

Tough opponent

No. 5 Hurricanes get road test against ‘physical’ Wake Forest



Violent struggle

Man killed after trying to take deputy’s gun. **Local & State, Page 3**

Demolition fears

Kennedy Center must give notice before changes. **Nation & world, Page 1**

TWO-TIME WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE GOLD MEDAL FOR PUBLIC SERVICE



SOUTH FLORIDA

SunSentinel

\$ 4.50 | FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2026 | SUNSENTINEL.COM

More red seats at play for midterms

Angst in GOP grows as polls tilt toward Democrats

By Reid J. Epstein and Shane Goldmacher
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — In Georgia, Republican strategists are privately discussing whether the Senate race

has drifted beyond the party’s reach. In Kansas, Vice President JD Vance campaigned for a Senate Republican, even though a Democrat there has not been elected to the chamber since 1932. In Nebraska, a new Republican super PAC just sprang up to spend to defend a billionaire incumbent. And across the country, President Donald Trump’s political operation

is suddenly investing in what once appeared to be bright-red Senate races and House districts, including several in Texas that his party claimed to have safely gerrymandered only a year ago. Less than seven weeks before the midterm elections, the political environment has deteriorated so badly for Republicans that the battlefield now extends deep into

states and districts Trump carried three times, often by double digits. “We have never felt better,” Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York, the chamber’s top Democrat, said in an interview, though he cautioned, “It’s not an easy map.” Trump’s diminished standing, as well as voter anger about high prices brought on by tariffs and the war with Iran, are causing serious

problems for Republicans across the map. And economic trends appear to be going the wrong way for the party. The Federal Reserve raised interest rates Wednesday, which will drive up the cost of borrowing at a time many voters are already paying

See **MIDTERMS** on Page A2



CARLINE JEAN/SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL

By Phillip Valys
SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL

Say goodbye to Big City Tavern, the Fort Lauderdale staple sling-ing all-American spreads of lobster mac ‘n’ cheese, burgers and meatloaf sandwiches. The Las Olas Boulevard restaurant will close after 25 years in business on Sept. 30, a co-owner told the South Florida Sun Sentinel on Thursday.

‘We have no regrets’

Big City Tavern is closing after 25 years on Fort Lauderdale’s Las Olas Boulevard

The classy, brick-lined saloon at 609 E. Las Olas Blvd., a half-block east of the Henry E. Kinney Tunnel, announced the closing in a Thursday email blast to customers that began with “Cheers to an Amazing 25 Years!” before revealing its last day of business. Its website and social media made no mention of the shutdown.

See **TAVERN** on Page A2

Top: A scene from the lunch crowd at Big City Tavern in Fort Lauderdale on Thursday. The restaurant is scheduled to close at the end of the month.

Epstein victims’ fund is defrauded

Boca woman pleads guilty in federal court

By Larry Neumeister
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — A South Florida woman who was paid \$750,000 by a fund for people sexually abused by Jeffrey Epstein has pleaded guilty to falsifying records she used in her application for the money. Jennifer Percival, a scholar who has written books on autism, entered the plea in federal court in New York on Monday, the same day that she was charged in the case. A transcript of the proceeding was entered in the court record Wednesday. Percival is the director of Florida Atlantic University’s Center for Autism and Related Disabilities and lives in Boca Raton. During her brief court appearance, Percival didn’t speak about Epstein and prosecutors didn’t say whether they had reached a conclusion about whether she was, or wasn’t, one of his victims. Percival, 46, said she applied in late 2020 to a fund set up by Epstein’s estate to compensate his victims after he killed himself

See **FRAUD** on Page A2

Hollywood commission backs plan for taller towers at beach

By Susannah Bryan
SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL

Commissioners narrowly approved a controversial proposal that paves the way for taller towers on Hollywood’s barrier island during a spirited meeting that ended before midnight Wednesday. The plan — blasted by opponents as one that will forever alter the quaint charm of Hollywood beach — passed with a tight 4-3 vote.

Before the vote, several residents pleaded with commissioners to delay taking action until they had a better understanding of the 541-page proposal. “I think cramming this through right now is insane,” said longtime resident Stephanie Burns. “I didn’t hear about any of this until recently. And I really think that’s going to be a disaster for the beach. Please, please have some common sense.” Mayor Josh Levy touted the

five-year plan as one that would help revitalize a beach dotted with what he called dilapidated hotels and buildings in need of redevelopment. Levy voted for the Hollywood Beach Overlay District plan along with Kevin Biederman, Adam Gruber and Peter Hernandez. Commissioner Caryl Shuham voted no along with Vice Mayor

See **TOWERS** on Page A2



Trump Hollywood and other high-rises at the south end of Hollywood beach. **AMY BETH BENNETT/ SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL**

ALL ANTIQUES WANTED

WE BUY - INSTANT CASH, JEWELRY AND ART

3rd Generation Expertise

\$\$ Highest Prices Paid \$\$

\$\$ Immediate Payment \$\$

WE COME TO YOU!

ALL 10KT 14KT 22KT, Gold Jewelry & Bullion

All Gold & Silver Coins, Quality Costume Jewelry

DIAMOND & SIGNED GOLD JEWELRY

Emeralds • Rubies • Sapphires

DIAMOND & ESTATE JEWELRY

Rolex • Patek Philippe • Cartier Watches • Sterling • Silver Flatware & Tea Sets • Tiffany • Buccellati

European Sterling • Chanel • Louis Vuitton • Hermes • Handbags • Clothing • Shoes & Jewelry

American, European & Asian Works of Art

ART WORK

All Highway Men • Picasso • Warhol • LePho • Vu Cao Dam • Calder • Keith Herring • Miro • Dali • Chagall

Peter Max • Erte Bronzes • Lithos • Britto • Chihuly • Murano Glass • Chinese • Porcelain • Jade

MID-CENTURY FURNITURE & ACCESSORIES

Laverne • Nakashima • Noguchi • Paul Evans • Dumbor • Knoll • Tiffany Lamps/Glass • KPM • Melssen

Bronze & Marble • Statuary • Oriental Rugs • American, European & Asian • Furniture • Chihuly • Baccarat

Lalique • Herend • Steuben • Daum • Waterford • Sevres • Vintage • Automobiles & Slot Machines

Serving State of Florida to NY • DecorativeArtsAuction@gmail.com • **DECORATIVE ARTS AUCTION**

(561) 779-6648. (954) 224-7603

