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Fireworks display coming back to Gator Growl

■ THE LAST DISPLAY WAS IN 2008.

By **BENJAMIN S. BRASCH**
 Alligator Contributing Writer

After a two-year drought, Gator Growl will explode back onto the scene with fireworks. The Nov. 4 show will bedazzle the sky for the first time since the Steve Miller Band played at Gator Growl in 2008.

Fireworks were added because there was a "lack of powerful environment during the show," said Aaron Heger, the producer of Gator Growl.

Responses from a survey administered in spring show students and alumni want the fireworks back, he said.

"It's the students' show, The Gator Nation's show, and we are trying to give them what they are asking for," he said. The fireworks were originally taken away from Gator Growl because with the new

multi-million-dollar video boards, "no parties felt comfortable with a fireworks presentation," Heger said. In a backward twist, lack of Growl attendance in the past few years made the fireworks possible for this year's upcoming program.

Without students and alumni filling the seats of Ben Hill Griffin Stadium, it made it possible to place the stage in the student section of the stadium facing the alumni section, where all attending Gator Growl will now sit.



Heger

Heger said he feels the stage change makes for a "more comfortable viewing environment."

With the stage in the student section and away from the new video boards, fireworks become less of a safety concern.

Gator Growl is looking into any

SEE GROWL, PAGE 5



Corey Alloe / Alligator

Bedazzled by the Boom

The City of Alachua hosts its annual Fourth of July Celebration at the Hal Brady Recreation Complex. The celebrations, which featured food, games and music drew a crowd of over 20,000 people. See photo story on page 3.

LOCAL Locals celebrate United States' 235th birthday

By **JONNY SHIVER**
 Alligator Contributing Writer

With UF's Fanfares and Fireworks out of people's Fourth of July plans, firework-seekers had to turn elsewhere to celebrate America's birthday.

In Williston, the sweet smell of kettle-cooked popcorn pierced the country air Saturday as family and friends gathered to celebrate Independence Day.

Mary Kline, executive director of the Williston Area Chamber of Commerce and 2011 citizen of the year, said about 14,000 people — 4,000 more than in 2010 — made the trek to the small-town Independence Day festival to take in live entertainment, food and — of course — a fireworks spec-

tacle.

The festival kicked off with a parade of eight floats and more than 100 horses along the historic streets of downtown Williston, followed by the main event a few miles out of town at Williston Horseman's Park. Entry to the event was free, but a \$2 parking donation was requested to benefit Williston High School's JROTC program.

Debra Jones, the Williston City Council vice president and organizer of the festival, said the event is designed to showcase the town to thousands of people who travel from the surrounding counties. It's a task she's tackled since America's bicentennial in 1976, when the festival first began.

"I can practically do it with my eyes

"It has always been my dream to get on a bus and go places. I'd love to play in different places every day."

J.R. Hernandez
 singer

closed," she said.

As the sun began to set, a thundering vocal melody rumbled across the grounds as spectators stopped and turned their focus to the entertainment pavilion. Sixteen-year-old J.R. Hernandez had taken the stage along with Kendall Loveday, 17, both of Bell, Fla.

The deep voice unfitting of the boy on

stage seemingly awakened the ghost of country music legend Johnny Cash as he performed songs such as Keith Urban's "Tonight I Wanna Cry" and Josh Turner's "Long Black Train."

Hernandez said he started playing guitar about four years ago, and he has only been singing for a little more than two years. He's always known where he wants to go, though.

"It has always been my dream to get on a bus and go places," he said. "I'd love to play in different places every day."

He plans to perform at the University of Florida during the 2011 Florida 4-H Congress event held July 25-29.

SEE FOURTH, PAGE 5

■ With the football season rapidly approaching, alligatorSports is previewing the top five issues facing the Gators this season. On tap today, we break down the offensive weapons. See Story, Page 14.



'I'll drink to that law': Ohio Statehouse adds bar

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Ohio's Capitol building in Columbus will be a place for making laws and making drinks.

The Columbus Dispatch reports the Ohio Statehouse's first full-service bar will open next month within an existing café. The bar on the building's lower level will sell beer, wine and liquor.

The Ohio agency that oversees the Statehouse says the bar will have flat-screen televisions and will be open to the public at certain times. It also will host special events and what are described as "private happy hours."

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

■ Guess who came knocking on Gainesville's door this weekend? A Jehovah's Witness District Convention was held at the O'Dome. Turn to page 8 for the story.

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visit www.alligator.org

NATIONAL

Jail inmate: Lack of porn violates US Constitution

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich. — A Michigan jail inmate says he's being subjected to cruel and unusual punishment because he can't have pornography.

In a handwritten lawsuit, 21-year-old Kyle Richards claims his civil rights are being violated at the Macomb County Jail. Richards says denying his request for erotic material subjects him to a "poor standard of living" and "sexual and sensory deprivation."

The Michigan Department of Corrections tells The Detroit News that prisons allow some pornographic material, though it's banned at the jail. The American Civil Liberties Union says prisons have a lot of leeway.

Richards was charged with bank robbery after police followed a trail of snowy footprints and dropped money to his apartment from a bank robbery scene in January in Fraser, north of Detroit.

Richards pleaded guilty. Sentencing is Aug. 2.

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mass. tavern boss happy as clam with chowder title

BOSTON — A restaurant celebrating its 25th anniversary this year also is celebrating the prestigious title of Boston's Best Chowder.

More than 200 gallons of clam chowder were ladled out to thousands of people at a contest called Chowderfest here on Sunday to determine who makes New England's signature dish of clams, cream and potatoes the best.

The winner: Clancy's Restaurant in Dennisport, on Cape Cod.

Clancy's Restaurant and tavern manager Joan Perez says a lot of passion and late-night hours by the "incredible" kitchen staff went into the chowder. She says the chowder title is especially dear to the Clancy's staff because owner Guy Erickson died in April.

The 30th annual Chowderfest was part of Boston Harborfest, a Fourth of July festival showcasing the city's heritage. Six restaurants competed.

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FORECAST

TODAY

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THURSDAY

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FRIDAY

THUNDER
STORMS
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SATURDAY

THUNDER
STORMS
90/73**Bicyclists report getting smacked by angry bird**

PENDLETON, Ore. — Bicyclists in eastern Oregon say they're getting whacked on the head by an angry bird.

Riders in Pendleton, Ore., told the East Oregonian that a male hawk is dive-bombing them because they're too close to a nest he's guarding in an old cottonwood tree.

Bicyclist Mack Temple says the bird came in from behind like a fighter plane and whacked his helmet. Another rider, Charlie Newhouse, says the attack on his helmet was "like getting hit with a baseball bat." He says the talons went in through the helmet.

Bird-watchers say the large bird is a Swainson's hawk. The riders say he's been vigilant for a few nesting seasons, but hasn't been as aggressive as this year.

Bird-watchers say the hawk will ease up once his brood learns to fly.

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pennsylvania man's banana car peels through Flint, Michigan

FLINT, Mich. — Talk about peeling out.

A Pennsylvania man cruised into Flint, Mich., this week in his giant, motorized banana and parked it on the bricks of Saginaw Street.

Some looked confused. Many snapped pictures.

Banana car owner Steve Braithwaite tells The Flint Journal he had no idea how much he was going to enjoy people laughing and smiling at him.

The Coopersburg, Pa., resident with Flint ties brought the former pickup truck back through the area, more than two years after buying the original vehicle from a junkyard in Genesee County's Argentine Township.

Braithwaite decided one day he wanted to turn a Ford F-150 into a banana and travel the

world in it.

So, what he calls his "crazy desire to do something ridiculous" became a yellow-tinged reality.

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baboon, possibly from amusement park, on run in New Jersey

JACKSON, N.J. — A baboon is on the loose in New Jersey.

Police say they received two calls Thursday afternoon from people who saw the monkey, and two more residents reported Friday morning that a baboon was walking around in their neighborhoods. But despite an ongoing search of the areas, the elusive animal remained on the lam into Friday afternoon.

Authorities say the baboon may have escaped from the nearby Six Flags Great Adventure's Monkey Jungle. The park has 150 baboons.

But park officials are not positive one of their animals is missing because they are not counted daily.

The Great Adventure baboons are fenced in and implanted with microchips. Park officials say no breaches were found in the fences around Monkey Jungle, and no signs of a potential escape have been found.

The first baboon sighting came Thursday, when a driver said the animal was near Interstate 195, and later that day a woman said a baboon was sitting on her back porch in Jackson. On Friday morning, two residents in developments not far from the park reported a baboon was in their neighborhoods.

