

COX CHEVROLET
test drive our site at Coxauto.com
FIND NEW ROADS

2017 Chevy Trax
Nicely Equipped

Buy and Save Up to \$9,000
OR
LEASE Starting at **\$69*** 24mo/10kmi/yr

2900 Cortez Road West, Bradenton, FL 34207 | 941-749-2699

*Based on tagged unit. Lease is 36 months. \$500 down. Tax and title fees due at signing. Lease includes all applicable rebates. Must have credit. Not for resale. Not all dealers will qualify. Factors include but are not limited to credit score, employment history and price. Lessee is responsible for excess wear & maintenance costs. See dealer for details.

SPORTS
Semis will test Ranch's speedy style **1B**



THEATER
Manatee Players captivate with 'Wit' **7C**



FRIDAY MARCH 3 2017

\$1.00 VOLUME 95, No. 170
STAY CONNECTED BRADENTON.COM

[FACEBOOK.COM/BRADENTONHERALDNEWS](https://www.facebook.com/bradentonheraldnews)
[TWITTER.COM/BRADENTONHERALD](https://twitter.com/bradentonherald)

MANATEE COUNTY'S
NEWSPAPER SINCE 1922

Partly cloudy
75°/50° See 18A

BRADENTON HERALD

ANNA MARIA ISLAND • BRADENTON • CORTEZ • ELLENTON • LAKEWOOD RANCH • PALMETTO • PARRISH • SARASOTA

U.S. ELECTIONS INVESTIGATION

Sessions withdraws from Russia inquiry

BY MATTHEW SCHOFIELD AND WILLIAM DOUGLAS
McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON

For the second time in less than a month, a key member of President Donald Trump's team has been hobbled by communications with the Russian ambassador to the United States.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions said Thursday that he was following the advice of senior Jus-

tice Department advisers by withdrawing from oversight of any investigations into Russian meddling in last year's presidential election. The decision came after it was revealed that Sessions had offered possibly misleading testimony about his contacts with Ambassador Sergey Kislyak



Sessions

during his confirmation hearing in January.

It was unknown whether Sessions had consulted Trump before announcing his recusal. Shortly before, the president announced that he had "total" confidence in his attorney general. When asked whether Sessions had testified truthfully to the Senate Judiciary Committee, Trump responded, "I think he probably did."

The news of the recusal un-

MORE INSIDE

- GOP operatives concede Trump's Russia trouble won't go away. **2A**
- Senate confirms Ben Carson for HUD, Rick Perry for energy. **12A**

settled a Trump administration still working to put behind it the resignation last month of National Security Adviser Michael Flynn - he'd also been sidelined for lying about his contacts with Kislyak - and left some analysts wondering whether the recusal was enough to ensure an honest probe of Russian-Trump connections.

"This needs to be handled by career prosecutors reporting to a special prosecutor," said Richard Painter, the White House ethics officer during the administration of President George W.

SEE SESSIONS, 2A



LOCAL

GROUP RALLIES FOR GUN SAFETY

About 75 people lined the streets for more than an hour Thursday afternoon, waving signs and rallying for gun safety. **3A**



An aerial view of the sinkhole at Mosaic's New Wales facility in Mulberry.

PROVIDED PHOTO

ENVIRONMENT

Mosaic says it's on track to seal sinkhole by summer

BY HANNAH MORSE
hemosre@bradenton.com

MULBERRY

On top of a vast mountain - well, a mountain by Florida standards - of white, powdery phosphogypsum, the sinkhole that spilled 215 million gallons

of acidic wastewater into the Floridan aquifer last August is sectioned off by orange fencing while about 80 workers continue to close the gap.

In a media visit and update of the sinkhole's status Thursday, Mosaic Company officials said they are confident it's on schedule to be sealed.

"There have been plenty of challenges," said Herschel Morris, vice president of operations at Mosaic. "We're learning lots of things as we go, but I would say it's consistent with what we were thinking originally."

Jeff Golwitzer, the project manager in sealing the sinkhole, said one of those challenges was

drilling in soft, muddy areas underground that would keep the drills from moving in a stable trajectory.

After creating a stabilization zone through filling the base of the sinkhole with grout, the company plans to drill about 50 holes from the surface to plug the base through injecting grout, which consists of a mixture of cement, pea gravel, fly ash, tailing sand and bentonite. So far, they've pumped more than 10,000 cubic yards of grout, enough to fill 1,000 cement trucks, according to Morris.

Through examining core samples for grout and monitoring

SEE SINKHOLE, 2A



BUSINESS

MARKET BUMP NOT JUST TRUMP

Excitement that President Trump will drive business-friendly policies is only one reason for the rally. **6A**



LOCAL

JUDGE ACQUITS JOHN ETHRIDGE

A judge acquitted a reputed associate of the street gang Team No Sleep of conspiracy to commit murder. **3A**

SPORTS

OSUNA EXTENDS RED-HOT START

Jose Osuna went 2 for 3 with a double and a home run in the Pirates 11-1 win over Detroit. **1B**

CUSTOMER SERVICE

To subscribe or report delivery issues,

800-748-6666 or bradentonherald.com/customer-service

Classified
Comics, Abby
Crossword

1C
8C
6C

Horoscope
Obituaries
Opinion

6C
16A
17A

Sports
Stocks
TV Listings

1B
7A
7C



Tell us about your business and what you do

The University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee provides high quality bachelor's and graduate-level education and scholarly activity in a personalized learning community that prepares successful leaders and responsible citizens.

Dr. Sandra S. Stone,
Regional Chancellor of University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee

USF UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA SARASOTA-MANATEE

TOGETHER MANATEE

www.TogetherManatee.com

121509