



TODAY & Friday morning
HIGH 92 Mostly sunny with 10 percent chance of afternoon showers.
LOW 67
 PAGE A4

CITRUS COUNTY
CHRONICLE
 www.chronicleonline.com



NEWS BRIEF

Law curbing doctors' gun talk blocked

MIAMI — A federal judge has blocked enforcement of a first-in-the-nation law that restricted what Florida physicians can say about guns to their patients.

U.S. District Judge Marcia Cooke ruled Wednesday that the law violates the Constitution's free speech protections for doctors and patients.

The law was pushed by gun rights supporters who claimed the doctors' questions are an invasion of privacy.

The law took effect June 2. It was challenged by physicians' groups who said it violates long-standing preventative medical practices.

The measure was watered down by state lawmakers to allow exceptions. For example, a doctor could ask a person with mental problems about guns at home.

Still, physicians were concerned a patient could file a complaint that might lead to loss of their medical licenses and fines up to \$10,000.

— from wire reports

INSIDE

Teacher pay

Fla. union files suit over merit pay law, says law is unconstitutional./ Page A5

\$35B BEHEMOTH:



NASA design

World's most powerful rocket comes with steep price tag./ Page A14

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County accepts rec center

CHRIS VAN ORMER
 Staff Writer

INVERNESS — Senior citizens packed the commission chamber Tuesday to save their recreation center.

In the end, members of the Beverly Hills Recreation Association breathed a collective sigh of relief, even though they lost their

center to insolvency, because the commissioners agreed at their meeting to accept the deed to the property and keep it open.

"At the beginning of the year, the recreation association contacted the county with concerns with regards to financial solvency," said Commissioner Joe Meek.

Meek said he and County Administrator Brad Thorpe

met with the association board on several occasions. The association had tried to make the facility pay for itself by raising fees and other measures, but the problem remained.

Because the property is part of a development of regional impact, the facility and its property are contractually bound to be received by the county when

it becomes insolvent.

"Regardless of what we do here today with regards to the association, in the next few weeks, unfortunately, the recreation association will reach that point of insolvency," Meek said.

Meek said the county hoped to provide a smooth transition because the

See CENTER/Page A13

Bus driver faces firing for refusing drug test

MIKE WRIGHT
 Staff Writer

INVERNESS — School district officials plan to fire a bus driver for refusing to take a random drug test because she had to get her grandson to a dental appointment.

Bus driver Gayle Bardsley told Citrus County School Board members on Tuesday that the drug-screen technician was not on site when she had to leave.

Bardsley said her managers never told her she could lose her job by refusing the drug test. Transportation Supervisor Marilyn Farmer disputes that.

While the district has fired bus drivers for failing a urine drug screen, Bardsley would be the first driver to lose her job for refusing to submit to the test, Farmer said.

Bardsley, who was hired in 2004 and has an unblemished personnel file, was suspended without pay pending a final school board determination in October. She has the right to a formal hearing before the school board decides whether to uphold Farmer's recommendation for termination.

She showed up at Tuesday's board meeting to state her case. At board attorney Wes Bradshaw's suggestion, board members did not comment because they later may be asked to decide the issue.

Bardsley said she had completed her morning run on Aug. 25 and returned to the Crystal River bus garage. There, supervisor Vickie Strickland said she had been selected for random drug testing that morning.

Bardsley said she asked to take the test right away because she had a dental appointment for her grandson, who is in her legal care, and that the appointment had been made five months earlier.

She said she waited for the drug-screening technician to arrive and finally had to leave for the dental appointment.

Bardsley said Strickland warned her she could be committing a felony by walking off a drug test site, but never told her she could lose her job.

In an interview Wednesday, Farmer said that wasn't true. However, she declined to elaborate because the termination case is pending.

Bardsley said Farmer's executive assistant then called her at the dentist's office and said to return immediately for the drug screening. When Bardsley returned, however, she was told that she earlier refused to take the drug test and supervisors would not allow her to take one.

"Twice I was willing and able to perform the drug test," she said.

Farmer said the drug-testing lab mistakenly told her assistant that Bardsley could return for the drug screening.

Farmer said bus drivers, mechanics and some maintenance workers are

See DRIVER/Page A13

A day of caring



DAVE SIGLER/Chronicle

Michael Wilcox and Steve Young from Progress Energy paint the top part of Spooner Cottage at the Key Training Center during the company's annual Day of Caring Wednesday.

Progress Energy workers volunteer across county

TAYLOR PROVOST
 Correspondent

HOMOSASSA — Progress Energy employees arrived at the West Citrus Community Center in Homosassa around 10 a.m. Wednesday and immediately joined in on games of pool, darts and cards for one purpose only: to put a smile on a senior citizen's face.

More than 70 employees from the Progress Energy Florida Crystal River 3 nuclear plant volunteered throughout Citrus County Wednesday as part of the company's annual "Day of Caring" volunteer program. "Progress Energy has a long history of giving back to the communities and customers we serve. We're really proud and really excited to be giving back to the community in this way," said Heather Danenower, spokeswoman for Progress Energy.

The sites included Daystar Life Center (Crystal River), at which volunteers painted the food pantry, removed carpet on stairs and cleaned carpets; Boys and Girls Club of Citrus County (Homosassa), at which they remodeled the front desk area and did yard work; Key Training Center (Lecanto), where they painted the exterior of a group home; and Central Ridge Boys and Girls Club (Beverly Hills), where

they repaired a pool table and installed a volleyball net.

In all, teams spread out to assist nine charities in Citrus, Levy and Hernando counties, volunteering more than 500 estimated hours doing a variety of work from light repairs to painting and yard maintenance.

T. J. Scott has participated in the Day of Caring three years in a row and spent last year's event building a fence in Yankeetown. This year's activity was a little more leisurely.

"I got smoked at pool," Scott said, noting his older opponent at the West Citrus Community Center had probably had a lot more practice.

"With our busy schedules, there's always something else needing to get done, and we don't get the opportunity to help out as much as we like. So it's nice when the company says, 'Take our time and go do it,'" Scott said.

The Country Sunshine band started up around noon, playing classic country music that had many seniors requesting a dance with the Progress Energy workers.



For more photos, click on this story at www.chronicleonline.com.



RIC BUSH/Special to the Chronicle

Jim Griffin, front, replaces wood at the top of a flight of stairs as Lee Marshall, rear, removes the carpet at Daystar Life Center.

Debi Dewees, who has been at Progress for 18 years, said she looks forward to the Day of Caring every year.

"We always just kind of work together and see what needs to be done," Dewees said. Though she

See CARING/Page A13

Assistant attorney in dispute with county

CHRIS VAN ORMER
 Staff Writer

A senior assistant county attorney claimed Monday he was fired.

But the county maintained he quit.

In a letter to the five Citrus County commissioners, Peter Aare told the board his employment with the Citrus County Attorney's Of-

fice had been terminated on Friday, Sept. 9.

Aare cited the cause for his termination "among other reasons, "among his employment environment existing at that office under the direction of County Attorney Richard Wesch.

"It should be noted that contrary to Mr. Wesch's assertion in an e-mail sent to me at 4:59 p.m. on Sept. 9,

2011, stating that he 'accepted' my 'voluntary resignation from county employment,' and implying that I just decided to leave for no reason, the fact remains that the separation was due to, among other issues, the hostile employment environment at the County Attorney's Office," Aare concluded.

The county, on the other

hand, has stated that Aare left his job of his own accord.

According to Lindsay Ubinas, county spokeswoman, at about noon on Friday, Aare "voluntarily vacated his position with the county."

"Mr. Aare turned in his county facility access badge

See LAWYER/Page A13

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1-800-584-8755 Ext.11330

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'10 CHALLENGER



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1-800-584-8755 Ext.31120

\$20,837[^]
OR **\$347[^]** PER MONTH

'11 PATRIOT



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1-800-584-8755 Ext.51186

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1-800-584-8755 Ext.16968

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937 S. Suncoast Blvd.
Homosassa, FL

Around
THE STATE

Citrus County

Audubon meeting to feature photographs

Citrus County Audubon Society will hold its regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 21, at the Unity Church of Citrus County.

The meeting will offer a chance for photographers to display a sampling of their work. Participants in the "Fall Photo Show" will be sharing some of their favorite birding and nature photos.

All CCAS events are open to the public. For more information visit CitrusCountyAudubon.com.

Parks director to address Rails to Trails

Inverness Parks and Recreation Director Pati Smith will address the Rails to Trails of the Withlacoochee Citizen Service Organization at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 15, at Lakes Region Library, 1511 Druid Road, Inverness.

Smith will speak about "The Answer: Citrus County's Beautiful Parks and Trails. The question: What is green, fun, healthy and free for all ages?"

She will share an overview of the services available in Citrus County's abundant green spaces, as well as changes coming up in the future.

All interested persons are welcome at the monthly meeting. For more information, call Bonnie Peterson at (352) 341-4665.

Save Our Waters Week events

Citrus 20/20's sixth annual fundraiser, "Let's play Jeopardy!" will start at 6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 16, at the College of Central Florida conference center in Lecanto. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m., followed by local organizations competing in a game of Environmental Jeopardy. The game will be based on local issues. Guests can bid on silent auction items before the event. Call (352) 201-0149 for information. Tickets are \$35 per person.

Citrus County's Adopt-a-Shore International Coastal cleanup volunteer event will be from sunrise to 11:30 a.m. Saturday. Groups and organizations are encouraged to volunteer and adopt a portion of shoreline or waterway. There will be both eastside and westside cleanups. Call Bill Garvin at (352) 628-4685 or visit info@Garvinphotos.com or call Citrus County Aquatic Services at (352) 527-7620 for information or to sign up. There will be a free volunteer appreciation cookout at noon.

Crystal River Preserve State Park Adopt-a-Shore Day will be from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. Booths by local clubs and organizations, promoting ways to conserve, preserve and protect Citrus County's waters, will be on display. At 7 p.m. the films "Living Waters" and "River's Journey" will be shown in the Redfish Revue Theater. For information call (352) 563-0450. The event is free.

—From staff reports

Correction

Due to a reporter's error, a story and headline on page A1 of Tuesday's *Chronicle*, "For these CHS grads, lunch line encounter led to lasting love" requires clarification. Frances and Valentine Rooks met in the study hall line when they attended Citrus High School. Valentine Rooks lived in the Pleasant Grove area. Also, a photo caption misidentified Frances Rooks.

The *Chronicle* regrets the error.

Readers can alert *The Citrus County Chronicle* to any errors in news articles by emailing dmann@chronicleonline.com or by calling (352) 563-5660.

Sheriff takes over fire-rescue operations

CHRIS VAN ORMER
Staff Writer

Citrus County Fire Rescue was transferred Tuesday to the Citrus County Sheriff's Office.

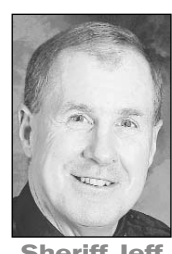
In a 4-1 vote, the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) completed the plan that started earlier this year.

Commissioner Winn Webb was the lone voter against the transfer, commenting that he had never supported the move. Webb is a candi-

date for sheriff.

The transition started in June, when commissioners voted 3-2 to hand fire-rescue operations to Sheriff Jeff Dawsy. He said he would open fulltime stations in DeRosa, Floral City and Sugarmill Woods without hiring more firefighters.

The firehouses in Sugarmill Woods and Floral City are expected to be operational by Oct. 1. A contractor is working on the



Sheriff Jeff Dawsy

DeRosa firehouse.

The sheriff's office has met with volunteer firefighters.

Most of the board had supported Dawsy's plan to reduce three-person shifts to two firefighters in all but two stations. He would move assistant chiefs and inspectors who work regular shifts to the 24-hour station shifts.

A contract for services would be brought to the commission for ap-

proval before October.

Theodora Rusnak of the Citrus County Council raised two concerns, one about the two-person staffing and the other about a loss of transparency.

Commission Chairman Dennis Damato addressed the issue of transparency, saying the new agreement required monthly reports.

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

Environmental students create banner to commemorate 9/11

DAVE SIGLER
Staff Writer

CRYSTAL RIVER — Seniors at the Academy of Environmental Science made a banner to commemorate the 9/11 10th anniversary and presented it Wednesday to the Crystal River Volunteer Fire Department.

Rhett Gehring and Bree Benson spearheaded the project for the senior class as part of the historic anniversary. Most of the students were in the second grade when America was attacked, but the memory has made a permanent impression on their young lives.

"There are some events you will always remember," said Ben Stofcheck, academy administrator. "The first one for me was when President Kennedy was shot. The second was a joyful day when Neil Armstrong touched foot on the moon and the last is 9/11."

The students were called out of the building to a fire alarm, and when the drill was over they gathered in the parking lot of the school for a brief presentation. Each of the 17 seniors talked about the people and places they were honoring with the banner.

Scott Shear, representing the Crystal River Volunteer Fire Department, thanked the students for their gift and promised it would be hung in the firehouse.

The Academy of Environmental Sciences is a public charter school for students in grades nine through 12 that focuses on natural sciences.



DAVE SIGLER/Chronicle

TOP: Rhett Gehring, Bree Benson and Ben Stofcheck talk about the banner Wednesday as it hangs from the second floor of the Academy of Environmental Science. The school's seniors made the banner recently to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attack on America.

RIGHT: Members of the senior class gather by the fire truck Wednesday morning for the presentation of the banner. Rhett Gehering, seventh from left, Chris Monrad, academy government teacher, eighth from left, and Bree Benson, ninth from left, presented the banner to Scott Shear, a representative from the Crystal River Fire Department, sixth from left.



Angel Food Ministries cancels September shipments

SHEMIR WILES
Staff Writer

HERNANDO — Angel Food Ministries — a nationwide organization that has provided low-cost food to individuals and families in Citrus County for a number of years — has suspended its operation this month, citing financial struggles.

The Georgia-based group recently posted a message on its website and sent out emails to its host sites announcing food distribution would not be available for September.

"Like the thousands of businesses in America that have endured one of the worst recessions in the past 100 years, we too have faced operational and financial challenges," the message

states. "We have every intention to continue offering great food at great prices in the coming months and are considering ways to reorganize or restructure our Ministry."

In addition, the message says Angel Food would be giving full refunds to those who placed orders for September.

Sally Schlenker, who ran the Angel Food Ministries food distribution program with her husband, Grant, at Hernando

United Methodist Church in Hernando, said corporate headquarters has not indicated when food delivery will be available again. However, she remains confident Angel Food will return.

"We pray God will bring it back again," she said. "God can change."

Schlenker said many of the church's long-time, faithful clients were shocked to hear the news. Most of their clients, who are elderly or large families on food stamps, depend on Angel Food to make ends meet every month.

"In some cases, the food was 70 percent cheaper than grocery stores," she said. "Now they won't have that opportunity. My heart really goes out."

Victor Kahler, who supervised the food distribution at Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church in Citrus Springs, said he heard fuel prices and trucker fees went up, which led to the shutdown.

While the church has had as many as 21 orders a month, he said numbers had been declining. However, he

anticipated things were going to start picking up in the winter around the holidays.

Currently, Kahler said it was too early to make a call on whether or not Angel Food will be closed down permanently.

"We'll see what happens," he said.

Meanwhile, Brenda Flowers, executive director of Citrus United Basket (CUB) in Inverness, said she would be informing her volunteers to brace themselves for a possible influx of people needing food.

From July through August, Flowers said CUB had already seen an increase of 700 individuals to feed and while things are still light in the pantry, she is confident CUB will continue to provide assistance for those

who need it.

"We're trusting God is going to provide," she said. "We have a lot of faith."

At Daystar Life Center in Crystal River, Executive Director, Denise Kennard, said her organization used to refer people to Angel Food a great deal as a way to show them how to stretch their dollars.

"Now, that's one less resource," she said. "Though it is hard to know another source of food assistance in the county has come to a standstill, Kennard said Daystar is ready for any additional traffic they may see."

"We'll just keep plugging away."

Chronicle reporter Shemir Wiles can be reached at (352) 564-2924 or swiles@chronicleonline.com.

For the RECORD

Citrus County Sheriff's Office

DUI Arrest

Stacy Kay Fields, 46, 40 Woodfield Circle, Homosassa, at 11:13 a.m. Tuesday on a misdemeanor charge of driving under the influence...

Other Arrests

Kyle Curtis Sobolewski, 28, 826 SE 8th Ave., Crystal River, at 8:18 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 23, on an active Citrus County warrant...

Kevin Lamont Chisman, 33, 1382 Little Cliffs Drive, Dunnellon, at 4:39 p.m. Monday on misdemeanor charges of possession of less than 20 grams of cannabis...

Garry Stephen Cape, 35, 11920 N. Blitzen Point, Dunnellon, at 8:15 p.m. Friday, Aug. 26, on an active Citrus County warrant...

Richard Vincent Mattos, 27, 2074 N. Essex Ave., Hernando, at 3:55 p.m. Tuesday, on charges of leaving the scene of a crash with property damage...

Shawn Michael Ralko, 33, 2578 Siena Way, Valrico, at midnight Wednesday on a misdemeanor charge of knowingly driving with a suspended, canceled or revoked license...

Burglaries

A burglary to an unoccupied residence occurred at about 1:10 p.m. Sept. 1 in the 1300 block of S. Alto Verde Terrace, Inverness.

A burglary to an unoccupied residence occurred at about 7:30 a.m. Sept. 12 in the 500 block of N. Indigo Terrace, Hernando.

A burglary to an unoccupied residence occurred at about 5:50 p.m. Sept. 12 in the 13000 block of S. Moonraker Terrace, Floral City.

A burglary to a conveyance occurred at about 10:30 a.m. Sept. 9 in the 3600 block of E. Country Side Drive, Inverness.

A burglary to a conveyance occurred at about 6 p.m. Sept. 12 in the 6000 block of N. Kingwood Terrace, Beverly Hills.

A burglary to a conveyance occurred at about 10 p.m. Sept. 12 in the 2200 block of W. Paragon Lane, Citrus Springs.

A burglary to an unoccupied residence occurred at about 6 a.m. Sept. 13 in the 5100 block of S. Forest Terrace, Homosassa.

Thefts

A petit theft occurred at about 10:30 a.m. Sept. 9 in the 4400 block of N. Pine Drive, Hernando.

A grand theft (\$300 or more) occurred at about 8 a.m. Sept. 10 in the 6000 block of W. Country Club Drive, Homosassa.

A petit theft (\$100 or more) occurred at about 10 p.m. Sept. 10 in the 60 block of S. Tyler St., Beverly Hills.

ON THE NET

For more information about arrests made by the Citrus County Sheriff's Office, go to www.sheriff.citrus.org and click on the Public Information link...

Also under Public Information on the CCSO website, click on Crime Mapping for a view of where each type of crime occurs in Citrus County.

For the Record reports are also archived online at www.chronicleonline.com.

The Citrus County Sheriff's Office Volunteer Unit is comprised of nearly 900 citizens serving Citrus County. Members come from all walks of life and bring with them many years of life experience.

Beverly Hills

A grand theft (\$300 or more) occurred at about 3 p.m. Sept. 11 in the 6700 block of W. Gulf-to-Lake Highway, Crystal River.

A burglary to an unoccupied residence occurred at about 8:45 a.m. Sept. 12 in the 5500 block of W. Tice Court, Homosassa.

A grand theft (\$300 or more) occurred at about 9:45 a.m. Sept. 12 in the 3100 block of W. Black Diamond Circle, Lecanto.

A petit theft occurred at about 5:33 p.m. Sept. 12 in the 2400 block of E. Gulf-to-Lake Highway, Inverness.

A retail petit theft occurred at about 5:44 p.m. Sept. 12 in the 300 block of N. Suncoast Blvd., Crystal River.

A grand theft (\$300 or more) occurred at about 2 p.m. Sept. 12 in the 3000 block of W. Challenge Court, Citrus Springs.

A petit theft occurred on Sept. 13 in the 7800 block of E. Pocono Drive, Inverness.

A grand theft (\$300 or more) occurred at about 4 p.m. Sept. 8 in the 2500 block of State Road 44 West, Inverness.

A grand theft (\$300 or more) occurred on Sept. 9 in the 4200 block of E. Nugget Pass, Dunnellon.

A petit theft (\$100 or more) occurred on Sept. 9 in the 300 block of E. Highland Blvd., Inverness.

A petit theft occurred at about 1:30 p.m. Sept. 9 in the 9300 block of N. Citrus Springs Blvd., Dunnellon.

A petit theft occurred at about 4 p.m. Sept. 9 in the 500 block of N. Lecanto Highway, Lecanto.

A petit theft occurred at about 5 p.m. Sept. 9 in the 3100 block of E. Deal St., Inverness.

A petit theft occurred at about 7 p.m. Sept. 9 in the 10000 block of N. Alden Way, Citrus Springs.

A grand theft (\$300 or more) occurred at about 1:30 p.m. Sept. 10 in the 3600 block of E. Delight St., Hernando.

A grand theft (\$300 or more) occurred at about 7:45 p.m. Sept. 10 in the 500 block of N.E. U.S. Highway 19, Crystal River.

Vandalisms

A vandalism occurred at about noon Sept. 10 in the 7000 block of S. Florida Ave., Floral City.

A vandalism (\$200 or less) occurred at about 10 p.m. Sept. 11 in the 700 block of N. Fitzpatrick Ave., Inverness.

A vandalism occurred at about 6:30 p.m. Sept. 9 in the 2800 block of N. Seabreeze Point, Crystal River.

State BRIEF

State workers get choice of HMOs

TALLAHASSEE — Florida is offering thousands of state workers a choice in their health care plans as part of a settlement it has reached to end a legal battle.

The Scott administration this summer signed off on new contracts that would restrict state workers to one health maintenance organization per county starting in January.

Three HMOs contested the move. State officials on Wednesday announced an agreement that would allow state workers in six counties to choose between two HMOs instead of one.

One HMO — United HealthCare of Florida — is not part of the settlement. It is appealing a ruling that dismissed its protest.

— from wire reports

Legal notices in today's Citrus County Chronicle

Table listing legal notices: Miscellaneous Notices (C10), Foreclosure Sale/Action Notices (C10, C11, & C12), Notice to Creditors/Administration (C12), Forfeitures (C12), Surplus Property (C10).

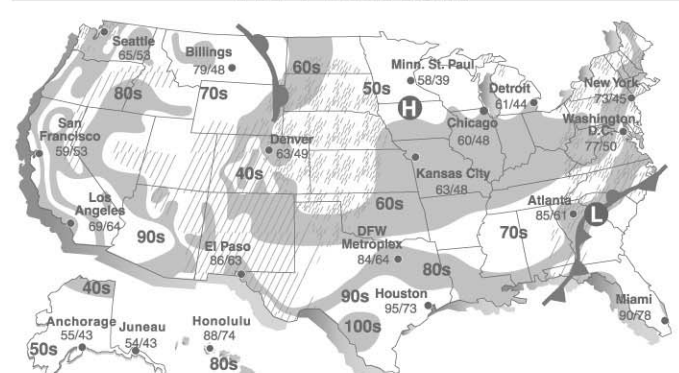
FLORIDA TEMPERATURES table with columns for City, High, Low, and Forecast for various locations like Daytona Bch, Ft. Lauderdale, Orlando, etc.

MARINE OUTLOOK: Northwest winds around 10 knots. Seas 2 feet. Bay and inland waters will have a light chop. Partly cloudy today.

Gulf water temperature 85° Taken at Aripeka

LAKE LEVELS table with columns for Location, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Full levels for lakes like Withlacoochee, Tsala Apopka-Hernando, etc.

THE NATION



FORECAST FOR 3:00 P.M. THURSDAY

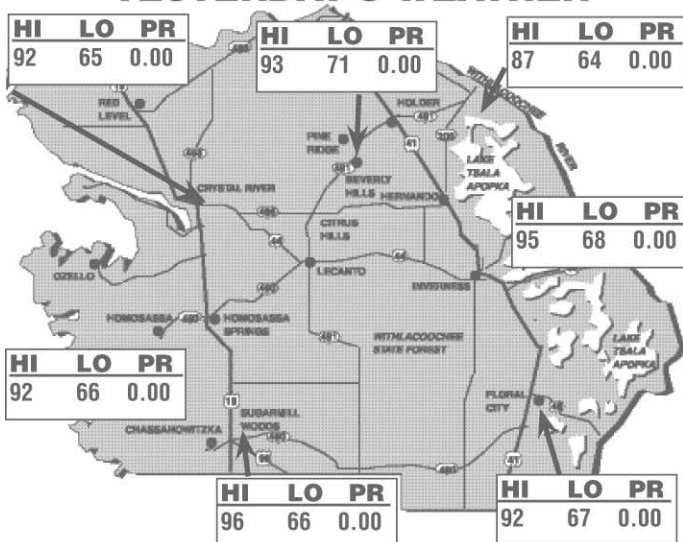
Table of weather forecasts for various cities including Albany, Albuquerque, Atlanta, Austin, Baltimore, Boise, Boston, Buffalo, Burlington, VT, Charleston, SC, etc.

YESTERDAY'S NATIONAL HIGH & LOW: HIGH 104 Killeen, Texas; LOW 26 Williston, N.D.

WORLD CITIES

Table of weather forecasts for various world cities like Lisbon, London, Mexico City, Montreal, Paris, Rio, Rome, Sydney, Tokyo, Toronto, Warsaw.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER



THREE DAY OUTLOOK

Table with three columns for Today & Tomorrow Morning, Friday & Saturday Morning, and Saturday & Sunday Morning, including high/low temperatures and precipitation chances.

