



Key West installs plaque honoring Diana Nyad **4A**

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JACKSON COUNTY FLORIDAN



JV Tigers open regular season with Cottondale **1B**

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 2, 2014

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75¢

Vol. 91 No. 174

Parents charged with child abuse

Kids found locked behind "cage-like" doors

BY DEBORAH BUCKHALTER
dbuckhalter@jcfloridan.com

Two parents were jailed after two of their children were found locked behind makeshift "cage-like" doors in a roach-infested home near Marianna Saturday night.

Shane Christopher Ratliff, 33,

and Constance Ratliff, 24, are each charged with child abuse in the case.



C. Ratliff

Those two youngsters and a third child belonging to the family were removed from the home and turned over to the Department of Children and Families for placement in a safe environment.

Officials arrived at the home

on Calloway Road near Marianna around 11:30 Saturday night at the request of DCF to investigate a child abuse complaint.



S. Ratliff

Inside, they found three children, ages 2, 3, and 4, in the care of the Ratliffs, their parents, according to the Jackson County Sheriff's Office. The two children found

locked behind the cage doors were laying on the floor in separate bedrooms which had no beds or other furniture. Both of the rooms were infested with roaches and the floors were covered in trash, officials reported. In one of the bedrooms, dirty diapers were scattered on the floor. The rest of the house was infested with roaches and cat feces.

Bond was set at \$5,000 each for the parents.

Six cars destroyed in hauler fire

BY DEBORAH BUCKHALTER
dbuckhalter@jcfloridan.com

Six cars being transported through Jackson County went up in flames when the truck hauling them caught fire Saturday afternoon on Interstate 10.

According to a Florida Highway Patrol, the driver of the car hauler was near mile marker 143 around 1:15 p.m. when he smoke coming from the left-side rear tandem wheels of the semi-tractor he was towing.

See **HAULER**, Page 5A

LABOR DAY = NO WORK, ALL PLAY



Zoeie Goucher, two-and-a-half years old, takes a big sip of her drink when she, her mother and friends stop by the Milk & Honey Frozen Yogurt in Marianna on their holiday adventure Monday.



PHOTOS BY DEBORAH BUCKHALTER/FLORIDAN

Jordan Neshien (left) and Jessie West take their tubes to the water's edge, Monday at Spring Creek Park.



LEFT: Tubers came in a steady stream Monday, to ride down Spring Creek and on into the Chipola River downstream.

INSIDE
» See more photos of holiday fun. **5A**

Jackson County was a popular place this Labor Day weekend. According to county parks director Chuck Hatcher, Blue Springs Recreation Area saw about 1,000 visitors over the Labor Day weekend, a lot for one of the typically less-crowded weekends there. Monday was the last day of the Blue Springs season, which opens on Memorial Day each year. Over the 87-day period, the park saw 30,000 visitors—that's the fourth largest crowd since the early 2000s, he said. And at Spring Creek Park, a damaged boardwalk did little to discourage the crowds from finding an alternate way to get to the water. A steady stream of guests arrived throughout the weekend to float, swim, kayak or canoe down the creek. Holiday cookouts and other activities rounded out the celebration for many families.

Spring Creek



DEBORAH BUCKHALTER/FLORIDAN

Part of the boardwalk leading from the upper parking area to the water shows damage from a felled tree, Monday, Sept. 1, at Spring Creek in Marianna.

Boardwalk damaged

BY DEBORAH BUCKHALTER
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A tree crashed through a section of the Spring Creek Park boardwalk Friday or Saturday, prompting officials to put barrier tape and a board across its entry point at the top of the hill above Spring Creek Saturday after it was discovered.

Jackson County Parks and Recreation Director Chuck Hatcher said he expects crews to start repairing it Tuesday morning and that that it should be ready for use in time for the weekend crowds. He said the county has some

See **BOARDWALK**, Page 5A

\$400,000 cultural grant back before city commission

Tonight's meeting starts at 6 p.m.

BY ANGIE COOK
acook@jcfloridan.com

MARIANNA — Back before city commissioners tonight will be a proposed renovation project involving the First National Bank building downtown on Caledonia Street. The City of Marianna owns the building and is eligible for up to \$400,000 from the State that could help turn the historic structure into public cultural facility — if city officials agree to the stipulations of the grant.

The Florida Division of Cultural Affairs Cultural Facilities Grant Program requires

See **GRANT**, Page 5A

BROAD STRIPES, BRIGHTER STARS



KRISTIE CLOUD/FLORIDAN

Jackson County Maintenance Department employee James Watkins, (second from left) with help from a three-man inmate work crew, readies the pole in front of the county courthouse for new flags, last week in Marianna.

» CLASSIFIEDS...4-6B

» ENTERTAINMENT...3B

» LOCAL...3A

» OBITUARIES...5A

» STATE...4A

» SPORTS...1B

» WEATHER...2A

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Email your 'Cute Kids' photos to editorial@jcfloridan.com, mail them or bring them by our offices at 4403 Constitution Lane in Marianna.

*12 years or under, with Jackson County ties. Include child's full name, parents' name(s) and city of residence. This is a free service. All entries subject to editing.



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Weather Outlook

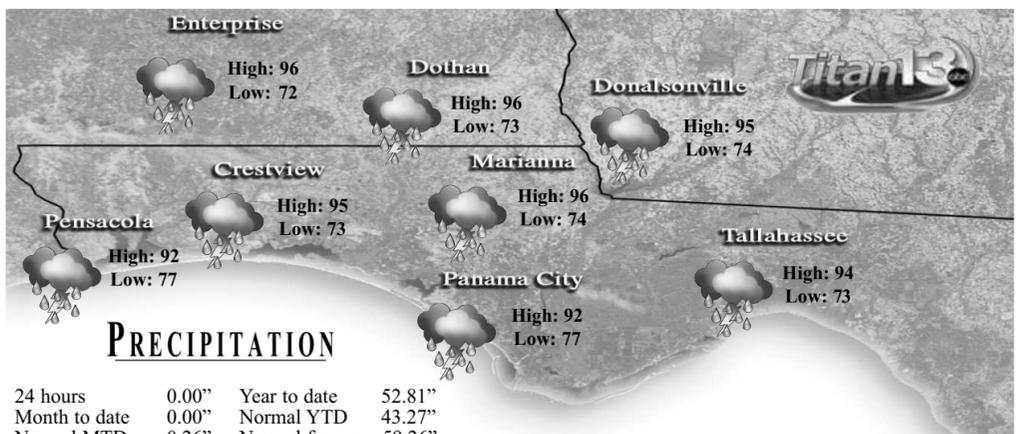
Today
 Stray Afternoon Thunderstorms
 Tyler Eliassen/ WMBB
 High - 94°
 Low - 74°




 High - 96° Low - 73° Wednesday Stray Afternoon Thunderstorms	 High - 93° Low - 72° Thursday Stray Afternoon Thunderstorms
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 High - 92° Low - 72° Friday Stray Afternoon Thunderstorms	 High - 93° Low - 72° Saturday Stray Afternoon Thunderstorms
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LISTEN FOR HOURLY WEATHER UPDATES

THE SUN AND MOON

Sunrise	6:18 AM	
Sunset	7:03 PM	
Moonrise	1:33 PM	
Moonset	12:24 AM	

Sept. 2 Sept. 8 Sept. 15 Sept. 23

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MISS YOUR PAPER?

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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All subscriptions to the Jackson County Floridan include delivery on Thanksgiving Day for which there is a premium charge.

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HOW TO GET YOUR NEWS PUBLISHED

The Jackson County Floridan will publish news of general interest free of charge. Submit your news or Community Calendar events via e-mail, fax, mail, or hand delivery. Fees may apply for wedding, engagement, anniversary and birth announcements. Forms are available at the Floridan offices. Photographs must be of good quality and suitable for print. The Floridan reserves the right to edit all submissions.

GETTING IT RIGHT

The Jackson County Floridan's policy is to correct mistakes promptly. To report an error, please call 526-3614 Monday-Friday.



