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**LOCAL & STATE, 3A** 

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# Alligator Alcatraz still 'open for business'



Police officers park outside Alligator Alcatraz in Ochopee during a vigil on Aug. 10. MICKENZIE HANNON/NAPLES DAILY NEWS/USA TODAY NETWORK-FLORIDA

### Appeals court allows detentions to continue, for now

#### **Antonio Fins**

Palm Beach Post **USA TODAY NETWORK** 

Gov. Ron DeSantis hailed a Sept. 4 appeals court ruling allowing — for the moment — operations to continue at the Alligator Alcatraz immigration detention center.

"The mission continues on immigra-

tion enforcement," the governor said in a videotaped statement on social media. "Alligator Alcatraz is in fact, like we've always said, open for business."

The order from the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, however, simply allows the state to continue detaining people at the facility until the judicial panel issues a final ruling on the matter.

On Aug. 21, a federal judge agreed See ALCATRAZ, Page 4A

with the plaintiffs alleging the state failed to conduct proper environmental assessments and impact studies before opening the facility, and effectively ordered the closing of the detention

DeSantis and state officials immediately appealed that ruling.

## Judge in detention center lawsuit narrows scope to First Amendment

#### **ACLU** focusing on right to speak with attorneys

#### **Tayeba Hussein and Stacey Henson**

Naples Daily News USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

A federal judge has ruled that a lawsuit filed by immigration attorneys on behalf of 12 Alligator Alley detainees will focus only on their First Amendments rights.

However, U.S. District Judge Sheri

Polster Chappell also ruled on Sept. 4 that the plaintiffs may amend the suit to serve as a class-action lawsuit within seven days. That means those who have been detained, are detained or will be detained at the Ochopee center could still join it.

"What we ultimately want for our clients is to make sure that their First Amendment rights to communicate with counsel and to be able to have confidential attorney-client meetings, which is what is available in virtually every other prison, jail and detention

facility," said an ACLU attorney for the plaintiffs, Eunice Cho.

"We would like to make sure that people who are detained at Alligator Alcatraz have that ability."

The hotly debated Alligator Alcatraz is in a rural part of Collier County about 36 miles from Naples in the middle of the Everglades. It is part of President Donald Trump's plan to remove people illegally in the country in hopes of stopping the drug trade and related

See LAWSUIT, Page 4A

# **Migrant** worker dies after collapsing

#### Mexican man's death attributed to heatstroke

#### **Tayeba Hussein**

Naples Daily News USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Florida officials and residents helped a Mexican woman rush to a Naples hospital after her Immokalee farmworker husband fell into a coma.

Marco Guevara, 35, suffered a "devastating heat stroke while working the fields under the brutal Florida sun" over two weeks ago, on Aug. 13, a Go-FundMe campaign states.

He was harvesting produce at a farm in Clewiston. Accuweather indicates temperatures topped 93 degrees

Guevara, a husband and father of three, was hospitalized and remained in a coma until succumbing after a week, his wife Reyna Jimenez, by his

"I would do anything to ensure that no one else ever has to go through what Marco and our family are going through today," Jimenez said in a press release by the Coalition of Immokalee

His youngest daughter is 4.

As of Sept. 3, the GoFundMe account had raised more than \$24,000 for Jimenez's travel expenses and to repatriate Guevara's body to Mexico.

#### Marco Jimenez, on a temporary visa, arrived this summer

Jimenez was granted an emergency humanitarian visa by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to be by her husband's side while he "lay on the edge of death in a Naples hospital bed," according to the press release.

#### See HEATSTROKE, Page 4A



Marco Guevara has died from the effects of heatstroke while working on a Florida farm. He leaves behind a wife and three children. PROVIDED BY COALITION OF IMMOKALEE WORKERS

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