



# The Palm Beach Post

September 21, 2018

REAL NEWS STARTS HERE

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ACCENT, D1

## NOVELIST'S ADVICE: 'TELL STORY ONLY YOU CAN TELL'

TGIF, PAGE 4

## HORAN TAKES GIANT LEAP AWAY FROM BOY BAND



LOCAL, B1

## MUSEUM IN A MALL?

Wellington Green hosts natural history artifacts

CERABINO, B1

## IN DEFENSE OF OUR NOT-SO-MIDDLING AIRPORT

POST COVERAGE TOBACCO RULING

# Tobacco firm must pay Fla. woman \$18.5M

### Florida Supreme Court rules in favor of Delray woman whose mother died from lung cancer.

By Jane Musgrave  
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

In a stinging rebuke of the notion that a financially independent adult child shouldn't be entitled to millions in dam-

ages for the loss of a parent, the Florida Supreme Court on Thursday ordered a cigarette-maker to pay a Delray Beach woman \$18.5 million for the 1993 death of her mother from lung cancer. The decision brought squeals

of joy from 67-year-old Gwen Odom, who in 2014 convinced a Palm Beach County jury that R.J. Reynolds Tobacco was responsible, and should pay mightily, for her 58-year-old mother's agonizing death after a lifetime of smoking. "God is good," Odom, a former Palm Beach Post news assistant, said when reached by phone. "They made the right decision."

The 4-to-2 ruling wasn't completely unexpected. During oral arguments in June, justices sharply questioned the tobacco giant's contention that Odom wasn't entitled to such a windfall because she was financially independent from her mother and had a family of her own.

Odom continued on A8



Gwen Odom

MARYLAND SHOOTING



Members of an FBI team gear up at the scene of a shooting incident at a warehouse in Perryman, Md. Four people, including the suspect, are dead. MATT BUTTON / BALTIMORE SUN MEDIA GROUP

# Suspect, 3 others dead in Md. warehouse shooting

### No ID yet on suspect; 1 account: 'She didn't aim. She just shot.'

By David McFadden  
Associated Press

ABERDEEN, MD. — An employee at a Rite Aid warehouse opened fire at work Thursday, killing three people before taking her own life, authorities said. Several other people were wounded.

The suspect was a 26-year-old temporary employee at the Rite Aid distribution center in northeastern Maryland, Harford County Sheriff Jeffrey Gahler told a news conference. She lived in neighboring Baltimore County. Her name was not immediately released.

It appears only one weapon, a handgun, was used, and no shots were fired by responding law enforcement officers, Gahler said. The shooter used a 9 mm Glock that was registered in her name, he said. He said authorities don't know her motive. She died at a hospital from a self-inflicted gunshot wound, he said.

Krystal Watson, 33, said her husband, Eric, works at the facility and told her that the suspect had been arguing with somebody else near a time clock after a "town hall meeting."

"And she went off," she said. "She didn't have a particular target. She was just shooting," Watson said as she drove away from a fire station where relatives tried to reunite with loved ones.

"She didn't aim. She just shot," Watson said.

Area hospitals reported receiving five patients from the incident. Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center in Baltimore said it was treating four patients with gunshot wounds. Two were in stable condition, and two were seriously injured.

A spokesman for a health system that includes Christiana Hospital in Newark, Delaware, said one patient was being treated there. Christiana Care Health System spokesman Hiran Ratnayake said the person was in serious condition.

Gahler said the call about shots fired came in at about 9:06 a.m., and deputies and other officers

Shooting continued on A9

POST COVERAGE LOCAL WOMAN'S TIES

# D.C. police ID man arrested in stabbing

### Officials 'very confident' that Anthony Crawford killed Wendy Martinez.

By Jorge Milian  
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

Washington, D.C., police early Thursday arrested a 23-year-old man in the stabbing death of a former Greenacres student and graduate of Lake Worth High School who gained nationwide recognition as a student at FAU.

Wendy Martinez, 35, was stabbed Tuesday night as she jogged in the city's Logan Circle neighborhood by Anthony Crawford, police said.



Wendy Martinez

Martinez stumbled into a Chinese restaurant where bystanders, including a nurse, desperately tried to help her, city officials said during a news conference Thursday morning at the location of the murder, about 1 mile northeast of the White House. Police said there was no confrontation prior to the stabbing and that robbery wasn't involved.

