


Frenzy begins: Raiders CB top prize in free agency pool /B1

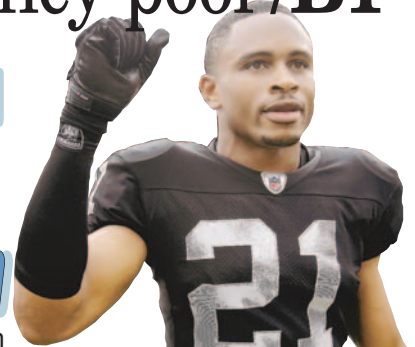
WEDNESDAY



TODAY & Thursday morning
HIGH 95 Partly sunny with scattered afternoon showers and thunderstorms.
LOW 75
 PAGE A4

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

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ATTENTION!

Grocery Giveaway phone blow-out

The response to the *Chronicle's* Grocery Giveaway was so large it took out the phone lines for most of the evening. If you tried to enter the drawing for the \$200 in groceries and did not get through, try again today (July 27). Call (352) 563-3295 between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. The drawing will be Thursday, July 28. Thank you, and the *Chronicle* apologizes for the inconvenience.

BOCC not suing limerock mine

Citrus commissioners decline request to join Crystal River, W.A.R. in lawsuit

MIKE WRIGHT
 Staff Writer

INVERNESS — Citrus County commissioners couldn't reject fast enough a request to join Crystal River officials in suing to stop a Levy County mine.

Without a vote, commissioners unanimously stated they had no reason or standing to oppose the

Tarmac America LLC's King Road Mine north of Inglis.

Commissioner Joe Meek, in particular, said the county had no business getting involved in a Levy County issue.

"To single out a specific project, I think we're heading into a very slippery slope," Meek said. "For us to enter into a lawsuit is completely wrong."

Levy County commissioners in May approved the limerock mine. Withlacoochee Area Residents, or W.A.R., filed a lawsuit claiming the vote violates the Levy comprehensive plan, because it allows mining on environmentally sensitive property and gives approval prior to a federal permit.

Crystal River officials, concerned with up to 500 rock trucks' daily trips through the city on U.S. 19, voted to join the W.A.R. lawsuit against the Levy



Joe Meek believes joining the suit would be a very slippery slope.

County Commission. City officials asked Citrus County commissioners to join in.

Public Works Director Ken Frink said Tarmac's own traffic study shows a minimal impact in Citrus County. He said the road is designed to handle up to 3,500 vehicles at peak hour moving through Homosassa on U.S. 19. Tarmac's study of truck traffic shows an increase of 2 percent.

See BOCC/Page A5

NEWS BRIEF

TELEVISION TIME:

THIS STATE'S CITRUS COUNTY WAS NAMED FOR ITS CITRUS TREES; TODAY BELLAMY GROVE IS THE ONLY REMAINING COMMERCIAL GROVE.

Citrus County on national TV

Citrus County made it to Hollywood! On Monday's "Jeopardy," the contestant got the right answer to the following question on the first try.

Answer: "This state's Citrus County was named for its citrus trees. Today Bellamy Grove is the only remaining commercial grove."

Question: What is Florida?

Contractor pleads guilty

The contractor hired by the county to rebuild restrooms at Fort Island Gulf Beach pleaded guilty to a first-degree misdemeanor marijuana charge and had a felony cocaine charge dropped.

Sal Viglione III, owner of S.V. III General Contracting, appeared before Circuit Court Judge Richard Howard for a hearing Monday. Howard sentenced Viglione to 12 months of probation and court costs which added up to \$268.

Viglione was charged with conspiracy to sell cocaine and conspiracy to possess marijuana with intent to sell. He was arrested in July 2010 during a multi-agency undercover drug investigation that netted 10 arrests.

The case was initially set for trial Aug. 1, but during a status conference, Viglione struck a deal with the prosecutors. Work on the \$82,000 restroom contract was to start in June and is expected to be completed in late August.

It's not 'Forgotten'

Korean War vet recounts his experience

NANCY KENNEDY
 Staff Writer

FLORAL CITY — After Rudy Weddle returned from overseas combat in Korea and tried to join his local VFW post in Roanoke, Va., he was turned away.

"They wouldn't let me join," he said. "They said I hadn't been in a war, that it was a 'police action.' It wasn't a police action. Even though nobody attacked us, we were in a war."

It's called the "Forgotten War," although those like Weddle, now 81, remember it.

Today marks the 61st anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War and the 58th anniversary of the day the fighting stopped with the signing of the armistice agreement.

Korea had been ruled by the Japanese from 1910 until the end of World War II in 1945.

Following Japan's surrender, America and its allies divided the Korean peninsula along the 38th parallel, with U.S. troops occupying the southern part of the country and Soviet troops occupying the north.

In 1948, the north established a Communist government and the 38th



It's called the "Forgotten War," but veterans like 81-year-old Rudy Weddle, who fought in Korea, can't forget. Today marks the 61st anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War and the 58th anniversary of the day the fighting stopped with the signing of the armistice agreement.

BRIAN LAPETER/Chronicle

parallel became a political border, dividing Korea into two factious nations, with border skirmishes and raids intensifying even as reunification talks ensued.

Open warfare began June 25, 1950, when North Korean troops invaded South Korea.

The United Nations and the United States sided with South Korea, and the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China sided with North Korea.

INSIDE

■ Murdered soldier's parents seek Purple Heart for son. See Page A2.

President Harry S. Truman announced to the country the United States would "counter unprovoked aggression" and "vigorously support the effort of the U.N. Security Council to terminate this serious breach of peace."

After three years of fighting, all parties involved signed an

armistice agreement July 27, 1953, enacting a ceasefire, which continues today.

The war has never been declared over. Although it's called the "Forgotten War," for those veterans like 81-year-old Weddle who were there and the families of the 36,576 American military

personnel who died in the conflict, it's not forgotten. After graduating from high school, Weddle joined the Army in 1948. Those were the best two years of his young life.

In the signal corps, he had the enviable job of traveling around the country — including trips to Hawaii and Puerto Rico — demonstrating communications equipment on college campuses.

See KOREAN/Page A2

Gopher tortoise endangered?

Reptile not added to list, but 'candidate'

CATHY KAPULKA
 Staff Writer

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced Tuesday its decision on a petition about adding the eastern range gopher tortoise to the Endangered Species Act (ESA) list.

The tortoises, which inhabit Florida, Georgia, southern South Carolina and Alabama, will not be added to the ESA list.

They will be listed as a "candidate species" among 251 other species that have been waiting to be added to the act.

The service completed a preliminary review Sept. 9, 2009, finding the petition provided considerable information to justify a complete study of the gopher tortoise's status. After a 12-month study was com-



The gopher tortoise will be a "candidate species" waiting to be added to the Endangered Species Act list. However, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife elected not to add it as an endangered or threatened species at this time.

Special to the Chronicle

pleted, the service deferred the proposal stating a "warranted but precluded" finding.

"We think there's enough evidence, the species should be listed as threatened or endangered," said Dave Hankla, the service's North Florida Ecological Services office supervisor. "But it's not definitive right now."

He clarified the classification of threatened means, "the species is likely to become endangered." And the classification of endangered means, "the species is likely to become extinct."

He also said not enough resources are available to fund the status change.

See TORTOISE/Page A4

U.S. officials face tough choices with debt crisis

PAUL WISEMAN
 AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Wealthy countries all over the world are dealing with debts and strained budgets as they mop up after the Great Recession and brace for the budget-busting retirement of the baby boomer generation.

But the United States is in a bigger fix than almost anyone else.

The U.S. federal debt was equal to 95 percent of the overall economy in the first three months of 2011, the fifth-highest on the Associated Press Global Economy Tracker, an analysis of economic and financial data from 30 of the biggest economies.

Every year the U.S. government spends more than it collects in taxes, it records an annual budget

deficit. The \$14.3 trillion debt is the sum of all annual deficits and surpluses.

As U.S. policymakers argue over raising the federal borrowing limit and slashing debts, America is hobbled in ways the others are not. Tax collections are low by historical and international standards. Health care costs are astronomical — and still rising. The political system is gridlocked.

Those problems suggest the current impasse over raising the U.S. government's borrowing limit and cutting the deficit is a prelude to even more intense political combat.

"We as a society will either have to pay more for our government, accept



Douglas Elmendorf said the U.S. citizens will have to pay more or accept fewer government services.

See DEBT/Page A5

INSIDE

DOWN TO EARTH:



A peek at ag
 Kids follow food from farm to table./Page C1

INDEX

- ComicsC8
- CommunityC6
- CrosswordC7
- EditorialA12
- EntertainmentB3
- HoroscopeB3
- Lottery NumbersB2
- Lottery PayoutsB3
- MoviesC8
- ObituariesA6
- ClassifiedsC9
- TV ListingsC7



Seeking recognition



Associated Press

Janet, left, and Daris Long place flowers at the grave of their son Andrew Long July 23 at Arkansas Veterans Cemetery in North Little Rock, Ark. Long was killed in 2009 outside of an Army recruiting center. The man on trial for the killing pleaded guilty to the charge Monday.

Parents of slain soldier strive for Purple Heart

Associated Press

NORTH LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Andy Long lies in a military cemetery in Arkansas, between a Persian Gulf veteran and a man who served in Korea.

While the tombstones around him say where the soldiers served, the granite slab marking the 23-year-old's grave doesn't list a military campaign — at least, not one the Army recognizes.

In the two years since Long was killed and another soldier was wounded outside a military recruiting station in Little Rock by a self-professed jihadist, their families have struggled to convince the military and the federal government that the two were victims of the global war on terror, not merely a random act of violence.

"My son was killed in this war," Janet Long said after she left roses and baby's-breath at her son's grave. "It wasn't a motorcycle accident and it wasn't a convenience-store drive-by shooting."

Long's parents are fighting for formal recognition, namely Purple Hearts, for their son and his wounded comrade, Pvt. Quinton Ezeagwula. Before the murder trial of Abdulhakim Muhammad ended abruptly Monday with a plea deal, they sent a hefty report to the Secretary of the Army's office and The Associated Press, detailing why the soldiers deserve the honor.

They say they are not only seeking acknowledgment of the soldiers' sacrifices but worry without any formal recognition of being

wounded in the line of duty, Ezeagwula — who still has shrapnel in his body from the shooting — may have to fight for ongoing health care.

Their goal seems nearly impossible. The award is usually reserved for U.S. troops wounded or killed in combat or in an act of international terrorism, and the Army says neither of the soldiers is eligible. While Muhammad called the shooting an act of war against America in retribution for the deaths of Muslims abroad, no federal terrorism charges have been filed against him.

Instead, it was handled in state court, with prosecutors arguing it was a straightforward case of murder and attempted murder when Muhammad drove up to the recruiting station, drew an assault rifle and fired on the two uniformed soldiers.

"Unless the guy is arrested as a terrorist, they're not going to be successful," said John Bircher, a national spokesman for the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

Both the Longs and Ezeagwulas have questioned the lack of federal

charges. The U.S. attorney in Little Rock has declined to comment. Ray Gall, a spokesman for Army Human Resources Command in Fort Knox, classified Long's death as a non-hostile homicide.

"I find that offensive," said Long's father, Daris, who spent 27 years in the Marine Corps, serving in countries from Somalia to Japan. "He was killed by a terrorist who's affiliated with a hostile international force."

One of Andy Long's great-grandfathers was a doughboy in World War I, and both his grandfathers were military. Janet Long served in the Navy. Andy's younger brother, Triston, picked the Army.

Andy enlisted in the Army at 23 and had just finished boot camp when he volunteered to be a recruiter. On June 1, 2009, he and Ezeagwula were standing outside the building and smoking when a black truck pulled up. Muhammad rolled down the window and fired an assault rifle at the two young men who'd never seen combat.

KOREAN

Continued from Page A1

Twenty days before he got out and started his five-year term as an inactive reservist, fighting broke out in Korea. He got out in July 1950 and was called back into active duty in September.

"By Dec. 1, I was in Korea," he said.

When he arrived, the buzz was that they would all be home by Christmas.

"I was a gung-ho young man then," Weddle said. "You don't think anything's going to happen to you. But the Chinese came. About a week before Christmas, about 100,000 of them came across the Yalu River."

Weddle was assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division signal corps, providing communication. But he still had to carry a gun.

"We were overrun by the Chinese," he said. "Our radios didn't operate well because of the mountains and we had to lay land lines. I was 21."

Although he had been around guns all his life — hunting, sharpshooting and earning an expert rating in basic training — shooting deer or squirrels or even a target doesn't compare with actual combat.

On July 15, 1951, he found himself face-to-face with an enemy and his gun.

"The Chinese had gone on a spree and we were sent to repel them back," he said. "It was a bad fight and we had gotten surrounded two or three times, but we always broke through."

"One night I was with the 65th regiment," he said. "I was in the mountains and one of the lines had been broken, so we followed the line toward division headquarters. We followed a dirt road, another fellow and myself, and we patched the break."

"It was just becoming daylight and there was a shack or a house right beside the line. Being nosy, I wanted to see if there was

anyone in there. I opened the door and heard a noise. I turned and a foot away from me a soldier with a gun shot me," he said.

"It went through my arm — two inches from my heart. I had an M-2 carbine, a small rifle with a 30-round clip, and when he shot me I had it on automatic and pulled the trigger and shot him (with a line of bullets) that went up from his belly to his face — about 15 times," he said.

Someone took Weddle back to the division, but because of the heavy fighting, he couldn't get to a M.A.S.H. unit for another two days. By then his wounded arm was infected.

Eventually he was sent to Japan where he was hospitalized for three months be-



Rudy Weddle served during the Korean War from 1950 to 1951.

fore being discharged.

"That was the end of my service," Weddle said.

He was awarded a Purple Heart and was named Patriot of the Year 2009-10 by the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Aaron Weaver Chapter 776.

About 10 or so years ago, he went to Washington D.C. to visit the Korean War Memorial.

"When I moved here in 1995, it was the first time I ever experienced Korean War veterans being recognized," Weddle said. "It's nice to be acknowledged as soldiers that fought for our country, because that's what it was about."

Chronicle reporter Nancy Kennedy can be reached at (352) 564-2927 or nkennedy@chronicleonline.com.

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Around
THE STATE

Citrus County

Coastal Clean-Up scheduled for Sept. 17

The Citrus County Aquatics Service Division, in cooperation with the Ocean Conservancy and the Citrus 20/20 Save Our Waters Week Committee, will conduct Citrus County's 16th annual Adopt-A-Shore/Coastal Clean-Up on Sept. 17 from sunrise to 11:30 a.m.

Registration began July 20 for groups of two or more people choosing to adopt a portion of a shoreline, a waterway or the Gulf of Mexico. For information on registering, contact West Side Zone coordinator Bill Garvin at (352) 628-4685 or info@garvinphoto.com or East Side Zone coordinator Greg Schmukal at (352) 860-2762 or basscatcher@embarqmail.com.

No cause yet for Monday fire

After hours of sifting through the charred remains of Marguerita Grill, Tom Hall, the investigating state fire marshal, still does not know the cause of the early morning fire.

Around 5:30 a.m. Monday, the popular eatery tucked on the shores of Halls River went up in flames destroying the building. There were no injuries but some 50 people lost their jobs.

"It takes time to go through all the debris," Patty Jefferson, spokeswoman for the Citrus County Fire Rescue, said Tuesday afternoon. "They don't want to miss anything on the cause or the origin of the fire."

Sports physicals slated for CRHS

Sports physicals for Crystal River High School students for the 2011-12 school year will be Wednesday at Citrus Chiropractic Group on State Road 44 and 2320 Sunshine Path, next to Dan's Clam Stand.