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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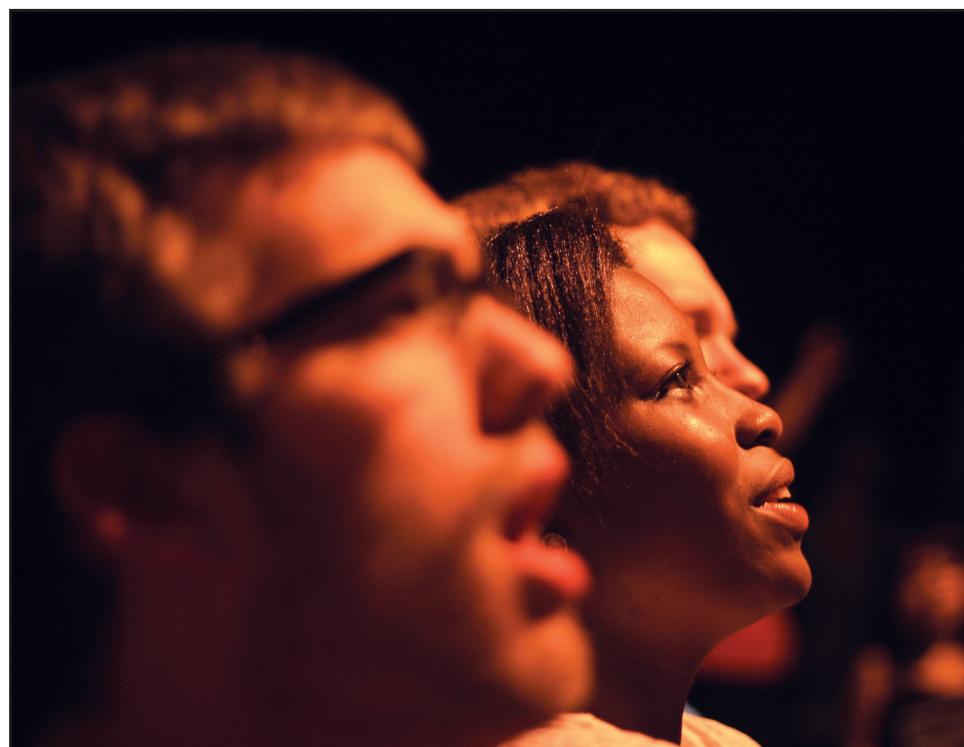


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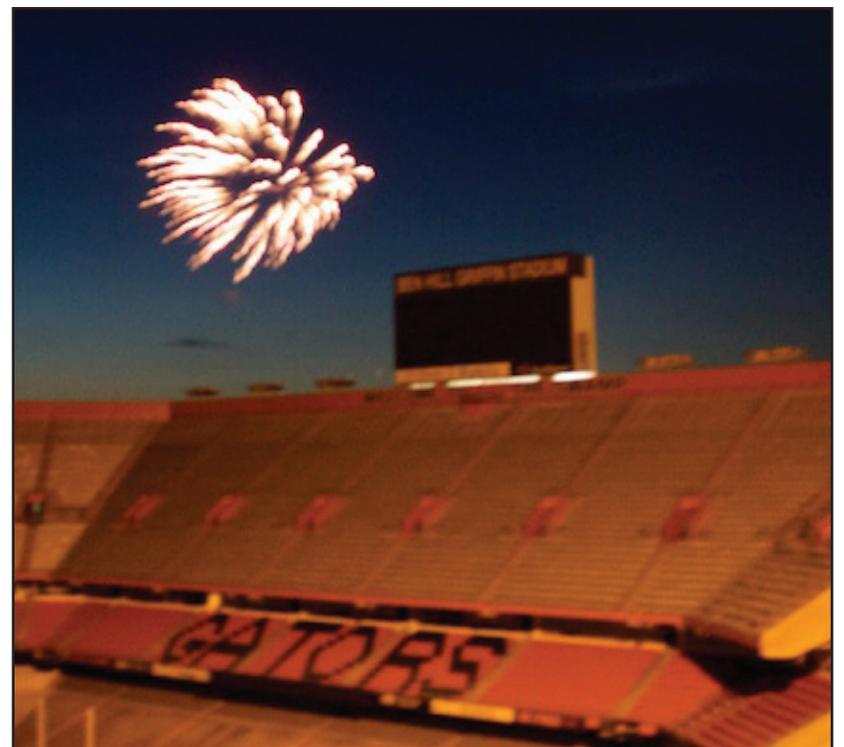


Max Reed / Alligator Staff

On the Fourth of July, fireworks were ablaze as they wowed over 20,000 spectators at the Hal Brady Recreation Complex in Alachua County. Families, friends and loved ones lounged on blankets as they listened to musical acts and watched dancing groups until the fireworks finale. Bottom right, fireworks were also set off near Ben Hill Griffin Stadium.



Aundre Larrow / Alligator Staff



Alex Catalano / Alligator



Brett Le Blanc / Alligator Staff

The Impassable Bay Fire has burned 11,305 acres of woodlands in the Osceola National Forest. The fire is now about 80 percent contained.

Smoke from wildfires plague residents' health

■ THOSE WITH ALLERGIES FEEL EFFECTS.

By **SPENCER L. REEDER**
Alligator Contributing Writer

For you, recent wildfire smoke may be generating coughing, sneezing and an unforgiving runny nose. For Kelley Addis, it's generating business.

Forget small talk about the weather. Addis' customers cut straight to the point.

"This smoke is so bad, huh?" begins a mucus-laden customer. "Can you do something about my sinuses?"

Addis, a massage therapist at Chiropractic Solutions, knows she will have a full day of facial massages to help customers cope with sinus irritation.

Even her dog, Buddy, coughs and refuses to go outside.

But people with allergies aren't the only ones facing difficulties.

Medical experts agree that wildfire smoke may also spark problems for those with lung conditions.

"Anybody who has intrinsic lung disease could be affected," said Dr. Mark Brantly from Shands HealthCare at UF.

This includes the near-10 percent of the U.S. population that has asthma, a disease that makes it difficult to breathe in certain situations.

Environmental factors are a major trigger for asthma attacks, Brantly said. Smoke in the air can cause patients to experience these attacks more often.

"These individuals have a hypersensitivity to stimuli," Brantly said.

He said he would not be surprised to see an increase of patients experiencing effects from the smoke.

Fortunately, Susan Nesbit, a nurse practitioner, has not seen a large increase in asthma patients at the UF Student Health Care Center.

"The good news is we haven't seen asthmatics lining up," Nesbit said. "People who have asthma know how to take care of themselves."

She said asthmatics can usually treat their symptoms with inhalers.

Brantly said those with allergies, like Addis, also tend to be more susceptible to the increase in smoke.

"Every time I go outside, my allergies act up," said Addis, who fights allergies like many of her customers. "It's like a mask on my face."

In fact, both Brantly and Nesbit encourage people to avoid going outside when heavy amounts of smoke are in the air.

"Avoiding the smoke is one of the most important things," Brantly **Local News** added.

If you do have to go outside during smoke flare-ups, Brantly recommended using nasal rinses or "neti pots," a teapot-like device that helps flush out the sinuses.

He said face masks are typically ineffective, and people will achieve better results using high volumes of nasal rinses.

Nesbit suggested checking the quality of air online to see what parts of the day might have a higher smoke content.

"Anything beyond clean air is not going to be good for you," Nesbit said.

Although Brantly and Nesbit agree that mild smoke should not cause any long-term damage, Gainesville's exposure to the wildfire smoke is a wait-and-see process.

"Hopefully, we'll get a good rain and wash it all down," Brantly said.

NATIONAL

Hot dog champ eats 20K calories, says doctor approves

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Hot dog eating champion Joey Chestnut estimates he eats about 20,000 calories in one shot at food competitions, but he says his doctor doesn't mind.

"In the long run I'm really not consuming that many more calories than most people," the four-time Nathan's Famous International Hot Dog Eating Contest champion said Friday at an appearance ahead of the yearly Fourth of July eat-off. "I run. I really try to stay healthy. I count my calories rigorously when I'm not doing the contests."

The San Jose, Calif., resident said that at 27, he's young enough to get away with his competitive binging for a few more years. His doctor checks his blood work and has told him not to worry as long as he gives himself time to recover, doesn't gain weight and doesn't develop diabetes, Chestnut said.

Chestnut is 6'1" and weighs 218 pounds. A physically active man of his age, weight and height should be eating 3,200 calories a day to maintain his weight, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

In 2009, the contest's reigning champion set a world record when he ate 68 hot dogs and buns in 10 minutes. Last year, he won with just 54 dogs.

On Friday, Chestnut gathered near New York's City Hall with other eaters including the presumed female front-runner, 105-pound Sonya "The Black Widow" Thomas.

This is the first year Nathan's is holding a separate eat-off for women. Sponsor Pepto Bismol has created ornate championship belts for the winners — one in mustard yellow and one in pepto pink.

Last year's competition was overshadowed by the arrest of previous six-time champion Takeru Kobayashi, who jumped on the stage after Chestnut's victory. The



AP Photo/AP Images for Pepto-Bismol

Sonya Thomas and Joey Chestnut, favorites to win this year's Nathan's Famous Fourth of July International Hot Dog Eating Contests, have a stare down after their weigh-ins during a ceremony at City Hall Park on Friday in New York.

33-year-old from Japan has refused to sign a contract with Major League Eating and so was barred from competing.

This year, Kobayashi will hold his own unofficial event

miles away on a Manhattan rooftop. He'll watch the Nathan's contest on TV and try to out-eat all the competitors.

UF makes plans for hurricane season

By **KATIE EBERLY**

Alligator Contributing Writer

UF's Office of Risk Management is working to make sure students are prepared for this hurricane season.

Kenneth Allen, the emergency management coordinator for the Office of Risk Management, said students and residents need to look at hurricane season as a big picture.

Every year, the office updates the university's risk management website.

Part of the reason students must update their contact information via ISIS, Allen said, is because the university needs to be knowledgeable about where students are living and how many students are on and off campus.

Each dorm has its own evacuation plan that's established by the Office of Risk Management. These plans are updated annually and are posted on the risk management website.

For students living on and off campus, UF's environmental and health website offers videos to students that discuss the need to make preparations for hurricane season.

Allen said students' plans should include having enough supplies to last at least 72 hours and making sure all outside appliances are brought indoors.

He said it's always better to

prepare, even if you don't think you will be affected by a hurricane.

"If you live in Florida, you have a hurricane problem," Allen said.

Peter Waylen, professor of geography at UF, said he is interested to see how this hurricane season will progress.

"We can have a busy tropical storm year and none of them come anywhere near Gainesville," he said. "People can begin to think it is not a worry, and next season one just blows right through your house. Then you remember it."

On Campus

Allen said it is important for all on-campus students to learn their hurricane plan for their dorm. He said residents should look on the housing website to see the evacuation routes and make sure they are familiar with them.

