

State of UCF hoops

Coach Dawkins talks about offseason moves meant to return team to NCAA Tournament



Alligator Alcatraz

Two Cuban immigrants to sue for brutality. **Local & State, Page 3**

Howl-O-Scream

SeaWorld unveils first haunted house. **Living, Section 2, Page 7**

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Orlando Sentinel

\$4.50 | MONDAY, JULY 13, 2026 | ORLANDOSENTINEL.COM

LINDSEY GRAHAM 1955-2026

‘Irreplaceable’ GOP figure in Senate

Medical examiner says SC senator likely died of aorta rupture

By Seung Min Kim, Mary Clare Jalonick and Meg Kinnard
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Sen. Lindsey Graham, one of President Donald Trump’s closest allies in Congress who traveled the globe to advocate

for a more aggressive U.S. foreign policy, has died after a “brief and sudden illness,” his office said. He was 71.

The statement posted on social media early Sunday said his family “appreciates prayers at this time and asks for privacy during this incredibly difficult period.”

Hours later, another statement from his office said the Medical Examiner of the District of Columbia’s preliminary findings are the senator died of an aorta

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■ Shocked Trump calls Graham “A true American Patriot.” **Nation & World, Page 8**

■ NATO allies, Ukraine, Israel pay tribute to Graham. **Page 11**

rupture stemming from hardening of Graham’s arteries.

The South Carolina Republican, a former Air Force lawyer who served in the Air Force Reserve

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Sen. Lindsey Graham, seen in 2024 in Kyiv, died Saturday after just returning from a trip to Ukraine. **VADIM GHIRDA/AP**



A Peter’s rock agama — a species of lizard from Africa — perches on a curb on Concord Avenue in downtown Orlando on July 2. Introduced into South Florida in 1976 in the pet reptile trade, they have proliferated and are now seen regularly in Central Florida. **JOE BURBANK/ORLANDO SENTINEL**

Invasive lizards finding a home in Central Florida

Sightings have increased in region, and more may be on the way

By Rylan DiGiacomo-Rapp
ORLANDO SENTINEL

In a flash of curled tails, mottled stripes and neon scales, invasive lizards are moving into Central Florida. And they’re here to stay.

The reptiles, ranging in size from a few inches to several feet, have been increasingly sighted in the region, often traveling from South Florida, where they originally landed by hitching rides on international ships or through the exotic pet trade, according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

They include the brightly colored Peter’s rock agama, spotted around Lake Eola in downtown Orlando, at Walt Disney

World’s Magic Kingdom and on the University of Central Florida campus, among other local areas, according to reports on iNaturalist, an online platform for wildlife sightings.

The Argentine black and white tegu, a South American native that can grow to nearly five feet long, has been seen wandering in Altamonte Springs and Geneva as well as further east near Cocoa and Melbourne, according to iNaturalist posts and FWC.

Experts worry about potential ecological domino effects, as the intruders often compete with or eat native species and throw ecosystems off balance. Invasive lizards can also cause electrical or

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An Argentine black and white tegu, a sizable lizard native to South America, flicks his tongue. The invasive species has since spread into Central Florida. **PHIL VELASQUEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

US again strikes Iranian targets

Response by Tehran hits Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Jordan, Oman

By Jon Gambrell and Will Weissert
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The United States attacked Iran on Sunday over an Iranian strike on a container ship in the Strait of Hormuz that set it ablaze and left a crew member missing.

Iran responded with attacks on countries including Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Jordan and Oman — the nation on the other side of the strait that Tehran has pressed to join in managing shipping traffic.

The U.S. struck again later Sunday. Iran’s state-run IRNA news agency cited the governor of Qeshm island near the strait as saying projectiles had been fired at military targets, with no casualties.

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Last crew of space shuttle reunites

Quartet from Atlantis flight speaks to crowd 15 years after launch

By Richard Tribou
ORLANDO SENTINEL

If it were up to the crew of STS-135, the final mission of the Space Shuttle Program, they would have kept flying.

Space Shuttle Atlantis blasted off from Kennedy Space Center’s Launch Pad 39-A on July 8, 2011, with commander Chris Ferguson, pilot Doug Hurley and mission specialists Sandy Magnus and Rex Walheim.

The quartet returned to KSC’s Visitor Complex for a reunion Saturday just over 15 years since liftoff. They spoke to a crowd of hundreds gathered under the on-display orbiter that brought the crew back home to Earth, touching down safely on July 21 after a resupply mission to the International Space Station.

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Man’s death underscores health insurance gaps

Kissimmee heart transplant recipient struggled to regain access to needed antirejection meds

By Renuka Rayasam
KFF HEALTH NEWS

By the time Derion Blackman collapsed in front of a Dollar General in Kissimmee in March, he had been waiting two months to regain access to some of the vital medications he’d been taking since undergoing a heart transplant two

years ago.

“He was on a nasty, dirty ground in front of a store,” recalled Sonja Smith, who is enraged about the circumstances that led to her husband’s heart failure. “He didn’t deserve to die like that.”

Problems started last year when the couple learned the monthly premium payment for their

Federal Employees Health Benefits plan would more than double to \$307 and their deductible would also go up. They decided to switch Blackman’s primary coverage to CHAMPVA, a health benefits program for dependents of disabled veterans, which had no premium and a \$3,000 deductible.

Smith thought she and Blackman had carefully prepared so that the transition between health plans would be seamless. It was anything but.

After the new health plan became active in January, Smith said, Blackman faced one hurdle after another getting approval for the antirejection medications needed to prevent his body from attacking his transplanted heart. Patients who rely on these drugs can develop severe and life-threatening heart issues if they miss even a few days. She said Blackman had enough medication to last only

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