ALMANAC

Table containing weather statistics: TEMPERATURE* (Record 95/62, Normal 90/71), DEW POINT (64), HUMIDITY (41%), POLLEN COUNT** (Today's active pollen: Ragweed, chenopods, grasses), PRECIPITATION* (0.00 in.), UV INDEX: 9, BAROMETRIC PRESSURE (29.95 in.).

SOLAR TABLES

Table with columns for DATE, DAY, MINOR (MORNING), MAJOR (MORNING), MINOR (AFTERNOON), MAJOR (AFTERNOON) for Thursdays and Fridays.

CELESTIAL OUTLOOK

Table listing celestial events: SUNSET TONIGHT (7:36 P.M.), SUNRISE TOMORROW (7:16 A.M.), MOONRISE TODAY (8:14 P.M.), MOONSET TODAY (10:01 A.M.).

BURN CONDITIONS

Today's Fire Danger Rating is: MODERATE. There is no burn ban. For more information call Florida Division of Forestry at (352) 754-6777.

WATERING RULES

Citrus County/Inverness/Crystal River: Lawn watering is limited to twice per week. Even addresses may water on Thursday and/or Sunday before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.

TIDES

Table with columns for City, High/Low, and Tides for Thursday and Friday at various locations like Chassahowitzka, Crystal River, etc.

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Homecoming Court



MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle

CHS HOMECOMING PARADE TONIGHT

Citrus High School, celebrating 100 years, will stage its annual Hurricane Homecoming Parade at 5:30 p.m. tonight in Inverness. Theme for the year is "Golden Decades."

All former Hurricane homecoming queens are invited to participate in the parade. Call Laura Aguilera at (352) 726-2241, ext. 4554.

The Hurricanes will play their homecoming game at 7:30 p.m. Friday. A tent will be set up in the end zone for all CHS alumni.

The Citrus High School homecoming court has been selected, with the Homecoming King and Queen to be selected over the next two days. The king will be named at the parade ceremonies this afternoon and the queen will be named during the halftime ceremonies Friday night. The Hurricanes of Citrus High School will host the Belleview Rattlers at 7:30 p.m. Friday. Tiffany Steen and Kenneth Arnold will emcee the activities Friday night. Back row, from left, are Tiffany Steen, Kenneth Arnold, Jaclyn Ear, Brittany Murphy, Connie McCarthy, Kayla Copas and Brooke Perry. Front row, from left, are Hayden Kelly, Zach Gufford, Brandon Roberts, Mitchell Kilpatrick and Dean Dugas.

Gas leak caused illnesses, death

Associated Press

SAVANNAH, Ga. — Carbon dioxide piped through gas lines to a soda fountain leaked in a McDonald's in Georgia and sickened 10 people, including a woman who later died after being found unconscious in a restroom, police said Wednesday.

Investigators determined a leaky gas line between the walls caused the gas, used to pump carbonation into sodas, to build up a week ago to the point where people inside were unable to breathe.

"It caused what is normally a harmless gas to be pumped into the wall cavity and leak into the women's restroom," said Pooler Police Chief Mark Revenew. "At a high level of concentration, it displaces oxygen."

Firefighters were called Sept. 7 to the restaurant in Pooler, Ga., and two women were found unconscious in a restroom. They were later admitted to a Savannah hospital, where eight others from the restaurant were treated and released. Eighty-year-old Anne Felton of Ponte Vedra, Fla., died the next day.

Investigators initially suspected customers fell ill to noxious fumes from cleaning chemicals. An autopsy found no trace of chemicals in Felton, Revenew said, but it indicated she succumbed to asphyxiation.

The police chief said the owners had replaced the gas lines and valves and were allowed to reopen the restaurant.

Teachers union sues over merit pay

Associated Press

MIAMI — Florida's teacher union is suing the state over a new law that requires merit pay and ends tenure for new hires, one of a number passed nationwide changing how teachers are evaluated.

The Florida Education Association contends that SB 736, which was signed in to law by Gov. Rick Scott in March, is unconstitutional because it substantially changes how teachers are paid and evaluated while denying instructors their right to collective bargaining.

"The provisions of SB 736 radically transform the teaching profession — and not for the better," said Cory Williams, a middle school teacher included in the lawsuit. "The expertise and knowledge of teachers have been ignored throughout this process and our constitutional rights have been trampled."

The FEA and the Sarasota Classified/Teachers Association filed the lawsuit Wednesday in Circuit Court in Tallahassee on behalf of teachers statewide. Florida's law is one of several passed this past year that weaken or eliminate tenure and create new ways for evaluating teachers, most of which deem

a teacher "effective" based on how well students do on tests.

Florida appears to be the only state, however, that is requiring merit pay statewide. Other states are working to create effective evaluation systems first and encouraging districts to implement pilot performance pay models, rather than including it as a requirement, said Michelle Exstrom, education program principal at the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Minnesota's Q Comp program, for example, allows districts and teacher unions to voluntarily opt in to a teacher evaluation and performance pay program that is collectively bargained. Fifty school districts implemented or had approved plans to participate in the 2010-11 school year. "Florida always has been ahead of the curve when it comes to the merit pay issue," Exstrom said. "They've just struggled to do it in a way that's most effective for their teachers and their students. And I think a lot of states have looked at Florida's struggles and said, 'You know what, it's not clear cut how to make this work.'"

In response to the lawsuit, Scott's press secretary, Lane Wright, said the governor

was looking out for students, to make sure they get the best teachers in the classroom, while "the special interest teachers union is looking out for bad teachers who pay their union dues."

"Regular working folks don't have tenure," Wright said Wednesday. "Why should bad teachers?"

The law requires teachers hired after July 1, 2014, to be placed on a performance salary schedule. Teachers will be given one of four performance ratings, 50 percent of which must be based on data regarding student growth, including scores on the Florida Comprehensive

Assessment Test. It also gets rid of provisions which allow districts to prioritize teachers with seniority during layoffs.

Republicans say a test-based merit pay plan will help attract and keep top teachers, but opponents of the law say it will have the opposite effect — discouraging new and veteran teachers from staying in Florida, knowing the role student test scores will have on whether or not they keep their jobs.

"In my district we have noted that teachers, long time teachers in our district, have left the county for this very reason," said Beth Weatherstone, an Indian

River County teacher who is included in the lawsuit. She said they have left the profession or gone back to home states. "It's based on what's happening here in Florida, this attack on teachers."

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Marines struggle to explain Afghan experience

Associated Press

PATROL BASE FULOD, Afghanistan — “Baby, I walked on a path today. Everything was clear. Nothing happened.”

That’s what U.S. Marine Cpl. Ernest Tubbs, a combat engineer who looks for hidden bombs on patrol, often tells his wife when he has the chance to telephone her in the United States. Many a time, he has lied. Tubbs won’t tell her about the close calls, the near misses, anything about his dangerous job that might rattle the woman he married last year after meeting her on a Florida beach.

“She would kill me” if she knew, he said. His father, Tubbs said, is proud of his military career but shuns the stress of full awareness, once telling his son: “What happens, I don’t want to know.”

Unlike wars of decades past, most American troops in Afghanistan are able to stay in touch with their families with the help of Internet and telephone centers on larger bases, and even those in smaller outposts get a call out sometimes.

But technology, and old-fashioned letter-writing, do not always close the distance. For units in combat zones, where men die and lose legs in fights with the Taliban, it is easier to talk about just about anything else.

Young men share an intensity of experience on a deployment, and the bond that blossoms is theirs alone. There is the rush of a firefight, the 0-to-60 crisis of a bomb strike on a patrol, the grind of humping gear in dust and heat, the numbing wait for a flight or a ride or orders. None of this can be easily explained to relatives back home, and maybe they don’t even want to know.

The result, documented over generations of war and evident in the reunion of veterans anywhere, is a clan whose members, in some ways, know each other better than any relative could. So it goes for the 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment,



Associated Press

U.S. Marines look out for hidden explosives as they patrol on foot Sept. 5 in Helmand province, southern Afghanistan. Young men share an intensity of experience on a deployment which is often difficult to communicate to loved ones, who may find it impossible to comprehend.

entrusted with driving insurgents out of the southern Afghan area of Sangin, scene of some of the toughest fighting since the U.S.-led invasion that ousted the Taliban in 2001.

Sixteen men in the battalion have died, and about 160 have been injured. The unit ends its seven-month deployment in October. Tubbs, of Parsonsburg, Maryland, says he’s interested in the future, not telling war stories. He wants to get out of the military and become a game warden. And last month, his wife, Hannah, gave birth. He will see the baby, Gabriel, for the first time.

Marines are instructed to avoid giving sensitive military information to families back home, which discourages some discussion of experiences in Afghanistan. 1st Lt. Mark Batey, the platoon leader at Patrol Base Fulod in Sangin, said Marines are better off dodging more personal talk about deployment.

“It does something for yourself. Things that may cause some fear to the Marines, like the fear of losing your legs, or the fear of getting shot, or basically just not going home, or not going home the way that you left home: That’s something that if you were to bring it up with people back there, they really wouldn’t be able to comfort you,” said Batey, of Denton, Texas.

“If you’re not here to see it go down, I really can’t explain it well enough,” he said.

The potential for misunderstandings is high. With a smile, Batey recalled how he once told his girlfriend on the telephone that it was getting “really hot” in his location. She thought he was referring to fighting. He was talking about the temperature.

The troops share an unfettered humor, a form of communal release or therapy perhaps, that would jar in the more constrained, civilian world to which they will return. One Marine said they could occasionally joke about a “black dude” or a “skinny dude” in their ranks, and the target of the barb would come right back at the teller with his own retort, and it was all right.

The deadpan, casual way in which the Marines talk about severe injuries is another source of disconnect with home. Capt. Casey

Brock, commander of Charlie Company, drove to a couple of patrol bases in the past week and dropped off photographs of a company soldier who had lost both his legs in a blast and was recovering.

At one stop, he told Marines that their wounded comrade was about to receive his prosthetic legs.

“They’re just waiting for his feet to show up in the mail,” he said.

“Is he going to be waiting for us when we get off the bus?” a Marine asked, anticipating the return from deployment.

“Regardless of whether he has his legs or not, he’ll be waiting for us when we get back,” Brock said.

An outline of the attitude toward casualties, one that would challenge civilians who lack the training to deal with trauma, lies in the written guidance that Lt. Col. Thomas Savage provided in January to his Marine battalion before it deployed.

Grieving, he said, must wait until after the men have called for aircraft, cleared a landing zone and secured the area.

“The fact of the matter is that we WILL take casualties. It is an unavoidable fact. Be prepared for this, as difficult as it may be,” Savage wrote. “You are taking care of your brother by removing the emotion from the event during the execution of the evacuation.”

The battalion’s Protestant chaplain, David Kim, said Marines sometimes talk to him about personal concerns, and that he guarantees them confidentiality. He doesn’t discuss religion with them unless they want to, acknowledging with a laugh that the adage “there are no atheists in a foxhole” is false.

But, Kim said, he likes to highlight the good things

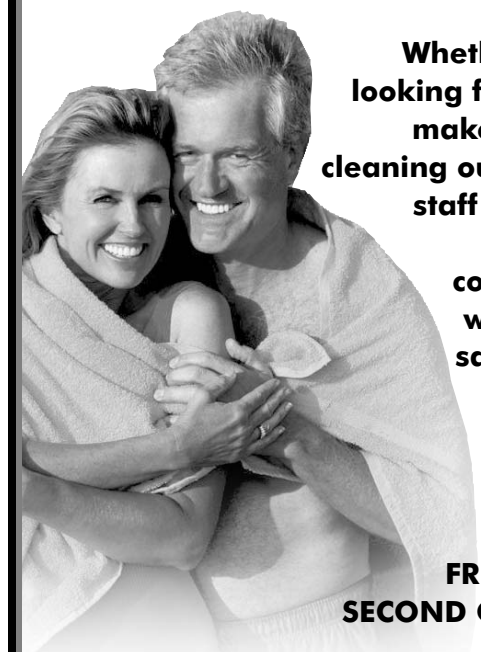
that have happened on deployment as a sign that God is watching. For example, there was the hidden bomb that didn’t explode when a Marine stepped on it, or the “silhouette” of Taliban gunnies. It is an unavoidable fact. Be prepared for this, as difficult as it may be,” Savage wrote. “You are taking care of your brother by removing the emotion from the event during the execution of the evacuation.”

“People who were not really faithful back home, they find it out here,” said Kim, noting that danger and hardship seem to make those who experience it more spiritual. “They see stuff here that can’t really be explained.”

However hard it is for Marines to explain life in a combat zone to their families, home is on their minds. A sign in a recreational area on an American base in Sangin reads: “Your mother does not work here. Clean up after yourself. Thank you.”

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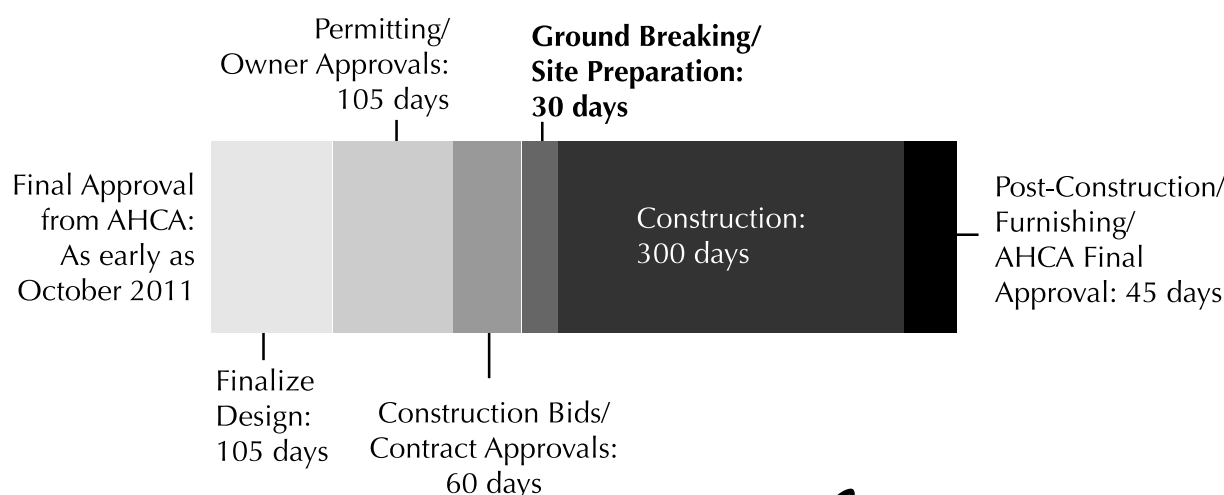
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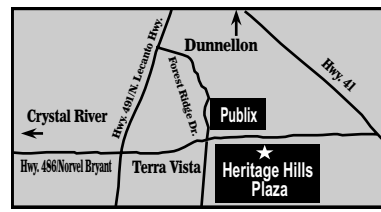
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Special Correspondent

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Lake levels down

The call in Sunday's paper (Sept. 4), "Lake levels," says that lakes are full, rivers are rising, hurricanes are coming. I live on Lake Hernando; the lakes are not full. I just left Floral City Lake today and that's way down. The river's a good 4 feet down, Lake Hernando's 4 feet down, and even your paper says they're about 4 feet down. And I don't know what it has to do with hurricanes.

Go Huntsman

I just listened to Jon Huntsman on CNN. I've got to say, he's got what it takes to be president and he would back Michele (Bachmann). I guess she would be his vice president and that might be very good, since she's a very good businesswoman. It sounds like a good duo. What do you people think of it?

Stay away

It's wonderful that our politicians could take a vacation after all the hard work they've done so far. There's only one thing wrong: They come back.

Plastic ponchos

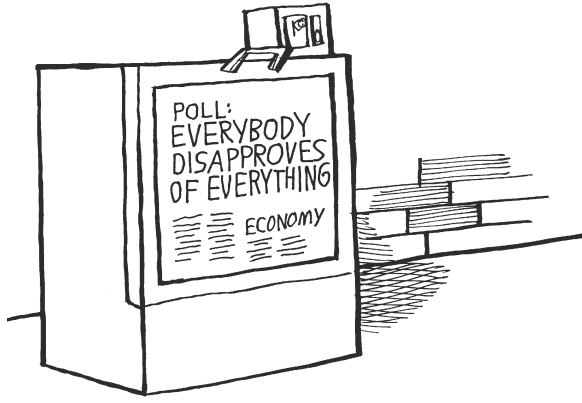
The mother who complained about unexpected showers getting her kids soaking wet doesn't have to buy umbrellas for them to carry. All she has to do is buy those plastic capes with the hoods on them and the kids can put them on whenever they need them. You can buy two for \$1 at the Dollars Store and they'll fit into kids' purses or shirt pockets very easily. But then again, they're not very chic looking, so the kids won't wear them. They'd rather go soaking wet instead. Now that's real chic looking.

Just ask

My neighbor and I had a garage sale a couple Saturdays ago and I want to inform the people that feel like they have to steal from a garage sale (that) if you really need something, all you have to do is ask and we'll give it to you. They took a girl's bicycle. He asked how much I wanted for it and then when I turned my back, he loaded it and drove off. I would have given it to him. I only wanted \$5. I would have given it to him if I knew he needed it. Sorry.

Start in September

By any measurement, June is a much cooler month than August. Why do our kids have to start school the very beginning of August, the hottest month of the year, when all of the cooling equipment has to work double time to keep the buildings cool, and if the kids are outside, it's extremely hot? Why not start in September and finish up in June when the weather is far cooler and the high cost for cooling all of those buildings would be less? Has anyone figured that out? It would be easy to figure out what the cost comparisons would be. It would be a way to save money and not hurt anybody.



STAHLER THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH 2011

Right of right

Being conservative is fine, so long as it isn't the tea party conservative and the right-wing conservative. They are so far right, they're falling off the planet. I am not a religious man, but I pray every day that those people don't get in Washington and really destroy us before our very eyes.

Maddon's the man

I don't agree with the person who says Joe Maddon is not a good manager of the Rays. I think he's great and he was just voted by all baseball players as the No. 1 manager they would like most to play for. The Rays were the American League champions last year, beating out the rich Yankees and Red Sox teams, and he took the Rays to the World Series in 2008. So let's give him credit for his unorthodox way of managing. It works most of the time.

No compromise

When Obama was elected president, he stated he would work with the Republicans. We believed it and I think he did, too. We were terribly naive to think the Republicans would work

with him. The tea party people would rather see our country default than have Obama succeed. John Boehner has allowed the tea party to dictate Republican issues, and the people are fed up with these extremists.

NFL's blackouts

The recent Sound Off, somebody's talking about the football games being blacked out and indicating it's done by the TV stations. They got their wires crossed. NFL decides to blackout — those are the rules — not the TV station.

Nooks over books

In your article about our schools using digital textbooks a student is quoted as saying, "The Nook is easier to use. You can touch it and it turns the page." Has this generation become so lazy they can't even turn the page of a book?

Move the people

Regarding the excellent opinion Sunday and (the) manatee program: Don't the wildlife park and government Wildlife Service belong to "we the people?" Then as such, maybe the Wildlife Service officials should be moved into a position best suited for another area of responsibility and not the manatee program. Put people into this area who have compassion and understanding of the manatees; i.e., move the people, not the manatees.

Advertisement for Ken Lot Model Special at Prestige Home Centers. Includes floor plan, price of \$63,995, and contact information for 1825 Hwy. 41 North, Inverness, FL 34450.

Advertisement for Solar Lights & More. Promotes tubular skylights with a \$150 off coupon and contact number 800.347.9664.

Advertisement for Gold Diggers & Gunslingers. Promotes gold buying services with contact information for 341-GUNS (4867) and 341-GOLD (1821 S. Suncoast Blvd.).

Advertisement for H.E. Smith Co. Inc. featuring Trane HVAC systems. Promotes 0% interest financing and a \$300 rebate. Contact: 746-0098.

Advertisement for Remembering Loved Ones and Cancer Survivors. Promotes a special edition of the Chronicle with a \$30 tribute. Contact: (352) 563-3273.

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.

Name: Stocks appear alphabetically by the company's full name (not abbreviation). Names consisting of initials appear at the beginning of each letter's list. Last: Price stock was trading at when exchange closed for the day. Chg: Loss or gain for the day. No change indicated by ...

Stock Footnotes: cld - Issue has been called for redemption by company. d - New 52-week low. dd - Loss in last 12 mos. ec - Company formerly listed on the American Exchange. Emerging Company Marketplace, l - temporary exempt from Nasdaq capital and surplus listing qualification. n - Stock was a new issue in the last year. The 52-week high and low figures date only from the beginning of trading. pf - Preferred stock issue, pr - Preferences, pp - Holder owns installments of purchase price, rt - Right to buy security at a specified price, s - Stock has split by at least 20 percent within the last year, wt - Trades will be settled when the stock is issued, wd - When distributed, wt - Warrant, allowing a purchase of a stock, u - New 52-week high, u - Unit, including more than one security, vj - Company in bankruptcy or receivership, or being reorganized under the bankruptcy law. Appears in front of the name.

Source: The Associated Press. Sales figures are unofficial.

NYSE MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE) table with columns for Name, Vol, Last, Chg.

NYSE GAINERS (\$2 OR MORE) table with columns for Name, Last, Chg %.

NYSE LOSERS (\$2 OR MORE) table with columns for Name, Last, Chg %.

NYSE DIARY table with columns for Name, Last, Chg %.

NYSE A-B-C table with columns for Name, Last, Chg.

NYSE D-E-F table with columns for Name, Last, Chg.

AMEX MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE) table with columns for Name, Vol, Last, Chg.

AMEX GAINERS (\$2 OR MORE) table with columns for Name, Last, Chg %.

AMEX LOSERS (\$2 OR MORE) table with columns for Name, Last, Chg %.

AMEX DIARY table with columns for Name, Last, Chg %.

AMEX G-H-I table with columns for Name, Last, Chg.

AMEX J-K-L table with columns for Name, Last, Chg.

NASDAQ MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE) table with columns for Name, Vol, Last, Chg.

NASDAQ GAINERS (\$2 OR MORE) table with columns for Name, Last, Chg %.

NASDAQ LOSERS (\$2 OR MORE) table with columns for Name, Last, Chg %.

NASDAQ DIARY table with columns for Name, Last, Chg %.

NASDAQ M-N-O table with columns for Name, Last, Chg.

NASDAQ P-Q-R table with columns for Name, Last, Chg.

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST table with columns for Name, Div, Yld PE, Last Chg, YTD Chg %.

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.

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NYSE A-B-C table with columns for Name, Last, Chg.

NASDAQ G-H-I table with columns for Name, Last, Chg.

NASDAQ J-K-L table with columns for Name, Last, Chg.

NASDAQ M-N-O table with columns for Name, Last, Chg.

NASDAQ P-Q-R table with columns for Name, Last, Chg.

NASDAQ S-T-U table with columns for Name, Last, Chg.

CURRENCIES table with columns for Country, Yesterday, Pvs Day.

MONEY RATES table with columns for Instrument, Yesterday, Pvs Day.

COMMODITIES table with columns for Commodity, Exch, Contract, Settle Chg.

FUTURES table with columns for Commodity, Exch, Contract, Settle Chg.

SPOT table with columns for Commodity, Yesterday, Pvs Day.

MUTUAL FUNDS

Table of mutual funds with columns: Name, NAV, Chg. Lists various funds like Advance Capital, Alliance Bern A, and others.

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.

Table of mutual funds with columns: Name, NAV, Chg. Lists various funds like Fidelity, PIMCO, and others.

Stocks jump on hopes for progress on Greece's debt

NEW YORK — A promise by European leaders to help Greece avoid default sent stocks sharply higher Wednesday for the third straight day.

The leaders of Greece, France and Germany agreed in a teleconference that Greece was an "integral" part of the 17-country bloc that uses the euro.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 140.88 points, or 1.3 percent, to close at 11,246.73. The Dow sank as many as 112 points within the first hour of trading, then rose steadily through the rest of the day.

Business HIGHLIGHTS

Yahoo melodrama gets nasty. SAN FRANCISCO — A major Yahoo Inc. shareholder is recruiting company co-founder Jerry Yang to join a crusade to oust Chairman Roy Bostock amid the upheaval triggered by the recent firing of Chief Executive Officer Carol Bartz.

Retail sales flat; auto demand falls. WASHINGTON — Consumers spent less on autos, clothing and furniture to leave retail sales unchanged in August.

UPS says no more missed deliveries. NEW YORK — UPS is hoping "sorry we missed you" notices will soon be a thing of the past. It's unveiling a delivery-notification service aimed at not missing you at all.

Yield on 10-year Treasury note hit a record low on Monday of 1.87 percent and the S&P 500 has only risen three days this month.

U.S. stocks in focus, ConAgra Foods Inc. said it would withdraw its \$5.17 billion bid for Ralcorp Holdings Inc. if the company doesn't consider its bid by Monday evening.

European stock indexes rose sharply in the hours leading up to the meeting as investors hoped the talks would be productive. Germany's DAX gained 3.4 percent and France's CAC-40 1.9 percent.

The threat of a Greek default and the damage it could wreak on financial markets has had investors on edge in the past two weeks, lifting Treasuries and weighing on stocks.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note hit a record low on Monday of 1.87 percent and the S&P 500 has only risen three days this month.

Uri Landesman, president of the New York hedge fund Platinum Partners, said investors have overreacted. "They're just not going to let them go under," he said. "That's just not happening. I think people have learned the lesson from letting Lehman Brothers fail."

Among U.S. stocks in focus, ConAgra Foods Inc. said it would withdraw its \$5.17 billion bid for Ralcorp Holdings Inc. if the company doesn't consider its bid by Monday evening.