Brooke Van de Houten, a UF sophomore and a previous resident of Fletcher Hall, said she was never aware of the hurricane plan for her dorm.

"I don't feel like I need to prepare for hurricanes, because you know when they're coming," Van de Houten said.

On-campus students can find more information about hurricane safety at <http://housing.ufl.edu>. Off-campus students can find more information at <http://www.cityofgainesville.org>.

About 2,500 explosions rocked the sky

FOURTH, from page 1

The Shane Wooten Band rocked the stage in a display of country music that brought the crowd to chants of "U.S.A." and sing-alongs to original hits such as "Running With a Red-neck Crowd" and "Shovel'n Sunshine."

After climbing up the country music charts in Florida and traveling around the country, Wooten said he likes to come back to his roots.

"I grew up around here," he said. "I threw watermelons not far from here. It's where I come from."

Kline said the Shane Wooten Band was such a huge success last year that she had to have the group perform again this year. She said the band played for less than \$1,000 — a fee she describes as barely enough to cover his travel costs.

"He does it out of the goodness of his heart," she said.

Immediately following Wooten's performance came the highlight of Independence Day celebrations across the nation: fireworks.

The crowd jumped in surprise as the first explosion lit up the night sky. Children distracted by short attention spans were quickly engulfed in the magic that danced above the trees.

Screams of "that was loud" permeated every corner of the park as about 2,500 explosions rocked the warm summer sky

— a show that costs about \$8,500, Jones said.

Despite the large crowd and opportunity for the festival to go south, Pfc. James Tegart, 36, of the Williston Police Depart-

ment, said there haven't been any major problems in recent years.

"It's advertised as a family event and it stays that way," he said.



Jonny Shiver / Alligator

Emmalynn McFadden, a 17-month-old from Hudson, Fla., plays a game at the Williston Independence Day Festival on Saturday.

Maroon 5, Goo Goo Dolls are possible choices for music performance



Ani Goni-Lessan / Alligator File Photo

A Gator Growl light projection shines over the crowd during a previous homecoming celebration. The event, known as "the largest student-run pep rally in the world," will have fireworks this year.

GROWL, from page 1

hazardous areas and making sure they are taken care of, he said.

"We have never had any sorts of issues in the past, and we don't expect to now," said Brittany Roth, technical director of Gator Growl, about the fireworks.

That said, fireworks present a tricky environmental challenge for the area around the university.

"Whether it's the gunpowder used to set them off or the chemicals and metals that are in them, there is definitely a lot of particulate that enters the atmosphere."

Ashley Pennington
outreach coordinator at the UF Office of Sustainability

"Whether it's the gunpowder used to set them off or the chemicals and metals that are in them, there is definitely a lot of particulate that enters the atmosphere," said Ashley Pennington, outreach coordinator at the UF Office of Sustainability. "Some of it gets left behind, falls on the ground, falls into water bodies, and parts of the actual fireworks container that don't necessarily burn up in the air could also end up in those spaces."

By the end of Summer B, a band should be announced, said Cait Feroletto, director of public relations for Gator Growl. The band will most likely be a rock band, since the community would not want a hip-hop artist brought in, she said.

Heger said he would like most to bring in Maroon 5, though the Goo Goo Dolls would be a more likely choice.

Editorial

Game Over

Debt debate goes beyond now or next November

On CBS' "Face the Nation" this past Sunday, John Kasich, the Republican governor of Ohio, did something that, for a politician on the Sunday political talk circuit, seems anathema: say something that not only sounds human but also makes sense.

"At the end of the day," Kasich said, "you look yourself in the mirror, and you say to yourself, did I do what was right for families and for children, and if I paid a political price, so what?...There's too much thinking about your party, yourself. It cannot be ideological....The people in Washington have got to put aside, you know, these, all this political consideration and start thinking about how they're going to feel about themselves when they leave."

What would drive a Republican governor in a critical election swing state that boasts the most powerful Republican lawmaker in Congress to make such a plea to the political parties to hold their cannon fire? He, like the rest of us, only has about 14.294 trillion reasons. That figure, of course, refers to the debt ceiling that appears to be on the verge of caving us all in if Congress cannot reach a deal by Aug. 2.

Make no mistake, this isn't like the NFL and (if you noticed) NBA lockouts that infest the ESPN ticker; this is far, far more serious. This fiasco, if not solved, has the power to shred America's pocketbook. For a nation that has already been battered by economic malaise, this could be the chair shot that leaves us down for the count. w

We now call upon those on Capitol Hill to not treat this as a political game of chicken as the livelihoods of millions of Americans hang in the balance. They are not simply rhetorical pawns that can be moved around the board at will; they are the king you have been sworn to protect. To do otherwise would be, for the lack of a better word, chickenshit.

Anyone can be a patriot

American Atheists, a more-than-40-year-old organization that advocates for the civil liberties of atheists and the complete separation of church and state, flew aerial banners over several public locations across the country Monday that read phrases such as "God-LESS America" or "Atheism is Patriotic." At beaches and parks in 26 states, people saw these words fly across the sky.

According to a spokesman for the organization who was quoted in several news articles, the point was simple: Atheists can be proud patriots just as much as theists can.

News reports quoted pilots who were afraid to fly the message because they feared for their lives or personal relationships. Some of them were atheists.

If there is that much fear

among atheists for expressing their beliefs, then they have a point.

While this display of secularism may upset many, part of America's ideals rests in the freedom to believe — or not believe — any god. Atheism is just as much of a belief system as theism. Either way, religious beliefs have nothing to do with loyalty to one's country.

However, we do think insinuating that the idea of atheism is patriotic, as opposed to theism, is a bit ill-conceived.

It's fine for atheists to make a point about their loyalty to the country. But it doesn't help to try to jackhammer that into people in a bumper-sticker-slogan way — especially on the Fourth of July.

On a day when we should be remembering everything that unifies us, divisive issues should be put aside.

the independent florida
alligator

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Opinions

ALLIGATOR
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Column

U.S. needs a new red-headed stepchild

I love America, and so should you.

So many people are ungrateful for American opportunities, such as having the very opportunity to hate your own country if you so desire. Try that in Saudi Arabia; I dare you.

Yes, there are problems with the United States, and there are things that must be fixed. But maybe the problem isn't only with government and infrastructure. Maybe it has to do with morale and mindset. Who is cheering us on? Definitely not other countries. And now not even our own citizens?

In my opinion, one of the biggest problems is that it is no longer the 1980s.

Back then, we had a better opponent to hate: those godless, morally dead Soviets. It was like an international paper-view fight: democracy vs. communism, temperate climate vs. frozen tundra, Rocky Balboa vs. Ivan Drago. They were just so easy to hate.

Now our major enemies are terrorist factions in the Middle East that are often centered on structured religious bias.

Ugh.

As for a suitable enemy, they simply aren't relatable. Their accents simply aren't as hilarious, and we have no major sports competition with them.

That is the root of our problems, I think.

Part of it lies in the current nonexistence of American dominance in international sports. We can't even beat Mexico in soccer.

Why don't we form international competitions with the sports we are actually good at? I am begging for an International Football League. Please, please, please!

I don't expect the games to be entertaining. In fact, I don't want them to be. I just want them to effectively demonstrate our country's dominance.

I want games where America's score reaches triple digits — in the championship finals. I want to see 10 points

The views expressed here are not necessarily those of the Alligator.



Shea Ford
letters@alligator.org

gained by forcing five safeties.

Maybe it's because we used to be the underdogs, and now we're not. Now we're a faltering power.

Well, since the economy is tanking again, this is a good time. We can be underdogs once again.

And rather than being a faltering power, we can dip really quickly and then have a surge like the 1980s

times two.

In "Rocky IV," Dolph Lundgren became the culmination of all Soviet frustration in one Ivan Drago.

Only Rocky Balboa could quell the anger of a crowd of Soviets and teach us all about the necessity of love and respect in warfare, directing us toward eventual peace as the result of a 15-round slugfest.

Our generation's version of terrorists couldn't sit still in a room to watch a boxing match without strapping at least one or two children with bombs, enticing them with promises of virgins and cheesy poofs.

So it comes down to honor. Whatever happened to honorable combat? Scorpion shows Sub-Zero more respect. At least he waits to perform a demoralizing fatality on an opposing contestant until after an announcer declares, "Finish him."

Nowadays, terrorists kidnap our innocent civilians (or news reporters) and torture them in ways Mortal Kombat creators study for months to try to even generate a fraction of gore that severe.

So, America, I love you to death, but I am putting you on the spot. We need to tone it down for a couple years so you can come back with a vengeance, '80s style. Oh, and we need to be better at international sports.

Either way, I really miss the Soviet Union.

Shea Ford is a psychology senior at UF. His column appears on Tuesdays.

Reader response

Today's question: Will Congress reach a deal on the debt limit by Aug. 2?

Monday's question: Is Casey Anthony guilty?

88% YES

12% NO

184 TOTAL VOTES

Vote or post a message at www.alligator.org

Column

Lost in the sauce: getting bug-eyed in the opium jungles

My Thai friend Sith starts a lot of sentences with "Maybe America have, maybe America no have." Usually, the subject was strange food. This time the subject was a drug.

"Fin? I don't know what you're talking about. America might have it. I just don't know what you mean," I say. "How do you get high with it? Do you eat it, snort it or smoke it?"

"Same, same as pot. You smoke it."

"Tell me what it looks like, Sith."

"It's black, very soft. You smoke little, you get too much dinky-dow."

"Does it make you pass out and dream?"

"Yes. It number one high. Only Papa San smoke fin; young people no can do."

■ ■ ■

"Downtown, I'll tell you where to go."

"Opium? No shit, Jose," I say. "What's it like?"

"It's out of sight. Try it. It cost two baht."

