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Renewed push for tenant protection

As Orlando's median rent has risen to \$1,217, lawmakers seek relief

BY CAROLINE GLENN

Some Central Florida lawmakers are taking another crack at imposing protections for renters and lifting the state's law against rent control, a move supporters argue would help more people find affordable housing.

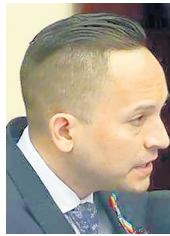
But their efforts have already been met with pushback from builders, landlords and the Republican-controlled Legislature.

State Rep. Anna Eskamani, D-Orlando, has refiled a bill from the last session that would lift the state's preemption on rent control and leave the decision to adopt it to



Eskamani

local governments. But rent control would only be allowed if there is a housing emergency "so grave as to constitute a serious menace to the general public and that such controls are necessary and proper to eliminate such grave housing emergency."



Smith

State Rep. Carlos Guillermo Smith, D-Orlando, also plans to refile a bill from the last

session aimed at protecting renters from "predatory landlords."

If passed, it would restrict the reasons for which landlords can evict tenants; require landlords to provide leases and eviction notices in tenants' preferred language; prohibit evictions during a state of emergency; prevent landlords from charging exorbitant application fees and require them to refund fees when no units are available. It also would require landlords to provide tenants three months of notice if raising rents more than 5%; and protect renters who have been victims of domestic violence or who receive federal housing vouchers from being denied housing, among other things.

Smith says he believes there is a renters' rights movement forming and more energy getting behind it.

"Florida is such a landlord-friendly state," he said. "Our state and our local laws are hostile to tenants."

But removing Florida's law against rent control isn't likely

Please turn to **RENT, A15**

UCF clinics post \$6.8M loss

Clinics seeing high turnover as staff say they lack the resources to do their job

BY ANNIE MARTIN

A frustrated physician fired off an email to his supervisors and colleagues at a UCF-operated clinic last year, saying earlier that morning he had tried to inject a patient's knee with a numbing substance but there was none in the building.

"It's completely unacceptable to not have ample supplies and it's very poor patient care," Dr.

Obinna Adigweme, an orthopedic surgeon, wrote about the July 2018 incident at the clinic that he has since left. "This is not the first time; it's happened on many more occasions."

His complaints, which range from not seeing enough patients to not having access to an X-ray machine, are documented in dozens of emails he sent to the University of Central Florida's College of Medicine leadership last year.

Complaints by Adigweme and other employees came to light as financial problems with the two UCF Health clinics, which are open to the public, persist. Expenses outpaced revenue by \$6.8 million during the most recent fiscal year, which ended in June.

On Wednesday, Deborah German, the dean of the College of Medicine, is scheduled to talk about UCF Health's finances during a Board of Trustees committee meeting. The college has an annual operating budget of about \$42 million.

Last year's loss was not a sur-

prise, German told the Orlando Sentinel, and "something we're working on."

A presentation posted to the board's website says clinics have new leadership and have worked with national consultants. A plan is in place to increase revenue, in part by improving schedules and attracting patients and making cuts in areas like employee salaries.

"It's our challenge — and we take this extremely seriously — to create a financially sustainable

Please turn to **HEALTH, A12**

"The long and short of it is it's cheaper to buy the property, tear it down and build the house that you want."

City Commissioner Robert Stuart, who has lived in the College Park area for decades



STEPHEN M. DOWELL/ORLANDO SENTINEL

Tim and Lindsay Kiley and daughters Quinn and Arlowyn are pictured at their College Park home.

COLLEGE PARK IN TRANSITION

Mega homes are being built at a time when the region is starved for affordable housing and rents are soaring

BY RYAN GILLESPIE AND ADELAIDE CHEN

Tim and Lindsay Kiley loved living in College Park, known for its classic homes, restaurants and friendly neighbors.

But when they were ready for a bigger home to start a family, they had a tough time finding what they were looking for. They wanted an open floorplan with natural light and a swimming pool, a contrast of the decades-old bungalows that line brick streets.

"We weren't really finding anything that checked all of our boxes," said Tim Kiley, an

Orlando attorney.

Finally, the Kileys found a property elsewhere in College Park and decided their best bet was to tear down the modest house already there and build their dream home. They're part of a movement toward demolitions and rebuilds in one of Orlando's oldest and most desirable neighborhoods — a trend some residents fear could push College Park out of range for many homebuyers.

