

Ocala StarBanner



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Musician returns to Ocala for Oktoberfest

Thursday, September 28, 2017

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US rushes to aid Puerto Rico

The Washington Post

SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO — The Trump administration is rushing military hardware and personnel into Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands as it becomes increasingly clear that the U.S. government response to Hurricane Maria so far has been inadequate and overmatched by the scale of the disaster. In the first six days after the hurricane made landfall here, the Navy had deployed just three ships, citing concerns that Puerto Rico's ports were too damaged to accommodate numerous large vessels. But harrowing reports of isolated U.S. citizens struggling in the heat without electricity and running low on food and water have now spurred the Pentagon to throw resources into the relief effort even though they haven't been specifically requested by territorial officials.

The more robust approach includes the deployment of the USNS Comfort, a hospital ship that has responded to other natural disasters. The Pentagon also has assigned an Army general as point person for the humanitarian crisis: Brig. Gen. Richard Kim, the deputy commanding general of U.S. Army North. He will coordinate operations and assess what other resources

Local organizations and individuals are gathering supplies to be sent to Puerto Rico, and also are hosting other activities. Their efforts will support others, such as this collection drive on Wednesday in Miami.



Local organizations and individuals are gathering supplies to be sent to Puerto Rico, and also are hosting other activities. Their efforts will support others, such as this collection drive on Wednesday in Miami. (ALAN DIAZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS)

See MARIA, A6

DCF hiring temp workers



Staff and wire report

DCF hiring for emergency Food for Florida program: As a result of Hurricane Irma, the Florida Department of Children and Families is hiring 300 temporary workers for the Ocala call center to support the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion and Manpower have teamed up to help DCF

identify and recruit candidates during a hiring event that will continue from 9 a. to 4 p.m. today and Friday at the CareerSource center at 2703 NE 14th St., Ocala. Data entry clerks will process Food for Florida emergency food assistance applications for five weeks, six days a week. Full and part-time positions are available. Pay is \$12 an hour. According to a DCF official on site Wednesday, other

positions also are available and the pay ranges from \$10 to \$20 per hour. Applicants do not need to have a high school diploma or GED but data entry experience is required. The successful candidate must also pass a level 2 criminal background check. Interested candidates must register at www.employflorida.com prior to attending the hiring event. Complete job details are available at Employ Florida

(Job Order 10555031). For more information, call 352-840-5700, ext. 1790, or 800-414-5027. **Foundation extends coupon book sales:** Because of Hurricane Irma, the Public Education Foundation of Marion County has announced that its Coupons For Education book sales will be extended to Oct. 6. The books are \$20 each and can be purchased from any

See IRMA, A6

Big tax cuts, big questions

Trump's sweeping plan promises cuts for businesses and to double deductions, but questions remain about effects on Americans

By Marcy Gordon and Andrew Taylor
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Promising big tax cuts and a booming economy, President Donald Trump and congressional Republicans unveiled the first major revamp of the nation's tax code in a generation Wednesday — a sweeping, \$5 trillion plan that would deeply cut levies for corporations, simplify everyone's brackets and nearly double the standard deduction used by most Americans.

Trump declared repeatedly the plan would provide badly

See TAXES, A6

Animal rescue faces challenge after storm

By Susan Smiley-Height
Local News Editor

SILVER SPRINGS — As if losing grant funding because of 9/11 and Hurricanes Katrina and Harvey, and having to recover from considerable damage from Hurricane Irma were not enough, the Forest Animal Rescue in eastern Marion County last weekend was told its longtime providers of produce and meat will no

longer be able to give them food. The loss of support from two area Winn-Dixie stores will equate to a roughly \$120,000 bill annually for food for the animals — tigers, bears, lemurs, monkeys, giant bats and tortoises, Patagonian pumas and more — said rescue co-founder Lisa Stoner. Joe Caldwell, manager, corporate communications,

for Southeastern Grocers LLC, the parent company and home of BI-LO, Harveys, Winn-Dixie and Fresco y Más grocery stores, said the stores are following corporate policy. "These two stores have simply aligned themselves to our official charitable partners for food, Second Harvest Food Bank, along

See RESCUE, A6



Little girl, a ringed tail lemur, eats a grape leaf at the Forest Animal Rescue in eastern Marion County. (DOUG ENGLE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

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EMORY SCHLEY SAYS VINEGAR KILLS WEEDS

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WALKING TOURS OF ROME ARE A MUST-DO

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©2017 GateHouse Media	Opinion..... A7	Weather..... B6	95° / 70°	91° / 72°	86° / 72°

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