

SunSentinel LOCAL

TODAY'S MONEY STORIES CAN BE FOUND INSIDE THIS SECTION

CORONAVIRUS

Florida reports COVID-19 deaths increase by 140

State again reports fewer than 10K daily infections

BY MARC FREEMAN

Florida's pandemic death toll increased by 140 people on Wednesday, only the second time as many deaths have been recorded in a daily report.

The state Department of Health reported 9,785 more people have been infected by

COVID-19, the second day in a row cases were less than 10,000.

Still, it was more than Tuesday's 9,440 cases and it was nearly identical for the tally for the previous two Wednesdays.

Florida has been in the thick of one of the worst outbreaks anywhere in the nation. The state has reported an average of 11,115 cases per day over the past seven days.

Gov. Ron DeSantis said Wednesday he wants residents to worry less.

"As the prevalence of the virus has increased over the past many weeks, fear and

anxiety have increased as well," he said during a speech about opening schools. "Fear doesn't help us combat the virus. The stress and apprehension it fosters just makes our health situation worse and knocks society on its heels."

The new infections reported Wednesday bring the total cases to 379,619, putting Florida behind only California and New York, according to the Centers for Disease Control's COVID Data Tracker.

See **VIRUS, 2B**

Forman's post on Hitler removed

Court clerk mistaken on quote attribution

BY ANTHONY MAN

Brenda Forman, who is running for a second term as Broward Clerk of Courts, posted a lengthy quotation inaccurately attributed to Adolf Hitler to her Facebook page.

A little more than 24 hours after she posted it, after community members and people in politics took to social media and email Tuesday night to spread word about the post, it was deleted from Forman's Facebook page — after she had posted responses to critics in which she defended posting the quotation.



Forman

The quote — about how to take control away from people — has been erroneously attributed to Mein Kampf, the Nazi leader's manifesto, and reproduced many times on social media.

Forman posted the quote at 8:19 p.m. Monday, but it seems to have been little noticed until Tuesday night, when word started getting around and people started posting negative responses. About 11 p.m., the post was deleted.

State Rep. Michael Gottlieb, a Broward Democrat, expressed outrage over Forman's post.

"Historical leaders who were tyrants who committed genocidal murder are not leaders that our elected officials should be quoting. Brenda Forman made a choice to post [a] quote attributed to Adolf Hitler," Gottlieb wrote on Facebook. "Her doing so in my opinion shows a complete lack of respect for the atrocities of the Holocaust and those who lost their lives fighting against Hitler's tyranny. ... She is not fit for public office and should be strongly rebuked for this anti-Semitic post."

U.S. Reps. Alcee Hastings, Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Ted Deutch and Frederica Wilson — all Democrats, as is Forman — issued a joint statement Wednesday sharply condemning Forman's post.

"Using Hitler to convey any point of view or message is reckless and wildly insensitive," the Democrats, who collectively represent all of Broward County, said in a joint statement.

Forman's sharing the message "is not

See **CLERK, 3B**



AMY BETH BENNETT/SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL

Local photographers provide free professional headshots

Photographers Gonzalo Villota, of Lila Photo, left, and Sharon Morgenstern, of Boca Raton Headshots, right, look at photos of Igor Zelenov, of Hollywood, during the 10,000 Headshots project Wednesday at Mizner Park in Boca Raton. Local photographers created the largest, single-day photo initiative that will provide 10,000 unemployed Americans nationwide with a free professional headshot to include with their resumes and post to job sites.

Audit cites lax control of sheriff's fund

Report heats up Tony vs. Israel primary campaign

BY SKYLER SWISHER

A trust fund overseen by the Broward Sheriff's Office has been plagued with lax rules on conflicts of interest and missing documentation, according to an audit made public Wednesday.

Sheriff Gregory Tony commissioned the forensic audit in September.

The investigation conducted by Carr, Riggs & Ingram LLC examined the agency's Law Enforcement Trust Fund, which con-

sists of money forfeited during criminal investigations. Auditors examined records from Jan. 1, 2008, through June 30, 2019, when former sheriffs Al Lamberti and Scott Israel oversaw the program.