Students need to arrive according to the schedule set by the physicians. Students will be seen alphabetically on a first-come, first-served basis during the following time slots: 12:30 p.m., A through E; 1:30 p.m., F through M; 2:30 p.m., N through R; and 3:30 p.m., S through Z.

The CRHS Athletic Packet is available to download and print from the official athletic website, www.c2cschools.com.

Copies may also be picked up from Crystal River Middle School, where CRHS is temporarily housed.

Students should have the completed packet ready to turn in along with a copy of their current insurance card and birth certificate after the physical. Checks should be made payable to CRHS in the amount of \$15. Packets must be received prior to first practice dates listed in the packet.

Ocala

Crime Stoppers seeks tips from inmates

Crime Stoppers of Marion County hopes a game of cards can help them solve some cold cases.

They've recently started giving inmates at the Marion County Jail decks of playing cards that feature 46 unsolved murders, three missing persons and three armed robbery cases.

Crime Stoppers executive director Robert Hauck said inmates often have a lot of information about crimes. And they like to play cards in jail. In return, the group hopes inmates will provide tips that will help solve cases dating back to the 1960s.

If the information leads to an arrest and conviction, the tipster could receive a \$1,000 reward.

— From staff and wire reports

Choir tunes up for summer

CHERI HARRIS
Staff Writer

If this season of your life doesn't have a soundtrack yet, you just haven't been to the right concert.

The Citrus Community Concert Choir can remedy that. Starting Sunday, the choir, which has more than 35 members, will give three performances of "Great Music for Your Summer," featuring selections from Cole Porter, Burt Bacharach, John Denver, Jim Croce and Carly Simon. Jacki Doxey Scott directs the choir.

John Mau, choir president, said, "The choir does a fantastic job of really presenting a good program. And I'm sounding like I'm pushing

■ **WHAT:** "Great Music for Your Summer," presented by the Citrus Community Concert Choir.

■ **WHEN/WHERE:** 2 p.m. Sunday, July 31, Our Lady of Grace Parish Center, 6 Roosevelt Road, Beverly Hills; 7:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 5, Our Lady of

Fatima Catholic Church, 550 S. U.S. 41, Inverness; and 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 7, Faith Lutheran Church, 935 S. Crystal Glen Drive, Lecanto.

■ **COST:** \$10.

■ **GET INFO:** (352) 382-7071.

it, but it really is."

In addition to pianist Harry Hershey, Mau said the choir will be accompanied by a drummer, two guitars, a bass and a flute, "and they just blend so well together and it just sets off the whole music to really be tuned in just perfectly."

Concerts start at 2 p.m. Sunday, July 31, at Our Lady of Grace Parish Center, 6 Roosevelt Road, Beverly Hills; 7:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 5, at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church, 550 S. U.S. 41, Inverness; and 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 7, Faith Lutheran Church, 935 S. Crystal Glen Drive, Lecanto.

Tickets are \$10 and will be on sale at the door. Children 12 and younger will be admitted free of charge.

At the July 31 concert, Mau said the choir will give away a \$1,500 college scholarship to a local student. He said he couldn't reveal the name of the scholarship winner before the presentation.

He said the choir is in its eighth year and gives three concerts a year: one between Thanksgiving and Christmas, one in the spring close to Easter and one in the summer.

"I would encourage everybody to come out," he said.

Chronicle reporter Cheri Harris can be reached at (352) 564-2926 or charris@chronicleonline.com.

Businesses warm to incubator

CHRIS VAN ORMER
Staff Writer

The county's business incubator is getting ready to hatch.

County business leaders toured the progress Monday of the project that is set to start soon.

"This is a major development for our county, which focuses on small business development," said Commissioner Joe Meek, president of the Citrus County Economic Development Council. "This is the latest of many projects that the EDC, Chamber of Commerce and the county are working on to create an environment and atmosphere for a strong, diversified economy in Citrus County."

The former Homosassa Springs office of the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce will become the home for three new businesses in the months ahead. Partitions are going up inside the building to give each business its own office.

The businesses will share a reception area, a conference room, a renovated restroom and kitchen and a storage room. The building will comply with rules set by the Americans with Disabilities Act. In addition, the office remains for Mike Orlito, certified business analyst with the Small Business Development Center.

"My office stays the same, and then we have three offices for tenants," Orlito said.

The project includes putting in new wiring and making the building Internet- and Ethernet-ready.

"Each one of the offices will have that capacity," said Dale Malm, project coordinator, with the EDC. "It will have a wireless function."

Dr. Fred Herzog, SCORE president, said, "the incubator program is the initiative of the business alliance. As SCORE, officers, directors and members, we are donating \$1,000 today to the startup."

Entrepreneurs who use the incubator will get onsite counseling from SCORE and the SBDC. The businesses are expected to grow in the incubator for three years. Then they can move out into the community to take existing commercial space, and open a space in the incubator for another new business.

Donations have been coming forth since the project got started earlier this year. Initially, the goal was to raise \$15,000 for the conversion. An additional \$5,000 cushion is desired to start the new businesses.

Donors already have been generous with building supplies and furniture. Brenda Chrisman of Workforce Connection arranged to loan some furniture. Builders Randy Clark of Clark Construction and Scott Schnettler of Schnettler Construction have donated their labor.

Many businesses have contributed: Tropical Windows,



MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle

ABOVE: Suncoast Plumbing and Electric worker Frank Wells labors while renovating a bathroom in the new business incubator in Homosassa. **BELOW:** The former Homosassa Chamber of Commerce office is the new location for the business incubator.



Weber Glass, Gaudette Electric, Suncoast Plumbing, FDS Disposal, Custom Metal Fabricators, Romac Lumber, Gilman Cabinets and Tom Wilford, Architect, to name a few.

Malm said the community still has the opportunity to donate funds to the project by calling the

EDC at (352) 795-2000.

"This incubator project represents a significant step forward for growing small businesses in Citrus County," Meek said. "Specifically, through a partnership with the Chamber of Commerce, the Small Business Development Center and the

EDC at (352) 795-2000.

Economic Development Council, start up and home-based businesses will move into the incubator program, have office space and equipment provided at a low cost, and most importantly get assistance and counseling on how to grow their business. The goal is to help the small business expand to the next phase of their business cycle through offering an array of business support resources and services, and then for the business to graduate from the program and move to another facility, thereby filling vacant commercial space in our community and expanding our economy."

Chronicle reporter Chris Van Ormer can be reached at (352) 564-2916 or cvanormer@chronicleonline.com.

PSC shoots down utility conservation plans

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — Regulators on Tuesday rejected plans by the state's two largest power companies to

give more breaks to customers who install high-efficiency appliances and take other conservation steps because they think energy-sav-

ing goals for Florida's electric utilities may be too hard to achieve.

The Public Service Commission also asked its staff to begin the process of reconsidering those goals for all five of Florida's investor-owned utilities, as well as two large municipal systems. The commission unani-

mously voted against staff recommendations to approve beefed-up demand-side conservation plans for Florida Power & Light Co. and Progress Energy Florida.

Instead, it let both utilities continue with existing programs although they fail to meet conservation goals set by the panel before four

of the five commissioners were replaced last year.

The new FPL plan would have met its goal. The Progress proposal still would have fallen short.

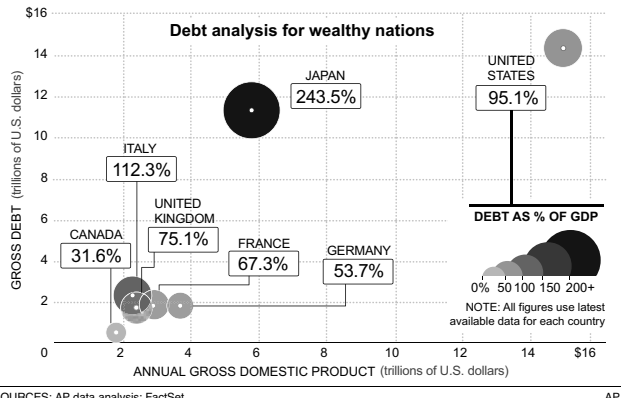
The rejected proposals would have slightly increased overall rates but given customers a chance to reduce their power bills by

participating in new programs such as energy surveys and financial incentives for weatherization and buying more efficient appliances and air conditioners.

The goals adopted in 2009 were significantly stronger than the utilities had proposed but weaker than what environmentalists sought.

Global Economy Tracker: Summer 2011

The U.S. has more government debt than any other country. The \$14.3 trillion it owes exceeds the combined government debts of Italy, France, Germany, Britain and Spain. But one key measure - debt as a percentage of gross domestic product - shows the U.S. debt burden isn't the heaviest.



DEBT

Continued from Page A1

less in government services and benefits, or both," said Douglas Elmendorf, director of the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. "For many people, none of those choices is appealing — but they cannot be avoided for very long."

This year's federal tax revenues are forecast to equal 14.4 percent of gross domestic product, a broad measure of economic output, according to the Office of Management and Budget.

That's the lowest share since 1950, long before Congress approved expensive programs such as Medicare. Tax collections have been reduced by the recession and by tax cuts enacted in 2001 and 2003. Among 29 countries ranked by the Organization for Economic Development and Cooperation, only Japan and Spain take in less tax revenue than the U.S. as a percentage of GDP.

When it comes to health care, the U.S. spends the equivalent of 17.4 percent of its GDP — by far the highest percentage among wealthy nations. The next highest is the Netherlands, where health care spending equals 12 percent of GDP. Among the 34 wealthy countries that belong to the OECD, health care spending averages less than 9.5 percent of GDP.

Political gridlock magnifies America's debt woes. Among the five biggest countries with a top AAA rating from the credit rating agency Moody's, the U.S. is the only one that hasn't come up with a serious plan to control government debt, said Moody's sovereign debt analyst, Steven Hess.

The U.S. is also the only one of the five that doesn't have a parliamentary system, which allows the ruling party or coalition to pass its agenda undeterred by the opposition. After taking control last year in Britain, for instance, a coalition led by the Conservative Party enacted an austerity program of tax hikes and spending cuts.

The U.S. has a divided government — Democrats control the White House and Republicans control half of Congress. The effort to narrow annual budget deficits and reduce the debt has bogged down in partisan wrangling.

The AP Global Economy Tracker found most of the wealthy nations of the world struggling with high debt:

■ Japan, which is aging rapidly and has endured more than a decade of economic stagnation, had the heaviest debt burden at the end of the first quarter: 244 percent of GDP.

Economists Kenneth Rogoff of Harvard University and Carmen Reinhart of the Peterson Institute for International Finance said anything above 90 percent starts to weigh down economic growth partly by pushing up interest rates.

Greece's debt was at 161 percent, Italy's 113 percent, Thailand's 111 percent and the United States' 95 percent.

■ Energy-producing Canada and Norway had some of the lowest debt burdens among wealthy nations at 32 and 31 percent, respectively. The Norwegian government's finances are so strong it issues debt mainly to ensure it has a functioning debt market and turns a profit by investing the money it borrows, said Nikola Swann, an analyst at credit rating agency Standard & Poor's.

■ Fast-growing developing countries have a big advantage over rich countries when it comes to containing debts. They have younger populations and aren't facing a baby boomer retirement crunch. Brazil (28 percent) and Mexico (27 percent) had light debt burdens relative to GDP.

The U.S. does have a couple of advantages over other rich countries that help it hang onto its top credit rating even as its debts rise and political squabbling over the federal borrowing limit raises the risk of default.

Thanks to a relatively high birth rate and an even higher rate of immigration, the U.S. is aging more slowly than other rich countries. It will have a higher percentage of people working over the next few decades than Europe and Japan. Those workers will pay taxes to finance health care and pension benefits for baby boomers.

Last year, the U.S. had four active workers for every retiree; by 2050, with baby boomers out of the labor force, it will have only two, according to an S&P report on the fiscal impact of aging populations on rich countries. But the countries that are aging fastest — Japan and Italy — will have it much worse. An even split between workers and retirees will put enormous strains on their pensions and health care budgets.

Another U.S. advantage: The federal government's debts are all in U.S. dollars, giving America control of its destiny compared with countries that have to pay back debts in another country's currency. The U.S., for instance, can print dollars, driving down the value of the currency. That would make it cheaper to pay back its debts. It would also boost the economy and tax revenue by making American products cheaper around the world and luring foreign investors who build plants and buy real estate.

Cash-strapped Greece, by contrast, is tethered to a common European currency, the euro, and can't take advantage of a weaker currency. It's even worse for countries that owe money in another currency. Their debt payments go up if a currency they have borrowed in rises in value against their own.

CMHS legal action heats up

Hearings set for Aug. 2 and 8

CHRIS VAN ORMER
Staff Writer

August will see more legal action between the two boards at Citrus Memorial Health System.

Clark Stillwell, general counsel for the Citrus Memorial Health Foundation, the group that leases Citrus Memorial Health System from the Citrus County Hospital Board of Trustees, reported the latest legal activity to foundation directors Monday at their regular meeting.

"We progress ever so slowly, but we progress," Stillwell said.

A hearing is set for Tuesday at Citrus County Court-house before Fifth Circuit Judge William Swigert from Ocala, who will hear most of the cases.

"The first hearing is on

Aug. 2 with a whole day set aside for argument," Stillwell said.

This case was filed in November last year and argues for the trustees to deliver tax funds to the foundation.

Another case on Aug. 8 will concern whether the foundation is covered by sovereign immunity, which caps lawsuits at \$200,000.

Stillwell discussed asking the foundation directors for another shade meeting, a meeting without the public present to discuss legal strategy. A shade meeting requires legal counsel at a public meeting to announce to the board a shade meeting could be required.

"I'm not saying that we need a shade meeting as of this day, but I'm saying that we may and if I don't announce it tonight, don't request your approval, then we are forced to wait a month and that may not be in the board's best interest," Stillwell said. "So in an abun-

dance of caution here, I ask that you approve a motion to approve a shade meeting in all of those cases that were previously noticed."

The foundation agreed to a shade meeting. Stillwell and foundation members would decide later whether to go ahead with the shade meeting.

Stillwell reported about the granting of an emergency temporary injunction against a new law that would transfer governance from the hospital to the Citrus County Hospital Board.

"The court granted us an emergency hearing the last week of June at 6 a.m.," Stillwell said. "That hearing lasted two hours. Both parties were given ample time to argue their positions. The court asked the questions and then at the end of the hearing the parties agreed to the status quo until the court ruled."

In July, the parties were called back to the court in

Tallahassee where the request was filed.

"We had 30 minutes of what I'll call a case management discussion," Stillwell said.

The court granted a temporary injunction.

"We passed on to the question of a bond," Stillwell said. "Under the law, a temporary injunction requires a bond. Our tentative offer was in the area of \$200,000. I believe the hospital board asked for \$4.5 million."

The court set the bond at \$1 million.

"We will post a letter of credit to satisfy that," Stillwell said. He said a letter of credit would be cheaper than a court bond.

The trial for an injunction has been scheduled for Oct. 27.

Chronicle reporter Chris Van Ormer can be reached at (352) 564-2916 or cvanormer@chronicleonline.com.

BOCC

Continued from Page A1

"And I question those numbers," Frink said.

Commissioners said they should not oppose a plan that adds trucks to a federal and state highway designed to carry traffic.

"We have a city government suing a sister county," Meek said. "They've been good partners with us and we want to be good partners with them."

County Attorney Richard Wesch said the county has no standing, because it didn't object to the mine during the public hearing process.

He also noted the W.A.R. lawsuit is based solely on environmental issues.

"It does not reference traffic at all," Wesch said.

Meek suggested the transportation planning organization, or TPO, instead focus on alternatives to move truck traffic through the county without negatively impacting either the city or county.