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

- » **Marianna City Farmers Market Open** — 7 a.m. to noon at Madison St. Park. Now featuring Panhandle arts and crafts every Saturday.
- » **St. Anne Thrift Store Brown Bag Sale** — 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. St. Anne's Catholic Church, 3009 Fifth St., Marianna. Welcome donations: household items, clothing and jewelry. Proceeds go to help less fortunate in the community. Call 482-3734.
- » **Beginner/players Pinochle** — 10 a.m. at McCormick Lake Clubhouse. Everyone welcome to come and play. For more information, call 272-6611.
- » **Optimist Club of Jackson County Meeting** — Noon at Jim's Buffet & Grill, 4329 Lafayette St., Marianna.
- » **Sewing Circle** — 1 p.m. at Jackson County Senior Citizens, 2931 Optimist Drive in Marianna. Call 482-5028.
- » **City of Jacob Budget Workshop** — 4:30 p.m. Jacob City Hall. Public welcome.
- » **4H Meet and Greet** — 5-7 p.m. at the UF/IFAS Jackson County Extension Office in Marianna. Open to all current 4-Hers and those who would like to enroll. Come meet the 4-H agent and club leaders. Refreshments will be served. Call 482-9620.
- » **Jackson County Public Library Writing Center Group to Host Book Launch** — 5:30 p.m. Jackson County Public Library, 2929 Green St. Marianna. Meet author of "River of Dissent", E. Brocke Bradley. Refreshments served. Call 482-9631.
- » **Marianna City Commission Meeting** — 6 p.m. in City Hall, 2898 Green St., Marianna. Public welcome. Call 718-1001.
- » **Alcoholics Anonymous Closed Meeting** — 8-9 p.m. in the AA room of First United Methodist Church, 2901 Caledonia St. in Marianna. Closed discussion with 12 and 12 study. Everyone with a desire to stop drinking is welcome.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

- » **Alcoholics Anonymous Open Meeting** — Noon to 1 p.m. in the AA room of First United Methodist Church, 2901 Caledonia St. in Marianna.
- THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4
- » **Marianna City Farmers Market Open** — 7 a.m. to noon at Madison St. Park. Now featuring Panhandle arts and crafts every Saturday.
 - » **International Chat 'n' Sip** — 8:30-10 a.m. at the Jackson County Public Library, 2929 Green St. in Marianna. Learning Center staff and their international English learners invite the public for the exchange of language, culture and ideas in a relaxed environment. Light refreshments served. No charge. Call 482-9124.
 - » **St. Anne Thrift Store Brown Bag Sale** — 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. St. Anne's Catholic Church, 3009 Fifth St., Marianna. Call 482-3734
 - » **Free Caregiver Support Group** — 10:30 a.m. to noon at First Presbyterian Church, Marianna in social hall. All caregivers welcome. Support group

The submission deadline for this calendar is two days before publication. Submit to: Community Calendar, Jackson County Floridan, P. O. Box 520, Marianna, FL 32447, email editorial@jcfloridan.com, fax 850-482-4478 or bring items to 4403 Constitution Lane in Marianna.

Community Calendar

- empowers caregivers with knowledge and information through fellowship and sharing like-minded individuals who are caring for loved ones. For more information, call Recie Culpepper 566-2553.
- » **Chipola Civic Club Meeting** — Noon at The Oaks Restaurant, U.S. 90 in Marianna. The CCC's focus is the local community, "Community, Children & Character." Call 526-3142.
- » **Marianna Kiwanis Club Meeting** — Noon at Jim's Buffet & Grill, 4329 Lafayette St., Marianna. Call 482-2290.
- » **East Jackson County Economic Development Council to Recognize Business of month** — 1 p.m. Dr. James Melzer's office, 321 W. Washington St. Chattahoochee. Public encouraged to attend.
- » **VFW & Ladies Auxiliary Meeting** — 6 p.m. at 2830 Wynn St., Marianna. Covered-dish supper followed by a 7 p.m. business meeting. Call 209-1797.
- » **Alcoholics Anonymous** — Closed discussion, 8-9 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 2901 Caledonia St., Marianna, in the AA room. Attendance limited to people with a desire to stop drinking; papers will not be signed.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

- » **Hooks and Needles** — 10 a.m. at the Jackson County Public Library, Marianna branch. New and experienced handcrafters welcome to create, share, learn or teach favorite projects. Call 482-9631.
- » **Jackson Hospital Board of Trustees meeting** — 11 a.m. in the hospital classroom, Marianna. Call 718-2629.
- » **Madison Street Park Farmers Market** — 4-7 p.m. at Madison Street park. Will be open each Friday evening. FMNP and Sr. FMNP vouchers are accepted. For more info call 693-4078.
- » **Chess Club** — 6-8 p.m. First United Methodist Church on Clinton St. in Marianna. Sponsored by Marianna Optimist Club for students for students 8-18 years of age in Jackson County. All students and their parents are welcome. Players of all skill levels including beginners are welcome. Call 693-0473.
- » **Give Me Liberty Tour** — 6:30 p.m. Eastside Baptist Church, Marianna. Christian leaders and business owners will be speaking about the state of the nation. No admission charge. Everyone invited.
- » **Celebrate Recovery** — 7 p.m. at Evangel Worship Center, 2645 Pebble Hill Road in Marianna. Adult and teen meetings to "overcome hurts, habits and hang-ups." Dinner: 6 p.m. Child care available. Call 209-7856, 573-1131.
- » **Alcoholics Anonymous Open Meeting** — 8-9 p.m. in the AA room of First United Methodist Church, 2901 Caledonia St. in Marianna.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

- » **Marianna City Farmers Market Open** — 7 a.m. to noon at Madison St. Park. Now featuring Panhandle arts and crafts every Saturday.
- » **Alcoholics Anonymous Open Meeting** — 8 a.m. in the AA room of First United Methodist Church,

2901 Caledonia St. in Marianna.

- » **Family Preparedness and Health Expo** — 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 3141 College St. Marianna. Jackson Hospital in charge of free eye and ear screenings, blood pressure, glucose and cholesterol screenings. There will be exhibits and demonstrations. Free lunch provided. Door prizes presented.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

- » **Alcoholics Anonymous Closed Discussion** — 6:30 p.m. in AA room of First United Methodist Church, 2901 Caledonia St. in Marianna. Attendance limited to people with a desire to stop drinking.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

- » **Movie Madness Monday** — 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. One-Blood, 2503 Commercial Park Dr., Marianna. Come donate blood and receive a ticket to Marianna Cinemas.
- » **Marianna Lions Club Meeting** — Noon at Jim's Buffet & Grill, 4329 Lafayette St., Marianna. Call 482-2005.
- » **Jackson County Quilters Guild Meeting** — 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Jackson County Extension Service, Penn Ave., Marianna. Business meetings are fourth Mondays; other Mondays are for projects, lessons and help. All quilters welcome. Call 573-5434.
- » **Breaking Free** — 7-8 p.m. A closed SAA group is a 12-step fellowship of men and women recovering from addictive sexual behavior. For more info and location call Shawn at 693-1621 or email Breaking-FreeSAA@yahoo.com
- » **Alcoholics Anonymous Open Meeting** — 8-9 p.m. in the AA room of First United Methodist Church, 2901 Caledonia St., Marianna.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

- » **Marianna City Farmers Market Open** — 7 a.m. to noon at Madison St. Park. Now featuring Panhandle arts and crafts every Saturday.
- » **St. Anne Thrift Store Brown Bag Sale** — 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. St. Anne's Catholic Church, 3009 Fifth St., Marianna. Welcome donations: household items, clothing and jewelry. Proceeds go to help less fortunate in our community. Call 482-3734.
- » **OneBlood** — 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Baptist College, Graceville. Receive a "Sunshine State" T-shirt.
- » **Beginner/players Pinochle** — 10 a.m. at McCormick Lake Clubhouse. Everyone welcome to come and play. For more info call 272-6611.
- » **Free Train Ride** — 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. EST Veterans Memorial Railroad, Bristol. Over a mile ride around the park. Donations appreciated. For more info call 643-6646 or 643-5491 or visit VeteransMemorial-Railroad.org (Feb-Nov)
- » **Republican Club of West Florida Meeting** — Noon at Jim's Buffet & Grill, 4329 Lafayette St., Marianna. Call 352-4984.
- » **Optimist Club of Jackson County Board Meeting** — Noon at 4476 Broad St., Marianna.

Police Roundup

MARIANNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Marianna Police Department reported the following incidents for Aug. 31, the latest available report: Three traffic stops, two abandoned vehicle reports, one reckless driver, one suspicious incident, one verbal disturbance, one juvenile complaint, nine property checks, one assist of a motorist or pedestrian, one assist of another agency, one public service call, three welfare checks and 19 home security checks.

JACKSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Jackson County Sheriff's Office and county fire/rescue reported the following incidents for Aug. 31, the latest available

report: One drunk driver, three drunk pedestrians, two accidents, two reckless drivers, two suspicious vehicles, one suspicious person, three escorts, one report of mental illness, one burglary, one burglary attempt, two physical disturbances, one verbal disturbance, one pedestrian complaint, one brush fire, 13 medical calls, one traffic crash, one grass fire, two medical transports, four burglar alarms, one fire alarm, 56 traffic stops, two civil disputes, two trespass complaints, one obscene/threatening phone call, one follow-up investigation, one juvenile complaint, two animal complaints, one disabled vehicle, seven property checks, three assists of

motorists or pedestrians, two assists of other agencies, one routine transport, one Baker Act transport, and one threat/harassment complaint.

JACKSON COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

The following people were booked into the county jail during the latest reporting periods:
 » **Shane Ratliff**, 33, 2844 Calloway St., Marianna, Child abuse-two counts.
 » **Constance Ratliff**, 24, 2844 Calloway St., Marianna, child abuse-two counts.
 » **Tatanisha Thomas**, 41, 5372 Florida St., Graceville, dealing in stolen property.
 » **Torrey Hammons**, 40, 3153 Redbud Lane, Marianna, driving under the influence.
 » **Nusharon Jordan**, 45,

5796 Blue Springs Highway, Greenwood, violation of state probation, possession of drug paraphernalia.
 » **Jerry Tolbert**, 49, 10003 Winding Lake Road, Sunrise, fugitive from justice (MD).
 » **Kenneth Dawson**, 57, 149 Wall Road, Port Orange, hold for Broward Co.
 » **Isaiah Broxton**, 20, 5101 Peanut Road, Graceville, possession of marijuana-under 20 grams.
 » **Markeha Daniels**, 23, 4178 Old Cottondale Road, Marianna, aggravated battery with a deadly weapon, battery (domestic), resisting an officer with violence.
 » **Ernest Beaumont**, 39, 2440 Papillion Way, Tallahassee, hold for Liberty Co.

