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# The Florida Times-Union

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## 'New future,' unclear path



U.S. President Donald Trump shakes hands with North Korea leader Kim Jong Un at the Capella resort on Sentosa Island on Tuesday in Singapore. [EVAN VUCCI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

**Trump touts summit as progress, but some question US concessions**

By Zeke Miller, Catherine Lucey, Josh Lederman and Foster Klug  
The Associated Press

SINGAPORE — President Donald Trump wrapped up his five-hour nuclear summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un with surprisingly warm words

and hope for “a bright new future” for Kim’s isolated and impoverished nation. Yet he immediately faced pointed questions at home about whether he got little and gave away much in his push to make a deal with the young autocrat — including an agreement to halt U.S. military exercises with South Korea.

Meeting with staged ceremony on a Singapore island, Trump and Kim signed a joint statement Tuesday

agreeing to work toward a denuclearized Korean Peninsula, although the timeline and tactics were left unclear. Trump later promised to end “war games,” with ally South Korea, a concession to Kim that appeared to catch the Pentagon and Seoul government off guard and sowed confusion among Trump’s Republican supporters in Washington.

The head-scratching was a fitting end for a meeting marked by unpredictability.

The face to face was unthinkable just months earlier as the two leaders traded insults and nuclear threats. In agreeing to the summit, Trump risked granting Kim his long-sought recognition on the world stage in hopes of ending the North’s nuclear program.

While progress on the nuclear question was murky, the leaders spent the public portions of their five hours

See **SUMMIT, A4**

## Southbank development incentives approved

By Christopher Hong  
chong@jacksonville.com

An ambitious waterfront development on downtown’s Southbank is one step closer to being built after the Jacksonville City Council approved a deal to provide the developers \$56 million in property tax rebates and paying as much as \$26.4 million for public improvements that include a new riverfront park and an extended riverwalk.

The development, which is called the District, has been highly anticipated since JEA selected Elements of Jacksonville Inc. in October 2014 to negotiate the rights to build out the 30-acre of riverfront property, although the project hit a snag this year over disagreements about the public incentives the city would give the developers.

With that issue settled, Elements, whose partners are Peter Rummell and Michael Munz, must now close on the \$18.5 million purchase of the land from JEA by July 16.

The development will include 950 residences, 147 hotel rooms, 134,000 square feet of retail space, 200,000 square feet of office space and a 125-slip marina. Under the agreement, construction will be completed by the end of 2022.

While the plan is smaller than previous proposals, the total investment is estimated to be \$280 million, which would be the largest ever in downtown Jacksonville if it’s actually built.

The public incentives for the District are also among the largest ever given for a downtown development.

The agreement calls for the city to pay \$26.5 million to build a riverfront bulkhead, extended riverwalk, a riverfront park and roads and parking spaces. The city would also provide up to \$56 million in property tax rebates over 20 years.

Supporters of the project, which includes Mayor Lenny Curry and much of the business community, say it will be nothing short of transformative and will likely spark a new wave of downtown development.

“My god we need some cranes downtown,” said Councilman Aaron Bowman. “This city has been dead for

See **PLAN, A7**

## Local case at center of judicial debate

**At issue is whether voters or governor makes decision on judge**

By Jim Saunders  
The News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — A state appeals court Tuesday morning quickly stepped into a legal battle about whether a Northeast Florida judge should be elected or appointed by Gov. Rick Scott

and cleared the way for an appointment process to at least temporarily continue.

The 1st District Court of Appeal issued an order after a flurry of activity that included Scott administration attorneys filing a request late Monday to block a ruling earlier in the day by Leon County Circuit Judge Charles Dodson.

The lawsuit, filed by Jacksonville attorney David Trotti, is part of a handful



Foster

— or whether the seats should be filled through elections.

Trotti contends that an upcoming vacancy created by the retirement of 4th Judicial Circuit Judge Robert Foster should be filled in the

November election, while Scott’s lawyers say the position should be filled through appointment.

Foster was expected to leave office Jan. 7, 2019, which would be the end of his term, because of a mandatory retirement age. But on April 2, Foster sent a letter to Scott making the retirement effective Dec. 31, four business days ahead of schedule.

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# Sexual harassment rampant in science

By Lauran Neergaard  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Sexual harassment is rampant in academic science, and colleges and universities that train new scientists need a system-wide culture change so women won't be bullied out of the field, a national advisory group said Tuesday.

In fact, it's time to treat sexual harassment as seriously as research misconduct, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine concluded in recommendations aimed at U.S. institutions of higher education and the groups that fund them.

While women are still outnumbered by men, universities are recruiting more women to science-related fields than ever before. The new report

makes clear that pervasive sexual harassment puts those gains at risk.

"If we are losing talent in science, engineering and medicine, then that is something that is detrimental to our country and quite frankly to the world," Wellesley College President Dr. Paula Johnson, who co-chaired the report, said in an interview.

