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Accusations complicate court fight

Dueling attorney ethical complaints delay resolution in condo records lawsuit

By Ron Hurtibise
South Florida Sun Sentinel

A years-long court fight over a condo owner's right to access her condo association's financial

records has spawned a new level of conflict — this time between attorneys in the case — that threatens to further delay resolution of the matter. Despite orders by two judges

and an arbitrator, the Boca View Condominium Association still has not given unit owner Eleanor Lepselter's personal lawyer access to the association's financial records as required by Florida law. As the association pursues an appeal and a rehearing over the rulings, attorneys involved in the cases are now targeting one

another: ■ In February, one of Lepselter's attorneys filed a complaint to the Florida Bar against one of the association's former lawyers at the firm Becker & Poliakoff, saying he allowed the association president's brother to engage in unlicensed practice of law by authoring a proposed judge's

order last year. ■ In March, the association's current attorney filed a motion to disqualify Lepselter's attorneys because the Bar complaint was based on an email that one of the Lepselter attorneys had flagged as privileged communication

Turn to Fight, Page 30



Former Pembroke Pines residents Juan Hernandez and his family — wife Ariel, and kids Kalel, 9, and Elle, 3 — in front of their home in Ave Maria on Tuesday. Hernandez commutes five days a week for his law enforcement job in Broward. CARLINE JEAN/SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL

Fleeing rising prices

South Floridians move to small town to seek affordability, safety

By Amber Bonfont
South Florida Sun Sentinel

Almost 90 minutes west of South Florida lies a hidden small town, Ave Maria, surrounded by

lush, sprawling greenery, quiet neighborhoods interrupted only by the sound of birds chirping and the occasional cheerful greeting of neighbors.

Ave Maria has become an unexpected haven for those looking to flee the expenses of South Florida's tri-county area.

The town has seen a surge over the past few years as South Florid-

ians have been arriving, lured by the promise of a quieter, laid-back lifestyle, a safe and family-friendly environment, and a chance to escape the rising affordability crisis making it difficult for families to make ends meet.

"You come here, and there are these gates, and it's almost like you can hear singing," said former Miramar resident Candyce

Haynes, 35. "I was like, 'What is this Pleasantville town and how to do I get in?'"

She, her husband and her son moved to Ave Maria pre-pandemic, enticed by the prospect of having a new-construction home that didn't need renovations or updates and the safety

Turn to Prices, Page 14

Patronis targets use of ESG by BlackRock

Principles have become a target of GOP leaders across the country

By Jeffrey Schweers
Orlando Sentinel

TALLAHASSEE — When Florida CFO Jimmy Patronis decided to drop BlackRock from managing \$2 billion in state treasury funds, he blamed company CEO Larry Fink's commitment to using climate change and other factors to decide where to invest.

Yet all but one of the firms that Patronis moved the money to actually follow those same ESG principles, which take into account a company's policies on environmental, social and governance issues when weighing investment risk.

ESG has become a major target of Gov. Ron DeSantis and other GOP leaders across the country, who call it a bad policy meant to circumvent the ballot box to impose "radical leftist ideology" and "wokeism" on the public.

Yet financial analysts have calculated widescale divestiture could cost taxpayers billions in fees and interest, and put the pensions of millions of government workers at risk.

At the center of the effort to help Republican officials discredit and boycott ESG-committed fund managers is the State Financial

Turn to BlackRock, Page 2

Perfect ending to a perfect season



Dave Hyde

When their perfect season was done, when their national championship was won, when they'd

set a scoring record and a winning record — when they'd not just accomplished what any team could, but done it with a defining style, Jim Crutchfield pulled the microphone toward him and even had the perfect words ready.

"It's been a storybook season with a storybook ending to it," the Nova Southeastern men's basketball coach said after a 111-101 win

ONLINE

The Elite 8 game between Florida Atlantic and Kansas State ended too late for this edition. For coverage, go to SunSentinel.com/Sports.

against West Liberty (WVa.) in the Division II national championship

Turn to Hyde, Page 28



Nova Southeastern's Dallas Graziani is lifted up by teammates as they celebrate their victory Saturday over West Liberty in the championship game of the NCAA Division II tournament in Evansville, Ind. MACABE BROWN/AP

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