



# The Palm Beach Post

August 23, 2018

REAL NEWS STARTS HERE

Final Edition | \$2.00

LOCAL, B1  
**VENUS WILL NEED EXPERT TO BOLSTER CRASH CASE**

LOCAL, B1  
**YESTERYEAR VILLAGE CO-FOUNDER DIES IN WRECK**



ACCENT, D1  
**ICING ON THE HOUSE**  
'Vanilla Ice Project' gets hand from Gardens designer

NEIGHBORHOOD POST  
**WHAT'S SOLD RECENTLY IN YOUR ZIP CODE?**

POST COVERAGE ELECTION 2018



Democratic gubernatorial candidate Jeff Greene, shown at a July release of loggerhead turtles in Juno Beach, went on a buying spree in 2011 that saw him spend more than \$200 million on Palm Beach County real estate, but not all of his original plans for the properties have come to fruition.

RICHARD GRAULICH / THE PALM BEACH POST

## Amid heated race, Greene cools on local real estate

Underdog candidate for governor less bullish about his investments.

By Jeff Ostrowski  
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

Eight years ago, Jeff Greene was a political neophyte who spent millions of his fortune on a losing primary campaign for U.S. Senate.

Four years ago, he was the deep-pocketed investor poised to single-handedly transform the skyline of West Palm Beach, a city where he had spent \$125

million to amass vacant land and unsold condos.

Today, he's an underdog gubernatorial candidate whose track record of developing his vast real estate holdings has left some in West Palm Beach underwhelmed.

Polls show Greene, a resident of Palm Beach, running second, third or fourth in Florida's Democratic gubernatorial primary, which takes place Tuesday.

On the campaign trail, Greene stresses his unlikely story as a self-made billionaire. He waited tables at The Breakers in Palm Beach

Greene continued on A7



THE POST HAS EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO GET READY TO VOTE

The candidates in their own words: www.myPalmBeachPost.com/kyc  
Our complete list of endorsements: www.palmbeachpost.com/2018endorsements/

POST COVERAGE ELECTION 2018

## Putnam stresses 'Florida First'

Candidate addresses head-on Trump endorsement of opponent DeSantis.

By George Bennett  
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

"Let's talk about the elephant in the room," Republican gubernatorial candidate Adam Putnam told hundreds of supporters at a cookout Wednesday night, referring to the endorsement of Putnam's primary foe, Ron DeSantis, by President Donald Trump.

Trump's "full endorsement" of U.S. Rep. DeSantis in June and appearance with him at a July 31 Tampa rally helped DeSantis surge to a big lead in a primary that began with Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Putnam as the frontrunner.

Putnam continued on A5



Republican gubernatorial candidate Adam Putnam addresses a rally Wednesday at the Yesteryear Village at the South Florida Fairgrounds. ALLEN EYESTONE / THE PALM BEACH POST

POST COVERAGE OUR ECONOMY

## High-priced home sales in Palm Beach County soared in July

Sales of homes costing \$600,000 and higher jumped double-digit percentage points compared to July 2017.

By Alexandra Clough  
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

Palm Beach County's housing

market was hot for pricey homes in July. For the first time, sales of homes costing \$600,000 and above jumped double-digit per-

centage points compared to the same month last year.

Sales of homes priced at \$1 million or more rose an astonishing 30.6 percent in July, compared to July 2017, according to the Realtors of the Palm Beaches and Greater Fort Lauderdale.

In the next lower price category, home sales in the \$600,000 to \$999,999 range also rose double-digits, clocking in a 26.6 percent year-over-year increase.

"It's the first time we're seeing a spike in this price range," said Jeffrey Levine, president-elect of

the Realtors organization.

Levine said it's difficult to determine the reason for the higher sales based on only one month's results. He said it's likely the sales volume increases in these high-priced

Home sales continued on A5

COHEN CASE

## Trump says Cohen lied in plea deal

President: My ex-lawyer made up 'stories' about hush-money payments.

By Zeke Miller, Catherine Lucey and Ken Thomas  
Associated Press



President Donald Trump speaks at a rally Tuesday in West Virginia, the day two former associates became felons. SPENCER PLATT / GETTY IMAGES

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump accused his former lawyer Michael Cohen of lying under pressure of prosecution Wednesday, a day after Cohen alleged that the president had orchestrated a campaign cover-up to buy the silence of two women who claimed he had affairs with them.

