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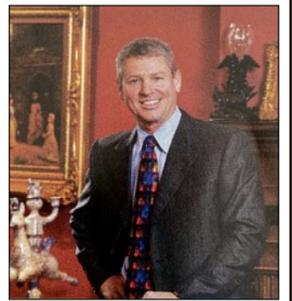
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New College to use \$2.5M in dorm fund for baseball field



A fence surrounds an open field that will become the new baseball field for the New College Mighty Banyans.
MIKE LANG/SARASOTA HERALD-TRIBUNE

Amid housing shortage, rule change allows move

Alice Herman
SUNCOAST SEARCHLIGHT

At a time when New College of Florida faces a longstanding housing shortage for students, the school is planning to shift \$2.5 million in its housing fund to instead build a baseball field.

The move stems from a landmark National Collegiate Athletic Association settlement in 2025 allowing universities to pay student athletes.

After the NCAA settlement in June cleared the way for schools to begin sharing revenue directly with college athletes, universities across the country faced a new financial challenge: how to pay for it. In response, the Florida Board of Governors moved to temporarily allow universities to transfer "auxiliary" funds — money generated by student fees for operations like campus bookstores, dining and housing — into athletics.

The rule change was designed to give schools with major athletic programs like the University of Florida, the University of South Florida and Florida

State more flexibility to cover those new costs and remain nationally competitive in recruiting and retaining athletes.

Now, New College is invoking the rule change to divert money from its auxiliary housing fund to break ground on a baseball field as it seeks to build its athletics program.

The move reflects New College's push to foreground athletics in its student offerings, launching a push to recruit student athletes and creating new sports teams. At the same time, the

See NEW COLLEGE, Page 8A

Trump criticizes top allies over war

President: Israel didn't force timing of attacks

Michael Loria, Zac Anderson, Jeanine Santucci, Francesca Chambers, Kim Hjelmgard, Michael Collins, Rebecca Morin and Medora Lee
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump slammed top U.S. allies, including the United Kingdom, as the war with Iran expands and warned Americans that they may have to deal with "a little high" oil prices as crude costs soared and the stock market crumbled.

"If we have a little high oil prices for a little while, but as soon as this ends those prices are gonna drop, I believe lower than even before," Trump said after taking questions from reporters in the Oval Office for the first time since the joint Israeli-U.S. strikes on Iran.

U.S. and Israeli military forces attacked Iran on Feb. 28, killing Iranian

See WAR, Page 3A

Latest report shows mixed Sarasota housing market

Ella Thompson
Sarasota Herald-Tribune
USA TODAY NETWORK

Sarasota and Manatee counties' January real estate market showed a market that's adjusting rather than slowing down, according to the most recent industry report.

The Realtor Association of Sarasota and Manatee's January findings showed an increase in closed sales on single-family homes for Sarasota, but a double-digit decrease in Manatee for the same sector. However, the trends are similar in the townhomes and condos sector, with Sarasota seeing an

See HOUSING, Page 3A

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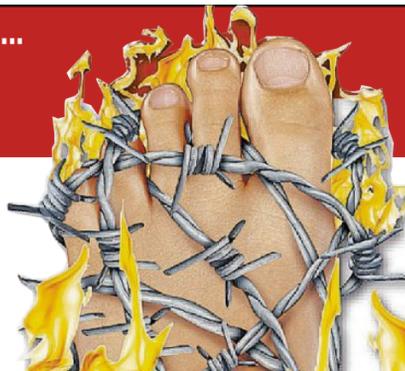
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