Fifty cents to experience a new high — something I'll never get to try in the States. No one from the old neighborhood ever smoked opium. Among my G.I. friends, only Jose seems to know anything about it. Fifty cents is a bargain. Why the hell not?

It's the "swinging 1960s" in the States, and only the young and hip smoke dope.

Thailand's just the opposite.

Because Papa San's too old to contribute to the family structure, he squats in a hooch and sells pot or opium. Besides easing whatever ailments he might have accumulated over his long life, it brings in a few bucks. It's a cheap, productive retirement system.

Nakhon Phanom looks like a town out of a Hollywood Western. Wooden, elevated sidewalks divide the unpaved clay streets from the dilapidated structures. The town reserves concrete-block construction for jewelry stores, tailors and teak shops.

The trail that leads me to Papa San's doorway is even dustier and ruttier than the two-lane dirt road that leads to town.

"You can't miss the hooch," Jose says. "It's the only one on stilts, about 100 yards from the corner."

■ ■ ■

I enter the hooch to find a toothless old man sitting, legs crossed, alone on the floor.

"Pom ow soop fin," I tell him in Thai.

He smiles, gives a knowing nod, and then holds out his hand. I decorate his palm with the two baht tariff.

A young girl enters the room, takes the 50 cents and re-



Bill O'Connor
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turns with a bamboo bong. The old man breaks out a box of kitchen matches, then removes a small ball of aluminum foil. Once unfolded, it exposes a black orb the size of a wine cork.

Papa San's machete hacks off a small piece. He returns the remains to its womb. He chops the black tar and places a small portion into the bong's bowl. His lips envelop the pipe. He inhales deeply. His neck strains from holding down the smoke.

He passes the bong to me. I hold the kitchen match over the bowl and inhale. Four or five passes later a numbness engulfs my mind and body. I need to lie down. The sensation doesn't overwhelm me, so I start to relax. I'm actually relieved it's not as pleasurable as sex or my first time on a roller coaster, just another high, nothing dramatic. Eventually, I'm able to sit up. Papa San offers me another hit. I figure one or two more for the road.

I sit facing him as he relights the bong. He takes a hit, but only a hint of smoke exits his mouth. He tries again. The opium really hits me now. I just want to lie back down.

Then an epiphany: I'm two blocks from town. I'll head for a massage parlor. Lying naked while a pretty girl kneads my muscles seems like a pleasant way to experience the effects of opium. If I fall asleep, so what? I'll give her \$5 instead of the \$2.50 it usually costs for the hour. When the massage is over, she'll wake me, then give me my "happy ending." Then she'll powder me and open me an ice-cold beer.

To me, everything he does seems contrived, foggy, almost as if he's in slow motion.

The old man lights the bowl again and exhales a whisper of smoke. His patience exhausted, he raises the bamboo pipe shoulder high and slams it loudly on the floor of the hut. The blow acts like a plunger that has unclogged a toilet as thousands of giant red ants cascade out of the pipe and stampede across the floor.

They swarm my legs and ankles. I leap up howling. My ankles are on fire.

The old man is in the same predicament, but he acts like I'm nuts. The army of ants runs unrestrained over his feet, legs and onto his bare chest. The more I scream the harder he laughs. I flee to the street, but I can't run.

Instead, I walk and think. Was he laughing because he was high? Was he laughing at me? Or did he find it absurd that white men are afraid of ants? America sent a half a million soldiers to occupy a land that's full of them.

While walking the two blocks to the massage parlor, I obsess about Asia's bugs. I've never seen anything like them. They are as big as Buicks.

Rice bugs are the Thai version of great American cockroaches, but Christ are they enormous! Centipedes look like cigars,

and the ants that just ran over me should have worn license plates.

Yet through it all, the old man never moved.

Sweat pours down my face as I slug along this unending path. Two short blocks to town, but my legs feel like I'm crossing the Himalayas.

An old woman parades past me shuffling alongside her yak. The few teeth she has are yellow from beetle nut. My eyes rivet to the yak.

I feel like I'm part of a bizarre painting.

I must focus on the massage parlor's location. If I miss the turn for town, I could be lost on this endless road for the rest of my life.

I should see buildings when I turn left at the end of this road. What if I don't? Who'll find me in the jungle? I could die on this road.

My head is killing me. This was a big mistake. The sun is brutal. Maybe I should hail it and ride to town.

"Relax, stupid," I tell myself, "the town's nearby."

The sun's heat makes my legs leaden. Where the f**k is this town? What if I don't see another one?

I hope I didn't walk the wrong way. If I did, I'll never find it. I'll just walk and walk. Just a few more steps, focus, concentrate, don't miss the turn, be there, be there.

There it is. Thank Christ. Calm down, asshole, you've been high before. Relax.

Up this flight of stairs and all will be well. Get a cold beer and spend some time indoors. I'll be fine. Calm down, just up these stairs and open the door.

A wave of cool air revives me.

Fans push stale air around the five or six couches that the girls lounge on. I need a beer, quick.

Sitting on the leather sofa, slugging a cold Sing-Hai, I start to settle down. Wow, I was out of control. Was it the opium, the heat or a combination of both? Those f*****g ants bummed me out. Never again combine sun and opium. Jose should have warned me. Next time, I go at night.

I pick a girl and leave for her cubicle. As she leads me down the corridor, I hug my beer like a security blanket. She opens the door. The 8-foot-by-6-foot room contains a massage table, a bathtub and a hook. I use the hook for my clothes, while she fills the tub.

All is better. She rubs the soapy sponge across my body. I reflect on the last three hours. I'm mystified. I examine my feet, hands and thighs, no welts, no bites, no marks of any kind. Smooth as a marble statue.

One of us, either the old man or me, is not quite as cool as I thought.

Bill O'Connor is a Vietnam veteran, former Bronx firefighter and pub and restaurant owner. O'Connor is currently a journalism major at UF and a standup comic. The irreverent and acerbic O'Connor performs free standup around Gainesville.

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Jehovah's Witnesses knock on O'Dome's doors

■ NEARLY 7,000 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE EVENT.

By **CHRIS BOOGAR**

Alligator Contributing Writer

Jehovah's Witnesses probably didn't show up on your doorstep this weekend.

Instead, they came together to discuss verses from the Bible, get baptized, enjoy full-costume dramas and some "Red Light, Green Light," a game the children played during a break as the Jehovah's Witness District Convention hosted 6,905 people from 47 congregations at the O'Connell Center from Friday to Sunday.

Though UF officials either declined comment or didn't have information about the economic impact, the city that surrounds it has embraced the religious convention, said Nick Belloit, a volunteer in news services from Jacksonville.

The theme for the meeting was "Let God's Kingdom Come," which focused on aspects of the Lord's Prayer. The theme was chosen by the international headquarters.

"Witnesses believe God's Kingdom is a real government in Heaven," Belloit said, "poised to take active control of Earth's management."

There is no clergy for Jehovah's Witnesses, which allows for different viewpoints at meetings.

There were 47 speakers at the meeting, Belloit said.

There was not a collection plate passed around at the District Convention and there never is, he said.

"The biggest thing we do is preach," he said.

It doesn't matter, he added, if it is at a door or in front of thousands at a meeting.

"Volunteers and voluntary contributions are the two keys," he said.

There were cardboard boxes set up for contributions, but admission was free.

The voluntary contributions helped to pay to rent out the O'Connell Center, and Jehovah's Witness workers at the event were volunteers.

Thirty-two Jehovah's Witnesses were baptized on Saturday's portion of the event.

The baptism pool, which was about 10 feet by 6 feet with seven stairs leading to the edge, was just deep enough for someone to help the person submerge in the water to complete the baptism.

To become baptized, Jehovah's Witnesses must have knowledge of what the Bible teaches, engage in public preaching and change their ways to act as the Bible says, Belloit said.

Those who wish to be baptized have the opportunity to do so three times a year, at the District Convention, the Circuit Assembly or Special Assembly.

Between May and September, there are 381 conventions held in 98 cities across America.

There will be another Jehovah's Witness District Convention with the same theme beginning July 29 at the O'Connell Center.

The events will have the same focus as this past weekend's District Convention.

The focus of the July 29 session will be on Matthew 6:10

from the Bible, a declaration that God's Kingdom is a real government.

The theme for July 30 will be "Keep On... Seeking First the Kingdom and His Righteousness," based on Matthew 6:33.

The weekend will conclude July 31 with talks about 2 Peter 1:11.

According to statistics provided by the Jehovah's Witnesses, there are more than 7.5 million Jehovah's Witnesses worldwide and an expected 1.7 million people in attendance for all of the District Conventions across the country.

The official journal of Jehovah's Witnesses is The Watchtower. It has a circulation of 42.1 million copies and is available in 188 languages, giving the people in more than 107,000 congregations the ability to read it.

Clinton McFadden, 55, a Jacksonville resident who has been a practicing Jehovah's Witness for his whole life, said the convention was similar to his meetings he attends every week at his Kingdom Hall, which is the name the group uses to refer to its places of worship.

The only difference here, he said, was having about 6,900 people in attendance.

Jehovah's Witnesses believe people do not go to hell, McFadden said. He said it's made up.

The religious group also believes that 144,000 people will go to heaven, and the rest of humankind will live on Earth under the previously mentioned government.

But what is the biggest difference between Jehovah's Witness and other religions, at least to McFadden?

"It's the truth," he said.



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Upcoming Events!

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UFPA 24-HOUR FILM COMPETITION Come watch and enjoy the creativity of your peers! July 8, 5 PM–July 9, 5 PM, Squitieri Studio Theatre (located off the Main Lobby of the Phillips Center), Free. Info: Derek Wohlust, dwohlust@performingarts.ufl.edu.