Jail Population: 213



Sen. Bill Montford is presented a #1 Chipola baseball jersey at the recent Endless Summer event. Pictured (from left) are: Chipola Appreciation Club President Robert Trammell, Cliff Ellis of the Villagers, Sen. Bill Montford and Chipola baseball coach Jeff Johnson.

Chipola's Endless Summer creates Montford Scholarship

More than 400 friends of Chipola College attended the Chipola Appreciation Club's "Endless Summer" dinner and dance on Aug. 16.

Sen. Bill Montford (Chipola class of 1967) was the special guest for the evening. The \$50-a-ticket event raised thousands to endow a college scholarship in his name.

The Villagers, a 1960s rock band made up of Chipola alumni, performed for the Chipola faithful.

Former Chipola basketball player and Appreciation Club President Robert Trammell said, "The commitment of alumni and supporters has been the key to Chipola's success over the years. Without strong support from our people, Chipola would not be what it is today. This support helps our athletic programs compete on the national stage year after year."

Sen. Montford said, "Working on Endless Summer has been great fun and a very satisfying experience. Chipola College has a great reputation built on generations of success and respect. People trust and appreciate Chipola and we had a successful and enjoyable event that will benefit many students."

Sen. Montford was born in Marianna and grew up in Blountstown. He graduated from Chipola in 1967 and transferred to FSU where he earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics education and a master's degree. He began his career as a math teacher and went on to serve as a



Pictured (from left) are Elmore Bryant, Eulice Bryant, Jane Montford, Sen. Bill Montford, Alisa Hurst and Dr. Jason Hurst, Chipola president.

school administrator for 26 years. He was elected Leon County superintendent in 1996. Since 2006, he has served as CEO of the Florida Association of Superintendents.

The Leon County School Board named a middle school after Sen. Montford as a tribute to his lifelong contributions to education. The FSU College of Education also has established a scholarship in his name.

At the Endless Summer event, Chipola College President Dr. Jason Hurst introduced the Chipola coaches and highlighted the success of all five sports programs. Hurst said, "Here's the score: at Chipola, we win, our students graduate and move on to the next level, and we have the best supporters of any community college in America."

In support of this statement, Hurst reported that the Appreciation Club contributes more than \$80,000 to the college annually to help with scholarships, recruiting, tutoring and meals. Over the last 10 years, the club has raised

an additional \$112,000 to help Chipola teams travel to state and national tournaments. Through events like Endless Summer, the club has raised more than \$1.5 million for an endowment. Interest from the endowment will be used to add six new baseball scholarships this year and three new basketball scholarships next year.

Hurst said, "In academics, athletics and many other areas, Chipola is simply the best. I'd like to thank everyone, especially Sen. Montford, for giving their time and money to support Chipola College."

Chipola began in 1947 and has enjoyed more than 67 years, including numerous state and national athletic titles – with thousands of individual success stories among its graduates.

Incoming Appreciation Club president Shannon Saunders invites all Chipola alumni and friends to join the club to help continue the success of the college's athletic program. For information, call 718-2451 or visit www.chipola.edu.

PILOT CLUB DONATES TO EMERALD COAST HOSPICE



Members of the Marianna Pilot Club shown here with some donations they collected and presented to Margo Lamb; manager of Volunteer Services for Emerald Coast Hospice and volunteer Jean Livingston, for the 10th Annual Emerald Coast Hospice Food Drive that took place the month of August in the Jackson County area. The donations are going to local food pantries in Jackson County. If you're interested in participating in the food drive, call Margo Lamb at 526-3577.

Elkins is Student of the Month

The Optimist Club of Jackson County recognized Chase Elkins as the August Student of the Month at the Optimist luncheon on August 14. Chase is the son of Tim and Tammy Taylor of Marianna and he is in the ninth grade.

He was nominated by David McArthur who said Elkins is a very caring young man who is always looking for ways to help others.

Elkins is in 4-H where he has held the office of chaplain and he is a member of the 4-H Robotics Club. He also works with livestock to train and show them for competition. Elkins collects and distributes food for his church's food pantry, plays the keyboard, drums, and bongos, and



Chase Elkins was named August Student of the Month by Optimist Club Student of the Month chair Mary Pettis. Elkins operates the audio-visual plaque and check. He especially wishes to thank his mentor, Daun the Optimist Club with a Crews.

Johnsons spruce up parking spaces

Thanks to the Johnson family from Macclenny, The Baptist College of Florida in Graceville has fresh painted parking lines all over the campus. BCF graduate Jennifer Johnson Blair and elementary education major Michelle Johnson are the daughters of this family who gave sacrificially of their time and efforts in providing the campus with clear and concise parking lines. Because of the kindness and diligence of the Johnson family, during the extreme heat of the past few weeks, faculty, students, staff, and visitors will be



A warm and heartfelt thank you to the Johnson family for making such a tremendous investment in the BCF campus.

able to find and park in spaces without having to second-guess the exact location of the lines. The Baptist College of Florida is blessed to have volunteer workers, ministry servants who give of their time, talents and resources in order to make the campus safe and beautiful. To learn how to be involved in the volunteer ministries at BCF, call 263-3261 ext. 465.

Ave Maria University surpasses its 1,000-student milestone

The Associated Press

AVE MARIA — The new school year at Ave Maria University is the first without funding from Domino's Pizza founder Tom Monahan.

Monahan bankrolled the Roman Catholic school during its construction and development phase. President Jim Towey tells the *News-Press* that Monahan has followed through with a seven-year plan to wean the school off his money.

The fall term began Monday. Ave Maria's enrollment has surpassed the 1,000-student milestone for the first time with 1,081 students on campus.

The school opened in 2003 in temporary quarters in Naples. Its permanent campus opened in 2007. Towey expects 1,500 undergraduates by 2017.

Ave Maria offers majors in theology, Catholic studies and early Christian literature, but students also can major in other subjects.

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Library Friends board members Brenda Jones and Diane Oswald are shown selecting books for the sale.

Friends of the Library book sale set for Sept. 18-20

Circle Sept. 18, 19, and 20 on your calendar for the 2014 Friends of the Library gigantic book sale from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Hardbacks and paperbacks including best-sellers, how-to books, children's books, and fiction and non-fiction books will be for sale. Come and restock your book collection with these terrific values. Members of the Friends of the Library may receive FIVE free books from the book sale. You are invited to be a member of the Friends of the Library and may join at the front desk in the library.

The Friends of the Library are asking everyone to donate your gently used books to the library for the library book sale. Books, including paperbacks, may be brought to the library any time before September 18. We need your donated books to make this sale a success. Donations are tax deductible. All profits from the sale go directly to the Library for special projects.

Contact Dianne Oswald at 526-3815 or by email at dianne@oswald.us for more information.

Key West installs plaque honoring Diana Nyad

The Associated Press

KEY WEST — A bronze plaque honoring endurance swimmer Diana Nyad has been installed on the Florida Keys beach where last year she successfully ended a 53-hour swim from Havana without a shark cage.

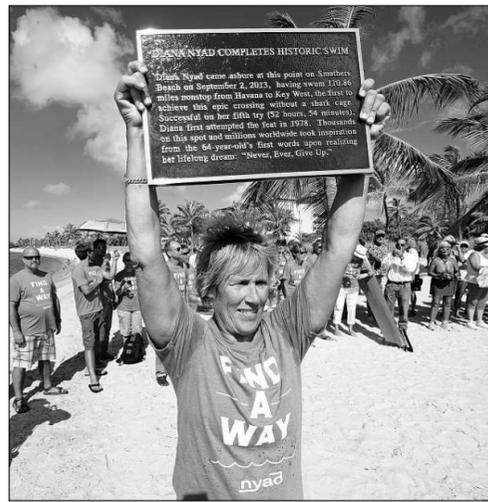
Nyad staggered ashore at Smathers Beach in Key West on Sept. 2, 2013, after swimming 110 miles. It was her fifth attempt to complete the Cuba-to-Florida swim.

The plaque marking Nyad's achievement was unveiled Monday, and it will be installed on a concrete wall bordering the beach. The city of Key West also has commissioned a life-size metal sculpture of Nyad.

Wearing a blue T-shirt bearing her motto, "Find a way," Nyad said she took pride in what she accomplished.

"I wanted to be a person who doesn't give up, who chases big dreams, even if you don't make it there," she said. "I lived those lessons out loud. Now it's up to me to live them without the Cuba swim. But I feel them in my heart, and I think I have proven to myself that I am that person."

Nyad first attempted the swim across the Florida Straits in 1978 at age 29 with a shark cage. She didn't try again until 2011



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Diana Nyad hoists a bronze plaque Monday in Key West., commemorating her 2013 Cuba-to-Florida Keys swim. The plaque is to be installed on a promenade wall at Smathers Beach and is to be augmented by a bronze sculpture of Nyad that is to be commissioned by the Key West Art in Public Places Board. At age 64 and on her fifth attempt, Nyad became the first person to ever swim from Havana to Key West without a shark cage, landing on Sept. 2, 2013.

when she was 61, and she failed two more times before her fifth attempt over last year's Labor Day weekend. After the swim, Nyad faced criticism from open water marathon swimmers who questioned her team's documentation of her time in the water, along with her methods and equipment.

