FROM A YEAR EARLIER. THE STRONG PRODUCTIVITY MEANT HIGHER WAGE GROWTH FOR WORKERS, AND THE EMPLOYERS DIDN'T HAVE TO PASS THE COST TO CONSUMERS.

02/21/2024 10PM

WHILE PRICES HAVE COME DOWN AT THE GAS PUMP, OPEN HOUSES AND AIRPORTS, ONE PLACE YOU MIGHT FIND YOURSELF STILL SHELLING OUT CASH IS THE GROCERY STORE. MAN ON THE STREET 1 says: "It's pretty expensive." MAN ON THE STREET 2 says: "Fruit is expensive." MAN ON THE STREET 3 says: "I paid almost 14 dollars for this.... I spent so much money last year. Me and my roommate, we just go out to eat.... That was my goal to, like, not eat out." BUT WHETHER YOU EAT OUT OR AT HOME, THE AVERAGE AMERICAN IS ACTUALLY SPENDING MORE ON FOOD THAN THEY HAVE IN THE LAST 30 YEARS WITH FOOD PRICES UP 25 PERCENT SINCE 2019. WATSON says: "As prices rise, you're willing to pay a little more. Everybody gets used to that new number and, I think, that's what happens." AND IF YOU THINK YOU'LL CATCH A BREAK BY ORDERING FAST-FOOD INSTEAD, THINK AGAIN. THOSE PRICES JUMPED NEARLY SIX PERCENT IN JANUARY. MAN ON THE STREET 3 says: "I'm about to start meal prepping. This is ridiculous." WITH THE ECONOMY A TOP CONCERN FOR VOTERS, PRESIDENT BIDEN HAS MADE TACKLING HIGH PRICES A KEY PART OF HIS RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN, EVEN CALLING OUT COMPANIES DURING THE SUPER BOWL FOR SHRINKFLATION... BIDEN says: "Sports drink bottles are smaller. A bag of chips has fewer chips. They're still charging just as much.... The American public is tired of being played for suckers. I'm calling on companies to put a stop to this." ...BUT HIS REPUBLICAN CHALLENGERS SAY "BIDENOMICS" IS TO BLAME. HALEY says: "Biden has crippled families with years of inflation." TRUMP says: "60 percent of Americans are now struggling to pay for their groceries." LAST WEEK, DEMOCRAT LAWMAKERS REINTRODUCED THE PRICE GOUGING PREVENTION ACT TO HOLD GROCERY STORE CHAINS AND OTHER CORPORATIONS ACCOUNTABLE FOR UNFAIR PRICE HIKES. IN WASHINGTON, REBEKAH CASTOR, FOX NEWS.

02/27/2024 10PM

Reporter on Camera: "I'm walking through downtown Fort Pierce today and the Fort Pierce city marina and it's pretty clear amongst the residents and visitors that they were disappointed that Fort Pierce was not chosen as the next location for a Bright Line railroad station. Still St. Lucie County leaders say if things don't work out in Stuart, Fort Pierce will be ready and is full of potential." IT WAS WHILE I WAS IN FORT PIERCE - GETTING REACTION - THAT I RAN ACROSS STUART RESIDENT ROBERT MASIELLO - A RESIDENT SURPRISE HIS CITY WAS SELECTED FOR THE NEXT LOCATION. Robert Masiello: "I would've picked Fort Pierce." AS FOR WHY NOT STUART.... Robert Masiello: "because of the congestion because there's more space here, more population here where Stuart is just overcrowded to start with without adding something else to the mix." MORE ROOM TO GROW IN FORT PIERCE, THAT SENTIMENT ECHOED BY THE HEAD OF THE ST LUCIE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL...PETE TESCH. Pete Tesch: "We have like 13 MILLION square feet of industrial development happening here in St. Lucie County. So, there's businesses coming in, population is growing, we're becoming a more prosperous and dynamic economy." IN FORT PIERCE'S PROPOSAL TO BRIGHTLINE LEADERS... THE CITY POINTS TO INFRASTRUCTURE IN PLACE... LIKE TREASURE COAST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT OR THE PORT OF FT. PIERCE. ADDITIONALLY, FT. PIERCE FORECASTED POPULATION GROWTH TO OUTPACE MARTIN COUNTY BY MORE THAN 40 PERCENT. PETE TESCH: "All this to me makes it very crystal clear that while Brightline didn't choose us today they're gonna have to look at us in the future." A BIG REASON WHY COUNTY LEADERS AREN'T CALLING THE STUART DECISION A DEFEAT. CATHY TOWNSEND/St. Lucie County COMMISSIONER "If something does fail or doesn't go through, they'll come back to the table and have a conversation because they know the county is willing to assist the city and the city welcomes them and they will do what they have to do to make it happen."

03/05/2024 10PM

THE U-S ECONOMY IS A TOP ISSUE FOR VOTERS THIS SUPER TUESDAY. NOW EXPERTS SHARE WHICH CANDIDATE THAT MIGHT HELP. MANY VOTERS HAD THEIR WALLETS IN MIND WHEN CASTING THEIR VOTES TODAY... POLLS FIND THAT THE ECONOMY IS ONE, IF NOT, THE TOP ISSUE FOR VOTERS. FOX BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT GRADY TRIMBLE HAS MORE FROM A POLLING LOCATION IN VIRGINIA. AS WE TALK TO VOTERS THIS SUPER TUESDAY, JUST ABOUT EVERYONE SAYS THE ECONOMY IS A KEY ISSUE. IF IT'S NOT ALL THE WAY AT THE TOP OF THEIR LIST, IT'S PRETTY CLOSE. AND THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN TOUTING PRESIDENT BIDEN'S ECONOMIC RECORD. BUT POLL AFTER POLL SHOWS, AND WE'RE HEARING IT FROM VOTERS OURSELVES, THAT AMERICANS FEEL WORSE OFF FINANCIALLY NOW COMPARED TO WHEN PRESIDENT BIDEN TOOK OFFICE. SGROI says: "Everybody's feeling the crunch right now, whether you're in a grocery store or whether you're going to buy other goods. My wife says it all the time, every time she comes home, you know, every other week, she's like strawberries going up again. And it's getting to be a little bit out of hand." RUBIO says: "Stock market's healthy, jobs are on the rise. But at the same time cost of living prices are up. There's a lot that's not right with the system." WADE says: "With me being a realtor and the interest rates are discouraging people from buying. And people are locked in with a golden handcuff with the low interest rates that they can't afford to move now because you're going to pay more for less." ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL, INCLUDING AT RECENT STOPS HERE IN VIRGINIA IN THE PAST WEEK, BOTH FORMER PRESIDENT TRUMP AND FORMER SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR NIKKI HALEY ARE PROMISING TO GET THE ECONOMY BACK ON TRACK AS PART OF THEIR PITCH TO VOTERS. FOR HER PART, HALEY IS CRITICIZING RAMPANT SPENDING BY BOTH DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS, INCLUDING BY FORMER PRESIDENT TRUMP. SHE SAYS IT'S TIME TO PUT AN ACCOUNTANT IN THE WHITE HOUSE. TRUMP, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS BRINGING UP HIS ADMINISTRATION'S TAX AND REGULATION CUTS. HE'S ALSO REMINDING VOTERS ABOUT THE LOWER GROCERY PRICES, GAS PRICES AND INTEREST RATES FROM WHEN HE WAS IN OFFICE, BEFORE COVID OF COURSE. TRUMP SAYS HE'LL GET RID OF BIDENOMICS AND BRING BACK WHAT HE CALLS MAGANOMICS. AND IN SOME WAYS, THE FORMER PRESIDENT HAS AN ADVANTAGE OVER HALEY BECAUSE HE'S ABLE TO SIMPLY POINT TO HIS RECORD. AND FROM THE VOTERS WE'VE TALKED TO, THAT'S A MESSAGE THAT RESONATES WITH THEM BECAUSE THEY FELT LIKE THEY WERE IN BETTER FINANCIAL SHAPE BACK THEN COMPARED TO NOW. IN ASHBURN, VIRGINIA, GRADY TRIMBLE, FOX BUSINESS.

03/08/2024 10PM

MORE PROMISING NEWS FOR THE ECONOMY TONIGHT. THE FEBRUARY JOBS REPORT WAS RELEASED TODAY. THE LABOR DEPARTMENT SAYS 275-THOUSAND NEW JOBS WERE ADDED TO THE ECONOMY LAST MONTH. THAT NUMBER TOPPED ANALYST ESTIMATES BY OVER 37-PERCENT. AND WHILE THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE TICKED UP FROM 3.7 TO 3.9 PERCENT ... FEBRUARY MARKS 25 CONSECUTIVE MONTHS UNDER 4 PERCENT. THAT'S THE LONGEST STREAK IN MORE THAN HALF-A-CENTURY.

Crime

Including crime prevention, alcohol and drug abuse, fire safety and police conduct.

FOX 29 Morning News

01/02/2024 7-9AM

NEW YEAR'S DAY FATAL HIT AND RUN Aimond Alexis/Victim's son - "I get the bag and I went to the parking lot, and I was walking back and forth for 30 minutes before I could recognize myself." THAT FATAL HIT-AND-RUN CRASH HAPPENED HERE IN GREENACRES AT THE INTERSECTION OF 10TH AND WALKER AVENUES. INVESTIGATORS SAY THE VEHICLE...DESCRIBED AS A 2015 OR NEWER NISSAN MURANO HIT 91-YEAR-OLD OLLODIA PHADAEI AND KEPT GOING.

DEPUTIES SAY SHE WAS HIT NEAR THE INTERSECTION OF NORTH TENTH AND WALKER AVENUE SUNDAY NIGHT, AS SHE TRIED CROSSING THE ROAD. DEPUTIES SAY THE VEHICLE LIKELY SUSTAINED FRONT END DAMAGE. AS THE SEARCH FOR THAT DRIVER CONTINUES... THE VICTIM'S SON HAS TO DEAL WITH LOSING HIS MOTHER TO START THE NEW YEAR. Aimond Alexis/Victim's son - "Oh man, I was devastated. That was the only love I ever had. I love that woman so much. Feel like one side of me done. It's never going to be the same. It's always going to be like that part of us is missing. She was like the one that keeps the family. That's grandmom." DEPUTIES SAY THEY NEED YOUR HELP FIND THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE. IF YOU KNOW ANYTHING - CALL CRIME STOPPERS AT 1-800-458-TIPS.>>

01/04/2024 7-9AM

DOCUMENTS... INCLUDING MORE THAN 150 NAMES OF ALLEGED VICTIMS OF THE LATE CONVICTED SEX-OFFENDER JEFFREY EPSTEIN... HAVE BEEN RELEASED. SOME BIG NAMES FEATURED, BUT NOT NECESSARILY *CHARGED WITH A CRIME OR INVOLVEMENT INCLUDE EX PRESIDENTS BILL CLINTON, DONALD TRUMP, AND PRINCE ANDREW. A FEW PEOPLE FROM PALM BEACH COUNTY ARE ALSO MENTIONED, LIKE DOCTORS AND HOUSE WORKERS. EPSTEIN TOOK HIS OWN LIFE WHILE HE WAS LOCKED UP IN A MANHATTAN JAIL. HE WAS CHARGED WITH SEX TRAFFICKING OF MINORS.

01/31/2024 7-9AM

TWO FAMILY MEMBERS ARE UNDER ARREST THIS MORNING -- ACCUSED OF STABBING SOMEONE AND GETTING RID OF THE BODY IN A DUMPSTER... ANOTHER TWIST HERE - THE CRIME HAPPENED YEARS AGO... SO WHY NOW? HOW DID THEY CRACK THE CASE? OUR BRIANA NESPRAL IS OUTSIDE THE WEST PALM BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT WITH THOSE ANSWERS... YES -- THE TWO MEN LINKED TO THE CRIME -- ARE AN UNCLE AND NEPHEW. THEY'RE IDENTIFIED AS REYNALDO AND YOEL PAREDES. AFTER NEARLY TWO YEARS OF INVESTIGATIVE WORK -- POLICE HAVE LINKED THOSE TWO MEN TO THIS CRIME. WEST PALM BEACH POLICE SAY THE KILLING AND DUMPING OF THE BODY... WAS BRUTAL. A WOMAN TAKING OUT HER TRASH MADE THE DISCOVERY. DNA EVIDENCE WAS PIECED TOGETHER, TO LINK 53-YEAR-OLD REYNALDO PAREDES AND HIS 24-YEAR-OLD NEPHEW YOEL PAREDES TO THE KILLING OF JORGE MENENDEZ. POLICE SAY THE THREE LEFT "LAS BRISAS MEXICAN SPORTS BAR" TOGETHER ON GEORGIA AVENUE BACK IN 2022. LATER THAT NIGHT... A WHITE CAR CONNECTED TO THE CRIME WAS SEEN ON VIDEO... NEAR THE DUMPSTER WHERE HIS BODY WAS FOUND IN THE SOUTHRIDGE SENIOR COMMUNITY. IT'S STILL UNCLEAR WHAT MOTIVATED THE KILLING. REYNALDO PAREDES IS BEING HELD THE PALM BEACH COUNTY JAIL. YOEL PAREDES IS IN THE STEPHENSON COUNTY JAIL IN FREEPORT, ILLINOIS POLICE SAY HE HAD MOVED TO ILLINOIS, SHORTLY AFTER THE STABBING. MIKE JACHLES/PIO, WEST PALM BEACH POLICE DEPT. "This is a dumpster that people go take out their garbage, dump their garbage and that's where the 911 caller was taking their garbage out and spotted the victims' body in there. They knew who was in the bar, they knew who left together, they knew what type of car they were in- they were able to connect it to the location where the body was found. Detectives will turn over every stone to close these cases and hold those responsible who commit these types of crimes."

02/22/2024 7-9AM

WEST PALM BEACH POLICE ARE SEARCHING FOR THE PERSON WHO SHOT AND KILLED A MAN AT AN APARTMENT COMPLEX - THE SECOND MURDER HERE IN LESS THAN 2 MONTHS. POLICE SAY A 19-YEAR-OLD WAS SHOT YESTERDAY MORNING AT LAKE MANGONIA APARTMENTS ON NORTH AUSTRALIAN NEAR ROOSEVELT MIDDLE SCHOOL. "I can't even let them play outside because stuff like this it's happening in the daytime it's not no nighttime this is broad daylight not even 12 o'clock yet and this is going on so it's really nerve-racking heartbreaking and upsetting." POLICE SAY THEY'RE TRYING TO CONTACT THE FAMILY BEFORE THEY RELEASE THE NAME OF THE MAN WHO WAS SHOT. THEY ARE ASKING ANYONE WITH INFORMATION TO CONTACT THEM -- OR PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIME STOPPERS.

03/06/2024 7-9AM

THIS MORNING -- INDIAN RIVER COUNTY DEPUTIES HAVE ARRESTED ONE OF THEIR OWN -- JUST ONE DAY AFTER HE WAS SWORN IN... THIS IS THE DEPUTY ACCUSED OF THIS DISTURBING CRIME. KAI CROMER HAD GRADUATED FROM THE ACADEMY IN JANUARY AND WAS SWORN IN ON MONDAY. LESS THAN 24 HOURS LATER, HE WAS ARRESTED, HIS PHONE CONFISCATED AND SEARCHED, AND EVENTUALLY TERMINATED RIGHT IN HIS JAIL CELL. THE SHERIFF MADE IT CLEAR — THERE'S ABSOLUTELY ZERO TOLERANCE FOR THIS BEHAVIOR IN HIS DEPARTMENT. THIS ALL STARTED WHEN A STUDENT AT VERO BEACH HIGH SCHOOL APPROACHED LAW ENFORCEMENT SAYING CROMER HAD ASKED HER TO SEND HIM INAPPROPRIATE PHOTOS ON SHAPCHAT. THE SHERIFF SAYS THE DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THERE ARE AT LEAST FOUR VICTIMS. YOU CAN REACH OUT TO THE SHERIFFS DEPARTMENT WITH ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THIS CASE... AND IF YOU WANT TO STAY ANONYMOUS — CALL TREASURE COAST CRIME STOPPERS.

03/14/2024 7-9AM

YOU CAN SUPPORT FLORIDA'S FOUR-LEGGED CRIME FIGHTERS BY PRE-ORDERING THE "K-9'S UNITED" LICENSE PLATE. THEY FEATURE PICTURES OF K-9 RYKER. HE SERVED THE ST. JOHN'S COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR SEVEN YEARS... HANDLING A NUMBER OF DANGEROUS JOBS. THREE THOUSAND LICENSE PLATES MUST BE PRE-ORDERED FOR THEM TO BECOME OFFICIAL IN FLORIDA. THE DEADLINE TO PRE-ORDER IS OCTOBER 15TH. THE LICENSE PLATES COST 33 DOLLARS. JUST HEAD TO "K9'S UNITED DOT ORG." PROCEEDS HELP PROVIDE VITAL EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING FOR K-9 OFFICERS.

03/21/2024 7-9AM

WE ARE COMING UP ON 18 YEARS SINCE A LOCAL WOMAN WAS MURDERED -- JUST DOING HER JOB -- ALL OVER A FEW HUNDRED DOLLARS IN COINS... CINDY MOFFETT'S KILLER IS STILL OUT THERE THIS MORNING... RIGHT NOW – WE'RE HEARING FROM THE LEAD DETECTIVE...AN EXPERT ON D-N-A EVIDENCE AND TESTING... SO MUCH CARE...GOING INTO THIS CORNER...A QUIET, COLORFUL PLACE... FOR DEBBIE MOFFETT TO REMEMBER HER SISTER... "She was the boss..." Debbie. HER BIG SISTER CINDY...WITH A BIG PERSONALITY..."Tell you what to do. Get you out of trouble. Get you in trouble. Everything. She was our leader." Debbie DEBBIE TELLS US ABOUT A GOOD DAY... "This day here..." Debbie (shows pic of them working in a garden) SHE REMEMBERS GARDENING TOGETHER... Debbie -"I think we were growing mint and something like that. Looks like she was really helping me do something. I can't remember, laugh, but that was a good day." BUT THE WORST DAY CAME – MARCH 23RD, 2006... Debbie- "I'll never forget the rain that day. It was a ferocious, furious storm. That crackling, thundering, lightning coming down. Woah. I feel like it was at that same time she was killed. Det. Weissman - "It appears it was a robbery that went bad." DETECTIVE JEFF WEISSMAN SAYS CINDY WAS WORKING AT A GOLF CLUB IN LAKE WORTH BEACH... Det. Weissman "She didn't live a high-risk life-style..." CLOSING UP FOR THE DAY... Det. Weissman - "Just doin' her job..." WHEN HE BELIEVES 3 PEOPLE BURST IN... Det. Weissman -"It was very sloppy in terms of the robbery. Inside the cash drawer was an envelope with \$1500 cash in it. They never took that." HE SAYS THEY DID TAKE \$300 IN ROLLED UP COINS... AND CINDY'S LIFE... Debbie -"We were told she was shot in the chest at close range and then she ran out after them. Like who does that?! It's so Cindy. It really is so Cindy – she's the boss and in charge..." Ashley Glass/Reporter - "What stands out to you the most about this case?" Julie - "That it could happen to any one of us." JULIE SIKORSKI HEADS UP FORENSIC BIOLOGY AT THE PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE... Julie - "This case has gone through 3 evolutions of testing." SHE SAYS EACH TIME UTILIZING THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY – AND CHALLENGING AT EVERY TURN... Julie- "We've got the rain. We also have that it's a public place and so many people have interacted with different surfaces. So, even if the perp's DNA is there, it could get diluted in a pool of other individuals." BUT THEY KEEP TRYING... Julie - "We do have profiles in the database, so for me, it's a matter of time." Det. Weissman - "We never give up on these crimes." AND DEBBIE KEEPS CARING... Debbie - "They can't take the memories...I kind of talk to her every day. Hi Cin. Thanks for the sunrise. I pray to God that person will find a way to do the right thing and come forward for the sake of the family..." Ashley Glass/reporter - "How do you have that hope? How do you maintain that hope after all these years?" Debbie - "If you don't have hope, what do you have?" AND – FROM A

LOVED ONE WHO SAYS CERTAIN PARTS OF THIS STORY ARE "SO CINDY"...RIGHT NOW – THE REWARD SITS AT \$25-THOUSAND-DOLLARS IN CINDY MOFFETT'S CASE... THAT'S FOR TIPS CALLED IN TO CRIME-STOPPERS... THE PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE TELLS US CINDY'S CASE IS ONE OF ABOUT 400 UNSOLVED HOMICIDES THEY ARE WORKING THROUGH RIGHT NOW...

FOX 29 News 6:30PM

01/02/2024 6:30PM

HERE AT GOLDLAW OFFICES IN WEST PALM BEACH - IT'S A CASE ATTORNEY SPENCER KUVIN HAS FOUGHT FOR TIME AND TIME AGAIN- WE'RE TALKING OF COURSE ABOUT JEFFREY EPSTIEN- KUVIN REPRESENTED THE FIRST VICTIM TO COME FORWARD TO POLICE IN 2007... AND EVER SINCE- HAS WANTED THE NAMES OF HIS ASSOCIATES- TO BE RELEASED TOO. "this entire case since 2008 has been frustrating for my clients." FRUSTRATION- IS AN UNDERSTATEMENT FOR SPENCER KUVIN- CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER FOR GOLDLAW IN WEST PALM BEACH . HE STILL REPRESENTS FIVE WOMEN WHO TESTIFIED THEY TOO WERE VICTIMS OF JEFFREY EPSTEIN- ENDURING HORRIFIC SEXUAL ABUSE INSIDE HIS PALM BEACH MANSION. BUT KUVIN SAYS THIS CASE- WAS NEVER JUST ABOUT EPSTEIN.

"it's always been about a group of individuals that allowed this to happen that instigated some of the recruitment in the process and also played a part of the abuse." KUVIN SAYS FINDING JUSTICE - HASN'T BEEN EASY FOR HIS CLIENTS- AND KNOWING THE NAMES OF THOSE COMPLICIT WITH EPSTEIN HAVE BEEN SHIELDED FOR YEARS- KUVIN SAYS ITS MADE THEIR QUEST FOR RESOLUTION - EVEN HARDER. "Allow the public to see just who was involved..." NOW WITH THE RELEASE OF NEARLY 200 OF EPSTEIN'S ASSOCIATES IMMINENT- KUVIN SAYS IT'S A VICTORY HE AND HIS CLIENTS- HAVE FOUGHT HARD TO ACHIEVE. "I think the public will be able to judge just what to do with these names when they come out. That's the key." KUVIN SAYS CONTEXT THOUGH- IS KEY - WHILE HE AND HIS CLIENTS KNOW NOT EVERY NAME PUBLICIZED IS GUILTY OF A CRIME - HE AND HIS CLIENTS BELIEVE THIS STEP TOWARDS TRANSPARENCY - IS A STEP TOWARDS ACCOUNTABILITY TO. "politicians maybe, famous people, movie stars, whoever they may be, I think the public does have a right to get some answers from those individuals." REPORTER KATE HUSSEY - "this is a step towards justice?" KUVIN "It's certainly one of the final steps toward a final resolution at justice." IN WEST PALM BEACH- KATE HUSSEY FOX 29.

01/03/2024 6:30PM

CHIEF FRANK ADDERLEY SAYS THE VIOLENCE THAT COMES WITH OPEN DRUGS SALES HAS BEEN AN ON-GOING CHALLENGE FOR WEST PALM BEACH. HE SAYS HIS DEPARTMENTS BIG CHALLENGE IS GETTING PEOPLE THAT SEE CRIME TO CALL AND REPORT IT. ADDERLEY SAYS THE PROBLEM AREAS STRETCH FROM THE 300 BLOCK ON TAMARIND AVE. UP TO ABOUT 25TH AND ON OVER TO THE WEST OF BROADWAY FROM 25TH STREET INTO RIVIERA BEACH.

ISSAC YOUNG SAYS WEST PALM IS ROUGH. ISSAC YOUNG – 'It's crazy and out of hand I got kids and stuff, and I don't even feel comfortable with my kids being out because there's so much going on.' ADDERLEY SAYS IT'S A YOUNGER AND SMALL CROWD OF PEOPLE WHO ARE REAKING HAVOC THROUGH THE STREETS OF WEST PALM BEACH.

"We're going to need this massive group of people that are going to partner with us and are going to say enough is enough and we're going to make our neighborhood safe." ADDERLEY SAYS THE DEPARTMENT IS LOOKING TO FILL AROUND 20 OFFICER POSITIONS BY MARCH OF THIS YEAR. A FEW YEARS AGO, THE DEPARTMENT WAS ONE OF THE LOWEST PAYING AGENCIES. NOW WEST PALM BEACH IS IN THE TOP THREE. -<X>-

02/29/2024 6:30PM

KENYA BENJAMIN RECENTLY MOVED BACK INTO HER GRANDMOTHER'S HOUSE AFTER SIX YEARS IN FORT PIERCE... LIVING IN PUBLIC HOUSING WITH HER DAUGHTER... ONE MAJOR FACTOR... SAFETY CONCERNS. "I couldn't do it with the crime and shooting it was really bad. I would just try to stay in the house, but as my daughter got older, she wanted to go outside, she wanted to play so I knew I had to move. And then I was looking for other places to rent but it was too

high, and nothing was really available.” HOMEOWNERSHIP NEVER SEEMED TO BE AN OPTION... BUT... WITH THE HELP OF ST. LUCIE HABITAT FOR HUMANITY... THAT'S CHANGED... Kenya Benjamin -First Time Homeowner
“It’s going to be a blessing. It’s very expensive to try and get a home right now.” KENYA BENJAMIN WILL BE A FIRST-TIME HOMEOWNER... MOVING INTO ONE OF FIVE NEW MULTI-FAMILY HOMES IN ST. LUCIE COUNTY CALLED THE DELEON VILLAS. THE HOMES SHOULD BE DONE BY THE END OF THE YEAR. THE PROJECT IS ST. LUCIE HABITAT FOR HUMANITY’S FIRST MULTIFAMILY AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT. Bob Calhoun - CEO - St. Lucie Habitat for Humanity
“It’s just more economical. You know, the cost of land is way, way up so if you can optimize the number of ownership opportunities on that land you’re ahead of the game.” THE HOMES USE WHAT'S CALLED A "COMMUNITY LAND TRUST MODEL".... TO ENSURE LONG-TERM AFFORDABILITY. Bob Calhoun - CEO - St. Lucie Habitat for Humanity
“The homes will sell for approximately \$240,000 because part of the magic of the ground lease is the value of the underlying land is retained by St. Lucie Habitat for Humanity.” BENJAMIN SAYS SHE’S GETTING A HOME THAT SHE COULD HAVE ONLY DREAMED OF... Kenya Benjamin -First Time Homeowner “A three bedroom two and a half bath townhome. It’s going to be beautiful, it’s gonna be something that’s new, something that I can call mine just to show my daughter what she can accomplish as she gets older.” ST. LUCIE HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SAYS THEY ARE ALREADY WORKING ON ACQUIRING LAND TO BUILD THE NEXT SET OF MULTI-FAMILY HOMES.

03/04/2024 6:30PM

SOME MAIL CARRIERS HAVE HAD ENOUGH. HUNDREDS GATHERED IN JACKSONVILLE... TO RALLY AGAINST THE RECENT ATTACKS THEY'VE FACED. MANY SAY THEY'VE HAD A GUN POINTED AT THEM WHILE ON THE JOB... WITH DEMANDS TO HAND OVER THEIR MAILBOX KEYS OR THEIR VEHICLE. THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS SAYS WHAT IS HAPPENING IS A FEDERAL CRIME... BUT THERE'S BEEN LITTLE PROSECUTION.

03/05/2024 6:30PM

I'M CHRIS GILMORE IN BOCA RATON AT SOUTH BEACH PARK AND PAVILLION THIS IS THE FURTHEST SOUTH PUBLIC BEACH IN PALM BEACH COUNTY JUST 35 MILES SOUTH IS MIAMI BEACH WHERE GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS WAS THIS MORNING DISCUSSING LAW AND ORDER DURING SPRING BREAK. SPRNG BREAKERS HERE ALREADY SAY THE VACATION IS IN FULL EFFECT AND THEY DON'T MIND SEEING THE EXTRA STEPS TOWARDS SAFETY. THE SUN IS OUT AND SO ARE THE SPRING BREAKERS IN BOCA RATON. JOHN LANDIS/FAU JUNIOR STUDENT – “I am re-energizing with the sun and I'm one with the sun really.” THE BEACH, A POPULAR OPTION FOR MANY OF THE YOUNG SPRING BREAKERS COMING FROM NEAR AND FAR. NAOMI FISCO ARI RESNCIK LYNN UNIVERSITY – “Amazing we're in SOFLA where it's bright and sunny and everyone's at the beach and chilling so... it really feels like a vacation.” GOVERNOR DESANTIS IS AWARE OF THE TRAVEL TREND AND THE POSSIBILITY FOR CRIME THAT COMES WITH IT ANNOUNCING TODAY 17 LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES HAVE REQUESTED 140 STATE TROOPERS TO BE DEPLOYED TO THEIR COMMUNITIES TO HELP WITH THE RUSH. WITH MIAMI BEACH'S PAST SPRING BREAKS AND CURFEWS FRESH IN THESE STUDENTS' MINDS, THEY SAY THEY UNDERSTAND THE RESPONSE. JOHN LANDIS/FAU JUNIOR STUDENT - it's necessary if there's too much chaos if there's gun violence it's definitely necessary.” NAOMI FISCO ARI RESNCIK LYNN UNIVERSITY – “People were just acting so crazy and I don't think that vacationers realize that people actually live here and raise their families.” BOCA POLICE OFFICIALS SAY THEY HAVEN'T REQUESTED ANY ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE BUT SPRING BREAKERS HAVE ALREADY NOTICED CHANGES TO LOCAL ENFORCEMENT. Landis – “At least over here they have more - I know this is silly but - they have more cop cars when people are driving just so people follow the rules more.” LOCAL BUSINESSES LIKE SPRINKLES AND SCOOPS ICE CREAM SHOP SAY THEY'VE BENEFITED FROM THE INCREASED FOOT TRAFFIC. TYLER BLAKEMAN/SPRINKLES AND SCOOPS ICE CREAM – “Increasing sales for sure we've been very busy spring break time is great for business.” THESE SPRING BREAKERS SAY IT'S NOT THEIR FIRST MARCH IN SOUTH FLORIDA AND ARE ENCOURAGING OTHERS TO HAVE SMART FUN. NAOMI FISCO ARI RESNCIK LYNN UNIVERSITY – “There are people who care about you at home or even friends here who aren't with you and the last thing they want to do is wake up to a call because they were too crazy. So just remember people care about you and yes - it's good to have fun but just in moderation.”
IN BOCA CHRIS GILMORE FOX 29

03/07/2024 6:30PM

A MAN ACCUSED OF KILLING HIS COUSIN AND DUMPING HIS BODY ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD BACK IN OCTOBER FACED A PALM BEACH COUNTY JUDGE THIS MORNING 46-YEAR-OLD GARY EVERETT IS ACCUSED OF THE CRIME. BACK ON OCTOBER 10TH - WEST PALM BEACH POLICE GOT A 911 CALL SAYING SOMEONE WAS DRAGGING A BODY FROM A CAR NEAR 45TH STREET AND MILITARY TRAIL. THE VICTIM - VICTOR HOWARD - DIED AT THE HOSPITAL AFTER BEING SHOT IN THE HEAD. POLICE SAID EVERETT TRIED TO TRICK RIVIERA BEACH POLICE BY TELLING THEM SOMEONE SHOT HIS COUSIN AT A PARK. BUT INVESTIGATORS SAY EVIDENCE TIED EVERETT TO THE CRIME. HE WAS ARRESTED IN GEORGIA FEBRUARY 21ST-HE'S BEING HELD WITHOUT BOND.

03/13/2024 6:30PM

NOW TO THE INVESTIGATION OF A WOMAN - BRUTALLY ATTACKED IN LAKE WORTH BEACH. THREE MEN - WHO PBSO SAYS ARE UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS - HAVE BEEN CHARGED. AS FOX 29'S CHRIS GILMORE EXPLAINS - THIS NOW HAS THE PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF CALLING FOR STRONGER SECURITY AT THE SOUTHERN BORDER. THE REPORTED CRIME HAPPENED EARLIER THIS MONTH NEAR LAKE OSBORNE. THE ACCUSED MEN - WHO ARE CURRENTLY IN JAIL - ALLEGEDLY ABDUCTED AND SEXUALLY BATTERED A WOMAN AT TWO SEPARATE LOCATIONS. ACCORDING TO THE PBSO REPORT - THE VICTIM WAS ABLE TO ESCAPE AND FLAG DOWN A NEIGHBOR NEARBY - AND CALL FOR HELP. SHE WAS ABLE TO LATER IDENTIFY THE MEN AND THEIR PICKUP TRUCK FOR AUTHORITIES BEFORE THEY WERE ARRESTED. THIS MORNING, SHERIFF BRADSHAW SAID THE MEN ARE UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS FROM GUATEMALA. HE SAID THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS QUOTE, "PUTTING AMERICAN PEOPLE IN JEOPARDY" WITH BORDER SECURITY. Sheriff Bradshaw: "For them to be in this country to be able to commit, these types of crimes is unconscionable, and the federal government has put the American people in jeopardy." THE MAN CHARGED WITH THE SEXUAL ASSAULT ANDRES FELIPE MORALES IS BEING HELD IN THE PALM BEACH COUNTY JAIL ON A 200 THOUSAND DOLLAR BOND, THE OTHER TWO MEN CHARGED WITH FELONY CONSPIRACY CHARGES ARE BEING HELD ON NO BOND.