As the housing market rebounded over the past decade, home demolitions in College Park have far outpaced other Orlando neighborhoods. Builders

Please turn to **BUILDING, A15**

Area's rise in black coaches now steady

Nearly 1 in 3 leading HS football programs after stagnant decades

BY STEPHEN RUIZ

When Walter Banks was hired as the head football coach at South Lake High School in Groveland in 2007, it represented a high point in his career to that point.

Not everyone wanted him there, though.

As a native of Montgomery, Alabama, who played college football in Mississippi and Tennessee, he was not blind to what it meant to be a rare black head coach in Central Florida at the time.

Banks said he was subjected to racial slurs at home and road games, leading to increased security in the stands. He said some parents complained.

"I got to deal with all that," said Banks, 45.

At the time of Banks' appointment at South Lake, Central Florida only had eight head black football coaches, according to Orlando Sentinel records. Times

Please turn to **COACH, A11**



CHRIS HAYS/ORLANDO SENTINEL

After a stint at Oak Ridge, former UF and NFL defensive back Elijah Williams has been the head coach at Jones since 2016.

YOUR NATION, YOUR WORLD

Trump defends personal attorney

Federal prosecutors are investigating whether former New York City mayor Giuliani broke lobbying laws. A3

Chaos challenges Democratic race

Unpredictable events, impeachment probe heighten anxieties among those desperate to defeat Trump. A21

Small town paper in need of help

A family-owned local newspaper faces financial peril, after fighting a libel lawsuit, leading to a GoFundMe. A22

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COURTESY

The 2019 high school football season in Central Florida began with eight black head coaches in Orange County public schools: from left, Vernon Mitchell of Evans; Rodney Wells of Dr. Phillips; Travis Gabriel of Olympia; Dee Brown of West Orange; Aaron Sheppard of Ocoee; Elijah Williams of Jones; Clint Johnson of Oak Ridge and Tyrone Sapp of Orlando University.

COACH

Continued from Page A1

and some attitudes have changed, leading to increased opportunities for black coaches to oversee programs.

The 2019 season began with 21 black head coaches out of 65 public and private schools with varsity football teams in the Sentinel's coverage area, which includes Orange, Seminole, Lake, Osceola and southwest Volusia counties. That number tied the all-time high set in 2017 until it fell to 20 after West Orange placed Dee Brown on administrative leave. Former Olympia coach Kyle Hayes took over for Clint Johnson at Oak Ridge in an interim role after the Pioneers started 0-3, but both of those coaches are black.

The list includes mainstays such as Victor Floyd, who is now at West Oaks Academy after stints at Wymore Tech and Agape Christian; Marlin Roberts, who took over at Kissimmee Gateway in 2009; and Leroy Kinard, who is in his 13th season at the helm of The First Academy. Former UF and NFL defensive back Elijah Williams has built Jones into one of Central Florida's top teams since taking over in 2016, and Dr. Phillips coach Rodney Wells led his alma mater to its only state title in the sport two years ago.

Banks, who coached South Lake from 2007-11, is in his fifth season at Lake Minneola.

"For a long time, Central Florida was behind a lot of the areas in the state of Florida, like Jacksonville and South Florida, [in the number of black head coaches]," Wells said. "Tampa, I believe we were behind. I was one of the first black head coaches around, especially black head coaches at a non-black high school.

"When you're one of the first, whether you like it or not, there's pressure on you."

The percentage of black head coaches at area high schools is 30.8, which is considerably higher than either college football or the NFL.

The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport (TIDES) at the University of Central Florida reported that out of the 130 teams in the Football Bowl Subdivision, only 14, or 10.8%, had black head coaches in 2018, including Willie Taggart at Florida State and Charlie Strong at USC.

The number dropped to 13 this year.

As the NFL celebrates its 100th season, only three black men started this season as head coaches: Mike Tomlin with the Pittsburgh Steelers, Anthony Lynn with the Los Angeles Chargers and Brian Flores, the first-year coach of the Miami Dolphins.

TIDES releases annual racial and gender report cards on various sports leagues and organizations.

"That would be significantly higher than the percentages in all sports, with the exception of the NBA," TIDES director Richard Lapchick said of the area's high school numbers.

