

# Looking for the light

Making sense of care, connection and daily life in today's world

# TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2026 | TALLAHASSEE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY



Students at the Department of Early Learning at Leon County Schools sit together and read a book during class on April 7. PHOTOS BY ALICIA DEVINE/TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

### CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING

## New map may hurt minority voting strength

Changes expected to boost GOP, reduce Dems

**John Kennedy**

Capital Bureau  
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Gov. Ron DeSantis' congressional redistricting map could cost Democrats as many as four seats in Washington and looms as the latest move by Florida's ruling Republicans that could fracture minority voting strength in the state.

Voting law changes advanced since the 2020 presidential election already sapped the organizing and turnout ability of Black and Hispanic voters. Now, in a state where close to half of the 23.7 million population is a member of a minority, new congressional boundaries could result in 86% of Florida's members of Congress being from the Republican Party.

Registered Republicans in the state only include 16% Hispanic and Black voters; compared to 47% of the state's Democratic Party.

"Every day we do the work of telling people to engage around this process," said Genesis Robinson, executive director of the Equal Ground Education Fund, a voting rights organization which is among several organizations that quickly challenged DeSantis' map as unconstitutional in Leon County Circuit Civil court.

"When your voices are ignored, though, it undercuts your faith in the system that people will do the right thing," he added.

### GOP dominance in Florida could strengthen under DeSantis map

Florida's 28-member congressional delegation currently includes 20 Republicans. But that could increase to 24 Republicans with only four Democrats remaining under the plan DeSantis crafted.

See REDISTRICTING, Page 6A

## Play is key to learning in Leon County pre-K

Public preschool enrollment is falling locally and across Florida

**Alaijah Cross**

Tallahassee Democrat  
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

On a casual Tuesday morning at the Leon County Schools Early Learning Center, 13 energetic preschoolers spread out across their classroom to engage in activities of their choice.

Some students flipped through storybooks, creating their own storylines in place of the author's original. Others played with building blocks, creating treehouses for dinosaur figurines to live as they seek shelter from a meteor shower.

Smushing Play-Doh in between her fingers, one student used molding tools to make a cat, a dog and a duck. When she needed another tool to make spaghetti noodles for the animals to eat, she hit a wall; a peer was making his own "make believe" pasta dish with the



Jen Ramos, a teacher at the Department of Early Learning at Leon County Schools, interacts with a student during class on April 7.

See PRE-K, Page 3A

## FSU shooting victim's lawyers to announce lawsuit

**Jim Rosica**

Tallahassee Democrat  
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Attorneys representing the family of Tiru Chabba, a 45-year-old father of two killed in last year's Florida State University mass shooting, say they'll hold a news conference on May 11 to announce a lawsuit related to the attack.

The announcement is scheduled for 9 a.m. in front of the Joseph Woodrow Hatchett U.S. Courthouse in downtown

Tallahassee. Following prepared remarks, attorneys say they'll take questions from reporters.

Chabba, of South Carolina, was working on the FSU campus on April 17, 2025, as an employee of campus vendor Aramark Collegiate Hospitality.

According to authorities, 20-year-old Phoenix Ikner opened fire shortly before noon. The shooting killed Chabba and 57-year-old campus dining director Robert Morales, and left six people wounded, some of whom already

### More inside

FSU, LCSO face negligence lawsuits one year after mass shooting, **Page 2A**

have filed suit.

The Chabba family is represented by a legal team that includes national civil rights attorney Bakari Sellers, Amy Willbanks of The Strom Law Firm, J. Robert Bell III of Osborne, Francis and Pettis, and Jim Bannister of Bannister,

Wyatt and Stalvey, according to a press release.

The shooting prompted a broader investigation by authorities into the circumstances surrounding the incident and the events leading up to it.

Monday's news conference will serve as the first public announcement of the lawsuit filed on behalf of Chabba's family, who have described him as a father of two whose life was cut short

See LAWSUIT, Page 3A

### Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to [tallahassee.com/enewspaper](http://tallahassee.com/enewspaper) or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!



Volume 121 | No. 110  
Subscribe 800-999-2271  
©2026 \$4.50



0 12409 01125 9