



Partly cloudy, with a 40 percent chance of thunderstorms.

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE



NEWS BRIEFS

Inverness man dies in crash

Travis John Daniels, 23, of Inverness, died Sunday as the result of an accident, according to the Florida Highway Patrol.

FHP reported that Daniels was driving a 2003 Ford Taurus at 5:43 a.m. He was traveling north on South Great Oaks Drive approaching East Orange Avenue.

The FHP report stated the car was traveling above the posted speed limit and failed to negotiate a left curve in the road. The car left the road and traveled onto the east shoulder, where the front right corner struck an oak tree.

The car continued north on the east shoulder and rotated counter clockwise when the right side of the car hit another large oak tree. That impact rotated the car clockwise. It traveled northwest across Great Oaks Drive onto the west shoulder of the road. Then, the left side of the car crashed into a wood rail fence.

Daniels died at the scene, the report said. The crash remains under investigation and details are subject to change.

Names released in shooting

The names of two Beverly Hills residents injured Saturday afternoon in a shooting incident have been released.

They are Janice Ames Genco, 60, and her dependent son, Michael John Genco, 28, according to Heather Yates, spokeswoman for the Citrus County Sheriff's Office.

Another person, the suspect in the incident, a white male in his 60s, has not yet been positively identified, according to a news release.

The CCSO said an ongoing domestic dispute apparently led to the shooting incident. The suspect was in the process of moving out of the residence because of continued arguments with Genco about her son.

The CCSO said the suspect shot the pair, then turned the gun on himself and died at the scene. The Gencos remain at Shand's Hospital in Gainesville.

—From staff reports

ONLINE POLL: Your choice?

What priority do you give to water quality and restoration issues?

- A. It is the most critical issue to the existence of our state.
- B. Until the economy improves, it's barely on the radar screen.
- C. Environmentalists overreact to claims of ongoing degradation.
- D. A slightly greater percentage of tax dollars should be allocated to improvement projects.

To vote, visit www.chronicleonline.com. Click on the word "Opinion" in the menu to see the poll.

Results will appear next Monday. Find last week's online poll results./Page A4

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Pregnant woman stabbed

Man faces aggravated battery charges in Sunday incident

CHRIS VAN ORMER
Staff Writer

A Crystal River man faces felony charges after an incident Sunday that allegedly resulted in a pregnant woman suffering a laceration to the shoulder deep enough to expose the bone,

according to the Citrus County Sheriff's Office.

Christopher Allen Helfer, 46, has been charged with aggravated battery on a pregnant victim and aggravated battery using a deadly weapon. No bond was set.

The charges stem from deputies reported to a phys-

ical disturbance in Crystal River early Sunday. A person called 911 dispatch to advise that an unknown white male with a knife had tried to enter his residence, according to the CCSO report.

Responding deputies said they made contact with a woman, who advised she was four months pregnant



Christopher Helfer facing multiple charges.

and had been involved in a physical altercation with her boyfriend, Helfer. Deputies said they observed an obvious laceration to the woman's shoulder that was about three inches in length and two inches deep with the shoulder bone exposed.

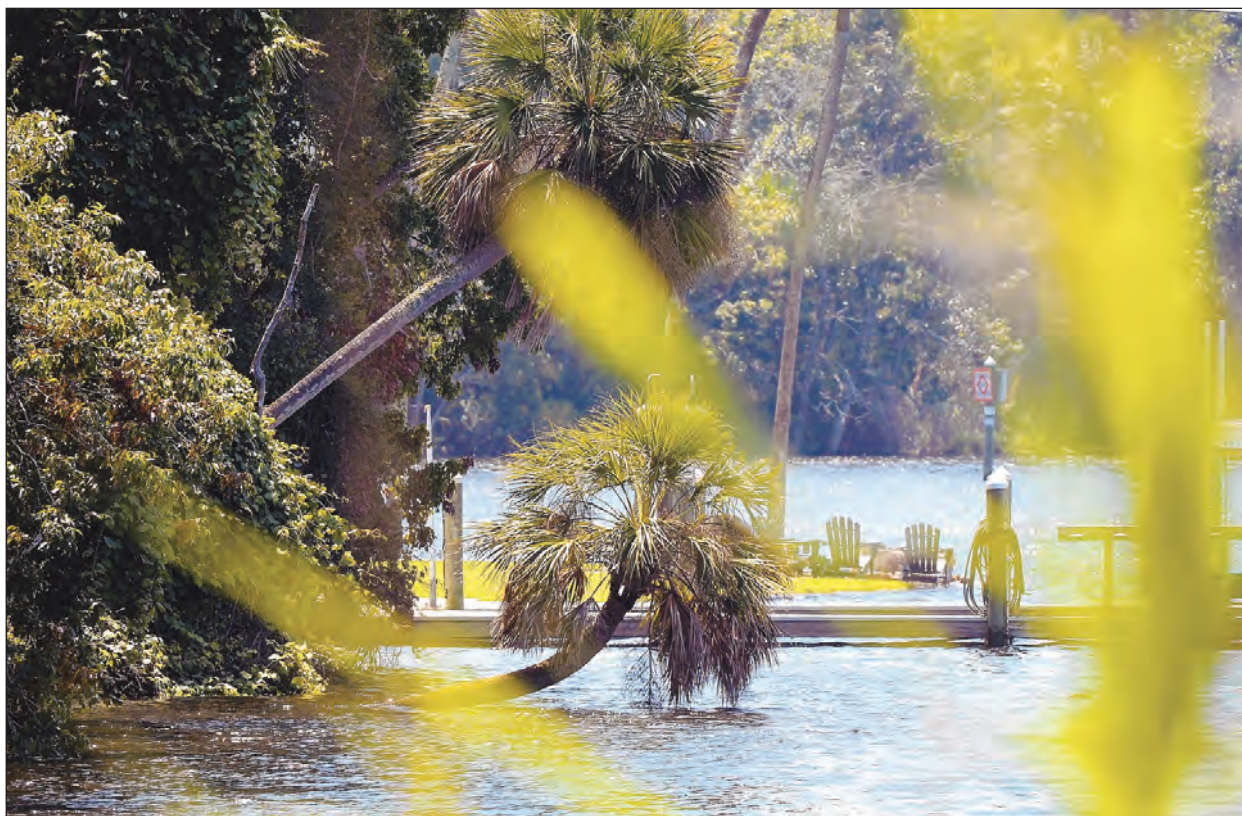
According to deputies, the woman said she had been living with Helfer in

Crystal River for about two weeks. On Sunday, she said, she and Helfer argued about her going back to her previous boyfriend.

During the argument, the woman said, she had to use the bathroom. As she sat on the toilet, she advised, Helfer asked her to have sex with him, but she refused. As she left the bathroom, the woman said she observed Helfer standing in

See STABBED/Page A5

Homosassa hypothesis



DAVE SIGLER/Chronicle

Troubled that the Homosassa River is largely devoid of vegetation and fish, members of the Homosassa River Alliance are coordinating efforts with the Southwest Florida Water Management District and the Citrus Task Force of the Citrus-Hernando Waterways Restoration Council in hopes of launching a project intended to re-vegetate the river and, in turn, entice fish to return.

Proposal to see if native plants can be re-established in river

JIM HUNTER
Chronicle Correspondent

Homosassa River environmental activists and the Citrus Task Force of the Citrus-Hernando Waterways Restoration Council are teaming up with the regional water management district in a pilot project to see if they can begin to replace natural vegetation in the Homosassa River.

Research this spring by the Southwest Florida Water Management District showed the Homosassa to be "essentially void of vegetation and fish due to many unknown factors."

Greatly dismayed, the Homosassa River Alliance is proposing a restoration to see if the river's native plant and fish population can be brought back under current conditions. The task force would take the project to the bi-county council and then to the state Legislature for funding.

The alliance notes there are some important conditions that need to be understood: First, known pollution sources have been brought under control with one exception and that should be a priority for all agencies and interests;



The Southwest Florida Management District showed the Homosassa River to be devoid of vegetation and fish due to many undetermined factors. The test will take place in a sheltered area of the Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park.

the Old Homosassa side of the river has yet to have a sewer collection system built and connected to the county sewer line that was brought to Homosassa and Chassahowitzka in recent years.

Second, the proposal stipulates that no additional water should be allowed to be taken from the spring's flows because the river has

already been degraded "well beyond" the Outstanding Florida Waterway designation criteria.

For restoration, the alliance proposes to temporarily block off three small plots in the river at Homosassa Springs State Wildlife Park to keep manatee and boat traffic out.

See PLANTS/Page A5

Issues-packed night for CR officials

A.B. SIDIBE
Staff Writer

CRYSTAL RIVER — City officials will tackle several big-ticket items Monday leading off with an issue that has more than a few eyebrows raised in the area — the well permit approved by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD).

The district issued a 10-year water-use permit July 24 to Heatherwood Investments LLC of Crystal River and Mistletoe LLC of Ocala

- **WHAT:** Crystal River City Council.
- **WHEN:** 7 p.m. today for council; 6:30 p.m. for CRA.
- **WHERE:** City Hall, 123 N.W. U.S. 19.
- **CONTACT:** 352-795-4216 or crystalriverfl.org.

to withdraw up to 76,700 gallons per day (gpd). Average daily use during the highest water use month, or peak month, cannot exceed 153,400 gpd.

The water district asserts that the drawdown is going to be one-one-hundredth of a foot, which is a little over a tenth of an

inch drawdown and will be confined to the area of the proposed well. The site of the well is on an old lumber yard at 142 N.E. 11th St.

At tonight's meeting, officials are expected to hear a presentation about the permit process. An official from SWFWMD is expected to attend.

Officials and some residents of the area are perplexed by SWFWMD's decision to OK the permit in light of low-watershed issues and spring-flow issues. According to SWFWMD, the companies intend to transport and sell the water to an Ocala bottling company, Consolidated Water Group LLC.

Also on tap for the city council:

- Review and adoption of a tentative millage rate

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Walks mark 9/11 events

Special to the Chronicle

On the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks against the United States, the city of Inverness will host a Freedom Walk. The short walk through historic downtown Inverness will begin at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday outside the Inverness Government Center.

The first "America Supports You Freedom Walk," conducted Sept. 11, 2005, in the nation's capital, brought together more than 15,000 walkers — including family members of the victims of 9/11, members of Congress, administration officials, federal workers, corporate employees, civic organizations and citizens from around the country. All walked to pay tribute to those who lost their lives on in the attacks and to thank veterans, past and present, for protecting the nation's freedom.

This year marks the 11-year anniversary of the tragic events at the Pentagon, the twin towers in New York City and Shanksville, Pa. The purpose of the America Supports You Freedom Walk is to establish a national tradition to reflect on the lives lost on Sept. 11, 2001, to renew a commitment to freedom and the values of the country and to honor veterans.

In addition to the Freedom Walk, a World Trade Center Memorial Exhibit and Tribute will take place in the Inverness Government Center Council Chambers beginning at noon. Articles from the World Trade Center, memorabilia, photographs, portraits, stories and flags will be on display throughout the day and evening, ending at approximately 6:30 p.m.

The exhibit is being displayed by Andrew Tarpey, a retired Port Authority police officer and member of the local chapter of the

See WALKS/Page A5

Inverness

- **WHAT:** America Supports You Freedom Walk.
- **WHEN:** 5:30 p.m. Tuesday.
- **WHERE:** outside the Inverness Government Center.

Crystal River

- **WHAT:** Remembrance walk.
- **WHEN:** 11:30 a.m. Tuesday.
- **WHERE:** American Legion Post 155, 6585 W. Gulf-to-Lake Highway, Crystal River.

Week explores local waters

Special to the Chronicle

Waters week committee to gather today

The Citrus 20/20 Inc. Save Our Waters Week Committee will meet at 10 a.m. Monday, Sept. 10, in room 219, Lecanto Government Center, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, located off County Road 491.

The meeting is to finalize coordination for Citrus County's 17th annual Save Our Waters Week, Sept. 14 to 22. All committee members are asked to attend.

For more information, call committee co-chairs Lace Blue-McLean at 352-201-0149, or Diane Otten at 352-726-0315.

The Citrus 20/20 Inc. Save Our Waters Week Committee will conduct its 17th annual Save Our Waters Week from Sept. 14 to 22, with this year's theme being "Water — Naturally Yours — Come Explore!"

The week features more than a dozen water-related activities that are free. Additionally, the week features poster, essay and photo contests, a guest speaker program and guest commentaries in the *Citrus County Chronicle*.

■ Friday, Sept. 14 — 6 p.m., Citrus 20/20 fundraiser dinner and tribute to Gary Maidhof at the conference center at the College of Central Florida, Citrus Campus. For tickets, call 352-201-0149. \$35.

■ Saturday, Sept. 15 — Sunrise to 11:30 a.m. Citrus County's Adopt-a-Short International Coastal Cleanup volunteer event. Groups and organizations are encouraged to volunteer and adopt a portion of shoreline or waterway. Kayaks are available for cleanup participants at the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge courtesy of A Crystal River Kayak Company. For information, call Citrus County Aquatic Services 352-527-7620 or 352-201-0149 or visit www.citrus2020.org. All groups must register by Sept. 10.

■ Saturday Sept. 15 — 11:30 a.m., Eastside Volunteer Appreciation Cookout. All registered Citrus Adopt-a-Shore Cleanup volunteers are welcomed. Lake Hernando Beach, 3699 E. Orange Drive, Hernando, sponsored by Apopka Marine. Call Greg Schmukal at 352-860-2762. Free.

■ Saturday, Sept. 15 — noon, Westside Volunteer Appreciation Cookout. All registered Citrus Adopt-a-Shore Cleanup volunteers are welcomed. Sponsored by and located at American Pro Diving Center at 821 S.E. U.S. 19, Crystal River. Call 352-201-0149. Free.