Ralcorp has already rejected several bids from ConAgra since March. Ralcorp's stock dropped 7 percent to \$79.11. ConAgra fell 2 percent to \$23.45.

Computer maker Dell Inc. rose 3 percent to \$14.86. Dell said Tuesday it will add \$5 billion to its existing \$2.1 billion stock-buyback plan.

Auto sales fell 0.3 percent in August. Sales at clothing stores declined 0.7 percent. Gasoline sales rose.

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New York Stock Exchange

Table of New York Stock Exchange tickers with columns: Name, Last, Chg. Lists various stocks like SP Indx, TSM, and others.

► "Happiness is not being pained in the body or troubled in the mind."
 Thomas Jefferson, 1743-1826

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

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

OPPORTUNITIES

Examine tourism strategies

While the county's official tourist measure shows tourism is down, some local operators are reporting the summer of 2011 has been strong.

Tourist tax dollars in July are down 6.65 percent from the previous year. For the year, there has been an 11 percent drop.

Some hotels and fishing guides are reporting that the season has been good. The longer scallop season and the fact that no hurricanes have ruined the weather is a plus.

The drop in tourism around Florida is a trend tied directly to the nation's weak economy and high unemployment levels. It would be difficult for a small county like Citrus to be able to buck the state trend.

But Citrus County does have a unique spot in Florida's tourism world, and it is always good to step back and ask if there are better ways to attract visitors to our region.

That opportunity exists right now, as County Commissioner Rebecca Bays has joined the county's Tourist Development Council and is working with the volunteer board members to craft a plan. County Administrator Brad Thorpe recently adjusted his administrative flow chart and the TDC and its executive — Marla Chancey — will now report through Cathy Pearson and the Community Services Department.

That change gives the TDC an opportunity to have a fresh set of eyeballs to look at how things are being done.

During these tough economic times, it makes sense that a

tourism opportunity exists with Floridians in places like Tampa, Orlando, Gainesville and South Florida who might not be able to afford an expensive vacation but would enjoy a shorter break along Florida's incredible Nature Coast.

It would be great if the TDC used its resources to explore partnerships with tourism-related businesses and our two cities to create more reasons for people to visit our region.

By working together and combining scalloping, fishing, swimming with the manatee, golf, kayaking, biking, birding and enjoying the great outdoors, we can offer an enticing destination for more regional visitors who are looking for an alternative to Mickey's kingdom.

We also think there is great opportunity with festivals and entertainment and applaud the TDC's recent decision to work with a community group that is planning a new festival. Events such as the Strawberry Festival, Cooter Festival, Manatee Festival and Stone Crab Jam bring thousands of people to Citrus County.

Many of those visitors who come to enjoy those festivals use our businesses, spend their money and make plans to visit at a later date to further explore.

Tourism is big business in Citrus County, and there has been much progress in recent years — even during these tough economic times. We are looking forward to seeing the TDC and county review its existing strategies and make changes that will create even more tourism growth in the future.

THE ISSUE:

Tourism.

OUR OPINION:

Review the strategies.

Wake up and smell the politics

MARY SANCHEZ
 Kansas City Star

Other VOICES

Can a coffee kingpin give American politics the jolt it needs to snap out of its tea party hangover?

Don't hold your breath. But Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz has made a valiant attempt, by way of an appeal he sent out by blast email and published in full-page ads in both *The New York Times* and *USA Today*.

"I love our country. I am a beneficiary of the promise of America," wrote the Brooklyn-born, self-made industry leader. "I am frustrated by our political leaders' steadfast refusal to recognize that, for every day they perpetuate partisan conflict and put ideology over country, America and Americans suffer from the combined effects of paralysis and uncertainty."

He continued, listing the concerns that are troubling many average Americans these days: They're unemployed or underemployed — or afraid of becoming so. Consumers are not spending money. Small businesses can't get credit. And Congress and the White House don't seem to get it.

Schultz also called on other American business leaders to join him in withholding political contributions until Congress and the president get their act together, play nice and enact a "transparent, comprehensive, bipartisan debt-and-deficit package ... that honestly, and fairly, sets America on a path to long-term financial health and security."

Oh, I know, President Obama

tried to sound demanding in his nationally televised speech on jobs Thursday. He raised his voice authoritatively while delivering lines that Howard Schultz would cheer. He said that Americans can't wait while Republicans trounce every jobs proposal. House Speaker John Boehner barely lifted a sleepy eyelid.

I don't want to be too hard on Schultz. He seems like a mensch. When it comes to messaging around social conscience, few companies do it as well as Starbucks. It has been adept at letting its customers know that the part-time barista serving up your skinny macchiato of fair-trade coffee beans is covered by a generous health care plan. But he's out of his league. It's hard to see what holding back his money and a bit of that of a few rich friends will accomplish.

Washington is a business; its clientele are actually people like Schultz, who have multinational corporations to look after. He may be aware that the U.S. Supreme Court granted CEOs even more political power with its landmark Citizens United decision in 2010. Political action committees, lobbyists and the new "527" advocacy groups, which are able to draw unlimited contributions, are what props up our political class. Congressional committee chairmanships are given to the most proficient fundraisers. If he's withholding his money from that business, good for him. But he's not going to reform it anytime soon, not the

way he's going about it.

You don't fix a broken political system by refusing to engage with it — especially right now, when the critical flaw is a certain asymmetry between the parties. In 2008, the electorate chose an eloquent candidate for president who conjured a future of hope and change and bipartisan cooperation. The reality, once he took office, turned out to be different. Trying to remain aloof from the partisan fray doesn't produce the best results in the actual game of politics.

Barack Obama's presidency has not been a total failure. But he has bitterly disappointed many his erstwhile admirers for the simple reason that he seems unwilling or unable to stand up for some basic Democratic principles. During the debt-limit debate, it was left to Warren Buffett, one of the wealthiest men in the country, to take to the op-ed page of the *New York Times* to beg Congress to raise taxes on rich people like himself. Obama has surrendered the bully pulpit to the better organized, better disciplined — and better at politics — Republican Party.

And it's going to take more than sharing an artfully prepared latte to change things.

Mary Sanchez is an opinion-page columnist for *The Kansas City Star*. Readers may write to her at: *Kansas City Star*, 1729 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, Mo. 64108-1413, or via email her at msanchez@kcstar.com.



LETTERS to the Editor

Fair Tax is prosperity

Unemployment is reported at 9.1 percent, but is actually closer to 17 percent, and all types of plans are being proposed to create private-sector jobs. Banks aren't lending, businesses aren't hiring, consumers aren't spending, the market is frightened and the Fed is out of weapons.

How do we fix all that? To give certainty to banks, businesses and the market, immediately repeal Obamacare and almost all of Dodd-Frank. To get consumers to spend and businesses to invest, let them keep more of their own money. Don't tinker with the 67,000-page IRS code by offering half measures. Scrap the entire thing and adopt the revenue-neutral Fair Tax.

Fair Tax eliminates the following federal taxes: income, Social Security, Medicare, self-employment, estate, gift, alternative minimum, corporate, business and capital gains. There is no tax on pensions or Social Security benefits. We replace them with a 23 percent inclusive sales tax only on new goods and services. Removing the cost of embedded federal taxes from a \$100 item drops its price to about \$77. When the sales tax is applied, the price goes back to about \$100. Prices stay the same, but you keep your entire salary; nothing is taken out. And to prevent government from taxing any of us, rich or poor, on money we need to survive, Fair Tax has a

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that \$2.5 trillion is spent, money goes to Washington. \$12 trillion is hidden in offshore accounts. Under Fair Tax it can come back and be spent here. Fifty million visitors will pay sales tax on their purchases. We save \$225 billion per year in compliance when IRS is abolished. Think about it.

Joseph P. Ryan
 Homosassa

Greed fuels pipeline

Whose bright idea was it to build a pipeline from one end of the country to the other, from Montana to Texas? Obviously they didn't consider possible damage from human error, earthquakes, sabotage and terrorist attack.

The money invested would provide only temporary employment, when it would be more logical to use the money to build a refinery in Montana and create permanent employment positions and new business opportunities in the surrounding area.

But greedy Texas oilmen with political influence want us to pay for a pipeline that is only going to benefit them. We could use another refinery for when Americans decide they want to be independent again and not have our economy and quality of life influenced by foreign oil.

Richard Depuma
 Inverness

Three-ring circus

The other night I was watching the three-ring circus called the debate on television and it occurred to me the biggest problem in politics are lobbyists. These candidates sell their souls to who pays them the most money. Influence peddling is illegal, according to the law. The only difference is, the lobbyists must register with the government. The politicians don't care about the people. If they don't give them that almighty dollar, you have no chance to get anything. Maybe we the people should get a lobbying group together and fight big oil, drug companies and other corporations that care nothing for us, only for their fat wallets.

Suit up

This is in response to the person who wants Swiftmud to lower the lake levels. I'll invite him or her to come dive off my dock into the mud.

Social Security must go

Rick Perry said it right; Social Security is nothing but a Ponzi scheme. When the tea party controls the Senate and the presidency, we will make things right. We will preserve our right to work by putting the last nails in the unions' coffins. We will end socialism and restore this country to greatness.

Good candidates

All I can say is, thank God CNN has on the Republican presidential debate. They are all good. There are differences between them, but they're great.

A slew of scammers

This is another person that's been called on scams. I've been called three times. I was called last week from a number supposedly in New Jersey and one yesterday from Jamaica and again this morning from Jamaica. So don't fall for those crazy things about the scams, about the sweepstakes. Today I have won the Reader's Digest one. Friday I had won \$2 million.



CARING

Continued from Page A1

danced a little, she was content to listen to the fascinating stories many seniors shared.

"There's a lot of history in this room," Dewees said. She particularly enjoyed a conversation with a German woman who came to America around the time of her own family. "It was a very good conversation, and I think that's the most important thing."

Homosassa resident Arlene Carpenter, who goes to the community center for activities about three times a week, enjoyed beating the Progress volunteers at cards, though the seniors showed the typically more

active Progress employees up at Jazzercise as well.

"It's harder than it looks," said Carolyn Portmann, who has been to the community center for the Day of Caring three years in a row. "But they definitely did better than us."

For over 10 years, Progress Energy has sponsored the "Day of Caring" to enable to volunteer at a charitable agency of their choice. This year the concept is expanding into a "Year of Caring," with employee groups encouraged to volunteer in rotating teams at local nonprofits throughout the year. The program offers employees a unique opportunity to connect with their co-workers, while serving customers. Brenda Gates, who works



TAYLOR PROVOST/Special to the Chronicle

Progress Energy employee T.J. Scott takes some dancing lessons from an older woman during an event for the power company's annual Day of Caring at the West Citrus Community Center Wednesday morning while the Country Sunshine Band plays Texas Two-Step music. This was Scott's third year participating in the event.

at the community center every day, said the seniors look forward to the arrival of the Progress volunteers

every year.

"They enjoy it so much and when they leave they say, 'Can they come every day?'"



DAVE SIGLER/Chronicle

Brad Meyers, Rick Kisner and Frank Urbani work on painting the back of the Spooner Cottage. Progress Energy had volunteers all over the county participating in its Day of Caring.

DRIVER

Continued from Page A1

subject to unannounced, random drug screening. Anyone who refuses or walks off the test site before submitting a urine sample is considered to have a positive test result.

School board policy states a positive test results in termination or "other appropriate disciplinary measures."

Bardsley said her termination would be unfair.

"Without one bad mark against me," she said, "I feel I have now been

IN OTHER BUSINESS:

■ The Citrus County School Board adopted a \$261.7 million budget for the 2011-12 school year with a tax rate of 8.054 mills, a tax decrease of less than 1 percent. No one from the public commented during the public hearing.

■ Also Tuesday, the board in closed administrative hearings referred a Lecanto High School 11th grade girl to the Renaissance Center transition program for the first and second quarters of the school year for violating drug-and-alcohol policies; and expelled a female Renaissance Center freshman for nine weeks on a drug-and-alcohol violation.

slapped in the face because I made a decision on my grandson's behalf."

Chronicle reporter Mike

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

CENTER

Continued from Page A1

association plays a vital community role.

"If the association was to fail, you'd have a blighted structure in the heart of Beverly Hills, right in the center," Meek said.

Meek outlined three options for the commissioners. They could receive the deed and shut down the center. They could develop a transfer plan that would keep the center open. Or they could request an outside party to run the facility for the county.

The second option seemed most appealing, but with conditions. Although the county would honor current commitments for rental of the hall and membership dues paid, the facility would have to become self-sustaining.

"By the county taking it over, we're going to immediately save the association significant dollars with regards to insurance. Right now, the insurance costs are draining the recreation association," Meek said.

The center would fall under the county's umbrella insurance policy.

The parks and recreation staff would take over the operation.

Anna Panasik, association president, said members welcomed the opportunity for the county to accept the deed. She said the association currently had all its bills paid.

Ron Fair, president of the Beverly Hills Horseshoe Club, said the association had the largest horseshoe-playing facility in the country.

"We hope to host a world tournament," Fair said.

A large tournament could bring many visitors to the county, Fair said, bringing about the renting of as many as 60 motel rooms for up to four days.

The center has a large swimming pool, tennis courts, shuffleboard courts, the horseshoe pitches, an auditorium, a dance floor, a card room, a gym and pool tables.

County administrator Brad Thorpe said it was an asset in good condition.

Commissioner JJ Kenney told BHRA members, "We're not buying any plywood to board it up. It becomes part of parks and recreation, a community asset."

Kenney emphasized the facilities would be open to all county residents.

The motion to accept the property was carried unanimously.

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

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WHEN IS A PUBLIC NOTICE NOT PUBLIC?

Don't let Florida officials remove your right to know from the newspaper.

Proposed legislation SPB 7204 and HB 89 would remove your right to read public notices in newspapers – restricting them to government web sites only. The public's right to know cannot be abandoned in favor of presumed cost savings, which are elusive.

Public Notices must be publicly accessible

- 53.6% of Floridians over 65 do not have access to the internet*
- 28.1% of African-Americans in Florida do not have access to the internet*
- 34.6% of Hispanics in Florida do not have access to the internet*

In addition to printed newspapers, Florida's newspapers provide a supplemental public notice web site, www.floridapublicnotices.com, allowing free and unlimited searchable access to public notices aggregated from Florida newspapers.

Government posting of government notices on government websites takes away third-party neutrality

Making government officials responsible for notifying the public on their own websites carries with it a potential for abuse. For example, it may create the temptation to change or manipulate the timing of public notices. If a scheduled public notice is not published or contains false information, the newspaper is more likely to catch the mistake.

Public Notices must be archived in a secure and accessible format

The internet does not provide as reliable an archival history of public notices as newspapers due to its vulnerability in the form of hackers, viruses, and downed servers.

Governmental websites do not provide legal affidavits and written proof of publication and a secure and verifiable paper trail

State and local governments, attorneys and private citizens rely on this documentation to ensure that these notices were published timely and lawfully, as newspapers are required by law to do.

*Scarborough Research Multi-Market study 2010 Release 2



LAWYER

Continued from Page A1

to the executive assistant to the county administrator, at which time he left the courthouse," Ubinas wrote in a statement.

Ubinas also stated that Aare "at no time availed himself of the county rem-

edy as provided for in the employee handbook."

When asked for more information about that remedy, Ubinas said Aare did not file paperwork with the human resources department to go through a process such as a grievance procedure.

"Mr. Aare's employment rights were not violated and his employment

ended only after he initiated a departure," Ubinas stated on behalf of the county.

The Chronicle on Wednesday contacted Aare, who declined to comment at this time.

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

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Nation BRIEFS

Ablaze



In this aerial photo, an area of the Pagami Creek wildfire shows active burning and creates a large smoke plume Tuesday in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Northeastern Minnesota. The haze from the fire was heavy enough that some people reported burning eyes and difficulty breathing in the Chicago area, 600 miles south of the forest fire, the National Weather Service said.

SAT reading scores fall to lowest level

SAT reading scores for the high school class of 2011 were the lowest on record, and combined reading and math scores fell to their lowest point since 1995. The College Board, which released the scores Wednesday, said the results reflect the record size and diversity of the pool of test-takers. As more students aim for college and take the exam, it tends to drag down average scores.

IHOP shooter was schizophrenic

CARSON CITY, Nev. — Within hours after a man stormed an IHOP restaurant with an AK-47 assault rifle and shot seven people, detectives learned from family members that the gunman had been diagnosed as a schizophrenic, new court records show. Eduardo Sencion's sister-in-law told authorities he had been taking medication for his illness and he may have been the driver of a blue 2002 Chrysler minivan found parked outside the restaurant, Douglas County sheriff's Sgt. Mark Munoz told Carson City Justice of the Peace Tom Armstrong.

World BRIEFS

\$500K bail



U.S. hikers Shane Bauer, left, and Josh Fattal, attend their trial Feb. 6 in Iran. An Iranian court on Tuesday set bail of \$500,000 each for two American men arrested more than two years ago and convicted on spy-related charges, clearing the way for their release a year after a similar bail-for-freedom arrangement for the third member of the group, their defense attorney said.

6 oil workers rescued in gulf

CIUDAD DEL CARMEN, Mexico — Six oil workers who were rescued alive after floating for three days in the Gulf of Mexico are stable and conscious, though suffering from bumps and bruises and sunburned after weathering a tropical storm, a doctor overseeing their treatment said Monday. They left the rig Thursday, escaping in an enclosed raft. A Pemex official also said Bangladeshi oil worker Kham Nadimuzzaman died in the hospital after being rescued. Two other workers were found dead, and rescue crews continued the search for the last of the 10 workers.

—From wire reports

Lawmakers scrutinize \$528M loan

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Republicans questioned Wednesday whether the White House rushed approval of a half-billion-dollar loan guarantee for a now-bankrupt solar panel manufacturer once cited as the kind of renewable energy company worthy of federal stimulus money.

Solyndra Inc. was a major presence in Washington and spent millions of dollars on lobbying there, particularly about the Energy Department's loan guarantee program. And its executives raised thousands of dollars for Obama and Democrats in Congress.

The collapse of the Fremont, Calif.-based company once touted by President Barack Obama ultimately left taxpayers on the hook for \$528 million, raising questions if the loan was rushed to accommodate a company event in September 2009 that featured Vice President Joe Biden.

The congressional panel examining the loan disclosed emails that appeared to show senior staff at the Office of Management and Budget chafing about having to conduct "rushed approvals" of federal loan guarantees designed to help jumpstart the nation's renewable energy industry.

"We would prefer to have sufficient time to do our due diligence reviews and have the approval set the date for the announcement rather than the other way around," said one of the emails from an unnamed OMB aide to Biden's office.

Obama cited Solyndra as an example of how the economic stimulus bill would create jobs. But the company has since filed for bankruptcy and shed 1,100 workers, saying it couldn't compete with foreign manufacturers of solar panels.

Documents reviewed by The Associated Press show Solyndra spent nearly \$2 million lobbying the federal government during the last

four years, including on provisions of the Energy Department's loan program just months before White House officials urged that the funds be approved.

In the first quarter of 2009, Solyndra paid McBee Strategic Consulting \$20,000 to lobby on issues related to the Energy Department's loan guarantee program, records show, and it paid \$30,000 in early 2008 to Dutko Worldwide to handle Solyndra's loan application.

Republican lawmakers on the House Energy and Commerce Committee's investigations panel are questioning why there was a rush to approve the loan and whether the entire loan guarantee program is warranted. "Our investigation raises several questions about whether the administration did everything it could to protect taxpayer dollars," said the committee's chairman, Rep. Fred Upton, R-Mich.

White House spokesman Jay Carney said the emails



Associated Press

President Obama, center, is given a tour of Solyndra on May 26, 2010, by Executive Vice President Ben Bierman, right, as Chief Executive Officer Chris Gronet, left, walks along at Solyndra Inc. in Fremont, Calif. The solar-panel manufacturer that received a \$528 million loan from the U.S. government has announced layoffs of 1,100 workers and plans to file for bankruptcy.

don't suggest that the White House was pushing for the loan to be made.

"What the emails make clear is there was urgency to make a decision on a scheduling matter. It is a big

proposition to move the president or to put on an event and that sort of thing so people were simply looking for answers about whether or not people could move forward," Carney said.

\$35B behemoth

NASA designs most powerful rocket on Earth

Associated Press

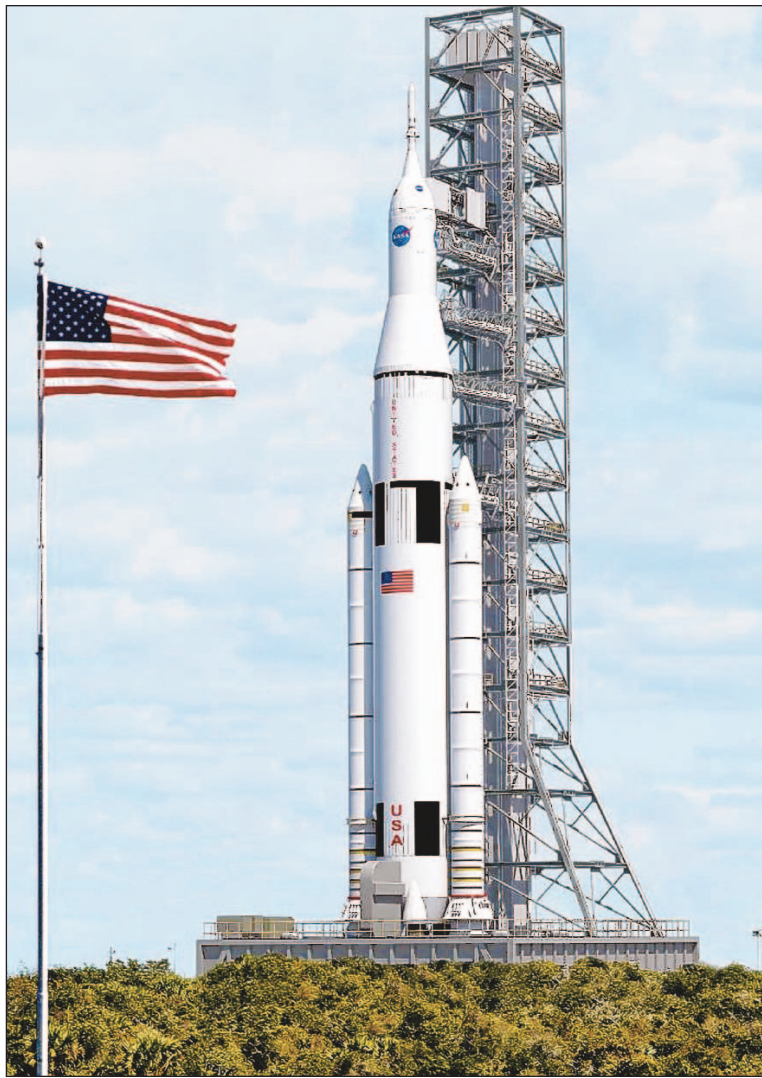
WASHINGTON — To soar far away from Earth and even on to Mars, NASA has dreamed up the world's most powerful rocket, a behemoth that borrows from the workhorse liquid rockets that sent Apollo missions into space four decades ago.

But with a price tag that some estimate at \$35 billion, it may not fly with Congress.

NASA Administrator Charles Bolden and several members of Congress on Wednesday unveiled the Obama administration's much-delayed general plans for its rocket design, called the Space Launch System. The multi-billion-dollar program would carry astronauts in a capsule on top, and the first mission would be 10 years off if all goes as planned. Unmanned test launches are expected from Cape Canaveral, Fla., in six years.

Calling it the "largest, most powerful rocket built," NASA's exploration and operations chief, William Gerstenmaier, said the rocket will be tough to construct. But when NASA does it, "we'll have a capability to go beyond low-Earth orbit like no other nation does here on Earth," he said in a telephone briefing Wednesday.

The rocket resembles those NASA relied on before the space shuttle, but even its smallest early prototype will have 10 percent more thrust than the Saturn V that propelled Apollo astro-



Associated Press

This artist's concept provided by NASA shows the rocket design called the Space Launch System. The design for NASA's newest behemoth of a rocket harkens back to the giant workhorse liquid rockets that propelled men to the moon.

nauts to the moon. When it is built to its fuller size, it will be 20 percent more powerful, Gerstenmaier said. That bigger version will have the horsepower of

208,000 Corvette engines.

NASA is trying to remain flexible on where it wants to go and when. The space agency is aiming for a nearby asteroid around

2025 and then on to Mars in the 2030s. There could even be a short hop to the moon, but not as a main goal. All those targets require lots of brute force to escape Earth's orbit, something astronauts have not done since 1972.

The far-from-finalized price tag may be too steep given federal budget constraints.

"Will it be tough times going forward? Of course it is," Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., said in a separate news conference. "We are in an era in which we have to do more with less — all across the board — and the competition for the available dollars will be fierce. But what we have here now are the realistic costs" verified by independent experts.

Although five senators of both parties who are leaders in science issues praised the plan in a joint press release, outside experts are skeptical that Congress will agree to such a big spending project.

"In the current political environment, new spending is probably the most taboo thing in politics," said Stan Collender, a former Democratic congressional budget analyst. He put the odds of this getting congressional approval at "no better than 50-50 this year. There are going to be a lot of questions asking what kind of commitment we're going to be making here. You can find yourself with a rocket that no one wants to fire."

Nelson puts the cost of the program at about \$18 billion over the next five years.

But that estimate is mostly for development and design through the first test flight in 2017, and doesn't include production of later rockets, Gerstenmaier said.

