

Despite a right ankle sprain, Scottie Wilbekin fueled Florida to an overtime victory against Arkansas on Saturday. Read the story on page 12.



LOCAL
Residents voice frustrations over roam towing

HANNA MARCUS

Alligator Staff Writer

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ated a petition about a month ago to end roam towing in Gainesville.

Roam towing is legal but differs from standard towing, where property owners identify the illegally parked cars and then call tow companies to retrieve them, said City Commissioner Thomas Hawkins.

"(With roam towing) the tow company can identify the car first and then tow it without hearing from the property owner," he said.

Loper said he was frustrated with his employees' cars being preyed upon by towing companies when making food runs.

"One of my employees was picking up food ... went inside for two to three minutes, grabbed the food, went outside and his car was gone," Loper said. "The car had three Gainesville2Go signs on it. They literally had to be there watching him go in, run over and snatch his car in three minutes tops."

The petition, hosted on change.org, is about 50 signatures away — as of press time — from Loper's 1,000-signature goal and was designed specifically to attract local government officials' attention, Loper said.

"When I created it, I put email addresses

for all city commissioners and the mayor, so whenever anybody signs it, it sends them an email," he said.

Loper said although he understands why certain towing practices must be enforced, he is still frustrated.

"They're taking, especially, from students who don't have a lot of money and are trying to go to school," he said. "Granted, there are problems with parking, but it should be up to owners to make the call to tow."

SEE TOWING, PAGE 4

**Gun-rights group
 sues UF over car,
 dorm policies**

SEAN STEWART-MUNIZ

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UF will soon be served court papers concerning a lawsuit over storing guns in vehicles on campus, and allowing firearms in residence halls is now part of the dispute.

Florida Carry filed a lawsuit in Alachua County on Friday, making UF the second Florida university to face legal action from the gun advocacy group in recent months. A December court ruling against the University of North Florida allowed guns in vehicles on state campuses, and UF added a footnote to its regulations stating its intent to comply with the decision.

Sean Caranna, executive director of Florida Carry, said the nonprofit sent notifications to all state schools asking them to comply. He said UF's footnote wasn't enough — intent is useful when there is room for interpretation, but UF's policy is strictly anti-gun.

Caranna said he tried to contact UF President Bernie Machen last week, but his call was met by the

SEE GUNS, PAGE 4



Matthew Martyr / Alligator Staff

Homeward Bound

Gainesville dog rescue organization Plenty of Pit Bulls hosted an adoption event to celebrate the opening of the Robertson Animal Hospital on Saturday. Boomer is one of many dogs who found a new home. Read the story on page 5.

Gainesville circus stop brings out fans, animal rights protesters
More than 9,500 tickets were sold

BROOKE BAITINGER

Alligator Contributing Writer

The Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus came to Gainesville for the first time in its more than

100-year history, and many animal rights activists wanted to make sure it will be the last.

About 30 people of varying ages showed up to protest during the weekend and stood on the corner

of Gale Lemerand Drive and West University Avenue holding signs that read "Ringling Bros. beats animals," "Elephants are abused" and other objections against the circus' treatment of animals.

On its website, Ringling Bros. states it "exceeds all federal animal welfare standards set by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) under the Animal Welfare Act."

However, according to an Animal Rights Foundation of Florida news release, Ringling Bros. Circus

parent company Feld Entertainment agreed to pay \$270,000 in fines in response to allegations that it violated the same laws under the Animal Welfare Act that the circus mentions on its website.

Many protesters belonged to animal advocacy groups such as

SEE PROTEST, PAGE 4

Today 75/60

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Weekend police beat: Holiday Inn stabbing, knife threat
 A man was stabbed four times, pg 5.
UF researchers: Mouth spray could fight obesity
 The spray works on mice, pg 8.



Road construction causes delays for drivers on 16th Avenue
 Closures will occur through February, pg 8.



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

CRC open house

It's a jungle out there — in the job market, that is. Stop by our open house today from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Career Resource Center. The event is open to all UF students, faculty and staff. Attending is a great way to gear up for the upcoming Career Showcase and any other interviews you might be preparing for. Check out the different sessions offered online.

Learn about America's first settlers at Science Cafe

Connie Mulligan, professor and associate chair of the UF Department of Anthropology and associate director of the UF Genetics Institute, presents "The First Settlers of the New World: Who, Where, When and How," at the Florida Museum of Natural History Science Cafe today at 6:30 p.m. Held at Saboré, 13005 SW First Road, Suite 129, in the Town of Tioga, the program provides engaging conversation in a comfortable setting. The event is free, but participants must purchase any food or beverages. Email aerickson@flmnh.ufl.edu or call Amanda Erickson Harvey at 352-273-2062 with questions.

'Trouble the Water' film screening and symposium

On Wednesday, producer and filmmaker Tia Lessin will present a public screening of her film, "Trouble the Water," which focuses on the impacts of Hurricane Katrina, at Pugh Hall at 6 p.m. Following the movie, she will answer questions about the film's creation and production as well as the social impacts of the hurricane in New Orleans and throughout the Southeast. The event will be followed by a reception. She will also present a symposium about the issue at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday at Ustler Hall.

Tin Can Tourists Rally

Tin Can Tourists is an all-make-and-model vintage trailer and motor coach club. The open house will be held Saturday at Prairie Creek Lodge, 7204 SE County Road 234 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It will be an opportunity for the public to get an up-close look at classic trailers. Entry is \$5 per vehicle. Tin Can Tourists will donate the proceeds to the Alachua Conservation Trust.

Yulee Railroad Days vendor applications open

Vendors of handmade arts and crafts and entertainers: Welcome to the annual Yulee Railroad Days, which will be held on March 15 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For information about applying to the festival, log on to sites.google.com/site/archerhistoricalsociety/home. The event is sponsored by the

FORECAST

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
CLOUDY 75/60	RAIN 70/43	SUNNY 61/31	SUNNY 52/35	SUNNY 64/32

Archer Historical Society Inc.

Weekly Wellness Walk

Burn calories, get healthier and meet new people by joining the Weekly Wellness Walk at the Santa Fe College track on South Road near the baseball field. We'll meet at 8 a.m. on Saturdays for the next 9 weeks. There is no cost to participate and no age limit. We will start off with some aerobic and stretching exercises, a bottle of water and a few health tips. Call 352-870-9100 for additional information. Sponsored by the Alachua County Medical Society and Alachua County Medical Alliance.

Backyard Birding Tour tickets

Tickets are now on sale for the Alachua Audubon Society's Backyard Birding Tour. It will be held Feb. 8 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 and are available at Wild Birds Unlimited at 4212 NW 16th Ave. At the event, six of Gainesville's premier backyard birding habitats will be open to the public. Local experts will be available at each site to discuss their successes in landscape, hardscape, water features and feeding tips, which will attract a variety of birds to their backyards. This event occurs during winter to coincide with the arrival of migratory species of birds.

Students receive free admission to the Florida Museum

Students with a valid Gator 1 Card now receive free admission to the Butterfly Rainforest and other fee-based exhibits year-round, sponsored by UF Student Government. The museum is located at 3215 Hull Road, just south of the Southwest Recreation Center in the UF Cultural Plaza. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday.

See deceptive butterflies at the Butterfly Rainforest

Visit the Butterfly Rainforest exhibit at the Florida Museum of Natural History from Jan. 1 through Feb. 14 to discover a variety of butterflies that deceive to survive as part of the theme "Mimicry, the World of Deception." Daily butterfly releases are held at 2 p.m. with additional weekend releases at 3 and 4 p.m., weather permitting. UF students with a valid Gator 1 Card receive

free admission.

BRIEFS

Police: Pa. man stole sanitizer to make cocktails

ALTOONA, Pa. — Authorities say a man stole 12 bottles of hand sanitizer from a central Pennsylvania hospital so he could mix it with orange juice and drink it for the alcohol it contained.

The Altoona Mirror reports 51-year-old Lee Ammerman has been mailed a summons requiring him to surrender Feb. 5 on charges of theft and receiving stolen property.

Police say an employee at UPMC Altoona hospital saw Ammerman steal a bottle of sanitizer in October by hiding it in an arm sling he was wearing. They say Ammerman returned to steal more sanitizer twice.

Police say they confronted Ammerman, who acknowledged stealing the sanitizer, saying, "I mix the liquid with orange juice."

The hospital is seeking about \$80 in restitution.

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Got something going on?

Want to see it in this space? Send an email with "What's Happening" in the subject line to kgriffis@alligator.org.

To ensure publication in the next day's newspaper, please submit the event before 5 p.m. Please model your submissions after above events and keep them 150 words or fewer. Improperly formatted "What's Happening" submissions may not appear in the paper. Press releases will not appear in the paper.

Have an event planned?
Add it to the Alligator's
online calendar:
alligator.org/calendar



The Alligator strives to be accurate and clear in its news reports and editorials. If you find an error, please call our newsroom at 352-376-4458 or email editor@alligator.org.

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.. THIS WEEK *in* GAINESVILLE ..

Jan. 13, 1988

About two dozen Floridians won the state's first lottery, winning \$5,000 each. Five of the 21 winners, who gambled on the \$1 instant winner game, were from the Gainesville area. The Alligator reported that those winners beat the 80,000-to-1 odds. The scratch-off prizes ranged from \$2 to \$5,000, and Grand Prize Drawings winners would have reaped rewards of about \$1 million had there been a winner.

Jan. 12, 1998

About 6,000 Gainesville residents and students signed a waiver to save the UF Bat House and select areas near Lake Alice from development. Aides from then-Gov. Lawton Chiles heard community testimonies about preserving the historic site from housing construction. A campus icon, the Bat House's demolition would have displaced more than 60,000 bats that called it home. It also would have spelled trouble for the ecology in the surrounding area, according to Alligator archives.