■ Monday, Sept. 17 — 10 a.m. to noon. "One Rake at a

Time" lyngbya algae cleanup at Hunters Spring Park. Volunteers will rake lyngbya from Hunter Spring Park swimming area. Sponsored by the Kings Bay Rotary. For information and registration, call Art Jones at 727-642-7659. Capacity: 60 people. Free.

■ Monday, Sept. 17 — 3 p.m. Getting to Know Citrus County's Aquatic Treasures. Join Dr. Joan Bradshaw from the Citrus County Extension Office for an informative workshop about preserving and protecting some of Citrus County's finest waters: the Crystal, Homosassa, Chassahowitzka and Withlacoochee rivers. At 3650 Sovereign Path, Lecanto. To register, call 352-527-5700. Free.

■ Monday, Sept. 17 — 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Heritage-Eco Boat Tour at Crystal River Archaeological State Park. Guided interactive river tour discussing ways Pre-Columbian Indians may have used marine resources. Tours depart Crystal River Preserve State Park, 3266 N. Sailboat Ave., Crystal River. For registration, call 352-795-3817 or 352-563-0450. Capacity: 24 persons per tour. Free.

■ Tuesday, Sept. 18 — 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Homosassa River Boat Tours. Enjoy an interpretive tour of the Homosassa River aboard the Miss Riverside. Tours depart from the Riverside Resort at 5297 S. Cherokee Way, Homosassa. To register, call 352-628-2474 or 800-442-2040. Capacity: 38 people per tour. Free.

■ Tuesday, Sept. 18 — 6 p.m. High School Environmental Jeopardy Competition. The public is invited to come out to support the high

school teams as they match wits testing their environmental knowledge. See which school wins the coveted trophy for their school. Event at Citrus County Extension Office, 3650 Sovereign Path, Lecanto. Call Amy Duncan at 352-527-5700. Free.

■ Wednesday, Sept. 19 — 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. Pontoon Boat Tours at the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge. Enjoy a staff-guided pontoon boat tour of the refuge islands in King's Bay. Tours depart from the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge at 1502 S.E. Kings Bay Drive, Crystal River. For registration, call 352-563-2088. Capacity: 30 people per tour. Free.

■ Wednesday, Sept. 19 — 9 a.m. Recycling Academy at Single Stream Processors Inc. Tour facility and learn more about recycling and how recycling helps keep Citrus County waterways clean. Upon completion, you will receive a diploma. Meet at Single Stream Processors at 698 S. Easy St., Lecanto. For registration, call 352-422-6704 or 352-527-4281. Capacity: 20 people. Free.

■ Thursday, Sept. 20 — 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. Eagle Nest Boat Tours at Crystal River Preserve State Park. Friends of Crystal River State Park interpretive tour of Crystal River waters. Catch a glimpse of our national bird and many other species of animals and plants. Tours depart from Crystal River State Park at 3266 N. Sailboat Ave., Crystal River. Movies will be in the Redfish Revue Theatre from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. To register, call 352-563-0450. Capacity: 24 people per tour. Free.

■ Thursday, Sept. 20 — 8

a.m., 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Kayaking with Aardvark's Florida Kayak Co. At these beginning paddler tours, participants will pick up litter as they paddle through St. Martin Marsh and learn about saltwater marsh habitat. Tours depart from the Citrus County boat ramp at Pirates Cove in Ozello. For information, call 352-795-5650 or visit <http://floridakayakcompany.com/SOWW.html>. Free.

■ Friday Sept. 21 — 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and noon. Kayak Tours. Paddle a one-hour tour through quiet canals to the Three Sisters Springs and back. Launch from A Crystal River Kayak Company, 1420 S.E. U.S. 19, Crystal River. To register, call 352-795-2255. Capacity: 10 people per tour. Free.

■ Friday, Sept. 21 — 12:30 p.m. until 3 p.m. Archaeological Kayak Tour. Explore archaeological sites along shores or just beneath the surface of the Crystal and Salt rivers with the Florida Public Archaeology Network. Bring your own kayak or rent. Departs Crystal River Preserve State Park, 3266 N. Sailboat Ave., Crystal River. For reservations, call Jason Moser at 352-795-0208 or visit <http://flpublicarchaeology.org/crc/programs.php>. Free.

■ Saturday, Sept. 22 — 6 to 11 p.m. Music on the Square. Enjoy sunset on Save Our Waters Week with a free "Celebrate Sundown Downtown" music concert on the square in historic downtown Inverness presented by Greater Inverness Olde Towne Association, city of Inverness and the *Citrus County Chronicle*. Save Our Waters Week volunteers wearing their Adopt-a-Shore T-shirts will receive special gifts and discounts. Call 352-726-4682. Free.

Doctor charged over organs found in storage unit

Associated Press

PENSACOLA — A former medical examiner has been arrested on charges of keeping human remains in a rented storage unit in the Florida Panhandle.

Dr. Michael Berkland, 57, was arrested Friday on charges of improper storage of hazardous waste, keeping a public nuisance and driving with a suspended license. He was released from jail on \$10,000 bail.

Berkland's attorney, Eric Stevenson, told the Pensacola News Journal that he and Berkland will start preparing their defense next week.

State Attorney Bill Ed-dins said more charges may be filed.

Crudely preserved brains, hearts, lungs and other organs and specimens were discovered in more than 100 containers last month in a Pensacola storage unit that Berkland had rented for about three years. The unit was auctioned off after Berkland defaulted on his payments, according to an arrest affidavit.

Berkland had declared the contents to be household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods and landscaping equipment. A man who bought the unit's contents discovered the human organs after becoming overpowered by a strange smell while sifting through the items, authorities said.

Ten cardboard boxes stacked in a corner of the

unit contained "numerous individual containers with ... human remains stored in a liquid substance," according to the affidavit.

Most of the containers were labeled. About half the containers were medical grade and the other half included soda cups and plastic food containers, according to the affidavit.

The organs were stored in a liquid solution containing formaldehyde and methyl alcohol, authorities said.

"The remains included tissue samples and dissected organs. (Investigators) also advised that there were numerous whole organs, including hearts, brains, a liver and a lung," according to the affidavit.

Berkland worked at the District 1 Medical Examiner's Office in Pensacola from 1997 to 2003, when he was fired for not completing autopsy reports. Berkland's license to serve as a medical examiner in Florida has been withdrawn.

Before coming to Florida, Berkland had been fired as a contract medical examiner in 1996 in Jackson County, Missouri, in a dispute over his caseload and autopsy reports. His doctor's license was ultimately revoked there.

The medical examiner's office in Pensacola said the organs found in the storage unit appear to have come from private autopsies Berkland performed between 1997 and 2007 at funeral homes in the Florida Panhandle and in Tallahassee.

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Around the COUNTY

Seniors vs. Crime resumes hours

After operating under its summer hours for June, July and August, the Seniors vs. Crime storefront has resumed its regular hours of operation from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Based at 4093 N. Lecanto Highway in the Beverly Plaza, the storefront is next to the sheriff's Ridge Area Community Resource Office.

Operational since July 2002, the Seniors vs. Crime storefront is a joint project of the Citrus County Sheriff's Office and the Florida Attorney General's Office. The project is specifically dedicated to recovering monies lost by seniors who have been victimized by scams, frauds or deceptive business practices.

For more information about the Seniors vs. Crime storefront, call 352-249-9139.

Funds offered for sewer connection

Citrus County Housing Services has announced available funding for mandatory sewer connections and assessments under the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program (SHIP).

The previous deadline was Sept. 7, but that has been extended until at least Oct. 1.

This funding is available to eligible low-income families and can be used for permit, impact and other fees necessary to connect regional central water and/or sewer service.

Priority will be given to hookups done in conjunction with other state or federal funding sources. Eligible applicants will be owner occupied households with an annual income of up to 80 percent of area median income. Site-built homes, as well as mobile homes constructed after June 1994, provided the home is classified as Real Property, are eligible for assistance.

Applications will be accepted at the Citrus County Resource Center, Housing Services Section, 2804 W. Marc Knighton Court, Key No. 12, Lecanto, FL 34461.

If more applicants apply than funding will serve, applicants will be assigned a random lottery number and will be served in that order until all allocated funds are depleted, or all eligible applicants are served.

The application and more detailed information can be found on the county's website at www.bocc.citrus.fl.us. Click on Departments, then Community Services, then Housing Services, and SHIP or call 352-527-7520.

Purple Heart order to convene

Aaron A. Weaver Chapter 776 Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) will meet at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 18, at the Citrus County Builders Association, 1196 S. Lecanto Highway (County Road 491), Lecanto.

The location is approximately one mile south of State Road 44 on the west side of C.R. 491. This is a new start time for the bi-monthly meeting.

All combat-wounded veterans and parents, lineal descendants, spouses and siblings of living or deceased Purple Heart recipients are invited to attend the meeting and to become a Chapter 776 member. To learn more about Aaron A. Weaver Chapter 776 MOPH, visit the Chapter 776 website at www.citruspurpleheart.org, or call 352-382-3847.

BOCC budget hearing Tuesday

The Citrus County Commission will have a public hearing at 5:01 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 13, in the commission meeting room, 110 N. Apopka Ave., Inverness. This meeting is for the purpose of reviewing the tentative budget for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1.

—From staff reports

Campaign continues in Fla.

Associated Press

ORLANDO — President Barack Obama is drawing fresh attention to Medicare in all-important Florida, seizing on an election-year issue that's been more favorable to Democrats.

Campaigning for a second day in a state where older voters and workers approaching retirement hold sway, Obama was expected to highlight a study by a Democratic leaning group that concluded that on average a man or woman retiring at age 65 in 2023 would have to pay \$59,500 more for

health care over the length of their retirement under Mitt Romney's plan.

The numbers are even higher for younger people who retire later, the study found. A person who qualifies for Medicare in 2030 — today's 48-year-old — would see an increase of \$124,600 in Medicare costs over their retirement period.

While Romney's changes to Medicare would affect future retirees, the study also said that the Republican presidential nominee's plan to get rid of Obama's health care law could raise health care costs in retirement by

\$11,000 for the average person who is 65 today by reinstating limits on prescription drug coverage.

The study was conducted by David Cutler, a Harvard professor and health policy expert who served in the Clinton administration and was Obama's top health care adviser during the 2008 presidential campaign. Cutler conducted the study for the liberal Center for American Progress Action Fund.

Romney would seek to contain Medicare costs by giving retirees voucher-like government payments that

they could use to either buy regular Medicare or private health insurance. But Cutler says older Americans would have to pay more out of pocket to cover the rising costs of health care.

While Obama was continuing his two-day, post-convention swing with stops in Melbourne and West Palm Beach, Romney headed to church in Boston on a day off from campaigning.

But Romney and his running mate, Wisconsin Rep. Paul Ryan, were hardly out of public view, with morning interviews running on several Sunday talk shows.

RNC cameras could stay

Associated Press

TAMPA — The host city for the Republican National Convention may keep a network of surveillance cameras that monitored crowds during the gathering.

Police switched off the cameras after the convention ended Aug. 30, but the equipment remains on light poles, traffic posts and buildings in downtown Tampa.

The Tampa City Council will consider what to do with the cameras at a Sept. 20 workshop.

Some city council members told *The Tampa Tribune* the cameras could be moved to other parts of the city, where they could help prevent crime.

The 60-camera surveillance system cost \$2 million. It was purchased through a \$50 million grant earmarked by Congress for convention security.

Home, vehicle destroyed in fire

CHRIS VAN ORMER
Staff Writer

A Homosassa home, its contents and a vehicle were totally lost to a fire on Saturday, according to a fire incident report.

Firefighters from Sugar Mill Woods Station responded at 6:57 p.m. to a structure fire at 10332 S. McClung Loop, according to the Citrus County Sheriff's Office Fire Rescue Division.

Upon arrival at 7:07 p.m., firefighters found a singlewide manufactured home three-quarters involved with fire, heavy smoke and roof collapse. Another engine from Homosassa Station arrived a minute later. Crews went into defensive mode fighting fire from the outside. Water was sourced from a nearby fire hydrant.

After several other units arrived, including mutual aid from Crystal River, with five engines and two tankers in all, the fire was brought under control at 7:45 p.m. Crews then worked to find hidden fires and mopped up because of the size of the fire.

No injuries were reported. The property is owned by Bernard Berauer, the report said.

One vehicle at the burned home was destroyed, the report said. The home next door at 13338 S. McClung Loop sustained damages to the vinyl siding and a portable carport.

The cause of the fire is under investigation by the Florida State Fire Marshal's Office.

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



CHRIS VAN ORMER/Chronicle

Firefighters participate in the annual 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb on Sunday at Citrus Memorial hospital in Inverness. Participants climbed the equivalent of 110 floors to symbolize the floors in the World Trade Center towers. Most dressed in full bunker gear and air packs.

Raining respect

9/11 Memorial Stair Climb pays tribute to first responders

CHRIS VAN ORMER
Staff Writer

Gloom and drizzle met the Sunday morning participants in this year's 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb, but it was just the weather.

"The spirit's there," said Lt. Chase Hurst of CCSO's Fire Rescue Division, event organizer. "Everybody's good."

Firefighters, law enforcement officers, emergency medical technicians, critical care nurses and many other county residents climbed the stairs at Citrus Memorial hospital in Inverness to pay respect to the hundreds of first responders who perished on Sept. 11, 2001, when hijackers crashed commercial airliners into the World Trade Center's twin towers in New York City, the Pentagon in Arlington, Va., and a field near Shanksville, Pa.

Most people heard rain and thunder when they first woke up.

