

# SOUTH FLORIDA Sun Sentinel

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**WEATHER**  
High: 83  
Low: 64  
Forecast, **18B**

**It'll quack you up**  
Duck Fest Derby is fun for a good cause. **18B**

**INDEX**  
Opinion .....**12A**  
Lottery .....**3B**  
Obituaries.**10B**  
Money.....**12B**

**LOCAL**  
**Bigger 'Discovery'**  
Science Museum plans to expand. **1B**

## Make your chicken DINNER a WINNER

We show you the right way to roast a bird.

**FOOD**



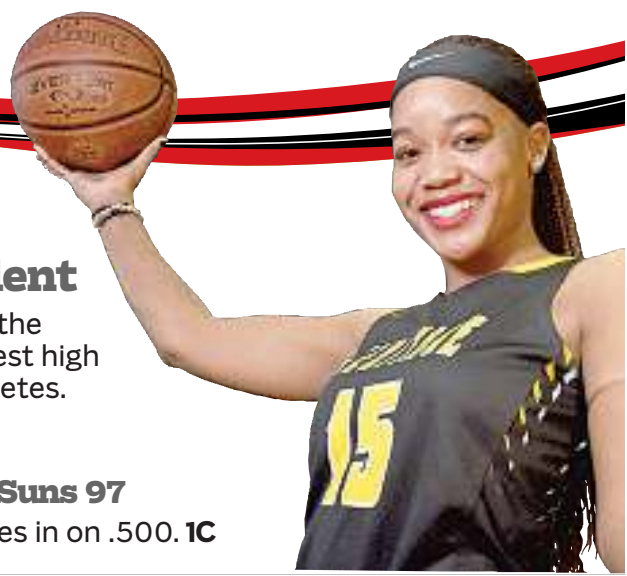
## SPECIAL SECTION

### Top talent

Check out the county's best high school athletes.

### SPORTS

**Heat 112, Suns 97**  
Miami closes in on .500. **1C**



# 40 years on, US oversight of jail system nears end

Lawsuit brought monitoring to safeguard inmates' rights and treatment in Broward

**BY LARRY BARSZEWSKI**  
Staff writer

After nearly 40 years, Broward County jails soon could be free of federal monitoring, a process that has cost taxpayers millions of dollars.

Both sides in a decades-

old lawsuit against the county now agree that monitoring is no longer needed to ensure that inmates' constitutional rights are not being violated in the face of crowding, use of force by corrections officers, inmate violence and restrictions on religious practices.

An expert completed a review of those areas March 7. One major issue remains regarding the lawsuit first filed in 1976: Are inmates' constitutional rights being violated in regard to needed mental health services? A separate evaluation of that issue is expected by July 15.

A settlement agreement reached last year said the case could be dismissed if the two evaluations turn up

no constitutional violations.

The jails have been operating under a 1995 consent decree — a court agreement between the Sheriff's Office, inmates and the county that acknowledged jail conditions were unconstitutional — that ordered formal monitoring.

On Monday, the Sheriff's Office and lawyers representing the inmates filed a motion to terminate the

consent decree in the areas covered by the recent evaluation. An order doing that could be signed any day by U.S. District Judge Donald Middlebrooks.

The evaluation by Michael A. Berg reported jail operations in the areas he reviewed are substantially in compliance with the settlement agreement and he found no "violations of constitutionally protected

federal rights overall."

"The Broward County Sheriff's Office has achieved and continues to maintain all of the provisions of the Court's Orders in an exceptional and professional manner that exceeds the Court's intended goal and minimum standards of constitutional law," Berg reported.

Chris Cloney, the attorney

See **JAILS, 11A**

## Former sheriff's deputy arrested

Drug center CEO accused of paying to be sent patients

**BY RYAN VAN VELZER**  
Staff writer

A retired Palm Beach County sheriff's deputy was arrested Tuesday on charges he paid kickbacks to lure patients into his drug treatment center in West Palm Beach.