FOX 29 10 O'Clock News

01/02/2024 10PM

REPORTER JOEL LOPEZ:

I WAS ON TAMARIND EARLIER TODAY AND NEIGHBORS TELL ME THEY'RE TIRED OF THE VIOLENCE... THAT HAS LEFT TWO MEN DEAD JUST DAYS INTO THE NEW YEAR. STANDING ALONG 9TH STREET AND TAMARIND AVE...ANDRENA BROWN SAYS SHE'S THE MOTHER OF VICTIM JAMES MILES "I just told them I know who was staying back there..." CRIME SCENE TAPE IS ALL THAT SEPARATES ANDRENA BROWN FROM WHO SHE SAYS WAS HER SON...JAMES J MILES "I haven't heard from him since Christmas or nothing." WEST PALM BEACH POLICE SAY THE 47-YEAR-OLD MAN... WAS THE CARETAKER OF THE APARTMENT AND HIS BODY WAS FOUND INSIDE... "I'm sad I'm sad he just has been shot multiple shots and now he's dead." HE IS JUST ONE OF TWO MEN KILLED JUST MILES APART... WITHIN HOURS OF EACH OTHER MIKE JACHLES , WEST PALM PD - "Two very active investigations right now." MIKE JACHLES WITH THE WEST PALM BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT SAYS A SECOND SHOOTING HAPPENED IN THE PARKING LOT OF THE LAKE MANGONIA APARTMENTS ALONG NORTH AUSTRALIAN AVENUE... JACHLES - "This is a tragedy that somebody lost their life." THEY SAY 34-YEAR-OLD DAMIEN DAVIS WAS SHOT MULTIPLE TIMES EXECUTION-STYLE IN A CAR... BY A GROUP OF PEOPLE... AND DIED ON THE SCENE NADIA MCKAY LIVES IN THE LAKE MANGONIA APARTMENTS - "I'm not surprised cause I've witnessed myself multiple shootings and deaths." POLICE SAY THAT THE COMPLEX ISN'T FOREIGN TO THE DEPARTMENT AND THAT RESIDENTS LIKE NADIA MCKAY HAVE VOICED THEIR CONCERNS..."I just want to know when will this end for the community of our people living in low-income environments? When will they bring in a change for the people?" WEST PALM BEACH POLICE SAYS THEY'RE WORKING LEADS FOR BOTH CASES AND THAT RIGHT NOW IT'S TOO EARLY TO SAY IF THE SHOOTINGS WERE CONNECTED. IN WEST PALM BEACH JOEL LOPEZ FOX 29

01/02/2024 10PM

STEPHANIE SUSSKIND/EDUCATION REPORTER: CAREER EDUCATOR DARREN EDGEComb IS FIGHTING FOR HIS REPUTATION AND WEDNESDAY... HIS ATTORNEY WILL FIGHT IN COURT TO HAVE THE CHARGE AGAINST HIM DISMISSED. THE ALLEGED SEXUAL ASSAULT AT THE CENTER OF THIS CASE INVOLVED TWO PALM BEACH CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS OFF CAMPUS BACK IN 2021. THAT STATE SAYS ON AUGUST 16 OF THAT YEAR... THEN PRINCIPAL DARREN EDGEComb RECEIVED A STATEMENT FROM A DIFFERENT STUDENT ABOUT THE POSSIBLE SEXUAL ABUSE. PROSECUTORS SAY EDGEComb SHOULD HAVE MADE A REPORT RIGHT AWAY TO DCF, REQUIRED BY LAW... WHEN A PERSON HAS KNOWLEDGE OR REASONABLE CAUSE TO SUSPECT SEXUAL ABUSE OCCURRED. THE ARGUMENT SAYS IN PART QUOTE... REPORTING CASES OF ABUSE TO DCF IS WHAT GETS THE BALL ROLLING, NOT WHAT WRAPS UP A CASE. FURTHER, IT IS NOT HIS PLACE (NOR WAS IT ANY ADMINISTRATOR'S) TO CONDUCT AN IN-DEPTH INVESTIGATION INTO THIS MATTER. John Howe, attorney – “Oh it was his duty to investigate.” EDGEComb'S ATTORNEY JOHN HOWE SEES IT DIFFERENTLY. HE SAYS EDGEComb FOLLOWED SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICY WHEN HE LAUNCHED AN INVESTIGATION INTO WHAT HAPPENED AND BEGAN INTERVIEWING THOSE INVOLVED. HE SAYS THE PRINCIPAL DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH INFORMATION AUGUST 16TH TO REPORT THE ALLEGATIONS... AND DID IN FACT REPORT TO DCF DAYS LATER. John Howe, attorney - “It wouldn't have been possible for the crime charged to be committed because he had no knowledge or reasonable basis for suspecting that any particular thing had happened. He did actually make a report 1 year 11 months and 5 days before they showed up and charged him with failure to report something that he did actually report.” THERE WERE INITIALLY FIVE EMPLOYEES IMPLICATED IN THIS INVESTIGATION. FORMER ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL DANIEL SNIDER SUCCESSFULLY FOUGHT TO HAVE HIS CHARGE DROPPED LATE LAST YEAR.

01/04/2024 10PM

IT'S THE STUFF THAT SENDS A CHILL DOWN YOUR SPINE. A 54-YEAR-OLD WOMAN IN STUART WAS WALKING TO HER VEHICLE, EARLY THIS MORNING WHEN A MASKED MAN ATTACKED HER. THE MARTIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE SAYS HER ATTACKER EVEN TRIED CHOKING HER BEFORE SHE FOUGHT HIM OFF...AND HE RAN AWAY WITH HER PURSE. FOX 29'S ETHAN STEIN NEAR THE CORNER OF 47TH AVENUE AND FIELD STREET WITH THE LATEST ON THE SEARCH TO FIND HIM AND WHY INVESTIGATORS SAY THIS CRIME IS RARE. THE MARTIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE PUT OUT THIS CALL TO GATHER INFORMATION -ABOUT A MAN STEALING SOMETHING WITH FORCE, BUT NOT USING A WEAPON - ALSO CALLED A STRONG-ARM ROBBERY. THE SHERRIF'S OFFICE IS TRYING TO GAIN LEADS TO SOLVE A CRIME IT RARELY DEALS WITH...“Just New Year's Resolution.” Megan Pike's jog “Was actually going to scope it out...” is pretty calculated. “I heard what happened I got a text.” THAT TEXT WAS FROM THE MARTIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE. IT SAYS A MASKED MAN TRIED TO CHOKE A WOMAN WALKING TO HER CAR EARLY THIS MORNING, RIGHT IN HER OWN DRIVEWAY. THE WOMAN THEN FOUGHT HER ATTACKER OFF. BUT HE GOT AWAY WITH HER TOTE BAG. “We don't get this type of call in Martin County.” SHERIFF WILLIAM SNYDER SAYS HIS DEPARTMENT IS LUCKY TO GET ONE CALL LIKE THIS A YEAR. “This is the outlier.” Reporter Ethan Stein: “The rarity of those calls.... does that create any challenges in solving these cases?” Sheriff Synder: “The fact that we don't get many of these is a challenge. The challenge is we don't have a lot to go on, but my detectives have a way of making something out of nothing.” WE TALKED WITH THE VICTIM OFF-CAMERA. BUT SHE WAS TOO SHAKEN TO SPEAK ON-CAMERA. “That freaks me out here walking alone to be honest.” LAYLA ELSHIMY UNDERSTANDS THOSE FEARS -“You can't live like you're scared of everything.” BUT BELIEVE IT OR NOT SHE PLANS TO WALK HER DOG RIPLEY - WHILE KEEPING HER PHONE CLOSE BY... WE ASKED THE SHERIFF WHAT PEOPLE SHOULD DO TO PROTECT THEMSELVES. HE SAYS PEOPLE SHOULD ALWAYS BE AWARE OF THEIR SURROUNDINGS. AND ONLY CARRY THE NECESSITIES IN AN OBJECT LIKE A PURSE. ETHAN STEIN FOX 29

01/07/2024 10PM

IN 2023 – WE BROUGHT YOU A SERIES OF STORIES ABOUT THE RISING COSTS OF PROPERTY INSURANCE... THAT MANY FLORIDIANS ARE CALLING A CRISIS. WE ALSO SAW A NUMBER OF ARRESTS ALL OVER THE SUNSHINE STATE RELATED TO PROPERTY INSURANCE FRAUD. TONIGHT -- CONSUMER INVESTIGATOR JESSICA BRUNO IS LOOKING AT HOW MUCH THIS TYPE OF CRIME IS GROWING HERE IN FLORIDA. "On the first count I'm increasing the bond to \$50,000. These are very serious allegations." AT A BOND HEARING BACK ON OCTOBER 31ST -- NASER HASAN AL-SWEITY... OWNER FLORIDA P&C INSURANCE IN BOCA RATON... WAS ARRAIGNED ON 23 EMBEZZLEMENT AND FRAUD CHARGES.

"I don't believe the court has jurisdiction to touch the monetary bond set by the duty judge who has already determined pc and the applicable bond amount." THE CHARGES RANGE FROM MISAPPROPRIATION OF INSURANCE FUNDS TO FRAUDULENT USE OF PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION AND ORGANIZED SCHEME TO DEFRAUD.

... SIMILAR CHARGES WERE ALSO BROUGHT AGAINST FOUR MIAMI MEN BUSTED FOR CARRYING OUT AN INSURANCE FRAUD SCHEME IN SEPTEMBER... A GROUP OF FOUR PEOPLE IN TAMPA IN DECEMBER.. AND ONE ARREST IN LEE COUNTY -- ALSO IN DECEMBER. Jessica Bruno/Reporter - "How big of a problem would you say this is in Florida?"

Stacey Giuliani - "Insurance fraud nationwide is a \$300 billion dollar a year annual problem. That's a huge amount of money and in Florida, between 40 and 50 billion dollars." AND CO-FOUNDER OF FLORIDA PENINSULA INSURANCE IN BOCA RATON – STACEY GIULIANTI -- SAYS A LOT OF THESE BAD ACTORS TEND TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF COMMUNITIES THAT HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY A NATURAL DISASTER... LIKE A HURRICANE. Giuliani - "One of the biggest ways are out of state, unlicensed contractors, repair personnel coming in especially after a storm and they take money upfront to do a job and they don't actually do the job. They take the money, they disappear, and they're gone."

SO, AS WE START A NEW YEAR – GIULIANTI IS OFFERING SOME IMPORTANT REMINDERS FOR HOMEOWNERS...

"First of all, many insurance companies offer preferred contractors or preferred vendors and those people have been background checked, they've been checked out. So, if your insurance company offers something like that utilize that service, it's a great way to go." YOU CAN ALSO LOOK UP THEIR LICENSE YOURSELF BY GOING TO THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION WEBSITE... Giuliani - "Type in a name or company name and you'll find out if they're licensed in the state of Florida and if it's an active license." Giuliani - "It's gonna take everybody, customers, the state of Florida and the insurance companies working together to stop this type of fraud."

I'M JESSICA BRUNO – FOX 29.

02/02/2024 10PM

A MIAMI TRUCK DRIVER WAS KILLED IN A COLLISION WITH TROOPER ZACHARY FINK'S VEHICLE ON I-95.

TROOPER FINK HAD BEEN PURSUING A FELON ON I-95 IN ST. LUCIE COUNTY EARLY FRIDAY.

FHP ADDED THEY WOULD NOT BE PROVIDING ANY MORE UPDATES ON THE CASE, AS THE SUBJECT OF THE PURSUIT, MICHAEL ADDISON OF BROWARD COUNTY, HAS BEEN CHARGED ACCORDINGLY, BUT THAT THIS IS STILL AN OPEN CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION. A FEW HOURS AFTER THE FIRST CRASH ON THE INTERSTATE, WE'VE LEARNED MORE ABOUT A SECOND FATAL INCIDENT ON THAT SAME STRETCH OF ROAD. FHP TELLING US A 74-YEAR-OLD MAN FROM JUPITER WAS HEADING NORTH ON THE OUTSIDE LANE OF THE INTERSTATE RIGHT BY THE GATLIN BOULEVARD EXIT AROUND 6:30AM WHEN FOR SOME REASON, THAT DRIVER FAILED TO SLOW DOWN AND STRUCK A STOPPED TRACTOR TRAILER. THE DRIVER OF THE TRACTOR TRAILER WAS UNHURT, AS WAS THE DRIVER OF A THIRD VEHICLE THAT WAS HIT BY DEBRIS FROM THE COLLISION. THAT MAN FROM JUPITER WAS PRONOUNCED DEAD ON THE SCENE... HIS NAME HAS NOT BEEN RELEASED PENDING NOTIFICATION OF NEXT OF KIN. THE LAST WORD WE HAD IS THAT SUSPECT -

SUBSEQUENTLY IDENTIFIED AS MICHAEL ADDISON WAS BEING QUESTIONED HERE – HE'S A BROWARD COUNTY MAN – ACCORDING TO A SOCIAL MEDIA POST BY MARTIN COUNTY SHERIFF -FHP DOES HAVE THE LEAD – BUT ANY CHARGES AND LEGAL PROCEEDINGS WILL BE THROUGH THE STATE ATTORNEY HERE –THE SHERIFF – WAS AMONG THOSE WHO SPOKE EARLIER TODAY ON THE APPREHENSION OF THE SUSPECT –Keith Pearson – St. Lucie County Sheriff

"All working together we were able to take a suspect into custody which we're currently interviewing and we're going to make sure working close with Florida highway patrol and traffic homicide unit we'll be able to apply justice to trooper fink, the truck driver himself and families as well, our thoughts and prayers are with them." THE STATE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE IS ALSO INVOLVED HERE - NO WORD ON CHARGES YET – BUT LAW ENFORCEMENT SOURCES DO SAY IT'S LIKELY IT MIGHT INVOLVE FELONY HOMICIDE – BASICALLY CAUSING A DEATH WHILE COMMITTING ANOTHER CRIME – CHARGES ARE PENDING.

02/09/2024 10PM

A SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEE IN MARTIN COUNTY -- FACING CHILD PORN CHARGES TONIGHT. DEPUTIES SAY TRAVIS MERITT WORKED AS A SCHOOL BUS MECHANIC... AND WORKED AT DIFFERENT CAMPUSES AROUND THE COUNTY. DETECTIVES SAY HIS WIFE CALLED DEPUTIES LATE LAST MONTH AFTER FINDING DISTURBING IMAGES ON HIS PHONE. WHEN CONFRONTED ABOUT THOSE IMAGES -- DEPUTIES SAY MERITT CONFESSED TO THE CRIME.

02/12/2024 10PM

THIS IS THE SECOND TIME IN 3 YEARS THAT THIS INTERSECTION HAS BEEN VANDALIZED BY CAR TIRES...AND NOW DEPUTY VICE MAYOR ROB LONG WANTS TO MEMORIALIZE IT HOPING FOR STRICTER PUNISHMENT ON PEOPLE WHO DEFACE IT. THIS IS THE VIDEO THAT LED TO THE ARREST OF A 19-YEAR-OLD TEEN FROM CLEARWATER LOOK AT THAT ITS..., LOOK AT THAT PICK-UP TRUCK IN IT YOU CAN SEE HIS TRUCK PEELING THROUGH THE PRIDE INTERSECTION IN DELRAY BEACH LEAVING BLACK TIRE MARKS THROUGH THE SYMBOL OF UNITY AND SUPPORT FOR THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY LAURA WINKLER - LIVES PART TIME IN DELRAY BEACH JOEL LOPEZ/REPORTER – “For you guys to see that video would you consider it a hate crime?” WINKLER – “Absolutely, there are a lot of intersections, you pick that intersection cause you want to make a point.” THE TEEN WAS CHARGED WITH FELONY CRIMINAL MISCHIEF AND RECKLESS DRIVING... THE SAME CRIME A 20-YEAR-OLD WAS CHARGED FOR 3 YEARS AGO... AT THE SAME INTERSECTION ROB LONG - DEPUTY VICE MAYOR, CITY OF DELRAY BEACH – “It’s a message of hate, it’s a message of intolerance and we need to have I think more of a deterrent for that.” DEPUTY VICE MAYOR ROB LONG WANTS TO MEMORIALIZE THE INTERSECTION HOPING IT ALLOWS STRICTER CHARGES TO BE MADE...BUT IT’LL BE UP TO COMMISSIONERS TO AGREE. NIKKI BODNAR - LIVES IN DELRAY BEACH JOEL LOPEZ/ REPORTER – “In your opinion do you think he was trying to be hateful because this is a pride intersection?” “No, no I don’t see it that way.” FOR NIKKI BODNAR WHO WALKS HER DOG MAGGIE THROUGH THE INTERSECTION REGULARLY... “There’s tire marks from skidding when it’s wet, but then there’s tire marks of people going right through it.” SHE SAID THE ISSUE IS SAFETY AS DELRAY BEACH POLICE SAY THE TEEN TURNED HIMSELF IN AND WAS TAKEN TO THE PALM BEACH COUNTY JAIL “Criminal mischief and reckless driving is that enough of a charge, is that too much of a charge? “No, I think it’s acceptable, I think it’s harsh but I think he could’ve hurt somebody.” BUT THE DAMAGE IS DONE AS THE CITY SAID IT’LL COST OVER 6-THOUSAND DOLLARS TO REPAIR THIS INTERSECTION.... SOME OF WHICH COULD BE PAID FOR BY THE TEEN. IN DELRAY BEACH, JOEL LOPEZ / FOX 29

02/13/2024 10PM

NEARLY THREE DOZEN HAITIAN MIGRANTS HAVE BEEN REPATRIATED BACK TO THEIR HOME COUNTRY - AFTER THEY WERE INTERCEPTED BY THE COAST GUARD NEAR FORT PIERCE. THAT ENCOUNTER COMES AMID AN UNUSUALLY QUIET SEASON IN FLORIDA FOR CUSTOMS AND BORDER PATROL. FOX 29'S KATE HUSSEY TALKED TO EXPERTS WHO SAY - THE REASON WHY - MAY HAVE TO DO WITH THE SOUTHERN BORDER. IT WAS JUST OFF THE COAST OF THE FORT PIERCE INLET THAT A BOAT FULL OF HAITIAN MIGRANTS RAN AGROUND FEBRUARY 3RD ... PROMPTING A MULTI-AGENCY RESPONSE. IT'S NOT UNCOMMON FOR FEDERAL AGENTS TO SEE- BUT THIS YEAR – IT'S BEEN QUIET ... ACCORDING TO CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION - SINCE OCTOBER- AIR AND MARINE AGENTS RESPONDED TO JUST 22 MIGRANTS IN SEARCH AND RESCUE MISSIONS- IN ALL OF 2022 - THERE WERE 447... BUT WHILE OUR MARITIME BORDERS ARE QUIET- AUTHORITIES AT THE US - MEXICO BORDER SAY THEY'RE SEEING THE LARGEST SURGE OF MIGRANTS IN 23 YEARS- ENCOUNTERING 225 THIS PAST DECEMBER. AND MARTIN COUNTY SHERIFF WILLIAM SNYDER IS NOW IN ARIZONA'S COCHISE COUNTY HIMSELF TO SEE THE ISSUE FIRSTHAND AFTER TELLING US HE'S SEEN UNPRECEDENTED AMOUNTS OF DRUGS AND CRIME COMING FROM THE SOUTHERN BORDER- INTO HIS COUNTY. IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY- IRA KURZBAN- SAYS WITH THE CURRENT ASYLUM LAWS IN PLACE- IT MAKES MORE SENSE FOR PEOPLE TO COME VIA LAND- THAN BY SEA. KURZBAN- THOUGH - REMINDING US WE CAN'T DEFINITELY SAY OUR MARITIME BORDERS ARE QUIET- BECAUSE OUR SOUTHERN BORDER ISNT - AND THE US COAST GUARD SAYS THE POOR WEATHER CONDITIONS- AND INCREASED LAW ENFORCEMENT PRESENCE ON OUR SEAS- ARE ALSO PROBABLY CONTRIBUTING TO THE DOWNTICK. LAST WEEK - THE US SENATE DID UNVEIL A BIPARTISAN BILL TO IMPOSE TOUGHER ASYLUM AND

BORDER LAWS AT THE US-MEXICO LINE. AS FOR HERE- THE COAST GUARD SAYS THEY'LL CONTINUE THAT HEIGHTENED PRESENCE- WHETHER NUMBERS INCREASE OR NOT. IN FORT PIERCE KATE HUSSEY FOX 29

02/15/2023 10PM

A SHOOTING -- TURNING DEADLY IN BELLE GLADE TONIGHT. THE PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE SAYS IT HAPPENED AT A CORNER STORE ALONG MARTIN LUTHER KING BOULEVARD. DEPUTIES SAY FRIENDS OF THE VICTIM TOOK HIM TO A NEARBY FIRE STATION... FIREFIGHTERS THEN TOOK HIM TO THE HOSPITAL... WHERE HE LATER DIED. DETECTIVES ARE NOW LOOKING FOR LEADS CONNECTED TO THE INCIDENT. IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION -- CALL PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIME STOPPERS.

02/20/2024 10PM

THE SEARCH CONTINUES FOR SUSPECTS 3 NIGHTS AFTER A SHOOTING AT A LOCAL MALL. PALM BEACH GARDENS POLICE ARE LOOKING FOR TWO MEN THEY CALL PERSONS OF INTERESTS CONNECTED TO THE VALENTINE'S DAY SHOOTING AT THE GARDENS MALL. THEY SAY THIS IS A CASE OF A 'TARGETED' SHOOTING. ONE VICTIM WAS LATER FOUND BY A NEARBY HOSPITAL WITH A GUNSHOT WOUND. THAT INJURY WAS NON-LIFE THREATENING. THE MALL WAS IN LOCK-DOWN FOR HOURS WHEN THE SHOOTING OCCURRED. THE MALL IS LOCATED IN PALM BEACH GARDENS, AN AREA NOT KNOWN FOR HIGH CRIME.

03/19/2024 10PM

A WEEKEND OF VIOLENCE IN FORT PIERCE...NOT ONE- BUT TWO - DEADLY SHOOTINGS- HOURS APART. "It's not comforting." THE FIRST - HAPPENING JUST NEXT DOOR TO GUY WRIGHT ON AVENUE C AND 23RD STREET- WHERE POLICE SAY THEY FOUND 18-YEAR-OLD JACKSON ROMANELLO SHOT TO DEATH IN A PARKED CAR. Kate Hussey/Reporter – "have you ever had a shooting in this neighborhood before?" Guy: "Yes." Hussey/Reporter – "Many times?" Guy: "Through 20 years." JUST HOURS LATER A SECOND SHOOTING- POLICE SAY JUST BEFORE 7 PM A 24-YEAR-OLD WAS SHOT IN THE POPULAR MARAVILLA DOG PARK - AND WHILE POLICE HAVEN'T YET CONFIRMED - MULTIPLE PEOPLE TOLD US IT THAPPENED DURING A BABY SHOWER. Diane Dueker – "This isn't the neighborhood for that., you know? It's just - I can't imagine that we all come here, and sometimes there are 8, 9, 10, 11 dogs in the evening time." POLICE COULDNT SAY IF THE SHOOTINGS WERE TARGETED OR RANDOM- BUT SAY THEY'RE NOT RELATED- MULTIPLE PEOPLE - NOW TELLING US - THEY FEEL UNSAFE. "I really do." Hussey/Reporter -"What do you think is the answer?" "My answer is leaving." ACCORDING TO THE FBI'S LATEST CRIME DATA FROM 2019 - ABOUT 56 OTHER FLORIDA CITIES HAVE HIGHER CRIME RATES THAN FORT PIERCE- AND IN THE COUNTY - CRIME HAS CONSISTENTLY DECLINED YEAR AFTER YEAR...STILL THE CITY'S AVERAGE VIOLENT CRIME RATE IS NEARLY THREE AND A HALF TIMES THE STATE AVERAGE. Alisia Harriel, Faith in Florida, Community Organizer on the Treasure Coast -" Heartbreaking for sure." ALISIA HARRIEL WITH FAITH IN FLORIDA - ONE OF MANY PUTTING BOOTS ON THE GROUND TO CURB CRIME - SHE BELIEVES MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE A THE COMMUNITY LEVEL... TO HELP BRIDGE THE GAP. "I do believe that we need to allocate money into our city and county's budget to reduce violence and gun violence in our community."

FUNDING - AN OBSTACLE FOR JEN CHAMPAGNE TOO- A YEAR AGO SHE AND OTHER COMMUNITY MEMBERS TRIED TO REINSTATE TROOP 772 OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA TO KEEP KIDS OUT OF TROUBLE - BUT THOSE EFFORTS COME WITH A COST. "Having a Boy Scout troop is pretty expensive." CHAMPAGNE AND OTHERS ARE INSTEAD WORKING WITH FORT PIERCE POLICE TO REINSTATE THE FIRST STEP PROGRAM - ENGAGING WITH KIDS IN PARKS TO KEEP THEM ON THE RIGHT PATH. "The joy and the anticipation in their faces- that's what keeps us going- even though we do still come across so many barriers, there's something we can do now instead of wait." IN ADDITION, THIS YEAR THE COUNTY DID UNVEIL SECURITY CAMERAS IN PUBLIC PARKS-TO INCREASE SAFETY AND HARRIEL SAYS POLICE OFFICERS HAVE PARTNERED WITH FAITH IN FLORIDA TOO- READING TO KIDS- AND PROVIDING PEER SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES. IN FORT PIERCE KATE HUSSEY FOX 29

Environmental

Including climate issues, local waterways, and other various environmental impacts.

FOX 29 Morning News

02/16/2024 7-9AM

THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF WATER RELEASES AT LAKE OKEECHOBEE HAPPENING TOMORROW--WE EXPLORE THE IMPACT THEY'LL HAVE ON THE ENVIRONMENT--TODAY. DISCHARGING WATER FROM LAKE OKEECHOBEE IMPACTS A NUMBER OF COMMUNITIES. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR FRIENDS OF THE EVERGLADES, DOESN'T AGREE WITH THE DECISION. SHE FEELS THE WATER IN LAKE OKEECHOBEE NEEDS TO BE MANAGED ON A SCHEDULE THAT'S LESS HARMFUL TO THE ENVIRONMENT EVE SAMPLES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - FRIENDS OF THE EVERGLADES - "The solution is actually the same for all of these parts of the Everglades ecosystem and that's to send more clean water South down to Everglades National park at the right times of the year." ON THE OTHER HAND, BELLE GLADES MAYOR STEVE WILSON SAYS HE TRUSTS THE U-S ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS MADE THE NECESSARY DECISION TO PROTECT THEIR COMMUNITY. WE CAUGHT UP WITH MARK PERRY AT THE ST. LUCIE LOCK AND DAM. "I'm really upset." TRANQUILITY ABOUT TO GIVE WAY TO A VERITABLE TSUNAMI RUSHING THROUGH THIS DAM. THIS IS WHAT IT'S LOOKED LIKE BEFORE WHEN THE GATES OPEN WIDE. PERRY --THE HEAD OF THE FLORIDA OCEANOGRAPHIC SOCIETY--WAITS AND WORRIES. Mark Perry-Florida Oceanographic Society CEO - "They should have been releasing water south prior to this back in October of last year when the lake got over 16 feet." HOW LONG WILL THE WATER FLOW INTO THE ST. LUCIE ESTUARY, INDIAN RIVER LAGOON AND LAKE WORTH LAGOON?" PERRY - "They can't go on for a long duration." BUT NO FIRM OR FINAL TIMELINE YET FROM THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS. EACH DAY--PERRY SAYS-- WILL BE ANOTHER DAY OF WATER FILLED WITH PHOSPHOROUS AND NITROGEN, A RECIPE FOR DISASTER. PERRY - "they can't go for a long duration at these discharges they are going to wipe out these habitats such as oyster reefs, and seagrass beds which hundreds and hundreds of fish and shellfish as well as manatees depend on." ALGAE BLOOMS COULD BE ANOTHER NASTY RESULT--NOW OR LATER--ENVIRONMENTALISTS SAY, THEY ARE PUSHING FOR ALTERNATIVES. PERRY- "we need to get water out of the lake for the health of the lake and the health of everybody around the lake . we understand we have to get water out...but they should be putting it south to the everglades that needs it." A NEVER-ENDING DEBATE ON BALANCING SAFETY FOR COMMUNITIES AROUND THE LAKE-- ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES FOR COASTAL COMMUNITIES AND THE FUTURE FOR A PARCHED EVERGLADES. ALL SIDES AGAIN, BRACING FOR IMPACT.

02/29/2024 7-9AM

"peace, happiness, tranquility , growth, future." MICHAEL STEVENS ADMIRES THE ALL THE SPECIES OF BIRDS LIVING ON THE BIRD ISLAND SANCTUARY ON THE EAST COURSE AT BALLENISLES COUNTY CLUB. "On the island right now, we have some snowy white egrets//we also have our native wood storks, and we also have cormorants. We also have some white ibis out there as well and occasionally you'll get some ospreys and we do have some bald eagles on property." THE ISLAND IS PART OF THE CLUB'S AUDUBON COOPERATIVE SANCTUARY PROGRAM. "We take a lot of pride in producing the conditions for our members and for our golfing public but also developing a sustainable resource environment for generations to come." THE AUDUBON SOCIETY WORKS WITH GOLF COURSES AROUND THE WORLD HELPING BETTER PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT WHILE KEEPING THE INTEGRITY OF THE GAME OF GOLF. "Dive into the science behind the science of what we do to take care of the golf course and the natural resources that we are provided with we are always challenging ourselves to get better." ANOTHER PART OF THE PROGRAM - BEES. IN BETWEEN TWO FAIRWAYS ON THE EAST COURSE IS THE BALLENBEE. LAST YEAR -- 450 POUNDS OF HONEY WAS PRODUCED FROM THE 5 BEE HIVES. A LOCAL BEEKEEPER WORKS WITH THE CLUB TO HARVEST THE HONEY AND SELL IT. AND AS STEVENS, THE DIRECTOR OF AGRINOMY AT BALLENISLES, POINTS OUT -- IT MUCH MORE THAN A SWEET TREAT.

"Encourage the pollination of our native plants here on property but also outside of Ballen Isles in the agriculture markets." DURING A RECENT RENOVATION -- THE CLUB PRESERVED SHRUBS AS NOT TO WASTE THEM AND EVEN MOVED SEVERAL TREES TO OTHER LOCATIONS ON THE COURSE. STEVENS SAYS IT IS IMPORTANT FOR EVERYONE TO PROTECT FLORIDA'S HABITAT AND PRESERVE IT FOR THE FUTURE. "Outside the gates of Ballen Isles is a very hectic community. So, when you have the opportunity to get on a piece of property that is pretty and tranquility as we have here taking a second and looking at what mother nature provides us every day and what she has growing and developing it reminds us of who we are and keeps us grounded as what we can do to continue to support the environment long term." MICHAEL WILLIAMS. FOX 29.

03/01/2024 7-9AM

MORE THAN 3-HUNDRED-THOUSAND GALLONS OF RAW SEWAGE SPILLED INTO A PALM SPRINGS CANAL. THE MESS CAUSED BY A PIPELINE RUPTURE ON FEBRUARY 20th, ACCORDING TO THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. REPORTER JOEL LOPEZ IS LEARNING WHY IT'S TAKING SO LONG TO CLEAN UP, AND HOW IT'S IMPACTING THE COMMUNITY. I CAN SAY THAT IT SMELLS MUCH BETTER THAN IT DID WHEN I WAS OUT HERE LAST WEEK... AND THAT FLOATING LAYER OF MUCK SEEMS TO BE GONE BUT PEOPLE I SPOKE WITH SAY THEY'RE WORRIED ABOUT THE IMPACT IT LEFT BELOW THE WATER. REPORTER -- "So this is your back yard." DEB CALLEI -- "Yes" THROUGH THE BACK GATES OF HER CANAL FRONT PROPERTY DEB CALLEI -- "As you can see it still looks like chocolate milk, the canal and there's still a little bit of an odor." DEB CALLEI LIVES ON WHAT SHE CALLS GROUND ZERO OF A SWEAGE SPILL CALLEI - "There's been floating dead animals in the canal. So, I was concerned about them I'm concerned about my neighbors and the environment." ACCORDING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION'S PUBLIC RECORDS PORTAL...IT'S ESTIMATED THAT OVER 300-THOUSAND GALLONS (336,000) OF SEWAGE SPILLED INTO THE CANAL...HAT'S ENOUGH TO FILL NEARLY 17 AVERAGE SIZED SWIMMING POOLS HERE'S A SIDE BY SIDE ON WHAT THE CANAL LOOKED LIKE LAST WEEK ON THE LEFT... COMPARED TODAY AFTER NEARLY 2 WEEKS OF CLEANUP REPORTER - "I know the barricades block what's floating on the water, are there any concerns what got through below the water?" TOMMY STROWD -- "Yeah, I think that's why one of the protocols is to do water quality monitoring they don't just sample in one spot they sample numerous locations." I SPOKE WITH TOMMY STROWD THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE LAKE WORTH DRAINAGE DISTRICT... WHO MAINTAINS THE CANAL. BUT STROWD SAYS VILLAGE UTILITIES HAVE BEEN IN CHARGE OF CLEANUP AS THE DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION SAYS MORE THAN 345-THOUSAND GALLONS OF IMPACTED SURFACE WATER HAS BEEN VACCUMED UP SINCE THE SPILL REPORTER - "Do you know what caused the spill in the first place?" STROWD -- "Uh no I don't. From my understanding is it's a relatively old line that's there on the bridge." A BRIDGE THAT'S JUST DOWN THE CANAL FROM CALLEI'S HOUSE... DEB CALLEI -- "They do updates every few days but it's pretty general." AS SHE SAYS... SHE WANTS MORE COMMUNICATION FROM THE VILLAGE OF PALM SPRINGS DEB CALLEI - "All the things we're asked not to do or do are precautionary, so I hope that's true, I just don't know if it is." WE REACHED OUT TO STAFF WITH THE VILLAGE OF PALM SPRINGS BUT HAVE NOT HEARD BACK IN TIME FOR BROADCAST IN PALM SPRINGS JOEL LOPEZ FOX 29

FOX 29 News 6:30PM

01/12/2024 6:30PM

THEY'RE UGLY - THEY'RE NAVIGATIONAL HAZARDS- AND THEY CAN COST TAXPAYERS THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS. WE'RE TALKING ABOUT DERELICT VESSELS- SOMETHING THE MARTIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE - IS SEEING MORE, AND MORE OF. SUITED UP AND INTO THE ST LUCIE RIVER - DEPUTIES PATROL A WATERFRONT NEIGHBORHOOD- "This is THE most prominent problem area we have..." OR ITS MAYBE NOT AS WATERFRONT- SO MUCH AS IT IS WATERBORNE. "boats that people make into their homes- or shelters..." THESE DERELICT- OR ABANDONED VESSELS- HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A PROBLEM IN THE COUNTY - BOTH FOR THE SAFETY OF BOATERS - AND THE ENVIRONMENT... 'there's fuel, there's batteries, different types of hazardous materials.' NOW - IT'S GETTING WORSE- THE COST OF LIVING- FORCING PEOPLE OUT OF THEIR HOMES- AND INTO BOATS INSTEAD.