"We were back and forth this morning," Hurst said. "We weren't sure if we'd have to call it or not. There was a lot of lightning in the area. We were really concerned about it. But the lightning came off

and the rain isn't a big issue. It will cool it down, but the stairwells will still be hot."

Participants climbed the equivalent of 110 floors to symbolize the floors in the World Trade Center towers. Most dressed in full bunker gear and air packs.

"This year, we're actually doing 10 rounds," Hurst said. "Eleven floors will be 110 floors. So far, we've had a lot of additional people to register. I think we're well past 115. We were at 90 when we started this morning."

After registration, those with full bunker gear suited up. Then, climbers and their supporters observed a memorial service with prayers and a moment of silence. Students from Citrus High School played "Taps."

"We've got live bagpipers, as you can hear. So that's an addition," Hurst said.

Callum Macpherson, Kathy Garlock and Colin Macpherson piped the climbers along the road to the hospital entrance, where climbers picked out picture tags of the 343 fallen firefighters to wear during the climb. The CHS Junior ROTC led the climbers as the honor guard.

County commission to finalize sewer assessments

CHRIS VAN ORMER
Staff Writer

County commissioners will make special assessments payable for a Crystal River sewer project when they meet Tuesday.

Members of the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) also will be asked to consider waiving the adoption fee for cats for a six-month period.

At 1:35 p.m., the BOCC will conduct a hearing regarding the 2010 Citrus County/City of Crystal River Wastewater Special Assessment District — Areas 112 and 113. Com-

missioners will hear public comment on the adoption of two resolutions.

Through the resolutions, the BOCC will adopt the assessment roll for the project establishing Sept. 11 as the date when the special assessments will be payable. The final date payments may be paid without interest or penalty will be Oct. 11. The interest rate will be 2.5 percent per year, with an administrative fee of 5 percent of the annual installment per year.

In other business: ■ Commissioner JJ Ken-

SO YOU KNOW

- **WHAT:** Citrus County Board of County Commissioners meeting.
- **WHEN:** 1 p.m. Tuesday;

2:45 p.m. for public questions and comments.

- **WHERE:** Room 100, Citrus County Courthouse, 110 N. Apopka Ave., Inverness.

ney will ask the BOCC to consider waiving the adoption fees for cats for a six-month period beginning Sept. 15 to improve the adoption rates at Animal Services.

According to Dr. Julie Rosenberger, veterinarian, about 40 to 50 cats are adopted each month. But when the shelter started

half-price cat adoptions in July, adoptions increased to close to 100.

Commissioners will be asked to ratify a policy to increase the use of the inmate work force.

Commissioner Rebecca Bays will ask the board to consider a review of options for a revenue analysis, providing an example of how the

process works in Lee County.

- Upcoming meetings:
 - The tentative budget hearing will start at 5:01 p.m. Thursday in Room 100, Citrus County Courthouse, 110 N. Apopka Ave., Inverness.
 - The next regular meeting of the BOCC will start at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 25, at the same venue.
 - The final budget hearing will start at 5:01 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 25, at the same venue.

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

Congress returns for pre-election session

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Fresh off a five-week vacation, lawmakers return to Washington on Monday for a truncated pre-election session in which Congress will do what it often does best: punt problems to the future.

They face a slew of deadlines and the prospect of a debilitating "fiscal cliff" in January, yet are expected to take a pass on the big issues of taxes and spending cuts. Their focus seems to be on the bare minimum, preventing a government shutdown when the budget year ends Sept. 30.

Democrats controlling the Senate and their House GOP rivals also will try to set up votes intended to score political points or paint the other side with an unflattering brush two months before the election. Their efforts are sure to be overshadowed by the presidential campaign.

Topping the agenda of substantive business is a six-month temporary spending bill to finance the government's day-to-day operations. The annual appropriations process on Capitol Hill collapsed about midway through the campaign season. The stopgap measure would give the next Congress time to fashion a full-year plan. There would be no more sure way of driving Congress' approval ratings even lower than for lawmakers to stumble into a government shutdown right before the Nov. 6 vote.

House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., hope to present the measure this week, with a House vote as early as Thursday. The measure also will ensure a steady flow of money into disaster aid accounts.

More challenging is what to do with one of the most significant pieces of leftover business, a five-year farm bill. It would overhaul crop safety net programs while funding the food stamp program that now provides assistance to more than 46 million people.

The current farm act expires at the end of September. House Republican leaders are wary of bringing the bill to the floor. It now appears that Congress will at most opt for a temporary extension of the old bill, including drought aid for livestock



Associated Press

The U.S. Capitol building is seen Nov. 19 in Washington, D.C. Fresh off a five-week vacation, lawmakers return to Washington on Monday for a brief pre-election session.

producers whose assistance programs expired last year.

But it's not certain lawmakers will do even that. Without a formal extension, food stamp and other nutrition programs would continue to function beyond Sept. 30. Most farmers would not be affected because the current farm bill covers 2012 crops regardless of when they are harvested.

The food and farm legislation has bedeviled House leaders because many GOP

conservatives want deeper cuts to food stamps than Democrats, whose votes are needed to pass the measure, are willing to go for.

In all likelihood, political votes are on tap. New York Sen. Charles Schumer, a key Democratic Party strategist, wants a procedural vote on the House Republican budget plan written by Wisconsin rep. Paul Ryan, the GOP vice presidential nominee.

In the House, Republi-

cans promise a vote Friday on a bill called the "No More Solyndras Act," which would phase out Energy Department loan guarantees for solar and wind energy companies. It's unlikely to even get a vote in the Senate.

Solyndra Inc. went bankrupt last year after receiving a loan guarantee from the Obama administration, even as some White House aides raised red flags. The California company's failure left taxpayers on the

hook for \$500 million.

But after a full five-day workweek, House members could be packing up and leaving the Capitol by Friday evening to return to their districts to campaign. At most, they'll return the following week. The Senate is also likely to have a shortened September schedule.

What may be most noteworthy then about the abbreviated pre-election session is not what Congress is doing but the stack of

must-do work that lawmakers are leaving unfinished until a postelection lame-duck session.

Topping the list is the expiration of the full menu of President George W. Bush-era tax cuts on Dec. 31. The resulting tax increases, when combined with more than \$100 billion in automatic across-the-board spending cuts set to take effect at the same time, have become known as the fiscal cliff. Economists warn that unless Congress acts, the one-two austerity punch would send the fragile economy back into recession.

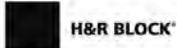
The automatic cuts are punishment for the inability of last year's deficit reduction "supercommittee" to strike a bargain to cut 10-year deficits by at least \$1.2 trillion as promised by last summer's debt and budget pact. The Bush tax cuts were originally set to expire at the end of 2010 but were renewed two years ago. President Barack Obama promises to raise the top tax rate on upper bracket earners back to the Clinton-era level of 39.6 percent, up from 35 percent now.

Other pressing issues for the lame-duck session include averting an almost 30 percent cut in physicians' Medicare fees, the food and farm bill, passing the annual Pentagon policy bill, a Russia free trade bill and legislation to reform the Postal Service, which is now losing \$25 million a day.

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 — David S. Arthurs publisher emeritus

BE WELL INFORMED

FQHC license proposal warrants study

Local businessman Mike Bays is urging county officials to transfer the Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) license held by the county's health center to a private, nonprofit entity.

His thinking is in line with Gov. Rick Scott's idea to privatize health organizations throughout the state. The governor feels private entities operate more efficiently and relieve the public of the burden of using tax dollars to support hospitals, clinics and health centers.

The idea has gained some traction in the county as well, as a result of Bays' involvement. Over the summer, he took a group of local officials — including County Administrator Brad Thorpe, County Attorney Richard Wesch and Assistant County Administrator Cathy Pearson — on a tour of one of the Hillsborough County FQHC facilities and they felt the idea was worth pursuing.

FQHC clinics provide medical, dental and mental health

care to patients on Medicare, Medicaid and the indigent.

We urge the county be cautious in making any such move so as not to be placed in a situation that jeopardizes the county's ability to offer these medical services in an area that is medically underserved. Transferring the license also means giving up control of how and where the health center would be operated.

Mike Bays said he has no interest in housing, partnering with, or operating such a facility as it might cause a conflict for his wife, County Commissioner Rebecca Bays. It is imperative that that be the case.

The recommendation should be analyzed in a factual way that guarantees the service will be provided with the highest quality at the lowest cost.

Moving forward, county officials should strongly consider forming an independent ad hoc committee with members who have credentials to advise if such a move is in the best interest of the county.

THE ISSUE:

Businessman floats idea for privatizing county's FQHC.

OUR OPINION:

Examine issue closely.

We are better than that

— CHARLOTTE, N.C.
 Let's talk about the other speech. Yes, Bill Clinton delivered a 48-minute stemwinder to the Democratic National Convention on Wednesday night that was so mesmerizing even Republicans praised it. But after the huzzahs for Clinton fade, save a little nod of affirmation for Sister Simone Campbell, executive director of NETWORK, a Roman Catholic social justice group. She did not speak long — about seven minutes. Her delivery was not particularly powerful. But with the moral authority of her calling, she did something that has sorely needed doing for some weeks now.



Leonard Pitts
OTHER VOICES

She rebuked "I built that." Granted, the rebuke was only implicit: she never specifically mentioned the new GOP slogan of rugged individualism. But it was no less powerful for that.

As should be obvious to any fair observer, this latest spasm of feigned outrage is built upon a lie, i.e., that in a speech in Roanoke, Va., President Obama told business owners they did not build their businesses, that their success was not a product of their own initiative: "If you've got a business, you didn't build that."

What Obama actually said in 170 words or so is the same thing Martin Luther King used to say in four: "All life is interrelated." So if you built a business, said

Obama, part of its success is due to the fact that "there was a great teacher somewhere in your life" or that someone sacrificed to "create this unbelievable American system" that allowed you to thrive, or to the fact that "somebody invested in roads and bridges" over which your inventory traveled. Contrary to the GOP narrative, he didn't deny the importance of initiative. "The point," he said, "is that when we succeed, we succeed because of our individual initiative, but also because we do things together."

Of course, if it's true Obama's comment has been mischaracterized, it's also true that, contrary to what an inarticulate ad lib and the Democratic spin machine would have you believe, Mitt Romney doesn't "enjoy firing people." No surprise there. Building mountain ranges out of sand grains is part and parcel of politics.

What's vexing, then, is not that the GOP lied but that it seems to believe its own lie. On signs, websites, buttons and T-shirts from the streets to the Web, to the convention hall, "I built this" has become the party's new war cry.

Enter Sister Campbell. This nun, whose social activism has put her at odds with the Vatican, did not talk business. She talked about the "nuns on the bus" tour she undertook to contest cutbacks to services for vulnerable Americans that would be neces-

sary under the budget envisioned by Romney and his running mate. And about the people she met along the way.

Like the 10-year-old twin boys in Toledo who act as sole caregivers for their bedridden mother: Like "Billy," from Milwaukee whose job has cut back his hours and who could not make it without food stamps. Like "Jini" in Cincinnati whose sister Margaret lost her job, lost her health insurance and so, lost her life when she was diagnosed with cancer.

"I am my sister's keeper," said Campbell. "I am my brother's keeper." Can you remember when that went without saying?

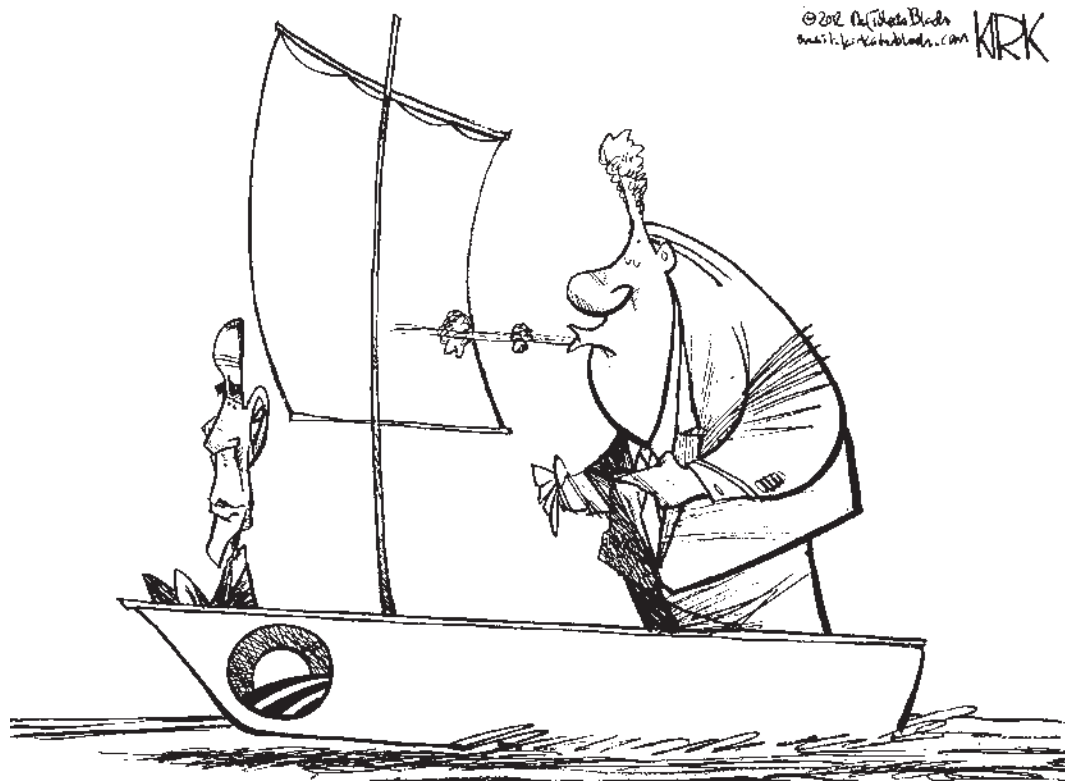
This was Obama's point. In a recent song, Bruce Springsteen put it like this: "We take care of our own."

