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HEAT BAKES LAKE

Hampered by rain, Deer Lake dredging project back on track



Doug Eckert with Guers Topsoil & Mulch Products scoops dirt with an excavator on Tuesday at Deer Lake Pond. **PHOTOS BY MATTHEW PERSCHALL/MULTIMEDIA EDITOR**

By Ron Devlin
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REPUBLICANHERALD.COM

DEER LAKE — Dredging of a man-made lake in the Pine Creek basin, begun about 10 months ago, will not be complete for another year, a borough official reported.

“The project was held up by this spring’s unusually wet weather, but the recent hot temperatures have ‘baked the lake’ and made ideal conditions for desilting,” said David Crouse, Deer Lake borough council president.

Crouse posted an update to the dredging of Deer Lake, the 102-year-old body of water that shares the borough’s name, recently on Facebook.

At the dredging site, where a giant excavator ate into 17 years of sediment exposed by draining the lake, Crouse talked about the \$1 million-plus project.

Guers Topsoil & Mulch Products removed an estimated 50,000 cubic yards of sediment, and in addition, the project involves extensive work to the gates at the dam’s breast.

The main sluice gates will be sandblasted and powder coated, and damaged trash cages welded together. The surface of the spillway is being reconditioned, the hand-operated system of controlling the dam’s gates is being automated and security fencing installed.

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Eckert and Deer Lake Council President David Crouse look out on the water at Deer Lake Pond.

IMMIGRATION POLICIES

Hurricane season collides with fears of agenda

Those without legal status worry about getting captured

By Gabriela Aoun Angueira
ASSOCIATED PRESS

If a major hurricane approaches Central Florida this season, Maria knows it’s dangerous to stay inside her wooden, trailer-like home. In past storms, she evacuated to her sister’s sturdier house. If she couldn’t get there, a shelter set up at the local high school served as a refuge if needed.

But with accelerating detentions and deportations of immigrants across her community of Apopka, 20 miles (32 kilometers) northwest of Orlando, Maria, an agricultural worker from Mexico without permanent U.S. legal status, doesn’t know if those options are safe. All risk encountering immigration enforcement agents.

“They can go where they want,” said Maria, 50, who insisted The Associated Press not use her last name for fear of detention. “There is no limit.”

Natural disasters have long posed singular risks for people in the United States without permanent legal status. But with the arrival of peak Atlantic hurricane season, immigrants and their advocates say President Donald Trump’s robust immigration enforcement agenda has increased the danger.

Places considered neutral spaces by immigrants such as schools, hospitals and emergency management agencies are now suspect, and advocates say agreements by local law enforcement to collaborate with U.S. Immigration and

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Israel approves settlement project that could divide the West Bank

By Melanie Lidman
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEL AVIV, Israel — Israel gave final approval Wednesday for a controversial settlement project in the occupied West Bank that would effectively cut the territory in two, and that Palestinians and rights groups say could destroy hopes for a future Palestinian state.

Settlement development in E1, an open tract of land east of Jerusalem, has been under consideration for more than two decades, but was frozen due to U.S. pressure during previous administrations. The inter-

national community overwhelmingly considers Israeli settlement construction in the West Bank to be illegal and an obstacle to peace.

Far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, a former settler leader, cast the approval as a rebuke to Western countries that announced their plans to recognize a Palestinian state in recent weeks.

“The Palestinian state is being erased from the table not with slogans but with actions,” he said on Wednesday. “Every settlement, every neighborhood, every housing unit is another nail in the coffin of this dangerous idea.”

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rejects the idea of a Palestinian state alongside Israel and has vowed to maintain open-ended control over the occupied West Bank, annexed east Jerusalem, and the war-ravaged Gaza Strip — territories Israel seized in the 1967 war that the Palestinians want for their state.

Israel’s expansion of settlements is part of an increasingly dire reality for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank as the world’s attention focuses on the war in Gaza. There have been marked increases in attacks



A general view shows the E1 area, an open tract of land east of Jerusalem, between the Israeli settlement of Maale Adumim, left and the occupied West Bank town of Eizariya, right, on Thursday. **NASSER NASSER/ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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