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FLORIDA TODAY

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Minneapolis Catholic school hit by gunman; 2 children killed

INSIDE, 7A

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2025

FLORIDATODAY.COM

Teachers can OK laptops in class

Brevard school board relaxes total ban on tech

Finch Walker
Florida Today
USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

Just two weeks after an updated wireless communication devices policy that banned the use of all electronics

was approved, Brevard’s school board is amending its language — this time to make it a little more lax.

Ahead of an Aug. 26 meeting, Brevard’s school board workshopped an amendment to the policy at an afternoon work session. While they considered making no change or allowing students to use cell phones with the permission of teachers or administrators, they ultimately went with a more

middle-of-the road option: Students in grades nine through 12 will be able to use laptops, e-readers and similar devices for educational purposes at the discretion of teachers and administrators. Cell phones will remain banned bell-to-bell for all grade levels.

At the evening meeting, the amendment — which will receive a vote at a future meeting — remained a subject of debate, with speakers largely in favor of

the new language. Most, however, felt the policy was still too harsh.

“What message are we sending to our children when we suspend them over a phone, especially when it’s not disrupting class?” asked one Rockledge High parent, who told the board her son was suspended earlier in the day for using his phone during lunch.

See SCHOOL, Page 7A

Morning light

The Aug. 27 launch of a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket carried 28 Starlink internet satellites into low-Earth orbit. MALCOLM DENEMARK/FLORIDA TODAY

SpaceX launches Starlink satellites

Florida Today

Twelve minutes after sunrise, a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket rose amid colorful clouds from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station at 7:10 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 27. • SpaceX’s Starlink 10-56 mission from Launch Complex 40 deployed a payload of 28 broadband satellites into low-Earth orbit. The rocket’s first-stage booster touched down aboard the SpaceX drone ship Just Read the Instructions in the Atlantic Ocean. **See LAUNCH, Page 2A**

Family pleads for release of teen

Boy held since Feb. in notorious Israeli prison

J.D. Gallop
Florida Today
USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

The family of a Palestinian-American teen from Palm Bay is pleading with the Trump administration to step in and secure the release of their son from an Israeli prison.

The case of Mohammed Zaher Ibrahim — who turned 16 while in custody after being detained in February — has drawn support from dozens of human rights and faith organizations.

At an Aug. 26 press conference in Tampa organized by CAIR-Florida and including several civil rights and religious representatives, officials and family spoke with urgency about Mohammed’s condition while in detention awaiting trial.

The teen was detained by Israeli forces and accused of throwing rocks at Israeli settlers, CAIR said earlier in August, and has been held without trial. No verification of those claims have been made independently. His family, who are Palestinian, split time between Palm Bay and a residence in Silwad, an Arab village in the West Bank, relatives say.

His father denies the rock-throwing claims, saying that up to two dozen armed Israeli authorities raided the home in the middle of the night where the 110-pound boy was staying and took him away “blindfolded and handcuffed.”

Mohammed’s family has also reached out to U.S. Rep. Mike Haridopolos for assistance. Haridopolos’ office confirmed that representatives are in touch with the family, along with U.S. Embassy officials.

“Anybody who is a parent knows what it’s like to have their child near them,” said the teen’s uncle, Zeyod

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Playalinda Beach fans fight launch closures again

Rick Neale
Florida Today
USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

In 1980, Barbara Evans and her husband, Hank, spearheaded the Titusville-based grassroots group Save Our Beach after NASA threatened to shut down road access to popular Playalinda Beach for future space shuttle security

Inside

SpaceX Starship sees 10th flight from Texas. **3A**

purposes.

Now — a full 45 years later, and two years after Hank passed away — Barbara Evans is again fighting to preserve

Playalinda Beach access.

This time, temporary closures could occur from SpaceX’s future Starship-Super Heavy launches and landings from pad 39A at NASA’s bordering Kennedy Space Center. Starship operations could generate the equivalent of 60% closure days per year at Playalinda

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