



**ICON
PARK**

ICON Park Blue Man Group Groundbreaking Coverage Recap





Orlando's four major broadcast stations were on site for the groundbreaking. Interviews were coordinated with Mayor Jerry Demings, Jack Kenn and Chris Jaskiewicz. All of the segments combined reaching a combined audience of over 547,000 viewers.



Orlando Sentinel

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Judge delays Trump's sentencing

In hush money case, punishment pushed beyond Election Day

By Michael R. Sisk and Jennifer Peltz Associated Press

NEW YORK — A judge agreed Friday to postpone Donald Trump's sentencing in his hush money case until after the Novem-

ber election, granting him a hard-won reprieve as he navigates the aftermath of his criminal conviction and the homestretch of his presidential campaign.

Manhattan Judge Juan Merchan, who is also weighing a defense request to overturn the verdict on insanity grounds, delayed Trump's sentencing until Nov. 26, three weeks after the final votes are cast in the presidential election.

It had been scheduled for Sept. 18, about seven weeks before Election Day. The new date is the Thursday before Thanksgiving.

The delay, the latest bit of good legal fortune for Trump, means the presidential election will be decided without voters knowing if the Republican nominee is going to jail.

Merchan explained in a four-page decision that he was postponing the sentencing "to avoid

any appearance — however unwarranted — that the proceeding has been affected by or seeks to affect the approaching presidential election in which the defendant is a candidate."

"The Court is a fair, impartial, and apolitical institution," he added, writing that his decision "should dispel any suggestion" otherwise.

Trump landed the delay on his Truth Social platform.

"The Manhattan D.A. Witch Hunt has been postponed because everyone realizes that there was NO CASE. I DID NOTHING WRONG!" he wrote. He assailed the case as "a political attack" and argued that it "should be rightfully terminated, as we prepare for the Most Important Election in the History of our Country."

In a separate case involving the Trump to Trump, Page 7

Abortion rights webpage under fire

It's a taxpayer-funded political ad; critics say of Amendment 4 explainer

By Hayler Seidner Orlando Sentinel

A state website targeting an abortion rights ballot initiative is under fire from Democrats and advocacy groups who accuse Florida's Republican leaders of pushing an unlawful "taxpayer-funded political ad."

The Florida Agency for Health Care Administration launched a webpage on Thursday that blasts Amendment 4, proclaiming that existing Florida law "protects women" while the initiative enshrining abortion rights into the state constitution "threatens women's safety."

The top of the webpage states, "Florida is protecting life. Don't let the four-termers lie to you." Lower down, it reads, "We must keep Florida from becoming an abortion tourism destination state."

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Founder of charity accused of sex abuse

Man who worked with special needs children in federal custody

By Silas Morgan Orlando Sentinel

A Volusia County man who ran a Sanford business helping families and children with special needs was arrested Wednesday by the FBI on charges of sexually abusing young boys.

James "Jim" Bernard Grover, 62, of Deltona, ran the Special Needs Advocacy Program (SNAP) at Seminole Town Center Mall in Sanford, according to an FBI press release. Grover provided therapy sessions and other opportunities to disabled children and is accused of molesting several children, including one with special needs.

A judge ordered Thursday that Grover stay in federal custody until his detention hearing Sept. 11 in Orlando.

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Blue Man Group Managing Director Jack Kenn, center, flanked by Orange County Mayor Jerry Demings, right, and Icon Park CEO Chris Jaskiewicz, celebrates the groundbreaking for the ensemble's 500-seat theater between the base of Orlando Eye and Universal Boulevard. RICH POPE/ORLANDO SENTINEL

Blue Man Group making plans for new show, theater

Beloved entertainment group breaks ground on Icon Park location

By Dewayne Bevil Orlando Sentinel

Blue Man Group's ceremonial groundbreaking for its Icon Park theater Thursday morning included an artsy moment

with colorful paints, leaf blowers, three blue guys and an assist from Orange County Mayor Jerry Demings.

There are no visible signs of construction for the project, which was announced in June. But the goal remains for performances in a 500-seat theater by the end of 2024, said Jack Kenn, Blue Man Group managing director.

"There's a lot of fingers and toes crossed. We're just waiting in the permitting process. It's been a little bit of a process with some of the changes," Kenn said.

"We're able to design it from ground up. I mean, what theater company gets to do that?" he said. "We usually take over these small areas and make the best of it, but here, we're able to really think about it and put our design into it."

The theater will go up in the grassy area on the Universal Boulevard side of the Icon Park property, near the base of the Orlando Eye, the 400-foot observation wheel. If looking toward the Eye from the Universal Boulevard vantage point, the stage will be on the left end of the plot, with the audience entrance on the right.

Turn to Theater, Page 2

Investigation of state park plans sought



Susan Francoisi, from left, Michelle Birbaum and Kathie Nutter, all of Duneedin, hold signs during a rally Aug. 25 at the entrance to HoneyMoon Island State Park in Duneedin. COURTESY

Florida Democratic House members seek answers from DeSantis

By Emily L. Mahoney and Max Cheures Tampa Bay Times

Reprinted from Friday's late edition

In a letter to Gov. Ron DeSantis on Thursday, five of Florida's Democratic members of Congress demanded a formal investigation into plans to build golf courses, hotels and more on nine state parks, as well as the release of public records documenting how those plans were hatched.

