SPORTS PAGE 1

Football mom

Hyde: UM standout Malachi Toney credits his mother as blueprint for success

City in turmoil

Rift with manager may signal trouble ahead. **Opinion, Page 24**

Travel companions

Dog-friendly spots in the Florida Keys. **Travel & Life, Page 1**

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SPECIAL REPORT

Oversight of fake-diploma nurses erratic

Florida regulators yank licenses from some but allow many to work, forcing other states to confront poor training, errors

By Annie Martin
ORLANDO SENTINEL

The Florida-educated nurse failed to recognize her patient was suffering from a rapid, abnormal heartbeat or to quickly call a doctor that June night in 2023.

Colleagues rushed in after the patient's alarm sounded and noticed the nurse had botched an IV placement and, later, that she was trying to feed the patient, who was also vomiting and struggling to breathe, Missouri's nursing board said. The nurse then disappeared and failed to respond to repeated phone calls. Her patient died early the next morning at the St. Louis hospital.

After the death, Missouri issued a "cease and desist" order to the nurse, prohibiting her from working in that state. It determined she was never properly trained as a registered nurse, and that any credentials she possessed from her South Florida nursing school were "based on fraud."

But Florida, which had issued Tahira Bastien the multi-state license allowing her to practice in Missouri five years ago, took no action against her, even though it clearly knew of the incident: A search of Bastien's name in Florida's healthcare licensing database leads to a document about Missouri's order.

Nearly three years later, Bastien remains licensed to work in hospitals, nursing homes and other health-care facilities in the Sunshine State.

The travails of that 53-year-old nurse from Fort Lauderdale illustrate a little-known legacy of a scandal that has gripped U.S. nursing since emanating from Florida over the last decade. FBI investigators say more than 7,000 people paid for fake nursing diplomas from Florida-based schools. Some used

See **NURSING** on Page A14

New districts reshaping politics in South Florida

With changes, voters will get to know new crop of leaders

By Anthony Man
SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL

Politicians are polling, strategizing — and agonizing. But the impact of Florida's new congressional districts extends well beyond the political class. Every voter in the state will be affected, even if they don't yet know it.

In Delray Beach, many people will find their next member of Congress is someone whose district stretches south along the coast to Miami Beach, and who consequently might not be completely attuned to what's going on in Palm Beach County.

The district for residents of Parkland, Weston and Wellington will stretch across vast swaths of the Everglades, extending to Marco Island and the Gulf of Mexico.

Those are some of the major changes in

See **DISTRICTS** on Page A8

State launches history course to rival AP

Experts fear it would present sanitized view of nation's story

By Steven Walker
ORLANDO SENTINEL

Florida is launching its own college-level U.S. history course for high school students, trying to teach "the full scope" of America's story, but some experts say the proposed lesson plans present sanitized views of topics such as slavery, and some college counselors say high-achieving pupils should stay away.

The new course, which also places particular emphasis on Christian faith and American exceptionalism, is meant to rival Advanced Placement U.S. History and will be offered in select school districts as a pilot program starting next school year, the Florida Department of Education said in its May 4 announcement.

See **COURSE** on Page A10

MICHELE EVE SANDBERG/CONTRIBUTOR PHOTOS

Aerial excellence

The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds, known as the "Ambassadors in Blue," perform high-speed maneuvers in their six F-16 Vipers during the Fort Lauderdale Air Dot Show Tour on Saturday. The show continues Sunday over Fort Lauderdale beach.
See more photos on Page 3.

Who can fill the void left by Spirit Airlines?

Carrier served millions at Fort Lauderdale airport

By David Lyons
SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL

Parking was a breeze, the hot coffee arrived within moments and the TSA lines at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport's Terminal 4 last week seemed to be among the shortest in months.

But for visitors who thought it was all a sign of airport efficiency, the appearances were deceiving. Bankrupt Spirit Airlines, the pioneering "hometown" discount carrier for Greater Fort Lauderdale and main occupant of Terminal 4, was long gone, shut down the previous weekend amid a cash shortage and a lack of political and lender appetites for a U.S. government bailout.

"I can't believe they shut Spirit Airlines," said an airport worker who videoed the vacated terminal.

Outside, five of Spirit's signature yellow Airbus jetliners awaited possible trips to storage. Three others sat along the airport's northern perimeter. Midweek, a U.S. Bankruptcy Court judge allowed Spirit to sell its remaining planes, engines and equipment.

