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President Donald Trump has moved to fire Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook, accusing her of mortgage fraud. Cook said she will fight her firing. JONATHAN ERNST/REUTERS

Trump announces firing of Fed governor

President’s authority to remove Cook questioned

Bailey Schulz, Bart Jansen, Medora Lee and Rachel Barber
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump’s announcement that he’s firing Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook is an unprecedented move that could lead to a long legal battle as the president looks to shape the balance of the central bank’s seven-member board in his favor.

The Aug. 25 move raises more questions about the Fed board’s independence, a president’s involvement in monetary policy and credibility in U.S. investments.

“I have determined that there is sufficient cause to remove you from your position,” Trump wrote in a letter to Cook shared on Truth Social, pointing to accusations that Cook made false statements on mortgage agreements.

Cook said Aug. 26 the president lacked the basis and the authority to oust her from the board of the central bank.

Her firing comes amid Trump’s monthslong efforts to influence the central bank’s rate-cut decisions. Trump had previously focused on pressuring Fed Chair Jerome Powell to lower rates through name-calling and termination threats, although the president has since walked back threats to remove the Fed chair.

Cook, in a statement released by her lawyer, said of Trump that “no causes exist under the law, and he has no authority” to remove her from the job she was appointed to by former President Joe Biden in 2022.

“I will continue to carry out my duties to help the American economy,” she said in a statement emailed to USA TODAY.

Cook’s attorney, Abbe Lowell, said Trump has “no authority” to remove Cook, and that the president’s attempt

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Man chased by police crashes into utility pole

Austin L. Miller
Ocala Star-Banner
USA TODAY NETWORK

Ocala police officials said a man hit an officer with his vehicle late the night of Aug. 22, then crashed into a wooden utility pole during the subsequent police chase.

Authorities said they pursued the man, driving a Nissan, to the 5400 block of Southwest 20th Street, where the car ran off the roadway.

The driver was taken to HCA Florida Ocala Hospital, and as of Aug. 23 was listed in critical condition. The chase occurred about 11:30 p.m. on Aug. 22.

Though officials have not released the driver’s name, they said he’s 39 and from Ocala.

Records show a man fitting the information obtained from officials is facing charges of aggravated battery on a law enforcement official, aggravated fleeing and eluding causing serious injury or damage, possession of marijuana with intent to sell, possession of cocaine, possession of drug paraphernalia, and driving while license is suspended or revoked third offense. His name is Brandon Antonio Lee Fillmore.

The crash

According to authorities, they were providing security at Lava Hookah Lounge, 3131 SW College Road (State Road 200) when they noticed the driver behind the wheel of a Nissan committing a traffic infraction.

Officers went to stop the vehicle. Officials said it appeared the Nissan was going to stop, but instead the driver took off.

While leaving the area, officials said, the Nissan hit an officer. The officer was not injured.

Police officials pursued the Nissan to Southwest 20th Street, where the vehicle struck a large wooden utility pole off the sidewalk.

Upon impact, the driver was ejected 25 to 30 yards from the vehicle.

The investigation is ongoing, police officials said.

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New Florida national park? Pitch made from Ocala National Forest

Mark Harper
Daytona Beach News-Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

SILVER SPRINGS – U.S. Rep. Randy Fine explained his proposal for creating a new national park while standing by a clear, freshwater spring surrounded by spiny green palms and spindly oaks. The juxtaposition was intentional – while it may not look it, Florida’s springs are ailing.

Fine spoke at an Aug. 25 press conference at Juniper Springs Recreation Area, one of dozens of such spots within the Ocala National Forest. Fine, a Florida Republican, has proposed transforming the national forest into Florida

Springs National Park.

The first-term congressman said as he thought about the problem and how he cherished his visits to many of the 63 U.S. national parks, the idea sprang to his mind.

“The bill begins with the fundamental promise that things like what we have behind me, these Florida springs, are as miraculous and amazing as any other natural asset that we have in this country, and they are deserving of our protection,” Fine said.

His bill would mandate a U.S. Department of the Interior study of not simply making the forest a national

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Congressman Randy Fine, a Florida Republican, speaks at Juniper Springs Recreation Area about his proposal to transform Ocala National Forest into Florida Springs National Park. The plan aims to offer additional protections for springs, which environmentalists say are ailing under the weight of development. MARK HARPER/NEWS-JOURNAL