Lt. Michael Dougherty, Special Operations Martin County Sheriff's Office "We've seen a tremendous increase actually throughout the county. You'll have vagrants squatting on the boat, it is falling apart, there have been several instances where the boats have come loose and ran into the docks." WE'VE EVEN COVERED IT IN JENSEN BEACH IN NOVEMBER- WHEN SEVEN BOATS BROKE LOOSE AND WREAKED HAVOC. BUT GETTING RID OF THE EYESORES- A LENGTHY PROCESS THAT CAN TAKE WEEKS- AND COST TAXPAYERS- "It can be anywhere from 6 thousand to upwards of astronomical amounts of money." ANGLER GILES MURPHY - "check these out- we got mud minnows..." PAYS THAT PRICE TOO- HIS BAIT - AND BUSINESS- DEPENDENT ON THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE RIVER. "The attraction of our waters to anglers to get out there and fish and tourists and stuff I mean we need to keep it looking good." NOW- MARTIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TAKING ACTION - CREATING MOORING FIELDS AT MANATEE POCKET- AND AT THE JENSEN BEACH CAUSEWAY - TO CONTROL WHERE BOATS CAN DROP ANCHOR- MAKE SURE THEY'RE UP TO CODE- AND COMPLYING WITH HEALTH AND SAFETY RULES. "They're not sinking, they're not falling apart." COMMISSIONERS- EVEN GIVING MORE POWER TO LAW ENFORCEMENT- TO TOW THE ONES THAT AREN'T REGISTERED OR FOLLOWING THE RULES "As a result - people are moving- they're moving their boats, they're moving them away from docks, from marinas." BECAUSE AS THE COST OF LIVING KEEPS RISING- AND NEIGHBORHOODS SHIFT FROM SHORE TO SEA -ELIMINATING THESE FLOATING COMMUNITIES MIGHT NOT BE AN OPTION- BUT SETTING A NEW SET OF BUOYANT BYLAWS MAY JUST BE. "Establish rules or guidelines that we're gonna go by to keep everybody safe." IN MARTIN COUNTY KATE HUSSEY FOX 29.

01/15/2024 630PM

"Let me tell you, I've been doing this for 25 years, and this is new to me, and as I'm talking to peers in the industry, new to them." KELLY MARTIN, THE V-P OF ZOOLOGICAL CARE AT CLEARWATER MARINE AQUARIUM, IS TALKING ABOUT A BREAKTHROUGH STUDY BY SCIENTISTS AT THE NUREMBURG ZOO IN GERMANY. WHO BELIEVE THEY HAVE DISCOVERED THE SENSORY ABILITY OF ELECTRORECEPTION IN BOTTLENOSE DOLPHINS, THE VERY ONES WHO POPULATE THE BAY AND GULF...AND ONES THAT ARE CARED FOR HERE AT C-M-A. "Yes, this is fascinating, but it really homes in on the fact that these animals are more than we could ever imagine and like you and I they have a unique way of adapting to their environments." ELECTRORECEPTION IS KNOWN AS THE ABILITY TO SENSE ELECTRIC CURRENTS IN WATER, AND DOLPHINS COULD BE USING IT TO AVOID PREDATORS, FIND FOOD, NAVIGATE, OR EVEN COMMUNICATE WITH ONE ANOTHER. "Ready, so let's put these in the water." (DOLPHINS BEING TESTED) ONE SENSORY ABILITY WE ALREADY KNEW DOLPHINS HAD IS ECHO-LOCATION...THE ABILITY TO SEE USING SOUND. (FOOTAGE OF NICK THE DOLPHIN GETTING HIS EYE CUPS PUT ON FOR A TEST)"They emit sound, it bounces off of objects in their environment, and after that sound bounces off an object it returns to the animals in their lower jaw and inner ear." IN THIS TEST, KELLY, AND HER TRAINERS SHOW US THAT WHEN HIS ABILITY TO SEE IS TAKEN AWAY...NICK THE DOLPHIN...CAN SWIM ACROSS THE POOL...AND AS KELLY AND I HOLD THREE DIFFERENT OBJECTS...NICK IS ABLE TO CORRECTLY IDENTIFY THE OBJECT HIS TRAINER WANTED HIM TO. (DOLPHIN DOING THE TEST) "So now a red boat, so he's moving his head back and forth, he picked the right one, good job buddy." KELLY AND I SHUFFLED THE TOYS, THE TRAINER IDENTIFIED DIFFERENT ONES FOR HIM TO CHOOSE... (DOLPHIN DOING THE TEST) "See if we can get it right, and a superstar, great job." AND HE KEPT ACING THE EXERCISE. I ASKED KELLY THAT IF DURING HER CAREER SHE CAN POINT TO ANYTHING SHE'S OBSERVED THAT MIGHT EXPLAIN DOLPHINS USING ELECTRO RECEPTION. SHE POINTED TO DOLPHINS IN HER CARE WITH HEARING IMPAIRMENTS LIKE THIS ROUGH TOOTH DOLPHIN NAMED RUDY...AND WONDERS IF MAYBE THIS PROVIDES AN EXPLANATION FOR WHAT HE CAN STILL DO... "We have had situations pool side where we will provide a stimulus, a tap on the water, tap on wall, movement of gate system, toy in environment, an animal that can't hear definitely responds, could this be a part of it, potentially." WE DID THE SAME DRILL WITH RUDY, AND WHILE RUDY CAN SEE THE TOY HE NEEDS TO IDENTIFY, BECAUSE HE'S DEAF, THE ONLY WAY THE TRAINER CAN COMMUNICATE WITH HIM FROM ACROSS THE POOL...IS BY SQUIRTING WATER, SOMETHING HE IMMEDIATELY RESPONDS TO. (DOLPHIN DOING TESTING) "Ahhh nice job, good job buddy." SEVERAL DOLPHIN RESEARCH PROJECTS ARE ONGOING AT C-M-A - KELLY SAYS. "it really feels like we haven't even scratched the surface." "Stop appreciate from afar and know there is still a lot to learn about these amazing animals, and we are in the beginning stages of what we can do and how we can help each other."

01/20/2024 6:30PM

THE BREVARD ZOO IN CENTRAL FLORIDA HAS INTRODUCED A NOVEL METHOD FOR REMOVING TUMORS FROM SEA TURTLES...MAGGIE MAY IS ABOUT 5 YEARS OLD, STILL YOUNG FOR A GREEN SEA TURTLE...AND LIKE MOST OF HER FELLOW GREEN SEA TURTLES - SHE HAS THE FP VIRUS. NOW FOR HER - THE VIRUS HAS PROMPTED THE GROWTH OF TUMORS. THEY'RE NOT CANCEROUS.FOR MANY TURTLES THE VIRUS STAYS DORMANT. SHANON GANN/ BREVARD ZOO SEA TURTLE PROGRAM - "When it expresses itself it's like cauliflower sized warts and it can be everywhere on their bodies." THEY CAN GET VERY LARGE AND START TO MAKE LIFE DIFFICULT. SHANON GANN/ BREVARD ZOO SEA TURTLE PROGRAM - "It can slow them down if they are on their flippers. They can have large tumors on flippers, rear flippers. It can maybe slow them down to avoid predation or a boat strike." THE ZOO NOW HAS A NEW TOOL TO HELP REMOVE THESE TUMORS. SHANON GANN/ BREVARD ZOO SEA TURTLE PROGRAM - "A novel approach, only a few facilities are doing this. Is called electrochemotherapy." THE MEDICAL DEVICE, PURCHASED THROUGH THE SEA TURTLE LICENSE PLATE GRANT PROGRAM. IT'S MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE AND SAFTER WAY TO REMOVE THE TUMORS THAN CUTTING THEM OFF IN SURGERY....ESPECIALLY THE LARGER ONES- IN DELICATE AREAS ON THE TURTLE.

THE RESCUED TURTLES THAT COME TO THE ZOO HERE THAT EXHIBIT FP VIRUS AND HAVE TUMORS ARE IN A SEPARATE FACILITY HERE AND HAVE SEPARATE FILTRATION SYSTEMS. THAT BECAUSE THE VIRUS CAN SPREAD THROUGH WATER. IT'S STILL NOT KNOWN HOW THE VIRUS IS PASSED ON. BUT IT CANNOT SPREAD TO HUMANS...AND TUMOR OUTBREAKS ON SEA TURTLES USUALLY HAPPEN WHEN THEY ARE IMMUNE COMPROMISED. MANY THAT COME IN FOR AN INJURY, A BOAT STRIKE OR FISHING LINE LACERATIONS - WILL HAVE TUMORS GROWING.

SHANON GANN/ BREVARD ZOO SEA TURTLE PROGRAM - "So there are different issues. So sometimes they have maybe they have FP and they maybe have fishing line entangled around them. Because those tumors provide a great opportunity for things to get caught up on them." THANKS TO THIS NEW TREATMENT, A DOZEN SEA TURTLES ARE BACK OUT IN THE WILD. SOMETHING ZOO VETS ARE HOPING FOR MAGGY MAY IN THE COMING MONTHS.

02/06/2024 6:30PM

NASA AND SPACE-X WILL TRY AGAIN WEDNESDAY MORNING FROM CAPE CANAVERAL TO LAUNCH A SPECIAL SATELLITE DESIGNED TO OBSERVE AND EXAMINE OCEANS AN OTHER BODIES OF WATER. THE SPACECRAFT CALLED "PACE" WAS SUPPOSED TO LAUNCH OVERNIGHT BUT GOT SCRUBBED BECAUSE OF WEATHER. NASA SAYS ONCE THE SATELLITE IS IN ORBIT IT WILL ENHANCE HOW THEY STUDY WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT... INCLUDING ALGAE BLOOMS AND RED TIDE... ISSUES WE'VE DEALT WITH HERE IN SOUTH FLORIDA.

02/21/2024 6:30PM

AS FRESHWATER DISCHARGES FROM LAKE OKEECHOBEE RUMBLE INTO A FIFTH DAY, CONCERN OVER THE ADVERSE IMPACT TO THE ENVIRONMENT CONTINUES TO GROW AMONG MANY ON THE TREASURE COAST. ONE WOMAN SHARED A VIDEO WITH OUR JON SHAINMAN OF SOMETHING SHE HOPES DOES NOT BECOME COMMONPLACE. AMY SMITH WAS OUT WALKING HER DOGS AT THE MANATEE POCKET TUESDAY MORNING WHEN... Amy -"We just saw all that green slick material." THE SALT TRIBE CHARTER OWNER RECORDED WHAT LOOKS TO BE BLUE-GREEN ALGAE ALONG THE SHORELINE. ON WEDNESDAY, IT WAS GONE... BUT SMITH IS NOW CONCERNED. AMY - "Just already here it goes, so it begins...Lake Okeechobee." THE THUNDEROUS SOUND OF BILLIONS OF GALLONS OF WATER COURSING THROUGH THE ST. LUCIE LOCK AND DAM, STARTED OVER THE WEEKEND AND CONTINUES TODAY. WITH THE CURRENT LAKE LEVEL OVER 16-FEET, THE ARMY CORPS IS TRYING TO LOWER THAT BY AT LEAST A FEW FEET BEFORE THE WET SEASON. AMY - "So it goes without saying that anyone who lives, works, or plays on the water is paying attention to what's happening here on the locks." THAT INCLUDES HOW MUCH WATER IS BEING RELEASED DAILY. INITIALLY, THE CORPS SAID 1800 CUBIC FEET PER SECOND, OR ABOUT 1.1 BILLION GALLONS PER DAY. BUT ON THE CORPS' OWN WEBSITE, IT'S' BEEN ABOVE THAT MARK. WE REACHED OUT FOR CLARIFICATION ON THE

DISCHARGE LEVELS, BUT HAVE NOT HEARD BACK FROM THE CORPS. AMY - "Figure we'd go full sun today since the last trip is a little cold." OUT AT THE MANATEE POCKET, CAPTAIN BILL ROSTOCK OF TREASURE COAST RIVER CRUISES SAYS HE SAW PLENTY OF DOLPHINS AND MANATEES THIS MORNING BUT HAS ALREADY ALTERED HIS SIGHTSEEING ROUTE. CAPT. BILL ROSTOCK/TREASURE COAST RIVER CRUISES - "On the South Fork, it looks like chocolate milk, so I've diverted my trips to go up the North Fork which seems to stay a little cleaner." AND BACK AT THE LOCKS, FRUSTRATED FISHERMEN LIKE SEAN MURPHY WONDER IF THERE WILL EVER BE A SOLUTION. SEAN MURPHY - "I understand we have a wet season on the way, and we need to make room for the water on the way. We just need to find a better system and move the water south." WITH THE HOPE THAT THIS SIGHTING WAS JUST A ONE-OFF AND NOT A SIGN OF THINGS TO COME. JON SHAINMAN FOX 29.

03/05/2025 6:30PM

WE ARE ON A NEWLY IMPROVED TRAIL DEEP IN THE HEART OF THE NEWFIELD. IT IS PART OF A TRAIL NETWORK THAT WILL SOON OPEN TO THE PUBLIC IN WESTERN PALM CITY JUST SOUTH OF THE ST. LUCIE COUNTY LINE. THE VISION OF FINANCIAL JOURNALIST KNIGHT KIPLINGER IS SLOWLY TAKING SHAPE, AFTER GETTING INITIAL APPROVAL IN DECEMBER OF 2020. (developer at meeting "it had to be accessible to all.") TUESDAY, THE DEVELOPERS WENT BEFORE THE MARTIN COUNTY COMMISSION TO GET APPROVAL OF THEIR MASTER PARKS PLAN. 70% OF THIS LAND, BETWEEN 23 AND 24-HUNDRED ACRES, WILL BE PRESERVED AS CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SPACE FOR THE COMMUNITY, FOREVER. MARCELA CAMBLOR/PLANNER - "This vision was not to simply focus on development but to focus on the environment." SPECIFIC PLANS FOR WHAT WILL BE BUILT IN EACH COMMUNITY PARKS ARE STILL IN THE WORKS, BUT THE PLAN IS TO HAVE MULTI-PURPOSE FIELDS, AS WELL AS BIKE TRAILS AND BOAT LAUNCHES. WHEN IT COMES TO PARKLAND, MARTIN COUNTY REQUIRES 3 ACRES OF PARKLAND FOR EVERY ONE THOUSAND NEW RESIDENTS. NEWFIELD, WHEN IT IS DEVELOPED OVER THE NEXT 15 YEARS, WILL HAVE ABOUT TEN THOUSAND PEOPLE, SO THE DEVELOPERS ARE REQUIRED TO DEVELOP ABOUT 30 ACRES OF PARKLAND. BUT TODAY, MATTAMY DEVELOPER SAYS THEY'LL PROVIDE FAR MORE ACREAGE THAN THAT. ON TOP OF THE PARKLAND, THE ACREAGE THAT WILL BE KEPT ITS NATURAL STATE IS ALSO FAR MORE THAN WHAT IS REQUIRED. MATTAMY HOMES SAYS IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE LAND BE PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE EVEN AS IT'S PRIVATELY MAINTAINED, PART OF THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY BY GETTING AMENITIES BUILT BEFORE THE FIRST ROOFTOP IS EVEN RAISED. MARCELA CAMBLOR/PLANNER - "Because it is what will help build community. It will help residents that have embraced this vision, and it will help the new residents have this amazing amenity once they move in." AS FOR WHEN HOMES WILL GO ON SALE... LIKELY NOT UNTIL AT LEAST THE END OF THE YEAR. IN MARTIN COUNTY, JON SHAINMAN FOX 29

FOX 29 10 O'Clock News

01/02/2024 10PM

NOW'S THE TIME FLORIDA'S SEA COWS ARE IN SEARCH OF WARMER WATERS. IN TAMPA BAY, THERE'S NO BETTER PLACE THAN THE WATERS SURROUNDING TECO'S BIG BEND POWER STATION. SANDBERG says: "It's quite a sight. It's really great to see them in their natural environment." LEE says: "Someone of them are sticking their noses out of the water. So, I think that's 'cause they're trying to breathe and then some of them have barnacles on their back, so I thought that was cool." SINCE 1986, TECO POWER COMPANY HAS BEEN OPERATING THE MANATEE VIEWING CENTER, WHICH IS FREE AND OPEN TO PUBLIC EVERY YEAR FROM NOVEMBER 1 TO APRIL 15. GOMEZ says: "Because their fat layer is really thin, they need water warmer than 68 Fahrenheit to survive. So they'll go to springs, which are about 72 Fahrenheit year-round or they'll come to plants just like the one behind me." THE POWER PLANT WORKS BY CIRCULATING WATER FROM TAMPA BAY FOR COOLING, THEN SENDS THE WATER FLOWING CLEAN AND WARM BACK INTO THE BAY, CREATING A WARM SPOT FOR MANATEES. DURING THE HOLIDAYS, IT'S A POPULAR SPOT FOR FAMILIES AND SNOWBIRDS. PEKAREK says: "It was wonderful. I wasn't sure because it's been kind of cool but not really cold, so I wasn't sure what to expect. It was really, it was beautiful, very nice." WORKERS SAY SOME PEOPLE COME FROM ALL

OVER THE WORLD TO SEE THE MAJESTIC CREATURES. ACCORDING TO FLORIDA FISH & WILDLIFE, THERE'S ONLY ABOUT 11,000 MANATEES LEFT IN FLORIDA. AS IT STANDS NOW, THEY'RE CONSIDERED A THREATENED SPECIES. BUT IN OCTOBER, FEDERAL FISH AND WILDLIFE OFFICIALS ANNOUNCED THEY'RE CONDUCTING A NEW REVIEW OF THE SPECIES TO DECIDE WHETHER THEY SHOULD BE PUT ON THE ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST. GOMEZ says: "This is a unique piece of Florida wildlife that we want to share with everybody. And to have that to be able to be accessible to everybody is really important." REPORTING IN APOLLO BEACH, JORDAN BOWEN, FOX 13 NEWS.

01/08/2024 10PM

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHERE YOU LIVE IN SOUTH FLORIDA...“Everybody. Everybody has them.” JEANNINE TILFORD- IS WILLING TO BET SHE'LL FIND NEW GUINEA FLATWORMS- SLITHERING THROUGH YOUR GRASS- YOUR FLOWERPOTS— EVEN THOSE LITTLE CREVASSES BETWEEN PAVERS AND CRACKS. “Even on that finely manicured grass in multi-million-dollar communities, they are there.” JEANNINE IS IN THE BUSINESS OF HUNTING FOR CRITTERS THAT ARE TOXIC TO YOU OR YOUR PETS. HER BUSINESS TOAD BUSTERS- STARTED AS JUST THAT- HUNTING FOR BUFO TOADS. BUT IN THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS- SHE ALSO STARTED FINDING MORE NEW GUINEA FLATWORMS IN THE MIX. “Unexpectedly as we were looking for toads we happened to run into this creepy looking--looks like a leach almost— worm and realized it was an invasive species.” SHE DID HER RESEARCH AND LEARNED SHE WAS UP AGAINST A TOXIC THREAT. THE FLATWORM COATED WITH A TOXIN- BUT THE BIGGEST DANGER SHE SAYS- IS THE RAT LUNGWORM PARASITE THEY CARRY THAT CAN KILL ANIMALS- AND CAUSE A FORM OF MENINGITIS IN HUMANS. “We have seen so many of them. Like scary numbers. It's something for me of major concern.” THE NEW GUINEA FLATWORM MADE ITS WAY INTO THE US THROUGH SOUTH FLORIDA-IN 2012. AND IS NOW IN A MAJORITY OF FLORIDA COUNTIES- PREYING ON SNAILS, SLUGS, AND EARTHWORMS ESSENTIAL TO OUR NATIVE ECOSYSTEM. “Look for the shiny black.” WITH HER TRAINED EYE- THEY'RE NOT TOO HARD TO SPOT. OUR LIGHTS REFLECT RIGHT OFF OF THEIR BLACK SLIMY AND TOXIC SKIN. “A lot of times they'll hang out in the middle of these.” BUT EVEN ONCE YOU FIND THEM- HERE'S THE PROBLEM AND WHY THEY'RE CONSIDERED ONE OF THE WORST INVASIVE SPECIES IN THE WORLD. “They're very hard to kill. There are very few things that actually kill them.” POURING BOILING WATER ON THEM FOR NOW IS THE BEST WAY TO KNOW THEY'RE DEAD. EVEN IF YOU CUT THEM INTO A DOZEN PIECES- THEY'LL JUST GROW INTO A DOZEN NEW WORMS. HERE'S ANOTHER LITTLE DETAIL YOU MIGHT FIND UNSETTLING. JEANNINE SAYS TYPICALLY WHEN SHE'S LOOKING FOR THESE WORMS SHE'LL FIND AS MANY AS 50 TO EVEN 60 IN AN AREA NO BIGGER THAN THIS FLOORMAT. “I mean I've been on properties where we've killed probably 60 worms in a matter of 10 minutes.” “I just went to see a client who has a major infestation in Orlando. I'm getting calls from all over the place.” SHE ALSO WORRIES ABOUT THE WORMS SLITHERING OVER GARDENS WHERE PEOPLE EAT, AND PLAYSETS WHERE CHILDREN SPEND TIME. SO, SHE KILLS WHAT SHE CAN- UNTIL THERE'S A BETTER PLAN OF ATTACK.“I know just when people start realizing how thick they are here and how dangerous they can be what it does with our environment something has got to be done.”

01/17/2024 10PM

THE CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE POSTING ON SOCIAL MEDIA TODAY THAT COYOTES HAVE BEEN SPOTTED AROUND THE CITY. MATING SEASON FOR COYOTES RUNS THROUGH MARCH, AND ACCORDING TO FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE, THEY'VE BEEN DOCUMENTED IN EVERY COUNTY OF THE STATE. LAST WEEK, A PHOTOGRAPH MADE THE ROUNDS IN MARTIN COUNTY OF A COYOTE THAT HAD BEEN SHOT AND LEFT ON TOP OF A DUMPSTER. WHILE COYOTES ARE NOT PROTECTED UNDER FLORIDA LAW, MARTIN COUNTY'S SHERIFF SAYS THIS TYPE OF ACTION DOES POSE RISKS. SHERIFF WILLIAM SNYDER/MARTIN COUNTY “To shoot a coyote in a residential neighborhood risks several things. Injury to an uninvolved person in the neighborhood. You also risk a civil liability and criminal liability for discharging a firearm in a residential neighborhood.” WE ALSO SPOKE WITH BUSCH WILDLIFE SANCTUARY WHO TELL US THAT HUMANS OFTEN MAKE IT EASIER FOR COYOTES TO ADAPT TO A MORE URBAN ENVIRONMENT BY LEAVING GARBAGE CANS UNSECURED AND BIRD FEEDERS OUT. COYOTES ARE MOST ACTIVE AT DAWN AND DUSK, AND IF YOU DO FIND YOURSELF FACE TO FACE WITH ONE, YOU CAN MAKE A LOUD NOISE TO SCARE IT OFF.

02/03/2024 10PM

DURING THE WINTERTIME, AND WITH THIS COOLER WEATHER, YOU'VE GOT A BETTER CHANCE TO SEE MANATEES OUT CONGREGATING. TODAY, MARKED THE 8TH ANNIVERSARY OF MANATEE FEST. OUR OWN MICHAEL WILLIAMS WAS THE HOST OF THIS 2024 EDITION AT THE MANATEE LAGOON. THE FREE FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENT WAS A GREAT WAY TO LEARN ABOUT THE SEA COWS AND HOW TO DO YOUR PART PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT. MANATEE FEST IS SPONSORED BY FLORIDA POWER AND LIGHT (FPL) AND ITS ECO-DISCOVERY CENTER IN WEST PALM BEACH.

02/13/2024 10PM

OUR TOP STORY AT 10, THE U-S ARMY CORP OF ENGINEERS SAYS IT'S CONSIDERING RELEASING WATER FROM LAKE OKEECHOBEE. FOX 29'S CASSANDRA GARCIA IS GETTING REACTION TO THE NEWS THAT SOME WORRY COULD BE DAMAGING TO OUR ECOSYSTEM. DANIEL LADUE WORKS IN THE MARINE INDUSTRY. THE WATER IS HIS LIVELIHOOD, BUT DISCHARGES FROM LAKE OKEECHOBEE THREATEN THAT. DANIEL LADUE/ ASSISTANT SERVICE MANAGER - OCEAN BLUE SERVICE CENTER - "It is a fragile environment that I've seen be de-plenished and depleted over the years from these releases. Just the seagrass and the ecosystem being affected by the releases it's just sad to see." THE FLORIDA OCEANOGRAPHIC SOCIETY AND EVERGLADES FOUNDATION GROUPS TELL US THAT THEY'VE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE ARMY CORP ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF WATER DISCHARGES INTO THE ST. LUCIE ESTUARY. WE CALLED THE ARMY CORPS AND THEY COULDN'T COMMENT TODAY - BUT TOLD US AN ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE COMING TOMORROW. HOWEVER, THEY DID CONFIRM THAT THEY HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING RELEASES. THEY SENT US THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT THAT READS IN PART... "The El Niño condition has resulted in above average rainfall this dry season which has caused water levels on the Kissimmee chain of lakes, Lake Okeechobee, and the Water Conservation Areas to rise during a season when they typically recede." THEY GO ON TO SAY THEY'RE BEGINNING TO EVALUATE RELEASE SCENARIOS AHEAD OF THE WET AND HURRICANE SEASONS. MARK PERRY WITH THE FLORIDA OCEANOGRAPHIC SOCIETY SAYS ALTHOUGH THERE CURRENTLY ISN'T ANY ALGAE BLOOMS IN LAKE OKEECHOBEE THESE RELEASES CAN STILL BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE ENVIRONMENT... MARK PERRY/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CEO - FLORIDA OCEANOGRAPHIC SOCIETY - "Any kind of water release to the estuaries right now particularly going into the spawning season in March for Oysters and Seagrass growing season and so forth is not good because you put too much artificial fresh water into the brackish water estuaries, and it really affects those habitats." HE'S ALSO CONCERNED THAT AN ALGAE BLOOM COULD COINCIDE WITH THEIR RELEASE SCHEDULE. MARK PERRY/ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CEO - FLORIDA OCEANOGRAPHIC SOCIETY - "The algae blooms happen when the temperature gets higher, we get more and more sunlight, and we start to get more rainfall which brings in nutrients into the lake." BOATERS LIKE LAUDE SAY THESE RELEASES DESTROY WHAT MAKES COASTAL COMMUNITIES LIKE STUART SO SPECIAL... DANIEL LADUE - "Being a boater being a fisherman it is unfortunate that we have to take our boats and our plans elsewhere and we can't get in the water when the algae gets bad, it's dangerous." FOR NOW, LAUDE IS HOPING FOR THE BEST... CASSANDRA GARCIA, FOX 29

03/01/2024 10PM

HARMFUL WATER RELEASES FROM LAKE OKEECHOBEE HAVE NOW BEEN POURING INTO THE ST LUCIE ESTUARY FOR ALMOST TWO WEEKS- THIS IS DESPITE MORE THAN A BILLION DOLLARS BEING PUMPED INTO STRENGTHENING THE DIKE AROUND THE LAKE- TO LESSEN THE NEED TO RELEASE WATER TOWARD THE TREASURE COAST. TONIGHT- CONGRESSMAN BRIAN MAST PRESSING THE ARMY CORPS TO EXPLAIN WHY DESPITE THAT MAJOR INVESTMENT- THE WATER IS STILL COMING OUR WAY. CASSANDRA GARCIA- REPORTS THE DEMANDS HE'S NOW MAKING TO CORPS LEADERS. CONGRESSMAN BRIAN MAST WROTE A LETTER TO THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS URGING MORE TRANSPARENCY ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF SPENDING ONE POINT FIVE BILLION DOLLARS TO STRENGTHEN THE HERBERT HOOVER DIKE AROUND LAKE OKEECHOBEE. MAST – AT A RIVER'S COALITION MEET LAST WEEK- ASKED THAT QUESTION DIRECTLY TO COLONEL JAMES BOOTH- SENDING THAT LETTER WHEN HE WASN'T HAPPY WITH THE

ANSWER. REP. BRIAN MAST /21ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF FLORIDA - "What are we looking at as the limited risk envelope towards the Herbert Hoover Dike?" COL. JAMES BOOTH/JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT COMMANDER - U.S. ARMY CORP OF ENGINEERS - "I can't answer your question if you're looking at what the new dike assessment says and what's the elevation that's risk to critical failure. I don't have that answer today." AT THAT SAME MEETING COLONEL BOOTH GAVE REASONS FOR HIS DECISION TO RELEASE WATER FROM LAKE OKEECHOBEE TO THE EAST. COL. JAMES BOOTH/JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT COMMANDER - U.S. ARMY CORP OF ENGINEERS - "There's a balancing act there and the decision I had to make was to lean more towards flood risk management but acknowledge what I heard from everyone today and certainly from the times out in the estuaries before is when I make that decision, I am having a harmful impact to the environment." A BALANCING ACT THAT MAST HAS LONG MAINTAINED- HURTS THE TREASURE COAST THE MOST. JUST DAYS AFTER THE RELEASES BEGAN PEOPLE IN STUART SAID THEY WERE ALREADY SEEING THE DARKER WATER- AND NEGATIVE IMPACTS. RUSSELL SINGSON WORKS AS A DIVER CLEANING BOATS UNDERWATER IN STUART. RUSSELL SINGSON/ STUART DIVER - "The water was like chocolate milk, can't even see our finger in front of our face." FOR NOW, RESIDENTS ARE LEFT HOPING FOR MINIMAL DAMAGE HARM TO MARINE LIFE WITH ANOTHER roughly FOUR WEEKS OF DISCHARGES AHEAD. RUSSELL SINGSON/STUART DIVER - "I would just hope that the water gets cleaner and bluer, and we can see more. I mean this place is an amazing place. It's just the water is not really good right now." MAST IS ASKING THE CORPS TO RESPOND TO HIS LETTER- BY MARCH 8.

03/07/2024 10PM

STARTING ON THE EAST COAST -- AND GOING CLEAR ACROSS THE STATE - A GROUP OF PADDLEBOARDERS -- HOPING TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT WATER DISCHARGES. AND THEY'RE GOING STRAIGHT TO THE SOURCE. THREE FRIENDS, PADDLING A 150 MILES, ALL TO BRING ATTENTION TO OUR WATERWAYS. "Are we there yet?"BLAKE CARMICHAEL/PADDLE BOARDER - "We're going to be starting our paddle in the St. Lucie inlet and then over the course of four days we're going to. Make our way across lake Okeechobee and out to Fort Myers." JAKE PORTWOOD, BLAKE CARMICHAEL, AND PACKET CASEY SET OFF THIS MORNING THEY SAY THEY WANT TO MAKE WAVES IN THE EFFORTS TO RESOLVE ISSUES RELATED TO LAKE OKEECHOBEE WATER DISCHARGES. PACKET CASEY/PADDLE BOARDER -"The longest paddle venture I've ever taken on and I think all of us have ever taken on." WATER LEVELS IN LAKE OKEECHOBEE SIT AT 16 FEET -- DOWN FROM 16.3 NEARLY THREE WEEKS AGO WHEN THE RELEASES STARTED. CASSANDRA GARCIA/REPORTER - "What have you noticed in the last couple of weeks since they started these discharges?" JAKE PORTWOOD/PADDLE BOARDER - "A lot of dark nasty water. Our last major discharge in this area was a little over three years ago and since then we've been seeing some of those grass beds rejuvenate, but now after two weeks of discharge and more currently going on those grass beds are going to be hurting again." AS THEY MAKE THEIR JOURNEY, THEY EXPECT TO SEE MORE FRESH WATER IMPACTS, ESPECIALLY AS THEY GET CLOSER TO LAKE OKEECHOBEE. BLAKE CARMICHAEL/PADDLE BOARDER - "All of us spend so much time out on the ocean and we see sort of the impacts there, but it's going to be interesting to see it right at the source." THEY'LL BE LIVE STREAMING THEIR JOURNEY ON INSTAGRAM IN HOPES THAT PEOPLE WILL GET BEHIND THEIR MISSION. "We've got that live feed for everyone else it's just going to create awareness that's like—I'm learning about it everyone can learn about it at the same time." THE MONEY RAISED WILL GO TO CAPTAINS FOR CLEAN WATER... AN ORGANIZATION THAT ADVOCATES AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL TO STOP HARMFUL DISCHARGES.