Nyad said she has set another epic goal for herself — a walk from Los Angeles to Washington, D.C., in 2016 to raise awareness for obesity prevention,

and she wants to enlist a million people to walk with her.

"We're probably going to start right before Memorial Day and finish right after Labor Day. That's the idea — 25 miles a day. People can do it if they get training now," she said.

On Saturday, Nyad was in Havana to receive Cuba's Order of Sporting Merit award. First Vice President Miguel Diaz-Canel called Nyad's feat a symbol of friendship between Cuba and the U.S.

Scott and Crist bash each other

The Associated Press

PLANT CITY — Florida's two main rivals for governor kicked their campaigns into gear on Monday as both Gov. Rick Scott and former Gov. Charlie Crist lashed out at each other in an effort to ramp up enthusiasm among core voters.

Scott, the Republican incumbent seeking a second term, started a two-week bus tour at stops in eastern Hillsborough County and Bradenton, where he derided Crist as a "slick politician" and "smooth talker."

The tour was billed as a way for Scott to tout his plans to cut taxes an additional \$1 billion over the next two years if he's re-elected. But in an effort to reconnect with the conservative Republicans who propelled him into office, he continually linked Crist with President Barack Obama during the first stop at a hay and animal feed store.

"He's just like Barack Obama. He thinks money grows on trees," Scott said. "Those two are exactly the same. They are in for big spending, more debt and higher taxes."

Scott campaigned fiercely in 2010 as a conservative who was aligned with the tea party movement. But he has since then backed away from some of his positions, including the need to pass an Arizona-styled law on immigration and to sharply reduce government spending. By contrast, he is calling for more spending on education and the environment if he is re-elected. Scott is no longer calling for an Arizona-styled law and he also backed expansion of Medicaid despite it being a core component of the president's health care overhaul.

Crist, who was elected as a Republican in 2006 but is seeking a second term as a Democrat, made his own effort to connect with Democratic voters by at-

tending Labor Day picnics being put on by central Florida unions.

He blasted Scott as a "corporate governor" who is "crushing the middle class" because he's allowing utility companies and property insurance companies to raise their rates. Crist scoffed at Scott's pledges to increase spending on the environment and education and said they were an election-year conversion intended to get people to forget Scott's record.

"He's trying to be more like me, and I understand it because we do what's right for people and he does what's right for corporations," Crist said.

Crist also repeated his support for policies backed by Democrats, including raising the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour.

Recent polls have essentially showed the two main candidates tied even though Scott has spent in excess of \$20 million on

television ads that have sharply criticized Crist. Crist and his Democratic allies have responded with their own ads, but they have so far been greatly outspent by the Republicans.

The question for both candidates is whether or not the rash of negative ads will depress voter turnout. If that happens, it will be crucial to turn out loyal supporters.

Scott's bus tour is taking him into key Republican areas of the state including southwest Florida and the Panhandle. State Sen. Tom Lee, R-Brandon, during the stop in Plant City called on "conservatives" to rally around Scott in order to help him win a second term.

Crist, for his part, is getting help from former President Bill Clinton at a rally that will be held later this week in Miami. Backers at the union picnic called on union members to work hard to "take this election."

State Briefs

Authorities identify pilot killed in crash

ST. PETERSBURG — Authorities have identified the pilot of a small banner-towing plane that crashed into the waters off St. Petersburg.

Police spokesman Mike Puetz says 70-year-old Donald Thomasson died Sunday afternoon when the single-seat was Piper PA23 aircraft crashed near Albert Whitted Airport.

The plane belongs to Fort Lauderdale-based Aerial Banners Incorporated. It was completely submerged in about 25 feet of murky water.

Puetz says divers found Thomasson's body still strapped into the cockpit seat. An autopsy is pending.

Federal aviation authorities are investigating the crash.

Police: Autistic boy dies in sailboat fire

STUART — Police say an 11-year-old boy died when a sailboat caught

fire in the waters of Stuart.

Police spokesman Brian Bossio tells *The Palm Beach Post* that Charlie Birely had autism and his parents tried to rescue him as the boat was engulfed in flames Sunday morning on the St. Lucie River.

Bossio says Brian Birely and Karen Laake were not able to save Charlie and made their way into a "small dinghy-type vessel" where they were rescued. Officers were unable to board the sailboat because of the fire's extreme heat.

Police say the parents were hospitalized in Miami. The family's hometown was not released.

Bossio says the state medical examiner's office was going over the wreckage Monday. City police are investigating the fire with several other agencies.

Sixth shark bite of the season in Volusia

NEW SMYRNA BEACH — Authorities say a 13-

year-old girl was treated and released after being bitten by a shark in the waters off central Florida.

Volusia County Beach Safety Ocean Rescue Capt. Tammy Marris says the Boca Raton girl was body-surfing Sunday afternoon in New Smyrna Beach

when she was bitten on the calf.

Marris tells *The Daytona Beach News-Journal* that the girl was in waist-deep water. It's the sixth shark bite of the season in Volusia County.

From wire reports

Florida Lottery					
			CASH 3	PLAY 4	FANTASY 5
Mon.	(E)	9/1	4-6-5	6-0-9-5	Not available
Mon.	(M)		1-3-0	8-1-0-7	
Tue.	(E)	8/26	1-8-5	5-8-3-9	5-24-27-28-31
Tue.	(M)		6-8-9	0-8-5-4	
Wed.	(E)	8/27	6-2-6	5-6-6-4	3-5-20-24-28
Wed.	(M)		0-6-0	6-7-9-8	
Thurs.	(E)	8/28	3-0-1	9-2-6-6	9-11-17-18-28
Thurs.	(M)		7-9-8	9-0-8-3	
Fri.	(E)	8/29	9-8-5	5-9-1-4	6-19-21-29-33
Fri.	(M)		9-7-1	3-0-4-2	
Sat.	(E)	8/30	6-1-3	0-0-7-4	16-21-25-28-32
Sat.	(M)		7-7-4	5-4-1-2	
Sun.	(E)	8/31	3-5-3	4-7-6-7	14-21-24-25-35
Sun.	(M)		1-1-8	2-7-2-9	
POWERBALL					
Wednesday		8/27	17-24-26-45-46	PB 19	extra 3
Saturday		8/30	3-26-45-58-73	PB 12	extra 2
LOTTO					
Wednesday		8/27	4-10-13-40-41-49	extra 2	
Saturday		8/30	4-10-27-33-43-51	extra 2	

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Obituaries

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**James Bolling
Brooks**

James Bolling Brooks of Graceville, Florida passed away on August 31, 2014.

Mr. Brooks was born on March 22, 1929 in Brewton, Alabama to Catherine Ryan Brooks and W.E. Brooks, Sr. Mr. Brooks graduated from the University of Alabama where he was a member of the Phi Delta Theta Fraternity. Mr. Brooks was the automobile dealer of Jones Motor Company in Graceville, Florida, as well as Secretary-Treasurer of the Jones Investment Company and director of the Bank of Jackson County. Mr. Brooks was a great supporter of many charitable foundations and helped many people with no thought of recompense. Mr. Brooks was a steward of the United Methodist Church and true son of the Episcopal Church.

He is preceded in death by his sister Catherine Brooks Champlin and survived by his brother, W.E. Brooks, Jr. and their families.

Mr. Brooks was a devoted husband and father, he is survived by his beloved wife of 60 years, Margaret Jones Brooks; his daughters, Catherine Brooks Connor(Chris), Elizabeth Brooks Wilson(Jerry); his grandchildren Bolling

Campbell Jardine, Joseph Yauger Whealdon, III, Esquire and Katherine Isabel Wilson and one great grandson, Finn Campbell Jardine.

The funeral service of Mr. Brooks will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 2, 2014 at the First United Methodist Church, Graceville, Florida.

Interment will take place at Marvin Chapel Cemetery immediately following the service with James & Lipford Funeral Home directing.

The Bolling Brooks family requests that donations be made to the First United Methodist Church, Graceville, Florida, Partners for Pets, Marianna, Florida or a charity you deem suitable in lieu of flowers.

Pallbearers are Manley L. Cummings, III, Scott Howell, Lee Miller, Bill Price, John Barker Turner, James Wright, Pat Burdeshaw and Dan Burdeshaw.

Honorary Pallbearers are Finley McRae, Virgil Mixson, Charlie Martin, Waymer Bryan, Clyde Crutchfield, Bob Price, Dana Brock, Chuck Martin Rob Martin and Dr. W.W. Richardson.

Expressions of sympathy can be made at www.jam.esandlipford.com

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Hauler

From Page 1A

He stopped in the emergency lane, got out to investigate and saw smoke and fire coming from the left wheel of the trailer. He tried to extinguish the fire but was unsuccessful. The fire consumed the trailer and its load of six

passenger cars, according to the report.

Jackson County Fire Rescue was summoned to put out the fire and the west-bound traffic lanes in the area were closed until that was accomplished, about 45 minutes.

The driver, 39-year-old Juan Alonso of Miami Springs, was not injured in the incident.

Boardwalk

From Page 1A

extra deck boards in storage that match the damaged section.

A few guests simply stepped over or under the barrier and took their chances, balancing with help from friends as they

stepped on the felled tree trunk in order to cross the damaged section and continue to the creek.