Meek, who chairs the TPO, said the group should encourage the state continue construction of the Suncoast Parkway 2 through Citrus County.

Crystal River Councilman Ron Kitchen, who also is a TPO member, said the council's vote mirrors public sentiment.

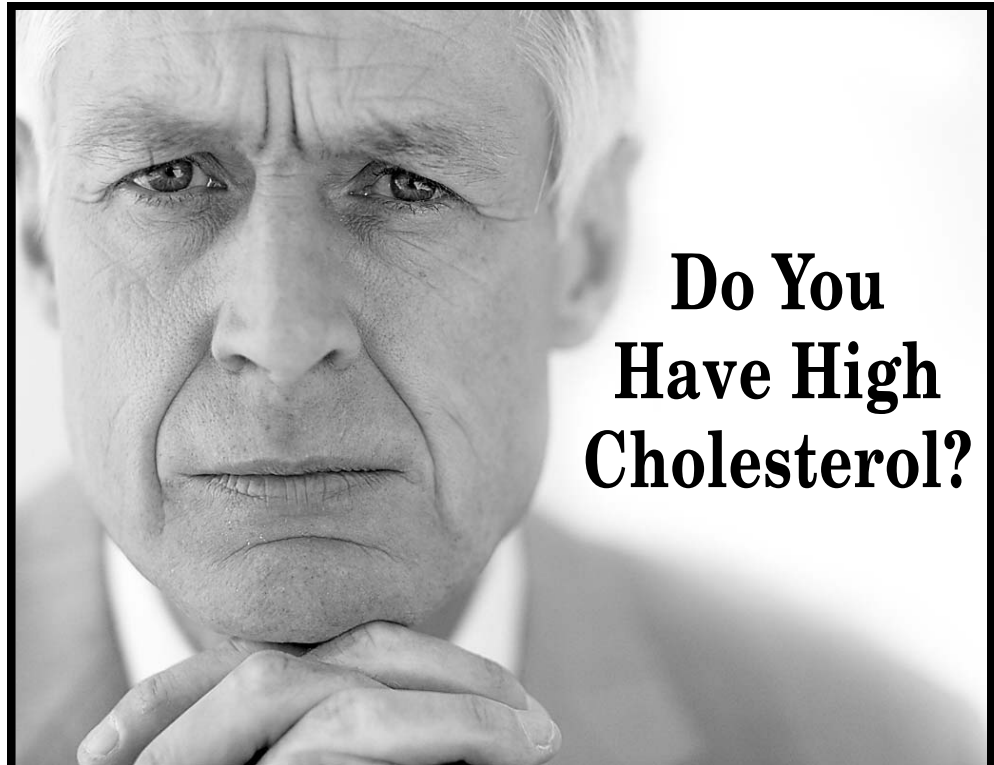
"It's a quality of life issue," Kitchen said. "This isn't emotional. We're listening to our citizens."

In other business Tuesday,

the board voted unanimously to borrow up to \$2 million to renovate a warehouse in Meadowcrest for

leased satellite office space for the tax collector, property appraiser, clerk of courts and supervisor of elections.

Chronicle reporter Mike Wright can be reached at (352) 563-3228 or mwright@chronicleonline.com.



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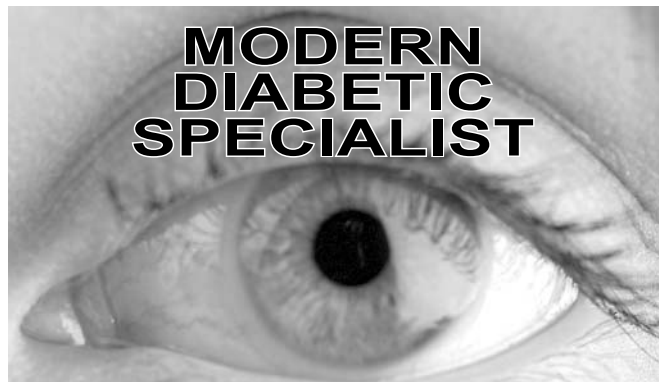
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Obituaries

Anna Boothe, 80
HOMOSASSA

Anna Boothe, age 80, of Homosassa, FL, passed away on Saturday, July 23, 2011, at Hospice House of Citrus County in Lecanto, FL. Born November 23, 1930, in Nuremberg, Germany, she came here 39 years ago from Jacksonville, FL.

She was a homemaker and was of the Christian faith and attended St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Crystal River. She was a member and past Senior Regent of the Women of the Moose Crystal River #1434. She enjoyed gardening and reading.

Her husband of 53 years, James F. "Sarge" Boothe Jr., preceded her in death May 7, 2000. Surviving are her two sons, James Boothe (Virginia) of Vacaville, CA, and Anthony Boothe (Melissa) of Ocala, FL; a daughter, Elfie Nowlin of Fernandina Beach, FL; one sister, Inge Renner, of Germany; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

A visitation will be held on Friday, July 29, 2011, from 10:00 a.m. until service time at noon at the Strickland Funeral Home Chapel in Crystal River, FL, with Father Gilbert Larson officiating. Interment will follow at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, FL.

Sign the guest book at www.chronicleonline.com.

William Fisher, 77
CRYSTAL RIVER

William J. Fisher, age 77, of Crystal River, FL, passed away on Friday, July 22, 2011, at Seven Rivers Regional Medical Center in Crystal River, FL.

He was born July 1, 1934, in Jersey City, NJ, to George and Lucille (Gigon) Fisher. He came here eight years ago from Andover, MA. He was a retired truck driver for the U.S. Postal Service in Bayonne, NJ, with 25 years of service. He was a U.S. Air Force veteran of the Korean War, a member of the American Legion and the VFW. He enjoyed gardening, spending time with his granddaughter and he was of the Christian faith.

His wife, Patricia Fisher, preceded him in death in February of 2002, as well as two brothers and a sister. Surviving are his son, Michael William Fisher (Donna), of Highland Lakes, NJ; his daughter, Dawn Fisher-Salk (Craig) of Andover, MA; two brothers, Thomas Fisher of Holly Hill, FL, and John Fisher of PA; four sisters, Monica Kaulfers of Lecanto, FL, Lucille Kerluck of Barnegat, NJ, Mary Winfough of Long Beach Island, NJ, and Anne Field of Chico, CA; and one granddaughter, Delaney Fisher of Andover, MA. Private cremation arrangements are under the care of Strickland Funeral Home with Crematory Crystal River, FL.

Sign the guest book at www.chronicleonline.com.



Ulen "Hop" Hopkins, 86
INVERNESS

Ulen "Hop" Hopkins, age 86, of Inverness, FL, passed away on Monday, July 25, 2011, at Hospice of Citrus County unit of Citrus Memorial hospital in Inverness, FL.

He was born March 22, 1925, in Moravia, Iowa, to Austin Lloyd and Fern (Wright) Hopkins. A WWII U.S. Coast Guard veteran, he came here 24 years ago from Clearwater, FL.

Surviving are a daughter, Linda Harley (Paul) of Homosassa, FL; a son, James Hopkins (Marie) of Williamsburg, VA; a sister, Norma Rubel, of Arden, NC, and three grandchildren, Meredith Ridenour Bortz (Eli) of Nashville, TN, Thomas Hopkins (Megan) of Richmond, VA and Alexis Hopkins of Williamsburg, VA. Private funeral arrangements are under the care of Strickland Funeral Home with Crematory Crystal River, FL.

Sign the guest book at www.chronicleonline.com.



Joseph Olear, 80
HERNANDO

Joseph Paul Olear, 80, of Hernando, FL, died on Tuesday, July 26, 2011, at his home under the loving care of his family and Hospice of Citrus County.

Joseph was born on July 19, 1931, in Linden, NJ, the son of Andrew and Mary Olearczyk. After retirement as a commander from the U.S. Navy, Joseph became a General Contractor for the state of Florida. Joseph was also the owner of Three Point Bowling Center in Orlando. Joseph was a graduate of Rutgers University with a degree in biochemistry. He moved to Hernando in 2004 from Orlando. Joseph was a member of St. Scholastica Catholic Church. He was a member of the Skyview Citrus Hills Golf and Country Club and the Bad Golfers Association.

Mr. Olear was preceded in death by his first wife, Christiane, in 1979. Survivors include his wife, Sandra Olear of Hernando, FL; three children, Linda Cobbe of Malta, Giselle Maupied of Paris, France,

and Joseph Olear Jr. and wife, Mary Ann, of Orlando, FL; three step-children, Deana Hunter and Jason Hughes, both of Birmingham, AL, and Darcy Hughes of Orlando, FL; two brothers, Walter Olearczyk of NJ, and Edward Olearczyk of PA; and eight grandchildren.

The family of Mr. Olear will receive friends at the Heinz Funeral Home in Inverness on Thursday, July 28, 2011, between the hours of 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. The Mass of Christian Burial will be held at noon at St. Scholastica Catholic Church in Lecanto. Father Mike Smith will preside. Burial will be at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, July 29, 2011, at All Faiths Memorial Park in Casselberry, FL. Heinz Funeral Home & Cremation, Inverness, FL.

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House bill targets foreign aid

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republicans in the House of Representatives proposed a foreign aid bill Tuesday that would restrict President Barack Obama's authority to provide U.S. money to Pakistan, Egypt and the Palestinian Authority while cutting money for international organizations.

The legislation would provide \$47.2 billion in the next budget year, including \$7.6 billion for the Global War on Terror fund. That money pays for security forces and police in Iraq and backs up civilian programs for counterinsurgency efforts in Afghanistan. The overall bill is \$8.6 billion less than current spending.

Reviving a divisive policy, the bill would ban federal money from going to international family planning groups that either offer abortions or provide

abortion information, counseling or referrals.

The policy has bounced in and out of law for the past quarter century since Republican President Ronald Reagan first adopted it 1984. Democrat Bill Clinton ended the ban in 1993, but Republican George W. Bush re-instituted it in 2001 as one of his first acts in office. Within days of his inauguration, Obama reversed the policy.

"It is unacceptable that the majority proposes to re-instate the global gag rule, which prohibits recipients of U.S. health assistance from providing the most truthful and comprehensive health care possible to women in need," said Rep. Nita Lowey, a New Yorker who is the top Democrat on the House Appropriations subcommittee on foreign operations.

The bill would bar civilian and security aid to Pakistan unless the U.S. secretary of state can cer-

tify to Congress that Islamabad is pursuing terrorists and helping investigate how al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden hid for years inside Pakistan.

The measure presses the Obama administration for evidence of cooperation against terrorists by Egypt, Lebanon, Yemen and the Palestinian Authority before providing U.S. aid.

"We have established tough oversight and accountability measures that will make sure my constituents' tax dollars are not wasted overseas while making sure we support our national security priorities and key allies," said Republican Rep. Kay Granger, the subcommittee's chairwoman.

The bill would cut U.S. contributions to the United Nations and trim spending for the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The subcommittee will consider the legislation on Wednesday.

18th century post office could close

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — A post office in a building that Benjamin Franklin once owned is on the Postal Service's list of branches that could close.

The post office in Philadelphia's historic Old City neighborhood is the only one in the country that doesn't fly a U.S. flag. That's because there wasn't one in 1775, when Franklin founded what has evolved into today's Postal Service.

There's also a postal museum upstairs from the so-called B. Free Franklin Post Office, located in a house once owned by Franklin. It opened as a U.S. post office in 1975, the 200th anniversary of Franklin's appointment by the Continental Congress as the country's first postmaster general.

The only Colonial-themed post office operated by the Postal Service, it also is a tourist attraction that hand-cancels stamps with the B. Free Franklin postmark that Franklin used.

In all, 203 post offices in Pennsylvania are on the list of branches being reviewed for possible closure.



Associated Press

This United States Post Office that predates the American colonies and is on the Postal Service's list of branches that could close is seen Tuesday in the Old City neighborhood of Philadelphia.

The financially troubled Postal Service said Tuesday that it is considering whether to close 3,653 offices, branches and stations nationwide — more than 1 in 10 of its retail outlets.

After an office is placed on the list of potential closures, the community served by that office will have 60 days to file their

comments. If an office is to be closed, appeals will be heard by the independent Postal Regulatory Commission.

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"There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven."
Ecclesiastes 3:1

In Appreciation – Dr. James Carter

Dr. Jim Carter of Inverness Chiropractic Clinic passed away July 3rd. He provided leading chiropractic care to patients in Citrus County for 27 years. Dr. Carter never looked on his care for patients as work. He loved what he did and loved his patients.

On behalf of Dr. Carter, his family and clinic staff would like to express their heartfelt thanks to all the patients who have honored Dr. Carter and Inverness Chiropractic Clinic with their loyalty. This loyalty has enabled the clinic to provide leading chiropractic services to the community for more than two decades.

Welcome - Dr. Kevin Hoffman

Inverness Chiropractic Clinic will continue to serve patients' chiropractic needs with Dr. Kevin Hoffman, who previously was a partner with Citrus Chiropractic Group in Crystal River for seven years and has 13 years in practice. Dr. Hoffman's training and experience will allow him to provide patients with the same state-of-the-art techniques that Inverness Chiropractic Clinic has always provided. The Carter family and clinic staff welcome Dr. Hoffman and know he will care for patients with the same compassion and love of chiropractic that Dr. Carter had.

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Gulf oil-gov't ties persist

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Ties between offshore oil and gas companies and the agency that regulates them are so pervasive that a year after new ethics rules took effect, as many as a third of inspectors in some Gulf of Mexico offices have been disqualified to avoid potential conflicts of interest.

That makes it difficult to hire knowledgeable and independent regulators in a region where oil and gas interests are deeply intertwined in the economy and culture, and where expertise and training needed to do the job often is found in the private sector.

Documents obtained by The Associated Press show that about 1 of every 5 employees of 109 involved in inspections in the Gulf has been recused from some duties because of the risk of coming into contact with a family member or friend working for a company the inspector regulates. Ten people hired since mid-August 2008 were barred for two years from performing work where they could be in a position of policing their previous employer — a company or contractor operating offshore.

In the Lafayette, La., office of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Enforcement and Regulation nearly 35 percent of inspectors have been disqualified because a friend or relative works for a company they could interact with on the job. In Lake Charles, La., nearly 30 percent of inspectors held their last job with an oil and gas company, meaning they can't perform any duties involving their former employer for two years.

The numbers come from recusal forms under a new ethics policy instituted last year by the Obama administration to identify and prevent possible conflicts of interest before they arise. Copies of the forms sub-

Documents show about 1 of every 5 employees of 109 involved in inspections in the Gulf has been recused from some duties because of the risk of coming into contact with a family member or friend working for a company the inspector regulates.

mitted by more than 100 inspectors, engineers and permit reviewers in five Gulf coast offices were obtained by the AP under the Freedom of Information Act. Personal information, such as the names of the employees, their friends and their family members, was blacked out to protect privacy. But the companies with ties to government workers were disclosed, and they represent a who's who of the offshore oil and gas industry, from majors like Chevron, Shell and BP to smaller companies such as W&T Offshore Inc., Ankor Energy LLC and Hilcorp Energy Co.

While inappropriate behavior has been limited to a few individuals so far, as both Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Enforcement and Regulation Director Michael Bromwich have stressed, the forms quantify for the first time the extent of the bonds between the industry and the agency formerly known as the Minerals Management Service.

"The conflicts of interest addressed by this policy are not crimes or badges of shame," Bromwich said in a statement provided to the AP. "The fact is that they exist because of the close-knit communities in which much offshore activity takes place; they cannot be wished away. The issue is not the conflicts themselves, which have existed for decades, but whether they are identified, addressed and managed."