And we do. Or at least, we should.

Rugged individualism is great. But in shredding social safety nets while chanting, "I built this," the GOP doesn't celebrate individualism so much as deny the interconnectedness of life, scorn the notion of a social covenant or greater good, exile conscience from the public arena. "There but for the grace of God" becomes "Every man for himself."

On Wednesday, a nun gently reminded us of what should be obvious: "We are better than that."

Leonard Pitts is a columnist for the Miami Herald, 1 Herald Plaza, Miami, FL 33132. Readers may contact him via email at lpitts@miamiherald.com.



LETTERS to the Editor

Thanks to voters

First, I want to thank the *Citrus County Chronicle* for their strong endorsement of my candidacy for the office of Citrus County sheriff. Your endorsement was very factual and to the point, while also portraying my worthy primary opponents in a positive light. Good job.

I also want to give a big thank-you to the many volunteers who have spent many hours, days and months helping the Winn Webb campaign to be a success, as well as the many financial contributors who helped to fund the campaign. I could not have won without all of you.

Also, a special thanks goes out to the voters who weathered the weather (rain and heat) to come out and vote. I witnessed many of you using umbrellas to access your voting precincts. Your support and dedication to the electoral process was greatly appreciated and did not go unnoticed. I am asking for your continued support and fervent prayers in the general election. Thanks again to all of you.

Winn Webb
 Inverness

Tax reform needed

Some people don't understand about the wealthy getting tax cuts. The top 2 percent pay the largest share of taxes! They pay 35 percent and Barack Obama wants 40 percent. They also pay

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15 percent on dividends and capital gains. Plus, they give more to charitable causes, which makes my donations just a penny compared to them. If they paid more federal taxes, it would pay for government expenses, etc. for about a week.

My husband and I live mostly on Social Security and have Medicare. We also have stocks and bonds. We are part of the 45 percent who pay no federal

taxes. Does anyone out there think this is fair? What would be the top 2 percent earners' fair share? They already pay most of the federal taxes now. The entire tax system needs to be reformed. One person wrote that it would save the government \$1 trillion. This is hogwash. They love to tax and spend.

Ann Johnson
 Citrus Springs

Thanks for support

I would like to thank all of my supporters who donated, helped with the campaign and voted for me and the ones who did not — for voting for me when I run again, as I do not plan on going belly up in this male-dominated county, as a woman's viewpoint, in my opinion, is very much needed, especially since I personally feel that the "good old boys" actually do need women who will stand for fiscal restraint and consideration for our U.S. constitutional rights, including freedom of speech and no taxation without representation.

Again, a big thank-you to all of my supporters in the commission race, and my prayers are that all of our elected officials will have respect for all of the people of Citrus County, as this was my motivation for ever running for office! As the famous song by the Beatles goes, "Let It Be!"

Renee Christopher-McPheeters
 Crystal River

Hot Corner: PLASTIC CANVAS

Project help

For the lady who needed help with plastic canvas: There is a group that meets at Lake Region Library in Inverness on Monday mornings from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and there's several ladies in that group (who) can help you with your plastic canvas project.

Patterns

This is in reference to the lady or person (who) needs help with the plastic canvas. What you need to do is, you have to count the ribs, which are the solid parts, and count that up against your pattern. I always take a magic marker and draw around in order

to make sure the pattern is correct. If you have any problems, please feel free to give me a call (at) 897-4645. Have a nice day.

Helping hand

I'm calling to help the person who needs help with the plastic canvas project. If you would like to put your phone number in the paper, I would be more than happy to call you and help you through your project.

Library assistance

For the lady who wanted help with plastic canvas: Have her go to the Inverness library on Monday morning when they're open and we'll help her.

Hot Corner: FOOD STAMP FRAUD

Investigation needed

There's been fraud in Medicare, Medicaid, food stamps, income tax returns. It's been going on for years and years and years. The government does nothing about it. They said they don't have the manpower or the money. They're ripping us off for millions of dollars. If they investigated, they would have the money.

EBT fraud

In response to "EBT cards," Sunday, Sept. 2: You're right. Being in a position that you need food stamps is not fun, but the man had every right to be mad about them being used for lottery tickets. And worse yet, these store owners buy them, make a profit and it allows the seller to buy drugs. Also, I think store owners should be punished when caught. Better yet, food stamps shouldn't be allowed at convenience stores. Use a real grocery store. There is so much fraud that goes on with EBT. I think anyone on food

stamps should be drug tested. And as for "EBT is for food," Sept. 2: Open your eyeballs.

Change needed

I'd like to address the entitlement issue in this country and what's wrong with it and how struggling Americans who can't qualify for it are still struggling but people who are below a certain level can get free money from the government, including food stamps. I'd like to know why. I happen to personally know somebody who gets food stamps, has an iPad in his house, has a home personal computer and various other expensive items, including a nice car that he drives, and yet he gets food stamps. As far as I know, food stamps were originally developed for starving families — and that means starving. He is by no means starving. The only people in this country who should get food stamps are people who are starving. I'm sorry, but something needs to be changed.



Sound OFF

TV schedule

With the new television season just starting, would the *Chronicle* consider printing at least once the new daytime lineup of all the new shows for all of us who cannot afford your weekly TV guide? It would be very, very much appreciated.

Editor's note: The cost of the weekly TV guide is 25 cents. To subscribe, call 352-563-5655.

Keep parkway out

We do not need the Suncoast Parkway. We defeated it once and we will defeat it again. You people have nerve to say that we need big business in this small town ... We don't need anything here. We do have the parkway to go to the airport and that's enough. Leave us alone and don't bother us. We do not need a big place here. We like our rural place. We don't need a big town.

How'd that happen?

Just sitting here watching the "Citrus County Court." An individual came up; he's accused of driving with a suspended license.

His answer was, "I don't speak English, I don't read or understand English." My question is: How did he get a license if he can't speak or read English? How does he read the road signs? ... Someone answer me how he got a license in the first place.

Border protection

Isn't it ironic that we spend billions of dollars thousands of miles away in Afghanistan protecting our country, yet we won't spend money to close our borders and protect our country right here?

Say 'no' to port

With all the talk about (the) Port Citrus project, finally someone who knows from experience as a businessman dealing with ports throughout the world — it's not costing thousands of dollars of taxpayer money for advice from so-called experts — Jeff Barnes laid it out. Port Citrus just won't work. Let's not have another expensive Otawa-like debacle.

Death, not prison

Drew Peterson murders three wives and the jury found him guilty. The judge (may) sentence him to 60 years in jail at a cost of \$15,000 to \$20,000 a year. The sentence is cruel and unusual punishment. This is unconstitutional. He should be put to sleep peacefully. If we don't put to death murderers, we create more. The Bible says, "an eye for an eye," and so forth, etc., "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth," etc. Over and out.

Welfare recipients

In reference to entitlements: I believe what we need to do is bring back welfare investigation. I know due to budget cuts that this has been canceled. We need to go to these homes, find out who's living in these homes. Why people are working less hours so this way they can (qualify for) these entitlements? Why they're getting free child care when they're working? I work for a company where (employees) will not come to work on certain days, so this way they are below the poverty level and are getting government supplements. This again needs to be investigated like many, many years ago when they wouldn't tell you when they were coming to your house and (came) to see who was living there who should not have been living there.

Charlie's trying

Florida's former Republican governor, Charlie Crist, is desperate to get a Washington job. Remember his trying to buy Rubio's spot with a gold piece?

Not so nice

This is in reference to Sept. 7's Sound Off column, "Thanks, stranger." Our daughter did the same thing. She left her wallet in the shopping cart and the next day the store called and told her that someone turned it in. Everything was still in the wallet, including the money. You can imagine how happy she was. Well, before the day was out, it became obvious that everything in the wallet was copied and the so-called honest thief racked up thousand of dollars in her name.

Beware. Don't trust anyone. Check your account balances as often as possible.

Bad behavior

About 3 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 6, a car pulled into the post office parking lot in Inverness from the north side. I told the woman driving to look at the sign on the corner and told her it said, "Do not enter." Well, did she get fouthmouthed with me — very ladylike. No wonder kids do whatever they please today. People like her tell them, "Do as I say, not what I do."

Free trade?

In answer to Chuck Wieler's letter of (May 16): Obama did not send the jobs to China. It was President Clinton and I remember when Ross Perot said if Clinton signs the free trade bill, Ross said he could hear the whoosh of jobs going to China. So you see, the free trade bill signed by Clinton and the Democrats caused the jobs to go to China. Free trade? Ha, ha. China does no free trade.

Ask around

Some of my friends and I agree with Harry Hershey about the doctors' predictions. Several of us had gone and gotten second opinions and found out we didn't have what the first doctor said. And when you took away the medicine the first doctor prescribed, we felt a lot better and found out we didn't have that. Always get a second opinion.

Health spa

I'm happy to see that somebody wrote and straightened out that person about the health spa in Beverly Hills for teachers. First of all, even if it were a health spa, they don't have time to go. They work all day, even on their days off, even on holidays, to make sure these children learn and get an education. So if you have nothing else to do, maybe you could volunteer for the school system and then you could see what's going on.

Voting rights

This is in response to the (letter to the editor), "Voting is a privilege," printed by Joe Spoto of Pine Ridge ... The 15th Amendment to the United States Constitution, the 24th Amendment and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 directly address the right of all U.S. citizens to vote in a federal election.

The act has been renewed and amended by Congress four times — the latest by George W. Bush in 2006. No American citizen has to deserve the right to vote in a federal election. It is a right guaranteed by the United States Constitution. There is no question about that.

SOUND OFF

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Nation BRIEFS

On the run



Associated Press

Jimi Letchford, 8, of Ladera Ranch, Calif., finishes a five-kilometer race, the 9/11 Heroes Run at Ladera Ranch, on Sunday. Several hundred people participated to raise money for charity and to remember heroes of Sept. 11.

FDA warns egg firm over bacteria

IOWA CITY, Iowa — An Iowa egg producer diverted eggs from the food supply after a recent inspection discovered salmonella in two of its barns.

Centrum Valley Farms told The Associated Press the FDA found the strain called salmonella heidelberg in two of six poultry houses tested at its Clarion facility in May.

The company said the finding didn't mean eggs were tainted. But it withheld them until they tested negative and were approved for sale by the FDA.

The plant is under strict oversight because it was implicated in the 2010 salmonella outbreak, which caused a recall of 550 million eggs and sickened hundreds. Centrum Valley took over management afterward, vowing to improve operations.

In an Aug. 14 letter, the FDA said it was concerned about the presence of salmonella and ordered corrective action.

World BRIEFS

New party?



Associated Press

Supporters of Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, former presidential candidate of the Democratic Revolution Party (PRD), one of them wearing a Mexican Revolution costume, listen to his speech Sunday at Mexico City's main plaza, the Zocalo. Lopez Obrador, who led Mexico's main leftist party in the past two presidential elections announced Sunday he is leaving it behind and may start a new party, throwing uncertainty over the future of the nation's political left.

Syria: Car bomb kills 17 in Aleppo

DAMASCUS, Syria — Syria's state-run news agency says a car bomb has killed 17 people and wounded 40 in the northern Aleppo province.

The report on the SANA news agency said Sunday night's blast was caused by a booby-trapped car. The report quoted the Aleppo governor, who said the 17 dead were all civilians.

State-run TV aired footage that showed destroyed buildings and rescue workers trying to pull people from the rubble.

—From wire reports

Iraq's fugitive VP convicted

Attacks kill 92 across country

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's fugitive Sunni vice president was sentenced Sunday to death by hanging on charges he masterminded death squads against rivals in a terror trial that has fueled sectarian tensions in the country.

Underscoring the instability, insurgents unleashed an onslaught of bombings and shootings across Iraq, killing at least 92 people in one of the deadliest days this year.

It's unlikely that the attacks in 13 cities were all timed to coincide with the afternoon verdict that capped a monthlong case

against Vice President Tariq al-Hashemi, a long-time foe of Shiite Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. Still, taken together, the violence and verdict could energize Sunni insurgents bent on returning Iraq to the brink of civil war by targeting Shiites and undermining the government.

Al-Hashemi fled to Turkey in the months after the Shiite-led government accused him of playing a role in 150 bombings, assassinations and other attacks from 2005 to 2011 — years in which the country was mired in retaliatory sectarian violence that followed the 2003 U.S.-led invasion



Associated Press

Iraq's Vice President Tariq al-Hashemi speaks to the media Sunday as he leaves a meeting with Turkey's Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, unseen, in Ankara, Turkey.

that ousted Saddam Hussein's Sunni regime. Most of the attacks were allegedly carried out by al-Hashemi's

bodyguards and other employees, and largely targeted government officials, security forces and Shiite

pilgrims.

The vice president declined to immediately comment on the verdict after meeting with the Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu in Ankara. He said he would "tackle this issue in a statement" in coming hours.

The politically charged case — which was announced the day after U.S. troops withdrew from the country last December — sparked a government crisis and fueled Sunni Muslim and Kurdish resentment against al-Maliki, whom critics say is monopolizing power.

Violence has ebbed significantly, but insurgents continue to stage high-profile bombings and shooting rampages.



Associated Press

Teachers and pro-teacher community groups rally in front of a building the Chicago Teachers Union has designated its strike headquarters Saturday in Chicago. The union has vowed to strike Monday if an agreement over teachers' contracts is not reached with Chicago Public Schools by then.