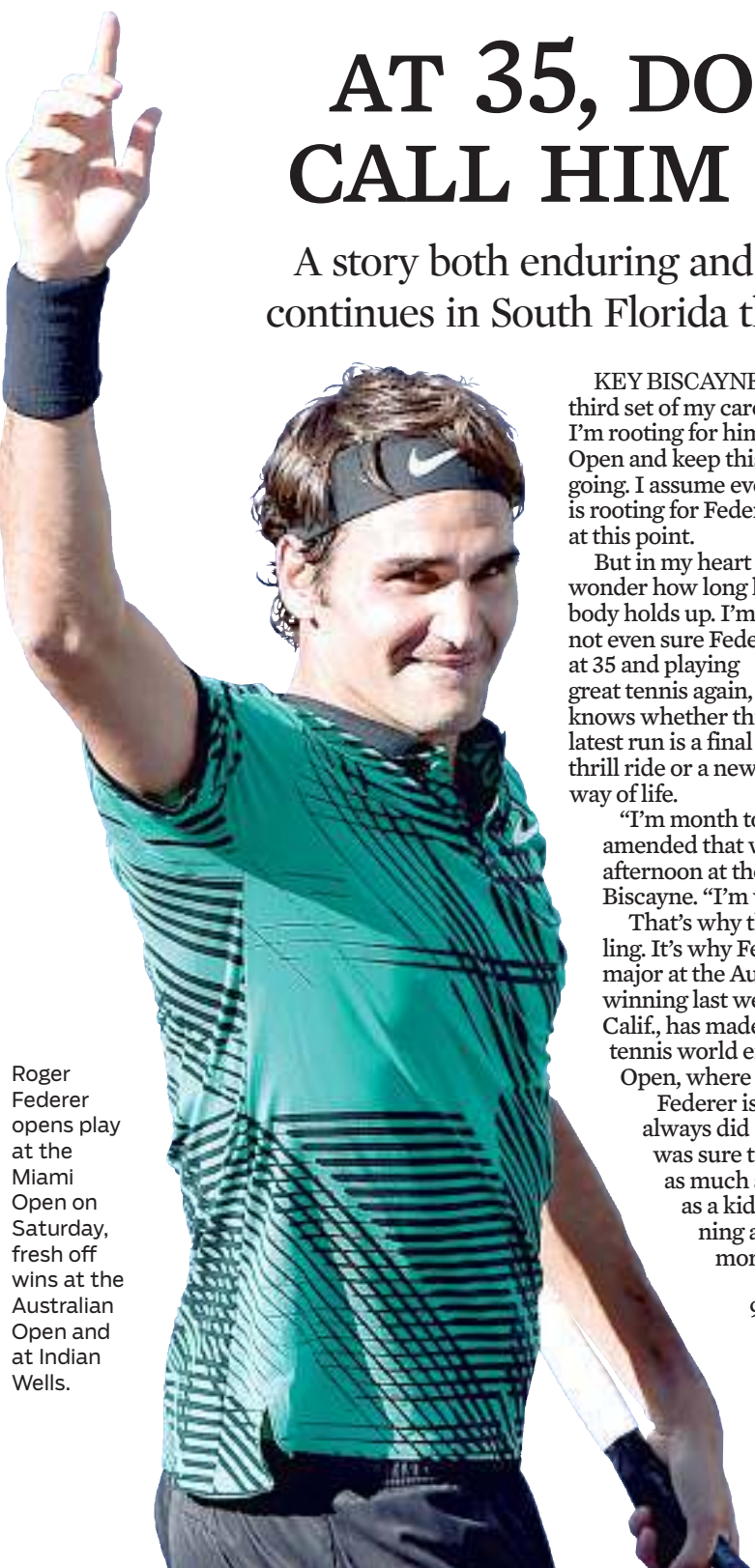
Robert "Bobby" Simeone, 46, worked for about 10 years as a sheriff's deputy before retiring, police records show. The Navy veteran, pilot, and one-time state House candidate is also the founder of a nonprofit that offers grants to children of public safety and military personnel.

Simeone was arrested by West Palm Beach police and accused of 15 counts of patient brokering, a third-degree felony under Florida law.

He was listed as the CEO of Epiphany's Treatment Center LLC as of 2016, according to business records. The center also has locations in Delray Beach and Boca Raton, those records show.

Neither the treatment center, the non-profit or Simeone returned calls for comment.

See **SIMEONE, 11A**



Roger Federer opens play at the Miami Open on Saturday, fresh off wins at the Australian Open and at Indian Wells.

## AT 35, DON'T CALL HIM OUT

A story both enduring and endearing continues in South Florida this weekend

**KEY BISCAZYNE** — Because I'm in the third set of my career like Roger Federer, I'm rooting for him to win the Miami Open and keep this throwback comeback going. I assume everyone of a certain age is rooting for Federer at this point.