03/11/2024 10PM

IF THE SKY LOOKS BLUE ON THE INDIAN RIVER LAGOON, IT'S ONLY A REFLECTION OF THE SKY. "When I take people fishing, the first thing we have to do is apologize. We're now seeing a crisis on the Indian River Lagoon." THAT WAS OUR INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER DAVE BOHMAN IN 2022 SHOWING HOW HUMAN WASTE FROM SEPTIC TANKS IN VERO BEACH POLLUTED THE WATER, AND KILLED PLANTS, ANIMALS, AND FISH IN THE INDIAN RIVER LAGOON. SINCE OUR STORY, A LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP HAS STEPPED IN TO TRY TO REDUCE SEPTIC POLLUTION OF THE INDIAN RIVER LAGOON. TONIGHT, DAVE HAS THIS UPDATE ON CLEAN-UP EFFORTS. A GROUP OF ENVIRONMENTALISTS AND PUBLIC OFFICIALS IN VERO BEACH POSE FOR PICTURES IN FRONT OF A TRUCK THAT EMPTIES

SEPTIC TANKS. BUT THE REAL ACTIVITY IS BEHIND BLANE STENVIK'S HOME CREWS REMOVE A SEPTIC TANK FROM THE STENVIK BACK YARD AND WILL HOOK HIS HOUSE UP TO THE CITY SEWER SYSTEM. BLAINE STENVIK - "We just want to do our part for it." A SMALL PART OF REDUCING THE AMOUNT OF HUMAN WASTE LEAKING INTO THE INDIAN RIVER LAGOON. BLAINE STENVIK - "It needs to be cleaned up for us to have a healthy environment to live in without the stink and the fish kills." OUR 2022 STORY SHOWED HIGH LEVELS OF POLLUTION IN THE LAGOON NEAR VERO BEACH. THE WATER IS DARK BROWN, AND IN THE SHALLOWS, THERE'S NO LONGER HAVE SEAGRASS...THE MAIN FOOD SOURCE FOR MANATEES. RESEARCH FROM FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY DR. BRIAN LAPOINTE SHOWED HUMAN WASTED FROM SEPTIC TANKS IS THE PRIMARY POLLUTANT. DR. BRIAN LAPOINTE / FAU HARBOR BRANCH [August 2022] - "The problem in Florida is conventional septic systems just don't work. They just do not remove the contaminants." RIGHT NOW, THE CLEAN WATER COALITION OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY HAS GIVEN 10 HOMEOWNERS IN VERO BEACH ZERO INTEREST LOANS TO HOOK UP TO THE CITY SEWER SYSTEM...THE GROUP WANTS TO ADD ANOTHER 15 HOMEOWNERS LIVING NEAR THE LAGOON OR CANALS THAT FEED IT. KEITH DREWETT / CLEAN WATER COALITION OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY - "To save the lagoon. To improve the lagoon water quality, getting septic tanks connected to city sewers is a big deal." A BIG DEAL FOR ENVIRONMENTALISTS. FOR BLAINE STENVIK, A ZERO INTEREST LOAN THAT ALLOWS HIM TO MAKE YEARLY PAYMENTS TO HOOK UP TO CITY SEWER SYSTEM, INSTEAD OF HAVING TO PAY 15-THOUSAND DOLLARS RIGHT AWAY. BLAINE STENVIK - "And it helps us spread out the payments over several years so it's not going to be something that I have to handle right now."

03/20/2024 10PM

THIS EVENING - A PUNISHMENT SOME FEEL - ISNT FITTING THE OFFENSE. LAST YEAR - WE TOLD YOU THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION INVESTIGATED MORE THAN 17-THOUSAND SQUARE FEET OF MANGROVES CUT DOWN ALONG THE SHORELINE AT A PORT ST LUCIE RESORT.THE PROPERTY'S OWNER AND THE TENANT WERE HANDED DOWN FINES - BUT SOME ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCIES QUESTION IF THE AMOUNT WENT FAR ENOUGH. FOX 29'S KATE HUSSEY WITH THE STORY. INSIDE STUART STAIN GLASS... JIM DIRKS/STAIN GLASS ARTIST - "that was one of my favorite snook fishing spots..." JIM DIRKS EXPLAINS THE INSPIRATION FOR THIS STAINED-GLASS SNARL OF MANGROVE ROOTS AND SNOOK - JIM DIRKS - "Well this is sort of what I was looking to protect..." BUT INSTEAD OF PROUD - HE FEELS... DIRKS - "Angry. I mean - I won't say it- but I think you know." JIM FIRST CONTACTED US AND FDEP LAST MAY WHEN HE SAW A SHORELINE OF MANGROVES CUT DOWN IN FRONT OF THE SANDPIPER BAY AND RESORT ON THE SOUTH FORK OF THE ST LUCIE RIVER- LAUNCHING AN FDEP INVESTIGATION - THE AGENCY FINDING MORE THAN 17,000 SQ FT OF MANGROVES WERE CUT OFF AT THE ROOT- JIM DIRKS - "They found dumpsters full of chopped down mangroves." ACCORDING TO FDEP'S WEBSITE- YOU CAN BE FINED UP TO 250 DOLLARS FOR EACH MANGROVE ILLEGALLY ALTERED- SO JIM EXPECTED HEFTY FINES-AND FDEP DID ISSUE PENALTIES AGAINST THE PROPERTY'S OWNER- STORE CAPITAL ACQUISITIONS- THE LESEE- ALTITUDE HOSPITALITY - AND THE LANDSCAPER - KING OF LAWNS- WHO THEY SAY CUT THE TREES DOWN- BUT JIM- WAS SURPRISED TO SEE THE AMOUNT OF THE FINE - WAS JUST OVER 110 THOUSAND DOLLARS. JIM DIRKS -"I think the fine was miniscule. There have been other people who have done less harm and were fined a lot more than sandpiper bay." IN 2012 A JUPITER COUPLE WAS FINED 1.6 MILLION DOLLARS FOR CUTTING DOWN 109 MANGROVES- OR 15 THOUSAND DOLLARS PER TREE- AND WHILE THAT WAS NEGOTIATED DOWN- MARINE BIOLOGIST ZAK JUD WITH THE FLORIDA OCEANOGRAPHIC SOCIETY WONDERS WHY SANDPIPER'S STARTING FINE- WAS SO MUCH LOWER. ZAK JUD/MARINE BIOLOGIST - " I was disappointed, you know in my mind I thought this was going to be a multimillion dollar fine, so to come in with a fine that barely cracks 1100 thousand dollars tells me the state of Florida doesn't value mangroves as much as they say they do." DR. JUD SAYS THE MANGROVES CUT DOWN IN FRONT OF SANDPIPER BAY WERE ABOUT THIS SIZE- YET THE LESSEE AND OWNER - PER FDEP'S FINE- ONLY PAID ABOUT 15 CENTS PER TREE CUT DOWN- TO GIVE YOU PERSPECTIVE- THE AVERAGE FLORIDIAN PAYS BETWEEN 4 AND 15 DOLLARS PER SQ FOOT OF FLOORING. DR. JUD - "To me that fine was a slap on the wrist and future developers will just look at that as a cost of doing business." WE REACHED OUT TO FDEP - WHO TELLS US THE 250 DOLLAR PER TREE FINE- ONLY APPLIES TO THOSE WHO HAVE A PREVIOUS VIOLATION- THE AGENCY ALSO TELLS US THE FINE- IS THE LARGEST ISSUED IN FDEP HISTORY - AND SAYS THE AGENCY IS ALSO FORCING THE DEFENDANTS TO REPLANT THE MANGROVES- A COST NOT INCLUDED IN THE PENALTY. DR. JUD - "Florida is a fishing state- when you wipe out a mangrove forest like they did, it has an immediate impact on the fishery, an impact that restoration won't fix. This single action- will undo decades of restoration work."

WE ALSO REACHED OUT TO STORE CAPITAL ACQUISITION- ALTITUDE HOSPITALITY - AND KING OF LAWNS-NONE HAVE EVER GOTTEN BACK TO US .. BUT IN DOCUMENTS WE OBTAINED FROM FDEP - THE DEFENDANTS CLAIMED THE TREES WEREN'T CUT - AND SAID A TORNADO KNOCKED THEM DOWN. JUD AND JIM ARE LEFT WITH ONE LAST QUESTION... WHAT'S TO PREVENT THE NEXT ONE? – DR. JUD O “It's the cost of doing business for them, it's really nothing. They spent millions and millions on the resort and 110 thousand isn't a whole lot. It's not enough to deter future developers committing the same types of crimes against our environment.” ON THE TREASURE COAST... KATE HUSSEY FOX 29

Health

FOX 29 Morning News

01/11/2024 7-9AM

YOUTUBE IS MAKING IT EASIER TO FIND CREDIBLE FIRST-AID RELATED VIDEOS.

THE VIDEO SHARING PLATFORM SAYS IT'LL PROMOTE STEP-BY-STEP EXPLAINER VIDEOS...

WHEN USERS SEARCH UP KEY WORDS INCLUDING SEIZURE, CHOKING, OR STROKE. SELECT VIDEOS WILL BE PINNED TO THE TOP OF THE SEARCH. YOUTUBE IS PARTNERING WITH MASS GENERAL BRIGHAM AND THE MEXICAN RED CROSS...

TO BRING THE FIRST AID AND EMERGENCY CARE CONTENT. TUTORIALS WILL COVER HOW TO DO C-P-R, PERFORM THE HEIMLICH, AND IDENTIFY A HEART ATTACK.

01/12/2024 7-9AM

THERE'S A NEW APP -- COMING SOON -- SUPPOSED TO DO GOOD FOR MENTAL HEALTH THROUGH MUSIC AND GAMING... IT'S CALLED FLOW-ZONE... USERS PICK A SONG THAT MATCHES THEIR MOOD... THEY'RE THEN GIVEN A GAME TO PLAY -- THAT MATCHES UP WITH THE MOOD AND THE SONG -- TO IMPROVE HOW YOU FEEL! HERE'S MORE FROM A RAPPER WHO SAYS FREE-STYLING AND MUSIC CAN DO A LOT FOR MENTAL WELL-BEING... Reporter Abel Garcia: "How do you feel after doing something like that?" Utkarsh Ambudkar/Actor: "You feel invigorated, you feel alive. The uncomfortable spots that we put our brain in is where the most growth occurs. And so, this app is a fun way to create a community that hopefully can keep people aging gracefully." "FLOWZONE' IS EXPECTED TO LAUNCH THIS SPRING.

01/16/2024 7-9AM

APPLE GIVEN THE GREEN LIGHT TO MAKE CHANGES TO ITS SMART WATCHES. THE FIX WOULD REMOVE THE PULSE OXIMETER FUNCTION MARKETED AS A WAY FOR CUSTOMERS TO MONITOR THEIR HEALTH. REGULATORS PREVIOUSLY RULED SEVERAL NEWER MODELS OF THE APPLE WATCH VIOLATED PATENTS. THIS NEW FIX WILL ALLOW THE COMPANY TO CONTINUE IMPORTING THEM TO THE U-S.

02/06/2024 7-9AM

ACCORDING TO THE RIVIERA BEACH MAYOR, THE WATER IS SAFE TO DRINK NOW...

BUT A DOCTOR WITH GOOD SAMARITAN MEDICAL CENTER SAYS THE WATER COULD'VE LED TO PEOPLE HAVING STOMACH ISSUES. IN RIVIERA BEACH “how long have you lived here? for like three months already

NEW HOMEOWNERS LIKE JOSE ROSILLO REPORTER - WHEN DID YOU NOTICE SOMETHING WAS OFF WITH YOUR WATER? “second week we noticed that it was like...yeah look you can see right there the tint, it's not clear.”

HE'S JUST FINDING OUT THAT E COLI AND FECAL MATTER CONTAMINATED THE DRINKING WATER...

"yeah, I don't feel safe with this." AND HAS RESORTED TO DRINKING BOTTLED WATER “It's more clear, I feel more safe to drink this one than the yellow one.” REPORTER - WHAT KIND OF IMPACT COULD THIS HAVE ON PEOPLE WHO'VE BEEN DRINKING OUT OF THE TAP WATER? “They'll get a diarrheal illness, or they could get viral hepatitis caused by

hepatitis A." DR KLEPER DE ALMEIDA WITH GOOD SMARITAN MEDICAL CENTER SAID IF YOU GOT SICK FROM THE WATER YOU CAN BE TREATED WITH ANTIBIOTICS... BUT WE DON'T KNOW THE EXTENT OF THE CONTAMINATION OR WHICH TWO WELLS IN RIVIERA BEACH WERE AFFECTED. REPORTER – "SO, FOR YOU - YOU SAID YOU DRINK TAP WATER?" "I do drink tap water." FOR 8-YEAR RIVIERA BEACH RESIDENT ROBIN MURPHY... Reporter – "IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS HAVE YOU FELT ANY SYMPTOMS AT ALL?" "well I did have an E.coli infection that they found with a kidney stone." SHE SAYS SHE USES HER OWN WATER FILTER AS A WAY TO CUT BACK ON PLASTIC WATER BOTTLES... BUT WORRIES HER INFECTION WAS CAUSED BY THE CONTAMINATION Reporter -"ARE YOU GOING TO BE LOOKING INTO THIS ARE YOU GOING TO BE CONTACTING THE CITY?" "I think now that you told me, but I didn't even know about it." LAST WEEK RIVIERA BEACH WATER UTILITIES... TOLD US THAT ALTHOUGH THE WELL WATER WAS CONTAMINATED... THE TREATMENT PLANT MADE IT SAFE TO DRINK BY THE TIME IT REACHED PEOPLE'S HOMES IN RIVIERA BEACH JOEL LOPEZ FOX 29 NEWS.

02/06/2024 7-9AM

NASA AND SPACE-X WILL TRY AGAIN TONIGHT TO LAUNCH A SPECIAL SATELLITE - THAT COULD ONE DAY HELP PUT AN END TO A PROBLEM WE DEAL WITH HERE IN SOUTH FLORIDA - ALGAE BLOOMS AND RED TIDE. IVONA CETINIC, PACE OCEANOGRAPHER "PACE is going to see Earth in a way we've never seen before, in so many different colors. I'm hoping this data will get to everybody and help them understand how beautiful our home planet is." THE "PACE" LAUNCH WAS SCRUBBED OVERNIGHT-- BECAUSE OF WEATHER... NASA SAYS ONCE THE SATELLITE IS IN ORBIT IT WILL ALLOW SCIENTIST TO BETTER STUDY LARGE BODIES OF WATER AND POLLUTANTS. "you guys, know this area is bad. The signs of bacterial blooms, the algae blooms, in Lake Okeechobee, and then on the other side, you have red tides. On both sides of Florida, you're getting hit on the freshwater side, and the saltwater side. Understanding when these blooms are happening at an early stage, that can really help local health, local economy, and so much more, and that's what PACE will be able to do." THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME NASA'S DONE SOMETHING LIKE THIS... BUT SCIENTISTS SAY THIS NEW TECHNOLOGY IS 20 TO 30 TIMES BETTER THAN OLDER VERSIONS. BASED ON THE DIFFERENT SHADES OF BLUE ON THE IMAGING -- THEY CAN GET AN IDEA OF WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE WATER -- AND PREDICT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES. THEY EXPECT TO START COLLECTING AND SHARING DATA ABOUT TWO MONTHS INTO THE MISSION... THEY SAY THE NEW SATELLITES HAVE ENOUGH FUEL TO COLLECT DATA FOR OVER A DECADE.

02/08/2024 7-9AM

A GROWING NUMBER OF PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ABANDONING PANDEMIC ERA SAFETY MEASURES AND SKIPPING OUT ON FLU AND COVID VACCINES THIS SEASON. SOME HEALTH EXPERTS SAY IT COULD BE CONTRIBUTING TO THE HIGHER NUMBERS OF HOSPITALIZATIONS FROM RESPIRATORY ILLNESSES. FOX NEWS' GARY BAUMGARTEN REPORTS. TIS' THE SEASON FOR THE SNIFFLES...COUGHS ...FEVERS, SORE THROATS, AND MORE. SO, IF YOU'RE FEELING UNDER THE WEATHER... YOU ARE NOT ALONE. RICHARDS says: "Pandemic precautions.... Those things are dwindling. And hence we're being exposed to more respiratory viruses than we have last year." LIBBY RICHARDS, OF PURDUE UNIVERSITY'S SCHOOL OF NURSING, SAYS THE BEST WAY TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM THINGS LIKE THE FLU AND COVID-19 IS TO GET VACCINATED. BUT THE C-D-C IS REPORTING DECREASES IN THE NUMBER OF AMERICANS ROLLING UP THEIR SLEEVES FOR THE CORONAVIRUS JAB... AND SAYS ROUGHLY 10-MILLION FEWER KIDS AND ADULTS THIS YEAR GOT A FLU SHOT. RICHARDS says: "Compared to this time point last year, we are seeing a higher rate of hospitalizations from the flu and RSV." AND WITH SO MANY DIFFERENT RESPIRATORY VIRUSES GOING AROUND... RICHARDS says: "It's likely that some people are becoming infected with different viruses back-to-back." SINCE THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC... SCHOOL DISTRICTS SAY MORE PARENTS HAVE BEEN KEEPING THEIR KIDS HOME FROM SCHOOL IF THEY'RE SICK. BUT WITH MANY DISTRICTS REPORTING HIGH NUMBERS OF CHRONIC STUDENT ABSENCES... A GROWING NUMBER OF SCHOOLS ARE RECOMMENDING PARENTS SEND THEIR KIDS TO CLASS EVEN IF THEY HAVE MILD SICKNESS. MEANWHILE... DOCTORS SAY THERE'S STILL TIME TO GET A FLU SHOT IF YOU HAVEN'T GOTTEN ONE YET... CITING HOW CASES USUALLY PEAK IN MARCH BUT LAST TILL MAY. GARY BAUMGARTEN, FOX NEWS

03/01/2024 7-9AM

ASIDE FROM THE PURE FUN OF THE COGNIZANT CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT HELD IN PALM BEACH GARDENS THIS WEEK... THERE'S ALSO AN IMPORTANT CHARITABLE ASPECT TO THINK ABOUT. MANY DIFFERENT NON-PROFITS AND ORGANIZATIONS BENEFIT... INCLUDING JUPITER MEDICAL CENTER – THROUGH A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NICKLAUS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AND THE NICKLAUS CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION...OUR REPORTER RECENTLY SPENT TIME AT THE NEO-NATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT – OR NICK-U -- AT JUPITER MEDICAL CENTER...THE C-E-O TELLS ME THE FUNDING AND SUPPORT COMES RIGHT ON TIME WITH THE BOOMING GROWTH OF OUR AREA...WE ALSO SPOKE WITH A NEONATOLOGIST WHO SAYS – JUST LIKE THE CARE SHE AND HER TEAM GIVE TO NICU BABIES – THE COMMUNITY SUPPORT COMING THROUGH THE GOLF TOURNAMENT IS SECOND TO NONE... “As we see families move, they need access to great health care and now us having this partnership and the ability that it provides to have families know that close to home, they have access to world class care.” “I’m excited that we can be part of it and see it unfold here together from all this collaboration that’s happening, that’s truly exciting.” “By all the work that’s being done by the NCHCF and the tournament in the community, it’s actually investing in the future.” OVER THE YEARS -- JUPITER MEDICAL CENTER HAS RECEIVED ROUGHLY \$12-MILLION BECAUSE OF THIS TOURNAMENT.

03/03/2024 7-9AM

ART CAN BE A GREAT FORM OF EXPRESSION...FOR SOME TRAUMA VICTIMS... IT'S THE BEST WAY OF EXPRESSING THEIR FEELINGS AND THOUGHTS... AS IT CAN BE A LOT EASIER THAN TALKING ABOUT IT. THAT'S WHY SOME THERAPISTS HERE IN FLORIDA ARE PUSHING TO GET THEIR ART THERAPY LICENSE TO HELP MORE PATIENTS. JOSEPH SCARCE... THE PRESIDENT OF THE FLORIDA ART THERAPY ASSOCIATION... HAS BEEN PRACTICING ART THERAPY FOR THE LAST 24 YEARS. OVER THAT TIME... HE HAS SEEN HOW PATIENTS BENEFIT FROM IT FIRSTHAND.

BUT FOR MANY IN FLORIDA... FINDING THE RIGHT ART THERAPIST ISN'T EASY. JOSEPH SCARCE / FLORIDA ART THERAPY ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT - "It's very confusing in Florida, which is why we are looking for licensure, because we really do want to provide, um... the knowledge to the public that they are going to be working with a licensed professional like most other professions that have that." SCARCE AND OTHER ART THERAPY ADVOCATES ARE PUSHING FOR THE PASSAGE OF FLORIDA SENATE BILL 878. IT WOULD REQUIRE THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO LICENSE PROFESSIONAL ART THERAPISTS.

03/05/2024 7-9AM

THIS WEEK SHIPMENTS OF OPILL WILL HIT PHARMACIES AND RETAILERS NATIONWIDE...AND IN A MATTER OF WEEKS THE OVER-THE-COUNTER BIRTH CONTROL PILL WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE IN-STORES AND ONLINE... "It's a historic day" SARA YOUNG –THE CHIEF COMMERCIAL OFFICER AT PERRIGO SAYS THE MOVE WILL PUT MORE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CONTROL IN THE HANDS OF WOMEN. "In the past women have had to seek out a health care professional or in some states, a pharmacist to get a prescription for the birth control pill today or, you know, in the coming weeks, women and people of reproductive age will be able to go into most major US retail outlets, pharmacies, drug stores or online and opel.com and make that choice for themselves." ACCORDING TO THE CDC – ROUGHLY 42 PERCENT OF THE 5-POINT-5 MILLION PREGNANCIES IN THE US IN 2019 WERE UNINTENDED ...LAST SUMMER, THE U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION APPROVED OPILL...IT MARKED THE FIRST APPROVAL OF A NONPRESCRIPTION ORAL CONTRACEPTIVE IN THE U.S.... Reporter – “How safe is the pill?” Sara - "Opel is 98% effective when taken daily as directed." YOUNG SAYS THE COMPANY IS WORKING WITH MAJOR RETAIL PARTNERS -- HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS -- AND KEY INFLUENCERS TO ANSWER CONSUMER QUESTIONS... "They've actually put together three different videos to help educate and drive awareness against some of the top questions through trusted authorities." IN STORE OPILL WILL COST \$19.99 FOR A ONE-MONTH SUPPLY....AND 49.99 FOR A THREE-MONTH SUPPLY...ONLINE A THREE-MONTH SUPPLY WILL RUN YOU 49.99 AND A SIX-MONTH SUPPLY WILL COST \$89.99 ...THE FDA FIRST APPROVED OPILL FOR PERSCRIPTION USE IN 1973... THE FDA SAYS OPILL IS..."SAFE"...AND IS EXPECTED TO BE "MORE EFFECTIVE THAN CURRENTLY AVAILABLE NONPRESCRIPTION CONTRACEPTIVE METHODS" PERRIGO WILL ALSO ROLL OUT A COST ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BY THE END OF THE MONTH TO HELP LOW-INCOMED INDIVIDUALS WITHOUT INSURANCE WHO

QUALIFY. AT LEAST SEVEN STATES INCLUDING CALIFORNIA – NEW YORK AND ILLINOIS HAVE LAWS REQUIRING INSURERS TO COVER OVER THE COUNTER BIRTH CONTROL. ACCORDING TO PERRIGO—FLEXIBLE SPENDING AND HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS MAY ALSO BE USED TO PAY FOR THE PILL

03/07/2024 7-9AM

CHANGES COMING TO FLU SHOTS THIS YEAR. A PANEL OF EXPERTS ADVISING THE U-S FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION VOTED TO RECOMMEND NEXT SEASON'S FLU SHOTS HAVE A DIFFERENT FORMULA. MANDY GAITHER EXPLAINS THE DIFFERENCES AND HOW COVID-19 HELPED BRING ABOUT THIS CHANGE. "Dr. Badzik, yes. Dr. Berger, yes." IT WAS UNANIMOUS -- A PANEL OF EXPERTS WHO ADVISE THE F-D-A VOTED TO RECOMMEND A NEW FLU SHOT FORMULA THIS FALL -- DR. DOUGLAS BADZIK, VACCINES AND RELATED BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE -"I personally think that there's a lot of opportunity to leverage this to rebuild trust within the community, especially those who, you know, are the those that are vaccine hesitant. Showing that, you know, that vaccination isn't just to put more things in individuals, arms but also just to, to address the current circulating strain." RIGHT NOW -- FLU SHOTS IN THE U-S PROTECT AGAINST TWO A STRAINS -- AND TWO B STRAINS OF THE VIRUS -- THE NEXT VACCINES WILL OFFER PROTECTION FOR JUST *THREE* STRAINS. AS ONE OF THE B STRAINS -- FROM THE YAMAGATA FAMILY -- HASN'T BEEN DETECTED IN TESTING SINCE MARCH 2020 -- VIRUSES FROM THIS STRAIN WERE ALREADY IN DECLINE BEFORE THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC -- AND IT'S BELIEVED THE PRECAUTIONS PEOPLE TOOK TO AVOID THE CORONAVIRUS -- FINISHED THEM OFF. THE F-D-A IS NOW WORKING WITH FLU SHOT MANUFACTURERS TO GET THE YAMAGATA STRAIN OUT OF U-S VACCINES IN TIME FOR THE UPCOMING FLU SEASON. DR. JERRY WEIR, DIRECTOR, FDA'S DIVISION OF VIRAL PRODUCTS - "Approval of all the necessary regulatory submissions is on track for 2024-25 PIV implementation for all licensed US influenza vaccine manufacturers." FOR HEALTH MINUTE, I'M MANDY GAITHER.

03/11/2024 7-9AM

FOR MANY OF US, A HOSPITAL CAN BE A SCARY AND INTIMIDATING PLACE. SO, THERE'S A NEW PUSH AMONG HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS TO LET ELIGIBLE PATIENTS RECOVER, OUTSIDE OF THE HOSPITAL. REPORTER JON SHAIMAN LOOKED INTO HOW THIS "CARE AT HOME" PROGRAM WORKS. OVER THE HOLIDAYS, JANET SAVARESE FELL ILL... REALLY ILL. (OXYGEN LEVELS WHERE IN THE 80'S) AND AFTER A WEEK WHERE SHE WASN'T GETTING ANY BETTER, A NEIGHBOR STEPPED IN. JANET SAVARESE - "Took me over to the emergency room." THERE AT CLEVELAND CLINIC TRADITION HOSPITAL, AFTER A BATTERY OF TESTS, SHE GOT A DIAGNOSIS. JANET SAVARESE - "found out several hours later it was the flu." THEN SHE WAS PRESENTED THE OPTION OF RECOVERING AT HOME. SHE SAID... OKAY. JANET SAVARESE - "In a hospital, they're constantly waking you up. You never sleep right. You're not in your own bed, not in your own bathroom." DR. RICHARD ROTHMAN - "The way we deliver care today, is going to look much different tomorrow." Dr. Richard Rothman is chief of medical operations for Cleveland Clinic in Florida. He says a team evaluates whether a patient is eligible to participate in the new "Care at Home" program. ROTHMAN – "Hospital Care at home allows us to provide care beyond physical footprint, also opens a bed for our sickest patient." JANET IS ONE OF THE FIRST PATIENTS TO USE THE "CARE AT HOME" PROGRAM THROUGH CLEVELAND CLINIC TRADITION HOSPITAL. IT BEGAN A FEW MONTHS AGO AT CLEVELAND'S CLINIC INDIAN RIVER HOSPITAL, AND IT WILL EXPAND IN THE COMING WEEKS TO CLEVELAND CLINIC'S MARTIN COUNTY HOSPITALS. SAVERESE WAS BROUGHT HOME BY PARAMEDICS AND THEN A TEAM SET UP HER HOME WITH THE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, AND THE MEDICINES SHE WOULD NEED. JANET SAVARESE - "They put up an iPad with someone 24/7. All I had to do was touch it and there was either a nurse or a doctor there." DR. RICHARD ROTHMAN - "Nurses are able to respond in less than 30 seconds." DR. ROTHMAN SAYS READMISSION RATES ARE LOWER, HOSPITAL INFECTIONS HAVE BEEN ZERO SO FAR, AND AN UNEXPECTED POSITIVE HAS COME WITH REGARDS TO NURSING AND STAFF RECRUITMENT, AS EMPLOYEES WORK SPECIFICALLY WITH "CARE AT HOME" PATIENTS. DR. RICHARD ROTHMAN - "Avoid the physical detriment of working within hospital and really focus on

interacting with patients without physical burden, so we're seeing number of applicants outpace number of positions we have available." Reporter - "What feedback would you give me for hospital care at home? JANET SAVARESE "I thought it was amazing." SAVARESE SAYS NOTHING IS GOOD ABOUT GETTING SICK... BUT THAT A HOME STAY IS BETTER THAN A HOSPITAL STAY.

FOX 29 News 6:30PM

01/10/2024 6:30PM

JUST ONE DAY INTO THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION- AND REPUBLICAN LAWMAKERS WANT TO MAKE ABORTION EVEN MORE RESTRICTIVE IN FLORIDA. THE 'TERMINATION OF PREGNANCIES' BILL JUST FILED BY REPRESENTATIVE DAVID BARRERO FROM MIAMI-DADE WOULD REMOVE EXCEPTIONS FOR RAPE AND INCEST... ONLY ALLOWING ABORTION IF ITS NECESSARY TO SAVE THE MOTHER'S LIFE. ON THE OTHER SIDE... DEMOCRATS ARE FILING THE HEALTH CARE FREEDOM ACT... THAT AMONG OTHER THINGS... WOULD RESTORE ABORTION ACCESS TO THE START OF THE THIRD TRIMESTER. CURRENTLY- THE STATE'S 6 WEEK ABORTION BAN PASSED LAST YEAR IS ON HOLD WHILE THE STATE SUPREME COURT WEIGHS A CHALLENGE TO THE CURRENT 15 WEEK ABORTION BAN.

01/12/2024 6:30PM

WE'VE BEEN REPORTING IT AND YOU'VE SEEN IT IN HEADLINES- RESPIRATORY VIRUSES ARE UP THIS YEAR. NOW WE ARE GETTING A CLEARER PICTURE- OF JUST HOW BAD THINGS ARE IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. THIS IS A MAP FROM THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL. THE PURPLE AND DARK RED STATES HAVE VERY HIGH LEVELS OF COVID, THE FLU AND RSV. 38 STATES INCLUDING FLORIDA HAVE HIGH OR VERY HIGH LEVELS. THE C-D-C REPORTING E-R VISITS FOR THESE ILLNESSES-- HAVE ALSO INCREASED IN THE PAST MONTH WITH THE FLU BEING THE BIGGEST REASON.

01/12/2024 6:30PM

ONE BRITISH STUDY IN 2019 SUGGESTED THE AVERAGE PERSON MIGHT CONSUME UP TO 5 GRAMS OF PLASTIC A WEEK... ABOUT THE WEIGHT OF A CREDIT CARD. LEONARDO TRASANDE / DIRECTOR, NYU LANGONE'S CENTER FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS – “the effects of plastic on human health are real and cut across the entire lifespan.” NOW, NEW RESEARCH OUT THURSDAY FROM THE JOURNAL OF THE ENDOCRINE SOCIETY SHOWS CHEMICAL EXPOSURE FROM PLASTICS HAVE DIRECT MEDICAL COSTS WHEN IT COMES TO HUMAN HEALTH. THE STUDY ESTIMATED COSTS OF \$249 BILLION IN QUOTE, "PLASTIC-ATTRIBUTABLE DISEASE BURDEN" IN THE UNITED STATES—ALMOST FIVE PERCENT OF U.S. HEALTH COSTS—WHEN LOOKING AT DATA FROM 2018. HOWEVER -- THE STUDY'S LEAD AUTHOR SAYS THAT NUMBER IS LIKELY HIGHER. TRASANDE: “now that's actually an underestimate for multiple reasons. we only looked at three categories of chemicals used in plastic materials.” TRASANDE: “and there are tens of thousands of chemicals used in plastic. so, we are just barely scratching the surface.” ONE OF THE TOXIC GROUP OF CHEMICALS THE STUDY LOOKED AT IS PHTHALATES... USED TO MAKE PLASTIC PACKAGING MORE FLEXIBLE... TRACES OF WHICH HAVE BEEN FOUND IN MANY OF THE FOODS WE EAT. THESE CHEMICALS CAN AFFECT THE BODY'S HORMONE SYSTEMS AND CAN CAUSE CANCER, DIABETES, REPRODUCTIVE DISORDERS AND MORE. TO DATE – THE FDA CURRENTLY ALLOWS EIGHT PHTHALATES USED AS PLASTICIZERS IN FOOD CONTACT APPLICATIONS. TRASANDE: “phthalates are still allowed in food packaging even though they've been banned from children's toys. So we have a conundrum where the Consumer Product Safety Commission is regulating one way, and the Food and Drug Administration is totally off the radar here.” THE FDA SAYS IT'S AWARE OF NEW RESEARCH ON PHTHALATES AND REQUESTED INFORMATION IN 2022 ON THEIR USE AND SAFETY IN FOOD CONTACT APPLICATIONS.... NOTING IT "MAY USE THIS INFORMATION TO UPDATE

THE DIETARY EXPOSURE ESTIMATES AND SAFETY ASSESSMENTS FOR THE PERMITTED FOOD CONTACT USES OF PHTHALATES." STEPHANIE SANDOVAL, SCRIPPS NEWS.