Stabbing continued on A8

POST COVERAGE COUNTY HOME PRICES

# Local median home prices stall in August

### Low-priced homes still hottest corner of county housing market.

By Jeff Ostrowski  
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

Home buyers took a breather in August, a month when the typical price of a Palm Beach County house slipped to the lowest level since January.

The median price of single-family homes sold by Realtors was

\$340,000 last month, the Realtors of the Palm Beaches and Greater Fort Lauderdale said Thursday.

That was down from July's median price of \$350,000 and unchanged from the August 2017 level of \$340,000.

The number of sales also was essentially unchanged, increasing 1.7 percent from August 2017 to August 2018. Palm Beach County had a 4.6-month supply of houses for sale in August, unchanged

Home prices continued on A7

SUPREME COURT

# Kavanaugh's accuser says she'll talk, but timing's an issue

### Attorney says Ford can testify next week, if conditions are met.

John Wagner and Seung Min Kim  
Washington Post

WASHINGTON — An attorney for Christine Blasey Ford, the woman

who is accusing Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh of sexually assaulting her when they were teenagers, said Thursday that her appearing at a hearing on Monday to detail her claims is "not possible" but she could testify later in the week.

Kavanaugh, who's been eager to testify, said he was ready to

appear Monday.

"I will be there," he wrote in a letter to Senate Judiciary Committee chairman Charles Grassley of Iowa. "I continue to want a hearing as soon as possible, so that I can clear my name."

Debra Katz, Ford's lawyer, relayed the response to top staffers on the Judiciary Committee

on Thursday, requesting to set up a call with them to "discuss the conditions under which (Ford) would be prepared to testify next week."

"As you are aware, she's been receiving death threats which have been reported to the FBI and she and her family have been forced out of their home," Katz

wrote to the committee. "She wishes to testify, provided that we can agree on terms that are fair and which ensure her safety. A hearing on Monday is not possible and the committee's insistence that it occur then is arbitrary in any event."

Kavanaugh continued on A7



SPORTS, C1

## All Tannehill and Gase do together is win

Dolphins head coach Adam Gase is 10-5 when Ryan Tannehill is under center. And 8-12 (including a playoff loss) when he's not.

LOCAL, B1

## Police still seek suspect in parking lot attack

City police have fielded "many" tips about fatal Sept. 11 attack in Palm Beach Gardens but they still need help in finding man.

LOCAL, B3

## College's new hire has taught in Africa, Qatar

A new associate dean at Palm Beach State College boasts a resume that's taken her around the world and back.

INDEX

Classifieds C6 Deaths B4  
Crossword D8 Lottery B2

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# Kavanaugh

continued from A1

Katz reiterated that Ford would like the FBI to investigate before her testimony.

Grassley, who had asked Ford's lawyers to respond by Friday morning whether she planned to appear Monday, had no immediate response.

Taylor Foy, spokesman for Republicans on the panel, made no commitment but said in a written statement, "We are happy that Dr. Ford's attorneys are now engaging with the Committee."

Democratic senators, pointing to the highly-charged Anita Hill hearings in October 1991, have defended Ford's request to have the FBI do its own probe before she testifies. Back then, the FBI report into Hill's allegations of sexual harassment against now-Justice Clarence Thomas was finished on Sept. 26, 1991 - three days after its inquiry began, according to a Washington Post report at the time.

"Someone who is lying does not ask the FBI to investigate their claims," Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., said Thursday at an event on Capitol Hill. "Who is not asking the FBI to investigate these claims? The White House. Judge Kavanaugh has not asked to have the FBI investigate these claims. Is that the reaction of an innocent person? It is not."

Gillibrand said Senate Republicans' ultimatum of a Monday hearing was "bullying."

Republicans have rejected the comparisons to the Hill proceedings. Grassley wrote in a Wednesday letter to Democrats on the Judiciary Committee that the FBI investigated Hill's accusations against Thomas when they were still not public. Because Ford's accusation is already public, Grassley argued that it was appropriate for the Senate to step in with their own investigation as lawmakers did when the Hill allegation first became public.

A handful of pivotal senators have yet to disclose how they will ultimately vote on Kavanaugh's confirmation, including Republican Sens. Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska. On Thursday, Alaska Gov. Bill



Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh leaves his home Thursday in Chevy Chase, Maryland. He is set to appear before a Senate panel again Monday. ALEX WONG / GETTY IMAGES

Walker and Lt. Gov. Byron Mallott - both independents - issued a statement opposing Kavanaugh's nomination.