But in my heart I wonder how long his body holds up. I'm not even sure Federer, at 35 and playing great tennis again, knows whether this latest run is a final thrill ride or a new way of life.

"I'm month to month," he said, then amended that with a smile Tuesday afternoon at the tennis center in Key Biscayne. "I'm week to week."

That's why this story is so compelling. It's why Federer winning his 18th major at the Australian Open and winning last week at Indian Wells, Calif., has made him the talk of the tennis world entering the Miami Open, where he opens play Saturday.

Federer is playing like he once always did and in a way no one was sure to expect anymore. And as much as he enjoyed winning as a kid, he appreciates winning as the elder statesman more.

"At 25, I was winning 90 percent of my matches and eventually you're on this train where you just keep rolling and you just



**Dave Hyde**

See **FEDERER, 11A**

FREDERIC J. BROWN/ AFP/GETTY IMAGES

## Loophole let clinic escape scrutiny

Sunrise stem cell facility where three went blind is largely unregulated

**BY DIANE C. LADE**  
Staff writer

U.S. Stem Cell Clinic is in the spotlight after three patients reportedly lost their eyesight after having procedures at the Sunrise facility.

The clinic offers stem cell treatments for a range of diseases and chronic disorders, yet it has no medical facility license.

Here's what you might not know: It doesn't need one.

The facility falls under a regulatory loophole. Regulators with Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration, which licenses health care facilities such as hospitals and rehabilitation clinics, say they have no authority over stem cell operations. Neither does the Florida Department of Health, which has regulatory power only over personnel including licensed doctors and nurses working in these facilities.

Both state agencies say that authority lies with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Yet even here, guidelines for adipose stem cells (harvested from the clients themselves) are unclear.

The FDA has faced or could face an investigation, spokeswoman Andrea Fischer said.

See **CELLS, 11A**

**'These people were way out of their league.'**

**Dr. Thomas Albini, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute**

### YOUR NATION, YOUR WORLD

#### Nominee assures committee

Supreme Court nominee Neil Gorsuch tells senators, "Nobody is above the law in this country," including president. **2A**

#### President pushes health care

Trump tells congressional Republicans in passing bill to repeal much of ACA, a "loss is not acceptable." **3A**

#### Tillerson to skip NATO meeting

Secretary of State will travel to Russia, however, prompting questions about administration's foreign policy. **9A**

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Go!

Brought to you by the staff of SouthFlorida.com

Lauderdale duck race is where rubber hits the river

By BEN CRANDELL Staff writer

The 11th annual KID Duck Fest Derby returns to downtown Fort Lauderdale on Saturday...



KIDS IN DISTRESS/COURTESY

The 11th annual KID Duck Fest Derby is set for Saturday along the New River in Fort Lauderdale.

pretty aimless. The rumor is they are wearing sunglasses because they are feeling the effects of spring break parties the night before.

'Yes, they push each other around pretty significantly. ... The Fort Lauderdale Fire Department, they bring their hoses, and if those ducks are not floating fast enough, they hose the ducks down and push them down the river as best they can.'

I am told that to prevent the influence of gamblers, the ducks are under tight security before the race.

'They are kept in a locked warehouse. People, when they adopt a duck, they have a specific number that is assigned to them. [On Friday night], we have a lottery that assigns random numbers

to all the ducks going in the river. It's done with our IT guy, along with our auditors. It can't be rigged. It can't be fixed.'

When these ducks are done racing, can you adopt them, like retired greyhounds?

'I wish that was the case. We collect them all up, put them in the boxes, and we ship them to the next city. They are in constant training no matter where they go.'

I hear that as they enter the river Saturday, many of the competitors will be doing the duck walk in honor of Chuck Berry.

'Our whole tagline is "Duck Fest Rocks," and we'll have a live band out there from the '60s, so if they want to go ahead and do some kind of duck dance, we are absolutely fine with that.'

TODAY

Music

Chubby Checker: The Grammy-winner shot to fame in 1959 with "The Twist." He also popularized limbo rock and its trademark dance, as well as the fly dance.

Dudu Fisher in Jerusalem: The vocalist's repertoire ranges from Broadway show tunes and operatic arias to cantorial music and contemporary songs.