02/06/2024 6:30PM

FLORIDA LAWMAKERS ARE ADVANCING LEGISLATION THAT WOULD CAP THE POTENCY OF RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA — EVEN BEFORE FLORIDIANS GET A CHANCE TO VOTE ON THE IDEA. SUPPORTERS SAY THEY’RE BEING PROACTIVE— AS CRITICS WORRY IT’LL KNEECAP THE WILL OF VOTERS. CAPITOL REPORTER FORREST SAUNDERS TAKES A LOOK. THIS IDEA CONTINUES TO CLEAR HURDLES IN BOTH CHAMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. THE LATEST WAS A SENATE HEALTH POLICY COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY... MOVING IT CLOSER AND CLOSER TO GOV. RON DESANTIS— WHO HAS SAID HE’S NOT A FAN OF RECREATIONAL USE— CONCERNED WHAT’S OUT THERE IS TOO STRONG. WE’RE STILL WAITING TO FIND OUT IF THE FLORIDA SUPREME COURT WILL GREEN LIGHT AN EFFORT TO PUT RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA FOR THOSE 21 AND UP ON THE 2024 BALLOT...BUT WHILE WE WAIT FOR A DECISION FROM JUSTICES, FLORIDA LAWMAKERS ARE CRAFTING RULES JUST IN CASE VOTERS SAY YES... (BURTON CLOSE) “Doing nothing is not a good option because then — people don’t know where to start.” STATE SENATOR COLLEEN BURTON (R-LAKELAND) THINKS SHE HAS THAT START... CAPS ON THE STUFF THAT GETS YOU HIGH— THC LIMITS— FOR RECREATIONAL WEED PRODUCTS. IF SIGNED INTO LAW, PROVISIONS TAKE EFFECT 30-DAYS AFTER PASSAGE OF A RECREATIONAL AMENDMENT... SMOKABLE WEED GETS A MAX OF 30% THC. EDIBLES, NO MORE THAN 200 MILLIGRAMS— 10 MILLIGRAMS PER SERVING. AND 60% THC ALLOWED IN ALL OTHER RECREATIONAL FORMS. (SEN. COLLEEN BURTON, (R) LAKELAND) - “We will have medical strength as well as personal use strength. Voters will know that will be maintained moving forward.” THE IDEA DREW PRAISE FROM FELLOW REPUBLICANS... WORRIED ABOUT HEALTH AND SAFETY. (SEN. GAYLE HARRELL, (R) STUART) - “There is no doubt this high potency cannabis has a real risk of psychosis for many, many people— especially young people.” Multiple studies show a connection between high-potency cannabis and risk of psychosis or addiction. <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/06/23/well/mind/teens-thc-cannabis.html> <https://adai.uw.edu/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Cannabis-Concentration-and-Health-Risks-2020.pdf> SO FAR ONLY VERMONT AND CONNECTICUT HAVE THC LIMITS, AND THERE’S LITTLE EVIDENCE CAPS ARE SAFER. THAT’S AS CRITICS URGE THE LEGISLATURE TO SLOW DOWN. (WILL CLARK, FLORIDA LIBERTARIAN PARTY) - “Feels like a preemptive strike to regulate a future ballot initiative. Is that really what we want to do? Gov. DeSantis says this is the free state of Florida.” A HANDFUL OF LAWMAKERS AGREED— SAYING THERE’S NO NEED TO RUSH. (SEN. ROSALIND OSGOOD, (D) TAMARAC) - “I would have preferred to have this bill at another time after the voters have made a decision.” WHILE WE WAIT TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS — REPUBLICANS SEEM TO HAVE MADE THEIR DECISION ON THC CAPS... AS THE IDEA KEEPS GETTING CLOSER TO THE GOVERNOR. AGAIN, WE’RE STILL WAITING TO FIND OUT IF THE FLORIDA SUPREME COURT WILL APPROVE THE BALLOT LANGUAGE FOR THIS AMENDMENT. IF THEY DO — AT LEAST 60% OF VOTERS NEED TO SAY YES TO MAKE IT HAPPEN.

02/14/2024 6:30PM

IT'S TOO SOON TO TELL WHETHER THE DISCHARGES FROM LAKE OKEECHOBEE WILL LEAD TO ANOTHER LOST SUMMER IN THE ST. LUCIE ESTUARY. BUT RESEARCHERS AT F-A-U WANT TO KNOW WHAT POTENTIAL HEALTH IMPACTS LONG-TERM EXPOSURE TO TOXIC ALGAE COULD HAVE OF ANY OF US. JON SHAINMAN SHOW US HOW THEY’RE COLLECTING DATA AND HOW YOU CAN HELP. THE RIVER HAS ALWAYS BEEN A PART OF GARRET (EL-MEAD-UH) ALMEIDA’S LIFE. ALMEIDA - (“I made my living on the water, and I live on the water.”) BUT HE SAYS THESE DAYS, THE FISH AREN’T JUMPING AND THE OSPREY AREN’T FLYING MUCH AROUND HIS PALM CITY HOME. ALMEIDA - (“I have a concern over the health of the river. I do water testing for the Florida Oceanographic Society.”) SO, WEDNESDAY, ALMEIDA WAS IN A STUART EXAM ROOM... GETTING SOME BLOOD DRAWN, AND A NASAL SWAB. ALMEIDA - (“I was there when the last bloom happened.”) ALMEIDA HAS AGREED TO TAKE PART IN A NEW FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY STUDY, TO LOOK AT THE POTENTIAL HEALTH IMPACTS OF TOXIC ALGAE EXPOSURE. DR. REBECCA KOSZALINSKI/FAU - (“Are there any negative effects? Are their negligible effects we don’t need to worry about? We’ve not been able to answer them just yet.”) DR. REBECCA KOSZALINSKI SAYS THEY’RE COLLECTING DATA FROM STUDY PARTICIPANTS ON BOTH FLORIDA COASTS ABOUT HOW THEY INTERACT WITH THE WATER. GARRET ALMEIDA/STUART - (“I’ve gone in the river many many

times right at my dock near the Palm City bridge and I've never had a problem.") THE STUDY IS ALSO LOOKING AT COVID-19 EXPOSURE AND WHETHER THAT COULD PLAY A ROLE IN MAKING SOME MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO THE POTENTIAL HARMFUL EFFECTS OF TOXIC ALGAE. DR. REBECCA KOSZALINSKI/FAU – ("We're going to look more specifically at health outcomes. At this point, it's been an exploration. No, we're going to narrow it down and look at what all this data really means.") THIS STUDY WILL RUN UNTIL JUNE. GRANT FUNDING WILL HOPEFULLY EXTEND IT AS PARTICIPANTS ARE BEING ASKED TO STAY ON AS LONG AS THEY'RE WILLING. IN MARTIN COUNTY, JON SHAINMAN FOX 29.

03/06/2024 6:30PM

MEASLES CASES CONTINUE TO RISE. THE CDC SAYS WE SEE MEASLES CASES RISE FOR TWO MAIN REASONS: MORE TRAVELERS GET INFECTED ABROAD AND BRING IT BACK TO THE US...AND MORE SPREAD IN COMMUNITIES WITH POCKETS OF UNVACCINATED FOLKS.... BOTH ARE HAPPENING NOW. DOZENS OF MEASLES OUTBREAKS, ACROSS AT LEAST A THIRD OF THE COUNTRY...AND COUNTING... THE SPREAD STRESSING PARENTS AND DOCTORS ALIKE. MAN ON THE STREET # 1 - "I've been seeing the headlines that it's definitely a thing." MAN ON THE STREET #2 - "it is a little bit scary to think that something that killed so many children in the past is resurging again." Dr. Peter Chin-Hong, Professor of Medicine and Infectious Disease Physician, University of California San Francisco "We could expect to see more and more of these cases." MEASLES SYMPTOMS USUALLY BEGIN 10 TO 14 DAYS AFTER EXPOSURE. THEY INCLUDE RUNNY NOSES, COUGHING, RED WATERY EYES, SMALL WHITE SPOTS INSIDE THE CHEEKS AND RASHES. THE CDC SAYS ABOUT 1 IN 5 UNVACCINATED PEOPLE WHO GET MEASLES ARE HOSPITALIZED. IT CAN CAUSE BRAIN SWELLING AND PNEUMONIA, EVEN DEATH. VIDEO OF PSA "Fewer of our children are protected against diseases like measles or polio." MEANWHILE HEALTH OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO READY DOCTORS TO SEE MORE CASES, AND URGE PARENTS TO VACCINATE. AT LEAST 95 PERCENT OF A POPULATION MUST BE VACCINATED IN ORDER TO MEET "HERD IMMUNITY" FOR MEASLES- WHEN ENOUGH PEOPLE ARE IMMUNE AND PROTECT THOSE WHO ARE NOT. Dr. Peter Chin-Hong, Professor of Medicine and Infectious Disease Physician, University of California San Francisco "Measles is the canary in the coal mine. We're reversing progress, over the last decades and turning back the clock on so many of these, childhood diseases." THE MEASLES VACCINE HAS BEEN AROUND SINCE THE 60'S... DOCTORS RECOMMEND THE MMR SHOT – MEASLES MUMPS RUBELLA, IN TWO DOSES. FIRST AT 12 MONTHS, AND A SECOND AGE 4-6. IT'S 97% EFFECTIVE PROTECTING AGAINST MEASLES AND LASTS FOR LIFE. SCRIPPS NEWS SAN FRANCISCO

03/07/2024 6:30PM

A STROKE PATIENT -- AND THE TEAM THAT SAVED HIS LIFE -- CAME TOGETHER TODAY TO CELEBRATE A MEDICAL MIRACLE. PALM BEACH HEALTH NETWORK -- CHOOSING DELRAY BEACH FIRE RESCUE AND DELRAY MEDICAL CENTER FOR ITS "CALL OF THE QUARTER." IT STARTED WITH AN EMERGENCY CALL ON CHRISTMAS MORNING BACK IN 2022. HAL DAVIDSON WAS EXPERIENCING STROKE-LIKE SYMPTOMS. HIS WIFE IMMEDIATELY CALLED 9-1-1. A TEAM FROM DELRAY FIRE RESCUE RESPONDED -- AND RUSHED DAVIDSON TO DELRAY MEDICAL CENTER WHERE A TEAM WAS WAITING TO PERFORM EMERGENCY SURGERY. SINCE THE SURGERY, DAVIDSON HAS MADE A NEAR FULL RECOVERY. HE AND THE RESCUE TEAM SPOKE TODAY ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF GETTING HELP IMMEDIATELY. LT. EDWARD MUNIZ/DELRAY BEACH FIRE-RESCUE - "it all starts with her because had she not recognized...the care that he needed." HAL DAVIDSON/PATIENT - "I can't tell you how thrilled I am to be here today....we call this at home the Christmas miracle." THE EXPERTS AT DELRAY MEDICAL CENTER SAY A PATIENT HAS A MUCH BETTER CHANCE OF A FULL RECOVERY IF THEY ARE TREATED WITHIN THE FIRST HOUR.

FOX 29 10 O'Clock News

01/11/2024 10PM

WE'RE LEARNING NEW INFORMATION SURROUNDING THE WORST MASS SHOOTING IN MAINE'S HISTORY. TO SEAN HODGSON... ROBERT CARD WAS HIS BEST FRIEND OF 17-YEARS. BUT OVER TIME... HODGSON SAYS CARD STRUGGLED WITH WORSENING BOUTS OF ANGER AND PARANOIA...AND FEARED WHAT HIS FELLOW ARMY RESERVIST MIGHT BE CAPABLE OF UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES. HODGSON says: "He was deteriorating in his mental health, and he refused to get help." IN A SERIES OF TEXTS TO AN ARMY SUPERVISOR BACK IN SEPTEMBER... HODGSON WROTE IN-PART, QUOTE: "Change the passcode to the unit gate and be armed if s-f-c card does arrive. Please, I believe he's messed up in the head.... I believe he's going to snap and do a mass shooting." HODGSON says: "I was actually praying and hoping to God that my texts would not come true." SIX WEEKS AFTER THOSE MESSAGES... CARD ENTERED A BAR AND BOWLING ALLEY IN THE TOWN OF LEWISTON... WHERE HE KILLED 18-PEOPLE BEFORE LEADING POLICE ON A MANHUNT. CARD'S BODY WAS EVENTUALLY DISCOVERED IN A TRAILER AT A RECYCLING PLANT. POLICE SAY HE DIED FROM AN APPARENT SELF-INFLICTED GUNSHOT WOUND. HODGSON says: "That was the most difficult thing I ever had to do was report him to command.... And for them to discredit me?" HODGSON BELIEVES HIS WARNINGS SHOULD HAVE BEEN TAKEN MORE SERIOUSLY. AN INDEPENDENT REVIEW DONE FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT CALLED HODGSON AN "ALARMIST." THE ARMY SAYS PENDING INVESTIGATIONS MEAN THEY CAN'T COMMENT. BUT HODGSON WASN'T THE ONLY ONE CONCERNED. IN MAY... CARD'S RELATIVES TOLD POLICE THEY WORRIED ABOUT HIS MENTAL HEALTH AND ACCESS TO GUNS. AND IN AUGUST, THE ARMY BARRED CARD FROM HANDLING WEAPONS WHILE ON DUTY. MARIANNE RAFFERTY, FOX NEWS>>

01/11/2024 10PM

VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS SPEAKS AT A ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON GUN VIOLENCE TODAY. THE EVENT... FEATURING STUDENTS, EDUCATORS, GUN SAFETY ADVOCATES AND OTHERS ... TAKING PLACE IN NORTH CAROLINA... THE VICE-PRESIDENT... ANNOUNCING A \$285-MILLION-DOLLAR INITIATIVE TO HIRE AND TRAIN MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS... IN SCHOOLS IN THE STATE. HARRIS... DISCUSSING THE REALITIES OF GUN VIOLENCE AND WHY SUCH AN INITIATIVE IS NEEDED...

01/12/2024 10PM

THE VIRUS THAT CAUSES COVID CONTINUES TO SPREAD AND CHANGE. THE LATEST RESEARCH HAS HEALTH OFFICIALS WARNING WE'LL STILL SEE CASES GO UP...AND PEOPLE SHOULD DO AS MUCH AS THEY CAN TO KEEP FROM GETTING SICK. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus / World Health Organization Director General - "Although Covid-19 is no longer a global health emergency, the virus is still circulating, changing and killing." THE TWO MOST CONCERNING VARIANTS...B.2.86...AND ITS DESCENDENT JN.1 CDC DATA SHOWS THE JN.1 VARIANT... NOW MAKES UP MORE THAN 60 PERCENT OF CASES ACROSS THE COUNTRY...IN THE NORTHEAST...IT'S THREE QUARTERS OF COVID CASES. AND NEW RESEARCH THIS WEEK HAS FOUND... BA.2.86 can fuse to human cells AND INFECT CELLS IN THE LOWER LUNGS.... THAT WAS SIMILAR TO WHAT WE SAW IN EARLIER STRAINS THAT WERE MORE SEVERE. IT'S STILL TOO EARLY TO TELL IF THOSE MUTATIONS WILL ALSO MEAN THE VIRUS COULD EVADE IMMUNITY FROM EARLIER INFECTIONS OR VACCINATION. MARCUS PLESCIA // CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER, ASSOCIATION OF STATE & TERRITORIAL HEALTH ADMISSIONS - "right now we are a little concerned about some hospital capacity in some place. But for the most part, it seems people are getting sick but they're not getting so severely ill that they're needing to be hospitalized." EXPERTS SAY ITS STILL TOO EARLY TO TELL IF THAT WILL REMAIN THE CASE. HOSPITALIZATION SURGES COME AFTER CASE BUMPS. A MAIN THING EXPERTS SAY ANYONE CAN DO IF THEY HAVEN'T ALREADY, GET AN UPDATED VACCINE TO PROTECT FROM SEVERE SICKNESS. CURRENTLY THE CDC SHOWS ABOUT 20 PERCENT OF THOSE ELIGIBLE HAVE GOTTEN ONE.

01/26/2024 10PM

THE CONTAMINATED WATER WAS FOUND IN A TEST OF ONE OF RIVIERA BEACH'S MORE THAN 25 WELLS THAT SUPPLIES IT'S TAP WATER. THIS POST ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE SAID IT WAS DISCOVERED JUNE 27TH BUT POSTED FOR THE CITY TO SEE LAST WEEK. AND THAT DREW THE IRE OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADRICK MC-COY. TRADRICK MC-COY /RIVIERA CITY COUNCIL - "Nobody should be sitting here, waiting seven months for an explanation about why there's fecal matter contamination in the city's well-water supply." MICHAEL LOW / RIVIERA BEACH UTILITIES DIRECTOR "Q:WHY DIDN'T YOU NOTIFY PEOPLE IN RIVIERA BEACH IMMEDIATELY? A: Because there was no need, we have a treatment plant here." RIVIERA BEACH UTILITIES DIRECTOR MICHAEL LOW SAYS EVEN THOUGH WELL WATER WAS CONTAMINATED, IT WAS FILTERED AT THE TREATMENT PLANT, AND MADE CLEAN, SAFE AND DRINKABLE WHEN IT REACHES PEOPLE'S HOMES. AS FOR THE SEVEN MONTHS DELAY IN NOTIFICATION, LOW SAYS IT TOOK THE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT THAT LONG TO SIGN OFF ON THE LANGUAGE OF THE PUBLIC NOTICE. MICHAEL LOW / RIVIERA BEACH UTILITIES DIRECTOR "So, we followed all the rules that they asked us to follow." "HOW SURE ARE YOU THAT THE WATER THAT CAME OUT OF THE TREATMENT PLANT FOR THOSE TWO DAYS IN QUESTION, WAS SAFE TO DRINK? Because of all the routine testing we're doing." BERNARD FERGUSON / RIVIERA BEACH "Q: THIS HAPPENED IN JUNE, BUT WE'RE FINDING OUT ABOUT IT NOW, HOW DOES THAT STRIKE YOU? Right now? That's not good." CONSTRUCTION WORKER BERNARD FERGUSON SAYS MANY IN THE CITY WONDER IF THE AGING TREATMENT PLANT IS KEEPING THE WATER CLEAN. HE LIVES NEAR A NEIGHBORHOOD WHERE HOMEOWNERS HAVE COMPLAINED OF YELLOW TAP WATER. BERNARD FERGUSON / RIVIERA BEACH "When you're dealing with feces in any kind of way, that's very important for people to know right away." MR. LOW SAID THE WATER THAT GOES OUT FROM THE TREATMENT PLAN IS TESTED EVERY TWO HOURS. AND I ASKED HIM HOW WE CAN BE CONFIDENT IN THE RESULTS, HE POINTED OUT THAT THE LAB IS INDEPENDENT AND OVERSEEN BY THE US DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY. MICHAEL LOW / RIVIERA BEACH UTILITIES DIRECTOR -"I drink it every day." LOW SAYS HIS DEPARTMENT SHOULD HAVE NOTIFIED THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AS SOON AS IT DISCOVERED WELL WATER CONTAMINATION. HIS DEPARTMENT COULD FACE FINES. BUT HE SAYS DESPITE A CONTAMINATED WELL, NO ONE'S HEALTH WAS JEOPARDIZED. IN RIVIERA BEACH, I'M INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER DAVE BOHMAN, FOX 29-<X>-

02/07/2024 10PM

A FEDERAL HEALTH AGENCY ANNOUNCES THE SOURCE OF A DEADLY LISTERIA OUTBREAK THAT HAS LASTED A DECADE. THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION SAYS NEW EVIDENCE LINKS CHEESES AND OTHER DAIRY PRODUCTS MADE BY... "RIZO-LOPEZ FOODS" TO A MULTISTATE LISTERIA OUTBREAK. THE C-D-C SAYS THE FIRST REPORT OF THE OUTBREAK STARTED IN 20-14.SINCE THEN, THE C-D-C SAYS AT LEAST 26 PEOPLE HAVE FALLEN ILL, 23 WERE HOSPITALIZED, AND TWO PEOPLE DIED. THE AGENCY REOPENED ITS INVESTIGATION IN DECEMBER... FOLLOWING NEW CASES BEING REPORTED. ON MONDAY (2/5) THE CALIFORNIA-BASED DAIRY COMPANY ISSUED A NATIONWIDE RECALL OF 60 PRODUCTS UNDER VARIOUS BRAND NAMES. CONSUMERS ARE ADVISED TO THROW AWAY THE RECALLED PRODUCTS IMMEDIATELY... AND CLEAN ANY SURFACES THAT IT TOUCHED.

02/17/2024 10PM

FEBRUARY IS HEART HEALTH MONTH AND A GOOD CHANCE TO LEARN ABOUT THE STEPS ANYONE CAN TAKE TO ACHIEVE OVERALL WELLNESS. A LOT OF COMMON DISEASES AFFECT YOUR HEART. TAKING CARE OF YOUR HEART CAN HELP PREVENT THINGS LIKE HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE, OR STROKE. DOCTORS SAY A GOOD WAY TO START PRIORITIZING YOUR HEART HEALTH IS TAKING A CLOSER LOOK AT WHAT IS GOING INTO YOUR BODY. Dr Julia Fashner/HCA Healthcare Family Medicine - "In our American diet we have a lot of bad stuff that affects the heart things like salt intake we need to decrease our salt intake, so a lot of fast foods have that." DR FASHNER SAYS ADDITIONALLY BOTH MEN AND WOMEN SHOULD LIMIT THEIR ALCOHOL INTAKE TO NO MORE THAN 2 DRINKS A DAY.

02/18/2024 10PM

WEST PALM BEACH RESIDENTS GETTING ACCESS TO FREE DOSES OF PAXLOVID YESTERDAY - A COVID-19 MEDICATION THAT NOW CAN COST NEARLY 4 THOUSAND DOLLARS...THIS AS THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SEES A SPIKE IN COVID-19 CASES. DR. DWIGHT REYNOLDS, CENTERS FOR HEALTH PROMOTION – “So our job is to continue to push these things into different communities, of color and in rural Florida.” TOBY PHILPART, SENIOR PASTOR, NEW BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH - “The pandemic, the shutdown taught us some things, and the main thing that it taught us that we need to come outside of the four walls of the church in the area of chronic diseases. And it has been exciting to say the least.” IF YOU MISSED THIS EVENT- NEW BETHEL BAPTIST WILL CONTINUE THE GIVEAWAY EVERY SUNDAY FROM 9 UNTIL NOON UNTIL SUPPLIES RUN OUT..

02/21/2024 10PM

THE CDC RECOMMENDS THE FIRST MMR... MEASLES, MUMPS, RUBELLA VACCINE AT 12 TO 15 MONTHS OLD AND THE SECOND BETWEEN 4 AND 6 YEARS OLD. IT'S REQUIRED FOR KINDERGARTEN AND ABOUT 98 PERCENT EFFECTIVE AT PREVENTING MEASLES... BUT NOT ALL KIDS ARE GETTING THE VACCINE. NATHALIA LOMAS – “I think it’s really important for the safety of them, for us, for everyone.” MOM NATHALIA LOMAS MAKES SURE HER KIDS GET THEIR SHOTS. NATHALIA – “he's on the schedule and he has his vaccines and everything, so we are in the good line.” SHE SAYS ITS UPSETTING TO HEAR ABOUT A MEASLES OUTBREAK AT MANATEE BAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN WESTON. BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS CONFIRMS AT LEAST SIX CASES OF THE VIRUS ON CAMPUS. THE SUPERINTENDENT SAYS 33 OF THE SCHOOL'S ONE THOUSAND STUDENTS DON'T HAVE THE VACCINE. DR. SHANNON FOX-LEVINE, PEDIATRICIAN – “if your child isn't up to date, you are leaving them out there to potentially get measles.” PALM BEACH COUNTY PEDIATRICIAN DR. SHANNON FOX-LEVINE SAYS MEASLES IS HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS AND COULD TRAVEL. DR. SHANNON FOX-LEVINE – “it appears to be like an upper respiratory infection initially- cough and congestion and runny nose, tearing red eyes and then a rash develops typically has fever as well.” THE LATEST NUMBERS FROM THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SHOW FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR... ABOUT 92 PERCENT OF BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL KINDERGARTNERS HAD COMPLETE IMMUNIZATION RECORDS. THE REMAINING 8 PERCENT HAD EITHER TEMPORARY... OR PERMANENT EXEMPTIONS... WHICH INCLUDE RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS. THE NUMBER WAS A LITTLE LOWER IN PALM BEACH COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS WITH 89.5 PERCENT COMPLETED IMMUNIZATIONS... AND SLIGHTLY HIGHER EXEMPTION RATES. DR. SHANNON FOX-LEVINE - “if you have been missing either one of both of those doses now is a great time consider getting them to protect your child.” DR. FOX LEVINE SAYS WHILE MANY FAMILIES FELL BEHIND ON VACCINES DURING THE PANDEMIC... DOCTORS HAVE WORKED TO GET THEM CAUGHT UP. CELIA SWEET, GRANDMOTHER – “ I am shocked at how many vaccines they expect children to have, especially newborns.” GRANDMOTHER CECLIA SWEET SAYS WHILE SHE CAN BE SKEPTICAL OF THE SHOTS... SHE'S GLAD HER GRANDSONS ARE VACCINATED... WITH THE OUTBREAK JUST TO OUR SOUTH. STEPHANIE SUSSKIND REPORTING FOR FOX 29.

03/03/2024 10PM

SUMMER IS STILL MONTHS AWAY, BUT THE BACKBONE OF AMERICA'S DINNER TABLE IS ALREADY BRACING FOR THE HEAT... DOMINIQUE O'CONNOR - "I think farmworkers are often, seen as like the invisible workforce force, especially here in Florida." ACCORDING TO THE ECONOMIC POLICY INSTITUTE, AS OF 20-22, THERE ARE ROUGHLY 2.4 MILLION FARMWORKERS IN THE U.S. AND AS HEAT WAVES CONTINUE TO GROW IN FREQUENCY AND INTENSITY, MANY OF THESE WORKERS ARE FINDING THEMSELVES FACE TO FACE WITH INCREASINGLY DIRE WORKING CONDITIONS. DOMINIQUE O'CONNOR - "It's not enough to just say that like, farm workers like, need to drink more water, you know, and to take more breaks because, like, that's not easy. Like in practice." DOMINIQUE O'CONNOR IS THE CLIMATE JUSTICE ORGANIZER FOR THE [FARMWORKER ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA](<https://floridafarmworkers.org/>). SHE SAYS MANY PEOPLE HAVE NO CLUE JUST HOW DIFFICULT IT CAN BE WORKING FOR LONG HOURS OUT IN THE SUN, WITH LIMITED ACCESS TO SHADE, BREAKS AND AT TIMES WATER. ACCORDING TO THE [ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND](<https://www.edf.org/report/heat-stress-threatens-agricultural-workers-health-us-temperatures-rise>), "MORTALITY FROM HEAT-RELATED ILLNESS IS 20 TIMES HIGHER FOR CROP WORKERS IN THE U.S. THAN PRIVATE

INDUSTRY AND NON-FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WORKERS." IN ADDITION, THE AVERAGE U.S. AGRICULTURAL WORKER IS EXPOSED TO "21 WORKING DAYS IN THE SUMMER GROWING SEASON THAT ARE UNSAFE DUE TO HEAT."

DOMINIQUE O'CONNOR - "Farmworkers usually know how to take care of themselves. The problem is, is that they're not able to." CURRENTLY, THERE IS NO FEDERAL STANDARD THAT PROTECTS WORKERS FROM EXTREME HEAT.

DOMINIQUE O'CONNOR - "There is so much that people don't know about the agricultural industry and the agricultural supply chain, which is fraught with injustices and inequities and, even cases of forced labor." MIKE RIOS HELPS TO OVERSEE THE FAIR FOOD PROGRAM, A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN FARMERS, FARMWORKERS AND FOOD COMPANIES THAT IS GEARED TOWARD IMPROVING WORKING CONDITIONS FOR FARMWORKERS. IN RECENT YEARS, THE PROGRAM HAS ESTABLISHED A SET OF HEAT STRESS STANDARDS WITH ITS PARTICIPATING FARMERS: INCLUDING PROVIDING FARMWORKERS WITH SHADE, WATER, REGULAR REST BREAKS, TRAINING ON HEAT STRESS SYMPTOMS, MEDICAL TREATMENT AND THE ABILITY FOR WORKERS TO STOP IF THEY FEEL ILL. MIKE RIOS - "The fact that a worker can, without fear of retaliation, that's the key right there, without fear of retaliation, has the ability to set themselves aside, rest, take shade, drink water for however long they need is an incredible step in worker protection." WHILE RIOS SAYS THE PROGRAM HAS BEEN APPLAUDED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, IT'S THE FEEDBACK FROM THE FARMWORKERS THAT HAS BEEN MOST MEANINGFUL. MIKE RIOS - "More than we can try to count of people that have expressed the huge difference between working on a fair food program farm than working at a non-fair food program farm." ULTIMATELY, THE FUTURE OF OUR CLIMATE REMAINS UNCERTAIN, BUT RIOS SAYS THE WELLBEING OF FARMWORKERS DOESN'T HAVE TO BE.... MEG HILLING, SCRIPPS NEWS.

03/04/2024 10PM

THE C-D-C CHANGED ITS GUIDANCE ON COVID ISOLATION LAST WEEK AND IT'S ALREADY LEADING TO CONFUSION ACROSS THE COUNTRY. HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS ARE REPORTING AN UPTICK IN CALLS FROM COVID POSITIVE PATIENTS UNSURE WHETHER THEY SHOULD BE ISOLATING WHILE SOME DOCTORS WORRY, WE COULD SEE A NEW SURGE FROM PEOPLE NOT TAKING THE PROPER PRECAUTIONS AFTER TESTING POSITIVE. JENNIFER NUZZO, DR.PH BROWN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH EPIDEMIOLOGIST BLUE -NUZZO says: "I don't want to necessarily send, though, the signal to the general public that somehow we now think that you are no longer capable of spreading this disease just because it's been two or three days." THERE'S ALSO UNCERTAINTY ABOUT EXACTLY WHAT TO DO IF YOU HEAD BACK TO WORK OR SCHOOL AND YOU'RE STILL INFECTED. MOST DOCTORS RECOMMENDING STICKING TO THE STANDARD MITIGATION EFFORTS. MONDAY says: "That person, he or she, should still be wearing a mask. If they're not, I would encourage them to do so." MEANWHILE, WE'RE LEARNING MORE ABOUT HOW LONG COVID DEVELOPS. A NEW CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY STUDY PINPOINTING LOW IRON LEVELS AFTER INFECTION AS THE PROBABLE CAUSE.

03/05/2024 10PM

A CYBERATTACK ON A MAJOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER. LEAVING SOME PEOPLE SCRAMBLING TO GET THEIR PRESCRIPTIONS -- OR ATTEND THEIR APPOINTMENTS. OUR TODD WILSON SHOWS HOW THE SHUT DOWN IS DIRE FOR PATIENTS TO HOSPITALS TO PHARMACIES. TO HELP THEIR CUSTOMERS THE OWNERS AT "MY COMMUNITY PHARMACY" IN WELLINGTON USES A COUPON CARD SERVICE BY "CHANGE HEALTH CARE" TO HELP CUT COSTS. Reporter – stand-up "Let's say your insurance is usually a hundred dollars co-pay for a brand drug . . .well, these coupons can make it zero, twenty-five, fifty or whatever." OWNER JOHNNY MEIER SAYS AS OF FEBRUARY 22ND THE COUPON SERVICE HASN'T BEEN WORKING. "CHANGE HEALTH CARE" IS OWNED BY UNITED HEALTHCARE GROUP. AND ON FEBRUARY 21ST UNITED HEALTHCARE GROUP WAS THE VICTIM OF A CYBERATTACK. Reporter – "HOW BAD IS THE SITUATION?" Johnny Meier – "This is likely one of the worst cyberattacks on our health care system in this country." MARY MAYHEW IS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE FLORIDA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION. SHE SAYS THE CYBERATTACK WAS AGAINST UNITED HEALTHCARES PROVIDERS CLAIMS CLEARANCE HOUSE. THE ATTACK BROUGHT INSURANCE PAYMENTS AND PRESCRIPTION PROCESSING TO A HALT FOR PROVIDERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY. Mary Mayhew – "It's the ability for hospitals to provide care, bill for that care and get paid." MAYHEW SAYS UNITED HEALTHCARES CLAIMS HOUSE HAS BEEN SHUT DOWN FOR

14 DAYS. Mary Mayhew – “The longer this persists it may affect their ability to provide certain health care services. We're talking in Florida hundreds of millions of dollars of payments not being made by insurance companies including United Healthcare.” MAYHEW SAYS CHANGING CLEARING HOUSES FOR MEDICARE PROVIDERS COULD TAKE UP TO 90 DAYS. MOST PEOPLE DON'T HAVE THAT TIME TO WAIT FOR THEIR MEDICATION. MEIER SAYS HE'S NOT SURE WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN. HE SAYS IT'S LEFT HIM WONDERING ONE THING. Johnny Meier –“How are we getting these patients their needed medications.” IN PALM BEACH COUNTY, TODD WILSON, FOX 29.