The parking lot closer to the water's edge was full most of the day Monday as tubers, kayakers, swimmers and fishermen took advantage of an opportunity to cool off on the hot Labor Day weekend.

Grant

From Page 1A

matching funds from the municipality or funds plus an in-kind commitment of up to 20 percent. City commissioners have looked for assistance with the match requirement and recently found a bit of help from the Jackson County Tourist Development Council.

At its August meeting, the TDC agreed to contribute up to 10 percent (not to exceed \$40,000) of the city commission's pledge

to match whatever portion of the \$400,000 grant it decides to pursue.

With that new commitment from the TDC, city commissioners are expected to decide tonight if they wish to move forward with the renovation project and pursuing the creation of a history, art and cultural center at the site, by accepting all or some of the DCA grant.

The Marianna City Commission meets at 6 p.m. tonight. The public is welcome at 2898 Green Street, inside City Hall.



PHOTOS BY DEBORAH BUCKHALTER/FLORIDIAN

Joyce Riley (left) helps Jerry Guillory take up bream and catfish he cooked for their party's Labor Day meal, Monday, Sept. 1, at Arrowhead RV Park and Campground in Marianna.

LABOR DAY WEEKEND IS TIME FOR FOOD, FOLKS AND FUN



Clockwise, from left, Elisa Burns, Yazmeen Hart, Rosela Trajillo and Viola Quiros work together to blow up a float to use at Spring Creek Park Monday. Hart and Burns, of Tallahassee, were enjoying the rare company of their relatives. Trajillo is from Texas and Quiros is from Panama and on her first trip to America.



Yazmeen Hart uses all her lung power to start blowing up a float, Monday, Sept. 1, at Spring Creek Park in Marianna. In breaks from the task, she asked passersby if they happened to have an air pump she could use.



Joseph Pate cools off in the fast-moving rush of water coming from the dam, Monday, Sept. 2, at Spring Creek Park in Marianna.

US judge blocks enforcement of new Louisiana abortion law

The Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. — A federal judge has temporarily blocked Louisiana from enforcing its restrictive new abortion law. But lawyers and advocates appeared to disagree about whether the judge's order affects doctors at all five abortion clinics in the state or only those at three clinics whose lawsuit challenges the measure.

U.S. District Judge John deGravelles wrote that authorities cannot enforce the law until he holds a hearing on whether an order to block it is needed while the case remains in court.

The law requires doctors who perform abortions to have admitting privileges to a hospital within 30 miles of their clinics. The lawsuit claims doctors haven't had enough time to obtain the privileges and the law likely would close all five clinics.

"Today's ruling ensures Louisiana women are safe from an underhanded law that seeks to strip them of their health and rights," Nancy Northup, president and CEO of the Center for Reproductive Rights, one of the groups representing two northwest Louisiana clinics, one in suburban New Orleans, and doctors at those clinics, said in a

news release.

But Kyle Duncan, representing state Health and Hospitals Secretary Kathy Kliebert, said it covers only the plaintiffs — not clinics in New Orleans and Baton Rouge or the doctors who work at those clinics.

"That doesn't mean the state is on Monday just going to go out and try to enforce the act," he said in a phone interview from Washington. "I have no indication that's the state's intention."

Center for Reproductive Rights spokeswoman Jennifer R. Miller, asked specifically whether the order covered only the plaintiffs, wrote, "We are still analyz-

ing the decision."

DeGravelles' order states that "any enforcement" of the law is forbidden until a hearing. However, his next sentences state that the law will go into effect but plaintiffs cannot be penalized for practicing without admitting privileges during this period while their applications are still pending.

The judge said he will call a status conference within 30 days to check on the progress of the plaintiffs' applications and to schedule a hearing to consider a request for an order blocking the law while the case is in court.

For now, the doctors' risk

of \$4,000 fines and losing their licenses outweighs any possible injury to the state from keeping the status quo, he wrote. That's especially true, he wrote, because Louisiana's health secretary has said she doesn't plan to enforce the law any doctors who don't yet have a final decision on their hospital applications.

However, deGravelles wrote, neither Kliebert nor the head of the Board of Medical Examiners promised that they would never prosecute those doctors later for violations that occurred starting Monday.

Duncan said that if he'd been asked during the hearing about retroactive

enforcement, "I'm fairly certain we would have said, 'Of course we're not going to retroactively enforce the law.' ... I did not think Secretary Kliebert's declaration was ambiguous on that point."

She filed two statements saying that the law won't be enforced against any doctors who can show they submitted applications for admitting privileges during the 81 days between June 12, when it was signed, and Monday, he said.

But the judge wrote that, the case is very similar to one in Mississippi, where a federal appeals court overturned a similar law.

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Eating habits of the poor unimproved

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Americans' eating habits have improved — except among the poor, evidence of a widening wealth gap when it comes to diet. Yet even among wealthier adults, food choices remain far from ideal, a 12-year study found.

On an index of healthy eating where a perfect score is 110, U.S. adults averaged just 40 points in 1999-2000, climbing steadily to 47 points in 2009-10, the study found.

Scores for low-income adults were lower than the average and barely budged during the years studied. They averaged almost four points lower than those for high-income adults at the beginning; the difference increased to more than six points in 2009-10.

Higher scores mean greater intake of heart-healthy foods including vegetables, fruits, whole grains and healthy fats, and a high score means a low risk of obesity and chronic illnesses including heart disease, strokes and diabetes. Low scores mean people face greater chances for developing those ailments.

The widening rich-poor diet gap is disconcerting and "will have important public health implications," said study co-author Dr. Frank Hu of the Harvard School of Public Health. Diet-linked chronic diseases such as diabetes have become more common in Americans in general, and especially in the poor, he noted.

"Declining diet quality over time may actually widen the gap between the poor and the rich," Hu said.



In this April photo, a variety of healthy fruits and vegetables are displayed for sale at a market in Washington. A 12-year study released Monday shows a steady improvement in American's eating habits, but food choices remain less than ideal.

Harvard School of Public Health researchers developed the healthy diet index used for the study. It is similar to federal dietary guidelines but features additional categories including red and processed meats, sugar-sweetened beverages and alcohol.

The study authors used that index along with government estimates on trans fat intake to evaluate information in 1999-2010 national health surveys that included interviews with people about their eating habits. The results are published Monday in JAMA Internal Medicine.

Hu said the widening diet gap reflects an income gap that deepened during the recent financial crisis, which likely made healthy food less affordable for many people. Hu also noted that inexpensive highly processed foods are often widely available in low-income neighborhoods.

The overall diet improvement was largely due to

decreased intake of foods containing trans fats but the disappointing results point to a need for policy changes including better nutrition education, Hu said.

In recent years the government and manufacturers have moved to phase out use of artificial trans fats in foods including processed cookies, cakes, frozen pizza and margarines. Trans fats contribute to unhealthy cholesterol levels and can increase heart disease risks. These fats are made by adding hydrogen to vegetable oil to improve texture and shelf life.

The study authors say their results are consistent with an earlier report showing that "nearly the entire U.S. population fell short of meeting federal dietary recommendations."

The federal guidelines are updated every five years and new ones will be issued next year. The current recommendations

emphasize limiting intake of trans fats, sodium, processed foods and added sugars. They don't specify amounts but encourage diets high in whole grains, vegetables and fruits.

The Harvard index has a similar emphasis with some specifics; to get a top score would include eating daily more than two cups of vegetables, at least four servings of fruit and at least one ounce of nuts.

A JAMA Internal Medicine editorial says the Harvard diet index isn't perfect because it puts equal emphasis on various foods that may not contribute equally to health. Still, the study highlights a "growing chasm" that is a public health concern, the editorial says. It suggests that government efforts to close the gap with programs including food stamps may be insufficient and that limiting government benefits to cover only healthful foods might be a better strategy.

Lawmakers: Islamic State threat to U.S.

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Cities in the United States and Western Europe are being eyed as Islamic State militants' future targets and President Barack Obama needs to take action, U.S. lawmakers say.

Without offering specifics on any threats or suggestions on how to confront them, the leaders of the Senate and House intelligence committees on Sunday prodded the White House to work to prevent the Islamic State extremists from launching attacks on U.S. soil. The bipartisan pair of lawmakers shared a dire warning about the Islamic State group, which now has control of vast swaths of Syria and Iraq, has killed civilians from that region and beheaded American journalist James Foley.

"This is a group of people who are extraordinarily dangerous," said Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the California Democrat who leads the Senate intelligence panel. "And they'll kill with abandon."

In a separate TV interview, the leader of the House Intelligence Committee warned the leaders of the Islamic State, sometimes called ISIL or ISIS, are looking for a spectacular attack that would help them raise money and recruit more fighters.

"ISIL would like to have a Western-style attack to continue this notion that they are the leading jihadist group in the world," said Rep. Mike Rogers, R-Mich.

The pair of lawmakers, who have access to some of the nation's most sensitive secrets and receive regular detailed briefings from the nation's spy agencies, offered dire predictions of an attack on the United States or its European allies if the militants are not confronted.

"They have announced that they don't intend to stop," Feinstein said. "They have announced that they

will come after us if they can, that they will, quote, 'spill our blood.'"

The threat, Rogers said, could include Americans who have trained with Islamic State fighters. He said there are hundreds of Islamic State-trained Americans who can return to the U.S. with their American passports.

