

Ocala StarBanner



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NKorea hasn't agreed to no nukes

Despite Trump tweet about 'denuclearization' Kim has pledged only to suspend testing

By Jill Colvin
The Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH — President Donald Trump on Sunday claimed North Korea has agreed to

"denuclearization" before his potential meeting with Kim Jong Un. But that's not the case.

North Korea said Friday it would suspend nuclear tests and intercontinental ballistic missile launches ahead of summits with the U.S. and South Korea.

Kim also said a nuclear test site would be closed and "dismantled" now that the

country has learned how to make nuclear weapons and mount warheads on ballistic rockets.

But the North has stopped short of saying it has any intention of abandoning its nuclear arsenal, with Kim making clear that nukes remain a "treasured sword." Trump nonetheless tweeted Sunday that the North has "agreed to denuclearization

(so great for World), site closure, & no more testing!"

Being committed to the concept of denuclearization, however, is not the same as agreeing to it, as Trump claims.

South Korea, which is set to meet with North Korea later this week, has said Kim has expressed genuine interest in dealing away his nuclear weapons. But the North for

decades has been pushing a concept of "denuclearization" that bears no resemblance to the American definition, vowing to pursue nuclear development unless Washington removes its troops from the Korean Peninsula and the nuclear umbrella defending South Korea and Japan.

See NUKES, A4

Shots fired at deputy, bystanders

The gunfire was outside the Paradise Bar and Lounge, but no injuries were reported

By Andy Fillmore
Correspondent

NORTH MARION COUNTY — Several shots were fired at a Marion County Sheriff's deputy and bystanders early Sunday in front of a bar about 12 miles north of Ocala.

Deputies are working to identify any eyewitnesses and have asked for the community's help.

According to an MCSO press release, Deputy Joseph Spratlin responded to a call at Paradise Bar and Lounge around 2 a.m. at 13007 North U.S. Highway 441.

See SHOOTING, A4



LOCAL & STATE | B1

STUDENTS PLAN RALLY AFTER FOREST HIGH SHOOTING



NATION | A2

4 DEAD IN WAFFLE HOUSE SHOOTING

Building their futures



Paul Scrambling, right, of Habitat For Humanity Phoenix Rising YouthBuild, teaches Lateria Cohen, left, and Vanessa Mingo how to measure for wall studs as they work Thursday on the interior of a Habitat for Humanity home on Juniper Road in Silver Springs Shores. Thirteen 18- to 24-year-olds are participating in this spring's Phoenix Rising YouthBuild, where they are learning important job skills, earning certifications, and building a home. (BRUCE ACKERMAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

Students move from classroom to construction site

By Katie Pohlman
Staff writer

People shouting, hammers whacking nails, table saws slicing two-by-fours and a generator humming all contribute to the symphony of sounds on the Phoenix Rising YouthBuild program's construction site.

Thirteen participants, all between 18 and 24 years

old, navigate the roof and measure out rooms while they build the Habitat for Humanity of Marion County house at 8075 Juniper Road as part of the program.

Once construction is complete in June, a family of three will move in and make the three-bedroom house a home.

See BUILDING, A4



Scott Gray, Gavon Eaves, and Austin Edwards, from left, Phoenix Rising YouthBuild students, are silhouetted as they work on the roof.

Why US is now ripe for many protests

By Adam Geller
The Associated Press

She was the face of mass protest, but long ago lost her faith in protesting.

Then, last year, thousands of women set out to march on Washington, and Jan Rose Kasimir knew she had to join them.

"When Trump was elected president, I couldn't not participate.... It seemed like the

only way to get my voice out there," said Kasimir, 68, who was 17 when a photographer snapped a now-iconic image of her offering a chrysanthemum to National Guardsmen during a 1967 protest against the Vietnam War.

Kasimir gave up protesting when it failed to stop the Iraq War in 2003. But after the 2017 Women's March, she rallied for gun control near her home in Hilton

Head, South Carolina, joining millions of Americans demanding change.

"I think we've reached a tipping point," Kasimir said. There's something happening here. But what is it, exactly, and why now?

More than five decades after Americans poured into the streets to demand civil rights and the end to a deeply unpopular war, thousands are embracing a culture of

resistance unlike anything since.

NFL players have taken a knee during the national anthem. Teachers have packed statehouses to demand raises. Activists proclaiming "#MeToo," have called out those who have abused them.

"We're in a moment where people are frustrated with

See PROTESTS, A4

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Crossword D2
Local B1
Lottery A2

Opinion B6
Sports C1
Television D3

TODAY
Thunderstorms
80° / 45°

TUESDAY
Partly sunny
80° / 60°

WEDNESDAY
Partly sunny
80° / 59°



A4 Monday, April 23, 2018 | Ocala Star-Banner | www.ocala.com

BUILDING

From Page A1

The young adults say they pay special attention to their work, knowing a family will be moving in at the end.

"After I saw the family (at the) wall raising, I made myself try harder and not give up," said Vanessa Mingo, 23, of Ocala. She added she feels really honored to be building their home.

A wall raising event was held March 16 to commemorate the beginning of construction.

