

Advertise With Us

A&E

City Watch
 Food & Drink
 Lifestyle
 Current Issue
 Partner Profiles
 Calendar
 Dining Guide

boca
 magazine

Subscribe

Trump Library

Coming To FAU? New Federal Policies Hit Home

 [Randy Schultz](#) · March 11, 2025

See Latest Issue
Below:



boca
 magazine

Get the latest news
 from Boca
 magazine delivered
 straight to your
 inbox!



Name (Required)



Photo by Alex Dolce

Could Florida Atlantic University be home to Donald Trump's presidential library?

NBC News reported over the weekend that Trump allies are scouting area locations, and that possible sites include FAU's Boca Raton campus and Florida International University in Miami. Gov. Ron DeSantis reportedly met with Trump last weekend in Palm Beach to discuss the topic.

This news came as Adam Hasner on Monday officially became FAU's president. Hasner, who spent eight years as a Republican member of the Florida House, was the governor's choice. FAU trustees chose Hasner, who had [no experience in higher education](#), over two finalists with three decades of accomplishments in the field.

Subscribe

Last

Email (Required)

Choose newsletters to receive:

(Required)

- The Scoop - The week's top stories
- City Watch - News straight from City H
- The Dish - Weekly roundup of dining news
- Receive offers from Boca magazine partners

SUBSCRIBE





Advertise With Us

A&E

City Watch
Food & Drink
Lifestyle
Current Issue
Partner Profiles
Calendar
Dining Guide

boca
magazine

Subscribe

According to NBC, FAU has offered to donate land for the library. Trump's team is also looking at non-university locations in South Florida. The network quoted one GOP legislator as saying that picking FAU or FIU would make for hard feelings at the other.

FIU, though, is near Trump's golf resort in Delray. FIU's president also is a recent DeSantis choice—former Lt. Gov. Jeanette Nunez. At meeting last month, FIU trustees installed Nunez as interim president after rejecting a contract extension for Dr. Kenneth Jessell, a career educator under whose leadership FIU had achieved the top performance score among state universities. There is little doubt that Nunez will get the permanent position.

NBC said Trump's team also is looking at non-university locations in South Florida. The network quoted one GOP legislator as saying that picking FAU or FIU would make for hard feelings at the other.

Whatever the location, the Legislature is set to pass a bill that [will strip local governments from any role](#) in the library. If FAU is chosen, Boca Raton will have no say in the plans. FAU trustees would have to approve any donation of land.

New federal policies hit home

Policy debates in Washington can seem abstract, until policy changes become real. Boca Raton, Delray Beach and Palm Beach County are not part of those debates—such as



they are. The potential effects, though, are becoming clearer.

Advertise With Us

A&E

City Watch
 Food & Drink
 Lifestyle
 Current Issue
 Partner Profiles
 Calendar
 Dining Guide

boca
 magazine

Subscribe

Example: Uncertainty over the U.S. Department of Education.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported last week that Trump will sign an executive order asking Education Secretary Linda McMahon to begin steps to abolish the department. In practical terms, the order wouldn't mean much. Only Congress could abolish the agency, and doing so would require 60 votes in the Senate; Republicans have just 53 seats.

But the Trump administration and congressional Republicans could gut the agency through spending cuts. The House's proposed spending bill cuts \$13 billion overall from the current federal budget. Heather Frederick is the Palm Beach County School District's chief financial officer. She told me that the district receives about \$300 million from the U.S. Department of



Linda McMahon as Administrator of the Small

Business Administration in 2017



Education. That amounts to roughly 10% of the district's

2024-25 operating budget.

Advertise With Us

A&E

City Watch
 Food & Dining
 Lifestyle
 Current Issue
 Partner Profiles
 Calendar
 Dining Guide

boca
 magazine

Subscribe

Three programs make up most of that total, Frederick said. About \$115 million goes to Title I schools — school breakfasts and lunches. Another \$50 million goes to schools with large proportions of poorer students, to supplement their learning through the Title I program. And \$48 million provides specialized learning for students with disabilities.

McMahon said of any order, “This is not a turn out the lights and walk out of the building.” But what if Washington cut all or part of what goes to states? “It would impact our ability to provide services to students,” Frederick said.

Any immediate impact likely would hit harder in Delray Beach, which has a higher proportion of underprivileged students than Boca Raton. But Boca Raton Elementary and J.C. Mitchell are Title I schools. So is Boca Raton Middle, like Carver Middle in Delray Beach. Atlantic High is a Title I school. No high schools in Boca Raton are in that category.

Voters already have approved a special sales tax to help fund the operating budget. The district likely could not count on the state making up the difference. Indeed, the Legislature seems intent on abolishing the property tax that is school districts’ main source of revenue.