Pretenders: When the rockers released their self-titled debut in 1980, it was the height of the punk-new wave musical move-

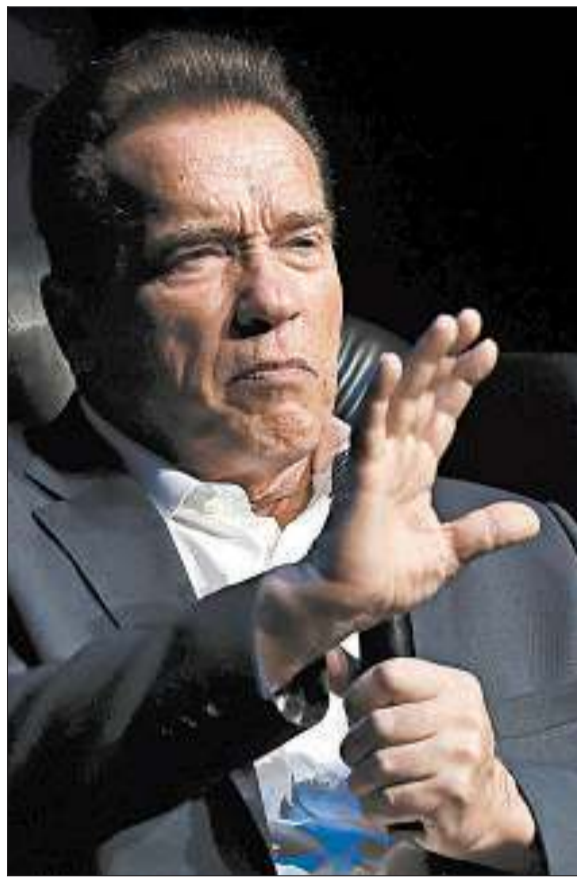
ment. Fronted by singer-songwriter Chrissie Hynde, the group created a tough-as-nails take on rock, love and life. Over the course of their long career, the veterans have softened their sound.

Theater

Barefoot in the Park: Celebrating its 50th anniversary season, Montana Repertory Theatre presents a revival of the show that put Neil Simon on the map more than 50 years ago.

CELEBRITIES

Tribune news services



ROBERT CIANFLONE/GETTY

Arnold Schwarzenegger posted a video on Twitter referencing a new Gallup poll that showed President Donald Trump's approval rating has dropped 6 points.

Arnold on Trump approval rating: 'You got swamped'

Arnold Schwarzenegger is turning the tables on Donald Trump by taking to social media to criticize the president's own approval ratings.

Schwarzenegger posted a video on Twitter referencing a new Gallup poll that showed Trump's approval rating at 39 percent, down 6 points from a week earlier.

The action movie star and former California governor replaced Trump as the host of "Celebrity Apprentice," and Trump repeatedly mocked him for poor television ratings.

Schwarzenegger also criticized Trump's proposed budget cuts, including to after-school programs. He invited Trump to visit a Washington, D.C., middle school with him to see "fantastic work" being done for children.

Schwarzenegger didn't support Trump during his presidential run.

- Associated Press



DIMITRIOS KAMBOURIS/GETTY

Off the pot: Woody Harrelson has given up marijuana after decades of what he calls partying too hard. The actor, 55, is one of Hollywood's most well-known marijuana enthusiasts.

Arresting scene: Grammy-winning musician Wyclef Jean says he was unfairly detained by authorities in West Hollywood, Calif., after being mistaken for a robbery suspect.

Beauty as is: The Walt Disney Co. said Tuesday that its movie "Beauty and the Beast" will open in Malaysia on March 30 without the cutting of a gay scene as had been ordered by film censors.

March 22 birthdays: Composer Stephen Sondheim is 87. Actor William Shatner is 86. Composer Andrew Lloyd Webber is 69.