The president took to Twitter to accuse Cohen of making up "stories in order to get a 'deal'" from federal prosecutors. Cohen pleaded guilty Tuesday to eight charges, including campaign finance violations that he said he carried out in coordination with Trump. Behind closed doors, Trump expressed frustration that a man familiar with his political, personal and business dealings for more than a decade had turned on him.

At a White House briefing, press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders insisted at least seven times that

Trump had done nothing wrong and was not the subject of criminal charges. She referred substantive questions to the president's personal counsel Rudy Giuliani. The president denied wrongdoing, sitting down with "Fox & Friends" for an interview set to air today.

President continued on A6

ALSO INSIDE  
» Today's Explainer: What the cases mean for Trump, A4

POST COVERAGE EDUCATION

## Police: Girl was sexually assaulted on school bus

Boy under arrest in north county incident; chief says it's OK to yell.

By Sonja Isger  
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

A high school girl was sexually assaulted by the boy sitting next to her on a 30-minute bus ride home from the second day of school in the north end of Palm Beach County, school police report.

The boy has been arrested, according to the report, in which the names and ages of both the victim and the accused were blacked out as well as the school they attend in order to protect

their identities as minors.

School police were alerted to the incident less than two hours after the girl got off the bus. When interviewed at her home, she described sitting near the window when a boy she knows through a mutual friend cornered her in the seat, putting one arm around her and shoving his other hand down her skirt and in her blouse.

As he penetrated her with his fingers, "He also told her not to say anything and not to move around, because people would notice," the detective wrote. The accused also warned her that he knows where she lives, according to the report.

School bus continued on A5



SPORTS, C1  
**Dolphins: Kiko Alonso back to 2016 form**

Linebacker stepped up an offseason training plan that he believes will help him maintain his strength and health.

LOCAL, B1  
**16-year-old crashes car into dental office**

No one was injured in Wellington crash, including the car's driver and two of his friends, as incident displaces doctor's practice.

LOCAL, B1  
**Jupiter may ban sale of medical marijuana**

Despite more than two-thirds of Jupiter voters supporting it, three of the five town councilors want to ban the sale of medical pot.

INDEX  
Classifieds C8 Deaths B4  
Crossword D5 Lottery B2  
© 2018 The Palm Beach Post  
Vol. 110, Number 145, 5 sections  
7 28041 10000 7



Whitney K. Wedgworth, 6, of Wellington, high-fives Republican gubernatorial candidate Adam Putnam as he and his wife, Melissa, and Lt. Gov. Carlos Lopez-Cantera arrive for a rally Wednesday at the South Florida Fairgrounds. ALLEN EYESTONE / THE PALM BEACH POST

## Putnam

continued from A1

"I support our president's agenda," Putnam told the crowd Wednesday night at the South Florida Fairgrounds in unincorporated West Palm Beach. "President Trump ran on a plan and he's working on implementing that plan. No surprises. My opponent's not running on a plan, he's running on an endorsement. And Florida deserves better than that."

Putnam touted his knowledge of Florida and grassroots organization at a picturesque sunset event. He boasted that he knows where Chokoloskee is (it's in Collier County). He said his campaign has knocked on 400,000 doors. And he pointed to the crowd that spilled out of a pavilion where he spoke.

"This is what our politics was meant to be ... Campaigns are supposed to bring the candidate to the people, not just beam them in from an out-of-state television studio," said Putnam, referring to DeSantis' frequent appearances on Fox News.

DeSantis took a double-digit lead in some polls, leading Trump to boast about the power of his endorsement at a rally in West Virginia on Tuesday night.

"He called me and asked whether or not I could endorse him," Trump said of DeSantis. "He was at 3 (percent), this was a few months ago, he was at 3 and I gave him a nice shot, a nice little tweet - bing bing - and he went from 3 to like 20-something. And then I gave him my full and total endorsement and he's now leading by like 19 points."

Two recent public polls, however, show a tight race.

A Florida Atlantic University poll released Tuesday gives DeSantis a 32-to-31 percent lead, well within the poll's 6.5 percent margin of error. And a SurveyUSA poll last week gave Putnam a within-the-margin-of-error edge of 40 percent to 38 percent.

"We don't see that in our internals," DeSantis spokesman David Vasquez said Wednesday of the tight polls. "We're pretty confident going into election day."

Republican pollster and consultant Alex Patton, who isn't affiliated with either campaign, said he suspects the race is getting closer and will test the strength of Putnam's traditional campaign "ground game" against DeSantis' star power as a frequent Fox News guest and Trump's chosen candidate.

"The campaign guy in me has to believe that the two-

plus years that Adam has traveled to every nook and cranny in the state has to pay some dividends. The cynical guy in me says go get your hit on Fox TV and nullify it all," Patton said.