Jan. 12, 2000

Gainesville City Commission gave UF a thumbs-up on a deal between the university and Gainesville Re-

gional Transit allowing students and faculty to ride buses for free. The Florida Department of Transportation and the university would split the cost, paying \$29,250 each for year of transportation. "It seems that there's demand out there for this service," said Greg DuBois, UF director



Alligator File Photo

Across the Americas

Taylor Sincich traverses from one tree to another across the Plaza of the Americas on Jan. 14, 2009.

of Transportation and Parking Services. "We hope over time it will be a program that people take advantage of." The success and longevity of the program would depend on studies of students and faculty who ride the bus.

Jan. 20, 2009

Two 8-year-old boys armed with aluminum baseball bats defended a woman at gunpoint who was being attacked by her ex-boyfriend. The attacker, 30-year-old Charles Bradley, tried time and again to get back together with his ex-girlfriend, threatening her each time she refused, according to Alligator archives. The assault took place after Bradley arrived at the house and hit his ex-girlfriend in the back of the head and forced a gun on her, in front of their 8-year-old son and his friend, who was with him at the time. "He tried to get her to open her mouth so he could put the gun inside and told her he was going to kill her," said then Gainesville Police Department spokeswoman Summer Hallett. The boys then attacked Bradley, who then fled the scene. Afterward they helped police locate Bradley, and he was later arrested and charged with four felonies.

— STEVEN KATONA

Ethical Considerations of SEAFOOD SOURCING

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Is your food honestly represented?
How can you make a difference?

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Near the intersection of NW 13th St and SW 2nd Ave

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- NOAA Fisheries
- Institute of Food and Agricultural Services/ Florida Sea Grant

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UF Poe Center for Business Ethics
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GATOR GRADS

Live from New York: UF telecom alumna joins 'SNL' writing team

BEATRICE DUPUY

Alligator Staff Writer bdupuy@alligator.org

"Saturday Night Live" recently added another Gator to its exclusive collection of comedians.

UF telecommunication alumna LaKendra Tookes has joined the writing staff of SNL, where writers like Tina Fey and Seth Meyers were first launched into comedic stardom.

Comedian Leslie Jones was also recently hired by the sketch comedy show. These hires came a few weeks after a controversy surrounding the lack of diversity of the "SNL" cast.

Tookes, who graduated from UF in 2005, was a former news reporter before she took her job at "SNL."

Bridget Grogan, multimedia news manager for the UF Innova-

tion News Center, said she sees Tookes excelling at her "SNL" job.

"She had a lot of energy and just always had a great attitude," Grogan said.



Tookes

For current UF students like Kelly Collar, Tookes's new position gives him hope to continue pursuing comedy.

Collar, a 21-year-old UF accounting senior, said hearing about Tookes makes his dream of being on "SNL" seem more possible.

"A lot of big writers go to Harvard or an Ivy League schools, but it's good to see that they can come from anywhere," said Collar, The-

ater Strike Force creative director and president of Generation Sketch Comedy.

Former "SNL" cast member Darrell Hammond was also a UF College of Journalism and Communications graduate.

Collar said UF is a great place for comedians to start.

"I think the diversity of the campus creates a good environment for humor," he said.

Tookes could not respond to questions as of press time.

David Ostroff, department of telecommunication professor and chair in the UF College of Journalism and Communications, said he's very pleased to see another Gator joining the SNL staff.

"I expect to see Gator gear showing up in skits," Ostroff said.

Ghana study-abroad trip plans struggle

▶ IT NEEDS 10 STUDENTS.

LOURIANNE APOLLON

Alligator Contributing Writer

A new UF study abroad program faces cancellation if the minimum number of students is not met by Feb. 2.

The UF in Ghana trip is struggling to register the 10-student minimum required to proceed with the trip by the deadline.

The first study-abroad trip for the new African-American studies major is scheduled for June 10 to June 22 to the West African country of Ghana.

Patricia Hilliard-Nunn, trip director and a lecturer in Afri-

can-American studies, said the trip was created to give students a new perspective on African influence in African-American culture and vice versa.

"There is a lot to learn," Hilliard-Nunn said.

Hilliard-Nunn said students may be hesitant to apply because they are unaware their financial aid would apply to a Spring-extended trip.

Danisha Baro, a 20-year-old UF psychology and African-American studies junior, said she looked forward to "being immersed in the culture."

She said she was hoping to finance her trip with scholarships but later felt the trip was too rushed and left her without time to fundraise.

Restrictions are in place

TOWING, from page 1

Hawkins said city officials recognize the issue's importance among residents and have worked to highly regulate towing practices.

"We talk about roam towing endlessly, but we have lots of rules in place to make it less bad for people," he said, referencing practices like requiring companies to place signs in targeted areas and enforcing maximum fees towing companies can charge.

Heather Brinn, a 20-year-old UF history junior, has never been towed but credits that to her careful parking habits.

"Parking is a pain here," she said. "No one wants to get towed, so I'm fairly certain students would be supportive of it."

Local roam towing companies Superior Towing, Ultimate Towing, Elite Towing and Advanced Towing could not be reached after repeated requests for comment.

Some attendees say they didn't see, mind abuse

PROTEST, from page 1

Helping Hands Pet Rescue, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals and the Fort Lauderdale-based Animal Rights Foundation of Florida. Students and UF alumni were also among those protesting.

Jewel Midelis, a recent UF journalism alumna and a protest organizer, said she was surprised by the turnout.

"Everyone gathered together as a collective force to stand up for what we believe in," she said.

Other protesters agreed. "We want to be the voice for the animals who can't speak for themselves," said Daniela Perednik, a UF animal science sophomore.

Organizers put together the protests to shed light on what they believe is an issue that goes unnoticed by many.

"We hope to open people's eyes who may be going inside to see the circus," said ARFF Central Florida Coordinator Carla Wilson of Winter Springs. "We're asking them to look behind the glitz and the glamor and think about what goes on behind the scenes and what the lives are like for the animals."

Thousands of people attended the circus anyway.

About 9,500 tickets were sold over the three-day period, according to the box office.

Some audience members didn't understand the protests, like Santa Fe building construction student Jamilla Payne.

Payne said she didn't notice any issues with the treatment of the animals during the Friday night show she attended.

"If I did, I would have left," she said.

Others said they had a preconceived notion of how the circus treated its animals.

"Obviously there must be some kind of cruelty involved in training the animals and of course they are happier in the wild than in cap-

tivity," said UF mechanical engineering sophomore Stefan Hochhaus while waiting to buy his ticket Saturday, "but at the same time, it is fun to come to the circus and see the animals."

Several circus employees declined to comment.



Amber Riccinto / Alligator Staff

A protestor stands on the corner of West University Avenue and Gale Lemerand Drive on Friday in objection to weekend The Ringling Bros. Circus appearance in Gainesville. Protesters gathered with signs to voice their opinions on the circus's treatment of its animals.

Florida Carry wants guns allowed in dorms, which UF bans

GUNS, from page 1

university's general counsel instead.

"It was a cordial and polite call, but they really dismissed all of our concerns," he said.

UF spokeswoman Janine Sikes said in a statement that UF is not challenging the decision, and the university believes it is in full compliance. Florida Carry did not voice disapproval of UF's steps to comply

before the lawsuit, she said.

But the group is also suing to allow firearms inside dorm rooms.

During UF's talk with Florida Carry, "they never raised the issue of guns in the home, which was not the subject of the court's decision," Sikes said.

However, Caranna said the 2008 Supreme Court case *District of Columbia vs. Heller* affirms an individual's right to bear arms inside the

home.

"A student's dorm room has long been defined as their home," he said. "It is a fundamental civil right . . . It has been too long abused."

Except when they're stored in cars, having guns on any land owned or occupied by UF is prohibited. The housing department bans toys that resemble guns in residence halls — even using Nerf and water guns is forbidden, according to its

2013-2014 Community Standards. Other forbidden items include BB guns, paintball guns and slingshots.

Dylan Wolfram, a 22-year-old UF physics junior, said he doesn't see the need for students to have guns in their dorm rooms.

"I mean, how often are there break-ins at the dorms?" said Wolfram, a Tolbert Hall resident.

He said there should at least be a test requiring students to qualify

before bringing firearms into their dorms.

UF's chapter of Students for Concealed Carry supports Florida Carry's lawsuit, said president William Salvato, a 21-year-old UF biology senior. He plans on helping when he can.

"This is pretty much a warning to all other universities who didn't want to change their policies," he said.

RESEARCH

UF professors introduce 'Fast and Furious'-inspired helmet

JENNIFER CHOW

Alligator Contributing Writer

After drawing inspiration from a car-chase scene in "Fast and Furious," a UF professor teamed up with fellow professors to create an improved helmet design for athletes and beyond.

Ghatu Subhash, a professor in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, said rapid movement of the brain causes concussions.

His design is meant to counteract two types of forces that may endanger the brain: linear and rotational.

While most athletic helmets

are equipped to handle the force of one type of injury — linear — the new design provides protection by focusing on the two leading types of head impact.

"Our design concept includes how to minimize the linear blow to the head in a direct hit as well as the rotational component," he said. "Almost all helmets are designed for only linear force and not rotational force."

Subhash said he hopes this design will serve a wider audience than athletes, including firefighters, skateboarders and bicyclists.

The inner chambers of the helmet contain two layers.

One is Newtonian fluid, made

of water and air.

The other is non-Newtonian fluid, which is a gel-like substance.

"Almost all helmets are designed for only linear force and not rotational force."

Ghatu Subhash
engineering professor

The chambers work together to make up a padding to protect the skull, said Subhash.

Dr. Keith Peters, a UF associate professor of neuroradiology, said that this design allows for more of a gradual stop for skulls

in motion.

"One layer of the design can slow down how the impact comes in," he said. "The other layer decreases how rapidly the brain is moving through the skull by slowing down the speed at which it hits the other side."

Although their design has not been tested against all foams, the cushion the researchers designed absorbs more impact than other comparable cushions, Peters said.

Later this month, the helmet will be presented to a group of investors to help launch the beginning stages of building it for production.

The design is completed, but a final model has yet to be decided on, Peters said.

The helmet remains unnamed, but Peters said because the idea was conceived in The Swamp, Gators can look forward to seeing something related to UF.