Tony said he requested the audit because the agency did not have a consistent process for distributing hundreds of thousands of dollars seized during criminal investigations to community groups.

"We have been reviewing and analyzing all expenditures in this agency," he said. "I would be a fool not to."

Tony is facing his predecessor, Israel, in the Aug. 18 Democratic primary.

Israel led the agency from January 2013 until his suspension by Gov. Ron DeSantis in

January 2019.

Trust fund dollars are passed on to charitable organizations, but auditors found the Broward Sheriff's Office did not require grant applicants to disclose potential conflicts of interest with the sheriff or BSO personnel. In several cases, the agency did not perform conflict-of-interest checks.

Hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants were handed out under the Israel and Lamberti administrations to nonprofit organizations with officers who had made political contributions to the sheriff, according to the audit.

More than \$790,000 in grants were dis-

See **TRUST, 2B**

Three more Duffy's Sports Grill spots reopen

Boca Raton, Deerfield Beach, Weston locations of restaurant chain are back to business

BY BEN CRANDELL

With baseball back on TV, the NBA close and football still in return mode, the Palm Beach County-based Duffy's Sports Grill chain continued its phased comeback on Wednesday with the reopening of three more South Florida locations.

Doors opened at restaurants at 21212 St. Andrews Blvd. in Boca Raton, 401 N. Federal Highway in Deerfield Beach and at Weston Town Center.

A restaurant in Jupiter and two in Orlando also resumed service Wednesday.

Best known for ribs, wings, large beers and walls of televised sports, Duffy's Sports Grill has 34 locations in Florida, with just one South Florida restaurant, in Kendall, among the three yet to reopen. Also still closed are locations in Altamonte Springs and Estero.

Last week, Duffy's Sports Grill reopened in Plantation (811 S. University Drive), Fort Lauderdale (1804 Cordova Road), Boynton Beach (locations at 4746 N. Congress Ave. and 6545 Boynton Beach Blvd.), Delray Beach (1750 S. Federal Highway), West Palm Beach (locations at 225 Clematis St. and 721 Village Blvd.) and Royal Palm Beach (11935



DUFFY'S SPORTS GRILL

Duffy's Sports Grill reopened restaurants in Boca Raton, Deerfield Beach and Weston.

Southern Blvd.)

All Duffy's outposts will require daily health screenings, masks and gloves for all employees, limited dine-in capacity and offer expanded outdoor seating options, Duffy's president Joe Webb said in a statement.

Founded near Lake Park in 1985 and originally dubbed "Duffy's Drafthouse" by original owner Stephen Cournoyer, the Duffy's sports-bar empire has grown to vast proportions in South Florida, with locations stretching from Port St. Lucie to South Miami plus nine in Tampa and Orlando.

See **VAPING, 3B**

Vaping bill awaits decision

DeSantis behind on rulings amid virus

BY GRAY ROHRER

TALLAHASSEE — In a normal year, the governor would have long since finished acting on all the bills approved by the Legislature by now. But this is 2020, and things aren't normal.

Lawmakers have yet to send 26 bills passed earlier this year to Gov. Ron DeSantis, including SB 810, which would impose new regulations on vape shops and e-cigarette manufacturers. The bill is politically tricky for DeSantis, who will disappoint a large swath of fellow Republicans, including perhaps President Trump, whether he signs or vetoes it.

Numerous vape shop operators and e-cigarette industry representatives spoke out against it at legislative hearings. Trump last year opted not to move forward with a federal ban on most flavored e-cigarettes two months after saying he was considering it reportedly out of fear of political backlash from his base of supporters.

SB 810 would increase the minimum age to buy tobacco and vape products from 18 to 21, bringing state law in line with federal regulations passed last year. Another provision would ban certain flavors of liquid nicotine used in vaping devices, such as fruit, chocolate, vanilla, honey and candy, but allow an exception for products approved by the federal