Lt. Gov. Carlos Lopez-Cantera, who accompanied Putnam Wednesday, said he's optimistic about the commissioner's chances.

"I am convinced that Adam's work ethic, his boots on the ground, his organization, his knowledge of Florida, his relationships in Florida and the list goes on and on are the reason he's going to win," Lopez-Cantera said.

Lopez-Cantera acknowledged Trump's endorsement had a big impact, but said, "It may have been too soon. It may have already worn off."

Putnam, onetime favorite of the Florida political establishment, embraced his newfound status as an underdog and outsider as he roused the crowd Wednesday, saying he represented "Florida first" rather than "the Washington way" of DeSantis.

"I believe, based on this passion and this enthusiasm, that the Florida-first way is going to win out," Putnam said. "We're going to get this done. We're going to shock the world."

gbennett@pbpost.com  
Twitter: @gbennettpost

# Aftershock hits Venezuela

By Fabiola Sanchez and Scott Smith  
Associated Press

CARACAS, VENEZUELA — A strong aftershock jolted Venezuela's northeastern coast Wednesday following the most powerful earthquake to hit the area in more than a century, though officials said neither caused major damage or deaths, apparently due to their depth.

The magnitude 7.3 quake Tuesday was the largest to strike Venezuela since 1900, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. But at a depth of some 76 miles beneath the Earth's surface, it appeared to have caused only limited damage even near its epicen-

ter a few miles off the Cariaco peninsula that stretches into the eastern Caribbean.

The magnitude 5.8 aftershock Wednesday morning also was centered relatively deep, 61 miles below the surface. It was felt lightly in the capital. "Shaking does die off at a distance," said seismologist Lucy Jones, a research associate with the California Institute of Technology, adding that the earthquake's considerable depth likely prevented a tragedy.

In Cumana, the biggest city near the quake's center, supermarket shelves came crashing down on Tuesday.

In downtown Caracas, Venezuela's capital, concrete from the top floors of the unfin-

ished Tower of David skyscraper fell to the sidewalk, forcing firefighters to close off traffic. A block away, children wearing surgical masks stretched their necks to peer at the 620-foot building after fleeing a building housing a foundation for children suffering from cancer.

"We felt something strong and they told everyone to run," said Marisela Lopez, who was at the foundation with her 7-year-old daughter when the quake struck.

Power outages were reported across nearby Trinidad, where people ran into the street and gasped as large glass panes at one supermarket shattered and falling concrete smashed several cars.

## Home sales

continued from A1

home categories could be linked to the delivery of new homes in the county, particularly in southern Palm Beach County, where GL Homes is building a number of new housing communities.

GL Homes is selling homes in its Berkeley, Seven Bridges, Dakotah, Valencia Cove and Valencia Bay communities, said Marcie DePlaza, GL Homes chief operating officer.

In July, about 45 percent of the company's 57 closings consisted of homes priced \$600,000 or higher, DePlaza said. July also was a good month for sales that will close in the future. Last month, 19 homes costing \$600,000 or more went under contract.

DePlaza said some of the sales have come from changes to the tax law. "We've seen a lot of interest from the Northeast from buyers coming down to the area, and we feel we're going to have a strong season," she said.

The sales results continue to drive up median home sales prices, said Levine, of Keller Williams Realty in Boca Raton.

Overall, the median price of a single-family home was \$350,000, down a notch from June's \$355,000 record high but still 4.2 percent higher

than July of 2017, when the median price of a home was \$336,000.

The number of closed home sales rose last month to 1,534, from 1,509 the same month in 2017.

But inventory continued to shrink.

New single-family homes listings totaled 1,913, down 4.9 percent from 2,012 in July 2017. There were 6,723 active listings in July, down 5.1 percent from 7,086 in July 2017.

Levine said inventory "still is historically low, the lowest since Hurricane Irma, in all price ranges with no increase in any category."

Palm Beach County has only a 4.7 percent month supply of homes, down a bit from 4.8 percent in July 2017.

Low inventory shuts out buyers who can't afford to pay high prices, giving sellers an upper hand, to a degree, Levine said. But he noted: "People aren't going to overpay for a property."

A house that needs a new roof or has an outdated kitchen and is listed at a high price will sit. "People don't want to pay top dollar and then have to put in another \$40,000 to \$50,000," Levine said.

And if an existing home is priced near the cost of a newly built house, buyers will tend to favor the new construction,

Levine said.

Meanwhile, cash still continues to be king. Some 517 homes were paid in cash, up 8.8 percent from July 2017, when 475 homes were cash deals.