"I'm very concerned because we don't know every single person that has an American passport that has gone and trained and learned how to fight," Rogers said.

Rogers said U.S. intelligence agencies were tracking the Americans who are known to have traveled to the region. If they helped Islamic State fighters, he said, they should be charged under laws that prohibit Americans from aiding terrorists.

The top Democrat on Roger's intelligence panel, Rep. C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger of Maryland, was more skeptical. He said more needs to be known before judging whether Islamic State extremists plan to commit terrorist acts in the U.S. any time soon. The group's priority now seems to be to hold on to territory it has gained rather than export violence.

"It is extremely urgent, but you don't just rush in," he said.

It was a view shared by Rep. Adam Smith, a Washington state Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee: "We can't simply bomb first and ask questions later."

Feinstein spoke to NBC's "Meet the Press." Rogers

appeared on "Fox News Sunday." Ruppersberger was on CNN's "State of the

Union." Smith was interviewed on CBS' "Face the Nation."



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2. All submissions must be received by 5 PM on September 3, 2014.
3. Photos can be picked up from the Jackson County Floridan office.
4. All greetings will be published in the Jackson County Floridan on **National Grandparents' Day, September 7, 2014.**
5. The Jackson County Floridan office will be closed Monday, Sept. 1, 2014 in observance of Labor Day.

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College Football

Idaho, Florida still working on suspended game

The Associated Press

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Florida expects to know what will happen with its postponed season opener in the next two days.

The Gators don't need nearly as much time to decide what to do about the suspensions of receiver Demarcus Robinson and defensive tackles Darius Cummings and Jaynard Bostwick.

Florida coach Will Muschamp reinstated Robinson, Cummings and Bostwick on Monday, saying they would play Saturday against Eastern Michigan (1-0). So their punishment essentially lasted 10 seconds.

Muschamp could have kept their suspensions in place against Eastern Michigan or said they would be

suspended against Idaho if the game is rescheduled. He did neither.

"They will be back this week with us," he said. "Not just as far as the suspension of a game, but they've handled a lot of other things for me."

Asked specifically if the players still would be suspended if the Vandals return to Gainesville, Muschamp responded, "I can't even answer that question. No. 1, we don't know the situation of the game right now."

The game was postponed Saturday night because of unsafe field conditions following heavy rain.

Florida Field became unplayable after hours of downpours. The season opener for both teams started after a nearly three-hour lightning

delay — and then stopped after 10 seconds. Valdez Showers returned the opening kickoff 64 yards, giving Florida's offense the ball on the 14-yard line.

But more lightning was detected around the stadium, and the game was halted for good.

Game officials, athletic directors and the Southeastern Conference offered four possible outcomes:

The teams could resume the game at a later date. They could end the game with a determined final score. They could forfeit the game. Or they could declare a "no contest."

"Those are the things that are being discussed," Florida athletic director Jeremy Foley said Monday.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lightning strikes near Ben Hill Griffin Stadium at Florida Field during a weather delay before a game between Florida and Idaho in Gainesville, Fla., on Saturday.

See FLORIDA, Page 2B

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

READY TO RUMBLE



KRISTIE CLOUD / FLORIDAN

Graceville coach Richard Wheatley works with junior varsity players earlier this month.

JV Tigers open regular season with Cottondale

BY DUSTIN KENT
dkent@jcflo.com

After a solid performance in a jamboree victory over Bonifay Middle School, the Graceville Tigers junior varsity will look to notch a win that counts in the standings today when they play host to the Cottondale JV Hornets.

Graceville traveled to Vernon last week to play two quarters against the Blue Devils in pre-season action and came away with an 8-2 victory following a sluggish start.

Tigers coach Butch Burrell challenged his players after the win to raise their focus and intensity leading into the regular season and he said Friday that they had answered his call.

"We've really picked up the pace at practice. They've responded very well," he said. "The guys are psyched up to play during homecoming week. They're going to do whatever it takes to try to get a win. We'll be the first event of our homecoming week and we're going to do what we can to start off with a win."

Cottondale did not see any preseason action, so the Tigers coaching staff goes into the game without much knowledge of what the Hornets will throw at them.

To compensate for the lack of film study, Burrell said he has been trying to prepare his players for every possibility that they could face in today's game.

"We try to cover any kind of offense you can run: the spread, the Wing-T, double wing, power; you just kind of go through several different mock offenses

to try to get the guys prepared for if they see it," the coach said. "We're kind of hoping they do what (the varsity Hornets) did in the jamborees, but we don't know. We're kind of going into it blind. But we'll be ready to make adjustments if we see something on the sideline."

Aside from Bonifay's first possession of the night, Burrell said he was very happy with what his team's defense showed him in the jamboree.

However, the offense aside from a late score on a short-field possession wasn't terri-

bly sharp, and the coach said he wants to see that change against Cottondale.

"I hope we can have some execution of the plays that we tried to run (against Bonifay)," he said. "Even though some of them turned out decent, it wasn't always by design. The ball was handed off in the wrong spot or tossed to the wrong position and mishandled. I just want us to clean up the assignments and execute the plays the way we're supposed to."

The game kicks off at 5:30 p.m.

College Basketball

Saban: No. 2 Alabama's QB competition continues

The Associated Press

TUSCALOOSA, Ala.— The Alabama quarterback competition continues, even though the opener was all Blake Sims.

Crimson Tide coach Nick Saban said Monday that the battle for the No. 1 spot remains open between first-game starter Sims and Jake Coker, who mostly watched the second-ranked Alabama's 33-23 win over West Virginia from the sidelines. Expect Coker to get his first significant action Saturday against Florida Atlantic.

"I still don't hesitate to say that there's a quarterback competition," Saban said. "In some way, we'll probably try to play both quarterbacks in this game. I don't

know how and when I figure it out I'm probably not going to tell" the media.

"And I don't know that it's that important, to be honest with you," Saban added.

It's an issue that's impossible to ignore, though.

Sims received decent reviews from his first game as a starter. He completed 24 of 33 passes for 250 yards with one interception on an ill-advised downfield throw and had time management issues that forced a couple of second-quarter timeouts.

"Those types of things are the game management issues that we have to improve on," Saban said.

Sims got back on track when the Tide went no-huddle for a

while and also ran for 42 yards. His numbers could have been better but a wide-open Christian Jones dropped a deep ball downfield that should have been a touchdown.

Coker, a Florida State transfer, was frequently shown on TV cameras watching. He only got in the game to run out the clock on a 33-23 victory and didn't attempt a pass. Some observers, who had presumed that Coker would win the job after backing up Heisman Trophy winner Jameis Winston, might have thought it would be the other way around but he's had limited time to master the offense.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alabama coach Nick Saban watches from the sideline in the first half against West Virginia in Atlanta on Saturday. Alabama won 33-23.

See ALABAMA, Page 2B

College Football

Williams has strong debut for Auburn

The Associated Press

AUBURN, Ala. — D'haquille "Duke" Williams felt the love from Auburn fans after his first big catch.

The chants of "Duke" cascaded from the stands for the junior college transfer who turned in a sensational debut with the sixth-ranked Tigers in Saturday's 45-21 win over Arkansas and got louder as the game went on.

"It just made me feel like they love me," Williams said. "I never thought I'd have a chant like that. When they chanted that, I caught the chills. My heart just started beating faster. I'm just like, there's no way 90,000 just chanted my name. I ran to the sidelines and just had to take a seat, put a towel on my head and start thinking, 'It's really here. Everything I worked for.'"

The nation's top-ranked junior college prospect lived up to his billing, and then some, in his first game. He was targeted nine times, and that resulted in nine catches for 154 yards and a touchdown. It was the most yards by an Auburn receiver since Darvin Adams gained 217 in the 2010 Southeastern Conference championship game.

"This would have to be the best feeling of my life," Williams said. "When I was at the Iron Bowl last year, I was just like, 'I can't wait 'til January.' And when January got here, I practiced during the spring and summer. When I walked in front of that crowd, I just got the jitters."

The performance also gave an indication that the Tigers can have a more potent passing game this season, with Williams pairing up with fellow receivers Sammie Coates and Ricardo Louis.

Williams did most of his damage across the middle, and eight of the receptions came from Jeremy Johnson, who played the first half with starting quarterback Nick Marshall suspended.

"Coach wanted to put me in the slot to create mismatches with the safety or linebacker," he said. "That's going to be hard on them."

Auburn relied more on the running game in the second half, limiting Williams' opportunities.

The 6-foot-2, 223-pounder flashed some speed on a 62-yard catch that Alan Turner's shoe-string tackle saved from a touchdown and showed his strength with an 18-yard touchdown where he drove his legs backward before spinning across the



Auburn quarterback Nick Marshall (14) runs in for a touchdown as he is hit by Arkansas safety Josh Liddell (28) during the second half in Auburn, Ala., on Saturday.

goal line while cornerback Carroll Washington tried to pull him down.

Most importantly Williams displayed sure hands for a team that struggled with drops both last season and at times in the opener. He said he dropped only one pass during preseason camp, and still seemed chagrined that he couldn't hang onto the ball on a slant route.

"He attacks the ball," Auburn coach Gus Malzahn said. "There's no doubt he can do some things with it after he catches the ball, too. We had a plan that if they played us a certain way we'd attack them with him in the middle of the field, so that was kind of what happened and he did a good job executing."