Parents plan for teachers' strike

Associated Press

CHICAGO — With Chicago teachers poised to go on strike for the first time in a quarter century, parents spent Sunday worrying about how much their children's education might suffer and where their kids will go while they're at work.

Teachers said they would walk off the job Monday if no deal was reached with the nation's third-largest district by midnight on issues such as pay, job security and evaluations. Parents have been waiting nervously for word of progress as city and union officials send messages that are discouraging one day and encouraging the next.

School officials have said they would open more than 140 schools between 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. if there is a strike so that children can eat lunch and breakfast in a district where most

of the 400,000 students receive free meals.

"They're going to lose learning time," said Beatriz Fierro, whose daughter is in the fifth grade on the city's southwest side. "And if the whole afternoon they're going to be free, it's bad. Of course you're worried."

Working parents such as Eric Ferrer said opening buildings for four hours won't help them much because they have to be at work all day. Ferrer, a cook, said his children can stay home Monday with his wife, who works in a store. But if a strike went more than one day, they would have a problem — one that he sees no way to solve.

"My wife is off tomorrow (so) we can keep them at home," said Ferrer, as he sat in a McDonald's restaurant on the city's Southwest Side with his wife and their 8-year-old son and 3-year-old daughter. "She works

the next day (and) so do I," he said.

Chicago Public Schools has offered teachers a four-year contract with raises of 2 percent a year. The union says that's unacceptable, especially after Mayor Rahm Emanuel last year canceled a previously negotiated 4 percent raise, citing budget problems.

The union is also concerned about raises based on teacher experience and education; new evaluations; health benefits; and how a longer school day for students is being implemented.

Parent Silvia Flores, who works as a housekeeper, said she's lined up a neighbor to watch her 6-year-old son between 12:30 p.m. and the late afternoon when she gets off work. But she still doesn't like it.

"I appreciate it, but he's going to be just watching TV, not learning," she said. "I don't want that because he's going to get behind

(in his studies)."

Other parents said that even if they could drop their children off for four hours and pick them up, they might not because they don't know who will be watching them.

The district won't open every school, so some students would have to go to unfamiliar buildings. Plans also call for children to be supervised by non-union workers and central office employees. And all that change is coming just a week into the school year, when children, particularly the younger ones, may still be a little bit scared about leaving home all day.

"I'm not going to stick my kids in a place with strangers they don't know and with (employees) I don't know," said Doug Danby, a real estate developer. "I'm going to be dragging them to construction sites."

Sixteen moderate Muslim preachers killed in Mali

Associated Press

BAMAKO, Mali — Sixteen Muslim preachers from a moderate sect were shot dead in central Mali as they traveled by road to a religious conference, the Malian and Mauritanian governments said Sunday. Early reports indicate that the men's long beards aroused the suspicion of Mali's military, which confused them for the extremists who have taken

over the nation's north.

The preachers were heading to the gathering in Bamako when they were executed in Diabaly 267 miles north of the capital. The dead included at least 12 nationals of Mauritania, the Mauritanian government said in a government communiqué that blames Malian security forces for executing the preachers. A relative of two of the victims and a Mali police official

confirmed this version of events.

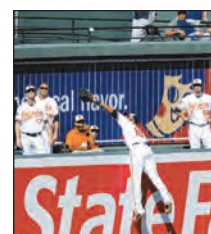
According to the statement released via Mauritania's official news agency, "A group exercising the activity of preaching, which included 12 Mauritians, were killed Sunday by Malian security forces. According to an official source, Mauritanian officials are in touch with Malian authorities in order to get more information on the circumstances of this af-

fair and also to repatriate the bodies of the Mauritians who were killed."

Mali also released a statement late Sunday, confirming that 16 people had been killed, which it identified as eight Malian nationals and eight Mauritians. But Mali did not acknowledge that Malian security forces had carried out the execution.

Mohamed Bashir, who said he had two cousins die

in the shooting, said the 16 ministers came from the peaceful Dawa sect. He said he received a phone call from a customs officer near Diabaly who told him that the group had aroused the suspicion of the Malian military, which has been on edge ever since a March 21 coup in the capital and the subsequent seizure of the north by Muslim extremists, some of whom are allied with al-Qaida.



SPORTS BRIEFS



Associated Press

Tulane safety Devon Walker poses for a photo in New Orleans. Walker's spine was fractured in a head-to-head collision with a teammate Saturday during a game in Tulsa, Okla.

Doctor: Unclear whether Tulane player is paralyzed

TULSA, Okla. — It's too soon to tell if Tulane safety Devon Walker will be paralyzed as the result of a spinal fracture he suffered while making a tackle, the team's doctor said Sunday.

Dr. Greg Stewart, Tulane University's director of sports medicine, said Walker remained in stable condition in the intensive care until of St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa.

"These kind of injuries take 24, 48, sometimes 72 hours to fully declare themselves," Stewart said. "We don't know what the long-term implications and outcomes are going to be."

Walker's parents had traveled to Oklahoma to be with their son, and they were "doing as well as can be expected," Stewart said.

Walker's injury occurred on the final play of the first half as Tulane opened the Conference USA portion of its schedule against Tulsa. Tulsa was leading 35-3 and facing a fourth-and-2 at the 33-yard line on Saturday when the Golden Hurricane called timeout. Tulane then called timeout.

When play resumed, Tulsa quarterback Cody Green tossed a short pass to Willie Carter, who caught it and turned upfield. He was tackled, with defensive tackle Julius Warmesley and Walker sandwiching him and apparently smashing their helmets together.

FOX Sports reported a hush went over the crowd at H.A. Chapman Stadium as Walker was attended to, and that several coaches were in tears as he was taken away in an ambulance. Spectators bowed their heads as someone on the field led the stadium in prayer.

Walker is a senior majoring in cell and molecular biology.

Yankees' Teixeira could be out for rest of the season

BALTIMORE — The New York Yankees fear first baseman Mark Teixeira aggravated a leg injury in an ill-fated sprint to first base, and the severity of his strained left calf will determine if he returns to play this season.

Teixeira returned Saturday from a 10-day absence, then hurt himself on the final play of New York's 5-4 loss to Baltimore.

Asked Sunday if he envisioned Teixeira playing anytime soon, Yankees manager Joe Girardi replied: "No, I don't think he'll be a player for us. I'd be surprised, but we'll just have to wait and see."

Girardi says Teixeira will have an MRI on Monday.

The Yankees had runners at the corners with one out in the ninth when Teixeira hit a grounder to second. After the force at second, he made a head-first dive into first base in an effort to beat the relay.

"I think that's when he really felt it," Girardi said. "He busted his rear end to get down there. It's unfortunate." Especially because replays show he beat the throw.

—From wire reports

Upton cranks three as Rays blank Rangers

Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG — B.J. Upton hit three home runs, James Shields threw a two-hitter and the Tampa Bay Rays beat the Texas Rangers 6-0 on Sunday.

Upton hit solo homers in the first, fourth and sixth innings. He struck out in the second, and received a standing ovation before hitting a broken-bat grounder to third in the eighth.

Upton joined Evan Longoria (2008) and Jonny Gomes (2005) as the only Tampa Bay players with three-homer games.

Shields (14-8) permitted just three baserunners. Elvis Andrus reached on a first-inning error; Nelson Cruz had an infield single in the second and David Murphy singled in the eighth.

Tampa Bay took two of three in the weekend series and improved to 5-4 against the Rangers on the year.

Shields struck out eight in his second complete-game shutout this year. The other came in at Oakland July 31.

Upton put the Rays up 1-0 on a first-pitch leadoff homer against Roy Oswalt (4-3) in the first. Matt Joyce made it 2-0 later in the inning with an RBI double.

Upton had a fourth-inning shot off Martin Perez that extended the lead to 5-0. He also hit his 21st homer this season against the left-handed reliever in the sixth.

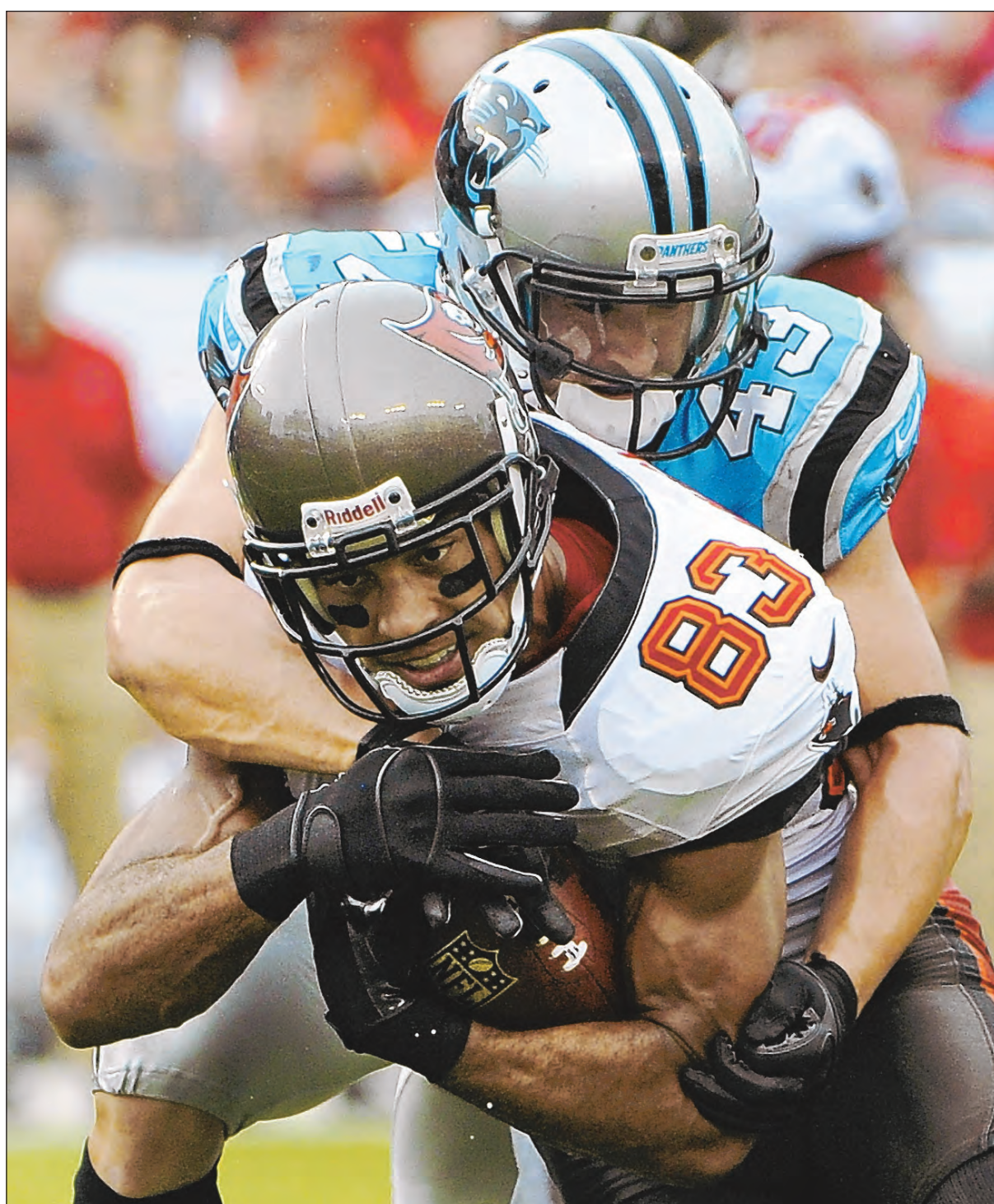
Oswalt, making his first start since Aug. 23, left after two innings because of right flexor muscle soreness near his elbow. The right-hander allowed four runs and six hits, two of which were home runs.

Tampa Bay went ahead 4-0 on Jose Molina's two-run homer during the second. It was his sixth homer this season and his first since Aug. 17.



Associated Press

Tampa Bay Rays outfielder B.J. Upton makes a curtain call Sunday after hitting his third home run of the game during the sixth inning in St. Petersburg.



Associated Press

Tampa Bay Buccaneers wide receiver Vincent Jackson is stopped Sunday by Carolina Panthers defensive back Haruki Nakamura during the second quarter in Tampa.

Bucs slam Cam

Tampa Bay running on all cylinders in debut under Schiano

Associated Press

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers kept the heat on Cam Newton all day, leaving the Carolina star little room to throw the ball and even less to run.

A defense that allowed an NFL-worst 494 points and ranked last against the run intercepted Newton twice and limited the running game to 10 yards as the Bucs won their debut under coach Greg Schiano 16-7 over the Panthers on Sunday.

Josh Freeman threw a 6-yard TD pass to Mike Williams and Connor Barth kicked three field goals to stop a 10-game losing streak that prompted the firing of former coach Raheem Morris. Schiano came to Tampa after spending 11 seasons transforming Rutgers from one of the losingest programs in college football into a Big East contender.

Newton threw for 303 yards and one touchdown. But the Panthers were shut out in the first half, and the interceptions thwarted Carolina's comeback chances.

Ronde Barber, making his 200th consecutive start, had one of Tampa Bay's interceptions. The 37-year-old, who's making the transition from cornerback to safety in his 16th season, also had one of the team's three sacks.

Freeman completed his first eight passes, making use of three of the newcomers brought in to help him after the Bucs ranked 30th in rushing offense and 27th in points scored last season.

See BUCS/Page B3

McIlroy roars on in Carmel

Associated Press

CARMEL, Ind. — Rory McIlroy beat the strongest leaderboard in golf this year Sunday in the BMW Championship and joined some elite company.

McIlroy made back-to-back birdies around the turn to emerge from a four-way tie and seize control at Crooked Stick. He closed with a 5-under 67, making his only bogey on the final hole when it no longer mattered, for a two-shot victory over Phil Mickelson and Lee Westwood.