LECTURE: THE MIND'S EYE, 50 YEARS OF PHOTOGRAPHY BY JERRY UELSMANN

Uelsmann will be discussing his current exhibition in the Harn. Sun., July 10, 3 PM–5 PM, Chandler Auditorium, Harn Museum of Art, Free. Info: (352) 392-9826. Expected high attendance; be sure and come early!

AN EVENING OF IMPROV UF School of Theatre + Dance presents an evening of laugh-out-loud comedy featuring students of the Improvisation of Social and Political Issues course. July 14–16, 7:30–9:30 PM, Constans Theatre, \$13–\$17. University Box Office: (352) 392-1653.

Free Exhibitions

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2 For Rent unfurnished

College Manor Studios from \$505
Unlimited Utilities! Call 372-7111
8-15-11-25-2



Gainesville Place Apartments
Student friendly 4/4's
Only \$409 per person!
www.GainesvillePlace.com
8-15-25-2

Action Real Estate Services
Houses to Condos
1-4 BR, Starting at \$450
www.action-realtors.com
352-331-1133 ext 114
8-15-11-25-2

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Visa and Mastercard accepted.

Studios starting at \$509
Across from UF
Call 352-371-7777
8-15-11-25-2

Clean, Quiet 1 & 2 BR apts.
Off SW 20th Ave. \$425 to \$545. Sorry, no pets, or Section 8. Call 335-7066 for info.
8-15-11-25-2

AVAILABLE NOW & FALL
●Studio \$410 ●1BRs \$425-495
●2BR/1.5BA, W/D \$580
Gore Rabell Real Estate 378-1387
www.Gore-Rabell.com 8-15-11-25-2

!! LIVE LIFE ON THE BOARDWALK !!
● 1/1 Flats & Cool Lofts!
● 2/2's and 3/2's * Pets Loved!
● Pools * Cardio * Tanning * Tennis
● Washer/Dryers * HUGE Floor Plans!
● 377-7401 * biketouf.com
8-15-11-25-2

BRIDGELIGHT

1 BR Loft Style starting at \$515 mo.
M-F 1-6 Sat. 10-2.
3006 SW 23rd St. 377-5221
www.bridgelightapts.com
Text: bridgelight@65374
8-15-11-25-2

3/2 House Available Immediately
Near Law School, Shopping, Restaurants
Free UF Parking!
352.371.7777 8-15-11-25-2

Sun Bay & Sun Key
1.1 from 475
2.1 from 550
Walk to campus;
8 short minutes on the bus
pet friendly!
full time grads
no deposit for 1.1
352.376.6720
352.376.7041
8-15-11-25-2

Sun Harbor
2.1.5 townhome
600 - 675
1 month free on 650.
8 minutes to campus on bus;
walk to campus
pet friendly
352.376.7041 or
352.376.6720
8-15-11-25-2

Greenwich Green
2/2 for \$829
Patio and Storage Closet
Call 352-372-8100
8-15-11-25-1

2 For Rent unfurnished

Spacious 1, 2, & 3br starting at \$495. Many floor plans, some with enclosed patios or balconies. Italian tile, bedrooms carpeted. DW, W/D hook-ups, verticals, CH/AC. Near bus route, some walk to UF. Call 352-332-7700 8-15-11-25-2

SECTION 8 HOUSING ACCEPTED
Newly remodeled 2 & 3 BDs
Quiet neighborhood. Lots of upgrades.
Free 32" HD Plasma TV for new Sec 8 lease.
Must see! Call 332-7700 8-15-11-25-2

WALK TO UF & MIDTOWN
3 & 4BR HOUSES from \$1375/mo. Free off-street parking, all appliances incl W/D, DW. Rent directly from owner. Special terms avail. dalyproperties.com or 359-3341 7-14-11-73-2

HISTORIC APTS Downtown Pleasant St Historic District. 1-3BRs avail now & fall. Ceiling fans, porches, wd flrs, some w/ W/D. ALSO we have 2 & 3BR homes. Cats ok, no dogs. 1st, last, sec. aprleve@aol.com 538-1550 7-28-11-55-2

SPACIOUS 2BR/2BA APT.
Convenient location to Shands, UF & Butler Plaza. Asking \$750/mo. Please call Ketty 305-332-6566. yttek@hotmail.com 7-28-11-47-2

2BR/1BA, 1/2 month free. \$380-\$425/mo. Mobile home w/ central AC/heat, shaded lot. Incl water, - mobile home lot \$260/mo 352-376-5887 8-15-25-2

●NW 39 Ave Huge 3BR/1.5BA apt, w/lft Tile flr & nice carpet. Bright, wdlike flr \$800
●2BR/1.5BA, some w/woodlike flr. All w/new BR carpet. \$590-625. Gated patio, trees, flood lts. Part utils pd. Bus rte. 373-8310, 219-3937 7-7-42-2

*******STUDENTS*******
1,2,3 and 4 bedroom houses and apartments available for August. All close to campus. Most pets accepted. Call 870-2760. 8-15-11-25-2

Renting Now and for Fall!!
We have REAL 1/1s
3 blocks to UF - GATORNEST
575 sq ft, \$550
300 NW 18th Street
4 blocks to UF - GATORSIDE
400 sq ft, only \$450!
1600 NW 4th Avenue
BIKE to UF - CENTERPOINT
530 sq ft, only \$450!
1220 NW 12th Street
No application fee, most pets ok.
For info call E.F.N. Properties, 352-371-3636 or visit our website at www.efnproperties.com
8-15-10-25-2

3bedroom \$509/person
All inclusive townhome with everything included! Utilities, cable, internet, furniture & washer/dryer. The Laurels Apts. Call now: 352-335-4455 8-15-11-25-2

STILL SEARCHING?



Call 352-375-7104 today!
trend4rent.com
8-15-25-25

PET'S PARADISE
\$390 - \$650. No app or pet fee. 1 & 2BR, privacy fenced. SW. 352-331-2099 4-05-11-10-2

TOP QUALITY - GREAT LOCATIONS
Upscale, 1 & 2 BR apts. 1 block to UF campus - on N & E sides. Year lease, beginning summer or fall. Sorry, no pets. K & M Properties. 372-1509 8-15-11-25-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

GREAT LOCATION - GREAT PRICE
2BR/1BA apts on Univ Ave across from UF Stadium & O'Dome. Modern, all elec, cent H/AC, \$600/mo K&M Properties 372-1509 8-15-11-25-2

WWW.BELLAPROPERTIES.NET

Palm Villas - luxury graduate apartments in a small and quiet complex. 2 BR/2 BA available for \$465 per BR. Call to tour 335-5424 8-15-11-25-2.

WALK TO UF. START SUMMER OR FALL

●Studios \$425--\$400●1BR/1BA \$550-\$450
●2BR \$850-\$800 1 yr lease, SD, NS, NP.
Call/Text 352-870-7256 gvl32601@gmail.com 7-28-11-22-2

Walk or Bike to Campus!
1,2,3,4 & 5 BR houses & condos available. Campus Realty 352-692-3800
rentals.campusrealtygroup.com 7-28-11-34-2

Clean small efficiency Quiet.Wash/dry on prem.Wat/Sew incl NS No Pets.1/2m south UF/Shands,2 bus routes.\$399/m.Same furnished \$410/m 352-262-2871 Owner/agent 8-2-11-30-2

Post Apartments - 352 376 0080. 352 284 3873. postj@bellsouth.net
Clean, spacious, private apts. for calm, quiet, stable, mature persons.
●Duckpond duplex - 920 NE 6th Ave. \$700 Carport, large yard, big trees, burglar bars, WDH, CHA, carpet.
●1808 - 1830 NW 10th St. - 1 and 2 bedrooms. \$500-\$650. Private patio with lock gate, large yard, big trees, carpet.
●1700 SW 16th Ct. - 1 and 2 br Condos \$550 - \$650 1 block from Shands 8-15-11-25-2

Pinnacle Point large 2 bedroom townhouse just minutes from UF & Butler Plaza. All of our units are newly refurbished with all new appliances, tile, carpet, paint, light fixtures and more! Call today for specials 352-373-7578 8-15-11-25-2

LUXURY DOWNTOWN CONDO!
Stylish City living in Regent's Park
Beautiful, huge and quiet!
Two story, 3BR/2.5 bath, w/garage
Avail in Aug @ \$1500/mo.
Call Union Properties at 373-7578.
8-15-11-25-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

3BR/1BA house available August in SW Gainesville. Central heat/AC, hardwood/ tile floors, washer/dryer, carport, Florida room, private fenced backyard with patio, pet-friendly. \$900/month. ph. 352-318-5453 7-14-11-18-2

REDUCED AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY
2 large rooms w/private baths. 10 min to UF. Large home, quiet neighborhood. \$475/mo + utils per room. Cable, W/D, hardwood floors. 5 mins to busline. Call 352-284-0979 8-31-11-32-2

1/1 w/ private gated court yard in small quiet complex. Prefect for the serious student or quiet professional small pets ok. \$450 mnth call: 352 377-2150 7-21-11-18-2

1/1 Campus Edge
3rd floor, very calm. Washer, dryer, dishwasher, stove, fridge, microwave, overlooking the pool, gym. \$699/m, Avail July 352-262-2871 Owner Agent 7-14-11-16-2

●Charming 2BR 1 BA Cottage Blocks to UF
2703 NW 2nd Ave. Central h/a, laundry with w/d, large private screened porch. No Pets, Avail August. Granddaddy oaks. \$875/mo. 1st last \$500 security. 352-332-5836 7-28-11-20-2

3BR/3BA Apartment
Internet & Cable Included
Available August 4th
www.TheLandingsUF.com
352-336-3838!
8-15-21-2

