

## Thomas Keller's Palm Beach eatery likely to open in late 2024

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# The Palm Beach Post

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## 'He was like a brother to everybody'

### Dad who died saving kids in fountain remembered

**Maya Washburn**  
Palm Beach Post  
USA TODAY NETWORK



**Davenport**

Harbourside Place fountain on Sunday, as "the quintessential family man."

The 45-year-old Jupiter native was the father of four children under the age of 13. He was spending the day boating with his wife and two of his children when they tied up at the Jupiter waterfront complex and the

children ran to play in the splash zone near the fountain.

When the kids screamed from the water, Davenport jumped in without hesitation and threw the kids out of the fountain. He never regained consciousness from the shocks he received and died at Jupiter Medical Center.

"Everything Nate did was to try and make his family better," said Scott Gorman, who met Davenport at Jupiter

Middle School, played football with him at Jupiter High School, attended Florida State with him and still counted him a friend nearly 40 years later.

"He was just such a good person. He was like a brother to everybody."

Jupiter officials are continuing to investigate what caused the incident, along with Florida Power & Light Co.

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## Controversial GL Homes land swap proposal dies



GL Homes President Misha Ezratti (right) and company Vice President Kevin Ratterre (left) answered questions from Palm Beach County commissioners during a meeting Tuesday. County commissioners rejected a GL Homes' land swap proposal to build a 1,000 unit high-end development on preserved land in the Ag Reserve. GREG LOVETT/THE PALM BEACH POST

### Two commissioners flip position in final reading

**Mike Diamond**  
Palm Beach Post  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The GL Homes' land swap is dead. Two county commissioners, Mack Bernard and Mayor Gregg Weiss, who had both voted in May to send the controversial proposal to the state for re-

view, changed their votes on final reading Tuesday, a rare event. Their flips were enough to kill the effort by the homebuilder to give the county land in the northwest part of the county, (Indian Trails Grove) in exchange for building a high-end development on preserved land west of Boca Raton in the Agricultural Reserve.

The vote was 4-3 against the swap with commissioners Sara Baxter, Maria Marino and Michael Barnett voting yes. Bernard, Weiss, Maria Sachs and Marci

Woodward voted no.

The vote came after a marathon 11-hour meeting. The commission chamber was packed with supporters with "approve the swap" and opponents with "Preserve The Reserve" T shirts.

Both Bernard and Weiss said much had transpired in the past few months since the initial May vote.

Bernard, who in May said he liked the potential benefits of a water

See **LAND SWAP**, Page 10A

## DeSantis: FAU job at play in Fine turnabout

### State representative says he's now backing Trump

**Andrew Marra**  
Palm Beach Post  
USA TODAY NETWORK

State Rep. Randy Fine announced Tuesday that he is no longer endorsing Gov. Ron DeSantis for president, a turnabout that DeSantis blamed on the fact that Fine "didn't get" the top job at Florida Atlantic University.

In announcing that he will now endorse Donald Trump, the firebrand Republican legislator from Brevard County said his move was motivated by the two presidential candidates' track records on Israel and antisemitism.

"The past two weeks have made me realize our choice as Jews is simple," Fine wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter. "We can vote for the Governor who says all the right things or we can vote for the President who actually does them. When it comes to action, Donald Trump has never ever let us down."

But DeSantis dismissed the move as posturing from a legislator who tried to win the presidency at FAU and was now seeking elected office once again. Fine has announced he is running for a Senate seat on Florida's Space Coast.

"He was up for a presidency of FAU. He didn't get it. Now he's running for (state) Senate," DeSantis said at a campaign stop in New Hampshire, according to TheMessenger, a news website. "He's trying to ingratiate himself. Totally ridiculous."

Fine's potential candidacy for the Boca Raton university's top job has been a major focus of attention on

See **FINE**, Page 9A

## House picks Johnson as new speaker

### Louisiana Republican secures votes on 1st round

**Ken Tran, Marina Pitofsky and Candy Woodall**  
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON - The fourth time was, at last, the charm.

After 22 days, four nominations and countless closed-door meetings, House

Republicans finally found a unity candidate for speaker: Rep. Mike Johnson, R-La.

Not a single GOP lawmaker voted against Johnson. The tally was 220-209, with House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., on the losing end. "The people's house is back in business," Johnson said. "Would y'all like to get right into governing?"

