

A TROPHY FOR MESSI?

MLS Cup final is last game for Inter Miami in Fort Lauderdale



Art Basel 2025 quiz: Which event is fake?

US security strategy slams Europe

Two-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize Gold Medal for Public Service



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Officials question state CFO's accusations

Palm Beach County seeking information on how spending is being scrutinized

By Abigail Hasebroock
South Florida Sun Sentinel

Palm Beach County's administrator on Friday called it "essential" to find out the exact methodology and underlying calculations being used by the state's chief financial officer — a day after the CFO

claimed at a news conference that the county has overspent by more than \$344 million this year. "Because this number carries significant public implications, it is essential that the county fully understand how the calculation was developed and how it corresponds to the county's budget

structure, cost environment and statutory responsibilities," Palm Beach County Administrator Joseph Abruzzo wrote to the CFO, Blaise Ingoglia. Abruzzo, who in June was approved be the new administrator of the third most populous county in Florida, has said he considers the state's examination an opportunity. And his recent letter backed that idea, stating that the county aims to work collaboratively and welcomes

constructive review to strengthen fiscal stewardship. Still, Abruzzo wrote the CFO's findings appear to use inflation measures that the county does not operate under, and the county should have access to the specific expenses considered part of the "alleged excess." **Scrutinizing spending:** Earlier this year, Florida's Department of Governmental Efficiency — or

DOGE — reached out to many local governments across Florida requesting information about their spending. It also emailed Palm Beach County seeking information about the county's revenue and expenses from 2020 to 2024. The county replied with detailed information about how much it spent in different departments. These inspections are part of **Turn to Spending, Page 4**

Epstein records can be released

Justice Department has not set a timetable for delivery of information

By Mike Schneider and Michael R. Sisak
Associated Press

ORLANDO — A federal judge on Friday gave the Justice Department permission to release transcripts of a grand jury investigation into Jeffrey Epstein's abuse of underage girls in Florida — a case that ultimately ended without any federal charges being filed against the millionaire sex offender. U.S. District Judge Rodney Smith said a recently passed federal law ordering the release of records related to Epstein overrode the usual rules about grand jury secrecy. The law signed in November by President Donald Trump compels the Justice Department, FBI and federal prosecutors to release later this month the vast troves of material they have amassed during investigations into Epstein that date back at least two decades. Friday's court ruling dealt with the earliest known federal inquiry. In 2005, police in Palm Beach, where Epstein had a mansion, began interviewing teenage girls who told of being hired to give the financier sexualized massages. The FBI later joined the investigation. Federal prosecutors in Florida prepared an indictment in 2007, but Epstein's lawyers attacked the credibility of his accusers publicly while secretly negotiating a plea bargain that would let him avoid serious jail time. In 2008, Epstein pleaded guilty to relatively minor state charges of soliciting prostitution from someone under age 18. He served most of his 18-month sentence in a work release program that let him spend

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JACQUELYN MARTIN/AP

2026 WORLD CUP

FIFA President Gianni Infantino, from left, President Donald Trump, Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum, and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney hold up country names during the draw for the 2026 soccer World Cup at the Kennedy Center in Washington on Friday. **See story in Sports on Page 5.**

Reversal advised on hepatitis B shot

Critics decry vote against vaccine given at birth

By Mike Stobbe
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A federal vaccine advisory committee voted Friday to end the long-standing recommendation that all U.S. babies get the hepatitis B vaccine on the day they're born. A loud chorus of medical and public health leaders decried the actions of the panel, whose current members were all appointed by Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. — a leading anti-vaccine activist before this year becoming the nation's top health official. "This is the group that can't shoot straight," said Dr. William



A protester Thursday at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's headquarters in Atlanta. **ELIJAH NOUVELAGE/GETTY**

Schaffner, a Vanderbilt University vaccine expert who for decades has been involved with ACIP and its workgroups. Several medical societies and

state health departments said they would continue to recommend them. While people may have to check their policies, the trade group AHIP, formerly known as America's Health Insurance Plans, said its members still will cover the birth dose of the hepatitis B vaccine. For decades, the government has advised that all babies be vaccinated against the liver infection right after birth. The shots are widely considered to be a public health success for preventing thousands of illnesses. But Kennedy's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices decided to recommend the birth dose only for babies whose mothers test positive, and in cases where the mom wasn't tested. **Turn to Vaccines, Page 6**

Kids leave to join deported parents

58 children sent to Guatemala from Florida

By Claire Healy
Miami Herald

The small figures huddled together at Miami International Airport carried backpacks, stuffed animals and three suitcases. One wore a silver cross necklace. Families of the seven travelers — ages 3 to 15 — have been torn apart this year by the Trump Administration's deportation campaign. The children left the United States on Thursday for a new life in the mountains of Guatemala. For some, Florida is the only home they've ever known. Three of the children are U.S. citizens; the other four grew up in Lake Worth Beach, long home to a large Guatemalan community. They are among 58 children that the Guatemala-Maya Center, a local social service agency in Palm Beach County, has helped reunite with their parents in Guatemala this year. Staff said that they have organized power-of-attorney documents for 200 other children, whose parents are worried about what will happen if they are detained. "Separating a child from their parents is not a lesson for anyone, there are no winners in doing it," said Diego Serrato, who accompanied the kids to Guatemala City with his wife, a University of Miami employee. "The only losers are the children." The couple volunteered to chaperone the children on their flight — because they have two young daughters of their own. As President Donald Trump carries out a mass deportation campaign, families have been caught in the middle, and parents

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State bear hunt returns after decade off

Florida permit holders say they won't hunt

By Stephen Hudak
Orlando Sentinel

Hunters will fan out across Florida beginning today as the first sanctioned hunt of black bears in a decade kicks off amid sharply divided public opinion and efforts by humane advocates to cajole — and even pay — sportsmen not to shoot the state's largest land mammal. Through a lottery system, state

wildlife officials awarded 172 bear tags last month to people with a hunting license, each good for a one-bear "harvest," the term the state Fish & Wildlife agency uses for a kill. Some say the hunt, now authorized as an annual event, is overdue given the surge in the species' numbers. "My perspective on this slowly changed as I witnessed the population boom and the havoc it is causing," said Ian, a hunter from Volusia County who responded to an Orlando Sentinel survey of tag holders but asked to be identified

by first name only. State officials estimate there are more than 4,000 bears in Florida today, up from a low of several hundred in the 1970s. But as many as 50 tag holders won't hunt, said Susannah Randolph, who heads Sierra Club Florida, which launched a strategy to "bag a tag and spare a bear." The organization co-funded lottery entries with other moneyed conservationists and animal "rescuers" like businessman Steve Rosen who said he ponied up more than \$200,000

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State wildlife officials weigh the carcass of a black bear at a check station in the Rock Springs Run Wildlife Management Area in 2015. **ORLANDO SENTINEL FILE**

