



What we learned from FSU men's first summer practice

SPORTS, 1B

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

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Protesters gather for a weekly vigil across the street from Alligator Alcatraz in Ochopee in Collier County on April 19. Since the opening of the controversial detention center, people have been gathering on Sundays to protest.

ANDREW WEST/FORT MYERS NEWS-PRESS & NAPLES DAILY NEWS/USA TODAY NETWORK-FLORIDA

Driver charged after chase

Man accused of going over 100 mph, crashing into 8 cars

Elena Barrera
Tallahassee Democrat
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

A man is facing a slew of charges for a rainy, hour-long high-speed chase that unfolded across the state capital and led to at least eight separate crashes.

Zachary Read, 36, was arrested June 22 on 18 counts, including fleeing from an officer, driving with a suspended license and multiple hit and runs. He is being held in the Leon County Detention Facility.

Read was previously sentenced to nearly three years in prison for a 2022 carjacking incident during which he fled from law enforcement, according to Florida Department of Corrections records.

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Advocates gather at 'Alligator Alcatraz'

Final vigil held as detainees are moved

Alexa Ryan Fort Myers News-Press & Naples Daily News | USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Over the past 47 weeks, thousands of people have gathered outside of Florida's controversial immigrant detention center, dubbed 'Alligator Alcatraz,' for Freedom Vigils every Sunday, some of which garnered more than 300 participants, to call for the release of detainees.

Getting 300 people out to Alligator Alcatraz, which is over an hour from the nearest populated city, once is a feat, but weekly was unimaginable until the Freedom Vigils.

"The people that come out here are committed," Noelle Damico, the organizer behind the Freedom Vigils, said. "It's about our commitment as ordi-

nary people, not to just think that it's wrong, but to actually do something about it."

Sunday, June 21, 75 people gathered for the last time as detainees were relocated to other detention facilities across the country.

The Department of Homeland Security announced the relocation of all Alligator Alcatraz detainees last week, citing safety concerns as hurricane season ramps up, even though the facility operated throughout the 2025 hurricane season.

This comes after the facility's \$1 million-a-day

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What will the \$5M in school zone camera fines be used for?

Elena Barrera
Tallahassee Democrat
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Millions of dollars from payments on thousands of school-zone speeding tickets issued last year are flowing back to the Tallahassee Police Department and Leon County Schools for safety initiatives, officials say.

A little more than 50,000 notices of violation were issued to Tallahassee drivers since TPD launched the speeding cameras last March, according to data provided by TPD. At \$100 a ticket, this means the cameras have the potential to bring in \$5 million, with TPD's share equating to nearly \$2 million and LCS's share equating to \$600,000 if all the tickets get paid off.

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UF trustees tap Bell as interim president

Move comes after BOG indefinitely delayed vote

Chelsea Long
Gainesville Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK

The University of Florida's Board of Trustees voted unanimously June 22 to appoint Dr. Stuart Bell as interim president, effectively sidestepping a delay in his leadership after Board of Governors Chair Alan Levine indefinitely postponed Bell's confirmation vote over "governance" concerns.



Bell

Levine signaled soon after the vote he would consider a meeting "as soon as legally possible" to consider Bell as president, but conditioned it on whether "the governance issues were resolved." That includes an outside expert first reviewing "governance documents of all universities in the System, all delegated authorities and BOG policies."

Bell, the former president of the University of Alabama, will begin July 1 under a contract running through June 30, 2027, at an annual salary of \$2 million. If

the BOG approves Bell as the university's permanent leader, that contract — which could pay him up to \$3 million annually — would supersede the interim agreement.

In a letter to State University System Chancellor Ray Rodrigues last week, Levine said he would not allow Bell's confirmation to be placed on the BOG's June 24-25 agenda until governance issues at UF are resolved. The board oversees Florida's State University System.

Levine had said a review of Bell's

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