"Mr. Kavanaugh's record does not demonstrate a commitment to legal precedent that protects working families," Walker and Mallott said in the joint statement, remarks that could put political pressure on Murkowski. "Key aspects of our nation's health-care and labor laws may be at risk if Mr. Kavanaugh receives a lifetime appointment."

Earlier Thursday, Senate Republicans had reiterated their resolve to press forward with a vote on Kavanaugh in the coming days if Ford chose not to testify before the 21-member Judiciary Committee.

"If she doesn't want to participate and tell her story, there's no reason for us to delay," Sen. John Cornyn, Texas, the No. 2 Republican in the chamber, told CNN. "I think it all depends on what she decides to do. We've all made clear this is her chance."

Ford has alleged that while she and Kavanaugh were at a house party in the early 1980s, when the two were in high school, Kavanaugh drunkenly pinned her to a bed, groped her and put his hand over her mouth to stifle her screams as he tried to take off her clothes. Kavanaugh has repeatedly denied the allegations.

Republicans have largely stuck to the Monday timeline, as well as Grassley's decision to limit the hearing to two witnesses: Kavanaugh and Ford.

"What is happening with the Judiciary Committee, really, I would call it a railroad job," Sen. Mazie Hirono, D-Hawaii, said alongside Gillibrand on Thursday. "They are totally intent on getting Judge Kavanaugh on the Supreme Court come hell or high water. ... You have to ask yourself why."

Hirono spoke at an event on Capitol Hill to highlight a letter of support that was said to have been signed by more than 1,000 alumni of Ford's high school in Maryland. A flood of anti-Kavanaugh protesters also descended on Capitol Hill Thursday while more Senate offices reported receiving threats related to the nomination.

"We're getting a lot of calls, many of which are angry and some of which are threatening," said Tom Mentzer, a spokesman for Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., the top Democrat on the Judiciary Committee who has played a central role in the Ford developments.

Cornyn said Thursday that he sees no reason to call additional witnesses since the committee had already held a full hearing on Trump's nominee.

"We already had a hearing," Cornyn said. "That's what I call hijacking the regular committee process to accommodate political interests."

On Thursday, a group of eight Democrats wrote to Trump, asking him to direct the FBI to reopen its background check on Kavanaugh, a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

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## NOTICE OF PROPOSED TAX INCREASE

The City of Lake Worth has tentatively adopted a measure to increase its property tax levy.

### Last year's proposed tax levy:

A. Initially proposed tax levy	<u>\$ 9,006,434</u>
B. Less tax reductions due to Value Adjustment Board and other assessment changes	<u>\$ 36,179</u>
C. Actual property tax levy	<u>\$ 8,970,255</u>

**This year's proposed tax levy** \$ 9,969,962

All concerned citizens are invited to attend a public hearing on the tax increase to be held on:

**SEPTEMBER 25, 2018**  
**6:00 PM**  
 at  
**CITY OF LAKE WORTH**  
**COMMISSION CHAMBERS**  
**7 NORTH DIXIE HIGHWAY**  
**LAKE WORTH, FLORIDA 33460**

**A FINAL DECISION on the proposed tax increase and the budget will be made at this hearing.**

## Home prices

continued from A1

from a year earlier.

Palm Beach County's townhouse and condo market showed a bit more drama, perhaps reflecting affordability pressures.

The median price of condos and townhouses sold last month was \$185,000, up 5.7 percent from August 2017. And sales increased 2.8 percent.

"This is simply because there is very little inventory in that price range for single-family homes," said Jeffrey Levine, president elect of the Realtors of the Palm Beaches and Greater Fort Lauderdale.

Low-priced houses remain the hottest corner of Palm Beach County's housing market. Houses priced at \$150,000 to \$200,000 went under contract in just 26 days, according to Realtors data.

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However, a year ago, houses in that price range found buyers in less than 20 days. Nationally, there's just a 4.3-month supply of homes for sale, according to the National Association of Realtors.

"While inventory continues to show modest year over year gains, it is still far from a healthy level and new home construction is not keeping up to satisfy demand," NAR Chief Economist Lawrence Yun said in a statement. "Homes continue to fly off the shelves with a majority of properties selling within a month, indicating that more inventory - especially moderately priced, entry-level homes - would propel sales."