Aside from 17,000 jobs lost systemwide, including more than 4,800 in South and Central Florida, the economic wreckage has yet to be calculated. But any observer

See **SPIRIT** on Page A2

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TODAY'S WEATHER High 92 Low 78

Complete South Florida forecast on Page B10

Vol. 67, No. 15
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KHACHKAR STUDIOS Unveils a New World-Class Template For U.S. Armenian Churches Annual Financial Transparency

2025 Financial Transparency Analysis

Pilot Candidate:

Saints Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church - Providence, RI

Pilot Candidates can be recommended by individuals or groups.

May 2026

- **Takeaway #1.** The U.S. and Rhode Island Failing Ecosystem – Church Attendance: Actuals, Misconceptions, and Rankings
- **Takeaway #2.** 2025 Financial Transparency Profile and Support
- **Takeaway #3.** Biblically Inspired World-Class Benchmarking and Management Excellence "Framework" – Transparency, Accountability, and Performance (T•A•P)
- **Takeaway #4.** Pilot Candidates Materials and Management Best Practices

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Takeaway #1. The U.S. and Rhode Island Failing Ecosystem – Church Attendance: Actuals, Misconceptions, and Rankings

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#1A. 3% of U.S. Armenians are "Faithful" – KPI #1

U.S. Armenian "Faithful" refers to the total number of individuals of all ages present in the sanctuaries of all 164 Armenian churches during sermons on non-holiday Sundays, based on on-site, in-person, and photo verified field research.

Number of Armenian Churches in the U.S.	164
Pew Seat Capacity (fire code)	23,964
Number of Non-Holiday Sunday Attendees ("Faithful") - KPI #1	12,894
Armenians per U.S. Census - 2020	460,254
"Faithful" % of U.S. Census	2.8%
Unofficial Estimate of Armenians in the U.S.	1,000,000
"Faithful" % of Unofficial Estimate	1.3%

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#1B. A Highly Destructive Massive Systemic Misconception Perpetuated by the Most Widely Cited U.S. Armenian Sampling Surveys and Leaders

1. The most widely cited and most recent U.S. Armenian sampling survey reports regular church attendance rates of 35% for the total population and 35% for the population up to 34 years of age, perpetuating a highly destructive massive systemic misconception.
2. Countless conversations with Armenian senior religious leaders who believe both that the non-holiday attendance is 30% of total population, and that the U.S. Census of 460,000 Armenians is understated and the real number is 1,000,000+.

#	Groups	% Weekly Attend Church[1]	Source or Sources	Date
1A.	U.S. Armenians - total population	35%		2019
1B.	U.S. Armenians up to 34 years of age	35%		
2.	U.S. Armenians	27%		
3.	U.S. Armenians	28%	AGBU. Survey size: 294 Central California Armenians.	1990
	U.S. Armenian Church Survey Average	30%		

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#1C. U.S. Armenian Church Attendance: State Rankings

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#1D. Rhode Island Armenian Churches "Faithful" Compared to Benchmarks

Rhode Island 3 Churches		U.S. Benchmarks: Benchmark	"Faithful" Percentage
"Faithful" (median non-holiday attendance)	242	**Total Population:**	
Number of Armenians in R.I. (U.S. Census 2020)	5,806	U.S. Protestants	30%
"Faithful" % of R.I. U.S. Census	4.2%	U.S. Catholics	28%
Fire Code Capacity	800	U.S. Orthodox Median	15%
"Faithful" % of Capacity	30%	**18 to 29 Years of Age Females:**	
18 to 29 Years of Age Female "Faithful"	5	U.S. Protestants	32%
18 to 29 Years of Age Female Armenians in R.I. (U.S. Census 2020)	461	U.S. Catholics	31%
18 to 29 Years of Age Female "Faithful" % of R.I. U.S. Census	1.1%		

Source: Khachkar Studios on-site visits database 2024.

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#1E. Rhode Island and All Other States U.S. Census Armenian Population Change: 1980 to 2020

1. Parish world-class financial transparency is especially essential in RI as Armenian population has declined by 7% since 1980.
2. RI is one of only two states to have a declining Armenian population from 1980 to 2020.
3. All other U.S. States have a 120% increase in Armenian population from 1980 to 2020.

	1980	2020	% Change	# Change
Rhode Island	6,240	5,806	-7%	-434 decline
All Other U.S. States	206,381	454,448	120%	248,067
Total	212,621	460,254	116%	247,633

Notes
1. All states includes 25 U.S. states with 95% of the total U.S. Armenian population.
2. Numbers from U.S. Census 1980 and 2020.

