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SPORTS, 1B

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3 people die in collision

Head-on crash took place north of Polk City

Lakeland Ledger

Three people died in an accident north of Polk City the evening of March 8 after one driver attempted to pass a line of other vehicles and hit two motorcyclists head-on.

The crash happened shortly before 8:30 p.m. in the 15000 block of Commonwealth Avenue, which is State Road 33, about six miles north of Polk City.

The Polk County Sheriff's Office said

a 2013 Dodge Charger, driven Richard Lee Logan, 75, of Clermont attempted to pass other northbound vehicles and hit two southbound motorcyclists, a man and a woman, head-on. A 2011 Jeep Compass that was one of the northbound vehicles being passed was hit by the male motorcyclist who had been ejected from his bike.

Both motorcyclists were found dead by first-responders. Logan was taken to an area hospital, where he later died. His passenger, Janice M. Logan, 75,

suffered minor injuries, the Sheriff's Office said. The driver of the Compass was not injured.

The Sheriff's Office did not immediately release the motorcyclists' names, saying next-of-kin notification hadn't been made. But they were both from the Sun Coast area.

Because of the scale of the crash scene and debris, Commonwealth Avenue was closed for about four and a half hours. No charges are anticipated, and the investigation remains ongoing.



Three people died the evening of March 8 when a Dodge Charger, passing a line of vehicles on State Road 33 north of Polk City, slammed into two motorcycles head-on.

PROVIDED POLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



Lilly Warren, right, carries a girl from a "gold family" at an Inheritance of Hope Legacy Retreat in Orlando in 2023. Warren's family received a trip to Disneyland through the nonprofit when her mother was terminally ill with cancer.

PROVIDED BY LILLY WARREN

'Joy in sorrow'

Lakeland student helps families facing terminal illness

Gary White

Lakeland Ledger
USA TODAY NETWORK

At age 11, Lilly Warren took a trip that mixed exuberance with sadness.

As if in a pre-teen dream, Warren traveled from Lakeland to California in 2018 to explore Disneyland, the progenitor of Florida's theme parks. Her entire family joined her, including Warren's mother, Marcia Warren.

Lilly pushed a wheelchair for her mother, who had been diagnosed about nine months earlier with stage-four pancreatic cancer. The Warrens found themselves among other families deal-

ing with terminal illnesses in a "Legacy Retreat" organized by the nonprofit Inheritance of Hope.

"It was just really great because, at that time, being in Lakeland, there was nobody in our family circle that we knew that was also handling a terminal illness diagnosis," said Warren, now 20. "So, I just remember our entire family just feeling extremely comforted by the idea that there were other people and also other young families, albeit that were navigating a similar diagnosis, mobility issues, doctor's appointments, chemotherapy, just kind of

See 'LEGACY RETREAT', Page 3A



The Warren family embraces Marcia, center, during an Inheritance of Hope Legacy Retreat in California. Warren, now 20, has become a volunteer at retreats staged by the nonprofit.

PROVIDED BY INHERITANCE OF HOPE

Florida is targeting public sector unions

James Call

USA TODAY NETWORK - Florida

The Florida Senate on March 6 passed a public sector labor bill supported by the Trump Administration that union advocates said will cripple government workers' ability to organize.

The measure (SB 1296) by Sen. Jonathan Martin, R-Fort Myers, is backed by Gov. Ron DeSantis and U.S. Education Secretary Linda McMahon. It makes it more difficult for unions to recruit, communicate and collect dues from members and requires local chapters to get 60% of the vote in an election to be certified.

The House companion (HB 995) cleared its three committees and is waiting to be considered on the House floor. The session is set to end March 13.

The measure originally required a 50%-plus-one vote of all workers in a bargaining unit, which would have counted a non-vote as a "no" vote. But Sen. Corey Simon, R-Tallahassee, amended the bill in committee to require a supermajority of those who voted for a chapter to be recertified.

At the time, Simon told Martin his bill needed "more work" and he hoped it would "become more sensible." But when the Senate approved the measure on a 20-14 vote, Simon - who represents about 30,000 government sector workers in his 13-county north Florida district - was among the no votes.

The Freedom Foundation free-market think tank consulted with Martin when he wrote the bill; it's part of the foundation's campaign to eliminate public sector labor unions. Its website says "government unions are a root cause of every growing national dysfunction in America."

The day before Martin carried the bill to the Senate floor for a question-and-answer period, McMahon posted on X that Martin proposes common-sense reform that will rein in teacher unions' political activism.

According to a WLRN/PolitiFact report, there are an estimated 1.17 million public sectors employees in Florida

See UNIONS, Page 2A

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