Report: BP ultimately responsible in gulf spill

Associated Press

BP bears ultimate responsibility for the worst offshore oil spill in U.S. history, a key government panel said Wednesday in a report that assigns more blame to the company than other investigations and could hurt its effort to fend off criminal charges and billions of dollars in penalties.

The report concluded that BP violated federal regulations, ignored crucial warnings, was inattentive to safety and made bad decisions during the cementing of the well a mile beneath the Gulf of Mexico.

Eleven rig workers were killed in the April 2010 explosion, and some 200 million gallons of crude spewed from the bottom of the sea.

The investigation was conducted by a team from the two main agencies responsible for drilling and safety in federal waters: the Coast Guard and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Regulation and Enforcement.

In the report, other companies shared some of the blame. Rig owner Transocean was accused of being deficient in preventing or limiting the disaster, in part by bypassing alarms and automatic shutdown systems. Halliburton, the contractor responsible for mixing and testing the cement, was faulted as well.



Associated Press

Seashells and tar balls are pictured Wednesday washed up along Gulf Islands National Sea Shore near Pensacola Beach, Fla.

But BP, as the designated operator of the Macondo well, "was ultimately responsible for conducting operations at Macondo in a way that ensured the safety and protection of personnel, equipment, natural resources and the environment," the panel concluded.

The report identifies many of the same causes and faulty decisions found by previous investigations, including those conducted by a presidential commission, congressional committees

and the companies themselves. But some of those earlier investigations spread the blame more evenly.

The new report also marks the first time an investigative body looking into the spill has identified specific violations of federal regulations by BP and its contractors.

The findings will be used to shape reforms in offshore drilling safety and regulation. They will also be used by lawyers for victims involved in court battles over the oil spill, and by government agencies considering charges and penalties.

"It is only a question of time before BP — along with Transocean and Halliburton — will face criminal charges for their roles in the Gulf oil spill," said David Uhlmann, a University of Michigan law professor who formerly led the Justice Department's environmental crimes section.

The Justice Department hasn't commented on where its justice stands.

Congressional leaders immediately scheduled hearings to discuss the findings.

BP responded to the report by saying it is time for "other parties to acknowledge their roles in the accident and make changes to help prevent similar accidents in the future." Transocean said it takes exception to any criticism of its drill crew. Halliburton did not comment.

Former Pirates superstar, Cunningham makes MLS history



Former Crystal River graduate, Jeffrey Cunningham, seen here playing for the U.S. national team, recently made MLS history.

STACIE VAN DYKE
Chronicle correspondent

Former Crystal River High School soccer player Jeffrey Cunningham has earned a spot in the Major League Soccer record books. On August 27, Cunningham scored his 134th goal, making him the leading scorer in MLS history.

The 1994 Crystal River High graduate set Citrus County's goal record of 59 in season and 189 career goals. He went on to become an All American soccer player at the University of South

Florida, where he studied business.

"When he came up in soccer, we thought he was going to be good...but we didn't know how good. By the end of the season, he had moved up to varsity and was a powerhouse on the team as a freshman," Cunningham's high school coach David Soluri said.

The Montego Bay, Jamaica, native began playing soccer when he was just 3 years old and moved to Crystal River at age 14. His 14-year career with MLS has spanned five dif-

ferent clubs, and he currently plays forward for the Columbus Crew, Ohio's Major League Soccer club. He has also been a member of the U.S. National Team and Jamaican National Team.

"There have been some great players that have been a part of this league, and I'm just honored to be among them as far as goal production," Cunningham said on the team's Facebook page.

The 35-year-old is nearing the age of retirement and has been battling knee

issues which may signal the beginning of the end for his soccer career. Yet Cunningham says he definitely wants to stay in the game and is considering coaching or management in the future.

He advises future generations in Citrus County to dream big. "Go after your aspirations. The world is full of possibilities. Go for it."

"I'm very proud of him. It's not often that a community like Crystal River has

See **SOCCER/Page B4**

Player spotlight: **SANDY BOYINGTON**

MIND OVER MATTER

Psychology awaits; today's eyes set on state meet

Boyington needs to psych herself to reach her goals

LARRY BUGG
Chronicle correspondent

One day, Sandy Boyington may be a professional psychologist, handling a large load of patients. Today, however, the Lecanto Panthers senior cross country runner may need to become her own very first patient.

Boyington is in her final year of cross country.

The St. Petersburg native's goal this year is simply the Holy Grail of most Florida cross country runners: qualify for the state meet at Little Everglades Ranch in November.

She will run in a regional at Lecanto High, and hopefully home-course advantage will help her reach the big meet.

This is where the psychological skills need to come in.

She was 24th at the regional meet last year and missed the state meet. She has never run at the state meet. She could possibly qualify as an individual or if the team qualifies.

She would love to be like teammate Chloe Benoist, who has competed at four straight meets. Benoist is the No. 1 and Boyington is the No. 2 runner for the Panther girls.

Boyington has just one chance and the clock is ticking.

She had to work over the summer and wasn't able to run as hard as she wanted to.

In her first meet, she was 25th overall with a 23:29 time. Britny Vickers was



DAVE SIGLER/Chronicle

See **RUN/Page B4** Lecanto's Sandy Boyington is working hard in this, her senior year, to make her first state meet.

MLB BASEBALL

Rays fail to capitalize

Tampa Bay, BoSox both lose; start 4-game series in Boston today

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — The Tampa Bay Rays missed an opportunity to gain ground in the wild-card race, getting only three hits over seven innings against Jeremy Guthrie in a 6-2 loss to the Baltimore Orioles on Wednesday night.

After watching Boston lose to Toronto in an afternoon game, the Rays took the field with a chance to close within three games of the Red Sox in the AL wild-card hunt.

Instead, Tampa Bay lost its second straight to the last-place Orioles.

Next up for the Rays: Four games against the Red Sox at Fenway Park, beginning Thursday night. Tampa Bay swept a three-game series from Boston last weekend and is 9-5 against the Red Sox, including 4-1 on the road.



Guthrie (8-17), the major league leader in losses, tied a career high with 10 strikeouts. The right-hander gave up two runs to win a second consecutive start for the first time this season.

Guthrie improved to 6-10 lifetime against Tampa Bay, 2-3 this season. He also beat the Rays on opening day.

Jim Johnson worked the final two innings for his sixth save, the second in two nights.

Tampa Bay's Wade Davis (10-9) gave up a three-run homer to Chris Davis and a solo shot to Nolan Reimold. Wade Davis, who allowed four runs and seven hits in 6 1-3 innings, is 4-1 in six career starts at Camden Yards.

Matt Wieters added a two-run shot in the eighth off Matt Moore, who was making his major league debut. It was Wieters' 20th home run, the third in three games.

If the Rays fall short in their bid to reach the playoffs, they can blame either a 1-8 start or their 9-9 record against the Orioles, who are 14-33 against the rest of the AL East.

Guthrie retired the first eight batters before Reid Brignac singled in the third. Reimold opened the bottom half with his

See **RAYS/Page B3**

SEC offenses on fire early in 2011

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Some Southeastern Conference teams are leaving defense behind in their rush for more points.

The SEC once was known for its run-first attacks and strong defenses, but now more teams are implementing up-tempo, spread and no-huddle schemes designed to give offenses as many scoring opportunities as possible.

Some early developments are startling:

■ Seven SEC teams are averaging 40 or more points per game.

■ Arkansas has scored 103 points, the Razorbacks' highest total through two games since 1911.

■ Six players in the Auburn-Mississippi State game had more than 100 all-purpose yards.

■ The 87 combined points in South Carolina's 45-42 win over Georgia were the

See **SEC/Page B4**

Players happy with event, not Cog Hill

Associated Press

PGA GOLF



Associated Press

Steve Stricker is among a group of players who are not at all fond of the renovations that took place at Cog Hill.

LEMONT, ILL. — In what likely will be the last time the BMW Championship is played at Cog Hill, some of the PGA Tour's top players are not sorry to see it leave the public course south of Chicago.

The most biting comment Wednesday came from Steve Stricker, reputed to be one of the most polite players in golf.

Stricker is among those who fell out of love with Cog Hill when Rees Jones was hired to redesign the course in 2008 in an effort to land the U.S. Open. The greens were raised. The bunkers were deepened. The course was lengthened. Steep ridges in the greens led to impossible putts for a shot that was only slightly off its mark.

Cog Hill owner Frank Jemsek didn't get the U.S. Open, and now the BMW Championship is leaving.

"They need to get their money back, I guess," said Stricker, who won at the old Cog Hill in 1996 when it was the Western Open held around the Fourth of July. "It's too bad what happened here."

Cog Hill left a sour taste last year because the course was in poor condition, the product of an unusually hot summer that was tough on golf courses throughout the Chicago area. Phil Mickelson, not a fan of anything Jones designs, said the shape of the course wasn't the issue.

He attributed the criticism of Cog Hill to the man in charge of re-vamping it.

"I know we all wish it had turned out differently," Mickelson said. "But there was a lot of other guys to

See **PGA/Page B4**

Pro Picks: Trying to avoid more brain lock

Associated Press

Call it lockout brain lock. That's what Pro Picks suffered from in a wild, totally unpredictable first weekend of the season. Yes, six road teams won. And six underdogs were winners.

Looks like Pro Picks was about as prepared for the openers as the Colts, Steelers, Chiefs and Falcons.

There's just no way the Steelers can play so poorly again, and they're fortunate to get another club that struggled mightily in its first game, Seattle. Pittsburgh is a 13½-point favorite, a huge spread, by far the biggest of the NFL's second week.

But the Steelers were embarrassed at Baltimore, and their frame of mind will be to re-establish themselves as a powerhouse. A nasty powerhouse.

Having the retooling Seahawks, out of the league's weakest division, coming to Heinz Field is the right tonic. STEELERS, 30-10

SAN DIEGO (PLUS 6½) AT NEW ENGLAND Until otherwise notified, the Patriots will be the choice to cover, whatever the spread. San Diego was fortunate to win at home against Minnesota, which in no way resembles New England.

BEST BET: PATRIOTS 35-20

PHILADELPHIA (MINUS 2½) AT ATLANTA Hard to imagine the Falcons, with all that offensive talent in particular, coming out flat again, especially at home, where they usually perform well — at least in the regular season. We like home underdogs. FALCONS, 23-20

CHICAGO (PLUS 6½) AT NEW ORLEANS Bears looked so good in victory, Saints looked pretty good in defeat, but need a better performance from the defense. It will come at the Superdome. SAINTS, 27-21
Green Bay (minus 10½) at Carolina Cam Newton sustained his first loss since junior college when Panthers went down in Arizona. Make that two

LS in the NFL. PACKERS, 30-14

BALTIMORE (MINUS 6) AT TENNESSEE Ravens must avoid letdown after big win against Steelers. With Titans star RB Chris Johnson just getting in shape after long holdout, that's doable. RAVENS, 20-10
ST. LOUIS (PLUS 3½) AT NEW YORK GIANTS Bruised and battered Rams against bruised and battered Giants, in prime time, no less. OUCH! GIANTS, 21-16

KANSAS CITY (PLUS 8½) AT DETROIT Can't figure out if the Chiefs are really that bad, or the Lions are really that good. One thing for sure: KC is banged-up. LIONS, 28-13

JACKSONVILLE (PLUS 10) AT N.Y. JETS Jets will need to get far stingier on defense to beat anybody by 10 points. JETS, 20-16

OAKLAND (PLUS 4) AT BUFFALO Toughest game on the board given these teams' impressive road showings in Week 1. Bills look like they can shut down the run, which is secret to handling Raiders. BILLS, 17-14

ARIZONA (PLUS 4½) AT WASHINGTON Such trips traditionally are difficult for Cardinals. Let's buck tradition. CARDINALS, 24-20

TAMPA BAY (PLUS 3) AT MINNESOTA If Bucs truly are playoff quality, they must win road games like this. BUCS, 20-6

CLEVELAND (PLUS 3) AT INDIANAPOLIS Colts need to stop thinking Peyton is riding in to the rescue. They have enough talent left to win this one, or else their season could be doomed. COLTS, 17-16

DALLAS (MINUS 3) AT SAN FRANCISCO Hey, Jason Garrett, just have Tony Romo hand off on every fourth-quarter play. COWBOYS, 21-20

HOUSTON (MINUS 3) AT MIAMI Dolphins can't seem to cover anybody, and Texans WR Andre Johnson isn't just anybody. TEXANS, 30-21

CINCINNATI (PLUS 6) AT DENVER Last time they met, in 2009, Broncos won 12-7 on fluke play. Not enough defense on either side for a repeat of that score. BRONCOS, 24-21

PIGSKIN PREDICTIONS

FOLLOW THE CHRONICLE'S "EXPERTS" ALL SEASON LONG AS THEY PICK THE BIGGEST FOOTBALL GAMES OF THE WEEK.							
	JOHN COSCIA	BRAD BAUTISTA	SEAN ARNOLD	JEFF GORDON	TAYLOR PROVOST	STEVE LAMB	MIGHTY COIN
	LAST WEEK'S RESULTS	23-8	22-9	21-10	21-10	19-12	18-13
LAST WEEK'S RESULTS	36-10	35-11	33-13	30-16	30-16	29-17	24-22
HIGH SCHOOL							
BELLEVIEW AT CITRUS	CITRUS	CITRUS	CITRUS	CITRUS	CITRUS	CITRUS	CITRUS
CENTRAL AT LECANTO	LECANTO	LECANTO	LECANTO	LECANTO	CENTRAL	LECANTO	LECANTO
DUNNELLON AT N. COAST	NATURE COAST	NATURE COAST	NATURE COAST	DUNNELLON	DUNNELLON	DUNNELLON	DUNNELLON
COLLEGE							
OKLAHOMA AT FSU	OKLAHOMA	OKLAHOMA	OKLAHOMA	OKLAHOMA	OKLAHOMA	OKLAHOMA	FLORIDA STATE
TENNESSEE AT FLORIDA	FLORIDA	TENNESSEE	FLORIDA	FLORIDA	FLORIDA	FLORIDA	FLORIDA
OHIO STATE AT MIAMI	OHIO STATE	OHIO STATE	OHIO STATE	OHIO STATE	OHIO STATE	OHIO STATE	OHIO STATE
MICH. STATE AT N. DAME	MICH. STATE	MICH. STATE	NOTRE DAME	NOTRE DAME	NOTRE DAME	MICH. STATE	MICH. STATE
TEXAS AT UCLA	TEXAS	TEXAS	TEXAS	TEXAS	TEXAS	TEXAS	UCLA
FLORIDA A&M AT USF	S. FLORIDA	S. FLORIDA	S. FLORIDA	S. FLORIDA	S. FLORIDA	S. FLORIDA	FLORIDA A&M
NFL							
CHICAGO AT NEW ORLEANS	NEW ORLEANS	NEW ORLEANS	NEW ORLEANS	NEW ORLEANS	NEW ORLEANS	NEW ORLEANS	CHICAGO
BALTIMORE AT TENNESSEE	BALTIMORE	BALTIMORE	BALTIMORE	BALTIMORE	BALTIMORE	BALTIMORE	BALTIMORE
TAMPA BAY AT MINNESOTA	MINNESOTA	MINNESOTA	MINNESOTA	MINNESOTA	MINNESOTA	MINNESOTA	MINNESOTA
KANSAS CITY AT DETROIT	DETROIT	DETROIT	DETROIT	DETROIT	DETROIT	DETROIT	KANSAS CITY
JACKSONVILLE AT N.Y. JETS	N.Y. JETS	N.Y. JETS	N.Y. JETS	N.Y. JETS	N.Y. JETS	N.Y. JETS	N.Y. JETS
OAKLAND AT BUFFALO	OAKLAND	BUFFALO	BUFFALO	BUFFALO	OAKLAND	BUFFALO	OAKLAND
ARIZONA AT WASHINGTON	WASHINGTON	ARIZONA	WASHINGTON	WASHINGTON	WASHINGTON	WASHINGTON	ARIZONA
SEATTLE AT PITTSBURGH	PITTSBURGH	PITTSBURGH	PITTSBURGH	PITTSBURGH	PITTSBURGH	PITTSBURGH	PITTSBURGH
GREEN BAY AT CAROLINA	GREEN BAY	GREEN BAY	GREEN BAY	GREEN BAY	GREEN BAY	GREEN BAY	GREEN BAY
CLEVELAND AT INDY	INDIANAPOLIS	CLEVELAND	INDIANAPOLIS	CLEVELAND	INDIANAPOLIS	INDIANAPOLIS	INDIANAPOLIS
DALLAS AT SAN FRANCISCO	DALLAS	DALLAS	DALLAS	DALLAS	DALLAS	DALLAS	SAN FRANCISCO
CINCINNATI AT DENVER	CINCINNATI	DENVER	DENVER	CINCINNATI	CINCINNATI	DENVER	DENVER
HOUSTON AT MIAMI	HOUSTON	MIAMI	MIAMI	HOUSTON	HOUSTON	HOUSTON	HOUSTON
SAN DIEGO AT N. ENGLAND	NEW ENGLAND	NEW ENGLAND	NEW ENGLAND	NEW ENGLAND	NEW ENGLAND	NEW ENGLAND	SAN DIEGO
PHILADELPHIA AT ATLANTA	PHILADELPHIA	PHILADELPHIA	PHILADELPHIA	PHILADELPHIA	PHILADELPHIA	PHILADELPHIA	ATLANTA
ST. LOUIS AT N.Y. GIANTS	N.Y. GIANTS	N.Y. GIANTS	N.Y. GIANTS	N.Y. GIANTS	N.Y. GIANTS	N.Y. GIANTS	N.Y. GIANTS

Florida State looks to return to center stage

Associated Press

At the 2001 Orange Bowl, Oklahoma ended one of the greatest runs in college football history when the Sooners beat Florida State to win the national championship.

The Seminoles haven't been serious title contenders since that 13-2 loss in Miami. On Saturday night at Doak Campbell Stadium, No. 5 Florida State can change that against the latest top-ranked Sooners team.

Beat OU, and it'll feel just like the not-so-old days at Florida State, when the road to the national title always seemed to run through Tallahassee.

"It'll be a measuring stick," second-year Seminoles coach Jimbo Fisher said. "It's not the season, but it can be a great building block."

Over the last 10 years, the Seminoles have played in two Atlantic Coast Conference title games and a couple BCS bowls. But during the final decade of the Bobby Bowden era, Florida State never could recapture the success of the 1980s and '90s.

From 1987-2000, Florida State won at least 10 games every season and never lost more than two. The 'Noles finished ranked no worse than fifth in the AP poll for



Associated Press

Florida State's head coach Jimbo Fisher, left, hopes that when he meets up with Oklahoma's Bob Stoops, right, for the postgame handshake it will be following an FSU victory.

14 straight seasons, won two national championships and two other times played in a bowl with a chance to finish No. 1.

Their regular-season games with rivals Miami and Florida were often national championship elimination matches.

Florida State-Oklahoma has potential to be one of those games.

Both teams are talented, but the Sooners are the nationally known quantity. Much of this team, including

quarterback Landry Jones and All-America receiver Ryan Broyles, returned from last season's squad that won the Big 12 and finished No. 6 in the country.

While coach Bob Stoops' Sooners came into this season with a strong case to back up their No. 1 ranking, Florida State's No. 6 ranking to start the season was more of a leap of faith.

Florida State won 10 games last season for the first time since 2003. But the Seminoles didn't even win

the Atlantic Coast Conference and came into this season with a new full-time starting quarterback in EJ Manuel.

The Seminoles are good, but after beating Louisiana-Monroe and Charleston Southern the first two weeks of the season, no one yet knows how good.

Last season, Florida State clearly wasn't ready to step up in class when it went to Norman, Okla. The Sooners pounded the Seminoles 47-17. Oklahoma can put that Florida State return to glory on hold again Saturday night.

The picks:
Thursday
No. 3 LSU (minus 3½) at No. 25 Mississippi State
The Tigers have won 11 straight against Bulldogs ... LSU 28-23.

Friday
No. 4 Boise State (minus 17½) at Toledo
After narrow miss at Ohio State, Rockets step up competition ... BOISE 41-21.

Saturday
No. 1 Oklahoma (minus 3½) at No. 5 Florida State
Not quite, 'Noles ... OKL. 31-23.
North Texas (minus 46)

at No. 2 Alabama
Looks like QB A.J. McCarron's job to lose for Tide ... ALABAMA 55-7
No. 6 Stanford (minus 10) at Arizona

Win this one and Cardinal's schedule sets up nicely for 7-0 start. STAN. 35-21.

BEST BET
No. 7 Wisconsin (minus 16½) vs. Northern Illinois at Chicago
New UNI coach Dave Doeren was Badgers D-coordinator ... WISC. 38-17.

No. 8 Oklahoma State (minus 14) at Tulsa
Can anyone slow down Cowboys WR Justin Blackmon? ... OKL. ST. 45-28.

Idaho (plus 36½) at No. 9 Texas A&M
Aggies getting ready for home game against Oklahoma State. A&M 58-17.
Navy (plus 18½)

at No. 10 South Carolina
Middies can be pesky. S. CAR. 35-20

Washington (plus 16½) at No. 11 Nebraska
Again! ... NEBRASKA 34-21

Missouri State (no line) at No. 12 Oregon
Ducks QB Darron Thomas threw six TD passes last week. OREGON 58-3.

Arkansas State (plus 24) at No. 13 Virginia Tech
Red Wolves coming off 47-3 win vs. Memphis ... VIRGINIA TECH 35-17.

Troy (plus 23½) at No. 14 Arkansas
Hogs might give QB Tyler Wilson (concussion) some rest. ARKANSAS 48-20.

No. 15 Michigan State (minus 5) at Notre Dame
Spartans 2-0; Irish 0-2. Irish favored? ... NOTRE DAME 31-24

Tennessee (plus 9½) at No. 16 Florida
Urban Meyer owned Vols. What about Will Muschamp? ... FLORIDA 28-21.

No. 17 Ohio State (plus 2) at Miami
Instead of marching bands, halftime show will be reading of NCAA rule book ... MIAMI 23-17.

No. 18 West Virginia (plus 1) at Maryland
Those Terps' uniforms look much better when they win ... W. VIRG. 28-24.

Stephen F. Austin (no line) at No. 19 Baylor
Could end up as conference rivals the way things are going. BAYLOR 55-14.

Florida A&M (no line) at No. 20 South Florida
Could end up as conference rivals the way things are going ... USF 38-7.

UPSET SPECIAL
No. 21 Auburn (plus 3½) at Clemson
One team finds ways to win; the other, ways to lose ... AUBURN 27-24.

No. 22 Arizona State (plus 1) at Illinois
If Sun Devils want to be taken seriously, win this one ... ARIZ. ST. 28-24.

Louisiana-Monroe (plus 28½) at No. 23 TCU
Horned Frogs have won nine straight home openers ... TCU 45-14.

No. 23 Texas (minus 3½) at UCLA
Longhorns visit Pac-12. Will they come back? ... TEXAS 31-21.



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AL

Table with columns: W, L, Pct, East Division GB, WCGB, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows include New York, Boston, Tampa Bay, Toronto, Baltimore.

Table with columns: W, L, Pct, Central Division GB, WCGB, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows include Detroit, Chicago, Cleveland, Kansas City, Minnesota.

Table with columns: West Division GB, WCGB, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows include Texas, Los Angeles, Oakland, Seattle.

NL

Table with columns: W, L, Pct, East Division GB, WCGB, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows include Philadelphia, Atlanta, New York, Washington, Florida.

Table with columns: W, L, Pct, Central Division GB, WCGB, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows include Milwaukee, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Chicago, Houston.

Table with columns: West Division GB, WCGB, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows include Arizona, San Fran., Los Angeles, Colorado, San Diego.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Tuesday's Games
Baltimore 4, Tampa Bay 2
Boston 18, Toronto 6
Texas 10, Cleveland 4
Detroit 5, Chicago White Sox 0
Kansas City 4, Minnesota 0
L.A. Angels 6, Oakland 3
N.Y. Yankees 3, Seattle 2
Wednesday's Games
Toronto 5, Boston 4
Detroit 6, Chicago White Sox 5, 10 innings
L.A. Angels 4, Oakland 1
Kansas City 7, Minnesota 3
Texas 9, Cleveland 1
Baltimore 6, Tampa Bay 2
N.Y. Yankees at Seattle, (LATE)
Thursday's Games
Tampa Bay (Hellickson 12-10) at Boston (Weiland 0-1), 7:10 p.m.
Cleveland (Carmona 6-14) at Texas (Ogando 12-8), 8:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (Buehrle 11-8) at Kansas City (Francis 5-16), 8:10 p.m.
Detroit (Scherzer 14-8) at Oakland (McCarthy 8-8), 10:05 p.m.
Friday's Games
L.A. Angels at Baltimore, 7:05 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees at Toronto, 7:07 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Boston, 7:10 p.m.
Chicago White Sox at Kansas City, 8:10 p.m.
Cleveland at Minnesota, 8:10 p.m.
Detroit at Oakland, 10:05 p.m.
Texas at Seattle, 10:10 p.m.

Blue Jays 5, Red Sox 4

BOSTON — Now comes the really hard part for the Boston Red Sox: four more games against the Tampa Bay Rays.
The Red Sox lost for the sixth time in seven games, wasting an eighth-inning lead when Adam Loewen's two-run single off hard-throwing Daniel Bard lifted the Toronto Blue Jays to a 5-4 win Wednesday.
"It's just another loss. I don't think it's any tougher than any other loss," first baseman Adrian Gonzalez said.
"We've got to find a way in the next series to play better baseball."
Just 3-10 in September, the Red Sox began the day with a four-game lead over Tampa Bay in the AL wild-card race. Boston led the AL East at the start of the month and was nine games ahead of the third-place Rays.
After getting swept in a three-game series at Tampa Bay last weekend, Boston hosts the Rays in a four-game series starting Thursday night.
"Very frustrating," said Bard, 0-3 with a 30.86 ERA in his last three appearances. "I've been through it before. Sometimes the effects are magnified by how big the games are."
Boston led 4-2 in the eighth before Toronto came back against the hard-throwing Bard (2-8), who entered and walked Edwin Encarnacion and Kelly Johnson.