Very nice Rockwood Villas Townhouse
3/3 for only \$900.00/month-Great deal!
Large bedrooms, updated appliances, Washer/dryer, 2 pools, lots of parking
Call Jared at (941) 737-6997 7-28-11-18-2

Great 3/2 House w/crpt & w/d (1100sqft)
Rent \$1050/month with lease
Pets allowed :) Available June 1st
Contact Kathryn: kesamai@gmail.com
4102 NW 21st Terrace Gville, FL 32608
7-14-14-2

2BR/1BA APARTMENT
7129 SW 45th Place. \$525/mo
No pets. Call Geri 352-538-1114
8-4-11-20-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

HUGE 4BR/2BA HOUSE 2 blks from UF/ Sorority Row/Norman Hall/Shands area dining rm, remodeled baths, cent AC/heat, wd flrs, W/D, DW, pets maybe, parking! Avail Aug 16th - 1 yr. \$2175 352-665-8166 lv mssg 8-15-11-21-2

LARGE 4BR/2BA HOUSE. Extremely Nice, bike to UF, central AC/heat, W/D, dishwasher, ice, garage, fenced yard, landscaped. No pets. Avail Aug 16th - 1 year. \$1590/mo. 352-665-8166 lv mssg 8-15-11-21-2

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Large 1, 2 & 3 bdrm floor plans starting at \$635. Washer/Dryer, Fitness Center, Tennis Court, Swimming Pool, Sauna etc.
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www.lakewoodvillas.com
text (Lakewood)@65586
8-15-11-20-2

SPYGLASS

Individual Leases. Furniture Pkgs. incl. Washer/Dryer, FREE Hi-Speed internet. Rates start at \$399. Every unit an end unit.
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www.spyglassapts.com
text (spyglass) 65586
8-15-11-20-2

UPPER WESTSIDE / NANTUCKET

1 & 2 bdrm Luxury Apts. Granite counters. Parking avail. Walk to campus & stadium.
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upperwestside@cmcapt.com
text: upperwestside@65374
8-15-11-20-2

2/2 ROCKWOOD VILLAS, \$750, NEAR MALL & UF. LOTS OF PARKING, CORNER UNIT, HAS OWN W+D D.AGUIRRE. AZOCAR@GMAIL.COM OR 347.878.9072 AVAILABLE JULY 1. 7-5-11-10-2

SCRABBLE® BRAND [G₂] [R₁] [A₁] [M₃] [S₁]

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E ₁	E ₁	U ₁	R ₁	N ₁	N ₁	V ₄	Double Word Score RACK 1
A ₁	E ₁	I ₁	N ₁	L ₁	N ₁	H ₄	RACK 2
A ₁	A ₁	E ₁	G ₂	N ₁	R ₁	R ₁	RACK 3
E ₁	E ₁	I ₁	T ₁	N ₁	L ₁	V ₄	3rd Letter Triple RACK 4

PAR SCORE 140-150
BEST SCORE 199

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. Finally, 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, 4th Edition. **SOLUTION TOMORROW**

For more information on books, clubs, tournaments and the school program go to www.scrabble-assoc.com or call the National SCRABBLE® Association (631) 477-0033.

07-05

Sports QUIZ
by Chris Richcreek

- Since the last Triple Crown winner (1967), how many major-league baseball players have led a league in batting average and RBIs for a season?
- How many seasons did Babe Ruth end up with more runs scored than games played (minimum of 140 games)?
- How many college football teams was Paul "Bear" Bryant the head coach of in his career?
- Who was the last repeat winner before Toronto's Jose Calderon (2007-09) in assist/turnover ratio for a season?
- Name the NHL player who holds the record for best plus-minus mark for a season.
- Who is both the youngest (16) and the oldest (38) woman to score a goal for USA Soccer?
- When was the last time a horse in the No. 1 post position at the Kentucky Derby won the race?

Answers

- Three — Joe Torre (1971), Todd Helton (2000) and Matt Holiday (2007).
- Six — 1920, '21, '27, '28, '30, '31.
- Four - Maryland (1945), Kentucky (1946-53), Texas A&M (1954-57) and Alabama (1958-82).
- Muggsy Bogues (1993-94 and 94-95).
- Boston's Bobby Orr was a plus-124 in 1970-71.
- Kristine Lilly.
- It was Ferdinand in 1986.

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2 For Rent unfurnished

FALL RENTAL
4.5,6+ Bdrm Houses for Rent
Call Eric @ 352-682-7424
Ask abt Family Discounts
Immediate Move-In Available
8-15-11-17-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

GREAT VALUE - WOODLAND TERRACE
Off SW 34th St b/t Archer & Williston Rd.
Water, sewer, garbage provided.
Updated units, private courtyards, RTS stop
1BR \$445, 2 BR \$545. 352-335-0420 8-31-11-24-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

2 bed/1.5 bath condo with walk-in closet,
in unit W/D, screened in porch, and pool on
property. RTS buses 9, 35, 36, later gator B,
and 1 game day bus pick up directly in front.
pets are allowed. neighborhood is quiet and
neighbors are friendly. (904) 553-8225
7-28-11-10-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

Available Now. 4BR/2BA very nice house.
Quiet area between UF and Santa Fe. Game
room, W/D provided. Fenced backyard, pets
ok. 1330 NW 39th St. \$1200/mo. Call 352-
339-2342 Other houses available 7-14-11-
5-2

2 For Rent unfurnished

6/2, House only 8 blocks to UF
3000SF, W/D, Central AC, Atriums,
Plenty of parking \$2200/mo
352-375-8256
8-15-10-2

3240 NW 41st Ave. On bus rte. 3BR/1BA
house. Quiet neighborhood, W/D, DW, cent
A/C, screened porch, jacuzzi tub, fenced
yard, storage unit, pet friendly. Avail 8/1.
\$1000/mo. 1st + security neg. 407-509-4574
7-28-11-14-2

Quiet spacious 2 bed 1 bath house on large
lot, glassed porch, washer/dryer hookup, pet
fee, lease \$750 available Aug 1
1301 NW 8th St call 352 475 1586 7-5-4-2

2BR/2B \$700. Sparrow Condominiums.
Spacious home-like condo. Fenced-in mini
backyard. Peaceful. Nice Amenities. 1 Mile
from Oaks Mall, 5-miles from UF, on bus line
75. Call Jason 352-283-0240 7-28-11-10-2

MUST SEE ● VERY NICE ● QUIET 1BR
Custom built in-law suite.
Close to all. Has it all. W/D, all utils incl +
cable. \$750/mo. Please call 278-8381 7-28-
11-9-2

Sorority Row Area
1/1 apt 3 blocks to UF
HW floors, Huge Rooms, \$750/mo
352-375-8256
8-15-10-2

SERENOLA PINES

Off SW 34th St b/t Archer & Williston Rd.
Updated units, private courtyards, full W/D
avail. 1BR \$515, 2BR \$595 352-335-0420
8-31-11-24-2

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HUGE 2&3 BRs less than 1 mi to UF.
H2O, gas, full sz W/D included.
Call for prices on leases signed by Jul 8
COUNTRY VILLAGE 373.2700
7-7-11-4-2

UPGRADED 2 BDRM w/ 1BA. Eat in kit w/
peninsula & like new kit appliances, laundry
rm w/W/D, bath w/custom vanity, lighting,
large liv.rm. One master bdrm w/ceiling fan,
2nd bdrm also w/ceiling fan. Within 1 1/2 mi.
of Shands, UF, Butler Plaza on bus rt. Within
4 unit complex. \$650/mo. Sorry no pets. Call
1-727-423-9463 7-14-11-5-2

UPGRADED 2/2 CONDO ON UF BUS
ROUTE 16 to UF or easy 4.5mi bike ride to
Norman Hall area; Includes tile throughout w/
new washer/dryer, refrigerator & dishwasher.
Located in cozy community w/ 2 swimming
pools & 24hr Fitness Ctr!! \$700/mo + util.
Contact stephaniemarie1103@gmail.com
7-14-4-2

3 Subleases

50\$ WalMart card if you Sublease at the
Polos 2BR/2Bath outside porch washer-dryer
3 pools, 1 hot tub, free cable/internet 8/1/11,
available 7/1/11 call Katie 352-283-9723
\$859 monthly 7-14-11-5-3

4 Roommates

Roommate Matching HERE
Oxford Manor 377-2777
The Landings 336-3838
The Laurels 335-4455
Greenwich Green 372-8100
Hidden Lake 374-3866
8-15-25-4

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MONTH, UTILITIES INCLUDED, NO MOVE
IN COST. WE DO SEMESTER LEASING,
Frances 352-375-8787 Rent Florida Realty
9-26-11-78-4

Walk to UF from a 4bd/2ba updated NW
house. Male or female. No pets/smoking.
Free off-street parking \$450/mo. Includes all
utilities, wifi, security system, Available 8/1.
727-726-2915 7-7-11-42-4

STUDENTS NEEDED - TOWNHOUSE
W/D, clubhouse, pool, gated, parking, on bus
route. \$350/mo + utils per room. Call 727-
729-1561 7-28-11-35-4

\$350 moves you in! No deposit or last months
rent. Mature male student to share furnished
4/2. FR, LR, W/D, maid service, yrd man, 5
min from UF, new kitchen, big yard. No pets,
non-smoker. (813) 362-7729 or 362-7881
7-12-11-13-4

3BR/3BA avail now in 4BR/4BA Countryside
condo. \$435/mo/room - utils incl.
Direct bus to UF 3 mis. Pool, exercise room,
nicely furn. 3rd Flr. W/D, wireless.
Flo 352-357-9656, or 352-636-4814
7-28-11-18-4

Grad student looking for female students
in fully furnished 4/4 condo at Countryside.
\$425/month. Includes cable/internet, utilities,
W/D. On 2 bus routes. Contact Megan 727-
542-8155. 7-14-11-11-4

Looking for 4 UF students to rent furnished
4/4 student condo at Countryside at the
University. W/D, pool, no pets, on bus rt, 1.5
mi from UF. 1st floor. Ready Aug 1st. \$400/
mo/rm. Call 386-295-7929 or 386-672-6969
7-14-11-11-4

Grad student looking for female roommate
who is clean and studious. Windsor Park
furnished condo - 3/3, own bed/bath, on
bus stop close to UF. Pool, hot tub, tennis,
gym, \$375/mo + 1/3 utilities. 407-361-1154.
6-30-11-6-4

I am looking for a male roommate who is
very nice and easy to get along with. Asking
\$300/mo which includes util & Dish Network
TV. If interested, call Joe at 331-4239 or 352-
682-9412 7-7-7-4

(352) 377- 0383 **CityAuto** 4488 NW 6th St.
www.cityautorepair.com Gainesville, FL 32609
REPAIR
"Where we treat you like family"
All of your auto repair needs. We pick you up & drop you off.
Free Wifi
Mention ad for 5% off!

