

Cost of data centers? Redacted

Text covered after confidentiality requests submitted by Duke Energy, according to lawyers.

BY EMILY L. MAHONEY
Times Staff Writer

Consumer advocates filed explosive new documents Tuesday in Tallahassee, alleging in a case before regulators that Duke Energy is trying to saddle Flo-

ridians with billions' worth of increases to their bills because of data centers.

There's only one catch: The exact number is hidden from the public.

Duke's approach to data cen-

ters "leaves a dramatic, unprecedented gap — [REDACTED] — for the general body of customers to fill," reads the filing by Florida Rising, an affordability group. "The resulting revenue shortfall works out to almost [REDACT-

ED] per residential customer."

The lawyers made the redactions because of confidentiality requests submitted by Duke Energy, according to a footnote, which adds that Florida Rising doesn't endorse the blackouts. Duke filed paperwork earlier in the case requesting certain information be kept out of public view, citing contract negotiations and "competitive business interests."

In response to a question from the Tampa Bay Times about the redactions, Duke Energy noted that no one involved in the case had pushed back against its confidentiality requests.

"As part of the hearing process, any party can request specific information be treated as confidential and or proprietary," wrote spokesperson Ana Gibbs in an **See CENTERS, 2A**

'Murder kit' included masks, syringes, state says

Tomasz Kosowski watched forensic experts testify during the third day of his trial.

BY ALEXA COULTOFF
Times Staff Writer

Four masks. A paralytic and needles. A crowbar. Brass knuckles. Duct tape.

On Wednesday, prosecutors presented item after item that they say Tomasz Kosowski used to prepare for the murder of Largo attorney Steven Cozzi.

Though Cozzi's body was never found, the state put a number of forensics experts on the stand to continue building their case that the former plastic surgeon meticulously planned the attorney's murder for months.

Kosowski, an Ivy League-educated doctor who faced Cozzi in a medical billing lawsuit, is representing himself in the bench trial. Judge Joseph Bulone will decide whether he is guilty of first-degree murder and, if so, whether he should be sentenced to death.

Kosowski, 47, did not make an opening statement and has **See KOSOWSKI, 2A**

State sets AI rules for schools, colleges

Parents will be able to opt into, rather than out of, their children using AI tools.

BY LUCY MARQUES
Times Staff Writer

The Florida Board of Education on Wednesday approved guidelines restricting the use of artificial intelligence in K-12 schools and public colleges.



The rules are intended to safeguard students from inappropriate content while allowing teachers access to high-quality educational tools, said Paul Burns, senior chancellor at the state Department of Education.

Education Commissioner Henry Mack said AI should enhance learning, not replace it.

"We are neither going to one extreme, i.e. banning AI, nor are we going to the other extreme, which is just unfettered access," he said.

See RULES, 10A



Residents supporting the Save the Garden group during a rally last year in Clearwater. The group submitted a petition with the city Wednesday to challenge an ordinance the council approved in June. (LUIS SANTANA | Times, 2025)

Save the Garden submits 2nd petition to keep street

Clearwater residents want to reverse a City Council vote giving Scientology part of South Garden Avenue.

BY COLBI EDMONDS
Times Staff Writer

A group of Clearwater residents is looking to challenge a vote by the City Council in June that gave part of a downtown roadway, South Garden Avenue, to the Church of Scientology.

The Save the Garden group submitted nearly 11,000 signatures to the city Wednesday in support of fighting the ordinance the council approved.

Clearwater's charter, which is like a local government constitution, empowers voters to ask the City Council to reconsider ordinances it has adopted. If the petition meets charter requirements, it would go before the council. If the council doesn't repeal the ordinance, the issue would move to a referendum, according to the charter, giving voters their say sometime after the November general election.

Brooks Gibbs, campaign director, said

the group verified that more than 8,000 of the petition signatures are from registered voters.

"We want to keep Garden Avenue open to the public," Gibbs said Wednesday. "This is our street. Let us decide whether or not we want to give it to the Church of Scientology."

The group is asking that the Pinellas County supervisor of elections verify the signatures instead of the city clerk. Although Gibbs said the clerk "does a phenomenal job" and is not biased, the group thinks the supervisor of elections is better suited for the task.

See PETITION, 9A

Florida Democrats decry Alligator Alcatraz report

Congressional delegation signs a letter saying those responsible "must be held accountable."

BY JUAN CARLOS CHAVEZ
Times Staff Writer

Florida's Democratic members of Congress sent a letter Tuesday to state and federal officials seeking more information about findings in a recent report that people held at the now shuttered immigrant detention site known as Alligator Alcatraz were sometimes kept in small metal cages and subjected to other inhumane treatment.

The letter said those responsible "must be held accountable" and make sure that "nothing like this happens again in Florida."

The letter was sent to Homeland

Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, Florida Attorney General James Uthmeier and Florida Division of Emergency Management Executive Director Jared Perdue.

"This is not how America should treat human beings in our custody, regardless of their immigration status. We can enforce our laws without abandoning basic human dignity," the letter said.

The letter was signed by all seven Democratic members of Florida's congressional delegation: Debbie Wasserman Schultz **See LETTER, 9A**



A small metal enclosure at the since-closed "Alligator Alcatraz" was called "the box" by detainees. (Homeland Security via TNS)