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## Court rules in favor of open carry

Panel cites 2nd Amendment in overturning gun ban

**By Jim Saunders**  
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — In a major decision, a state appeals court Wednesday ruled that Florida’s ban on openly carrying guns is unconstitutional. A three-judge panel of the 1st District Court of Appeal, pointing to U.S. Supreme Court rulings on Second Amendment issues, said the open-carry ban is incompatible with the nation’s “historical tradition of firearm regulation.”

“No historical tradition supports Florida’s open carry ban,” Judge Stephanie Ray wrote in a 20-page opinion joined by Judges Lori Rowe and M. Kemmerly Thomas. “To the contrary, history confirms that the right to bear arms in public necessarily includes the right to do so openly. That is not to say that open carry is absolute or immune from reasonable regulation. But what the state may not do is extinguish the right altogether for ordinary, law-abiding, adult citizens.”

The ruling came in a challenge filed by Stanley Victor McDaniels, who was convicted of openly carrying a gun on the Fourth of July in 2022 in Pensacola. It also came after years of legislative debate about potentially repealing the open-carry ban — a position

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MIKE STOCKER/SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL

## Seeking shelter from rain

A man tries to take cover from the rain as he crosses Federal Highway in Dania Beach on Wednesday. More showers and thunderstorms are expected today.

## Broward schools to purchase laptops despite investigation

**By Scott Travis**  
South Florida Sun Sentinel

Broward schools are moving ahead with a highly scrutinized plan to buy thousands of laptops for students, amid guidance that a county inspector general investigation needn’t delay it.

The Broward School Board agreed at a workshop on Tuesday to bring back the delayed \$115 million computer contract, primarily with HP, for consideration at the Sept. 16 meeting. If approved, the district could start providing laptops to students in about two months, Superintendent Howard Hepburn told the School Board.

Hepburn had put the contract on the agenda for meetings in May and July, but in both cases, he withdrew the requests. This delayed an initiative to issue a take-home laptop to every student, an effort that was scheduled to start at the beginning of the school year.

Hepburn had cited an ongoing investigation with the county’s Office of Inspector General as the reason for the delays. The district received an anonymous complaint questioning whether the process to buy the computers was fair to all vendors, officials said.

The district had canceled the bidding process twice before due to concerns raised by vendors. Hepburn said he conducted his own internal review of the most recent bidding process and didn’t see any problems.

Still, the School Board agreed during a July 29 to hold off on buying the laptops. That week, Dave Rhodes, the district’s chief auditor, also sent a letter to Inspector General Carol “Jodie” Breece seeking an update on the investigation.

Breece wouldn’t provide a timeline for the review but addressed the district’s move to delay the purchase of the computers until the investigation was complete.

“While the Board would

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## Conservative activist Charlie Kirk shot, killed

**By Hannah Schoenbuam, Alanna Durkin Ricker and Mark Sherman**  
Associated Press

OREM, Utah — Charlie Kirk, a conservative activist and close ally of President Donald Trump, was shot and killed Wednesday at a Utah college event in an act that the state’s governor called a “political assassination.”

A “person of interest” was in custody Wednesday evening, said Utah Gov. Spencer Cox, though no charges were immediately announced.

The death was announced on social media by Trump, who praised the 31-year-old Kirk, the co-founder and CEO of the youth organization Turning Point USA, as “Great, and even Legendary.”

“No one understood or had the Heart of the Youth in the United States of America better than Charlie,” Trump posted on his Truth Social account.

The suspected shooter has not been arrested, Orem,

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Kirk

## A new 9/11 generation: These kids promise to never forget

**By Carol Rosenberg**  
The New York Times

NEW YORK — Ten-year-old Danielle Riches read off some of the names of the dead at the Sept. 11 remembrance ceremony last year, strangers who were killed before she was born.

The final name she recited was of the man whose life and loss are always present in her family, her uncle, Jimmy Riches, a New York City firefighter who died trying to save others.

“Uncle Jimmy, we talk about you all the time and how you sounded so amazing,” she said. “I wish I could have met you.”

On Thursday, for the 24th time, survivors and victims of the terrorist attacks will gather at New York’s 9/11 Memorial and Museum for the annual rite of remembrance, an hourslong recitation of nearly 3,000 names at the site known as ground zero.

There will be bagpipes, the national anthem and moments of silence. Relatives of the dead will take turns in the recitation.

Those reading the names will also include children. About one-third of last year’s readers belong to this new generation in the Sept. 11 families, one with no memory of the attacks

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