

Governor’s voter data altered

It was not a hack, insists Leon County’s elections chief, but DeSantis’ address was illegally switched.

BY MARY ELLEN KLAS, ANA CEBALLOS AND DAVID J. NEAL
Times/Herald Tallahassee Bureau

TALLAHASSEE — An unemployed Naples 20-year-old was arrested Tuesday after allegedly using his PC notebook to change Gov. Ron DeSantis’ voter registration address from the Governor’s Mansion to a condominium in West Palm Beach.

Anthony Guevara also attempted to get into the voting registrations of U.S. Sen.



Anthony Guevara, who is accused of making the switch, faces up to 5 years in prison.

Rick Scott, retired basketball icon Michael Jordan and current basketball icon LeBron James, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement said. Only the gov-

ernor’s information was altered, the agency said.

“This is not a hard thing to do, but there are pretty severe penalties for doing this,” said Mark Earley, supervisor of elections for Leon County.

He said Guevara likely had access to that information on DeSantis from publicly available sources and, by using it to modify the governor’s information, it “absolutely was not hacking.”

Guevara now faces one count

of unauthorized access of a computer and one count of altering a voter registration without consent. He is being held in Collier County jail on \$5,000 bail and, if convicted, faces up to five years in prison.

“There was a minimal amount of inconvenience. Certainly there was a concern,” Early told reporters Wednesday. “We did an address change there on the spot to come back into his proper address so that his registration

reflected his proper address, and he was able to vote in normal manner.”

Address changes are routine and designed for voter convenience, he said, especially in a college town where people move in and out of town frequently.

“We do this hundreds of times a week, especially during early voting and even on Election Day,” he said. The governor-
See REGISTRATION, 15A



DOUGLAS R. CLIFFORD | Times
The problem was discovered when Gov. Ron DeSantis went to the polls to vote early.

How to ensure ballot counts

Provisional votes in Florida aren’t common. Here’s what it means.

BY ALLISON ROSS
Times Staff Writer

After the polls close on election night, after most other votes get tallied, then come the provisional ballots.

Provisional ballots are cast by in-person voters whose eligibility is in question. The local canvassing board later determines the voter’s eligibility, usually evaluating them after most other ballots have been counted.

Every election, provisional ballots make up a tiny percentage of the total votes cast, so it’s easy to overlook their importance.

Some parts of the country may see larger-than-usual numbers of provisional ballots this year because of voters requesting mail ballots but opting instead to vote in person. In some states, voters who make that switch on Election Day would have to vote by provisional ballot.

A flood of provisional ballots could be time-consuming for elections officials and slow down counting. Voters who don’t follow up on any requirements to determine their eligibility could see their ballots rejected.

But Florida isn’t expected to see a surge in provisional ballots this year, elections officials say.

Still, it’s important to know how provisional ballots work in Florida and what to do if asked to vote one.

What are provisional ballots?

Provisional ballots have been required for nearly all states since the national Help Amer-
See BALLOTS, 15A

COURT WON’T HALT TRIALS OVER VIRUS

An appeals court denies Pinellas-Pasco Public Defender Bob Dillinger’s argument that conditions inside and outside the Pinellas Criminal Justice Center are too risky to hold a jury trial. **3A**

ECONOMIC WHIPLASH RATTLES MARKETS

A report today points to the explosive rebound this summer after an epic collapse, but financial markets react nervously as the government stimulus runs out and hiring slows down. **6A**

Another hot day

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

   

78° 85° 86° 81°

20% chance of rain
More, 8C



IVY CEBALLO | Times

Marco Antonio Arita, his daughter Jennifer, 6, wife Roxana Chinchilla, and son Marc Anthony, 13, at home in Tampa, face an uncertain future. Arita, from Honduras, and Chinchilla, from El Salvador, have lived in the U.S. for decades.

Thousands of immigrant families face deportation

The Trump administration is pulling the plug on a program that offered protective status for people from certain nations.

BY JUAN CARLOS CHAVEZ
Times Staff Writer

TAMPA — The clock is ticking for Marco Antonio Arita.