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS
1 Word after beam or Bean
5 Dickens's Uriah
9 *Jake LaMotta, e.g.
14 Alevé target
15 Fall birthstone
16 "All systems ___"
17 *Mexican neighbor of New Mexico
19 Feature of "butte" but not "but"
20 Like lava flows
21 Austin-to-Dallas dir.
23 British golfer Poulter
24 *Skiers' patron
28 NYC hub
31 Tolerate
32 2008-'09 Japanese prime minister Tarō ___
33 Sans serif typeface
35 Expansive
37 Ye ___ Tea
41 *Like Hammett's falcon
43 *Piece of advice
45 Information storage unit
46 Choice word
48 ___wip: dessert topping
49 Bear: Sp.
51 Brand for a 58-Down
53 Follow-up film: Abbr.
54 *Labrador was added to its provincial name in 2001
59 Pie ___ mode
60 Suffix for glob
61 Home builder's subcontractor
65 Get started
67 *Beijing dialect
70 Upright
71 "They're ___ again!"
72 Desert tableland
73 Greetings from the answers to starred clues
74 Lord's partner
75 Tiny power source

DOWN
1 Filled tortilla
2 Cuatro times dos
3 Ace

4 Classic grape sodas
5 Philly's signature sandwich
6 N.T. book after Galatians
7 Seine contents
8 Backup strategy
9 Agricutural cubists?
10 Yellow metal, in Mexico
11 Seat of Greene County, Ohio
12 Samantha of "Doctor Dolittle"
13 Set of drinks for the table
18 Lacking capacity
22 "Cool!"
25 Umbilical terminus
26 ___la la
27 Not a soul
28 Doorframe part
29 Start to unravel
30 Scot's skirt
34 Dined on, biblically
36 Witch's incantation
38 Old Ford models
39 "___ Dinah": 1958 Frankie Avalon hit
40 La Salle of "ER"
42 Asian Olympics city of 1988

44 Like some patches
47 Blue
50 Squeaks and creaks
52 Equivalence
54 Big wheel
55 2010 Supreme Court appointee Kagan
56 Staked amount
57 Himalayan country
58 Steadfast belief (and parent of each answer to a starred clue?)
62 Acre's 43,560 square units
63 Bygone U.S. gas
64 500 sheets
66 Octopus's defense
68 Inbound flight posting at 28-Across
69 Joke around with

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:
C R O C S A M B A F A Q U S
R E D O A L E U T A G U A
A P E R B U G L E C O O P
M I S F O R M A L I C E
I N S U L I N S N O L O G
N E A I N I N E T Y F I V E
A V A B Y O A M E N
C N O T E W O E K M A R T
L O C O N A M S U E
E S T R E E T B A N D C O T
O H O S W E T O O M A N Y
Y C H R O M O S O M E S
R A K E A L I F T U P T O
A X O N R O N E E S E W N
J E S S T O K E D E R O S

xwordeditor@aol.com 07/01/11

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13
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54 55 56 57 58
59 60 61 62 63 64
65 66 67 68 69
70 71 72
73 74 75

By Kevin Christian 07/05/11
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C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S
John E. Parks! You won \$25 for successfully
completing the crossword puzzle on June 30th.
Be sure to compete in our next crossword
contest on Thursday, July 7th. **alligator**

C R O S S W O R D
O Fill out the crossword puzzle:
N **Thursday, July 7th**
T for a chance to win:
E
S
T
\$25*
All entries must be delivered to the Alligator
front desk by 4pm on Thursday, July 7th.
The office is located at
1105 W. University Ave. **alligator**
*Must be 18 years or older to win. Submissions will not be accepted after 4pm on Thursday, July 7th. All correct submissions will be entered into a random drawing. The winner will be announced in the Alligator on Tuesday, July 12th. Alligator employees are not eligible to enter contest.

4 Roommates

LARGE 3/2 POOL HOUSE
Master Bedroom, suite, PRIVATE bath and walk in closet. 5 min to UF.
W/D and all utilities included \$560.
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the independent florida
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18 Personals

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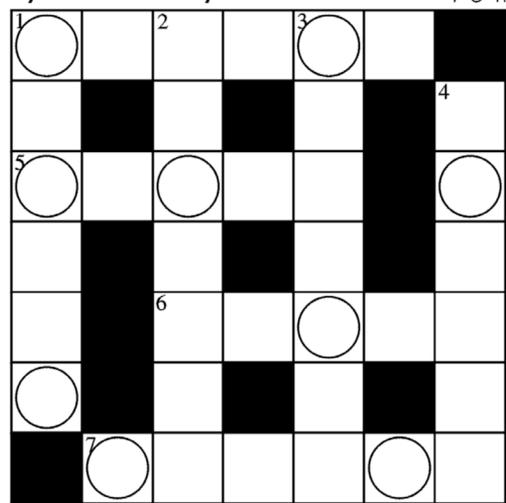
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24 Pets

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by David L. Hoyt 7-5-11



ACROSS

CLUE **ANSWER**

1. Empty WOHLLO
5. Pale bluish purple VEAMU
6. Sprayed HDOES
7. Strangest DDTEOS

DOWN

CLUE **ANSWER**

1. Clothes _____ HMPAER
2. Chuckled GHUDELA
3. Manage VOESRE
4. In the middle of MITDSA

CLUE: These come in more than 14,000 varieties.



How to play Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS.



Harrison Diamond / Alligator File Photo

Although Florida has an abundance of highly touted recruits, the offense lacks a consistent playmaker. Deonte Thompson (right) was UF's leading receiver last season but lost his starting job in the spring.

No. 5: Playmakers - Who will step up?

■ THIS IS THE FIRST INSTALLMENT OF A FIVE-PART SERIES PREVIEWING UF FOOTBALL NEXT SEASON.

By **MATT WATTS**
Alligator Staff Writer
mwatts@alligator.org

Eds. Note — With practice set to get underway next month, we here at alligatorSports are going to preview five of the biggest issues facing the Gators and new coach Will Muschamp in 2011.

The new-look Florida football team is littered with question marks.

There are issues on both the offensive and defensive lines. The linebackers — apart from redshirt sophomore Jelani Jenkins — have little on-field experience. The secondary will be without vocal leader Ahmad Black and All-American Jannoris Jenkins.

And, of course, there's that whole John Brantley thing.

But before dissecting the signal caller situation, we must first take a look at the skill position players on offense — the playmakers.

The receiver position is a mixed bag of talent originally recruited to play the spread, and if Brantley is going to succeed, he will need some serious help from some unproven sources.

Redshirt juniors Omarius Hines and Frankie Hammond Jr. occupied the top spots on the depth chart Muschamp handed out during spring practice, but nothing is set in stone in the new scheme under offensive coordinator Charlie Weis.

As it stands, the receiving corp lacks a legitimate weapon.

Redshirt senior Deonte Thompson led the Gators in most receiving categories last season, racking up 38 receptions for 570 yards.

But he had only one touchdown reception and struggled with dropped balls at times.

Hines (20 catches, 281 yards) and Hammond (22 catches, 276 yards) showed spurts of promise but lacked consistency.

Redshirt sophomore Andre Debose was touted as the next Percy

SEE FOOTBALL, PAGE 16



Football

Welcome to the dead zone: America's blackening hole

Like any good American this weekend, I drank Bud Light, shot bottle rockets at friends and saw "Transformers III."

Michele Bachmann and her history-confused "Don't Tread on Me" goons might never've been prouder.

But see, at least for a brief moment, I had something to take my mind off the fact that we're a sports-less country right now.

Welcome to America's dark abyss.

Unnecessary Spoiler Alert!!! Like "Dark of the Moon" — Michael Bay's latest story-less action flick that's two hours too long — the sports world is nearly devoid of any interesting plot to follow.

With two lockouts, no Tiger, and college football almost two months away, the sports universe has



Jesse Simonton
Simon Says
jsimonton@alligator.org

skipped the dog days of summer and jumped right into Dante's "Inferno."

Seriously, when SportsCenter is obsessing over

Novak Djokovic eating grass and Skip Bayless is about to throw blows over Derek Jeter's inclusion to the All-Star team, we've run out of things to talk about.

I'm half-surprised Magic fans haven't rioted yet after continuously being bludgeoned with lame planking photos from their franchise center, who refuses to use the time off to learn a drop step.

Unfortunately, there will be no

SEE JESSE, PAGE 15

Lack of depth entices top TE

By **BRYAN HOLT**
Alligator Writer

When redshirt freshman Michael McFarland left UF on Friday, tight end depth became an issue for the Gators.

Florida will enter the 2011 season with just one true tight end (freshman A.C. Leonard) on the roster.

Jordan Reed, who played quarterback and tight end last season, and Gerald Christian, a former linebacker attempting to make the switch to the offensive side of the ball, add only minimal depth.