Not so long ago, the number of black head football coaches in Central Florida was embarrassingly low. That statistic only crept into the double digits for the first time when 11 blacks held top jobs in 2009.

In 2016 that count reached 20 black head coaches for the first time, Sentinel research showed.



STEPHEN M. DOWELL/ORLANDO SENTINEL

Lake Minneola High coach Walter endured racial slurs when he first started coaching in the Central Florida area.



MARK WALLHEISER/AP

The percentage of black head high school football coaches in Central Florida is much higher than in college. Willie Taggart, above, at FSU and USF's Charlie Strong are Florida's only black college head coaches.

Neither the Florida High School Athletic Association nor the Florida Athletic Coaches Association tracks the number of minority coaching hires statewide.

"It always seems to me [that] you look around, and you see who's playing should be coaching, too," said fourth-year Lyman coach Dennis Thomas, who previously was at Celebration. "I just feel like it's changing. We've lived to see a black president. I don't know that most of us thought we'd see that."

So what changed?

Several coaches attributed the increased opportunities to more enlightened principals and athletic directors, who make the final call on coaching hires. One of those more open-minded men was former Gateway AD George Sullivan, a lineman for the University of Florida in the 1970s.

Sullivan, who is retired and living in Kissimmee, coached football with Roberts for one year before promoting him to become the head coach.

"I had absolutely no concerns [about race]," said Sullivan, who is white. "He could have been any color in the world. It would have made no difference."

Sullivan said a former Gateway principal once told him that the football program at the Osceola County school never would be successful. A moribund program when Roberts took over, he has made the Panthers respectable.

They set a school record with seven victories in 2012 and matched it three years later, when they reached the region

playoffs for the first time. Gateway advanced to the postseason as wild cards the past two years.

"It takes a principal that doesn't — what I really want to say is doesn't see color or anything," Roberts said. "They just want somebody who's going to do the right job and do what's right by the kids."

Asked whether he heard any negative comments regarding Roberts' hiring, Sullivan said: "Nobody came to me personally and said anything. If they had, they would have had a battle on their hands, because I knew the man personally."

Traditionally, black coaches' chances to run a high school team in Central Florida might have been limited to schools in low-income neighborhoods, with high minority student populations or with perennially losing programs.

Not anymore. Some of the area's black head coaches today are the first to hold that distinction at their particular schools. That is true of Wells at Dr. Phillips, which opened in 1987.

"Some things that have been said, not by anybody that we know, but just things that you hear — 'Black coaches might not be as disciplined,' things like that that we have to fight," Wells said. "... There's another black coach who I might not even know that wants to be a [head] coach someday. Some of the things we do could affect some of those young coaches."

Before the season, the eight black head coaches in the Metro Conference (including, at the time, Brown at West Orange) took a picture together. The Metro is a collection of Orange County public schools.

When Vernon Mitchell, the first-year coach at Evans, sees that picture, what he takes away is a common bond and not the similar pigment of the men's skin.

"I see a lot of guys with experience, a lot of guys that have the know-how, a lot of guys that can relate to kids, get kids motivated and inspired to be the best they can possibly be," Mitchell said.

These black coaches are doing something right.

The success they are having could open avenues where previously detours blocked so many career paths. In the Sentinel's Super 16 rankings of area teams in Class 5A through 8A, five teams were led by black coaches. Three are in the top 10: No. 5 Jones, No. 7 DeLand and No. 9 Dr. Phillips. DeLand is coached by Steve Allen.

As for the schools in 2A through 4A and independent teams eligible for the Sentinel's small-school Super Six, Jermel Jones leads No. 1 Master's Academy and Guerschom Demosthenes' Orlando Christian Prep squad is ranked third. Kinard and TFA sit at No. 5.

"If you're at Florida State and you're African-American, you've got to win," Kinard said. "If you're Charlie Strong at South Florida, you've got to win. If you're Dan Mullen at Florida, you still have to win. I don't look at it in those [racial] terms. I just look at it in terms of having an opportunity to pour into these kids' lives."

Said Tyrone Sapp, in his first season at Orlando University: "Folks that have given me an opportunity here, I don't think they took color into consideration."

The chance to guide young players during a key stage in their development, not just on the football field, was a common thread cited by black coaches that ties them to the coaching profession.