Tigers 6, White Sox 5

CHICAGO — In a memorable month filled with exhilarating moments, Wednesday's comeback win stood out for the Detroit Tigers.
Carlos Guillen singled home the go-ahead run in the 10th inning and Detroit extended its longest winning streak in 77 years, rallying past the Chicago White Sox 6-5 for its 12th straight victory.
"We hung in there and had a real nice win," Tigers manager Jim Leyland said. "A really unbelievable win."
Guillen also hit a solo homer for Detroit, which hadn't won 12 in a row since 1934 — when Hank Greenberg, Charlie Gehringer and the Tigers lost a seven-game World Series to the St. Louis Cardinals' famous Gas House Gang.
Jose Valverde struck out the side in the 10th to remain perfect in 44 save opportunities this year.
Closing in on an AL Central title, the surging Tigers rallied for three runs in the ninth off Chicago's bullpen.

Angels 4, Athletics 1

OAKLAND, Calif. — Jered Weaver shrugged off his career-best 17th win of the season as if it were his first.
With his team locked in a tight race with AL West-leading Texas, the Los Angeles Angels ace will have plenty of time to relish his achievements in the offseason. Weaver may also have to come back on three days' rest for his next start, so any individual celebration will have to wait.
"We haven't gotten to our goal yet, but from a personal standpoint it's pretty cool," Weaver said after pitching seven innings in a 4-1 win over the Oakland Athletics on Wednesday. "It's not over yet. We still have a lot of goals to accomplish as a team, which is more important. Hopefully we keep winning some ballgames."
Los Angeles will have to do just that to maintain its playoff hopes.
The Angels began the day three games behind Texas with two weeks remaining. The Rangers were scheduled to host Cleveland on Thursday.
That's one of the reasons manager Mike Scioscia is considering juggling his rotation to get Weaver (17-7) back on the mound, possibly as soon as Sunday in Baltimore.
"I'm good with it," Weaver said. "We've got a tight one going on right now and anything we can do to help the club win some ballgames, I'm all for it."

Royals 7, Twins 3

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Mike Moustakas had three hits and drove in two runs and Luke Hochevar pitched six solid innings to help the Kansas City Royals beat the Minnesota Twins 7-3 on Wednesday.
The Royals have won four straight, matching the longest winning streak of the season, while the Twins have lost 19 of 23 and are in last place in the AL Central after winning the division the past two years.
Moustakas drove in runs in the second and fourth inning with singles. He doubled and scored in the two-run sixth inning.
Hochevar (11-11) gave up two runs on five hits in six innings. He improved to 6-3 in 12 starts since the All-Star break.
Jeff Francoeur also had three hits and scored two runs. Eric Hosmer, Francoeur and Moustakas — the Royals' fourth, five and sixth hitters — went a combined 8-for-12 and scored five runs.
Salvador Perez drove in a pair of runs with a fourth inning double and a sixth inning single.
Johnny Giavotella had two RBIs without a hit. His sacrifice fly in the second scored Francoeur. In the three-run fourth, Giavotella reached on a Trevor Plouffe throwing error, allowing Francoeur to score.

Braves 4, Marlins 1

ATLANTA — Alex Gonzalez isn't too concerned about the pressure of a wild-card race.
"You have to leave it outside," he said. "You have to do your job. This time of the season, for me, pressure doesn't work."
Gonzalez hit a three-run homer and Martin Prado bunted in a run during a four-run seventh inning as the revived Atlanta Braves beat the Florida Marlins 4-1 Wednesday to maintain their lead in the NL wild-card race.
Atlanta has won two straight following a season-high four-game losing streak. The victory kept the Braves 4½ games ahead of St. Louis, which won 3-2 at Pittsburgh.
"We know we've got a great team," Gonzalez said. "We've got a great leader (in manager Fredi Gonzalez). We've got great pitching. We've got a great bullpen. I just go out there and do the best I can."
Five Braves combined on a four-hitter, and the Marlins didn't get a hit after the third or a runner after the fifth.
Christian Martinez, Eric O'Flaherty (2-4), Jonny Venters and rookie Craig Kimbrel each pitched a perfect inning, with Kimbrel striking out the side for his major league-leading 44th save in 49 chances.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Tuesday's Games
St. Louis 6, Pittsburgh 4
Cincinnati 2, Chicago Cubs 1
Atlanta 7, Florida 1
Washington 3, N.Y. Mets 2
Houston 5, Philadelphia 2
Milwaukee 2, Colorado 1, 11 innings
Arizona 5, L.A. Dodgers 4, 10 innings
San Francisco 3, San Diego 2, 12 innings
Wednesday's Games
Atlanta 4, Florida 1
St. Louis 3, Pittsburgh 2
Philadelphia 1, Houston 0
San Francisco 3, San Diego 1
Cincinnati 7, Chicago Cubs 2
Washington 2, N.Y. Mets 0
Colorado at Milwaukee, (LATE)
Arizona at L.A. Dodgers, (LATE)
Thursday's Games
Washington (Milone 0-0) at N.Y. Mets (Schwinden 0-1), 1:10 p.m.
Florida (Ani-Sanchez 8-7) at Philadelphia (K Kendrick 7-6), 2:35 p.m., 1st game
Chicago Cubs (R.Wells 7-4) at Cincinnati (H.Bailey 8-7), 7:10 p.m.
Florida (Sanabia 0-0) at Philadelphia (Cl.Lee 16-7), 7:35 p.m., 2nd game
San Francisco (Vogelsong 10-7) at Colorado (Chacin 11-11), 8:40 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Ohlendorf 0-2) at L.A. Dodgers (Lawrie 2-0), 10:10 p.m.
Friday's Games
Houston at Chicago Cubs, 2:20 p.m.
Florida at Washington, 7:05 p.m.
St. Louis at Philadelphia, 7:05 p.m.
Milwaukee at Cincinnati, 7:10 p.m.
N.Y. Mets at Atlanta, 7:35 p.m.
San Francisco at Colorado, 8:10 p.m.
Arizona at San Diego, 10:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.

Toronto Boston

Table with columns: ab, r, h, bi, IP, H, R, ER, BB, SO. Rows include McCoy, EThms, Bautist, Lind, Encrnc, KJhnsn, Lawrie, Teahan, Arenci, Loewen, Totals.

Detroit Chicago

Table with columns: ab, r, h, bi, IP, H, R, ER, BB, SO. Rows include Dirks, Inge, Avila, RSantg, Dyong, MiCarr, VMrtzn, Rhymz, Guillen, Worth, Betem, JHPerit, Kelly, Raburn, OSants, Oronz, AJJcks, Totals.

Los Angeles Oakland

Table with columns: ab, r, h, bi, IP, H, R, ER, BB, SO. Rows include Aybar, HKndrc, BAbreu, THntr, Trumo, Callasp, W.Wells, Bourjos, Mathis, Totals.

Minnesota Kansas City

Table with columns: ab, r, h, bi, IP, H, R, ER, BB, SO. Rows include Revere, Plouffe, Mauer, Cuddy, Kubel, Valenci, Parmel, Benson, Tolbert, Totals.

Florida Atlanta

Table with columns: ab, r, h, bi, IP, H, R, ER, BB, SO. Rows include Bonifac, Peters, Infante, Dobbs, GSchzb, DMrph, JoBakr, Dmngz, Hayes, Nolasco, MDunn, Totals.

RAYS

Continued from Page B1
10th home run, a low-flying line drive that glanced off the top of the left-field wall and into the seats.
The lead didn't last long. Guthrie walked two of the first three batters in the fourth and Matt Joyce cleared the bases with a two-out double.
In the Baltimore half, Vladimir Guerrero beat out a slow roller to third, Wieters doubled and Chris Davis hit an opposite-field homer to left on an 0-2 pitch for a 4-2 lead.
Tampa Bay's final threat against Guthrie came in the seventh. Johnny Damon drew a leadoff walk and took second on a single by Joyce before Guthrie sandwiched two strikeouts around a fly ball by John Jaso.
NOTES: Rays Of Sam Fuld left in the fifth inning with a wrist injury. ... Tampa Bay recalled LHP Alex Torres from Triple-A Durham and purchased the contract of 1B Dan Johnson from Durham, giving the team 34 players in uniform.

Cardinals 3, Pirates 2

PITTSBURGH — Wearing Hawaiian shirts as they headed out for a cross-country flight, the Pittsburgh Pirates insisted that a record 19th consecutive losing season was a year of progress.
"This isn't anything like before," losing pitcher Charlie Morton said after Wednesday's 3-2 defeat to St. Louis clinched another sub-.500 record. "The atmosphere is totally different. We were in contention for a good while. It's been a long time since that's happened."
Yadier Molina hit a tiebreaking, two-run double in the fourth for the Cardinals.
A year after going a big league-worst 57-105, the Pirates were 51-44 and led the NL Central by a half-game before play on July 20. But they have gone 16-38 since, leaving them at 67-82.
"Our how-to is going to have to get better, because we've got to get this organization to the point where we're no longer talking about consecutive losing seasons," said first-year manager Clint Hurdle, who planned the Hawaiian shirts in advance.
When the Pirates last had a winning season, Barry Bonds led them to Game 7 of the NL championship series.

Phillies 1, Astros 0

HOUSTON — No champagne. No wild celebration. The Philadelphia Phillies are back in the postseason for the fifth straight year, and that's exactly what they expected.
Roy Halladay pitched his 20th career shutout and Philadelphia became the first team to reach the playoffs this season with a 1-0 victory over the Houston Astros on Wednesday.
The NL East leaders clinched at least a wild-card berth and will take another run at a ring in October. Philadelphia won the World Series in 2008 and took the NL pennant in 2009.
"That's the beauty of being here," Halladay said. "We expect to win. You convert to that quickly, coming from a team where that wasn't the case. We had some big wins last year and come into the clubhouse and that's where we expected to be."
Once the Phillies signed ace pitcher Cliff Lee last winter to round out a dominant rotation, another playoff berth seemed inevitable. They said this week there would be no big party for wrapping up the wild card, and when Halladay finished off Houston he and his teammates barely cracked a smile.
Phillies players and manager Charlie Manuel simply lined up for handshakes and high-fives following their 95th win, just as if it were any other. The goal this season is a World Series championship, and anything short of that would hardly satisfy.

Giants 3, Padres 1

SAN FRANCISCO — Carlos Beltran hit two homers to give him 300 for his career and Tim Lincecum ended a three-start winless stretch as the San Francisco Giants beat the San Diego Padres 3-1 on Wednesday to complete a rare sweep in this rivalry.
Beltran homered in the first inning and again in the sixth with a splash hit into McCovey Cove to put the Giants ahead. It marked the slugger's 30th career multihomer game, third this year and first since joining San Francisco in a trade from the Mets on July 28.
Lincecum (13-12) outdueled Mat Latos (7-14) for his first win since beating the Padres on Aug. 24.
The defending World Series champion Giants began the day trailing the first-place Diamondbacks by 8½ games in the NL West. Arizona had a night game at Los Angeles.
San Francisco has its first four-game winning streak since July 9-15.
Lincecum allowed four hits and an unearned run while striking out six and walking two in seven innings as the Giants wrapped up their first winning home series in the last eight sets.

Reds 7, Cubs 2

CINCINNATI — Ramon Hernandez hit a three-run homer in the second inning, and Cincinnati overcame the loss of pitcher Johnny Cueto to beat the Chicago Cubs 7-2 Wednesday night.
Cueto, the major league leader with a 2.31 ERA, left after 3 2-3 innings because of a strained muscle in the upper right side of his back.
The right-hander was visited by a trainer and pitching coach Bryan Price with one out in the fourth inning. After getting Alfonso Soriano to pop out, a trainer and Dusty Baker went to the mound, and the manager removed Cueto.
Cueto, who allowed three hits, will be re-examined Thursday. He didn't make his first start of the season until May 8 because of irritation in his right upper arm.
Inheriting a 5-0 lead, Sam LeCure (1-1) pitched 2 1-3 innings for the win. He allowed a pair of sixth-inning runs when Carlos Pena hit an RBI double and scored on Alfonso Soriano's groundout.

Rangers 9, Indians 1

CLEVELAND — Texas Rangers pitcher Matt Frisley pitched a complete game to lead the Rangers to a 9-1 victory over the Cleveland Indians on Wednesday.
Frisley (7-1) pitched 9 innings, allowing one run on four hits and striking out seven. The Indians scored on a leadoff home run by Shin-Soo Choo in the first inning.
Rangers manager Ronin White said Frisley "did a great job of staying focused and staying in the zone."
The Rangers' victory moved them to 47-47, one game behind the Los Angeles Angels in the NL West. The Indians fell to 41-53, one game behind the Cincinnati Reds in the NL Central.

St. Louis Pittsburgh

Table with columns: ab, r, h, bi, IP, H, R, ER, BB, SO. Rows include Furcal, Punto, Jay, Pujols, Brkmn, Chamsr, Craig, Motte, Schmrk, YMorit, Descais, Elcksn, Rzczy, Dotel, CPTtrs, Totals.

Philadelphia Houston

Table with columns: ab, r, h, bi, IP, H, R, ER, BB, SO. Rows include Victorn, Polanc, Pence, Howard, Ibanex, Ruiz, Orr, Rollns, Mrtzn, Hallady, Totals.

San Diego San Francisco

Table with columns: ab, r, h, bi, IP, H, R, ER, BB, SO. Rows include Venale, O'Hudsn, AlGnzlz, Hermid, Thncp, Maybin, Guzmnn, Darnell, Rizzo, LMrtzn, Pating, Larrn, Denorff, Totals.

Chicago Cincinnati

Table with columns: ab, r, h, bi, IP, H, R, ER, BB, SO. Rows include SCastro, RJhnsn, ArRmr, C.Pena, ASorin, Byrd, Barney, Soto, CColmn, Gaub, Montzn, Grabow, Colvin, K.Wood, R.Ortiz, Totals.

Washington New York

Table with columns: ab, r, h, bi, IP, H, R, ER, BB, SO. Rows include Dsmnd, Ankiel, Zmrmn, Morse, Clippr, Storen, Werth, Espinos, Marrer, Flores, Peack, Grizny, Berndn, Totals.

St. Louis

Table with columns: E, Jackson, Rzepczynski, Dotel, H, Morte, Watson, J.Hughes, HBP, T.

Philadelphia

Table with columns: E, Polanco, Pence, Howard, Ibanex, Ruiz, Orr, Rollns, Mrtzn, Hallady, Totals.

San Diego

Table with columns: E, Latos, Thatcher, Totals.

Chicago

Table with columns: E, Gaub, Grabow, K.Wood, R.Ortiz, Totals.

Washington

Table with columns: E, Peacock, Gorzelanny, Clipprard, Storen, Totals.

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	1	0	0	1.000	38	24
Buffalo	1	0	0	1.000	41	7
N.Y. Jets	1	0	0	1.000	27	24
Miami	0	1	0	.000	24	38
South	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	1	0	0	1.000	34	7
Jacksonville	1	0	0	1.000	16	14
Tennessee	1	0	0	.000	14	16
Indianapolis	0	1	0	.000	7	34
North	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	1	0	0	1.000	35	7
Cincinnati	1	0	0	1.000	27	17
Cleveland	0	1	0	.000	17	27
Pittsburgh	0	1	0	.000	7	35
West	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Oakland	1	0	0	1.000	23	20
San Diego	1	0	0	1.000	24	17
Kansas City	0	1	0	.000	7	41
Denver	0	1	0	.000	20	23

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Washington	1	0	0	1.000	28	14
Philadelphia	1	0	0	1.000	31	13
Dallas	0	1	0	.000	24	27
N.Y. Giants	0	1	0	.000	14	28
South	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New Orleans	0	1	0	.000	34	42
Tampa Bay	0	1	0	.000	20	27
Carolina	0	1	0	.000	21	28
Atlanta	0	1	0	.000	12	30
North	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Chicago	1	0	0	1.000	30	12
Detroit	1	0	0	1.000	27	20
Green Bay	1	0	0	1.000	42	34
Minnesota	0	1	0	.000	17	24
West	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Francisco	1	0	0	1.000	33	17
Arizona	1	0	0	1.000	28	21
St. Louis	0	1	0	.000	13	31
Seattle	0	1	0	.000	17	33

Sunday, Sep. 18

Chicago at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
 Baltimore at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
 Tampa Bay at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
 Kansas City at Detroit, 1 p.m.
 Jacksonville at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
 Oakland at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
 Arizona at Washington, 1 p.m.
 Seattle at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
 Green Bay at Carolina, 1 p.m.
 Cleveland at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
 Dallas at San Francisco, 4:05 p.m.
 Cincinnati at Denver, 4:15 p.m.
 Houston at Miami, 4:15 p.m.
 San Diego at New England, 4:15 p.m.
 Philadelphia at Atlanta, 8:20 p.m.


Monday, Sep. 19

St. Louis at N.Y. Giants, 8:30 p.m.

For the record

Florida LOTTERY

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



POWERBALL
16 - 41 - 42 - 50 - 59
POWER BALL
5
EXTRA
3

CASH 3 (early)
6 - 2 - 1
CASH 3 (late)
5 - 8 - 0
PLAY 4 (early)
9 - 4 - 1 - 1
PLAY 4 (late)
5 - 9 - 4 - 4
FANTASY 5
5 - 11 - 14 - 16 - 31
LOTTO
6 - 9 - 18 - 20 - 41 - 45
EXTRA
3

On the AIRWAVES

TODAY'S SPORTS

AUTO RACING
4 a.m. (ESPN2) Baltimore Grand Prix (Tape)

BASEBALL
2:30 p.m. (FSNFL) Florida Marlins at Philadelphia Phillies (1)
7 p.m. (SUN) Tampa Bay Rays at Boston Red Sox
7:30 p.m. (FSNFL) Florida Marlins at Philadelphia Phillies (2)

WNBA BASKETBALL PLAYOFFS
8 p.m. (ESPN2) New York Liberty at Indiana Fever
10 p.m. (ESPN2) Phoenix Mercury at Seattle Storm

FOOTBALL
8 p.m. (ESPN) LSU at Mississippi State

GOLF
8:30 a.m. (GOLF) European Vivendi Trophy
12:30 p.m. (GOLF) LPGA Classic, First Round
3 p.m. (GOLF) PGA BMW Championship
6:30 p.m. (GOLF) PGA Nationwide: Albertsons Boise Open
1 a.m. (GOLF) PGA Champions: Songdo Championship

WOMEN'S SOCCER
11 p.m. (FSNFL) Florida State at Wake Forest (Tape)

Prep CALENDAR

TODAY'S PREP SPORTS

Boys Golf
3:30 p.m. Crystal River at Lecanto
3:30 p.m. South Sumter at Seven Rivers

Girls Golf
3:30 p.m. Lecanto at Citrus

Volleyball
7 p.m. Hernando at Crystal River

SEC

Continued from **Page B1**

most in the history of the series. Auburn coach Gene Chizik said schemes had undergone dramatic changes in the last decade as coordinators scrambled to stay ahead or just keep up. "I think offenses have become extremely crafty," Chizik said. "They've got new concepts and different paces in terms of speed of the game and how fast they get lined up. There's just a lot of different ideas out there offensively that have changed in the last six or seven years, really." More offense can mean more excitement for fans — but more headaches for coaches. Just ask South Carolina's Steve Spurrier, who should be happy that his team is No. 10 in the nation, 2-0 overall and in the driver's seat in the Eastern Division after a win over Georgia. But that followed a 56-37 victory over East Carolina. Seeing his team give up 79 points in two games has left

Spurrier unsettled. "I've got to coach better," Spurrier said. "Our assistant coaches have got to coach better." "We can't just stand around and let them lob passes up in the air and over the top of us like is happening in the last two games. We got to get in the fight and knock balls down; we got to get some guys open and hit them throwing." Spurrier looks around and sees other SEC teams in shootouts. No. 21 Auburn has survived a 42-38 win over Utah State and a 41-34 victory over Mississippi State. "We can't win 56-37, 45-42 every week," Spurrier said. "It's just hard to do. Auburn can do it — they know how to do it a lot better than we do. I guess Auburn won about two in a row like that, haven't they?" Tennessee coach Derek Dooley would have made his run-first father, former Georgia coach Vince Dooley, proud when he said, "I'll always be a downhill, power-running team from Day 1." The younger Dooley seems surprised to see his Vols at 2-0 thanks to Tyler

Bray's high-powered passing game. The Vols averaged 358 yards passing and only 127 rushing while scoring more than 40 points in wins over Montana and Cincinnati. Bray passed for 405 yards and four touchdowns in the 45-23 victory over Cincinnati. "If your throwing game is what it looked like last week, you don't need a lot of running game," Dooley said. "But if your quarterback's getting hit, you're getting confused back there and the line's struggling to protect them, you've got to have a running game." Not every team has survived the high-scoring pace. Georgia is 0-2 despite totaling 63 points in two games against teams now in the top 10. Offensive coordinator Mike Bobo says the Bulldogs are committed to their new emphasis on no-huddle formations. Georgia coach Mark Richt said defenses were wearing down late in games against the fast-paced offenses. "I think just about everybody is going more up-tempo pace," Richt said.

RUN

Continued from **Page B1**

second on the team with a time of 23:14. Boyington came in third. She should have a coaching advantage. The very successful and enthusiastic Dan Epstein has returned to Lecanto High after a few years off. Epstein is a marathoner and has coached a number of outstanding Panther girls including some state

ranked teams. The 2011 edition of the Panthers may very well qualify as a team. "Sandy did very well," said Epstein about the senior's first meet performance. "She has been working because she has to. Sandy has taken on the role of leadership." Boyington is hoping a trip to state with a nice finish can earn her an athletic scholarship either to the University of North Florida or the University of South Florida.

That will hopefully help her become a psychologist. Getting to state is the challenge right now. She started running as a sophomore. She can handle the academic heavy lifting. She has a 3.9 grade point average. Boyington happens to love her cross country. "I enjoy the running," she said. "I think state will get me the scholarship." Now, if only she can become a great amateur psychologist and think her way to the state meet.

Local SPORTS BRIEFS

Lecanto sweeps in first match of season; Citrus earns split

The Lecanto Panthers opened their 2011 boys golf season with a bang earning a pair of victories over county rival Citrus and Springstead at World Woods Country Club on Wednesday afternoon. The Panthers shot a 155 in their first match of the year, followed by Citrus (170) and Springstead (171). Leading the way for Lecanto was Skylar Summers with a 1-under par 35, which was good enough for co-low medalist honors with Springstead's Ryan Nicoll. Also figuring in the scoring for Lecanto were Drew Cooke (39), Mark Giardano (40) and Austin Groff (41). The Hurricanes that figured in Citrus' team score were Zach Guf-

ford (40), Dylan Nelson (41), Dalton Homan (43) and Andrew Judd (46). Lecanto's next match, which figures to be a classic, is today against Crystal River. Citrus next match is next Tuesday against Lecanto at the Inverness Golf & Country Club. **Lecanto sweeps Lake Weir** The Lecanto Lady Panthers volleyball team earned a 25-16, 25-23, 25-12, sweep over Lake Weir on Wednesday night. Leading the way for the Panthers were Amber Atkinson (10 kills, 4 aces), Marie Buckley (7 kills, 2 aces) and Kylie Fisk (3 kills, 4 aces). Lecanto's (2-4 overall 0-2 district) next match is on Tuesday at home against Citrus.

Mayweather has problems, but says Ortiz not one

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — His family disputes make interesting reality television. His legal issues could land him in jail. Worse yet for Floyd Mayweather Jr. is that he's getting older by the fight and Manny Pacquiao keeps stealing his spotlight. One place he doesn't expect to have any problems, however, is in the ring Saturday night against Victor Ortiz. "I believe in my skills. I believe in my talent," Mayweather said. "This fight will not go the distance." Mayweather returns to the ring for the first time in 16 months in an intriguing matchup against a young slugger who vows to give him his first loss. He'll make millions to fight Ortiz on pay-per-view, largely because he's found a way to sell himself as must-see TV on HBO's "24/7" series. Oddsmakers don't figure he'll have trouble against Ortiz, and neither do most boxing observers. But Mayweather is 34 now and he

hasn't fought in such a long time that the predictions may be little more than guesses. Ortiz says he has nothing to lose and nothing to fear in the biggest fight of his life. But other fighters have said that, and Mayweather remains 41-0, a fighter who may not be great but has a record that makes him look close to it. "I'm going to finish you off," Mayweather told Ortiz at Wednesday's final pre-fight news conference at the MGM Grand hotel. Mayweather said he was already at the 147-pound weight limit for the welterweight title that Ortiz won by upsetting Andre Berto in his last fight, which is not surprising since Mayweather is never out of shape. But there are questions even inside his own camp about the length of his layoff and the advance of age that eventually claims every fighter. The last time out Mayweather had a soft touch against an aging Shane

Mosley, who stung him in the second round only to fight to survive the rest of the way. This time he has a 24-year-old in front of him full of confidence after a fight he desperately needed to right his career. "America wants to see change, and change is coming soon," Ortiz said. For those who followed the "24/7" plot over the past three weeks, the Ortiz story is a simple one. He overcame the odds of being abandoned by his parents to become a boxer who fights with the same intensity with which he lives. Given up by many boxing fans for giving up in his fight two years ago against Marcos Maidana, Ortiz righted his career by coming back from two knockdowns in a gutsy fight to beat Berto and win the welterweight title in April. "He has a real heart," promoter Oscar De La Hoya said. "He's a fighter who has been down and always gets back up. Every opponent he's faced has touched the canvas."