Williams was the biggest reason why the receiving corps was expected to be much better this season. He

was responsible for more than half of Auburn's 16 completions.

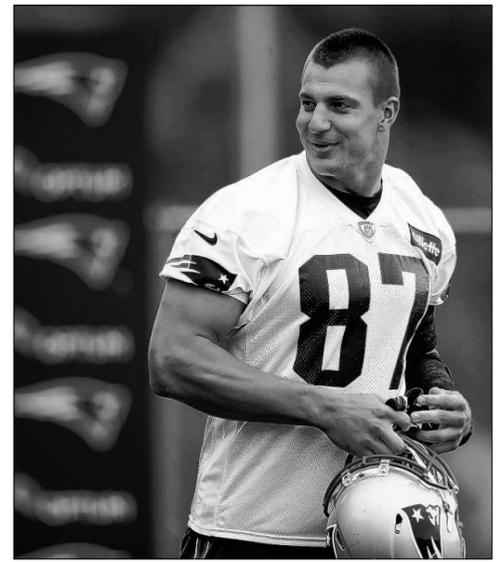
Williams had more than 2,000 receiving yards and 26 touchdowns in two seasons at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College.

Williams is trying to follow in the footsteps from JUCO to SEC stardom to the NFL like former Tennessee receiver Cordarell Patterson, who became a first-round NFL draft pick by the Minnesota Vikings in 2013.

"When I see him as a punt returner and a kick returner, not too many can do that," Williams said. "Now he plays for the Vikings and he accomplished what he worked for coming out of JUCO by playing with Tennessee. Now everything he worked for, it paid off."

Williams is off to a good start on that path.

NFL



In this July 25, file photo, New England Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski smiles as he steps onto the field before an NFL football training camp practice at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Mass.

Gronk promises he will play in Week 1

The Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Star tight end Rob Gronkowski stood in front of his Gillette Stadium locker Monday and announced he will be playing in the New England Patriots' opener at Miami this Sunday.

"I'm super excited," said Gronkowski, who didn't play in any of the four preseason games as he completed his recovery from December right knee surgery. "I won't have to see my teammates grind all week - (I'll) go back out there with them, get in the huddle, break the huddle with them."

"It's going to be an honor to be back out there with my teammates. Super pumped, super excited and just preparing for the game."

The pronouncement came as a bit of a surprise in a locker room not known for players "breaking news."

"Yeah, yeah, I'm just getting it out of the way there," he said. "Every single day this week (he would have been asked about returning) — get it out of the way now."

"It just feels good in my mind to know that I'll be out there with my boys, working hard, grinding with them, being out there."

Gronkowski, who tore his right ACL and MCL last Dec. 8, is a two-time Pro Bowler and was an All-Pro in 2011. He has 226 catches with 42 touchdowns in 50 regular-season games. Last season, coming off multiple surgeries and an arm infection, he appeared in seven games, catching 39 passes, four for touchdowns, before going down on a hit by safety T.J. Ward, then of the Cleveland Browns.

Asked if he feels ready, Gronkowski said, "Definitely. I feel mentally and physically ready, for sure, no doubt about it."

"Just the way we just worked throughout all camp and the last few weeks, everything's just been going well," Gronkowski added.

"There's been no setbacks, just more and more (work) every single day."

"Now I just have to focus on the Miami Dolphins, just keep focusing on getting better and getting stronger."

Gronkowski says he doesn't expect to play "every single snap" Sunday, but is ready for "whatever the coaches have."

"It's been long and tiring for sure," he said. "But you just got to be patient and everything comes along well. That's the way I've been — just keep working hard and it will all come."

Last week, the Patriots traded veteran guard Logan Mankins to Tampa Bay for tight end Tim Wright, who has been added to provide depth.

"So far, he's been working hard. It's been great seeing him improving every single day, learning everything, and it's always fun with a new guy that wants to work hard," Gronkowski said.

NOTES: WR Josh Boyce, cut Saturday, was one of 10 players signed to the taxi squad, a list that includes DL Charley Hughlett, who is being signed for the second time as a long snapper after the release of Danny Aiken. DE-LB Rob Ninkovich is currently the only long snapper on the roster. ... Also re-signed were DL Jake Bequette, LBs Ja'Gared Davis and Deontae Skinner, S Kanorris Davis, RB Jonas Gray, OL Chris Martin and DB Daxton Swanson. The club also added quarterback McLeod Bethel-Thompson, last with San Francisco.

NFL

Titans, K Ryan Succop agree to 1-year deal

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Veteran kicker Ryan Succop has agreed to a one-year deal with the Tennessee Titans who chose to go with experience rather than an undrafted rookie.

Agent Joel Turner said Monday that Succop is happy with a "very good opportunity" with the Titans.

The Titans, who earlier Monday announced they had agreed to terms with linebacker Quentin

Groves, had no immediate comment.

The Chiefs released Succop on Saturday, going with an undrafted option at kicker.

Succop, 27, hit 81 percent of his field goals over his past five seasons and his career-long is 54 yards. He has spent the past five seasons with the Chiefs who drafted him with the final pick of the 2009 draft out of South Carolina.

The Titans had kept Travis Coons out of Washington over Maikon Bonani in the final cuts after cutting

Rob Bironas, the NFL's fourth-most accurate kicker who spent the past nine seasons in Tennessee.

Now Succop will see his old team Sunday with the Titans visiting Kansas City in the season opener, something Chiefs coach Andy Reid said he thought was a good chance of happening when he spoke to reporters earlier Monday. Chiefs punter Dustin Colquitt said Succop, who was due to earn \$2 million with Kansas City this season, will be missed.

"He set a bunch of re-

cords here," Colquitt said before news of Succop's new deal broke. "There's 31 other teams, and five of them really looking for a kicker right now. Ryan's going to attach to someone who is looking for a kicker right now."

The 6-foot-2 Succop is 119 of 147 on field goals in his career, including 9 of 17 from 50 yards or longer. Coons connected on 2 of 3 on field goals this preseason, and the Titans worked out Jay Feely, Rian Lindley and Garrett Hartley last week.

Saban said wide receiver DeAndrew White is likely out two weeks with a right shoulder injury, leaving him possibly back for the Florida game. Safety Jarrick Williams could miss at least four weeks with a fractured bone in his foot.

Saban said he wasn't even aware Williams was hurt until after the game.

"He actually finished the game," he said. "They put a screw in it (Sunday) and he'll be four weeks for sure and then we'll have to see where he goes from there."

Alabama

From Page 1B

"He didn't complain," Tide fullback Jalston Fowler said. "Just kept a straight face and kept moving."

There were other issues for Alabama in the opener, including a secondary that was burned for 365 yards, but the burning topic has been the quarterbacks. With Alabama set to face a 40-point underdog, this might be the ideal team for both to get their shots.

Then comes Southern Miss, another team that oddsmakers won't give much of a chance, before the Tide opens Southeastern Conference play against Florida.

Fowler said he has only one reaction to fans who want the inside scoop on the quarterback situation.

"It's not a distraction to me," he said. "I just listen to them talking and just walk away and laugh. We can win with either one of them."

Whoever's at quarterback will be without one of his top targets.

Especially Florida, which would be in the middle of a tough stretch of games in the Southeastern Conference.

The Gators play Kentucky, at Alabama, at Tennessee, LSU and Missouri before the off week and then face Georgia in Jacksonville. The Bulldogs have won three in a row in the series and also have a bye week before the rivalry game.

"I don't have any preference either way," Muschamp said. "I'm going to do what I'm supposed to do and that's to help coach and develop this football team and that's really all I can do right now."

Idaho coach Paul Petriño suggested on the Sun Belt Conference teleconference Monday that the game could be rescheduled for early December, which would allow both teams to keep the October open week.

Financial implications are the most complicated aspect of deciding what to do. Florida agreed to pay Idaho \$975,000 for the game. Small schools like Idaho schedule pay-for-play games to fund athletic programs.

Big schools like Florida shell out big bucks to fill out 12-game schedules and usually guarantee

wins.

The Gators don't want to pay for a game that never happened and probably don't want to issue refunds or credits for the nearly 90,000 tickets sold. And there surely would be ticketing issues since so many of those were soaked or maybe lost.

"We're trying to figure out all those things right now," Foley said.

"Again, when we come forward with whatever decision we come forward with, we're going to have answers to everything financially, dates, tickets, reasons, all those sort of things. We're just not there yet."

Florida

From Page 1B

"There's a lot of things that go into football scheduling and what's in the best interest of your football team and your fans and the entire program. That's how I work things around here. I like to get a lot of input from a lot of different people and then make a decision. That's what we're in the process of doing right now."

Both teams have an open date on Saturday, Oct. 25. But it's unclear whether they would be willing to play then.

