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THE SUN

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OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL



Photos by Harold Hanka, Special to The Sun

On a hot and humid day, hundreds of worshippers turned out for the annual Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel procession on Sunday in Westerly. A cherished tradition of Westerly's tight-knit Italian-American community, this year's feast, the 97th annual celebration, began July 9 with a Mass celebrated by Rev. Joseph Pescatello at Westerly's Immaculate Conception Church, along with the "Crowning of the Blessed Mother/Jesus" statue and the traditional enrollment into the scapular and consecration to the Blessed Mother. On Sunday, the final day of the traditional four-day celebration, following a Mass celebrated by Bishop Bruce A. Lewandowski in honor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, a three-mile street procession through local streets was held. At dusk a band concert courtesy of the Westerly Band and fireworks display at Cimalore Field completes the festival.



Above, faithful reach out to touch statue following Mass and prior to procession. At left, John Ventilato, a member of the feast committee, waits for the sign to toll the bell as Holy Communion is offered.

Lawmakers visit 'Alligator Alcatraz' after being blocked

Dems condemn new Fla. detention center

By Jennifer Peltz
and Alexandra Rodriguez
Associated Press

OCHOPEE, Fla. — Democratic lawmakers condemned Florida's new Everglades immigration detention center after visiting Saturday, describing it as crowded, unsanitary and bug-infested. Republicans on

the same tour said they saw nothing of the sort at the remote facility that officials have dubbed "Alligator Alcatraz."

The state-arranged tour came after some Democrats were blocked earlier from viewing the 3,000-bed detention center that the state rapidly built on an isolated airstrip surrounded by swampland. So many state legislators and members of Congress turned up Saturday that they were split into multi-

ple groups.

"There are really disturbing, vile conditions and this place needs to be shut the hell down," U.S. Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, a Democrat, told reporters after visiting the agglomeration of tents, trailers and temporary buildings. "This place is a stunt, and they're abusing human beings here."

Cage-style units of 32 men share three combination

toilet-sink devices, the visitors measured the temperature at 83 degrees (28 degrees Celsius) in a housing area entranceway and 85 (29 Celsius) in a medical intake area, and grasshoppers and other insects abound, she and her fellow Florida Democrats said.

Although the visitors said they were not able to speak with the detainees, Rep. Maxwell

See Alligator, **A5**

New tax break for auto loans could save some buyers thousands

But will it boost sales? Some are skeptical

By David A. Lieb
Associated Press

Millions of people receive a federal tax deduction for the interest they pay on home loans. Under President Donald Trump's new tax-cut law, many people for the first time also could claim a tax deduction for interest on their vehicle loans.

The new tax break will be available even to people who don't itemize deductions. But there are some caveats that could limit its reach. The vehicles must be new, not used. They must be assembled in the U.S. And the loans must be issued no sooner than this year, to list just a few qualifications.

Here are some things to know about the new auto loan interest tax deduction:

Candidate Trump promised an auto loan interest tax break

Trump pledged while campaigning last year to make interest on car loans tax-deductible. He said it would make car ownership more affordable and "stimulate massive domestic auto production."

The idea made it into the big tax-cut bill passed by Congress, which Trump signed into law

See Autos, **A5**



A long line of unsold 2024 Bronco utility vehicles sit on display at Ford dealership in Denver, Nov. 28, 2024.

AP file photo

SPORTS



Crochet shines for Red Sox in first shutout. **B1**

ENTERTAINMENT



'Superman' soars to a \$122 million debut. **B5**

FRONT PORCH NEWS



Westerly High School grads read at DCS. **B8**



High 80
Low 70
Weather: **A8**

132nd year, No. 342
\$1.50



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