



USA TODAY™

08.15.17



Taylor Swift wins groping trial

Unanimous verdict against ex-radio DJ David Mueller

IN LIFE

USA TODAY EXCLUSIVE

Trump supporters growing restless

Loyalists say they like the job he's doing, but they want less 'bickering, fighting and firings'

Susan Page and Josh Hafner
USA TODAY

There's trouble in Trumpland. The voters who backed Donald Trump like the disruption he has brought but are looking for more function from the outsider they helped put in the White House, members of the USA TODAY Network Trump Voter Panel said. Though they still approve of the job President Trump is doing, the

collapse of the GOP's promise to repeal the Affordable Care Act rattled some of his loyalists. So have chaos in the White House staff and the public humiliation of Attorney General Jeff Sessions. "All the bickering, fighting and firings take time away from solving all of our problems," said Joe Canino, 62, of Hebron, Conn. "He's got to figure out a way to get more done collaboratively with Capitol Hill," said Barney Carter of St. Marys, Ga. "The Hill, to me, has the most to blame for

it, but he's got to figure out a way to solve that problem." The loyalty of the president's base — voters who tend to be older, socially conservative and white — has been a crucial source of his political strength. Trump continues to hammer messages that appeal to them on such issues as limiting immigration and reversing Pentagon policy on transgender troops. The spiderweb of concern among his supporters is an anecdotal finding consistent with the results of nationwide polls. A CNN survey at the six-month mark of Trump's presidency last week showed his approval rating

83%

approval rating among Republicans last week

59%

Republicans who "strongly approve," down from 73% in February

0

Number of the 25 voters on the panel who expressed regret for voting for Trump.

among Republicans at a healthy 83%, but the percentage of Republicans who "strongly approve" had dropped by double-digits, to 59% from 73% in February. None of the 25 voters on the USA TODAY panel expressed regret for casting a ballot last November for Trump instead of Democrat Hillary Clinton or someone else. The panelists generally trust him to handle the crisis with North Korea, although there is concern about his belligerent rhetoric. Some couched their approval of the president with a hedge that

▶ STORY CONTINUES ON 2A

NEWSLINE

IN NEWS

Missile defense system effective but not foolproof
U.S. military ready to use 'full range' of tools

IN OPINION

Tim Scott

In racism fight, we all must choose a team

IN SPORTS

Jarrett Bell
Snubbed QB's message lives on



On sale now

USA TODAY's Best Years magazine has health, career and travel advice for the 50+ crowd, and Grammy-winning singer Sheryl Crow shares her journey to self-discovery.

HOME DELIVERY
1-800-872-0001
USATODAYSERVICE.COM



©COPYRIGHT 2017 USA TODAY, A division of Gannett Co., Inc.

USA SNAPSHOTS®

College expenses

\$969.88

Projected average back-to-college spending for each student this year.



SOURCE National Retail Federation survey of 7,226 consumers
MICHAEL B. SMITH AND PAUL TRAP, USA TODAY

HURRICANE ANDREW 25 YEARS LATER

As memories fade, so do Fla. building codes

Law makes it easier to change standards built up after Andrew



Hurricane Andrew ripped the roofs off thousands of Florida homes in 1992.

Alan Gomez
@alangomez
USA TODAY

Before Hurricane Katrina, before Superstorm Sandy, there was Hurricane Andrew. The intense Category 5 hurricane, a compact buzzsaw that ripped the roofs off thousands of South Florida homes 25 years ago, was so catastrophic that it led to sweeping changes in the insurance industry and disaster response. Floridians — shocked by acres of flattened houses — rewrote the state's building codes, making them the toughest in the nation. As memories of the horrendous destruction of Aug. 24, 1992, grow dim, the lessons learned from Andrew may be fading, too. The building codes once hailed as the gold standard other states should emulate are under assault. At the core of that dispute is a simple calculation: The tougher the building code, the more it costs to build a home. Florida's codes dictate construction methods, require wind testing and mandate ex-



1992 PHOTO BY LYNN SLADKY, AP
Joan Wallach, left, and her daughter leave their home in Homestead, Fla.

tensive training and oversight for inspectors. Those standards, home builders argue, can add unnecessary costs that don't amount to a hurricane-proof home. Insurers and homeowners' associations say the tough codes save money in the long run. This year, the Republican-led Legislature and GOP Gov. Rick Scott passed a law that untethers Florida's code from international standards and requires fewer votes for the Florida Building Commission to make changes to the building codes.

Opponents said it opened the door for the commission, dominated by builders and contractors, to weaken the codes. Craig Fugate, the former head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which responds to disasters, said Florida's latest move sickened him. "I don't think builders are inherently evil people, but you've got to look at what their business model is," said Fugate, who led Florida's emergency management agency before heading FEMA. "The quicker they get to sell a home with the least amount of cost and the least time delays increases the money they make." Republican leaders and the state's home builders say such concerns are overblown. Jeremy Stewart, a Crestview, Fla., developer and president of the Florida Home Builders Association, noted that the bill passed in Tallahassee did not change a single building code. Instead, he said, it simply modernized the process for updating the code. There's no reason, he said, to think developers will use the process to weaken the state's

▶ STORY CONTINUES ON 2A

Hate sites test Internet providers

Pressure mounts on tech companies to curb extremism

Jon Swartz, Rachel Sandler and Brett Molina
USA TODAY

SAN FRANCISCO A rise in domestic hate groups — whose vitriol spilled from online forums to the streets of Charlottesville, Va., during a violent weekend protest by white supremacists — is intensifying pressure on GoDaddy, Twitter, Google and others to put a lid on U.S. extremist sites. Civil libertarians and religious leaders say Saturday's deadly Charlottesville protest could be a tipping point for technology services to bow to consumer outrage and boot white nationalist and neo-Nazi sites that violate terms of service.

If that happens, it will be a change slow in coming. Many Internet providers and platforms include policies that allow them to drop users for various reasons, including incitement of violence and hate speech. But they also have cast themselves as forums for the free-wheeling debate that has been a hallmark of the Internet, a role that makes them loathe to police the content their users share. The eviction of neo-Nazi website The Daily Stormer by GoDaddy and then Google from their domain servers comes after months of complaints to GoDaddy about the white supremacist site's content. In November, The Daily Stormer published a list of more than 50 Twitter users who had ex-

▶ STORY CONTINUES ON 4A

Classroom conversations

As school gets back in session, teachers could face some difficult questions 5A

Angry white men

Delving into the darkness of Charlottesville 5A