



Why LBs Cryer, Thompson will be keys to FSU success

SPORTS, 1B

NORTHWEST FLORIDA

Daily News

MONDAY, JULY 21, 2025

NWFDAILYNEWS.COM | PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



In June, the Supreme Court declined to hear a challenge to Maryland’s ban on assault-style weapons, although Justice Brett Kavanaugh said he expects his colleagues “will address the AR-15 issue soon.” KEVIN NERI/STATESMAN JOURNAL FILE

Trump wants justices to strike down gun rules

Administration stepping into firearms litigation

Maureen Groppe
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – After the Supreme Court in 2022 made it harder to restrict who can arm themselves in public, some states took a different approach. Five Democrat-led, mostly densely populated states passed laws that pro-

hibit bringing a handgun onto someone else’s property without that person’s express consent. Now the Trump administration wants the Supreme Court to declare that such rules in Hawaii, California, New York, Maryland and New Jersey violate the Constitution. “The United States has a substantial interest in the preservation of the right to keep and bear arms and in the proper interpretation of the Second Amendment,” Solicitor General John Sauer

wrote in explaining why the Justice Department wants the high court to weigh in. That’s not the only example of how the change in administrations is affecting litigation over gun regulations. In a move alarming to groups working to prevent gun violence, the DOJ declined to continue to defend a federal law setting 21 as the minimum age to own a handgun after an appeals court

See GUNS, Page 2A

BIG AIRLINE NEWS

American expands at Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport

DeonTay Smith
Panama City News Herald
USA TODAY NETWORK

American Airlines announced on July 17 that it will be offering daily direct service to Miami from Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport (VPS.) The non-stop flights to Miami International Airport (MIA) will begin Dec. 19. American also will extend its existing service from VPS to Chicago O’Hare International Airport (ORD) from seasonal to year-round. Flights to Chicago on American will now be offered daily through both the winter and summer seasons. “American is proud to offer the best worldwide connections for the residents of Okaloosa County to more than 350 destinations around the world,” Jason Reisinger, American’s managing director of global network planning, said in an Okaloosa County news release announcing the developments. “Our new flights to Miami and year-round service to Chicago will complement American’s existing flights to Charlotte, Dallas-Fort Worth, and Washington, D.C. With seamless connections to the Caribbean, Europe, Australia and everything in between, American is ready to welcome travelers on their next seamless journey from Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport.” Tickets will be available for purchase starting July 21 at aa.com or through American’s mobile app.

See AIRLINE, Page 2A

IRS ruling frees Florida pulpits to speak on elections

Stephany Matat
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Florida houses of worship can now endorse political candidates in some cases, an exception created by the IRS recently that reversed decades of legal precedent preventing churches from involvement in politics. The Internal Revenue Service’s position came from a July 7 filing meant to end a lawsuit from the National Religious Broadcasters association last

year, who argued that a provision in the U.S. tax code infringed on First Amendment rights to speech and religious expression. That provision, known as the Johnson Amendment and covering what are called “501(c)(3)” nonprofits, banned tax-exempt organizations from political participation, like issuing endorsements or opposing candidates.

See IRS, Page 2A



Gov. Ron DeSantis shakes hands with Miami Archbishop Thomas Wenski during the 50th annual Red Mass at the Co-Cathedral of St. Thomas on March 19. MISHALYNN BROWN/TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Be Power Full

With Automatic Backup Power from Canter Power Systems

Peace of Mind Protection Plan

Canter's 10-Year Exclusive Warranty is included with all generators.

No Payments until the job is done. Payments starting at \$149/mo.*
*Subject to qualification.

Save \$500 when you purchase your generator before 7/31/2025.

Our customers LOVE their Generators
Over 900+ 5-Star Google Reviews

Now Save \$500

On Installation

Call To Schedule Your Free Estimate
850-462-2113

Subscriber-only eNewspaper
The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to nwfdailynews.com/enewspaper or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!

Volume 78 | No. 145
Subscribe 850-863-1212
©2025 \$1.50