PGA

Continued from **Page B1**

choose from that probably could do the job, and maybe if they just start over, it could turn into something special. "But tee to green and the property, it's got really great potential," he added. "I'd love to see Gil Hanse or a Crenshaw-Coore or Kyle Phillips or David Kidd — or guys that really know what they're doing — come in and create something special here because I think that's what the family and this facility deserves." The BMW Championship, which starts Thursday, is the third FedEx Cup playoff event for the 70 remaining players. The top 30 in the standings after this week advance to the Tour Championship with a shot at the \$10 million prize. Geoff Ogilvy is happy to be here. He had to make birdie on the final hole of the Deutsche Bank Championship last week just to get into the top 70. It was a clutch moment, and a relief, for Ogilvy who is also trying to play his way onto the Presidents Cup team. His reaction upon making it? "I got rewarded with a trip to Cog Hill," Ogilvy said, the sarcasm easy to read. Few other players have such a keen eye on architecture than Ogilvy. His assess-

ment last year was that if Jones wanted a course that was really hard, then he succeeded, and if he wanted one that was enjoyable to play, then he failed. He described it Wednesday as "kind of the same as last year, just long and hard and really quite narrow in spots." Ultimately, that doesn't matter. Everyone has to play the course, whether they think it's among the best or the worst they play. Stricker and David Toms both shared stories of winning on courses they didn't particularly enjoy at first sight — Toms twice at Kingsmill (no longer on the schedule), Stricker at Colonial. "It's easier when you go to a course and you're inspired by the course," Ogilvy said. "Like when Phil gets to Augusta, he switches into a different mode. I'm the same. This is quite similar to a lot of courses we play on tour, so we should be used to it — long par 3s, long, rough, don't miss the fairway." The BMW Championship is run by Western Golf Association, which supports the successful Evans Scholars program for caddies. It has a history of moving around the country, which it will do starting next year. The tournament moves to Crooked Stick in Indiana — the Ryder Cup will be in Chicago a month later — and it will go to Cherry Hills in Denver in 2014. It is to return to

Chicago in 2013, with Conway Farms in the northern suburbs on the short list of courses. Plenty is at stake this week, whether Cog Hill is a favorite or a course they can't wait to leave. Ogilvy and Ernie Els are at the lower end of the FedEx Cup list and need to finish among the top five or six to advance to the Tour Championship. Els has never missed going to East Lake in the FedEx Cup era. Webb Simpson, a winner on the TPC Boston, is No. 1 in the standings and assured of being among the top five at East Lake. The leading five players only have to win the Tour Championship to collect the \$10 million bonus, no matter what anyone else does. Simpson is followed by Dustin Johnson, who won the Barclays and is the defending champion at the BMW Championship. The next three are Matt Kuchar, world No. 1 Luke Donald and Brandt Snedeker. The other "cup" on the line is the Presidents Cup. This is the final week to qualify for the team, and it's close on both the American and International sides. Jim Furyk is at No. 9, slightly ahead of Toms and Snedeker. On the International list, Ogilvy is at No. 10, barely ahead of Louis Oosthuizen, while Vijay Singh and the Aussie duo of Aaron Baddeley and Robert Alenby still have a chance.

SOCCER

Continued from **Page B1**

someone do so well in professional sports. It's really an achievement coming through Citrus County," Soluri concludes. Cunningham is currently living in Ohio with his wife and 3-year-old daughter. To see him break the MLS goal-scoring record, check out clbrv.com or facebook.com/columbuscrew.



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COMING TOMORROW



YOUTH SPORTS

COMING SATURDAY



ADULT LEAGUE SPORTS

COMING TUESDAY



CITRUS COUNTY SPEEDWAY

COMING WEDNESDAY



HITTING THE LINKS

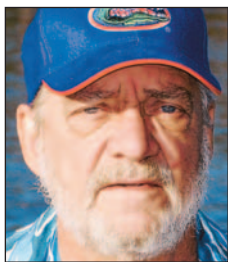


GET IN THE GAME

Page B5- THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2011

Corals fill key ecological niche

Anyone who was in Florida and awake during the winter of 2010 is aware of the large number of fish kills that occurred throughout the state, and of that extreme cold spell's effect on manatees and other animals — including, as a rare positive effect, some of the invasive species



R.G. Schmidt
TIGHT LINES

browsers and grazers will feed off the new growth — even if it means those browsers and grazers will be themselves replaced by other species.

There is no "other" coral. Coral fits into the system in several ways — not only does it feed some species directly, it supplies hiding places for small species of marine life, and for the animals and plants that marine life consumes.

Unseen by most, the cold also did extensive damage to marine corals — which are at constant risk anyway, being in the extreme northern portion of their range. More than simply extensive, the mortality rates from the cold were higher than those resulting from any other event on record, according to a report released last month. Until that cold wave, the worst coral kill had occurred during the summer of 2005, due to warm-weather bleaching. "Bleaching" is the term used when corals become stressed and expel the protozoa that help keep them alive.

The kill during the 2010 winter was a major setback, according to Diego Lirman, a professor of marine and atmospheric science at the University of Miami who performed the study of the winter's effect on coral beds.

"Centuries-old coral beds were lost in a matter of days," he said. The death rate for corals rocketed to 11.5 percent, compared with less than one-half a percent in the previous five summers. Researchers found mortality rates hit 40 percent in some coral species, and many corals that had proved resilient to unusually hot temperatures earlier in the year were killed off when water temperatures dropped to barely more than 50 degrees in early January.

According to Lirman, this was the single worst event on record for Florida corals. In addition to being in jeopardy because of their location in the northernmost reaches of their range, corals are threatened by factors such as pollution, coastal development, over-fishing and disease — some of which are within human control. No part of the ecology is isolated from any other part, except under the most cursory examination. Deeper investigation reveals all parts are intertwined and interdependent; what affects one part affects all parts. Corals are no more and no less important in the grand scheme of things than any other system, but they are unique in some ways.

If one form of vegetation dies off, odds are it will be replaced by another species of vegetation, and the

As Lirman pointed out in his report, some of the dangers to coral reefs are under human control. Unfortunately, people can't always be counted on to do what's in the best interest of the ecology without some encouragement — such as avoiding fines.

The fact that there are no large coral reefs in this area, except for a few deep-water species far out in the Gulf, should not make us indifferent to the damage to southern coral reefs. It all ties together, and all species depend on coral in one way or another, much as all species depend on our shallow-water nurseries — even those that spend their entire adult life far from shore. Let's hope the Powers That Be do what's necessary to protect corals while they try to rebound from that devastating winter of 2010.

Believe it or not, the Nature Coast is transitioning from summer to fall, and changes are coming soon. Hard to believe, with daytime temperatures still hovering in the 90s, but it's true. Night temperatures are already noticeably cooler, and that means inshore waters are also starting to cool down. Trout and other species that have been spending time farther from shore in deeper, cooler water will be returning to the flats to join those who stuck it out over the summer. This means there will soon be some really fine sight-fishing for reds and trout, and that in turn means topwater plugs will take fish in the early morning and late afternoon/early evening hours.

The flats between the Homosassa River and Chassahowitzka Point continue to give up nice trout on the incoming tide, as does the area around Mangrove Point. Tails in glow, new penny, root beer and watermelon red flake fished under a Cajun Thunder or D.O.A. Deadly Combo should produce well, and if the time of day is right, don't forget those topwater baits. Injured minnow lures such as the Devil Horse or the Heddon Injured Minnow should work well, as will the old standbys such as the Zara Spook.

Looking forward to fall

Those of us who have spent more than one or two years in the Sunshine State know that summer begrudgingly gives way to autumn in the Deep South.

Temperatures of more than 90 degrees have been the norm for months, and temperatures will surely be hot for some time to come. But a change is coming.

I don't know how many of you have taken the opportunity to poke your heads out of the house before sunrise, but the death grip summer has had on our temperatures is beginning to loosen. I think — at least I hope — those pre-dawn temperatures in the mid-80s have left the building and won't return for several months.

This weekend as I sat in a boat on the Withlacoochee River waiting for a bass tournament to begin, I took a few minutes to soak in and appreciate the refreshing temperature that I'm sure was in the low 70s. That's something I haven't felt in far too long.

Those few early morning minutes of cooler temperatures and less humidity prior to the sun cracking across the sky are a welcome relief from a very long, very hot summer.

Autumn, which officially begins on Sept. 23, brings with it a new set of outdoor opportunities, and many will replace their fishing equipment with muzzle-loaders, bows and shotguns.

For those who won't be preparing for the hunting season, two important dates need to be marked.

The gag grouper season will open tomorrow in state and federal waters after being closed during all of 2011. That season will last from Sept. 16 through Nov. 15. There are numerous requirements and equipment that boat operators need to possess while fishing for grouper off our coastline. Go to www.myfwc.com for information on requirements.

Another popular season that was extended this year will be coming to a close next weekend. Scallopers will have another 10 days to pursue the marine mollusk.

Sept. 25 is the last day for scallops to be harvested.

I want to thank those of you who have been sending in photos of your catch throughout the year, and as many transition from fishing to hunting, I want to encourage readers to send in photos of your hunting exploits, too.



Special to the Chronicle
Casey Jones displays an oversized redfish he recently caught while using a 1/8-ounce jig tipped with a shrimp. The fish, which was released after a photo, was caught in Johnson Bay.



Special to the Chronicle
Hunter Russon of St. Petersburg proudly displays some of the scallops he collected with his mother and father on a recent outing with Capt. Rick Burns of Reel Burns Charters.

CHRONICLE

Tide charts

	Chassahowitzka*		Crystal River**		Homosassa***		Withlacoochee*	
	High/Low		High/Low		High/Low		High/Low	
THURS 9/15	7:31 a.m.	3:29 p.m.	5:52 a.m.	1:18 p.m.	6:41 a.m.	2:28 a.m.	3:39 a.m.	11:05 p.m.
FRI 9/16	7:56 a.m.	3:55 a.m.	6:17 a.m.	1:52 p.m.	7:06 a.m.	2:54 a.m.	4:04 a.m.	11:40 a.m.
SAT 9/17	8:24 a.m.	4:24 a.m.	6:45 a.m.	11:06 p.m.	7:34 a.m.	3:23 a.m.	4:32 a.m.	12:18 a.m.
SUN 9/18	8:56 a.m.	4:55 a.m.	7:00 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	8:06 a.m.	3:54 a.m.	5:04 a.m.	1:02 p.m.
MON 9/19	9:37 a.m.	5:33 a.m.	7:58 a.m.	4:11 p.m.	8:47 a.m.	4:32 a.m.	5:45 a.m.	12:43 a.m.
TUES 9/20	10:32 a.m.	6:24 a.m.	8:53 a.m.	5:25 p.m.	9:42 a.m.	5:23 a.m.	6:40 a.m.	1:34 a.m.
WED 9/21	1:14 a.m.	7:42 a.m.	10:13 a.m.	6:49 p.m.	12:24 a.m.	6:41 a.m.	8:00 a.m.	2:52 a.m.

*From mouths of rivers. **At Kings Bay. ***At Mason's Creek.

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ENTERTAINMENT

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

Spotlight on PEOPLE

Court tosses 'Bruno' lawsuit

LOS ANGELES — A lawsuit accusing **Sacha Baron Cohen** of causing injuries to a woman during the filming of "Bruno" should be dismissed because the comedian was exercising his right to free speech when the mishap occurred, an appeals court has ruled.

The 2nd District Court of Appeal said Monday that the finding prevents **Baron Cohen** from being sued by the woman who tried to force him and his crew from an event being filmed.

Richelle Olson sued Baron Cohen in June 2009, claiming she fell and hit her head moments after struggling with the comedian and his crew as she ordered him to leave a charity bingo game.

Her injuries were serious enough to require Olson to use a cane to walk, according to the lawsuit.

Will Ferrell salute Oct. 23 in DC

WASHINGTON — **Jack Black, Conan O'Brien and Larry King** will

honor **Will Ferrell** with the nation's top humor prize, along with **Maya Rudolph and Molly Shannon** from his "Saturday Night Live" days.

On Wednesday, the Kennedy Center in Washington announced a lineup of star comedians who will perform in Ferrell's honor for the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. They'll salute him Oct. 23 in a performance taped for broadcast Oct. 31 on PBS stations nationwide.

Ferrell's longtime collaborator **Adam McKay** from the films "Anchorman," "Talladega Nights" and "The Other Guys" will appear, as well as **Lorne Michaels, Paul Rudd, John C. Reilly** and the rock band Green Day.

Turn to the left



Associated Press

Spring 2012 fashion from Anna Sui is modeled Wednesday during Fashion Week in New York.

—From wire reports

New equation



AP Photo/World Wide Pants Inc. via CBS

The co-stars of "Two and a Half Men," from left, **Jon Cryer, Angus T. Jones and Ashton Kutcher**, appear on satellite from California to present the "Top Ten Reasons to Watch the New Season of 'Two and a Half Men'" on the "Late Show with David Letterman," Thursday, Sept. 8, in New York.

Minus Sheen, plus Kutcher, 'Two and a Half Men' aiming for lasting laughs

Associated Press

BURBANK, Calif. — The stars of CBS' "Two and a Half Men" are scrutinizing a publicity photo depicting them as a tuxedo-clad trio sharing a vintage microphone.

Ashton Kutcher is in the center of the shot, flanked by Jon Cryer and Angus T. Jones.

Charlie Sheen, of course, is out of the picture.

"It's nice," offered Cryer, adding a query to Jones: "But that's not your hand, is it? I believe they had too big a black spot there and they photoshopped in a hand."

"That's not my head, is it?" said Kutcher.

Oh, those kidders. But the silliness carries a message: The three actors are a comfortable fit with each other and for the revamped "Two and a Half Men," which returns Sept. 19 at 9 p.m. for its ninth season, minus the fired Sheen.

Executive producer Chuck Lorre and the Warner Bros. studio clashed bitterly with their erratic, hard-partying star before dumping him last March and cutting the season short.

The task now is to salvage what has reigned as TV's top-rated comedy.

Kutcher, who carries the weight

of replacing Sheen as newly introduced character Walden Schmidt, diligently ticks off reasons the sitcom can remain a hit.

"The series has momentum. It has fans that are built in," he said. "I think the great thing the writers have done is they haven't lost the sensibility of the show. ... It's going to offend people just as much as every episode has offended people."

"Two and a Half Men" accomplished that by trafficking in sexual jokes and innuendo as it detailed the antics of fast-living womanizing cad Charlie Harper (Sheen).

More fodder came from his roommates, Charlie's neurotic, divorced brother Alan (Cryer) and young nephew Jake (Jones).

The shake-up has given the show the chance to push the envelope in a new direction: laughing in the face of death, with Sheen's character jettisoned in a fatal accident.

Kutcher fills the vacuum playing an Internet genius who is wealthy but unlucky in love and who moves in with Alan and Jake, creating a new buddy triangle. Judy Greer plays the heartbroken Walden's ex.

Producers have been trying, sometimes unsuccessfully, to keep details of the reconstituted show under wraps. Kutcher, who sports a

beard in the role, plays it coy when asked about the facial hair.

"You got to ask the writers. We're not allowed to talk about the beard," he says, then relents. "I was being really lazy when I met Chuck and he said, 'I like the beard. Keep the beard.'"

Cryer learned about Charlie Harper's demise in an operation worthy of the CIA.

"There was tremendous security during the whole thing and, in fact, no scripts were sent out. You were brought to Warner (Warner Bros. Television), taken into a room with the scripts, left there for half an hour by yourself and then you had to leave the script in the room and walk out," he recounted.

Cryer and his co-stars, who took a break from production for a joint interview at the studio, say that it's all smooth sailing now.

"We've definitely found our dynamic," Kutcher said.

Cryer agreed, lauding the show's writers and his new co-star.

"That came remarkably quick. I think we got a lot of great stuff in the first episode," he said. "The writers got hold of a good dynamic, plus he (Kutcher) changed it in a way that works better than the writers had originally imagined."

Lady Antebellum drops new album

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The members of Lady Antebellum get asked a difficult question all the time: When are you going to write another hit like "Need You Now"?

That's a little like asking if they can pick a set of winning lottery numbers — twice.

The probability of achieving one worldwide hit is astronomical. But two?

"How could we ever do that?" singer Charles Kelley said. "That was a once-in-a-lifetime song. But I think we'll continue to have success if we stay true to ourselves and our fans, our core audience, which is the country music audience. We're very flattered that more people are into us, but (pop music is) a genre and a world where it's much more, 'in one day and out the next.' As long as our

country fans still dig what we're doing, we'll hopefully be here for a long time."

That kind of even-handed approach has guided Lady Antebellum through one of the most difficult periods any band must navigate — instant stardom.

"Need You Now" catapulted the trio from a well-regarded young country act with plenty of promise to multiplatinum international pop stars.

They toured places like Australia and New Zealand, with fans shouting their lyrics back at them from the last row, and have needed translators for some of their interviews.

They earned a room full of trophies, including that most surreal night when they won five Grammys, including record and song of the year for "Need You Now."

They became the go-to act for national anthems and



Associated Press

The country music group **Lady Antebellum** pictured, from left, **Dave Haywood, Hillary Scott, and Charles Kelley**, on Aug. 9 in Nashville, Tenn.

guest appearances, climbed the country music ladder from opening act to headliner and pushed into the pop music world like few country acts before.

As they release their third album, "Own the Night," this week, Kelley, Hillary Scott and Dave Haywood are philosophical about their expectations.

Florida LOTTERIES

SO YOU KNOW

■ Last night's winning numbers, **Page B4.**

TUESDAY, SEPT. 13

Mega Money: 8 - 27 - 29 - 38
Mega Ball: 21

4-of-4 MB No winner

4-of-4 5 \$1,323.50

3-of-4 MB 36 \$402.50

3-of-4 941 \$46

2-of-4 MB 1,195 \$25

1-of-4 MB 10,628 \$2.50

2-of-4 27,144 \$2

Fantasy 5: 8 - 10 - 11 - 15 - 16

5-of-5 No winners

4-of-5 379 \$555

3-of-5 10,802 \$11

MONDAY, SEPT. 12

Fantasy 5: 15 - 18 - 23 - 24 - 26

5-of-5 No winners

4-of-5 310 \$555

3-of-5 9,003 \$8

SUNDAY, SEPT. 11

Fantasy 5: 1 - 11 - 12 - 18 - 19

5-of-5 3 \$57,702.16

4-of-5 336 \$83

3-of-5 9,499 \$8

INSIDE THE NUMBERS

■ To verify the accuracy of winning lottery numbers, players should double-check the numbers printed above with numbers officially posted by the Florida Lottery. Go to www.flalottery.com, or call (850) 487-7777.

Today in HISTORY

Today is Thursday, Sept. 15, the 258th day of 2011. There are 107 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight:

On Sept. 15, 1961, the U.S. began Operation Nougat, a series of underground nuclear explosions in the Nevada Test Site, two weeks after the Soviet Union resumed testing its nuclear weapons.

On this date:

In 1935, the Nuremberg Laws deprived German Jews of their citizenship.

In 1940, during the World War II Battle of Britain, the tide turned as the Royal Air Force inflicted heavy losses against the Luftwaffe.

In 1981, the Senate Judiciary Committee voted unanimously to approve the Supreme Court nomination of Sandra Day O'Connor.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush ordered U.S. troops to get ready for war and braced Americans for a long, difficult assault against terrorists to avenge the Sept. 11 attack. Beleaguered Afghans streamed out of Kabul, fearing a U.S. military strike against Taliban rulers harboring Osama bin Laden.

Five years ago: Ford Motor Co. took drastic steps to remold itself into a smaller, more competitive company, slashing thousands of jobs and shuttering two additional plants.

One year ago: A mortar attack by Palestinian militants and airstrikes by Israel provided a grim backdrop as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas ended their latest round of peace talks still divided on major issues.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Forrest Compton is 86. Comedian Norm Crosby is 84. Actor Henry Darrow is 78. Opera singer Jessye Norman is 66. Writer-director Ron Shelton is 66. Actor Tommy Lee Jones is 65. Movie director Oliver Stone is 65. Football Hall-of-Famer Dan Marino is 50. Actor Danny Nucci is 43. Actor Josh Charles is 40. Pop-rock musician Zach Filkins (OneRepublic) is 33. Actor Dave Annable is 32. Actress Amy Davidson is 32. Britain's Prince Harry of Wales is 27. TV personality Heidi Montag is 25.

Thought for Today: "You cannot survive if you do not know the past." — Oriana Fallaci, Italian journalist (1929-2006).

Today's HOROSCOPE

Today's Birthday: A couple of contacts you've developed over the years might find themselves in positions of importance in the year ahead, and will be able to help you out in new and exciting ways. They'll be happy to share the wealth.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — You won't go unnoticed, but just be sure you're attracting attention for all the right reasons. Make certain you're not being too self-serving or merely showing off.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — When it comes to an agreement you're attempting to facilitate, you can expedite things by making some minor concessions. Set the example; you'll get what you want.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Be careful not to lock horns if you have to work in close proximity with someone who, like yourself, has his or her own way of doing things. Try to be accommodating.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — This might be one of those days when you could come off as being a bit one-sided with others. If you see something is amiss, adjust your scales to restore proper balance.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Before becoming unduly agitated with anybody, total up this person's pros and cons. There's a good chance you will find more to praise than condemn.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — If you hope to be successful, your objectives must first be clearly defined. If all you have are fuzzy outlines, don't start anything without developing a game plan.

Pisces (Feb. 20-March 20) — It could turn out to be an expensive recess, if on a whim you decide to take a day off. There is likely to be an opportunity awaiting you at work that you won't want to miss.

Aries (March 21-April 19) — Just because those who love

you tolerate your anger or outbursts, it doesn't give you license to vent excessively. Get hold of yourself and behave in a civil manner.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Don't be your own worst enemy and read more into what people do or say than intended. All you'll do is make yourself miserable by falsely thinking that others harbor you ill will.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) — Assess the cost in terms of time and money before committing yourself to a group involvement. If the figures look like they're adding up to a hefty sum, you might want to gracefully bow out.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) — Figure out if the reason why things aren't going too well for you lately is simply due to poor timing, or something far more serious. Get all your ducks in a row before moving forward.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Those with whom you're involved will respond to you in the manner you treat them.



Beyond pies, sauces

Abundance of uses for apples in savory recipes as well as sweet treat



Associated Press

Apple kielbasa bake is a way to use up all those bushels you bring home.



Julianne Munn
OVER EASY

Easy, tasty afternoon snacks

If the school-age children in your families are anything like mine were, the first thing they look for when they walk in the door is a tasty snack. So this week the focus is on how to deal with that age-old question: "What is there to eat?"

Post-school-age folks often wonder the same thing, of course. Hope the following recipes satisfy the question.

I don't recall where I found this recipe, but how easy can it get? I usually stay away from food titles with "fingers," (such as chicken fingers), but on this one I yielded:

PECAN FINGERS

- 1 cup Bisquick
- 1/4 cup soft butter or margarine
- 1/4 cup chopped pecans
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla or almond extract
- 3 tablespoons boiling water

Heat oven to 375 degrees. In mixing bowl, blend Bisquick, butter, nuts, sugar and flavoring. Stir vigorously with fork until dough forms a ball and cleans the bowl.

Shape dough into 24 "fingers" 2 1/2 inches long. Place on ungreased baking sheet. Bake 10 to 12 minutes. While warm, roll each finger in granulated or confectioners' sugar.

SOUTHERN CHEESE STRAWS

- 1/2 cup butter, softened (1 stick)
- 10 ounces sharp or extra-sharp cheddar grated (for best results, grate your own)
- 1/2 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- Pinch of cayenne pepper
- 1 cup sifted all-purpose flour

Heat oven to 375 degrees. Cream butter. Mix in cheese, Worcestershire sauce and cayenne; stir to blend.

Slowly stir in flour until blended. Turn onto a lightly floured work surface and shape dough into a roll. Cover in plastic wrap and chill for several hours.

When chilled, slice dough in four pieces lengthwise. Roll each piece until it is as thin as a drinking straw. Slice into straw lengths and place on a lightly greased cookie sheet. Bake in preheated oven at 375 degrees for 10 to 15 minutes, or until golden brown and semi-crisp. (You can also twist the dough sticks before baking, if desired). Makes about 4 dozen straws.

SOFT SUGAR COOKIES

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup butter
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/2 teaspoon almond extract
- 1 egg
- 2 1/3 cups all purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda

See EASY/Page C2

Fresh fruit useful in savory meal or sweet snack

ALISON LADMAN
 For The Associated Press

With the onset of apple season, it's time to start thinking about ways to use up all those bushels you bring home.

While sauces and pies are a fine start, it's also easy to get creative with how we cook apples. And you don't need to limit yourself to sweets. We start you off with a roasted savory medley of apples, potatoes, Brussels sprouts and kielbasa. If you like, top it with shredded cheese a few minutes before it's done.

For something that straddles the sweet-savory line, try the apple-cheddar puffs, a rich and cheesy pastry puff filled with apple compote. Then bring it back to all sweet by dipping whole apples in a melted chocolate-peanut butter blend.

Need yet another savory seasonal idea? Combine chopped apples with cubed butternut squash. Add plenty of chicken broth, then simmer until the squash is tender. Season as desired, then puree until thick and creamy for an amazing soup.