Rep Patrick McHenry, R-N.C., served as the speaker pro tempore after a hand-

ful of Republicans ousted former House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif, earlier this month. But the interim role didn't carry official powers, so the lower chamber could not consider legislation or work on crucial priorities such as funding packages to avoid a government shutdown.

The paralysis tested voters' patience, a recent USA TODAY/Suffolk University

See **JOHNSON**, Page 9A



**New House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., said the country is facing "one of the most fateful moments" in its history.** KENT NISHIMURA/USA TODAY

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# OPINION

## The Palm Beach Post

REAL NEWS STARTS HERE

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**THE PALM BEACH POST EDITORIAL BOARD** mission is to articulate the issues of the day, advocate for policies for the betterment of the community and encourage a civil and robust exchange of ideas. The Board consists of Executive Editor Rick Christie, Editorial Page Editor Tony Doris and Editorial Writer Douglas C. Lyons.



**Your Turn**  
 Alon Levkovitz  
 Guest columnist

## Rabbi: Always outsiders, even when we're not

Rabbi Twersky tells a story in one of his books that when he was a young boy, he badly wanted to fit in with his public-school classmates. The problem was that he was the son of a Chasidic rabbi who looked the part in Milwaukee of the 1930s, and his athleticism and coordination were in complete opposition to the brilliance of his mind. In other words, he was different from the other kids and couldn't play ball to save his life.

Displayed in one of the sport stores in town was an exquisite baseball bat that young Twersky thought would be his ticket to be included in the baseball games. For months he saved every penny and bought the bat. As he expected, the kids admired the bat and invited him to play with them. Except, they used the bat but didn't really let him play. He got the message.

We American Jews often want to fit in and be part of political parties and other organizations. We give everything we have. We brush off any sign of rejection and find excuses for messages telling us "You are not really one of us." But then something big happens in the world and even the most warped mirror can no longer hide the truth from our eyes.

When I read the original reports about the hospital blast in Gaza, I was overwhelmed by the familiar emotions one should expect to feel in a disaster like this: grief, sadness, anger, and compassion. But there was an undertone in the way the reports were written, that only days later I was able to recognize. It felt like the news media was waiting for something like this to happen, not the death of more innocent people but for the opportunity to put Israel on the same level as Hamas.

For the first hours after the blast, the Israelis did not give their version of the event and the information was disseminated solely by Hamas. With complete certainty they described how the Israeli air force dropped a bomb that killed 500 innocent people. Finally, when Israel proved that Hamas was lying and it was a failed rocket fired by Islamic Jihad that killed the people, many newspapers took their time before sharing the Israeli version with their readers. It is as if now it's okay to stop describing Israel as the victim of heinous crimes and Hamas as the perpetrator. "There are bad people on both sides."

A New York Times article Oct. 20 reported, "Progressive Jews who have spent years supporting racial equity, gay and transgender rights, abortion rights and other causes on the American left — including opposing Israeli policies in Gaza and the West Bank — are suddenly feeling abandoned by those who they long thought of as allies." The message by some on the left is that the Oct. 7 massacre was a legitimate reaction to the Israeli occupation. As though beheading babies and kidnapping holocaust survivors is nothing but a natural if not reasonable outcome of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