However, the number of disqualifications renewed calls by lawmakers for a

stronger ethics policy to be put into law, one that also holds companies accountable and cannot be changed when new leaders come in.

"Our sense is the revolving door is still swinging too widely," Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., said in an interview with the AP after he had reviewed the recusals.

Most of the recent hires came from Island Operating Co., which was the focus of an April 2010 inspector general's report about the bureau's Lake Charles office, and was mentioned in another IG report focusing on the Lake Jackson, Texas, office. The internal watchdog found that employees working for Island, an offshore contractor with nearly 1,300 employees, were hosting inspectors on hunting and fishing trips.

The reaction of the manager of the Lake Charles district office at the time summed up how the agency operated: "They do this all the time."

"Obviously, we're all oil industry," Larry Williamson told the IG's office when shown pictures of one of his inspectors on the plane en route to a football game. "Almost all of our inspectors have worked for oil companies out on these same platforms. They grew up in the same towns. Some of these people, they've been friends all their life."

Island, in a statement, said it never sponsored hunting and fishing trips. Instead, its employees were hunting and fishing with people "with whom they had both personal and working relationships."

The company said it occa-

sionally took inspectors to informal lunches when they came to perform inspections, a common practice throughout the industry that Island said it has stopped.

The lunches, spokesman Brad Deutscher said in a statement, were "done as part of our commitment to become a safer, more compliant company."

Asked why the government appeared to be hiring inspectors from Island more than other companies, Deutscher said it wasn't unusual to expect that a small number of employees would be recruited by the government.

"The very characteristics that attracted us to hire these professionals in the first place are the same that (the government) is looking to build its organization with," Deutscher said.

Critics say nothing has changed, despite the Obama administration's efforts.

"It's nearly impossible to determine where the oil industry ends and the government's regulatory agency begins," Scott Amey of the Project on Government Oversight said after reviewing AP's data. "These new instances indicate that BOEMRE staff are connected to individuals and oil companies, which raises concerns about lax oversight and the integrity of the agency. Without enhanced enforcement authority and independent oversight of these potential conflicts, I'm uncertain that BOEMRE can assure the public that it is truly watchdogging the offshore oil industry."

Wyden has been pushing for tougher ethics rules since a 2008 inspector general's re-

port revealed that 13 individuals in the agency's Lake-wood, Colo., and Washington offices — which had no role in Gulf of Mexico oil and gas operations — influenced contracts, worked part-time as private oil consultants and had sexual relationships with oil company employees. Some also accepted golf and ski trips, snowboarding lessons and concert tickets from the oil companies.

That report was followed by two others that examined alleged misconduct in the Lake Jackson, Texas, and Lake Charles, La., district offices, which have jurisdiction over the Gulf of Mexico. In the case of Lake Charles, the IG found that accepting gifts from oil and gas companies was commonplace. In Lake Jackson, investigators discovered government workers tipping off companies about upcoming inspections.

"It just goes on and on and on," Wyden said. "What we would like to do is fundamentally change the culture here to reduce the kind of conflicts we are talking about." To do that, Wyden says, companies also need to be held accountable.

Others say the recusals at least are a step in the right direction.

"The bad news is the oil industry still has motive and opportunity to try to control regulators," said Sara Gonzalez-Rothi, the legislative counsel for Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla. "But the good news is we wouldn't even be seeing some of these potential conflicts and recusals were it not for the reforms we pushed through in the past few years."

Nelson sponsored a bill that would have barred inspectors from working for the industry for two years after leaving the agency and required them to divest themselves of energy company stocks. Similar provisions are now part of a larger offshore drilling safety bill that is stalled in the Senate.

Ethics policy quantifies ties

The number of individuals in Gulf coast district offices of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Enforcement and Regulation who requested to be recused from duties, and who were granted recusals, because of conflicts of interest or previous employment. To be recused because of prior employment the person would have had to work for the company within 2 years of the date they were hired by the government.

Lake Jackson, Texas

No. of individuals: 18
Recused based on past employment: 1
Recused based upon personal relationships or family: 1

Houma, La.

No. of individuals: 23
Recused based on past employment: 0
Recused based on personal relationships of family: 5

Lafayette, La.

No. of individuals: 23
Recused based on past employment: 1
Recused based upon personal relationships or family: 8

Lake Charles, La.

No. of individuals: 21
Recused based on past employment: 6
Recused based upon personal relationships or family: 4

New Orleans, La.

No. of individuals: 24
Recused based upon past employment: 2
Recused based upon personal relationships or family: 5

Source: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Enforcement and Regulation



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Hot Corner: DEBT CRISIS

GOP agenda?

The previous Republican administration destroyed the United States' economy. The current Republican politicians seem bent on destroying America's credit rating. What is their agenda?

Pig in a poke

It's beginning to sound like President Obama wants Boehner to buy a pig in a poke. Like Nancy Pelosi said, "You want to know what's in it, pass it." No more of that kind of stuff. That is not right and we will not do it anymore. You need to show us what you're going to do and if it's reasonable, I'm sure Boehner will buy it. But if it's not reasonable and you don't want to show it, well, then we don't go along with it and the rest of the world can go do whatever they want to do. We will not buy another pig in a poke.

Salary cut

Why doesn't Obama stop spending all our money? I bet all those trips his wife takes and the Audi he has could feed an army for a month. He spends enough money. Why doesn't he, Obama, and the government take a cut, say 10 percent of their salaries, to help pay our debt that he created?

Middle-class fight

I find it disgusting while the people of this country are being deprived of proper health care, losing their homes and the economic situation getting worse by the day, politicians in Congress seem to only care about their re-election. President Obama has shown the patience of Job (in) dealing with Republicans. Hopefully, knowing the majority of American people believe in what he is trying to accomplish will continue to give him the strength to stand up to the

greedy Republicans and their wealthy friends and continue his fight for the middle class.

Go GOP

I see where House Speaker John Boehner walked out of the debt talks and won't talk to Obama anymore. He said he would just deal with Harry Reid. Good for you, Boehner. Obama said he was surprised Boehner would do something like that, but our socialist president seems to forget he did the same thing. Come on, Republicans, keep it up. Don't buckle down to those socialist Democrats.

Paying fair share

Big businesses had a big tax cut so they would hire more people and create jobs. It didn't work, so why shouldn't they pay their fair share of taxes? Why does John Boehner insist on continuing these tax cuts and then cut our Social Security and Medicare? Why should the poor and elderly have to suffer so the very wealthy can get richer?

Cutting pay

You know, I don't understand what's going on with this Social Security and all this big deficit thing. But one thing I do understand, I have yet to see any politician having their wages cut. You know, each state has got (its) own senators and (its) own congress people. (It's) got (its) own governor. When are they going to get a cut? I believe if they cut throughout the 50 states, I believe we could clear this deficit up in no time flat. Don't pick on the little man that's getting on Social Security that he's worked for "X" amount of years. Let him alone. You know, I thought the Democrats was a bunch of people that was for the poor man. Evidently, Obama's for the Republicans.

Hot Corner: CASEY ANTHONY

No more Casey

A message to all you freak-show promoters and tabloids out there that want to give Casey Anthony a ton of money: I say go ahead - give her a million, \$10 million. But what's there to learn? She's incapable of telling the truth. I, for one, and I'm sure there are millions more, will not spend one thin dime to hear or read her lies. I hope we've heard the last of her.

Be productive

This is about Casey Anthony getting out of jail. All those men and women need to find something to do with their lives besides be miserable and hating a person. You need to get out and find a group that saves children. There are children every day being murdered. Turn your

anger into some help for these people that need help with other children. You really need to sit back and start a new life. They proved the girl not (guilty), so butt out and stay out of her business.

Another topic please

I've had enough of Casey Anthony and that mess. Let's get on to news. How about talking about the poor troops who got hurt and killed recently? How about that mess at Citrus Memorial hospital? Let's get going here and publish news, not a family tragedy. That's enough of Casey Anthony. And I'm disgusted with the TV and the newspapers for covering just one subject. Lots of things are happening in this world and in Citrus County besides that one issue.

Down with poor!

While visiting family in rural Arkansas, I made a chance remark to a bank president.

"From the way things are going, I doubt that current and future generations will have the standard of living of their recent ancestors."

He smiled happily and exclaimed "They don't deserve it!"

Later, I caught a short bit of Fox News in which several pundits for the plutocracy were denouncing the victims of our current depression.

"Companies should hire immigrants."

"Americans are lazy."

"All the Gen-Xers want to do is play computer games and live off their parents."

The "Greatest Generation" had massive protective tariffs and a top marginal tax bracket of up to 90 percent. Would that we could be as great.

And we can get it wholesale in the *Chronicle* from Dr. Dixon and Cal Thomas.

In April, Cal Thomas touted the virtues of our ancestors, with emphasis on middle-American farm families. Lately, he sang the praises of Calvin Coolidge, whose very successful economy led directly to the Great Depression of the last century.

Cal omits the fact that our industrial workforce now has few protective tariffs. Most of its jobs have been sent to communist China. The 2 percent of our citizens engaged in agriculture are not only protected by tariffs but heavily subsidized - not to mention using illegal aliens for cheap labor:

Dr. Dixon recently treated us to a rant about people who make poor choices and deserve no assistance with their medical problems.

He wouldn't mention that for about half what we pay health care providers, most countries take better care of all their citizens. According to *The Economist*, for 2011 we pay far more than any other country for health care. But we are 32nd in life expectancy.

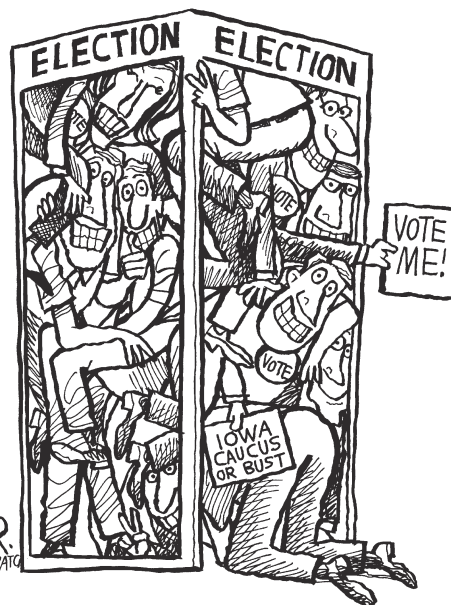
In spite of Michele Bachmann's tears about high corporate taxes, 57 percent of U.S. corporations pay no federal income tax. But they create jobs! Since 2009, they've created 729,000 jobs overseas, and they've slashed

Letters to THE EDITOR

POPULAR COLLEGE STUNT



POPULAR PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE STUNT



U.S. payrolls by a net of 500,000 jobs.

Pat Condray
Ozello

Misplaced blame

There are a lot of people upset with Casey Anthony. Why? Because they feel she killed her child and got away with murder. Maybe so, but don't blame her: Try blaming the prosecutors who tried her case. Is it her fault they were incompetent and really flubbed the case?

She had been sitting in jail for over three years and some members of law enforcement didn't know what they were

doing. People were walking in and out of the crime scene, and the person who found the bones handled them. Some of these officers should be fired for incompetence. The whole case was screwed up from the beginning because people didn't know what they were doing.

I'm not going through the whole case and say how it was screwed up, but everyone involved should be fired or at least reprimanded.

If you committed murder and everyone involved in handling the case against you messed things up so bad you were found not guilty, whose fault is that?

Yours? You've been sitting in jail for years and that gave them all the time in the world to prove you guilty and couldn't and you were freed. It is possible she got away with murder. Is it her fault? No.

People, you are blaming the wrong person. Sit down and think about it and you'll find you should be blaming the people (who) messed the case up, letting Anthony go free.

As a road cop for 30 years in another state, I think I could have handle the case a lot better than the ones who worked on it.

Jake Little
Homosassa

CITRUS MEMORIAL

Health System

Applicants Sought For Board Membership

The Citrus Memorial Health Foundation, Inc., a Florida not for profit corporation, has one (1) Board of Director seat open for reappointment effective October 1, 2011. The term is for four (4) years. In addition, the Foundation also seeks applicants for positions as Advisory Council Members. The Citrus Memorial Health Foundation operates Citrus Memorial Hospital in accordance with a Lease Agreement with the Citrus County Hospital Board.

Any interested citizen of Citrus County is eligible for appointment and is welcome to apply. Please send letter of interest in serving, along with resume, to the attention of BJ Williams, Executive Assistant, at Citrus Memorial Health System, 502 W. Highland Blvd., Inverness, FL 34452, no later than Friday, August 19, 2011.

I See Smart People.

Don't miss **Tax-free days** August 12-14!

They're shopping at Goodwill for back-to-school and more!

Crystal River 408 N. Suncoast Blvd.
Ocala Superstore 2830 SW 27th Ave.
Spring Hill Superstore 4750 Commercial Way

Get 25% off one item with this coupon.
Expires August 14, 2011.
Discount excludes mattresses. One coupon per customer per day at Goodwill-Suncoast retail stores.

Goodwill

For more store locations:
www.goodwill-suncoast.org CCC

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THE MARKET IN REVIEW

How To Read THE MARKET IN REVIEW

Here are the 825 most active stocks on the New York Stock Exchange, 765 most active on the Nasdaq National Market and 116 most active on the American Stock Exchange. Tables show name, price and net change.

NYSE

Table with columns: Name, Vol(00), Last, Chg. Includes stocks like BkofAm, S&P500ETF, FORD.

GAINERS (\$2 OR MORE)

Table with columns: Name, Last, Chg, %Chg. Includes TAL ED, RadioShk, Lexmark.

LOSERS (\$2 OR MORE)

Table with columns: Name, Last, Chg, %Chg. Includes AK Steel, PatriotCC, Unisys.

DIARY

Table with columns: Name, Last, Chg. Includes Advanced, Declined, Unchanged.

AMEX

Table with columns: Name, Vol(00), Last, Chg. Includes KodakIQ, PinnclD, AvalRarc.

GAINERS (\$2 OR MORE)

Table with columns: Name, Last, Chg, %Chg. Includes TAL ED, RadioShk, Lexmark.

LOSERS (\$2 OR MORE)

Table with columns: Name, Last, Chg, %Chg. Includes AK Steel, PatriotCC, Unisys.

DIARY

Table with columns: Name, Last, Chg. Includes Advanced, Declined, Unchanged.

NASDAQ

Table with columns: Name, Vol(00), Last, Chg. Includes Microsoft, Cisco, Intel.

GAINERS (\$2 OR MORE)

Table with columns: Name, Last, Chg, %Chg. Includes OceanFR, SunFWS, S1 Corp.

LOSERS (\$2 OR MORE)

Table with columns: Name, Last, Chg, %Chg. Includes SwtBc, SWCTP, WJoutj.

DIARY

Table with columns: Name, Last, Chg. Includes Advanced, Declined, Unchanged.

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Table with columns: Name, Div, Yld PE, Last Chg, %Chg, YTD. Includes AK Steel, Microsoft, MotriaSoln, etc.

How To Request Stocks & Funds

Request stocks or mutual funds to be listed here by writing the Chronicle, Attn: Stock Requests, 1624 N. Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34429; or call 563-5660.

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

Large table listing 825 most active stocks with columns for Name, Last, Chg, %Chg, YTD % Chg, 52-wk High, 52-wk Low.

Advertisement for EZ Pay with text: 'Make your life a bit EASIER! and get ONE MONTH FREE... 563-5655 It's EZ!

AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE

Table listing 116 most active stocks on the American Stock Exchange with columns for Name, Last, Chg, %Chg, YTD % Chg, 52-wk High, 52-wk Low.

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Table listing 765 most active stocks on the Nasdaq National Market with columns for Name, Last, Chg, %Chg, YTD % Chg, 52-wk High, 52-wk Low.

