

SunSentinel LOCAL

TODAY'S MONEY STORIES CAN BE FOUND INSIDE THIS SECTION

Cops: Man in machete attack was homeless

Authorities say suspect left family, learned ex-wife had remarried

BY DAN SWEENEY

LAUDERHILL — Dennis Anthony Reid, who police say attacked his daughter and step-daughter with a machete Friday, had attempted to reconcile with his ex-wife but had recently learned she had remarried, according to a police report.

Reid had left the family home due to the divorce and subsequently had been homeless, according to the report, but had come to the home in Lauderhill on Friday to help prepare the girls for school.



Reid

According to the report, Reid had made several attempts to get back together with his ex-wife, including stopping by the house and sending text messages, but all ended in failure.

It's unclear when Reid learned that his ex-wife had remarried, to a man from Jamaica. She had been planning on flying to Jamaica on that Friday, Valentine's Day, to be with her new husband.

When Reid arrived at the home, his ex-wife was reportedly in the shower. According to police, Reid then picked up a machete and went to the rooms of the 10- and 17-year-old girls, slashing at both of them and leaving them with serious injuries.

The two girls were later admitted to Broward Health Medical Center in serious but stable condition. A third sister, age 7, was unharmed but witnessed the attack.

Another witness was the ex-wife's mother, who told police she saw Reid come out of the house with a machete in his hands, throw it away, then get into his blue Toyota and drive away.

Reid later turned himself in to police. He now faces two counts of aggravated child abuse and two counts of attempted murder.



AMY BETH BENNETT/SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL

A shopper rides his cart through a puddle in the parking lot of Publix in Oakland Park in the rain Sunday.

Wet Florida weekend tied to massive storm

Cold front stretches across Atlantic, bringing hurricane-strength winds to UK

BY DAVID SCHUTZ AND THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It's a gray and dreary Presidents Day weekend across South Florida. But there's something especially unusual about the weather system that's dimming the Sunshine State.

The cold front moving through Florida stretches an astounding 5,000 miles northeast across the Atlantic Ocean and ends with a record-breaking storm bringing hurricane-strength winds to the United Kingdom.

The storm, dubbed Storm Dennis by Britain's meteorological service, drew 375 flood warnings across the country and the military was sent to coastal areas in Wales, where waves were reaching as high as 100 feet. At least two people have been killed in the storm.

Dennis is the second-most powerful Atlantic winter storm in at least 150 years of record keeping, according to historians at Weather Underground.

According to Meteo France, Dennis formed when two "bomb" systems merged into

one. The cold front associated with the storm curls 5,000 miles across the Atlantic and into South Florida and the Gulf of Mexico.

The tail of the huge system has brought scattered showers as well as periods of heavy rain to parts of South Florida since Saturday morning. Its effects lingered Sunday morning but skies are forecast to slowly clear through Monday.

But across the Atlantic, UK authorities issued a record number of flood warnings and alerts for England and a rare

"red warning" for extremely life-threatening flooding in Wales.

The Met Office, Britain's meteorological service, only issues its highest red warning when it thinks the weather will be so dangerous there's a "risk to life" and that people must take immediate action to protect themselves. It was the first time a red warning has been sounded since December 2015.

Four hours later, the south Wales alert was downgraded to

See **STORM, 2B**

State board votes to replace Common Core

BY LESLIE POSTAL

The State Board of Education voted Wednesday on new academic standards for Florida's public schools, ending Florida's rocky 10-year relationship with Common Core.

Common Core standards spell out what students should learn in language arts and math classes, kindergarten through 12th grade. State leaders had hoped they would boost academic performance by demanding more of youngsters. But they proved controversial and were doomed when Gov. Ron DeSantis took office last year.

DeSantis campaigned on a promise to get rid of Common Core and, shortly after taking office last year, signed an executive order to do that. Ahead of the state board's vote, he announced that Common Core was gone. As the governor predicted, the State Board — all seven members are gubernatorial appointees — voted unanimously on Wednesday to approve the new standards.

Jacob Oliva, chancellor of K-12 education for the Florida Department of Education, said the vote represented "a historic moment, a defining moment" for public education in the state.

What did the yes vote do? It replaced Common Core standards with a new set of standards called Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking or B.E.S.T. standards.

How are the B.E.S.T. standards different? The new standards, according to the education department, focus more on "classic literature" and a "back-to-basics" approach to make sure students can read well by the end of elementary school. They include lists of suggested books for English and language arts classes and primary

See **REPLACE, 5B**



CARY ROMAN/COURTESY PHOTOS

The dining room inside the Blue Fish, a Japanese sushi chain from Texas that opened this week at Mizner Park in Boca Raton.

The Blue Fish, with its sushi 'towers,' swims into Mizner Park

BY PHILLIP VALYS

After the high-profile closures of longtime eateries Ouzo Bay and Truluck's, a wave of new restaurants and entertainment hubs are heading to Boca Raton's glitzy but aging Mizner Park this spring. The first: The Blue Fish, a Dallas-based Japanese restaurant and sushi bistro that debuted Feb. 10 at 402 Plaza Real.

A 3,000-square-foot upscale eatery with a 60-seat wraparound patio, The Blue Fish replaces the former Rack's Downtown Eatery and Tavern, which shuttered last April. If the name sounds familiar, general manager Todd Lawrence says a Blue Fish location once occupied Delray



A few of the dishes at the Blue Fish.

Beach's Atlantic Avenue but hasn't seen a lot of new restaurants lately," says Lawrence, formerly a general manager at Mizner Park, which

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See **SUSHI, 4B**

'Cotton Belt Route' among early names for Dixie Highway

BY BRETT CLARKSON

They almost didn't call it Dixie Highway in the first place.