Dan Apple, assistant communications director for the UF Athletic Association, said the athletic association will not be adopting these new helmets any time soon.

"It's still in the development stages," Apple said. "We are always analyzing our equipment and are concerned for the highest level of safety for our athletes."

Weekend police beat: Holiday Inn stabbing, butcher-knife threat

► A MAN WAS STABBED FOUR TIMES.

JENNA LYONS and
KATHRYN VARN

Alligator Staff Writers

Alachua County Sheriff's deputies arrested a local woman Saturday morning after deputies reported she threatened her boyfriend with a butcher knife while he was in bed.

Deputies arrested 54-year-old Mary Viola Mobley on charges of aggravated assault and resisting an officer, according to an arrest report.

At about 5:30 a.m., Mobley arrived home to her boyfriend of 10 years and went into the room where he was sleeping, according to the report. The two began arguing, and Mobley grabbed a black-handled butcher knife that was stuck in the wall.

She pointed the knife at him and said, "I will kill your ass!" according to the report.

Her boyfriend then called 911, and Mobley left the room.

Three deputies had to restrain Mobley while putting her in handcuffs, according to the report.

During questioning, Mobley said she and her boyfriend got into an argument but denied touching the knife, according to the report. Mobley also admitted to recently smoking crack cocaine and marijuana.

Deputies did not find the knife Mobley was accused of using, according to the report.

However, they noticed a smaller knife and several holes in the wall.

Deputies booked Mobley into Alachua County Jail at about 11 a.m., where she remained as of press time in lieu of a \$10,000 bond.

Gainesville Police arrested two Quincy, Fla., residents in connection to a reported stabbing Friday night at a local hotel.

Officers arrested 55-year-old Barbara Copeland Smith on an aggravated battery stabbing charge and 56-year-old Arch Gee on a felony battery charge, according to two arrest reports.

At about 6 p.m., officers responded to the Holiday Inn at 1250 W. University Ave. and found Smith with bruises and scratches on her face, said GPD spokesman Officer Ben Tobias.

Smith told police her friend Arch Gee tried to beat her up, and she stabbed him with a knife to get away, Tobias said. She also told officers he was still in room 207.

Officers found Gee, who had four stab wounds to his chest, head and back, Tobias said. Both Gee and Smith were taken to UF Health Shands.

During questioning, Gee told officers Smith stabbed him during an argument and that he hit her in self defense, Tobias said.

Officers booked Gee and Smith into the Alachua County Jail, where Gee remained as of press time with a \$10,000 bond. Smith was released Saturday after meeting a \$15,000 bond.



Emily Cochran / Alligator Staff

Cicerones on Parade

Members of the Florida Cicerones march in a parade to promote the opening of applications and the organization's upcoming Spring Forum. The parade began in front of the Hub and ended on the Plaza of the Americas, where representatives of the Gator Run threw orange and blue powder on the parade participants.

LOCAL

Pit bulls feel the love at adoption drive

KAI SU

Alligator Contributing Writer

Jessica Robertson cradled a 2-month-old pit bull in her arms and smiled as it covered her cheek in tiny kisses.

At the opening celebration of Robertson's animal hospital Saturday, local volunteer organization Plenty of Pit Bulls held a dog adoption drive from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Paula Miller, a "foster mom" who cares for some of the group's rescued dogs until they find homes, brought her foster dog, Gemma, a 6-month-old female pit bull.

Miller, 67, said Gemma's previous owner gave her up for adoption because the owner was a student and didn't have enough time to take care of a dog.

"She's come to find that the crate isn't where she lives all the time," Miller said of Gemma, whom she

described as a cuddler.

Plenty of Pit Bulls, founded in 2010, rescues dogs from animal shelters in Putnam, Clay, Levy and Alachua counties, Miller said. Volunteers then foster the dogs until they find new homes.

"If you have a powerful, intelligent, muscular animal at the end of the leash, you have to know about animals and animal behavior."

Blanca Carbia
board member

Miller said she believes the media is responsible for the negative image many people have of the breed.

Plenty of Pit Bulls board member Blanca Carbia agreed with Miller. Carbia said the breed has developed a negative reputation from stereotypes about pit bull

owners.

"If you have a powerful, intelligent, muscular animal at the end of the leash, you have to know about animals and animal behavior," said Carbia, 55. She added that she hopes adoption-drive participants who hadn't encountered a pit bull before have a better understanding of the breed.

Jagger — a 1-year-old male pit bull — and three 2-month-old pit bull puppies were also part of the adoption drive. Miller said by the end of the open house, adoption applications were filed for Gemma and a couple of the other puppies.

Miller said she thought giving up her foster dogs over the months would be hard, but she knows it is for the better.

"They're going to a home where they're really going to be loved," she said.

Editorial

R.I.P. Sam Berns: The importance of public optimists

As consumers of media, we often encounter public intellectuals: well-known, intelligent, learned persons whose written works and other social and cultural contributions are recognized not only by academic audiences and readers, but also by many members of society in general. Vaclav Havel, Noam Chomsky and Gloria Steinem are all prominent public intellectuals who contribute to discourse across a wide span of topics that affect our lives, from politics to economics to feminism.

With the advent of Internet fame, now, a new phenomenon has emerged: the rise of public optimists.

They appear on talk shows, their memoirs are picked up by Oprah's Book Club, and, in the case of Sam Berns, a teen with Progeria, they host TED talks and are the subjects of HBO documentaries.

Sam died at the age of 17 on Friday due to complications with Progeria, a rare disease that accelerates aging. Most children with Progeria die at 13, according to NPR.

At a TED talk in December, Sam described his philosophy for coping with Progeria and maintaining a happy life. He said his hobbies — playing drums in his high school's marching band, hanging out with his friends and studying biology — give him a sense of purpose during the difficult times he faces as a person with a terminal illness.

"Even though there are many obstacles in my life, I don't want people to feel bad for me," Sam said, according to NPR. "I don't think about these obstacles all the time, and I'm able to overcome most of them anyway."

His death was a shock to his family, who expected him to attend college in the Fall.

Sam's life and his openness about struggling with his rare disease represents what is perhaps the most touching — and heart-breaking — type of public optimist: children.

America lost another young public optimist last year: Talia Castellano. Talia, a 13-year-old girl with cancer who achieved Internet fame with her YouTube makeup tutorials, died in July. Talia is famous for appearing on "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" and telling the audience, "When people ask me that, what do you want me to do, be depressed? I mean, a little fishy told me, 'Just keep swimming, just keep swimming!'"

We are drawn to the stories of public optimists who refuse to let their illnesses, disabilities and harrowing experiences define them, or who use those experiences to educate others. Furthermore, we need these public optimists to provide perspective in our lives: While both petty problems and big dilemmas plague us daily, from unpaid bills to piles of homework to relationship and family troubles, public optimists remind us that life is fleeting. Rather than dwelling on the impermanence of our existence, however, these public optimists urge us to value our lives and dedicate them to bettering ourselves and the world.

Reader response

Today's question: Do you watch Saturday Night Live?

Friday's question: Do you lie to your doctor about how much you drink?

40% YES
60% NO
62 TOTAL VOTES

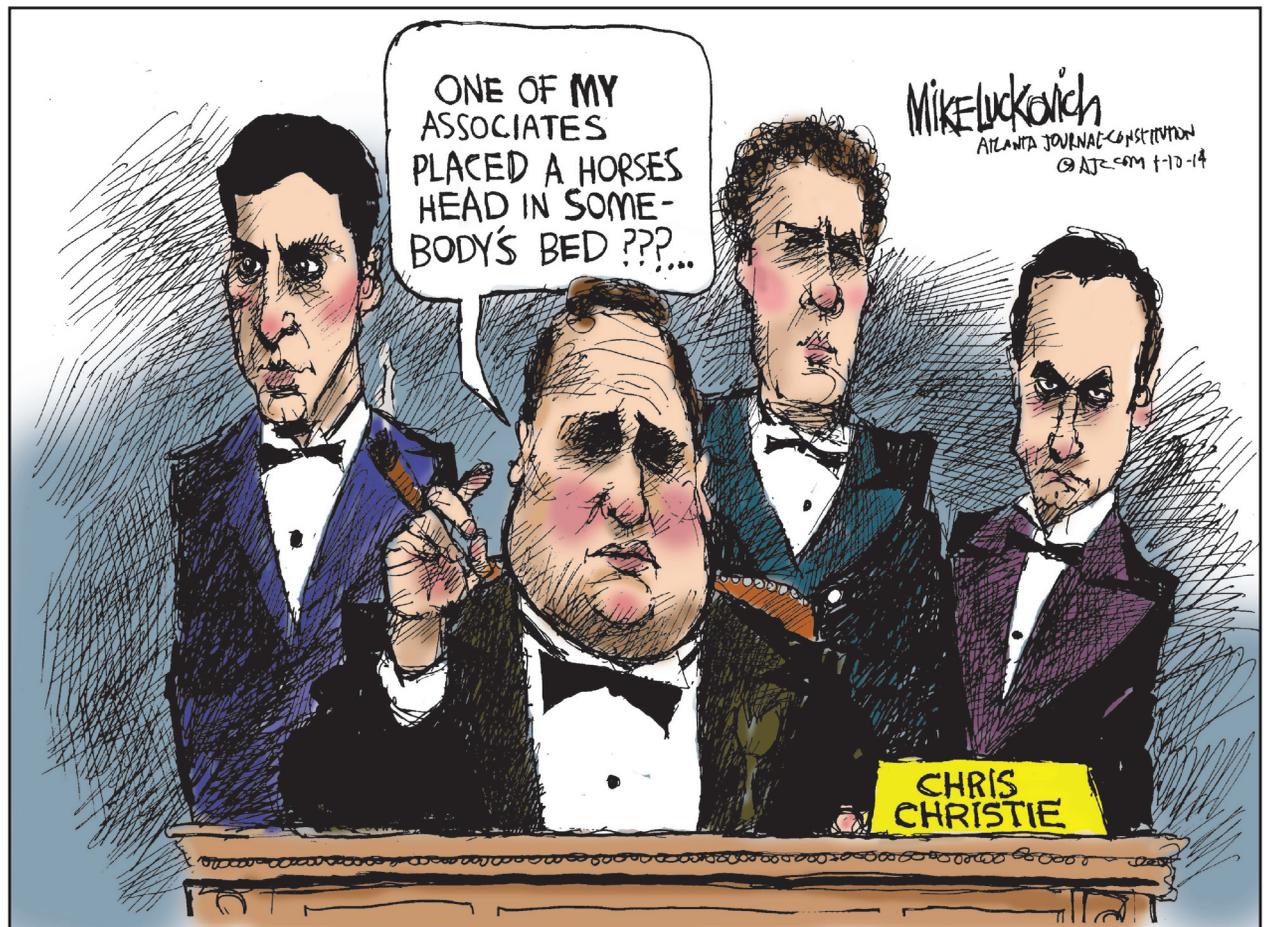
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Column

Gov. Chris Christie's bridge to nowhere

For commuters in New York and New Jersey, Sept. 9 was just another day — until they reached the George Washington Bridge that connects the two states.