Sellers still are selling properties near their asking price, with homes selling for 94.7 percent of the original list price, barely down from 95.1 percent in July 2017.

Sales are taking longer to close, however. The median time to contract was 47 days last month, up from 37 days in July 2017. And closing periods have stretched to 91 days from 84 days.

Condos and townhomes also reported strong sales in July. There were 1,180 closed sales in July, up 9.8 percent compared to the same month last year. The median sales price was \$177,000, the same as June.

The hottest sales activity was in the \$250,000 to \$299,999 range, which reported a 27 percent increase in sales compared to last year.

Levine said townhomes now are considered the affordable housing price range because so many buyers are shut out of owning more expensive single-family homes.

aclough@pbpost.com  
Twitter: @acloughpbp

## School bus

continued from A1

"no" repeatedly.

Video taken from the bus appeared to corroborate her story, the report said. "The defendant can be seen leaning over the victim, reaching his hand under her shirt, into her bra, reaching around the front and back of the victim's torso, and manipulating her hands and arms while the victim pulls away and flinches."

The two got on the bus shortly after 2:50 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 14. She sits down first and he moves into the seat a minute later, accord-

ing to the report. During the drive, the girl can be seen "leaning away, flinching, putting her arms protectively over her torso, placing her face into her hands, covering her eyes, wiping at her eyes and pushing the defendant away." After 31 minutes, the girl exits at a bus stop.

In a written statement School Police Chief Frank Kitzerow said, "This incident is a reminder that we have to have hard conversations with our children about how to protect themselves from predators who could be anywhere and of any age. Children and teenagers need to know it's OK to yell out, and especially

make a scene, in order to protect themselves from perpetrators who will try to use verbal threats, the threat of embarrassment and physical intimidation to ensure the cooperation of their victim."

The accused was taken into custody the next day and interviewed at Palm Beach Gardens Police Department. He admitted to detectives that he "fingered" the victim while they were on the bus that afternoon, the report said. At one point, he said that he asked her if it was a "good idea" and she said "yes." Later, he said they talked about engaging in this activity on Monday and

then on Tuesday "he knew it was ok to do it" since they'd already talked about it. But he also admitted that she told him to "wait" more than once and also said, "No," causing him to pause but not stop his actions.

By the end of the interview, detectives wrote: "He admitted what he did wasn't okay. He admitted that he thought the victim was sad after what happened and he regretted what he did."

Police are seeking charges of sexual battery and kidnapping for holding the girl against her will.

sisger@pbpost.com  
Twitter: @sonjaigser

POST ePaper APP

Read The Post page by page on your tablet

FOR SUBSCRIBERS ONLY

REGISTER YOUR ACCOUNT:

palmbeachpost.com/register

The Palm Beach Post  
REAL NEWS STARTS HERE

## KOHLER Walk-In Bath

KOHLER LuxStone™ Bath Walls  
KOHLER Belay™ Hydrotherapy Walk-In Bath

LIMITED TIME OFFER

SAVE \$500

ON YOUR KOHLER BATH WALLS

Ultra-Low  
3" Step-In

Multifunction  
Handshower

Fast-Drain  
Technology

Hydrotherapy  
& Air Jets

Bask. Heated  
Surfaces

CALL NOW FOR A FREE IN-HOME QUOTE

(561) 656-8029

\*Limited time offer. Valid through August 31st, 2018. Participating dealers only. Not available in AK; HI; or Nassau County, NY; Suffolk County, NY; Westchester County, NY; and Buffalo County, NY. Also may not be available in other areas. Cannot be combined with any other advertised offer. Savings is off of KOHLER LuxStone™ Bath Walls with the purchase of a KOHLER Belay™ Walk-In Bath. Walk-In Bath installed in as little as one day.

## PRE-HURRICANE SEASON SPECIAL

# ACT NOW - SAVE NOW!

FREE  
INSTALLATION  
AND 12 MONTHS  
ZERO INTEREST  
WITH APPROVED CREDIT.

"PROTECTION  
WHEN YOU NEED  
IT MOST"

### UPGRADE TO MAXGUARD

- Save Money on Energy Bill
- Protect Family from Storms & Break-Ins
- Increase Property Value
- Never Replace a Shattered Window AGAIN!
- Lifetime Warranty
- Family Owned & Operated
- State Certified Contractor & PACE Funding Approved Contractor

Call now for a FREE quote

561-571-8036

Customer Service Hrs: Mon-Fri 8AM-5PM

License# - SCC131151738