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FAU High student Maiya Castillo will represent Chile with the U17s soccer team in Leon, Mexico. **JEFF KLEIN, POWER PLAY PHOTO/ COURTESY**

SPORTS

FAU High soccer player to represent Chile U17s in Mexico

By Gary Curreri

Maiya Castillo got an early birthday present when she was selected to represent Chile with the U17s soccer team in León, México.

The Boynton Beach resident, who turned 14 on Aug. 23, leaves for training camp Aug. 28 and will return on Sept. 8.

"It is not only for the Chilean National team, but it is also for other players who got invited," said Castillo, a freshman at FAU High in Boca Raton. "We have mostly training days, but we also have three games that we will play against the Canadian U17, Mexican U17 and the Colombian U17 national teams. It's like a tournament."

Castillo, whose father Marcelo is the boys' soccer coach at Boca Raton High School and a coach with the Team Boca girls' travel soccer program, was selected after Chilean coaches saw videos that her father had posted.

"They reached out to my dad and said, 'Can we please have some clips of Maiya because we want to invite her to the tryout sessions

in Mexico?'" she said. "We wake up pretty early in the morning and have breakfast. We then train, go back and have lunch, do something in the afternoon and then have a night training."

"This is the first camp like this that I have ever gone to," said Castillo, who is a member of the Team Boca 2008 (birth year) white team. She was a member of the team that played in the US Youth Soccer South Regionals and then the US Youth Soccer National Championships where they reached the semifinals. "I don't really know how to feel about it because I have never done it before, but I am really excited."

Not only would it bring her confidence, but Castillo said she hopes it leads to more opportunities to play with La Roja Femenina. She was born in the United States, but she is planning on getting a dual citizenship for Chile where her father was born.

She started playing soccer in local recreational leagues and then began playing travel soccer four years ago.

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OPINION

BOCA  TIMES

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Condo boards need 21st century technology

It took some public pushing, but the Florida Legislature and Gov. Ron DeSantis finally implemented changes to improve the safety of condominiums.



Sylvia Gurinsky

Recertification of all buildings at least three stories high will be required after 25 years for coastal structures and 30 years for all others, for starters.

But safety comes with a price tag, and condominium boards will put that price on residents — through numerous assessments and higher maintenance fees.

There's been lots of discussion about the financial pressure those assessments will put on people with fixed incomes.

That's why communication between condominium associations and residents must improve.

Shutdowns during the peak of the COVID pandemic prompted condominium boards to try more high-technology methods of communications and meetings. Some have worked better than others. For instance, some Zoom meetings were interrupted by arguments and other interference.

But "back to normal" isn't, either. While some condominium board meetings have resumed in a normal fashion, that doesn't help residents who are homebound, elderly or both, or people vulnerable to illness who don't feel comfortable sitting side by side with neighbors who aren't wearing masks. It's no way to communicate important decisions to tenants. And in most scenarios, a

meeting might attract people in the dozens but affect hundreds.

The turn of the 21st century brought new technologies — and prompted numerous local, state and national-level governments to adopt them.

For instance, meeting agendas and notes for local governments have been online for years. Years ago, many municipalities began presenting commission/council meetings on local cable channels. Even before COVID, a number of those meetings were already being presented on government websites as well. Broward County and most of its municipalities are included among those governments.

It should be no different for condominium associations.

There are different forms of online technology that can be used to make sure a meeting flows smoothly and isn't interrupted by a hacker, heckler or other disruption. There are also ways to do so for free — so yet another charge doesn't have to be passed on to residents.

In fact, the Florida Condominium Law in the Florida Statutes says that meetings by condominium associations can take place through video or other technological means. The associations should take it from there.

Especially after the reforms that took place in Tallahassee, residents have a right to know — through any means available.

Sylvia Gurinsky is a tour guide and writer who lives in Davie.

Inflation vs. recession: The lesser of two evils

Take a moment with me now. Let's look into the economic crystal ball. Do you see what I see? Do you see two fearsome enemies in two undesirable worlds potentially staring back at us?

One represents Inflation Land. Until now, it was a land of mystery and unknowns. We heard tales of those evil times told by our elders. For only those that were already adults in the 1970s and early 1980s survived the challenges presented by high inflation. We now find ourselves in Inflation Land. It has renters facing desperate decisions on where to live. And those sacrificing vacations and little pleasures in order to afford buying gas. Even the wealthiest among us are being forced to rethink their spending habits. None of us have been immune to this monster of rising prices.

The other undesirable path leads us to the Recession Realm. Many of us have scars from the last major recession around 2007-2009. Too many of us lost jobs or had family members out of work. There are memories of major companies disappearing in the dark as they went bankrupt overnight. Investors recall watching their life savings decrease to the point of questioning if there will ever be a recovery. Homeowners in droves walking away from their houses, accepting the crippling effect it had on their



Noah Rubin

credit and finances. No one was immune to the austerity forced upon us. To this day the fear of reentering the Recession Realm causes nausea and fear in most of us.

Recent pronouncements from The Federal Reserve, a key decision maker in our economic lives, state they are willing to risk sending us to Recession Realm in order to get us out of Inflation Land. Could inflation be that bad? Could a recession truly be the lesser of the two evils? What a shame we have come to this state of affairs.

Might there be a path where neither of these realities persist? Could we pull ourselves out and reenter an era of booming economic growth? Each of us can play our small part, but it's hard to think we can make the commitment. It takes a level of selflessness that might be unfair to request. Individuals would have to decrease consumer demand, by sacrificing the "need" to keep purchasing goods and services they want. This could bring down demand, which would help supply chain issues and lower input costs for companies. In turn,

companies would have to reject profits by lowering their prices now that their costs have come down. It's probably too much to ask of anyone, myself included. And it might not work anyway, as that doesn't address the money supply aspect of inflation.

And so which is the lesser of the two evils? My opinion is to avoid continued high inflation. To accept the challenge of slowing down our economy, our businesses, our hiring. Slow it down to inhibit inflation from growing into an even more disastrous monster. Continued rising of prices is the great equalizer between the have and the have nots. It has the power to reset, and at times destroys, an economy and all its citizens. For evidence, read about the inflationary crises in South America in the '80s, or U.S. in the '70s, or Europe pre-and-post World Wars. Or more simply, just picture another few years of what we are experiencing now.

Let's take this recession hit, and come back as strong as every generation of Americans have done before us.

Noah Rubin is managing director of investments at Wells Fargo Advisors in Boca Raton.

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