CURRENCIES

Table listing various currencies with columns: Yesterday, Pvs Day.

MONEY RATES

Table listing money rates with columns: Yesterday, Pvs Day.

COMMODITIES

Table listing commodity prices for Futures and Spot with columns: Yesterday, Pvs Day.

MUTUAL FUNDS

How To Read The Mutual Fund Tables

Here are the 1,000 biggest mutual funds listed on Nasdaq. Tables show the fund name, sell price or Net Asset Value (NAV) and daily net change.

Name: Name of mutual fund and family. NAV: Net asset value. Chg: Net change in price of NAV.

Data based on NAVs reported to Lipper by 6 p.m. Eastern.

Table of mutual funds with columns for Name, NAV, Chg, and various fund details.

Main table of mutual funds with columns for Name, NAV, Chg, and various fund details.

Veto threat sends stocks sliding

NEW YORK — A White House threat to veto legislation that would avert a debt default pushed stocks lower Tuesday.

Major indexes were already down for the day when the White House said it would object to a Republican plan in the House of Representatives that calls for raising the debt limit by \$1 trillion.

Analysts say a U.S. default would have a devastating effect on financial markets. The U.S. would likely lose its triple-A credit rating, causing interest rates to soar.

Market watch

Table showing market indices like Dow Jones, Nasdaq composite, Standard & Poor's 500, Russell 2000, and NYSE diary with their respective values and changes.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 91.50 points, or 0.7 percent, to 12,501.30. The Dow was already down 40 points in afternoon trading and lost another 50 after the White House threatened to veto the House legislation.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 5.49 points, or 0.4 percent, to 1,331.94. Eight of the 10 company groups that make up the index fell. Only the technology and telecommunications sectors rose.

The Nasdaq composite fell 2.84, or 0.1 percent, to 2,839.96. Technology companies rose after Broadcom Corp. raised its revenue forecast for the third quarter on improving demand for its chips.

Broadcom rose 9.4 percent, and rivals Advanced Micro Devices Inc. and Texas Instruments Inc. each edged up less than 1 percent.

Advertisement for Medifast weight loss program. Features 'Dramatically Increase Fat Burning Metabolism' and 'Lose up to 30 lbs in 4 weeks!' with a \$49.99 price tag and a list of benefits.

Advertisement for Citrus County Chronicle featuring 'Women in Business' with the headline 'Be included in this year's Women in Business' and a contact number 563-5592.

Advertisement for Citrus County Chronicle featuring a group photo of smiling women and the text 'New York Stock Exchange'.

Table of New York Stock Exchange tickers and their values, organized by sector like SPDR, S&P 500, and various individual stocks.

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

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Founded by Albert M. Williamson

'You may differ with my choice, but not my right to choose.' - David S. Arthurs publisher emeritus

CRIME CRAZE

Guarding against debit, credit theft

The recent theft of credit and debit card numbers from a local restaurant is a reminder of how vulnerable we are to the theft and misuse of the plastic cards that most of us carry around as a substitute for cash.

Americans carry a lot of plastic, with 80 percent of adults owning a debit card and 78 percent owning a credit card. According to a survey by the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, the average credit card holder has 3.5 cards.

Cards are convenient. They allow a person to make purchases without carrying cash. They are necessary for making purchases over the Internet. They have now become the most common form of financing for small businesses.

Stealing and misusing them has also become the crime of choice for criminals, ranging from individual crooks to organized crime. And there are many ways these thefts can occur.

Card numbers can be memorized or copied by sales clerks or waiters, stolen from your mailbox, taken from the files of your employer or where you do business. They also can be purchased from someone who steals the numbers through a variety of methods, including unsecured Internet sites, unsecured wireless Internet use and Internet scams.

THE ISSUE:

Credit card information stolen from local business.

OUR OPINION:

Vigilance is the best way to avoid being a victim.

Recommendations to protect credit and debit cards

- Always keep credit or debit card in a safe and secure place. Treat it as you would treat cash or a check.
Memorize your PIN. Do not write it down, especially not on card.
Review credit card statements carefully. Report suspicious charges to issuing company immediately.
Report lost or stolen credit cards immediately to the issuing company, and report stolen cards or unauthorized charges to law enforcement.
Do not send credit or debit card numbers through email.
Never purchase products or services by responding to an email.
Do not give your card number over the phone unless you initiated the call to a merchant you know.
If someone claiming to be from your bank or the IRS sends an email asking for credit card information, do not provide it. Banks and the IRS do not use e-mail to solicit this information.
When you are making an online purchase, select the shopping site carefully. Do business only with a secure site and with merchants you know and trust.

Once stolen, card numbers may be used by the individual stealing them, or they may be sold to organized credit card theft rings. Sometimes the numbers are used for online purchases, and sometimes theft rings make new cards with the stolen numbers on them and use these cards to get merchandise or cash.

For example, earlier this year, prosecutors in New York City charged 27 people with running a fraud ring that was used to obtain more than \$1 million in Apple computer gear by obtaining stolen credit card numbers and manufacturing new cards and IDs to go along with them. These cards were then used to purchase computers from Apple and sold through a fence.

Each of us who carries a credit or debit card is a potential victim. While there is no completely sure way to avoid being victimized, the best way to minimize your personal risk is to be vigilant and follow the recommendations of professionals in information technology and law enforcement. And always remember, the plastic in your wallet can become the key to your bank account if it falls into the wrong hands.

Grieving a loss

Tommy and Sammy: Your many friends are grieving with you at the loss of Marguerita Grill. We will always be grateful to you for providing an avenue for the outpouring of love for our country. The loss of Marguerita Grill leaves a hole not only in our community but in our hearts. God bless you and America!



Sad service

If you try to call a company, you can't get them. You get somebody and you will not get the office. Later, when you try to call an 800 number, you cannot get through to anybody. You get somebody

and then they give you all kinds of different things and you can't talk to anybody at all. What's happening with our products? When is the United States going to start doing things right and give us back what we used to have? We're so used to having good things. You men did good jobs. You were proud of your jobs. Today? Ha, ha, ha! You're lucky if you have a job.

Scarier than scary

I've read Commissioner Damato's plans for Port Citrus and I've seen the movie, 'Nightmare on Elm Street.' Commissioner Damato's plans are scarier.

Obama could be comeback kid

Here's a scary exercise for Republicans. First, make a graph of Bill Clinton's job approval ratings for the nine months following November 1994, when Republicans dealt him a crushing defeat in midterm elections. Then superimpose Barack Obama's job approval ratings for the nine months following November 2010, when Republicans dealt him a crushing defeat in midterm elections. The lines look pretty similar.



Byron York OTHER VOICES

For one, they start out at almost exactly the same point. Clinton's job approval rating in the Gallup poll was 46 percent in the first week of November 1994. Obama's job approval rating was 45 percent in the first week of November 2010.

The lines then follow a comparable course. Clinton had a bumpy ride in the months after defeat, but his rating never fell below 40 percent and never rose above 51 percent. Obama has been doing much the same thing; in the latest Gallup survey, he is at 42 percent.

A turning point for Clinton came in late 1995 and early 1996, when he faced off against then-Speaker Newt Gingrich and congressional Republicans in a budget fight that resulted in two government shutdowns. Clinton's ratings were in the low 40s when the fight began. When he emerged victorious — at least in the press and in some public opinion polls — his numbers began a slow climb. In March 1996, Clinton was at 52 percent approval. In June '96, he was at 58 percent. In August, he hit 60 percent.

And in November, he was re-elected.

Of course, Gingrich and the Republicans were re-elected, too; pundits who describe the '95-'96 shutdowns as a disaster for the GOP often neglect to mention that. So in a narrowly political sense, Clinton and the GOP won the shutdowns. The question now is whether Obama and his Republican adversaries might do the same after their current fight over the debt ceiling.

In his drive for re-election, Clinton needed Republican help, not just as a foil but as a source of policy initiatives. For a man who announced 'the era of big government is over,' Clinton had to be dragged kicking and screaming toward both balanced-budget legislation and welfare reform — now seen as key accomplishments of his presidency. Republicans did the dragging, and when Clinton moved the GOP's way, his prospects improved.

The public also found it liked divided government. Republicans were elected in 1994 because voters wanted to place a check on Clinton. Republicans were elected in 2010 because voters wanted to place a check on Obama. With that check in place, Obama might find if he, like Clinton, were to move the GOP's way, his prospects might improve.

Of course, there are plenty of reasons why it might not work. In November 1996, unemployment was 5.4 percent. It's 9.2 percent now and is predicted to be at 8 percent or above in November 2012.

'The economic situation is so dramatically different,' said a Republican strategist who is skeptical of the Obama-GOP win-

win scenario. 'You have anemic economic growth, you have unemployment that has been above 8 percent for more than 20 months, and you have a deficit that is more than a trillion dollars. Clinton had an economic strength that Obama doesn't have.'

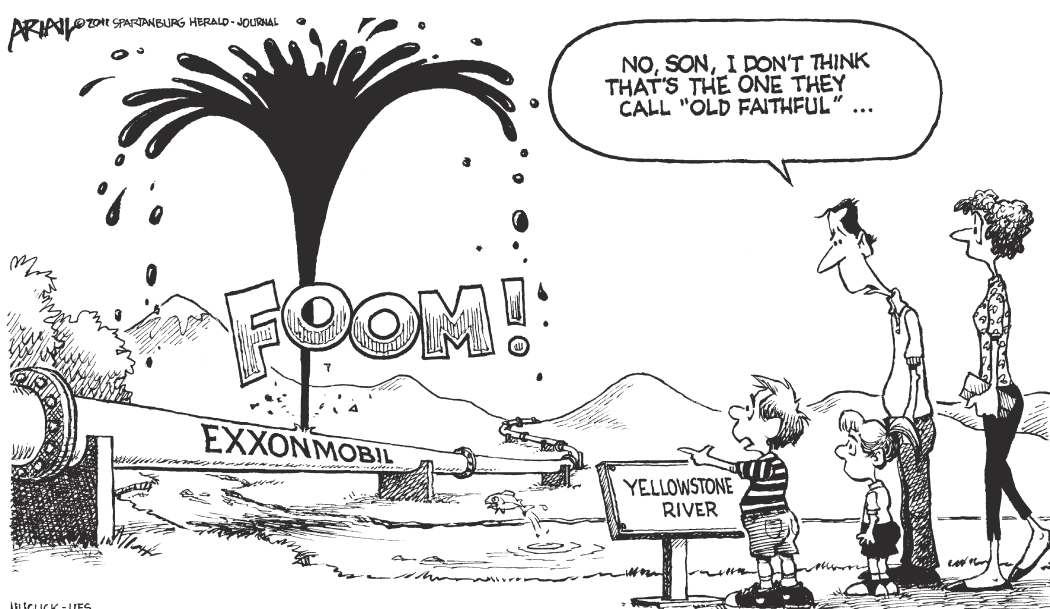
In the end, Obama might be doomed whatever he does. But as his campaign aides have pointed out, he's betting voters will judge him on whether they feel he's taking the economy in the right direction, not whether he has reached any particular point. It's a pretty thin hope, but it might be a little more realistic if voters perceive him working with Republicans to go in that right direction.

To many Republicans these days, Obama resembles Jimmy Carter more than Bill Clinton. Certainly Obama's dour, eat-your-peas lecturing evokes the worst of Carter's sanctimoniousness. But Obama's popularity is nowhere near as low as Carter's was at the same point in their presidencies.

According to newly compiled figures from the Gallup organization, Obama's average job approval in the most recent quarter — his 10th quarter in office — was 46.8 percent. Carter's was an astonishing 31 percent. Obama is more in the range of Ronald Reagan (44.4 percent) and Clinton (49.3 percent) at that point in their presidencies.

Both won re-election. As they seek to win the White House themselves, Republicans can only hope Obama is not as savvy — or as flexible — as his predecessors.

Byron York is chief political correspondent for The Washington Examiner.



LETTERS to the Editor

No cuts to Medicare

Here we go again, cuts to entitlement programs, mainly Social Security and Medicare.

My thoughts are Social Security and Medicare are not entitlement programs, because every working American pays into these programs. Mismanagement, fraud, double-dippers, illegal and legal aliens and unethical business owners are negatives that are detrimental to those programs. Also, including these contributions into the General Fund is extremely detrimental.

I believe we the people should help the House and Senate make some cuts and we should start with their salaries. We could cut 100 million right now by stopping paychecks to them, because none of them are doing their jobs right now and haven't for years.

A cut in salaries to the House and Senate individually won't hurt because over 200 of them are millionaires. I'm not talking just a million, I looked up the top eight and 'worth' goes from \$73.7 million to \$451 million. No wonder they don't want tax increases on the rich.

No, let's pink-slip the government workers who are making \$30,000 a year and the grandparents and grandmoms receiving Social Security at \$950 a month. Who can live on that?

- OPINIONS INVITED
The opinions expressed in Chronicle editorials are the opinions of the newspaper's editorial board.
Viewpoints depicted in political cartoons, columns or letters do not necessarily represent the opinion of the editorial board.
Groups or individuals are invited to express their opinions in a letter to the editor.
Persons wishing to address the editorial board, which meets weekly, should call Charlie Brennan at (352) 563-5660.
All letters must be signed and include a phone number and hometown, including letters sent via email. Names and hometowns will not be printed; phone numbers will not be published or given out.
We reserve the right to edit letters for length, libel, fairness and good taste.
Letters must be no longer than 350 words, and writers will be limited to three letters per month.
SEND LETTERS TO: The Editor, 1624 N. Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34429. Or, fax to (352) 563-3280, or email to letters@chronicleonline.com.

Vote against your COLA for 10 years. Reduce your staff. Decrease your expense account. Don't vote on a bill that you haven't read. Stop tax credits for the oil companies. Don't add your pork projects to the end of bills. In fact, no pork at all. Do what's right for every American.

The American worker has been kicked around badly these past five years due to job loss, salary cuts, stock market losses on retirement plans, less benefits, etc. And our representatives are fighting among themselves with no care for the American

taxpayer. It's all about 'party.' I am not from Missouri, but show me that you are doing your job for all American taxpayers.

C.A. Jones Floral City

Appreciating soldiers

People are appreciative of a soldier's sacrifices, and they should be lauded.

My son, recently home on a three-week leave after having completed a deployment in Afghanistan, flew on American Airlines. Thanking him for his service, the airline upgraded his coach seat to first class at no additional charge.

After picking him up at Tampa International Airport, we went directly to The Highlander Café in Crystal River for lunch. When I stood to pay the bill, the owner, in his charming Scottish brogue, thanked my son for his service and said the meal was on him.

Prior to his enlistment, my son had been a client for over two years at a Citrus County gym. Wanting to maintain his physical condition, he went back to the gym and asked if he could pay only for the three weeks he would be home. The person at the gym told him he would have to pay for the entire month's membership if he wanted to use the facility.

I presume the gym needed that extra week's fee pretty badly, but thank you Highlander Café and American Airlines.

Anthony Costa Inverness



How the planned combination of AT&T and T-Mobile will benefit Florida:

Over 98% of Florida residents, including many in small towns and rural areas, will be covered by the LTE network.

More than one million additional people living in Florida will gain access to LTE.

An additional 20,000 square miles of the state will be covered by the LTE network.

Together, we will bring the latest mobile broadband technology to more of

Florida

Mobile broadband is taking another major step forward. The network technology is called LTE and it's a super-fast way to connect to the Internet.

The planned combination of AT&T and T-Mobile will allow us to expand our LTE mobile broadband network to reach more of Florida.

Our customers will get a stronger network. The state will get a new choice for broadband. And more of Florida will get access to a cutting-edge wireless network and all the opportunities it brings.