APPLE KIELBASA BAKE

- 4 cups Brussels sprouts, halved
- 1 large red onion, cut into chunks
- 16-ounce kielbasa, sliced in



Apple cheddar puffs are a rich and cheesy pastry filled with apple compote.

- 1/2-inch-thick rounds
- 2 large Yukon Gold potatoes, cut into chunks
- 2 baking apples, such as Cortland, peeled, cored and cut into chunks
- 6 carrots, peeled and cut into chunks
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 teaspoons dried sage
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper

Heat the oven to 400 F. In a large bowl, toss together the Brussels sprouts, onion, kielbasa, potatoes, apples and carrots. Drizzle the oil over the mixture, then toss again. Sprinkle in the sage, salt and pepper. Transfer the mixture to a large, rimmed baking sheet, arranging it in an even layer. Bake for 45 minutes, or until everything starts to caramelize and brown at the edges. From start to finish, it takes an hour (15 minutes active) and serves six.

CHOCOLATE PEANUT BUTTER COVERED APPLES

- 3 ounces heavy cream
- 2 tablespoons creamy peanut butter
- 6 ounces bittersweet chocolate bits
- 4 apples (any variety)
- 4 wooden pop sticks
- Chopped salted peanuts (optional)
- Chopped milk chocolate (optional)

In a small saucepan over medium-low, heat the cream and peanut butter until bubbling. Remove the pan from the heat and add the chocolate bits. Stir until completely smooth. Set aside to cool for 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, from the bottom, push a pop stick up into the core of each apple. The stick should go deep enough to be sturdy, but leave enough exposed to serve as a handle.

Line a baking sheet with waxed paper. Place the peanuts and/or milk chocolate in bowls, if using.

One at a time, using the sticks handles, dip the apples in the chocolate mixture. Use a spoon to scoop up extra chocolate and pour over the apples to help coat the sides. Allow the extra chocolate to drip back into the pan. Dip the coated apples into the nuts and milk chocolate, if desired.

Stand the apples, stick in the air, on the lined baking sheet. Refrigerate until firm.

From start to finish, it takes 30 minutes (10 minutes active) and serves four.

See APPLES/Page C2

Spicing up apple season in savory sort of way

J.M. HIRSCH
 AP Food Editor

This time of year, my son would gladly eat nothing but applesauce. Especially if he got to pick the apples that went into it.

But healthy as they may be, apples alone do not make a proper diet. So rather than indulge his constant desire for applesauce, I decided to integrate an apple sauce into a dinner he was sure to love.

It worked in part because apples are such a versatile fruit. They take to savory flavors as easily as sweet. To help blur the line even further, I used seasonings that we traditionally think of as sweet, but can do double duty as savory, such as cinnamon.

The result was a delicious skillet chicken dish bathed in a sweet-and-savory sauce of apples and onions. Even better, it was on the table in

30 minutes. Because who wants to spend time cooking when there are more apples to pick?

CURRIED APPLE CHICKEN SAUTE

- 2 tablespoons butter, divided
- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts, pounded to an even 1/2-inch thickness
- Salt and ground black pepper
- 1 medium yellow onion, diced
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon curry powder
- 1/4 teaspoon smoked paprika
- 2 baking apples (such as Granny Smith or Cortland), peeled, cored and finely chopped
- 2 tablespoons cider

- vinegar
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch

In a large skillet over medium-high heat, melt 1 tablespoon of the butter. Season the chicken on both sides with salt and pepper, then add half of it to the pan. Cook for 3 minutes per side, then transfer to a plate. Add the remaining tablespoon of butter and repeat with the remaining chicken. Transfer the second batch of chicken to the plate, cover with foil and set aside.

Return the skillet to the heat and add the onion. Sauté for 4 minutes, then add the cinnamon, curry powder and smoked paprika. Sauté for 30 seconds, then add the apples. Toss well to coat the apples with the seasonings, then cover the pan, reduce the heat to low, and cook for 5 minutes,



Associated Press

Curried apple chicken sauté works in part because apples are such a versatile fruit.

or until the apples are tender but not mushy.

Uncover the pan and stir in the vinegar. In a small glass, mix together the water and cornstarch, then add to the skillet. Stir, then bring to a simmer. Return the chicken to the skillet, cover with the sauce, then cover

the skillet and cook for 6 to 8 minutes, or until the sauce has thickened and the chicken is fully cooked. Season with salt and pepper.

Serve the chicken with the apple sauce spooned over it. From start to finish, it takes 30 minutes and serves four.

APPLES

Continued from Page C1

APPLE CHEDDAR PUFFS

For the puffs:

- 1 cup water
 - 6 tablespoons unsalted butter
 - 1 teaspoon salt
 - 1 1/3 cup all-purpose flour
 - 5 eggs
 - 1 cup grated extra-sharp cheddar cheese
- For the filling:**
- 4 Golden Delicious apples, peeled, cored and diced
 - 1/4 cup sugar
 - 1 teaspoon grated fresh ginger
 - 1 tablespoon lemon juice
 - Pinch salt
 - 1/2 cup water, divided
 - 1 tablespoon cornstarch



Associated Press

Chocolate peanut butter-covered apples take about 30 minutes to make.

Heat the oven to 425 F. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper.

In a medium saucepan over medium-high, heat the water, butter and salt until boiling. Add the flour and stir vigorously with a wooden spoon until the mixture comes away from the sides of the pan and forms and ball of dough, about 1 minute.

Transfer the dough to the bowl of an electric mixer. Mix with the paddle attachment for 1 minute. Add the eggs, one at a time, waiting until fully incorporated before adding the next. When all of the eggs have been incorporated, mix in the cheese.

Spoon the mixture into a large zip-close bag with the corner cut off (or a pastry bag). Gently squeeze the bag to create walnut-size mounds on the prepared baking sheets, leaving 2 inches between each mound. Bake for 10 minutes, then lower the oven to 375 F and bake for another 15 minutes, or until golden brown.

Remove the puffs from the oven and pierce the side of each to allow steam to escape. Cool completely, then use or store in an airtight container up to 24 hours.

While the puffs bake, make the filling. In a medium saucepan over medium-high, cook the apples, sugar, ginger, lemon juice, salt and 2 tablespoons

of the water just until the apples are tender, about 6 minutes. In a glass, stir together the remaining 2 tablespoons water and the cornstarch, then add to the apples. Bring up to a simmer and cook just until the mixture thickens, about 1 to 2 minutes. Allow to cool slightly before using. The mixture also can be refrigerated up to 24 hours prior to add to the puffs. If so, re-warm just before using.

To fill the puffs, cut each in half horizontally. Spoon a small amount of the filling into the bottom of the shell, then replace the top half of the shell. Serve warm or at room temperature.

From start to finish, it takes 45 minutes and makes 24 puffs.

EASY

Continued from Page C1

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Beat together butter and sugar on low speed of mixer until light and fluffy. Stir in flavorings and egg. Mix, stir in flour and baking soda. Using a small cookie scoop or two spoons, shape

dough into balls. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto ungreased cookie sheet, 2 inches apart. Press cookie down slightly to flatten using the bottom of a glass which has been dipped in sugar. Colored or white sugar may be used.

Bake for 9 to 11 minutes, just until cookies have set. Remove cookies to a wire rack to cool.

Tips: Do not over-bake cookies; watch closely near the end of baking time. For softer cookies, add a tablespoon of sour cream, yogurt or buttermilk. Makes approximately 4 dozen cookies, depending on size.

Julianne Munn can be reached at jmunn2@tampabay.rr.com.

Overdue laundry day, emptying out garden

Today, Sept. 12, is Jacob and Emma's oldest daughter Elizabeth's 15th birthday. She is done with her school years now and Emma is glad to have her help at home.

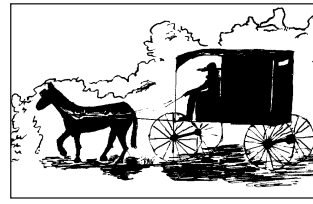
We are getting back into the school routine. Listening to the younger children read their books and helping the older ones with their homework is how we spend our nights now.

Kevin, 6, seems to be handling the full day of kindergarten well. Needless to say, it doesn't take him long to fall asleep when bedtime comes. On Thursday, I will take Verena to the hospital to get her cast removed. After five weeks, she is more than ready to have it off. She has it covered with a lot of signatures.

After a cloudy morning, the sun came out Friday, making a nice wedding day for Glenn and Miriam. Miriam is a girl from our church district, but she and Glenn plan to make their home in a neighboring church district. The wedding services were on one end of a new large pole building.

On the other end, tables were set to serve the dinner. Their wedding dinner menu consisted of homemade bread, butter and strawberry jam, mashed potatoes, gravy, dressing, meatballs, corn, pasta salad, angel food cake, pumpkin and peanut butter pies and grape pudding. Candy bars were also passed around. It is always interesting to see the little children's faces light up when they see the candy bars.

We plan to do laundry today. We had rainy weather the latter part of last week. So, we couldn't get our laundry done. I usually try to do a laundry twice a week. But today, we will have an extra large laundry because of last week's rain. The sun is



Lovina Eicher
THE AMISH COOK

shining and it looks like a very nice drying day.

On Saturday, we assisted Emma and Jacob with their work. Church services will be there Sept 25. Joe, Jacob and the boys hauled manure all day while the girls, Emma and I cleaned her basement. We cleaned all her canned jars of food and washed off the shelves. The girls and I plan to go help again this week.

Joe is on four-day weeks at the factory now, and he will be home Friday. The last week in September he doesn't have any work. So maybe, he will get the garden tilled while he is home.

I still have red beets I need to pull and make into pickled beets. We still have tomatoes, peppers and popcorn, but otherwise my garden is pretty much history for 2011. This is the first year we have tried growing popcorn. We'll be interested to see how it turns out.

My jalapeno and serrano peppers are still doing well. I want to make homemade hot pepper butter soon. I won't add as many hot peppers as the recipe calls for so it is not too hot for the children.

We ordered our coal for the winter. Joe wants to get the coal stove hooked up for when the cold weather sets in. One morning last week, our thermometer showed 45 degrees. Winter is on its way. The mornings are cool and the heat from our propane lights feels good.

Another job needing to be done soon is making grape juice. I need to call the local

U-pick orchard to see when the grapes will be ready to pick. We are almost out of rhubarb juice, so it will be nice to have homemade grape juice on hand.

Another refreshing drink we look forward to each fall is cider. Cold cider and popcorn is always a favorite.

I need to get busy. It is just too nice outside to be sitting in the house writing. There is also plenty of work that needs to get done.

God's blessings to all. I made this cabbage soup last week, so I will share the recipe.

HOMEMADE CABBAGE SOUP

- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 nice head of red cabbage, shredded
- 1 to 1 1/2 pounds browned and drained hamburger
- 1 can red kidney beans
- 1 quart tomato juice
- Salt, pepper, and garlic and seasoning salt to taste

Combine ingredients in a deep pan and simmer for 1 1/2 to 2 hours covered. The longer it simmers the better it tastes.

If you want, use half red onion and half yellow onion and use half red cabbage and half green cabbage to give it a great look and texture.

Lovina Eicher and her husband, Joe, are raising eight children on their rural Michigan homestead. Lovina inherited the Amish Cook column from her mother, Elizabeth Coblentz. For information about the Amish Cook, or to ask a question, write The Amish Cook, P.O. BOX 157, Middletown, OH 45042 or visit www.oasisnewsfeatures.com

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Varying segments of wine drinkers

What kind of wine drinker are you: a Wagnerian or a Martian? Allow me to explain.

Philip Wagner was an American winemaker active in the period just after World War II, an era in which Americans were still holding their heads over a post-Prohibition hangover.

He founded Boordy Vineyards in Maryland and was a highly regarded figure in the then-baby American wine world. Wagner's notion held wine is everyman's drink and not just a privilege of the elite. There was nothing wrong with having a great bottle of wine now and then, but daily pleasure at a reasonable price was more important than occasional splurging.

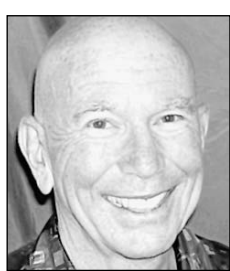
Martin Ray entered the winemaking business in California upset by American wine culture. He believed such customs were largely large non-existent — a non-culture, if you will. Ray purchased the once-great Paul Masson in 1935 just after repeal, and proceeded at a fanatical pace to create outstanding quality products at prices unheard of in those days of deep national depression.

Ray, even before the advent of Robert Mondavi, was perhaps the first American wine person to introduce the notion of varietal wines, such as cabernet and chardonnay, as opposed to the cheap-as-dirt generic labels red burgundy and white Chablis. His efforts, sadly, were short-lived. A fire put him out of business and Paul Masson went on to become a corporate mass-market product (owned today by giant Constellation brands).

What gentle readers need to understand are the two approaches to marketing wine: Grapes, after all, are a natural fruit product no different than strawberry jam. So why should it cost \$40 a bottle, or sell in restaurants for triple an entrée price?

Given the Martin Ray approach, it is unlikely wine in the U.S. would have risen to today's level of popularity. Water seeks its own level, and it was apparent to early developers such as the Gallo brothers that price is always going to dictate choice among the population, a no-brainer.

Of course, this argument is an over-simplification. Wary shoppers demand a consis-



Ron Drinkhouse
WINES & SUCH

tent, reliable product at a fair price. Americans, it seems, have come to love wine. Per capita sales increase almost every year, and the country as a whole became in 2010 the world's largest consumer.

Gentle readers may recall last week's column, which talked about a "wine wall," referring to the huge selection we enjoy. Literally, thousands of labels are available to consumers in every variety and degree of flavor and at every price point.

Mike Veseth, the economist, points out in his book "Wine Wars," several segments of the population. There are the "Enthusiasts," good folks who read wine magazines, study blogs and subscribe to rating services. Then there are the "Image Seekers," an affluent segment who use wine, along with big boats, mansions and luxury cars to seek status. Another group is the "Overwhelmed," referring to people who don't bother with the stuff and stick to beer or bourbon.

Finally, there is the middle market, comprising the largest segment of the wine-drinking public. See if you fit into any of the subsets Veseth identifies as "Traditionalists," "Savvy Shoppers" and "Satisfied Sippers."

The first group buys well-known brands — think Kendal-Jackson — and looks with horror on screw-off caps. Group two sticks to 1.5- and 3-liter sizes they know, rarely experiments with something new and sees no reason to ever change.

"Savvy Shoppers" are, in my view, the wave of the future. They work actively to find \$8 wine that tastes like it's worth a lot more and are always seeking a best buy price-to-quality ratio.

As Veseth puts it, "They are treasure hunters looking for a deal."

It is my hope that my gentle readers may belong to this happy bunch. Find a yummy bargain label and tell your buddies. Optimism keeps us young.

Oak Ridge resident Ron Drinkhouse was a buyer and seller of wines in his native Connecticut. He welcomes inquiries, and can be reached via email at ronoc9@aol.com or via telephone at (352) 445-0328.

Old-fashion back in style

Antique apples resurge into marketplace

Associated Press

Old-fashioned apples are back in fashion.

After nearly disappearing from the marketplace, apple varieties that were popular decades or even centuries ago are making a resurgence. The varieties, known as antique or heirloom apples, number in the thousands and carry names such as Sheepnose, American Mother, Lady Sweet and Nickajack.

And thanks to growing interest in all foods local and heirloom, they increasingly are showing up at farm stands and markets, at pick-your-own orchards and in ciders and baked goods.

The apples provide a fresh source of income for apple growers, allowing them to distinguish themselves from the average orchard. For consumers, the apples are a chance to buy and taste a uniquely local product, something unlikely to be grown anywhere else in the country.

There's been strong interest in antique apples in recent years, but the past year in particular has seen enormous growth, said Gary Paul Nabhan, a chair in sustainable food systems at the University of Arizona who has a 5-acre orchard of his own.

"Foods that are memorable, have an incredible history and incredible flavor and texture all of the sudden are back on our screen," said Nabhan. "These apples are so absolutely delicious and have such remarkable stories with them that once you're introduced to them you can't go back to squishy Red Delicious."

Incredibly, there are an estimated 15,000 or more apple varieties that have been named and grown in North America. But of the



Associated Press

A Hudson Golden Gem apple at Poverty Lane Orchards is considered an old-fashioned apple, which is back in fashion.

10 billion or so pounds of apples grown in the U.S. each year; the top 10 varieties make up 80 percent of the production.

The top varieties — the ones commonly found in supermarkets that most everybody knows — include Red Delicious, Gala, Golden Delicious, Granny Smith, Fuji, McIntosh and Rome. But Americans do not live on supermarket varieties alone, apple aficionados are saying.

At one time, Steve Wood grew only McIntosh, Cortland and other common varieties at his Poverty Lane Orchards & Farnum Hill Ciders farm in Lebanon, N.H.

But the market changed, and apple growers worldwide began delivering uniform, large waxed apples year-round. No longer able to command a premium for his crop of standard apples, Wood bulldozed his orchard, began growing old-style varieties and branded

make alcoholic ciders. His eating varieties include Wickson, Hubbardston Nonesuch, Hudson's Golden Gem and Ashmead's Kernel. His cider apples go by names such as Dabinett, Yarlington Mill and Somerset Redstreak.

Wood turned to heirloom apples because it made economic sense. He's not sure he'd still be in business if he hadn't.

"This is a commercial orchard. It's not a museum," he said. "It's not just whether these varieties are worthy of preservation. It's whether we can sustain a business off it."

Clarkdale Fruit Farms in Deerfield, Mass., has been expanding its selection of antique apples. About 5 acres of the 25-acre orchard is devoted to antique types, up from 2 or 3 acres a few years ago, said third-generation owner Tom Clark.

Some of the old-style varieties aren't good for simply chomping into, but they're good for cooking (Duchess of Oldenbergs and Gravensteins, for example) or making cider (Baldwins, Golden Russets and Roxbury Russets), Clark said.

"Horticulturally, it's interesting, and it helps out sales, growing different things," Clark said.

Dan Bussey's Albion Prairie Cider Orchard & Mill in Edgerton, Wis., may be small, but the selection is wide with more than 250 types of heirlooms. He sells some of the apples at his orchard and to local markets, but most of his production goes to alcoholic cider, each with its individual flavor.

Much of the growth in antique apples is from ciders, he said.



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News NOTES

Writers to get together Saturday

Citrus County Writers Group will meet at 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 17, at Central Ridge Library Community Room. Meetings are the third Saturday of every month.

If you write for fun or for publication, feel free to join the Citrus County Writers Group. Bring a sample piece of writing you'd like to share.

RSVPs are required through <http://www.meetup.com/writersandpoets>. Seating will be limited, so RSVPs are necessary.

For more information, call Charles Lawrence at (352) 613-3624 or email charleslawrence123@yahoo.com.

Freemasons to serve breakfast

The next Freemasons' monthly Old Time Country Breakfast hosted by Floral City Masonic Lodge No. 133 will be 8 to 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 17, at the lodge, 8350 Orange Ave.

Sojourning Masons always made welcome. Menu includes pancakes, sausage, homemade biscuits, home-made sausage gravy, grits, eggs, toast, orange juice and coffee.

Civic group to meet Sept. 15

Citrus Springs Civic Association will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 15. General meetings are the third Thursday each month at Citrus Springs Community Center, 1570 W. Citrus Springs Blvd.

Guest speaker for Sept. 15 will be Capt. Joe Eckstein of the Citrus County Sheriff's Office, who will discuss emergency preparedness. Refreshments and snacks will be served.

Learn about orchids with lovers

BROOKSVILLE — Orchid Lovers Club of Spring Hill will meet at 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 17, at the Partners Club behind Oak Hill Hospital, 11375 Cortez Blvd. (State Road 50).

Guest speaker will be Francisco Miranda of Miranda Orchids. He specializes in Brazilian orchids. There will be orchids for sale, a show table and free refreshments. The public is welcome.

Call Linda Roderick at (352) 597-3736.

Animal Shelter ADOPTABLES

Marilee



Special to the Chronicle

Marilee is an adorable, 1-year-old retriever mix. Her previous owners stopped feeding, then abandoned her, so she's a little bit thin and shy. Marilee is very loving and affectionate, playful and loves being with people. She gets along well with other dogs. With a little love and some good food, Marilee will make a grateful, loyal companion. Marilee is at Citrus County Animal Shelter, 4030 S. Airport Road, Inverness, behind the fairgrounds. View all adoptable pets at www.citruscritters.com. Call (352) 746-8400. Volunteers are needed.

Embracing our journey

Learn about end-of-life decisions at Unity

Special to the Chronicle

At 9 a.m. Friday, Sept. 30, and 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 1, Unity is sponsoring a symposium featuring health care professionals in Citrus County.

Some of the featured speakers will be Elder Law Attorney John Clardy, who will speak on changes in elder law and wills, estates and advance directives.

Christina Martensson, MSW, LCSW, Advanced Geriatric Solutions, will

speak on healthy aging, the importance of patient advocacy and choosing a nursing home.

Judy McBriar will present an overview of the book "Get It Together," a collection of important records and key documents. The book will be available for purchase.

Fee of \$16 includes the symposium and lunch for Friday, Sept. 30.

On Saturday, Oct. 1, the symposium will begin at 10 a.m.

Annie Bumgarner, CTRS, LUT, will

address nursing homes and assisted living.

Sue Piatek, MSW from HPH Hospice in Citrus County, will talk about what hospice is and what it is not — when does Hospice care start? Charles Davis of Charles Davis Funeral Home will explain his motto, "Planning is a gift" and the various options available. Columbariums as a new option will be introduced by Johann Lee.

The fee for Saturday attendance is \$10. The total for both days is \$26.

There is limited seating. Call (352) 746-1270 for reservations by Sept. 22.

Pints to help people



Special to the Chronicle

Billy and Candy Sasser, foreground, are two of Citrus County's many blood donors who give at LifeSouth blood drives. After a record-breaking drive last year, Our Lady of Grace Church/Knights of Columbus Abbot Francis Sadlier Council No. 6168 will co-host the second annual Matt Curley Memorial Blood Drive from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 17, in the Parish Life Center. The drive honors the memory of Matt Curley, who was a very active member of the church and the Knights of Columbus, as well as many other activities throughout Citrus County. The Board of County Commissioners proclaimed Saturday as Our Lady of Grace Church/Knights of Columbus Abbot Francis Sadlier Council No. 6168 Blood Ministry Day. The church and Knights have co-sponsored six drives since September 2010 and collected 351 pints of blood: an average of 58.5 pints per drive. To donate, you must be 17 years of age or older (with no limit on the age at the other end), weigh at least 110 pounds and have a picture identification with you. For more information, call Don Irwin at (352) 527-8450 or LifeSouth at (352) 537-3061.

ANOTHER CHANCE TO HELP

■ For more opportunities to help local blood drives, read the Friday, Sept. 16, *Chronicle* Community page.

Course informs paddle enthusiasts

Instruction offered by USCG Flotilla 15-4

Special to the Chronicle

Canoeists and kayakers are boaters, too, so now there is a program available to address the unique needs of this audience. Homosassa Flotilla 15-4 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary offers Paddlesports America, a safety

program designed to attract novice paddle enthusiasts.

The four-hour program presents five chapters of safety information. Topics include:

- Know Your Paddlecraft.
- Before You Get Under Way.
- Operating Your Boat Safely.

■ The Legal Requirements of Boating.

■ Boating Emergencies: What to Do.

The program will be from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 8, at West Citrus Community Center, 8940 W. Veterans Drive, Homosassa.

A fee of \$20 for materials will be charged. For more information, call Elaine Miranda at (352) 564-2521, or Al Hepner at (352) 795-9875.

News NOTES

New Englanders to meet Sept. 16

The New Englanders will meet at 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 16, at the Olive Tree Restaurant in Crystal River. The speaker is Citrus County Supervisor of Elections Susan Gill, who will discuss new voting hours and other voting issues.

Any newcomers who wish to join the group are welcome. For more information, call (352) 746-1571.

Parks director to talk to Rails to Trails

Pati Smith, director of Citrus County Parks & Recreation, will address the Rails to Trails of the Withlacoochee Citizen Service Organization at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 15, at Lakes Region Library, 1511 Druid Road, Inverness.

Smith will speak about "The Answer: Citrus County's Beautiful Parks and Trails. The ques-

tion: What is green, fun, healthy and free for all ages?"

She is a member of the Parks & Recreation Association both on local and national levels, along with her mission at the Parks & Recreation Department. She will share an overview of the services available in Citrus County's abundant green spaces, as well as changes coming up in the future.

All interested persons are welcome at the monthly meeting. For more information, call Bonnie Peterson at (352) 341-4665.

Join Irish for 'halfway' party

American Irish Club of West Citrus will meet at noon Tuesday, Sept. 20, at the clubhouse on County Road 490 (Homosassa Trail), opposite St. Scholastica Catholic Church.

The group will welcome back Snowbirds with a "Halfway to

St. Patrick's Day" corned beef and cabbage party. Entertainment will be by Patrick Hagerman.

Although the meeting is for members only, anyone interested in becoming a member is welcome also. You do not have to be Irish to join; there are friends of every nationality in the club.

The club has activities open to the public, such as bingo, game nights, bunco and trips to shows and restaurants.

Those interested in more information about the club can visit or call on Wednesdays; phone (352) 527-4890 or the club president at (352) 527-2209.

Code Red Tornado signup Sept. 22

Beverly Hills Municipal Benefit Unit and Citrus County Emergency Management will have a Code Red Tornado signup from 2 to 7 p.m. Thurs-

day, Sept. 22, at Beverly Hills Community Building, 1 Civic Circle.