Everyone knew Boy Wonder was a special player when he won the U.S. Open last summer with a record score. The last month has established him as the dominant player in golf, with three wins in four tournaments loaded with the best players — the PGA Championship and two FedEx Cup playoff events.

McIlroy became the first player since Tiger Woods in 2009 to win in consecutive weeks on the PGA Tour, and with his sixth career win, he joined Woods and Jack Nicklaus as the only players to win at least six times at age 23.

"I didn't think everything would happen so quickly, but I'm on a good run at the minute and I want to keep it going as long as I can," McIlroy said.

Mickelson and Westwood tried to chase him down on the back nine at Crooked Stick, only to make mistakes when they couldn't afford any.

See BMW/Page B8



Associated Press

Rory McIlroy hits his tee shot off the seventh hole Sunday during the final round of the BMW Championship at Crooked Stick Golf Club in Carmel, Ind.

Serena queen of the Open once more

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Finally tested, even trailing, at the U.S. Open, Serena Williams turned things around just in time.

Two points from defeat, Williams suddenly regained her composure and her strokes, coming back to win the last four games and beat No. 1-ranked Victoria Azarenka 6-2, 2-6, 7-5 on Sunday night for her fourth championship at Flushing Meadows and 15th Grand Slam title overall.

"I honestly can't believe I won. I really was preparing my runner-up speech, because I thought, 'Man, she's playing so great,'" Williams said during the trophy presentation, adding: "I'm really shocked."

Might be the only one. After all, what really was stunning was that Azarenka made things as interesting as they were, given she came into the day 1-9 against Williams over their careers.

Add in that Williams hadn't dropped a set in the tournament, losing only 19 games through six matches

before Sunday. All part of a tremendous run she is putting together in reaction to her loss at the French Open in late May, the American's only first-round exit in 49 career major tournaments. Since then, she is 26-1, winning Wimbledon and the London Olympics.

There hadn't been a three-set women's final in New York since 1995, and Williams came through with a late charge to become the first woman to

See OPEN/Page B8



Associated Press

Serena Williams returns a shot to Victoria Azarenka on Sunday during the women's championship match at the U.S. Open in New York. Williams beat Azarenka, winning her fourth Open title.

AL

Table with 10 columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB, WC, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows include Tampa Bay, Texas, and other AL teams.

Table with 10 columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB, WC, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows include Yankees, Baltimore, and other AL teams.

Table with 10 columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB, WC, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows include Blue Jays, Boston, and other AL teams.

Table with 10 columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB, WC, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows include Twins, Indians, and other AL teams.

Table with 10 columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB, WC, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows include Royals, White Sox, and other AL teams.

Table with 10 columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB, WC, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows include Athletics, Mariners, and other AL teams.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Table with 10 columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB, WC, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows include Chicago, Detroit, Kansas City, Cleveland, Minnesota, and other AL teams.

Table with 10 columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB, WC, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows include Texas, Oakland, Los Angeles, Seattle, and other AL teams.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Table with 10 columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB, WC, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows include Cincinnati, St. Louis, Pittsburgh, Milwaukee, Chicago, Houston, and other NL teams.

Table with 10 columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB, WC, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows include San Fran., Los Angeles, Arizona, San Diego, Colorado, and other NL teams.

Yankees retake lead in AL East

BALTIMORE — Slumping Curtis Granderson came off the bench to hit his 35th homer and drive in five runs, and the New York Yankees beat the Baltimore Orioles 13-3 to regain sole possession of first place in the AL East and earn an important split of the season series.



Baltimore Orioles center fielder Adam Jones jumps in vain for a home run by New York Yankees center fielder Curtis Granderson during the sixth inning Sunday in Baltimore. The Yankees won 13-3.

Derek Jeter also homered for the Yankees, who lead the Orioles by one game with 22 left. Each team won twice in a four-game set.

New York finished 9-9 against Baltimore this season. Had the Orioles won Sunday, they would have received home-field advantage in a playoff game if the teams finish tied atop the division.

BOSTON — Omar Vizquel hit a pair of sacrifice flies, including one in the ninth inning that lifted the Toronto Blue Jays over the free-falling Boston Red Sox.

MINNEAPOLIS — Justin Morneau hit his second homer of the game in the bottom of the ninth inning to lift the Minnesota Twins to an 8-7 win over the Cleveland Indians.

With one out in the ninth, Morneau hit the first pitch from Indians reliever Vinnie Pestano (3-2) just inside the right field foul pole for his 19th homer of the season.

CHICAGO — Mike Moustakas stroked a go-ahead single in the 10th inning to lift the Kansas City Royals to a win over the Chicago White Sox.

The Royals plated both their runs with two outs in the 10th off Brett Myers (2-3), the seventh of eight White Sox pitchers in the game.

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Zack Greinke pitched seven strong innings of five-hit ball, Mike Trout hit a leadoff homer for the second straight day and the Los Angeles Angels completed their second straight series sweep with a victory over the slumping Detroit Tigers.

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SEATTLE — Jonny Gomes hit a three-run home run, Tommy Milone worked six strong innings and the Oakland Athletics finished off a three-game sweep of the Seattle Mariners with a victory.

Milone (12-10) allowed eight hits and two runs, matched a career high with 10 strikeouts and had no walks. He has walked one or no batters in each of his past 14 starts.

JASON VARGAS (14-10) ALLOWED JUST FOUR HITS AND THREE RUNS IN SEVEN INNINGS FOR SEATTLE. HE WALKED THREE AND STRUCK OUT SIX.

Table with 10 columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB, WC, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows include N.Y. Yankees, Toronto, Tampa Bay, Minnesota, Kansas City, L.A. Angels, Oakland, Seattle, and other AL teams.

Table with 10 columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB, WC, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows include Cleveland, Detroit, Oakland, and other AL teams.

Table with 10 columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB, WC, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows include Philadelphia, Atlanta, Houston, Chicago, Miami, St. Louis, San Diego, Atlanta, and other NL teams.

Table with 10 columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB, WC, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows include Miami, Pittsburgh, Washington, Cubs, Cincinnati, San Fran., St. Louis, and other NL teams.

For more box scores, see Page B4.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

NEW YORK — Chipper Jones and the Braves got the better of the Mets one more time.

Brian McCann homered and drove in the go-ahead run in extra innings to give Atlanta a win over the Mets in Chipper Jones' final game in New York.

Jones did not start, but manager Fredi Gonzalez sent him out with the lineup card before the game and the retiring Braves star got a warm hand from Mets fans.

ST. LOUIS — Allen Craig hit an RBI single with two outs in the 10th inning and the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Milwaukee Brewers 5-4 Sunday to avoid a three-game sweep.

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WASHINGTON — Ricky Nolasco tossed a four-hitter to shut out Washington for the second time in two weeks and Giancarlo Stanton homered for the third straight day to lead the Miami Marlins to a win over the Nationals.

Nolasco also doubled in two runs when Bryce Harper lost his fly ball in the sun, and Greg Dobbs added three singles for Miami, which pounded out 14 hits. Nolasco (12-12) struck out six and walked one.

The Marlins won two of three games in the weekend series against the NL East-leading Nationals (86-54), whose division lead slipped to 5 1/2 games over Atlanta.

Nationals starter Edwin Jackson (9-10) lasted just 4 2-3 innings, giving up six earned runs on nine hits.

Cubs 4, Pirates 2

PITTSBURGH — Alfonso Soriano hit a two-run homer in the eighth inning to give the Cubs the go-ahead runs and Chicago completed a three-game sweep of the Pittsburgh Pirates with a win.

Soriano followed Anthony Rizzo's lead-off single in the eighth with his second homer in as many days and 28th of the season, sending the first pitch from Jason Grilli (1-6) into the Cubs bullpen in left-center.

Phillies 3, Rockies 2 (Game 1)

PHILADELPHIA — John Mayberry Jr. had the winning single in the ninth when left fielder Carlos Gonzalez failed to hold on to a diving catch, leading the Philadelphia Phillies to a 3-2 win over the Colorado Rockies on Sunday.

Jonathan Papelbon (5-6) picked up the win with a scoreless ninth in the first game of a doubleheader.

Saturday's scheduled game was postponed by rain. Tyler Cloyd will start for the Phillies in the evening game against Drew Pomeranz.

Rockies reliever Matt Belisle (3-6) loaded the bases in the ninth. Gonzalez sprinted toward Mayberry's low liner and appeared to make a diving catch. The ball plopped out when his glove hit the ground. There was brief confusion before the umpire ruled it was a hit.

Rockies catcher Wilin Rosario had two of his four passed balls in the ninth.

Cardinals 5, Brewers 4 (10 innings)

ST. LOUIS — Allen Craig hit an RBI single with two outs in the 10th inning and the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Milwaukee Brewers 5-4 Sunday to avoid a three-game sweep.

Matt Carpenter singled with one out in the St. Louis 10th off Kameron Loe (6-5) and moved up on a wild pitch. Craig singled and Carpenter made a nifty slide to score.

NL

Table with 10 columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB, WC, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows include Atlanta, New York, and other NL teams.

Table with 10 columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB, WC, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows include Atlanta, Houston, Cincinnati, and other NL teams.

Table with 10 columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB, WC, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows include Houston, Cincinnati, and other NL teams.

Marlins 8, Nationals 0

Table with 10 columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB, WC, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows include Miami, Washington, and other NL teams.

Cubs 4, Pirates 2

Table with 10 columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB, WC, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows include Chicago, Pittsburgh, and other NL teams.

Phillies 3, Rockies 2 (Game 1)

Table with 10 columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB, WC, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows include Philadelphia, Colorado, and other NL teams.

Cardinals 5, Brewers 4 (10 innings)

Table with 10 columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB, WC, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows include St. Louis, Milwaukee, and other NL teams.

GOLF

PGA-BMW Championship par scores

Table listing PGA-BMW Championship par scores for various players including R. McIlroy, P. Mickelson, L. Westwood, etc.

For the record Florida LOTTERY

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



Table showing winning numbers for CASH 3 (early), CASH 3 (late), PLAY 4 (early), PLAY 4 (late), and FANTASY 5.

On the AIRWAVES

TODAY'S SPORTS

BASEBALL

- 7 p.m. (FSNFL) Miami Marlins at Philadelphia Phillies
HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL
6 p.m. (SUN) Lincoln (Fla.) vs. St. Paul's (La.) (taped)
NFL FOOTBALL
7 p.m. (ESPN) Cincinnati Bengals at Baltimore Ravens
10:15 p.m. (ESPN) San Diego Chargers at Oakland Raiders

Note: Times and channels are subject to change at the discretion of the network. If you are unable to locate a game on the listed channel, please contact your cable provider.

Prep CALENDAR

VOLLEYBALL

- 7 p.m. Crystal River at Seven Rivers
7 p.m. Nature Coast at Lecanto
7 p.m. Citrus at Weeki Wachee

FOOTBALL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Table showing American Conference football standings for teams like N.Y. Jets, New England, Miami, Buffalo, Houston, Jacksonville, Indianapolis, Tennessee, Baltimore, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Denver, Oakland, San Diego, Kansas City.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Table showing National Conference football standings for teams like Dallas, Washington, Philadelphia, N.Y. Giants, Tampa Bay, Atlanta, New Orleans, Carolina, Detroit, Chicago, Minnesota, Green Bay, Arizona, San Francisco, Seattle, St. Louis.

Bucs 16, Panthers 10

Summary of game statistics for Tampa Bay Buccaneers vs Carolina Panthers.

Individual statistics for Tampa Bay Buccaneers vs Carolina Panthers.

Eagles 17, Browns 16

Summary of game statistics for Philadelphia Eagles vs Cleveland Browns.

Angels 3, Tigers 2

Summary of game statistics for Detroit Tigers vs Los Angeles Angels.

Arkansas plunges; K-State surges

Associated Press

Arkansas took the plunge. The Razorbacks went from eighth to out of the rankings after a 34-31 overtime loss to Louisiana-Monroe on Saturday night in Little Rock.

To make matters worse for the Razorbacks, star quarterback Tyler Wilson was knocked out of the game with a possible concussion. And, oh by the way, Arkansas hosts Alabama on Saturday.

The Crimson Tide held firm to the stop spot in the rankings, followed by Southern California, LSU and Oregon. The top 10 was virtually unchanged, except for Arkansas.

The Razorbacks' dive was the second-largest of any team to fall out of the Top 25, trailing only Michigan's fall from preseason No. 5 after its historic loss to Appalachian State in the opening week of the 2007 season.

Arkansas might have Wilson back next week. Coach John L. Smith said Sunday the prognosis on the senior was good.

Moving up

Collin Klein and Kansas State are demanding to be taken seriously — again.

The Wildcats were surprising upstarts last season, winning 10 games and getting to the Cotton Bowl after being picked to finish in the bottom half of the Big 12. Kansas State won eight games by seven points or less. Luck or skill?

The Wildcats are making a case for the latter. Klein accounted for four touchdowns in a 52-13 victory over Miami in Manhattan, Kan. The rout moved them up six spots in the AP Top 25 to No. 15.

Moving down

All the teams that moved down also moved out. Joining Arkansas were Wisconsin, Nebraska and Oklahoma State.

All three lost on the road, though none in a more startling fashion than the Badgers.

Wisconsin fell 10-7 at Oregon State, managing only 207 yards of offense. Montee Ball, last year's Heisman Trophy finalist, had his streak of games with a touchdown snapped at 21 and was held to 61 yards on 15 carries.

