



# SHOWDOWN

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# MESSENGER-INQUIRER

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# Out of sight, out of mind

## Area still has no explicit protections for landlords and renters

BY AUSTIN RAMSEY  
MESSENGER-INQUIRER

When she and her children were forced to leave their last apartment in Owensboro nearly 10 years ago, she thought there was nowhere else to go.

A single mother with just one source of income, rental property in the city and county were hard enough to come by, let alone affordable. When she happened upon a place she and her children could call home, at least for a while, she jumped at the chance.

"It wasn't perfect, but I thought we would get it fixed up and livable," she said. "I was wrong."

What followed has been 10 years of what she describes as hell. Missing windows, leaky ceilings, a dangerous backyard — the woman and her children live in Daviess County without a working air conditioner and a heater that once went out in the dead of winter, plunging the old home into sub-freezing temperatures. Her landlord, she claims, refused to fix it "until the snow had melted."

The Messenger-Inquirer has agreed to keep the woman's name out of this story because



Photo by Austin Ramsey, Messenger-Inquirer | aramsey@messenger-inquirer.com

Kaitlin Nonweiler, executive director of the Owensboro Human Relations Commission, posts Fair Housing Month fliers in Owensboro.

she feared she may be evicted from her home. Despite a lease agreement that she says guarantees her livable conditions, the home is meager at best. The few things that have been repaired, she says, have only introduced more problems into the home, and when she has opted to fix or

buy things for the rental herself, her landlord has admonished her for it and refused to reimburse her expenses.

But the woman is a professional in the community. She has a good-paying job and receives modest help in food stamps every month. Few of her colleagues

or friends know the conditions she goes home to every day, and she believes she can't find or afford a better place to live. Between missing window panes and a damaged door, mildew that has irreversibly damaged belongings and the near-constant fear that anything or everything

could break and leave her and her children exposed to the elements, she says she's nearly lost all hope.

"I'm trapped," she said. "I don't feel safe, but I don't have anywhere else left to go."

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## Standing up to bullies the message at Mount Calvary

BY AUSTIN RAMSEY  
MESSENGER-INQUIRER

An anti-bullying event at Mount Calvary Baptist Church on Saturday had one, unified message for the parents and children in attendance: Say something, because silence is serious.

Bullying, organizers say, has become an underlying issue behind many of the problems children experience today at schools, in their neighborhoods or online, and it's important to teach them how to stand up and not be a bystander, they say.

"It really starts at the home," Aresha Johnson, a Mount Calvary member and youth leader. "We don't always know what our youth are going through, and once it leaves the home, it rubs off on the rest of the community."

Few may know that better than Julius Maddox, a commu-

nity advocate who now speaks to teens about his own troubled past. Maddox, who is currently ranked the top bench presser in the world, was one of several key speakers Saturday, and he told those in attendance that his size helped contribute to him playing the role of bullied and bully.

Years later, after rediscovering his faith, Maddox said he came across one young woman who had been affected by his words.

"She told me she was still hurt by some of the things I had done and said in high school," he said. "Hearing that was tough. It hit home for me. It made me realize that the things we do and say today can affect people for the rest of their lives. It leaves lasting scars."

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## Trump seeks to cut foreign aid to 3 Central American nations

BY JONATHAN LEMIRE,  
NOMAAN MERCHANT AND  
COLLEEN LONG  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PALM BEACH, Fla. — Taking drastic action over illegal immigration, President Donald Trump moved Saturday to cut direct aid to El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, whose citizens are fleeing north and overwhelming U.S. resources at the southern border.

The State Department notified Congress that it would look to suspend 2017 and 2018 payments to the trio of nations, which have been home to some of the migrant caravans that have marched through Mexico to the U.S. border.

Amplified by conservative media, Trump has turned the caravans into the symbol of what he says are the dangers of illegal immigration — a central theme of his midterm



Associated Press | Manuel Balce Ceneta

President Donald Trump speaks to reporters Friday during a visit to Lake Okeechobee and Herbert Hoover Dike at Canal Point, Fla. Trump says he will close the nation's southern border, or large sections of it, next week if Mexico does not immediately stop illegal immigration.

campaigning last fall. With the special counsel's Russia probe seemingly behind him, Trump has revived his warnings of the caravans' presence.

Trump also has returned to

a previous threat he never carried out — closing the border with Mexico. He brought up that possibility on Friday and

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