Code Red Tornado is a new service from Citrus County that telephones residents when a tornado warning has been issued for Beverly Hills.

Beverly Hills has seen the effects of tornados twice in recent years, making this service a vital necessity for everyone.

The Citrus County special needs coordinator will also be at the event to sign up anyone who, in case of evacuation, would need assistance because of a physical condition. All the services are free.

To aid those who wish to sign up for this event, the Orange Line fixed route bus will be free for anyone in Beverly Hills who wishes to attend.

Those unable physically to go to the fixed bus routes in Beverly Hills to ride the bus are invited to call Rosella Hale at (352) 746-2545 for assistance.

News NOTES

Grumman retirees convene Sept. 15

BROOKSVILLE — Grumman Retiree Club Florida Midwest Chapter will meet at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 15, at Buffet City, 13235 Cortez Blvd. (State Road 50), in Brooksville.

Sue Rassner of the Hernando County Sheriff's Office will discuss security issues of particular importance to seniors.

The buffet is \$13; reservations are required. Call Hank Mehl at (352) 686-2735 or email hmehl@tampabay.rr.com.

All former Grumman and Northrop Grumman employees and their guests are invited to attend.

Club meetings normally begin at 11:30 a.m. at Buffet City on the third Thursday each month; however, in October, the club will meet for a picnic at Bayport Park.

Accordion club to meet Sept. 20

BROOKSVILLE — Accordion Adventure Club is starting its new season. Meetings will be from 6 to 9 p.m. the third Tuesday of every month at the Brooksville BPO Elks Lodge No. 2582, 14494 Cortez Blvd.

The public is welcome to join the informal group of accordionists/enthusiasts of all levels of performance.

All are welcome at the September Swing Party/Jam on Sept. 20.

Admission is \$2; coffee and cake are provided. Call Cathy at (352) 686-0975, or Peg at (352) 442-5574.

Learn to play bridge for free

Free bridge lessons begin at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 20, at Citrus Bridge Club in Hernando, at Nature Coast Bank on the corner of County Road 486 and Citrus Hills Boulevard.

The lessons are designed for people wishing to learn the game, or for those who have played before and want to learn new "tricks."

Come and join the fun, while being taught by master teacher Pat Peterson.

Call Pat at (352) 746-7835 for more information.

Parents' group convenes Sept. 20

The Citrus County International Baccalaureate Parent Organization, CCIBPO, will meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 20, in Lecanto High School cafeteria, 3810 W. Educational Path.

Parents of PIBS and IB students are encouraged to attend. Citrus County professionals and business leaders are invited to meet the CCIBPO board members and parents.

Email David Strickland, CCIBPO president, at DSTRICKLAND18@tampabay.rr.com or call (352) 302-4272.

CMUG will give scholarships

Citrus Macintosh Users Group announces the deadline for the club's 2011-12 scholarship application is Monday, Jan. 16, 2012.

This year, CMUG is prepared to award scholarships, minimum of \$500 each, to graduating seniors — one per school — at Citrus, Lecanto and Crystal River high schools. Academy of Environmental Science seniors, including home-schooled students attending the academy, will compete with applicants from their home district.

Students interested in applying should get applications from their school guidance department.

For more information, call Buzz Fredrickson at (352) 341-4392.

■ 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.

THURSDAY EVENING SEPTEMBER 15, 2011

C: Comcast, Citrus B: Bright House D: Comcast, Dunnellon I: Comcast, Inglis F: Oak Forest H: Holiday Heights

Table with columns for time slots (6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and rows for various TV channels (WESH, WEDU, WUFT, WFLA, WFTV, WTSP, WTVT, WVCB, WCFL, WFTS, WMOR, WTTA, WACX, WTOG, WYKE, WOGX, WVEA, WXPX, etc.) listing programs and their ratings.

PHILLIP ALDER Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

Our first stop on the Norwegian cruise in July was Bergen. It is the second-largest city in the country and has a lot of rain. A local joke runs: Tourist: "Does it always rain in Bergen?" Local lad: "I don't know, I'm only seven." When you play bridge well, you are lucky and the sun shines. But the converse is true, of course. In this deal, if you are in midseason form, you will find the killing opening lead from the West hand against three clubs. What would you select? After you open one spade, North uses the Unusual No-trump to show at least 5-5 in the minors, South removes to three clubs, and everyone passes. One's immediate reaction is

Bridge puzzle titled "Bridge" showing a deal with North and South hands, a dealer's West hand, and an opening lead of 3 clubs. The puzzle includes a grid for the cards and a question mark for the opening lead.

probably the spade ace. However, partner is marked with some points and would have bid three spades with support. And since dummy is short in the majors, declarer must have spade length. It is better to lead the club seven. (Did you spot the subtle hint at the start?) If you cash the spade ace before shifting to a club, declarer can win with his club ace, lead the spade queen to squash East's jack, cash dummy's diamond ace, ruff a diamond in his hand, and play a heart toward dummy's king to get home. Here is the guideline, which isn't cast in stone: If an opponent shows a two-suiter and the advancer (the overcaller's partner) seems unhappy, lead a trump, especially when it is through the length. But if the advancer jumps in one of his partner's suits, it is less likely that a trump lead will be best.

JUMBLE word game section featuring a cartoon illustration of a man and a woman, a grid of letters to be unscrambled, and the answer: A. Includes the text "Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words."

- ACROSS: 1 Dance band, 6 Construction rod, 11 Poker stakes, 12 BP acquisition, 13 Isolated, 15 Talisman, 16 Skoal and cheers, 18 Vane dir., 19 Nothing at all, 21 Green parrot, 22 - noire, 23 Name in cheesecake, 25 eBay milieu, 28 Covered with water, 30 Diamond - 31 Period, 32 Family mem., 33 Do the wrong thing, 35 Guitar sound, 37 Uninteresting, 38 Blurred out, 40 Purple flower.

Answer to Previous Puzzle crossword grid with words filled in: CARET, DEPUTY, IMAGES, APOGEE, DANGLE, MISHAP, ELL, OCT, BED, LPN, AVE, TUX, TEE, AGENA, ANA, BRA, PESTS, LYCRA, RVS, TRI, CATER, LOO, REF, NOV, IST, RYE, ORB, EVE, RUCKUS, RAPIDS, IMPEDE, SNORER, GARDEN, STEWS.

Dear Annie: My sister, "Ruth," has struggled with addiction to prescription medication since high school. My parents have been incredibly supportive for the past eight years. They helped her get into rehabilitation programs, paid for lawyers, car insurance, health insurance and food, and they allow her to live rent-free in their home. This past spring, Ruth finally finished vocational school, but instead of looking for a job, she spends every day in her room playing video games. She doesn't contribute financially, nor does she help with basic household chores. Recently, she relapsed and ended up back in an outpatient rehab program. My parents are terrified to throw her out for fear she would (once again) attempt suicide. They have tried giving her deadlines to finish school, get a job and move out, but she always manages to manipulate my parents, and the deadlines pass and life goes on unchanged. This has destroyed my parents' lives. My mother is taking medication for anxiety. My high-strung father is so stressed out he has tantrums and screams in frustration. They have both told me they feel like prisoners in their own home. As a result of all the stress, my parents are separating. My mother thinks moving out will encourage Ruth to do the same. She also believes it will

unprofessional, but it also could have put a patient in jeopardy and the doctor's office at risk for a lawsuit. Tell the doctor, "You know, when I tried to call your office last April, I was surprised that you allowed your staff to turn off the phones to watch the royal wedding. Thank heavens, it wasn't an emergency." The doctor will take it from there. Dear Annie: The letter from "Miserable," whose husband wasn't interested in her anymore, could have been my story. One day, my husband said to me that our sex life was finished. I asked what was going on, I begged, pleaded, cried and yelled, but he insisted there was nothing wrong. Six years passed with little touching and no sexual activity at all. Finally, the truth came out. He had been having affairs. My advice to any woman who is experiencing this same problem is to ask your husband to get a checkup and then buy a GPS tracking device to see where he spends his time. We are now in counseling, trying to piece together our lost marriage. - Any Woman, Anywhere

Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com. Includes a crossword grid with numbers 1-57.

- 9 Unreturnable serves, 10 By heart, 14 Wild oxen of Tibet, 15 Video game pioneer, 17 Signet maker (2 wds.), 19 More modern, 20 Venice's place, 22 Shakespeare, for example, 24 Elev., 25 Tired, 26 Comedian - Kovacs, 27 Luggage, 29 Bucks and toms, 34 Stormed about, 36 Hot dogs, 39 Country-club fees, 43 Expose to danger, 44 Cuzco founder, 45 Viking name, 46 Novelist - Seton, 47 White House staffer, 49 Noah's vessel, 51 B-movie pistol, 52 Kind of system, 53 Make soaking wet.

looking for the escape hatch. If your parents aren't interested in counseling, suggest they check out Families Anonymous (familiesanonymous.org) at 1-800-736-9805, Nar-Anon (nar-anon.org) at 1-800-477-6291 and Because I Love You (billy.org). Dear Annie: I am in my early 50s and am a breast cancer survivor. Earlier this year, I had some blood work done and the results were questionable. Given my history, I was nervous and called the doctor's office several times and got no response. When the staff finally answered the phone, the receptionist told me they had shut off the phones because they were watching the royal wedding. Although my test results turned out fine, I can't get over how unprofessional the staff was. I haven't said anything to my doctor, but I have an appointment next month. Should I say something? - Upset Dear Upset: This was not only

ANNIE'S MAILBOX. Includes a photo of Annie and her mother. Text: "Witness to a Powder Keg in Maine. Dear Witness: I think your mother has had enough and is looking for the escape hatch. If your parents aren't interested in counseling, suggest they check out Families Anonymous (familiesanonymous.org) at 1-800-736-9805, Nar-Anon (nar-anon.org) at 1-800-477-6291 and Because I Love You (billy.org). Dear Annie: I am in my early 50s and am a breast cancer survivor. Earlier this year, I had some blood work done and the results were questionable. Given my history, I was nervous and called the doctor's office several times and got no response. When the staff finally answered the phone, the receptionist told me they had shut off the phones because they were watching the royal wedding. Although my test results turned out fine, I can't get over how unprofessional the staff was. I haven't said anything to my doctor, but I have an appointment next month. Should I say something? - Upset Dear Upset: This was not only

Peanuts



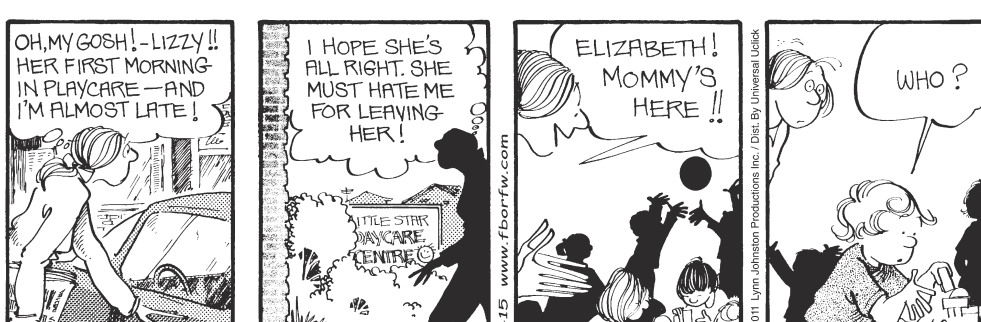
Garfield



Pickles



For Better or For Worse



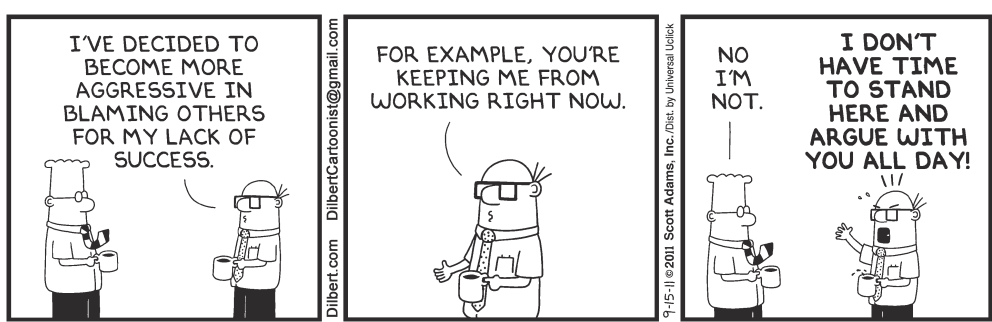
Sally Forth



Beetle Bailey



Dilbert



The Grizzwells



The Born Loser



Blondie



Kit 'N' Carlyle



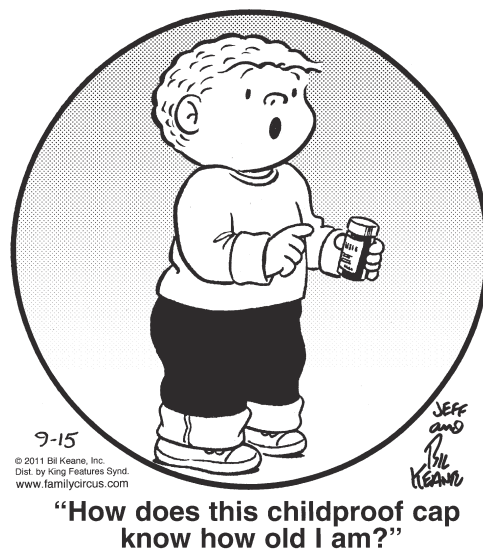
Rubes



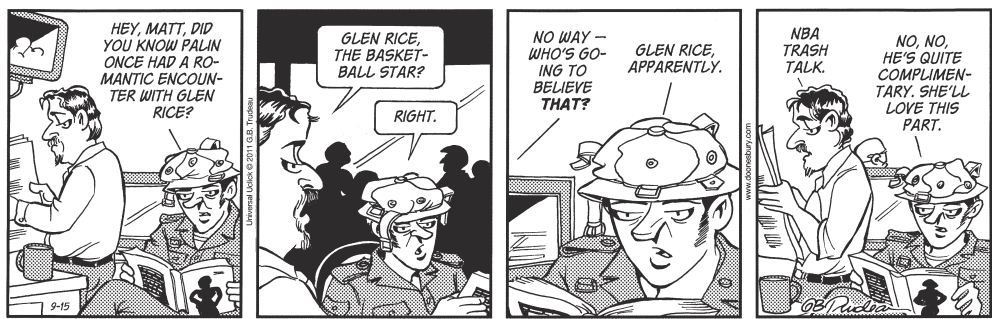
Dennis the Menace



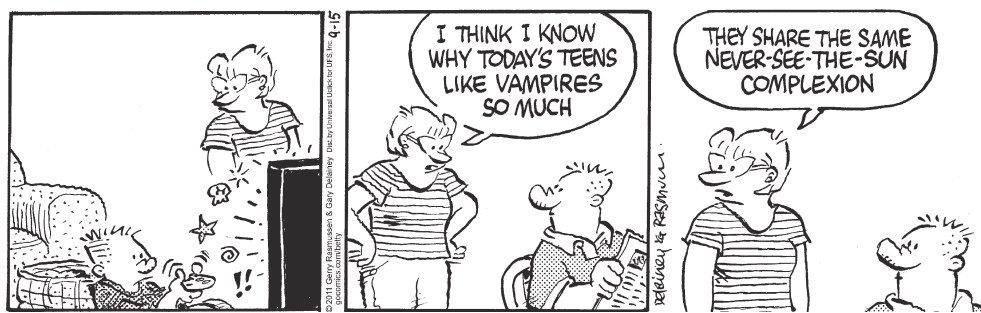
The Family Circus



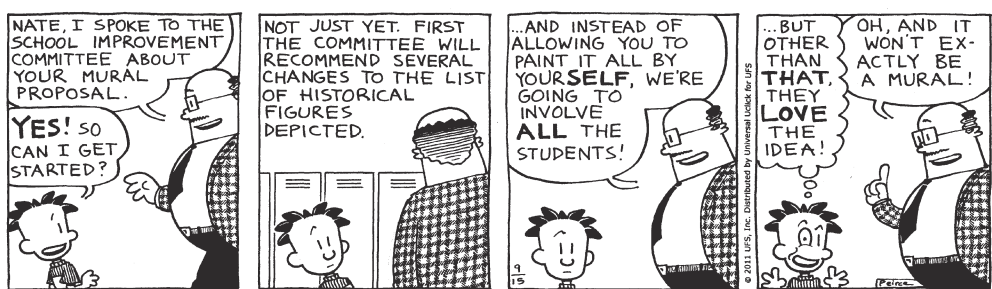
Doonesbury



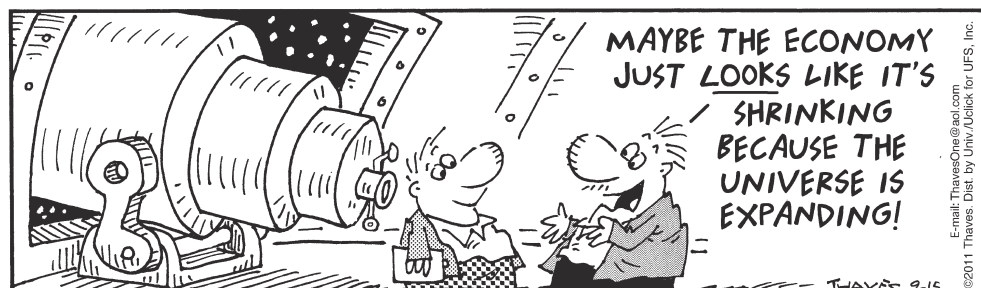
Betty



Big Nate



Frank & Ernest



Arlo and Janis



Local RADIO

WJUF-FM 90.1 National Public	WYKE-FM 104.3 Sports Talk
WHGN-FM 91.9 Religious	WUVV 105.5 FM Hudson
WXCW-FM 95.3 Adult Contemp.	WJQB-FM 106.3 Oldies
WXOF-FM 96.3 Adult Mix	WFJV-FM 103.3 '50s, '60s, '70s
WEKJ FM 96.7, 103.9 Religious	WRZN-AM 720 Adult Standards
WSKY 97.3 FM News Talk	
WXJB 99.9 FM News Talk	
WRGO-FM 102.7 Oldies	

Today's MOVIES

Citrus Cinemas 6 — Inverness; 637-3377

"Contagion" (PG-13) 1 p.m., 4 p.m., 7:20 p.m. No passes.

"Creature" (R) ID required. 1:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7:40 p.m.

"Shark Night" (PG-13) In Real 3D. 1:40 p.m., 7:45 p.m. No passes.

"Shark Night" (PG-13) 4:40 p.m.

"Apollo 18" (PG-13) 1:20 p.m., 4:20 p.m., 7:30 p.m.

"The Help" (PG-13) 12:45 p.m., 3:50 p.m., 7 p.m.

"Rise of the Planet of the Apes" (PG-13) 1:10 p.m., 4:10 p.m., 7:10 p.m.

Crystal River Mall 9; 564-6864

"Contagion" (R) ID required. 2 p.m., 5 p.m., 8 p.m.

"Creature" (PG-13) 1:20 p.m., 4:20 p.m., 7:20 p.m. No passes.

"Shark Night" (PG-13) In Real 3D. 1:45 p.m., 7:45 p.m.

Times subject to change; call ahead.

p.m. No passes.

"Apollo 18" (PG-13) 1:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m.

"Shark Night" (PG-13) 4:45 p.m.

"The Debt" (R) ID required. 1:35 p.m., 4:35 p.m. 7:35 p.m.

"Our Idiot Brother" (R) ID required. 1:50 p.m., 7:50 p.m.

"Colombiana" (PG-13) 1:15 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 7:10 p.m.

"Don't Be Afraid of the Dark" (R) ID required. 4:50 p.m.

"The Help" (PG-13) 1 p.m., 4:10 p.m., 7:15 p.m.

"Rise of the Planet of the Apes" (PG-13) 1:05 p.m., 4 p.m., 7 p.m.

Visit www.chronicleonline.com for area movie listings and entertainment information.

CELEBRITY CIPHER
by Luis Campos

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

TODAY'S CLUE: I equals K

"D BNLJ PMB UM GRI PMBNRJWA SBRU
OMF OMTMNGVWJ DU DR UM KNJRDJXJ
MYJN UOJ GVBRJ GTX RBAAJNDTL MA
GTDZGWR." — NDEOGNX KNPMN

PREVIOUS SOLUTION: "No house should ever be on a hill or on anything. It should be of the hill. Belonging to it." — Frank Lloyd Wright

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Slow food takes on \$5 'value meal'

Making meals with whole foods instead of processed

MICHELLE LOCKE
For The Associated Press

Can you eat well without being wealthy? That's the focus of a \$5 meal challenge being launched this month by Slow Food USA.

The object is to get people to commit to making a slow food meal — in other words, using whole ingredients rather than processed foods — for \$5 per person or less.

"This challenge is about taking back the 'value meal,'" said Josh Viertel, president of Slow Food USA, a group that advocates a return to less processed foods.

The \$5 Challenge launches Sept. 17 with a Day of Action with hundreds of slow food gatherings planned across the country. Participation is free-form — you can attend a local event, sign up online with a pledge to cook a slow food meal for \$5 or less per person, or take part in various potlucks being organized.

People who take the challenge are encouraged to register their events and share stories at the website <http://SlowFoodUSA.org/5Challenge>.

Organizers say the challenge is in response to first lady Michelle Obama's challenge to the nation to end the childhood obesity epi-



Benina Burroughs of Merced, Calif., as she looks over a display of cherry tomatoes by Farmers with ALBA from Salinas, Calif., at a farmer's market Aug. 29, 2008, during Slow Food Nation in San Francisco. Slow Food USA is attempting to have people to commit to making a slow food meal — in other words, using whole ingredients rather than processed foods — for \$5 per person or less.

demic in a generation. On a local level, the campaign is intended to bring attention to the difficulties some people face in trying to prepare healthy meals, from not having access to fresh produce to the rising prices of fruit and vegetables compared to cheap soda and junk food.

"The opportunity here is to find

the solutions that are already out there and at the same time identify what needs to change," Viertel said. "It's going to take each of us as everyday people rolling up our sleeves and pushing for big change."

The \$5 target was picked as a reasonable comparison to eating at a fast-food restaurant.

For that much money, you can cook a "really delicious, fresh, healthy meal and you can even have leftovers," Viertel said.

But you have to have access to the ingredients and know how to prepare them.

So how do you fill a plate for five bucks or under?

Katherine Deumling, who runs

a small cooking school in Portland, Ore., is ready to spill the beans on that one. Literally.

"I'm the bean queen," Deumling said with a laugh.

So, she might start the week by cooking two pots, one of black beans and the other chickpeas, using dried beans — which works out to just pennies per person — and garlic and salt as flavorings. If you have additional spices such as cumin and access to fresh produce like chopped cilantro, all the better. Throughout the week, the beans can star in tortillas or serve as a side to rice, which also is cheap, and perhaps a small amount of meat.

And if you don't feel like cooking beans from scratch — though she promises it's not hard — then use canned.

"Eat beans however you can find them," Deumling said.

Another idea: kale pesto made by whirling blanched kale in a food processor with olive oil, a little garlic and almonds. Or, you can try a modified salade nicoise, using that old staple, canned tuna. "A little bit goes a long way."

Deumling, a mom and a Slow Food USA board member, is enthusiastic about getting the message of slow food — cooking fresh, wholesome food — out to more people.

What she's not interested in is creating a lot of rules or anxiety.

"I want you to eat what you like.

I want you to learn a few basic things. Just eat and have fun with it and cook. You will be so much happier."

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

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Homefront / Sunday..... 3 PM, Friday
Chronicle / Sunday..... 4 PM, Friday
Chronicle / Monday..... 4 PM, Friday
Sumter County Times / Thursday..... 11 AM, Tuesday
Riverland News / Thursday..... 2 PM, Monday
South Marion Citizen / Friday..... 4 PM, Tuesday
West Marion Messenger / Wednesday..... 4 PM, Friday

Chronicle Connection
I am an attractive, fun, loving, senior lady. Searching for the same handsome, loving gentleman, in his late 70's to 80's. Why oh why is it taking so long to find you? Think about it, an don't hesitate to write me. That we can talk and get together, and see what the future holds. Respond to Citrus County Chronicle Blind Box 1734P 106 W. Main St Inverness, Fl. 34450

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(352) 746-7044
FREE KITTENS
2 males, black, 1 w/ touch of white, very playful. (352) 419-4640
FREE KITTENS
6 weeks old, (352) 382-465 Chassahowitzka Area
FREE KITTENS
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Lost
MINI DACHSHUND
Female, black and tan, LOST. Gospel Island area. Answers to the name peanut. REWARD 352-400-5175 Please she is very missed Hearts are broken....
MINI DACHSHUND
Female, black and tan, LOST gospel Island area. Please have a heart and let her come home. WE MISS HER !!! 352-400-5175 REWARD!!! Pink skull and crossbones collar. Answers to PEANUT
REWARD \$500. No Questions ask.
Min Pin Female 10 lbs name Zoey, Needs meds. last seen Sun 8/7 Holiday Dr off Turkey Oak Crystal River (352) 257-9546 352-400-1519

Found
Yellow Tiger Cat bushy tail Leisure Acres, Lecanto (352) 621-0203

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automotive
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A FREE...FREE...FREE...
Removal of scrap metal a/c, appls, auto's & dump runs. 476-6600

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- ✓ Must be 18 years old
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8								
3			5 8					4
1 2			3			7 9		
7		6		4				
2 4		3		5		6 7		
		1		7				5
5 1		7				2 3		
4		5 2						8
								1

Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

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