

Don't listen to fans

Bianchi: FSU AD Alford gave Norvell contract partisans wanted, which led to Alford's firing



Oakland Village

Retail and dining hub coming to West Colonial. **Local, Page 3**

EPA repeal

No limits for power plant gas emissions. **Nation & World, Page 7**

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Trump defends data centers, AI

President calls efforts to curb pace of artificial intelligence tech a 'SICK conspiracy'

By Josh Boak
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Monday he would be a sufficient guardrail against rogue artificial intelligence, claiming that any efforts to limit the technol-

ogy is part of a "SICK conspiracy."

Trump was pushing back against calls by tech leaders such as Anthropic's Dario Amodei, OpenAI's Sam Altman and Elon Musk to have greater government oversight of AI. Many tech leaders generally say their goal is to develop the technology in ways that promote safety, address legal liability, feed economic growth, advance science and preserve national security.

The president maintained his presence in the Oval Office should assuage any fears about

AI, which has become a source of controversy after a series of hacks in recent months that showed AI agents could be working to deceive humans.

"The only control or 'guardrails' that AI needs is a STRONG AND SMART (High IQ!) PRESIDENT, and the U.S.A. has that, in spades!" Trump posted on social media.

Trump specifically said the administration has already stopped the AI company Anthropic "from doing bad, or potentially bad" things. Anthropic has endured an

uncomfortable relationship with the Trump administration, with the Pentagon trying to label the company a security risk and the government issuing a temporary ban of one of its more advanced models.

The president went even further in a Monday afternoon post that asked "when, in the History of Business, did anyone see the Leaders of an Industry call for Regulation that, if strongly implemented, will drive

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Motorists get fuel in a Wawa gas station at the intersection of West Colonial Drive and South Clarke Road in Ocoee on Monday. RICARDO RAMIREZ BUXEDA/ORLANDO SENTINEL PHOTOS

Florida gasoline prices rise above \$4 per gallon

Middle East tensions pushing up oil costs, AAA says; when it will stop 'hard to anticipate'

By Silas Morgan and Garfield Hylton
ORLANDO SENTINEL

The average price for a tank of gas in Florida broke the \$4 barrier for the first time since June 1, according to AAA, hitting \$4.14 a gallon on Sunday.

That was 23 cents more than the previous week and \$1.118 more a gallon than a year ago. The price of diesel topped \$6 a gallon.

"It's outrageous," said James Contreras, who hauls cars for a living and had stopped to fill his truck at a RaceTrac on Lee Road just outside Winter Park. "They're definitely way too high. Everybody that does any kind of commercial work that has to do with



Fuel price signs at a 7-11 and RaceTrac gas stations at the intersection of West Colonial Drive and South Bluford Avenue in Ocoee on Monday.

diesel is really feeling the hurt right now."

Contreras, who drives a Ford F-350, said his business's profit margins are down about 20% due to fuel costs. If diesel prices reach \$7 per gallon, he may have to stop hauling

cars until prices come back down. It cost him \$6.39 a gallon to fill up Monday.

"What makes it not seem survivable is that the never-ending sight of it coming back down," he said.

Mark Jenkins, a spokesman for AAA, said tensions in the Middle East are driving up oil costs, which are increasing the cost of producing gasoline.

"Florida drivers are now seeing those higher costs reflected at the pump," he said. "If oil prices remain elevated, motorists could face additional upward pressure on gas prices this week."

Jenkins said Monday it's possible that gas prices could go up another 20 cents per gallon this week but also said that they remain volatile.

"I would just say, as long as this conflict with Iran continues, there will continue to

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Orange may hit pause on data center construction

County board will consider moratorium at meeting

By Stephen Hudak
ORLANDO SENTINEL

Orange County commissioners are set to tackle the issue of data centers, the giant computing facilities that power AI but have prompted a nationwide backlash and become a key campaign issue in Florida's race for governor.

The board may propose a moratorium at its meeting today.

The county's development regulations do not specifically address data centers, which could be allowed under existing industrial zoning, despite fears that they could impact public resources, including water demands.

There are not currently any proposals to build a hyperscale data center in Orange County.

Commissioner Kelly Martinez Semrad asked in June for the county to schedule a discussion and also recommended a moratorium of "at minimum" a year.

County staff could use the developmental pause, she said, to focus on the impacts of data centers on the county's natural resources, community character, economic landscape, zoning law implications and water and energy demands. And that should happen before the county considers any prospective data center applications.

"Rather than predetermine whether data centers are to be encouraged, prohibited, or restricted, the primary objective is to allow county staff sufficient time to proactively study the impacts these intensive utility-scale operations have on community welfare and Orange County's ability to efficiently manage its water and energy supplies," she wrote.

Across the country, communities and voters have raised concerns about data centers, which look like giant warehouses, some dwarfing the footprints of factories and stadiums, and can need more power

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Report: Alligator Alcatraz used small cages as 'calming areas'

Agency's watchdog found violations of federal standards at Florida detention center

By Madeleine Ngo, Hamed Aleaziz and David Ovalle
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — Alligator Alcatraz, the now-closed state-run immigrant detention center in the Florida Everglades, failed to comply with a host of federal detention standards, creating cramped conditions and confining migrants in "small metal enclosures," according to a new report by the Department of Homeland Security's independent watchdog.

The report said the use of the enclosures was unprecedented among facilities the watchdog, the department's Office of Inspec-

tor General, has previously inspected and presented "significant risks" to detainees' health and safety. It focused on the high-profile facility known as Alligator Alcatraz, which came under intense scrutiny before it closed this summer.

The report raised further questions about a facility that became synonymous with the Trump administration's harsh treatment of immigration detainees. President Donald Trump had joked that the location was in such a remote area that detainees would have to learn "how to run away from an alligator." It was shuttered after criticism about conditions and cost, and after enduring legal challenges.

Federal investigators found that the metal enclosures — each providing only about 18 square feet of floor space — were

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Images released in a report by the Department of Homeland Security's inspector general's office show small metal enclosures referred to as "calming areas." **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL VIA THE NEW YORK TIMES**