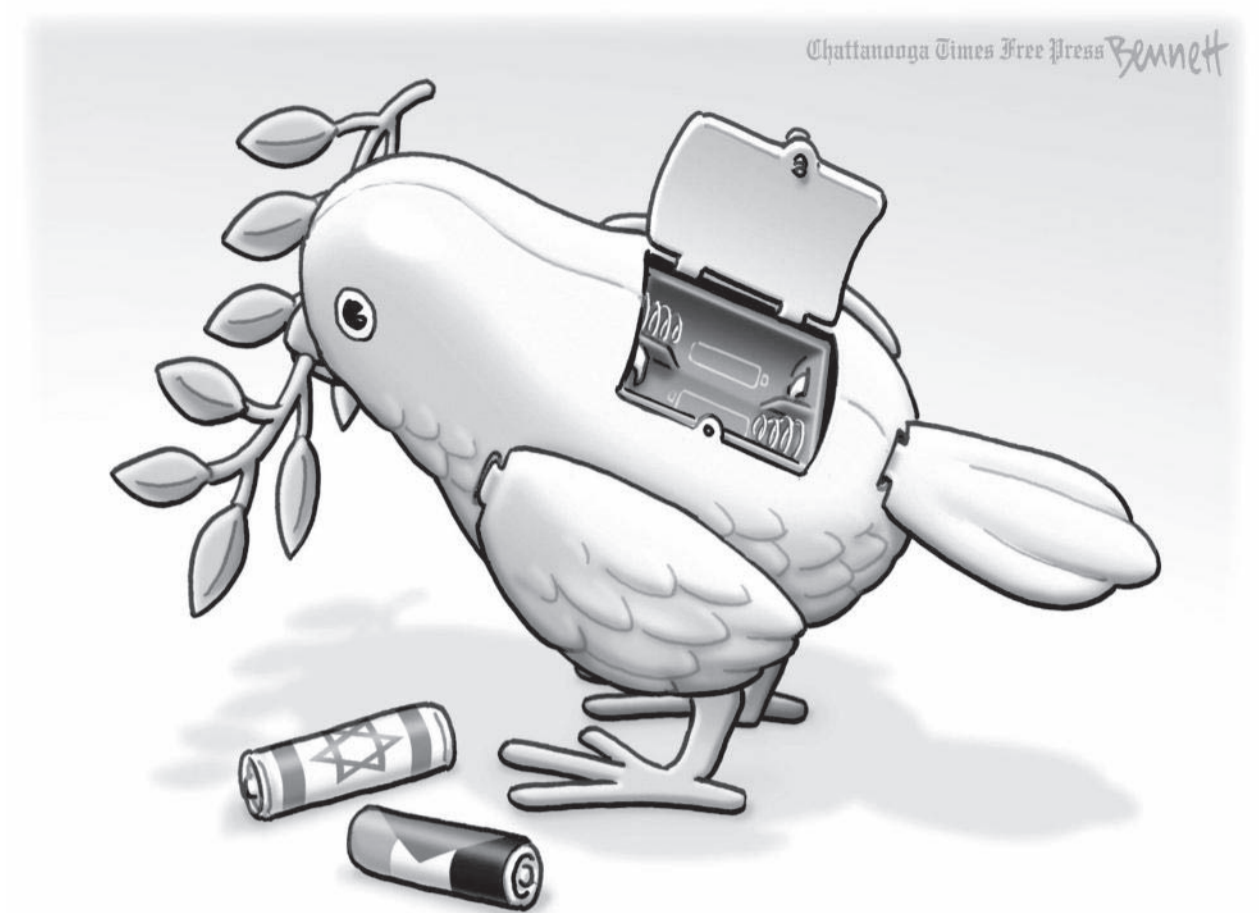
But before packing and moving to the political right, we must honestly ask ourselves if it is a welcoming home for Jews. We all remember the antisemitic display of the far right in Charlottesville in 2017. Still echoing in our ears are the comments of former President Trump, "but you also had people that were very fine people on both sides," after white supremacists marched outside of the synagogue chanting "Sieg Heil," and "Jews will not replace us." Six years ago, it was fine neo-Nazis, today it is fine Hamas terrorists.

Luckily, the majority of Americans, politicians as well as citizens, can still tell the difference between right and wrong, between killers and victims. But as the power shifts to the far sides of the political spectrum, the political home of the American Jews shrinks.

*Alon Levkovitz is Rabbi of Temple Beth Am, a reform synagogue in Jupiter.*

**A crowd gathers to rally in support of Palestine at the Israeli embassy in Washington, DC, on Oct. 18.**

MANDEL NGAN, AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



CLAY BENNETT/CHATTANOOGA TIMES FREE PRESS

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### DeSantis' Israeli political points shameful

Gov. DeSantis continues to try and get political points for his party. Now he is using the terrible tragedy of the terrorists attack on Israel.

Instead of trying to work with President Biden, he is trying to get more political points for himself. How sad. It is so terrible what has happened with the inhuman actions of the terrorists.

However we must not forget that innocent people are being slaughtered on both sides of this war.

Two wrongs don't make a right.

Love has to be used in these terrible times.

We are all God's children. This Governor should be working with the President like all the other governors.