Unless something changes, the 47-year-old Honduran immigrant loses his standing as a legal resident of the United States in nine weeks.

So do some 411,000 other people who were granted what’s known as Temporary Legal Status because of wars or natural disasters in the 10 countries they called home. The Trump administration imposed a Jan. 4 deadline to begin phasing out the program because conditions in those countries have

changed.

Arita, who has lived in the United States more than two decades and whose two children were born here, has no plans yet for what he’ll do next.

“It would be devastating for my whole family,” he said. “I have children, I have a wife, and they depend on my job. None of this makes sense.”

It makes lots of sense, though, to backers of Trump administration policies designed to reduce the number of immigrants.

A court challenge by immigrant advocates “demonstrates how the left wants no restrictions on immigration pro-

grams,” said Dale L. Wilcox, executive director of the Immigration Reform Law Institute in Washington, D.C.

“These programs have specific terms, and are not meant to be reinterpreted as yet another vehicle for a borderless America.”

Congress created Temporary Protective Status in 1990 for immigrants seeking to escape the ravages of war and natural disaster from select countries in Latin America, Africa and the Caribbean. Those granted the status can’t be deported and can legally work in the United States.

See IMMIGRANTS, 12A

President strips protections for Alaskan wilderness

Tongass National Forest, the “lungs of North America,” is now available for logging.

BY JULIET EILPERIN
Washington Post

President Donald Trump will open up all 16.7 million acres of Alaska’s Tongass National Forest to logging and other forms of development, according to a notice posted Wednesday, stripping protections that had safeguarded one of the world’s largest intact temperate rainforests for nearly two decades.

Starting today, more than 9.3 million acres of forest — featuring old-growth stands of red and yellow cedar, Sitka spruce

and Western hemlock, as well as plentiful salmon runs and imposing fjords — will be open for road building. The decision, which will be published in the *Federal Register* and reverses protections President Bill Clinton put in place in 2001, is one of the most sweeping public lands rollbacks Trump has enacted.

For years, federal and academic scientists have identified Tongass as an ecological oasis that serves as a massive carbon sink while providing key

habitat for wild Pacific salmon and trout, Sitka black-tailed deer and myriad other species. It boasts the highest density of brown bears in North America, and its trees — some of which are between 300 and 1,000 years old — absorb at least 8 percent of all the carbon stored in the entire Lower 48’s forests combined.

“While tropical rainforests are the lungs of the planet, the Tongass is the lungs of North America,” Dominick DellaSala, chief scientist with the Earth Island Institute’s Wild Heritage project, said in an interview. “It’s America’s last climate sanc-
See TONGASS, 13A



U.S. Forest Service handout by Paul A. Robbins

The Tongass National Forest covers more than 16 million acres and serves as a massive carbon reservoir.

Trump, Biden coming to Tampa

Hillsborough had renown for tipping to the presidential favorite. Does it still?

BY STEVE CONTORNO
Times Political Editor

President Donald Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden will land in Tampa today within hours of each other for dueling rallies, putting a spotlight on Hillsborough County just days before the nation picks its next leader.

Trump supporters will gather in the parking lots outside Raymond James Stadium to hear Trump in the early afternoon. Biden will hold an evening drive-in event at the Florida State Fairgrounds.

In the past, presidential candidates touched down in Tampa hoping to swing the county that swings the swing state. Hillsborough voters picked the eventual president in all but one election from 1960 to 2012.

But the streak was broken in 2016. Democrat Hillary Clinton won Hillsborough by nearly 7 percentage points. Trump won Florida and the White House. And as the presidential campaign turns to Hillsborough once again, many local Republicans, for the first time in a generation, don’t believe the county is even in play.

“Democrats have a lot more momentum,” said April Schiff, the Republican State Committeewoman for Hillsborough. “I think we’re going to see the same thing this time: Trump may take Florida, but definitely not Hillsborough.”

Clinton’s victory in Hillsborough was so decisive and announced so early on Election Night that some national pundits familiar with the county’s track record for choosing winners assumed Florida would fall next and Clinton would coast to the White House. That didn’t
See RALLIES, 15A