Enter Kent Taylor, a 2012 Land O' Lakes High prospect rated the No. 1 tight end in the country by Rivals.com.

He said UF's depth issues would "absolutely" sway his college decision, and "that it's definitely a good thing."

Taylor caught 35 passes for 571 yards

and nine touchdowns as a junior at Land O' Lakes. His versatility and ability to stretch the field vertically has garnered him over 30 offers.

While he said he will not form a top five until he visits Georgia, LSU and Alabama, the 6-foot-5, 220-pounder was clear about his feelings toward the Gators.



Taylor

"I haven't come out with my list of top schools yet, but I'm really high on Florida," Taylor said. "Florida is one of my top schools. I will say that."

Taylor will be at Friday Night Lights on July 22 and has been invited to play in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl.

If he decides to orally commit to the

SEE RECRUIT, PAGE 15

POLL QUESTION

■ Who will be Florida's top playmaker for the 2011 season?

TEAM USA BASKETBALL UPDATE

■ Gators sophomore forward/center Patric Young has scored 22 points and recorded 23 rebounds in three games at the FIBA U19 World Championships. USA swept its first three games and advanced to the second round in the tournament after defeating Serbia 80-78 on Friday. Young had his top performance in the contest, notching 13 points along with seven boards.

POLL RESULTS

Previous question: Does a national championship in baseball carry the same weight as one in football or basketball?

Response	Percent (Votes)
No	66% (81)
Yes	34% (41)



Courtesy Photo

Kent Taylor, the 2012 No. 1 rated tight end in the country by Rivals.com, hasn't yet narrowed his list of 30 offers to a top five. But the Land O' Lakes High standout said he is "really high on Florida."

JESSE, from page 14

escape — at least not for another month or more.

Aside from baseball — which I love, but most people find even more boring than "The Bachelorette" — there's nothing to watch, and even less to talk about.

Tour de Enhanced? I'll pass. The only thing more monotonous than watching cycling is watching people discuss cycling.

Abby Wambach and the U.S.' Women's World Cup run is OK, but it doesn't exactly get the jollies going.

The bustling news of NHL free agency or NASCAR's

Chase? Uh, no.

The WNBA? Just shoot me.

There are literally three things other than baseball that are watchable right now and two — Copa América and the MLS — are considered so unpatriotic you can barely find them on cable, and one isn't even a real sport.

Thank God for "The Challenge: Rivals."

Honestly, I don't know where else I'd fill my urge for über-competitive, juiced and liquored-up, crazy athletic people doing anything to earn a quick buck.

We need new hope.

We need old NFL reliables like fantasy football, "Hard Knocks" and frenzied free agency to re-emerge.

Local corner picks USF but waits for Gators offer

RECRUIT, from page 14

Gators, he would be UF's second 2012 tight end commit along with fellow four-star Colin Thompson.

Local CB a Bull, but keeping options open: Attending school at nearby Gainesville High, Chris Bivins lives in the shadow of Ben Hill Griffin Stadium.

When he was a standout at Gators football camp in early June, it looked like he might be playing college ball a mere three-minute drive from the Hurricanes' practice field.

"That definitely raised my stock with Florida," he said. "They started talking to me a lot more." But while his performance at the camp may have raised his stock, it has yet to garner the 5-foot-11, 166-pound three-star corner an official offer from the Gators.

So on June 25, Bivins became one of South Florida's eight 2012 oral commits while attending the school's one-day "SuperBull" camp. He picked USF over Arkansas, Illinois and Kentucky.

He said he chose the Bulls because of his love for Tampa and the close relationship he has with USF's coaching staff. South Florida was the first school to offer him a scholarship.

While Bivins has seemingly made his decision, he said he still plans to take full advan-

tage of his recruiting process.

"I'm a Bull right now," the cornerback said. "But I'm not going to pass up any opportunities."

Bivins plans to take all of his official visits, which currently includes Arkansas, North Carolina State, Kentucky and Iowa State.

As far as his hometown school, he said UF is definitely something he would consider if an offer comes, but that it's an issue he's "not going to get into" right now.

Bivins leaves today for Nike's The Opening Showcase in Portland, Ore., where he'll get a sample of the abundant cornerback crop that may be holding him back from getting a UF offer. "It's stiff competition there right now," he said of UF, which already has two cornerback oral commits. "If I get an offer, I get an offer. If I don't, I don't."

Etc.: All signs seem to point toward Melbourne Holy Trinity four-star safety Marcus Maye making an announcement in the near future. According to Bivins, Maye "really likes Florida," and may be leaning toward choosing the Gators. ... Bivins and a number of recruits will be torn this year between participating in UF's Friday Night Lights camp and ESPN Rise's invitation-only Gridiron Kings 7-on-7 tournament, which runs from July 22-25.

The constant legal mumbo-jumbo in two of the world's biggest sports has sucked the life out of people's interest. America should never change the channel on sports like it should on the Casey Anthony trial, but it is.

We've become a downtrodden sports world that desperately needs a Fifth Avenue face-lift.

We are, as someone once famously wrote, "your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

Soon there may be light. Soon, the sports world may become more optimistic.

But right now, we just need some goddamn football soon.

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Rainey, Demps facing transition in Gators' new pro-style offense

FOOTBALL, from page 14

Harvin, but he has struggled with injuries and getting on the field. The 5-foot-11, 180-pound receiver was impressive on special teams, returning two kickoffs for touchdowns last season, but his role on offense is undefined and his ability to contribute is unproven.

Four-star recruits Chris Dunkley and Javaris McRoy were supposed to add depth, but both receivers transferred, depleting the reservoir even further.

The name to watch is Quinton Dunbar.

After missing most of 2010 with a nagging hamstring injury, Dunbar started spring practice at the bottom of the ranks.

But with his ability to stretch the field,

the 6-foot-1 pass-catcher started the Orange and Blue Debut and reaped praise from Muschamp and his fellow receivers.

"Weis is always messing with me because when I first started I was probably seventh on the depth chart," Dunbar said after being targeted on the game's first play.

"Each and every day, I came out and made plays, and I gradually made my way to the top."

While Brantley appears to be entrenched at quarterback, the running back position appears to be facing a similar fate as the receivers.

Chris Rainey claims to be a new man, refreshed from time spent on the sidelines. From all accounts, Rainey had an excellent spring. And while Jeff Demps returns after missing

spring practice running with the track and field team, neither fits the mold of the pro-style back Weis likes to employ.

"Each and every day, I came out and made plays, and I gradually made my way to the top."

Quinton Dunbar
UF Receiver

Sophomore Mack Brown and junior Mike Gillislee were both banged up in the spring, but they best feature the attributes desired in a one- or two-back offense.

Freshman tight end A.C. Leonard is another name to watch.

With uncertainties abound, it's clear there are more questions than answers surrounding UF's playmakers heading into this season.

But one thing is undeniable, Brantley and the offense can't succeed unless some unknowns step into the spotlight.

alligatorSports Staff Preseason Top 10

For the next five issues, we'll bring you our college football preseason rankings. First up, Texas Christian and reigning SEC Eastern Division champs South Carolina.

No. 9 - South Carolina

2010: 9-5 (5-3 Southeastern Conference)

2011 Outlook

Despite winning their first SEC division title in school history, the Gamecocks ended their 2010 season poorly, suffering two embarrassing defeats — eventual national champion Auburn and Chick-fil-A Bowl opponent Florida State — by a combined 48 points. Off-season trouble continued as starting quarterback Stephen Garcia was suspended indefinitely for the fifth time since 2007. But even with these question marks, USC has two of the most talented players in the SEC in Marcus Lattimore and Alshon Jeffery. The Gamecocks return 81 percent of their rushing yards, 100 percent of their passing yards and 80 percent of their receiving yards. On defense, eight of the squad's top 10 tacklers return after notching wins over then-No. 1 Alabama, Florida and Georgia in 2010.

Key Game

Sept. 10 at Georgia — The Gamecocks can get an early leg up on the SEC East race with a win over the Bulldogs in just their second game of the season.

Returning Starters

7 Offense

6 Defense



Players to Watch



Lattimore

RB Marcus Lattimore
(249 carries, 1,197 yards, 17 TD)



Jeffery

WR Alshon Jeffery
(88 catches, 1,517 yds, 9 TD)



Gilmore

CB Stephon Gilmore
(79 tackles, 3 interceptions)

No. 10 - Texas Christian

2010: 13-0 (8-0 Mountain West Conference)

2011 Outlook

Not many teams could weather the loss of 26 seniors — most notably four-year starting quarterback Andy Dalton — and still crack a top-10, but TCU has not been a normal program the last three seasons. Under coach Gary Patterson, the Horned Frogs have dominated their non-BCS conference foes. TCU proved itself versus the game's top competition in last year's 21-19 Rose Bowl victory over Wisconsin. Redshirt sophomore quarterback Casey Pachall, who pushed Dalton for the starting job as a freshman in 2009, is set to lead a loaded backfield returning all three of last season's leading rushers. On defense, All-American linebackers Tank Carder and Tanner Brock should continue to thrive in their last full season of non-AQ competition before TCU jumps to the Big East in 2012.

Key Game

Nov. 12 at Boise State — This will likely be the Horned Frogs' only regular season game against a ranked opponent. They'll need a big performance on the Broncos' blue turf to have a shot at a third-consecutive BCS bowl appearance.

Returning Starters

5 Offense

6 Defense



Players to Watch



Wesley

RB Ed Wesley
(166 carries, 1,078 yards, 11 TD)



Carder

LB Tank Carder
(60 tackles, 3.5 sacks, 1 interception)



Brock

LB Tanner Brock
(106 tackles, 2 sacks, 2 fumble recoveries)

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