MobilizeEverything.com

■ Sabathia flirts with perfection on Tuesday night against the Mariners./B2



- MLB/B2
- Scoreboard/B2
- TV, lottery/B2
- Entertainment/B3
- Recreation — golf/B4

Hot CORNER

LOCAL

Lecanto All-Season sports passes

The 2011-12 all-season sports passes for all Lecanto High School regularly scheduled home sporting events will be on sale August 1. The prices this year are as follows: Students: \$40, Seniors: \$20, Adults: \$40 and Family of 4: \$125. These passes are only good for regular season games. They will not admit the bearer to any pre-season classics or post-season games. Any questions, please call LHS 746-2334, ext 4220.

Free physicals for Citrus High athletes

Free physicals for Citrus High athletes will be offered at Citrus High School on August 3 at 6 p.m. Athletes may pick up blank forms in the front office before that date to speed up the process and limit waiting time.

Lecanto High offering physicals for all sports

On August 2 from 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Lecanto High School is offering sports physicals for \$10 per person. The event will take place in the LHS gymnasium. Middle school students are also welcome but a parent or guardian must accompany any athlete getting a physical.

New times for CRHS sports physicals

Sports Physicals for CRHS students will be conducted for the 2011-12 school year today, July 27, by Citrus Chiropractic Group 2320 Sunshine Path off at State Road 44, next to Dani's Clam Stand. Please arrive according to the following schedule set by the physicians. Students will be seen alphabetically by last name, on a first-come, first-served basis during these time slots:

- 12:30 p.m. — A to E
- 1:30 p.m. — F to M
- 2:30 p.m. — N to R
- 3:30 p.m. — S to Z

Note: These times have been changed since our newsletter, the Pirate Country Press, was mailed.

The CRHS Athletic Packet is available to download and print from the "official" athletic website, www.c2cschools.com. Copies may also be picked up from Crystal River Middle School, where CRHS is temporarily housed. Students should plan on having the packet completed and ready to turn in along with a copy of their current insurance card and birth certificate after their physical. Checks should be made payable to CRHS in the amount of \$15. Packets must be received prior to first practice dates listed in the packet. Call (351) 795-2241 and ask for CRHS guidance/Cheryl if you have any questions.

Citrus County Gator Club hosting party

All Gator fans are invited to join the Citrus County Gator Club at the 2011 season opener indoor tailgate party from 6 to 9 p.m., August 27 at the Citrus County Fairgrounds Auditorium in Inverness. The cost to attend is \$10 in advance per person and \$15 at the door. Children 5 and under are free.

Tickets may be purchased at Fancy's Pets on U.S. 19 in Crystal River, Tile Contractor on S.R. 44 or by mail at P.O. Box 438, Homosassa FL 34487.

CR football camp starts today at middle school

The Crystal River High School coaching staff will be conducting a youth football camp that begins today, July 27 and goes through Friday, July 29 at Crystal River Middle School. The camp will run from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. each night; campers who signed up in advance will cost \$20 while registration at the camp will be \$30. For any questions or for more information, please contact Greg Fowler at (352) 299-6429.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Florida's Demps decides to stick with football

GAINESVILLE — Florida running back Jeff Demps, a potential track star, is sticking with football. Demps met with first-year head coach Will Muschamp on Tuesday, then released a statement saying he is looking forward to "having a great senior season."

Demps, who has been part of six national titles in track, skipped spring practice to focus on his sprinting career. The Gators finished third at the NCAA outdoor championships in June. Last month, Demps ran the 100-meter dash at an international meet in Lignano, Italy, and finished fifth. The 5-foot-8 speedster has started 22 games in three seasons on the football field. He has 1,901 yards rushing and 17 touchdowns. He was slowed by a sprained left foot last season, but still led the team with 551 yards on the ground.



Bucs work quickly in abridged period

Tampa Bay signs two draft picks, looks at FA list

Associated Press

TAMPA — Draft picks Mason Foster and Daniel Hardy agreed to four-year contracts with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Tuesday, kicking off what figures to be

a frenzied week of player transactions that could make one of the NFL's least experienced rosters even more youthful.

Foster's agreement on the first day following the end of the NFL lockout increased speculation that veteran middle linebacker Barrett Ruud has played his last game for the Bucs.

Ruud is an unrestricted free agent, and general manager Mark

Dominik said little to dispel the notion that the seventh-year pro no longer fits in the team's plans.

"I would say an important element for us long-term is that we got Mason Foster signed to a four-year contract," Dominik said, shrugging off a question about Ruud's future with the Bucs.

"Obviously I think it's important ... a young guy we drafted is here



Associated Press

Oakland Raiders cornerback Nnamdi Asomugha (21) is considered the top prize in the NFL's free agency period. The challenge for teams will be taking more than 1,000 players and sorting them onto 32 rosters, working out contracts that must be signed and then processed by the league office, with every deal from rookies to free agents fitting under the salary cap and falling within the other boundaries of the new, still-being-understood labor agreement — and, getting all this done in time for the start of the preseason, preferably by the start of training camp.

Free agent frenzy begins

Associated Press

The free agency free-for-all has begun, mostly with obscure names from the college ranks.

It will get wilder. Contract negotiations for free agents and draft picks started Tuesday, with draftees able to sign right away. The big names among veterans — Nnamdi Asomugha, Antonio Holmes, Matt Hasselbeck — can't sign until Thursday, but their agents are negotiating deals right now.

Throw in dozens of players who will be cut, such as Dallas

receiver Roy Williams and Baltimore tight end Todd Heap, which officially can't happen until Thursday, and it's "organized chaos," according to Colts general manager Chris Polian.

"It's a lot of stress, work, preparation. But it's what we all look forward to. It's our playoffs and our Super Bowl," agent Peter Schaffer said.

Indeed, several agents said they didn't expect to sleep Tuesday as the NFL reopened for business after 4½ months. In addition to their clients already in the league who are unrestricted or restricted free agents, they

will have veterans released. And they are trying to set up youngsters, such as college starters safety Winston Venable of Boise State (Chicago) and quarterback Jerrod Johnson of Texas A&M (Philadelphia), with teams after they were passed over in April's draft.

"I always have a lot of guys in that category, and it's been absolutely nuts," said agent Joe Linta, who placed Michigan State tight end Charlie Gantt with the Chiefs and Cal receiver Jeremy Ross with the Patriots on Tuesday. He also fielded calls from a dozen teams for Utah defensive tackle Sealver

See NFL/Page B2

Kerr looking for victory on Carnoustie links

Associated Press

CARNOUSTIE, Scotland — Two-time major winner Cristie Kerr is hoping her love of links golf will help secure a first victory of the season at the Women's British Open.

The American, whose best finish at the British Open was a tie for second at Royal Lytham in 2006, is second in the LPGA money list behind defending champion Yani Tseng of Taiwan.

"It's a bit frustrating, but you've just got to keep plugging away," Kerr said Tuesday. "Hopefully, this will be my week."

The Women's British Open, which begins on Thursday, is being played at Carnoustie for the first time in its 35-year history. "I always enjoy playing links

golf," said Kerr, winner of the LPGA Championship last year and the 2007 U.S. Open. "People think it's kind of shocking that this is my favorite kind of golf, but I love it."

"I like golf where you don't have to be perfect, where the bounces are going to be different and it's interesting every day."

Despite only having a chance to consider eight holes since arriving in Carnoustie, Kerr was looking forward to the challenge of playing the historic course — even if the weather turns bad.

"It's just perfect weather right now, but as we know it never plays the same in a tournament as it does in practice," she said. "We're supposed to get some rain or something by Thursday, so it could be very different." The last American to win the



Christie Kerr two-time major winner.

Lochte takes gold

Phelps sees 200 free loss at worlds as lesson

Associated Press

SHANGHAI — Reality smacked Michael Phelps in the face again, only this time he accepted it. The 14-time Olympic champion didn't like losing the 200-meter freestyle at the world championships again, even if it was to good pal Ryan Lochte.

But Phelps knows he's got more in him and unlike two years ago, he's willing to put in the work to get there.

Phelps led through the first 100 meters of the most eagerly awaited race so far in Shanghai before Lochte took over on the final turn and held on to win in 1 minute, 44.44 seconds Tuesday.

Phelps settled for silver at 1:44.79, and Paul Biedermann of Germany — who dealt Phelps a stunning defeat at worlds in 2009 — took the bronze at 1:44.88.

"Being able to be a second faster than I was last year and about a second and a half off my personal best time, that's all I can really ask for right now," Phelps said. "That's all I had in the tank."



Ryan Lochte won gold at the worlds in China.

Silver medalist found dead

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Olympic silver medalist Jeret "Speedy" Peterson was found dead in a remote canyon in Utah in what police are calling a suicide.

One of the world's most risk-taking and innovative freestyle skiers, the creator of the one-of-a-kind "Hurricane" called 911 before shooting himself, police said. The 29-year-old had been cited for drunken driving Friday in Hailey, Idaho and had pleaded not guilty.

Officers found Peterson late Monday night between Salt Lake City and Park City in Lambs Canyon. Police said a suicide note was found near Peterson's car; they declined to reveal what it said.

"Regardless of the amazing stuff he did skiing, it was the stuff he did for other people that was incredible to me," said Peterson's longtime coach and friend, Matt Christensen. "A lot of people saw his story and said he must be a wild jackson and a cowboy. He was just the opposite."



Jeret Peterson skier's death ruled a suicide.

Florida LOTTERY

Here are the winning numbers selected Tuesday in the Florida Lottery:

CASH 3 (early) 9-3-3
CASH 3 (late) 7-9-1
PLAY 4 (early) 3-3-0-3
PLAY 4 (late) 0-0-9-3
FANTASY 5 5-6-7-10-17

MEGA MONEY 5-24-26-38
MEGA BALL 11

AL

Table with columns: W, L, Pct, East Division GB, WCGB

On the AIRWAVES

BASEBALL

7 p.m. (ESPN) San Francisco Giants at Philadelphia Phillies
7 p.m. (FSNFL) Florida Marlins at Washington Nationals
10 p.m. (SUN) Tampa Bay Rays at Oakland Athletics

FOOTBALL

3:30 p.m. (ESPN) College Football Live
4 p.m. (ESPN) NFL Live

GOLF

6 p.m. (GOLF) Golf Central
7:30 p.m. (GOLF) 19th Hole

SOCCER

8:30 p.m. (ESPN2) MLS All-Stars vs. Manchester United

Bonifacio becoming offensive force for Fla.

MIAMI — Look who has the longest active hitting streak in the major leagues: A Diamondbacks and Nationals castoff who has struggled to secure a roster spot as a utility man with the Florida Marlins.

Suddenly the Marlins can't keep Emilio Bonifacio out of the lineup, and opponents can't keep him off base.

"The guy's unreal," says teammate Logan Morrison. "He's a spark plug, for sure,"

says Mets third baseman David Wright.

"He has done a fabulous job in the last month," Marlins manager Jack McKeon says.

Bonifacio has hit in 24 consecutive games, the Marlins' longest one-season streak since 2002. It's a surprising surge by a .263 career hitter, but at age 26 the Dominican shows signs of blossoming into an offensive force.

A switch-hitter, Bonifacio is making better contact this year, especially against right-handers.

NFL

Table with columns: W, L, Pct, East Division GB, WCGB

Table with columns: L10, Str, Home, Away

Table with columns: W, L, Pct, Central Division GB, WCGB

Table with columns: L10, Str, Home, Away

Table with columns: W, L, Pct, West Division GB, WCGB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Monday's late game Oakland 7, Tampa Bay 5
Tuesday's Games L.A. Angels 2, Cleveland 1
N.Y. Yankees 4, Seattle 1

Thursday's Games L.A. Angels at Detroit, 1:05 p.m.
Kansas City (Chen 5-3) at Boston (Lackey 8-8), 7:10 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Monday's Games San Diego 5, Philadelphia 4
N.Y. Mets 4, Cincinnati 2
Pittsburgh 3, Atlanta 1

Thursday's Games Florida at Washington, 12:35 p.m.
N.Y. Mets at Cincinnati, 12:35 p.m.
Chicago Cubs at Milwaukee, 2:10 p.m.

Yankees 4, Mariners 1

NEW YORK — The Seattle Mariners flailed away helplessly against CC Sabathia in their 17th straight loss, managing only one hit and striking out 18 times overall in a 4-1 loss to the New York Yankees on a rain-soaked Tuesday night.

Sabathia did not allow a baserunner until Brendan Ryan singled with one out in the seventh inning — a batter after a 30 minute rain delay — in beating Seattle for the seventh consecutive day. He struck out 14 of the 25 batters he faced, seven in a row at one point.

The Mariners are four shy of matching the Baltimore Orioles' American League-record 21-game losing streak to start the 1988 season. The 1961 Phillies dropped 23 straight for the modern major league mark.

Curtis Granderson homered off Doug Fister (3-12) to put New York ahead 1-0 in the fourth and Mark Teixeira connected for his 100th homer with the Yankees in the eighth.

Sabathia (15-5) appeared to tire after a second delay (14 minutes) in the seventh.

Phillies 7, Giants 2

PHILADELPHIA — Rookie right-hander Vance Worley threw a three-hitter and Chase Utley hit an inside-the-park homer to lead the Philadelphia Phillies to a 7-2 victory over the San Francisco Giants on Tuesday night in a matchup of the NL's top teams.

Worley (7-1) had five strikeouts and one walk, and has allowed two earned runs or less in 11 of his 13 career starts. It was Worley's fifth straight win.

Ryan Howard, John Mayberry Jr. and Raul Ibanez also homered for the Phillies (65-37).

Aaron Rowand homered against his former team for the Giants (59-44).

Barry Zito (3-3), a late replacement for scheduled starter Tim Lincecum, allowed six runs and six hits in seven innings while striking out four and walking two.

Lincecum was scratched two hours before the game due to a stomach illness. He was listed as day-to-day and could pitch Wednesday against the Phillies, taking Zito's place.

Red Sox 13, Royals 9

BOSTON — David Ortiz had four hits and five RBIs, and Dustin Pedroia had four of Boston's 16 hits Tuesday night to lead the Red Sox to a 13-9 victory over the Kansas City Royals, their 18th win in 22 games.

Hours after the teams took a 1-1 pitcher's duel into the 14th inning and finished up at 1:59 a.m., they combined for 31 hits and 22 runs against nine pitchers — including Royals outfielder Mitch Maier, who threw a scoreless inning.

Alfredo Aceves (6-1) threw 3 1-3 scoreless innings in relief to improve to 20-2 in his career. Nathan Adcock (1-1) got just one out for the Royals, allowing three earned runs, three hits and three walks as Boston scored six times.

Table with columns: Kansas City, Boston, ab, r, h, bi

Table with columns: Kansas City, Boston, IP, H, R, ER, BB, SO

Table with columns: Kansas City, Boston, IP, H, R, ER, BB, SO

Brewers 3, Cubs 2

Table with columns: Chicago, Milwaukee, ab, r, h, bi

Table with columns: Chicago, Milwaukee, IP, H, R, ER, BB, SO

Cardinals 3, Astros 1

Table with columns: Houston, St. Louis, ab, r, h, bi

Table with columns: Houston, St. Louis, IP, H, R, ER, BB, SO

Orioles 12, Blue Jays 4

Table with columns: Baltimore, Toronto, ab, r, h, bi

Table with columns: Baltimore, Toronto, IP, H, R, ER, BB, SO

Angels 2, Indians 1

Table with columns: Los Angeles, Cleveland, ab, r, h, bi

NFL

Continued from Page B1

Siliga before he signed with San Francisco.

"There are times when you are fielding four or five calls at once," added Linta. "Multiply, say, 10 guys you are trying to get signed by maybe three to 10 teams interested ... you do the math."