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Takeaway #2. 2025 Financial Transparency Profile and Support

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#2A. Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church: 2025 Financial Transparency Profile

#	Metric	St. Sahag & Mesrob	Orthodox Benchmark	#	Metric	St. Sahag & Mesrob	Orthodox Benchmark
1.	Financial Assets (FA)	$14,509,016	$1,114,028	7.	Spending per "Faithful"	$6,549	$2,133
2.	Financial Assets per "Faithful"	$193,454	$4,207	8.	Number of "Faithful" - KPI #1	75	147
3.	Total Income % of Total Spending	486%	110%	9.	2024 to 2025 Change in "Faithful"	-13 decrease	24 increase
4.	Total Spending 2020 to 2025 - Annual rate of change	7%	7%	10.	Number of 18 to 29 years old Female "Faithful" - KPI #2	2	12
5.	Spending: 2025 Actual to 2026 Budget % Change	12%	1%	11.	"Faithful" % of Capacity	18%	69%
6.	Church-Related Income (CRI) % of Spending	32%	89%	12.	Social Return on Investment (SROI)	3.1x	9.4x

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#2B. Saints Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church: 2025 Budget vs. Actual

	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	$ Difference	% Difference
Income:				
Church Related - CR	$159,000	$157,274	-$1,726	-1%
Non-Church Related	$349,165	$2,229,826	$1,880,661	539%
Total Income	$508,165	$2,387,101	$1,878,936	370%
Total Spending	$508,165	$491,202	-$16,963	-3%
Net Income / Loss	$0	$1,895,898	$1,895,898	n.m.

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#2C. U.S. Armenian Parishes: Correlation Between Total Spending per "Faithful" and "Faithful" % of Capacity

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#2D. Khachkar Studios & Affiliates Historical Financial Support for Sts. Sahag & Mesrob: 2008 to 2025

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Takeaway #3. Biblically Inspired World-Class Benchmarking and Management Excellence "Framework" – Transparency, Accountability, and Performance (T•A•P)

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#3A. World-Class Benchmarks in Biblically Inspired Transparency, Accountability, and Performance (T•A•P)

Sample of 20 Orthodox Parishes with Publicly Available Annual Financials or IRS Form 990 Filings

6 Khachkar Studios Pilot Churches with World-Class Benchmark Financial Disclosure

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#3B. World-Class Sunday Attendance Importance and Transparency

Premier organizations that track Sunday weekly attendance:

Why Sunday attendance is the first indicator of church performance?

World-class benchmark pilot churches that publish Sunday attendance with the mobile app

- St. Mary Orthodox Christian Church (Wichita, KS)
- St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church (Lexington, MA)
- Christ the Saviour Orthodox Church (Harrisburg, PA)
- Saints Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church (Providence, RI)
- St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church (Charlotte, NC)
- Holy Cross Armenian Catholic Church (Belmont, MA)

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Takeaway #4. Pilot Candidates Materials and Management Best Practices

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#4A. Saints Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church Has Been Recommended and is Being Vetted as a Pilot to Increase the Number of U.S Armenian Sunday Church Parishioners – the "Faithful" – by 100%

- All pilots enthusiastically must embrace the best practices of financial discipline of Biblically inspired world-class benchmarking and management excellence – the "Framework".
- Pilots will be coached to achieve the extraordinary BENEFITS, which are listed on the next slide.
- The performance-based funding is historically unprecedented.

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#4B. U.S. Catholic Parish Financial Transparency is One of the Strongest Predictors of Whether Parishioners Recommend Their Parish

1. The relationship between parish financial transparency and parishioners strongly recommending the parish has a very high positive correlation of 0.94.
2. Responses do not vary sufficiently by age, gender, household income, household contributions, or approach to financial giving.

#	Recommend Parish to a Friend	1. No Financial Transparency	2. Little Financial Transparency	3. Average Financial Transparency	4. Good Financial Transparency	5. Excellent Financial Transparency
1.	Strongly Would Not Recommend	20%	2%	1%	0%	0%
2.	Would Not Recommend	9%	7%	4%	2%	0%
3.	Indifferent	16%	16%	14%	7%	2%
4.	Recommend	36%	33%	38%	38%	11%
5.	Strongly Recommend	20%	42%	44%	52%	87%

(Column group heading: My Parish Provides Financial Transparency)

Source: Questions, responses and labeling based on Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI) Portal survey database 2025 of 35,002 responses of U.S. Catholic parishioners. Numbers may not total to 100% due to rounding. Vertical axis: I would recommend my parish to a friend by what level? Horizontal axis: My parish helps me connect with the local Catholic community by providing transparency information to me about the finances of the parish.