Minorities

FOX 29 Morning News

02/06/2024 7-9AM

AS WE CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH - THE THEME ACROSS THE COUNTRY THIS YEAR IS BLACK ART AND AFRICAN AMERICAN ARTISTS. TANIA ROGERS SHOWS US WHERE SEVERAL LOCAL WORKS OF ART ARE ON DISPLAY. DR. CATHERINE LOWE IS AN Ophthalmologist IN PALM BEACH GARDENS... HER OFFICE LOOKS LIKE AN ART GALLERY-- WHERE PATIENTS CAN SEE WORKS OF ART UP CLOSE. DR. CATHERINE LOWE/OPHTHALMOLOGIST - "We try to feature African American artists we have a variety of artists. Florida artists." REPORTER - "Which one is one of your favorites around here? Well Caron is a great artist; she's done so much. She's done great work. And this artist is from Miami, She does really, really great work." THERE'S A STORY BEHIND EACH PICTURE. DR. LOWE GIVING HER PATIENTS A GLIMPSE INTO HISTORY. DR. CATHERINE LOWE/OPHTHALMOLOGIST - "For a lot of people of color they express themselves through their creativity and their art. It tells some very important stories." DR. CATHERINE LOWE/OPHTHALMOLOGIST - "This is an interesting picture I think we got that picture from the Black Historical Society. They had a lot of documented photographs, swimming at Singer Island circa 1925. That was almost one hundred years ago. Singer Island was the first local beach for blacks here in Palm Beach County." INSPIRING HER YOUNG PATIENTS. DR. CATHERINE LOWE/OPHTHALMOLOGIST - "It really does inspire them, especially it's healing for them. So often children have a lot of things going on, they have a lot of stress now, and it's almost perform, perform, perform. And I tell them you all are so talented; you are so knowledgeable." DR. CATHERINE LOWE/OPHTHALMOLOGIST - "The piece 'I voted' is extremely important was done by Dr. Arthur Bacon he was from West Palm Beach, a WPB native, a professor who taught biology and has done so much research and lectured all around the world." DR. CATHERINE LOWE/OPHTHALMOLOGIST - "This artist is Mary Anne Carroll and the Florida Highwaymen as far as I am concerned they started a movement of art here in South Florida. With their cotton candy clouds and their spiritual birds all of the great colors that we see." THE BACK OF THIS PICTURE IS A COLLAGE OF MAGAZINES. WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE FRONT OF THE PICTURE, IT TELLS A STORY. DR. CATHERINE LOWE/OPHTHALMOLOGIST - "I think that's what life is all about. It's a picture and sometimes we see parts of it and sometimes we don't see the other parts of it." CARON BOWMAN HAS SEVERAL PAINTINGS HERE. CARON BOWMAN/ARTIST - "This is one of your pieces. Yes, it is. It's called soul sisters. It was inspired by the unity of African people, especially among women. And how the sun is rising, and these women are holding hands with African masks." HER WORKS OF ART GO BEYOND A CANVAS... YOU CAN SEE HER MURALS IN DOWNTOWN WEST PALM BEACH. CARON BOWMAN/ARTIST - "The mural talked about artists who basically created music talking about social justice and change in America." CARON BOWMAN/ARTIST - "We did a wonderful life with Louie Armstrong. Louie Armstrong played at the Sunset Lounge in 1944. The Sunset was the crowning jewel of the northwest community of our city. Some of the great virtuosos of the 20th century music came to the Sunset. Everyone from James Brown, Ike and Tina Turner, Otis Redding, Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Billie Holiday, Miles Davis, Ray Charles, You name it, they came."

02/08/2024 7-9AM

TODAY - OUR BLACK HISTORY MONTH STORY - FOCUSES ON A DISEASE THAT DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTS AFRICAN AMERICANS. BLACK H-I-V AND AIDS AWARENESS DAY - FALLS THIS WEEK THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL SAY

BLACK ADULTS WILL MAKE UP MORE THAN 40 PERCENT OF ALL NEW H-I-V INFECTIONS. AND ACCORDING TO "AM-FAR", THE FOUNDATION FOR AIDS RESEARCH, THAT NUMBER IS HIGHER IN FLORIDA -- 63 PERCENT. THE FOUNDATION SAYS THE MIAMI - FORT LAUDERDALE AREA HAS ONE OF THE HIGHEST RATES OF NEW CASES IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY. THE GROUP SAYS IT IS MAKING STRIDES FIGHTING STIGMAS AND CULTURAL SENSITIVITIES ABOUT HOW YOU CAN CONTRACT HIV-AIDS ONE OF ITS GOALS NOW IS TO EDUCATE ABOUT MORE MODERN METHODS FOR PREVENTION. "The other thing that is important that we need to get out there particularly in the black community is that people don't realize there is a pill that you can take once a day that can prevent you from getting HIV and it's called pre-prophylaxis."

02/19/2024 7-9AM

A NEW STOCK EXCHANGE READY TO LAUNCH -- THIS ONE GEARED TOWARDS SMALL BUSINESSES AND MINORITY OWNED COMPANIES. THE FIRST MINORITY RUN STOCK EXCHANGE WILL SOON LAUNCH. IT CATERS TO SMALL-MID-SIZE COMPANIES, SPECIFICALLY COMPANIES RUN BY PEOPLE OF COLOR. AS SCRIPPS NEWS' ALEXA LIACKO EXPLAINS -- ONE OF THE FOUNDERS GREW UP MARCHING AND GOING TO FAMILY EVENTS WITH DR. MARTIN LUTER KING JUNIOR, SO TO HIM, THIS STOCK EXCHANGE IS A MODERN-DAY CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT. JOE CECALA / CO-FOUNDER AND CEO, THE DREAM EXCHANGE -- "It's actually truly born from the soul of two people that want to see the world become a better place..." A DREAM DECADES IN THE MAKING...WILL FINALLY BECOME REALITY THIS YEAR. THE DREAM EXCHANGE--CREATED AND RUN BY LONGTIME FRIENDS JOE CECALA AND DWAIN KYLES--IS LAUNCHING TO--AS THEY LIKE TO SAY--'PUT THE 'ALL' IN WALL STREET.' DWAIN J. KYLES / THE DREAM EXCHANGE -- "Most people in all communities have access to Main Street in some form or another. But the gulf, which exists between Main Street and Wall Street, has continued to exist and, we see that bridge...serving as that bridge...as being vital to the revitalization of our economy." THE DREAM EXCHANGE WILL BE THE 8TH LICENSED STOCK EXCHANGE IN THE COUNTRY--BUT IT WILL BE THE FIRST MINORITY RUN STOCK EXCHANGE...IT WILL FUNCTION JUST LIKE THE NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE DOES--WHERE YOU CAN BUY STOCK IN COMPANIES THAT HAVE GONE PUBLIC...BUT THE COMPANIES ON 'THE DREAM EXCHANGE' WILL BE MUCH SMALLER...THE POINT: TO MAKE THE STOCK MARKET ACCESSIBLE TO MORE PEOPLE...AND TO GIVE SMALLER COMPANIES THE BENEFITS AND WEALTH FROM BECOMING A PUBLICLY TRADED COMPANY. DWAIN KYLES/THE DREAM EXCHANGE -- "Our approach is to really look at those small companies that have been left behind." ...SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED COMPANIES THAT ARE MORE OFTEN RUN BY ENTREPRENEURS OF COLOR...JOE CECALA / CO-FOUNDER AND CEO, THE DREAM EXCHANGE -- "Hopefully ten years from now when a small company is growing and it's doing well and they want to go to their next phase, their first thought is, oh, well, we can go to the dream exchange and get capital."CAPITAL IS ONE OF THE MAIN BARRIERS TO SUCCESS FOR COMPANIES-- WITHOUT IT, A COMPANY CAN'T GROW ENOUGH TO GET LISTED ON A STOCK EXCHANGE--ITS ESPECIALLY TRUE FOR PEOPLE OF COLOR. THE U-S TREASURY DEPARTMENT TASK FORCE FOUND: JUST 0.2% OF COMPANIES ON THE NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE ARE MINORITY OWNED. THE DREAM EXCHANGE'S MISSION IS TO UPEND THAT STATISTIC...AND INVEST IN COMPANIES FROM COMMUNITIES LIKE THE ONES THEY GREW UP IN...JOE CECALA / CO-FOUNDER AND CEO, THE DREAM EXCHANGE -- "If we can build these companies up and expand them, we'll have prosperous communities. I think that it has a ripple effect to solve so many of our other of our nation's problem." THE BIGGEST PROBLEM IN OUR NATION THEY SEE: UNEQUAL ACCESS TO WEALTH. IT WAS A LESSON KYLES LEARNED FIRSTHAND FROM ICONIC CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER--DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR....WHO WAS DEAR FRIENDS WITH KYLES' FATHER. DWAIN J. KYLES / THE DREAM EXCHANGE -- "What he began to understand in the later years of his life that you were not going to achieve equality anywhere in this country or anyplace else, if there is not economic parity. You've got to be able to give people the opportunity to earn a good living and take care of their families, or it's never going to work." AND ECONOMIC PARITY CAN COME WHEN A COMPANY IS LISTED ON A STOCK EXCHANGE--THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT TASK FORCE FOUND: 92% OF JOBS WITHIN A COMPANY ARE CREATED WHEN A COMPANY GOES PUBLIC. JOE CECALA / CO-FOUNDER AND CEO, THE DREAM EXCHANGE -- "There's literally thousands of available jobs that are created when one company goes public. And if we put those companies into communities that are really not participating, we can build prosperity in the communities that really are most in need of it." AND KYLES AND CECALA ARE TAKING THIS DREAM ONE STEP FURTHER--WORKING WITH CONGRESS TO PASS THE 'MAIN STREET GROWTH ACT'-- WHICH WOULD START 'VENTURE EXCHANGES' TO GET EVEN MORE CAPITAL TO SMALLER, GROWING, MINORITY OWNED COMPANIES...AND, TO HELP MORE AMERICANS UNDERSTAND THAT THE STOCK MARKET IS FOR EVERYONE.

DWAIN J. KYLES / THE DREAM EXCHANGE – “Even if you don't have stock, it matters. It matters. It matters relative to the quality of life you live in your community. The American economy has been the most robust and vital in the history of the world. We can do better. We can do better. We can lift more boats.”

ALEXA LIACKO, SCRIPPS NEWS.

02/26/2024 7-9AM

A NEW EXHIBIT IN DELRAY BEACH IS EXPOSING A PAINFUL PAST. "THE LAND OF SUNSHINE AND DREAMS 1950S AND 1960S DELRAY BEACH. GEORGE WILLIAMS GREW UP DURING THAT TIME-- AND PLAYED FOOTBALL FOR CARVER HIGH SCHOOL IN DELRAY BEACH. HE SAYS DISCRIMINATION DIDN'T ALLOW BLACK ATHLETES TO PLAY AGAINST OR WITH THEIR WHITE COUNTERPARTS "It was just a different era." THE TIME HE'S TALKING ABOUT IS THE 1950'S TO THE 60'S. GEORGE WILLIAMS SAYS IT'S A PERIOD IN HIS LIFE MARKED BY SEGREGATION. "I guess that was kind of the law of the land back then at that time. Much was silent but things were happening and that you know they were trying to keep it separate at all times." WILLIAMS WENT TO WHAT WAS CARVER HIGH SCHOOL IN DELRAY BEACH. HIS SPORTS WERE TRACK AND FOOTBALL. . . . THAT'S HIM, NUMBER 86. HE SAYS DISCRIMINATION DIDN'T ALLOW BLACK ATHLETES TO PLAY AGAINST OR WITH THEIR WHITE COUNTERPARTS. "We played . . . Pompano, then we played Belle Glade, the Glades, Gifford. Reporter : Those are all teams you played? Williams: Yeah, all black. " AT THE TIME DELRAY BEACH AND THE COUNTRY IS ENSNARLED IN SEGREGATIONIST POLICIES. PRESENTLY, THE DELRAY BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS EXPLORING THE 50'S AND THE 60'S WITH A NEW EXHIBIT CALLED THE "LAND OF SUNSHINE & DREAMS 1950'S & 1960'S DELRAY BEACH. "Tumultuous two decades, very complex, pivotal, fascinating, interesting just in terms of politics and civil rights. " WINNIE EDWARDS IS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. SHE SAYS THE DISPLAY DELVES INTO CIVIL RIGHTS, SPORTS TO POPULAR CULTURE AT THE TIME. EDWARDS SAYS PUTTING THIS EXHIBITION TOGETHER WAS EMOTIONAL. "Some of the things discovered in the archives and through our research were surprising and shocking but it wasn't unlike what was happening in the rest of the south and the rest of the United States. " WILLIAMS SAYS ONE OF HIS MOST MEMORABLE TIMES IS WHEN CARVER WON A CHAMPIONSHIP IN 62. HE SAYS LOOKING AT SPORTS NOWADAYS BRINGS HIM GREAT JOY BECAUSE YOU SEE GROWTH IN OUR SOCIETY. "Williams: I enjoy today's sports. Todd: You do? Williams: I do, just because the best is always there." THE LAND OF SUNSHINE AND DREAMS OPENS MARCH FIFTH IN DELRAY BEACH, TODD WILSON, FOX 29

02/28/2024 7-9AM

AS WE GET READY TO ROUND OUT BLACK HISTORY MONTH... WE WANT TO SPOTLIGHT TWO WOMEN FROM BELLE GLADE WHO KNOW ALL ABOUT "GETTING DOLLED UP." THEY'RE NOW BOTH LEADERS IN THEIR COMMUNITY... ADVOCATING FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES. AS VICTOR JORGES REPORTS... ONE EXPERIENCE THEY HAD DECADES AGO... IS STILL A SHINING MEMORY FOR THE BOTH OF THEM. LAVOISE TAYLOR SMITH, BELLE GLADE - "it is for me, a sense of great pride in 2024 that I can know that I am a part of her-story, her story." MEET LAVOISE TAYLOR SMITH and MARY EVANS... AND TWO VERSIONS OF WHAT THEY CALL THE SARA LEE DOLL. WE MET AT THE LAWRENCE E WILL MUSEUM... WHERE SOME OF THE DOLLS ARE STILL ON DISPLAY. THEY GREW UP IN BELLE GLADE... AND WHEN THEY WERE JUST LITTLE GIRLS... THEY SAY THEY GOT THE OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME. MARY EVANS, BELLE GLADE – “growing up, I knew that I was the model for a doll, but I had never seen it or anything like that until the doll got to Delray, I believe. And you told me, I saw you at church., you said, do you know we were models for a doll. I said yes, I heard about it. “ALTHOUGH A BIG MOMENT IN THEIR LIVES ... THE WOMEN SAY IT WASN'T JUST THEM THAT INSPIRED WHAT WENT ON TO BECOME THE FIRST DOLL ACCURATELY DEPICTING A YOUNG BLACK CHILD. LAVOISE TAYLOR SMITH, BELLE GLADE - "I remember that there were several children that came in and an artist who came in and took sketches of us over our heads of especially focusing on our heads, hair, the shapes of our faces." THEY SAY THE DOLL'S DESIGN IS A COMBINATION OF FEATURES OF A GROUP OF BLACK CHILDREN FROM BELLE GLADE BACK IN THE 1950s. LAVOISE TAYLOR SMITH, BELLE GLADE - "So it didn't look like me by myself. It didn't look like Mary by herself. And there was one boy among the group. So, it was a coming together of eight children in the early fifties. And so, I was proud of that. And I got what I had never had a real doll other than a rag doll. So, it was good for me." THEY TELL ME ONE WOMAN WAS BEHIND ALL OF THIS - SARA LEE CREECH - OR MRS. CREECH AS THEY LOVINGLY REMEMBER HER.

LAVOISE TAYLOR SMITH, BELLE GLADE - "she had a personal interest in us as little girls to make sure that we had experiences like all other little girls had, and therefore she created the doll." THEY SAY SHE PROVIDED THEM WITH A CHANCE TO BE A PART OF THEIR HOME'S HISTORY AND A STORY THEY WANT TO SHARE WITH EVERYONE.
MARY EVANS, BELLE GLADE – "the things that go down in history, you know, we need to tell the story to many people... and it's right here in Belle Glade, here in Palm Beach County." BOTH WOMEN WENT ON TO HAVE SUCCESSFUL CAREERS IN EDUCATION... AND BECOME ROLE MODELS FOR YOUTH IN BELLE GLADE. AND DECADES LATER -- SMITH AND EVANS ARE STILL FRIENDS FEELING....LAVOISE TAYLOR SMITH, BELLE GLADE - "...Happy to live in 2024 to see from where I have come to where I am now. It is a totally different world with and been made, that's for sure." IN BELLE GLADE, VICTOR JORGES, FOX 29.

02/29/2024 7-9AM

AS WE CLOSE OUT BLACK HISTORY MONTH TODAY - A HOMETOWN CONNECTION - LEADING THE WAY AT AN HBCU.... "To realize that I left here in 1979 on the Amtrak station, I went sight unseen" DARRELL K WILLIAMS HAS COME HOME OFTEN OVER THE PAST 40 PLUS YEARS - "an amazing, amazing feeling." BUT HE HASN'T EXPERIENCED A HOMECOMING LIKE THIS. "now to come back to WPB as the president of the university that this community sent me off . Wow." WILLIAMS GREW UP IN PLEASANT CITY - THE OLDEST AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN WEST PALM BEACH. ONE OF EIGHT - HIS MOTHER AND HIS CHURCH - MOLDED HIS FAITH. HIS SCHOOLS - "many" BECAUSE OF DESEGREGATION - TAUGHT HIM TO ADAPT QUICKLY. HE EXCELLED ON THE DEBATE TEAM AT TWIN LAKES NOW PALM BEACH LAKES HIGH SCHOOL - AND EQUALLY FOUND HIS FOOTING AT GAINES PARK. "I think about all of the basketball games that we played there. All of the friendships that we developed. The competition that was second to none." IT'S THAT COMPETITION THAT HAS HELPED THIS RETIRED U.S. ARMY THREE-STAR GENERAL CATAPULT HAMPTON A PRESTIGIOUS HISTORICALLY BLACK UNIVERSITY IN VIRGINIA - TO A NEW LEVEL - SINCE HIS TAKE OVER ALMOST TWO YEARS AGO. "We were study buddies and partners..." WILLIAMS AND HIS COLLEGE SWEETHEART - ALSO AN HU ALUM RECENTLY CAME TO SOUTH FLORIDA TO AWARD A 4 YEAR FULL RIDE SCHOLARSHIP. "to go - be great." REPORTER "When you heard your name, what was going through your mind?" Danae Scott/Local Student – "I was surprised to hear my name because I didn't actually expect to get the scholarship." Danae Scott/Local Student - "if you want talented kids at your school to come around and not just send somebody, but actually to be there himself, that meant a lot." NOW THE CONDUCTOR AT THE HELM AN HBCU, WILLIAMS SAYS HE WILL PULL OUT ALL THE STOPS TO MAKE SURE STUDENTS IN HIS HOMETOWN HAVE THE SAME EXPERIENCES HE LEFT FOR. "our Motto is the standard of excellence an education for life and I can't think of a better place to go that for one opens the door of opportunity and one that teaches you the values and the relationships that will be with you for the rest of your life."

03/25/2024 7-9AM

CITY COUNCILMAN TRADRICK MCCOY PUBLICALLY EXPRESSED HE'S LOSING CONFIDENCE IN THE CITY MANAGER'S ABILITY TO HANDLE A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS. HE'S ALSO QUESTIONING THE CITY ATTORNEY'S JOB PERFORMANCE. ANOTHER SORE SPOT, A SECOND COUNCIL MEMBER DOUG LAWSON WANTS A VOTE TO REMOVE OR AT LEAST CONSIDER REMOVING THE NEWLY APPOINTED CHAIRMAN - WHO HE SAYS DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH EXPERIENCE. BUT SOME RESIDENTS ARE BUYING IT AND SAY THE NEW CHAIR IS BEING TARGETED BECAUSE HE IS THE ONLY REPRESENTATIVE WHO IS WHITE ON AN ALL-BLACK BOARD. BOTH TOPICS ARE EXPECTED TO COME UP AT THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL MEETING

FOX 29 News 6:30PM

02/29/2024 6:30PM

"FORE SISTAS" - IT'S A DYNAMIC GROUP OF WOMEN DEDICATED TO EMPOWERING ASPIRING BLACK FEMALE GOLFERS. THE GROUP STARTED DURING THE PANDEMIC. AND - WHEN MANY BUSINESSES WERE SHUT DOWN - MARTIN DOWNS COUNTRY CLUB STAYED OPEN. THAT'S WHERE THE WOMEN DECIDED TO TURN THEIR PASSION FOR THE LINKS - INTO DOING GOOD FOR THE COMMUNITY. THE GROUP HOSTS A GOLF TOURNAMENT - WHERE SWINGS MEET SUPPORT, AND FAIRWAYS PAVE THE WAY FOR BRIGHTER FUTURES. ORGANIZERS SAY - PROCEEDS FROM THE FIRST YEAR GARNERED AROUND 6-THOUSAND DOLLARS - BENEFITTING SENIORS AND CHILDREN. LAST YEAR - THE WOMEN SAY - THEY WANTED TO ADDRESS BARRIERS FOR BLACK FEMALE GOLFERS WHO ASPIRE TO MAKE IT TO THE L-P-G-A.

03/21/2024 6:30PM

WHEN A GROUP OF GRADUATES OF ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL HEARD LOCAL LEADERS WERE PITCHING THEIR ALMA MATER AS A POSSIBLE SITE FOR THE STATE BLACK HISTORY MUSEUM, THEY TOOK TO THE STREETS. THE PALM BEACH COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD EARMARKED 51-MILLION DOLLARS TO RENNOVATE ROOSEVELT, AND THE PLAN INCLUDED MONEY FOR A LOCAL BLACK HISTORY MUSEUM. AND HERE'S WHY A GROUP OF ALUMS STOOD IN FRONT OF THEIR OWN SCHOOL IN PROTEST LAST WEEK. THE GROUP CLAIMS THE FACILITY SHOULD NOT BE A STATE MUSEUM BUT A *LOCAL ONE. ONE THAT WOULD HIGHLIGHT THE LIVES AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF AFRICAN AMERICANS FROM PALM BEACH COUNTY...TONIGHT, LIA GAINES OF THE HISTORIC ROOSEVELT UNITY COALITION PRAISED THE FLORIDA BLACK HISTORY MUSEUM STATEWIDE TASK FORCE FOR ELIMINATING ROOSEVELT AS A POTENTIAL SITE. LIA GAINES / ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL ALUM - "We're very pleased to be back on track and moving forward with this very important local museum that will feature local history. But it will also talk about Africans, and how they came here to the Americas, and to this location as well." GAINES SAYS SHE WAS CONFIDENT WEST PALM SITE WOULD NOT BE A STATE MUSEUM. SHE SAYS AND OTHER ROOSEVELT ALUMS RECENTLY CONVINCED COUNTY LEADERS TO WITHDRAW THEIR SUPPORT FOR A STATE MUSEUM WHILE SEVERAL OTHER COMMUNITIES IN OUR STATE CONTINUED TO LOBBY FOR ONE.

FOX 29 10 O'Clock News

01/22/2024 10PM

FLORIDA'S DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION WILL NO LONGER FUND D-E-I PROGRAMS ACROSS STATE COLLEGES. FOX 29'S JOEL LOPEZ SAT DOWN WITH OFFICIALS AT INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE TO DISCUSS WHAT THAT MOVE MEANS FOR FUTURE STUDENTS. WE'RE TOLD FUNDING FOR D-E-I AT INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE WAS FOR ONE STAFFING POSITION DEALING WITH GENDER EQUALITY WHICH WE'RE TOLD IS EXEMPT FROM THE MANDATE...BUT THAT THEIR MAIN FOCUS IS ON ALL STUDENTS. AT INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE...JUVENS DALGER/STUDENT AT IRSC - "Seeing other people that look like you does help you have more of a sense of community on campus." JUVENS DALGER IS WORKING ON HIS GRADUATES DEGREE AFTER GETTING HIS UNDERGRAD AT A UNIVERSITY OUT OF STATE WHICH HE SAYS WAS A CHALLENGE AS A MINORITY... JUVENS DALGER/STUDENT AT IRSC - "You learn to cope with it and you find your communities right and they have certain sub groups, resources outlets. REPORTER - So, DEI groups? JUVENS DALGER/STUDENT AT IRSC - "exactly" HERE AT INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE THE STUDENT BODY POPULATION IS MOSTLY HISPANIC AT 42%, THEN WHITE AT 34.6% AND BLACK AT 14.6 PERCENT... (ASIAN 1.6, .1 AMERICAN INDIAN, 2.4 MULTI RACIAL, .1 PACIFIC ISLANDER, 4.5 UNKNOWN) BETH GASKIN/VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT SUCCESS, IRSC - "When our students come to IRSC they see each other they see their faculty they see the staff and they see we all come from different places." BETH GASKIN THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT SUCCESS AT IRSC IS PREPARING TO LAUNCH THE THIRD YEAR OF "PROMISE"... IT'S WHERE LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS COMMIT TO IRSC AND THEN THEIR

ASSOCIATES DEGREE IS PAID FOR BY THE COLLEGE GASKIN – “We’ve gotta make sure that we’re educating our local students so they will then be educated citizens they will have local jobs they will stay and support our economy.” AND SINCE FALL OF 2022 THEY’VE HAD 43-HUNDRED STUDENTS MAKE THE PROMISE...71% WERE HISPANIC DALGER – “I just hope we can create an environment where there’s no biases.” STAFF SAYS THE FUNDING IS ALL DONATION BASED AND THAT THE PROGRAM ISN’T DEI RELATED... AS IT AIMS TO SERVE STUDENTS OF ALL RACES, GENDER, OR FINANCIAL STATUS STAFF SAYS SINCE THE PROMISE PROGRAM LAUNCHED, THEY’VE SEEN LOCAL ENROLLMENT NEARLY DOUBLED... SENIORS CAN TAKE THE PLEDGE STARTING ON WEDNESDAY THROUGH MAY 24TH. AT INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE JOEL LOPEZ FOX

01/26/2024 10PM

JUST WHEN LIFE WAS GETTING GOOD - NICOLE SMITH A DANCE TEACHER AND CROSSFIT ATHLETE - CAUGHT A CURVEBALL. NICOLE SMITH/BREAST CANCER SURVIVOR - "Nobody thought cancer. No one." DOCTORS THOUGHT ARTERITIS BECAUSE OF HER JOINT PAIN AND SWELLING. IT WASN'T UNTIL ABOUT SIX MONTHS LATER - THERE WAS TENDERNESS AND DISCHARGE FROM HER BREAST. NICOLE SMITH/BREAST CANCER SURVIVOR - "I was young. Just turned 30... no genetic history. Don't smoke." NICOLE GOT NOT ONE BUT TWO ULTRASOUNDS. THEY CAME BACK CLEAR. DOCTORS TREATED HER FOR A STAPH INFECTION. WHEN SHE STILL DIDN'T GET BETTER - IT SEEMED LIKE A STRETCH - BUT SHE WAS SENT IN FOR HER FIRST MAMMOGRAM. NICOLE SMITH/BREAST CANCER SURVIVOR - " I remember walking a short distance from one door to the other and I looked at my sister and I was like they're going to tell me I have breast cancer." and she was like no they're not. No, they're not. And I was like, I feel it. That's what they're going to tell me. And sure enough we sit down, and my surgeon was like you have breast cancer." NICOLE IS PART OF THE 29 PERCENT OR 24 THOUSAND HISPANIC WOMEN DIAGNOSED IN THE U-S EACH YEAR WITH BREAST CANCER. SUSAN G KOMEN - IS CONCENTRATING ON AREAS LIKE PALM BEACH COUNTY WHERE THE MINORITY POPULATION IS HIGH KNOWING BARRIERS LIKE WORK SCHEDULES AND TRANSPORTATION MAY HAVE KEPT THIS GROUP FROM GETTING SCREENED DURING THE PANDEMIC. JAIME BELLAMY/SUSAN G. KOMEN DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR - "One of the concerns that we have at Komen is that there a lot of people that put off their screenings." TODAY - AFTER FOUR ROUNDS OF CHEMO AND A DOUBLE MASECTOMY - NICOLE HAS NO EVIDENCE OF STAGE TWO CANCER. HER CUP...FULL AND A SMALL REMINDER OF THE BADGE SHE WEARS.

01/30/2024 10PM

FLORIDA LAWMAKERS MOVING CLOSER TODAY TO RESTRICTING REMOVAL OF HISTORICAL MONUMENTS — INCLUDING CONFEDERATE STATUES. IT’S A CONTROVERSIAL BILL THAT HAS THE SUPPORT OF MANY IN THE GOP SUPERMAJORITY. CAPITOL REPORTER FORREST SAUNDERS HAS THE DETAILS. AS OF TUESDAY — THIS BILL HAS CLEARED ITS FIRST COMMITTEES IN BOTH CHAMBERS. REPUBLICANS PUSHING IT THROUGH DESPITE WIDE OPPOSITION FROM DEMOCRATS. THE HOUSE VERSION WAS THE LATEST TO ADVANCE BUT WITH A REWRITE. IF APPROVED, IT WOULD PREVENT CITIES AND COUNTIES FROM PERMANENTLY DESTROYING OR REMOVING MONUMENTS AND MEMORIALS DISPLAYED FOR AT LEAST 25 YEARS ON PUBLIC PROPERTY. THAT INCLUDES CONFEDERATE MONUMENTS ERECTED DURING THE CIVIL WAR ERA. FLORIDA’S SECRETARY OF STATE WOULD GET THE AUTHORITY TO DETERMINE WHAT STAYS AND GOES. WHILE THE POLICY LACKS RETROACTIVE PROVISIONS, LOCAL OFFICIALS COULD FACE FINES, EVEN LAWSUITS FOR VIOLATING THE PROTECTIONS. THE BILL SPONSOR SAID HE WAS TRYING TO STEM “WOKEISM” AND PRESERVE HISTORY. OPPONENTS SAID THE BILL COULD BE USED TO PRESERVE OPPRESSIVE SYMBOLS. REP. DEAN BLACK, (R) JACKSONVILLE - “I think we should preserve all of our history. History is complicated. People are complicated. What we should do — allow these monuments and memorials to do what they were intended to do — that is to start a conversation.” REP. MICHELE RAYNER, (D) ST. PETERSBURG - “I’m going to tell you this — as a member of this body— I’ve never been more offended by a bill. This bill is sending a message, not only to Black folks in the state of Florida but to your black colleagues.” THE HOUSE BILL IS MORE MODERATE THAN ITS SENATE COMPANION— WHICH WOULD RETROACTIVELY APPLY TO MONUMENTS REMOVED, DAMAGED, OR DESTROYED ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 1, 2020. THAT WOULD COVER THE RECENT REMOVAL OF A CONFEDERATE MONUMENT IN JACKSONVILLE— WHICH HAPPENED LATE LAST YEAR. THE TWO BILLS WILL EVENTUALLY NEED TO BECOME IDENTICAL AND PASS THROUGH THE

FULL HOUSE AND SENATE TO REACH THE GOVERNOR. HE HAS YET TO WEIGH IN ON WHETHER HE'D SIGN BUT HAS SAID IN THE PAST HE'S "OPPOSED TO TAKING DOWN STATUES."