Construction of the one-story bungalow is the second phase of the CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion Phoenix Rising YouthBuild program. From January to March, the students worked to earn their high school diplomas and achieve workforce skill certificates. All but about three have already earned their diplomas. Those remaining are expected to finish up in the next couple of weeks, said Career Coach Heaven Colon.

Students still working toward their diploma spend about six hours a week in the classroom. Gavon Eaves, 19, of Ocala, is about to graduate after three months of work. The rest of the time, students



Devante Johnson, who is in the Phoenix Rising YouthBuild program, works on framing a window on the Habitat for Humanity home.

(BRUCE ACKERMAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

are at the work site, weather permitting.

As they work, they're reminded to stay motivated by quotes typed in large print on white paper duct-taped to the walls of the house. "Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard," one reads.

Other printouts provide questions for the students to ponder as they work on the home, such as if they save \$5 a week, invest it in a mutual fund and start when they're 20, how much income per year could they have at 65?

Before setting foot on the

construction site, the students learned about the equipment and materials they would handle daily and methods of constructing the house properly.

Mingo said when Success Mentor Beau Williams, who is organizing the construction, discussed different equipment, she didn't know what he was talking about. Now, after being on the site, she understands it all.

Williams said the goal is to have students try out every skill or task involved in building a home.

"We watch them find their groove, their niche and, when they're comfortable, we throw a wrench at them," he said.

Some students prefer being on top of the roof in a harness and leach while others prefer to set up stud walls down below. Mingo said she hasn't been on the roof yet but she has used a nail gun.

She didn't want to use it at first but she was talked into it. She was amazed at how powerful it was. "It's the closest I've got to a gun," she said.

As for the roof, Mingo might venture up there once it looks more secure.

Eaves, on the other hand, said he loves being on the roof. "I love construction work. I love being outside," he said.

He's also excited to begin electricity work on the house in the coming weeks.

Several students, like Eaves, are interested in continuing on in the construction field after they graduate from the program in June. For others, they're learning additional skills that could eventually help them — even if it's only in the realm of home improvement.

Brandon Shippee, 18, of Dunnellon, has his sights set on being a racecar driver or a mechanic. He said the hands-on work is alright, but he's mainly focusing on earning

his diploma and what his next steps in life will be.

"I'm not really into (construction work), but it's better than sitting on a computer all day," he said, which the students did to earn their diplomas.

Shippee works mainly on the walls and the interior of the home as he doesn't like ladders and said nothing will make him get on the roof.

Colon said she's impressed with how far the students have come since starting the Youth-Build program.

"They're all growing," she said. "They're learning how to work with multiple supervisors and doing things they're scared of."

Students will focus on constructing the house until the week before their graduation on June 7. Some might have job offers that day.

Williams said multiple contractors have stopped by the construction site to ask what the students are doing. After learning about the project, many have said to let them know when the program is over.

"It's definitely getting noticed," Williams said.

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In this Friday photo provided by the North Korean government, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un speaks during a meeting of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, in Pyongyang, North Korea. (KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY/KOREA NEWS SERVICE VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS)

NUKES

Continued from A1

South Korea's president has said Kim isn't asking for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from the Korean Peninsula as a condition for abandoning his nuclear weapons. If true, that would seem to remove a major sticking point to a potential disarmament deal.

But that still doesn't address a North Korean arsenal that now includes purported thermonuclear warheads and developmental ICBMs developed during a decades-long cycle of crises, stalemates and broken promises.

Trump agreed to meet with Kim after an invitation was delivered by a South Korean delegation that had just returned from Pyongyang.

"I told President Trump that in our meeting, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said he's committed to denuclearization," South Korea's national security adviser later told reporters on the White House driveway.

"Kim pledged that North Korea will refrain from any further nuclear or missile tests."

A place and date have yet to be set, but Trump's pick to be the next secretary of state, CIA Director Mike Pompeo, traveled to North Korea on Easter weekend to lay the groundwork for the meeting. Trump has called the talks a success, but it's unclear exactly what was agreed to, if anything, as a condition for the leader-to-leader talks.

"Look, this is a great public relations effort by Kim Jong-un. And I think people will recognize that," Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tennessee, said Sunday on CNN's "State of the Union." But asked whether he believed the North

would denuclearize, Corker offered caution.

"Well, I don't think he said anything about denuclearizing on the front end necessarily," he said.

He added on ABC's "This Week" that it's unrealistic to think that "somebody's going to go in and charm" Kim out of keeping his nuclear weapons.

"Is it realistic that he's just willy-nilly going to do that? Absolutely not," Corker said. "But, you know, progress can be made, freezing the program, who knows what he's — what his ambitions are as it relates to South Korea."

Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Arkansas, was equally as skeptical on CBS' "Face the Nation," arguing that North Korea's recent statements are easily reversible and that no announcement has been made about short- or medium-range ballistic missiles that threaten South Korea and Japan.

"Well, I think this announcement on Friday is better than continued testing, but it's not much better than that," he said. "But I do think they show that the president has puters Kim Jong Un on the wrong foot for the first time."