The traffic jam was unusually rotten that day, taking some drivers three to four hours to reach their destination.

As it turned out, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey closed two of three lanes on the bridge. What was originally thought to be a "traffic study," turned out to be nothing more than political retribution.

It turns out a top aide to New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie emailed David Wildstein, Christie's close friend and appointee to the Port Authority, asking him to cause traffic problems in Fort Lee, N.J., home of an entrance to the George Washington Bridge.

Why?

Mark Sokolich, the mayor of Fort Lee, didn't endorse Christie's bid for re-election last fall.

Stay classy, New Jersey.

The fallout is just beginning. Christie fired the aide who pushed the idea, and Wildstein testified to what happened on Wednesday — although he pled the Fifth for every question asked. Meanwhile, Christie denied any and all knowledge of what his staff did and held a nearly two-hour press conference to defend himself.

Whether Christie is complicit in all of this hardly matters. What matters is just how low some are willing to go for political gain or political retribution. Some small-town mayor, who's not even in the same political party as Christie, refuses to endorse him, so we have to make the lives of ordinary citizens miserable?

It might possibly be a new low in American politics. Christie's ambitions are far higher than governor, and many pundits have already tapped him as a top Republican contender for the 2016 presidential election. The bridge incident calls into question Christie's ability to run for president and lead the country.

The bridge situation sets up one of two possibilities: Christie either wanted revenge against the mayor of Fort



Joel Mendelson
opinions@alligator.org

Lee because he didn't endorse Christie, which makes the governor a bully, or he didn't know what his top staffers were doing, which makes him incompetent.

Regardless of what he did or didn't know, this is not the man I want running the country. As president, if Christie's slighted by a foreign leader, does he expect

act revenge by killing trade deals, enforcing sanctions or invading their country? What if Christie, unaware of what his top staff does, lets them get away with using the White House as a tool for political retribution against other elected officials?

Sure, it's a hyperbolic thought, but Christie's ability to put his job ahead of politics is now called into question. Christie's image is sure to tarnish as a result, and his pathway to the 2016 Republican nomination was just clouded by an ongoing investigation.

The state Assembly has started looking into the matter, and it could grow worse for Christie because his office is also being investigated by the U.S. Attorney's office — Christie's former job — and the FBI's public corruption unit.

Anyone who thinks Christie could waltz through the Republican primary and subsequently the 2016 presidential election ought to reconsider that notion. Although Christie's an affable, no-nonsense politician with bipartisan support, his office at the very least caused a nightmare for average Americans all because he didn't get what he wanted.

Is this the person you want leading our country for the second half of this decade?

The last time we had a president this skilled in the art of political retribution, it didn't work out well.

His name was Richard Milhous Nixon, and the rest is history.

Joel Mendelson is a UF grad student in political campaigning. His columns appear on Mondays.

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

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I was amazed to open the Monday Alligator and find no story about the National Championship football game that evening.

The game pitted No. 1 ranked, in-state rival Florida State University and No. 2 ranked SEC rival Auburn, which had an incredible win over then No.1 ranked Ala-

bama to get to the championship, including the greatest single game-ending play in the history of college football.

Was this just a horrible oversight?

Or did the Alligator sports reporters drink too much spiked eggnog over the holidays?

Maybe it was just that our hometown Gators weren't in the game and your re-

porters lost interest?

I see your newspaper is advertising for new columnists. Perhaps you need to start with the sports department.

When I wrote for my high school paper in Miami long ago, I covered all sports and sporting events, or else I heard about it from not only the athletes themselves, but also the Student Body at large.

By the way, what happened to *Mediocre Advice*, your best weekly column?

Do you need me to take over?

I am a Gator, and I bleed orange and blue.

Like Socrates, I give great advice.

Bruce Frendahl

UF alumnus, B.A. Design '74,
M.A. Education '77

UWire

Seven highly effective habits of style

1. They don't copy label-for-label off of street-style blogs.

Inspiration is called inspiration for a reason. It's supposed to inspire you to come up with your own version. Someone already wore what you saw, so it's been done.

I'm not saying you can't wear what you see, but use what you see and put your own twist on it.

2. They can find something at any store and make it work.

Whether it be Chanel or Walmart, stylish people aren't afraid of any store.

They don't turn up their nose at any place as long as they stay true to their aesthetic.

A true style guru will pull from anywhere, making their style unique. Who only needs to wear one label, anyway?

3. They style themselves according to their own taste.

It's all in the styling! Yes, you may have this boring button-down shirt, but what makes it look cool is the way the wearer styles it. Maybe they roll up the sleeves or partially tuck it in or layer with it.

It's all up to your style preferences.

4. They look a little less done than everyone around them.

They are the people who are in Converse while everyone is in heels. They aren't afraid to make a jumpsuit black-tie ready.

Alexa Phillips
UWire

They are the people who chop their hair into a bob while the trend is long.

No matter what it is, they make a statement without making a statement.

5. They know that labels aren't every-

thing.

These people don't need labels to make them feel cool — they just are cool.

It's the confidence that makes them cool and stylish.

6. They know the trends, but they aren't trendy.

The most stylish people have a consistent uniform they reach for.

They will replace their classic pieces with newer, more modern ones.

They don't fall victim to the one-season fads or the hair-raising trends.

7. They don't dress to be considered "stylish."

Stylish people don't expect to get compliments. They dress for themselves and no one else. They dress in what works for them and their lifestyle.

Yes, it may be considered "cool" to wear heels around your college campus, but you know it's more comfortable to wear flat boots instead. It's much cooler because you feel much more confident in your skin.

So there you have it: proof that you don't have to have the best clothes from the best brands to be considered stylish. Style comes from within — from being comfortable, happy and true to your own style.

Alexa Phillips is a writer for *The Collegian*. A version of this column originally appeared on UWire.

UWire

Cast, soundtrack boosts 'American Hustle' ensemble

Using the true-life events of the 1970s ABSCAM scandal — in which the federal government enlisted the aid of con artists to help them entrap politicians — as merely a pushing-off point, "American Hustle" dishes up complex themes of deception, love and disappointment.

It's a cinematic dissertation on the types of characters who define not just a period in time, but a lost cultural era.

They are the types of people who will do anything to live the American dream.

To put it simply:

They are the types who are always interesting to watch.

What must be praised most are the actors who bring these characters to life.

Ryan Koehn
UWire

"Hustle" boasts an ensemble cast of actors and actresses in their own respective primes, making what could be caricatures of big hair and fur coats feel like flesh and blood.

At the center are Christian Bale and Amy Adams, whose performances as the swindling swingers Irving Rosenfeld and Sydney Prosser are deeply layered and intricately nuanced.

Bradley Cooper finds a desperate intensity in the ambitious federal agent and mama's boy Richie DiMaso, forever crushing any lingering doubts that he can't be taken seriously as a dramatic actor.

Jeremy Renner plays the gullible mayor with a heart of gold with such ferocious sincerity that seeing him conned would be tragic — if only the way they do it wasn't so much fun.

All of these performances, complemented by Rosenfeld's scene-stealing wife — Jennifer Lawrence — who shows why divorce can be a very healthy option, round out "American Hustle" as the best-acted film of 2013.

"American Hustle" isn't a film geared toward straightforward storytelling.

It's a study of character defined by colliding moments, projecting everyone involved through painful downfalls and touching redemptions.

It's a multifaceted portrait of honesty and the lies that we tell everyone, including ourselves.

The only better assemblage in the film than the cast is the soundtrack.

"10538 Overture" by Electric Light Orchestra provides the unofficial theme song for lives on the edge of chaos.

"Long Black Road" by Jeff Lynne is used as the rhythm for constructing the perfect con.

Other track choices play best in the way they bring insight to the characters and their motivations, like the way the hypnotic tones of Donna Summer's "I Feel Love" bring the perfect atmosphere to a scene at a disco that catalyzes the intense love triangle between Bale, Adams and Cooper.

Ryan Koehn is a writer for *The Daily Californian*. A version of this column originally appeared on UWire.



UF researchers: Mouth spray could fight obesity in humans

► THE SPRAY WORKS ON MICE.

DANIELA PRIZONT-CADO

Alligator Contributing Writer

A UF-created mouth spray that makes mice less hungry may lead to breakthroughs in human weight loss.

The study recently found mice eat less when treated with a peptide YY spray, according to a news release. The Peptide YY hormone is naturally secreted from cells in the small intes-

tine after a meal. It decreases appetite, making the body feel fuller than it actually is.

After testing the solution on thousands of mice, researchers are trying to see if the hormone can help reduce skyrocketing obesity rates. Initially, when human subjects were injected, it caused them to vomit. Now, after testing the oral spray form of peptide YY on mice, it appears the spray may be equally effective without the negative side effects, said UF professor Sergei Zolotukhin.

The spray enters through a different pathway on the tongue that reacts with the rewards center of the brain, said

Zolotukhin, an associate professor of cellular and molecular therapy in the UF College of Medicine's department of pediatrics.