02/18/2024 10PM

WEST PALM BEACH RESIDENTS GETTING ACCESS TO FREE DOSES OF PAXLOVID TODAY - A COVID-19 MEDICATION THAT NOW CAN COST NEARLY 4 THOUSAND DOLLARS. THIS AS THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SEES A SPIKE COVID-19 CASES. THE CENTERS FOR HEALTH PROMOTION HANDED OUT DOSES OF THE PAXLOVID TREATMENT AT NEW BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH NEAR TAMARIND AVENUE. FOR FREE. SO FAR IN 2024- THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH REPORTS ABOUT 100,000 CASES OF COVID-19 ACROSS THE STATE. AND ACCORDING TO PFIZER'S RECENT PRESS RELEASE - WITHOUT INSURANCE, PAXLOVID - THE ONLY CURRENT TREATMENT FOR COVID- COSTS 1,390 DOLLARS PER DOSE. IT'S A TREATMENT THE HEALTHCARE GROUP SAYS IS OFTEN HARDER TO ACCESS FOR LOWER INCOME RESIDENTS- AND SOME MINORITIES

02/29/2024 10PM

WE'RE WRAPPING BLACK HISTORY MONTH. WE'LL INTRODUCE YOU A JUPITER WOMAN- BRINGING NEW DREAMS OF EXPLORATION TO LIFE. HOW HER WORK- COULD HELP PAVE THE PATH- TO SEND ASTRONAUTS BACK TO THE MOON. BEHIND EVERY ROCKET LAUNCH THERE ARE EXCITED AND PROUD ENGINEERS... Caleb - "you can feel it all the way through your body and the pride that you have behind it, it never gets old." NICOLE CUMMINGS IS A DEPUTY PROGRAM MANAGER FOR AEROJET ROCKETDYNE AND L3 HARRIS TECHNOLOGIES COMPANY IN JUPITER FLORIDA. THE ROCKET ENGINE—NAMED RL 10—IS HER PROJECT TO RUN. Caleb "were here to help design it, build it, test it, deliver it, get it on the vehicle and fly it." CUMMINGS AND HER TEAM ARE BRINGING NEW DREAMS OF EXPLORATION TO LIFE. NICOLE CUMMINGS - "once we get into orbit our little RL 10 is that engine that's going to give it the final nudge to get into lunar orbit." THE ENGINE WILL SOMEDAY PROPEL ARTEMIS 2 TO THE MOON. THE FOUR ASTRONAUTS WILL INCLUDE THE FIRST WOMAN AND AFRICAN AMERICAN. IT WILL MARK THE FIRST CREWED MISSION AROUND THE MOON SINCE 1972. THEY WON'T LAND ON THE MOON BUT ARTEMIS TWO WILL PAVE THE WAY FOR THE ARTEMIS 3 CREW TO DO JUST THAT AT A LATER DATE. NICOLE CUMMINGS - "I never thought I would be working in a program that's servicing NASA and being on something so historic. I would have never seen this coming." REPORTER - "do you ever pinch yourself?" NICOLE CUMMINGS - "I do, haha all the time, at every rocket launch." REPORTER - "what were some of the barriers or challenges that you had to overcome as a woman of color going into this field?" NICOLE CUMMINGS - "myself, I always say that when I'm talking to girls, I say you know a lot of times our biggest barrier is yourself thinking that we don't belong there, thinking that we are going into a world that's not for us, and I had to get that out of my head to build the confidence." AND SHE CREDITS HER FAMILY AND FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY FOR PLAYING A BIG ROLE IN HER SUCCESS TODAY. NICOLE CUMMINGS - "FAU is part of my story. I stand with FAU in pride. that college of engineering prepared me." SHE ALSO SERVES ON THEIR BOARD. NICOLE CUMMINGS - "part of the board is letting the college know what we need in the industry." AN INDUSTRY SHE'S HOPING TO DIVERSIFY BY EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENGINEERS, SPEAKING TO GIRLS AND WOMEN AT EVENTS IN WELLINGTON WHERE SHE GREW UP. NICOLE CUMMINGS - "for the children who are seeing this, for the girls who are seeing this and for the African Americans that are seeing this, and they think this is not a place for them. that there is a place here."

03/19/2024 10PM

WHEN IT COMES TO HEALTH... WOMEN STILL DON'T RECEIVE EQUAL LEVELS OF FUNDING AND RESEARCH TO HELP PROMOTE NEW MEDICAL BREAKTHROUGHS AND IMPROVE THEIR WELLNESS. TO HELP ENSURE A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR ALL AND BRIDGE CRITICAL GAPS IN THE MEDICAL SYSTEM...THE WHITE HOUSE IS ENACTING A NEW EXECUTIVE ORDER. MARIA SHRIVER/FORMER CALIFORNIA FIRST LADY says: "Women make up two thirds of those with Alzheimer's, and no one knows why that is. We make up 80-percent of those with autoimmune diseases, the majority of those with M-S. No one knows why that is. Black and brown women are more likely to develop endometriosis and face pregnancy related complications." THE PRESIDENT ALSO ANNOUNCING 200-MILLION-DOLLARS IN INVESTMENTS FOR THE

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH... ALONG WITH MORE THAN 20-NEW ACTIONS AND COMMITMENTS BY FEDERAL AGENCIES TO PROMOTE WOMEN'S WELLNESS.

03/23/2024 10PM

THE 'GRANDMOTHER OF JUNETEENTH' HAS BEEN GIFTED A NEW HOME... ON THE EXACT SAME LOT HER FAMILY WAS DRIVEN OUT OF YEARS AGO BY AN ANGRY MOB. OPAL LEE IS A SCHOOL TEACHER, COUNSELOR AND ACTIVIST. SHE WAS ALSO A DRIVING FORCE FOR MAKING JUNE 19TH A NATIONAL HOLIDAY. HER PARENTS BOUGHT A HOME IN FORT WORTH, TEXAS OVER 80 YEARS AGO. A MOB THAT WAS ANGRY THAT A BLACK FAMILY HAD MOVED IN... SWARMED HER FAMILY'S HOME AND EVENTUALLY DROVE THEM OUT. LEE WAS EMOTIONAL AT A CEREMONY WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY- WHO IS GIFTING LEE THE LOT... AND A BRAND-NEW HOME. OPAL LEE/ GRANDMOTHER OF "JUNETEENTH"- "I tried so hard to put it out of my mind because my mom had this house fixed up so nice. Would you believe it was on the 19th of June that people started gathering. The paper says it was 500 of them and the police were there. My dad came home with a gun from work and the police told him, 'if you bust a cap, we'll let this mob have you'. LEE SAYS SHE IS EAGER TO MOVE INTO THE NEW HOUSE .

Education

FOX 29 Morning News

01/12/2024 7-9AM

L-G-B-T-Q PLUS ADVOCATES SAY THEY'RE HOPEFUL FOR CHANGE WITH A PAIR OF BILLS FILED FOR THIS LEGISLATIVE SESSION. THE DEMOCRAT-BACKED FREEDOM TO LEARN ACT WOULD ESSENTIALLY UNDO THE LAWS OF THE PREVIOUS YEARS. IT WOULD REQUIRE INSTRUCTION ON L-G-B-T-Q HISTORY IN FLORIDA... AND ESSENTIALLY REPEAL THE PARENTAL RIGHTS IN EDUCATION LAW WHICH MADE NATIONAL HEADLINES FOR REGULATING HOW SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY ARE DISCUSSED IN SCHOOLS.

01/25/2024 7-9AM

NEW DETAILS PARENTS OF COLLEGE STUDENTS WANT TO PAY ATTENTION TO. THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS PLANNING TO FIX AN ERROR IN ITS FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID, ALSO KNOWN AS FAFSA. THE ERROR DID NOT ADJUST TABLES FOR INFLATION. REPORTS SAY THE CHANGE WILL HAPPEN FOR INCOMING STUDENTS IN THE 2024 TO 2025 SCHOOL YEAR.

02/01/2024 7-9AM

IT'S A PLACE WHERE HUMANS, ANIMALS AND EDUCATION ALL COME TOGETHER -- TO SERVE A GREATER PURPOSE. THE VETERINARY ASSISTING PROGRAM AT SOUTHTECH ACADEMY IN BOYNTON BEACH IS TRULY ONE OF A KIND. IT'S THE ONLY PROGRAM OF ITS KIND IN PALM BEACH COUNTY ALLOWING GRADUATES TO EARN A CERTIFICATION AS A VET ASSISTANT. STUDENTS GET HANDS ON EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH ALL KINDS OF ANIMALS. TEACHER CAROLEE ELLISON IS A LONGTIME DOG TRAINER HERSELF. SHE NOW HELPS STUDENTS TRAIN DOGS TO BECOME SERVICE ANIMALS FOR VETERANS THROUGH "CAPTAIN'S CANINES FOR HEROES."

02/08/2024 7-9AM

INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE JUST GOT A BIG BOOST IN CASH. THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE AWARDED \$4-MILLION-DOLLARS FOR WORK-FORCE EDUCATION PROGRAMS. Gov. DeSantis: "I think this award makes a lot of sense. I think it's really going to help students be able to achieve really tangible marketable skills but also do it in an industry that's going to have an impact." THE MONEY WILL GO TOWARD WORK FORCE EDUCATION PROGRAMS. IT WILL BE USED SPECIFICALLY TO BUILD A NEW CENTER FOR BALLISTICS AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGY. DIAMOND DEFENSE SYSTEMS -- A COMPANY THAT ALREADY MAKES BULLETPROOF GLASS USED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT -- IS PARTNERING WITH THE COLLEGE FOR THIS PROGRAM... AND CONNECT STUDENTS WITH EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES. ITS PART OF A JOB GROWTH GRANT FUND- AND WILL HELP THE SCHOOL BUILD A NEW CENTER FOR BALLISTICS AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGY. STUDENTS WILL LEARN HOW TO CREATE PROTECTIVE GEAR THAT COULD ONE DAY BE USED IN SCHOOLS, CHURCHES, AND POLICE CARS. DIAMOND DEFENSE SYSTEMS- A BALLISTICS COMPANY BASED ON THE TREASURE COAST- IS PARTNERING WITH THE SCHOOL - TO HELP CONNECT STUDENTS TO JOB OPPORTUNITIES- AND VALIDATE THE PRODUCTS THEY MAKE AND TEST.

02/16/2024 7-9AM

FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH: DR. WALTER L. SMITH GREW UP IN TAMPA AND THEN LATER ON HE MOVED TO NEW YORK, BUT TAMPA WAS ALWAYS CONSIDERED HIS HOME." DR. WALTER L. SMITH WORKED WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ON FEDERAL SCHOOL DESEGREGATION PROGRAMS AND COMMITTED HIS LIFE TO MAKE EDUCATION MORE ACCESSIBLE. AND AS A YOUNG MAN, HE PERSUED THE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND ACTUALLY WORKED AT THE KENNEDY SPACE CENTER DURING THE EARLY DAYS WHEN KENNEDY WAS JUST BEGINNING TO HIRE BLACK PEOPLE TO WORK IN THAT INDUSTRY." DR. SMITH WAS TASKED WITH DEVELOPING EDUCATIONAL CURRICULUM FOR ENGINEERING ASSISTANTS ON THE SATURN V (FIVE) PROGRAM. DR. WALTER SMITH OPENED THE DOORS FOR MANY YOUNG BLACKS TO COME IN TO THAT FIELD AND TO DO WELL AND TO EXCEL AND HE REALLY, REALLY LEFT HIS MARK ON THE SCIENCE INDUSTRY, AS WELL AS IN EDUCATION." DR. SMITH WAS THE SEVENTH PRESIDENT OF FLORIDA A&M. DURING HIS TIME AS PRESIDENT, THE HISTORICALLY BLACK UNIVERSITY GREW FROM HAVING SEVEN - TO 11 SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES, WIDENING THE CHOICES FOR STUDENTS. DR. SMITH PASSED AWAY IN TAMPA IN 2021. HIS SUCCESS AND COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION IS WHY – HE'S NOT JUST BLACK HISTORY. HE'S FLORIDA HISTORY.

02/21/2024 7-9AM

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN HAS CANCELED ANOTHER \$1.2 BILLION DOLLARS OF STUDENT LOAN DEBT. THIS LATEST ROUND OF RELIEF IMPACTS NEARLY 153-THOUSAND BORROWERS WHO ARE ENROLLED IN A NEW REPAYMENT PLAN THE ADMINISTRATION LAUNCHED IN AUGUST. THE SAVING ON A VALUABLE EDUCATION PLAN, KNOWN AS SAVE, ERASES REMAINING FEDERAL STUDENT LOAN BALANCES FOR THOSE WHO ORIGINALLY BORROWED \$12-THOUSAND DOLLARS OR LESS AND HAVE MADE PAYMENTS FOR AT LEAST 10 YEARS. SINCE TAKING OFFICE, BIDEN HAS CANCELED NEARLY \$138 BILLION DOLLARS OF FEDERAL STUDENT LOAN DEBT FOR NEARLY FOUR MILLION BORROWERS.

03/02/2024 7-9AM

KEEPING YOUR KIDS SAFE AT SCHOOL IS THE NUMBER ONE PRIORITY FOR EDUCATORS... AND ALWAYS TOP OF MIND FOR PARENTS. NOW- PALM BEACH COUNTY SCHOOL LEADERS ARE REVISING SECURITY POLICIES TO FURTHER SOLIDIFY WHATS EXPECTED ON EVERY CAMPUS. FOX 29 EDUCATION REPORTER STEPHANIE SUSSKIND SHOWS YOU SOME OF WHATS INCLUDED. WITH THE ADDITION OF METAL DETECTORS MAKING THEIR WAY TO ALL HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUSES IN PALM BEACH COUNTY.. SCHOOL LEADERS ARE CREATING THE RULES FOR HOW THEY SHOULD BE OPERATING. WHAT TO DO IF THE METAL DETECTOR GOES OFF... AND HOW TO HANDLE WHAT MAY BE FOUND IS ALL INCLUDED IN THE SECURITY POLICY. Eric Jourgensen, teacher – "This week we've been completely on time all week, so it does become a new normal." TEACHER ERIC JOURGENSEN WORKS AT PALM BEACH CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL WHERE METAL DETECTORS WERE ADDED A FEW WEEKS AGO. Eric Jourgensen, teacher "I don't think there's any downside to having

them, there's always the inconvenience but we are inconvenienced in everyday life." HE ALSO SUPPPORTS ANOTHER PART OF THIS NEW SECURITY POLICY... MAKING SURE EVERY CLASSROOM HAS A HARD CORNER OR SAFE SPACE WHERE STUDENTS CAN'T BE SEEN THROUGH A WINDOW... IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY. Eric – "The good and the bad teachers will do anything for our kids." SCHOOL POLICE CHIEF SARAH MOONEY TELLS ME THIS IS ALREADY HAPPENING THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT... BUT HAVING IT WRITTEN DOWN IN POLCY MAKES IT MANDATORY. Chief Sarah Mooney, school police – "So that it's crystal clear what the expectations are." Erica Whitfield – "I don't love it, I don't think it's something anybody wants to do but it's the reality we live in." SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER ERICA WHITFIELD SAYS WHILE THIS IS ALL A SIGN OF THE TIMES... SHE'S IMPRESSED HOW TEACHERS HAVE GOTTEN CREATIVE. Erica Whitfield, school board member – "It's got to be done at an age-appropriate level so for smaller kids they make it a smaller name, one calls it the Tiger Den so the kids know if we are going to go through a test of that situation everyone knows where to go." THE CHIEF SAYS ALL OF THIS TOGETHER CREATES SAFER SCHOOLS. Sarah Mooney, school police chief – "We're going to continue to add layers one step at a time, there's not any one piece of it that's more important than the other, other than personnel." STEPHANIE SUSSKIND/REPORTER: THE SCHOOL BOARD WILL BE DISCUSSING THE NEW POLICY ON WEDNESDAY NEXT WEEK. WE'VE ALSO CONFIRMED AN ADDITIONAL FOUR SCHOOLS- SPANISH RIVER HIGH SCHOOL... ATLANTIC HIGH SCHOOL... SUNCOAST AND THE RIVIERA BEACH PREP ACADEMY WILL ALL ROLL OUT METAL DETECTORS NEXT WEEK.

03/04/2024 7-9AM

CHANGES TO CHILD LABOR LAWS ARE PART OF LEGISLATION BEING ENACTED IN STATES THAT INCLUDE FLORIDA, IOWA, OHIO AND MISSOURI TO NAME A FEW..."As wages have increased, employers are realizing, well, we don't want to raise wages to match what's required by a stronger labor market. And so instead, they're seeking to expand out to see young people who they can pay less and potentially exploit at lower wages." SOME OF THE PROPOSED AND ENACTED LEGISLATIVE CHANGES INCLUDE THE REMOVAL OF WORK PERMIT REQUIREMENTS FOR SOME AGE GROUPS AND THE REMOVAL OF LIMITATIONS ON SCHEDULING HOURS. PROPONENTS OF THE ROLLBACKS, SUCH AS THE FOUNDATION FOR GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY AND OPPORTUNITY SOLUTIONS PROJECT, ARGUE THAT THESE PIECES OF LEGISLATION ARE GEARED AT GIVING TEENS MORE VALUABLE WORK EXPERIENCE, ALLIEVIATEING LABOR SHORTAGES AND ALLOWING PARENTS TO MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT THEIR KIDS. "What we don't want to do is have young people sacrificing life and limb, sacrificing their education for these low wage, precarious and hazardous jobs at a young age." AS STATES TRY TO DETERMINE IF CHILD LABOR LAWS SHOULD BE ADJUSTED, MAST SAYS WE NEED TO PROCEED WITH CAUTION FOR THE SAKE OF MINORS ACROSS THE COUNTRY. MEG HILLING, SCRIPPS NEWS.

03/05/2024 7-9AM

WHILE MANY YOUNG KIDS ARE STILL TRYING TO CLAW BACK FROM SETBACKS TO THEIR READING PROFICIENCY, TRIGGERED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC... DATA FROM THE NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS REVEALS.....READING LEVELS OVER THE LAST TWO DECADES HAVE MOSTLY REMAINED FLAT. PIASTA says: "There's always room for improvement. We have most of the children not necessarily reading at levels of proficiency that we'd like to see." ACADEMIC EXPERTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY ARE TRYING TO IMPLEMENT DIFFERENT STRATEGIES TO COMBAT THE PROBLEM...WITH EDUCATION OFFICIALS IN GEORGIA FOR INSTANCE, LOOKING TO SEND LITERACY COACHES INTO LOW PERFORMING SCHOOLS. DENTY says: "We always say that universal screeners wave the red flag.... coaches can help by providing demonstration lessons, walking side by side with the teachers." BUT SHAYNE PIASTA, OF THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY, SAYS...WHEN IT COMES TO HELPING KIDS LEARN TO READ, PARENTS ARE USUALLY THEIR FIRST TEACHERS...ADDING, IT'S CRITICAL KIDS ARE SURROUNDED WITH A VARIETY OF LITERACY MATERIALS INSIDE THE HOME. PIASTA says: "Whether those are children's books, adult books, magazines, newspapers in the house, seeing your grocery list." TO HELP BOLSTER A CHILD'S READING LEVELS... PIASTA ALSO RECOMMENDS FOCUSING ON THESE SKILLS IN PARTICULAR. PIASTA says: "Being able to understand that print on the page is connected to sound." MEANWHILE...HAVING CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR KIDS CAN HELP EXPAND THEIR VOCABULARY. AND THAT CAN ALSO HELP STRENGTHEN THEIR READING ABILITIES. CONNOR HANSEN, FOX NEWS>>

03/22/2024 7-9AM

RIGHT NOW- INDIAN RIVER COUNTY HAS 3 MAGNET ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS AND ITS LOOKING TO CREATE A FOURTH IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE COUNTY TO MEET A NEED IN THE COMMUNITY AND IT COULD HAVE A VERY DIFFERENT STYLE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING. Gary Coleman, grandfather – “I think a lot of kids are struggling with basics, math, reading, writing, and they either don't graduate or they do and their skills are horrible.” GRANDFATHER GARY COLEMAN LIKES THE IDEA OF GOING BACK TO THE BASICS IN THE CLASSROOM. THE INDIAN RIVER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT IS LOOKING TO CONVERT ONE OF ITS CURRENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS INTO A MAGNET SCHOOL .. POTENTIALLY WITH A CLASSICAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM. Dr. David Moore: “We'll look at our campuses up north, we have a few that are under enrolled. The goal here is to provide choice to our community to maximize the opportunity our children have to participate in quality schools.” SUPERINTENDENT DR. DAVID MOORE SAYS THE CLASSICAL STYLE IS ONE OF THE FASTEST GROWING EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS... BUT NOT OFFERED IN TRADITIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOLS.

HE SAYS ITS NOT BASED ON POLITICS OR RELIGION... BUT DOES HAVE LESS FOCUS ON TECHNOLOGY- WHILE STILL ADHERING TO STATE STANDARDS. Dr. David Moore, Superintendent – “You go back and look at how we were educated back in the day, very routine systems, direct instruction, looking at classical novels throughout the day, classical literature, a lot of individual memorizations.” THE TRANSITION WOULDN'T HAPPEN OVERNIGHT. A PHASED APPROACH WOULD BEGIN WITH KINDERGARTEN AT THE SELECTED LOCATION IN THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR.

A SURVEY ON THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S WEBSITE IS GAUGING PARENT INTEREST. Dr. David Moore - “A magnet school doesn't have a boundary it serves, it services all of the community and transportation is limited to depot stops so there's not nearly as much transportation.” MOM JENNIFER PIPPIN SEES THE VALUE IN THE CLASSICAL STYLE OF EDUCATION...

AND TRYING TO BRING MORE STUDENTS BACK INTO THE DISTRICT. Jennifer Pippin – “Having more options for children and families- it may not be for all but it will be for some and fill those seats with that classical education model.”

Gary – “It's the old style. It worked for me, it worked for all of us and you, I'm sure. Nothing wrong with it!”

THAT SURVEY WILL BE OPEN UNTIL APRIL 22. THEN THE SCHOOL BOARD WILL DISCUSS HOW TO MOVE FORWARD AND WHAT EDUCATIONAL MODEL IS PREFERRED AT ITS JUNE MEETING.

FOX 29 News 6:30PM

01/17/2024 6:30PM

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR EXTRA HELP FOR YOUR STUDENT? DID YOU KNOW THE MANDEL PUBLIC LIBRARY IN WEST PALM BEACH OFFERS FREE HOMEWORK HELP FOR STUDENTS IN KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 12TH GRADE.

CERTIFIED TEACHERS WORK WITH THE STUDENTS AND HELP ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS THEY MAY HAVE WHILE DOING THEIR HOMEWORK. LIBRARY LEADERS SAY THE HELP IS ABOUT EMPOWERING EDUCATION. "As a parent myself, I know that sometimes you sit down with your child and you start working on homework and you realize this is going to be a really tough night... ..You don't have to pre-register, you don't even need a library card to come and visit the service...

...Your student can figure out what they need to work on and it makes a real difference," THE FREE ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE COMES WITH HEALTHY SNACKS. AND YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A WEST PALM BEACH RESIDENT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE TUTORING HELP. WE'VE PUT ALL THE INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE -- WFLX DOT COM

01/22/2024 6:30PM

A CONVERSATION ON SCHOOL SAFETY TODAY... IN A SOUTH FLORIDA COMMUNITY FOREVER CHANGED BY A CAMPUS ATTACK. TODAY U-S EDUCATION SECRETARY MIGUEL CARDONA MET WITH THE FAMILIES OF THE PARKLAND SHOOTING. IN ADDITION TO THE PRIVATE VISIT OF THE MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS BUILDING... THAT WAS THE SITE OF THE TRAGIC FEBRUARY 14, 2018 MASSACRE... CARDONA WAS A PART OF A ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION.

A KEY AREA OF FOCUS... JUST WHY THESE TRAGEDIES CONTINUE TO HAPPEN AT SCHOOLS NATIONWIDE.

CARDONA says: "To say that this morning was probably one of the most impactful experiences of my life is an understatement." U-S SECRETARY OF EDUCATION MIGUEL CARDONA REACTED TO TOURING THE CAMPUS AT MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL IN FLORIDA, WHERE A SHOOTER KILLED 17 PEOPLE BACK IN 20-18.

VICTIMS' PARENTS SAY ENOUGH IS ENOUGH. GUTTENBERG says: "This is the opportunity, from a federal standpoint, to finally start putting these pieces together and to drive the change that we need to stop the next one."
PARENTS OF SOME OF THE VICTIMS ARRANGED THE TOUR OF THE BUILDING THAT'S BEEN LEFT UNTOUCHED SINCE THE MASS SHOOTING. CARDONA SAW FIRST-HAND THE BLOOD-STAINED WALLS WITH BULLET HOLES AND SHATTERED GLASS.THE GOAL? TO MAKE LASTING POLICY CHANGES AND HOPEFULLY PREVENT FUTURE SCHOOL SHOOTINGS.
GUTTENBERG says: "We can't have true school safety and security from the threat of gun violence unless we deal with the reality that too many kids and others, who intend harm, are getting easy access to guns and ammunition."
GUN CONTROL CONTINUES TO BE A BIG ISSUE THIS ELECTION SEASON, WHILE GUNS RIGHTS GROUPS SAY THEY ARE PREPARED TO FIGHT FOR THE SECOND AMENDMENT. JOHNSTON says: "Americans are witnessing a spike in violent crime and they're also watching woke prosecutors fail to put those criminals behind bars, so, they're not feeling safe and therefore, they're going out and exercising their right to self-defense." THE SCHOOL BUILDING WHERE THE MASS SHOOTING HAPPENED IS SET TO BE DEMOLISHED SOMETIME THIS SUMMER. IN NEW YORK, NATE FOY, FOX NEWS.

01/23/2024 6:30PM

FIRST TONIGHT: FLORIDA EDUCATION LEADERS ARE TOUTING THE STATE'S HIGHEST HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE IN HISTORY. AND NEARLY ALL OF OUR AREA SCHOOL DISTRICTS SAW RATES EVEN HIGHER. WFLX EDUCATION REPORTER STEPHANIE SUSSKIND TAKES A LOOK AT THE WORK THAT GOES INTO GETTING STUDENTS ACROSS THE STAGE. IT'S THE PINNACLE OF THE EDUCATION EXPERIENCE- HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION. THIS YEAR MORE STUDENTS MADE IT ACROSS THE STAGE IN FLORIDA THAN EVER BEFORE. CHRISTINE SYLVAIN HELPS GET THEM THERE IN PALM BEACH COUNTY. Christine Sylvain, Path to College Executive Director: "It is absolutely critical for our students to have someone in their corner who is stepping forward and walking that path through high school and onto college with them."
SHE LEADS THE NON-PROFIT GROUP PATH TO COLLEGE... WORKING WITH STUDENTS FROM LOWER INCOME BACKGROUNDS TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL. Christine: "I always say our schools do as much as they can during the hours of the school day and that some of our kids need extra support after the schools close so at Path to College we meet with students after school to do that mentoring, to do that tutoring, the career exploration, to match them to internships, to help them apply to college, to scholarships." MOST OF OUR AREA EXCEEDED THE STATE'S 88% GRADUATION RATE. PALM BEACH COUNTY CAME IN WITH A 90.5%, 90.3% IN MARTIN COUNTY... SLIGHTLY HIGHER AT 91.5 % IN ST LUCIE... 71.7% IN OKEECHOBEE AND THE HIGHEST GRADUATION RATE IN OUR AREA... INDIAN RIVER COUNTY AT 95.6%. Dr. David Moore, IRC: "Graduation rate is the number one indicator of how successful a school system is." INDIAN RIVER COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT DR. DAVID MOORE SAYS COLLABORATION AND HARD WORK HELPED THE DISTRICT ACHIEVE THE THIRD HIGHEST GRADUATION RATE IN THE STATE THIS YEAR. HE SAYS THEY START TRACKING GRADUATION PROGRESS DURING A STUDENT'S FRESHMAN YEAR... PROVIDING INTERVENTION AND SUPPORT WHERE NEEDED. Dr. David Moore: "You don't improve a graduation rate the last year a student is in school, you improve it by making sure support is being provided to students as they navigate that four year experience." HE ALSO CREDITS STUDENT INVOLVEMENT IN SPORTS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES FOR KEEPING KIDS ENGAGED AND ON TRACK IN THE CLASSROOM. STEPHANIE SUSSKIND WFLX FOX 29

02/13/2024 6:30PM

SCHOOL SAFETY IS ONE OF THE ISSUES WE HEAR ABOUT ALL THE TIME---IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT TO ALL OF US PARENTS.IN RECENT WEEKS - THE CONVERSATION ABOUT SAFETY FOCUSED ON METAL DETECTORS SPECIFICALLY. PALM BEACH COUNTY SCHOOLS ARE PREPARING TO ROLL OUT THE SECURITY DEVICES AT 4 MORE HIGH SCHOOLS. THAT INCLUDES DWYER HIGH SCHOOL.... A CAMPUS WITH TWO GUN INCIDENTS IN RECENT WEEKS. EDUCATION REPORTER STEPHANIE SUSSKIND SPOKE WITH STUDENTS AT BOYNTON BEACH COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL EARLIER THIS MONTH— AS THEY PASSED THROUGH METAL DETECTORS FOR THE FIRST TIME ON THEIR WAY TO CLASS. ((STEPHANIA EMMANUEL//STUDENT)) "For what's been going around in other states and stuff, I feel like it makes the school environment safer." ((KRISTY MICHEL//STUDENT)) "The first day, it was easy. It was fast and it wasn't a big deal." SINCE APPROVING A CONTRACT LAST YEAR - UPWARDS OF 2 MILLION DOLLARS - PALM BEACH COUNTY SCHOOLS HAS NOW OUTFITTED 12 OF ITS 24 HIGH SCHOOLS WITH THESE PORTABLE METAL DETECTORS. ((KEN TRUMP//PRESIDENT, NATIONAL SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY SERVICES)) "Our concern is a lot of the shiny objects, the bells and whistles,

the visible things create security theater." DOCTOR KEN TRUMP — "No relation to the former president."...IS A SCHOOL SAFETY CONSULTANT. HE'S SPENT 30 YEARS IN K-12 SCHOOLS AND HAS PROVIDED EXPERT TESTIMONY IN SCHOOL SHOOTING CASES — INCLUDING PARKLAND. I ASKED HIM HIS THOUGHTS ON METAL DETECTORS...(TRUMP) "they make people feel safer, but they may not actually make people safer." ((DONALD MAYE//IPVM)) "Is there any evidence beyond the anecdotal at this point in time, that shows the efficacy of this technology in schools? Yeah, there is." DONALD MAYE IS THE HEAD OF OPERATIONS FOR A SECURITY TECH RESEARCH FIRM CALLED IPVM. HE POINTS TO A 2022 STUDY FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI, OF A BRAND OF METAL DETECTOR THAT'S USED BY SCHOOL DISTRICTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY — BUT NOT PALM BEACH. THE DETECTORS GOT HIGH MARKS IN ALL OF THE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS SHOWN IN THE STUDY — AN ALMOST PERFECT 2.84 OUT OF 3 POINTS. BUT AS MAYE FOUND THROUGH PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS... THERE'S A LOT THAT WASN'T SHOWN. LIKE THE RECORDS REVEALING THE COMPANY THAT MAKES THE METAL DETECTORS HELPED FUND THE STUDY AND REVISE THE FINAL REPORT. MAYE SHARED THOSE RECORDS — INCLUDING WHAT GOT CUT FROM THE REPORT. (MAYE) "Some of these systems routinely miss knives and small weapons." THE GOOD NEWS: MAYE SAYS THERE ARE SETTINGS TO MAKE METAL DETECTORS MORE SENSITIVE AND LESS LIKELY TO MISS THINGS. BUT THAT CAN COME AT A COST TO CONVENIENCE. (MAYE) "And what that means is, is that common objects that students will be carrying into a school like Chromebooks, umbrellas, water bottles, even three ring binders may set the alarm off on the system" ((CHIEF SARAH MOONEY//PALM BEACH SCHOOLS POLICE DEPT.)) "I think that we've— we've kind of hit that that sweet spot on the settings for the equipment. So that's working very well." PALM BEACH SCHOOLS POLICE CHIEF SARAH MOONEY SAYS SHE'S AWARE OF THE SKEPTICISM. (MOONEY) "If we were to say that the metal detectors was the only thing that we're doing on the campus, yeah, I would say that that's not — that's not a good plan" AND TRUMP AGREES. AS OTHER SCHOOL DISTRICTS - LIKE BROWARD COUNTY - LOOK TO FOLLOW PALM BEACH'S EXAMPLE... HE SAYS A SUCCESSFUL METAL DETECTOR PROGRAM GOES BEYOND THE EQUIPMENT. (TRUMP) "The number one way we find out about weapons plots and kids who are going to cause harm to themselves, and others is when a kid comes forward and tells an adult that they trust." AND THE METAL DETECTORS — MOONEY SAYS — ARE HELPING TO BUILD THAT TRUST. (MOONEY) "You get little stories and little pieces of information from the students, and you get special interactions with them as a result of this. So, it's kind of -it's kind of neat to see that even this early on in the program."

02/29/2024 6:30PM

"To realize that I left here in 1979 on the Amtrack station, Hollani, (Hollani Davise Reporter/Anchor) I went sight unseen." DARRELL K WILLIAMS HAS COME HOME OFTEN OVER THE PAST 40 PLUS YEARS - "an amazing, amazing feeling." BUT HE HASN'T EXPERIENCED A HOMECOMING LIKE THIS. "Now to come back to WPB as the president of the university that this community sent me off - wow." WILLIAMS GREW UP IN PLEASANT CITY - THE OLDEST AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN WEST PALM BEACH. ONE OF EIGHT - HIS MOTHER AND HIS CHURCH - MOLDED HIS FAITH. HIS SCHOOLS - "many" BECAUSE OF DESEGREGATION - TAUGHT HIM TO ADAPT QUICKLY. HE EXCELLED ON THE DEBATE TEAM AT TWIN LAKES NOW PALM BEACH LAKES HIGH SCHOOL - AND EQUALLY FOUND HIS FOOTING AT GAINES PARK. "I think about all of the basketball games that we played there. All of the friendships that we developed. The competition that was second to none." IT'S THAT COMPETITION THAT HAS HELPED THIS RETIRED U.S. ARMY THREE-STAR GENERAL CATAPULT HAMPTON A PRESTIGIOUS HISTORICALLY BLACK UNIVERSITY IN VIRGINIA - TO A NEW LEVEL - SINCE HIS TAKE OVER ALMOST TWO YEARS AGO. "We were study buddies and partners..." WILLIAMS AND COLLEGE SWEETHEART - ALSO AN HU ALUM RECENTLY CAME TO SOUTH FLORIDA TO AWARD A 4-YEAR FULL RIDE SCHOLARSHIP. "to go - be great."((Hollani Davis/Reporter)) "When you heard your name, what was going through your mind?" Danae Scott/Local Student "I was surprised to hear my name because I didn't actually expect to get the scholarship if you want talented kids at your school to come around -don't just send somebody, but actually to be there himself, that meant a lot." NOW THE CONDUCTOR AT THE HELM OF AN HBCU, WILLIAMS SAYS HE WILL PULL OUT ALL THE STOPS TO MAKE SURE STUDENTS IN HIS HOMETOWN HAVE THE SAME EXPERIENCES HE LEFT FOR "Our Motto is the standard of excellence an education for life, and I can't think of a better place to go that for one opens the door of opportunity and one that teaches you the values and the relationships that will be with you for the rest of your life." Hollani Davis - FOX 29 NEWS WE GOT YOU COVERED.