Dilbert



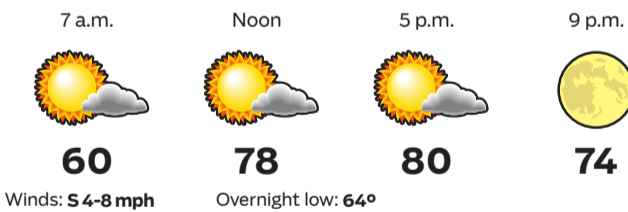
The weather

Latest updates and radar at SunSentinel.com/weather

AccuWeather.com

Forecast for Wednesday

High: 83° RealFeel 88°



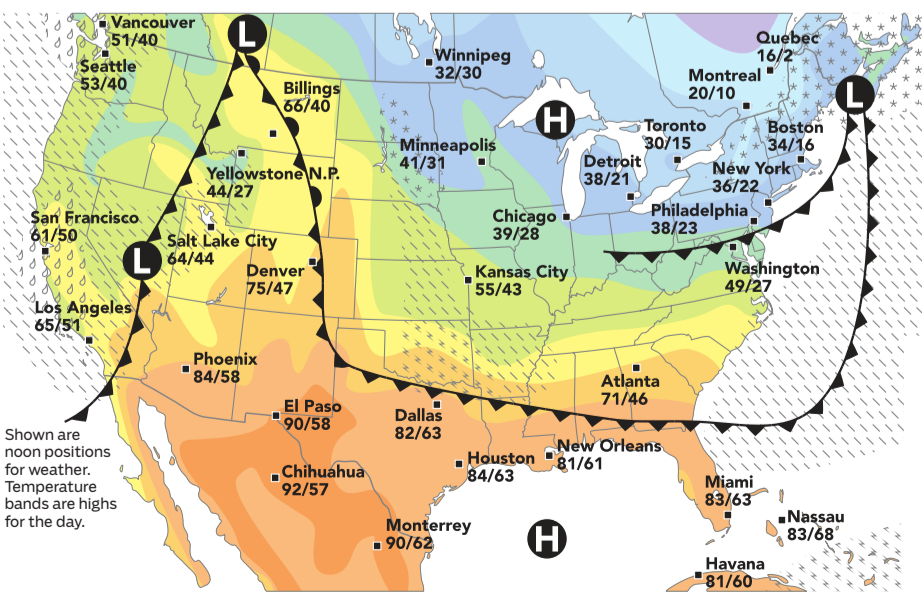
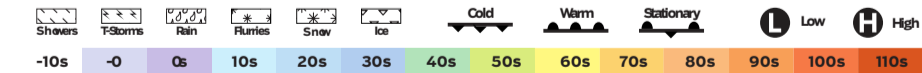
Winds: S 4-8 mph

Jeff Berardelli's outlook

Mostly sunny and warm during the day Monday with some clouds. It will be clear at night.



WPEC chief meteorologist, PO Box 198512, West Palm Beach, FL 33419. Email: jberardelli@sbgstv.com



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Thursday

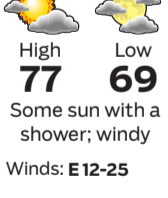
Day Night



Winds: NE 8-16

Friday

Day Night



Winds: E 12-25

OUTDOOR PLANNER

Southeast Florida tides

Table with columns for Wednesday and Thursday, listing tide times for various locations like Bahia Mar Y.C., Boca Raton, Boynton Beach, etc.

Table with columns for Thursday, listing tide times for various locations like Bahia Mar Y.C., Boca Raton, Boynton Beach, etc.

Boating conditions

Table with columns for Area, Wind, Seas, and Cond. listing conditions for various locations like St. Aug to Jupiter Inlet, etc.

UV Index

9 V. High 25 minutes to burn

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

Pollen level

28 moderate CAUSE: Trees, Grass

Source: Florida Center for Allergy & Asthma Care

Lawn-watering restrictions

Hallandale Beach and Lake Worth Water once per week Odd address: Wednesday; Even address: Thursday

Rest of Broward and Miami-Dade counties Water twice per week Odd address: Wednesday, Saturday; Even address: Thursday, Sunday

Palm Beach County Water twice per week Odd address: Wednesday and Saturday; Even address: Thursday and Sunday

Sun & Moon

Table with columns for NEW, FIRST, FULL, LAST, Sunset, Sunrise, Moonrise, Moonset times for March 27-19.

AROUND FLORIDA

Table with columns for Today and Thursday, listing weather for various Florida cities like Daytona Beach, Ft. Myers, Gainesville, etc.

US CITIES

Table with columns for various US cities, listing weather conditions for locations like Anchorage, Atlanta, Baltimore, etc.

AROUND THE WORLD

Table with columns for Latin America, Canada, and International, listing weather for locations like Acapulco, Bogota, Buenos Aires, etc.

Weather: s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, f-fog, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, tr-trace