Asked what denuclearization means to both sides, White House Legislative Director Marc Short said on NBC's "Meet the Press" that there needs to be a sit-down meeting to make sure everyone's on the same page.

"But I think from our perspective, it means full denuclearization," he said. "No longer having nuclear weapons that can be used in warfare against any of our allies."

Still, Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-California, told CBS that if the president goes through with the meeting it's "very important" that it "goes well and that there is an ability to put together some terms of an agreement that might exist."

SHOOTING

From Page A1

As Spratlin dispersed a crowd in front of the bar, "several rounds were fired toward (the deputy) and civilians."

Spratlin, however, did not return fire, but instead "focused on getting bystanders to safe shelter." Spratlin took cover behind his patrol vehicle, which was hit by one bullet.

The crowd dispersed before additional deputies arrived and no injuries have been reported.

Sheriff Billy Woods said "enough is enough."

"A law enforcement officer's worst fear came true in Gilchrist County last week and I can tell you all of my people are on edge," said Woods. "The shooting this morning hits us right here at home and this type of senseless violence has got to stop."

He continued, "every single day, all of us in law enforcement, whether we wear green,



During the shooting at the Paradise Bar and Lounge, Marion County Sheriff's Deputy Joseph Spratlin took cover behind his patrol vehicle, which was hit by one bullet. (PHOTOS COURTESY OF MCSO)

blue, black or tan uniforms, leave our families to protect you, our citizens. I implore you to at least help us protect you from those who commit crimes like this. Whoever committed this crime last night is a danger to all of us. Someone needs to do the right thing and turn that person or persons in today," he stated.

The most recent shooting comes while the area is still

reeling from both the shooting deaths of Gilchrist County Sgt. Noel Ramirez and Deputy Taylor Lindsey in an ambush in Trenton on Thursday and the shooting on Friday at Forest High School that injured a student.

Anyone with information on the shooting at the bar is asked to call MCSO Sgt. Donald Buie at 368-3538 or Crime Stoppers at 368-STOP (7867).

PROTESTS

Continued from A1

institutional politics and where people see urgent issues that need addressing and for a moment they believe that taking action can make a difference," said David S. Meyer, a professor at the University of California, Irvine and author of "The Politics of Protest: Social Movements in America."

Opposition to Trump has clearly been a catalyst, he and others said.

For many activists on the left, "there's a great deal of fear that we may be living in the last days of this experiment in democratic self-rule, that Donald Trump's election may mark a fatal turning point," said Maurice Isserman, a professor of history at Hamilton College.

But many protesters speak for causes beyond electoral politics, including concerns like shooting deaths or racial discrimination predated Trump's political rise.

Such protests "didn't spontaneously combust," said Todd Gitlin, who in the 1960s was president of the activist group Students for a Democratic Society and has studied protest movements as a professor at Columbia University.

"There are deep cleavages that are in play and they will manifest themselves in a variety of ways."

Recent protests have drawn together broad coalitions. In Charlotte, North Carolina,

Rachel Hewitt returned to protesting for the first time since the early 1980s, when she marched in support of the Equal Rights Amendment. The catalyst this time was Trump, whose election left Hewitt deeply depressed.

So Hewitt, who is 65, white and based in a freelance graphic artist, boarded a bus to join the Women's March. The shared sense of purpose she found was "life-altering," she said. When students from south Florida's Parkland High School organized the "March for Our Lives" last month in Washington, Hewitt chartered a bus.

"It's just thrilling to see that they very well could do what we weren't able to do," Hewitt said. She points to 16-year-old Amya Burse, who organized a safety task force and a rally at her Charlotte high school after the Parkland killings.

Burse said she has been jarred to action by a lockdown last fall when a student brought a gun to school. But social media have alerted her to protests against other causes.

"When we started seeing one group getting enough success, we started realizing, well, maybe we can do something for myself," said Burse, who is black and a junior.

The dexterity, particularly of young people, in using video and social media to shape their message have enabled them to organize quickly and effectively in play and they will manifest themselves in a variety of ways."

1960s activism. Occupy Wall Street protests in 2011 and the rise of Black Lives Matter two years later pointed to deep restlessness on the political left.

Recent protests mark the first time since the 1960s that so many Americans have ventured into the streets. But there are at least many differences as similarities.

The '60s were a hopeful and expansive time for many young activists, despite the polarization, Isserman said, but today's young protesters can't afford such idealism. "Today we have a harder sense of the limits and the choices that have to be made," he said.

Parkland students, like black college students who organized sit-ins at white-owned lunch counters during the Civil Rights Era, embrace the message of older activists while rejecting their slowness in delivering results, Schmidt said.

But the 1960s were a watershed because protests became connected in a narrative of change, he said, and it's too soon to know whether today's activism will be similarly transformative.

Johanna Goldfarb was a medical student in 1970 when she joined a rally against America's war in Southeast Asia. She recalls feeling proud to take a stand.

Goldfarb said she joined the Women's March last year motivated out of fear about the country's direction than hope. But when she joined a march to demand gun control, it reframed her mindset.