The math adds up to hundreds of transactions in a few days, as opposed to a few weeks had there not been a 4½-month labor stoppage.

"I think the best way to say it is whatever you can imagine, it's probably worse than that," Cardinals coach Ken Whisenhunt said. "There is multitasking at its most furious."

Normally, teams would

bring in players to visit their facilities, have them work out and take physicals, perhaps even attend meetings and speak with potential future teammates. Some of that might happen in the next few days, particularly for a high-profile player such as Asomugha. Most of it won't.

"I think all of the guys realize this is going to be a whole new world," agent Jordan Woy said. "Most said, 'Listen, the bottom line is the team I'm with I like. If somebody out there is really interested, if they come with a great offer up front, then we'll look into that.'"

"They realize they're going to have to make quicker, probably less-informed decisions than they have in the past. They're just going to have to do best they

can."

So are the teams. Sure, all 32 clubs have had more than enough extra time to watch video and dissect the games of every free agent on the market. Maybe that's not such a great think; over-analysis has destroyed the chances of many an NFL team through the years.

And now there's the added element of all those vets being released.

"In this climate, anything's possible," said Ravens coach John Harbaugh, whose team will release Heap, receiver Derrick Mason and running back Willis McGahee. "You may have an opportunity to bring some of those guys back. You may not. It just depends on how things shake out the next couple of days."

What also might shake out: shorter contracts.

2nd Annual Fund Raiser Golf Tournament and Luncheon. Benefitting the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. At The Plantation Golf Resort & Spa. Saturday, August 13th - 9AM shotgun. \$65 donation includes: Golf, Cart and Lunch.

Looking For A New Friend?
 Shop our Pets column in the Classified Section.




Kids from Camp Fusion look through the trailer slats at this calf on display during "Awesome Ag Day" at the Citrus County Auditorium. The theme of the day was "Let's Grow a Pizza." Campers were told about where the meat on their pizza would come from.

Down to earth

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVE SIGLER

'Awesome Ag Day' gives kids the chance to follow their food from farm to table

SAMANTHA KENNEDY
 Chronicle Intern

Discovering the origins of a favorite food was the topic of a big event for many youngsters.

On Friday, July 22, there were 85 Camp Fusion participants ages 6 through 10 who gathered into the Citrus County Auditorium. "Let's Grow a Pizza" was the day's theme, which corresponded with the day's title, "Awesome Ag Day."

"They're so disconnected," said Steve Melton, an agricultural producer who ran the "Grinding Corn" station. "We're trying to teach the kids how hard it is to get the food from the garden to the table. And that it doesn't all just come from the grocery store; there's a step before that."

There were six total stations for the event. The students visited three stations prior to lunch and three stations afterward.

"If you're all good," said 4-H Agent Amy Duncan, "then you might get some ice cream after your

See EARTH/Page C4



Trey Evans and John Bnonquist put ears of corn through a shucking machine during the half-day camp. After the corn was taken off the husk, it was ground into course flour that would also be used to make the kids' pizza.



ABOVE: Kids from Camp Fusion were greeted by this banner. The camp is a county-sponsored day camp for young people from across the county.

LEFT: Audrey Durr from the Citrus County University of Florida Institute of Food and Agriculture Services talks to the campers about how soil and other factors, like insects, can affect food production. She was dressed like a cockroach for most of the demonstration.



Ray Crawford from the Florida Farm Bureau talks to the Camp Fusion group about pork and beef. The students had an opportunity to meet a pig during the camp.

What's cool for back to school? Mobile tech

Associated Press

NEW YORK — What's on top of the school supply list this year? It isn't T-shirts and tennis shoes. It's the other T — tech.

Kids as young as elementary age are looking for smartphone upgrades, while the college set is sussing out the explosion in tablets, said Craig Johnson, president of the retail consulting and research firm Customer Growth Partners in New Canaan, Conn.

"The single most important thing is the acceleration of technology for back to school. Kids don't get excited about a new lunch box these days, or a new backpack. Cool means technology," he said.

That means e-readers with high functionality like highlighting, underlining, pagination and touchscreens. "All of the features are out now or in the process of coming out," he said.

The new Nook has a six-inch touchscreen and crisp, clear print for reading in bright light, tech analyst Andrea Smith told reporters at a recent Consumer Electronics Association trade show. It also indicates how many pages to the end of a chapter and has received praise for long battery life.

Back-to-school tech also means tablets. Once hallowed Apple ground, iPad 2 competitors are everywhere this season. Apple's still the big kid, but Android technology is in pursuit. Some of the new tablets run Adobe Flash software, which Apple doesn't have.

In addition to the iPad 2, Smith suggests the 10-inch Toshiba Thrive for back to school. It runs on Android, has two USB ports and an SD card reader. The new TouchPad by Hewlett-Packard, she said, runs on webOS, has a 9.7-inch screen and touts easy multitasking among open apps.

For analyst Natali Morris, iPad 2 "really is the only tablet on the market that kids are coveting," though she added that some Android technology is good for note-taking and syncing.

Tablets are cool, but are they practical for actual schoolwork? That might have everything to do with the popularity of bluetooth-enabled keyboard add-ons, including the new one Smith and Morris like from Logitech with a case that easily turns into a tablet stand. Toshiba has a keyboard, too, also sold separately.

Morris' picks for student laptops: MacBook Air with an 11- or 14-inch screen. They weigh as little as 2.3 pounds and boot up in about five seconds, she said at the CEA line shows in June. Those features are good for students moving from class to class.

Going head-to-head with MacBook Air for PC-prone students is the sleek new Samsung Series 9, Morris said. It's light, boots Windows in 20 seconds and offers 160-degree viewing for group work.

Christine Mallon, vice president of retail marketing for Staples, agrees that mobile tech is leading the back-to-school drive and creeping onto supply lists for ever-younger kids.

"One of the biggest trends that we've seen is that technology is becoming a school supply," she said. "Kids need laptops, they need flash drives. We're seeing it in a very big way this year."

Flash drives shaped like animals — safari to farm — have taken off, she said. Also look for Tony Hawk-branded skateboard drives this year.



DAVE SIGLER/Chronicle

Lane Stevens, left, and Christopher Phillips, right, look at hydroponic strawberries during the Awesome Ag Day at the Citrus County Auditorium.

EARTH

Continued from Page C1

pizza." Immediately following this statement, the students filled the room with whispers of surprise.

"Beef and Pork" was one of the featured stations; here the students learned about how many everyday products they use which contain some part of a cow or pig. While learning this lesson, the group played Beef-O-Bingo and went outside to see and pet animals. This showed where the meat on pizzas comes from.

The Florida Division of Forestry also had a station showing where the pizza

box itself comes from. Children at this station started out by playing the game "From or Not From a Tree." For this, they took different photos with Velcro on the back and decided which category their item fit into.

Two M&B Dairy representatives ran the "Dairy Products" station. The first thing students had to do was shake a container, which was making butter while the session was going on. At this station, the campers learned about different dairy products and what different types of dairy cows are best used for.

The building became noisier when the "Grinding



Wet-nosed and warm-hearted, this calf was one of two brought to the Citrus County Auditorium for Awesome Ag Day.

and clay," said 11-year old camper Bailey Miller. The group did demonstrations showing how pesticides move through different types of soil.

At the "Growing Vegetables" station, the children got their very own seed growing in a bag and wear them as necklaces. The group discussed the ways different plants grow. Their essential question was: "Is a tomato a fruit or a vegetable?"

"This is really a great opportunity for the kids," explained Sara Williamson, the youth coordinator for Camp Fusion. "They all are having a great time and enjoying themselves over summer."

Corn" group began its main activity, which was shucking, sifting through and grinding corn. The group discussed the different parts of the corn stock, and also made popcorn.

"The corn was really cool," 7-year old Zach Lawson said.

"Sand, Silt and Clay" was extremely hands on. "We talked about how the rocks break up to make sand, silt

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Hurry! Limited Space Available!

News NOTES

Come see a 'one-man circus'

Everyone is invited to Citrus Springs Community Center at 10 a.m. Wednesday, July 27, to see Fritzzy Brothers One-Man Circus. This circus-style comedy act features juggling, unicycle riding and lots of fun audience participation.

There is no admission fee for this special event. For more information, call (352) 746-9077.

There's still time to enter to win a free bike courtesy of the Homosassa Walmart. Look for the Reading Log bookmark entry forms at your library. Every library cardholder in grades K through 12 is eligible to enter weekly for a chance to win a bicycle of their choice (up to a maximum value of \$80) during the drawing at the end of July.

Hawaiian luau tea dance set

Learn a little hula dance and enjoy pineapple and coconut treats at the Hawaiian luau tea dance from 2 to 4 p.m. Friday, July 29, at West Citrus Community Center, 8940 W. Veterans Drive, Homosassa.

Muumuus and Hawaiian shirts are welcome. The dance will be hosted by DJ Sapphire. Cost is \$5. A portion of the proceeds will benefit In Home Senior Services.

Call (352) 795-3831 for more information.

Habitat orientation on Saturday

Habitat for Humanity of Citrus County is looking for partner families to build their own Habitat home. People interested in becoming Habitat homeowners in 2011-12 should attend a mandatory orientation session from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, July 30, at Seven Rivers Presbyterian Church on Gulf-to-Lake Highway, Lecanto.

Attendance is required to enter the Habitat program and apply for a Habitat home. Potential applicants will receive a full explanation of the program, timeline, income and service requirements and other information.

Children cannot be accommodated at the meeting. For information, call the Habitat office at (352) 563-2744.

Adopt A RESCUED PET

Raven



Special to the Chronicle

Raven is a precious all black shitzu/poodle mix. She is 3 years old. She is a very loving and calm girl. She came from a breeder and has had two litters of puppies at 3 years old, but she deserves and will get a better life now. Adopt A Rescued Pet Inc. does home visits prior to adoptions; therefore, we can only adopt to the Citrus County and adjoining county areas. If interested, call Adopt A Rescued Pet, leave your name, number and pet's name, for a return call from the foster mom, later, at (352) 795-9550. All dogs have been sterilized, tested negative for heart worm, on heart worm prevention, up to date on vaccines, wormed, ID-chipped and vet-checked. Check www.adoptarescuedpet.com for our other pets and the adoption calendar with locations, dates and times.

Tobacco-free group meets July 28

Guest speaker will be Rep. Smith

Special to the Chronicle

The public is invited to the Tobacco-Free Partnership of Citrus County meeting at 9 a.m. Thursday, July 28, in Room 166 of the Lecanto Government Building, 3600 W. Sovereign Path.

Special guest will be State Rep. Jimmie T. Smith. During the 2011 legislative session he co-sponsored HB 211, which would have allowed local governments to restrict outdoor smoking; for example, in parks.

This meeting also will feature youth advocacy

news. On June 28, the Board of County Commissioners proclaimed July to be Youth Tobacco Awareness Month in Citrus County. Members will also review and get partnership input on the new fiscal year tobacco workplan.

The Tobacco-Free Partnership's goals are to prevent initiation of tobacco use among youth and young

adults, create tobacco-free policies to protect everyone from secondhand smoke exposure and to increase the number of people who receive information about quitting tobacco use.

For more information, call Jillian Godwin at the Citrus County Health Department, (352) 527-0068, ext. 304, or email jillian_godwin@doh.state.fl.us.

Knights of the Year



Special to the Chronicle

ABOVE: The Knights of Columbus, St. Scholastica Council 14485, presents Carl Genzel with the Knight of the Year award. The award is given to the Knight for his continuous outstanding achievement and service to its council. Genzel is the financial secretary and oversees all council activities. Genzel has accepted his second term in his position and was instrumental in the council achieving its third Double Star Award, the highest award obtainable in the Knights of Columbus. Presenting the award is Bill Fischer, past grand knight. LEFT: The St. Scholastica Knights of Columbus council 14485, nominated Winfredo and Rose Samson as Family of the Year for its 2010-11 fiscal year. Each year, the council selects a couple as family of the year; even with 100 members, the decision was simple. They have both committed their time and talent to the council at all events. They are to be commended as well for their community service.



Cattle Barons Ball plans in progress

Special to the Chronicle

The Cattle Barons' Ball Committee for the 2012 American Cancer Society has announced its plans for the annual fundraiser to take place Feb. 11. This signature gala continues to grow in popularity as a fundraiser to support the local ACS, as well as contribute to research and advocacy in the fight against cancer.

Co-chairmen Dianne Brashear and Steve Latiff are leading a team of experienced and first-time members who

are already preparing to make this festivity a one-of-a-kind, kick-up-your heels evening that will include musical entertainment, games, activities and auctions, all to bring awareness to the mission of the American Cancer Society.

The theme for the 2012 festivities will be "Heart of a Cowboy." There are many areas where Citrus County businesses and individuals can be a part of this very special ball.

To reserve a table, seating eight, which includes cocktails and dinner,

call (352) 422-0356 or email diannebrashear@gmail.com.

For business and individuals wishing to become sponsors of this event, call (352) 464-0983 or email kathybags@hotmail.com.

To contribute items for the live and silent auction, call (352) 422-4438 or email jen@citrusortho.net.

To find out how to become involved in the 2012 Cattle Barons' Ball, call (352) 422-0356 or visit diannebrashear@gmail.com.

News NOTES

Book sale at Dunnellon Library to end July 31

Beginning Friday, July 1, the Friends Book Store will begin a storewide, half-price book sale. Regular prices of \$2 hardcover, \$1 large paperback, and 50 cents for paperbacks will all be half-priced. The sale will continue all of July during regular store hours, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays; 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays.

Thanks to huge donations from the community, the Friends Book Store is overstocked in all categories — fiction novels; children's books, mysteries, history, politics, war, classics, computer, self-help, sci-fi, religion/inspirational, books-on-tape, videos, DVDs, CDs, cassettes, reference, puzzles and games.

The Friends Book Store (inside the library), is at 20351 Robinson Road (just behind Sweetbay) in Dunnellon. It is operated by an all-volunteer staff, with proceeds benefiting Dunnellon Public Library. The Friends are committed to providing a monthly book endowment of \$2,500 (new books) and other library en-

hancements (check out the new monument sign).

Artisans sought for annual boutique show

The GFWC Woman's Club of Inverness seeks new artisans to participate in its annual Artisans Boutique slated for Oct. 15 and 16 at the clubhouse across from Whispering Pines Park.

Each artisan will be invited to an interview to show the appropriateness and quality of work before being accepted for the Boutique. The committee also limits the number of artisans working within the same medium.

The Artisan's Boutique has been a successful venue for both artists and customers for six years, heralded by the chosen artists because they do not have to be present for the show, as well as for customers who find unique, high-quality arts and crafts.

For more information, call either of the co-chairwomen, Verna Lichlyter at (352) 564-0788 or Marcia Balonis at (352) 637-7139.

Artisans who have participated in the

event in earlier years should call to express their interest in being in the show again.

All profit from the Boutique will be donated to the club's various philanthropies, which include scholarships for students, support for CASA and Citrus United Basket, and state projects of the General Federation of Woman's Clubs. The event is co-sponsored by the Citrus County Chronicle.

Vote online to support Mission in Citrus shelter

Mission in Citrus homeless shelter has joined the 2011 Pepsi Challenge. Facebook members can vote online at the special Pepsi website to help the shelter win \$50,000 for veterans, or set up a Pepsi account: www.refresheverything.com/helpourhomelessvets.

The site includes notes by Mission in Citrus leader Jim Sleighter, and a detailed budget chart. Members may vote for up to five ideas every day — the idea with the most votes by the July 31 deadline will win a grant from PepsiCo organizers, announced Aug. 1.