Liana Juarez, an 18-year-old UF biochemistry freshman, questioned whether the spray could potentially cause an unhealthy problem.

"If they are masking the effects of hunger ... how will they know when they are actually hungry and will eat enough to supply the body with the nutrients that they need?" she said.

Work on peptide YY will continue, though the project needs more funding, Zolotukhin said.

Road construction causes delays for drivers on 16th Avenue

ALYSSA PIVNIOUK

Alligator Contributing Writer

Motorists driving on Northwest 16th Avenue may need to modify their daily traffic routines due to the road construction project that started last week.

The 4-mile resurfacing operation will remove and replace existing asphalt, upgrade pedestrian facilities and stabilize the retaining walls along the corridor, according to the Alachua County Public Works Department.

"The pavement is beyond sensible pothole repair," said Brian Singleton, Alachua County transportation engineering manager.

Daytime lane closures are scheduled to occur throughout January and February, and drivers will not have to worry about detours, Singleton said.

The roughly \$8 million project is scheduled to be completed by November and is funded by impact fees, a local-option gas tax and Gainesville Regional Utilities.

The department will add left turn lanes to improve traffic flow at the intersection

of Northwest 55th Street and Northwest 23rd Avenue as well as median modifications in high crash-rate areas like the intersection of Northwest 16th Boulevard and Northwest 43rd Street near the Millhopper Shopping Center, Singleton said.

"There's this one spot down (Northwest 16th Boulevard) that has probably had about a dozen potholes. The patchwork is terrible. They just cover it in a lump of asphalt."

Jake Cunningham

21-year-old UF criminology senior

Jake Cunningham, a 21-year-old UF criminology senior who's lived on Northwest 16th Avenue for two years, said he noticed the deterioration in the road. He said he's glad that the project is taking place.

"There's this one spot down (Northwest 16th Boulevard) that has probably had about a dozen potholes," Cunningham said. "The patchwork is terrible. They just cover it in a lump of asphalt."



Matthew Martyr / Alligator

Signs placed on Northwest 16th Street indicate ongoing construction. Many sections of the street are scheduled for closure while the area undergoes improvements.

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| 2 For Rent: Unfurnished | 7 Computers | 12 Autos | 17 Typing Services | 22 Tickets |
| 3 Sublease | 8 Electronics | 13 Wanted | 18 Personals | 23 Rides |
| 4 Roommates | 9 Bicycles | 14 Help Wanted | 19 Connections | 24 Pets |
| 5 Real Estate | 10 For Sale | 15 Services | 20 Event Notices | 25 Lost & Found |

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St. Francis House depends on monetary support from individual donors and community businesses in order to help feed the homeless and the hungry.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Stephanie Breal at (352) 378-9079 or sfhcoor@stfrancis.cfoxmail.com **To make a donation by mail,** please send checks payable to St. Francis House P.O. Box 12491 Gainesville, FL 32604

CASH PAID \$300 AND UP!!! ANY CONDITION-RUNNING OR NOT!!! FREE TOWING & SAME DAY PICK-UP NO TITLE NEEDED CALL 352-771-6191 4-23-14-72-13

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●Learning to rake knit hats to send to Haiti & other places. Call 352-219-6948 1-24-14-72-13

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the independent Florida

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Applicant must have reliable transportation and be able to transport multiple bundles of newspapers.

This route takes approximately 2 hours and includes drops along Newberry Road west to Jonesville, Tower Road, and along SW 20th Ave, as well as some on Archer Road.

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Smokin' Notes
NOW HIRING Outstanding Notetakers and Editors **SPRING 2014** Apply online at SmokinNotes.com 1-17-14-11-14

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O ₁	O ₁	U ₁	N ₁	N ₁	P ₃	R ₁	2nd Letter Double RACK 1
E ₁	O ₁	U ₁	R ₁	R ₁	N ₁	C ₃	RACK 2
I ₁	O ₁	U ₁	M ₃	T ₁	R ₁	S ₁	RACK 3
I ₁	I ₁	O ₁	N ₁	L ₁	L ₁	Z ₁₀	Triple Word Score RACK 4

PAR SCORE 140-150
BEST SCORE 225
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**

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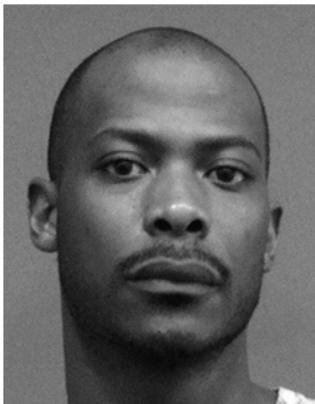
Melchar, Bowie & Brockdorf, PA Need someone to scan documents. Times are very flexible 24-7, you pick your schedule (Jan-April). email Soren@cpa.vg 1-15-14-7-14

Part-time marketing assistant. \$10-\$12/hr. Weekdays 6-9pm. Students preferred. Apply in person between 5-8 pm. 3501 SW 2nd Ave Suite 2100 (2nd floor above Gator Textbooks) 1-13-14-5-14

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15 Services

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18 Personals

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19 Connections

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20 Event Notices

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18 Personals

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Alachua County Health Dept. Call 334-7960 for app't (optional \$20 fee)

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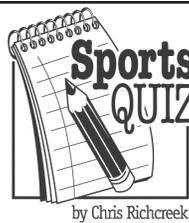
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3700 SW 27th Street, Gainesville, Florida | LexingtonCrossingtcc.com | 352.373.9009

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by Chris Richcreek

- In 1985, Tony Perez, at nearly 43, became the oldest major-league player to hit a grand slam. Whose record did he break?
- During the 1980s, three major-leaguers each played for their father, who was the manager. Name the players.
- In 2012, Northern Illinois' Jordan Lynch became the second quarterback to run for 1,500 yards and throw for 2,500 yards in a season. Who was the first?
- Who held the NBA mark for most 3-point field goals made in a season before Golden State's Stephen Curry (272 made) broke it in the 2012-13 campaign?
- Name the first Southern California hockey player to be drafted by an NHL team.
- Which two teams have won the most Supporters' Shields (best regular-season record) in Major League Soccer history?
- What medal, if any, did boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr. win at the 1996 Olympics?

Answers

- Honus Wagner was 41 when he did it in 1915. Julio Franco now holds the record, hitting one in 2004 at age 45.
- Dale Berra, Billy Ripken and Cal Ripken Jr.
- Michigan's Denard Robinson, in 2010.
- Ray Allen hit 269 3-pointers for Seattle in the 2005-06 season.
- Mike Lampman, in 1970.
- D.C. United and the Los Angeles Galaxy, with four each.
- He won a bronze medal, boxing in the featherweight division.

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

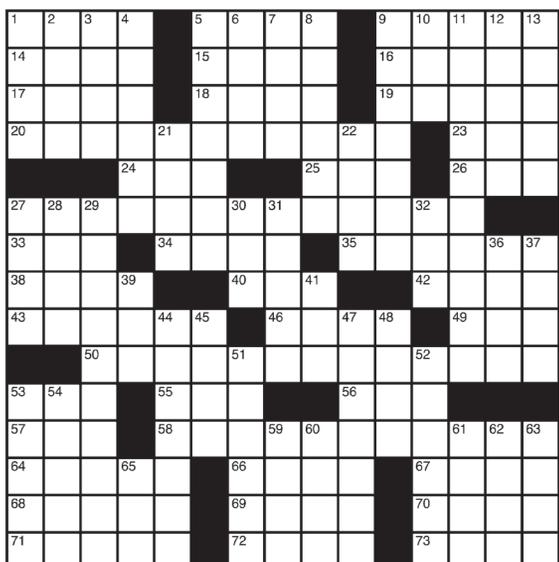
Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN | 36 PC alternative | 51 Consumes avidly |
| 1 Business attire | 1 Log cutters | 37 Relax in a hammock | 52 Take a stand against |
| 5 Somewhat | 2 Condo division | 39 California's Santa ___ | 53 Series of links |
| 9 Punches hard | 3 "Inside" facts, briefly | 41 ICU drips | 54 Lacks |
| 14 Tolstoy's "___ Karenina" | 4 Meditative exercise regimen | 44 Poet whose work inspired "Cats" | 59 Word before five or ten |
| 15 Jazz singer Home | 5 Teardrop-shaped nutlike snacks | 45 Director Premiering | 60 ___-stevenson |
| 16 Packing rope | 6 Answering machine cue | 47 Woman on stage | 61 State known for its caucuses |
| 17 Hot spot connection | 7 Part of MIT: Abbr. | 48 Bok ___: Chinese cabbage | 62 Business bigwig |
| 18 What gears do | 8 South Seas getaway | | 63 Gunpowder holders |
| 19 Addition to a school, say | 9 Substitute (for) | | 65 "___ Doubtfire" |
| 20 Noncash executive compensation | 10 "To thine ___ self be true" | | |
| 23 Siamese or Abyssinian | 11 Ohio city | | |
| 24 Solo in "Star Wars" | 12 Work on dough | | |
| 25 Seminary deg. | 13 Titillating cellphone messages | | |
| 26 Dog tags, for instance | 21 Green Hornet's sidekick | | |
| 27 Close boxing match outcome | 22 Extremely | | |
| 33 Part of a foot | 27 Male deer | | |
| 34 Norway's capital | 28 Game on horseback | | |
| 35 Low soccer score | 29 Valid | | |
| 38 Aquatic plant | 30 Christmas toymaker | | |
| 40 Work wk. end for many | 31 Gadget used on an apple | | |
| 42 "___ Lama Ding Dong": doo-wop hit | 32 "___ the fields we hit | | |

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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xwordeditor@aol.com 01/13/14



By Jeff Stillman
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P ₃	R ₁	O ₁	N ₁	O ₁	U ₁	N ₁	RACK 1 =	<u>60</u>
C ₃	O ₁	R ₁	N ₁	E ₁	R ₁		RACK 2 =	<u>8</u>
T ₁	O ₁	U ₁	R ₁	I ₁	S ₁	M ₃	RACK 3 =	<u>59</u>
Z ₁₀	I ₁	L ₁	L ₁	I ₁	O ₁	N ₁	RACK 4 =	<u>98</u>
							TOTAL	<u>225</u>

PAR SCORE 140-150
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Wilbekin leads Florida to overtime victory against Arkansas

JONATHAN CZUPRYN
Alligator Staff Writer

@jczupryn

Arkansas was going to make Scottie Wilbekin win the game for No. 10 Florida, and he did.