USA Today Top 25 poll

The USA Today Top 25 football coaches poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Sept. 8, total points based on 25 points for first place through one point for 25th, and previous ranking:

Table showing USA Today Top 25 poll results for various teams like Alabama, LSU, Southern Cal, etc.

The AP Top 25

The Top 25 teams in The Associated Press college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Sept. 8, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote, and previous ranking:

Table showing AP Top 25 poll results for various teams like Alabama, Southern Cal, LSU, etc.

Others receiving votes: Boise State 104; Oklahoma State 97; Mississippi State 88; Tennessee 71; Brigham Young 70; Arizona State 58; Baylor 57; Cincinnati 29; Oregon State 28; Georgia Tech 24; South Florida 21; Louisiana Tech 13; Rutgers 12; Virginia 11; Iowa State 10; Northwestern 9; Wake Forest 6; Mississippi 3; Ohio 2; Texas Tech 2; Washington 2; Louisiana-Monroe 1; Nevada 1; Texas A&M 1.

In and out

No. 22 UCLA and No. 23 Tennessee are back in the rankings for the first time in four years.

No. 24 Arizona returned for the first time since November 2010 and No. 25 BYU is in the Top 25 for the first time since the final 2009 poll.

UCLA and Arizona rounded out a solid Saturday for the Pac-12 by winning big nonconference games with powerful offensive displays for their new coaches.

The Bruins are off to a 2-0 start under Jim Mora and might have a Heisman Trophy contender in running back Johnathan Franklin, who ran for 217 yards in a 36-30 victory against Nebraska.

The Wildcats improved to 2-0 under Rich Rodriguez, whose spread offense has been a perfect fit for quarterback Matt Scott. Arizona beat Oklahoma 59-38, with Scott throwing for 320 yards.

Rodriguez, who was run out of Michigan after three tumultuous seasons, knows the power of beating — and being — a Top 25 team.

From the archives

The four teams that fell out of the poll all had become mainstays in recent years.

Nebraska had a streak of 37 straight AP Top appearances. Wisconsin's streak of 36 straight appearances was snapped. Arkansas was on a 34-poll streak and Oklahoma State had been in the last 29 straight polls.

Odds & ends

Louisiana-Monroe's victory, easily the biggest in coach Todd Berry's three seasons at the school, was good enough to get the Warhawks 23 points in the Top 25.

Monroe typically takes on heavyweights and takes a beating. The Warhawks lost at Florida State, TCU and Iowa last year, and many of these same players were beaten 31-7 by Arkansas in 2010.

The Warhawks' upset took the luster off what looked like Week 3's marquee game: No. 1 Alabama at Arkansas. Three other games match ranked teams: No. 20 Notre Dame is at No. 10 Michigan State; No. 2 Southern California is at No. 21 Stanford and No. 18 Florida is at No. 23 Tennessee.

Ward dominates Dawson

Associated Press

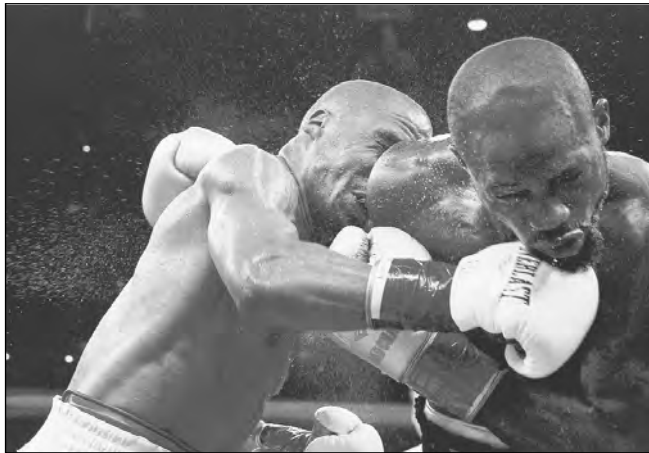
OAKLAND, Calif. — All that was missing for Andre Ward as he swept through the Super Six tournament and earned fighter of the year award was a knockout punch.

Against Chad Dawson he delivered it.

Ward knocked out Dawson in the 10th round with his third knockdown punch of the night to defend his WBC-WBA super middleweight titles Saturday and delight his hometown crowd.

“That’s what we needed,” Ward said. “A lot of people in boxing are knockout hungry. Everybody wants the knock out. I tell people you can still entertain without a knockout. But a knockout is always great. That’s the last piece of the puzzle in my game that I want to keep working on. This is the first step toward that tonight against a top of the line opponent.”

Ward (26-0, 14 KOs) knocked down Dawson (31-2, 17 KOs) late in the third round and early in the



Associated Press

Andre Ward, left, punches Chad Dawson on Saturday during the second round of a WBA/WBC super middleweight championship boxing match in Oakland, Calif. Ward won when the fight was stopped in the 10th round.

fourth to take control of the fight and finished him off with a combination at 2:45 of the 10th.

Dawson, the WBC light heavyweight champion, moved down a weight class from 175 pounds to 168 to take on Ward. Dawson also was willing to fight in Ward's hometown of Oakland, where an enthusiastic crowd had previously cheered Ward on to four wins.

But Dawson proved to be

no match for Ward, who punished the challenger repeatedly with his strong left hand.

Ward, the reigning fighter of the year by the Boxing Writers Association of America, ran through a strong field in the Super Six super middleweight tournament, capping it with a decision over Carl Froch in December that made him the undisputed champion of the weight class.

Djokovic beats Ferrer, into Open final

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The weather was much better at the U.S. Open on Sunday. So was Novak Djokovic.

Under a cloudless blue sky, in only a hint of wind, defending champion Djokovic got his game into high gear and reached his third consecutive final at Flushing Meadows by beating fourth-seeded David Ferrer of Spain 2-6, 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 in a match suspended a day earlier.

“I was a different player,” the second-seeded Djokovic said. “I felt much more comfortable on the court today

than I did yesterday, (when) obviously the conditions were more brutal.”

Ferrer led a shaky Djokovic 5-2 in the semifinal's opening set Saturday, when wind was whipping at more than 20 mph and play was halted because of an impending rainstorm. When they resumed about 18 hours later, Ferrer held serve to take that set — and then Djokovic quickly took control, using the brand of defense-to-offense baseline excellence that has carried the Serb to four of the past seven Grand Slam titles.

In Monday's final,

Djokovic will face Olympic champion Andy Murray, who beat Tomas Berdych 5-7, 6-2, 6-1, 7-6 (7) on Saturday. It's the fifth consecutive year the U.S. Open men's title match has been played a day later than planned.

Later Sunday, Serena Williams came back to take the last four games and beat No. 1-ranked Victoria Azarenka 6-2, 2-6, 7-5 for her fourth U.S. Open title and 15th Grand Slam championship. The final was shifted from Saturday to Sunday because of the weather, the fourth time since 2008 the women's event went long, too.

MONDAY EVENING SEPTEMBER 10, 2012. Table with columns for channel, time, and program details. Includes logos for A&E, AMC, ANI, BET, BRAVO, CC, CMT, CNBC, CNN, DISN, ESPN, EWTN, FLIX, FNC, FOOD, FSNFL, FX, GOLF, HALL, HBO, HBO2, HGTV, HIST, LIFE, LMN, MAX, MSNBC, NGC, NICK, OWN, OXY, SHOW, SPEED, SPIKE, STARZ, SUN, SYFY, TBS, TCM, TDC, TLC, TMC, TNT, TOON, TRAV, truTV, TVL, USA, WE, WGN-A.

Bridge section. Includes a hand diagram with cards (North, South, West, East) and a dealer's play sequence: Dealer: West, Vulnerable: North-South, South West North East, 3♦ 1♥ Pass Pass, Pass 5♦ All pass. Opening lead: ♥K.

PHILLIP ALDER Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

Confucius said, "I hear, I know. I see, I remember. I do, I understand." He would have made an excellent bridge player. A top performer listens to the bidding to get a good idea of who has what. He watches the cards being played and remembers the bidding to place the unseen key cards. And by doing that, he understands what to do next. To illustrate, how should South plan the play in five diamonds in today's deal? West leads the heart king. The dealer's opening suit-bid is followed by two passes. If the fourth hand makes a jump overall in a suit, it is intermediate, showing 14 to 16 points and a good six-card or longer suit. North was then tempted to gamble on three no-trump, but decided that it was unlikely he could run nine tricks immediately. Instead, he made an aggressive jump to five diamonds. After winning the first trick with dummy's heart ace, South took the trump finesse. It failed, and he also lost two club tricks for down one. South suggested that his partner's five-diamond bid was too optimistic. And in a way, he was right. But North had realized that South should have got the trump suit right. Why? If West had had the ace and king of clubs, he would have led one of them, not the heart king. And if East had a high club, he could not also hold the diamond king, because if he did, he would not have passed over one heart. Whenever a player bids or passes, remember what that tells you about his hand.

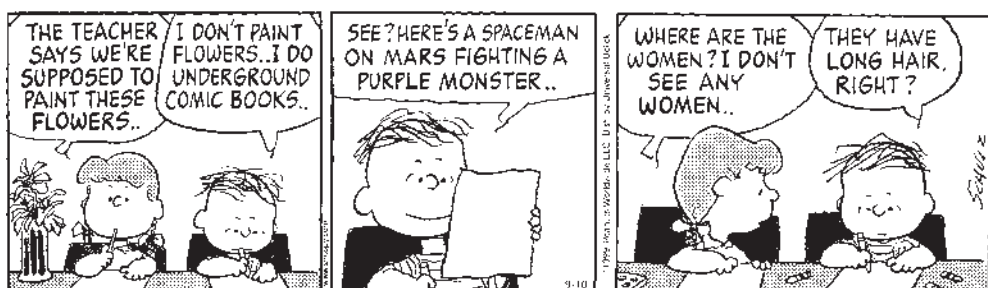
JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek. Includes a grid of letters and a cartoon illustration of a man with a hot air balloon.

ACROSS 1 Vegas numbers, 5 Murrur, 8 Moby Dick pursuer, 12 Soprano — Te Kanawa, 13 Coll. credits, 14 Affliction, 15 Dune material, 16 Eagerness, 18 Take it slow (2 wds.), 20 Bear and Berra, 21 PIN prompter, 22 — budget, 23 Courage, 26 Noon, 29 Reason to cram, 30 Lox locale, 31 Cookie-selling org., 33 Always, to Byron, 34 Quite a few, 35 Shaded. DOWN 1 Approvals, 2 Slanted line (abbr.), 3 Early 007 foe (2 wds.), 4 Pistol, e.g., 5 Deep cleft, 6 Paris hub, 7 Explorer — Johnson. Answer to Previous Puzzle: YARN KEPT VAN, EPEE IOTA ELI, CRTS MESMERIC, HORSES ELATE, NOIR ISM, RAW SLUE REEL, UFOS ARAB OAF, BREA ROLES, LANCE STEREO, PLAYDOWN SEWN, GEM ALAI ANTI, AXE NEXT WEST.

Dear Annie: On September 10th, people throughout the world will be observing World Suicide Prevention Day, an annual event co-sponsored by the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Suicide is one of the leading causes of death in the world. Approximately one million people worldwide die by suicide each year. This corresponds to one every 40 seconds. The number of lives lost each year through suicide exceeds the number of deaths due to homicide and war combined. These figures do not include suicide attempts, which may be up to 20 times the number of deaths. The economic costs associated with self-inflicted death or injuries are estimated to be in the billions of dollars a year. The psychological and social impact of suicide on the family and community is staggering. There is good news, though. Organizations across the globe such as ours are making advances in suicide prevention research, understanding and outreach. Despite the complexity of this phenomenon, suicide can be prevented. There are many crisis centers throughout the world that offer support by phone, email, forums and chat. Suicide prevention organizations, locally and across the world, are joining IASP in encouraging people to "light a candle near a window at 8:00 p.m." on World Suicide Prevention Day — Monday, Sept. 10 — to show support for suicide prevention, to remember a lost loved one and for the survivors of suicide. Please ask your readers for their kind support in lighting a candle and, if they are in distress, to call a helpline or crisis center. This information can be found on our website at www.iasp.info. Thank you. — Lanny Berman, Ph.D., ABPP, President, International Association for Suicide Prevention. Dear Dr. Berman: We appreciate the opportunity to tell our readers about World Suicide Prevention Day. We hope they will light a candle near a window (although please not near flammable drapes or blinds) and remember those who have died. We also hope those in need will check your website. Dear Annie: I have been invited to the wedding of my co-worker's daughter, whom I have never met. My co-worker has made it quite clear that he is expecting us to attend. At his first daughter's wedding, he invited 20 co-workers and only one showed up. He was very upset. Am I obligated to attend his daughter's wedding? — RSVP. Dear RSVP: You are not obligated to attend, although you might want to weigh that choice against Monday's reaction at the office. While we don't care for co-

workers who pressure others to attend their personal events, consider whether he wants your presence or your presents. If you would feel more comfortable, send a small gift with your regrets. Dear Annie: I was in a similar situation as "In the Middle." My grandmother also made me feel second best, and I often received gifts that were not age appropriate. Your suggestion that Mom stay out of it and let the now-adult granddaughter thank Grandma for any gifts and share what she chooses is sound advice. That is what my mother and I have been doing. I would like to mention another possibility. Perhaps the grandmother's upbringing and culture could be playing a part in her behavior toward the granddaughter, since it did in my case. In some cultures, the older generation is still having a difficult time making the transition from their traditional ideas. In realizing this, I have become more understanding about my grandmother's behavior and react with more compassion. She's trying her best. — Been There, Too. Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Email anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 737 Third St., Hermosa Beach, CA 90254. To find out more visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