The U.S. representatives addressed the letter both to the governor and the state's chief inspector general, who is in charge of investigating fraud or other malfeasance in government. The representatives called for an independent investigation "into what state procedures were violated, and which private parties lobbied for and stood to benefit from it."

Rep. Kathy Castor of Tampa, Maxwell Alejandro Frost of Orlando, Debbie Wasserman Schultz of Weston, Darren Soto of Kissimmee and Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick of Miramar signed the letter.

"Your proposal was quietly Turn to State, Page 2

Theater

from Page 1

opposite end.

"It's going to shoehorn right in. It's going to be perfect," Kenn said. The building will fit between two angled support posts for the Eye.

Kenn said the new show will feature familiar Blue Man routines and fresh material in the form of new musical pieces.

"The show is developed. We're not in rehearsal phase yet," he said. "Once we hit rehearsal phase, everything changes."

At Thursday's groundbreaking, where the show-

els were mere props, a small group of blue men recruited Demings to squirt paint onto a canvas (and the white-jumpsuited Kenn). That led to the unveiling of fresh artwork that read "Blue is Back."

Blue Man Group had a 14-year run at Universal Orlando in a soundstage converted into a theater that was accessed via Universal CityWalk. Production shut down along with the bulk of the tourism industry in 2020 as the pandemic took hold. That show never returned and was officially shuttered in 2021.

"When Blue Man Group was here before, I can remember seeing that show

and just thinking that was an extraordinary experience for all of us to have within our community," Demings said.

Blue Man performances typically include nontraditional instruments and percussion, electronic music, bold graphic presentations and speechless, comical, blue-skinned and bald performers. The ensemble started in New York City in 1987 and also has continuing shows in Las Vegas, Chicago, Boston, London, Berlin and Shanghai, plus international tours.

In 2017, Cirque du Soleil Entertainment Group purchased Blue Man Productions. Cirque oper-

ates the "Drawn to Life" show at Disney Springs.

Orlando ticket prices for Blue Man have not been announced, but admission at Las Vegas and New York shows start at \$49.

"We really like being easy access, gate-free, free parking ... An important part of our essence is easy access, and Blue Man Group was very attracted to that," said Chris Jaskiewicz, Icon Park's president and CEO. "I don't like barriers. I really like the fact that this show is enjoyable to people from different countries. It fits in really well with a lot of our philosophies here."

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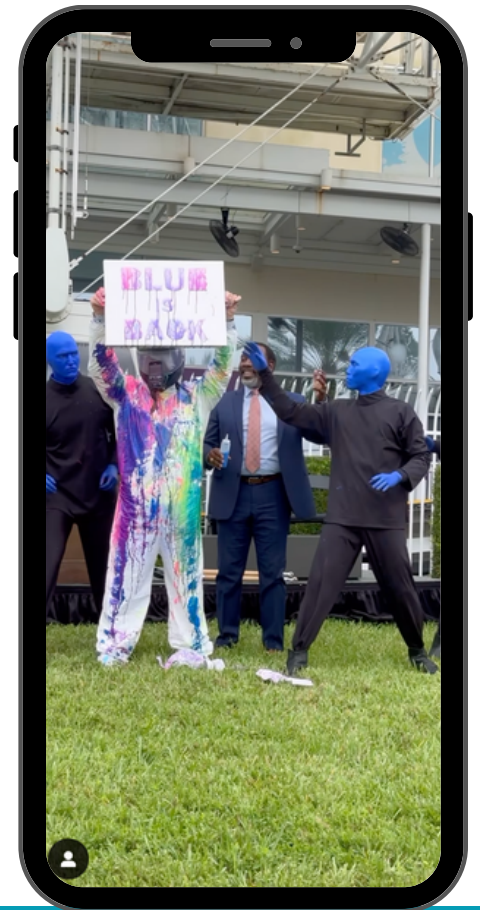
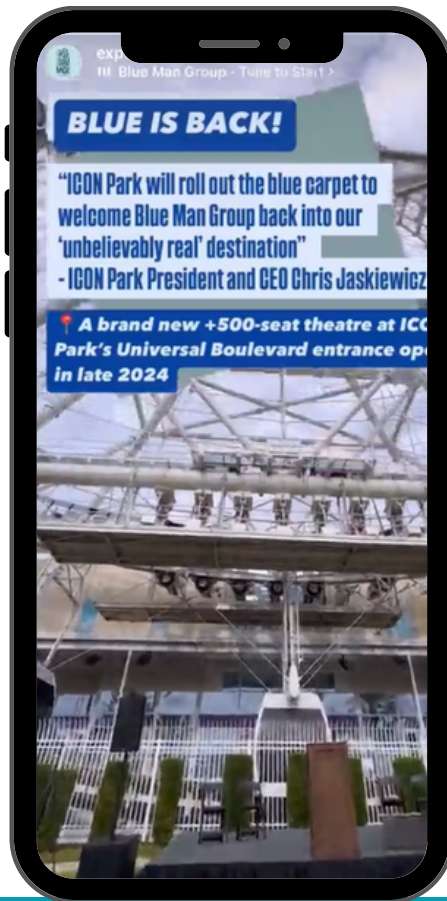


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At ICON Park's Blue Man Group groundbreaking event, Trevor Brown, Experience Kissimmee, Katie Antosh and other prominent local influencers shared content with their followers to keep the excitement growing on social media. All social media coverage had a combined potential reach of over 920,000.



TO VIEW THE INSTAGRAM CONTENT, CLICK [HERE](#), [HERE](#), AND [HERE](#).