Critics, most of them Democrats, say the real Republican goal is not merely the abolition of a federal agency but the



abolition of public education. Superintendent Mike Burke has issued n... getting the top spot. He kn... what's at

Advertise With Us

A&E

City Watch
 Food & Drink
 Lifestyle
 Current Issue
 Partner Profiles
 Calendar
 Dining Guide

boca
 magazine

Subscribe

Rep. Frankel hosts discussion on possible cuts to Medicaid

So does U.S. Rep. Lois Frankel, D-West Palm Beach. Her district includes Delray Beach and West Delray. Last month, Frankel hosted a discussion on possible cuts to Medicaid.

The



Rep. Lois Frankel

Congressional Budget Office said last week that Republicans can't even begin to offset the extension of tax cuts for wealthy Americans and corporations without cutting social programs. Trump has said that he won't cut Medicare, which leaves Medicaid.





Though most people think of that federal/state program as financing health care, Medicaid's largest benefit is nursing home care. According to Florida's Department of Health, home patients in Florida rely on Medicaid for care. 300,000 Floridians 65 and older get home health care through Medicaid, which keeps them out of more expensive nursing homes. About 77,000 are on the waiting list for such services.

Advertise With Us

A&E

City Watch
 Food & Dining
 Lifestyle
 Current Issue
 Partner Profiles
 Calendar
 Dining Guide

boca
 magazine

Subscribe

Medicaid also provides health care for almost 40% of children in Florida, covers 42% of births, and covers services for almost 290,000 Floridians with disabilities.

Again, the Legislature likely would not make up any cuts, which would ripple through the regional health care economy. Florida remains one of just nine states not to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act to the state's working poor.

DDA and Delray Commissioners come to agreement on marketing for OSS





The Cornell Art Museum at Old School Square, photo courtesy of Delray Beach Downtown

Development Authority

The Delray Beach City Commission and the Downtown Development Authority finally are aligned on the marketing of Old School Square.

At the Feb. 18 commission meeting, DDA representatives laid out the plan. Under a contract with the city, the DDA has been managing Old School Square’s Cornell Museum, amphitheater and fieldhouse since a previous commission ended the lease that the founding organization—Old School Square Center for the Arts—had held for more than three decades.

Much discussion has focused on “branding” and logos to support the campaign. Commissioners like the DDA’s new approach, which is to put out a call for local artists to create logos for the complex and the individual components, “each with its distinctive personality,” said





DDA Director Laura Simon. The theme will be "A Legacy Through Local Food and Lifestyle"

Advertise With Us

A&E

City Watch
 Food & Drink
 Lifestyle
 Current Issue
 Partner Profiles
 Calendar
 Dining Guide

boca
 magazine

Subscribe

After artists submit their entries, the panel will select winners. Commissioner Rob Long spoke at the event when he said, "I love this idea." DDA representatives said the process will take between 18 and 20 weeks.

Questions remain regarding relationship

between the city and OSSCA

Still unresolved, however, is the relationship between the city and Old School Square Center for the Arts. As Mayor Tom Carney and others have noted, Google searches for "Old School Square" still put the former operator's website at the top.

The last commission wanted a role for the group. The March 2024 elections, though, installed a majority with different views. Last June, Old School Square Center for the Arts notified the city that it was declining any potential "partnership."

More than 300 register for classes at Crest Theatre





Crest Theatre at Old School Square, photo courtesy of Delray DDA

The DDA also had wanted to run Crest Theatre. Instead, the city took over the arts classes that had been so popular.

According to a spokeswoman, the city has registered 328 students in two semesters since November for roughly 100 classes and workshops. The spokeswoman did not know how those figures compare with when Old School Square Center for the Arts was in charge.

You May Also Like





March 14, 2025

**Boca West
Children's
Foundation Annual**

March 14, 2025

**Body of Work: Arts
Warehouse Brings
Anatomy to**

March 14, 2025

**SAVOR SoFLO
Returns**



Randy Schultz

Randy Schultz, a native of Hartford, Connecticut, has been a South Florida journalist since 1974. He worked for The Miami Herald until 1976 and for The Palm Beach Post from 1976 until 2014, where he served as managing editor and editorial page editor. Since 2014, he has written a politics blog, commentaries and other articles for Boca magazine. His writing has earned first-place awards from the Florida Magazine Association and the Florida Society of Newspaper Editors. Randy has lived in Boca Raton with his wife, Shelley Huff-Schultz, since 1985. His son, daughter-in-law and their three children also live in Boca Raton.





Advertise With Us

City Watch
Food & Drink
Lifestyle

Subscribe

A&E

boca
magazine

ABOUT US FOLLOW US

Current Issue
Partner Profiles

Calendar

Dining Guide

Boca Raton is on the front lines of local issues and events in South Florida, covering the lighter side of life like dining news and fashion,



Privacy Policy
About
Advertise With Us
Contact Us

to more substantive issues and trends.

© 2024 Copyright JES Publishing

Designed, Developed, Hosted, & Marketed *Webaholics*

by