The senior point guard was listed as questionable for the Gators (13-2, 2-0 Southeastern Conference) heading

into their matchup with the Razorbacks (11-4, 0-2 SEC) on Saturday, but a sprained right ankle did not stop Wilbekin from sending the game into overtime and icing the contest with late free throws as Florida won 84-82 on Saturday in Bud Walton Arena in Fayetteville, Ark., without its leading scorer, Casey Prather (knee). The Gators' vic-

tory snapped the Razorbacks' 25-game winning streak at home.

In a back-and-forth game that included 13 ties and seven lead changes, Florida's last chance in the second half came with only 18 seconds left and UF down 66-64. Michael Frazier II grabbed a rebound off of an Arkansas missed free throw and quickly dished the ball to Wilbekin.

Although coach Billy Donovan had one remaining timeout, he chose to let Wilbekin run the isolation offense and take the final shot. With fewer than five seconds remaining, the 6-foot-2 point guard drove, pulled up and banked in a 16-foot shot to tie the game at 66 with two seconds left.

"I give our guys a lot of credit (with) just the resiliency to come back. And then Scottie making a tough shot at the end of regulation to give us a chance in overtime."

Billy Donovan
UF coach

Wilbekin said his right ankle was at about 80-90 percent, which limited his motion and agility. However, there was no doubt the senior was going to take the last shot in the second half as he ran the isolation offense.

"I give our guys a lot of credit (with) just the resiliency to come back," Donovan said. "And then Scottie, making a tough shot at the end of regulation to give us a chance in overtime."

Dorian Finney-Smith, who led the team with 22 points and 15 rebounds, said he knew Wilbekin had the strength to make that last shot despite not being 100 percent.

"I'm happy for him," Finney-Smith said about Wilbekin. "That was a tough shot. Coach D drew the play up and told him to get a good shot off and that's what (Wilbekin) did. He shot it with confidence."

The Razorbacks were forced to toss up a prayer at half court as time expired, but the shot missed and both teams saw overtime for the first time this year.

The Gators, who were down by seven with just more than four minutes left in regulation, now had momentum in extra time.

Florida opened overtime with a 5-0 run, forcing the

SEE HOOPS, PAGE 14



Ryan Jones / Alligator Staff

Scottie Wilbekin drives down the lane during Florida's win against South Carolina in the O'Connell Center on Wednesday. Wilbekin finished second on the team with 18 points in Florida's 84-82 overtime win against Arkansas on Saturday.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Prather doubtful for UGA

LONDON WATNICK
Alligator Staff Writer

@LandonWatnick

Senior forward Casey Prather (bone bruise in right knee), UF's leading scorer this season, is doubtful for No. 10 Florida's matchup against Georgia on Tuesday night in the O'Connell Center, the school announced Sunday.

Prather sat out of the team's practice Sunday afternoon and did not play in Florida's 84-82 overtime win on Saturday at Arkansas, his first missed contest of the year. He also did not participate in the Gators' two practices before Saturday's contest.

After Florida's home win against South Carolina on Wednesday night, Prather woke up Thursday with swelling in his right knee.

Coach Billy Donovan went more into specifics about the injury on Friday afternoon before the team traveled to Fayetteville, Ark.



Prather

"We actually thought maybe there had been some cartilage tear with the way his knee was swelling, so he had an MRI (on Thursday)," Donovan said.

"Cartilage tear, his knee structure, all that stuff is fine."

In 14 games this year — all starts — Prather has averaged a team- and career-best 17 points on 62.4 percent shooting, 5.5 rebounds and 2.1 assists per game.

LSU snaps UF win streak

GORDON STREISAND

Alligator Writer

@GordonStreisand

Florida's nine-game winning streak came to an end on Sunday in Baton Rouge, La.

The No. 12 Tigers physically dominated the Gators, handing Florida an 82-68 loss.

However, the deck was stacked against the Gators heading into Sunday.

Sophomore Christin Mercer, who has averaged 11.8 points and 5.8 rebounds per contest this season, was

suspended and did not make the trip to Baton Rouge, leaving the Gators with only two bench players for the afternoon. A reason and timetable for the suspension have yet to be released.

The 6-foot forward's absence was clearly felt in the paint, where LSU nabbed 50 rebounds compared to Florida's 29.

"We just got crushed on the boards," coach Amanda Butler said. "We had one player that really came with the intention of grabbing rebounds and making plays in the paint."

SEE W-HOOPS, PAGE 14



The Gators landed a top running back recruit to solidify their 2014 class. Read the story on page 15.

Florida men fall in tournament

The three men's tennis players remaining in the UTSA Futures Event in Sunrise lost on Sunday. Spencer Newman, Diego Hidalgo and Mike Alford all fell in three sets in the second round.

Gators in the NBA

Former UF guard Mike Miller scored 15 points in 26 minutes in the Memphis Grizzlies' 108-101 loss to the Atlanta Hawks in Memphis, Tenn., on Sunday.

AS STEIN ON TV

Gem of recruiting class wrong to use slur in online video

Something is rotten in the state of Florida.

Through a tip given to the Alligator, I learned of a video posted on the social media website Vine that apparently showed UF quarterback Will Grier, a recruit committed to Florida at the time, yelling a homophobic slur at people in a locker room.

The video, titled "Lax es gay," was posted on April 18, 2013, to Grier's Vine account, which has more than 300,000 followers as of this writing. In the six-second video, the word, "f**," is said 11 times before ending the video with the camera pointing at Grier as he says, "Lax is gay," referring to the school lacrosse team his brother, Nash Grier — a Vine celebrity in his own right — plays on.

This is unacceptable behavior from Grier. The use of that word is not acceptable by anyone, let alone someone who plans to represent UF — on the football field or otherwise. A Florida spokesman said that while the program monitors its players' social me-

dia accounts, he could not comment on the video when asked.

The word Grier, who enrolled at Florida last week, chose to scream at others has a history of being used to torment gay people for decades — if not longer — and it has no place in any type of civilized conversation.

You don't have to be gay to disapprove of this word or be offended by its use. I'm not. However, I do think using slurs meant to demean a group of people is wrong.

Even if no one Grier yelled at is gay, he still took the next step of posting the video on Vine, a popular social media website that has millions of subscribers and an even further reach.

Chances are, someone who is offended by the word saw the video.

The clip has more than 11,000 likes, 4,600 "revines" and 700 comments. The most re-



Adam
Lichtenstein
Twitter: @alichtenstein24

cent comment as of this writing came on Sunday. Clearly, a lot of people have viewed it.

Some people commented on the video to criticize the use of the word. One commenter said, "Maybe find another word to scream at people, yes?" One warned Grier that the use of the word might come back to

hurt him if it drew attention. Another called him immature and said his parents would be disappointed.

However, most of the comments are debating the merits of lacrosse and how attractive Nash looks in the video.

Look, I understand that this is probably not an isolated incident in locker rooms. I'm sure if you put a camera in locker rooms around the country, you would find a lot of similar conduct. "Boys will be boys," as the idiom says.

But "boys being boys" does not justify or excuse the use of offensive slurs.

When you take on a high-profile position, such as the anointed future quarterback at the University of Florida, like Grier has, you need to conduct yourself in a certain way. You are held to a higher standard.

If a random UF student was pulled over and was arrested for marijuana possession, it wouldn't be interesting.

When a football player does it, they end up on the front page.

We in the news business call this "prominence." Grier is a prominent person at UF, and everything he does for the next several years will be under the microscope.

Is that fair? You be the judge. But it is how the world works.

Grier is probably not a bad person. He might not even be a homophobe. I don't know.

What I do know is that screaming out slurs and posting them online is not becoming conduct of someone who will likely be one of the faces of the Florida football team for the next few years.

UF star scoring for USA

JORDAN MCPHERSON

Alligator Writer @J_McPherson1126

Savannah Jordan is continuing her dominance off the college pitch.

The UF freshman from Fayetteville, Ga., was selected to be part of the 20-person team to represent the U.S. in the CONCACAF Women's Under-20 World Cup qualifying play in December.



Jordan

Jordan, who led Florida with 22 goals last season, scored two goals in as many games while playing in George Town, Cayman Islands, with the national team. She notched her first goal in the 81st minute of the United States' 6-0 rout of Costa Rica on Thursday.

Jordan opened the scoring against Jamaica on Saturday with a goal in the 31st minute of her team's 3-0 win at the Truman Bodden Sports Complex.

The U.S. plays Guatemala tonight at 7:30 but has already secured a spot in the semifinals by winning its first two matches in the group stage.

Jordan finished her first season as the first freshman to become the Southeastern Conference offensive player of the year. She was also named to the second-team All-American, first team All-South Region and first team All-SEC teams.

Florida squeezes out win at UCLA in opener

► GATORS WON BY .025 POINTS.

ERICA A. HERNANDEZ

Alligator Writer @EricaAlyssa

No. 1 Florida defeated No. 4 UCLA on Saturday — but just barely.

Florida's total score of 196.65 points topped UCLA's 196.625 with the smallest possible margin, but the Gators are aware that they need to improve if they want to repeat as national champions.

"We had numerous mistakes and areas that we are going to work on, but that is what it is — a starting point," coach Rhonda Faehn said in a release.

"They know where we have to go from here."

Junior Kytra Hunter, sophomore Bridget Sloan and senior Mackenzie Caquatto competed in all four events. Junior Rachel Spicer competed in vault, balance beam and floor. Senior Alaina Johnson competed in vault, bars and balance beam.