That sentiment crosses any racial divide.

"When you look at the ratio of how many African-American players are on the field at any given time in the sport of football at all levels, it just inspires us to be their voice," Mitchell said.

Kyle Bracewell, an assistant principal in charge of athletics at Mount Dora, helped elevate longtime assistant Frank Scott to become the Hurricanes' head coach.

"These young men need a positive influence," Bracewell said. "... The amount of hours is nothing, compared to the stipend they receive. That shows me that these gentlemen are doing it for the right reasons. They're not in it for the money. They want to make these young men better people."

While the number of black head coaches in Central Florida is encouraging, there is room for improvement.

Lyman's Thomas said the lack of Hispanic coaches of area football teams often is overlooked. Others said progress will be made if those in power base their decisions on merit.

Lapchick said the more often black coaches get in front of principals and athletic directors for interviews, even if they ultimately don't receive a job offer, the better. Staffs with more black assistant coaches are essential to creating a deeper pool of potential job candidates, Lapchick said.

Banks estimated he interviewed for 15-20 head coaching jobs across the state before South Lake hired him.

"It was very discouraging because some guys were getting jobs that I had more experience than, that I know more football than, that I work harder than, and they were still getting those jobs before me," Banks said. "It just kept me [thinking], 'Stay the course. Stay the course. Stay the course.'"

Nothing stopped him, not even the slurs meant to intimidate and hurt him.

Instead, they had an unintended consequence. "When I'm a very competitive guy, and when I endured the things that were done to me because of my race, that always fueled me to continue to work harder," Banks said.

Sentinel high school sports editor Buddy Collings contributed to this report.

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Number of black head football coaches in Central Florida since 1983

Central Florida high school varsity football teams in the Sentinel's coverage area began this season with 21 black head coaches, which tied a record. That number since has dropped to 20 after West Orange's Dee Brown was placed on administrative leave.

Here is a look at the number of black football coaches in area public and private schools year by year by 1983, according to records compiled by high sports editor Buddy Collings:

Year	Black head coaches	OCPS black head coaches
2019	21*	8*
2018	20	7
2017	21	8
2016	20	8
2015	17	6
2014	15	5
2013	13	4
2012	10	3
2011	14	3
2010	13	4
2009	11	4
2008	8	3
2007	7	3
2006	5	1
2005	8	2
2004	8	3
2003	5	3
2002	3	3
2001	2	2
2000	2	2
1999	2	2
1998	2	2
1997	2	2
1996	2	1
1995	3	1
1994	4	1
1993	4	1
1992	3	2
1991	4	2
1990	4	2
1989	3	1
1988	3	1
1987	1	1
1986	1	1
1985	1	1
1984	1	1
1983	1	1

* Includes West Orange's Dee Brown, who has been placed on administrative leave.

A closer look

Some statistics regarding black high school head football coaches in Central Florida:

■ The 2019 season began with eight African-American head coaches among the 20 Orange County Public Schools before Dee Brown was placed on administrative leave. That tied the previous all-time high for the Metro Conference, set in 2016. Only two of those coaches are at the same job three years later:

Rodney Wells of Dr. Phillips and **Elijah Williams** of Jones.

■ In 1988, **Emory Blake** landed the Seminole High head coaching job and **Greg Johnson** was appointed head coach for Osceola. That made them the first black head coaches at a public school aside from Jones in the current Sentinel coverage area. Blake, the father of former NFL QB Jeff Blake, went 33-20 during five seasons (1988-92). Johnson was 47-39 during eight seasons (1988-95).

■ **Leroy Kinard** is in his 13th season at The First Academy, the longest tenure at one school for a black football coach in area history. **Marlin Roberts** is in his 11th year at Kissimmee Gateway.

■ Jones, Orlando's historically black high school, has had a black head coach every year aside from the two years when Cullison coached the Tigers. Oak Ridge has had a black head coach every season since 2002. Evans has had a black head coach during 18 of its 23 seasons since **Bill Gierke** left after the 1996 season.

■ The Master's Academy has had a black head coach for 11 of its 20 seasons.

— Buddy Collings

"When you look at the ratio of how many African-American players are on the field at any given time in the sport of football at all levels, it just inspires us to be their voice."

Vernon Mitchell,
football coach at Evans