Peanuts



Pickles



Sally Forth



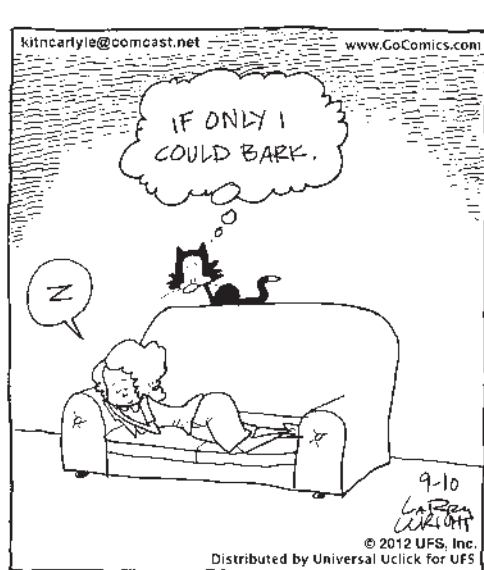
Dilbert



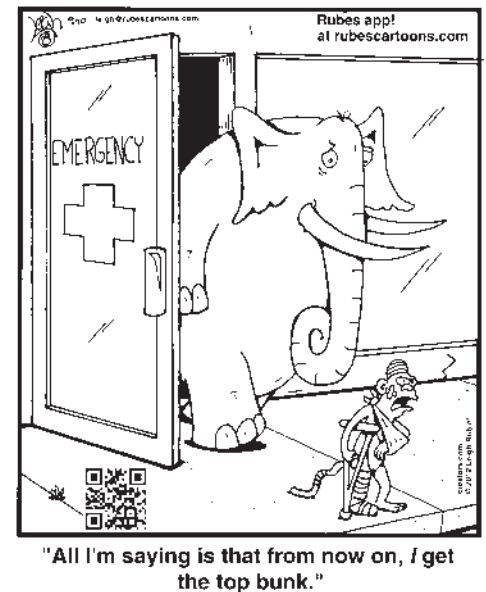
The Born Loser



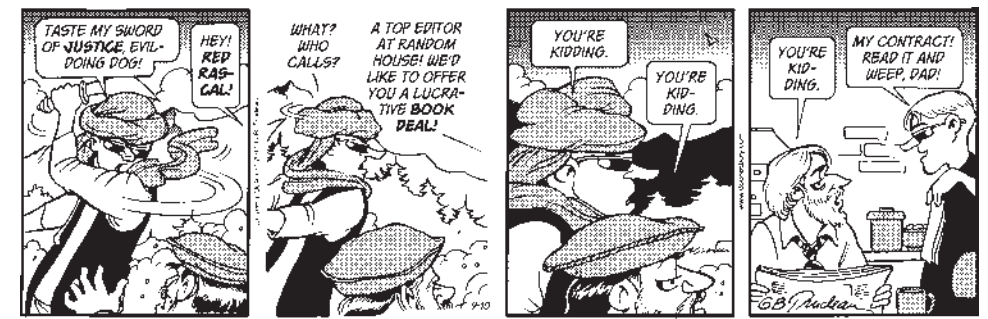
Kit 'N' Carlyle



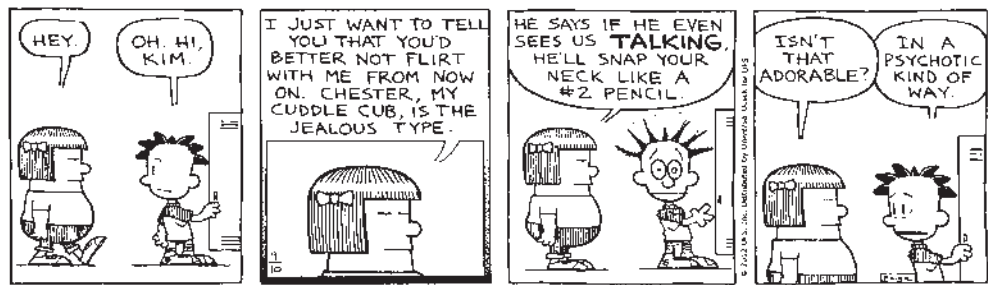
Rubes



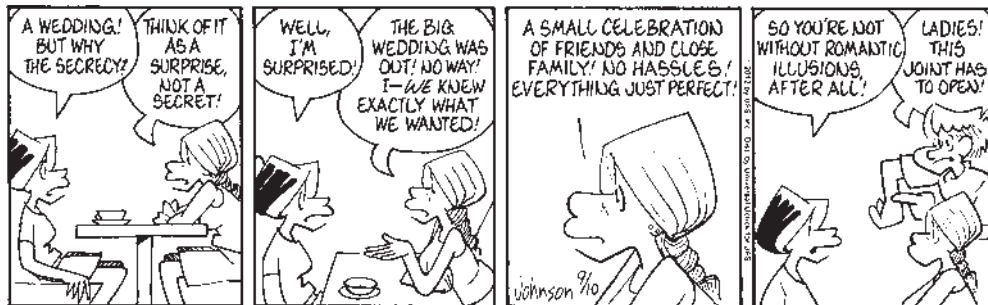
Doonesbury Flashback



Big Nate



Arlo and Janis



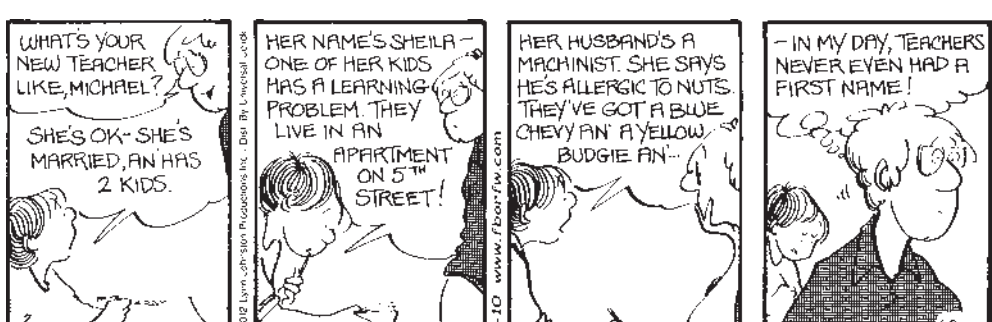
Today's MOVIES

Citrus Cinemas 6 - Inverness; 637-3377
The Words (PG-13) 1:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m.
The Possession (PG-13) 1:45 p.m., 4:45 p.m., 7:50 p.m.
Lawless (R) ID required. 1:10 p.m., 4:10 p.m., 7:10 p.m.
Hit and Run (R) ID required. 1 p.m.
The Expendables 2 (R) ID required. 1:20 p.m., 4:20 p.m., 7:20 p.m.
The Bourne Legacy (PG-13) 4 p.m., 7 p.m.
Hope Springs (PG-13) 1:40 p.m., 4:40 p.m., 7:40 p.m.
Crystal River Mall 9; 564-6864
The Words (PG-13) 1:45 p.m., 4:20 p.m., 7:20 p.m.
The Possession (PG-13) 1:20 p.m., 4:50 p.m., 7:50 p.m.
Lawless (R) ID required. 1:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7:45 p.m.
Premium Rush (PG-13) 1:10 p.m., 4:10 p.m., 7:15 p.m.
The Expendables 2 (R) ID required. 2 p.m., 5 p.m., 8 p.m.
The Odd Life of Timothy Green (PG) 1:50 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 7:10 p.m.
The Bourne Legacy (PG-13) 1 p.m., 4 p.m., 7 p.m.
Hope Springs (PG-13) 1:35 p.m., 4:35 p.m., 7:40 p.m.
2016 Obama's America (PG-13) 1 p.m., 3:10 p.m., 5:20 p.m., 7:30 p.m.
Visit www.chronicleonline.com for area movie listings and entertainment information.
Times subject to change; call ahead.

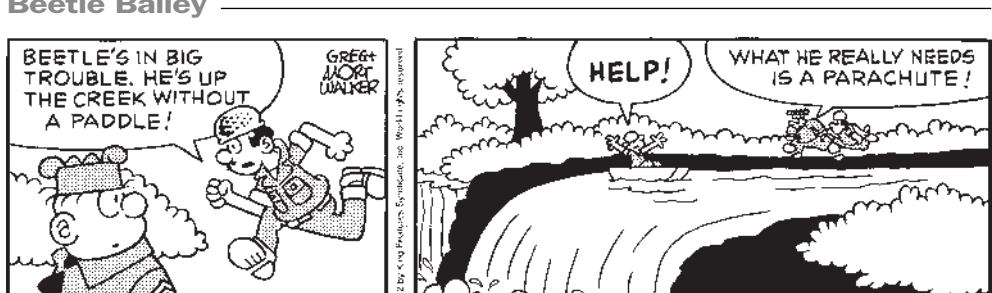
Garfield



For Better or For Worse



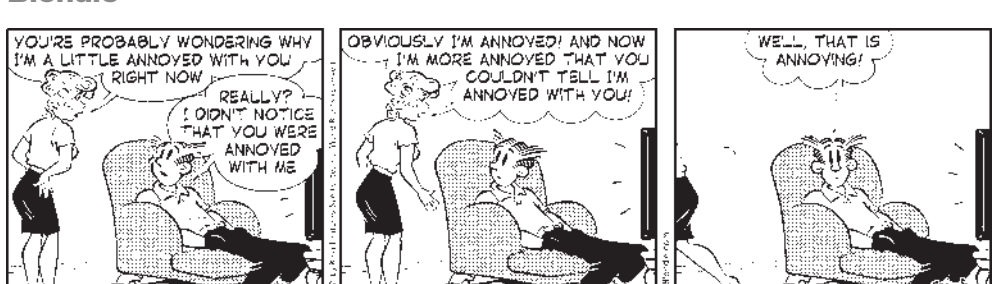
Beetle Bailey



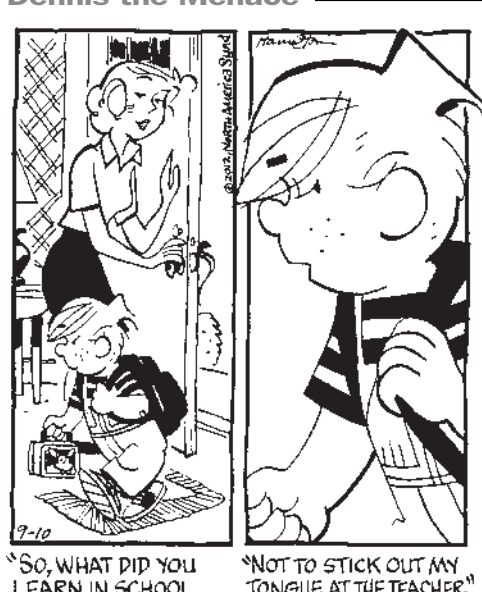
The Grizzwells



Blondie



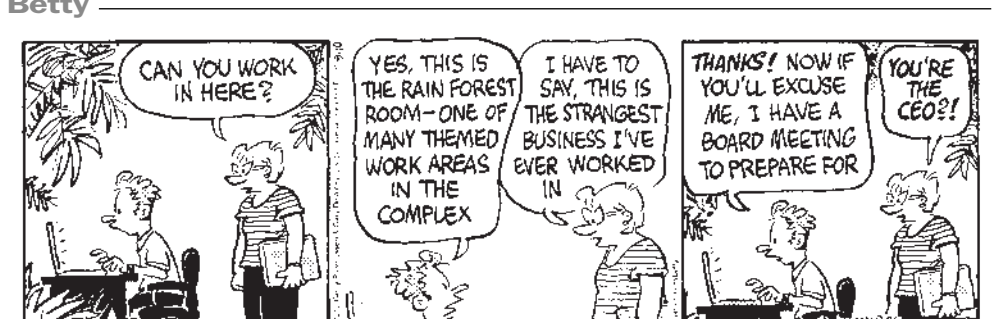
Dennis the Menace



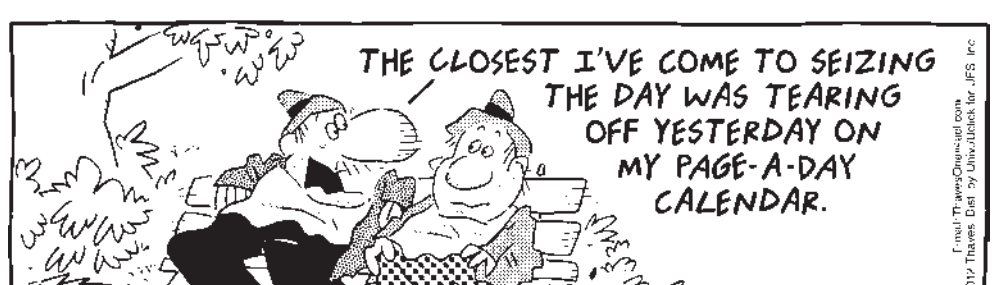
The Family Circus



Betty



Frank & Ernest



Local RADIO
WJUF-FM 90.1 National Public
WGN-FM 91.9 Religious
WXCW-FM 95.3 Adult Contemp.
WXOF-FM 96.3 Adult Mix
WEKJ FM 96.7, 103.9 Religious
WYKE-FM 104.3 Sports Talk
WUVV 105.5 FM Hudson
WJQB-FM 106.3 Oldies
WFJV-FM 103.3 '50s, '60s, '70s
WRZN-AM 720 Adult Standards

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: M sjenba X
'MTR, H GHG STTZ D RWTUHDZ
JTRWBLRHVHZHXM XB VT XAT SHJRX
DFTJHUDL KBFDL HL RWDUT.'
RDZZM JHGT
Solution: "Becoming a grandmother is wonderful. One moment you're just a mother. The next you are all-wise and prehistoric." — Pam Brown
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