

Orlando Sentinel

LOCAL & STATE

CORONAVIRUS IN FLORIDA

Aid program will reopen

Parents in Lake, Osceola polled on school reopening

BY LESLIE POSTAL

The school districts in Lake and Osceola counties, making plans for how to reopen schools shut down because of the coronavirus pandemic, are seeking parents' views, just as the Orange and Seminole county school districts did previously.

Lake's survey, open until Friday, is the most detailed. It asks parents their comfort level with children returning to campuses as planned on Aug. 10 or if they'd prefer a later start date.

It also asks if they'd be comfortable having their children back in school full time, "with new health and safety protocols in place," or on a "rotating schedule," with in-person classes perhaps two days a week and online lessons the other three. And it aims to gauge interest in Lake's full-time virtual school.

"As our nation, state and local community continue to work toward slowing the spread of the COVID-19 co-

Please turn to **SURVEY, B4**



LAKE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Lake County schools will be handing out face masks to the Class of 2020 ahead of their graduation ceremonies.

In-person graduations set to take hold

BY LESLIE POSTAL

Lake County's public high schools this week will be the first in Central Florida to return to in-person graduations in the age of the coronavirus.

The 2020 ceremonies will take place outdoors in football stadiums, with rules dictated by the pandemic.

Students must wear face masks, sit 6 feet away from classmates and invite no more than two guests to maintain social

distancing in the stands. Everyone should bring hand sanitizer and avoid the restrooms, if possible.

"I'm honestly really excited," said Victoria Love, 18, a senior at Eustis High School. "At this point, I think everyone is really looking forward to have that moment to be recognized."

Lake's planned graduations, which begin Thursday morning weather per-

Please turn to **SENIORS, B4**

After days of protests, area curfews also lifted

BY STEPHEN HUDAK
AND RYAN GILLESPIE

Orange County Mayor Jerry Demings expressed frustration Monday at the short-lived roll out of a program for people to apply for coronavirus relief funds as local officials said they continued to monitor an increase in cases of the virus.

Demings and Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer also announced at a Monday evening briefing an end to local curfews at 8 p.m. in a core part of downtown and 10 p.m. elsewhere after days of growing, but peaceful protests calling for an end to racism and police brutality after the death of George Floyd.

Demings said he will reopen the application process for people in need of financial assistance after the program stopped taking applications just 10 minutes after it opened Monday morning when it reached a 2,000-person limit.

Demings said the program will now accept as many as 20,000 applications for the \$1,000 in funds available to families who have suffered job losses or other hardships brought by the pan-

Please turn to **VIRUS, B2**

PROTESTS OVER GEORGE FLOYD'S DEATH

A LOCAL, VOCAL OUTCRY



JOE BURBANK/ORLANDO SENTINEL

Protesters cross Rosalind Avenue in downtown Orlando while marching from Orlando City Hall to Lake Eola Park, in Orlando on Monday. The small group of less than 100 demonstrators marched through downtown in the ongoing protests of the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis on May 25.

Sanford mayor resigns to run for Seminole property appraiser

BY MARTIN E. COMAS

Catching city officials by surprise, Jeff Triplett, who has served as Sanford's mayor since January 2011, resigned this morning so he can run for the county's property appraiser's seat.

"It has been a true honor to serve the citizens of the wonderful city in this capacity," Triplett said in a resignation letter he sent to City Clerk Tracy Houchin. "I will treasure many memories and friendships for the rest of my

life."

Sanford commissioners are scheduled to discuss Triplett's resignation at tonight's public meeting, which will be led by Vice Mayor Art Woodruff.

Commissioners will have 30 days — or until July 8 — to appoint an acting mayor. Sanford's mayor is elected at large and leads the council meetings. The other four city commissioners are elected within their districts.

First elected in 2010 and now two years into his third term,



Triplett

incident inflamed long-standing racial tensions within Sanford and its police department.

Triplett added that his deci-

Triplett guided Sanford through the city's tumultuous period following the shooting death of black teenager Trayvon Martin in February 2012. The

sion to seek the property appraiser's seat "has been many years in the making." He called current Property Appraiser David Johnson "a good man whom I consider a friend." But his campaign team feels that it is time for "new energy and ideas."

"Serving as mayor has been one of the proudest achievements of my professional career," Triplett said. "Sanford will always be home for me, and I take comfort knowing the city is in fine hands... But I think it's time

for a fresh set of eyes [at the Property Appraiser's Office]."

Johnson, who was first elected property appraiser in 2004, said he was completely taken by surprise at Triplett's plans.

"He and I are friendly," Johnson said today.

The qualifying period for candidates interested in running for countywide seats in Seminole ends at noon on Friday.

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