Bridgette Caquatto debuted her season in vault (9.75), uneven bars (9.90) and floor (9.75).

After a limited freshman season due to foot surgery, sophomore Bianca Dancose-Giambattisto competed in uneven bars (9.875) and performed an exhibition balance beam routine (9.775) at UCLA.

Florida had falls in three of its four events. Although none were counted against the Gators, one more mistake could have easily landed the Gators in a losing spot.

"Personally, I don't want

to start out the season with a 198 score" Sloan said.

"We had some errors here and there."

Hunter's first-place wins in all-around (39.375) and floor (9.925), as well as Bridgette Caquatto's uneven bars win (9.90) contributed to the team win.

"As a team we were able to pull it together," Sloan said. "We didn't have the best score as a team, but in the end, we had a decent enough of a one to get the win."

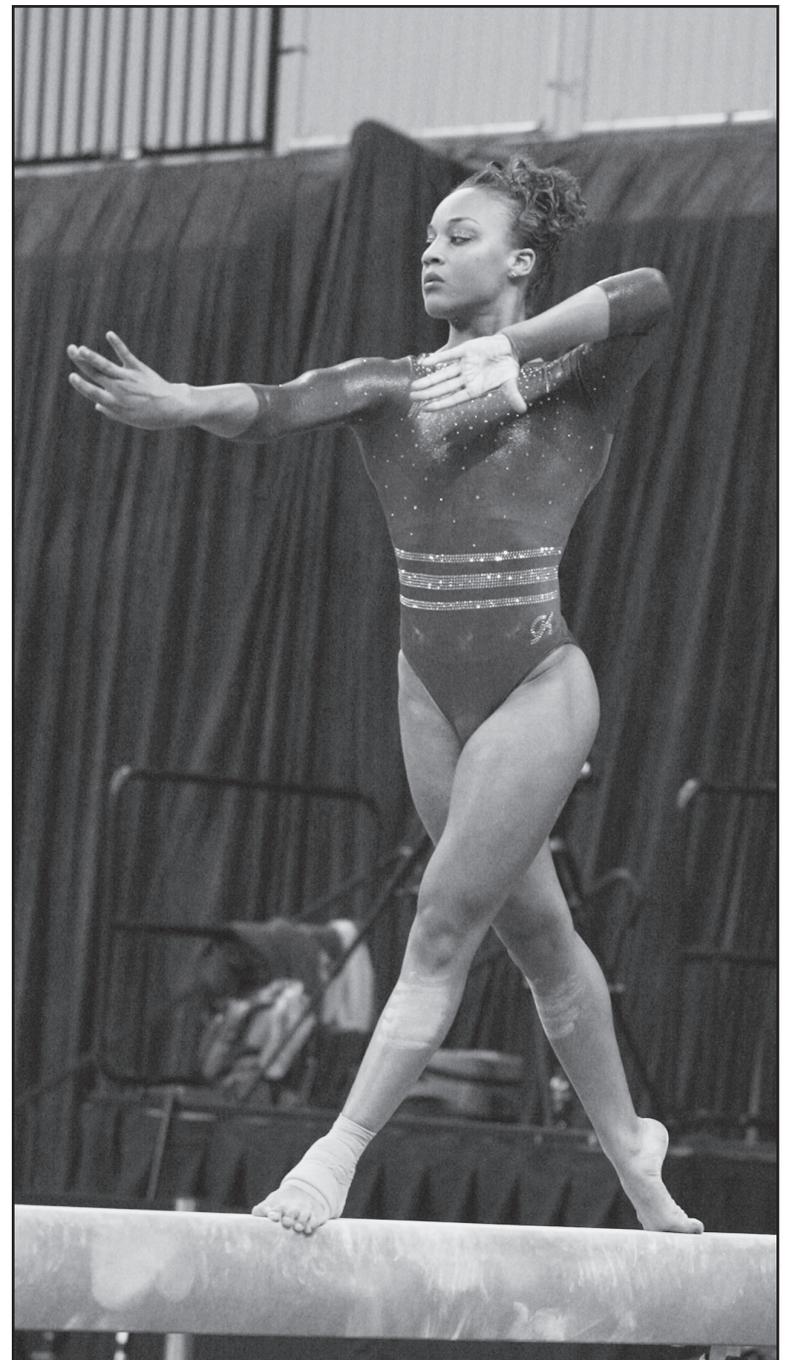
In her first collegiate gymnastics competition, Silvia Colussi-Pelaez performed two exhibition routines on bars and floor, while UF's only other freshman, Claire Boyce, competed in two events.

"I feel we could see her on the other events later this season, knowing that she is such an aggressive competitor," Faehn said of Boyce, who scored 9.85 on beam and 9.825 on floor.

Faehn said she thought Colussi-Pelaez was "pretty solid" even though she suffered a fall on the uneven bars, resulting in an exhibition score of 9.125. She scored a 9.60 for her floor exhibition routine.

With the UCLA meet in the books, the Gators return to Gainesville to continue their packed spring schedule, which includes a meet a week for the next 11 weeks.

"We knew they weren't going to be 100 percent like we would be at the end of the season," Faehn said. "We have to pace our athletes and make sure they aren't going to break down early in the season."



Kelly Logan / Alligator

Junior Kytra Hunter performs her beam routine in a dual meet against Ball State on Jan. 4, 2013, in the O'Connell Center. Hunter claimed first place in all-around and floor in the Gators' season-opening meet against UCLA in the Pauley Pavilion in Los Angeles on Saturday.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Finney-Smith fills stat sheet in UF win

LONDON WATNICK
Alligator Staff Writer

@LandonWatnick

With three of its starters ailing, Florida needed forward Dorian Finney-Smith to step into a starting role for only the second time this year and produce against Arkansas.



Finney-Smith

By the time the buzzer sounded Saturday in Fayetteville, Ark., Finney-Smith had the most productive stat line of his college career — 22 points on 7-of-15 shooting, 15 rebounds, three assists and three steals.

"I just wanted to come out here with a lot of energy," Finney-Smith said. "I knew the crowd was going to bring a lot of energy. I just wanted to match that."

During the No. 10 Gators' 84-82 overtime win against the Razorbacks in front of a raucous crowd in Bud Walton Arena, Finney-Smith logged a career-high 42 minutes in the absence of senior forward Casey Prather, who was out Saturday with a bone bruise on his right knee.

Finney-Smith had nine points and seven rebounds at halftime, but the Virginia Tech transfer's first half was not smooth sailing. He committed three turnovers after mishandling the ball twice and charging into the lane once.

Normally, early mistakes like these would rattle Finney-Smith.

"The one guy who I've tried to instill just a belief of confidence in is Doe-Doe," coach Billy Donovan said. "Just be aggressive, play through mistakes. ... He takes things so personal when he doesn't do what he feels he should be doing out there and he gets down sometimes with himself on that, and sometimes it drains his energy."

But Finney-Smith was one of the most energetic and composed players on the floor during the second half and overtime Saturday.

Playing the game's final 18:34, Finney-Smith made key plays for the Gators down the stretch.

With 2:39 left in overtime, Finney-Smith bailed out freshman point guard Kasey Hill, who had the ball stolen by Razorbacks forward Bobby Portis while taking it up half court. But seconds later, Finney-Smith intercepted Portis' bounce pass intended for an Arkansas teammate.

Finney-Smith then earned a trip to the charity stripe on the next play, sinking 1 of 2 free throws to give UF a 72-69 lead.

Thirty-seven seconds later, Finney-Smith drained an open three from the left wing to lift the Gators to a 75-69 lead — their largest advantage of the game at that point. Despite missing a three-point attempt late in regulation, Finney-Smith was not hesitant to pull the trigger in that situation.

After Finney-Smith's confident performance Saturday, his coach was left impressed.

"He's always been a phenomenal rebounder, and he did a good job of rebounding the ball [Saturday], but it was good to see him make some shots and put it on the floor," Donovan said.

"He did a lot of different things for us. I was really happy for him personally.

"We're going to need for him to continue to grow and develop."

A radio broadcast contributed to this report.

Peoples, Needles lead UF in points

WHOOPS, from page 12

Kayla Lewis was that player, collecting a career-high 17 rebounds and scored 15 points on the afternoon. Lewis accounted for seven of Florida's 10 offensive rebounds and 10 of its 19 defensive boards.

"She did about all she could do," Butler said. "Grabbing 17 rebounds is fantastic, but then when the next person only has three, it's going to be very hard to beat a really talented team like LSU."

"If you give up 50 rebounds — 20 of them being offensive and you only get 10 — things are not going to go your way."

The first half of Sunday's matinee was a rough one for Florida. The Tigers laid it on thick with a 10-0 run and two 8-0 runs, putting the Gators in a steep 40-25 hole at the half.

At the time, the Florida was shooting 22.2 percent from the field compared to LSU's shooting clip of 50 percent.

"It was really a soft first half for us, and you can't do that against a team like LSU," Butler said, "especially when you're on the road."

The second half was a little brighter for Florida, as it outscored LSU 43-42 during that half. However, rebounding and foul trouble ultimately did the Gators in, as Williams fouled out with 6:15 on the clock and LSU outrebounded Florida 27-15 in the half.

"They're significantly bigger than us in the paint, but that's not a new challenge," Butler said. "We're used to that. They did a great job positioning for rebounds. We needed to make boxing out more important, and we didn't."

Overall, the Gators struggled shooting from the field, sinking 30.4 percent of their shots. Senior Jatterra Bonds went 2 for 11, while three of Florida's other six players laid eggs in the shooting percentage column — senior Lily Svete, freshman Ronni Williams and sophomore January Miller went a combined 0 of 13.

However, redshirt sophomore guards Cassie Peoples and Carlie Needles put up strong numbers in spite of the teams poor percentages on offense. Peoples scored 22 points and went 10 for 10 from the charity stripe, while Needles scored 17 and sunk a game-high 5 of 8 attempts from beyond the arc.

Unfortunately for Florida, the strong play of its guards was not enough to propel it to victory.

Finish the story online at alligator-sports.org.



