

FINDING ‘THE OTHER PLACE’

Palm: Emotional thriller examines how we deal with loss and find our peace



SPORTS PAGE 1

BLOW TO TFA

Injunction to allow team to play was lifted, possibly ending football season

LOCAL & STATE PAGE 3

TWIN BOYS SHOT

Brothers rushed to hospital after finding gun left out by mother

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Orlando Sentinel

FINAL EDITION

Tuesday, November 11, 2025

\$4.50

Senate nears vote on shutdown deal

Speaker tells House members to return to DC for session

By Mary Clare Jalonick and Lisa Mascaro
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate was drawing closer to a vote on legislation to end the shutdown on Monday after a small group of Senate Democrats broke a 40-day stalemate late Sunday evening and voted with Republicans to move forward with reopening the government.

It is unclear when the Senate will hold final votes on the bill, but Senate Majority Leader John Thune said he hopes passage will take “hours not days.”

“The American people have suffered for long enough. Let’s not pointlessly drag this bill out,” he said as the Senate opened on Monday morning.

The legislation would still need to clear the House before the government could reopen. Speaker Mike Johnson urged lawmakers to start returning to Washington “right now” given travel delays, but he said he would issue an official notice for the House’s return once the Senate passes the legislation.

“We have to do this as quickly as possible,” Johnson said at a news conference. He has kept the House out of session since mid-September, when it passed a bill to continue government funding.

After weeks of negotiations, the moderate Senate Democrats agreed to reopen the government without a guaranteed extension of health care subsidies, angering many in their caucus who have demanded that Republicans negotiate with them on the Affordable Care Act tax credits that expire Jan. 1. Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., promised a mid-December vote on the subsidies.

Sunday’s final vote was 60-40. Senate

Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York voted against moving ahead with the package, along with all but eight of his Democratic colleagues.

“We will not give up the fight,” Schumer said, adding that Democrats have now “sounded the alarm” on health care.

Still, an end to the shutdown could be days away if any senators object and drag out the process. Thune was working out concerns within his Republican conference about individual provisions in the underlying spending bills.

One of those Republicans, Kentucky

Turn to Shutdown, Page 2

3 Apopka teens killed when truck hit tree

People gathered at the site Monday to grieve around a homemade memorial

By Brian Bell
Orlando Sentinel

Three Apopka teenagers died early Sunday when their pickup truck slammed into a tree, leaving their families grieving and two schools shocked by the sudden loss of life.

The horrific accident killed Julio Lopez, 17, Enrique Rodriguez Sabas, 17, and Leyner Velasquez, 13, according to the Orange County Medical Examiner.

The three who died were with three other teenagers in a pickup truck that crashed just before 2 a.m. Sunday.

The other three were seriously injured and transported to area hospitals.

The teenagers who died were students at Apopka High School and the Kelly Park School, according to a Facebook post from Orange County School Board member Melissa Byrd, whose district includes both schools.

Jesus Rodriguez, an older brother of Enrique, said the teenager was a “big-hearted” member of a large family.

“He was a kind, big-hearted person who was always there for his friends and his family,” Rodriguez said in a brief phone

Turn to Wreck, Page 2



Sabas, Lopez and Velasquez

Homeless shelters prepare for record cold

By Martin E. Comas, Michael Cuglietta and Natalia Jaramillo
Orlando Sentinel

Anticipating an influx of people seeking a warm place to spend the night, homeless shelters across the region rushed Monday to add more beds as an unseasonable blast of arctic air is expected to bring frigid temperatures and bust decades-old records.

Outdoor thermometers were forecast to plunge to 37 degrees by early this morning at the Orlando International Airport, according to the National Weather Service in Melbourne. If so, it would break the record of 39 degrees for Nov. 11 set in 1932.

And it will feel much colder, as expected wind gusts of up to 25 mph will make it seem as if the temperatures are in the low 30s or upper 20s, according to weather forecasters.

Today’s highs are expected to reach

Turn to Cold, Page 2

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE, VETERANS



RICARDO RAMIREZ BUXEDA/ORLANDO SENTINEL

Vietnam veterans honored

Mayor’s Veterans Advisory Council members present Vietnam veteran lapel pins during the annual Orange County Veterans Day Ceremony on Monday outside the Orange County Administration Center.

At 101 years old, WWII vet from Florida has become a songwriter

By Glenn Gamboa
Associated Press

In a life filled with milestones, Florida veteran Irving Locker celebrated a new, unexpected one last week: He became a published songwriter.

One day before his 101st birthday, “If Freedom Was Free” was released by Big Machine Label Group and CreatiVets, the Nashville-based nonprofit that helps veterans work through their traumas by building

something new through the arts.

CreatiVets teamed Locker, a World War II veteran who landed at Utah Beach on D-Day, with Texas singer-songwriter Bart Crowe and duo Johnny and Heidi Bulford, who also sing on the track. The chorus — “If freedom was free, there wouldn’t be a mountain of metal and men under Normandy” — includes the message Locker has used in lectures from classrooms to the White House. Freedom,

Turn to Songwriter, Page 2



Irving Locker, a 101-year-old veteran of World War II, D-Day and the Battle of the Bulge, listens on Sept. 9 as Jesse Wayne Taylor, in the background, records a song based on Locker’s military experience in Nashville, Tenn. MARK HUMPHREY/AP

Supreme Court rejects same-sex marriage case

By Mark Sherman
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Monday rejected a call to overturn its landmark decision that legalized same-sex marriage nationwide.

The justices, without comment, turned away an appeal from Kim Davis, the former Kentucky court clerk who refused to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples after the high court’s 2015 ruling in Obergefell v. Hodges.

Davis had been trying to get the court to overturn a lower-court order for her to pay \$360,000 in damages and attorney’s fees to a couple denied a marriage license.

Her lawyers repeatedly invoked the words of Justice Clarence Thomas, who alone among the nine justices has called for eras-

ing the same-sex marriage ruling.

Thomas was among four dissenting justices in 2015. Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito are the other dissenters who are on the court today.

Roberts has been silent on the subject since he wrote a dissenting opinion in the case. Alito has continued to criticize the decision, but he said recently he was not advocating that it be overturned.

Justice Amy Coney Barrett, who was not on the court in 2015, has said that there are times when the court should correct mistakes and overturn decisions, as it did in the 2022 case that ended a constitutional right to abortion.

But Barrett has suggested recently that same-sex marriage might be in a different category than abortion because people have relied on the decision when they married and

had children.

Human Rights Campaign president Kelley Robinson praised the justices’ decision not to intervene. “The Supreme Court made clear today that refusing to respect the constitutional rights of others does not come without consequences,” Robinson said in a statement.

Davis drew national attention to eastern Kentucky’s Rowan County when she turned away same-sex couples, saying her faith prevented her from complying with the high court ruling. She defied court orders to issue the licenses until a federal judge jailed her for contempt of court in September 2015.

She was released after her staff issued the licenses on her behalf but removed her name from the form. The Kentucky legislature later enacted a law removing the names of all county clerks from state marriage licenses.

Davis lost a reelection bid in 2018.