In one headwind for the housing market, mortgage rates are rising. The average cost of a 30-year fixed-rate loan increased to 4.65 percent this week, up from 4.6 percent last week, mortgage giant Freddie Mac said Thursday.

Palm Beach County home prices remain well below record levels. During the housing bubble, the county's median resale price peaked at \$421,500 in November 2005 (a sum that adjusted for inflation equates to \$537,852 in today's dollars). Within a few years, the median price had crashed to less than \$200,000.

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BUDGET SUMMARY								
City of Lake Worth - Fiscal Year 2018-2019								
THE PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET EXPENDITURES OF THE (CITY OF LAKE WORTH) ARE 5.8% LESS THAN LAST YEAR'S TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES.								
Proposed Operating Millage Rate per \$1,000								
General Fund	5.4945							
Voted Debt	1.1400							
	General Fund	Special Revenue	Utility Funds	Enterprise Funds	Internal Service	Capital Projects	Debt Service	Total All Funds
<b>ESTIMATED REVENUES</b>								
Taxes:								
Ad Valorem Taxes	5,4945 / 1.1400	9,740,863	-	-	-	-	2,014,978	11,755,841
Sales & Use Taxes		978,302	-	-	-	2,600,000	-	3,578,302
Franchise Taxes		62,000	-	-	-	380,000	-	442,000
Utility Service Taxes		4,191,081	-	-	-	-	-	4,191,081
Licenses and Permits		1,253,100	1,411,150	-	-	-	-	2,664,250
Intergovernmental Revenue		5,490,402	549,588	-	16,000	-	-	6,055,990
Charges For Service		1,820,960	4,815,523	88,153,964	8,312,967	13,073,310	-	116,176,724
Fines and Forfeitures		681,310	252,875	30,000	-	-	-	964,185
Miscellaneous		107,567	558,554	600,455	55,078	361,940	362,820	2,046,414
Contribution From Enterprise Operations		11,650,723	-	714,080	-	-	-	12,364,803
Transfers In		30,000	46,160	-	-	6,090	-	2,878,060
Other Financing Sources		-	-	14,645,210	-	-	833,460	15,478,670
<b>TOTAL REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES</b>		<b>36,006,308</b>	<b>7,633,850</b>	<b>104,143,709</b>	<b>8,368,045</b>	<b>13,457,340</b>	<b>2,014,978</b>	<b>178,596,320</b>
Available Fund Balance		446,407	228,149	6,945,540	2,078,449	7,355,964	12,476,548	29,531,057
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES &amp; BALANCES</b>		<b>36,452,715</b>	<b>7,861,999</b>	<b>111,089,249</b>	<b>10,446,494</b>	<b>20,813,304</b>	<b>2,014,978</b>	<b>208,127,377</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES/EXPENSES</b>								
General Government		6,179,906	-	-	-	13,699,044	-	19,878,949
Public Safety		21,582,078	1,882,341	-	-	-	-	23,464,419
Physical Environment		2,472,868	217,992	66,479,896	6,149,553	-	-	75,320,309
Transportation		1,671,592	564,442	-	-	1,662,000	-	3,898,034
Culture & Recreation		2,523,381	4,213,888	-	-	-	-	6,737,269
Capital Outlay		-	471,904	21,365,285	2,040,000	498,000	14,962,518	39,337,707
Non-Departmental		1,997,890	112,700	21,464,818	1,100,714	6,616,260	2,014,978	33,308,660
Transfers Out		25,000	30,000	1,779,250	823,810	-	220,000	2,878,060
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES/EXPENSES</b>		<b>36,452,715</b>	<b>7,493,267</b>	<b>111,089,249</b>	<b>10,114,077</b>	<b>20,813,304</b>	<b>2,014,978</b>	<b>204,823,408</b>
Net Assets Available for Operations		-	368,732	-	332,417	2,602,820	-	3,303,969
<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATED EXPENDITURES /RESERVES</b>		<b>36,452,715</b>	<b>7,861,999</b>	<b>111,089,249</b>	<b>10,446,494</b>	<b>20,813,304</b>	<b>2,014,978</b>	<b>208,127,377</b>

The tentative, adopted, and/or final budgets are on file in the office of the above referenced taxing authority as a public record.