Kan Li / Alligator Staff

Carlie Needles attempts a three-point shot against Arkansas in the O'Connell Center on Thursday. Needles scored 17 points on 5-of-8 shooting in UF's 82-68 loss to LSU on Sunday in Baton Rouge, La.

Young nearly notches double-double despite knee soreness

HOOPS, from page 12

Razorbacks to foul and make Florida win the game at the free-throw line.

Wilbekin, who was 2 of 2 at the line during regulation, was first sent to the charity stripe

with 35 seconds left and his team up 78-75. In total, Wilbekin went 6 of 8 on free throws in the final 35 seconds.

Despite the injured ankle, the point guard finished the game with 18 points, which ties a career high, and only one turnover.

Donovan said that although Wilbekin iced the game late in the second half and in overtime for the Gators, he added that they wouldn't have been put in that position if it weren't for Young.

The senior center, who was limited to 16 minutes because of

a pair of sore knees, fell three rebounds shy of a double-double as he finished with 10 points and seven boards.

"I thought Patric was a monster in the second half, although he didn't play a lot of minutes," Donovan said.

"He rebounded the ball, he defended, he chased balls on the glass, he made a couple free throws. I thought he played very, very well tonight considering he had limited minutes."

A radio broadcast contributed to this report.

RECRUITING

Top-10 running back prospect flips to Florida, enrolls early

MORGAN MORIARTY

Alligator Writer @Morgan_Moriarty

The tail end of last week was a whirlwind of recruiting news for UF's 2014 class.

With a series of big swings from top recruits, Florida coach Will Muschamp and his staff has already pieced together an impressive class late with less than

a month until National Signing Day.

Early Friday morning, 2014 running back Brandon Powell, Rivals.com's No. 7 tailback out of Deerfield Beach High, flipped on his verbal commitment from Miami to Florida.

Powell was supposed to be on campus in Coral Gables last Wednesday, but after Florida offered him that day, he decided he would instead enroll early at UF. Powell made it to Gainesville on Friday.

Powell racked up 1,339 yards along with 20 touchdowns during his senior season.

Additionally, he had 21 catches for 289 yards — something that Powell will be doing a lot of in new offensive coordinator Kurt Roper's up-tempo spread offense.

Powell will join UF's backfield that will feature redshirt senior Mack Brown, junior Matt Jones, who is recovering from a torn meniscus, and sophomore Kelvin Taylor — a significant part of UF's offense near the end of Florida's 2013 season.

The Gators finished 2013 ranked 88th in the country in rushing yards per game.

The news did not stop with Powell. On Friday afternoon, wide receiver commit Ermon Lane posted on his Twitter account (@_MoneyLane) that he

was decommitting from UF saying, "No Hard Feelings But I Just Decommited From The University Of Florida . Not Because Dalvin Cook. No lie I love gator nation."

The news did not come as a surprise, as it was obvious that Lane was wavering on his verbal commitment to UF. There is a possibility that Lane could end up following Cook to Florida State.

"No Hard Feelings But I Just Decommited From The University Of Florida . Not Because Dalvin Cook. No lie I love gator nation."

Ermon Lane

Wide receiver prospect

The Seminoles have three wide receivers committed in their current 2014 class, and the loss of Kelvin Benjamin to the NFL Draft exposes the need for explosive wideouts.

One of the receivers in FSU's 2014 class is Travis Rudolph, who can make an impact on offense immediately.

If Jimbo Fisher can convince Lane to join Cook, the FSU offense will have lethal young weapons across the board to work with in 2014.

The best pickup Florida could get to replace Lane is JUCO prospect Eric Lauderdale. Lauderdale, who hails from Saddleback (Calif.) Community College, has

offers from Florida, Arizona State and Oregon.

During his 2013 season, he averaged 100 receiving yards per game and had nine touchdowns in seven games.

Lauderdale is scheduled to make an official visit to Arizona State on Jan. 17 and will be in Eugene, Ore., a week later.

Lauderdale visited UF in November.

Another possible replacement for the loss of Lane in the 2014 class is Isaiah McKenzie, Rivals' No. 54 receiver in the 2014 class. He will make his official visit to Gainesville on Friday. McKenzie also has received offers from Oregon, West Virginia and Kentucky, among others. UF's passing game struggled in 2013. Florida finished 109th in the nation in passing yards per game.

A couple of 2015 recruits made news on Friday as well. Miramar High four-star safety prospect Kendrell McFadden announced his verbal commitment to West Virginia on Friday night. McFadden chose WVU over Florida, Alabama, Miami and LSU.

Highly touted 2015 dual-threat quarterback Torraine Gibson was offered by Florida on Saturday morning. Gibson is the No. 3 ranked quarterback prospect in the 2015 class, picking up offers from Ohio State, Alabama, LSU, Florida State and others.



Alligator File Photo

Will Muschamp speaks following Florida's 31-17 win against Tennessee on Sept. 22, 2013. Muschamp's class currently ranks 10th nationally.



Alligator File Photo

Eddie Lovett (left) races in the 55m hurdles at the Gator Invitational in the O'Connell Center on Jan. 17, 2013. Lovett won the men's 60-meter hurdles on Saturday.

Gators excel at UAB Invite

► UF SETS TWO COURSE RECORDS.

LAWRENCE LAGUNA

Alligator Writer @LagunaLawrence

Florida dominated the Day 2 of the UAB Blazer Invitational at the Birmingham CrossPlex on Saturday.

The Gators finished their first meet of the season with 13 event victories and 10 meet records, which included UF top-10 all-time performances and two CrossPlex records.

"We leave this meet with a very good taste in our mouth," coach Mike Holloway said in a release.

"We have an extremely special group of men's and women's athletes."

With several top marks in the country so far this season, UF set the scene.

Senior hurdler Eddie Lovett won the men's 60-meter hurdles in a time of 7.81 seconds.

Moriel Pitt won Section B, clocking in at 7.97 seconds.

In the men's 60-meter dash, Hugh Graham Jr. ran a 6.66-second meet record to win the event.

Antwan Wright also won Section B in a 6.63 sprint.

"We had great effort from Antwan (Wright) and (Hugh) Graham, Jr., to get us started this morning in the 60m — a big PR for Antwan," Holloway said.

The Gators also ran for two CrossPlex

records.

In the men's 4x4, Najee Glass, Graham Jr., Nick Uruburu and Arman Hall ran a meet record time of 3:06.11 to win the event.

In the women's 4x4, Robin Reynolds, Destinee Gause, Kyra Jefferson and Ebony Eutsey took the event with a time of 3:37.83.

Eutsey also claimed the 200-meter dash in 23.70 seconds, a meet record.

"I thought our hurdlers did great and I was impressed with Robin (Reynolds) in the long jump, a PR for her," Holloway said.

Holloway said Bridgette Owens and Cory McGee had great races, and both 4x4 teams came up big.

McGee ended up taking the women's 800-meter with a meet record time of 2:07.47.

UF cleared their first meet, but Holloway doesn't want early success to diminish the focus ahead.

After wrapping up in Birmingham, Ala., the Gators will have 11 days before they head to Lexington, Ky., to compete at the Rod McCravy Memorial on Jan. 24.

"The thing we have to keep in mind is this is the first meet of the season and nobody is going to care about this meet next week," Holloway said.

"We're going to get back to Florida, rest up and get back to training Monday."

GATORS IN THE NFL

Harvin suffers concussion in first game back from injury

JORDAN MCPHERSON

Alligator Writer

@J_McPherson1126

Injuries continue to plague former Gators receiver Percy Harvin.

The fifth-year veteran had to leave the field twice with apparent head injuries in the first half of the Seattle Seahawks' 23-15 win against the New Orleans Saints in the Divisional Round of the NFL Playoffs on Saturday. He left the game with a concussion in the second quarter.

On Seattle's third play from scrimmage, quarterback Russell Wilson dropped back and threw a pass to Harvin down the left sideline. Harvin bobbled the ball and, while falling to the ground, was hit in the neck and helmet area by Saints safety Rafael Bush. Harvin was sent to the locker room to be evaluated for a concussion but returned to the field for Seattle's next offensive possession.

Just four offensive drives later, the Seahawks lined up at the Saints' 8-yard line for a second-and-goal with 1:40 remaining in the second quarter.

Wilson, standing in the shotgun, faked a handoff to Harvin and ran around the backfield while trying to avoid pressure from Saints defensive linemen Cameron Jordan and Tom Johnson. After eight seconds, Wilson ultimately rolled left and threw an incomplete pass to the left corner of the end zone. The pass was intended for Harvin, whose head landed awkwardly on the ground during the play after being hit by Saints safety Malcolm Jenkins. Harvin did not return after that play.

Harvin, who played in only one game in the 2013 regular season due to a hip injury, finished the contest with three catches for 21 yards, including a 16-yard grab up the middle against Saints cornerback Corey White in the second quarter. His status for Sunday's NFC Championship game against the San Francisco 49ers is uncertain.

McDonald helps 49ers: San Francisco defensive lineman Ray McDonald recorded three tackles in the 49ers' 23-10 win against

the Carolina Panthers on Sunday. The seven-year veteran was part of a 49ers defensive line that limited Carolina to 93 rushing yards and

applied constant pressure to Panthers quarterback Cam Newton, who was sacked five times and hit on nine different occasions.



AP Photo

Seattle Seahawks wide receiver Percy Harvin (left) fends off New Orleans Saints middle linebacker Curtis Lofton (50) during the first half of the Seahawks' 23-15 victory against the Saints on Saturday. Harvin left the game in the second quarter.

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Monday 1/6	Bowl Recap
Friday 1/17	Swimming, Gymnastics
Friday 1/24	Link to Pink vs Auburn
Friday 1/31	Tennis, Swimming & Diving, Men's Basketball vs Texas A&M
Friday 2/7	Lacrosse, Men's Basketball vs Alabama
Friday 2/21	Swimming, Tennis, Men's Basketball vs Ole Miss
Friday 2/28	Swimming & Diving
Friday 3/14	Baseball Opener vs Arkansas
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