



Iran vows to respond to U.S. strikes

NEWS, 10A



Schools rethink technology use in the classroom, examine student screen time

Janice Mak
Arizona State University | THE CONVERSATION

When the COVID-19 pandemic forced in-person classroom instruction to go virtual, students suddenly needed to have their own laptops or tablets in order to interact with teachers and complete assignments.

Most states used federal pandemic funding to address the digital divide. This refers to the gap between students and families who had their own tablets, computers and high-speed internet, and those who did not.

While most schools resumed in-person classes by 2021, many of them continued to rely heavily on online platforms and apps to help their students do their work.

Today, however, more and more schools are reconsidering how technology fits into teaching and learning, with many districts establishing clearer expectations about when technology

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Research shows students learn the most when they use tech actively rather than passively.



Experts say students need to learn more than how to use a laptop or an artificial intelligence chatbot; they should also understand how data is collected and used, how AI and other computing systems work and how technology affects people and society. PHOTO AND ART BY GETTY IMAGES

For older students, technology may remain central to learning, particularly when students are using it to program, analyze data, model complex systems and critically evaluate information.

Agencies respond to DCF report

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The grand jury report lambasting the state Department of Children and Families’ handling of abuse and neglect cases noted that first responders, law enforcement, hospitals, a service provider for the department and others are being forced into difficult positions because of DCF’s alleged shortcomings.

The report did not identify any agency or person by name. But the Ocala Star-Banner reached out to some agencies to see if they had any response to the 10-page report, which focused on DCF’s performance in both child and elder abuse/neglect cases in Marion, Lake, Citrus, Sumter and Hernando counties.

HCA Ocala Florida Hospital and the Marion County Sheriff’s Office declined comment. Officials at Advent-health Ocala could not be reached for comment.

What is the Ocala Police Department’s reaction to the grand jury report?

Ocala Police Chief Mike Balken said: “I am aware of the grand jury’s report and take the concerns raised very seriously. Unfortunately, failures like those mentioned can have real and tragic consequences, and as a community, we have a responsibility to protect those who cannot protect themselves.

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MARION COUNTY

First service center opens for Suncoast Credit Union

Ocala Star-Banner
USA TODAY NETWORK

Suncoast Credit Union has opened its first Marion County service center. The branch opened Aug. 10 at 8422 SW State Road 200 in the fast growing SR 200 corridor.

“The investment reflects Suncoast’s commitment to supporting Marion County’s continued residential and economic growth while providing residents and businesses with affordable financial products and services,” Suncoast said in a news release.

Suncoast said it already has more than 8,000 members throughout the area. Anyone who lives, works or attends school in Suncoast’s service area is eligible for membership.

“The opening of our Ocala service center is about being there for the people and families who call Marion County home,” Kevin Johnson, president and CEO of Suncoast Credit Union, was quoted as saying in the

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