



All-County boys basketball teams, Player of the Year finalists unveiled

SPORTS, 1B

Ocala StarBanner

FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2026 | OCALA.COM

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U.S.-Iran ceasefire on tenuous ground



Rescuers search through wreckage in Beirut on April 8 after Israeli strikes killed and injured hundreds. MOHAMED AZAKIR/REUTERS

Israel continues attacks on Lebanon

Swapna Venugopal Ramaswamy, Christopher Cann, Melina Khan, Natalie Neysa Alund and Michael Loria
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump's ceasefire with Iran was on tenuous ground on April 9 after Israel launched its deadliest day of strikes on Lebanon yet and Tehran vowed

not to desert its allies. A day after announcing the Iran war ceasefire, Trump took to social media to warn the country that if the "REAL AGREEMENT" was not complied with, all U.S. military assets would remain in place ready for a military response. He warned Iran to keep the Strait of Hormuz open and safe but did not ad-

dress the strikes in Lebanon in the post. "If for any reason it is not, which is highly unlikely, then the "Shootin' Starts," bigger, and better, and stronger than anyone has ever seen before," he wrote. Meanwhile, strikes on Lebanon, which borders Israel came on April 8, a day after United States and Iranian

See IRAN WAR, Page 4A

Artemis II crew spends final full day in space

Eric Lagatta
USA TODAY

After years of preparation and enormous galactic achievements, the Artemis II astronauts on April 9 marked their final full day in space. As of that morning, the Orion spacecraft carrying the crew still had tens of thousands of miles to go ahead of a planned water landing April 10 off the California coast: It was about 160,000 miles from Earth, leaving the moon about 120,000 miles behind, according to NASA's online tracker.

That meant the astronauts were approaching the point where they were closer to Earth than to the moon – a key point in their return journey signifying that the end of the historic mission was near. The crew was due to spend the day working with flight control teams back on Earth to review landing procedures and prepare the Orion vehicle for reentering Earth's atmosphere, according to NASA. About nine days into their journey, the astronauts – Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover and Christina Koch of NASA, as

well as the Canadian Space Agency's Jeremy Hansen – appeared to be in good spirits while taking questions during a news conference late on April 8. And why wouldn't they be? The four of them traveled farther from Earth than any spacefarer in human history ever has while seeing sights of the moon's far side no one else has ever experienced. Hansen marked his own country's record book, becoming the first

See ARTEMIS II, Page 2A



Diane German at Wolfy's in January 2024. DOUG ENGLE/OCALA STAR-BANNER

Police say death was homicide

Area restaurant owner's boyfriend arrested April 6

Austin L. Miller
Ocala Star-Banner
USA TODAY NETWORK

Ocala Police Department detectives have arrested a man who they say is responsible for the death of his girlfriend, who was the owner of a popular Ocala restaurant. Michael Rowland was taken into custody in Jacksonville by the U.S. Marshals shortly after 11 a.m. on April 6, according to police. Ocala Police Detective Dylan Grosso went to Jacksonville to talk to Rowland, but the defendant declined to be interviewed. Rowland, 50, was arrested on charges of second-degree murder and tampering with evidence in connection with the death of Diane German, once the owner of Wolfy's at 2159 E. Silver Springs Blvd. The body of German, 72, was discovered in her swimming pool on Dec. 28. The restaurant is presently undergoing renovation and is expected to open in May under new leadership, as the Star-Banner recently reported.

Domestic violence deaths
Police are characterizing German's death as the third domestic violence homicide in Ocala so far this year. The other two were Nancy Bacon, 34, and her 4-year-old daughter Eden Barker-Wickramarachchi, who were shot and killed by Bacon's estranged husband, Ralph Bacon, who later
See DEATH, Page 2A



The Artemis II crew of NASA astronauts Christina Koch, Reid Wiseman and Victor Glover and Canadian astronaut Jeremy Hansen will return to Earth on April 10. PROVIDED BY NASA/HANDOUT VIA REUTERS

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Volume 83 | No. 153
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