*Vincent V. Stankay, West Palm Beach*

#### Anti-Gov. DeSantis bias clearly showing

How dare you say Gov. DeSantis is bad for America. He's the best governor in the United States. Why are thousands of people moving to Florida? You need to take down your liberal ideology.

*Sandy Anderson, Jupiter*

#### Can House Republicans say 'compromise?'

When will the House Republicans remember what our mothers told each of us: You don't get everything you want in life.

This election mess would stop in a heartbeat if their paychecks were put on hold until a Speaker of

the House was selected.

*Gerald Farmer, Ocean Ridge*

#### Israel's past haunts it in current war

The U.S. and its allies love to picture themselves as the guardians of human values, ardent defenders of freedom and democracy.

That claim is a sham, as evident from their all out support for an increasingly racist Zionist state; this is a state that for 75 years has brutally subjugated Palestinian Arabs, and arrogantly defied countless UN resolutions and international laws. Western countries have deliberately concealed the dark side of the Israel story. Contrary to United Nations mandates, Israel has continued its long time practice of appropriating more and more Arab land, driving Arab families from their homes, illegally annexing territories won in war and backing extremist settlers who invade Arab homes and lands.

Rampaging settlers have mercilessly beaten or killed Arab residents. It should be evident that Israel has committed multiple war crimes, including violent suppression of human rights, and the imposition of collective punishment in massive reprisal for any terror attack.

None of these war crimes justify Hamas bloody strike on innocent Israeli citizens.

But if we care about gross injustice, we must understand that the Zionist state has a system which imposes a crushing rule of one people over another and repudiates the bedrock democratic principle that lives have equal value whether they are Arabs or Jews.

*Irwin Shishko, Delray Beach*

## Commit to helping homeless youths



**Your Turn**  
 Keith Kennedy  
 Guest columnist

Each year, in November, we observe Youth Homeless Awareness Month, an occasion dedicated to raising awareness about one of our society's most critical challenges. It is a time to reflect on the plight of those without stable shelter, acknowledge their struggles and recommit ourselves to finding lasting solutions. As the President and CEO of Gulfstream Goodwill Industries, I am compelled to reflect on the persistent issue of homelessness that affects far too many lives in our communities, including our youth.

While we pause to acknowledge the significance of this month, let us not forget that every day is a struggle for those without a place to call home. Homelessness isn't merely a statistical data point; it embodies the harsh reality faced by countless individuals and families, often through circumstances beyond their control.

Goodwill, one of the preeminent homelessness providers in its five-county region, is changing lives through housing, training, education and employment. When you donate your new and gently used items, we sell them in our stores or online. The revenue generated provides valuable employment training, job placement services and housing assistance for Floridians. Our mission extends beyond a roof over one's head; it encompasses empowerment, dignity and a pathway to self-sufficiency. Every night, Goodwill serves over 300 individuals in shelters who would otherwise be on the streets. In 2023 alone, we have served nearly 200 kids under the age of 18.

Our homeless prevention services include temporary shelters and permanent supportive housing that

is safe, comfortable and affordable for single adults and families who are homeless and/or at risk for homelessness. Last year, we served 1,500 homeless individuals, helping to get them off the streets and into a safe environment.

We also provide wrap-around services for people experiencing homelessness, including counseling, life skills development, career counseling information and referral, pre-employment training, career camps, work readiness training, peer support, case management, job placement, financial literacy education and psychiatric services.

We are committed to equipping individuals with the skills and resources necessary to secure and maintain stable employment. We provide a hand up to people with any barrier to independence to become self-sufficient, working members of their communities.

Addressing homelessness requires a collective effort. Nonprofits, government agencies, businesses and communities must pool resources, share best practices and create a coordinated response. Together, we can achieve what no single entity can do alone.

This Youth Homeless Awareness Month, let us remember that compassion and action go hand in hand. Let us stand in solidarity with those experiencing homelessness and work tirelessly to ensure everyone has a place to call home. Our efforts today will shape the future for generations to come.

As the President and CEO of Gulfstream Goodwill Industries, I call on all of us to embrace the spirit of Youth Homeless Awareness Month by committing ourselves to meaningful change. Let us make a difference, one person, one family and one community at a time. Together, we can end homelessness, not just for a day but for a lifetime. For more information on GGI, please visit [goggi.org](http://goggi.org) or call 561-848-7200.

*Keith Kennedy, President and CEO of Gulfstream Goodwill Industries*