Timeshare owners to meet on Sunday

Special to the Chronicle

Florida Timeshare Owners Group will meet at 1 p.m. Sunday, July 31, at the Pelican Pointe Golf & Country Club in Venice.

Speakers include Rich Muller, senior vice president of Vacation Resorts International; Andrew Spark, Florida assistant attorney general; Woody Cary, president of Tricom Management; and Scott MacGregor, CFO of InnSeasons Resorts.

Discussion topics will include: Tips for obtaining preferred timeshare exchanges, information needed to avoid resale problems, guidelines for owners in relating with their resort's management, specific statutes and regulations concerning the activities of the timeshare resort industry and updates on average maintenance fees and sale prices. An unlimited question-and-answer session will follow each speaker.

Advance reservations are necessary. Nonmembers may attend, providing that seating is available and advance reservations are made.

Visit the website at townersgroup.com.

News NOTES

Center plans 'Hawaiian Luau'

The public is invited to a dance where you can learn a little hula and enjoy pineapple and coconut treats. Show off your favorite Hawaiian shirt or muu-muu from 2 to 4 p.m. Friday, July 29, at West Citrus Community Center, 8940 W. Veterans Drive, Homosassa.

The dance will be hosted by D.J. "Sapphire." Cost is \$5. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Citrus County In Home Services. For information, call (352) 795-3831.

CRHS class of '71 reunion Saturday

Attention Mullet Heads! If you know what that means, you probably attended Crystal River High School in the '60s and '70s. The class of 1971 is having a class reunion at Cracker's Bar and Grill in Crystal River at 6 p.m. Saturday, July 30. We encourage fellow alumni and teachers to attend to reminisce with old and new friends.

If you are a member of the class of '71, give Eric Toney a call at (352) 628-4405 or email Bill Vogel at wvogel@tampabay.rr.com. Organizers don't have addresses for some class members, so help spread the word.

Choir offers summer concert

Citrus Community Concert Choir Inc. will present its summer concert, "Celebrating Some American Songwriters" featuring John Denver and others on three dates: July 31, Aug. 5 and Aug. 7. General admission is \$10; children 12 and younger are free.

Presentations will be: July 31 at 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Grace Church, Roosevelt Avenue, Beverly Hills; Aug. 5 at 7:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church, U.S. 41, Inverness; and Aug. 7 at 2 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church, Crystal Glen Drive Lecanto.

For more information, visit www.citruschoir.com or call (352) 382-7071.

■ Submit information at least two weeks before the event.
 ■ Early submission of timely material is appreciated, but multiple publications cannot be guaranteed.

■ Submit material at Chronicle offices in Inverness or Crystal River; by fax at (352) 563-3280; or email to community@chronicleonline.com.

■ Notes tend to run one week prior to the date of an event. Publication on a special day can't be guaranteed.
 ■ Expect notes to run no more than once.

WEDNESDAY EVENING JULY 27, 2011

Table with columns for channel, time, and program details. Includes logos for various networks like NBC, PBS, ABC, etc.

PHILLIP ALDER Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

Confucius said, "You can successfully force people to follow a certain course, but you cannot force them to understand it."

At the bridge table, when you need input from your partner, you hope that he understands what you want.

Look at the North hand. Your partner opens one spade, you raise to two spades, and he rebids three diamonds. What would you do now? Why?

After one spade — two spades, the opener usually passes or jumps to four spades. If he does anything else, he expresses an interest in trying to get to game.

Bridge

Bridge hand details including North and South hands, dealer information, and opening lead.

sponder should jump to game; with bad holdings, he should sign off in three spades.

In this deal, North has only six high-card points, but he has magic holdings in the pointed suits, in particular that fourth spade (nine-card fits are wonderful) and the ruffing value in diamonds.

West will probably start with three rounds of hearts. After ruffing the last of those, how should South continue?

South has five losers in his hand: two hearts, two diamonds and one club. He must ruff two diamonds on the board. He leads a diamond to dummy's king, plays a diamond to his ace and ruffs a diamond with dummy's spade nine, so that East cannot overruff.

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Jumble word game puzzle with a cartoon illustration of a man and a woman and a list of scrambled words to be unscrambled.

- ACROSS 1 Fluff, as hair 6 35mm setting (hyph.) 11 Atlantic game fish 12 High-tech invader 13 Job requirements 14 On solid ground 15 Tea variety 16 Feminine suffix 17 Yul's film realm 18 Tomahawk 19 Boggy 23 Cotton pod 25 Wigner granter 26 Malt beverage 29 Juan's friend 31 Noncom 32 \$1,000,000, slangly 33 Strictly verboten 34 Cleopatra's snake

Answer to Previous Puzzle

Crossword puzzle grid with filled-in letters and some empty cells for answers.

Dear Annie: My granddaughter, "Tammi," graduated high school at the end of May. She has been working at a pet store since last fall. This was her first real job, and she was both elated and proud.

When I visited over the Christmas holidays, she took me to the store to meet her boss and the other teen employees. Tammi told me the boss had discussed the store's finances with her, that he didn't love his wife any longer, that he was getting a divorce, and on and on. I told her this is not something a 34-year-old employer would be sharing with an 18-year-old female employee unless he had an ulterior motive.

The day after her 19th birthday, Tammi left home and moved in with her boss, who is now divorced and shares custody of his 4-year-old child. She is absolutely enthralled with this guy, who is four years younger than her father. Our family is just sick over this. We've all tried talking to her, but she won't listen. She said we should lighten up and that her friends are all OK with it. I know for a fact that her best friend doesn't like this fellow and says he's mean to Tammi. My granddaughter says she's an adult and can do whatever she wants. How can we make her realize that this is a huge mistake? — Worried Sick in Illinois Dear Worried: Unfortunately,

Tammi is right — she is an adult and can make as many lousy decisions as she wants. Often, kids are attracted to what seems most outrageous to their families. Perhaps if you stop fighting her, Tammi will have less to rebel against. Welcome this man into your family as best you can, and let Tammi see him in context. She may decide he's not so outrageous after all. Or you might decide he's not as terrible a choice as you originally feared.

Dear Annie: Our son divorced after almost 21 years of marriage. The marriage was never particularly happy. As the mother of our two wonderful grandchildren, we want our former daughter-in-law to remain part of our lives.

Our son is engaged and is planning to marry next year. We are not close to "Mary," but if she makes our son happy, that's good enough for us. When Mary asked us to remove our son's wedding photo from the wall, we did so. The problem is, she now wants us to remove all photographs that include our former daughter-in-law, including ones with the grandchildren and other family members. Annie, there are memories that go along with these photos. We replaced all the photographs that included our son with his ex-wife, but we left the others. My husband and I feel this is our home and we should be able to display what we choose. What is

the proper thing to do? — Confused In-Laws Dear Confused: Some second wives are insecure about their position in the family and try to control their environment — and yours. While you are under no obligation to remove any photos from your home, we also know that you don't want to create a rift with your son and his new bride. We suggest you take the contentious pictures and place them in your bedroom or in storage, or transfer them to a CD.

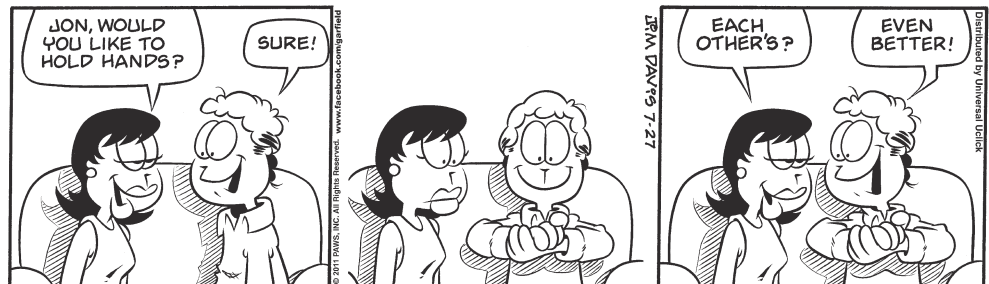
Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Married to Edward Scissorfeet," who flails in his sleep and tears the sheets with his toenails. I'm a Vietnam vet who, in recent years, had become more and more violent at night. After kicking my wife a couple of times, punching the walls and waking up on my knees swinging at ghosts standing by the bed, I saw a doctor who prescribed an anti-anxiety medication. I'm happy to report that I haven't had any violent episodes since I started taking it. — Sleeping Better in Florida

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Ste. 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit www.creators.com.

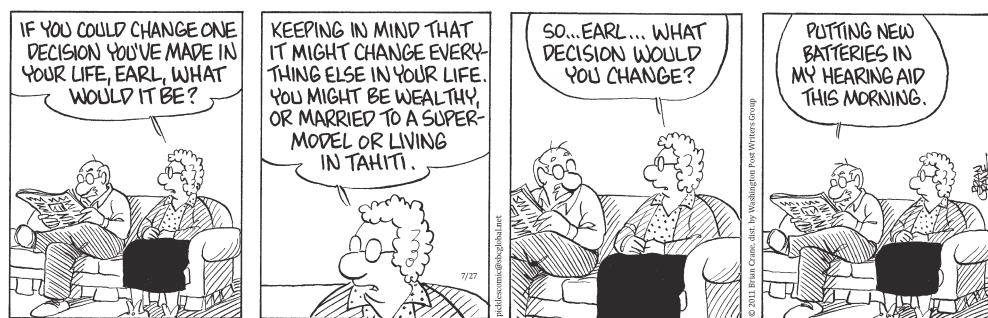
Peanuts



Garfield



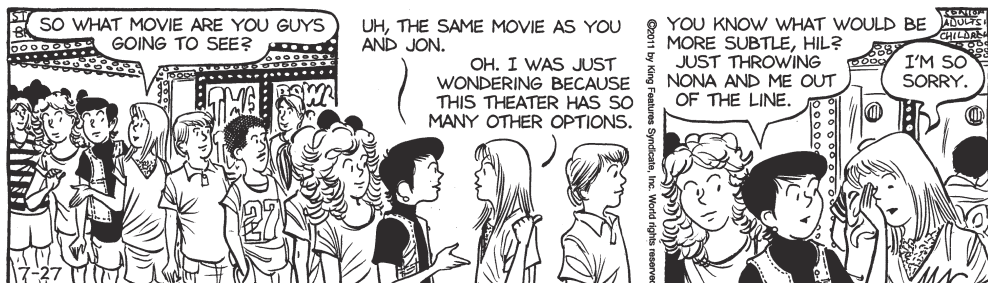
Pickles



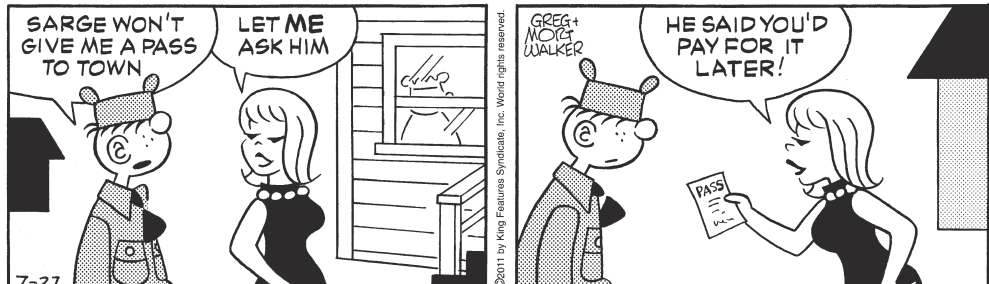
For Better or For Worse



Sally Forth



Beetle Bailey



Dilbert



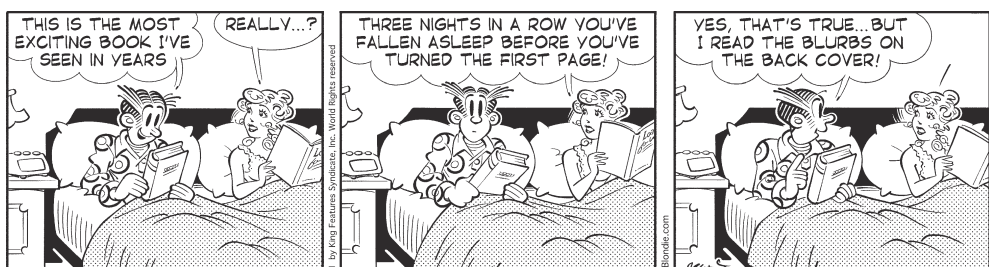
The Grizzwells



The Born Loser



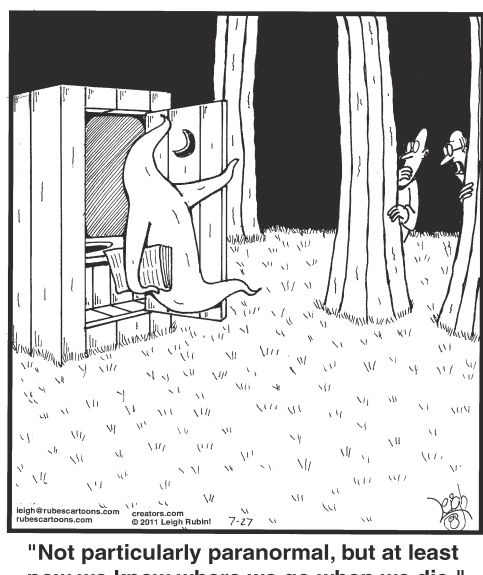
Blondie



Kit 'N' Carlyle



Rubes



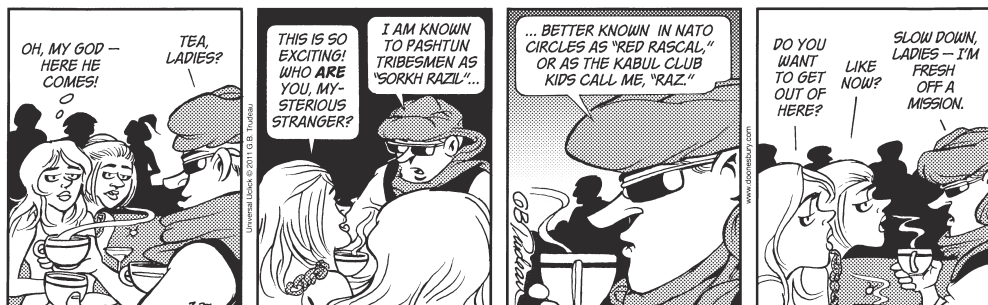
Dennis the Menace



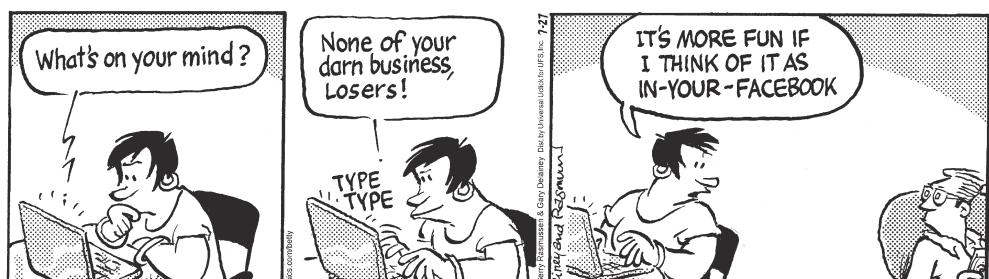
The Family Circus



Doonesbury



Betty



Big Nate



Frank & Ernest



Arlo and Janis



Today's MOVIES section listing movies like Captain America: The First Avenger, Friends with Benefits, and Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows 2.

Local RADIO section listing stations like WJUF-FM 90.1, WGN-FM 91.9, and WXCX-FM 95.3.

CELEBRITY CIPHER by Luis Campos section with a cryptogram and previous solution.