03/06/2024 6:30PM

MORE AMERICANS ARE LOSING CONFIDENCE IN A FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE EDUCATION. BUT NEW DATA SHOWS THAT GOING TO COLLEGE -- CAN BE A MUCH MORE PROFITABLE PATH. THE DATA COMES FROM THE FEDERAL RESERVE. AND SHOWS THE WAGE GAP BETWEEN RECENT COLLEGE AND HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES. THE DATA SHOWS THAT GAP GREW EVEN WIDER LAST YEAR. HERE ARE SOME OF THE NUMBERS. LOOKING AT EMPLOYEES AGES 22 TO 27: COLLEGE GRADS WORKING FULL TIME, EARNED AN AVERAGE OF 24-THOUSAND DOLLARS MORE THAN THOSE WITH ONLY A HIGH SCHOOL DEGREE. COLLEGE GRADS ARE MORE LIKELY TO SEE THEIR SALARY DOUBLE OVER THEIR LIFETIME. AND ARE MORE LIKELY TO EARN BENEFITS LIKE PAID SICK TIME, HEALTH INSURANCE OR REMOTE WORK OPPORTUNITIES.

03/07/2024 6:30PM

IT'S AN IDEA PITTING TEEN WORKERS LIKE LOGAN SCHULENBERGER... FRUSTRATED OVER CURRENT LABOR RESTRICTIONS... (Logan Schulenberg, 16-years-old) - "It's up to the kid to know their limitations. I say kid, but 16/17yo— young adult. You're one year away from 18. A year doesn't make a difference." ...AGAINST PARENTS AND TEACHERS LIKE EMILY GRIEST... WORRIED JOBS WILL COME BEFORE EDUCATION.(Emily Griest, Hillsborough County Teacher) -"I would like to see our, at least, current labor laws upheld and not loosened or slackened in any way. I believe that would hurt my students." THE REVISION GOP LAWMAKERS WANT TO SEND TO GOV. RON DESANTIS... IS WAY NARROWER THAN THE FIRST VERSION... BUT IT'S STILL COOKING UP CONTROVERSY IN THE CAPITOL... IF IT BECOMES LAW...16 AND 17-YEAR-OLDS COULD WORK MORE THAN 30 HOURS A WEEK WITH SCHOOL IN SESSION... AS LONG AS A GUARDIAN OR SUPERINTENDENT SIGNS OFF. HOMESCHOOLERS GETTING FURTHER EXEMPTIONS. START AND STOP TIMES NO LONGER CHANGE... AND NEITHER DO PROTECTIONS FOR KIDS 15 AND YOUNGER. (Sen. Danny Burgess, (R) Zephyrhills) - "It's a great hybrid of everybody's input and it's a measured change. I think it's really responsible." SEN. DANNY BURGESS IS SPONSORING THE CHANGES... CONSIDERING THEM FLEX FOR FAMILIES THAT WANT THEM, AND A WAY TO PLUG LABOR SHORTAGES. THAT IS AS THE SENATE PRESIDENT, A ONE-TIME OPPONENT, THINKS THE MORE MODERATE BILL WILL GET TO THE GOVERNOR. (Sen. Kathleen Passidomo, (R) FL Senate President) - "This is the beauty of the process. It went back and forth and amended. The House and the Senate talked; I think we're in a good place." IT STILL HAS OPPONENTS. DEMOCRATS LIKE SEN. LORI BERMAN QUESTION THE NEED. (Sen. Lori Berman, (D) Boynton Beach) - "There's no reason that we need this legislation. We have really good laws right now governing children in the labor force. It's very strange to me that we're doing this legislation when it's not necessary right now." EVEN WITHOUT DEMOCRATS, REPUBLICANS HAVE THE VOTES NEEDED TO GET THIS BILL TO THE GOVERNOR. IF HE SIGNS, THE CHANGES WILL BECOME LAW IN JULY OF THIS YEAR.

FOX 29 10 O'Clock News

01/14/2024 10PM

THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION -- ANNOUNCING A NEW STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS PLAN. THE INITIATIVE IS SET TO LAUNCH IN FEBRUARY... PROVIDING DEBT RELIEF FOR BORROWERS WHO MADE 10 YEARS OF MONTHLY PAYMENTS AND HAVE AN ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL BALANCE OF 12-THOUSAND DOLLARS OR LESS. NO ACTION IS NEEDED... THE RELIEF WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY APPLIED TO BORROWER'S ACCOUNTS. ONLY PEOPLE WHO ARE ENROLLED IN THE FEDERAL "SAVING ON A VALUABLE EDUCATION" PLAN ARE ELIGIBLE.

01/16/2024 10PM

Megan: "I was a high school English teacher for over 13 years, and I loved my job"

Colleen – on zoom: "I didn't really want to leave teaching, but it was affecting my mental and physical health."

Shawna: "You just start to feel like you're walking on eggshells, and it shouldn't feel like that."

RECENT FLORIDA TEACHERS-- OPEN AND HONEST ABOUT WHAT DROVE THEM OUT OF THE CLASSROOM

Megan: "I can't say that salary wasn't a considerable factor for a lot of my friends and myself who were looking elsewhere." MEGAN YOUNG JUST LEFT HER JOB AS A HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH TEACHER IN ST. AUGUSTINE— CALLING IT QUILTS— IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SCHOOL YEAR—Megan: "I was mentoring teachers in my profession who were making the same amount of money as me and I had 14 years' experience and a master's degree."

Colleen: "I'm gonna cry, I can't even talk about ...um" FOR COLLEEN PETERSEN EMOTIONS ARE STILL HIGH AFTER 32 YEARS TEACHING IN ST. LUCIE COUNTY ENDED WHEN POLITICS ULTIMATELY PUSHED HER AWAY THIS SUMMER.

Colleen: "When I got that email saying you have to pack up your library and you couldn't put it out for the beginning of the school year until it was approved. I was like, so now my books are all sitting in a warehouse in Port St. Lucie not being used by kids." AND FOR SHAWNA BERGER IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY— AFTER 17 YEARS IN... CALL IT A LITTLE BIT OF EVERYTHING THAT FINALLY FORCED HER OUT. Shawna: "Especially in Florida, and around the time of the pandemic, there was a lot of political contention surrounding public education. Whether we, as teachers wanted to be involved in it or not...and then the teaching salaries not matching the rising cost of living in Florida...all of these factors just contributed to me thinking, I'd like to see what else is out there for me." AS FLORIDA CONTINUES STRUGGLING TO RECRUIT NEW TEACHERS— *THEY ARE AMONG THE THOUSANDS OF EXISTING ONES— STILL LEAVING.

THIS STATE DATA WE RECENTLY OBTAINED THROUGH A PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST SHOWS LAST YEAR JUST OVER 18,000 PUBLICLY EMPLOYED TEACHERS, OR JUST UNDER 10% OF THE STATE'S TOTAL, LEFT THEIR JOBS— REPRESENTING LESS THAN A HALF A PERCENT DECREASE FROM A YEAR EARLIER WHEN PANDEMIC STRESSES AND POLITICALLY MOTIVATED POLICIES WERE WIDELY BLAMED FOR A RECORD-BREAKING TEACHER EXODUS IN THE STATE.

Andrew Spar: -"It's still a really large number, right?" ANDREW SPAR LEADS THE STATE'S LARGEST TEACHERS UNION— WE SHOWED HIM THE DATA WHICH ALSO REVEALS. IN BROAD TERMS, THE REASON BEHIND TEACHER EXITS- #1- "PERSONAL" Andrew Spar: "I would bet on that many of those, it's because of financial reasons, is because they can't do their jobs anymore. It's because of the increased stress and anxiety that teachers are feeling in the classroom right now." Phillip: "There's just a lot of a lot of state meddling in local affairs." HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH TEACHER PHILLIP BELCASTRO, WHO'S STILL TEACHING IN ST. PETERSBURG, DOESN'T DISAGREE. Phillip: "Why wouldn't you just go where they're gonna pay you more your money is gonna go further." WHICH IS WHY THIS YEAR, HE SAYS, IS LIKELY HIS LAST TEACHING IN FLORIDA-- AND PREDICTS HE'S FAR FROM BEING ALONE. Phillip: "Why would you subject yourself to the pay to the overreach to the working off the clock to all you know this that and the other thing, it's pretty wild. So, I don't think we've seen the worst of it yet." MOST DISTRICTS AROUND THE STATE LAST YEAR ALSO EXPERIENCED A SLIGHT DROP IN TEACHERS LEAVING— BUT NOT ENOUGH TO MAKE MUCH OF A DENT IN OVERALL NUMBERS AND CERTAINLY NOT CLOSE TO EASING THOSE VACANCY RATES WHICH REMAIN A HUGE PROBLEM AND COULD GET WORSE. THE STATE NOW PROJECTING NEXT YEAR TEACHER VACANCIES COULD SURPASS 10- THOUSAND.

01/17/2024 10PM

RIGHT NOW, I'M AT PALM BEACH STATE COLLEGE WHERE STUDENTS I SPOKE WITH SAY THEY'RE DISAPPOINTED... ESPECIALLY WITH HOW DIVERSE THIS CAMPUS IS BUT OTHERS SAY REMOVING FUNDING DEI... IS THE RIGHT MOVE. NO MORE STATE OR FEDERAL FUNDING FOR DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION EFFORTS IN FLORIDA STATE COLLEGES "All that diversity equity and inclusion programs do is to ensure that the playing field is level." A MOVE BY THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION THAT DAVID WIGGINS WITH THE SOUTH PALM BEACH COUNTY BRANCH OF THE NAACP SAYS IS AN ASSAULT ON AMERICAN VALUES "We have to out organize individuals who seek to strip us of our democratic values and our democratic identities." THE NEW REGULATIONS ARE FOR ALL 28 STATE COLLEGES IN FLORIDA INCLUDING PALM BEACH STATE COLLEGE, AND INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE.ACCORDING TO FLORIDA VIRTUAL CAMPUS THE STUDENT BODY AT PALM BEACH STATE COLLEGE IS MOSTLY HISPANIC.... AT 32.9 PERCENT, FOLLOWED BY 28.9 BEING WHITE AND 28% BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN. AT INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE MOSTLY WHITE...AT 65.9%, FOLLOWED BY 72.% HISPANIC OR LATINO... THEN 11.3% BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN. "Are you opposed to DEI in general or just funding for DEI programs?" "Well, I'm opposed to in general which is going to lead to funding." THOMAS KENNY WITH MOMS FOR LIBERTY SAYS DEI... IS DISCRIMINATORY AGAINST PEOPLE WHO AREN'T UNDER THE UMBRELLA. "Do you feel like this will be beneficial, negatively impacting them how do you feel?"

"I think it will be beneficial in the long run I think it will be beneficial since it starts." KENNY SAYS HE'D RATHER SEE MONEY GO BACK TO IMPROVING CAMPUSES, TECHNOLOGY AND CLASSROOMS. AMONG THE CHANGES ARE ALSO THE PRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLOGY COURSES THAT WILL BE REPLACED WITH A COURSE IN AMERICAN HISTORY. I DID REACH OUT TO INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE AND PALM BEACH STATE COLLEGE FOR COMMENT BUT DIDN'T HEAR BACK IN TIME FOR BROADCAST. IN LAKE WORTH, JOEL LOPEZ FOX 29

01/17/2024 6:30PM

A NEW MOVE TODAY - IN TALLAHASSEE - LOOKING TO IMPACT COLLEGE CAMPUSES ACROSS OUR STATE. TODAY - THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION PASSED A RULE PERMANENTLY PROHIBITING DIVERSITY - EQUITY AND INCLUSION PROGRAMS IN THE FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM. THE MOVE IMPACTS 28 STATE COLLEGE CAMPUSES. THE ISSUE HAS BEEN A HOT BUTTON FOR GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS. YOU MAY RECALL LAST MAY THE GOVERNOR SIGNED A BILL BANNING STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES FROM SPENDING MONEY ON THE PROGRAMS.

01/18/2024 10PM

A MOMENT OF CELEBRATION TODAY THAT MANY IN THE WEST PALM BEACH AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY NEVER THOUGHT WOULD COME. THE OLD ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL PROPERTY ON TAMARIND AVENUE IS READY FOR ITS LONG-AWAITED REVIVAL. FOX 29'S EDUCATION REPORTER STEPHANIE SUSSKIND SHOWS YOU WHAT IT WILL BECOME... AND WHY IT MEANS SO MUCH TO THOSE WHO WENT TO SCHOOL THERE. Reporter: "This property has been vacant for more than 10 years and you can tell it's not in good shape... there's a chair here that doesn't even have a seat. But now after years of hard work, it's finally ready for demolition." (sounds of singing): "May God protect our high school and may we ever stand..." THESE VOICES... STRONGER TOGETHER... ECHO THROUGH THE AIR WHERE THESE NOW GRANDPARENTS ONCE SPENT THEIR HIGH SCHOOL DAYS. Andrew Randolph, alumni: "From elementary school I couldn't wait to get to this school here." Carolyn Kay Taylor, alumni: "We walked to school every day and walked home every day and when it was raining, we would pay five cents to catch the city bus." ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL WAS AN ALL-BLACK SCHOOL DURING THE TIME OF SEGREGATION... BEFORE IT SHUT ITS DOORS. Debra Robinson, former school board member: "It closed primarily due to desegregation as what happened across the nation during desegregation the black high schools were closed. Some turned into junior highs, some turned into other things, and this turned into other things." BUT ONE THING THAT NEVER LEFT... WAS THE DESIRE TO SEE THE CAMPUS PRESERVED... AND RESTORED. AND MOST OF ALL THE PRIDE - FROM THOSE WHO WALKED THE HALLS. (sounds of graduation years) AND NOW A NEW MILESTONE. (sounds of breaking ground) BREAKING GROUND ON WHAT WILL BE THE NEW ROOSEVELT FULL-SERVICE CENTER... THAT WILL FEATURE A MULTI-PURPOSE COMMUNITY CENTER... ADULT EDUCATION CLASSROOM SPACE AND MORE. FORMER SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER DR. DEBRA ROBINSON HELPED LEAD THE CHARGE. Dr. Robinson: "It was part of my mission to try to bring that pride back to this campus, so hopefully we'll get there." Carolyn Kay Taylor, alumni: "Today means a whole lot to me, we have been working so hard to try to get this done." AND IT HASN'T BEEN EASY. 10 MILLION DOLLARS THE SCHOOL DISTRICT SET ASIDE YEARS AGO WASN'T ENOUGH... NOW THE PRICE TAG HAS GROWN... BUT SO HAS THE COMMITMENT. \$51 MILLION DOLLARS FOR PHASE ONE... AND A LONG TALKED ABOUT PHASE TWO. Dr. Robinson: "It will include a building for a black history museum and that part brings me joy." JOY THAT WILL FLOW THROUGH THIS CAMPUS ONCE AGAIN. Andrew: "This is a home. For many, many years, for many, many people. (singing): "Dear Roosevelt High, we love thee." Reporter: Phase one is expected to be completed in the fall of 2025 and then it's on to phase 2. In West Palm Beach, Stephanie Susskind FOX 29 NEWS.

02/01/2024 10PM

SEN JOHN ERNST (R) Iowa says: "Instead of helping families know the true cost of their college, the Department of Education wasted time on a lot of socialist schemes and taxpayer funded handouts." THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SAYS IT FIXED AN ERROR WITH THE ALL-IMPORTANT FAFSA FORM FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS, BUT, THE NEW SHORTER FORM AND THE FIX, WHICH ADJUSTED FOR INFLATION, WILL NOW DELAY WHEN STUDENTS ARE ABLE TO SEE THEIR FINANCIAL AID PACKAGES. THAT'S BECAUSE DATA FROM THE FORM WON'T BE GIVEN TO COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

UNTIL MARCH OR LATER. SEN BILL CASSIDY (R) Louisiana says: "It hurts the students, who are already stressed with making one of the largest financial decisions of their life." THESE DELAYS DON'T JUST HURT STUDENTS. SEN. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO (R) West Virginia says: "There's ramifications for the institutions as well because if their enrollments down in year one, their enrollments gonna be down in year four." DEMOCRATS ARE EVEN ADMITTING THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN PROBLEMS. HOUSE MINORITY LEADER HAKEEM JEFFRIES (D) New York says: "We should take a look. Any problems that occurred that create challenges.... are resolved." SOME REPUBLICANS THINK THE DEPARTMENT DIDN'T HAVE IT'S PRIORITIES IN ORDER, WASTING TIME ON STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS. CASSIDY says: "It's kind of like, 'Oh. I'm sorry. Poor pitiful us. We spent all our money doing things that we weren't mandated to do and now we don't have money to help you.' That is an indictment of the Biden administration and to this secretary." CAPITO says: "And now, they've got mud on their face and they're trying to make excuses." SENATOR BILL CASSIDY'S OFFICE IS LAUNCHING A HOTLINE FOR STUDENTS, GUIDANCE COUNSELORS AND FINANCIAL AID ADMINISTRATORS TO REPORT ISSUES WITH THE FAFSA PROCESS. IN WASHINGTON, GRIFF JENKINS, FOX NEWS.

02/07/2024 10PM

SOME SEE IT AS A THREAT... OTHERS SEE IT AS AN OPPORTUNITY. WE'RE TALKING ABOUT ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE. WHILE IT'S FUTURE IS UNKNOWN... ONE PALM BEACH COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL IS TAKING THE LEAD IN EDUCATING STUDENTS HOW TO USE IT. EDUCATION REPORTER STEPHANIE SUSSKIND TAKES YOU INSIDE THE DISTRICT'S FIRST AND ONLY ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE CLASS. STEPHANIE: YOU WON'T SEE ROBOTS WALKING THE SCHOOL HALLWAYS ANY TIME SOON BUT STUDENTS HERE AT PALM BEACH GARDENS HIGH SCHOOL ARE THE FIRST IN THE DISTRICT TO LEARN HOW ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE CAN INFLUENCE THEIR FUTURE. "I call a restaurant; a robot asks me how many people. what time do you want to come?" TODAY'S LESSON IN ANASTASSIA GRITSENKO'S ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE CLASS- CREATE A CONVERSATION BETWEEN A CUSTOMER AND A RESTAURANT ROBOT. "If it is a robot, you cannot make any assumptions." IN THIS FIRST AND ONLY CLASS OF ITS KIND IN PALM BEACH COUNTY... STUDENTS LEARN HOW TO IDENTIFY ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AROUND THEM AND MOST IMPORTANTLY... HOW TO USE IT PROPERLY. Dahysha Sainvilus, student – "It's really cool to experience classes like this, it's really interesting." Anastassia Gritsenko, teacher – "Some people are scared of artificial intelligence, some people embrace but the thing is- it is just a tool. It is like a hammer, and we need to learn to use it and what to do with it." GRITSENKO LEAD THE CHARGE TO BRING THE COURSE TO PALM BEACH GARDENS... GOING THROUGH TRAINING OVER THE SUMMER. Anastassia Gritsenko, teacher – "I'm like oh my God this is so cool, you have no idea how cool this curriculum was." PRINCIPAL JAY BLAVATT SAYS HER PASSION MATCHED THE STUDENTS' DESIRE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS SOMEWHAT UNCHARTED TERRITORY. Jay Blavatt, principal - "What we're finding is we've got to find ways to keep students eager and interested and she saw it." "What else can a robot ask?" Gabe Sanchez-Lopez - "We learn about machine learning, we learn about anomaly detection, computer vision, there's a bunch of stuff." STUDENTS LIKE GABE SANCHEZ-LOPEZ ARE SEEING HOW ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE CAN BE A PART OF THEIR CAREERS SOMEDAY. Gabe Sanchez-Lopez, student – "I want to become a software engineer in the future so this could help me in the future." LOOKING TO THE FUTURE... IS ONE OF THE THINGS GRITSENKO ENJOYS MOST ABOUT BEING IN THIS CLASSROOM. Anastassia Gritsenko, teacher – "This is what I like about teaching is we have to grow up and educate ourselves all the time otherwise it is not interesting for them or for us." Gabe – "I feel really special being one of the few in this class." Stephanie – "While it is just one course right now, the school is hoping to expand the program next year."

02/09/2024 10PM

TODAY'S INCIDENT IS THE SECOND TIME IN LESS THAN A MONTH WHERE A STUDENT WAS FOUND WITH A GUN ON CAMPUS AT WILLIAM DWYER HIGH SCHOOL IN PALM BEACH GARDENS. I SPOKE TO PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN WHO SAY THEY DON'T WANT TO SEND THEIR CHILD SOMEWHERE WHERE THIS IS HAPPENING REPEATEDLY. HANNAH O'HAIR... Hannah O'Hair - Abacoa Resident "I have three children. My oldest is 12, my middle is 9, and my youngest is about to turn 5." IS LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE OF HER CHILDREN'S EDUCATION... Hannah O'Hair - Abacoa Resident "I'm trying to figure out where we want to send her for high school. We are slotted for Dwyer." SHE JUST LEARNED THAT THERE'S BEEN TWO INCIDENTS LESS THAN A MONTH A PART AT DWYER HIGH

SCHOOL WHERE A STUDENT WAS FOUND WITH A GUN... Hannah O'Hair - Abacoa Mother "Finding out that that's what's happening within the school is even more terrifying. I want my kids to go to school in a safe environment."

THE FIRST HAPPENED JANUARY 17TH, THE SECOND HAPPENED ON FRIDAY. IN A MESSAGE TO PARENTS AND STAFF, THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PALM BEACH COUNTY SAID, SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICE AND THE PALM BEACH GARDENS POLICE DEPARTMENT SAFELY CONFISCATED THE FIREARM FROM THE STUDENT. THE FIREARM WAS NOT USED THREATENINGLY AND NO ONE WAS HURT -- BUT THAT'S NOT ENOUGH TO EASE PARENTS CONCERNS... Nick Beck - Abacoa Father "It's scary because you know you want safety in the schools you shouldn't have to worry about that at all." Hannah O'Hair - Abacoa Mother "Children should not have guns in their hands." AUTHORITIES SAY THE STUDENT WAS ARRESTED BUT THE NAME OF THE ACCUSED WAS NOT RELEASED. WE'RE TOLD THAT STUDENT WILL FACE BOTH CRIMINAL AND DISCIPLINARY CHARGES. DWYER DOES NOT HAVE METAL DETECTORS. BUT EIGHT OTHER HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUSES IN THE DISTRICT DO. THE DISTRICT POLICE CHIEF SAYS DWYER WILL GET THEM IN THE FUTURE. Nick Beck - Abacoa Resident "Hopefully by the time our son is in school it will be under control. It's gotta be a priority, it's gotta be like urgent." WE'VE REACHED OUT TO THE PALM BEACH GARDENS POLICE DEPARTMENT THIS EVENING TO GET DETAILS ON HOW THE GUN WAS FOUND. WE'RE STILL WAITING TO HEAR BACK. IN ABACOA, CASSANDRA GARCIA, FOX 29 WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED.

02/29/2024 10PM

THE MARTIN COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD IS MOVING FORWARD WITH OPENING ALL OF ITS SCHOOLS TO WHATS CALLED THE CONROLLED OPEN ENROLLMENT PROCESS. IT'S AN ISSUE IMPORTANT TO SO MANY OF YOU...BECAUSE WHERE YOUR CHILD GOES TO SCHOOL CAN REALLY SHAPE THEIR FUTURE. EDUCATION REPORTER STEPHANIE SUSSKIND WITH MORE ON HOW THE PROCESS WORKS. THERE'S CLOSE TO 17 THOUSAND STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE MARTIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT AND LAST YEAR, ABOUT 200 TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THAT CONTROLLED OPEN ENROLLMENT PROCESS. NOW THE SCHOOL DISTRICT IS TRYING TO GET MORE PEOPLE INVOLVED TO FILL OPEN SEATS. TEACHER JEANNINE RAMOS LOVES SHARING HER PASSION FOR NURSING WITH HER STUDENTS AT SOUTH FORK HIGH SCHOOL. Jeannine Ramos, medical academy teacher – "Our students don't miss our classes, they love it." AS PART OF THE MEDICAL ACADEMY, THEY'RE LEARNING EVERYTHING FROM PATIENT CARE TO PERFORMING PROCEDURES, SOMETIMES ON MANNAQUINS AND SOMTIMES ON EACH OTHER. Jeannine Ramos, "We know that there is such a need in the medical care field right now that all 3 of the high schools are able to have their own CNA program that is needed and then on top of that each high school has an additional program that we expanded to." THEY HOPE THESE TYPES OF PROGRAMS CAN HELP PULL MORE STUDENTS TO MARTIN COUNTY SCHOOLS THAT MAY LIVE OUTSIDE THE DISTRICT LINES. Derek Lowe, Martin Co School District "The money follows the child." DEREK LOWE WITH THE MARTIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT SAYS WHILE THERE IS PLENTY OF NEW CONSTRUCTION COMING TO MARTIN COUNTY... IT'S NOT NECESSARILY BRINGING FAMILIES WITH SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN. THAT'S WHY THE DISTRICT IS UTILIZING THE CONTROLLED OPEN ENROLLMENT PROCESS TO EXPAND THEIR REACH WITH MOST SCHOOLS NOT AT FULL CAPACITY. Derek – "And as time goes on we're starting to see a little bit of decreased enrollment, nothing too major, but every student is associated with an amount of funding from the state so it's very important that we have those kids in our seats because the numbers that follow the student do make up a large portion of our operational budget." STUDENTS LIKE HAYLEE LUNING WHO PARTICIPATES IN MULTIPLE SPECIALTY PROGRAMS.. SUPPORT THE IDEA OF ALLOWING OTHERS FROM OUTSIDE THE AREA TO DO THE SAME. Haylee Luning – " I think it's definitely good if that kid really wants to take on that occupation and take on that career let the kid do it." Jeannine Ramos, medical academy teacher – "I think every student benefits from the opportunity to have this type of exposure so whether you are zoned for south fork or you are zoned for another school or you are zoned out of county and coming in, the fact that we can provide you with something you wouldn't get elsewhere- I think that's invaluable."

03/04/2024 10PM

CHANGES ARE ON THE WAY WHEN IT COMES TO HOW FLORIDA PLANS TO REGULATE SOCIAL MEDIA USE FOR YOUR KIDS. LAWMAKERS ARE HAMMERING OUT A NEW DEAL... AFTER THE GOVERNOR VETOED THE ONE THAT WOULD HAVE BANNED KIDS UNDER 16 FROM HAVING SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS. EDUCATION REPORTER STEPHANIE SUSSKIND SHOWS YOU WHAT'S DIFFERENT IN THIS VERSION... AND WHY SOME ARE STILL AGAINST IT. STEPHANIE: LAWMAKERS ARE UP AGAINST THE WALL TO GET A NEW SOCIAL MEDIA BILL IN PLACE BEFORE THE END OF THE WEEK. THIS NEW

VERSION INCLUDES MORE PARENTAL RIGHTS THAT THE GOVERNOR WANTED BUT SOME SAY... IT'S STILL NOT THE WAY TO TACKLE THE ISSUE. Tara Smith- "There is no bill powerful enough to keep these kids from social media, it's not possible." TARA SMITH IS THE MOM OF TWO TWEENS... A 13-YEAR-OLD SON AND 11-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER. SHE MONITORS EVERYTHING THEY LOOK AT ON SOCIAL MEDIA. Tara - "At that age group what all the little girls are looking at and it's all beauty, beauty, beauty, make up, make up, make up, face cream, face cream, face cream it's a epidemic among teen girls right now." SHE FEELS ITS HER RESPONSIBILITY TO REGULATE... NOT POLITICIANS. BUT THE NEW HOUSE BILL 3 PASSED THE FLORIDA SENATE WITH OVERWHELMING SUPPORT. THIS SOCIAL MEDIA BAN NOW PROHIBITS THOSE UNDER 14 INSTEAD OF 16 FROM HAVING ACCOUNTS ON PLATFORMS WITH ADDICTIVE QUALITIES LIKE INFINITE SCROLLING AND DATA COLLECTION ALGORITHMS.(Sen. Erin Grall, (R) Fort Pierce) "I would say we have to do something, and we can't stand by any longer and allow them — these companies to own our children with this terrible content." 14 AND 15-YEAR-OLDS COULD HAVE ACCOUNTS WITH PARENTAL CONSENT... BUT THE BILL DOESN'T SPECIFY HOW THE PLATFORM OBTAINS THAT CONSENT.Tina Polsky (D) Florida State Senate - " I pay for her phone, her computer, her iPad, whatever the case may be, so I get to control that. So, for the government to come in and say no the age is 14 I think runs into all the constitutional issues we discussed."THE RESPONSIBILITY STILL FALLS ON THE PLATFORM IN QUESTION TO VERIFY A USER'S AGE AND ALLOWS PARENTS TO SUE THE COMPANY IF THE RULES ARE NOT FOLLOWED. Tara - "If they want to take the bread and butter away from a group that large, it's not happening." TARA DOESN'T THINK IT WILL STICK.Tara Smith, parent - "Social media is their entertainment and the way to limit it is to limit the time on technology while watching what they are watching on social media and you can't really put a bill on that can you?" STEPHANIE SUSSKIND/REPORTER: THE HOUSE NOW GETS THE BILL AND IF PASSED, IT GOES TO THE GOVERNOR FOR HIS SIGNATURE. HE HAS INDICATED HE'LL SUPPORT IT THIS TIME AROUND.

03/06/2024 10PM

TONIGHT... THE PALM BEACH COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT LAYING OUT CLEAR GUIDANCE FOR WHAT IS EXPECTED ON EVERY CAMPUS WHEN IT COMES TO SAFETY. THIS COINCIDES WITH A NEW BILL JUST APPROVED BY THE FLORIDA SENATE... THAT WILL MAKE MANY OF THE REQUIREMENTS FLORIDA LAW. EDUCATION REPORTER STEPHANIE SUSSKIND WITH MORE ON WHAT TO EXPECT IN EVERY CLASSROOM. STEPHANIE SUSSKIND/REPORTER: THE PALM BEACH COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD IS ADDING MORE SECURITY MANDATES TO ITS BOOKS- THINGS LIKE HOW TO OPERATE METAL DETECTORS AND MARKING OFF SAFE SPACES IN CLASSROOMS. AND SOME OF THIS MAY SOON BE STATE LAW AS WELL. WITH THE ADDITION OF METAL DETECTORS MAKING THEIR WAY TO ALL HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUSES IN PALM BEACH COUNTY... SCHOOL LEADERS ARE PUTTING THE RULES FOR USING THEM INTO POLICY ON PAPER... AS WELL AS OTHER SECURITY BEST PRACTICES LIKE HAVING A DESIGNATED SAFE SPACE MARKED OFF IN EACH CLASSROOM. AT THE SAME TIME- A NEW SCHOOL SAFETY BILL JUST PASSED THE FLORIDA SENATE AS THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION WRAPS UP. THE NEW LAW WOULD MANDATE CLASSROOM DOORS BE LOCKED... WHICH IS ALREADY REQUIRED IN PALM BEACH COUNTY... AND ALSO REQUIRES THOSE SAFE SPACES MARKED OFF IN EVERY CLASSROOM. STUDENTS MUST BE TOLD ABOUT THAT AREA WITHIN THE FIRST 10 DAYS OF THE SCHOOL YEAR. Alexis Calatayud, (R) Miami "I think this legislation continues our commitment as the Senate and the legislature in Florida to the families that wish they still had their kids and making sure there aren't any more to join them." STEPHANIE SUSSKIND/REPORTER- TODAY WAS REALLY ABOUT DISCUSSING THE POLICY CHANGES, THE SCHOOL BOARD WILL VOTE ON WHETHER TO APPROVE THEM AT A LATER MEETING.

03/11/2024 10PM

STUDENTS AND TEACHERS WILL BE ABLE TO SPEAK FREELY ABOUT SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY IN FLORIDA CLASSROOMS - AS LONG AS IT'S NOT PART OF INSTRUCTION. A SETTLEMENT WAS REACHED TODAY BETWEEN FLORIDA EDUCATION OFFICIALS AND CIVIL RIGHTS ATTORNEYS WHO HAD CHALLENGED A STATE LAW WHICH CRITICS DUBBED "DON'T SAY GAY." THE SETTLEMENT CLARIFIES WHAT IS ALLOWED IN FLORIDA CLASSROOMS FOLLOWING PASSAGE TWO YEARS AGO OF THE LAW PROHIBITING INSTRUCTION ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY IN EARLY GRADES. UNDER THE TERMS OF THE SETTLEMENT, THE FLORIDA BOARD OF EDUCATION WILL SEND INSTRUCTIONS TO EVERY SCHOOL DISTRICT.