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#4C. Extraordinary BENEFITS from Financial Discipline of World-Class Benchmarking and Management Excellence – the "Framework"

1. **"Biblical Wisdom"** - Practice Biblically inspired financial wisdom
2. **"Education"** - Educate communities never taught financial discipline
3. **"New "Faithful""** - Attract high value-add new "Faithful"
4. **"Environment"** - Build environments of trust & confidence, not dysfunction
5. **"Financial Strength"** - Strengthen financial position and performance
6. **"Identity"** - Anchor community identity in intellectual integrity
7. **"Track Record"** - Build track record-based, not political, decisions
8. **"Stewards"** - Develop high-value, lead-by-example stewards

"Accountability accelerates Biblical wisdom", ECFA advises
"Are you aware? Do you care?", CLI asks

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#4D. Introducing SROI – Social Return on Investment

SROI is a new concept for many, but a cornerstone in best practice financial and faith performance management for churches.

SROI math for 2026 is the average number of non-holiday Sunday church attendees – the "Faithful" – times $20,000, divided by the Church's total annual spending.

SROI measures how effectively spending strengthens faith, builds community, and enables comparison over time and across peers.

Social Return on Investment (SROI): Social Value divided by Total Spending. Social Value (SV) for 2026 is the number of "Faithful" KPI#1, Ecosystem Body Part (EBP) (1) times $20,000. 2027 adds SV of 18 to 29 years old "Faithful" KPI #2, EBP (2). 2028 adds SV of transparency of church Sunday attendance KPI#3, EBP (3). 2029 adds SV of public transparency of financial information KPI#4, EBP (4). 2030 adds SV of outreach plans to increase church Sunday non-holiday attendance KPI #5, EBP (5).

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#4E. The First 4 Steps U.S. Armenian Parishes are Taking to Grow by 100% the "Faithful" in 5 Years

Step #1: Parishes are using Khachkar Studios' free Sunday attendance counter app each week.

Step #2: Parishes are publishing weekly attendance (KPI #1 and KPI #2) prominently across bulletins and all six social media platforms.

Step #3: Parishes are posting weekly Saturday "Bring a friend. Bring a family member." invitation videos across all six social media platforms (52 weeks/year).

Step #4: Parishes are building and implementing monthly outreach plans to increase the "Faithful" across two groups: ages 18-29 and 30+.

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#4F. The 3 Financial Transparency Steps U.S. Armenian Parishes are Taking to Grow by 100% the "Faithful" in 5 Years

Step #5: Historical and Projected (5-year look back and forward view). Parishes are transparently sharing 5-year historical and projected financial and attendance data with their community.

Step #6: Financial Audit Transparency (independent verification). Parishes are transparently sharing independently audited financial statements and findings with their community.

Step #7: Quarterly (ongoing accountability). Parishes are transparently sharing quarterly financial and attendance updates with their community.

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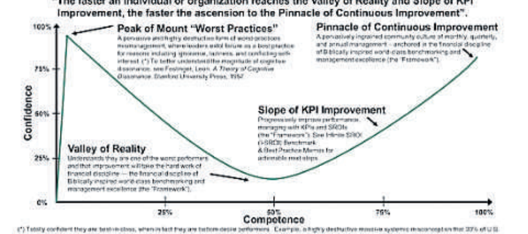
#4G. The Failing U.S. Armenian Christian Ecosystem: 12 Body Parts – A Dunning-Kruger Textbook Example

"The faster an individual or organization reaches the Valley of Reality and Slope of KPI Improvement, the faster the ascension to the Pinnacle of Continuous Improvement".



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#4H. To Quickly Recognize and Overcome Potentially Hostile Barriers to Change, We Recommend You Study the Following 8 Sources of Knowledge

1. Ecosystem systems map
2. Dunning-Kruger diagram
3. Why 68 years of zero transparency I-SROI memo
4. Conflicted self-interest I-SROI memo
5. The true cost of concealment I-SROI memo
6. 25 examples of self-conflict of interest I-SROI memo
7. FIQ and FTA materials
8. New Philanthropy Benchmarking: Wisdom for the Passionate (2002)

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