

Tampa Bay Times

FLORIDA'S BEST NEWSPAPER

tampabay.com

★★★ Tuesday, September 29, 2020 | \$1

2020 STANLEY CUP | GAME 6: LIGHTNING 2, STARS 0

STANLEY'S HOME



MARKO DITKUN | Special to the Times

The Tampa Bay Lightning celebrate their second Stanley Cup title Monday night, after defeating the Dallas Stars 2-0 in Game 6 in Edmonton, Alberta. The Lightning won the best of seven series 4-2. Brayden Point scored the first goal and Blake Coleman added the second. The team returns home today with the oldest trophy in professional sports in hand. **Sports, 1C**

Schools finances in rough shape

Hillsborough schools set a vote to borrow \$75 million to meet operating expenses.

board Thursday.

To avoid the risk of running out of money, the district wants to issue a tax anticipation note, a form of short-term financing used by other school districts in similar situations.

School Board members did not object, and they vowed to support the administration's efforts to rein in spending.

This second conversation took place at "agenda review," a new kind of workshop Davis introduced when he took over this year.

While the agenda review is noticed under the Florida public meetings law, it happens without any video cameras or live-streaming. The *Tampa Bay Times* receives audio recordings a day or two afterwards.

That's not the only difference



MARLENE SOKOL | Times (2018)

Gretchen Saunders, the chief financial officer for the Hillsborough County School District, painted a dire picture.

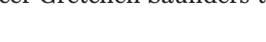
between the two meetings.

At Tuesday's televised board meeting, constituents lined up by the dozens to try and protect classes and programs that are vulnerable because of low enrollment. Some board members, who have been contacted individually by concerned par-

See MONEY, 11A

Cold Front Arrives

8 a.m. Noon 4 p.m. 8 p.m.



78° 86° 83° 78°

70% chance of rain

More, 10C

Vol. 137 No. 067

© Times Publishing Co.

TRUMP, BIDEN TO HOLD FIRST DEBATE TONIGHT

The debate, starting at 9, comes as the country faces multiple crises, including racial justice protests and a pandemic that has killed more than 200,000 Americans and cost millions of jobs. **12A**

HOW DO YOU RATE ON TRUMP TAX TABLE?

A report from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office shows the average middle class American household paid three times as much federal income tax in 2016 and 2017 as President Trump. **12A**

DeSantis opens economy, but locally masks remain

Florida's shift into Phase 3 causes some turmoil over face covering mandates.

BY TRACEY MCMANUS
Times Staff Writer

When Gov. Ron DeSantis lifted coronavirus-related restrictions on business capacity and operations on Friday, his order did not repeal local mandates that require masks in indoor public places.

But the shift to the last phase of the state's reopening plan has caused local government officials and business owners to have to reiterate face covering requirements that went into effect in Pinellas and Hillsborough counties and Tampa earlier this summer — and remain in place today.

"Within 15 minutes of his announcement we had four groups of people walk in our door and say 'we don't have to wear masks anymore, the governor said so,'" said Ken Hamilton, co-owner of Palm Pavilion on Clearwater Beach. "We said no, not exactly. That's the un-



MARTHA ASENCIO RHINE | Times
Hostess Sarah Wilson, left, welcomes diners wearing masks to Palm Pavilion Beachside Grill & Bar in Clearwater on Monday.

tended consequence of the governor's order: turmoil."

Although DeSantis' Phase 3

reopening order did not lift city and county mask requirements, it took away those municipalities' ability to impose fines on individual violators. But officials in Pinellas, Hillsborough and Tampa say the enforcement strategy to date has been more educational than punitive anyway.

And while counties and cit-

ies may not impose penalties on individual violators, DeSantis' order does not appear to prohibit fines for businesses that are not enforcing the local rules.

"In the governor's order, he prohibits penalties on individuals but not to businesses, so we strongly encourage businesses to require masks both for the safety of their employees and the safety of their patrons," Tampa spokesperson Ashley

See MASKS, 10A