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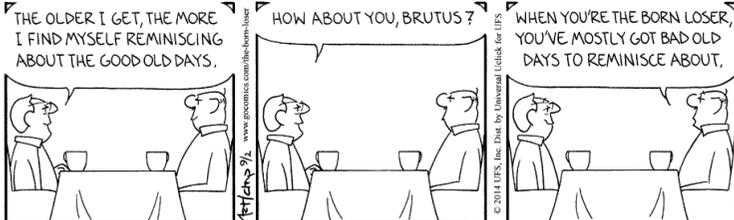
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PEANUTS BY CHARLES SCHULTZ



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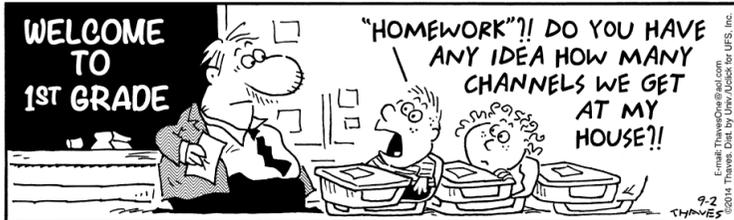
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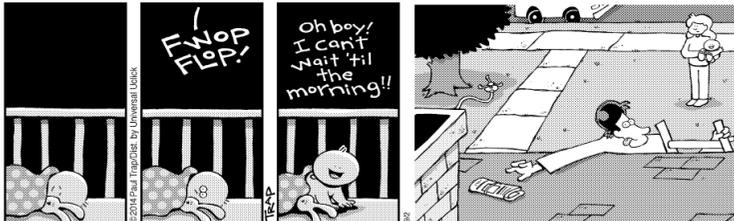
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THAT A BABY BY PAUL TRAP



KIT 'N' CARLYLE BY LARRY WRIGHT



HERMAN BY JIM UNGER



ACROSS

- 1 Kuwaiti leader
- 5 Pea soup
- 8 Stow cargo
- 12 Not here
- 13 Zoologists' mouths
- 14 Charles Lamb
- 15 Ruled
- 17 Dries out, as wood
- 18 Speck
- 19 Treaty ratifier
- 21 Diagnostic aids (hyph.)
- 24 Meets, in poker
- 25 Electric fish
- 26 Barked
- 30 Frostbitten
- 32 Court
- 33 Libra's stone
- 37 Cathedral part
- 38 Oola's Alley —
- 39 Nefertiti's river
- 40 Buyer's need
- 43 Fix a seam
- 44 A law — itself
- 46 Sighed with delight
- 48 Liver and —
- 50 Fashion accessory
- 51 Near-miss response
- 52 Capsize (2 wds.)
- 57 Genial
- 58 At all times, to Poe
- 59 Road rally
- 60 Risked a ticket
- 61 Heartache
- 62 Up above

DOWN

- 1 Poached edible
- 2 Barnyard sound
- 3 Mdse. bill
- 4 Thin, as a voice
- 5 Printer's option
- 6 Miners dig it
- 7 Fiats about
- 8 Coerced (2 wds.)
- 9 Kelp
- 10 Loses weight
- 11 Relieve tension
- 16 Promising
- 20 Wind dir.
- 21 TV warrior princess
- 22 Enlist again (hyph.)
- 23 Mendicant's shout
- 27 Troop truant
- 28 Where to do laps
- 29 Bishop of Rome
- 31 Conferred
- 34 Word of contempt
- 35 Toward shelter
- 36 Raunchy
- 41 Long time
- 42 Locomotive must
- 44 Not cool
- 45 Female kin
- 47 Greek forum
- 48 Possesses
- 49 Distort
- 50 "The Way We —"
- 53 Help wanted abbr.
- 54 Wine cask
- 55 Kind of system
- 56 Gym iteration

Answer to Previous Puzzle



Horoscope

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Someone close to you will cause disappointment. Speak up if you feel you've been taken for granted.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — A travel opportunity is apparent. Check out locations that you find interesting or that could lead to a lifestyle change.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Be resourceful when it comes to impressing people who can help you further your career. Networking will lead to an interesting conversation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Prepare to face not only your troubles, but everyone else's as well. Don't allow someone's bad mood to get to you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Expect to face some dishonest dealing. Keep your plans secret to avoid having someone take credit for your ideas.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Your ability to absorb information is the key factor that will help you reach your goals. Your innovative approach will generate recognition.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Don't get drawn into a battle of the wills today. Keep a low profile and avoid a situation that could explode in your face.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — If you join a variety of groups, you will get to share your feelings and beliefs with interesting individuals.

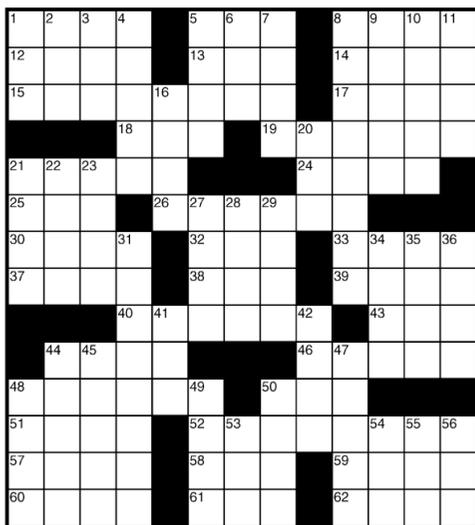
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Moneymaking opportunities are within your reach. Real estate or ventures have the potential to yield a tangible return.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Don't let a negative person dampen your spirits. Get out and socialize or do some entertaining with lively, fun-loving people.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Changes are happening in the workplace. Sign up for a business course or conference that will help further your goals.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Participate in activities that help expand romantic opportunities. Whether you want to spice up an existing relationship or start a new one, now's the time.

Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com



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CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

" D SJKE EZ GWJKIF EWF SZVNH ...
 D SJKE YFZYNF EZ VFLFLAFV LF
 AFPZVF D'L HFJH, JKH EWFK LZVF
 JPEFVSJVHT." — VMTTFNN AVJKH

Previous Solution: "There is joy in work. There is no happiness except in the realization that we have accomplished something." — Henry Ford

TODAY'S CLUE: *o s m b e g*

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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I am 74, and "Jane" is 56. We met online, where I said early on that I was not interested in dating because of the age disparity. I simply told her that I liked the expression on her face in the posted photos. She is beautiful.

But within a few months, we fell in love and became intimate. Jane realized it was a mistake and was quick to point it out. Aside from the age problem, I also suffer from impotence, and the sexual dysfunction had too great an impact. Jane wanted a man who could provide for all her needs.

Jane told me she wanted to stay friends, but I refused. I really fell for her and cannot tolerate the idea that she is sexually involved with another man.

But here's the problem. Jane seems unable to let go of me. She told me once that she liked me more than anyone

she had ever known, and she finds me endlessly interesting. Every month or so, she contacts me. If it happens when I'm strong and happy, I reply, and we have a nice email chat. Of course, eventually she ends up accidentally mentioning her other men, and that caves me in. Jane would never try to make me jealous, but she has no appreciation for my inability to deal with this. I have tried dump her completely, but I seem too susceptible to the possibility that she'll change her mind and want me as a sweetheart again.

— TOO OLD

Dear Too: We suspect Jane enjoys making you jealous. Otherwise, she wouldn't mention her male friends. Since you are so susceptible, it might help to distance yourself from Jane and send her emails to your spam folder. It's hard to cool off when you both keep fanning the flames.

Bridge

A.A. Milne wrote, "Rivers know this: there is no hurry. We shall get there some day."

Bridge players know that sometimes there is no hurry, but on other deals, speed is essential.

Now look at today's deal. How would you analyze the auction? And what should West lead against three no-trump?

North's two-spade cue-bid, in the modern style, showed at least a game-invitational hand with diamond support. However, North should have made a negative double, to show his four-card heart suit. We must check for major-suit fits before falling back on the minors.

Here, if North had doubled, South might have rebid three diamonds. Then North could have cue-bid three spades to ask his partner to convert to three no-trump with a spade stopper. North, with an aceless wonder, should not be thinking about five diamonds unless South cannot bid no-trump.

Note that after that auction, West, knowing dummy has heart length, would be likely to lead his fourth-highest spade. Then South hurries to take the first 11 tricks: one spade, six diamonds and four clubs.

When North cue-bid two spades, South decided, debatably with such a good hand for diamonds, to rebid two no-

trump. Then North cue-bid again to ask if South really could control spades.

At the table, West led the spade seven, but he should have started with a high heart. He should have had a sense of urgency to take the first five tricks — and here East-West could have won the first six: five hearts and one spade.

North	09-02-14		
♠ 10			
♥ 10 9 8 5			
♦ K J 5 2			
♣ K Q 4 3			
West	East		
♠ A J 8 7 4 3	♠ 6 5 2		
♥ A K 4	♥ Q J 7 6 3		
♦ 6	♦ 8 4		
♣ J 8 5	♣ 10 7 2		
South			
♠ K Q 9			
♥ 2			
♦ A Q 10 9 7 3			
♣ A 9 6			
Dealer: South			
Vulnerable: Both			
South	West	North	East
1 ♦	1 ♠	2 ♠	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
Opening lead: ??			

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Sudoku

	3		4		5		8	2	
				7					4
							3	5	
1		7	8						
		4		3		7			
					6	4		9	
	2	1							
8				4					
	5	6	9		8			7	

Level: **1** **2** **3**

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

Solution to Friday's puzzle

9	4	7	8	6	3	2	5	1
5	1	8	9	7	2	6	4	3
6	2	3	4	5	1	7	8	9
3	9	1	7	4	6	5	2	8
2	7	6	3	8	5	9	1	4
4	8	5	2	1	9	3	6	7
1	3	9	5	2	8	4	7	6
7	6	2	1	9	4	8	3	5
8	5	4	6	3	7	1	9	2

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