The now-controversial name of the north-south road that runs through South Florida, which Broward County officials want to rename because of its association with the Confederate South and the racist history of slavery and segregation, had a few other possible monikers attached to it when automobile enthusiasts — still a relatively new thing back then — first proposed it in 1914.

First, a brief history of Dixie Highway. Even though we associate it with South Florida, the so-called Dixie Highway was actually a major national thoroughfare when it opened in 1915.

Unlike the Interstate system, which was still decades away, highways long then were basically a long string of route-marked local roads connecting one part of the country to another.

In the case of the Dixie Highway, those two parts of the country were the north and the south, namely Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, and Miami.

And it wasn't even just one single stretch of road, but several, as depicted in early maps of the highway.

The idea for a highway connecting the Midwest with the untamed swamps of Florida appears to have been thrust into the public consciousness by an organization of "automobilists" called the Hoosier Motor Club (which still exists, by the way!), whose members wanted an accessible, reliable road lined with amenities

See **DIXIE, 2B**



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Court allows prosecution against student who sent photo of AR-15

News Service of Florida

A state appeals court Friday said prosecutors can pursue a case against a former North Marion High School student who sent a Snapchat photo to a student showing an AR-15 semi-automatic rifle and the caption, "Show and Tell @NM on Monday."

The ruling by a three-judge panel of the 5th District Court of Appeal overturned a decision by a Marion County circuit judge that dismissed a charge against defendant Blake Michael Cowart of sending a written threat to kill or do bodily injury to child.

Cowart sent the photo to a student at the school about two weeks after the

Feb. 14, 2018, mass shooting at Parkland's Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School that killed 17 people.

In arguing for dismissal, Cowart contended that the photo and caption did not threaten to kill or injure the student, identified in Friday's ruling by the initials Z.M., and that the law governing the issue violated his constitutional right to free expression.

While the circuit judge dismissed the charge, the appeals court said Z.M. testified about feeling threatened.

"It was undisputed that the Snap was a photograph of a scoped AR-15 rifle with an extended, large-capacity magazine and was captioned, 'Show and Tell@

NM on Monday,'" said the six-page ruling by appellate judges Jay Cohen, F. Rand Wallis and John Harris.

"The state noted ... that Z.M. testified under oath that he felt on edge after receiving the Snap and did not believe that the Snap was a joke; he was concerned, especially given the recent school shootings in the country, and believed Cowart was going to bring a gun to the school and shoot it up the following Monday.

"The reasonableness of Z.M.'s alarm was further supported by the fact that several other NMHS students who saw the Snap were also concerned and contacted the school resource officer regarding the matter."

SUSHI

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manager of Max's Grille in Boca Raton and City Oyster in Delray Beach. "It's a big hit for the millennials of course, but it really brings in a balance of different ages."

Blue Fish will be the first of many new retailers debuting in Mizner Park, the 29-year-old shopping hub in need of a refresh after losing several tenants in recent years.

Also arriving this spring: Calaveras Cantina, a Mexican eatery with a Jupiter location; Lost Weekend, the Boca Raton outpost of a West Palm Beach bar filled with billiards, games, art and craft brews; Subculture Coffee, a café from the same owners behind Lost Weekend; Strike 10, a bowling alley; and Cielito Artisan Pops, offering high-end frozen desserts.

Lawrence says The Blue Fish specializes in Asian salads and hot dishes such as chicken katsu, crab cakes and kobe beef-stuffed potstickers, alongside seafood tempura and 35 varieties of

The Blue Fish

Where: 402 Plaza Real in Boca Raton

Hours: 4-10 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, 4-10:30 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, 4-11:30 p.m. Saturday and 4-10:30 p.m. Sunday

Information: 561-286-3474, TheBlueFishSushi.com

sushi rolls.

Perhaps the most eye-popping of Blue Fish's offerings: the Blue Fish Tower (\$19.95), a five-inch-tall tower of salmon or tuna tartare atop a bed of white rice, avocado, caviar, wasabi sauce and lump snow crab — a blend of fresh and imitation crab — he says.

Lunch features eight rice bowls (\$10.95-\$16), which varies from chicken and steak teriyaki to baked eel, served with miso soup, sautéed vegetables and choice of rice or udon noodles. The same proteins also flavor Blue Fish's eight bento boxes (\$15.95-\$20.95), packed with four California rolls

and tempura.

For entrees, Lawrence says the chain's top-seller is its Chilean Sea Bass Dinner (\$46), plated with Japanese shiitake mushrooms, avocado tempura and miso glaze.

A close second is The Blue Fish's signature Crab 2 Ways (\$39), a combination of lump crab cake and soft-shell crab atop baby kale, grilled asparagus and panko bread crumbs. Unlike other chains, Blue Fish's lone Florida outpost will carry Spicy Tuna Pizza (\$19.95), a spread of baby kale, avocado, spicy mayo and jalapeno on a flatbread topped with sashimi-style tuna.

Finally, there are 35 wines by the glass (\$9-\$16) and bottle (\$10-\$60), which are stored along a 364-bottle floor-to-ceiling wine rack in the dining room. There is also sake by the flight (\$16), bottle (\$20-\$41) or carafe (\$10-\$54), plus nine craft cocktails (\$10-\$13).

The Blue Fish's 4-7 p.m. daily Red Sun happy hour offers \$5 bar bites including chicken wings and seafood tempura, \$3 desserts, \$5 wells, \$4 sake and \$7 margaritas.



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