Assault or unwanted sexual advances are making #MeToo headlines but don't tell the whole story, the report found. Most common in science is what the National Academies termed gender harassment, a hostile environment rife with sexist commentary and crude behavior that can negatively impact a woman's education and career, as well as her mental and physical health.

"Even when the sexual

harassment entails nothing but sexist insult without any unwanted sexual pursuit, it takes a toll," said University of Michigan psychology professor Lilia Cortina, a member of the committee that spent two years studying the problem. "It's about pushing women out."

How common is sexual harassment in science education? The report cited a University of Texas system survey that found about 20 percent of female science students, more than a quarter of female engineering students and more than 40 percent of female medical students said they had experienced sexual harassment from faculty or staff. In a similar survey in the Pennsylvania State University system, half of female medical students reported such harassment.

## PLAN

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years. ... This is an opportunity for Jacksonville to start building and be the city we want it to be."

While the deal easily passed the council in a 9 to 5 vote, it didn't escape without criticism.

Council President Anna Brosche said she "supported the concept" but couldn't vote for the incentives after the developers denied her request to review their private financial projections, information that she said was needed in order to know whether taxpayers were getting a fair deal.

"How do we know the developer isn't making significant money on the taxpayers' dollar?" Brosche said. "Without

the information I requested, we're not in a position to verify whether there is the sharing of any profits the developer makes on the project above that reasonable rate of return."

Councilman Garrett Dennis, who represents a district in Northwest Jacksonville, said he was struggling to support investing \$26 million in public infrastructure in the Southbank without addressing other needs in struggling neighborhoods. Last week, he unsuccessfully tried to require the developers to put \$500,000 in a city trust fund for economic development in Northwest Jacksonville.

"Imagine if just a portion of that [\$26 million] was invested in Northwest Jacksonville," Dennis said.

Brosche, Dennis, Al Ferraro, Matt

Schellenberg and Doyle Carter voted against the deal.

While the city is taking on the cost to build the public improvements, the tax rebates are paid only if the development is built and adds value to the city's tax rolls. Elements would set up a community development district that would issue roughly \$30 million in bonds to pay build the utilities, drainage, road construction and public parking needed for the development.

Proponents of the agreement say that arrangement puts the burden on developers to carry out their plan, and even if nothing is ever built, the city would still have benefited by increasing public access to the river.

Christopher Hong:  
(904) 359-4272

## CASE

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The Scott administration takes the position that the governor's acceptance of a judicial resignation before the start of an election-qualifying period creates a vacancy that will be filled by appointment, rather than election. The 4th Judicial Circuit is made up of Duval, Clay and Nassau counties.

In the challenge filed by Trotti, Dodson ruled last week that the seat should be filled by election and issued an injunction against the Scott administration and a judicial nominating commission from moving forward with an appointment process. The state appealed Dodson's ruling last week, which placed an automatic stay on the decision.

But Monday, Dodson again ruled in favor of Trotti and vacated the automatic stay — and complained that the Scott administration had essentially ignored his earlier injunction. Dodson pointed to a May 16 hearing in which he said the nominating process should "cease immediately."

"If the governor and secretary of state had any doubt about that, there should have been a motion for clarification or something of the like filed," Dodson wrote Monday. "Instead it was as if I had not ruled. The nominating process kept going. My order was not even a bump in the road."

But Scott administration attorneys filed a motion late Monday with the 1st District Court of Appeal requesting reinstatement of the stay on Dodson's earlier ruling. They said the Florida Constitution and earlier cases — including a case filed by Trotti in 2014 — make clear that Scott has the authority to appoint a replacement for Foster.

The appeals court

**"If the governor and secretary of state had any doubt about that, there should have been a motion for clarification or something of the like filed. Instead it was as if I had not ruled. The nominating process kept going. My order was not even a bump in the road."**

Judge Charles Dodson, Leon County Circuit

Tuesday morning issued an order giving Trotti until Friday to respond to the Scott administration's motion. It also said the appointment process can at least temporarily move forward.

"The automatic stay ... shall remain in effect to permit the Fourth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission to continue its interview and nomination process, pending a final ruling on the (Scott's administration's) motion for review by this court," the one-page order said.

Trotti, who lost the 2014 case, sought to qualify to run for Foster's seat but was

denied. Dodson's ruling last week said Trotti should be listed on the state Division of Elections website as qualifying to run for the judgeship. Dodson wrote that the "creation of an artificial appointment" had occurred.

But in the motion filed late Monday, Scott's attorneys said Dodson's order would put Trotti into office by "default." Qualifying for judicial races ended last month.

"Here, the undisputed facts establish that Judge Foster's resignation was tendered and accepted by the governor before the election process commenced at the beginning of the candidate qualifying period," the motion said. "The governor is therefore constitutionally authorized and obligated to fill the vacancy by appointment, and the secretary of state is prohibited from qualifying candidates for a judicial seat that will not be filled by election. Because appellee's (Trotti's) arguments are contrary to the language of the Florida Constitution and well-established precedent, he cannot demonstrate a likelihood of success on the merits."



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